

Types of reporting



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A news organization major work is to gather news and it deploy it to the reader with newspaper or organization as an intermediate.

News comes from all directions-

North

East

West

South



BEAT REPORTING

Reporting beats are nothing but a reporters regular territory for news coverage. Every reporter in beginning choose an area of interest selects a particular beat like civic/local, crime, education, legal, cultural, health, religion/festival etc.



- Beat reporting, also known as specialized reporting, is a genre of journalism that can be described as the craft of in-depth reporting on a particular issue, sector, organization or institution over time.
- Beat reporters build up a base of knowledge on and gain familiarity with the topic, allowing them to provide insight and commentary in addition to reporting straight facts.
- This distinguishes them from other journalists who might cover similar stories from time to time. A reporter has to study hard and “walk the beat.”

Various beats for the reporting



- Civic/ local bodies beat
- Cultural beat
- Health beat
- Civil administration beat
- Legal beat/court reporting
- Religion and festivals beat
- Political beat
- Education beat
- Film/entertainment
- Science beat
- Election beat
- Sports

Cultural Beat



- Cultural reporting requires a reporter to cover not only individuals i.e. artists, craftsmen etc. But also to cover different cultural organisations, institutions and other events by upholding public interest .
- For this he/she has to dig out that how many cultural organisational setups exist in the city.
- The cultural reporter is actually a cultural promoter.
- The reporter has a great responsibility to stimulate interest and participation in various cultural functions



- He/she has to get ideas, opinions and news about culture from different materials printed by these organizations.
- When actually covering culture, it is preferable to visit the scene of cultural activity personally.
- Familiarity with cultural heritage and history is a special qualification of cultural reporter.
- He/she must be conscious about manipulation by the artists.
- The cultural news story writing style and contents must be based on information, entertainment and of general public interest.
- Music world-cinema, theatre, television-literature, fairs etc. have great newsworthy material of public interest.

Sources



- Seminar on any art subject
- Workshop on any discipline
- Special Lectures
- Research work
- Published literature on an art subject
- Audience oriented program
- Press conference
- Press release

SPORTS REPORTING



- Sports reporting field is broad and interesting enough to challenge the finest talent.
- The sports coverage remains the life blood of most sports pages.
- Sports reports are read mostly due to their contents and style.
- Sports reporter should take into account all the compulsory elements of the sports news item while reporting a news event.
- Sports reporting requires qualities of background knowledge and judgment, critical evaluation of sports besides sound general knowledge about games and their rules & regulations.



- **The performance of the teams should be covered fairly, impartially and in an unbiased way.**
- The quality of a written sports item depends on the quality of its reporting.
- The sports reporter who, among other things, Knows the players well, the strategy they use during game, key incidents, crowd behaviour and the game which he/she is covering, is able to write an interesting sports story.



- Sports reporting ranges from straight news reporting through all degrees of interpretation and feature writing and the editorialised column.
- For an important sports event, an advance story, a straight story, similarly background, prediction, follow-up types of stories may be used.

Scope of Sports news



- Cricket or any other match
- Interviews of sports-persons
- Experience written by sports-person or ex-sportsman

Legal / court reporting



- There are only few big newspapers in India who have full time correspondents exclusively for covering their court beat which actually have adequate knowledge of the legal issues.
- Others hire stingers to cover court cases usually the one who are advocates and work for them part time. And who should understand the difference between an accused and criminal
- The law reporter must be knowledgeable about the law and acts under IPC.
- At the Apex we have Supreme court and then High courts—
Session courts—Magistrate courts.

Things to be kept in mind while reporting of courts



- **A fair trial**
- Because it is so important that everybody should have a fair trial, nothing which would be likely to interfere with a fair trial is allowed to happen.
- This means that journalists working in many legal systems are not normally allowed to publish or broadcast certain things during court proceedings, from the moment that somebody is about to be charged with an offence up to the moment that the court finishes dealing with it.

Subjudice



- From the time that somebody is about to be charged with an offence, up to the moment when the court finishes dealing with it, the case is said to be *sub judice*.
- In practice, sub judice normally starts when a person is arrested, charged or a warrant is issued for their arrest and ends when the judge or jury gives a verdict.
- *Sub judice* is a Latin phrase meaning "under judgment". It is pronounced "sub JOO-da-see".



- While a case is *sub judice*, journalists are strictly limited as to what they can write. This is to make sure that they do not interfere with the job of the court in giving the defendant a fair trial.
- We shall look in detail in a moment at what we are and what we are not allowed to write.
- It is the job of the courts, and nobody else, to decide whether or not the person charged did in fact commit the crime. Nobody should be tried and convicted by crime reporters, in the columns of a newspaper or over the air waves.



- Of course, it is also important to society that journalists (and other people) have the right to talk about things.
- But where two important rights clash, one has to be limited in the interests of the other.



- For example, anyone has the right to drive from one town to another. However, because the people who live along the way have the right to walk safely around their homes, the speed at which you can drive may be limited. And because people driving the other way also have their rights, you may be limited to driving on only one side of the road.
- In the same way, the right to talk about a crime is limited in order to protect the defendant's right to a fair trial.

What can we report?



- When a crime has been committed, reporters need to tell people about it.
- They may talk to people who saw the crime, or whose property was stolen or damaged, and quote the things those people have to say.
- However, as soon as the police have caught someone they believe to be responsible for that crime, and are about to charge them with that offence, then reporters are limited in what they can say about the crime.



- You can report the fact that the crime happened, that someone is being charged and any facts about it which are not likely to be challenged in court.
- If a man has been charged with breaking into a store and stealing \$500 in cash and goods worth \$250, then we must report the fact that he has been charged.
- **We may write:**
- **A man has been charged with burglary, following the break-in at Cut-Price supermarket at the weekend.**
- **Bruce Maupiti, 28, of Avarua, Rarotonga, has been charged with stealing \$500 in cash and goods worth \$250 from the store on the night of July 25**



- It is important to note that we did not say that Maupiti actually committed the crime - that is not a fact.
- It is the job of the courts to decide whether or not he did it. All we said is that Maupiti has been charged with the crime - that is a fact - and that there was a break-in at the store at the weekend - that is also a fact.

Sources of legal news



- FIR
- Inquiry by investigative agencies
- Charges framed by a court
- Legal documents such as affidavits, counter-affidavits, bail papers etc.
- Hearing of a case in any court
- Statement of the witness
- Pleading by advocates by a judge or the jury.
- Statement of the accused

Political beat



- Political beats is full of happenings and requires a great analytical bend of mind to analyze various decisions and policies
- Like a root of tree extend deep into the ground and keeps a good hold with its roots similarly the coverage given by the reporters effect an individuals and can change their minds and decision to choose the governments
- In broader sense it is more restricted toward the coverage given during or before elections

scope



- Activities of the political parties at different levels- national, state, district etc holding demonstration, staging, taking out procession (parade), some public meetings etc
- Internal affairs of the party as an infighting dissensions (oppositions) election preparation and any other conflicts
- Important developments affecting the national/state/ politics like formation/breaking, withdrawal of support to a party or an alliances, by some other parties.
- General elections/ mid term polls in state or center level.
- Activities of prominent political leaders, particularly related to national and social causes

Sources



- Statements of political leaders
- Press conferences organised by political leaders
- Informal chats
- Visits at their offices
- Public meetings addressed by the leaders
- Press releases

PARLIAMENTARY REPORTING



- A familiar scene in the two Houses of Parliament is that of quietly dressed persons heading for the central table, taking their seats, scribbling in their note-books for a while and then making an exit as quick and unobtrusive as their entry.
- But not many people know who are these men and women apparently always in a hurry and what is the purpose of these frequent short trips.
- They are **the Parliamentary Reporters** engaged in the momentous task of preparing a complete and authoritative record of what transpires in the highest deliberative and legislative body of the country.



- To cover parliament, a journalist needs to **know local laws, understand parliamentary procedure, know about the politicians and the political parties involved, and have a solid knowledge of history.**
- Unlike breaking news reporting, parliamentary reporting usually requires **sufficient background knowledge** to make sense of proceedings.

REPORTING : A MANDATORY REQUIREMENT



- Everything said in Lok Sabha(Lower house) and Rajya Sabha (Upper House)—every question, remark and speech—is accurately recorded by the Parliamentary Reporters, who represent the peak of the shorthand-writing profession.
- However, certain words or expressions, which are specifically censored or ordered not to be recorded by the Speaker or the Presiding Officer, do not form part of the record.
- The entire proceedings of the day's sitting, comprising a couple of hundred pages, have to be edited, compiled and made available by the next morning.
- This remarkable act is accomplished to perfection by a combination of professional skill of the highest order and excellent team-work aided by modern technology.

Parliamentary privileges



- **Parliamentary privilege** (also **absolute privilege**) is a legal immunity enjoyed by members of certain legislatures, in which legislators are granted protection against civil or criminal liability for actions done or statements made in the course of their legislative duties.
- **Article 105 (2):** No person shall be liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of the publication by order under the authority of a house of Parliament, of any report, paper, votes or proceedings.
- Again common law accords the defense of qualified privilege to fair and accurate unofficial reports of parliamentary proceedings, published in a newspaper or elsewhere.
- A Parliamentary reporter should be aware about these privileges in a well-versed manner.

Crime beat/ reporting



- People want to read about crime. It sells newspapers, TV advertising and books. It's about greed, violence, sex, revenge - all the really powerful human emotions.
- Sometimes crime reflects important issues in society: corruption, drugs, homelessness, hunger, lack of education, or whatever. And sometimes it is just a good story, with no wider implications.
- Crime stories have universal appeal and attract wide attention regardless of the status of the person involved and their situation in life.



- There are many types of crimes, criminals and victims. There are serious crimes and small offences. There are professional criminals and ordinary people who occasionally break the law. There are crimes which have obvious victims and there are the so-called victim-less crimes (although, as we shall see in a moment, all crimes have a victim somewhere).
- As with all news, crime stories should be new, unusual, interesting, significant and about people.
- **New - Crime reporting has to be as up-to-date as possible.** This is partly because some crimes depend for their news value on being current. For example, a story about a violent killer on the loose will lose much of its impact (and its value in alerting your audience to danger) once he is captured. Also, because in some societies crimes are a regular feature of life, today's break-and-enter quickly replaces yesterday's break-and-enter in the public's attention. Crime stories get stale quickly.



- **Unusual - Murders or armed robbery are not everyday events in most communities, and so have news value.** However, less serious crime can also have unusual elements. Someone who sneaks on to a bus without paying or throws rubbish on the street may be breaking the law, but it is not very newsworthy
- **Interesting or significant** - As we have said, most law-abiding citizens are interested in people who break the law in big or unusual ways. Crimes which by themselves are ordinary can become significant when placed in context. For example, the car theft can be one of hundreds in a city, **but it may become significant if it is the hundredth car to be stolen this year.**



- **About people - Crimes involve people, as criminals and victims. The so-called victim-less crime does not really exist.** The motorist parked in a No Parking zone at the very least may inconvenience other people and at worst may cause an accident. People who make false declarations to claim government benefits are taking money which could have gone to other people.
- Always try to tell a crime story in human terms. Do not concentrate all the time on the police or the criminals. Look at what has happened to the victim. Your readers or listeners are more likely to be victims of crime than they are to be either police officers or criminals.



- This is a requirement of all journalism, but perhaps especially so of crime. The American newspaperman Joseph Pulitzer (the Pulitzer Prize is named after him) was very keen on crime reporting. **He always wanted his reporters to provide "details, details, details"**.
- Readers want to know everything about a crime. What kind of masks were the raiders wearing? What colour was the getaway car? What was the weather like? The more facts, the better the story. So work hard, keep digging, keep adding facts.
- **Indian national dailies and many news channels have actually started a psycho analysis of crime and criminals involved.**
- **Graphical or pictorial presentations of the crime with the support of figures and coloured sketches.**
- **Today both print and electronic media covers and concentrate on the crime stories. The objective of the reporters or the media is to report the crime news, not to philosophies over it.**

Sources of the crime news

- **Police-** which is the prime law enforcing agency
- They are the first official authority to get involved in the investigation of the crime.
- **Police slips-** most police departments have a routine method for informing the press of incidents that are telephoned or telegraphed to headquarters.
- Police slips are written by hands in small organizations and distributed to the media organizations.

Areas covered under Crime reporting



- Offences related to Human Body—
 - Murders, assassinations
 - Culpable homicide- act done with knowledge that is likely to cause death, with or without the intension in doing so
 - Causing death by rash or negligence act
 - Suicide
 - Attempt to murder
 - Attempt to commit suicide
 - Being a gangster or a thug
 - Kidnapping, abduction, slavery, forces slavery
 - Criminal forces and assault as to deter the public servant from his duties, to commit theft, assault on women to outrage her modesty, rape

crime reporting.



- Do not accept gifts or favours.
- Do not at any time take part in or overlook criminal activity.
- Do not provoke criminal activity.
- Do not describe criminal activity in such a way that it encourages others to engage in crime.
- Do not celebrate crime.
- Do not glamorize criminals or turn them into celebrities.
- **Do not sensationalize.**
- Remember, the presumption is that a suspect is innocent until proven guilty. It is not the job of the news media to prosecute or defend, to deliver verdicts or pass down sentences.

Fashion Reporting



- **Fashion** is a general term for a popular style or practice, especially in clothing, footwear, accessories, makeup, body piercing, or furniture.
- Fashion refers to a distinctive and often habitual trend in the style with which a person dresses, as well as to prevailing styles in behaviour.
- Fashion also refers to the newest creations of textile designers

Scope of the fashion beat



- Designers
- Outlet of various brands and shops
- Youth and their trends

Business Reporting



- A **business** (also known as **enterprise** or **firm**) is an organization involved in the trade of goods, services, or both to consumers.
- Business plan and Business model determine the outcome of an active business operation

Scope of the business beat



- **Agriculture and mining businesses** are concerned with the production of raw material, such as plants or minerals.
- **Financial businesses** include banks and other companies that generate profit through investment and management of capital.
- **Manufacturers produce products**, from raw materials or component parts, which they then sell at a profit
- **Organizations ranging from house decorators** to consulting firms, restaurants, and even entertainers are types of service businesses.
- **Transportation businesses deliver goods and individuals** from location to location, generating a profit on the transportation costs.



- Damages- description of the property, value, stolen or destroyed,
- Owner, insurance, mode of destruction-theft or lost
- Legal actions- investigations, clues evidence, arrests-police

Investigative Reporting



- Investigative reporters must take special care when writing a story.
- This is because investigative stories usually make someone appear either bad or stupid, accusations which can lead to legal action against you for defamation.
- You will probably be safe if your story is true and in the public interest.
- But it can lose the protection of the law if there are serious errors. Someone - probably the people your story exposes as corrupt, dishonest or simply incompetent - will be looking closely for mistakes to attack you on.
- So you must take extra care.



- Investigative journalism is a form of journalism in which reporters deeply investigate a single topic of interest, often involving crime, political corruption, or corporate wrongdoing.
- **Story ideas:**
- Your own experience and that of friends and neighbors
- Follow-ups on previous stories
- Reading and the Internet
- Street, café and taxi gossip
- Routine checks of public information and with contacts.
- Clues



- Investigative reporting has a long tradition in the history of journalism. But it came into its own with the Watergate revelations of the early 1970s.
- Since then, the investigation has become a standard part of the newsroom structure of many newspapers and radio/TV stations.
- In India Arun Shourie is known as the father of investigative journalism.
- Bill Dedman's 1988 investigation, *The Color of Money*, for *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* on racial discrimination by mortgage lenders in middle-income neighborhoods, received the 1989 Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting and was an influential early example of computer-assisted reporting or database journalism.

Writing the investigative story



- This requires choices about: form, content, and style.
- The 7 stages of writing: choosing the subject, planning, news gathering, pre-writing, writing, re-writing and feedback.
- Good writing: accuracy, clarity, conciseness, coherence, conventionality and originality.

Interpretative Reporting



- Before the war, the reader was satisfied with the presentation of bare facts of what transpired.
- The present day reader demands some more – a treatment in depth, an explanation, or perhaps an analysis of what he believes to be significant news.
- Thus, the introduction of Interpretative reporting.
- **Definition:**
- **It is reporting news depth and with care, news refreshed with background materials to make it comprehensive and meaningful. – Lester Markel, editor, The Sunday New York Times**
- **It is about telling the reader everything he needs to know about a given development, and all the essential facts in a way that brings the story to the reader's environment. – Robert Bolorf, executive editor, The Wall Street Journal**



- Interpretive (or interpretative) journalism goes beyond the basic facts of an event or topic to provide context, analysis, and possible consequences.
- Interpretive journalists must have unusual familiarity with and understanding of a subject, and their work involves looking for patterns, motives, and influences that explain what they are reporting.



- In short interpretive reporting is when a reporter, who is an expert in a particular area, **say finance and economics, gives meaning and relevancy for the reader to information she has researched and gathered on a particular topic.**
- This will usually include some relevant history, interviews with experts, interviews with those of opposing views, and an informed opinion about implications and trends.
- Greg Palast of the BBC and his own organization is an excellent example of an expert in economics who knows how to follow the money in ferreting out the truth behind election fraud, use of money to manipulate governments, and waging wars.

Investigative vs Interpretative



- Interpretative reporting often involves the same original enterprise skills but takes the interpretation to a different level.
- The fundamental difference between the two is that original **investigative reporting uncovers information not before gathered** by others in order to inform the public of events or circumstances that might affect their lives.
- Interpretative reporting develops as the result of careful thought and analysis of an idea as well as dogged pursuit of facts to bring together information **in a new, more complete context which provides deeper public understanding.**
- It usually involves more complex issues or sets of facts than a classic expose. It reveals a new way of looking at something as well as new information about it.

Weather Reporting



- Journalism helps people understand the world around them and make more informed decisions for themselves. It educates and engages.
- It puts the pursuit and reporting of truth above all else. It puts the interests of news consumers ahead of any other influence.
- It recognizes that responsible reporting has consequences, sometimes unpleasant ones, and it seeks to minimize harm.
- Weather reporting on local television can affect more than the way people dress for the day.
- A severe storm plowing through town is urgent. It demands immediate attention



- Local TV news gets that, and has for some time.



But beyond the urgent, weather can be important. It can have lasting significance. It has implications for energy policy, climate change, water rights and other critical political questions. It influences health, commerce, agriculture and tourism. It affects the economy, education and public safety.

Science Reporting



- Science journalism is about reporting about science to the public.
- The field typically involves interactions between scientists, journalists, and the public.
- Science journalism, like the Science and Tech page in The Hindu, simplifies the very detailed, specific, and often jargon-laden information produced by scientists into a form that non-scientists can understand and appreciate, while still communicating the information accurately.
- There are many magazines based on science only and today almost every newspaper have separate sections for science and technology.

Lifestyle reporting



- In lifestyle reporting the following aspects could be covered:
- Receptions
- Farewell
- New trends



Thank You