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Print Media: Editing and Reporting

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UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO JOURNALISM

Unit I

Introduction to Journalism

Cynics say that it will not be long before print journalism which refers to the profession of reporting or editing news stories for newspapers and news magazines in the world including India will be replaced by online and mobile phone journalism. There are already 6,800,000,000 mobile phone subscribers worldwide with a total population of 7,012,000,000. Roughly the world over, mobile penetration comes to about 97 per 100 and the number is growing by the day. China tops the mobile phone subscribers at 1,276,660,000 with a population of 1,369,811,000 followed by India with a subscriber base of 970,955,980 for a population of 1,267,402,000. The United States of America ranks third with a subscriber base of 327,577,629 for a population of 312,77,828 which accounts for 103 percent penetration. They say that the audience has changed considerably. The technology is available at the fingertips of the common man; hence there is easy access to all types of news, anytime and anywhere.

This is the biggest challenge faced by print journalism. In the United States and Europe, people particularly youth have lost interest in reading newspapers. Newsrooms in the country blame it on the inability to accept the changes that were required of them.

In India, the situation is not very different. Modern technology is replacing the traditional methods of delivering and reading news. Another cause of concern particularly in developing countries is that post globalization and with the rise of consumerism, several newspapers are being looked upon like any other commercial product. The press like any other institution is exposed to forces released by the market economy and culture of utilitarian values. Readers are being looked upon as consumers and not as members of the society to be communicated with. Little doubt the Editors are either taking a back seat or combining the role of Managers as Chief Executive Officers.

Popularity of Social Media

There is little doubt that social media is an ever-present force in most of our daily lives and it is used for almost anything from consuming the news to interacting with friends. Journalism, as a whole, is a form of media that probably everyone sees in either a positive or negative light. Regardless of how you may view the media, journalism is the news and it is current. This is partly the reason why there is a big push being made to move all forms of journalism towards online platforms. For the most part, on social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook Book people are finding and reading the news quickly it is right at their fingertips. Another added benefit of online journalism is that it reaches a wider audience. People all over the world could be reading stories and sharing what they read with friends.

The Youth Story

The youth of today has turned to the internet. A growing news presence on major social networking sites can change that with more people actively engaging and participating in the news. Online media provides the opportunity to share, discuss, and debate right at the moment that a certain news event is occurring. This may not always be the case with every news event, but the case to be made is that there is overall wider communication and interaction taking place for news stories or shared ideas. There may be some that are against online journalism, though most of these people actually read a real newspaper and may not be as actively engaged on social media sites.

While print journalism may have been vastly popular years ago and still may be with some people, it has little chance of survival in a society that is becoming more and more digital.

Digitisation is putting pressure on print to change. For decades, newspapers were built on a model where readers would come and engage with the stories to reach the advertised product or message. Digitisation has disrupted that model. Now advertisers do not need to use doors to reach their target as they can reach out to them directly. The online revolution is very young but in the next decade will be more viable and newer models will evolve.

And the Decline Begins

The decline began with the advent of Radio and TV and accelerated with the coming up of online journalism with the advent of radio and later TV, newspaper circulation began a gradual but steady decline. In the current times, the audiences do not have to solely rely on newspapers as their source of news anymore. That is especially true in case of breaking news, which could be conveyed much more quickly via broadcast media, television journalism or online media.

Emergence of the Internet

We all are very well aware of the growing importance of internet medium in our life for our various purposes. Internet has become such a platform, the importance of which cannot be denied by any possibility. This medium has definitely made working of both our personal and professional life very easy and convenient. It caters to our various needs like getting information on wide range of topic, sending and checking mails, increasing your professional networks and your business online, making friends, playing games and watching movies, getting news and information about the major happenings of your city and many more.

As we can see that with the growing technology and digitalization, print media is losing its importance in major cities; people choose the dig medium over the newspapers to satisfy their news and information need larger extent.

Post recession scenario

The recent economic hard times have only accelerated the problem. Revenue from print advertisement has plunged. With profits plunging, newspaper publishers have responded with layoffs and cutbacks.

Indeed, that's the conundrum facing newspapers and their readers. All agree that newspapers still represent an unrivalled source of in-depth news, analysis and opinion, and that if papers disappear entirely, there will be nothing to take their place.

To keep in pace with the technological advances, it is high time that print journalism in the country accepts the change. In a country like India which has 60 per cent of the population under 35, it is mandatory that journalism caters to the needs of a young population. For this, a major change is essential. There is need to deconstruct a story to make it easier for the public to comprehend. One must tell the reader why it is necessary for him to take the story seriously and also give him an impression that it is mandatory he should care about the story. Facts are sacred and it is necessary that the truth be always told, in spite of the immense pressures.

Editor's predicament

Print journalism will only succeed if more people took the time to read it. People want news now and they don't always need the full story. Editors are confronted with the predicament of less space in the print edition, dwindling advertising revenues, downsizing of staff, diminishing newsroom resources outdated technology and an aging readership in a city with a shrinking population.

How they responded to these familiar trends was neither innovative nor constructive. Editors ask reporters to adopt tighter writing and then shave their copies even more. When they could have utilized the arsenal of multimedia tools to enhance stories' relevance and accessibility, they failed to do so. For anyone interested in the news business, it's hard to avoid the sense that newspapers are at death's door. Every day brings more news of layoffs, bankruptcies, and closings in the print journalism industry.

But why are things so dire for newspapers at the moment?

In-depth stories

But even with TV grabbing more and more audience and advertising revenue, newspapers still managed to survive. Papers couldn't compete with television in terms of speed, but they could provide the kind of in-depth news coverage that TV news never could.

So editors thought of innovation and retooled papers with this in mind. More stories were written with a feature-type approach that emphasized storytelling over breaking news, and papers were redesigned to be more visually appealing, with a greater emphasis on clean layouts and graphic design.

What the Future Holds

Will newspapers still exist? Would print that requires huge newsprint made from chopping down trees now running into huge losses due to far-flung distribution networks and threats from new journalism soon go out? Will a sustainable business model for newspapers be found?

All said newspapers are going to be around a lot longer than many thought. I think there is an elegant simplicity to newsprint that has not yet been marched, even by the latest gadgets. Read it, fold it, tear it, toss it, or recycle it, there's beauty in the utility of the printed page. The iPad and Kindle are wonderful devices. I just don't think they will ever totally replace newspapers and books.

Those in the profession must not forget that they are privileged to be in a noble profession because Journalism is both an art and a profession that serves a three-fold purpose inform, instruct, and entertain. It is called history in the making because an important event that takes place today becomes history tomorrow. Little doubt that journalism records events and opinions and seeks to interpret and mould them for the benefit of people. The main purpose of journalism is to provide readers accurate and reliable information, interpret it for their benefit to serve as a watchdog. As Truth concerns us all, the first and foremost task of a journalist is to unravel truth, to cross check facts because facts are sacred and to work in the best interests of the society. Journalists are supposed to provide news without any fear or favour. The news reports must be written objectively and without any ulterior motives.

For Print Journalism to survive the journalists must set a benchmark and make people aware of the contemporary world. Inform, educate and entertain, help people in decision making, sensitise people on social issues, instil good moral values and make people aware of their rights.

Print still the most effective medium

The Indian Newspapers Society agrees to the fact that the changing dynamics of the Indian media scenario have seen a shift in media planning strategies. The IMRB International, modelled on the lines of British Market Research Bureau, formerly Indian Market Research Bureau, a multi-country market research, survey and business consultancy, headquartered in Mumbai with operations in 15 countries has found that "despite the rise of television, print media remains the most effective medium". The Indian Newspapers Society too toes similar line. The survey "Impact Multiplier measured how print and television work on the basis of impact multiplier theory and concluded that "Print especially when combined with the electronic medium created the highest brand salience and top of the mind (TOM) effect.

The study declared that print medium has great significance and is irreplaceable in the communication mix. The combination of print and television has been proven as one medium makes up for the failings of the other media and thus covers all aspects of media reach and effectiveness. The Business Times Singapore carried findings of research carried out by a global information service company Experian recently. It questioned: How important is print media in your company's marketing campaign? If your answer is "not very", it might be time to tweak your advertising strategy as according research conducted by global information Services Company Experian, even in this highly digitized age, 86% of consumers in Singapore identified media as the most valuable information source for customers to find out about a brand or product.

There are vast numbers of people who are not very much aware with this technology oriented medium and hence they could not access to the internet technology for their information needs. Therefore, for these kinds of people, the best source of information is the newspaper because there are several issues which are not being considered by the television as they cover news on the larger scale.

However, to satisfy the specific news and information requirements of the people, there are several traditional newspapers which are still working keeping the specific area related news need of people in mind. These traditional newspapers understand the specific topic related news requirement of people which cannot access to the medium like internet or television.

The major problem with these digital mediums is that they don't cat to the area specific news; instead they are more concerned with the news national or global level. In this scenario people are unable to fulfil their new requirement of their own area. The result is that most publications have no come out with local editions or what we call city editions to satiate the urge for local news because proximity binds people.

The traditional newspapers offer various news and latest happenings to the people about their own area. It helps people in getting informed on the various issues where they can contribute in the development of their particular area by contributing in the decisions and opinion affecting the growth of their area. They keep people updated on various activities taking place in their area and various other events and also inform about the various sales offers, movies and parks where you can enjoy your day spending in various recreational activities. The traditional newspapers properly serve to all the specific news requirements of various communities of the Austin city to make them aware with the ongoing scenario of their area to that they can effectively contribute towards its development.

Print is still breathing strong in India while it may be gasping for life in some parts of the globe. The “A” wave of acquisitions and expansions through multiple editions have been supported by the raising of capital from initial public offerings (IPOs) and private equity firms. Heightened activity is driven by increasing literacy rates, consumer spending and the growth of regional markets.

Rising Circulation of Newspapers

The encouraging fact is that newspapers have seen 6 to 20 percent growth in sales, while TV news channels have seen losses. In some cases, English newspaper circulation has grown by 70 percent, but readership has grown by 2 percent. The print medium is still a thriving business in eastern countries like Japan and Singapore. The picture is, however, not very encouraging in Western countries like the US where print newspaper advertisements have declined from \$60 billion in the late '90s to \$20 billion in 2011. The Internet has impacted most newspapers in the last decade in the US. In India, the picture is not very clear. How the audience is going to behave in the next decade remains a question. For newspapers to survive, they will have to be more innovative and will have to diversify into other portfolios.

Advertising is still the primary source of income for print. The business model needs to be tweaked to fit into the new market environment. Internationally, the business model is subscription-led. At some point in time, India will have to move towards that model. Significantly, Ad spending has grown from Rs 150 billion to Rs 300 billion during the past five years. The share of the print media has remained the same around 40 per cent.

Surely, despite the growth of TV and the Internet, the print medium has held a forte. There is certainly buoyancy in the print market as digital technology was still confined primarily to the English-speaking market and would take time to reach the masses that are because of its availability in regional and vernacular languages.

There is a need for amazing writing: from a technical standpoint--by the major print journals. Good writers often check a variety of sources and strive for an objective viewpoint, as much as that is possible. Print journalists also need to take risks to provide in-depth, investigative stories to bring back readers. This needs to be done urgently or else the internet which has ushered in a new kind of journalism in which ordinary citizens play a greater role in the process of news-making as Citizen Reporters, will gradually replace Print Journalism. Today people, who double up as citizen reporters with video camera-equipped smartphones to record footage of news events and upload them onto channels like YouTube, would make Print Journalism redundant. The silver lining is that despite and advent of electronic media, the print media has not lost its charm and impact on the minds of readers with in-depth reporting and exhaustive articles written by experts and well-known columnists. The Print has lasting value and would continue to hold forte along the new media.

Journalism: A Definition and Its Evolving Concepts

Definition

Journalism is the gathering, processing, and disseminating of information, typically in the form of news, through various media channels such as print, broadcast, and digital. It serves as a watchdog on society, holding institutions accountable and informing the public about important events and issues.

New Concepts and Trends

The digital age has significantly transformed the landscape of journalism, leading to the emergence of new concepts and trends:

Citizen Journalism:

Definition: The practice of individuals, often non-professionals, engaging in journalism activities.

Impact: Has democratized news gathering, allowing for a wider range of perspectives and stories to be shared.

Data Journalism:

Definition: The use of data analysis and visualization techniques to tell stories and uncover hidden trends.

Impact: Has enabled journalists to present complex information in a more accessible and engaging manner.

Investigative Journalism:

Definition: In-depth reporting that involves uncovering hidden information or wrongdoing.

Impact: Remains crucial for holding power to account and promoting transparency.

Social Media Journalism:

Definition: The use of social media platforms to gather, share, and consume news.

Impact: Has changed the way journalists interact with their audience and gather information.

Mobile Journalism:

Definition: The practice of using mobile devices to gather, edit, and distribute news.

Impact: Has made journalism more accessible and responsive to breaking news events.

Freelance Journalism:

Definition: Journalists who work independently, often for multiple clients.

Impact: Has increased flexibility and opportunities for journalists, but also presents challenges in terms of job security and income.

Fact-Checking and Verification:

Definition: The process of verifying the accuracy of information.

Impact: This has become increasingly important in the age of misinformation and fake news.

Ethical Considerations:

Definition: The principles and standards that guide journalists in their work.

Impact: Ethical considerations, such as objectivity, fairness, and accuracy, remain essential in the digital age.

Convergence Journalism:

Definition: The integration of different media formats, such as print, broadcast, and digital.

Impact: This has allowed for a more comprehensive and engaging storytelling experience.

Journalism continues to evolve in response to technological advancements and societal changes. While traditional concepts remain important, new trends and practices are shaping the future of the profession. As journalists navigate these changes, upholding ethical standards and striving for accuracy, objectivity, and public service is essential.

NEWS:-

1. According to Dowling Laverwood:

News is the current information on all events based on facts, situations, or forms. It is information meant for people who are interested in it.

2. According to Professor Chilton Bush:-

News is that thrilling information meant to satisfy the individual's curiosity.

3. According to Professor William G. Blair:-

Any current event, that arouses the interest of people, is news. The news which arouses the interest of many people is the best news.

4. **Manukonda Chelapati Rao Defines** news as anything, that gives information of any change, because the change is exciting.

5. According to Woolsley and Campbell:-

News may be defined as an accurate, unbiased account of significant facts of a timely happening that is of interest to the readers of the newspapers that

Print the account.

6. According to Professor Chilton Bara:-

News is generally exciting information through which people get comfort and excitement of any issue.

7. According to Turner Keit Lize:-

News is something about which, we were not aware till yesterday i.e. anything which we come to know today and at present is News.

8. News is the first report of significant events which have interest for the public.

9. News is anything timely that is interesting and significant to readers in respect for their personal affairs or their relation to society.

NEWS – Comprises of all the four directions:

N-North

E-East

W-West

S-South

*Anything that is new and unexpected for the readers and viewers is termed as news.

*News implies new things and the latest information.

*Any accurate fact or idea that will interest a large number of people is defined as News.

*News is also categorized as:-

N-Newness

E-Eventful

W-Wisdom

S-Sensitive

TYPES OF NEWS:-

There are various types of news based on different classifications.

1. News based on area:-

a) Local News

b) Regional News

- c) National News
- d) International News

2. News based on material of news:-

- a) Diary news
- b) Hot news

3. Other types based on facts:-

- a) Straight
- b) Interpretative

4. Based on subjects:-

- a) General News
- b) Political News
- c) Business News
- d) Entertainment News
- e) Crime News
- f) Sensational News

ELEMENTS OF NEWS:-

[1] **Immediacy or timeliness:** These are of great importance. Any new thing or latest information makes all the difference. As news ages, it loses its potency. The nearness of any event in time is vital to daily newspapers.

[2] **Truth and objectivity:** -The news presented should be factual and truly observed. The balanced picture of an event or a happening in reporting events enhances the value of news.

[3] **Nearness or propinquity:** Closeness in space. The newsworthiness of an event is in direct ratio to its physical nearness to the public served by newspapers appraising it. An accident or crime near home has much greater news value than a bigger accident or crime abroad.

[4] **News should be of interest** or significance to readers. The interest however differs to a section of society. There are people having different perceptions for different kinds of news. It may be of interest to a section of society or community; it may be of interest to local, regional, or international affairs.

[5] **Name of individual also makes news.** The person may be known because of his or her position, wealth, and status. Many unknown people can also make news because of some oddity, eccentricity, or unusual occupation.

[6] **Timing and place** of occurrence of events are also important elements of news. The hour of an event may decide its news importance, so where the news things happen is important. For example, suicide in a big town may not be big news, but in a small town or local area, it may hit the headlines.

[7] **Numbers and size make news**. An accident in which a large number of people died and injured makes the news more valuable. In comparison to accident took place but no one died and was hardly injured.

[8] **Suspense and mystery** add to the value of news. It holds readers' interest in the news. The more the suspense, the greater the curiosity of readers is there in the news.

[9] **Information of change and its importance**: If there is an event which can bring change in the social content; gains more interest and importance.

Various Forms of Print Media

Print media refers to the physical dissemination of information through printed materials. It has been a cornerstone of communication for centuries, but with the rise of digital media, its role has evolved. Here are some of the key forms of print media:

Newspapers

- **Broadsheets:** Larger-format newspapers known for their in-depth coverage and analysis.
- **Tabloids:** Smaller-format newspapers often sensationalized and focused on entertainment news.
- **Community Newspapers:** Local newspapers serving specific neighborhoods or communities.

Magazines

- **Consumer Magazines:** Target a general audience with a variety of topics.
- **Trade Magazines:** Focus on specific industries or professions.
- **Special Interest Magazines:** Cater to niche interests or hobbies.

Books

- **Fiction:** Imaginative narratives, including novels, short stories, and poetry.
- **Non-Fiction:** Factual information, such as biographies, history books, and textbooks.
- **Academic Journals:** Scholarly publications containing research articles and reviews.

Pamphlets and Brochures

- **Short-form publications:** Often used for advertising, promotional materials, or educational purposes.

Flyers and Handbills

- **Single-sheet advertisements:** Distributed in public places or door-to-door.

Posters and Billboards

- **Large-format advertisements:** Displayed in public areas.

Greeting Cards

- **Personalized messages:** Used for special occasions or holidays.

Stationery

- **Writing materials:** Includes letterheads, envelopes, and note cards.

Other Forms

- **Calendars:** Annual planners with dates and often images.
- **Menus:** Lists of food and beverages offered by restaurants.
- **Catalogs:** Printed lists of products available for purchase.

The Future of Print Media

While digital media has grown in popularity, print media continues to have a significant impact. Many people still prefer the tactile experience of reading physical materials, and print publications can offer a level of depth and detail that is difficult to achieve online. Additionally, print media can be a valuable tool for branding and marketing.

As technology evolves, print media is also adapting. Digital printing has made it possible to produce personalized and customized materials, and augmented reality can enhance the reading experience. While the future of print media is uncertain, it is clear that it will continue to play a role in our lives for years to come.

JOURNALISM BEFORE AND AFTER INDEPENDENCE

A person known by the name of James Augustus Hickey started a paper after seeking permission from the East India Company. This newspaper was called 'Bengal Gazette' (or Calcutta General Advertiser). The entire newspaper consisted of only 4 pages. The newspaper was

well-known for fearlessly criticizing the money-making and political policies of the East India Company.

Bombay Courier was launched in 1792, this newspaper published advertisements in English and Gujarati.

1816, was the year when the first newspaper under Indian Administration appeared. It was the "Bengal Gazette" which was published by Gangadhar Bhattacharjee. It advocated the reforms of Raja Ram Mohan Roy. To counteract the religious propaganda of the Christian missionaries of Serampore, Raja Ram Mohan Roy published The Brahmanical Magazine.

1822 saw the rise of Chandrika Samachar in Bengal and Bombay Samachar in Mumbai by Ferdunji Marzban.

Oodunt Martand was the first Hindi newspaper, which was published in 1826 in Bengal. Later came Jami Jahan Numa, a newspaper that was pro-establishment.

Pune saw its first Anglo – Marathi Newspaper in 1832 which was published by Bal Shastri Jambhekar. In 1861, Mr Knight merged the Bombay Standard, Bombay Times and Telegraph and brought out the first issue of Times of India.

Hicky was imprisoned, for fighting for the liberty of press, his paper was stopped. But from 1780-1793, 6 papers were started in Calcutta, 3 in Madras and 3 in Bombay. This was the basic foundation of free press of India.

During this era, the birth of vernacular press took place which mainly wrote about liberal views and was also spreading knowledge about various matters. An important paper called Bombay Times was founded in 1838. Now the Bombay Times is known as Times of India.

In the fight against British, few papers played a very noteworthy role. This included 'Hindu Patriot' which launched movements against the British by asking the people not to grow crops for the British traders. Bal Gangadhar Tilak, owner of the newspaper 'Kesari', ignited the fire of independence in millions.

One of the pioneers of Indian language journalism was Raja Ram Mohan Roy with his Persian newspaper Mirat-ul-Akbar. He created the newspaper in order to indicate to the rulers' knowledge of the real situation of their subjects and make the subjects acquainted with the established laws and customs of their rules. Roy later stopped later in protest against the Government's Press Regulations.

Another important newspaper that contributed in the freedom struggle was Bengal Gazette or as it was also known, Hicky's Gazette. James Augustus Hicky started it in 1780 'in order to

purchase freedom for my mind and soul'. 'A weekly political and commercial paper, open to all parties but influenced by none.' The paper was; in essence, no better than a scandal sheet. Thus, in the next year (1981), Hicky was arrested and put into jail, from where he continued to write for the Gazette.

Restrictions were brought back in the form of Gagging Act, 1857. This was the year of what the British historians termed 'the Sepoy Mutiny', while a few Indian historians called it the 'first war of Independence'.

The Mutiny brought the rule of the East India Company to a close, with the Crown taking over the 'colony', with the promise of religious toleration and press freedom. The main topics of discussion in the English and vernacular press before and after the Mutiny were sati, caste, widow remarriage, polygamy, crimes and opposition to the teaching of English in schools and colleges.

Bombay's Gujarati press, in particular, excelled in the defence of the Indian way of life. In 1876, the Vernacular Press Act was promulgated. The English-controlled papers like The Times of India, the Pioneer and the Madras Mail didn't report it to a great extent. However, the vernacular papers like Amrit Bazar Patrika and Kesari reported the inaugural meeting at length.

Despite the hold the television industry has on the country, it is the print press which is attracting more advertisers, making up 47% of the whole share. Newspapers in the current time have penetrated only 25% of the total population of the country. It is true that these days, the digital technology is mauling the traditional print newspaper.

One of the reasons why this digital phase has not affected India that much is because only 7% of the Indians surf the Internet regularly. The rich English language, extremely cheap cost and the total availability of the newspapers also help in their sale.

The growth of India's economy has had its impact on the newspaper industry. The circulation increased, resulting in increased revenues. Here, the dailies in the regional languages command more than half of the average readership, as per a report in 2010.

There are 90 million readers of dailies in the regional languages as compared to 54 million for dailies in Hindi and 8 million for dailies in English.

During the reign of the British Empire there were several Acts passed as stringent curbs over the Indian Press. Prior to the rumblings of the 1857 mutiny, the Press was fiercely involved in

rallying the masses, and inevitably, the British government was increasingly becoming apprehensive about the Press' freedom.

Through the newspapers, a nationalistic rebellion was slowly being pieced together through words and symbols. In view of this, the "Gagging Act" was passed by Lord Lytton, which was driven to curtail and control the Indian publications' content. The Act compelled all Indian publications to apply for a license from the government, while also ensuring that nothing was written against the British government, nor was the government challenged in any measure.

Unfortunately for the government, the Press was impervious to the "Gagging Act", working its way around disseminating news. It pushed the government to design far more stringent measures.

For instance, in the 1870s, it panned its focus onto the regional vernacular publications that were individually inspiring the masses to partake in the fight against the British Empire, by informing them about the dire situation of the Indian people. One such publication was the Bengali weekly, *Amrita Bazar Patrika* (established in 1868 in Jessore district, now in present-day Bangladesh). *Amrita Bazar Patrika* caught the authorities' attention when it reported on the exploited indigo farmers.

Sir Ashley Eden, a British official, approached the editor of *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, Sisir Kumar Ghose, and asked him to hand over the final approval of editorial content to Eden. Ghose bluntly refused.

As did several other Indian editors of regional papers across the country. In the light of this, the Vernacular Press Act was passed on March 14, 1878, where the British government claimed stronger control over the vernacular newspapers in the interest to curb "seditious writing" in "publications in oriental languages".

This Act was not imposed on English-language publications. *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, a bilingual, adapted to the circumstances and became solely English weekly, going on to play an important role in the development of investigative Indian journalism, rooting its politics in the freedom struggle. The weekly once even described the Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon, as "Young and a little foppish, and without previous training but invested with unlimited powers."

In the 1880s, the Nationalist movement gathered momentum and that gave a stronger push to the Indian Press. Inevitably, the government, wary of the Press and passed several laws to control it and suppress political agitation.

Reba Chaudhuri writes in *The Story of the Indian Press* (published in the *Economic and Political Weekly*, 1955), “A number of Press Laws and restrictions were enforced and placed on the statute book from time to time. After the establishment of the Indian National Congress, there were sections 124A and 153A of the Penal Code enacted in 1898. There was also section 565 of the Indian Penal Code.

Four new measures were enacted between 1908-1910; namely, the Newspapers (Incitement to Offences) Act of 1908, the Press Act of 1910, the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act of 1911, and the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1908. There was also” the Official Secrets Act as amended in 1903.”

The Press Act of 1910 hit the Indian papers hard. Chaudhuri gives an insight: “The Press Association of India in a memorandum on the operation of the Press Act of 1910 stated that nearly 1,000 papers had been prosecuted under the Act. The total amount of securities and forfeitures which went into the hands of the Government during the first five years of the Act was nearly Rs 5 lakhs according to another official return made in 1918. Over 500 publications were proscribed under the Act.” Several editors were charged with sedition for publishing anti-government editorials. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, for instance, had to pay, a security of Rs 5,000 to the government.

The tension between the Press and the Government was slowly mounting. The Press Emergency Act of 1931 further heightened the tension. During Mahatma Gandhi’s Satyagraha, he used the press to advocate his feelings and rally the masses to protest against the British.

An expert on South Asian history, Judith M. Brown, writes in her book, *Gandhi’s Rise to Power: Indian Politics 1915-1922*, “Satyagraha lasted from 22 March until 6 June.

According to the press, the peak was reached by 21 April, when there were 2,337 signatories to the pledge. Gandhi himself worked on two main lines, external publicity and internal consolidation. As far as the rest of India was concerned, he did his utmost to capture public sympathy, writing to friends, speaking in Bombay, and courting the press...with letters to the editors and numerous public statements. In his words, ‘it is not the money they want so much as the voice of a strong, unanimous and emphatic public opinion.’

Following Gandhi’s arrest in 1930, in the aftermath of the Salt Satyagraha he started, the Press Emergency Act of 1931 was firmly put in place. In her article, Chaudhuri explains, “Throughout this period, however, the Press Emergency Act of 1931 remained in force and was applied with greater or less severity according to political circumstances. The record of prosecution in the 15-year period exceeded the one under the 1910 Act. Well over a 1,000 newspapers were victimised in Bombay, Bengal, Delhi, Madras, and Punjab and UP.”

When the British government dragged India into the war, it sparked a protest from the Congress Party. Fearful of unwanted rabble-rousing, the government took stringent measures to counter the party's rebellion.

It lashed out at the Indian Press – even though the Indian Press (Emergency powers) Act, 1931 was already in place, the government demanded stiff censorship. It controlled and filtered international news that was coming in, and consciously, simultaneously manufactured news rooted in propaganda. At the same time, it stifled several publications in terms of content.

For instance, in November 1939, it prohibited newspapers from publishing the hunger strike held by prison inmates across the country, which involved the detainment of at least 15 people who went on the strike.

Fearing a threat to freedom of expression, newspaper editors' new concern was to ensure that the rights of the press be safeguarded. In the midst of this, emerged the All-India Newspapers Editors' Conference, which was conceived to function as a protector of press rights. It fought for the British government to lift the restrictions off the Press, and advocated for the formation of better relations with the government.

In 1941, Gandhi wrote against the restrictions imposed. He said, "In the name of the war effort, all expression of opinion is effectively suppressed unless an enterprising editor or publisher risks the loss of his press".

The government, however, continued to crack down, ensuring pre-censorship on editorials like the Amrita Bazar Patrika, particularly because it reported on the Bengal famine. Another newspaper, Hitavada (established in 1911) was asked to reveal the name of one of its reporters, while Hindustan Times' office had an unexpected raid from the government.

It imposed the Defense of India Regulations on the Press, prohibiting it from announcing to the masses that the press had been banned from writing on the Bengal famine or the sorry state of affairs in India.

The Defense of India Regulations Act was originally introduced in the 1915, by the government as a stringent, emergency law to prevent retaliatory, rebellion-driven activities from emerging within the country. Chaudhuri explains, "The Defense Act Rules in India were not merely used for war purposes, but also for all political purposes so as to carry out the policy of the Indian Government in regard to repression of political agitation or free public criticism of its normal acts and methods of administration in India."

Chaudhuri further writes that when World War II erupted, “the Government of India under the Defense of India Act armed itself with the power of pre-censorship of material published in the Press relating to certain matters.

The penalty of imprisonment was extended to five years; the Official Secrets Act was amended to provide a maximum penalty of death or transportation for the publication of information likely to be of use to the enemy. The Press Emergency Powers Act was also similarly amended.”

As Congress’ retaliatory activities mounted, particularly the Quit India Movement (1942) organized by Congress, the Press was demanded not publish party-related news.

Eventually, the All-India Newspaper Editors’ Conference – the protector of Indian Press’ rights – gave a word of confidence to the government that the newspapers will observe caution and voluntarily refrain from releasing information regarding Quit India Movement.

Where there is a will, there is a way, of course. And the Press always found a way. During this period, leaders disseminated news through secret radio messages and also illegally shared information through cyclostyled news-sheets. Messages were also shared and graphitized on the walls; underground publications worked simultaneously. When the movement turned violent, it pushed the government to silence any resistance. It convicted the rebels in thousands.

Eventually, in September 1946, an interim government was formed, which would help in the transfer of power from the British, as well as assist in both India’s as well as Pakistan’s independence. At that moment, the British government had to abdicate its powers that earlier controlled and curtailed the freedom of the Press.

Historical Development of Press in USA

Britain’s press can trace its history back more than 300 years, to the time of William of Orange. Berrow’s Worcester Journal, which started life as the Worcester Postman in 1690 and was published regularly from 1709, is believed to be the oldest surviving English newspaper.

William Caxton had introduced the first English printing press in 1476 and, by the early 16th century, the first ‘news papers’ were seen in Britain. They were; however, slow to evolve, with the largely illiterate population relying on town criers for news.

Between 1640 and the Restoration, around 30,000 ‘news letters’ and ‘news papers’ were printed, many of which can be seen today in the British Museum, The first regular English daily newspaper, the *Daily Courant*, was launched with the reign of Queen Anne in 1702.