**TYPES OF NEWS STORIES III**

**SIMPLE NEWS**

**Crime Stories:**

**Contempt Of Court**

It is a punishable act of disobeying an order made by a judge or court of law or behaving in such a way that the usual process of the court is interrupted.

### Conspiracy

Conspiracy is a secret plan made with other people to do something bad, illegal or against someone’s wishes. If the plan is illegal and the conspirators are exposed and held responsible then it becomes cognizable crime. Cognizable crime is the one that allows police or law to come into action.

### Gambling

Gambling is betting money or some other property, moveable or immoveable, on any game or action.

### Drug Trafficking

Drug trafficking is trading in illegal drugs and this is universally recognized crime. In some countries the people involved in this crime are awarded even capital (death) punishment. The people caught dealing in this illegal trade make news.

### Smuggling

Illegal transportation of goods within a country or across the border is smuggling.

### Disturbing Peace (Riots)

Riot is a noisy, violent, and uncontrolled public gathering. Riots are carried out normally by pressure groups in a society to demonstrate protest against government policies or to achieve some vested interests. If the riot turns into hooliganism, public property is put in danger and peace is attempted to be sabotaged, it makes news.

### Rape

It is a heinous crime of having sex with someone against his or her will. Rapist is the one who commits the crime.

### WEATHER NEWS

In routine weather news items, following areas are covered:

### Temperature (highest and lowest)

* 1. **Humidity**
  2. **Rain or Sun**

Sometimes the weather may become the lead story or one of the major stories of the day. The weather aftereffects do not disappear with dawn or dusk, so in case the weather story is the most important or one of the important news items in a news bulletin, its follow up story goes on and on until the repercussions of the story get diminished.

The story about the weather will be treated as special news item if:

* + - The weather results in disaster; floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, dust storms, thunder and lightening, blizzards (snowstorm), or other weather oddities which cause deaths or serious damages.
    - There are sudden changes, cold waves, early snows, heavy rains or other out of the ordinary conditions.
    - Previous records are broken, like, highest ever or lowest ever temperature, quantity of rainfalls breaking the previous records.
    - If the schedule of any special event is disturbed owing to unexpected weather conditions, for instance, because of continuous heavy rains there is a kind of flood situation in the city; consequently, the school exams may be postponed.
    - The affect of bad weather on crops and drought is expected, it will be news.

### Lunar Months

The significance of lunar months may posses any place in those countries where the Muslims are not in majority, or it may not carry any weight for people who belong to the religions other than Islam, but for Muslims and in Islamic countries the moon sighting of lunar months is of immense importance. All the rituals, festivals and celebrations of Muslims are marked and estimated with the sighting of the first moon

The most important to be reported is, whether the moon is sighted or not, especially the moon of Muharram-ul-Haraam, Rabi-ul-Awwal, Ramadhan, Shawwal, and Dhil-Hajj.

### LESSON 10

**TYPES OF NEWS STORIES IV**

**COMPLEX NEWS**

These are, as a matter of fact, stories which involve complexities of the nature of the beat, of the language that is to be employed while penning down the news item, of the jargons which are frequently used in the writings or in the conversation about the field.

These are the news stories which demand reporter’s special knowledge about the beat he is covering. The reporter covering this type of stories must be well versed in the basic knowledge about the beat.

Actually this is where comes up ***interpretative reporting*** to facilitate people with back and foreground of the event covered by the reporter so that they may not find any lack or ambiguity while listening to the news item.

The following are the essentials to be made a part of complex news items by a reporter:

* Reporter must incorporate extra explanation in the news item.
* Technical vocabulary is to be made easy.
* Expert knowledge of the reporter about the beat must be evident from the coverage of the event.

What interpretative reporting is will be gone through in detail in the coming lessons. Now let us have a glance at some complex news story types ‘that require interpretation from the reporter’s background of specialized information.’

### Court, Trials, Lawsuits:

Court stories are considered among the most difficult and challenging stories to report since they involve complexity of legal process. The reporting of a trial especially when it is under hearing in any court is a pretty sensitive task. The reporter needs to be very careful and cautious while reporting owing to the strong possibility of the fact that any of his comment or information given in the report may create problems for either defendant or the plaintiff or even for himself. An even insignificant expression of carelessness and there will be a notice from the court demanding explanation from the reporter.

Another thing, as discussed above, while reporting court related stories, reporter has to simplify the terms used while the trial by the lawyers and the judge since these terms, though can be understood by the ones who have special knowledge of law, may not be understandable by a layman.

Court stories, normally, have already been reported in news bulletins before they become court stories. A murder, for instance, has been done and its facts have already been known to people. Now the matter is in the court for hearing so that the accused be declared murderer or be set free from the allegation. Hence while reporting this case; background of the case will also be the part of the report.

### Government & Policies:

One of the prime objectives of any news channel is to keep people informed with the policies and projects announced and initiated by the government in the interest of the people. So the coverage of news stories regarding different departments and organs of government is pretty important and it demands reporter to be well conversant with the following areas:

### Forms of Government:

Presently there are three types of government found in different countries.

## Democracy

It means government of the people, by the people and for the people. Countries enjoying democracy have opted either for presidential system reposing the maximum powers in the president as the head of the state

or for parliamentary system letting the prime minister enjoy the status as the head of the state.

It is important to be noted that in democracy the head of the states are elected by the representatives of the people and they are answerable to the people for every of their act or decision.

## Monarchy

Monarchy is a kind of government in which the power rests with one person whose decisions cannot be challenged. The monarch or the king is the ruler and the head of the state the right to rule is transferred to any one of the heirs of the king like any transferable commodity.

## Dictatorship

In dictatorship one person manages to become the ruler of the state and enjoys the power as long as he wishes. To run the affairs of the state he may select a band of ministers and technocrats of his own choice and his decisions can not be challenged in any way by anyone.

### Different Parliaments and Constitutions

A reporter must study the nature and the functioning of different parliaments in the world. Most important countries in this connection are United States of America, England, France, Russia, India, and Germany.

Likewise the constitutions of these countries must also be known to a good reporter. A reporter must be well familiar with the constitution and parliament of his own country. He is to be well aware of all the members of National Assembly, Senate, Provincial Assemblies, Federal and Provincial Ministers with their respective ministries.

Local governments with the entire set-up and working must be in the knowledge of the reporter.

### Business & Commerce News:

Stories pertaining to business and commerce also demand a reporter to equip him with special knowledge of terms, jargons and economic trends of business and commerce sphere.

Given below are some special areas of news on business and commerce;

### Markets

Stocks and bonds Livestock and commodities

Local, national and international market trends

**Real Estate** Routine transfer New additions Large sales

Improvements and expansion of buildings and housing schemes Construction permits issued.

### Merchandising

Retail and wholesale stores Expansions and improvements New corporations and partnerships

Mergers, Bankruptcies, Prices, Cost of living

**Financing and Banking** Stockholders’ meetings Dividends

Bonds

Interest rates

Money market in general, Currency exchange rates.

### Industry Related News:

Knowledge about industries in Pakistan Leather & Surgical instruments

Textile & Sports industry Imports /exports

New industries, products, shares, mergers

### Transportations

Changes in schedules

New policies regarding transportation

### Labour:

Wages and hours Unemployment Strikes, lockouts, relief Labour unions,

Labour problems and laws Int’l Labour organization

### Business and Government

Taxes Legislative acts

Court decisions and business Regulations and enforcements

### Agriculture:

Crops, Sales, Droughts New methods of farming Land reforms

Regulations by government

New varieties in seeds and seedlings Seed & Seedling crops

Winter & Summer crops

Sowing, Reaping & Harvesting season Arid lands

Irrigation lands

Canal system of Pakistan

### Medicine & Psychology:

Stories regarding medical technology and psychology demand a reporter to make special terms easy for listeners. Some of the terms are given below:

By pass Angiography

E.C.G. (electrocardiogram) Anatomy

Migraine Schizophrenia Hydrophobia Kleptomania

### LESSON 11

**TYPES OF NEWS STORIES V**

**COMPLEX NEWS**

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    - Technical vocabulary is to be made easy.
    - Expert knowledge of the reporter about the beat must be evident from the coverage of the event.

### Education

While covering education related news items a reporter must keep following points in his mind.

* Govt.’s policy on education
* Change in syllabus
* Exams of different classes
* Results
* Interviews of toppers and policy makers

### Research

Research may occur in the following fields.

### Medicine

* **Disease**
* **Agriculture**
* **History**
* **Science**
  + Inventions
  + Improvements
  + Innovations
  + Space sciences

Reporter must keep himself/herself in touch with the names that are directly or indirectly involved in the research work in the said fields and whenever there is any breakthrough, must pick up the news.

### Religion

Reporter covering news items regarding religion needs to have the adequate knowledge about the following aspects of this type:

1. Basic knowledge about own religion
2. Historical facts
3. Jurisprudence
4. Minorities
5. Basic history of minorities’ religion
6. Religious Heroes & Personalities

### LESSON 12

**TYPES OF NEWS STORIES VI**

**SPECIAL NEWS**

The emergence of so many radio channels has created an atmosphere of competition and in this competitive era listeners demand more than just what is termed as hard news. A quality news bulletin is the one that contains as many segments as it can. The segment contains something to tell listeners about fashion, family, foods and social events; and the reviews of television, plays, radio programmes, films, etc.

### Lifestyles:

In lifestyle following aspects of a society may be covered:

### Receptions

In different organizations, departments or other official or educational set-ups, whenever there is a fresh arrival of any officer, he is welcomed in a formal way and a kind of function is arranged in his honour. This function is to be covered.

### Farewells

Likewise, on retirement or transfer of any important official, he is given a farewell party where his colleagues and other figures of society gather to say words in his honour. These functions are to be covered.

Sometimes a get-to-gather is arranged at tea-time or dinner and these occasions carry a lot to be recorded and to be made a part of news bulletin.

### Entertainment

Functions and personalities in showbiz always have a potential to attract listeners’ ears. News about actors, actresses, singers, etc. is put in a news bulletin. Showbiz functions such as recitals (music programmes), music shows, charity shows, film festivals, award ceremonies, film-openings, etc. make news. These functions are to be covered.

### Fashion

Happenings in the world of fashion make news. While covering fashion news following important things must be concentrated:

* 1. What’s in?
  2. What’s out?
  3. New trends
  4. Top models
  5. Models’ interviews.

### Engagements and Weddings

News of engagements and weddings of important figures in a society also fall in special story types.

### Sports:

Sports news items are given special place and space in a news bulletin. People, more than anything else are interested in listening to stories about sports. News becomes most important when one of the teams playing is listeners’ own country’s team. All of the news values, i.e., prominence, progress, human interest, conflict and consequence, contribute to the importance of this type of news.

In big radio organizations there is a separate department of reporters, writers and editors for the coverage and treatment of sports events.

### Literature & Art:

Something new and interesting in the realm of literature and art makes news.

The following are the important areas to be covered in this story type:

### Literary Personalities New Literary Works Nobel Prize Criticism

**Books Articles**

**Painting and sculpturing**

* + - Famous artistes and sculptors
    - Forms of art
    - Realism
    - Impressionism
    - Romanticism

### LESSON 13

**SOURCES OF NEWS I**

News sources are the ways and routes through which a news channel gets news. Given below are the important news sources:

* Reporters / correspondents
* Newsroom diary
* File
* Check Call
* Monitoring
* News/ Press releases
* Media contact
* Politicians
* Press conference

### REPORTERS / CORRESPONDENTS

The biggest source of news for any radio station is its reporting staff. The reporters live in the community to which they are broadcasting through everyday contact with people in the area, from there observations as they move in the society and from their informers they get news for their organization. So the chief assignment of the reporter is to get news for the channel he or she is attached with.

### Network of Reporters

The news channel has a galaxy of reporters for gathering news. Their network, according to the size of the channel, works on local, national and international levels.

## Local Reporters

Local reporters or correspondents are from towns and villages and their assignment is to find from their vicinity and send them to the organization they work for. If needed, they record the impressions of the people or the recording of any important function or ceremony and dispatch it. If it is crucial to get the news in the bulletin immediately, the same recording and the news details may be sent to the newsroom on telephone lines as well.

## City Correspondents

These reporters are deputed in big and important cities and perform as local reporters do.

## International Reporters

These reporters are specially deputed in the important cities of the important countries. They keep a vigilant eye on the happenings in the country they are deputed in and keep their channel updated.

## Special Reporters

These are the reporters who are assigned news items of great significance to cover. For instance there is an inauguration of motor-way and the chief guest is president or the prime minister himself. Special reporter will be assigned the coverage of this event. Likewise the coverage of the press conference of any minister to make public government’s point of view on certain matter will be assigned to special reporter.

## Senior Reporters

These reporters are also assigned important and sensitive happenings and functions to cover.

## Chief Reporter

Chief reporter is the one who administers the junior reporters.

### QUALITIES OF A REPORTER

Besides proper education of journalism, a reporter must possess following qualities if he strongly wishes to

be a figure in the field of journalism.

## Nosy/ Curious

A good reporter is one who has an ability to smell the news in any apparently normal and ordinary event. He needs to be curious and nosy about the things behind the curtain.

### Sharp Observation

Unless a reporter’s observation is sharp and outstanding, he is unable to smell something newsworthy in any happening.

## Public Relations

A good reporter is the one who enjoys a good repute in the society and cultivates healthy relations with officials of important status in almost all important departments and walks of life. His strong relations make him obtain news in time and without applying extra efforts.

## Active; Dynamic

A reporter is the one who is always active and ready to be assigned any task of news gathering. A sluggish, lethargic and inactive kind of person can be anything on earth but can never be a reporter.

## Well informed

A reporter is a man of knowledge. He is not only supposed to have information about important happenings in the world, capitals of different countries, facts and figures of different national and international issues, national and international economic trends, but also it is imperative for him to have knowledge of the basics of almost all social sciences. A good reporter though can not be master of all, but he has to be the jack of all trades.

## Shrewd yet well behaved

The profession a reporter has opted for, demands him to be sharp, active, shrewd and sometimes cunning as well but it does not imply at all that he is required to display ill-mannerism. He needs to be polite, well behaved, courteous, lively, refined and easygoing kind of person.

### NEWSROOM

Newsroom is a specific area in a newspaper office or a radio or T.V. station where news is received, treated, processed and prepared for printing or Broadcasting.

### NEWSROOM DAIRY

Newsroom diary is a kind of diary or register in which information about coming important events to be covered are logged in. every page of this diary is divided in different columns containing important information about the function, ceremony, workshop, seminar, or symposium. Normally following information about following five Ws is put in these columns:

### What

Nature of the function/ gathering.

1. Seminars
2. Workshop
3. Opening of any project
4. Laying down of foundation stone

### Who

Name of the Chief Guest

### When

Time & date of the event to be covered

### Where

Venue—complete address of the place where the event has to be held. For instance:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Function.** | **Chief Guest.** | **Date.** | **Time.** | **Venue** |
| Symposium on the Political Thought  of Allama Muhammad Iqbal. | Chief justice Javed Iqbal. | November 09 | 4:30 pm. | ABC Hall, XYZ  Hotel, Mall Road, LHR. |

The first thing that a reporter deputed on covering city events does on reaching newsroom in the morning is to look up the newsroom diary and to get the information of the event he is to cover on that day.

Question arises, where this information about the coming events to be covered comes from. This information, as a matter of fact lands on the newsroom table in shape of *Press Release* which is also a news source and will be discussed in detail later.

### FILES

In newsroom there is a cabinet that contains files with titles showing different captions. Each file is about any national or international issue and is updated as and when there is any progress in the issue. The purpose of these files is to provide the reporter with the factual background of any problem. For instance if, in the city, there is a secretary-level conference of SAARC countries, the reporter will be at ease while making the news of this conference by looking up the file containing all the history and development of SAARC from its inception to date.

### Some Important National Issues

1. Political issues
2. Social issues
3. Religious issues
4. Kala Baagh Dam, pollution
5. Ethnicity, Sectarianism

### Some Important International Issues

1. Non proliferation treaty (NPT)
2. CTBT (comprehensive test ban treaty)
3. Nuclear experiments made by different nations
4. Signing countries
5. Cuba crisis
6. World war-1
7. World war-2
8. Pre-Cold War Era & Post Cold War Era
9. Gulf crisis
10. Iran-Iraq war
11. Lebanon-Israel war

### Some Important International & Regional Forums

1. League Of Nations
2. United Nations
3. NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)
4. CEATO
5. SENTO
6. SAARC
7. RCD
8. Commonwealth Countries
9. European Union

### Kashmir Issue

1. Historical background
2. Kashmir issue
3. UNO’s resolutions on the issue
4. Pakistan’s efforts towards normalization with India
5. India’s response

### Pak-India Relations

1. Indus water basin treaty
2. Wars with India---reasons
3. Kargil issue
4. Buglehar Dam
5. Pak-India talks on different levels

### CHECK CALL

For hunting a story that is happening right now such as an armed robbery, fire, or air crash is breaking news. Main sources of breaking news are emergency services – fire brigade, police station, PRO of different ministers and ministries, coastguard.

These enquiries are called “CHECK CALL.”

### Breaking news British English

**Spot story American English**

**Just in News flash**

The news story that has happened right now, or is still happening and is of immense importance needs to be broadcast immediately; even a program can be interrupted for the purpose is called as *Breaking News.*

### LESSON 14

**SOURCES OF NEWS II**

**MONITORING**

Monitoring officers listen to the transmissions in different languages, translate them into English and make a report of it. Monitors normally work in three shifts.

For good monitoring a monitor must be proficient in the language he is monitoring. Senior monitors scrutinize the monitoring reports and finally the news items to be made a part of news bulletin are sent to the news editors.

### Important channels to be monitored

BBC

VOA (voice of America) VOG (voice of Germany) Kabul Radio

All India Radio Iran Radio

CNN (Cable News Network)

### NEWS/ PRESS RELEASE

A news release or press release or press statement is a written or recorded communication, directed at members of the news media, for the purpose of announcing something, claimed as having news value. Sometimes news releases are sent for the purpose of announcing news conferences.

### Means of sending a Press Release

Typically, it is mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to the assignment editors at newspapers, magazines, radio stations, television stations, and/or television networks.

### Origin of News Release

The press release was first introduced in 1906 by Ivy Lee who is often referred to as the first real public relations practitioner. At that time, Lee's agency was working with the Pennsylvania Railroad, which had just fallen victim to a tragic accident. Ivy Lee convinced the company to issue the first press release to journalists, before other versions of the story, or suppositions, could be spread among them and reported. He used a press release, in addition to inviting journalists and photographers to the scene and providing them transportation there as a means of fostering open communication with the media.

### Closing of a News Release

"30" is a traditional closing for a press release. It started during the Civil War when telegraphers tapped "XXX" at the end of a transmission. XXX is the Roman numeral for 30. Another common press release closing is ###.

### Scrutiny of a Press Release

Every press release is not worth Broadcasting. Shifting of landed material is time consuming yet important.

### Elements of a News Release

While there are several types of press releases (such as general news releases, event releases, product press releases, and more recently social media press releases), press releases very often have several traits of their structure in common. This helps journalists separate press releases from other PR communication methods, such as pitch letters or media advisories. Some of these common structural elements include:

* **Headline** - used to grab the attention of journalists and briefly summarize the news.
* **Dateline** - contains the release date and usually the originating city of the press release.
* **Introduction** - first paragraph in a press release, that generally gives basic answers to the questions of who, what, when, where and why.
* **Body** - further explanation, statistics, background, or other details relevant to the news.
* **Boilerplate** - generally a short "about" section, providing independent background on the issuing company, organization, or individual.
* **Media Contact Information** - name, phone number, email address, mailing address, or other contact information for the PR or other media relations contact person.

### Audio News Releases (ANRs)

Some departments send out audio news releases (ANRs) which are pre-taped audio programs that can be aired intact by radio stations.

### Video News Releases (VNRs)

VNRs are same as ANRs but these are recorded on video tapes and are sent out to TV cannels.

### Embargoed News Release

Sometimes a news release is embargoed -- that is, news organizations are requested not to report the story until a specified time. For example, news organizations usually receive a copy of presidential speeches several hours in advance. In such cases, the news organizations generally do not break the embargo. If they do, the agency that sent the release may blacklist them. A blacklisted news organization will not receive any more embargoed releases, or possibly any releases at all.

### PRESS CONFERENCE

A news conference or press conference is a media event in which newsmaker (person who holds press conference) invites journalists to hear him speak and most often, ask questions.

### Why Press Conference?

There are two major reasons for holding a news/ press conference.

* A newsmaker who gets many questions from reporters can answer them all at once rather than answering dozens of phone calls.
* A person can try to attract news coverage for something that was not of interest to journalists before.

In a news conference, one or more speakers may make a statement, which may be followed by questions from reporters. Sometimes only questioning occurs; sometimes there is a statement with no questions permitted.

A media event at which no statements are made, and no questions allowed, is called a photo opportunity. A government may wish to open their proceedings for the media to witness events, such as the passing of a piece of legislation from the government in parliament to the senate, via media availability.

### LESSON 15

**SOURCES OF NEWS III**

**NEWS AGENCY**

A news agency is an organization of journalists established to supply news reports to organizations in the newspapers, magazines, and radio and television channels. They are also known as wire services or news services.

News agencies generally prepare hard news stories that can be used by other news organizations with little or no modification. They provide these articles in bulk, electronically through wire services, today, they frequently use internet.

### National News Agencies:

* Associated Press of Pakistan (APP)
* Pakistan Press Association, which was later, renamed as Pakistan Press International (PPI)
* United Press of Pakistan (UPP)
* Independent News Pakistan (INP)
* News Network International (NNI)
* SANA (South Asian News Agency)
* Online News International (ONI)

### International News Agencies:

* Reuters
* Agence France Presse
* ANSA (ITALY)
* Australian Associated Press
* Canadian Press
* China News Service
* Iran News Agency (IRNA)

### HARD NEWS

Spot news that contains solid facts & figures about an incident, to be treated as news.

### Hard News Formula:

Hard news story covers a story by answering the following questions:

* What?
* When?
* Where?
* Why?
* Who?
* How?

### SOFT NEWS

Stories covering the details, socio-cultural and economic reasons and background of a hard news story are called *Soft News*.

### Difference between Radio News and Newspaper News:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **RADIO NEWS** | **NEWSPAPER NEWS** |
| 1. | News on radio is presented soon after the event takes place. | To get published, a news item has to wait for 24 hours. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2. | Follow-ups are broadcast promptly. | Follow-ups next day. |
| 3. | News on radio is to-the-point yet crisp. | News in newspaper is detailed. |
| 4. | News items to be given in a news bulletin are selective – only Frontline. | All types of stories are published in newspaper. |
| 5. | Personal approach – The newsreader talks to every individual listener. | Impersonal approach. |
| 6. | All headlines are given at the start of the news bulletin and then, normally after a short break the details are read out. | Every story is under its headline. |
| 7. | News is given in past and future tense. | Present tense is used in headlines in English newspapers for past events. For future events contracted headlines are used e.g., The President visits U.K. (past)  The President to visit U.K. (future) |
| 8. | Simple & spoken vocabulary. | Written style & difficult vocabulary may also be employed. |
| 9. | Simple sentence structure, no punctuations, but stresses and pauses. | Complex structure with all required punctuations. |
| 10. | No maps, charts, and graphs can be used for illustration. | Maps, charts, and graphs can be used. |
| 11. | News is written and presented in a sober way; a family feeling is given to the listeners. | Catchy and saucy language and pictures are also used. |
| 12. | More accessibility; caters illiterates too. | Limited accessibility & caters only literates. |
| 13. | Can present news as it happens but with voice and sound only. | Can present news as it happens with visual. |
| 14. | More difficult since only words are used | Easier since pictures can be used. |
| 15. | Can be heard even in fields. | Cannot be carried everywhere. |
| 16. | No maps, charts, graph. | Maps, charts, graphs. |