**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 | Chief justice | November 09 | 4:30 pm. | ABC Hall, XYZ |
| of Allama | Javed Iqbal. |  |  | Hotel, Mall Road, |
| Muhammad Iqbal. |  |  |  | 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.*

**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 questionsof 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 issuingcompany, organization, or individual.
* **Media Contact Information** - name, phone number, email address, mailing address, or othercontact 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.

**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 | To get published, a news item has to wait for |
|  | event takes place. | 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. | |



1. News items to be given in a news bulletin are All types of stories are published in

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | selective – only Frontline. | newspaper. |
|  |  |  |
| 5. | Personal approach – The newsreader talks to | Impersonal approach. |
|  | every individual listener. |  |
|  |  |  |
| 6. | All headlines are given at the start of the news | Every story is under its headline. |
|  | bulletin and then, normally after a short break |  |
|  | the details are read out. |  |
|  |  |  |
| 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, | Complex structure with all required |
|  | but stresses and pauses. | punctuations. |
|  |  |  |
| 10. | No maps, charts, and graphs can be used for | Maps, charts, and graphs can be used. |
|  | illustration. |  |
|  |  |  |
| 11. | News is written and presented in a sober way; | Catchy and saucy language and pictures are |
|  | a family feeling is given to the listeners. | also used. |
|  |  |  |
| 12. | More accessibility; caters illiterates too. | Limited accessibility & caters only literates. |
|  |  |  |
| 13. | Can present news as it happens but with | Can present news as it happens with visual. |
|  | voice and sound only. |  |
|  |  |  |
| 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. |