**NEWS STORY TYPES**

Broadly speaking all news items can be categorized under four heads. They are:

1. **General types**
2. **Simple types**
3. **Complex types**
4. **Special types**

We will look into all these types in detail while studying reporting but it is important enough to have an introduction to these types.

**GENERAL TYPES**

The following are the news stories which are treated as general types.

* + **Personals**
  + **Briefs**
  + **Meetings**
  + **Events**
  + **Speeches**
  + **Publications**
  + **Interviews**

**Personals**

These are the news stories about important persons of a society about whom people want to know. These figures could be from politics, showbiz, sports, or from any walk of life.

The near and dear ones of these celebrities also make news.

For instance,

* Any minister is admitted to hospital.
* Nazim visits any market.
* Prime minister’s mother gets ill.
* Minister’s son gets married.
* Any important figure’s near one passes away.
* Names of visitors, guests, committee members, conventions.

**Briefs**

These are short news stories not pertaining to persons but they are related to different organization, non-government organization, associations, trusts, clubs, etc.

* Policy or progress announcements/ statements of different government or non government organizations or departments, i.e., NADRA, etc.
* The closing of certain departments on special holidays.

**Meetings**

News regarding different meetings held or to be hold at different levels are to be covered. The criterion of evaluating the importance of these meetings is the same we have already gone through.

**Events**

These events may be fairs, or festivals, or may be any exhibition of pictures of a renowned photographer or of portraits made by an eminent painter or handcrafts. These events are the social and cultural activities in any society and deserve to be covered or to be made a part of a news bulletin

**Speeches**

Speeches of leading politicians, religious leaders, any department’s chairman, ministers, prime minister, president are to be covered and given space and place according to their respective importance.

**Publications**

News pertaining to different publications is also covered if again, they deserve to be a part of a news bulletin in terms of the eminence of their author and the importance of the subject matter. The publications may be a*rticles, books, or research papers.*

**Interviews**

Important interviews, if revealing anything important that may affect or interest a handsome number of people, are also included in news bulletin, especially if the interview is on any current issue.

Interview, in general, is an important genre of reporting and journalism whether print or electronic and hence will be touched upon in detail in the coming lectures. Some important kinds of interview, however, are given here:

* + Personality interviews
  + Informative interviews
  + Opinion forming interviews
  + Illustrative interviews
  + Thematic interviews
  + **TYPES OF NEWS STORIES II**
  + **SIMPLE TYPES**
  + These are the news items which require a reporter to be bit interpretative while writing the story.
  + It implies that these stories need a little more interpretation and explanation about the personality or accident or incident the story pertains to.
  + The following are the simple types of news stories.
  + **ILLNESS**
  + As is obvious, this news is about the illness of a personality who is enjoying prominence in a society. Since the rapid and extensive emergence and growth of media has shrunk the whole world into a village, some personalities are blessed with worldwide prominence and importance.
  + To quote the examples of such celebrities the apt names are of mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, Jahangir Khan, Imran Khan, Michael Jackson, André Agassi, and many more. So if any of such universally acknowledged personalities or any of their close ones get ill, the news of their illness would be a part of news bulletin.
  + While covering the stories of illness, following points must be given importance.
  + **Name & identification of the person who is ill**
  + **Cause of illness**
  + **Nature of illness**
  + **Condition (fair, serious, critical)**
  + **Name of hospital (“local hospital” if private)**
  + **DEATH**
  + Following are the essentials of death stories to be covered carefully:
  + **Name and identification of the person died**
  + **Age of the person at the time of his death**
  + **Place of death**
  + **The Time and Date the person died**
  + **Cause of death**
  + **FUNERAL**
  + Stories about the funeral of any person may be the Follow-up of illness story of the same person but not always.
  + The following are the essentials of a death story to be covered by the reporters.
  + **Time and date when the funeral ceremony is to be performed**
  + **Place of burial**
  + **Pallbearers**
  + **FIRES & ACCIDENTS**
  + The essentials of the stories of fires and accidents are as under:
  + **Place where the fire or accident took place,**
  + **Causalities**
  + **Injured persons**
  + **Damages to property**
  + **Escapes (experiences of escapes)**
  + **CRIME STORIES**
  + No such society exists on earth that is free from crimes. So to keep people informed, the coverage of crime stories is very important.
  + The crimes normally found in a society are as under:
  + **Homicide (Killing a Person)**
  + Homicide is an act of killing any other person that is in contrast with suicide, that is, to kill oneself intentionally.
  + Killing someone else may be of the following types:
  + Manslaughter
  + Murder
  + Assassination
  + **Manslaughter**
  + It is the crime of killing a person by someone who did not intend to do it. In Urdu it is called ***katl-e-***
  + ***khataa.***
  + For instance, you must have come across news such as an old man is run over by a car. Now the driver of the car did not intend to kill the old man, so this is manslaughter. In court of law the driver will not be sentenced to a punishment that is specific for planned killing of a person.
  + Or, someone was cleaning his gun and it worked itself killing a person present nearby. This killing, also, cannot be termed as planned killing.
  + **Murder**
  + Murder is the crime of killing a person by someone who did it deliberately and knowingly. This killing is with the intention of the person who did it and the responsible, if proven in the court of law, will be sentenced to the punishment that is specific for a person who does so. In Urdu, this is called ***katl-e-amd.***
  + Since killing a person is an established crime and this is something that creates disruption in the society, the news of this incident will be covered in the news bulletin.
  + **Assassination**
  + Assassination is the crime of killing a famous or important person in a society for any of the reasons; may be out of jealousy, or for money, or to accomplish some other interests.
  + It is normally a paid murder and the person who commits this crime is called ***assassin.***
  + As it is a kind of murder in which an important person in society is killed, the news becomes of reasonable magnitude and importance and it must appear in media, whether print or electronic.
  + **Assault**
  + Assault is a crime in which a sudden violent attack is made on someone. It may be for any reason.
  + **Kidnap**
  + Kidnap is the crime in which the criminal takes someone away by force, usually in order to demand money in exchange for releasing him or her.
  + The one who commits this crime is called ***kidnapper*** and the money he or she demands for the kidnapped one or ones is called ***ransom.***
  + **Larceny**
  + Larceny is the crime of taking something that does not belong to the person who commits it; and it is done without getting illegally into the place where the property, movable or immovable, is taken from.
  + Larceny is normally performed by altering the instrument of ownership. It is altered to change the ownership of the property. It is to be noted that the instrument of ownership is the legal document showing the legal ownership of a person or persons over any movable or immovable property.
  + **Burglary**
  + It is a crime the committer of which enters a building illegally, especially after making a hole in the wall or roof of the building, to steal things. The person who does it is ***burglar.***
  + **Robbery**
  + Robbery is the crime of depriving someone of his belongings by the use of force or threat, physical harm may also be given to the victim especially when resistance is offered to stop the robbers from the act of robbery.
  + The person who performs the robbery is ***robber.***
  + **Embezzlement**
  + It is a crime committed by people who or in business or in influential jobs. The person who commits it secretly takes some of the money illegally that is officially in his control and care and that belongs to the organization or business he works for.
  + **Forgery**
  + Forgery is the act of making an illegal copy of any document in order to deceive someone or law.
  + **Arson**
  + The act of putting someone’s property deliberately on fire with an intention to damage or destroy the property is called arson.
  + The person who does it is an ***arsonist.***
  + **Mugging**
  + The depriving someone of his belonging forcibly in a public place is mugging and a person who does so is called ***mugger.***
  + **Perjury**
  + The act of giving false statement in court of law after promising formally to tell the truth is ***perjury.***
  + ***Perjurer*** is the one who gives false statement.

**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:

1. **Temperature (highest and lowest)**
2. **Humidity**
3. **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.