Chapter 1

Introduction

Human Society has now evolved to the age of information where news around the
globe could be instantaneously updated every moment using the latest technology
made available through the wonders of scientific development. This development has
taken different forms through different medium of communicating to the masses.
There was the time when a simple message would take weeks or months to reach its
destination but with the passage of time, today, one can receive news in a split of
second which can be further tailor-made to one’s own likings. With the development
of new technologies like television, satellite link ups, the internet, etc., news
information is now easily accessible. However, in spite of the availability of
numerous vendors of news and information there is still a strong inclination for
newspapers around the world. No matter how news is been disseminated to its
reader, humans have an inherent trait and that trait is the yearning to know more.
Man needs knowledge and information in order to keep him ‘filled in’ and when this
need is sated, it gives him a sense of fulfilment. The desire for knowledge and thirst
for information has been there for millennia and will go on for time immemorial. A
man can achieve tremendous success in life and there can be all round development
for the society by keeping in touch with the latest updates. If a man is denied
information, this could pose a serious threat to his survival and also degrade his
personality. Therefore, for his growth and success, he needs to be continuously fed
with information about the things that are going on in and around the world.
Information has become essential in our day to day life which is evident from the
days when the great kings used messengers in an attempt to spread news and
proclamations that were read out to the public. King Darius who ruled the Persian empire in the 5th century understood that information regarding the events occurring in and around his empire was of such vital importance that he went to the extent of building the Persian Royal Road through which mounted riders could easily travel around 2699 kilometres in seven days to deliver vital information to his officials. Darius was not the only king to understand the importance of regular and timely information and thus, the trend to use messengers to deliver information was widespread throughout the middle ages. With the industrial age and the emergence of print technology, this trend had, in later times led in the establishment of newspaper for disseminating information.

In preliterate culture, stories and tales were passed through word of mouth. However, for this practice to work, it was essential for both the disseminator of the message and the recipient to be close to each other. Initially, man relied on gestures and crude sound. Then they started to use object such as knotted cords and notched sticks to keep records and reminders. In ancient Greece, an orator who spoke to the large public would assemble in the amphitheatres. These methods or oratory were developed by the Greeks and Romans. Later these messages were committed to the memory and gradually they were recorded in written form. These written forms were carved into stone or wood and with the development of papyrus, clay, parchment and later paper; these were later utilized for the recording of information. For many years the Aryans passed their slokas or songs orally from generation to generation without any written record of their own. Later after entering into India the Aryans felt that their slokas might get distorted by mixing with the non-Aryans. With this in mind, they started to preserve them in written form which resulted in the Vedas. Based on this oral tradition, great historical books and epics came into existence. When we look into the two great epics of India namely the Ramayana and the Mahabharata
these were brought into their form by moulding together the creation of world, man, nature, myths etc.

Ashoka (304 B.C. to 233 B.C.), son of Chandragupta Maurya used to inscribe messages on copper plates, rocks and stone pillars. These messages of the emperor were necessary for the smooth functioning of the political system as well as for the spreading of information about the latest developments that were taking place in the empire. Small pictures which were drawn on the walls of temples with ink or colour which were erasable were also painted in a bid to spread news of daily events. Beside these, moral codes were proclaimed through the art of painting.

The ancient Egyptians also discovered that the papyrus plant which grew in abundance along the banks of the River Nile could be used as a form of writing material. The Romans, on the other hand had the somewhat gruesome practice of using skin to write on. Besides this gruesome practice, they also used the bark of trees by the second century and this practice gradually moved westward through the extensive Roman empire of that time. Gradually, the use of paper was developed in the fourteen century which became common in Europe. Until the Chinese developed a form of block printing before 220 AD, information was transferred to paper, skin or tablet by hand. In this block printing method, the images and words were carved into blocks, then with the help of ink the block was pressed against the paper.

The Moghul emperor Aurangzeb contributed a great deal to the field of modern journalism in India. During his rule (1618 A.D. to 1707 AD) news were received as well as sent through his headquarters. For the dissemination and for circulation of news, a large number of officers were appointed. For the coverage of important events and incidents, news writers who were known as Vaquia Navis and secret news collector (Cofia news) were appointed. Based on the information gathered, decisions and policies were made and formulated at different information offices. The
summaries of the news were received in the form of newsletters in Delhi. These were hand written and the average size of these documents was 8 inches by 4.5 inches. The news was usually read by a woman of the palace at 9 pm to Aurangzeb. The content of the news coverage were of promotions, the emperor’s visit to important places, hunting expeditions, details of presentations and such. There was also the weekly news reporting of the princess’s activities. The news writers were given maximum freedom to cover events which quite often resulted in distorted and inaccurate news.

Beside kings and emperors, even the merchants and landlords appointed private news writers for the kind of information which was particularly tailored towards their interests. This was at a time when there were only two wooden printing presses in the whole of India. Due to this dearth of printing facilities, a large number of hand written experts or the calligraphists were employed by the Moghul regime. It is said that because of this large scale employment of the hand written experts, there was an inordinate delay in the growth of printing in India. However, as the need for information grew, so too did the symbols, materials and methods of providing information become more sophisticated.

The world of information which was en vogue then received a massive fillip through the invention of the printing press by Johann Gutenberg in Germany (1457 to 1458). Gutenberg adopted the wine press to develop the movable type word. He used brass moulds to cast individual letters with the help of lampblack and oil. In 1476, William Gaxtom set up the first printing press. Initially, printing was not developed primarily for news dissemination. In fact, the Gutenberg press was used to print small Latin textbooks and then the Bible. This initiated the production of hundreds of copies and numerous publications.
On the contrary there was also the growth of a monopoly over the communication by the people who were in power as these people realised the potential of printing and sought to use it to further their own individual interests. During the early development of the modern printing press, American journalism in England was completely under the control of autocratic monarchs. Shortly, the Tudors came into the picture and took over the printing sector and remained in power until the early seventeenth century. It was at this time that the people of England were seeking individual freedom and free speech. In the nineteenth century, newspapers were taken as private businesses rather and moved from the hand of those who were in power.

**Origin and Development of Press**

Newspapers are considered as an important source of information about events and feed information to the growing number of readers from different spheres of life. In the current media expansion, newspapers are said to be an old form where the growth of other form or medium of news dissemination is increasing day by day. Nearly a hundred years ago in England, news was published in book form as a ‘read and throw away’ material. Earlier, the term ‘newspaper’ was not universally applied as it is today. The word in this context was derived from the method by which news was collected or from the kind of news which was being provided. Till 1850, the word ‘Zeitung’ had served for ‘newspaper’ in Germany. This word also means information, message, communication, news or a novelty. After 1500, the word was used only within the phrase ‘Newe Zeitung’ for the subtitle of publication consisted of only single narrative story. In the same year in Germany, the word ‘Pressse’ implied the printing machinery. Later, in the nineteenth century, the term was
associated with the collection of daily and periodical publication. Some publications were named based on their core function like ‘Advertisers’ or in Germany it was named as ‘Anzeiger’, though the paper also carried political and social information. During the seventeenth century, the most of the countries in Europe used the word ‘Coranto’ with numerous differences in spelling and in different languages. The term implies publication where different news of events occurred in a particular period of time. In the mid eighteenth century ‘Journal’ was considered to the periodical consist of extract of new books along with the recent discoveries from the field of arts and science. Similarly, in 1756 ‘Gazette’ was considered to be ‘a relation of public affairs’. Towards the end of the eighteenth century, the meaning however had changed. In 1777, the first daily French paper appeared with the content of political and cultural information which was known as ‘Journal’. On the other hand, during 1688-1792 the Dutch also published a gazette in the French language which was called ‘Nouveau journal universel’. In Vienna, the official proclamation ‘Noveitäten’ started being published in the year 1540 by Hans Singriener. In Paris 1488–1529, the leaflet ‘Occasionals’ consisting of formal statements of Government information were published. Later, a more popular leaflet was produced which was known as ‘Canards’. Michael von Aitzing published a summary of political and religious information in an interval of six months under the title ‘Relatio Historica’ and he would to sell these twice annually in a trade fair at Frankfurt am Main. In 1611, ‘Mercure Francis’ carried official and semi official material and even included contents from the previous year’s ‘Canards’. The stories of the paper varied from sensational news of floods, disasters, plagues, comets and portents. In 1485, King Matthias of Hungary had produced ‘Dracula Waida’ (the Devil Prince) which included a summary of important events. Accordingly Hungarians sometimes claims to be the oldest news publication in the world. A century later in the same place, a
German printer, Janos Manlius produced a ‘Newe Zeitung aus Ungarn’ in the year 1580. (Smith, 1979)

News, information or advertisements were the prime elements that had been carried in the aforementioned publications. These publications can be divided into four stages through which they were recognised as newspapers.

In the first stage, the publication carried the stories of a single event, which in European countries it is known to be ‘Relation’ or ‘Relacioun’. The description of the news was written in a very long form which includes all the detail of the occurrences. In the second stage the reports were in continuous sequence which was published in the form of ‘Coranto’. In England, Thomas Archer, Nicholas Bourne, and Nathaniel Butter were the pioneers and the people who had brought out the many issues of Coranto. The issues run smoothly in between the year 1620 to 1625, until the Court of Star Chamber suspended all the publication of foreign news in 1625. Bourne and Butter legalised the printing of foreign news after they manage to authorise the official monopoly in 1638. ‘Coranto’ was not recognised as a periodical which appeared as a weekly (with gaps) as it did not communicate its voice to the readers. The title which appears bears the name of the countries of its origin. Then on 30th May 1622, ‘Coranto’ described itself as ‘Weekly news from Italy, Germanie, Hungaria etc’ even as the title of the front page would change every week. Sometime there would be the continuation of the previous week’s publication. Its primary function was to give the account of the whole world on a piece of paper. The Dutch printed the most Corantos and circulated these in many countries under different languages. The third stage describes the form which is known as ‘Diumrall’. Here the news was provided weekly which includes the information of the whole week’s occurrences. The Parliamentary affairs news was publish frequently by Robert Coles and Samuel Pecke who were the most well-known practitioners of this
form. During the 1640s, diurnall shifted its attention from the news of thirty years of
war which occupied most of the publications to the domestic problems of England
and subsequently to the civil war. The fourth stage which appeared as a form of book
was called 'Mercury' and it appeared along with the title and the imprint on the front
page. The word 'Mercury' has also appeared in a Latin publication with the title
'Merurius Gallo Belgicus' which focused on the issues of Central Europe. The
copies of this publication have been circulated in most parts of England. At the time
of Civil War in England, there were many who had voiced their thoughts which were
supported by 'Mercury'. This acknowledged the raising of many mercuries from the
different parts of the country. Journalists also tried to maintain and attract readers
either for the profit or the returns from the politics. (Smith, 1979)

'Intelligencer' was the other form of formal publication which was also born at the
side of 'Mercury'. During the second phase of the Civil War, the 'Kingdomes Weekly
Intelligencer' appeared which was supervised by John Thurloe, Secretary of State
under Cromwell. Thurloe employed Marchmont Nedham who was the prominent
mercury of his time and who had brought out 'The Public Intelligencer',
'Communicating the Chief Occurrences and Proceedings within the dominions of
England, Scotland and Ireland. Together with an account of the affaires from
severall parts of Europe. (Smith, 1979)

Intelligencer started covering more layers of information whenever it felt the need to
do so, be it news or entertainment which was however still far away from the idea of
what a newspaper is today. During the seventeenth in Europe and North America
there was the development of technical and administrative framework of newspapers.
By the eighteenth century, newspapers came into being in the complete form where
the daily periodical came into existence with miscellaneous content of its own. The
Chinese dynasty was the first one who founded the convenient way to set up a news
collection network. Printed materials were used in Chinese long before the 'Coranto' appeared in Europe. However, in the nineteenth century, printed distribution of news periodicals began with the European traders and missionaries who brought in foreign language newspaper for their own purposes. The Japanese did not entertain the circulation of foreign news into their land. Later there was the development of social news which included gossip and social scandal publications. The single page courtly gossip sheet was known as a 'Yomiuri' (newspaper) or 'Kawara-ban' (tile sheet). Most of these the publication was also censored by the authorities.

**Review of Literature**

Mass media plays an important role in our day to day life – it informs us, educate us, create awareness and help to make decision and public opinion. In that process it also plays an important role in identity formation. Y. K. D'souza (1999) in his study of 'Functions & Areas of Journalism' made an attempt to understand as how the journalists ought to be cautious to safeguard the freedom of the press and on the other hand they must see that this freedom is used and never misuse, that they should always act with a sense of responsibility.

'The press in India, a new history', by G.N.S. Raghavan (1994) states about the origin of press in India during the British rule. He has focus on various aspect of news coverage under the influence of political situation. Among the midst of this political havoc, how the press significantly uplifted itself and stands to provide news and information to the people.

Rangaswami Parthasarthy (2001) in his study 'Journalism in India' look insight into the historical phase of journalism. The study begins from the Hickey's Gazette to the present status of journalism in India.
‘Media in conflict situation’ describes about how the press in North East India nurtured amidst the conflicts. The author, Sanat K. Chakraborty also describes about how the press manage with the pressure in reporting the event objectively. He had also interviewed few editors from the region about the different issues concerning the Northeast identity, human right issues, indigenous rights etc.

Francis A. Khongwar had given a glimpse of the Meghalaya press in ‘The Essence of Journalism’. In this book the author has made a comprehensive study by compiling the different segment of historical aspect of press, press conference, writing tips and techniques, problems and issues of press etc.


‘The North East Saga’ by P. K. Bandyopadhyay (2005) in his book gives a glimpse of the North East India describing the history, language, culture, tradition, dance, music of the region. The book also elaborates about the government initiatives for the socio-economic development of the region.

Vir Bala Aggarwal (2001), in her book ‘Handbook of journalism’ discusses about the mass communication theories and models, latest trends in broadcasting, history of journalism etc. However, the book does not discuss about the practical aspects of the subjects such as reporting, sub-editing and newspaper because it form a different area of study.

‘Mass media research’, by Wimmer & Dominick (2006), provides with the tools needed to use mass media research in the professional world through simplifies explanation of goals, procedure and uses of information. The book also talks about
the various application including print, electronic, advertisement and public relations
advertising,

‘Research Methods’, Ram Ahuja (2001) in his book discuss about social research
which includes about the concepts and theoretical knowledge of scientific studies.
Beside, the book also is very usefull for those who are engaged in evaluating the
government or consumer research and for business community.

Jayanta Kumar Ray and Rakhee Bhattacharya (2008) in ‘Development dynamics in
North East India’ describes the region could not able to development due to the
failure of governance and rising corruption. However, if the region is focus on
capacity building and development strategies, it could be one of the richest resource
hubs in the world.

‘The Press in India, An overview’, states about the various aspects of the press in
India, its history, government indulgence, ownership and the control. G. S. Bhargava
(2005) also mentions how journalist in India had gone through hard phase in the
process of reporting news.

Sanjoy Hazarika (2000) in his book ‘Rites of Passage’ examines what drives
immigrants like Bangladeshis to even an underdeveloped country like India.
Haharika identify in his book, how the land hunger, population and environment
factors as the primary reason for the influx of migrants.

In his other book ‘Writing on the wall, reflections on the Northeast’, Hazarika (2008)
discuss about the amount of money which the centre has sanctioned to the North East
India but the basic requirement of human needs are not meet. This unmanagement of
the Government fund has led to the scarcity of connectivity, health, education and
power etc.

The book ‘Durable Disorder, understanding the politics of Northeast India’, Sanjib
Baruah (2005), explains the political and significance of prolonged low-intensity
conflicts in Northeast India. The authors argue that if peace and development are to be brought to the region, then the India’s policy had to be reoriented.

‘India’s Fragile Borderlands’, discuss about the nature, origin and history of terrorism in North East India within the International perspective. Author Archana Udadhyyay (2009) explores about the cross border links and connections with organization that broaden crime in the region.

P. C. Chatterji (2009) in his book ‘The adventure of Indian broadcasting’ describe about his journey from growing up in Lahore to his work area in A.I.R. Through A.I.R., Chatterji meet many eminent personalities from whom he was inspired to work in the field. He also brings about the pictures of esoteric aspects of culture of the region, such as Nongkrem dance of Khasis and preservation of a Kishtwari folk song.


‘Press in the North East’, Prof. G.P.Pandey (2013) had compiled the historical information of the press of the eight states of the North East India. Beside, the book also consist of information on the various veteran journalist of the North East India.

K.S. Padya and R. N. Sahu (1997) in their book ‘Press in India: perspective in development and relevance book description’ attempt to explain the present roles and responsibility of the press. The press as a communicator have been serving the public with the current issues and functionary of the Government and others which was however curtailed their freedom and measures adopted by the authorities, executives, legislative, and judiciary to suppress it.

Missionary and the various movements contribute for the development of social and cultural needs of Meghalaya. He also describes about the Khasi language and its literature with a view to encourage learning which is suitable for modern needs. During the reign of British in Indian the press has gone through difficult phase in establishing its stand on the soil. Mohit Moita (1993) in ‘A history of Indian Journalism’ had given the account of how the press emerged through the dictatorship of the East India Company and what were its consequences in raising the voice against the Government. With the course of time, he portrayed how the press has revolved and has given a total new outlook in its execution.

M. V. Kamath (1996) in his book ‘Professional Journalism’ describe about the useful guidelines and requirement that is needed in practising journalism in India. The author here give relevance importance in proficiency in the structure of English as in today’s world it is futile to expect to do well in journalism. The author also described his personal experience as a foreign correspondence where he gave the account of the problems that he had faced and how to solve them.

Abel Elie, et al. (1981), the editor of ‘The media in American society, what’s news’, had illustrated the American media and its various characteristics. Description about the historical aspect of journalism and how it has emerged through the development of technology, invention and also for its geographical distribution has been illustrated. Besides, the book also includes the various methods of mastering the profession in mass media.

‘The newspaper, an international history’, gives the glimpse of how newspaper developed through the centuries and across the globe. From the account of first printing press to the monopoly of advertisement in newspaper had been detailed in the book. Anthony Smith (1979) also gives the in-depth research on the politics of
journalism, the long battle for freedom of expression and how newspaper initiated as
the voice of regime.

Anthony Smith (1980) has focused on the newspaper business in America where the
class changes had taken place over the years. As the newspaper has gone through the
era of rapid change from the Gutenbergs invention of movable type to that of
electronic printing. The book ‘Goodbye Gutenbergs’, explains as how the
computerization of typesetting can be the one aspect of the transformation of
information industries. The changes that had occurred, not just one aspect but from
the other communication medium which is aural, verbal and visual. According to the
author, the interaction between these medium brings the real revolution in time.

J. Natarajan (1955) explained as how the news and information has played its role
from the beginning of an organised society to that of government administration. The
book ‘History of Indian Journalism’ also describes how the different newspapers had
struggled for the freedom of expression of thought and ideas in the different era. The
detail encounter of the freedom fighter of India through the medium of newspaper
has taken its important place in the content of the book.

Newspaper played an important role in the construction of a civilised society.
Therefore, it is considered as the fourth pillar of our constitution. Kitbor. W.
Nongrum (1983) in ‘Ki Kot Khubor Bad Ki Kot Khasi’ showcased the historical
background of newspapers that has developed in the state of Meghalaya. The Khasi
newspapers which were published from this part of the country had the similar
criteria in the nation building. There were also newspapers which are meant for
disseminating the religious faith among the people of Meghalaya.

The state of Meghalaya which is situated in the North Eastern part of India comprises
‘Administration of land in Meghalaya’, explains about the formation of new states
which resulted from the different movement that held in the state of Meghalaya. He described about the advancement of missionary that had influence in the progress of roman script for the literature development. Further, the book also points out how the Christian faith was widen among the indigenous people of Meghalaya.

The author Venkata Rao, et al., (1976) explain in ‘A century of the Government and politics in North East India’, as how the states of North East India came under the control of British and what were the consequences. The study includes the function of the customary law of Syiem and how it has changed in due course of time. The influences of political arena from the diverse part of the country had brought different jurisdiction into the scene of Meghalaya.

‘Land, people and politics: contest over tribal land in Northeast India’, is based on the study of land alienation in different states of the North East India which is done by a group of researchers in 2005-2006. The main cause of most of the conflict in North East is because of the land and its importance to the people of the region, particularly tribal community. The study as described by the author Walter Fernandes and Sanjay Barbora (2008) shows how the different customary law, traditional land holding system and traditional bodies prevail in the different states.

The investigative reports which have been mentioned in ‘The journalism of outrage, investigative reporting and agenda building in America’ were varied in terms of its analysis from one case study to the other. The authors David L. Protess et al., (1991), study has taken care in trying to isolate the impact of investigative reporting on agenda setting and other variables. However, the gathering of data for the research support the central motive of the book, which is the general public agenda-setting changes are not a necessary condition for investigative reporting to affect public policy.
William L. River (1984) in ‘News in print, writing and reporting’, have given the analysis of news reporting as it provide the practical knowledge to what makes a news story. It details the different tools of news reporting that required for the purpose of good news items. Research findings and theories of journalism along with the unique explanation on the political reporting were the important content of the book.

Dilip Awasthi (2006) in ‘The special correspondent, a handbook for reporters’ had written with the thought of practical orientation through his personal experiences which will help the students and upcoming journalist in the field. In the book with the description of observation and interviewing techniques a journalist can achieve his piece of news report in an appropriate manner. Besides, the author has also included few common words that were very handy for the newspapers.

‘Politics of the Press’ is the intensive analysis of news and views that appeared in various newspapers for a period of 12 years. S. R. Bhandaru (1992) had explained the contrast of capitalist politics and the socialist politics that are found in both the national and international level.

Tony Gray (1990) gave the comprehensive detail of the historical background of the newspaper ‘The Street’ in his book ‘Fleet Street Remembered’. The account of the news and its related issues had been presented who have survived through the odd days. The people who worked hand in hand in ‘The Street’ and the description of their extraordinary concentration of talents that reflect the popular opinion had also been portrayed.

‘Hill politics in Northeast India’ where S. K. Chaube (1999) had presented the social, political history of Northeast India particularly the hill areas till the reorganisation of the area. Since the middle of nineteenth century the traditional chiefs of the hill areas have been sidelined and partly accommodated in the new structure of power
prevailed. This profound change in all spheres of life and society had created because of the education and development activities that have taken place.

'Scoop, inside stories from the partition to the present', represents the historic political events from the time before the partition till the present state. Kuldip Nayar (2006) along with his personal insight had marked with every ground breaking news event working in close contact with the people in power.

David Shaw (1984) in his book, 'Press Watch' illustrates the methods and techniques of the newspapers and how a news item has been processed for the publication. The interviews which are penned down in the book were the original news items which were reeditied for better understanding.

'Indian press since 1955' has dealt with the growth of press in India since last four decades. The development has taken as a vehicle of expressing the people's aspiration and as well as in technical advancement. In order to describe in detail, S. C. Bhatt (1997) had referred the two Press Commission Reports of 1954 and 1982, the annual report of Registrar of Newspaper of India and also consulted the document of the Press Council of India.

The '150 years of Journalism in Assam' has been crafted with the aim of providing with the history and growth of press in Assam. Beside, Gobind Prasad Sarma (2007) also includes the account of a few veteran journalists who had contributed in the phase of journalism. The book also includes the various newspapers of Assam that were published in Hindi, Bengali, Bodo, Khasi etc. since the era of colonial period in Assam.

The 'World Press Encyclopaedia' edited by George Thomas Kurian (1982) gives the insight into the historical evolution of press around the world. The study includes from 180 countries which highlight the information and statistics on the history as well as the political and economic functions of the press. It is intended to enable the
students and journalist to understand the area of expertise in the field which is required for the line of work.

Jack Fuller (1996) argues in ‘News Values, Ideas for an information age’, that news significance will be maintained by the journalist even in the competitive world of today. The technology advancement which had merged with the text, audio and video is one way of welcoming the new renaissance in the field of journalism. Whether print journalist except this new medium or not but they are certain to clear their values while reporting for the society.

‘Press and journalism, role and responsibility in developing society’ described the press as being the force for the development of the social order. It also include as how the press can play its role not just as a mere source of information but also as a tool to guide the people as what to think about. Jayant Parikh (1998) had elucidate to understand the ground of journalism which would benefits the students and as well as the people in the field.

The author, Y. K. D'souza (1998) in his book ‘Freedom of press constitution and media responsibility’ considers that the fundamental right of the freedom of press is necessary in order to perceive the definitive functioning of the political system in the country. Yet the right should be within the rim which would serve for the general interest of the public. Beside the other aspect of the book includes from the area of public relation functioning and approaches of the report of the Press Committee of India and as well the Press Commission in India.

Robin Jeffrey (2000) had put together in his book ‘India’s newspaper revolution, capitalism, politics and the Indian language press’ the study of history of Indian press, its growth and development. The author had taken the period from 1977 to 1999 for accumulation of the study. It describes about the effect of language newspapers in the growing population of the country. The advertisement which is the
main source of revenue has boosted the print media in major Indian languages. Beside the author also analysed the role of capitalism and technology in shaping its identity in the modern world of media.

Jan R. Hakemulder et al. (1998), in his book 'Print media communication', elaborates about the revolution has taken place because of the development of technology. Through this technology the dissemination of information is reaching faster from one corner to the other part of the world. This made the print media frighten for its survival. However, the book also states that though electronic media has influencing power because of its medium but print media is surviving as it could able to satisfy the readers with its vast information which electronic media fail to provide. The other feature of the book was also include about the freedom of the press and how the journalist work by safeguarding its rights while strictly maintaining the framework of ethical norms.

Swati Chauhan and Navin Chandra (2000) in their book, 'Foundations of News and Journalism' emphasis on the journalist and their profession work. Journalist required good knowledge of the subject, skill and perception to endeavour for the precision in the work. The proper description of the practices and functions of journalist along with the technical advancement enable to understand the different facet of the media. The book, 'Modern student journalism' begins with the brief introduction of history of newspapers in the world. The account of how technology has affected the growth and propagation of news in order to serve the people with the latest update from all round the globe. The author, Barun Roy (2004) had also included the tips and techniques for practising journalism which gives hand on experience in the field of journalism.

M. K. Joseph (1997) had given the account of freedom of expression in his book, 'Freedom of the press'. This strength of press is frequently interrupted and restrained
throughout either for political or other reason. If this freedom has been practiced without caution then different libel cases may fall into the perimeter. Renowned authors had also contributed in the book based on their experience to explain the diverse elements of freedom of press.

'Modern history of Indian press' describes about the history of press which started in India. James Augustus Hickey struggled to establish the first newspaper in India and who had been remembered throughout the history of journalism in India. From the first newspaper to the struggle for independence and after has been detailed in the book. Sunit Ghosh (1998) relates the history of Indian journalism from 1780 to 1997 which has been collected from the various sources of news.

In 'Art of Modern Journalism' the author, J. J. Astor (1991) has collected 22 lectures which were delivered in the institute of journalism. The lectures were based on the methods and techniques of modern journalism. The renowned personality like A. G. Gardien, Sir Robert Donald and many others had presented with their vast knowledge and experiences in the field of journalism. The subjects which dealt in the books were enormous covering most of the topics in the modern era.

H.G.Joshi (2004) in his book 'Meghalaya, Past and Present' describes about the people of Meghalaya, their origin, social links and the political development through the ages. The author had also given the account of British interest in the hilly areas of the region and how the traditional institutions and leadership had change during the course of time. Since Meghalaya has a matrilineal society, so the author had given a separate chapter on the Women in Meghalaya.

'The language and literature of Meghalaya' dealt with the origin and expansion of the literary trends in Meghalaya. The author, Hamlet Bareh (1977) described how the Missionaries instigate in the development of education system in the region. Beside,
the cultural, socio-economic and historical background of Garo and Khasi also
detailed at length which gave greater understanding of the locale.

Francis A. Kharngwar (2003) had brought out the book, ‘Hynniewtrep Folk Media’
in order to throw more light on the other aspect of journalism called the Folk Media.
As this medium is also an effective tool in getting wider publicity for the different
purposes of the Government and as well as for the Non-government organisation.
‘140 years of Khasi literature in Roman Script (1841-1981)’, Edited by H. W. Sten
had compiled the articles on the literature of the Khasi language and its impact that
has been contributed by the renowned personnel of the state.

**Aims of the study**

The aim of the study is to find out and record the hitherto unrecorded history of the
growth and development of press in Meghalaya in terms of emergence, expression,
and qualitative transformations. It starts with understanding the dynamics of
colonialism and anti-colonialism in the history of media in Meghalaya. The study is
also to understand how the press is playing its role in preserving the rich cultural and
practices of the past.

**Objectives of the study**

The specific objectives of the proposed study are as follows:

1. To study the origin and development of Press in Meghalaya.
2. To access the contribution of professionals, journalists and others towards the
development of the Press in Meghalaya.
3. To study the nature and extent of coverage of social issues and language
movement if any by the local newspaper.
4. To find out the emerging trends in the Press in Meghalaya.

**Research questions**

1. How has the Press evolved in Meghalaya?
2. How is the Press related to the constitution of the modern Meghalaya?
3. What was the role of newspapers in preserving the cultural heritage of Meghalaya?
4. Was there any discernible change in the colonial and post colonial period of the history of the Press?
5. How are the social changes related to the evolution of the press in Meghalaya?

**Hypothesis**

The study is designed for historical and exploratory research to understand the origin and development of the Press in Meghalaya. Therefore no hypothesis is formulated for the study.

**Methodology**

The study employs methodologies of historical research, descriptive research and exploratory research. First to construct the history, information collected from the office documents, written records, newspapers, veteran journalists, experts and historians. Next, to analyse the role of the press, content analysis tool are used.