CHAPTER 1

URDU JOURNALISM - A BACKGROUND
Journalism means writing for newspapers, magazines and periodicals. It is communication of information through writing in periodicals and newspapers. The human being has an inborn curiosity to know about day to day happenings around him. A journalist plays a significant role to keep people well informed about different affairs of human society.

According to Webster’s *Third International Dictionary* journalism means “the collection and setting of material of current interest for presentation, publication or broadcast.”\(^1\) *Twentieth century Dictionary* defines journalism as “the profession of conducting or writing for public journalism.”\(^2\) In other words journalism means the communication regarding the events of a day through written words, sounds or pictures.

Journalism is basically the communication of news but it may also contain certain features for the entertainment of the readers. According to the *Columbia Encyclopaedia*, Journalism means the collection and periodical publication of news. It includes writing for editing and managing such media as the newspaper and periodical. Journalism had grown proportionality with political, socio-religious, economic, cultural and technological advances of the various countries throughout the world.

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In the 20th century the power of the individualistic journalist declined in the face of rapid technological advances. The growth of the news agency made vast stride in reporting techniques, heavier dependence on advertisement and further broadening of education and reform. Journalism tremendously ramified in all places but tended to become more standardized, impersonalized and sensationalized in England and in the United States of America.

Journalism aims at the service of people by dissemination of news. Its purpose is not only to spotlight the social, political and economic evils but also to educate, inform and instruct the general masses. The press helps greatly in the formation of public opinion²A.

In modern age the press is called the “Forth Estate”. It enjoys a very important place in the society and plays a very vital role in a democracy. The press protects the ordinary persons against the injustice and tyranny of the rulers. It is the upholder of rights and freedom of the citizens. It is the voice of the people and watchdog of their interest.

With the growth of human society, necessity was felt to know about the different people living at distant places within a certain geographical or territorial limit. Subsequently, the desire to know about others and also to let other know led to news collecting, writing, communicating and

²A. Abdus Salam Khursheed, Sahafat Pakستان-o-Hind Mein, P. 131.
transmitting and this culminated into what is called modern journalism. Since time immemorial travelers and trading caravans constituted the primary vehicle for transmission of news. Wherever they visited they narrated their story of journey, social, polity and economic aspect of their native places. Climatic conditions too, remained a great attraction for the people of different regions.

Sense of insecurity promoted the human being to organize themselves into a political and social unit to safeguard their economic and social interest. As a result monarchy came into being. Manu is accredited to be first political theorist, who formulated a constitution, democratic in nature as its basic characteristic, wherein Manu propounded the village as a basic unit of administration. For every village a headman was appointed and he was held responsible for transmitting the news of all-important happenings to his superiors. This was the mechanism adopted to keep the king informed about day to day happenings as well as public opinion. Public opinion has been regarded as the mainstay of political authority. The vedic scriptures ordained a king to abdicate if the public opinion went against the king.

In ancient India theorists and lawgivers prescribed an elaborate system of espionage ensuring collection and transmission of news for state purpose and king, therefore, maintained a vast body of intelligence officers and secret servicemen. Kautilya⁶ advised the king to employ efficient spies for knowing what was happening in the realm⁷.

Arthasastra⁸ contains a detail account of secret services, which constituted the fundamental aspect of the Muryan administration. The Secret Services, in fact, kept the king in touch with problem of the people and of course this added to kings popularity in the Empire⁹.

The spies were recruited from different walk of life barber, astrologer, humble survitudes, students, prostitutes, dancing girls, orphans (especially trained for the work), holy men, beggars, fortune tellers etc. They in the absence of any news writing provided necessary details to the king¹⁰, who with help of these spies strengthen, his control on the administration. Thus espionage system did work somehow as modern press. Detectives played a crucial role in the formation of public opinion as well

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6. Also called Chanakya or Vishnugupta was a Taxilan Brahman. He was the author of Arthasastra, the most famous book in sanskrit an polity. He was Chief Minister of Chandragupta Maurya, S. Bhattacharya, Dictionary of the Indian History, p. 515.
7. R.C. Majumdar, Age of Imperial Unity, p. 325.
9. A.L. Basham, The wonder that was India, p. 123.
in countering the insurgency. The king through detectives kept himself fully informed regarding secret activities of the people, officials and other rebellious tendencies before taking an ugly turn\textsuperscript{11}.

Through ambassadors, appointed into different countries the rulers gathered information about political and military occupation of those countries. A.L. Basham, rightly argues that in the territories of enemies diplomatic personnels not only obtained information on the strength and plans of the king's foes but also encouraged sedition and plotted the assassination of the enemy king and his ministers\textsuperscript{12}.

In ancient India, though news writing was not a fully developed institution but the people realized its significance in political arena of life.

Intelligence system during medieval period remained one of the most important pillars of administration. Efficiency of administration depended on how effectively the espionage system was working. It helped in maintaining and strengthening the despotism of the rulers. Under the Delhi Sultans, Barid-i-Mamalik, the chief news writer, under whom there was a host of news writers and spies hold high position in the administration\textsuperscript{13}. With the help of these spies and news writers, the emperor


\textsuperscript{12} Basham, A.L. \textit{The Wonder that was India}, p. 123.

\textsuperscript{13} Zaiuddin, Barni, Tarikh-e-Firoz Shahi pp. 24-25, see also Siyasat Namah pp. 57-58 and 65; Aufi, Tawamiul-Hakayat, p. 319.
kept himself fully acquainted about the happening within and outside his empire.

Abul Fazl has rightly remarked that Oriental monarchs, realised from earliest times the necessity of news services. "Keeping records is an excellent thing for a government, Abul Fazl writes, it is necessary for every rank of society. Though a trace of this office may have existed in ancient times, its higher objects were recognized in the present reign. His majesty has appointed zealous, experienced and impartial clerks."

To appoint news writers or Waqianawis in different parts of the country was prevalent under the Delhi Sultans and the Mughals. On the basis of their reports important decisions were taken and imperial policies were formulated and promulgated. Kotwal was supposed to appoint spies for ensuring the observance of Emperor's ordinance and for acquainting government with important developments. As far as court was concerned, utmost care was taken for the preparation of official bulletin of day today's occurrence at the court and several of these Akhbarat are still available in archives.

15. Ibid., p. 268.
16. The word Waqianawis is derived from Waqia means an event and nawis means writer, also called Waqia Nigar. There was a Waqia-nawis in each subah. From several places in the Tuzuk-i Jahangiri we see that the bakshi of the subah often held the post of Waqia-nawis at the same time vide, Tuzuk-i- Jahangiri, pp. 121, 137.
19. The Akhbar-e-Darbar-e Mualla or Court bulletin for 51 years of Aurangzeb's reign and early years of Bahadur Shah reign are available in large number at Bikaner Archives, see M.P. Singh. Town, Bibliography. pp. 339-40.
System of postal service was well established under Sher Shah. He gathered information from all parts of his empire through his trusted and expert spies. Sher Shah revolutionized the transportation system by constructing roads often described as arteries of the empire. Further he built Sarais which were utilized as Dakchowki\textsuperscript{20}. Sher Shah, though had a brief period of administration but he established a very efficient postal system. He received news one through government officials and secondly from secret news services. Even they used to send the important news of outside of his kingdom\textsuperscript{21}.

Oriental monarchs realized the significance of dak to keep themselves fully acquainted with happenings, they appointed waqai in every district and they held responsible for quick transmission of news to monarch as well as ministers. Any failure or fault could invite severe punishment\textsuperscript{22}.

Under the Mughals, Akhbar-nawasi or Waqia-Nigari made remarkable progress. The necessity of gathering news of the Empire, according to Abul Fazl meant, “an excellent thing for a government and even necessary for every rank of society”. The importance of maintaining news is even more forcefully emphasized by Aurengzeb, in his last will he

\begin{itemize}
\item[20.] Ghulam Husain Tabatabai, \textit{Siyar-ul-Mutakherin}, p. 224.
\item[21.] Qanungo, \textit{Sher Shah}, p. 393.
\item[22.] Nizamuddin Ahmad, \textit{Tabaqat-i-Akbari}, Vol. I, p. 79.
\end{itemize}
writes "The main pillar of government is to be well informed in the news of
kingdom, negligence for a single moment becomes the cause of disgrace for
longer years\textsuperscript{23}.

The art of news writing, though prevalent in ancient time as well but
people realized its real value only during Akbar's reign, writes Abul Fazl.
The Mughals organised an elaborate system which has been well described
by Sir Jadunath Sarkar. According to him there was four-fold organization.

1. \textit{Waqia-nawis or Waqianigar}\textsuperscript{24}
2. \textit{Sawaneh-negar}\textsuperscript{25}
3. \textit{Khufia nawis}\textsuperscript{26}
4. \textit{Harkard}\textsuperscript{27}

In fact these officials helped successfully to run the administration which
required close contact with different parts and provinces of the Empire.

\textsuperscript{23} Abul Fazl, \textit{Ain-i-Akbari} (Phillot) I p. 268-70; Jadu Nath Sarkar, \textit{Aurengzeb}, Vol. II,
\textsuperscript{24} The term \textit{Waqia-nawis} sometime written as \textit{Waqia-nigar} and \textit{Swanehnigar} means
something, viz. a writer or surveyor of occurrences. \textit{Waqia-nigar} was more regular
and public reporter. \textit{Waqia-nawis} attached to every field, army, province and large
towns (\textit{Mirat-e-Ahmadi} 174 - 75). In \textit{Hedayat-ul-Qawaid}, the \textit{waqia-nawis} is
charged to send his reports of occurrence once every week.
\textsuperscript{25} The duty of \textit{Swanehnigar} was of the nature of a secret reporter on important cases
only. \textit{Sawneh-nigar} were placed at important places and times only. He was
intended to be spy and a check on the former. (\textit{Mirat-i Ahmadi}, 175). According to
\textit{Hedayat-ul-Qawaid}, the \textit{Swanehnigar} send his reports eight times in a month.
\textsuperscript{26} \textit{Khufia Nawis} or 'secret writer' was the most confidential agent. He reported
secretly on events without any communication with the local authorities who often
did not even know his name (\textit{Alamgirmnah} 1081).
\textsuperscript{27} \textit{Harkara} literally meanings carrier of news, but really a spy who generally brought
oral news and some times also sent news letters c/f M.P. Singh, \textit{Town}, p. 89.
Unless the ruler kept himself informed of news, events throughout the empire he would never feel safe at the capital.

All these officials enjoyed special privileges, and humiliation to them might attract the wrath of king and offender was accordingly punished\textsuperscript{28}. Under Mughals the \textit{Waqianawis} were guaranteed security and safety to their life and property. Khafi Khan described that in the 11\textsuperscript{th} regional year of Jahangir, Abdullah Khan, the \textit{subedar} of Ahmedabad humiliated and misbehaved a \textit{waqianawis}. The matter was reported to the Emperor who immediately removed the \textit{subahdar}\textsuperscript{29}.

Under the Mughals, the art of \textit{Akhbarnawesi} made a phenomenal progress. With the passage of time, during Aurangzeb’s time \textit{Akhbarnawis} spread throughout the empire. As a matter of fact one come across with an abundance of \textit{Akhbarnawis} and \textit{Swanehnigar}. This has mistaken the historians as they derived the conclusion that during the reign of Auranzeb newspapers were being published.

“This is very interesting fact”, writes Margarita Barns that, “newspapers enjoyed full liberty during the Mughals what was lacking under their successors that is the English.”\textsuperscript{30} It were English who imposed restriction till Charles Metcalf liberated the Press.

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{28} Sir Jadu Nath Sarkar, \textit{Mughal Administration}, p.51.
\item \textsuperscript{29} Khafi Khan, \textit{Muntakhab-ul-Lubab}, Vol. II, p. 286.
\item \textsuperscript{30} Margarita Barns, \textit{The Indian Press}, p. 5.
\end{itemize}
Margarita Barns quoted S.C Sanyal in favour of his argument, Sanyal said that the referred handwritten newspapers of the Mughal period are found in *Muntakhab-ul-Lubab* of Khafi Khan. He described that newspapers were distributed among soldiers, further he informed that under Aurangzeb newspapers enjoyed full liberty. Sanyal further remarked that before the coming of printing press in India it was generally believed that newspapers served the purpose of secret service. But this was not the case of Indian newspapers during the 17th century. These papers are not only meant for king and nobility but for public as well. These newspapers in true sense were similar to modern newspapers. They served truly as public press and were issued to give information for people of the country.

During the Mughal period we are told about Court bulletin issued daily in evening at the Royal Court. It contained news of the court proceedings of day just passed and also there used to be news sent by *waqai* from different parts of the Empire. It was in the form of public announcement of the news of the Empire. Under Akbar this paper was designated as *Akhbar-i Darbar-Mualla*. During the reign of Shahjahan it was popularly known as *Akhbar-i Darul Khilafat-i Shahjahanabad*.

33. Khafi Khan, op.cit., p. 496.
34. Ibid.
In Oudh, the Nawabs also issued similar newspapers, which was called “Akhbar-e-Dewrhi”\textsuperscript{35}. The Nawabs of Oudh also employed a large number of akhbar nawis, they enjoyed the same position and status as the waqia-nawis under the Mughals\textsuperscript{36}.

In this way the art of news writing and its transmission started long ago. But it was during the British rule that modern press developed and Journalism took its present shape.

In the history of human civilization, the invention of press occupies most remarkable achievement. The Chinese are accredited for this invention, motive behind this was the publication of Buddhist literature. The Chinese achieved a landmark when they actually developed art of printing through block printing in the 7\textsuperscript{th} century. From China the art of printing reached to Europe during the 12\textsuperscript{th} century. From Europe it spread to other parts of the world.

There is a great deal of controversy about who has invented the printing in Europe. One view is that Lowrance Coster invented the art of printing. Contrary to this other view is that John Gutten Berg, native of Germany has invented the press and this is widely accepted view. It was through Germany the art of printing reached to other countries of Europe. William Cokston introduced printing press in England.

\textsuperscript{36} Margarita Barns, op. cit., p. 5.
In India, it were Portuguese who introduced printing press in 1550. Firstly, they imported two printing machines, which were used for the publication of religious scriptures. First printed book of vernacular language by the Portuguese preachers was the Tamil translation of Francis Xiveir’s religious book in 1557. It was prescribed in the schools. A copy of its second edition of 1559 was preserved in the Bibliotheque Nationale of Paris, France\(^37\).

This was the period of Akbar 1556-1605, when European Christian scholars in his darbar offered a few specimen of the European printing, the monarch did not like it in comparison to calligraphy. Thus Akbar didn’t pay any attention towards the development of printing press in India. Had the monarch realized its significance and extended patronage to press the history of literary activities would have been quite different.

After a long gap of twenty years, we came across a Malayali translation of Francis Xaviers book published in 1557. The printing press was established in 1602. After this we do not have any evidence of establishment of printing press. In the mid 17\(^{th}\) century, there is an evidence of printing press of the Gujrati script, established by a Parsee Bhimji Parekh. Its printing was very attractive\(^38\).

History of the development of printing press in India, to a large extent was associated with the expansion of political power of the East India Company. In 1772 an English printing press was established at Madras. Another was established at Calcutta in 1779. R.K. Trivedi says "the press in India like other western institutions implanted here owed its origin not to the government but to individuals inspired by a spirit of enterprise or service". With the introduction of printing press books, journals etc. began to be published. Private individuals and missionaries societies started their own presses.

William Bolts was the first to announce his intention to publish a newspaper in 1776 to highlight the misdeeds of the Company's servants. But Mr. Bolts, though not succeeded in his mission for the publication of newspaper, he however created sensation when he pasted an advertisement seeking help for the printing press. Publication of any advertisement was unique because in Calcutta and its surroundings there was no printing press.

Bolts in his book 'Consideration of Indian Affairs' boldly confessed that how the Company's servants were draining away the wealth of the country. From the tone of this book it is evident that if he had succeeded in his mission and got published newspaper the situation for East India

40. Buckland, Dictionary of Indian Biography, see Bolts.
42. Busteed, Early Echoes from Calcutta, p. 161.
43. Ibid.
Company's government would have become very critical. He was deported to England as punishment.\(^{44}\)

After twelve years of abortive attempts of Mr. Bolts the first English newspaper was published by James Augustus Hickey on 29\(^{th}\) January 1780. Which was popularly known as Hickey's *Bengal Gazette* or *Calcutta General Advertiser*, a weekly political and commercial paper opens to all practices but influenced by none.\(^{45}\) This paper was very famous by the name of *Hickey's Gazette*. Hickey's *Bengal Gazette* was in no way meant for the Indians to bring any sort of awakening among them. The paper was published in English, edited by an Englishman and meant only for the English readers. These people however also published sometimes very bold comments on the Indian Government and its policies.\(^{46}\) Which annoyed the British government and finally Hickey's press was seized in March 1782, with that his journalistic career came to an end. Mr. Hickey can rightly be regarded as father of the modern journalism in India. Other papers followed him. They also faced the similar wrath of the government, some of the editors were extemned from India.

After nine months of the publication of the Hickey's Gazette another English newspaper was published known as the *India Gazette*. The basic

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44. William Bolts, *Consideration on Indian Affairs*, pp. IV-IX.
45. Barns,*The Indian Press*, p. 46.
46. Ibid., p. 48.
47. *Hickey's Gazette* No. 43, Nov., 18, 1780.
difference between the *Hickey's Gazette* and *India Gazette* was that the former was anti Company while later had supported and patronage of the Company.

The third newspaper of India was *Calcutta Gazette* or *Oriental Advertiser*, first issue of this paper was published on 4th March 1784. The editor was Mr. Francis Gladwin. He was a great scholar of English and Persian – *Calcutta Gazette* also enjoyed patronage of the Company and published its editorial based on material provided by the Company.

Since Persian was official language it became necessary to every official to learn it. Francis Gladwin wrote a book entitled ‘*Farsi Munshi*’, edited dictionary on Mohammedan Law, and he also compiled a Persian-English dictionary.

One of the notable feature of *Calcutta Gazette* was the publication of a regular Persian column under the head *Akhbar-e-Muallaa* at Shahjahanabad. The English translation of this was also published. Abdullah Yusuf Ali, is of the view that *Calcutta gazette* was the first printed newspaper in current language. Through the news items of this newspaper People used to know about socio-political as well as educational

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48. Margarita Barns, *The Indian Press*, told the date of publication of *Calcutta Gazette* in February 1784. This is not true. This first issue of the *Calcutta Gazette* was published on 4th March 1784. See also Seton-Kar, op. cit., p. 2.

49. See correspondence of Francis Gladwin and permission granted for its publication. Official correspondence (Home Public) No. 20 20A February 9, 1780.

activities of that period. Besides the entertainment avenues of the European, it also contained current market rate of the commodities. The *Calcutta Gazette*, published the news of martyrdom of Tipu Sulatan and besiege of Srirangapatnam. The Europeans on a massive scale celebrated this tragic event, as they successfully removed a great hurdle for their mission to subjugate Hindustan\(^51\).

On 12 October 1785, first newspaper of Madras was published. Its name was *Madras Courier*, its editor and owner was Mr. Richard Johnson. This was a weekly paper containing four pages. In first two pages the summary of news from England was published. On the third page Indian news were published. Letters from readers also published on this page. Though this was not a regular paper, yet enjoyed the patronage of the British government.

Another newspaper of Madras was *Harkaru*, its editor was Mr. Hug Boyd. It was published in 1793. In January 1795, Mr. Williamson published a newspaper, which was known as *Madras Gazette*. Afterwards Mr. Hamphrey published a newspaper known as *Indian Herald*. He published this newspaper without the permission of the government and therefore he was deported to England for violating the government rule\(^52\).

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52. *Official Correspondence (Home Public)* No. 1 May 15, 1795.
In 1795, Madras Gazette published some very objectionable news items which was not desired and therefore the Madras government ordered the news item to be censored. This was the first censor of the press in India.

From Bombay, in 1789 first paper was published known as Bombay Herald. In 1790 Bombay Courier was published. The characteristic feature of this newspaper was that it used to publish advertisement of Gujrati, Marathi, Kannada and Urdu scripts. Its owner was Mr. Douglas Nicholson and editor was Mr. Luke Ash Burner. Another newspaper of Bombay was Bombay Observer, which was published in 1791. Before this Bombay Gazette was also published. According to William Carrey its publication was started on 25th June 1790 and this is true. Calcutta Gazette no longer enjoyed the patronage of the British government, because once Calcutta Gazette criticized the police force. Thus censor was imposed on it. Later the owner of this newspaper accepted the complete subordination to the Bombay Government.

In 1799 a paper namely Asiatic Mirror was published; Mr. Charles K. Bruce was its editor. It was he who published an article on the strength of the Company’s army and local rulers, which infuriated Wellesley who was engaged in war with Tipu Sultan. Wellesely asked the Company’s servant

54. Carrey, op. cit., p. 29.
55. Margarita Barns, op. cit., p. 60.
to deport him to England. But Bruce excused and pardoned on the condition of adopting a soft attitude towards the government.

Thus right from its inception, the press had to face certain challenges which raised the very question of its life and death. The more serious trial for the press however came in the time of Lord Wellesley and Lord Minto when for the first time in its history regular press laws were formulated. Wellesley a man of strong spirit and imperialistic disposition imposed the strictest censorship on the newspapers. Thompson writes regarding Wellesley “Journalist had to write what he approved, if they wrote otherwise they left India”\(^\text{56}\). Lord Minto issued more severe directives against the freedom of press. Under him writes; Kay “this drain of the free diffusion of knowledge became a chronic disease... It was our policy in those days to keep the natives of India in the profoundest possible state of liberalism and darkness”\(^\text{57}\).

During this period, Calcutta remained the biggest centre of newspapers. As Calcutta grew one of the largest commercial centre, therefore, there was every opportunity for these papers to flourish. As a result it was in Calcutta there was need to formulate regular press laws. In May 1799, Governor General in Council passed laws regulating press in India.

\(^{56}\) Thompson, *Lord Metcalf*, p. 317.
The most important aspect of news writing during the 18th century was that it was in no way Indian. During this period no vernacular newspaper was published. The English newspapers, which were published, were completely European in their appearance, tone and description. The editors as well as owners were English. Therefore, it can rightly be called as alien news writing system in India.

In India the foundation of *khabarnawisī* was laid down by the people of ruling class who were disgruntled against the east India Company. Therefore, there was always tussle between these newspapers and Company. Till date there was no specific laws to regulate the press in India. Indian press was guided by those, which were promulgated in England. But the press enjoyed considerable freedom, of which press in India was deprived. The East India Company was not ready to bear the burn of any criticism. Any negligence in this regard was severely punished or even its editors were deported to England.

Lord Hastings was totally opposed to the censorship therefore he decided to abolish censorship, but other restrictions, he however did impose for instance in the same year a law was passed by which anybody can be imprisoned without giving any prior notice of his crime.

“A study of the *Indian press*, writes Margarita Barns,” is necessarily also a study of the gradual and continued enlargement of the public
opinion.₅₈ The consciousness for their rights and position among the public is more apparent with the growth of national movement and the press. The government realized its power and enacted special legislation to deal with the newspapers. If the press was not influential, the government would not have been vigilant on the press. Press legislation in India shows how the government was sensitive to the criticism of the press. The British authorities feared a violent overthrow of their rule. The government, therefore, discovered all possible methods to check the growth of press and consequently to arrest the progress of the national movement.

The 19ᵗʰ century marked the beginning of a new era in the history of journalism because National consciousness went on increasing. Consequently, the newspapers has became an important means of mass communication, hence the study of vernacular press became important. The press was a medium of inter-communication between the government and the public.

"Many are the miracles of the modern age", says C.R. Srinivasan, "of them all, I should think the greatest is the modern newspaper. It is not only a miracle in itself. It has laid the foundation for many miracles that we have witnessed in modern life. It makes and unmakes things. It creates and distroys the strength of the nation. It is pivout around which revolves the

₅₈ Margarita Barns, op.cit., P.XIII.
universe. It occupies the nuclear position in the life of the world. The present is essentially the age of the newspaper and the immediate future is not likely to be different.” 59.

The present is the ‘propaganda age’ where the press is the vehicle of propaganda and ‘mass mobilization’ regarding the significance of the press. Wickham Steed has said, “The press is the Central problem of modern democracy” 60. The power of the press may be realized from what the great philosopher Emerson has said, “No power in England is more felt more feared or more obeyed; what you read in the morning in The Times you shall hear in the evening in all societies, it has ears every where, and its information is earliest completest and surest”.

Abraham Lincoln, realizing the immense power of the press once said, “The Times is one of the greatest powers in the world, in fact I do not know anything which has more power except Mississippi.” The press was the formidable weapon in the hands of European, through which they organized their struggles against feudal nobility. Even in modern age, it was with the help of print media as well as electronic media the developed societies has maintained their hegemony over the developing and under-developed societies. It is said that Iraq War what is popularly known

“as Operation Desert Storm” was a “media war” which America fought on the soil.

Jefferson, much criticized in Press, once he said that he would rather live in a country without a government but with a newspapers than in a country with good government and no newspaper. The newspapers kept the masses will informed about the happenings and ensure the people to perform their duties. They are sentinels of common weal. The press keeps vigil on politicians and government machinery to perform their duty judiciously. C.L.R. Sastri rightly remarks that, “They (newspapers) are the greatest need of the world”.

The history of journalism is the history of man striving for ways and means of satisfying his curiosity about the happenings in and around the world. In the words of Herbert Breucker “Journalism, then, is the instrument we use to stock our heads with information about the world that we can never know for ourselves.”

In the ever fast changing world and its day to day problems, the newspapers are the only means by which people can discuss the problems and rendered their solution. So the newspapers are fragments of history. Writing on newspapers, Norman Angell writes that “The newspapers are practically the only means which the community has of informing itself of

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61. Sastri C. L.R., Journalism, P.39
the facts which were to determine its collective decisions social or political.63

The newspapers are the world’s encyclopaedia of life. They tell us everything from every quarter of globe. The press is a vital instrument for spreading views, holding discussions, making opinions effectively and quickly through its numerous issues available to the public. Desraeli, the great statesman, said, “The press is not only free but it is powerful. The power is ours. It has always worked for the people”.64

In modern times, the press has become such an important weapon that all the organs of the opinion in order to get publicity approach the press and they increase more influence if they have got a press to support them. They play an important role in shaping public opinion. The journalism is the most important effective, extensive, popular and convenient, and the cheapest and the surest method of moulding and formulating public opinion. It is the most important of the elements which constitute public opinion.

It was during the second half of the 18th century, journalism stood as a proper medium to guide and infuse the spirit of nationalism. Harold Benjamin says, “Communication is a necessary tool of learning and mass communication is a prerequisite to mass education. A public spirited press

64. Dictionary of thoughts. P.497.
is a chief instrument whereby, contemporary society orders and changes its way in the director of clearly versioned goals of increased human welfare.\textsuperscript{65}

The press which exercised influence everywhere in all the spheres is certainly a powerful institution and if properly used it is bound to work for the good of humanity. If, the democracy is to work successfully the information system must be improved; it is the arms eye and ears of democracy. Newspaper served as the responsible advisor to the public. Its first duty was to provide the news without being subjective, secondly its duty was to present a certain view of public policy which is believed to be for the good of the state and the community. This made \textit{Wilkham Steed} to say that the printing and selling of the news is a social service.\textsuperscript{66}

Journalism is an aid to the administration and spokesman of the public. It will bridge the gulf between the public and the government. It is the arms of democratic society. It served as a communication between the government and governed. Ramsay Macdonalled said that, “the journalist is a man whose craft means that by instinctive ability he can gather together and coordinate all those feeling that go to the making of public opinion”. \textsuperscript{67}

Thus Newspapers constitute the ‘life blood’ of a democratic society.

\textsuperscript{65} Quoted in \textit{New Survey of Journalism} edited by G.F. Mott, P. 1.
\textsuperscript{66} \textit{Wickham Steed}, \textit{The Press}. P. 7.
\textsuperscript{67} E. Sommerland, \textit{Mightier than the sword}, (ed.) P. 6.