

CHAPTER – 1

GENERAL REVIEW

1.1.1. The importance of people's access to information cannot be underestimated in a country like India. The Print Media is one of the most important pillars of democratic system in our country, which is the largest democracy in the world. As many as 1,18,239 publications (Newspapers & Other periodicals) have been registered in India till 31st March, 2018 witnessing a constant growth of the Print Media. The rise in the number of registered publications is a pointer to the fact that proliferations of audio, visual and digital media have not adversely affected the substance and growth of Print Media. It continues to empower the common man to assert his right and to participate in strengthening the democracy.

1.1.2. Print Media has responded appropriately to the new changes and challenges with its modern approach. It has embraced Information Technology, which resulted in better coverage with great speed and affordable price. The readership of the print media, however is witnessing a negative growth.

1.1.3. Statistics show that there is great affinity towards the regional language publications among readers and that is why such publications are venturing out to bring editions from other cities where there is sizeable population of the people speaking respective languages.

1.1.4. Under the provision of the Section 19(D) of the Press and Registration of Books Act. 1867, publishers of all registered publications (newspapers and periodicals) are required to submit their Annual Statements to the Registrar of Newspapers for India. These Statements are the principal source of data involved in compiling this Report. However, all publishers are not taking interest in fulfilling their statutory obligation of filing Annual Statements with the RNI, although RNI has made arrangements to file the statements online. This year only 25.47 % of the publishers have submitted their Annual Statements. Hence, this report cannot be construed as comprehensive. It can give only a broad overview of the general trend in the Indian Press based on the number and claimed circulation of publications.

1.1.5. During 2017-18, a total of 3,704 new publications were registered and 285 registered publications ceased their publications. As on 31st March, 2018, there were 1,18,239 registered publications on record as against 1,14,820 at the end of March, 2017. The total circulation of publications decreased from 48,80,89,490 copies per publishing day in 2016-17 to 43,00,66,629 copies per publishing day in 2017-18. The number of Annual Statements received online from registered publishers in the O/o RNI for the year 2017-18 were 31,717 (this includes 1,600 'Miscellaneous' publications, separately analysed in 'Chapter X') against 31,028 in 2016-17 registering an increase of 2.22 per cent.

ANALYSIS OF DAILY PUBLICATIONS

1.2.1. As per the Annual Statements received for 2017-18, the number of Dailies being published in the country was 8,930 as against 9,061 during 2016-17. The claimed circulation of Dailies went down from 27,53,61,253 copies to 24,26,90,557 copies per publishing day, a decrease of 11.86 per cent. Hindi had 3,838 Dailies claiming a circulation

of 10,34,78,860 copies, while 1145 Urdu, 950 Telugu & 815 English Dailies claimed 1,99,37,049, 1,85,45,719 & 2,97,25,905 copies per publishing day respectively. (Chapter 6 Table 6.3)

1.2.2. Analysis of the information provided by Daily Publications on their working and organization can be seen in the Chapter VI.

ANALYSIS OF PERIODICALS

1.3.1. The majority of Indian publications 21,187 i.e. 70.34% of the total in numbers which filed Annual Statements for 2017-18 were periodicals. Circulation details were furnished by these 21,187 periodicals claiming a total circulation of 18,73,76,072 copies per publishing day. Out of them, 10,834 were Weeklies, 6,138 Monthlies, 2,836 Fortnightlies, 522 Quarterlies, 94 Annuals and 763 were of other periodicities. (Chapter 7 Table 7.2)

1.3.2. Total circulation of periodicals decreased from 21,27,28,237 copies in 2016-17 to 18,73,76,072 copies per publishing day in 2017-18. Weeklies lead with 10,60,27,875 copies, followed by Monthlies 4,37,73,013, Fortnightlies 2,23,76,002, Quarterlies 20,23,766 and Annuals 14,70,907 copies per publishing day. (Chapter 7 Table 7.2)

LANGUAGE-WISE ANALYSIS

1.4.1. Most of the publications were registered in English and 22 main languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution while some others were also registered in 165 other languages/dialects and in a few foreign languages. Publications brought out in more than one language together are categorized under 'Bi-lingual' and 'Multi-lingual' publications. (Appendix II)

1.4.2. As per the data received through Annual Statements submitted by the publishers for 2017-18, the highest numbers of publications were published in Hindi 15,327 followed by English 2,393; Marathi 2,243; Gujarati 1,954 ; Telugu 1,933; Urdu 1,739 and Bi-lingual 1,377. (Chapter 3 Table 3.1)

1.4.3. In terms of circulation, Hindi publications continued to lead with 19,56,21,990 copies followed by English 5,34,53,564 copies, Gujarati 2,87,45,426 copies, Telugu 2,79,83,375 copies, Marathi 2,73,03,400 copies and Urdu 2,52,89,731 copies, per publishing day. (Chapter 4 Table 4.2)

1.4.4. Among Dailies, Hindi led with a total of 3,838 publications followed by 1,145 in Urdu. The languages that brought out more than 100 Daily publications were Telugu 950, English 815, Marathi 540, Gujarati 445, Kannada 426, Tamil 161, Odia 122, Malayalam 122 and Bilingual 141. Circulation-wise, Hindi Dailies again maintained their dominance with 10,34,78,860 copies followed by English Dailies with a claimed circulation of 2,97,25,905 copies per publishing day. (Chapter 3 Table 3.1 & Chapter 4 Table 4.2)

STATE-WISE ANALYSIS

1.5.1. During 2017-18, the largest number of publications was brought out from Uttar Pradesh 5,630 followed by Madhya Pradesh 4,688; Maharashtra 3,472; Delhi 2,185; Gujarat 2,127; Uttarakhand 1,867; Rajasthan 1,748 and Andhra Pradesh 1,716. (Chapter 3 Table 3.2)

1.5.2. In circulation terms, Uttar Pradesh again with a total circulation of 6,89,48,931 copies per publishing day was on 1st position followed by Maharashtra with 4,70,72,109 copies, Madhya Pradesh with 4,67,88,276 copies and Delhi with 3,68,78,236 copies per publishing day. (Chapter 4 Table 4.3)

1.5.3. As in the case of total number of publications, Uttar Pradesh had the largest number of Daily publications as well; (1,963), followed by Madhya Pradesh (962), Andhra Pradesh (856), Maharashtra (742), Delhi (589) and Gujarat (541). Daily newspapers were published from all the States. (Chapter 3 Table 3.2)

1.5.4. Among Dailies also, Uttar Pradesh with a total circulation of 3,30,42,949 copies per publishing day retained its top position and was followed by Maharashtra with 2,65,74,973 copies, Madhya Pradesh with 2,48,76,958 copies, Gujarat with 1,99,27,893 and Delhi with 1,69,80,014 copies per publishing day. (Chapter 4 Table 4.3)

1.5.5. Delhi and Maharashtra brought out publications in 16 languages each, followed by Karnataka and Uttarakhand in 12 languages each, Gujarat and West Bengal in 11 languages each, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry in 10 languages each out of 22 main languages (excluding English) listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution).

1.5.6. The distinction for bringing out the highest number of publications in a single language also went to Uttar Pradesh, where 4,485 publications were published in Hindi. The other States with a significant number of publications in a single language were Madhya Pradesh (4,384); Uttarakhand (1,707); Rajasthan (1,586) and Delhi (1,211) all in Hindi language, Gujarat 1,878 publications in Gujarati, Andhra Pradesh with 1,409 publications in Telugu and Maharashtra with 2,207 publications in Marathi. (It was also noticed that regional language publications were leading both in number and circulation in all major States). (Chapter 3 Table 3.3)

CIRCULATION PATTERN

1.6.1. Out of 30,117 newspapers and periodicals which supplied their circulation data, 778 fall in the Big category, 3,433 in the Medium category and remaining 25,906 in the Small category. Publications falling in the Small category have the largest share in the circulation with 16,76,09,240 copies per publishing day, followed by the Big category 13,16,47,202 copies per publishing day and the Medium category having 13,08,10,187 copies per publishing day during 2017-18. (Chapter 4 Table 4.6)

1.6.2. In the 'Big' category, there were 590 Dailies and Tri/Bi-weeklies. In the 'Medium' category, the number stood at 2,409 and in 'Small' category there were 5,931

Dailies and Tri/Bi-weeklies. Their total claimed circulation accounted for 9,83,25,308 copies, 9,27,71,253 copies and 5,15,93,996 copies per publishing day respectively. (Chapter 4 Table 4.7)

CIRCULATION LEVELS

1.7.1. “*ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA*”, a Bengali/Daily published from Kolkata turned to be the largest circulated single edition daily with a claimed circulation of 11,18,440 copies per publishing day followed by “*HINDUSTAN TIMES*” an English/Daily published from Delhi with a circulation of 9,57,176 copies per publishing day and “*THE TIMES OF INDIA*”, an English/Daily published from Delhi with a claimed circulation of 9,48,696 copies per publishing day.

1.7.2. The “*DAINIK BHASKAR*”, having 58 editions in Hindi Language with a total claimed circulation of 51,19,720 copies per publishing day occupied first position among multi-editions dailies. “*THE TIMES OF INDIA*”, having 34 editions in English Language with a total claimed circulation of 43,34,769 copies per publishing day occupied the second position among multi-editions dailies during 2017-18.

1.7.3. “*SUNDAY TIMES OF INDIA*”, an English/Weekly Edition from Mumbai, was the largest circulated periodical in 2017-18 with a claimed circulation of 8,18,768 copies per publishing day, while “*SUNDAY NAVBHARAT TIMES*”, an Hindi/Weekly Edition from Mumbai, with a circulation of 6,38,778 copies per publishing day being second, and “*VANITHA*”, a Malayalam/Fortnightly from Kottayam with a claimed circulation of 5,84,261 copies per publishing day was rated as third in terms of circulation figures.

OWNERSHIP

1.8.1. Out of 30,117 publications that furnished Annual Statements for the year 2017-18, as many as 26,750 were owned by Individuals followed by 2,084 by Joint Stock Companies, 539 by Societies and Associations, 352 by Trusts and 215 by Firms and Partnerships. 57 publications were brought out by the Central and State Governments and Cooperative Societies while Educational Institutions and others owned the remaining 120 publications. (Chapter 5 Table 5.1)

1.8.2. Publications owned by Individuals had the largest share in claimed circulation accounting for 68.06 per cent of the total circulation, followed by those owned by Joint Stock Companies with 26.26 per cent of the total circulation. 2,530 common ownership units brought out 8,804 publications with news interest contents. These units also brought out 82 publications which had no news interest contents. Publications, belonging to these common ownership units, claimed a total circulation of 22,58,07,337 copies per publishing day, i.e. 51.55% of the total circulation of the Indian Press. (Chapter 5 Table 5.5, 5.8 & 5.10)

CONTENTS

1.9. Out of the total 21,187 periodicals, 19,112 covered mainly News and Current Affairs. Apart from these, there were other periodicals covering various interest, such as Religion and

Philosophy, Medicine and Health, Education, Finance and Economics, Literature and Culture, Children, Women, Law and Public Administration, Film, Commerce, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Science, Sports, Engineering and Technology and Industry etc. (Chapter 7 Table 7.5)

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

1.10. There were 57 Government publications, which filed Annual Statements for the year 2017-18, out of which 31 belonged to the Central Government and 26 to State Governments. “**Employment News**”, an English/Weekly brought out from Delhi by the Publication Division, M/o I&B, Govt. of India was the largest circulated Central Government publication with 1,37,669 copies per publishing day.

REGISTERED PUBLICATIONS

1.11.1. The number of registered publications has been increased to 1,18,239 as on 31.3.2018 out of which 31,717 (including 1,600 ‘Miscellaneous’ publications) filed their Annual Statements for 2017-18. During the year 3,704 new publications were registered and 285 ceased their publication. Detailed analysis of these registered newspapers is in Chapter 2.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS

1.12.1. 1,600 registered publications, which did not contain public news or views and circulated free of cost or as a complimentary copy with main editions, filed their Annual Statements online during 2017-18. These publications have, therefore, not been included in the general study of the ‘Press-in-India’. Chapter 10 is devoted exclusively to the analysis of these publications, comprising market reports and bulletins, publicity journals, fiction, school and college magazines etc.

1.12.2. Of these 1,600 miscellaneous publications, which furnished their circulation data, claimed a circulation of 1,79,57,584 copies per publishing day. (Chapter 10 Table 10.5)

THE PRESS IN INDIA IN 2017-18: AT A GLANCE (Data Compiled as per the Annual Statements Received)		
Periodicity	Number	Circulation
Daily	8,930	24,26,90,557
Weekly	10,834	10,60,27,875
Fortnightly	2,836	2,23,76,002
Monthly	6,138	4,37,73,013
Quarterly	522	20,23,766
Annual	94	14,70,907
Others	763	1,17,04,409
Total	30,117	43,00,66,629
‘Miscellaneous’ Publications	1,600	1,79,57,584