

# CHAPTER – 1

## GENERAL REVIEW

**1.1.1.** It is a globally acknowledged paradigm that access to information is one of the cornerstones of democracy. Therefore, the importance of people’s access to information through media cannot be underestimated in a democratic country like India. Historically, the Print Media has served as an indispensable pillar of the democratic system in our country and has contributed immensely to the nation-building process. As per records, **1,46,045** print publications (Newspapers & Other periodicals) have been registered in India till 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022. The financial year 2021-22 has witnessed a remarkable growth in the number of publications that got registered. The rise in the number of registered publications can be seen as a pointer towards the fact that the proliferation of audio, visual and digital media and the rise of the internet have not yet substantially affected the substance and growth of Print Media in India. It continues to empower the common citizens, help them make informed decisions and assert their rights, encouraging them to be active participants in the democratic as well as nation-building processes.

**1.1.2.** The Print Media has responded appropriately to the challenges posed by changes in **Information and Communication Technologies**.

**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 23.38 percent of the publishers have submitted their Annual Statements online. Hence, this report cannot be construed as comprehensive. It can only give a broad overview of the general trend in the Indian Press based on the number and claimed circulation of publications.

**1.1.5.** During 2021-22, a total of 1,525 new publications were registered. As on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 there were 1,46,045 registered publications on record as against 1,44,520 at the end of March, 2021. The total circulation of publications increased from 38,64,82,373 copies per publishing day in 2020-21 to 39,17,12,282 copies per publishing day in 2021-22. The number of Annual Statements received online from registered publishers in the O/o RNI for the year 2021-22 were 34,148 (this includes 221 ‘Miscellaneous’ publications, separately analysed in ‘Chapter 10’) as compared to 32,938 in 2020-21.

## ANALYSIS OF DAILY PUBLICATIONS

**1.2.1.** As per the Annual Statements received for 2021-22, the number of Dailies being published in the country was 10,038 as against 9,750 during 2020-21. The claimed circulation of Dailies decreased from 22,58,56,735 to 22,57,26,209 copies per publishing day, a decrease of 00.06 percent. Hindi had 4424 Dailies, claiming a circulation of 10,34,83,185 copies, while 1107 Urdu dailies, 1065 Telugu dailies, and 825 English dailies claimed 1,97,81,900, 1,36,36,825 & 2,09,14,036 copies per publishing day respectively. (*Chapter 6, Table 6.4*)

**1.2.2.** Analysis of the information provided by Daily Publications on their working and organisation can be seen in Chapter 6.

## ANALYSIS OF PERIODICALS

**1.3.1.** Out of 34,148 publications which filed Annual Statements for 2021-22, the majority of Indian publications i.e. 23,846 (69.83 %) were periodicals. Circulation details were furnished by these 23,846 periodicals claiming a total circulation of 16,53,32,986 copies per publishing day. Out of them, 11,616 were Weeklies, 7,799 Monthlies, 3,133 Fortnightlies, 766 Quarterlies, 122 Annuals and 410 were of other periodicities. (*Chapter 7, Table 7.3*)

**1.3.2.** Total circulation of periodicals decreased from 16,01,06,418 copies in 2020-21 to 16,53,32,986 copies per publishing day in 2021-22. Weeklies with 11,616 copies, followed by Monthlies 7,799, Fortnightlies 3,133, Quarterlies 766 and Annuals 122 copies per publishing day. (*Chapter 7, Table 7.3*)

## LANGUAGE-WISE ANALYSIS

**1.4.1.** Most of the publications were registered in English and 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution while some others were also registered in 189 other languages/dialects and in a few foreign languages. Publications brought out in more than one language together are categorised 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 2021-22, the highest numbers of publications were published in Hindi (16,793) followed by Marathi (2,807), English (2,485), Telugu (2,248), Gujarati (2,028), Urdu (1,701), Kannada (1,300), Tamil (869), Bengali (531), Odia (446), Malayalam (346) etc. (*Chapter 3, Table 3.1*)

**1.4.3.** In terms of circulation, Hindi publications continued to lead with 19,10,59,519 copies followed by English (3,63,76,311); Marathi (3,64,60,742); Urdu (2,42,04,439); Telugu (2,16,97,013); Gujarati (1,72,25,933); and Malayalam (1,07,12,435). (*Chapter 4, Table 4.2*)

**1.4.4.** Among the Dailies which filed Annual Statement, Hindi led with a total of 4,424 publications followed by 1,107 in Urdu. The languages that brought out more than 100 Daily publications were Telugu (1,065), English (825), Marathi (697), Kannada (651), Gujarati (401), Tamil (177), Odia (128) and Malayalam (130). Circulation-wise, Hindi Dailies have continued to maintain their dominance with 10,34,83,185 copies followed by Urdu Dailies with a claimed circulation of 1,97,81,900 copies per publishing day. (*Chapter 3, Table 3.1 & Chapter 4, Table 4.2*)

## STATE-WISE ANALYSIS

**1.5.1.** During 2021-22, the largest number of publications which filed Annual Statement was brought out from Uttar Pradesh (6,051) followed by Madhya Pradesh (5,620); Maharashtra (4,278); Delhi (2,206); Gujarat (2,269); Andhra Pradesh (1,985); Uttarakhand (1,899) and Rajasthan (1,704). (*Chapter 3, Table 3.2*)

**1.5.2.** In circulation terms, Uttar Pradesh, with a total circulation of 7,31,96,540 copies per publishing day, was on 1<sup>st</sup> position again followed by Madhya Pradesh with 5,37,38,654 copies, Maharashtra with 4,93,87,315 copies, and Delhi with 2,64,98,376 copies per publishing day. (*Chapter 4, Table 4.3*)

**1.5.3.** As in the case of total number of daily publications which filed Annual Statement, Uttar Pradesh maintained its lead with 2,197 Daily publications followed by Madhya Pradesh (1,250); Andhra Pradesh (934); Maharashtra (955); Karnataka (722); Delhi (568); and Gujarat (507). Daily newspapers were published from all the States and Union Territories. (*Chapter 3, Table 3.2*)

**1.5.4.** Even among dailies also, Uttar Pradesh, with a total circulation of 3,90,50,151 copies per publishing day retained its top position and was followed by Maharashtra with 3,60,74,671 copies per publishing day; Madhya Pradesh with 2,69,32,013 copies per publishing day; Delhi 1,40,92,325 copies per publishing day; Andhra Pradesh 1,12,28,442 copies per publishing day; Rajasthan 1,15,88,376 copies per publishing day; Gujarat 1,08,63,557 copies per publishing day and Bihar 74,30,849 copies per publishing day. (*Chapter 4, Table 4.3*)

**1.5.5.** Delhi brought out publications in 14 languages followed by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand in 13 languages each; Karnataka in 08 languages; Gujarat in 10 languages; Kerala, West Bengal and Punjab in 9 languages each; and Uttar Pradesh in 8 languages, out of 22 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 which filed Annual Statement in a single language went to Madhya Pradesh, where 5,258 publications were brought out in Hindi. The other States with a significant number of publications in a single language were (i) Delhi (Hindi 1,159) and (English 532); (ii) Andhra Pradesh (Telugu 1,663) and (English 157); (iii) Gujarat (Gujarati 1,937) and (Hindi 156); (iv) Maharashtra (Marathi 2,754) and (Hindi 575); (v) Uttar Pradesh (Hindi 4,860) and Urdu (757); (vi) West Bengal (Bengali 472) and (English 87); (vii) Tamil Nadu (Tamil 804) and (English 138); (viii) Odisha (Odia 430) and

(English 56); (ix) Kerala (Malayalam 327) and (English 61); (x) Karnataka (Kannada 1,275) and (English 106); (xi) Chhattisgarh (Hindi 524) and (English 11); (xii) Haryana (Hindi 316) and (English 21); (xiii) Madhya Pradesh (Hindi 5,258) and (English 77); (xiv) Telangana (Telugu 558) and (Urdu 148); (xv) Uttarakhand (Hindi 1,722) and (English 51); and (xvi) Rajasthan (Hindi 1,541) and (English 38). (*Chapter 3, Table 3.3*)

## CIRCULATION PATTERN

**1.6.1.** Out of 33,927 newspapers and periodicals which supplied their circulation data, (excluding ‘Miscellaneous’ publications) 665 fall in the ‘Big’ category; 1,926 in the ‘Medium’ category, 187 in the ‘Others’ category, and remaining ‘31,149’ in the ‘Small’ category. Publications falling in the ‘Small’ category have the largest share in the circulation with 21,07,18,691 copies per publishing day, followed by the ‘Big’ category with 10,76,04,459 copies per publishing day and the ‘Medium’ category having 7,33,89,132 copies per publishing day. (*Chapter 4, Table 4.6*)

**1.6.2.** In the ‘Big’ category, there were 569 Dailies and Tri/Bi-weeklies. In the ‘Medium’ category, the number stood at 1,368 and in ‘Small’ category there were 8,120 Dailies and Tri/Bi-weeklies. Their total claimed circulation accounted for 9,08,15,777 copies, 6,35,65,337 copies and 8,19,98,182 copies per publishing day respectively. (*Chapter 4, Table 4.7*)

## OWNERSHIP

**1.7.1.** Out of 34,148 publications that furnished Annual Statements for the year 2021-22, as many as 30,128 were owned by Individuals, 679 by Societies and Associations, 597 by Trusts and 213 by Firms and Partnerships. 48 publications were brought out by the Central and State Governments and Cooperative Societies while Educational Institutions and others owned the remaining 2,262 publications. (*Chapter 5, Table 5.1*)

**1.7.2.** Publications owned by Individuals had the largest share in claimed circulation accounting for 75.11 percent of the total circulation, followed by those owned by Others with 19.58 percent of the total circulation. (*Chapter 5, Table 5.5*)

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**1.8.1.** Out of the total 23,846 periodicals, 20,443 mainly covered 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 7.6*)

## GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

**1.9.1.** There were 48 Government publications, which filed Annual Statements for the year 2021-22, out of which 24 belonged to the Union Government and 24 to State Governments. “**Employment News**”, an English/Weekly brought out from Delhi by the Publications Division, M/o I&B, Govt. of India was the largest circulated Central Government publication with 1,32,376 copies per publishing day. (*Chapter 5, Table 5.2*) (*Appendix -1*)

## REGISTERED PUBLICATIONS

**1.10.1.** The number of registered publications has been increased to 1,46,045 as on 31.3.2022 out of which 34,148 (including 221 ‘Miscellaneous’ publications) filed their Annual Statements for 2021-22. During the year, 1525 new publications were registered. Detailed analysis of these registered newspapers is in Chapter 2.

## MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS

**1.11.1.** 221 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 2021-22. 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 of market reports and bulletins, publicity journals, fiction, school and college magazines, etc.

**1.11.2.** These 221 miscellaneous publications which furnished their circulation data claimed a circulation of 34,61,545 copies per publishing day. (*Chapter 10, Table 10.5*)

**Table No. 1.1**  
**THE PRESS IN INDIA 2021-22: AT A GLANCE**  
**(Data Compiled as per the Annual Statements Received)**

S. No	Periodicity	Number of Publications	Average Circulation
1	Daily	10038	225726209
2	Weekly	11616	97248755
3	Fortnightly	3133	19251819
4	Monthly	7799	44680221
5	Quarterly	766	2213400
6	Half-yearly	135	128347
7	Annual	122	1029574
8	Others	318	1433957
	<b>Total</b>	<b>33927</b>	<b>391712282</b>
	Miscellaneous	221	3461545

Source: Annual Statement 2021-2022

### The Press in India 2021-2022: At a Glance

