

UNIT

2

NEWS AGENCIES, PRESS ORGANIZATIONS AND CURRENT TRENDS

STRUCTURE

- News Agencies in India—English & Hindi –their set up, functions and role-PTI, UNI, Univarta, Bhasa and others.
- Feature, services & syndicates—INFA, Publication Syndicate, PTI Features.
- Introduction to International News agencies & Photo agencies—Reuters, AP, AFP, UPI, and ITAR TASS.
- Government Media Organizations—PIB, Publication Division, Photo Division, DAVP, RNI, Directorate of Information & Public Relations of various state governments

• LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After this chapter students will be able to understand about:

- News agencies in India, their set-up, functions and role
- INFA, publication syndicate and PTI features
- International news agencies and photo agencies
- Reuters, AP, AFP, UPI, and ITAR TASS.
- PIB, Publication Division, Photo Division, DAVP, RNI, Directorate of Information & Public Relations of various state governments

• NEWS AGENCIES IN INDIA—ENGLISH & HINDI –THEIR SET UP, FUNCTIONS AND ROLE-PTI, UNI, UNIVARTA, BHASA AND OTHERS

News agency, also called press agency, press association, wire service, or news service, organization that gathers, writes, and distributes news from around a nation or the world to newspapers, periodicals, radio and television broadcasters, government agencies, and other users. It does not generally publish news itself but supplies news to its subscribers, who, by sharing costs, obtain services they could not otherwise afford. All the mass media depend upon the agencies for the bulk of

the news, even including those few that have extensive news-gathering resources of their own.

The news agency has a variety of forms. In some large cities, newspapers and radio and television stations have joined forces to obtain routine coverage of news about the police, courts, government offices, and the like. National agencies have extended the area of such coverage by gathering and distributing stock-market quotations, sports results, and election reports. A few agencies have extended their service to include worldwide news. The service has grown to include news interpretation, special columns, news photographs, audiotape recordings for radio broadcast, and often videotape or motion-picture film for television news reports. Many agencies are cooperatives, and the trend has been in that direction since World War II. Under this form of organization, individual members provide news from their own circulation areas to an agency pool for general use. In major news centers the national and worldwide agencies have their own reporters to cover important events, and they maintain offices to facilitate distribution of their service.

The newspaper revolution in India has always been a subject for study by researchers and different agencies working in the field. Most of the studies are done on two different periods, colonial period and after independence. Some studies further divide this into pre-emergency period and post-emergency period.

The Registrar of Newspapers of India (RNI), the National Readership Council of India (NRCI) and the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) are some of the organizations which regularly conduct studies on newspapers in India. They do it as an annual exercise and publish reports. The Government of India appointed two press commissions and they have also submitted reports on the Indian media.

Apart from this, researchers and authors have done extensive studies on the newspaper revolution in India and published books. Robin Jeffrey in his book, "India's Newspaper Revolution" published in 2000 deals elaborately about the various aspects of the Indian press. "A History of Press in India" by S. Natarajan, "Journalism in Modern India" by Ronald E Wolseley, "Newspaper Circulations in India, 1998-2000" by Naresh Khanna and "Journalism and Politics" by M. Chalapathi Rau are some of the other books worth mentioning. Sevanti Ninan has written a book on the growth of the Hindi Press, called "Headlines from the Heartland". Some veteran journalists have also written articles on the growth of the Indian media.

Here we shall discuss about following news agencies in India:

• PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Press Trust of India Ltd., commonly known as PTI, is the largest news agency in India. It is headquartered in New Delhi and is a nonprofit cooperative

among more than 500 Indian newspapers and has about 500 full-time employees as of Jan 1, 2020 including about 400 journalists and 500 part time correspondents located in most of the district headquarters in the country. A few correspondents are based in major capitals and important business centers around the world. It took over the operations of the Associated Press of India from Reuters after India's independence in 1947. It provides news coverage and information of the region in both English and Hindi. Its corporate office is located at Sansad Marg, New Delhi and registered office in D N Road, Mumbai.

It exchanges information with several other news agencies including 100 news agencies based outside India, such as Associated Press, Agence France - Presse, The New York Times and Bloomberg L. P. Major Indian subscribers of PTI include The Hindu, Times of India, the Indian Express, the Hindustan Times, The Statesman, The Tribune, the All India Radio, Doordarshan and The Wire. PTI has offices in Bangkok, Beijing, Colombo, Dubai, Islamabad, Kuala Lumpur, Moscow, New York and Washington D.C. Press Trust of India is the only news agency in South Asia which operates its own communication satellite, an INSAT, to broadcast news and information.



• UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

United News of India (UNI) is a multilingual news agency in India. It was founded in December 1959 as an English news agency. Its commercial operations were started from 21 March 1961.

UNI was the first to start a multi-language news service UNIVARTA on May 1, 1982 that continues to provide Hindi newspapers and media organizations a comprehensive package of national, international, regional, sports and commercial news in their language of publication. With its Univarta, a Hindi news service, UNI became one of the multilingual news service in the world.

In 1992, it started its Urdu news service and hence became the first news agency to provide Urdu news. Currently, it is the second largest news agency in India, supplying news in English, Hindi, Urdu and Kannada languages. Its news bureaus are present in all state capitals and major cities of India.

content house' providing text, video and picture content for TV, print, mobile and online media.

ANI also provide a range of facilities for foreign and domestic channels to package their reports in India and uplink via satellite. These include provision of professional crews, editing and post production facilities, access to archives, uplinking facilities, coordinators, producers and correspondents, as per requirement.

ANI services includes loosely edited news feeds and customized programmes for television channels, audio bytes for radio stations, live web casting and streamed multimedia / text content for websites and mobile carriers, and news wire services for newspapers, magazines and websites.



Hindustan Samachar

The Hindusthan Samachar was formed on 1st Dec. 1948, and provide news in 14 Indian languages. Its subscribers includes AIR, Doordarshan, various State Governments, Nepal Radio and a number of regional papers. Presently the service is being provided in Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Nepali, Oriya, Asamiya, Kannad, Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, Sindhi, Sanskrit, Punjabi and Bangla. The service is fully based on the web internet technology. The subscriber can either download the next or convert it into E-mail format.

In India this agency has offices in all the states. The news circulated in all the Indian languages by Hindusthan Samachar could be checked on the Website www.hindusthansamachar.com



Feature, services & syndicates—INFA, Publication Syndicate, PTI Features.

Newspaper syndicate, also called **Press Syndicate**, or **Feature Syndicate**, agency that sells to newspapers and other media special writing and artwork, often written by a noted journalist or eminent authority or drawn by a well-known

cartoonist, that cannot be classified as spot coverage of the news. Its fundamental service is to spread the cost of expensive features among as many newspapers (subscribers) as possible. Press syndicates sell the exclusive rights to a feature to one subscriber in each territory, in contrast to the wire news services which offer their reports to all papers in a given area. Some syndicates specialize in such entertainment features as comic strips, cartoons, columns of oddities or humour, and serialized novels. Typical syndicated features are columns of advice on child rearing, health, running a household, gardening, and such games as bridge.

Following are the features of some of Indian news agencies:

INFA and its features

India News and Feature Alliance (INFA) is India's leading news and feature agency. An independent syndicate, it was founded on 14 November 1959 by Durga Das following his retirement as the Editor-in-Chief of the Hindustan Times.

For over half a century, INFA has been crusading to strengthen India's young democracy at the grassroots through a better-informed public opinion. It has endeavoured to achieve this by providing a daily service of articles on topical issues by leading experts giving background, inside information and in-depth analysis.

INFA service comprises daily columns, exclusive off-beat news items, backgrounders and special features. Also provided are news items of different interest, both domestic and foreign, parliamentary service, INFA Digest as well as Dossiers on request. It also has a Publication Division, wherein important books are brought out annually.

INFA is functioning from New Delhi. It is owned by Durga Das Private Ltd.

INFA service is provided by e-mail both in English and Hindi. The service comprises a column a day or 30 articles a month for the editorial page together with two to three exclusive off-beat news items. It also provides tailor-made writeups on request from its clients, such as newspapers, government organisations, conglomerates etc. INFA columns cover a wide spectrum and are written by acknowledged experts. These are released under seven titles each week:

- **Political Diary**, a weekly column on national affairs with inside information and relevant background.
- **Round the World**, analysis of international events as viewed from New Delhi.
- **Round the States**, a weekly focus on the highlights of developments in the States together with the Union Government's reactions to them.

- **Defence Notes**, a fortnightly column analyzing the national defence policies and activities and international developments related to the country.
- **Economic Highlights**, a weekly feature with analysis of the latest business and economic developments.
- **Open Forum**, invites a cross-section of top leaders of various political parties to raise and debate topical issues of national or regional concern.
- **Events and Issues**, a commentary on major issues and happenings.
- **People and Their Problems**, deals with a cross-section of basic and other issues concerning the common man.
- **Parliament** gets special attention in view of its central role in a democracy through which the will of the people is expressed, laws passed and the Government held to account.
- **Spotlight**, Off-beat news items on issues such as environment, health, scientific developments etc
- **Special Article**: Analysis of current and controversial issues, both national and international.

INFA Digest has been specially designed to make life so much easier for all those interested in the latest developments in India --- political, economic, defence, social etc. Hereafter, they will not need to surf the websites of various leading newspapers across the country. One click of INFA Digest will provide you at any point of time all the information about various developments that deserve to be known. This information will be made available from information collected by INFA staffers and from news culled from leading newspapers and presented meaningfully on our website. But, as we all know, news by itself is not enough. Equally important and, on occasions, even more important is news analysis and background, which is often taken for granted. I

NFA Digest will provide analysis of major developments across the board by its experts. Additionally, the website will also provide analytical articles from leading newspapers and other print media which deserve to be noted. What is more, necessary background will be spotlighted to enable the surfers to understand the developments in the correct perspective. There would be little need thereafter to look elsewhere!

INFA has the distinction of covering Indian Parliament for nearly five decades. The agency has also had an unrivalled insight into Parliament's functioning with its Editor having been a member of the Lok Sabha for two terms. Thus, one of INFA's expertise lies in culling out the wheat from the chaff of parliamentary discourse:

India. Collectively, they put out more than 2,000 stories and 200 photographs a day. Its Hindi service is called Bhasha.

PTI correspondents are based in all important news centers around the world. It also has tie-up with several foreign news agencies. Currently, PTI commands 90% of new agency market share in India.

PTI was registered in 1947 and started functioning in 1949. PTI is run by a Board of Directors with the Chairmanship going by rotation at the Annual General Meeting. The day-to-day administration and management of PTI is headed by the CEO, who is also the Editor-in-Chief. Its board of directors includes owner/editor of most of the leading publications in India like, Vineet Jain, Aweek Sarkar, Viveck Goenka, N Ravi etc.



Introduction to International News agencies & Photo agencies—Reuters, AP, AFP, UPI, and ITAR TASS

Newspaper Syndicates came into being in the United States at the end of the Civil War. Individual features, however, had been syndicated as early as 1768 in the *Journal of Occurrences*, which was circulated by a group of “Boston patriots.” The syndicate filled a need among rural or small-town weekly and daily papers for material that would help them compete with big-city papers. Three syndicates were in operation in 1865, supplying miscellaneous feature news items and short stories. In 1870 Tillotson & Son, publishers in Bolton, Eng., began to supply some British papers with serialized fiction. By 1881 Henry Villard, a reporter for the Associated Press (AP), had founded his own syndicate in Washington, D.C., and was soon sending material to the *Cincinnati Commercial*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and the *New York Herald*. About 1884, Charles A. Dana of the *New York Sun* formed a syndicate

to sell short stories by Bret Harte and Henry James. Samuel S. McClure launched a similar venture in the same year. He first offered fiction and secured the rights to several stories by Rudyard Kipling. He also helped to introduce the stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and others into the United States. The features offered at that time were mostly literary material and pictures. An important change came in 1896, however, when the big New York City Sunday newspapers began to produce and publish comic pages. In 1907 the comic strip was introduced in daily papers. This form of art gradually changed the whole character of the business and made it more profitable. The strips were shipped in matrix form to the subscribers for simultaneous publication. Originally, they were truly “comics” in that they were intended to make readers laugh, but later many became continued stories with no humour. When Bud Fisher’s “Mutt and Jeff” was first bought and published in England in 1920, many British readers scoffed at the idea. It proved successful, and British editors later originated many strips in competition with the American products. By the late 1950s American comic strips were being translated into several languages and sold all over the world.

Many writers, photographers, and graphic artists syndicate their own materials. Some newspapers with especially strong resources syndicate their own coverage, including news, to papers outside their own communities. Examples include the *New York Times*, with major resources in every news department, and the defunct *Chicago Daily News*, which was known for its foreign coverage. Papers sometimes syndicate as a team with another newspaper—e.g., the *Los Angeles Times*–*Washington Post* syndicate.

In addition to general news agencies, several specialized services have developed. In the United States alone these number well over 100, including such major ones as Science Service, Religious News Service, Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and News Election Service. Specialized services in other countries include the Swiss Katholische Internationale Presseagentur, which reports news of special interest to Roman Catholics, and the Star News Agency of Pakistan, which supplies news of Muslim interest in English and Urdu.

The major press associations in the United States have expanded their service to include entertainment features, and some feature syndicates provide straight news coverage as a part of their service. The Newspaper Enterprise Association distributes both news and features in the United States.

Despite the plethora of news services, most news printed and broadcast throughout the world each day comes from only a few major agencies, the three largest of which are the Associated Press in the United States, Reuters in Great Britain, and Agence France-Presse in France. Only these and a few others have the financial resources to station experienced reporters in all areas of the world where news develops regularly (in order to ensure access to well-organized transmission

facilities) or to send them wherever news develops unexpectedly. These agencies are also equipped to distribute the service almost instantaneously.

The world agencies have established a variety of relationships with other agencies and with individual news media. Most of them purchase the news services of national or local agencies to supplement news gathered by their own staff representatives at key points. Reuters, like the Agence France-Presse, supplies a worldwide news file to be distributed by some national agencies along with their domestic news reports. The American services more often contract to deliver their service directly to individual users abroad.

News agencies in communist countries had close ties to their national governments. Each major communist country had its own national news service, and each news service was officially controlled, usually by the minister of information. TASS, the Soviet news agency, was the principal source of world news for the Soviet Union and its allies; it also made Soviet Communist Party policy known. Communist states outside the Soviet sphere, e.g., China and Yugoslavia, had their own state news services, which were controlled in similar fashion. China's Hsinhua, or New China News Agency, was the largest remaining news agency in a communist country by the late 20th century.

Most other countries have one or more national news agencies. Some depend on a common service, such as the Arab News Agency, which provides news for several states in the Middle East. Others are national newspaper cooperatives, such as the Ritzaus Bureau of Denmark, founded in 1866. A few, like the Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata of Italy, have expanded coverage abroad in a limited degree to supplement their domestic service but still depend on Reuters and Agence France-Presse for much of their foreign news. Germany since 1949 has built Deutsche-Presse Agentur into one of the more important news agencies in Europe, including extensive exchange with other national services. In Canada the Canadian Press is a cooperative news agency with headquarters in Toronto. The oldest and largest news agency operating exclusively in Britain is the Press Association, founded by provincial newspapers on a cooperative basis in 1868. It began active work on February 5, 1870, when the postal service took over the private telegraph companies that had previously supplied the provincial papers with news. It supplies news to all the London daily and Sunday newspapers, provincial papers, and trade journals and other periodicals.

The ability to transmit news rapidly greatly increased during the 20th century. Radio teleprinters that make possible fast automatic transmission of news messages linked all major areas. Picture transmission by radio and high-fidelity wires became well developed. From the major agencies, teletypesetter service, pioneered by the Associated Press in 1951, was available to newspapers wishing to have computerized typesetting done directly from news-service transmissions. By the

21st century, most news agencies had moved the bulk of their operations and transmission to computers.

For brief coverage of the major world news agencies, see Agence France-Presse; Associated Press; Kyōdō tsūshinsha; Press Trust of India; Reuters; TASS; United Press International.

Thomson Reuters

Thomson Reuters, originally Reuters is Canadian information services company. Founded as the Reuters news agency in Great Britain in 1851, it became one of the leading newswire services in the world. Its headquarters are in Toronto.

The agency was established by Paul Julius Reuter, a former bank clerk who in 1847 became a partner in Reuter and Stargardt, a Berlin book-publishing firm. The firm distributed radical pamphlets at the beginning of the Revolutions of 1848, which may have brought official scrutiny on Reuter. Later that year he left for Paris, where he worked for a short time as a translator. In 1849 he initiated a prototype news service, using electric telegraphy as well as carrier pigeons in his network. Upon moving to England, he launched Reuter's Telegram Company two years later. The company was concerned with commercial news service at its inception and had headquarters in London serving banks, brokerage houses, and leading business firms.

The agency expanded steadily, and in 1858 its first newspaper client, the London Morning Advertiser, subscribed. Newspapers bulked ever larger in the Reuters clientele thereafter. The value of Reuters to newspapers lay not only in the financial news it provided but in its ability to be the first to report on stories of international importance, as in 1865 when the service broke the news of the assassination of U.S. Pres. Abraham Lincoln hours before its competitors.

Reuter saw the possibilities of the telegraph for news reporting and built up an organization that maintained correspondents throughout the world. The Press Association (PA), an organization representing the provincial press of Great Britain, acquired a majority interest in Reuters in 1925 and full ownership some years later. In 1941 the PA sold half of Reuters to the Newspaper Proprietors' Association, representing Britain's national press, and in 1947 co-ownership was extended to associations representing the daily newspapers of Australia and New Zealand. Reuters had become one of the world's major news agencies, supplying both text and images to newspapers, other news agencies, and radio and television broadcasters. Directly or through national news agencies, it provided service to most countries, reaching virtually all the world's leading newspapers and many thousands of smaller ones.

In the 1960s Reuters became one of the first news agencies to use computers to transmit financial data overseas, and in 1973 it began making computer-terminal

displays of foreign-exchange rates available to clients. The agency subsequently afforded the capacity to make electronic transactions over its network (1981) and went on to develop a wide array of electronic trading and brokerage services. In 1984 Reuters became a publicly listed company on the London Stock Exchange (LSE) and also on the NASDAQ. In 2008 it merged with Canadian electronic publisher Thomson Corporation to form Thomson Reuters, though in its reporting capacity the company was still commonly referred to as Reuters. The unified company withdrew from both the LSE and the NASDAQ in 2009 and became listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange and the New York Stock Exchange. In addition to maintaining its traditional news-agency business, Thomson Reuters is now a major provider of financial information, both historical and current, to businesses, governments, and individuals worldwide.



Associated Press (AP)

The Associated Press (AP) is an American non-profit news agency headquartered in New York City. Founded in 1846, it operates as a cooperative, unincorporated association. Its members are U.S. newspapers and broadcasters. AP news reports, distributed to its members and customers, are produced in English, Spanish and Arabic. The AP has earned 54 Pulitzer Prizes, including 32 for photography, since the award was established in 1917.

The AP has been tracking vote counts in U.S. elections since 1848, including national, state and local races down to the legislative level in all 50 states, along with key ballot measures. The AP collects and verifies returns in every county, parish, city and town across the U.S., and declares winners in over 5,000 contests.

By 2016, news collected by the AP was published and republished by more than 1,300 newspapers and broadcasters. The AP operates 248 news bureaus in 99 countries. It also operates the AP Radio Network, which provides newscasts twice hourly for broadcast and satellite radio and television stations. Many newspapers and broadcasters outside the United States are AP subscribers, paying a fee to use

AP material without being contributing members of the cooperative. As part of their cooperative agreement with the AP, most member news organizations grant automatic permission for the AP to distribute their local news reports. The AP traditionally employed the "inverted pyramid" formula for writing, a method that enables news outlets to edit a story to fit its available publication area without losing the story's essentials, although in 2007, then-AP President Tom Curley called the practice "dead".

The Associated Press is governed by an elected board of directors. Since April 2017, the chairman is Steven Swartz, president and CEO of Hearst Communications.



Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Agence France-Presse (AFP) is an international news agency headquartered in Paris, France. Founded in 1835 as Havas, it is the world's oldest news agency.

AFP has regional headquarters in Nicosia, Montevideo, Hong Kong, and Washington, D.C., and news bureaus in 151 countries in 201 locations. AFP transmits stories, videos, photos and graphics in French, English, Arabic, Portuguese, Spanish, and German.

Based in Paris, AFP covers 151 countries, with 201 offices, 50 local correspondents and five regional centers: Washington (North America) Hong Kong (Asia-Pacific) Montevideo (Latin America) Nicosia (Middle East) Paris (Europe and Africa)

AFP says it employs 2,400 people of 100 different nationalities, including 1,700 journalists. It provides information in six languages (French, English, Spanish, German, Portuguese and Arabic), twenty-four hours a day





• AFP HEADQUARTERS IN PARIS

United Press International (UPI)

United Press International (UPI) is an international news agency whose newswires, photo, news film, and audio services provided news material to thousands of newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations for most of the 20th century. It was created in 1958 upon the merger of the United Press (UP; 1907) with the International News Service (INS). UPI and its precursor agencies pioneered in some key areas of news coverage, including the wired transmission of news photographs in 1925.

At its peak, it had more than 6,000 media subscribers. Since the first of several sales and staff cutbacks in 1982, and the 1999 sale of its broadcast client list to its main U.S. rival, the Associated Press, UPI has concentrated on smaller information-market niches.

UPI was purchased in May 2000 by News World Communications, a media conglomerate founded by Unification movement founder Sun Myung Moon, which also owned The Washington Times and newspapers in South Korea, Japan, and South America. The next day, UPI's White House correspondent, Helen Thomas, resigned her position, after working for UPI for 57 years.

In 2007, as part of a restructuring to keep UPI in business and profitable, management cut 11 staff from its Washington, D.C. office and no longer has a reporter in the White House press corps or a bureau covering the United Nations. UPI spokespersons and press releases said the company would be focusing instead on expanding operations in the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa, and reporting on security threats, intelligence and energy issues. In 2008, UPI began UPIU, a journalism mentoring platform for students and journalism schools that allows recent college graduates to post their work on the site, but does not pay for stories

ITTAR TASS

Russian News Agency, abbreviated TASS (TACC), is a major news agency in Russia founded in 1904. TASS is the largest Russian news agency and one of the largest news agencies worldwide, along with Reuters, the Associated Press (AP) and Agence France-Presse (AFP).

TASS is registered as a Federal State Unitary Enterprise, owned by the Government of Russia. Headquartered in Moscow, TASS has 70 offices in Russia and in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), as well as 68 bureaus around the world.

In Soviet times, it was named the Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union (Телеграфное агентство Советского Союза, *Telegrafnoye agentstvo Sovetskogo Soyuza*) and was the central agency for news collection and distribution for all Soviet newspapers, radio and television stations. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the agency was renamed Information Telegraph Agency of Russia (ITAR-TASS) (Информационное телеграфное агентство России (ИТАР-ТАСС), *Informatsionnoye telegrafnoye agentstvo Rossii (ITAR-TASS)*) in 1992, but regained the simpler TASS name in 2014.

TASS is registered as a Federal State Unitary Enterprise, owned by the Government of Russia. Headquartered in Moscow, TASS has 70 offices in Russia and in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), as well as 68 bureaus around the world.

Russia's first news agency, the St. Petersburg Telegraph Agency, was formed under the direction of Emperor Nikolai II in 1904. It was renamed the Petrograd Telegraph Agency in 1914. From 1918 to 1925 it served as the first revolutionary news agency and was known as the Russian Telegraph Agency, or ROSTA. Renamed TASS in 1925, the organization was the official news agency of the Soviet Union until 1991. It also was one of the world's major international wire services, distributing news throughout the Soviet Union and the rest of the world. Until the breakup of the Soviet Union, TASS was responsible to the Council of Ministers. Its extensive national news networks were the main source of news for all Soviet newspapers and radio and television stations. It had news bureaus and correspondents in more than 100 countries, and its international clients included the wire services of most developed Western nations as well as eastern European and developing countries. Around the world, news was transmitted in Russian, English, French, German, Spanish, and Arabic. TASS dispatched on matters of public

policy, and its coverage of international affairs reflected the official position of the state.

After it was renamed ITAR-TASS in 1992, the agency continued to operate more than 130 news bureaus or offices in Russia and around the world. The agency also maintains an electronic data bank, INFO-TASS, which processes current and historical material on Russia and CIS member states.



Headquarters of ITAR-TASS, Moscow, Russia

Government Media Organizations—PIB, Publication Division, Photo Division, DAVP, RNI, Directorate of Information & Public Relations of various state governments

Press Information Bureau

The Press Information Bureau, commonly abbreviated as PIB, is a nodal agency of the Government of India. Based in National Media Centre, New Delhi, Press Information Bureau disseminates information to the print, electronic and web media on government plans, policies, programme initiatives and achievements.

The Press Information Bureau was established in June 1919 as a small cell under Home Ministry under the British government. Its main task was to prepare a report on India to be placed before the British Parliament. It was then located in Shimla.

The first head of the publicity cell was Dr. L.F. Rushbrook Williams of Allahabad University who was designated as Officer on Special Duty. Prof. Williams had earlier worked with Sir Stanley Reed on the Central Publicity Board.

In 1941, J. Natrajan became the first Indian to be head the Bureau as Principal Information Officer. The organization's name was changed to the Press Information Bureau in 1946.

The Bureau has been reconstituted many times since independence of India in 1947.

Administratively, the Press Information Bureau is one of the media units working under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India. It is the nodal agency for public communication and media relations for the entire Union Government of India (though some organizations have their own outfits to look after their specialized media and publicity functions, e.g. Ministry of External Affairs and the armed forces).

With headquarters in New Delhi, it now has a nation-wide network of 8 regional offices and 34 branch offices. Over 60 information officers are presently in position in the Bureau. The Bureau has Information Officers attached to different Ministries, constitutional bodies and autonomous organizations of the Government of India. They are responsible for information dissemination and unpaid publicity for those organizations.

The Bureau issues press releases, features, photographs, infographics and videos for giving information to electronic, print and web media on the following matters:

- Government Planning
- Government Policies
- Programme Initiatives
- Achievements of the Government

The Bureau has a Press Facilitation unit for press accreditation and facilitation during press conferences and events that are open for the media. At present, about 2500 editors, correspondents, camerapersons and technicians from print, radio, television and web media are accredited.

Its website contains archives of press releases issued by it since 1947. It has also launched the mobile version of its website and a mobile app.

In November 2019, the PIB set up a fact-checking unit to check government related news.



Publications Division

Publications Division (India) is a publishing house in India, with its headquarters at Soochna Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. It

functions as a division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (India). It publishes books in Hindi, English and other regional languages. The materials are sold via its own outlets and through agents.

Established in 1941, Publications Division has published 7,600 titles on a range of subjects including arts, culture, national heritage, biographies of national leaders in various fields, science, flora and fauna and children's literature. The house has published a 100-volume set of the collected works of Mahatma Gandhi as well as individual volumes of his work.

The Publications Division also publishes journals like Yojana, Aikya, Kurukshetra, Bal Bharati, and Employment News. It also participates in exhibitions and books fairs.



PUBLICATIONS DIVISION
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP)

The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) is the nodal agency of the Government of India for advertising by various Ministries and organisations of Government of India, including public sector undertakings and autonomous bodies. At the time of the Second World War, the Government of India asked the leading advertisement agencies to form a consortium and set up a publicity unit in Shimla to handle war propaganda, tackle rumour mongering, put out messages about black-outs and handle recruitment to the armed forces. When the war ended, this consortium was converted into its present form. It was established in 1955 and has its headquarters in Delhi and regional offices in Bangalore and Guwahati. Its work is further facilitated by two regional distribution centres at Kolkata and Chennai. The Directorate includes 4 Campaign wings, an advertising wing for print, Audio-Visual (AV) wing, New Media & Personal Media wing, exhibition wing, mass mailing wing, outdoor publicity wing, research wing, distribution wing and language wing in addition to an audio visual publicity cell.

- Issue of Certificate of Registration to newspapers published under valid declaration;
- Scrutiny and analysis of annual statements sent by the publishers of newspapers every year under PRB Act containing information on circulation, ownership etc.;
- Informing district magistrates about availability of titles, to intending publishers for filing declaration;
- Ensuring that newspapers are published in accordance with the provisions of PRB Act 1867 and the rules made thereunder;
- Verification under Section 19-F of PRB Act, of circulation claims furnished by the publishers in their Annual Statements; and
- Preparation and submission to the Government on or before 31 December each year, a report containing all available information and statistics about the press in India with particular reference to the emerging trends in circulation and in the direction of common ownership units etc.

The following fall under the non-statutory functions:

- Formulation of Newsprint Allocation Policy – Guidelines and issue of Eligibility Certificate to the newspapers to enable them to import newsprint and to procure indigenous newsprint;
- Assessing and certifying the essential need and requirement of newspaper establishments to import printing and composing machinery and allied materials.

• SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

- News agency, also called press agency, press association, wire service, or news service, organization that gathers, writes, and distributes news from around a nation or the world to newspapers, periodicals, radio and television broadcasters, government agencies, and other users.
- The Registrar of Newspapers of India (RNI), the National Readership Council of India (NRCI) and the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) are some of the organizations which regularly conduct studies on newspapers in India.
- The Press Trust of India Ltd., commonly known as PTL, is the largest news agency in India. It is headquartered in New Delhi and is a nonprofit cooperative among more than 500 Indian newspapers and has about 500 full-time employees as of Jan 1, 2020 including about 400 journalists and

500 part time correspondents located in most of the district headquarters in the country.

- United News of India (UNI) is a multilingual news agency in India. It was founded in December 1959 as an English news agency. Its commercial operations were started from 21 March 1961.
- IANS was established in 1986, initially to serve as an information bridge between India and its diaspora in North America.
- ANI is South Asia's leading multimedia news agency with over 100 bureaus in India, South Asia and across the globe.
- The Hindustan Samachar was formed on 1st Dec. 1948, and provide news in 14 Indian languages. Its subscribers includes AIR, Doordarshan, various State Governments, Nepal Radio and a number of regional papers.
- India News and Feature Alliance (INFA) is India's leading news and feature agency. An independent syndicate, it was founded on 14 November 1959 by Durga Das following his retirement as the Editor-in-Chief of the Hindustan Times.
- Thomson Reuters, originally Reuters is Canadian information services company. Founded as the Reuters news agency in Great Britain in 1851, it became one of the leading newswire services in the world. Its headquarters are in Toronto.
- The Associated Press (AP) is an American non-profit news agency headquartered in New York City. Founded in 1846, it operates as a cooperative, unincorporated association.
- Agence France-Presse (AFP) is an international news agency headquartered in Paris, France. Founded in 1835 as Havas, it is the world's oldest news agency.
- United Press International (UPI) is an international news agency whose newswires, photo, news film, and audio services provided news material to thousands of newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations for most of the 20th century.
- Russian News Agency, abbreviated TASS (TACC), is a major news agency in Russia founded in 1904. TASS is the largest Russian news agency and one of the largest news agencies worldwide, along with Reuters, the Associated Press (AP) and Agence France-Presse (AFP).
- The Press Information Bureau, commonly abbreviated as PIB, is a nodal agency of the Government of India.

7. The concept of Press Council first emerged in
(a) Sweden (b) UK
(c) US (d) Netherlands
8. Press Council of India is a ... body including the chairperson
(a) 26 (b) 27
(c) 28 (d) 29
9. Which of the following is body that represents newspapers publishers?
(a) ABC (b) INS
(c) RNI (d) IFWJ
10. Which of the following is a news agency?
(a) ABC (b) INS
(c) Kyodo (d) IPRA

Answer

1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (c) 4. (d) 5. (b) 6. (d) 7. (a) 8. (d) 9. (b) 10. (c)

Answer in brief:

1. Explain about news agencies in India, their set-up, functions and role.
2. Briefly describe about feature, services & syndicates—INFA, Publication Syndicate, PTI Features.
3. Briefly describe about International News agencies & Photo agencies.
4. Explain in your words about government media organizations, PIB, Publication Division, DAVP, RNI, Directorate of Information & Public Relations of various state governments.

