

## 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. As many as 1,44,520 publications (Newspapers & Other periodicals) have been registered in India till 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2021 witnessing a constant growth of the Print Media. The rise in the number of registered publications is a pointer towards the fact that proliferation of audio, visual and digital media have not adversely affected the substance and growth of Print Media. It continues to empower the common citizen to assert his/her 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 22.79 percent of the publishers have submitted their Annual Statements online. 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 2020-21, a total of 1,097 new publications were registered. As on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2021 there were 1,44,520 registered publications on record as against 1,43,423 at the end of March, 2020. The total circulation of publications decreased from 43,99,29,769 copies per publishing day in 2019-20 to 38,64,82,373 copies per publishing day in 2020-21. The number of Annual Statements received online from registered publishers in the O/o RNI for the year 2020-21 were 32,938 (this includes 214 'Miscellaneous' publications, separately analysed in 'Chapter 10') as compared to 32,883 in 2019-20.

#### ANALYSIS OF DAILY PUBLICATIONS

**1.2.1.** As per the Annual Statements received for 2020-21, the number of Dailies being published in the country was 9,750 as against 9,840 during 2019-20. The claimed circulation of Dailies decreased from 25,84,22,000 to 22,58,56,735 copies per publishing day, a decrease of 12.60 percent. Hindi had 4,349 Dailies, claiming a circulation of 10,36,19,621 copies, while 1,107 Urdu dailies, 1,083 Telugu dailies, and 820 English dailies claimed (2,18,06,994), (1,47,89,526) & (2,05,04,961) 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 32,928 publications which filed Annual Statements for 2020-21, the majority of Indian publications i.e. 22,930 (69.64 %) were periodicals. Circulation details were furnished by these

22,930 periodicals claiming a total circulation of 16,01,06,418 copies per publishing day. Out of them, 11,252 were Weeklies, 7,472 Monthlies, 2,997 Fortnightlies, 677 Quarterlies, 121 Annuals and 411 were of other periodicities. (*Chapter 7, Table 7.3*)

**1.3.2.** Total circulation of periodicals decreased from 18,09,88,756 copies in 2019-20 to 16,01,06,418 copies per publishing day in 2020-21. Weeklies with 11,252 copies, followed by Monthlies 7,472, Fortnightlies 2,997, Quarterlies 677 and Annuals 121 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 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 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 2020-21, the highest numbers of publications were published in Hindi (16,274) followed by Marathi (2,683), English (2,434), Telugu (2,252), Gujarati (1,834), Urdu (1,698), Kannada (1,151), Tamil (885), Bengali (537), Odia (442), Malayalam (317) etc. (*Chapter 3, Table 3.1*)

**1.4.3.** In terms of circulation, Hindi publications continued to lead with 18,93,96,236 copies followed by English (3,49,27,239); Marathi (3,15,90,611); Urdu (2,61,14,412); Telugu (2,32,73,892); Gujarati (1,74,92,344); and Malayalam (1,04,60,621). (*Chapter 4, Table 4.2*)

**1.4.4.** Among the Dailies which filed Annual Statement, Hindi led with a total of 4,349 publications followed by 1,107 in Urdu. The languages that brought out more than 100 Daily publications were Telugu (1,083), English (820), Marathi (617), Kannada (560), Gujarati (369), Tamil (180), Odia (132) and Malayalam (119). Circulation-wise, Hindi Dailies have continued to maintain their dominance with 10,36,19,621 copies followed by Urdu Dailies with a claimed circulation of 2,18,06,994 copies per publishing day. (*Chapter 3, Table 3.1 & Chapter 4, Table 4.2*)

## STATE-WISE ANALYSIS

**1.5.1.** During 2020-21, the largest number of publications which filed Annual Statement was brought out from Uttar Pradesh (5,933) followed by Madhya Pradesh (5,382); Maharashtra (4,107); Delhi (2,122); Gujarat (2,042); Andhra Pradesh (1,979); Uttarakhand (1,871) and Rajasthan (1,643). (*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 publications which filed Annual Statement, Uttar Pradesh maintained its lead with 2,164 Daily publications followed by Madhya Pradesh (1,232); Andhra Pradesh (954); Maharashtra (868); Karnataka (628); Delhi (561); and Gujarat (463). 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 3,83,98,144 copies per publishing day retained its top position and was followed by Maharashtra with 3,10,70,720 copies per publishing day; Madhya Pradesh with 2,73,98,258 copies per publishing day; Delhi 1,43,19,313 copies per publishing day; Andhra Pradesh 1,23,60,899 copies per publishing day; Rajasthan 1,21,03,516 copies per publishing day; Gujarat 1,17,53,172 copies per publishing day and Bihar 85,79,810 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 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 which filed Annual Statement in a single language went to Madhya Pradesh, where 5,046 publications were brought out in Hindi. The other States with a significant number of publications in a single language were (i) Delhi (Hindi 1,142) and (English 509); (ii) Andhra Pradesh (Telugu 1,658) and (English 161); (iii) Gujarat (Gujarati 1,746) and (Hindi 136); (iv) Maharashtra (Marathi 2,635) and (Hindi 561); (v) Uttar Pradesh (Hindi 4,745) and Urdu (757); (vi) West Bengal (Bengali 455) and (English 85); (vii) Tamil Nadu (Tamil 818) and (English 140); (viii) Odisha (Odia 427) and (English 53); (ix) Kerala (Malayalam 298) and (English 66); (x) Karnataka (Kannada 1,125) and (English 107); (xi) Chhattisgarh (Hindi 496) and (English 10); (xii) Haryana (Hindi 296) and (English 22); (xiii) Madhya Pradesh (Hindi 5,046) and (English 74); (xiv) Telangana (Telugu 567) and (Urdu 155); (xv) Uttarakhand (Hindi 1,694) and (English 50); and (xvi) Rajasthan (Hindi 1,480) and (English 37). (*Chapter 3, Table 3.3*)

### CIRCULATION PATTERN

**1.6.1.** Out of 32,724 newspapers and periodicals which supplied their circulation data, (excluding 'Miscellaneous' publications) 648 fall in the 'Big' category; 2,096 in the 'Medium' category, 186 in the 'Others' category, and remaining '29,794' in the 'Small' category. Publications falling in the 'Small' category have the largest share in the circulation with 20,09,58,446 copies per publishing day, followed by the 'Big' category with 10,37,75,723 copies per publishing day and the 'Medium' category having 8,17,48,204 copies per publishing day. (*Chapter 4, Table 4.6*)

**1.6.2.** In the 'Big' category, there were 561 Dailies and Tri/Bi-weeklies. In the 'Medium' category, the number stood at 1559 and in 'Small' category there were 7,660 Dailies and Tri/Bi-weeklies. Their total claimed circulation accounted for 8,87,65,811 copies, 6,22,67,413 copies and 7,53,42,731 copies per publishing day respectively. (*Chapter 4, Table 4.7*)

### CIRCULATION LEVELS

**1.7.1.** As per claimed circulation filed by the publishers in Annual statement for 2020-21, following is the list of top 10 publications claiming circulation as follows; "**Kalnirnay**" a Marathi/Annually, published from Mumbai had a circulation of 11,89,973 copies per publishing day; followed by "**Kalnirnay**" a Hindi/Annually, published from Mumbai with 8,36,860 copies per publishing day; "**Dina Chethi**" a Tamil/Daily, published from Chennai with 8,28,854 copies per publishing day; "**Anand Bazar Patrika**" a Bengali/Daily, published from Kolkata with 7,68,134 copies per publishing day; "**Eastern Sentinel**" an English/Daily, published from Itanagar with 7,65,941 copies per publishing day; "**Pashvbhumi**" a Marathi/Daily, published from Jalna with 6,99,583 copies per publishing day; "**Namo Maharashtra**" a Marathi/Daily, published from Yavatmal with 6,59,349 copies per publishing day; "**Pritisangam**" a Marathi/Daily, published from Satara with 6,09,374 copies per publishing day; "**Janmadhyam**" a Marathi/Daily, published from Amravati with 5,76,556 copies per publishing day; "**Young Bharat**" a Hindi/Daily, published from Jalaun had a circulation of 5,57,333 copies per publishing day. (*Appendix I*)

### OWNERSHIP

**1.8.1.** Out of 32,724 publications that furnished Annual Statements for the year 2020-21, as many as 28,942 were owned by Individuals, 663 by Societies and Associations, 595 by

Trusts and 230 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 2,246 publications. (*Chapter 5, Table 5.1*)

**1.8.2.** Publications owned by Individuals had the largest share in claimed circulation accounting for 75.23 percent of the total circulation, followed by those owned by Others with 19.34 percent of the total circulation. (*Chapter 5, Table 5.5*)

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**1.9.** Out of the total 22,930 periodicals, 19,608 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

**1.10.** There were 48 Government publications, which filed Annual Statements for the year 2020-21, out of which 24 belonged to the Central 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 89,391 copies per publishing day. (*Chapter 5, Table 5.2*) (*Appendix -1*)

## REGISTERED PUBLICATIONS

**1.11.** The number of registered publications has been increased to 1,44,520 as on 31.3.2021 out of which 32,938 (including 214 ‘Miscellaneous’ publications) filed their Annual Statements for 2020-21. During the year, 1097 new publications were registered. Detailed analysis of these registered newspapers is in Chapter 2.

## MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS

**1.12.1.** 214 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 2020-21. 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.

**1.12.2.** These 214 miscellaneous publications which furnished their circulation data claimed a circulation of 34,22,799 copies per publishing day. (*Chapter 10, Table 10.5*)

**Table No. 1.1**  
**THE PRESS IN INDIA-2020-21: AT A GLANCE**  
**(Data Compiled as per the Annual Statements Received)**

S.No	Periodicity	Number of Publications	Average Circulation
1	Daily	9750	225856735
2	Weekly	11252	94698202
3	Fortnightly	2997	18666704
4	Monthly	7472	42743427
5	Quarterly	677	2161520
6	Half-yearly	141	124081
7	Annual	121	936850
8	Others	314	1294854
	<b>Total</b>	<b>32724</b>	<b>386482373</b>
	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>3422799</b>

Source: Annual Statement 2020-2021

### The Press in India-2020-2021: At a Glance

