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# **M.J.M.-26**

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**Sample Preview  
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# QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

PRINT MEDIA

M.J.M.-26

Time: 3 Hours ]

[ Maximum Marks : 100

Note: Answer any five questions. All questions carry equal marks.

**Q. 1. Compare and contrast the primary environmental news reporting with the secondary environmental news reporting. Explain the challenges while reporting environmental news.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-2, Page No. 16, Q. No. 3, and Page No. 13, 'Sources of Environmental News'.

**Q. 2. Enumerate the origin and stages of conflict. How does conflict turn into violence? Cite suitable Indian examples.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-3, Page No. 28, Q. No. 1, Q. No. 2, Page No. Q. No. 29.

**Also Add:** Recent Nuh violence is an example. According to police, the violence started ten minutes after the 200-person march started to move from Edward Chowk in Nuh town around 2:00 pm on August 1, 2023. A sizable crowd allegedly threw rocks at the group as they were walking along the main route. After first running away, the people who were attacked side are said to have regrouped and struck again.

**Q. 3. How to report conflicts? Explain the characteristics of conflict-sensitive reporting and the role of reporters in it.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-3, Page No. 25, 'How to Report Conflicts?' and 'Role of a Reporter in Conflict Reporting'.

**Q. 4. Discuss about malpractices in financial reporting.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-4, Page No. 37, 'Malpractices in Reporting'.

**Q. 5. Describe the principles of reporting. Contextualise those reporting principles with the developmental journalism perspective.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-5, Page No. 51, Q. No. 3.

**Also Add:** Developmental journalism goes beyond just reporting news; it seeks to address social, economic, and political issues and contribute to the overall development of society. Here's how good reporting principles align with the developmental journalism perspective:

**Accuracy and Truthfulness:** Developmental journalism aims to provide accurate and truthful information to the public. By adhering to this principle, journalists ensure that the information they convey is reliable and credible. This is crucial for informing citizens about developmental issues, enabling them to make informed decisions and participate effectively in social development initiatives.

**Objectivity and Fairness:** Maintaining objectivity and fairness in reporting is essential for developmental journalism. It ensures that different perspectives and voices are heard, and that reporting is not influenced by biases or personal agendas. This principle allows for a comprehensive exploration of issues and helps build trust among diverse communities.

**In-depth Research and Contextualisation:** Developmental journalism delves deep into the complexities of societal issues. Thorough research and contextualisation help journalists understand the root causes of problems, their historical backgrounds, and their current implications. This depth of reporting aids in proposing meaningful solutions and advocating for informed policy changes.

**Public Interest:** Reporting with the public interest in mind is a central tenet of both good journalism and developmental journalism. Journalism should serve the needs of the community, highlighting issues that are relevant to people's lives and contributing to their well-being. Developmental journalism, in particular, focuses on addressing the needs of marginalised groups and amplifying their voices.

**Solutions-Oriented Approach:** Developmental journalism goes beyond merely pointing out problems; it emphasises a solutions-oriented approach. This principle aligns with good reporting by not only identifying issues but also presenting potential solutions and showcasing successful initiatives that contribute to positive social change.

**Community Engagement:** Developmental journalism encourages active engagement with the community. By involving citizens in the reporting process, journalists can better understand local concerns and priorities. Good reporting principles underscore the importance of listening to and reflecting the concerns of the audience, creating a feedback loop that fosters trust and collaboration.

**Ethical Considerations:** Ethical journalism is foundational to both good reporting and developmental journalism. Upholding ethical standards, such as respecting privacy, minimising harm, and avoiding sensationalism, is vital to maintaining the credibility and integrity of journalism. Ethical considerations are even more critical in developmental journalism, where the potential impact of reporting on marginalised communities must be carefully weighed.

**Long-Term Impact:** Developmental journalism often aims for long-term positive impact. This aligns with good reporting principles that prioritise thorough investigation and follow-up reporting. By tracking the progress of development initiatives and holding authorities accountable, journalists contribute to sustained positive change.

**Q. 6. Give a detailed account of agricultural reporting in India. Cite any two major agricultural and rural development projects of India.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-7, Page No. 69, 'Agriculture' and 'Rural Reporting in India'.

**Q. 7. Describe any two forms of science and technology reporting. Cite suitable examples.**

**Ans.** Science and technology reporting encompasses a wide range of topics, from breakthrough scientific discoveries to the latest advancements in technology. Here are two distinct forms of science and technology reporting:

**Exploratory Science Reporting:** Exploratory science reporting involves delving into the world of scientific research to uncover new findings, theories, and discoveries. Journalists in this domain aim to make complex scientific concepts accessible to the general public while maintaining accuracy and credibility. They often work closely with researchers, attending conferences, reading scientific papers, and conducting interviews to gather information. Exploratory science reporting may cover a variety of topics, such as:

**Breakthrough Discoveries:** Journalists report on groundbreaking scientific findings that have the potential to reshape our understanding of the world.

These reports often explain the significance of the discovery, its implications, and how it fits into the larger body of knowledge.

**Emerging Technologies:** Reporting on emerging technologies involves explaining how new inventions and innovations are shaping various industries and aspects of everyday life. This could range from advancements in artificial intelligence and robotics to developments in renewable energy and biotechnology.

**Space and Astronomy:** This form of reporting covers space exploration missions, discoveries about celestial bodies, and advancements in astronomy and astrophysics. It may involve explaining complex concepts like black holes, gravitational waves, and planetary exploration.

**Investigative Technology Reporting:** Investigative technology reporting involves in-depth research and analysis of technology-related issues, often with a focus on their societal impact, ethical considerations, and potential risks. Journalists in this field aim to uncover hidden truths, expose potential dangers, and hold technology companies and institutions accountable. Some areas of investigative technology reporting include:

**Privacy and Data Security:** Journalists investigate issues related to online privacy, data breaches, surveillance, and the misuse of personal information by tech companies. They may uncover cases of data leaks, unauthorized access to sensitive information, and the potential consequences for individuals and society.

**Ethics and Bias in AI:** With the proliferation of artificial intelligence, journalists examine the ethical implications and potential biases present in AI algorithms. They explore cases where AI systems may perpetuate discrimination or make biased decisions, and they raise awareness about the need for transparency and fairness in AI development.

**Environmental Impact of Technology:** Investigative reports may uncover the environmental consequences of technological advancements, such as the carbon footprint of data centers, electronic waste disposal, and the energy consumption of various digital technologies.

**Regulation and Policy:** Journalists may investigate the regulatory landscape surrounding emerging technologies. This could involve analysing how governments and international bodies are addressing issues like cybersecurity, net neutrality, and the responsible use of technologies like drones and autonomous vehicles.

# **Sample Preview of The Chapter**

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# PRINT MEDIA

## Legislature Reporting

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### INTRODUCTION

The first block of this course on Print Media focuses on four specialized areas of reporting: Legislative reporting, Environment reporting, Conflict reporting, and Economy and Finance reporting. In this unit, the focus is on Legislative reporting, which is an essential part of media function and a significant feature of parliamentary democracy. Legislative reporting involves reporting the day-to-day proceedings of the Parliament, including the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. As media professionals, it is important to understand the rules and regulations governing the coverage of parliamentary proceedings in order to effectively communicate this information to the public. This unit provides an overview of the constituents of the Parliament, the types of proceedings, methods, rules of the two Houses, and precautions to be taken while reporting on Parliament and State legislatures.

### CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

#### THE PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

The Constitution of India establishes a bicameral Parliament consisting of two Houses: the Lok Sabha (Lower House) and the Rajya Sabha (Upper House). Both Houses have various rights and privileges and discuss a wide range of matters related to defense, security, foreign affairs, finance, commerce, agriculture, industry, space research, atomic power, and more. Parliament has the authority to restrict or ban the dissemination of certain information and comments on its proceedings. This unit focuses on the privileges of members of parliament and the restrictions on reporting of Parliament's proceedings. Media persons need to be aware of the Houses' schedule to plan their coverage effectively and prioritize topics of special interest.

Parliamentary reporting is typically assigned to senior and experienced journalists due to its importance. Even when the two houses are not in session simultaneously, the normal functioning of Parliament continues, with committees' meeting and submitting reports. These reports are initially confidential but can provide valuable news tips for journalists. The Parliament of India has the authority to sanction the country's budget and formulate policies at the national and international levels. The Prime Minister and Cabinet members are accountable to Parliament.

#### The President

The President of India holds the highest constitutional office in the parliamentary democracy. The President is elected by an Electoral College consisting of members from the Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha, and State Legislatures. The Chief Justice of India administers the oath of office to the President. While the President does not attend sessions of Parliament, every session begins and concludes with their consent. Presidential assent is required for a bill to become law, and the President can promulgate ordinances when Parliament is not in session, with subsequent approval needed. The President addresses a joint session of Parliament at the beginning of the Budget Session, highlighting government's achievements and priorities. A protem Speaker may be appointed after Lok Sabha elections until a regular Speaker is elected. The President nominates 12 eminent individuals to the Rajya Sabha and serves as the Supreme Commander of India's Armed Forces.

#### Rajya Sabha

The Rajya Sabha is the Upper House of Parliament in India. It has a total of 245 members, with 12 of them being nominated by the President. The members serve a term of six years, and one-third of the members retire



every two years. The number of members from each state is determined based on the state's population, with at least one member from each state. The Vice-President of India serves as the Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha. The Leader of the House is usually from the ruling party, and if the Prime Minister is a Rajya Sabha member, they assume this role. The post of Leader of the Opposition is also recognized in the Rajya Sabha. The General Secretary of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat is the highest officer and also serves as the Chief Electoral Officer for the elections of the President and Vice-President. The Rajya Sabha has a Deputy Chairperson, and a panel of six senior members from different political parties presides over the House proceedings in the absence of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson. The Rajya Sabha has legislative authority similar to the Lok Sabha, except for money bills.

#### **Lok Sabha**

The Lok Sabha is the Lower House of Parliament in India. Its members serve a term of five years, and there are a total of 545 members. The minimum age for contesting a Lok Sabha election is 25 years. The Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha are elected from among the members, with the Speaker having significant powers and rights. The Prime Minister is the leader of the House, but if the Prime Minister is a member of the Rajya Sabha, a senior minister is nominated as the Leader of the House. The post of Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha has been recognized since November 1969. The Speaker oversees the functioning of all committees in the Lok Sabha, and they also protect and uphold parliamentary privileges. In matters related to money bills and the Constitution, the Lok Sabha holds supreme authority, while the Rajya Sabha enjoys equal status in other affairs. In case of serious differences between the two Houses, a joint session can be convened, chaired by the Lok Sabha Speaker, and decisions are made by a majority vote.

#### **SESSION OF PARLIAMENT**

The Lok Sabha, India's Lower House of Parliament, holds three sessions each year. The first session, known as the Budget Session, takes place in February and focuses on presenting and passing the budget for the upcoming financial year. The second session, called the Monsoon Session, is held in July or August, while the third session, the Winter Session,

takes place in November or December. The aim is to have a minimum of 100 sittings of Parliament in a year. When a new Lok Sabha is constituted, the President addresses a Joint Session of both Houses, which is held in the Central Hall of Parliament. The President's speech highlights the government's activities and plans, and a Motion of Thanks is passed after the debate on the speech to show respect to the President.

#### **PARLIAMENT SESSION PROCEEDINGS**

The daily session proceedings of Parliament in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are divided into two parts: pre-lunch and post-lunch. Fridays are dedicated to the discussion of Private Member Bills. Parliament observes Saturdays and Sundays as closed days and resumes its sessions on Mondays.

#### **Question Hour**

The proceedings of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha begin at 11 am. The Lok Sabha starts with the Question Hour, where members ask questions to the government. There are three types of questions: verbal (answered by ministers), written (answered in writing), and motion-based questions. Questions are submitted in advance and the replies are received and reviewed before being published. The Rajya Sabha also has a Question Hour, which was initially half an hour but later extended to one hour. The Question Hour is significant as it holds the government accountable and allows members to assess the ministers' understanding of their departments. Responsible coverage and reporting of the Question Hour is important for media personnel.

#### **Call Attention Motion**

The Call-Attention Motion is a unique concept in India's Parliament where serious issues of public importance can be raised for immediate attention. The motion requires permission from the Chair, and the concerned minister provides a brief reply in the House. If the House is not satisfied, more time is requested for a detailed response and discussion. The decision of the Chairperson or the Speaker on the motion is final, and if not accepted, it can be taken up the next day if approved. The reason for not accepting a motion does not need to be cited, but the concerned member can be called for a personal discussion. Notices on government functioning or motions on the functions of the Central Government may not be accepted. However, the decision of the Chairperson or Speaker is deemed final. In some cases, issues that don't require a Call-Attention Motion can be accepted for a short

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discussion, allowing participation from other members with the Chair's permission.

**Adjournment Motion**

When a member of the House believes that there is an urgent issue of immense public interest that requires immediate discussion, they can propose an adjournment motion to suspend the current proceedings. To support the adjournment motion, a minimum of 50 members must express their agreement. Once the motion is supported, a specific time is allocated for the discussion on the urgent issue. Typically, two and a half hours are allotted for an adjournment motion discussion. The acceptance of an adjournment motion is often seen as a form of dissent against the government's policies, so the ruling party may not view it favorably. Once an adjournment motion is accepted and the discussion time is set, no other adjournment motions can be entertained on the same day.

**Zero Hour**

The concept of Zero Hour was introduced in India's parliament to provide an opportunity for members representing isolated and distant areas to raise issues of public interest at the national level. Members from such areas often visit their constituencies when the House is not in session, so it is important for them to voice local and regional concerns in the parliament. While the Call-Attention Motion focuses on significant matters, the Zero Hour allows for the discussion of both national and constituency-specific issues. Members who wish to raise such issues during the Zero Hour must inform the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Secretariat, justify the importance of the matter, and seek permission from the Chairperson or the Speaker.

**COMMITTEES OF PARLIAMENT**

Parliamentary Committees play a crucial role in the functioning of the Parliament and are mandated by the Constitution. These committees are divided into two types: Standing Committees and Ad-hoc Committees. Standing Committees are permanent and work throughout the year, although their members may change. They are independent of party affiliations, allowing committee members to express their personal views. The Petitions Committee addresses public grievances, while the Assurance Committee ensures that ministers fulfill their commitments. Ad-hoc Committees are temporary and dissolved after accomplishing their specific objectives. The three important Standing Committees are the Select Committee, the Public Accounts Committee, and

the Committee on Government Undertakings. The Standing Committee on Finance closely monitors the government's expenses and performance. The reports and work of these committees hold great importance, and media personnel covering Parliament should stay informed about them.

**Public Accounts Committee**

The Public Accounts Committee, comprising members of the Lok Sabha, plays a crucial role in ensuring the proper utilization of allocated funds by government departments. It monitors the appropriate use of funds and investigates any potential violations of rules. The committee's findings have led to the discovery of fiscal irregularities, and its reports have been the basis for judicial inquiries. The Public Accounts Committee has been instrumental in maintaining fiscal discipline and has proven to be highly beneficial in its oversight function.

**Select Committee**

The committee in question serves as a pivotal body in ensuring accountability to Parliament. It consists of members from both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The committee has four primary functions: suggesting administrative and organizational reforms to achieve expenditure savings, presenting alternative policies for improving administrative efficiency, ensuring funds are allocated in accordance with prescribed policies, and recommending formats for presenting estimates. Overall, the committee plays a vital role in promoting effective governance and efficient resource allocation.

**Committee on Government Undertakings**

The Committee on Government Undertakings plays a crucial role in ensuring the proper utilization of funds and adherence to financial rules by public undertakings established by the Union Government. This committee consists of members from both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and regularly reports its findings to the respective houses. The government takes action based on the committee's recommendations and keeps Members of Parliament informed. Currently, there are 24 committees in total, each comprising 45 members, with nominations made by the Lok Sabha Speaker and Rajya Sabha Chairperson. The committee's term extends from April to the following March.

**MEDIA COVERAGE AND PARLIAMENT**

The task of disseminating information about the proceedings of Parliament is challenging and requires competent and objective media personnel. They should be well-trained, familiar with parliamentary

functioning, and possess professional qualifications in mass communication. It is important for journalists to convey parliamentary proceedings in simple terms and avoid using complicated technical terms in their reports. Maintaining cordial relations with political leaders and parliamentary staff is also crucial. Journalists should utilize the reference material available in Parliament's library and archives to ensure accurate and comprehensive reporting. With live coverage of parliamentary proceedings, media personnel face the additional challenge of providing accurate and balanced reports supported by visuals and video clips.

#### **PRESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Speaker and the Chairperson of both Houses of Parliament establish Press Advisory Committees, with the Rajya Sabha forming its first committee in 2008. These committees comprise journalists who have been covering parliamentary proceedings and hold entry passes for the Parliament's Press Gallery, accredited by the Press Accreditation Committee of Parliament. The Information and Public Relations units of both Houses assist media personnel, and a meeting of the Accreditation Committee is held before each session to issue entry passes based on recommendations. The committee's term is usually one year but can be modified by the Chairperson and the Speaker. The passes issued to journalists include weekly passes, passes for the entire session, annual passes, special passes for senior media personnel, and passes for freelance independent journalists.

**Public Relations Unit:** Parliament has a Public Relations unit that assists media personnel and helps resolve their issues. The unit works in coordination with the Press Gallery Advisory Committee. Well-equipped Press Rooms are available to facilitate effective communication and timely reporting by media persons. Journalists covering both Houses of Parliament receive the agenda, questionnaire, and reports presented in the House. The Press and Public Relations units of both Houses provide relevant materials to media representatives. The secretariats of both Houses organize workshops for journalists, where experts in legislative and parliamentary proceedings address their queries.

#### **ETHICS IN MEDIA COVERAGE**

Media coverage of parliament proceedings is a prestigious but sensitive assignment. While members of parliament have privileges and can make

statements with little consequence, media persons must be cautious not to incur parliament's displeasure. The Ethics Committee of Parliament has established guidelines, but members often make controversial statements. Journalists need to be careful in reporting such situations to avoid breaching laws of contempt of legislature. New communication technologies aid efficient reporting but also pose risks of misreporting and twisting parliamentary proceedings. In the past, private channels exposed misconduct by some members, causing significant controversy. Responsible media persons should avoid falling into such traps and adhere to the Code of Conduct set by the Ethics Committee. They should strive to uphold the dignity of Parliament and avoid controversial comments. Efforts should be made to prevent a trial by media, and journalists should adhere to the fundamental ethics of journalism.

#### **CHECK YOUR PROGRESS**

**Q. 1. Identify the three constituents of the Parliament of India.**

**Ans.** The Parliament of India consists of following three constituents:

- **The President:** The President holds the highest constitutional office and is elected by an Electoral College comprising members from the Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha, and State Legislatures. The President's role includes giving assent to bills, promulgating ordinances, addressing the joint session of Parliament, and nominating members to the Rajya Sabha. They are not directly involved in parliamentary sessions but their consent is required to commence and conclude sessions.
- **Rajya Sabha:** The Rajya Sabha is the Upper House of Parliament with 245 members. Twelve members are nominated by the President, while the rest are elected by the state legislatures. Members serve a term of six years, and one-third of the members retire every two years. The Rajya Sabha's responsibilities include legislative authority (except for money bills), representation of states, and scrutinizing bills passed by the Lok Sabha. The Vice-President serves as the Chairperson, and the House has a Leader of the House and a Leader of the Opposition.
- **Lok Sabha:** The Lok Sabha is the Lower House of Parliament, consisting of 545 members