

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 1,43,423 publications (Newspapers & Other periodicals) have been registered in India till 31st March, 2020 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 22.92 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 2019-20, a total of 1,498 new publications were registered. As on 31st March, 2020 there were 1,43,423 registered publications on record as against 1,19,995 at the end of March, 2019. This jump in the numbers has been due to various records being updated in RNI this year during its process overhaul in its bid to move to an automated system. The total circulation of publications decreased from 52,05,14,168 copies per publishing day in 2018-19 to 43,99,29,769 copies per publishing day in 2019-20. The number of Annual Statements received online from registered publishers in the O/o RNI for the year 2019-20 were 32,883 (this includes 203 ‘Miscellaneous’ publications, separately analysed in ‘Chapter 10’) against 37,942 in 2018-19.

ANALYSIS OF DAILY PUBLICATIONS

1.2.1. As per the Annual Statements received for 2019-20, the number of Dailies being published in the country was 9,840 as against 10,167 during 2018-19. The claimed circulation of Dailies decreased from 29,15,35,681 to 25,84,22,000 copies per publishing day, a decrease of 11.36 percent. Hindi had 4322 Dailies, claiming a circulation of 11,48,55,520 copies, while 1133 Telugu dailies, 1132 Urdu dailies and 841 English dailies claimed 1,77,74,215; 2,15,10,915 & 2,97,89,705 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 32,883 publications which filed Annual Statements for 2019-20, the majority of Indian publications i.e. 22,803 (69.34 %) were periodicals. Circulation details were furnished by these 22,803 periodicals claiming a total circulation of 18,09,88,756 copies per publishing day. Out of them, 11,231 were Weeklies, 7,398 Monthlies, 3,016 Fortnightlies, 651 Quarterlies, 114 Annuals and 393 were of other periodicities. (*Chapter 7, Table 7.3*)

1.3.2. Total circulation of periodicals decreased from 22,89,78,487 copies in 2018-19 to 18,09,88,756 copies per publishing day in 2019-20. Weeklies with 11,231 copies, followed by Monthlies 7,398, Fortnightlies 3,016, Quarterlies 651 and Annuals 114 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 166 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 2019-20, the highest numbers of publications were published in Hindi (16,111) followed by Marathi (2,573), English (2,504), Telugu (2,375), Gujarati (1,926), Urdu (1,727), Kannada (1,118), Tamil (857), Bengali (545), Odia (435), Malayalam (345) etc. (*Chapter 3, Table 3.1*)

1.4.3. In terms of circulation, Hindi publications continued to lead with 20,14,33,695 copies followed by English (5,32,08,297); Marathi (3,47,59,281); Telugu (2,75,64,658); Urdu (2,62,41,593); Gujarati (2,18,56,199); and Odia (1,06,53,378). (*Chapter 4, Table 4.2*)

1.4.4. Among the dailies which filed Annual Statement, Hindi led with a total of 4,322 publications followed by 1,133 in Telugu. The languages that brought out more than 100 Daily publications were Urdu (1,132), English (841), Marathi (612), Kannada (549), Gujarati (408),

Bilingual (167), Tamil (176), Malayalam (135) and Odia (128). Circulation-wise, Hindi Dailies have continued to maintain their dominance with 11,48,55,520 copies followed by English Dailies with a claimed circulation of 2,97,89,705 copies per publishing day. (*Chapter 3, Table 3.1 & Chapter 4, Table 4.2*)

STATE-WISE ANALYSIS

1.5.1. During 2019-20, the largest number of publications which filed Annual Statement was brought out from Uttar Pradesh (5,851) followed by Madhya Pradesh (5,217); Maharashtra (3,951); Delhi (2,231); Andhra Pradesh (2,085); Gujarat (2,150); Uttarakhand (1,863) and Rajasthan (1,684). (*Chapter 3, Table 3.2*)

1.5.2. In circulation terms, Uttar Pradesh, with a total circulation of 7,39,46,739 copies per publishing day, was on 1st position again followed by Maharashtra with 5,95,54,816 copies, Madhya Pradesh with 5,09,55,573 copies and Delhi with 3,58,66,346 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 2,140 Daily publications followed by Madhya Pradesh (1,230); Andhra Pradesh (998); Maharashtra (862); Karnataka (618); Delhi (576); and Gujarat (508). 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 4,01,96,803 copies per publishing day retained its top position and was followed by Maharashtra with 3,59,63,238 copies per publishing day; Madhya Pradesh with 2,88,51,629 copies per publishing day; Andhra Pradesh 1,49,39,282 copies per publishing day; Gujarat 1,41,29,068 copies per publishing day; Delhi 1,81,73,254 copies per publishing day; Rajasthan 1,34,73,126 copies per publishing day and Karnataka 95,44,733 copies per publishing day. (*Chapter 4, Table 4.3*)

1.5.5. Delhi brought out publications in 18 languages followed by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand in 17 languages each; Karnataka in 15 languages; Gujarat in 14 languages; Kerala in 13 languages; West Bengal in 12 languages; Punjab and Puducherry in 10 languages each; and Assam and Uttar Pradesh in 9 languages each, out of 22 main languages (excluding English) listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

1.5.6. The distinction for bringing out the highest number of publications which filed Annual Statement in a single language went to Madhya Pradesh, where 4,868 publications were brought out in Hindi. The other States with a significant number of publications in a single language were (i) Delhi (Hindi 1,186) and (English 529); (ii) Andhra Pradesh (Telugu 1,755); (iii) Gujarat (Gujarati 1,845); (iv) Maharashtra (Marathi 2,523), (Hindi 534) and English (370); (v) Uttar Pradesh (Hindi 4,677) and Urdu (782); (vi) West Bengal (Bengali 473); (vii) Tamil Nadu (Tamil 795); (viii) Odisha (Odia 423); (ix) Kerala (Malayalam 322); (x) Karnataka (Kannada 1,093); (xi) Chhattisgarh (Hindi 485); (xii) Haryana (Hindi 297); (xiii) Madhya Pradesh (Hindi 4,868); (xiv) Telangana (Telugu 589); (xv) Uttarakhand (Hindi 1,696); and (xvi) Rajasthan (Hindi 1,529). (*Chapter 3, Table 3.3*)

CIRCULATION PATTERN

1.6.1. Out of 32,680 newspapers and periodicals which supplied their circulation data, (excluding ‘Miscellaneous’ publications) 811 fall in the ‘Big’ category; 2,566 in the ‘Medium’ category, 58 in the ‘Others’ category, and remaining ‘29,245’ in the ‘Small’ category. Publications falling in the ‘Small’ category have the largest share in the circulation with 19,35,19,071 copies per publishing day, followed by the ‘Big’ category with 14,69,56,285 copies per publishing day and the ‘Medium’ category having 9,94,54,413 copies per publishing day. (Chapter 4, Table 4.6)

1.6.2. In the ‘Big’ category, there were 648 Dailies and Tri/Bi-weeklies. In the ‘Medium’ category, the number stood at 1,843 and in ‘Small’ category there were 7,384 Dailies and Tri/Bi-weeklies. Their total claimed circulation accounted for 14,69,56,285 copies, 9,94,54,413 copies and 19,35,19,071 copies per publishing day respectively. (Chapter 4, Table 4.7)

CIRCULATION LEVELS

1.7.1. “*Anand Bazar Patrika*”, a Bengali/Daily published from Kolkata turned to be the largest circulated single edition daily with a claimed circulation of 10,72,342 copies per publishing day followed by “*Hindustan Times*”, an English/Daily published from Delhi with a claimed circulation of 8,95,982 copies per publishing day.

1.7.2. Based on circulation, the top five publications of the country are as follows:

S.No	Title Name	Language	Periodicity	Place of Publication	State/UT	Average Circulation
1	Anandabazar Patrika	Bengali	Daily	Kolkata	West Bengal	1072342
2	Hindustan Times	English	Daily	Delhi	Delhi	895982
3	The Times of India	English	Daily	Delhi	Delhi	869558
4	The Times of India	English	Daily	Mumbai	Maharashtra	781839
5	Education Times	English	Weekly	Delhi	Delhi	760508

Source: Annual Statement 2019-2020

OWNERSHIP

1.8.1. Out of 32,680 publications that furnished Annual Statements for the year 2019-20, as many as 28,789 were owned by Individuals, 697 by Societies and Associations, 573 by Trusts and 240 by Firms and Partnerships. 88 publications were brought out by the Central

and State Governments and Cooperative Societies while Educational Institutions and others owned the remaining 2,293 publications. (*Chapter 5, Table 5.1*)

1.8.2. Publications owned by Individuals had the largest share in claimed circulation accounting for 68.50 percent of the total circulation, followed by those owned by Others with 25.69 percent of the total circulation. (*Chapter 5, Table 5.5*)

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1.9. Out of the total 22,803 periodicals, 19,399 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 88 Government publications, which filed Annual Statements for the year 2019-20, out of which 37 belonged to the Central Government and 51 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 3,61,861 copies per publishing day. (*Chapter 5, Table 5.2*)

REGISTERED PUBLICATIONS

1.11. The number of registered publications has been increased to 1,43,423 as on 31.3.2020 out of which 32,883 (including 203 ‘Miscellaneous’ publications) filed their Annual Statements for 2019-20. During the year, 1498 new publications were registered. Detailed analysis of these registered newspapers is in Chapter 2.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS

1.12.1. 203 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 2019-20. 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 203 miscellaneous publications which furnished their circulation data claimed a circulation of 12,36,418 copies per publishing day. (*Chapter 10, Table 10.5*)

Table No. 1.1			
THE PRESS IN INDIA-2019-20: AT A GLANCE			
(Data Compiled as per the Annual Statements Received)			
S. No.	Periodicity	Number	Circulation
1	Daily	9840	258422000
2	Weekly	11231	107263381
3	Fortnightly	3016	21902876
4	Monthly	7398	46883382
5	Quarterly	651	2327685
6	Half Yearly	134	133255
7	Annual	114	1255429
8	Others	296	1741761
	Total	32680	439929769
	Miscellaneous	203	1236418

Source: Annual Statement 2019-2020

The Press In India-2019-2020 : At A Glance

