**Lecture # 9**

**BEATS REPORTING I**

**BEAT REPORTING**

**A beat is, in wide sense, an area of information about which the journalists are expected to look for stories which will interest viewers.**

* Beat reporters cover all happenings in their respective filed such as breaking news, news updates, flash. Beat reporters should have constant contract with the sources.
* Beat reporters cover all happening in their respective filed.
* They must be expert on the subject as well as skilled in news writing, editing and presenting techniques.
* Viewers begin to know and trust beat reporter who regularly reports on a subject area.
* Beat reporter is expected to report the stories of breaking news nature, immediately.

**VVIP BEAT**

VVIP beat means covering the activities of a person who is very very important. Normally they are President or the Prime Minister or the foreign Head of State or Government who visits other countries. Sometimes reporters accompany the VVIP to report their foreign engagement. VVIP reporters require alertness of mind. They have to take care of security measures as well. VVIP reporter is supposed to be on call duty round the clock as he is required to be on assignments on short notice.

**OPPOSITION PARTIES BEAT**

A reporter who is responsible for covering the opposition parties activities must know the view points of opposition parties on the issues.

**ECONOMIC MINISTRY BEAT**

Economic Ministry means the ministries which deals the finance and economic matters of the country. These ministries are responsible for regulating the fiscal policy and preparation of national budget. They are also responsible for monitoring the rate of inflation. A reporter who is assigned to cover the Economic Ministries such as Finance Ministry, Economic Affairs Ministry, Commerce Ministry, Industry and Production Ministries must be aware of the functioning , hierarchy and the importance of there ministries.

**SENSITIVE MINISTRIES**

Sensitive Ministries are responsible for the internal and external defense of the country**. The Defense Ministry, Interior Ministry, Foreign Affairs Ministry and information Ministry are called sensitive ministries**. Foreign Ministry is responsible to formulate the foreign policy, the Interior Ministry is responsible for maintaining the law and order and the information ministry is responsible for the image building of the government. The reporter who is supposed to cover the sensitive ministries should be aware of does and do not of his assignment. If he gets some sensitive information, then before using this information he has to take care of the national interest.

**SOCIAL MINISTRIES**

Social ministries are those which are linked with the social and culture life of the people. Education, Health, Local Bodies, Law & Justice, Parliament Affairs, Religious Affairs, Sports, Youth culture and Sports Ministries come under the title of Social Ministries. The reporters who are assigned to cover these Ministries must know their importance and their roll in the government and for people.

**DIPLOMATIC BEAT**

The reporters who are responsible for covering the diplomatic beat must be aware of the functioning of foreign office. They must be aware of the confronting issues between the countries. They know the objectives of foreign policy and also have the knowledge of functioning of various foreign missions and their interest in the regional and bilateral relations/agreements between two countries.

**ECONOMIC MINISTRY BEAT**

Economic Ministries are very important organ for the functioning of the Government. Economic Ministry deals with the **financial and economic maters of the country.** These ministries are responsible for regulating the fiscal policy. In Economic Ministry the major ministries are Finance, Economic Affairs, Commerce, Production and industry. The reporter, responsible for covering the Economic Ministry, must know the economic parameter of his country, terminology used in budget and financial economic matters. He must know the economic experts, who can be contacted on short notice. This will help him in seeking guidelines on technical points. The reporters should know the importance of NFC Awards, monitory regulation and functioning of the banks and the export/import needs of the country.

**COMMERCE MINISTRY BEAT**

Commerce Ministry deals with the **trade, export and import policy of the country.** He must be aware of the global trade scenario and its effect on the local trade.

**DEFENSE MINISTRY**

The Armed Forces of the country (Army, Navy & Air Force) comes under defense ministry. Civil Aviation and the national carrier PIA is also a part of Defense Ministry. Reporter may use these sources to get the news well in time.