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**Practical Exercise**

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Workshop on "Sub-editing"

**I. Study the intros of three reports from the Election Page of a premier English daily in the Capital:**

Bangalore: If the motley crowds that gathered at the roadside meetings in Bangalore (rural) district are any indication, the maverick Janata Party supremo, Mr H.D. Deva Gowda, may regret backing the Insaf Party leader, Mr Syed Shahabuddin.

Damoh: If street presence and visibility were everything, the BJP is way ahead in the sprawling Damoh Lok Sabha constituency.

Aurangabad: If attendance at the Shiv Sena chief, Mr Bal Thackeray's meeting here yesterday is any indication of the support the party has in this region, Congressmen have a lot to work on.

**The paper seems to have standardised poll reports ! Do you allow such intros in your paper? If not, how do you recast them?**

**II. Lack of coordination in the Editorial Dept. on a hectic electioneering day has led to the intros of the first and third leads being almost identical.**

NEW DELHI. October 17: Campaign ended today for elections to the 221 Lok Sabha and 578 assembly seats which go to the polls on Nov. 22. (Lead intro)

NEW DELHI. October 17: Even as electioneering ended in 221 of the 525 Lok Sabha constituencies spread over 15 States and five Union Territories which go to the polls on Wednesday, the Election Commission was yet to decide whether the launching of the Indira Mahila Yojana by the Congress party yesterday was violative of the model conduct for elections. (Third Lead intro)

**Recast the intro of the Third Lead.**

**III. An exclusive story on the Maharashtra Assembly poll begins thus:**

NAGPUR. Oct. 17: A simultaneous Lok Sabha and assembly poll is likely in Maharashtra. The Chief Minister is leaving for Delhi tomorrow in this connection.

Way down the story, the following two paras appear at two different places:

After attending the Congress legislature party (CLP) meeting, the Chief Minister rushed to Delhi for consultations, keeping legislators guessing whether the assembly elections would also be held simultaneously.

The news that the Union Cabinet recommended early Lok Sabha elections in the last week of November spread like wild fire in the Vidhan Sabha premises on the second day of the winter session.

**How do you restructure the story?**

**IV. A PTI report from Vijayawada explains "Vidwan" as "pandit". A sub-editor on a Bombay daily allowed it to appear in his paper.**

- a) Is the explanation warranted in an Indian paper meant for Indian readers?
- b) Is the explanation correct at all?

**V. An AFP report from Budapest reads: Hungary will allow thousands of East German refugees leave for West Germany on Sunday at midnight.**

**The Monday morning Chief Sub on a Delhi daily used the small item on an early page. Later developments appeared on another inside page (Page 7) with a picture.**

- a) What was the Monday morning Chief Sub expected to do?
- b) What should the man passing Page 7 have done to save the situation?

**VI. What is wrong with the following picture captions?**

- a) Mr Ronate Ruggiero (left), head of the trade delegation which arrived here on Wednesday, addressing a press conference in New Delhi to announce a tie-up between his country and Premier Automobiles Limited for manufacture of European range of cars in India. (Photo by S. Paul)
- b) Ms Chandralekha, the IAS officer from Tamil Nadu, who quit in protest and joined the Janata Party, with party president Subramaniam Swamy, after her arrival in New Delhi from Madras on Tuesday.
- c) A Re 1 cr diamond studded crown was presented to the deity of Lord Krishna on "Lakshadweepotsava" at Udipi.

**VII. Minutes after locking up the City edition, a Chief Sub was confronted with a big news break—**

Itanagar, Nov. 28: More than a thousand people are feared dead in a big cloudburst in the north-eastern region about 1.30 a.m. today. Most of the casualties are believed to have occurred in Arunachal Pradesh. (Afterwards, three more paras were added to the story by news agencies).

The management insisted that the edition should not be delayed by more than 10 or 15 minutes. It was a particularly newsy day and there was no scope of holding out any story from Page 1. Besides the important stories, there was a 3-col picture of a new minister being sworn in by the President at Rashtrapati Bhavan. and the S/C regular feature "News Round-up (Col. 1 top).

How do you feature the cloudburst story on Page 1 giving it as much importance as the Lead with minimum changes?

**VIII. Nowadays, there is a lot of talk about rural development being given more space in the paper. While tasting copy, what topics do you have in mind for the "Development Page" in you paper?**

**b) Give a gist of the following report in two paras:**

Rohtak: "Farmers are the hardest working section of the society and farming is the most uncertain occupation as it is greatly vulnerable to climatic conditions, natural outbursts and disasters", Union Agriculture Minister Balram Jakhar told a mammoth public meeting here on Wednesday. The meeting, organised by many kisan organisations to ventilate the grievances of farmers, was addressed by Haryana Chief Minister Bhajan Lal and many kisan leaders.

In his 45-minute speech, Mr Jakhar said subsidy on fertilisers should not be withdrawn unless some mechanism was evolved to compensate the farmers to offset the high cost of subsidy on fertilisers, "Two things must be kept in mind, one is farmer's interests and the other is national interest to see if this step leads to a shortfall in foodgrains production," he said.

Mr Jakhar said there was vast potential for exportable production. He pointed out that India could produce at any given time any quantity, of any exportable item. He specified cashew, spices and copra were the traditional exportable items.

The minister has called for a major boost to be given to horticulture in the 8th Plan. He also called for the linkage of horticulture with the Employment Guarantee Scheme and the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna. He stressed processing units liaison with small producers in order to optimise production. Post harvest management and marketing of produce were equally vital and it was essential to gauge the potential of exporting non-traditional items like flowers, aromatic oils and medicinal plants, he stated. (Agencies)

**IX. Is the following "interpretative report"? Point out "editorialising", if any.**

NEW DELHI:

Pakistan's latest offer to hold bilateral talks on Kashmir under Article 6 of the Simla Agreement has placed India in a piquant situation. After two decades of stonewalling in-depth discussion to resolve

this sensitive issue on the plea that the other side has reneged on its commitment to the Simla Pact, Islamabad's sudden somersault appears to have knocked the wind out of our sails.

Thus, while the visiting Pakistani foreign secretary, Mr Shahrayar Khan, beamed radiantly, met the Press twice and emphasised the inevitability of a specific dialogue on Kashmir now, the Indian side looked slightly green at the gills as it tried to side-step the issue with diplomatic inanities.

The Government cannot afford to hedge for too long, however. It understandably did not want to vitiate the atmosphere for last week's Indo-Pak talks and thus confined its public pronouncements to generalities, waffling on about the need to view the Simla Agreement in "totality" rather than as a set of individual articles.

As a temporary tactic to keep the ball rolling during the talks, such vagueness was perhaps necessary. But India will have to respond to Islamabad's suggestion—and respond quickly—so that it does not repeat the mistake it made last time when the Pakistani Premier, Mr Nawaz Sharif, sprung the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone idea. The Government's response then, or rather the lack of it, almost succeeded in making India look like the bad guy in South Asia. It is only now, after considerable diplomatic manoeuvring and a large dollop of luck and goodwill, that the pressure on this has eased slightly.

Formulating a clear, firm, but not abrasive, response to Mr Sharif's proposal for talks on Kashmir is going to keep South Block mandarins busy for some time. An indication of the Government's thinking came in the statement made by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr R.L. Bhatia, on Wednesday in Parliament when he stated that "meaningful discussions with Pakistan on more complex bilateral questions can only be held once Pakistan stops its support to terrorism and subversion in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir."

To put it simply, while Pakistan would obviously invoke Article 6 of the Simla Pact which calls for a final resolution of Jammu and Kashmir through negotiations, India would like to read this clause with Articles 1 and 4 which deal with the kind of problems it is facing in the Valley. Article 1 stresses on the prevention of "the organisation, assistance or encouragement of any acts detrimental to the maintenance of peaceful and harmonious relations" and lays down as a pre-requisite for durable peace "respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty and non-interference in each other's internal affairs." Article 4 states that in order to initiate the process of the establishment of durable peace, both sides must withdraw their forces to their side of the international border and that the Line of Actual Control or the cease-fire line will be respected by both sides "without prejudice to the recognised position of either side."