

Beats Reporting

- ▣ **Beat:**

Specific area assign to a reporter is called beat.

- ▣ **Beat Reporting:**

- ▣ Beat reporters cover all happenings in their respective filed such as breaking news, news updates, flash.
- ▣ Beat reporters should have constant contact with the sources.
- ▣ Viewers begin to know and trust beat reporter who regularly reports on a subject area.

Beats Reporting

- ▣ Types of Beat:
- ▣ VVIP BEAT
- ▣ OPPOSITION PARTIES BEAT
- ▣ ECONOMIC MINISTRY BEAT
- ▣ SOCIAL MINISTRIES BEAT
- ▣ DIPLOMATIC BEAT
- ▣ DEFENSE MINISTRY BEAT
- ▣ INTERIOR MINISTRY BEAT
- ▣ COMMERCE MINISTRY BEAT
- ▣ RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS MINISTRY BEAT
- ▣ INFORMATION MINISTRY BEAT
- ▣ EDUCATION BEAT
- ▣ SPORTS BEAT

Beats Reporting

▣ VVIP BEAT:

VVIP beat means covering the activities of a person who is 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.

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- ▣ **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.

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- ▣ **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.

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- ▣ **SOCIAL MINISTRIES BEAT:**
- ▣ 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.

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- ▣ **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.

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- ▣ **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.

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- ▣ **DEFENSE MINISTRY BEAT:**
- ▣ 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.

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- ▣ **INTERIOR MINISTRY BEAT:**
- ▣ Interior Ministry is responsible to maintain the law and order in the country. All intelligence agencies and police services function under its command. Most of the sensitive news story / breaking news/ news update comes from Interior Ministry.

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- ▣ **RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS MINISTRY BEAT:**
- ▣ Religious Affairs Ministry is responsible to facilitate Hajj Pilgrims and the other religious rituals. The reporter should take care of sensitivities while reporting the activities of various religious groups.

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- ▣ **INFORMATION MINISTRY BEAT:**
- ▣ Information Ministry is called the eyes and ears and the spokesman of the government. This Ministry is responsible for the image building of the Government and to project the achievements of Government. Pakistan Television, Radio Pakistan, Press Information Department and Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authorities (PEMRA) also work under the administrative command of Information Ministry. The reporter has to establish the contacts in these ministries.

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- ▣ **EDUCATION MINISTRY BEAT:**
- ▣ In education beat the reporter will be responsible to cover all the activities of education institutions like declaration of results, summer vacations, promotion of faculty members, scholarship awards, funfairs etc.

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- ▣ **SPORTS MINISTRY BEAT:**
- ▣ Sports reporting is claimed to be one of the most interesting and thrilling beats. Most talented and respected journalists have been sports writers. If any one intends to be a sports reporter he must read books on a range of sports topics, including biographies, histories of Cricket, Hockey, Football, Golf, Athletics, World Olympics, and Wrestling etc.

REFERENCES

- ▣ Introduction to news reporting, Virtual University of Pakistan
- ▣ Harris, G. and Spark, D. (1997) Practical Newspaper Reporting (3rd edn), Oxford: Focal Press.

That's All
Thank You