

# PRINCIPLES AND FUNCTIONS OF JOURNALISM

- Principles and functions of journalism
- Press is a public service and therefore, it is accountable to the community as a whole. Press freedom means not only the freedom from unnecessary restraints but also freedom for advancing certain basic and desirable concepts enshrined in the value systems of the community. The press is an important vehicle of communication, a vital instrument in the creation of public opinion as well as an indispensable element for the survival of any democratic set up. Hence it is necessary that journalists should regard their work as a noble profession.
- Journalism is a noble profession. Journalists are entrusted with the task of news gathering and news dissemination. These tasks are carried out under great pressure and sometimes at risk to their lives. We have the noble examples of Victor George, the chief photographer of Malayala Manorama and Pradeep Bhatia of The Hindustan Times and several others losing their lives in the pursuit of their duty. Journalists can be called the extended eyes ears and minds of people as they unearth and interpret on behalf of their audience the various events and issues that take place.
- The principles aims and objectives of journalism will vary from country to country depending on the social, economic and cultural differences. Still, there can be certain principles which are central to the profession of journalism and accepted so by people. Some of these principles are given below:
  - People's right to true information
  - Dedication to objective reality
  - Social responsibility
  - Professional integrity
  - Public access and participation
  - Respect for privacy and human dignity
  - Respect for universal values and diversity of culture
  - Elimination of war and other great evils confronting humanity
  - Promotion of a new world information and communication