

## Chapter 27

# PHOTOJOURNALISM

### MEANING

Every morning we wake up and read the newspaper. There is always a picture on the first page which shows the important news for the day. Such a picture is a result of what we know as photojournalism. Once photography grew popular and became easy to do, it started getting specialized in its use. By this, you must understand that soon after the discovery of photography people were very excited and busy getting their photos taken. They started travelling with the camera, gathering pictures of far off places and showed them to people who could not go there. To cover the war, such photographers were the first war photojournalist. So we can say, that photojournalism discusses the events or any happenings through the pictures.

### TYPES OF PHOTOJOURNALISM

Let's find out the different types of photojournalism.

**Sports photojournalism:** As sports events are a big part of news, there are photojournalists who specialize in photographing sports. This is also because sports photography requires a specialized skill as well as equipment.

**War photojournalism:** This is the earliest form of photojournalism, where

photojournalists have covered wars and sent photos from the centre of action.

**Glamour photojournalism:** Film stars and other famous personalities have become a major part of news coverage as most people want to peep into the lives of the rich and famous. There are photojournalists who specialize in this kind of photography only and are also called paparazzi, which is an Italian word.

**Sport news photojournalism:** This means covering events that make day to day news, like political events, crime, accidents etc. This is in fact the most common type of photojournalism and is most demanding for a photojournalist.

**Travel photojournalism:** This type of photojournalism involves the documentation of an area's landscape, people, cultures, customs and history.

**Wild photojournalism:** This is regarded as one of the most challenging forms of photojournalism. Advanced photographic equipment, a good knowledge of the animal's behavior as well as the terrain is needed to take wildlife photographs.

## COMPOSITION

You have seen many photographs that leave a lasting impression on us. Have you thought about why it is so? This is because the subject photographed is placed in the picture frame in such an intelligent manner that it impacts the viewer. This placement of the subjects within the picture frame is called composition.

- Composition deals with making the picture look more appealing to the eye.
- Composition also demands balance that is to say, a photograph must be taken in such a manner that it should not seem to make our eyes wander to a corner.
- The **rule of thirds** is the most common when composition applies.
- Camera angle is another factor that has an impact on composition. For instance like a film personality or a leader, one composes the picture by keeping the camera below the person's eye level. When it is done the person shall appear much larger.

## PHOTOFEATURE AND PHOTOEDITING

- A photofeature is also called a photo essay. As the name suggests it is a story or an essay on a subject told using photographs. It can be done on anything that is photographed, a place or person etc.

- A photofeature is generally conceived at the desk of the editor of the magazine or newspaper who will brief the photo editor about it.

## PHOTO EDITOR

- A photo editor is the overall in charge of the photo section in a newspaper or magazine.
- He chooses the photographer and discusses the topic.
- He may also choose a reporter who will write the story around the photo essay.
- It is also the job of the photo editor to decide and select on the best pictures that convey the whole story.
- You have already learnt that a single picture is worth a thousand words”.
- Therefore a good photo essay which comprises of few very nice pictures will have a greater impact on its viewer than the best written essay.

## DO YOU KNOW

Composition also demands balance, that is to say a photograph must be taken in such a manner that it should not seem to make our eye wander to a corner. The various subjects should be so organised that the picture has a pleasing effect. There are some basic rules of framing, of which the rule of thirds is the most common. It states that elements in a frame must be so placed that they

roughly fall on the intersection of the lines that divide the frame in three rows and three columns. This is no hard and fast rule, yet it helps in leaving a positive impact on the viewer.

## EXTEND YOUR HORIZON

### Photography and their examples:

#### Sports Photography



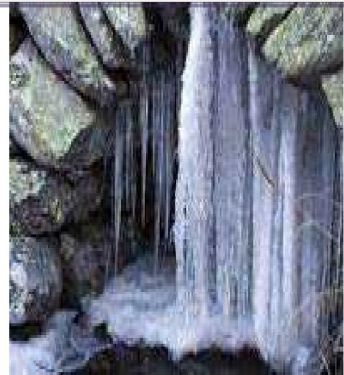
#### War Photography



#### Spot news photography



#### Travel photography



## EVALUATE YOURSELF

Q1. What is the other name for a photo essay?

Q2. What is photojournalism. Explain with examples from newspapers.

Q3. What is the use of composition in photojournalism.

Q4. Explain the role of a photo editor in a photo feature.