

ABSTRACTS OF SIKH STUDIES

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IS JOURNALISM AS KNOWN TODAY DEAD?

On 28 March 2025, delivering the Rajendra Mathur Memorial lecture at the Editors Guild of India (EGI), JioStar Vice President Uday Shankar made the pithy observation that **"Journalism as we know it is dead."** Media is broadly impacted by three main factors: Technology, Business Model, and Government policies towards media and 'freedom of expression'. Technology has undergone rapid change since the last quarter of the 20th century.

After the Internal Emergency of 1975, India's print media proliferated at a noticeable speed. Newspapers published in English and regional languages saw a sudden rise in circulation as Indians felt politically liberated and more awakened after Indira Gandhi bowed to the public pressure and restored the democratic system. And she held elections in 1977, but her party, Congress, lost. The succeeding Janata government lifted the press censorship and restored 'freedom of expression' that boosted the print media. National News Agencies-Press Trust of India (PTI) and United News of India (UNI) were merged as the "Samachar" news agency during the censorship regime of Indira Gandhi. They gained their independence during the Janata regime. Both News Agencies saw fast growth and secured an increase in their combined share of the news creation to 80 percent in the print media.

In 2000, the era of television dawned with vengeance. Private television networks overpowered Doordarshan / All India Radio and virtually eclipsed the print media. Gradually, print media, particularly News Agencies, lost their primacy, clout, and prerogative as creators and dispersing platforms of news/ views –so far the known version of journalism in India. The print media outlets lost their strength soon