

Investigative Journalism



Xavier Institute of communications
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I Chose **The New York Times** Newspaper. The Story from the paper that I have chosen is 'The Jungle Prince of India'.

The article was published on **22nd November,2019**.

The New York Times

The article is on the infamous **Royal family of Oudh**.The self-proclaimed royal family of Oudh was a family of three, **Begum Wilayat Mahal**, Ali "Cyrus" Raza, and **Sakina Mahal** who claimed to be descended from the rulers of the **Oudh State** in the 1970s. They lived in **Malcha Mahal**, a hunting lodge that dates back to the 14th century.

Most of the people are unaware about this family of Old Delhi as prefer to live as outcasts. This story of the royal family of Oudh was chronicled by journalists for about 40 years. This an example of an investigative report/article.

This report meets all the criteria of investigative journalism.

The story has been written systematically by **Ellen Barry**, starting with the origins of the family to their place in society as of 2019.

It is an In-depth report where it talks about the family history and its royal lineage, Ellen Barry travels to their place and provides us with an interview of the family members.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/22/world/asia/the-jungle-prince-of-delhi.html>



Prince Cyrus of Oudh at his family home in New Delhi in 2016

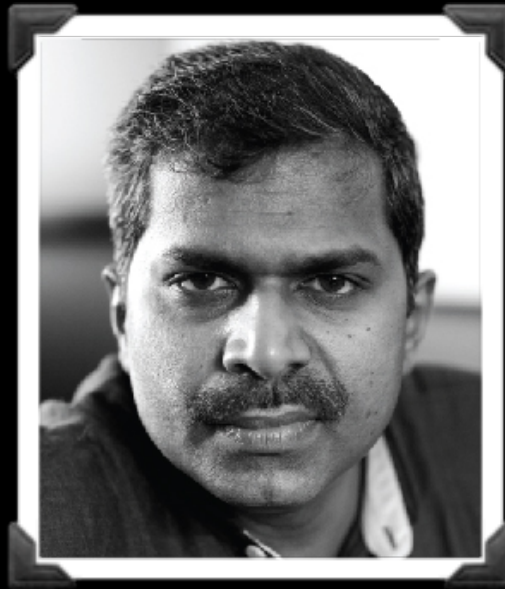
Investigative journalism differs from mainstream journalism in various aspects. The news that we usually read is not too probing in nature. It tends to report mainly what officials or institutions have stated about the given story. Investigative reports differ in this aspect as they are more in depth and consists of unofficial statements of individuals and interviews. **Sting operations** are also part of the investigative format. Investigative journalism is also called as **key hole journalism**.

The challenges faced by investigative reporters in India includes **lack of information**, lack of access to official documents, and **safety** is also a main concern for journalists. The legal regime that includes laws and constitution can be very prohibiting in nature. For example: **Shujaat Bukhari** was murdered on **14 June 2018** by gunmen while he was reporting on an investigative piece in Kashmir.



The reason for the decline of Investigative journalism is the costs involved which are quite high. There has been a decline in **advertising revenue**, hence it has become impossible for nearly all local & national newspapers to hit this, due to which investigative reports have become scarce.

In the Indian democracy investigative journalism is very much accepted and still relevant but not as it used to be earlier. With time there has been a **decline** and its prominence in the Indian democracy also changed. There are still small scale journalists who follow the investigative path and publish articles. However, there has been no growth in this form of journalism.



Josy Joseph is an investigative journalist who was previously Editor-Special Projects for the Times of India, an Associate Editor with the DNA newspaper, and has also been with Rediff.com, The Asian Age, **Mid Day**, and **the Blitz**. His stories have been open to public debate and have contributed to significant policy and systemic changes. Joseph's reporting has resulted in several high-profile officials being forced out of their offices, triggering the arrest of many others as well as federal criminal and military investigations.

Some of his high profile investigations include, **the Mumbai Adarsh Housing scam** and the many misdeeds in the run-up to the **2010 Commonwealth Games** in New Delhi, both of which contributed significantly to the anti-corruption movement of recent times.

Joseph's articles have featured in many publications globally. He has gained fame and acclaim from the various investigative pieces :

"**Leave Travel Concession**" (**LTC**) **scam**; Kickbacks in India's Telecom Licensing ;President of BJP Party accused of money laundering and **Naval War Room Leak Case** are the likes of it.

Josy Joseph's book ***A Feast of Vultures***, deals with corruption at various levels in the Indian society. The book highlights corruption cases involving the rich and the powerful, which the CBI have failed to unravel.

He is an eminent journalist of our time having done exemplary work in journalism.

