

from print to online in the next ten years. Online newspaper would be able to cut costs and become independent of advertiser impact as it could reach out to millions without the costs of printing and distribution and readers would be enabled to pay for the news items they prefer to read in micro payments of say ten paise per item. These newspapers of the future would face a flood of information that would have to be selected and authenticated and processed for different types of readers in different ways. Journalists would thus be

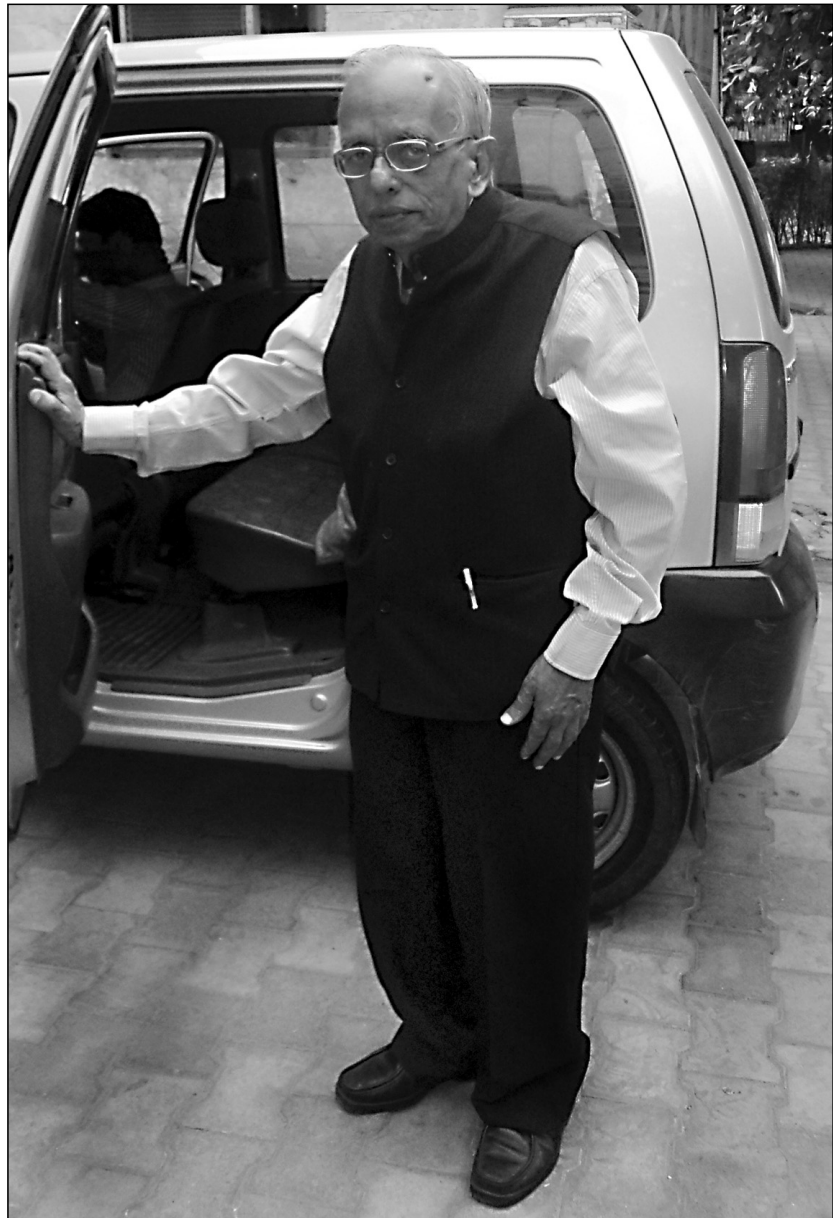
WITH THIS, WE ARE STARTING A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS WITH SENIOR LEADERS OF NUJ(I).

EDITOR

needed for retaining the credibility of news, for right type of processing contents and display them and for upholding the integrity of the news and of the "newspaper" of the future. The unions like NUJ(I) would play a major role in preparing members to face this challenge, to fight against attempts to dilute journalistic ethics and to ensure their welfare in the information society of the future.

■ **Who is your biggest hero?**

My most respected editor is the late K.P. Narayanan who initiated me into journalism. He was editor of *Nagpur Times* and later of *M.P. Chronicle*. He had the nose for news and also strong ethical stand. He told me right at the start that my true employer was the reader of the newspaper to whom I am obliged and not the owner of the paper. His style expressed the journalism's core: "brevity is the soul of wit". Once when the chief reporter refused to file a story on a wall collapse that killed some people on the plea that all the reporters had collectively decided



to refuse to file a report because the District Magistrate pushed out the press from the site, Narayanan told the chief reporter that he had no right to deny the reader the spotlight on the event whatever be the circumstances. The behaviour of the Magistrate would be taken up separately, "if he does not allow you climb up the electric poll and watch what was happening and report." He sternly told the reporter and sent him back to the spot. At

another time when the management wanted to know who was responsible for the text mistake in the paper on a particular day, Narayanan wrote back to say that he as editor was responsible for every single mistake in the paper. Madhya Pradesh honoured him at his death by the government giving him a state funeral though the paper during his editorship was a responsible critic of the government.