



M.A. (JMC) PART-I/PGDJMC

PAPER - IV

Semester-I

**GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT
OF PRINT MEDIA IN INDIA**

Unit -I

**Department of Distance Education
Punjabi University, Patiala**

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Lesson

- 1.1 : Invention of Paper and Printing Press**
- 1.2 : Leading Newspapers in English, Punjabi and Hindi**
- 1.3 : Eminent Personalities of Indian Journalism**
- 1.4 : Different Socio-Religious and Socio-Political movement and Punjabi Press**

NOTE :

Students can download the syllabus from department's website www.pbide.org

Invention of Paper and Printing Press

Structure

Invention of Paper and Printing Press

Development of Press in India

Role of Press in Freedom Struggle of India

Origin and spread of Vernacular Press

Issues related to Press freedom

Objectives

After reading this lesson we would be able to

- know the history of printing press in India
- know early efforts done to publish newspaper in India
- know about birth of indian language newspapers

The Birth of Papermaking

AD 105 is often cited as the year in which papermaking was invented. In that year, historical records show that the invention of paper was reported to the Chinese Emperor by Ts'ai Lun, an official of the Imperial Court. Recent archaeological investigations, however, place the actual invention of papermaking some 200 years earlier. Ancient paper pieces from the Xuanquanzhi ruins of Dunhuang in China's northwest Gansu province apparently were made during the period of Emperor Wu who ruled between 140 BC and 86 BC. Whether or not Ts'ai Lun was the actual inventor of paper, he deserves the place of honor he has been given in Chinese history for his role in developing a material that revolutionized his country.

Early Papermaking in China

According to records, hemp was used for making paper. Later, tree bark, bamboo and other plant fibers were used in addition to hemp.

A major breakthrough in paper making was achieved with the development of a smooth material for the mold covering, which made it possible for the

papermaker to free the newly formed sheet and reuse the mold immediately. This covering was made from thin strips of rounded bamboo stitched or laced together with silk, flax, or animal's hair.

Papermaking Spreads throughout Asia

The art of papermaking spread from China to Korea around the 6th century AD. Pulp was prepared from the fibers of hemp, rattan, mulberry, bamboo, rice straw, and seaweed. A Korean monk, Don-cho, is credited with having brought the knowledge of paper making to Japan around AD 610. The Japanese initially used paper only for official records, but with the rise of Buddhism the demand for paper witnessed a sharp increase.

Chinese papermakers spread their skill at papermaking to Central Asia and Persia, from which it was later introduced by traders into India. The first recorded use of paper in Samarkand dates from a battle in Turkestan, where skilled Chinese artisans were taken prisoner and forced to make paper for their captors.

A **printing press** is a mechanical device for transferring of an image by applying pressure to an inked surface resting upon a medium (such as paper or cloth). A device for this was developed in Germany by a goldsmith Johann Gutenberg in 1439. Even though printing had developed in China and Korea around that time, the device used was not like the one used by Gutenberg.

Printing methods based on Gutenberg's printing press spread rapidly throughout Europe and later to the rest of the world. Gutenberg's model of printing press became popular and replaced most of the then prevalent versions of block printing. This model remained popular until the advent of offset printing.

History

The use of a press was a key technological difference provided European inventors with advantages over their Chinese counterparts—the screw-based presses used in wine and olive oil production. Attaining mechanical sophistication in approximately in the year 1000, devices for applying pressure on a flat-plane were common in Europe.

Gutenberg's Press

Johannes Gutenberg's work on the printing press began in approximately 1436. Others in Europe were also developing movable type at this time, including goldsmith Procopius Waldfoghel of France and Laurens Janszoon Coster of the Netherlands. However, they are not known to have contributed specific advances to the printing press.

The contribution of Gutenberg to development of printing technology is important since he was the first to make type from an alloy of lead, tin, and antimony.

This was crucial for producing durable type that produced high-quality printed books and proved to be more suitable for printing than the clay, wooden or bronze types invented in East Asia. Gutenberg used a special matrix for making these lead types.

Gutenberg was the pioneer in introduction of an oil-based ink which was more durable than the previously used water-based inks. He used vellum and paper as printing material.

In the Gutenberg Bible, Gutenberg made a trial of coloured printing for a few of the page headings, present only in some copies. A later work, the Mainz Psalter of 1453, designed by Gutenberg but published under the imprint of his successors Johann Fust and Peter Schöffer, had elaborate red and blue printed initials.

Life magazine called the Printing Press the greatest invention in the last 1000 years. It is important to note that it was the alphabet that made the success of the printing press possible.

Historical Impact

The printing press was a major factor in the development of a community of scientists who could easily communicate their discoveries through widely disseminated scholarly journals, helping to bring on the scientific revolution. With the development of printing press, authorship became more meaningful and profitable. Suddenly it became important as to who had said or written what, and what the precise formulation and time of composition was.

This allowed the exact citing of references, producing the rule, "One Author, one work (title), one piece of information" (Giesecke, 1989; 325). Before, the author was less important, since a copy of Aristotle made in Paris would not be exactly identical to one made in Bologna. For many works prior to the printing press, the name of the author was entirely lost.

Since the printing process ensured that the same information fell on the same pages, page numbering, tables of contents, and indices, which were earlier not known, became common. The process of reading underwent a change from oral readings to silent, and private reading. With availability of printed materials there was a drastic increase in adult literacy rate throughout Europe.

Within fifty or sixty years of the invention of the printing press, the entire classical canon had been reprinted and widely promulgated throughout Europe (Eisenstein, 1969; 52). Now that more people had access to knowledge both new and old, more people could discuss these works. Furthermore, now that book production was a more commercial enterprise, the first copyright laws were passed to protect what we now would call intellectual property rights. A second outgrowth of this popularization of knowledge was the decline of Latin as the language of most published works, to be replaced by the vernacular language of each area, increasing the variety of published works. Paradoxically, the

printing word also helped to unify and standardize the spelling and syntax of these vernaculars, in effect 'decreasing' their variability.

Development of printing in India

Emperor Asoka's pillar inscriptions and rock edicts in different parts of the Mauryan Empire during 3rd century B.C are considered examples of imperial political communication to the informed and literate section of the population. Ashoka used the Prakrit language in his communication on ethics and morals as evidence by his inscriptions.

In the ancient times in India, the learning languages were confined to high castes, the aristocracy, priests, army personnel and landowners. There was emphasis on oral and aural systems. The ruling class used certain methods for coding, transmitting and decoding messages secretly through the network of spies to get information about neighbouring enemies.

According to historians of journalism, news was collected in a well-organized manner under Akbar the Great. In 1574, Akbar established a recording office that helped later medieval historians to gather materials for chronicles.

First printing press in India

The first printing press arrived in India on 6th September 1556 and was installed at the college of St. Paul in Goa.

The first Indian newspaper

The pioneer of newspaper publication in India was James Augustus Hicky, an employee of East India Company. He edited and published Bengal Gazette, English newspaper, which came out on 29th January 1780 quick to follow this publication were many other weeklies and monthlies such as Indian Gazette, Calcutta Journal, Bengal Harakaru, John Bull in the East during the 17th and 18th century.

STATUS OF INDIAN PRINT INDUSTRY

The Indian Print Industry has undergone a revolutionary change in the last 15 years. In 1990, India initiated privatization with a view to integrating national economy with world economy. This change opened the doors for the Indian Print Industry to modernize, by investing in the latest of technology and machinery. The average compound annual growth rate has been higher than 12% over the last 15 years. Our packaging industry is currently growing at a rate of more than 16% a year. Prior to 1990, most printers found it easy to invest in East German and Czechoslovakian machines. Post 1990, the trend has been to acquire the latest and the best equipment & machines.

The progressive printers of today are equipped with the latest computer controlled printing machines and flow lines for binding, while state of the art digital technologies are being used in pre-press. Leading print companies have optimized the use of information technology in each and every area of their business. These printers are today equipped at par with the best print production facilities in the world.

Today, India is fast becoming one of the major print producers & manufacture of printed paper products for the world markets. The quality standards have improved dramatically and immense production capacities have been created. Some printers have won recognition by winning prizes at international competition for excellence in printing. The current annual turnover of all the components in the Indian printing industry is more than Rs 50,000 crore. That is in the region of USD 11 Billion.

Indian books, journals and printing jobs, etc. are being exported to over 120 countries of the world both developed and developing. Indian exports of books, printed pamphlets, newspapers & periodicals, job printing and printed materials during 2004-05 was estimated to the tune of USD 550 million.

early efforts to publish newspaper in india and birth of indian languages newspapers

The first Indian newspaper

Indian press started from Calcutta, the then first colonial establishment of the East India Company. **James Augustus Hickey** is regarded as the '**father of Indian press**' as he started the first Indian Paper the '**Bengal Gazette**' in **1780**. The first paper in an Indian language was **Samachar Darpan** in Bangla. First printed newspaper of India was in English edited and published by James Augustus Hicky, an employee of East India Company. It was named Bengal Gazette which came out on 29th January 1780.

Soon many other weeklies and monthlies such as Indian Gazette, Calcutta Journal, Bengal Harakaru, John Bull in the East came out during the 17th and 18th century.

The major Indian language newspaper

Digdarshan was the first Indian language newspaper. It was started in April 1818 by the Serampur missionaries William Carcy, Joshua Marshman and William Ward. They soon started another Samachar Darpan publication in June, 1818.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy also brought out periodicals in English, Bengali and Persian. Some of Roy's papers were Sambad Kaumadi, Brahmical Magazine, Mirat-ul-Akhbar, and Bangadoota and Bengal Herald.

Assamese:- Amnodaya, a distinguished journal in the Assamese language was started in 1846 under the editorship of the Reverend Oliver. T. Cutter.

Gujarati:- Mumbai Samachar was the first Gujarati Newspaper. It was established in 1822 by Farduvji Marzaban as a weekly and became a daily in 1832.

Hindi:- The first Hindi daily was Samachar Sudhavarshan (Calcutta, 1854). Later Samayadant Martand, Banaras Akhbar, Shimila Akbar and Malwa Akhbar came out.

Calcutta was the birth place not only of English, Bengali and Hindi journalism but also Urdu journalism. The first Urdu newspaper Urdu Akhbar was published in the second decade of the 19th century.

Kannada:- Kannada Samachar was the earliest Kannada journal, according to many scholars. But others think that the first Kannada journal was Mangalooru Samachar. Later Subudhi Prakasha, Kannada Vaatika, Amnodaya, Mahilaasakhi and Sarvamitra came out during the 18th century.

Malayalam:- Mathrubhumi, Malayala Manorama, Kerala Kanmudi are the main newspapers of Kerala. The other daily newspapers are Desabhimani, Mangalam, Madhyamam, Chandrika, Deepika etc.

Marathi:- Darpan was the first Marathi newspaper started in 1832. Kesari and Sudarak were other papers of the 18th century. Induprakash was an Anglo-Marathi daily established in 1862.

Oriya:- The first Oriya magazine Junaruna was published by the Orissa Mission Press in 1849 under the editorship of Charles Lacey. It was followed by 'Prabhatchandrika', under the editorship of William Lacey. Utkal Sahitya, Bodhadayini, Baleshwar Sambad Balika etc started in the 18th century.

Punjabi:- Although Maharaja Ranjit Singh encouraged the development of Punjabi journalism, the earliest Punjabi newspaper was a missionary newspaper. The first printing press in Punjab was established in Ludhiana in 1809.

Tamil:- The first periodical 'Tamil Patrika' a monthly was brought out in 1831 by the Religious Tract Society in Madras; it lasted till 1833. The next periodical weekly was the Dina Vartamani published in Madras from 1856 by the Dravidian press.

Telugu:- Kandukuri Veeresalingam Pantulu, known as the Father of the renaissance movement in Andhra and the founder of modern Telugu, sparked a social reform movement through his weekly Vivekavardhini.

Urdu:- Sir Sayyid Ahmed Khan, a great educationist, judge and social reformer

did much for the development of Urdu journalism.

Questions:

1. When was first printing press introduced in India?
2. Discuss the contribution of Gutenberg to press.
3. Discuss the history of printing in India.
4. Discuss language as a vehicle of communication.
5. Discuss briefly invention paper and printing press.

**Growth and Development of
Print Media in India**

Lesson No. 1.2

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**Leading Newspapers in English,
Punjabi and Hindi in India**

Structure

Leading English Dailies in India

- The Times of India
- The Hindu
- The Tribune
- The Indian Express
- Hindustan Times
- The Telegraph
- The Statesman

Leading Hindi Newspapers

- Dainik Jagran
- Dainik Bhaskar
- Amar Ujala
- Hindustan

Leading Punjabi Newspapers

- Ajit
- Punjabi Tribune
- Punjabi Jagran
- Jag Bani
- Nawan Zamana
- Desh Sewak
- Spokesman

In 1930s, the '**Statesman**' of Calcutta started its Delhi edition. Dalmia Seth brought out 'Indian News Chronicle' in 1946 but later he bought Times of India and when they started its Delhi edition, they sold 'News Chronicle' to R.N.Goenka, who in turn started a chain of 'Indian Express' newspapers. A

paper with communist leanings 'Patriot' came out in 1963. After independence, newspapers started from even those places which were earlier unknown in this field. Some of the important papers which came out in the middle of the twentieth century included: Rajasthan Chronicle (Jaipur-1951), Patriot (Lucknow-1950, Delhi-1963), Blitz (Bombay-1941) Overseas Hindustan Times (Delhi-1950), Indian Express (Madras-1930, Bangalore-1931, Bombay-1940, Delhi-1953, Ahmedabad-1968, Chandigarh-1977), Madhya Pradesh Chronicle (Bombay and Raipur-1957), Hind Samachar Urdu (Jalandhar-1948), Punjab Kesari Hindi (Jalandhar-1965), Ajit-Punjabi (Jalandhar-1955), Nawan Zamana-Punjabi (Jalandhar-1953), News of the World (Cuttack-1975), New Hind Times (Goa-1963), Rozana Sandesh- Urdu (Srinagar-1947), Rozana Samachar - Urdu (Srinagar-1968), Dainik Tribune- Hindi and Punjabi Tribune (Chandigarh-1978), Dainik Jagran-Hindi (Bhopal-1953), Dainik Bhaskar-Hindi (Gwalior-1958) etc.

Among the periodicals are, Today (1971), Science Today (1966), Readers Digest (1961), Mirror (1961), The Sunday Observer (1981), News Tract (1981), India Today (1979), New Age (1953).

Since 1947, there has been spectacular development in all fields of life. This has reflected in the number of new publications specializing in different fields, like business and economy, agriculture, travel and tourism, engineering, and science and research.

Economic Times (1961), Financial Express-(1961), Economic Age (1967) are examples in support. There have also been a number of publications coming out which have a focus on regional coverage.

The Telegraph

The Telegraph is a 39-years-old Indian English daily newspaper founded in Kolkata on July 7 1982. It was designed by Edwin Taylor, the design director of London's The Sunday Times. The Telegraph is published by media group Ananda Publishers, which is closely associated with ABP Pvt. Ltd. The group also publishes Anandabazar Patrika, a Bengali language newspaper. Aside from newspapers the group published Bengali and English periodicals, such as Anandamela, Unish-Kuri, Sananda, Anandalok, Desh magazine. As of December 2019, the daily circulation of The Telegraph is 352,972. As per the Indian Readership Survey (IRS) 2019, this newspaper has the eighth-highest readership among English language newspapers in India. The Telegraph has three editions, namely, Kolkata, South Bengal and North Bengal.

The **Punjabi press** is today in no way lagging behind. Today Punjabi newspapers are taking up diversity of subjects and coming up to the needs and expectations of their readers. Today they have proven themselves up to the mark from every aspect.

'Ajit' is the maximum circulated daily in Punjabi today. This is the paper which started new traditions in political, social, literary field and various arts. It has touched highest technical heights in Punjabi circles and has done pioneering job for other Punjabi newspapers.

Ajit was started as an Urdu weekly from Lahore in 1941. Sadhu Singh Hamdard was its sub-editor then. In 1947, it rose to be daily and at the time of partition it shifted to Jalandhar under Managing Directorship of S. Amar Singh Dosanjh. In 1955 it became Ajit Patrika in Punjabi and four years after i.e. in 1959 it was named Ajit a daily under Editorship of S.Sadhu Singh Hamdard who himself was an excellent writer and poet in Punjabi. He did his Ph.D. from Guru Nanak Dev University and was, awarded titles of Shironmani Khojkaar by Punjabi Sahit Samikhya Board and Shiromani Patarkaar by Punjab Government. In his times, Ajit Bhawan which houses offices of Ajit was known centre of literary activities. Dr. Sadhu Singh Hamdard expired in 1984.

Ajit is run by a trust now. Its Managing Editor is Barjinder Singh Hamdard, the able son of Dr Sadhu Singh Hamdard. Barjinder Singh was first editor of another Punjabi daily, Punjabi Tribune. Ajit does not have any definite political, social or religious alignment. Now Ajit's inclination towards Akali Dal of Punjab is evident but Ajit has its real inclination only towards Punjabi ideology. It claims in its title as custodian of Punjab, Punjabi and Punjabi, the state, the language and the culture of Punjab. There is no doubt that Ajit has always played constructive role in cultural and social fields. Among Punjabi newspapers, Ajit has the most qualified editorial staff. Most of its sub-editors and proof-readers are professionally qualified and well experienced.

Started by the Hind Samachar group of newspapers, **Jagbani**, another leading Punjabi daily was launched in 1978. This is the second most circulated Punjabi daily today. Lala Jagat Narain the founder editor was already bringing out Hind Samachar, (Urdu) and Punjab Kesari (Hindi), both successful newspapers in their respective languages.

Jagbani came out in that very year when Akali-Nirankari clash occurred in Amritsar. Jagbani pleaded the cause of Nirankaris and joined issue with 'Ajit' which was already supporting Akalis. As tensions rose 'Ajit' and 'Jagbani' went on consolidating support of their readership.

Lala Jagat Narain was one of the "first and most important person to fall to the extremists' bullets in 1981. Later in 1984 the Chief Editor of Hind 'Samachar Group of newspapers Ramesh Chandra, who was the eldest son of Lala Jagat Narain was also killed for supporting and propagating Hindi as their mother tongue in place of Punjabi by extremists. In late 1990s the extremist groups imposed a ban on publication of this group. Resultantly scores of their agents and other related people were killed who either objected or defied the so called ban. So, this group was the worst sufferer media

group of Punjabi.

Jagbani was launched at a time when many other leading Punjabi dailies were already in existence. These included Ajit, Akali Patrika and Nawan Zamana. Jagbani is more popular with non-Sikh population. It has powerful views page, international coverage, coverage on human interest stories, magazine sections special editions and above all the illustrations which are very popular with the readers. Jagbani is the publication of a very technically advanced newspaper group. It has in its kitty many prizes for its printing and remarkable presentation.

Punjabi Tribune was started in 1978 by the powerful Tribune Trust from Chandigarh. Its founder Editor was Barjinder Singh. Initially for some years the paper was regarded as a translation of 'The Tribune' but it managed to have its own set of readership in Punjabi journalism. 'Punjabi Tribune' came up in those days when Punjabi Press was bluntly divided as 'Hindu Press' and 'Sikh Press' 'Punjabi Tribune', since its inception, has always remained a neutral newspaper. It lays more stress on Punjabi culture, literature, folklore, and developmental news. Its presentation is more like that of 'The Tribune'. More popular in Malwa and Punjabi speaking people of Haryana, it has non- controversial policy pertaining to overall development of its readers. Its column 'Pindan Wichon Pind Sunida' became very popular with the masses. Punjabi Tribune was awarded national awards for printing and presentation.

These three leading Punjabi newspapers have an exclusive readership of their own. The second line of Punjabi newspapers includes party papers mostly. These include 'Ajj-di-Awaz', 'Desh Sewak', 'Nawan Zamana', 'Akali Patrika', 'Lok Lehar', 'Chardikala' and 'Ranjit'.

'Akali Patrika' was started in 1947 by S.Amar Singh Dosanjh. Giani Shadi Singh was its first editor. It was started at Amritsar and then shifted to Jalandhar. Later Ishar Singh Attari, Bharpur Singh Balbir, Niranjani Singh Mitha remained its editors. 'Akali Patrika' was a paper toeing the line of hardliners Akalis before 'Ajit' stole the show. It mattered much in party circles. Nobody contested its claims of having been started in 1920 from Lahore. But as popularity went down, administrative problems cropped up and it started going down. Importance though dipped, it still goes on.

'Ajj di Awaz' was started by hardliner Akalis of late 1980s and early 1990s. This paper may be seen as a product of Punjab turmoil. Its start was quite controversial as it appeared as mouthpiece of hard liners. It was started from Jalandhar and was more popular for having suffered at the hands of government. Its editor Gurdeep Singh was frequently arrested. Humiliation of its staff was common. Now, after end of turmoil of 1978-1993, this paper is concentrating more on social issues.

Another important Punjabi publication is **'Nawan Zamana'**, the paper with its known leanings towards C.P.I. The paper started from Jalandhar in 1952

as an Urdu newspaper. After four years it was turned Punjabi daily in 1956. 'Nawan Zamana' has its fortune for having Harkishan Singh Surjeet, Sohan Singh Josh, Arjan Singh Garhgaj, Avtar Singh Malhotra as editors. It was started as a paper of United Communist Party. Nowadays, Jasjit Singh Anand, a former member of Rajya Sabha is its editor.

'**Lok Lehar**' was started by Harkishan Singh Surjeet and Suhel Singh as a CPM paper from Jalandhar. After split of the party, the CPM started another paper in 1997 from Chandigarh, '**Desh Sewak**', and Gulzar Singh Sandhu, a former editor of Punjabi Tribune was founder Editor of 'Desk Sewak'. He brought in professionally qualified staff and started carving its own niche. Chardikala, Ranjit and Dharaledar etc are small scale papers (dailies) being printed from Patiala.

Among other periodicals in Punjabi was '**Quami Ekta**' (Weekly) which was started by Rajinder Singh from Delhi in 1958 which was discontinued after his death. Delhi is capital of Punjabi weeklies and monthlies. Many literary magazines are coming from Delhi.

Some periodicals like '**Pardeshi**' from Canada, '**Ekta**', '**The Punjab**' and '**Desh Paradesh**' from Britain are chief Punjabi publications running successfully.

Rozana Spokesman

Rozana Spokesman is a leading Punjabi-language daily newspaper, that is circulated mainly in the Punjab Region in India. Currently it is the third most read newspaper in Punjab and has undoubtedly established itself as a brand known for its fearless and neutral voice.

Rozana Spokesman was initially started by Sardar Hukam Singh (Speaker Lok Sabha) which was later taken over by Joginder Singh who again started it into a monthly paper. Owing to the initial success it later got converted into a daily newspaper and it now has its head office in Mohali, Punjab. Joginder Singh is the founder of daily newspaper Rozana Spokesman with Ms. Jagjit Kaur as the Managing director, Ms. Nimrat Kaur as the editor and Ms. Simran Singh as the Creative Director of the same. Apart from the top management the daily has a dedicated team of journalists in all the districts of Punjab.

While Rozana Spokesman is printed only in Punjabi, it also has an online version at rozanaspokesman.com where one can read the latest happenings on the internet in English as well as Punjabi. Along with the website it has strong presence on social media. Rozana Spokesman has active accounts on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube where regular posts are made to engage the followers by sharing useful information. It is quite

commendable that the Facebook page of Rozana Spokesman has more than 33 Lakh followers.

Adding to its already popular print version, Rozana Spokesman's strong presence on the web, with its ever growing popularity, has made sure that it has a special place in the hearts of people of Punjab.

Punjabi Jagran

Punjabi Jagran is a Punjabi-language daily newspaper founded in 2011. It covers national, international political, business, and sports news. The editions of the newspaper are Amritsar, Bathinda, Chandigarh, Doaba, Gurdaspur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Malwa, and Patiala. Punjabi Jagran is published by Jagran Prakashan Limited, which became a private limited company, namely Jagran Prakashan Private Limited, on 18 July 1975 under the Companies Act. Some of the other publications by Jagran Prakashan Limited include Dainik Jagran, Mid-Day Radio, City Nai Dunia.

Hindi language press had its concentration in Calcutta and Mumbai (at that time Bombay) in its initial days. However, now it has surpassed its counterparts in English language. It was from these centers that it waged relentless battles on social and political fronts. In its early years Hindi publications were dealing with social and religious issues. The earliest paper in Hindi, a weekly named Oodunt Martand edited by Jugal Kishore Shukul was started in Calcutta in 1826. Close to follow in 1829 was a weekly Bang Doot which was started by the great social reformer of Bengal, Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Dwarka Prasad Thakore. It was published in English, Bangla and Persian. Raja Ram Mohan Roy brought it out only for furthering his own social reforms.

Samachar Subha Varshan with Shyam Sunder Sen as editor was the first Hindi daily from Calcutta in 1854.

During the First World War (1914-1918), the number of Hindi dailies published from Calcutta, Bombay and Patna grew fast. This growth in Hindi Journalism was made by outstanding journalists like Ganga Prasad Gupta, M. P. Dwivedi, H. K. Johar, Chhote Ram, Indra Vidyavachaspati, Shiv Ram Pandey and Narmada Prasad Misra. In 1920 when Ghandiji started non-cooperation movement a mouthpiece of Congress say appeared from Varanasi (then Banaras). Actually the filling to Hindi journalism was given by Gandhiji's support to indigenous items. People in Hindi speaking areas keenly disowned English newspapers and developed love for Hindi papers. Fearless editorials by Shri Prakash spread the message among Hindi speaking masses of control and North Control India Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who became the first President of India later, brought out a Hindi weekly 'Desh' in 1920 again supporting

journal for nationalists of Congress party. By 1926, there were more than 100 Hindi newspapers being brought out of India. The Hindustan Times brought out its Hindi paper 'Hindustan' in 1936 at Delhi. In 1940, 'Aryavart' was started by 'Indian Nation' at Patna. Both the papers were sister concerns of their English counterparts and were known for their role in freedom struggle. In 1950, Times of India group started 'Navbharat Times' from Delhi and today it is the largest circulated Hindi daily. Amrita Patrika of Allahabad, Punjab Kesari of Jalandhar and Jansatta, a Hindi paper of Indian Express group, are other important papers in Hindi. Punjab Kesari is known for its coverage, international coverage, entertainment parts, multicolor features and wide coverage.

Hindustan Dainik

Hindustan Dainik, also known simply as "Hindustan", is an 85-years old Indian Hindi-language daily newspaper. Madam Mohan Malviya founded it on April 12, 1936. Hindustan Media Ventures Limited publishes it. By circulation, it has been ranked 13th globally and 6th in India by the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

ROLE OF PRESS IN STRUGGLE OF INDIAN INDEPENDENCE

Indian Press played a key role in the freedom struggle of the country. Nationalist aspirations of the Indians were strengthened with the establishment of the Indian National Congress in 1885. Most prominent members of the Congress were eminent journalists and editors of newspapers. These personalities were Dadabhai Naroji, M.G.Ranade, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Narendranath Sen, W.S.Apte, and above all Mahatma Gandhi. The Indian language press was particularly strong in projecting public aspirations. The press also took up the cause of social reforms.

A number of India's great men, social reformers, leaders and crusaders in the struggle for freedom movement used press for fathering their philosophy and the causes they sported. Aurobindo Ghosh, Annie Besant, Lala Lajpat Rai, Surinder Nath Banerji, Lokmamyia Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi were eminent journalists and social reformers in their own right. Among them Tilak particularly carried on struggle for liberation through journalism. He wrote for education and enlightenment of the people.

In the nineteenth century, when just a few Indians were acquainted with the English language, some educated leaders ventured to publish English newspapers. Their efforts were undoubtedly successful, as these publications put across the majority view point to the British rulers and also initiated British influenced Indians into the freedom struggle.

K.Rama Rao, one of great Indian editors, has written: "Indian journalism owes its vitality, importance and influence to one great factor- its greatest journalists were men with a mission, men highly equipped, intellectual,

powerful writers, able controversialists and men of integrity and courage. We also owe grateful thanks to Bengal, home of Indian journalism, the inspiring ground of many battles, the power house of many ideas and moments.”

The media of mass communication played a vital role in India's struggle for freedom. The year of first war of independence brought back the press restrictions in form of Gagging Act, 1857. Lord Canning tried to crush press freedom taking pleas of public welfare. The British crown took over India as its colony and promised freedom of press. But the press and registration of Books Act, 1867 was essentially directed against the Vernacular Press. An interesting reaction to the Vernacular Press Act of 1878 which was promulgated by Lord Lytton, in the case of bilingual 'Amrit Bazar Patrika' which was being published in Bangla and English. Suddenly it converted itself into an exclusive English daily in order to escape the hard conditions of the act.

Leading members of the elite in society enthusiastically contributed their views to Indian owned English papers. This in turn generated tremendous support for the nationalist movement. While the government posed restrictions on the English and Vernacular Press, those papers owned by Anglo-Indians exempted since they were not too critical of the British government.

In the later half of the nineteenth century the Bangalee journalists revolutionized politics and became torch bearers of Indian nationalism. They were Surendranath Bannerjee and Bipin Chandra Pal. Bannerjee was founder editor of the daily Bangalee which exercised great influence of nationalist opinion. Surendranath Bannerjee was one of the earliest Indians to be admitted to the I.C.S in 1871 but was dismissed in 1874. His dismissal was certainly, a punishment for being an Indian. Bannerjee in, turn pledged to dedicate the rest of his life to, protect rights of Indians.

Bannerjee and Pal felt that Vernacular Press Act of 1878 was the immediate cause of the awakening of political consciousness and the genesis of the national movement on country-wide level. To organize political activity Bannerjee toured all over India and evoked good response. In Lahore, he persuaded Dayal Singh Majithia to start the Tribune and supplied his machinery along with first editor for the paper. The Indian owned and edited English Press was very strong and influential in Calcutta with the Bengalee, Amrit Bazar Patrika, Hindu Patriot and Indian Mirror dominating the scene. Several other newspapers which started with single purpose of giving boost to the nations struggle for freedom include The Times of India, Bombay (1838), Amrit Bazar Patrika, Calcutta (1868), The States Man, Calcutta (1875), The Hindu, Madras (1878), The Tribune, Lahore now Chandigarh (1881).

'The Pioneer' of Allahabad, 'Madras Mail' of Madras, 'Civil and Military Gazette' of Lahore and Annie Bessant's 'New India' were also very much in the forefront

providing quality news reports. In general, all the English newspapers used forceful language and served to direct and organize the energies of the people who then moved nearer to their aim of governance. The Indian owned newspapers were cheaper than the British owned ones. Naturally this fact benefited the former category in terms of increased sales. The single-minded devotion in which the English newspapers owned by Indians rallied around to free the nation from the imperialist hold in a lesson, in itself. Never since, has any other goal enthused the entire English Press enough to raise the profession to the height of a mission.

Bipin Chandra Pal started his life, as a teacher and later became a journalist. He started his weekly 'Paridarisak' in 1880 and, later in 1888 he joined 'Bengal Public Opinion' as its chief editorial writer. In 1887 he went to Lahore and joined 'The Tribune' as sub-editor. He remained correspondent of The Hindu for some time. Then he founded English weeklies 'New India' and Bande Mataram. He passed on the latter weekly to Aurobindo Ghosh. In 1899 he went on lecture tour in U.S.A. He started his political career with the birth of Indian National Congress in 1885, he was just in his mid twenties at that time. He had the capacity to express extreme views in polite and civil language.

Just like Pal, Aurobindo Ghosh was among the first apostles of the nationalist movement which demanded freedom from British rule. They took full advantage of their weeklies for furthering of their cause. Pal was imprisoned in 1907 for refusing to testify against Aurobindo Ghosh formed a powerful extremist group in the Congress which was to dominate the political scene until the advent of Mahatma Gandhi and the launching of the non-cooperation movement. Pal could not join tone with Gandhiji's policy and methods and resigned from Pandit Moti Lal Nehru's 'Independent' which he had edited as editor, in 1921.

Out of the 72 delegates who attended the first Congress session, one third were journalists. Among them were editors of leading Indian newspapers like Subramania Aiyer of The Hindu of Madras, Moti Lal Ghosh of the Amrit Bazar Patrika of Calcutta and Narendranath Sen of the Indian Mirror of Calcutta.

The national leaders of that time were anxious to see India advance politically and socially and they worked steadily for that purpose. Freedom of press was an important plank in the programme of the early Congress. The leaders resisted the governments' attempts to muzzle the press in later half in Calcutta to protest against the Vernacular Press Act in which Gopal Krishan Gokhale had Said:

"The vigilance of the press is only check that operated from outside, freely, it is true, but continuously, upon the conduct of the government which is subjected to no popular control. The press is in one sense, like the government, a custodian of public interests and any attempts to hand over its freedom by

repressive legislation is bound to affect their interests prejudicially and cannot fail in the end to react upon the position of the government itself.”

Even long before the formation of the Congress, ‘Amrit Bazar Patrika’ had voiced the demand for separate parliament for India sometime around 1870. Some way the Hindu Patriot and Statesman had also supported the cause of Home Rule for India. The Statesman always had good words for Congress and their cause though it was an Anglo-Indian paper something totally opposite to another Anglo-Indian paper, Pioneer. It was Dadabhai Naroji, who in 1906 while presiding over the Congress session; put forward the demand for ‘Swaraj’

In 1905, when Lord Curzon announced the partition of Bengal, it was the press of India that led the movement against the government action. Gopal Krishan Gokhale presiding over the Banaras Congress session in 1905 called partition of Bengal, a “cruel wrong” and supported boycott of British goods as a political weapon.

Three language papers from Calcutta, ‘Sandhya’, ‘Nagasakhti’, ‘Yugantar’ though came to scene after partition of Bengal but became very popular as they preached revolution as a religious movement and not political one, with great missionary zeal. Ultimately government suppressed these papers citing one reason or the other.

At the beginning of twentieth century, a new generation and a new temper, totally different from that of its founders like A.O.Hume, has possessed the Congress. The number of delegates had swelled and dissatisfied younger generation was asking about the achievements of Congress. Those days were marked by fierce repression by foreign rulers and prosecution of Indian press, with special repressive treatment being meted out to language press particularly in wake of ‘Swadesh’ movement which had spread in all parts of the country.

By this time, **Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak** came up as a revolutionary leader who dominated the political and journalistic scenes for atleast two decades. He was running ‘Maratha’, an English weekly and ‘Kesari’ a Marathi paper. It was his very clear and loud view that political battle must be given priority over social reforms. Tilak was a lecturer in laws and a Congress leader also. His writings in ‘Kesari’ and ‘Maratha’ often attracted government rath.

As far as the main journalist-cum-political leaders of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century are concerned, Auribindo Ghosh favored peace as long as the government was peaceful towards them. He held alien rulers responsible for deplorable social, economic and political conditions in India. Bal Gangadhar Tilak much believed in organized power of masses and their growing enlightenment for nation, whereas Gopal Krishan Gokhale wanted to take forward the revolution for independence, in lawful and peaceful

manner.

In this backdrop, a new national leader and again a journalist plus social reformist appeared on the scene very gradually and steadily who was to steal the whole thunder and to dominate political scenario. It was Mohan Das Karam Chand Gandhi; **Mahatma Gandhi** as he later came to be known, had an experience of peaceful revolt in South Africa. He had been taking out an English paper from South Africa "Indian Opinion" as its editor and their Gujrati and Tamil editions were already being printed. In India he started editing "Young India" and "Harijan" which went unprecedently popular with the masses. These were such papers which could be termed nest informers in government circles and thirdly those papers indicated towards wrongs on both sides namely the government and the masses or nationalist leaders.

Suggested Reading

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**EMINENT PERSONALITIES OF INDIAN
JOURNALISM BEFORE INDEPENDENCE**

Structure

Eminent Personalities of Pre Independence

James Augustus Hickey

Raja Ram Mohan Roy

Ghosh Brothers

Mahatama Gandhi

James Silk Buckingham

Bal Gangadhar Tilak

B.G. Horniman

Eminent Personalities of Post Independence

Khushwant Singh

Kali Nath Roy

Sadhu Singh Hamdard

Palagummi Sainath

Kuldeep Nayyar

History of Indian News Agencies

-Sanchar

-PTI

-Bhasha

-UNI

-Univarta

-ANI

-IANS

Newspapers are one of the benefits of British rule. Although in the early years they served only the interest of ruling class but the Englishmen who pioneered present day journalism in India were those who were unhappy with the East India Company and were dead against corrupt practices taking

place among directors and other employees of the company. Hence East India Company which was ruling the country was suspicious of journalist and newspapers and didn't tolerate their criticism. On the other hand press in England was growing stronger. It was therefore; difficult to stop its functioning in India.

The first ever effort to bring out a newspaper was done by William Boltes in 1776. Boltes was a former official of the company who had resigned his job for having condemned by company directors for trying to flourish personal business under aegis of company. His planning to start a newspaper was seen as a real danger by the company and he was ordered to leave Bengal. M.Chalapathi Rau, the distinguished journalist had written in February 1980 edition of Vidura:

“The 200 year history of the Indian press, from the time of Hicky to the struggle for freedom, which has not yet ended. There have been alternating periods of freedom and of restrictions on freedom amounting to repression. The pioneering works on the Indian press, like that of Margaret Barns were stories of ‘arbitrariness and despotism of reforms’ and relaxation. The story of the Indian press is a story of steady expansion and also one of the press laws”

In 1780 **James Augustus Hicky** made history with starting ‘Bengal Gazette’ or ‘Calcutta General Advertiser’. Hicky himself described his journal as “A weekly political and commercial paper, open to all parties, but influenced by none.” This two sheet paper which appeared on every Saturday, specialized in exposure of the private lives of servants of the company, including the then Governor General Warren Hastings. It printed items taken from English newspapers, items of gossip and scandals of interest to European community. He soon earned enmity of Warren Hastings. He himself was an employee of the East India Company and took great pleasure in exposing private lives of people at high places. This led to an action against Hicky. In June 1781, he was imprisoned for a year and fined Rs 2000. Even during his imprisonment, ‘Bengal Gazette’ continued to appear regularly and with the same vigour. But when Hicky attacked Mrs. Hastings through his writings in paper, the Governor-General took final action against Hicky in March, 1782, the types for printing the paper were seized and Hicky forcefully deported on the Governor General's orders. It was the end of Hicky's Gazette. It had barely lived for two years. As a tribute to the courageous career of the doyen of Indian journalism, M.Chalapathi Rau says; “With all his faults he was a pioneer.”

Within six following years since 1780, five newspapers (four Weeklies and one Monthly) made their appearance from Bengal. The ‘India Gazette’ published by M/s B.Messink and Peter Reed came out with the permission of the Governor-General in 1780. Later it was named ‘Calcutta Gazette’ and went directly under patronage of the government. The next year ‘Bengal Journal’

and monthly 'Oriental Magazine of Calcutta Amusement' came out. The 'Calcutta Chronicle' appeared in 1786. The 'Madras Courier' from Chennai (then Madras), which was officially owned by the Govt. printed Richard Johanson, came out in 1785. It was a weekly and was followed by another weekly paper, 'Harkaru' in 1793. 'Harkaru' lived for an year only while the monopoly of Madras courier went on till 1795. R. William brought out 'Madras Gazette' in this year. Censorship was also imposed in Madras in 1795.

In another Presidency City, Mumbai (then Bombay) there was no newspaper until 1789 when 'Bombay Herald' was started. The courier came up in 1790 and 'Bombay Gazette' in 1791. In 1792 'Bombay Gazette' merged in 'Bombay Herald'. The courier was first paper which printed advertisement in Gujarati to serve Indian readership.

In the early years of 19th century, Calcutta saw the emergence of first real journalist. **James Silk Buckingham** who started editing 'Calcutta Chronicle' in 1818. Buckingham was first professionally appointed editor while the paper was owned by some merchants of Calcutta who wanted to propagate their views and protect their commercial interests. Its first issue appeared on the streets of Calcutta on Oct. 2, 1818. The paper enjoyed popularity as it carried items of local Indian interest and did not play favorites with any political or commercial group. Another major feature which appeared in this paper was letters from correspondents and letters to the editor. These were popular for ventilating grievances. Everything went fine till 1823. On Nov 9 it ceased its publication. The chief secretary to the government, John Adams announced his regulations on the free press via compulsory prepublication licensing. Finally Buckingham was deported on March 1, 1823. James Silk Buckingham was a real journalist in whole of his blood. He started 'Oriental Herald' in England and continued with his efforts against misdeeds of East India Company's Government ruling over India. Later in 1853 Buckingham was a forceful voter to take over India's regime by the Crown instead of the Company.

In the beginning of the nineteenth century other popular newspapers were 'Bengal Harkaru', 'Friend of India' and 'Bengal Herald'. Sir Gangadhar Bhattacharji brought out 'Bengal Gazette' in 1818. It was the first venture in the field of journalism by a native. But it lived only for a year.

"Gangadhar Bhattacharjee had great influence over Raja Ram Mohan Roy. But he represented 'Progressive Hinduism' school of thought for which contemporary Hindu society was not ready. Probably Raja Ram Mohan Roy himself was responsible for Bhattacharjee's thought. Any how, as mentioned earlier, paper didn't carry for long. However another claim is found in history that this 'Bengal Gazette' went on for four years but this claim is not supported by any proof.

A regular newspaper in English by Indians was 'reformers' started by Prasanna Kumar Tagore and Bholanath Sen in 1831. Earlier, in 1829 Prasanna Tagore and Raja Ram Mohan Roy had invested in 'Bengal Herald' along with three

other Indians and a Britisher who officiated as editor. But, the authorities would not entertain native association with any publication and prevented Indians from running 'Bengal Herald'. The 'Reformer' however was popular with Europeans as it carried moderate views.

The Bengal Herald people had started a Bangla Weekly 'Banga Doot' also. And English weekly 'Hindu Patriot' was started in Calcutta in 1853 by Girish Chandar Ghosh. Two years later Harichandra Mukharjee, a government clerk took it over. Mukharjee was a forceful writer and he published articles on the miserable conditions in indigo plantations which lead to the government appointing an enquiry commission. After Mukharjee's death the 'Patriot' passed into the hands of the social reformer, Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar who appointed Kristo Pal, a well-known name in Indian journalism as editor in 1861. Pal served the paper until his death in 1884. 'Indian Mirror' an English fortnightly was started in 1861 by Manmohan Ghosh. In 1871, K.C.Sen took over the Mirror and converted it into a daily. Sen already owned a Bengali journal 'Sulab Samachar' which had a circulation of some thing around 4000.

A contemporary of James Silk Buckingham and first great Indian journalist was **Raja Ram Mohan Roy** (1772-1833). Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru has described him as founder of the Indian Press. He was the earliest champion of press freedom. He was a fighter for social reforms and he wielded his pen in many journals. Himself born in a Brahmin family, he learnt Persian, Arabic, Sanskrit and English. He joined service with East India Company and worked for around one and a half decade. In March, 1815 he resigned from the job to devote his time and energy for social reforms. He settled in Calcutta and started his reformist life there. He founded the 'Sambad Kaumudi' in 1821, in Calcutta. But lack of support from orthodox part of Hindu society and due to the success of 'Samachar Chandrika' the mouthpiece of same orthodox people; Roy was forced to close down in 1823 in protest against the press regulations in 1823. It was under these regulations that Buckingham had been deported in 1823. Raja Ram Mohan Roy's Persian paper was not first Persian paper. Actually there were already two or three papers in Persian, being printed by end of eighteenth century but their history is not known till today.

Ghosh Brothers

Sisir Ghosh and Moti Lal Ghosh, renowned generally as Ghosh brothers, were the sons of Hari Naryan Ghosh who was a rich merchant from Magura, in District Jessore, in [Bengal Province](#) of British Empire in India. Two of them are prominently known for their powerful work in Journalism, which played a pivotal role in the freedom struggle of India. Their major contribution in the history of Indian Journalism is that they founded India's oldest English newspaper *Armita Bazar Patrika*.

Amrita Bazar Patrika debuted on 20 February 1868, which actually started as a Bengali weekly newspaper in the village of Amrita Bazaar in Jessore district (now in Bangladesh). At that time there were not many publications though, as media was still in its initial stages, still there were some newspapers who were courageous enough to openly criticise the British Government. One such newspapers was Amrita Bazar Patrika still acknowledged as one of the 'Bravest ever' English Newspapers in India. Ghosh brothers acknowledged the power of pen and utilized it through Amrita Bazar Patrika to create awareness among the commoners. As it turned out the newspaper was at forefront of the struggle of common people against the colonial policies of Britishers.

At its inception the Patrika operated out of a battered wooden press purchased for Rs 32. The newspaper was fighting for the rights of peasants who were exploited by Indigo planters. Three years into its birth, plague hit Amrita Bazar and the newspaper had to move its base to Kolkata where it started publishing bilingually in both English and Bengali. The paper was quite open about its criticism of the government's policies that were not good for people. Naturally, it did not go well with the British Government.

Taking into account the damage the newspaper was afflicting to British Government, Sir Ashley Eden, the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal called Sisir Kumar Ghosh, the editor, offering him to contribute to the newspaper if he allowed him to approve the final version before it went for printing. Sisir Kumar was quite courageous to decline the offer and also made a bold statement to him that, "there ought to be at least one honest Journalist in the land." As it turned out, Armita Bazar Patrika was accused of sedition and [Lord Lytton](#), the Viceroy of India promulgated the Vernacular Press Act on 1878 mainly against ABP. The police now had the power to confiscate any published material they deemed objectionable. Also, heavy fines were slapped on many newspapers and a lot of editors were jailed. As a matter of fact, this act was against newspapers that published in local languages so Amrita Bazaar Patrika stopped publishing in Bengali and started its English Publication. Quite amazingly, it turned into an English Newspaper in just one night. The Patrika became a daily in 1891. It was the first Indian-owned English daily to go into investigative journalism.

In the times to come Sisir Kumar Ghosh launched robust campaigns against restrictions on civil liberties and economic exploitation. He wanted Indians to be given important posts in the administration. Sisir and his brother Motilal

were deeply attached to Bal Gangadhar Tilak and when Tilak was prosecuted for sedition in 1897, they raised funds in Calcutta for his defence. They also published a severely critical editorial against the judge who sentenced Tilak to 6 years of imprisonment, for 'presuming to teach true patriotism to a proved and unparalleled patriot.' The newspaper moved ahead with its fearless reporting despite all the obstacles in its way and strongly opposed the partition of Bengal in 1905. There was a lot of criticism of [Lord Curzon](#), the Viceroy of India at the time and the Patrika referred to him as 'Young and a little foppish, and without previous training but invested with unlimited powers.'

The newspaper also intervened when Subhas Chandra Bose, along with a few other students got expelled from Calcutta Presidency College, and made sure that they got re-admitted to the University.

It is quite commendable to note that the Patrika kept up its nationalist spirit even after Motilal Ghosh's death in 1922. Higher securities of Rs 10,000 were demanded from it during the [Salt Satyagraha](#). The editor at that time, Tushar Kanti Ghosh (son of Sisir Kumar Ghosh) was imprisoned. The Patrika contributed its share to the success of its freedom movement under the leadership of Gandhi and suffered for its views and actions at the hands of the British rulers.

During the time leading to partition of India, the Patrika stood by the cause of communal harmony. The newspaper left its front-page blank for three days to oppose massive violence in Calcutta in 1946. And when India got its freedom on 15 August 1947, it published an editorial that read: It is dawn, cloudy though it is. Presently sunshine will break.

Origin and development of punjabi press

As far Punjabi journalism is concerned, the birth of Punjabi newspaper may be traced to the early decades of 18th century with the publication of English-Punjabi dictionary and the casting of gurmukhi type for the first time in 1854.

Gurmukhi Akhbar, a weekly paper brought out from Lahore in 1880 was the first weekly Punjabi newspaper. It was edited by Bhai Gurmukh Singh. He brought out another paper 'Vidyaarth' in 1881 and Sudhararak, a monthly and Khalsa Gazette, a weekly in 1886. On June 12, 1886, he started Khasla Akhbar. Giani Gurmukh Singh was father of Punjabi journalism who gave formal shape and size of newspaper to his periodicals.

Another thought, however, puts Shri Darbar Sahib (1867) as the first paper but as the language of the paper was Hindi with gurmukhi scripts the claim

becomes controversial.

In 1899, Dr Charan Singh (father of Bhai Sahib Bhai Vir Singh) brought out Khalsa Samachar from Amritsar.

Punjabi Press after Independence And Its Future

Introduction

The press has become a powerful media of social change in modern India. Before the advent of British Power in India, there was hardly any Press worth the name. Now, the press has made possible the large scale swift and constant exchange of views and the news among the different groups of people of country. The press has helped and is still holding in the eradication of social and religion evils such as Sati and infanticide. The press has proven a powerful weapon for the reform of society and religion and it will continue to do so.

Also discussed earlier, we would again highlight the Punjabi Press here.

Punjabi Press after Independence and Its Future

The Punjabi press is today in no way lagging behind any other language press in India. Today Punjabi newspapers are taking up diversity of subjects and coming up to the needs and expectations of their readers. Today they have proven themselves up to mark from every aspect.

‘Ajit’ is the maximum circulated daily in Punjabi today. This is the paper which started new traditions in political, social, literary field and various arts. It has touched highest technical heights in Punjabi circles and has done pioneering job for other Punjabi newspapers.

Ajit was started as an Urdu weekly from Lahore in 1941. Sadhu Singh Hamdard was its sub-editor then. In 1947, it rose to be daily and at the time of partition it shifted to Jalandhar under Managing Directorship of S. Amar Singh Dosanjh. In 1955 it became Ajit Patrika in Punjabi and four years after i.e. in 1959 it was named Ajit a daily under Editorship of S.Sadhu Singh Hamdard who himself was an excellent writer and poet in Punjabi. He did his Ph.D. from Guru Nanak Dev University and was, awarded titles of Shironmani Khojkaar by Punjabi Sahit Samikhya Board and Shiromani Patarkaar by Punjab Government. In his times, Ajit Bhawan which houses offices of Ajit was known centre of literary activities. Dr. Sadhu Singh Hamdard expired in 1984.

Ajit is run by a trust now. Its Managing Editor is Barjinder Singh Hamdard, the able son of Dr Sadhu Singh Hamdard. Barjinder Singh was first editor of another Punjabi daily Punjabi Tribune earlier. Ajit does not have any definite political, social or religious alignment. Now Ajit’s inclination towards Akali Dal of Punjab is evident but Ajit has its real inclination only towards Punjabi ideology. It claims in its title as custodian of Punjab, Punjabi and Punjabiat, the state, the

language and the culture of Punjab. There is no doubt that Ajit has always played constructive role in cultural and social fields. Among Punjabi newspapers, Ajit has the most qualified editorial staff. Most of its sub-editors and proof-readers are professionally qualified and well experienced.

Started by the Hind Samachar group of newspapers, Jagbani, another leading Punjabi daily was launched in 1978. This is the second most circulated Punjabi daily today. Lala Jagat Narain the founder editor was already bringing out Hind Samachar, (Urdu) and Punjab Kesari (Hindi), both successful newspapers in their respective languages.

Jagbani came out in that very year when Akali-Nirankari clash occurred in Amritsar. Jagbani pleaded the cause of Nirankaris and joined issue with 'Ajit' which was already supporting Akalis. As tensions rose 'Ajit' and 'Jagbani' went on consolidating support of their readership.

Lala Jagat Narain was one of the "first and most important person to fall to the extremists' bullets in 1981. Later in 1984 the Chief Editor of Hind 'Samachar Group of newspapers Ramesh Chandra, who was the eldest son of Lala Jagat Narain was also killed for supporting and propagating Hindi as their mother tongue in place of Punjabi, by extremists. In late 1990s the extremist groups imposed a ban on publication of this group. Resultantly scores of their agents and other related people were killed who either objected or defied the so called ban. So, this group was the worst sufferer media group of Punjabi.

Jagbani was launched at a time when many other leading Punjabi dailies were already in existence. These included Ajit, Akali Patrika and Nawan Zamana. Jagbani is more popular with non-Sikh population. It has powerful views page, international coverage, coverage on human interest stories, magazine sections special editions and above all the illustrations which are very popular with the readers. Jagbani is the publication of a very technically advanced newspaper group. It has in its kitty many prizes for its printing and remarkable presentation.

Punjabi Tribune was started in 1978 by the powerful Tribune Trust from Chandigarh. Its founder Editor was Barjinder Singh. Initially for some years the paper was regarded as a translation of 'The Tribune' but it managed to have its own set of readership in Punjabi journalism. 'Punjabi Tribune' came up in those days when Punjabi Press was bluntly divided as 'Hindu Press' and 'Sikh Press' 'Punjabi Tribune', since its inception, has always remained a neutral newspaper. It lays more stress on Punjabi culture, literature, folk-lore, and developmental news. Its presentation is more like that of 'The Tribune'. More popular in Malwa and Punjabi speaking people of Haryana, it has non-controversial policy pertaining to overall development of its readers. Its column 'Pindan Wichon Pind Sunida' became very popular with the masses. Punjabi Tribune was awarded national awards for printing and presentation.

These three leading Punjabi newspapers have an exclusive readership of their own. The second line of Punjabi newspapers includes party papers mostly. These include 'Ajj-di-Awaz', 'Desh Sewak', 'Nawan Zamana', 'Akali Patrika', 'Lok Lehar', 'Chardikala' and 'Ranjit'.

'Akali Patrika' was started in 1947 by S.Amar Singh Dosanjh. Giani Shadi Singh was its first editor. It was started at Amritsar and then shifted to Jalandhar. Later Ishar Singh Attari, Bharpur Singh Balbir, Niranjana Singh Mitha remained its editors. 'Akali Patrika' was a paper toeing the line of hardliners Akalis before 'Ajit' stole the show. It mattered much in party circles. Nobody contested its claims of having been started in 1920 from Lahore. But as popularity went down, administrative problems cropped up and it started going down. Importance though dipped, it still goes on.

'Ajj di Awaz' was started by hardliner Akalis of late 1980s and early 1990s. This paper may be seen as a product of Punjab turmoil. Its start was quite controversial as it appeared as mouthpiece of hard liners. It was started from Jalandhar and was more popular for having suffered at the hands of government. Its editor Gurdeep Singh was frequently arrested. Humiliation of its staff was common. Now, after end of turmoil of 1978-1993, this paper is concentrating more on social issues.

Another important Punjabi publication is 'Nawan Zamana', the paper with its known leanings towards C.P.I. The paper started from Jalandhar in 1952 as an Urdu newspaper. After four years it was turned Punjabi daily in 1956. 'Nawan Zamana' has its fortune for having Harkishan Singh Surjeet, Sohan Singh Josh, Arjan Singh Garhgaj, Avtar Singh Malhotra as editors. It was started as a paper of United Communist Party. Nowadays, Jasjit Singh Anand, a former member of Rajya Sabha is its editor.

'Lok Lehar' was started by Harkishan Singh Surjeet and Suhel Singh as a CPM paper from Jalandhar. After split of the party, the CPM started another paper in 1997 from Chandigarh, 'Desh Sewak', and Gulzar Singh Sandhu, a former editor of Punjabi Tribune was founder Editor of 'Desh Sewak'. He brought in professionally qualified staff and started carving its own niche.

Chardikala, Ranjit and Dharaledar etc are small scale papers (dailies) being printed from Patiala.

Among other periodicals in Punjabi was 'Quami Ekta' (Weekly) which was started by Rajinder Singh from Delhi in 1958 which was discontinued after his death. Delhi is capital of Punjabi weeklies and monthlies. Many literary magazines are coming from Delhi.

Some periodicals like 'Pardeshi' from Canada, 'Ekta', 'The Punjab' and 'Desh Paradesh' from Britain are chief Punjabi publications running successfully.

Post Independence

Khushwant Singh

Khushwant Singh was one of India's best known authors and journalists died on March 20, 2014 aged 99. Mr. Singh was born in 1915 to a prosperous business family in hadali, a village in the thar desert of what is now Baluchistan province in Pakistan. Educated in Delhi , Lahore and London, Mr. Singh was a practicing lawyer in Lahore when religious violence broke out in the days and weeks leading up to independence in august 1947. Like millions of other Sikhs, he crossed over to what would become Hindu-majority India.

Mr. Singh joined the Indian foreign service, served in Ottawa, London and Paris, and returned to Delhi to devote himself to writing. He was prolific.

He edited an influential magazine the illustrated weekly of India, and then the Hindustan times, an English language daily newspaper. His weekly column with malice towards one and all was very popular and was syndicated in many dailies. He wrote novels, history, translations of poetry, collections of jokes and newspaper columns about everything from politics to faith to sex. He repeatedly accused his fellow Indians of being sexually repressed.

Singh was nominated to rajya sabha by the government under late Indira Gandhi. He was a member of parliament from 1980 to 1986.

He was awarded the Padma bhushan in 1974 but returned the decoration in 1984 in the protest against the storming of the golden temple in Amritsar by the army. In 2007, he was awarded the Padma vibhushan.

Singh was known for his classics such as train to Pakistan and I shall not hear the nightingale.

Kali Nath Roy

Kali Nath Roy was a Freedom Fighter and the Chief Editor of the newspaper The Tribune then publishing from Lahore. His wife was Suniti Bala Roy. During the massacre of the Indians at Jallianwala Bagh in April, 1919. The Tribune published a news report titled "Prayer at the Jama Masjid" on 6 April 1919. For this offence Kali Nath Roy was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for 2 years along with a Fine of 1000 rupees.

Sandhu Singh Hamdard

Sadhu Singh Hamdard (Sadhu Singh Saini) (1918-1984) was a well-known freedom fighter and journalist of Punjab, excelling in both Urdu and Punjabi. He was an innovative poet, who carried in his name the pseudonym 'Hamdard', literally means "sharing with all the pangs of their hearts," "friendly towards all."

As a high school student, he was active in Chaudhri Sher Jang's group of the radicals in the Yug Paltai Dal, to impart a radical turn to the age. In 1944, Sadhu Singh entered the field of journalism. He took up editorship of Daily Ajit (Urdu) and retained this position till 1957. In 1955, he also became chief editor of the Punjabi Ajit. . He created a new taste in Punjabi writing and introduced new techniques.

Sadhu Singh surrendered his Padma Shri award after Indian troops attacked on holy shrine - golden temple Amritsar. The Punjab Government honoured him with the title of Shiromani Pattarkar in 1963. He was chairman of the reception committee of All India Newspapers Editors Conference held at Jalandhar in 1973. He also edited two monthly magazines Tasvir and Drishtl. During his lifetime, Sadhu Singh converted all his property and assets into a public trust for the advancement of Punjabi culture and letters. Dr. Sadhu Singh Hamdard was also awarded the title of Padma Shri by the Central Government in January 1984, but he surrendered the honour in protest against the army action in the precincts of the Golden Temple, Amritsar, in June 1984. Sadhu Singh Hamdard died a month later at Jalandhar on 29 July 1984. He was a poet and got his PhD degree from Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar. He contributed immensely to Punjabi journalism.

Palagummi Sainath

Palagummi Sainath a renowned journalist and photojournalist was born on 1975 to a Telugu speaking Brahmin family in madras. He mainly focuses on social problems, rural affairs, poverty and aftermath of globalization In India. He was the rural affairs editor of the Hindu. And he resigned in 2014. He is also the founding editor of the People's Archive of Rural India. Amartya sen has called him one of the greatest experts on famine and hunger. In June 2011, Sainath was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree (DLitt) by the University of Alberta, the university's highest honor. He is one of few Indians to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award, which he accepted in 2007 in the category of Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts. Sainath was educated at Loyola College. His preoccupation with social problems and commitment to a political perspective began when he was a student in college. He is a History graduate of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi where he was part of an activist student population.

He launched his career as a journalist at the United News of India in 1980 where he received the news agency's highest individual award. He then worked for the Blitz, then a major Indian weekly tabloid published from Mumbai with a circulation of 600,000, first as foreign affairs editor and then as deputy editor, which he continued for ten years. For the last twenty-five years he has been visiting faculty at Sophia Polytechnic's Social Communications Media course and also at the Asian College of Journalism in Chennai, inspiring a whole generation of young journalists.

Sainath then toured ten drought-stricken states in India, about which he recalled: "That's when I learned that conventional journalism was above all about the service of power. You always give the last word to authority. I got a couple of prizes which I didn't pick up because I was ashamed." He received many awards. And he is a person of good thoughts.

Kuldeep Nayar

Kuldeep Nayar was born at Sialkot, now in Pakistan on 14 August 1923 in a Sikh Khatri family. His parents were Gurbaksh Singh and Pooran Devi. He had his early schooling at the Ganda Singh High School with his sister Kirsten Marcus in Sialkot. After school, he studied at a number of institutes including Murray College (Sialkot), F.C.College(Lahore), Law College(Lahore) and Medill School of Journalism (Evanston, Illinois, U.S.). His degrees include B.A. (Hons.), LL.B., M.Sc. (in Journalism) and Ph.D. (Philosophy).

Kuldeep Nayar was a reporter, creditor, detainee during the Indian Emergency (1975 - 77), high commissioner to Great Britain, peacenik, Rajya Sabha member. He served as India's high commissioner to the United Kingdom in 1990 and then a member of India's delegation to the United Nations in 1996. He was appointed High Commissioner to Great Britain in 1990 and nominated to upper house of Indian Parliament, Rajya Sabha in August, 1997.

He joined daily waqt in May 2007.

Since 1985, Nayar has written a syndicated column that runs in 80 publications in 14 languages, both overseas and at home, including some of India's most influential newspapers and magazines.

Nayar is also the author of 11 books, including "Between the Lines", "Distant Neighbors: A Tale of the Subcontinent", "India after Nehru", "Wall at Wagah, India-Pakistan Relationship", "The Martyr", "Scoop" and "India House". He also came under the strict surveillance and annoyed some of the politicians and party members for disclosing very delicate and clandestine information in his book, "India-The Critical Years. "In 1999 he was awarded an Alumni Merit Award by Northwestern University.

Kuldeep Nayar has widely written about current issues and historic persons, including Jawaharlal Nehru, Daniel Smith and Barry Manilow. Nayar has advocated a policy of bilateral talks and engagement with India's neighbor Pakistan. He has been criticized by hardliners and right-wing politicians in India for his alleged soft spot for Pakistan.

Nayar's autobiography is titled "The Day Looks Old." He lives in New Delhi.

Amrita Bazar Patrika ceased its publication in 1991 but before that it had already set an example of fearless journalism in the country. Even today Sisir Kumar Ghosh and Motilal Ghosh are remembered as two courageous journalists who used the power of pen to shake the roots of oppressive British government. Undoubtedly, journalists of the modern-day India have a lot to learn from the fearless spirit of Ghosh Brothers. Also, it won't be wrong to say that they will always be remembered as those who started what is still known as the 'Bravest Newspaper in the country.'

HISTORY OF INDIAN NEWS AGENCIES

1. PTI (Press trust of India)

India's largest news agency, press trust of india, is a non profit sharing cooperative owned by the country's newspapers with a mandate to provide efficient and unbiased news to all subscribers. Founded on 27th august 1947, PTI began functioning on 1 february 1949. A television wing PTI tv does features and undertakes corporate documentaries on assignment basis.

Major services of the agency are headed by editors. The agency has a staff of 1600 including 400 journalists. There are over 100 bureaus across the country and 10 bureaus abroad. The agency also has about 300 stingers spread across all over the country. Major services offered are :

English news service- PTI news service in English is available in two forms. The core service covers major developments segmented service allows papers to pick up additional inputs from segments of their choice- national/ regional news. Core services put out about 40,000 words and the full segmented service over 100,000 words per day.

BHASHA- launched in 1986, the hindi language news service has its own network in hindi speaking areas.

PHOTO SERVICE- photoservice was launched in 1987.

ECONOMIC SERVICE- the fortnightly economic journal provides analytical reports besides a data update on the indian economy.

SCIENCE SERVICE- reports for the development in science and technology in india and abroad is a fortnightly mailer.

PTI FEATURE- a package of four weekly features provide an analytical insight on topical national, international and general events.

PTI MAG- provides ten special stories on topics ranging from arts to business to science in mailer weekly package. Also available on wire service.

GRAPHICS- a weekly mailer package of 14, PTI graphics covers all major developments.

NEWS SCAN- displays news in capsule form on video monitors.

STOCKSCAN- provides stock market information on video terminals for group display.

ASIA PULSE- an online data bank on economic developments and business opportunities in Asian countries. Formd by PTI and four other media organistaions , asia pulse international is registered as a company in Singapore.

PTI TV- provides spot and documentary cover for small screem on contact.

NON ALIGNED NEWS AGENCIES POOL (NANAP)- PTI is a redistribution centre for this part of the word for news exchange among news agencies of th non aligned countries. NANAP came into being in 1976.

ORGANISATION OF ASIA PACIFIC NEWS AGENCIES (OANA)- a grouping of about thirty news agencies of the Asian pacific region , includes PTI and UNI of india . it was founded in 1961.

Pti has covered 50 years of its operation. Its services are available on internet too.

**Growth and Development of
Print Media in India**

Lesson No. 1.4

AUTHOR : YOGINDRA MOHAN

**DIFFERENT SOCIO-RELIGIOUS AND SOCIO-POLITICAL
MOVEMENTS AND PUNJABI PRESS**

Kuka Movement

The Kuka Movement marked the first major reaction of the people in the Punjab to the new political order initiated by the British after 1849. The Namdhari Movement of which the Kuka Movement was the most important phase aimed at the overthrow of the British rule. Ram Singh, who became its leader in 1863, gave military training to his followers. It seemed inevitable that before a long clash would occur between the Kukas and the British Government. The clash actually occurred over the question of slaughter of cows. It started with murderous attacks on butchers of Amritsar and Raikot (Ludhiana District) in 1871 and culminated in the Kuka raid on Malerkotla on January 15, 1872. The Kuka outbreak of 1872 was visited by terrible punishment, which was equaled in brutality by few events in our history. A large number of kuka prisoners were blown to death with cannons, their leader Ram Singh was deported to Rangoon.

There were some of the militant movements which preceded the birth of the Indian National Congress. However it was the intellectual movement which now dominated politics. The political ideas and organizations which had taken root before 1857 now flowered into a new national or political consciousness. This was brought about by sudden revelation of India's past glory through the works of foreign and Indian scholars and large scale ex-cavations carried out by Alexander Cunningham. The preachings of various associations such as the Arya Samaj, Theosophical Society and Ramakrishna Mission also helped in this process.

Master Tara Singh was one of the first members among the 175 members elected to the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, whose formation provided a focal point for the movement for the reformation of the Sikh religious places. Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee began controlling gurdwaras one by one, but the trouble arose where the mahants were stubborn as they were shielded by law. Starting in late 1920, large number of reformers both in urban and rural Punjab had joined to form separate and

independent groups called jatha, for gaining control over their local gurdwaras. Leader of a jatha was called jathedar under whose command a jatha would occupy a shrine and try to gain transfer of management in its favor from its current incumbents. Sometimes the transfer went peacefully especially in the case of smaller gurdwaras with less income resources, and sometimes with the threat of force.

The Sikh leadership was fully aware of the importance of press for the success of any movement. It enlisted the active support and sympathy of some of the important nationalist papers in the country like *The Independent* (English), *Swaraj* (Hindi), *The Tribune*, *Liberal*, *Kesari* (Punjabi), *Milap* (Urdu), *Zamindar* (Urdu) and *Bande Mataram* (Hindi). Two of the vernacular dailies Akali (Pbi.) and the Akali-te-Pardesi (Urdu) also played an important role. It brought the necessary awakening among the Sikh masses and prepared them to undertake the struggle for reform. Master Tara Singh remained the editor of these two papers. With the direct and indirect support of the Central Sikh League, the Indian National Congress and the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, the Shiromani Akali Dal started a non-violent struggle against the government for the control of the gurdwaras.

Civil Disobedience Movement

In March 1930, Gandhiji declared the Civil Disobedience Movement. Baba Kharak Singh who was then the president of Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee opposed it while Master Tara Singh who was then the vice-president of the committee supported it. Master Tara Singh was opposed to a boycott of Gandhiji's Civil Disobedience Movement, as he considered it suicidal for the community to keep itself aloof from the national movement. He was successful in persuading Shiromani Akali Dal to extend its support to the civil disobedience movement and placed the immediate services of 5000 Akalis at the disposal of Mahatma Gandhi. He asked the Sikh councilors to resign from their posts. The Central Sikh League also decided to participate in the movement. A conference of representatives of the political parties like the Congress, nationalist Sikhs and Muslim was held at Lahore. Master Tara Singh assured the conference that nationalist Sikhs would not lag behind in the struggle for national independence.

The British Government let loose terror and inflicted untold atrocities on the people during the Civil Disobedience Movement. There were widespread disturbances in Peshawar, Kohat, Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan. In Peshawar alone there were nearly three hundred casualties. On April 23, 1930, in Kissa Kahani Bazar inside Kabuli Gate, Peshawar, the people were protesting against the arrest of their leaders in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement. The police opened fire and killed thirty-five people and again on May 31, opened fire on a procession taking the dead bodies of the two children

killed in another incident of police firing, killing a person again.

This incident stirred Master Tara Singh to the depth of his soul and as a mark of sympathy for the sufferers Master Tara Singh led a Sikh jatha of 100 satyagrahis to Peshawar. It was an impressive march and everybody admired the courage of Master Tara Singh as at that every movement there was a threat of police firing. Master Tara Singh was arrested on the way to Lahore and sent to the Gujarat jail, where other leaders arrested in connection with this movement were also interned.

During his imprisonment in jail he was elected the president of Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee in the annual elections replacing Baba Kharak Singh. He was now the President of two main institutions of the Sikhs, one religious and the other political.

It was during the 'Civil Disobedience Movement' that Master Tara Singh became endeared not only to the Sikh community, but also to the nation at large. It is estimated that the Sikh participation in the 'Civil Disobedience Movement' was proportionately the largest and the most glorious, as out of 7000 satyagrahi convicted in Punjab over 3000 were Sikhs, leaving the majority to be divided between the Hindu and Muslim citizens. The credit for this large mobilization goes to Master Tara Singh.

Shahidganj was a monument in the memory of those Sikh men, women and children who had laid down their lives in the defense of their religion in the first half of the eighteenth century. The 'Gurdwara Act' had also notified this as a Gurdwara and gave it for management to the local Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee of Lahore. In March 1935, this committee decided to repair the gurdwara which was in a bad condition. In the gurdwara premises there were ruins of a small building, which the Muslims claimed was a mosque. The gurdwara committee decided to raze it in the course of which a Sikh mason fell down from the roof and died. The Muslims regarded this accident as a punishment of God on a kafir that was razing a mosque. Some zealous Muslims began an agitation against the Sikhs, demanding that the demolition of the mosque should be stopped.

Later on they raised their demand to the restoration of the place to the Muslims. The Unionist Government tried all the means to handover the place to the Muslims, but Master Tara Singh refused to submit the possession of the gurdwara to the Muslims, while Sardar Sunder Singh Majithia favoured a compromise even if the Sikhs had to part with something. Sir Sikander called the leaders of the various communities at a 'Unity Conference' in July 1937. Master Tara Singh opposed the move as he had lost faith in the good intentions of Sir Sikander. In his letter of September 10, 1937 to him Master Tara Singh explained this decision that he and his colleagues believed that Sikander's efforts were to strengthen the Muslim position and to build a Muslim rule in Punjab.

Earlier, Sir Sikandar had tried to allure Master Tara Singh into a compromise by offering to withdraw a criminal case registered against him. It was also assured that Sir Sunder Singh's party would not contest Gurdwara elections against them. In the meantime the Lahore High Court and the Privy Council delivered their judgment in favour of the Sikhs. It was during these days that a prominent Muslim leader Maulana Shaukat Ali wrote a letter to Master Tara Singh with a view to opening 'negotiations with the Sikh Leaders regarding the Shahidganj question.'

Maulana Shaukat Ali met Master Tara Singh accordingly on October 3, at Shahid Sikh Missionary College, Amritsar, but, nothing concrete came out of the meeting as Master Tara Singh had already cleared his stand on the issue. In the meantime Muslim leaders and ulemas had called for enlisting one million volunteers in order to strengthen their agitation, which further complicated the situation leading to crimes against the Sikhs. On November 4, 1935 Master Tara Singh gave a final reply in the question of compromise or talks.

The legal and moral position of the Muslims in respect of the issue was extremely weak, so the Unionist government could not do much to help them. But in spite of all this, they urged their claim upon this building by force and unlawful means. When their activities defied the law and the authority of the executive government, they had to be suppressed with the help of armed troops. Sir Sikander although tried to take a sober view of the whole thing, but most of Unionist M.L.A.'s inside the legislative assembly supported the Muslim sentiments.

The British blamed Master Tara Singh for not coming to a compromise over the Shahidganj affair between the Sikhs and Muslims. Master Tara Singh, it alleged was, not in the least interested in any sort of compromise. According to reports, "at present a settlement depended more on him than on anything else". They considered that as the Gurdwara elections were imminent, therefore Master Tara Singh and his friends were afraid of giving a platform to their opponents. The outbreak of World War II in September 1939 and the launching of Pakistan Plan in March 1940 by the Muslim League altered the situation in the Punjab and the attention of both the parties was diverted from this issue.

Akali Movement

Master Sunder Singh Lyallpuri (1878-1969) was a great Sikh personality of twentieth century. A leading soldier of Indian independence struggle, a front-ranking general of *Akali Movement*, a leading educationist, a formidable journalist, a great patriot and a dedicated Sikh to the core, Master Lyallpuri was the one who had given birth to *Akali Movement* and Shiromani Akali Dal, reared them up and brought them to adulthood.

Pt Madan Mohan Malaviya was a very good friend of Master Lyallpuri. He had suggested to Master Lyallpuri that Akali should start one of their own English newspaper so that the Akal agenda and voice could reach every nook and corner of India. Accordingly, the 'Managing Board' of *The Akali* newspaper held a meeting under chairmanship of Lyallpuri and decided to found an English daily. The Board assigned the task to Master Lyallpuri and S Mangal Singh Gill. However, the move received a setback when Lyallpuri was arrested under section 124 'O' for writing what the English Government thought was objectionable material in *The Akali*. On release from jail, Lyallpuri resumed the efforts and put an advertisement in *The Akali* asking for donations for five Lakhs from Sikh Sangat.

In response, the Punjabi fans of Master Lyallpuri from Stockton (USA) immediately wired Rs 150,000. Another Rs 70,000 was contributed by local Sikh community with the efforts of Lyallpuri. S Mangal Singh Gill and Chanchal Singh (Jandiala, Jullundur) were made in charge of the newspaper. Pt Madan Mohan Malaviya and Master Tara Singh were members of the Managing Committee. K. S. Panikar was its first Editor. Devdas Gandhi was also on the editor's panel. The Managing Chairman and Chief Patron was Master Lyallpuri himself. The opening ceremony was performed by Mahatama Gandhi on September 15, 1924. The first issue was published from *Naya Bazar, Delhi* (Now: *Swami Sharda Nand Marag*). It was very unfortunate for the Sikhs that due to lack of experience, jealousy and betrayal of the fellows like Master Tara Singh and S. Mangal Singh Gill, as well as due to lack of viable financial resources, the *Hindustan Times* soon came into severe grip of financial crisis and its ownership had to be sold to Pt Madan Mohan Malaviya. Even Pt Malaviya could not keep it running for long and he sold it to G. D. Birla. The sale of the ownership of the *Hindustan Times* had caused a great mental anguish to Lyallpuri.

Besides the dailies like *The Akali* and *Hindustan Times*, Master Lyallpuri had started several weeklies also. The important in the list are: Akali, Azad Akal (Punjabi), Azad Akali (Urdu), Melu, Nawa Yug, Daler Khalsa, Kundan, Inkalab (Urdu), Sanjhiwal, and Guru Khalsa. Each of them ran for a while and then ceased due to political and financial or both reasons.

Vernacular Press Act 1878

The press sometimes created problems for British rule in India. The first newspaper, Bengal Gazette, was banned in 1782 because it carried content critical of British Government in India. To curb press's criticisms, Richard Wellesley, then governor-general of Bengal, regulated the press in 1799, according to which the press had to get permission from the government before publishing any manuscript including advertisements. During the Indian Rebellion of 1857, the "Gagging Act" had been passed by Lord

Canning with the objective to regulate the establishment of printing presses and to keep in check the tone of all printed material. All presses had to obtain a licence from the government. The Act also stated that no printed material shall show in bad light the motives of the British Raj, tending to bring hatred and contempt and exciting illegal resistance against the government. When the British Government realised that the Gagging Act was not strong enough to suppress all nationalist sentiments, it created a more draconian law, the Vernacular Press Act.

Vernacular Press Act was legislated in 1878, in British India, to curb the freedom of the Indian-language (i.e., non-English) press. Proposed by then viceroy of India, Lord Lytton, the law was enacted to prohibit the vernacular press from expressing criticism of British policies. The act did not apply to English-language publications. It led to strong and persistent protests from a wide spectrum of the Indians. It was inspired by the Irish press act, and it empowered government to censor reports and editorials in the Vernacular press. With passing of the act, government started regular tracking of Vernacular newspapers and issued warning to the newspaper that carried reports critical of government.

At the time the Vernacular Press Act was enacted, there were thirty five vernacular papers in Bengal, including the Amrita Bazar Patrika; Sisir Kumar Ghose was its editor. Sir Ashley Eden summoned Ghose and offered to contribute to his paper regularly on the condition that he gave him final editorial approval. Ghose did not agree, remarking that "there ought to be at least one honest journalist in the land." The Vernacular Press Act is believed to have grown from this incident. About the time the Act was legislated, Sir Ashley said in a speech that forty five seditious writings published in fifteen different vernacular papers were presented to him before the finalization of the Act.

The Vernacular Press Act held that any magistrate or Commissioner of Police had the power to call upon any printer or publisher of a newspaper to sign a bond, undertaking to refrain from printing a certain kind of material, and could confiscate any printed material it considered objectionable. The Act provided for furnishing all the proof sheets of contents of papers to police before publication. The police, not judiciary, had the power to determine what was seditious news. Many of the papers were fined, and their editors were put behind the bars under this act. Indian language press was (falsely) accused of subverting 'democratic' institutions, arousing agitations and violent incidents, levelling false allegations against government, endangering law and order to disturb the normal functioning of the state, threatening internal stability.

Suggested reading

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