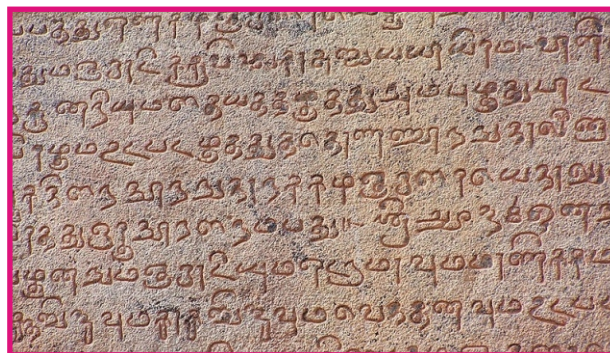


## Chapter-8

# Press-Culture and Nationalism

In today's world we cannot imagine a modern world without press. The press has been influencing every sphere of our life any-how, directly or indirectly. Be it a field of knowledge or information, entertainment or employment, the world is being governed by press directly. In today's world we only can imagine the situation of pre-printing time, when men did not get information immediately regarding the changing events and in the lack of knowledge and information, they were deprived of the development of logical and human nature.

Since 'need is the mother of invention', the need motivated the knowledge world for invention. Though invention is not a spontaneous or one day event, but it is a story of continuous developmental phases for centuries, which brought about a revolutionary change in universal thinking. The importance of the invention of printing press in this physical world is like fire, wheel, and script that with their presence gave a new dimension to the life style of the whole world.

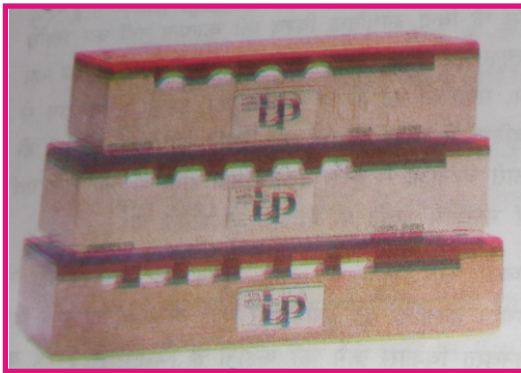


Ashoka's inscription in Brahmi script

## The history of printing up to Gutenberg:

In the very early time of human civilization, whatever human being saw, wanted to display it according to their natural intelligence and experience. Before the invention of writing materials, men delineated their experiences and themes by engraving them on rocks and on the walls of caves. For this they used clay tablets as well.

**Block printing: It is a technique of printing by putting paper on wood block or plate coated with ink on its surface**



**Wooden block**

Later on they began to display their knowledge on different sheets. In 105 (A.D.) T'Sai Lun, prepared paper by using cotton and strips of muslin. Consequently, paper became a source of writing and painting. The first technique of printing developed in China, Japan and Korea. It was started around 594 (A.D.) through the medium of wooden block. By 712 the technique spread in the limited areas of China. By 760 A.D. its popularity increased tremendously in China and Japan. Now block printing was used in printing the pages of books. One page was made by affixing two pieces of papers together. By first half of the 10<sup>th</sup> century, currency notes were also printed through block painting using the wooden block. In the second half of the century its imitation was started by anti-social elements.

The credit of invention and development of printing goes to China. A Chinese man, Bi Sheng prepared clay seal in 1041. Through this seal print could be taken by joining the letter seal. It could be rearranged and assembled. This method took the place of block printing. After some time the Koreans prepared type by engraving on wood and metal. The first book through the movable type of metal was printed in Korea in the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

For a long time the Chinese monarchy was the largest producer of printed materials, because she had to get the books printed in a large number considering the demands of the aspirants of civil services. By 16<sup>th</sup> century, due to increase in the number of examinees, there was increase in the printed books in that proportion as well. By flourishing the urban culture in China till 17<sup>th</sup> century, the consumer of the printed materials was not limited to the learned and officers only, but a new class also emerged in the form of traders and affluent women. By the advent of 19<sup>th</sup> century, to meet out the demands, Shanghai became a new centre of print-culture and manual printing was replaced by machine printing.

### **Beginning of printing in Europe : Role of Gutenberg**

Since the invention of the art of printing through movable types happened in the East, the art flourished in Europe. The main reason of this was that the Chinese, Japanese and Korean languages had more than 40 thousand letters, and it was quite difficult to make blocks of all letters to use. The art of wood block printing reached Europe, first in Rome by traders through the Samarqand-Persia-Syria route (silk route). The specimen of block printing reached Europe by Roman Missionary and Marco polo in the last of 13<sup>th</sup> century. This art was used there for printing of play card and religious pictures. Due to less number of letters of alphabet in Roman script the types made of wood and metal spread very fast. In the meantime the art of making paper reached Europe in 11<sup>th</sup> century and the first paper mill was established in Germany in 1336. In this period, due to spread of education, and the increasing activities of trade and missionaries the demand of printed material increased tremendously. To fulfil the demands there was need of fast and cheap printing technology that was finally done by Johannes Gutenberg of Strasbourg (in the decade of 1430).

### **Gutenberg and Printing Press:**

Gutenberg was born in an agriculturist-landlord-trader family in the Menz city of Germany. He was acquainted, from his childhood, with oil and live spiller machine. Gutenberg through his knowledge and experience

organised and gathered the historical search of disintegrated printing art and started work in an organised way on making punch matrix, mould etc. For making seal he invented

**Bismuth metal:** The characteristic of this metal is, that it expands on being cold; it was used so that it could compensate the contraction of other metals on being cold and maintain the magnitude.

a new suitable alloy through lead, tin and bismuth. Lead was selected for being cheap as well as its quality of transferring ink. The use of tin was done due to its hardness and melting properties.

Gutenberg as per the need prepared printing ink and used hand press

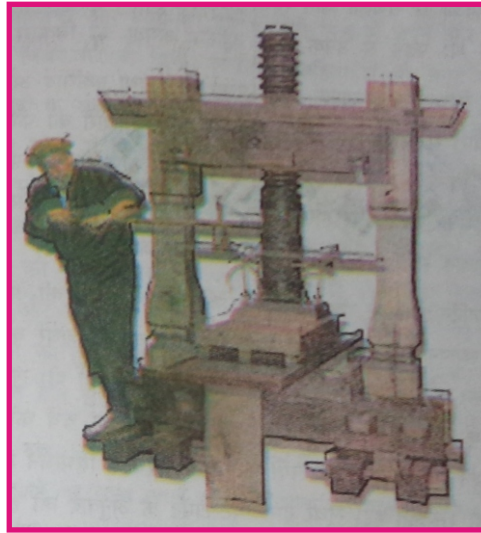


**Gutenberg**

for the first time in printing work. In the wooden frame of this hand press two plain parts-plate and bed- were put one under another in parallel way. The composed typed matter was fixed and tightened on the bed and applying ink upon it and then putting the paper, printing was done by pressing the plates.

A very clear, cheap and fast working Gutenberg's historical printing research started in 1440, when he got contract from a gold smith (money lender) named Fust for printing the Bible. It is believed that the old Bible of 42 lines and 36 lines were printed by Gutenberg, since there is no date of printing mentioned on it. Printing of the 421 lines of Bible was started by Gutenberg but it was completed by Fust and Schaeffer because both of them had taken the press of Gutenberg through legal process. After that Gutenberg printed the Bible in 36 lines in 1448 by redeveloping printing and hand press. After that Schaeffer printed a book named "Indulgence".

Despite being surrounded in controversy the printing art reached perfection. From beginning in Menz, it spread very fast in European countries and other places. Cologne, Augsburg, Vessel, Rome, Venice, Antwerp, Paris



**Handpress**

etc. developed as the main centre of printing. These cities, hereafter, earned their unique recognition as the centres of renaissance and business revolution. Sir William Caxton in 1475 brought print art to England and his first press was established at Westminster. Printing was started in 1544 in Portugal; thereafter it reached other places of the world in modern form.

#### **Multi-dimensional effect of Printing Art:**

As a result of increase in printing press there was unexpected increase in the production of books. By latter half of 15<sup>th</sup> century about two crores printed books entered in the European market and by 16<sup>th</sup> century the number increased upto 20 crores. This printing revolution changed the life of common people. Now the common people could associate themselves closely with information, knowledge, institution and power. Consequently change in public consciousness and vision became possible.

Due to printing art, now books were at the access of all sections of society. Being easy access to books, a new reading culture developed and a new class of readers emerged because only the literates could read books. So with the aim of increasing literacy, books were decorated with attractive pictures, folk songs and folk tales. Earlier the people who could get

knowledge through listening were now could even read books to get knowledge and information. Logical power developed among them through reading.

There was widespread dissemination of ideas through reading and learning and the door to rationalism and humanism opened. Even those who disagree with established ideas could spread their own ideas. In the minds of some people, there were many types of fear in terms of printed books, that after reading it what impact will be on the personality of the common people, it was fear that rebellious and irreligious ideas would flourish among the people and the power of precious literature will finish.

While commenting on religious prejudices, Martin Luther King , the religious reformer, wrote 95 theses. A copy of this was hanged at the door of the church of Wittenberg. Through this, Luther challenged the church for disputation. The essays of Luther became highly popular among the people (supporters of free ideas). Questions were begun to rise through the people over the power and character of Catholic Churches. Ultimately church was divided and Protestant Religious Reform Movement started. Thousands of copies of translated version of the New Testament translated by Luther were sold in a week and a second edition was to be published within three months. Luther, being grateful to printing, said "printing is the greatest award of God, the biggest gift". Thus printing created a new intellectual atmosphere and dissemination of new ideas of religious reforms movement reached to common people very fast.

Now even comparatively less educated persons became acquainted with different explanations of religion. From peasants to intellectuals started to do new explanation of the Bible. The Catholic Church became indignant with the views coming against the beliefs of Roman Catholic Church regarding God and Creators and started anti religious thoughts. In this way ban was imposed on the publishers and book-sellers of opposite ideology.

Churches of different communities started educating the people of poor class by establishing schools in rural areas. Due to this the literacy rate increased from 60 percent to 80 percent. Now the poor of villages too started



reading cheap books, chap books, calendar, vilniyothik blue and history. From the early 18<sup>th</sup> century interesting news were provided through papers and magazines. Thus the matters related to science and philosophy were not out of the reach of common masses. The books of Newton, Toms pen, Voltaire and Rousseau were largely printed and read. Consequently the thought of science, logic and rationalism got place among the popular literature.

By the middle of 18<sup>th</sup> century, due to printing revolution, the light of enlightenment and progress had spread in Europe. To fight against the despotic power transmission of moral courage had been started. Printing culture prepared a conducive situation for the French Revolution as well. Writings of the revolutionary philosophers presented criticism to the custom and tradition, superstition and despotism. Now truth was measured on the touchstone of wisdom and logic instead of tradition and custom. Attacks were being done on the autocratic power of State and the religious power of the Church. The social system based on traditions became weaker. Now critical, questioning and logical vision started developing among the people.

Printing bred a new culture to debate. Evaluation began among common people upon ancient and traditional values, institutions and rules. From testing religion and belief on the touchstone of discursiveness, humanistic viewpoint began to develop. This type of new common world gave birth to social revolution. The new literatures endeavoured to instigate common people against the autocratic monarchy.

#### **Technical development:**

By the end of 18<sup>th</sup> century press were made of metal. By the mid of 19<sup>th</sup> century Richard M. Ho had made the power generated cylindrical press successful. Through this 8000 sheets of paper could be printed in one hour. Offset press had arrived by the end of the century, through which printing in six colours simultaneously



**Printing Press**

was possible. From the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century the electrically operated printing press started to work fast. The quality of plate was improved due to its improvement technicality. Photo-electrical control was used for paper roll and colours. Now books were provided to readers in cheap rates and attractive covers and pages. Before these books, people acquired knowledge through manuscript that was not available for general students because they were very old, costly and rare.



**Printed manuscript**

printed many books in Konkani. The Catholic priests published

### **Development of Press in India:**

In India before the development of printing press there was an old and rich tradition of making handwritten manuscripts. Here creation of Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian literatures were done innumerable, decorated with beautiful pictures and filled with art of calligraphy. To give strength the pages were fastened in book shape. Still the manuscripts were very fragile and costly. Being the writing of manuscripts difficult and non availability in abundance, they were beyond the reach of common people. The invention of printing press changed the condition of India as well. In India the first press was brought by the Portuguese missionaries in 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Jesuit priests



first book in Tamil in 1579. The Dutch Protestants printed many books in translated versions. The beginning of newspapers in India is an important feature. The press became not only an unavoidable social institutions but played a very important role in giving a shape to the feelings of Indians against British Government and to bring awakening against their policies and exploitations and nation building through arousing patriotism.

### **Establishment of newspapers:**

Beginning of modern Indian Press began with the publication of a newspaper by William Bolts in 1766 but being peeved with his work the East India Company send him back to England. In 1780, J. K. Hikki started publication of a newspaper ' Bengal Gazette'. Hikki also had to face punishment in an offence of criticising the Company. The government confiscated the press of Hikki. The 'India Gazette' published in 1780 was the second Indian newspaper. By the end of the 18<sup>th</sup>



**J. K. Hikki**

century in Bengal, 'The Calcutta Carrier', "The Asiatic Mirror' ' The Herald' and 'The Madras Carrier, 'The Madras Gazette' etc were began to be published. All these were weekly papers and published on different days. The speciality of these papers was that they were not competitors to one another rather than complementary. These papers were limited to Company's officers, traders and missionaries only.

The first newspaper published by Indian was the weekly 'Bengal Gazette' of Gangadhar Bhattacharya in 1816. The British merchants took the services of a journalist named James Silk Buckingham, in 1818. By editing the 'Calcutta Journal' with great calibre he put Lord Hastings and Johns Adams



Front page of 'Amrit Bazar Patrika'

into trouble and complication. Buckingham through his journalism made press as the reflection of the masses. He inclined press to adopt critical viewpoint to give news after investigation and to provide leadership. Due to his progressive work he became a target of the company. Consequently he was sent back to England.

With the publication of newspapers 'Samvad Kaumudi' in 1821 in Bengali and 'Miratul' in Persian, in 1822, the publication of papers of progressive national movement began. The founder of these papers were

Raj Ram Mohan Roy who made it a weapon of socio-religious reforms movement as well. Roy also published Brahminical magazine in English. 'Dainik Bombay' started to be published from Bombay in Gujarati in 1822. Bangdutt was established in 1830 with the effort of Dwarikanath Tagore, Parsanna kumar Tagore and Ram Mohan Roy. The publication of 'Jam-e-Jamshed' began in 1831, 'Guftar' and Akhbar-e-Saudagar was started in 1851.



**Raja Ram Mohan Roy**

The British administrators did not welcome the discussion of Indian newspapers over the then social, religious and political problems and did dirty efforts to ban the press.

### **Characteristics of press in the changing perspective of time:**

Due to lack of consciousness in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, from the common people to Zamindar had no interest in politics. As a result of that distribution of news-papers was very meagre. Journalism was a business of loss. Even the English administrators did not care for newspapers as they did not have any special impact on public opinion. However, the religious and social reform movement got strength and Indian public opinion awakened because of the criticism in newspapers related to legal decision, bias, religious interference and racial discrimination.

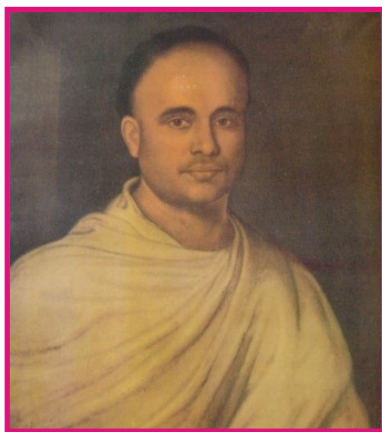
The division of the nature of newspaper, after the mutiny of 1857, can be done on the racial basis. There were two types of press : Anglo Indian Press and Indian Press. The feature and nature of Anglo-Indian Press was exotic. It

was the supporter of divide and rule policy in India. It was a terrible critic to the efforts of unity between the two communities. Through these newspapers they always charged Indian leaders to be 'unloyal' to 'the Raj'. The Anglo-Indian press had some special rights. Government news and advertisements were given to them. They had very intimate relation with the government.

The Indian newspapers were published in English and other Indian languages. The leaders, Ram Mohan Roy, Surendra Nath Banerjee, Balgangadhar Tilak, Dada Bhai Naoroji, Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi, Mohammad Ali, and Maulana Azad etc. made the Indian press powerful and effective in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

In 19th century there were many newspapers that were edited by the English. The newspapers were The Times of India 1861, The Statesman 1875, the Englishman from Calcutta, the Madras Mail from Madras, and The Pioneer in 1865 from Allahabad, The Civil and Military Gazette in 1876 from Lahore had started to be published. "The Englishman" was traditional and reactionary newspaper, while 'The Statesman' was supporter of the liberal thoughts. It was a critic of both the government and the congress. The Pioneer was supporter of the government and a critic to the Indians.

#### **The newspapers edited and published by the Indians:**



**Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar**

daily edited by Indians. Keshavchandra Sen started publication of a Bangla daily 'Sulabh Samachar'.

Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar started the publication of 'The Som Prakash' as a weekly in Bengla. It was filled with the nationalist ideologies. It supported tremendously the cause of Indigo farmers, Owing to its activities, Lord Litton proclaimed Vernacular Press Act. After some years Vidyasagar took over 'the Hindu Patriot' also. Its London Correspondent Surrender Nath Tagore and Manmohan Ghosh, started publication of 'the Indian Mirror' between 1874-75. It was the only north Indian

The publication of 'English-Bangla' weekly 'The Amrit Bazar Patrika' from 1868 in the editorship of Motilal Ghosh has special place in the history of press. To avoid the implications of Lord Litton's Vernacular Press Act overnight the paper was started to be published in English.

'Bangawasi' was started in 1881 in the editorship of Rajendra Nath. Its circulation figure reached 8500 copies. Surendra Nath Banerjee achieved success in making 'Bangali', an effective paper of nationalist and political thoughts. The publication of Bangwasi Aryavarta, Uchitvakta, Bharat Mitra etc. started from Kolkata. 'Hindustan' in Hindi was taken out from Kalakand (U.P.). It was the supporter of the liberal thoughts.

Bharatendu Harish Chandra has a very important place in the field of Hindi Journalism. 'Kavi Vachan Sudha' began to be published in his editorship from Banaras in 1867. The editorial notes of the paper was related to political and social topics. That had been supporting to strengthen the socialist ideologies. 'Harishchandra' the monthly magazine of Bharatendu was published in 1872. It was also filled with the sense of patriotism and social reforms. Among the journals, nurturing the nationalist thoughts, the Hindi 'Pradeep' of Balkrishna Bhatt, and Bharat Jeevan of Ram Krishna Verma have a very special place. The English monthly 'Hindustan Review' was published by Sachidanand Sinha in 1899. The point of view of this monthly was political.

By the last two decades of 19<sup>th</sup> century, the horizon of national movement was expanding gradually. Consequently the new wave of national movement and foundation of congress widely influenced the development of press and circulation of the newspapers.

From Bombay in 1881 'Maratha' in English and 'Kesari' in Marathi began in the editorship of Gangadhar Tilak. Both the papers were influenced with the ideology of extreme nationalism. They had a wide impact on the masses. M. G. Ranadey started 'Indu Prakash' in 1862 while Firoz Shah Mehta started the publication of 'Bombay Chronicle' in 1913.

The work of spreading extreme nationalist in Bangal was done through the 'Jugantar' and 'Vandematram' of Arvind Ghosh and Virendra Ghosh.

The Hindu published in 1878 from Madras as a weekly, assumed the form of a daily in 1881. The viewpoint of this paper was liberal.



Dr. Annie Besant also used newspapers as a means of promulgating the national movement. She took 'The Madras Standard' in her control and giving it a new name 'The New India', made the slogan of Home Rule accessible to the masses.

Mahatma Gandhi was not only a successful politician but also a great journalist. He promulgated his ideologies and nationalist movement through 'Young India' and 'Harijan'. He made the government acquainted with his political philosophy and programmes and trained the mass of India for a great movement. The Indian press being influenced with the personality of Gandhi became to be fearless. Through the plain and simple essays of Gandhi, the regional journalism, together with the common masses, got support to associate with the movement.

Newspapers not only gave a new dimension to the nationalist movement but influenced and supported education, economic development, industrialisation and labour movement in India.

Motilal Nehru became the editor of 'The Independence' in 1919. Shiv Prasad Gupta took charge as the editor of Hindi daily 'the Aaj' and K. M.

Pannikar started the editing of 'The Hindustan Times' in 1922. Later, the editorship of The Hindustan Times came in the hands of Madan Mohan Malviya, and finally G.D. Birla took the paper in 1927 in his hand. Due to expansion of socialist communist ideologies, Marathi weekly revolution was representing works and peasants party of India. The



**Gandhiji and Jawahar Lal in the then newspaper**

English weekly, the 'New Spark' and 'The Congress Socialist' were the supporters of communist and socialist ideologies respectively.

In 1930 M. N. Roy started English weekly 'The Independent'. 'The Free Press Journal' was started under the editorship of S. S. Sadanand. The publication of 'Swaraj' from Madras and 'Nawajivan' from Gujrat also started.

Urdu journalism also developed between 1910-20. The publication of 'Al Hilal' in 1912 and 'Al Bilagh' in 1913 was from Calcutta under the editorship of Maulana Azad. Mohammad Ali started 'The Comrade' in English and 'Hamdard' in Urdu. The publication of 'Pratap' began in Kanpur from 1910 in the editorship of Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi. It was a great supporter of militant nationalism and farmer worker. 'The Gaadar' was published from San Fransisco in 1913 by Hardayal. It was a paper filled with secular and democratic feelings. It was also published in Punjabi from January, 1914. The paper remained very active in arousing the sense of patriotism among the Indians living abroad.

As far as the relation of Urdu press with the nationalist movement is concerned, it was a terrible critic of British Raj during the mutiny of 1857 and thereafter. But the increasing influence of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan in national politics, prompted it to make new provision for the relation of Muslims with the congress supported national movement and British Raj. Although the Urdu Press generally did not agree with the ideologies of Syed Ahmad. The papers published in the editorship of Maulana Azad, Mohammad Ali and Abdul Bari were full of nationalist feelings. The subscribers from among these were much more than the Aligarh journal of Sir Syed.

### **Role and Impact of press in National movements:**

The press directly influenced every aspect of national movement be it political, social, economic or cultural. The national leaders, revealing the exploitation policies of British Raj, worked for awakening the masses. The work of showing right path and raising voice fearlessly against imperialism was done through the medium of press.

Before the beginning of Indian National Movement, the papers were representing the public opinion in the country. The patriots did not adopt journalism as a means of profit or business point of view, yet they took it as a mission. The papers took the responsibility of imparting political lesson on their own. The position of the most of the papers was different from the solicitation policies of the congress. The papers were supporting the masses to take part in the political matters. In the papers, all the year round, the resolutions passed in the annual sessions of congress was discussed. This intensified the publicity of national consciousness. Criticism of the discriminatory policy of the Britishers was done by Bharatendu in these words “What is the reason that the Hindu magistrates could not punish the English, but the English to Hindu? Only discrimination!”

The press performed the job of voicing great discontentment towards new education policy. It also raised voice against the economic exploitation carried out in the country by the Britishers. Giving incisive description of the economic plight, a paper wrote that by imposing taxes (tikas par tikas) on trade and commerce and getting high salaries the government authorities have taken away all money from here to foreign land. Here is not enough money to bear the common expenditure. The Secretary of State to England get five times more salary than the Governor General of India.... but India is not a Kamdhenu (milk cow), this is a must for the English to know.” 'Bharat Mitra' opposed the export of rice from India. There were differences of thoughts among the papers over the miserable economic condition of India. For this miserable condition, the Indian press held the exploitation policy of the Britishers responsible while the Anglo Indian press viewed the British Raj capable to take India out of this situation. In the eye of the most of the papers the real problem of India was more economic, than political. Evocation was made by the newspapers to stop the money drain from India. In the newspapers, strong criticism was made against the transfer of capital to Shimla in summer season. They too, supported Swadeshi. As a newspaper wrote, Swadeshi will be more profitable for Muslims than Hindus.

In the field of social reforms, the press continuously published critical essays related to social orthodoxy, traditions, superstition and the impact of English culture. The social reformers like Ram Mohan Roy, Vidyasagar, Keshav Chandra Sen etc. made press their weapon to make public opinion.

The editors always adopted positive attitude towards the Indian Kings. Whenever their rights were transgressed by the high authorities, the press criticised it. The press sensitized the kings towards their moral generation and responsibilities of their subjects also. The press made strong criticism against the Kings of Kuch Bihar, Patiala, Rampur for their negligence of public interest and indulging in entertainment and addiction. Few newspapers welcomed the steps of Lord Curzon to ban the foreign trips of Kings due to extravagance.

The press reviewed extensively the foreign policy of India. The press openly criticised, Burma War, policy towards Sikkim and Tibbet, Afghanistan War, policy towards Turkey, the incidents of South Africa (Boar War) description of Russia Japan war and the policy of government. Criticising the Gladston's Barma related policies, the press made it clear that the war was fought in the interests of British imperialism rather than the protection of Indians.

The efforts of Gandhi made in South Africa were mentioned in Indian press. Initially the Indian press were happy over Boar victory against Britishers. The Press viewed the defeat of Russia, in Russia-Japan war (1904-1905) as an opportunity in augmenting self-confidence and nationalism. Due to increasing impact of Russia in central Asia, the English were extremely frightened. In this situation, by praising the Russian administration by the Indian press, efforts were being made to exert pressure over the Britishers.

With regard to Turkey the press played a tremendous role in expressing the feelings of Indian Muslims before the government and the people. Although the opinions of some other including Sir Syed were different. On the issues of Armenia and Balkan (1912) the Muslim Press 'Zamindar', 'Al Hilal', 'Touheed', 'Hamdard', 'Comrade' etc. using their full power, aroused national feelings across the country against the Britishers.

The role of press remained very important in giving a new direction to the country's national movement and nation building also. The press by reviewing the policies of the government and forming public opinion, paved the way to oppose government in a democratic way. With regard to remaining the social evils and maintaining political and cultural unity, work

was done among the people across the county. The press also did a job to certify the freedom movement with the foreign political events. The ban over newspapers by Vernacular Press Act of 1877, stirred the national movement and the masses. Division of Bengal by Lord Curzon gave new life both to the Indian press and national movement.

In this period, both the press, Hindu-Muslim, made efforts to bring unity among the Hindus and the Muslims against the Christians. 'Nizamul Mulk' and 'Akhbar-e-Aam' called upon to make an organised opinion against the Christian government. The Muslim press adopted a logical view point towards communal riots also and did not accept recklessly the instigating policies of the government. The press played a commendable role in maintaining the communal harmony taking favour of the Ganga-Jamuni culture (the composite culture) of India.

After Surat split (1907) due to ideological difference in Congress, the leaders of the moderate group used press as a means to convey their ideologies to the people. On the other hand the press did work for disseminating the ideologies of extremist nationalism under the leadership of Bal-Lal-Pal. The important national leaders of both sides were founder as well as editor of many papers. The great leaders like Firoz Shah Mehta, Tilak, Annie Besant and Gandhi wanted to attain public opinion for national movement through editorials in the newspaper. The papers of Indian languages, making emotional relations with the common masses, prepared them in favour of national movement. Thus the Indian press made very important contribution in spreading nationalism. The press intensified the process of national movement and nation building, tying all India into one thread, bridging the gap among different communities and making public opinion against exploitation.

### **Ban against press:**

With publication of newspapers in India, the review of government policies had been started. Initially, under the company governance, there was no modal code of conduct for the newspapers. It was based on the company's



free will to decide punishment towards newspaper or editor in case of the task not suited to the company. As such the papers were at the mercy of the company. Due to the pre-supervision policy, the company returned the editor back to England, for not being flexible. But they could not do such with the Indian editors. Thus, new Acts were passed to control the newspapers.

### **1. The censorship of Press Act 1799:**

Lord Wellesley with the apprehension of French attack, imposed censor on press. Under this Act, the newspaper had to clearly publish the name of the editor, publisher and proprietor. Before printing any material it was to be submitted to the government's secretary of censorship. In 1807, the Act was imposed on magazines, pamphlets and books also. Some relaxation was given in the period of Hastings and by 1818 pre-censorship was completely stopped.

### **2. The Licencing Regulations of 1823:**

John Adams, becoming the Governor-General in 1823 expressed his reactionary views in this act. According to this, licence had to be obtained to establish a printing press. The penalty for printing or publishing without the requisite license was Rs. 400 or imprisonment thereof. Magistrate were authorised to confiscate the printing press without permission. The Governor-General had right to cancel the license. Under this act the 'Mirat-ul-Uroos' of Raja Ram Mohan Roy had to be closed down and J. S. Verkinghum had to displace in England.

### **3. The liberation of Indian Press 1835:**

William Bentinck was liberal towards press but by repealing the ordinance of 1823, Charles Metcalfe, earned the epithet of 'Liberator of the Indian Press'. Macaulay was of the view that if the government has infinite power in emergency, there is no need of such laws in peaceful time. Under this Act the publisher could do his job peacefully by giving information regarding the place of publishing. The law continued till 1856 and consequently the number of newspapers in country increased unexpectedly.

### **4. The licencing Act, 1857:**

According to 1857 Act, licencing was again imposed. It was imposed for one year only as emergency provision.

## 5. The Registration Act 1867:

Under this Act, Metcalfe's Act was replaced, pertaining to regularise the printing presses. By this Act every book or newspaper was required to print legibly on it the name of the printer or publisher and the place of publishing. Further, within one month of the publication, a copy of the book had to be supplied to the government. Provisions for short term and full-term punishments were made for the sedition mongers due to Wahhabi rebellion.

## 6. The Vernacular Press Act 1878:



**Lord Litton**

After 1857, even the press was divided into the government and the governed. The English press always supported the government. But the Vernacular Press openly aroused national feelings against imperialist policies. The news of famine and extravagance by the government created great discontentment among the masses. Litton knew this that the reason of resentment was the policies of 'Macaulay and Metcalfe'. Consequently, he endeavored to bring the press in his control through the Vernacular Press Act. By this Act the District Magistrate could permit a press to publish a newspaper on bond and security on the condition that no instigating news against the crown will be published. For this the decision of the Magistrate will be final. A Vernacular newspaper could get exemption from the operation of the Act by submitting proofs of the paper to the government censor.

The Act proved to be gagging and discriminatory. It was successful in controlling the language and emotion of newspapers. The new Secretary to India Lord Cranewook deleted the clause in September, 1878. Press Commission was appointed in its place, with responsibility to publish a true and beneficial newspaper. Lord Ripen who was a real liberal ruler, repealed

this Act. But according to the Act, 1898, provision was made that increasing resentment among army and motivating to act against the government, could be punished. The Vernacular Act worked at catalyst in the sense of nationalism and public resentment.

#### **7. The Newspaper Act, 1908:**

The sense of militant nationalism was flaring up against the policies of Lord Curzon. To repress it the Newspapers Act was enacted in 1908. According to it the government could confiscate property connected thereto of newspapers which published objectionable material which served as incitement of murder or acts of violence. His government was empowered to annul any declaration made by the printer under Registration Act, 1867. The newspaper publishers were given the option to appeal to the High Court within 15 days of forfeiture of the press.

#### **8. The Indian Press Act, 1910:**

The Act revived the worst features of Lord Lytton's Press Act 1878. The government was empowered to forfeit the security money and cancel the registration. In case of re-publishing objectionable materials, the government had power to confiscate the printing press and all copies of the book. During the 1<sup>st</sup> world war, under India security rule, there was no permission to do political movement and independent public criticism. At the recommendation of the press committee, 1921, headed by Tej Bahadur Sapru, the Acts of 1908 and 1910 were repealed.

#### **9. The Indian Press (Emergency Provisions) Act 1931:**

According to this Act all orders passed in 1910 were re-enforced. Under this, provisions were made to award stringent punishment to those who were found guilty for instigating crime directly or indirectly. This Act was brought to suppress all the activities that could harm the sovereignty. During the Second World War, pre-censorship was reinforced and one time the publication of all news related to the Congress activities were declared illegal. All these powers were terminated in 1945.

## 10. The Press Examination Committee:

The Committee constituted in March, 1947, recommended, in reference to the fundamental rights elucidated by the Constituent Assembly, to repeal the Press Act 1931, Princely State Act (Unity against resentment), and Native State Security Act 1934.

## 11. The Press (Objectionable Matters) Act, 1951:

In 1951, the government required amendment in Article 19(2) of constitution and to pass the Press Act. Through this, all Acts till date, were repealed. The Act empowered the government to demand and forfeit security from presses and newspapers for publication of 'objectionable matter'. The printers were allowed to solicit examination through jury. This act continued till 1956.

In view of the protest against this Act, by various journalist organisations, the government constituted a Press Commission under the Chairmanship of Justice G. S. Rajadhiyaksh. The commission submitted many suggestions, including the formation of All India Newspaper Council in 1954, that were accepted.

## Role of Press in India after Independence:

On the global level, printing from its beginning to freedom movement in India, passed through different situations before reaching due to its utility (importance or use) in such position, that all activities related to knowledge world are being influenced by it. Today, journalism is directly influencing, literature recreation, superstition, chat, humour, cartoons, all practices, science, administration, politics etc.

In today's modern time press is the repository of rich consciousness of literature and society and newspapers and journals are accounts of mobility. In post-independence India, even if the purpose of newspaper and journal is business, but it has played an important role in arousing the literary and cultural interests. In the context of happenings of day to day incidence, the newspapers and journals, by using new and simple terminologies have made contribution in the development of philology. By arousing consciousness in society, the press initiated revolution in social, religious, political and in daily life. The press always raises the issues of social evils such as dowry system, widow marriage, girl-killing, child marriage, and thus has always helped in removing these evils as well as superstition prevalent in the society.

In today's changing time the press has become a source of healthy entertainment. Even in today's fast and stressful life it entertains the readers by publishing prominently the news from cinema to sports world. The press through mutual chat, humour, cartoons, question-answer, Phooljhadi, Qahqahen, to Kaanv- Kaanv, provides subtle message to society and entertainment also.

Today the press is going to be a symbol of creativity in society. It introduces society to the latest achievements, scientific researches, scientific equipments and services. The journalists bring before the society the boon and bane of science through the medium of incidents. So that the common people should also think in the context of world welfare.

Today the press in the form of the fourth estate, stands like a vigilant watchdog to protect the constitutional values. Together with providing positive direction to present politics it also attempts to knock over the corrupt system.

Thus we see that the press passing through different situations from the first stage of its development to till date, and being the protector of all traditions and value is playing its important role is a main source for understanding the present social, scientific and political activities.



**Indian team playing cricket**



## EXERCISE

### Objective questions:

1. Which newspaper was edited by Mahatma Gandhi?  
(a) Common weal (b) Young India  
(c) Bangali (d) Bihari
2. Which paper changed its language overnight to be exempt from the Vernacular Press Act?  
(a) Hanjan (b) Bharat Mitra  
(c) Amrit Bazar Patrika (d) Hindustan Review
3. Who carried away the modal of block printing to Europe in the 13<sup>th</sup> century?  
(a) Marco Polo (b) Nikitin  
(c) Tsing (d) Megasthenese
4. In which country was Gutenberg born?  
(a) America (b) Germany  
(c) Japan (d) England
5. Which book was printed first by Gutenberg?  
(a) The Quran (b) The Gita  
(c) The Hadees (d) The Bible
6. Who was the carrier of art of printing to England?  
(a) Hamilton (b) Caxton  
(c) Edison (d) Smith
7. Who said, 'Printing is the greatest gift of God?'  
(a) Mahatma Gandhi (b) Martin Luther  
(c) Prophet Muhammad (d) Jesus Christ

8. Rousseau, the philosopher, belonged to?  
(a) France (b) Russia  
(c) America (d) England
9. Where in the world was printing started first?  
(a) India (b) Japan  
(c) China (d) America
10. Civil Services Examination of which country increased the demand of printed books (materials)?  
(a) Egypt (b) India  
(c) China (d) Japan

**Fill in the blanks:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ was defeated in the Russia-Japan war in 1904-05.
- Firoz Shah Mehta edited \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Vernacular Press Act was passed in \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ earned the epithet of the 'liberator of Indian newspaper'.
- Al-Hilal was edited by \_\_\_\_\_.

**Match the following:**

- |                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. J. K. Hikki            | a. Samvad Kaumudi  |
| 2. Ram Mohan Roy          | b. Bengali         |
| 3. Bal Gangadhar Tilak    | c. Bangal Gazette  |
| 4. Keshav Chandra Sen     | d. Maratha         |
| 5. Surendra Nath Banerjee | e. Sulabh Samachar |

**1. Write in 20 words about the following:**

- |                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| a. Printing Press           | b. Gutenberg      |
| c. The Bigle                | d. Silk route     |
| e. Maratha                  | f. Young India    |
| g. The Vernacular Press Act | h. Sir Syed Ahmad |
| i. Protestantism            | j. Martin Luther  |

**2. Answer the following questions in 60 words:**

- How did Gutenberg develop printing machine?
- How did printing reach Europe?
- What do you mean by Inquisition? Why was it needed?
- What is manuscript? What is its usage?
- Lord Lytton intensified the national movement. How?

**3. Long answer questions (Answer in 150 words):**

- How did printing revolution influence the modern world?
- Trace the development of press in India in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- Write the characteristics of Indian press.
- How did Indian press influence the national movement?
- Trace the developmental journey of printing machine. How did it reach the present form?

**Class discussion:**

- Visit a nearby printing press with your teacher to understand the technique of printing.
- Make a comparative study with your teacher in class regarding modern newspapers and the previous newspapers.

