

History of Print Media in Karnataka

Dr. Suvarna Kambi

Assistant Professor

Department of Journalism

JSS College of Arts, Commerce and Science,

Ooty Road, Mysuru

- Journalism was one of the earliest forms of mass communication to emerge and acquire institutional and social recognition since 15th century. Journalism was in practice since the days of Roman civilization. Roman, Greek, Mesopotamian and other axis civilizations have practiced journalism in one form or the other. The dominance of Anglo Saxon power during the colonial rule is part of history. News books, Newsletters, news magazines and newspapers are some of the examples in the evolutionary process of modern journalism. Modern journalism came to India as part of British legacy with the publication of Bengal gazette or Calcutta General Advertiser in the year 1780 by James Augustus Hicky. News papers have rendered yeoman service to the Indian public and political service to the democratic aspirations of people

- Kannada journalism is an important segment of Indian journalism. The vernacular journalism as opposed to distinct English journalism is one of the historical truisms. This may be seen in the contemporary growth of Indian Journalism with the numerical dominance of language press. In reality, the vernacular Journalism is quite promising and powerful in terms of information diffusion and public opinion formation. The German Missionaries and Christian scholars established the first printing press and publishing centers in Karnataka. Kannada newspaper has a legacy which reflects patriotism, public service and professional excellence. Kannada press has contributed immensely for the national independence, unification of Karnataka, democratic evolution, social change, economic development, cultural revolution and all-round progress of the state. The public at large have actively patronized the professional Journalism in Karnataka. Many stalwarts have sacrificed their lot for the development of the Kannada Press. Prominent among them include-Henry Moegling, M. Venkatakrishnaiah, Yajaman Veerabasappa, Dr. D. V. Gundappa, T. T. Sharma, P. R. Ramayya, B. N. Gupta, Moharaj Hanumath Rao, R. R. Diwakar, N. S. Hardikar, B. Puttaswamaiah, T. S. Ramachandra Rao and a galaxy of other media personalities

- The growth of press in Mysore, Bangalore, had its impact on people of Mumbai-Karnataka also Hubli, Dharwad, Belgaum and a few important centers saw the growth of press in Mumbai-Karnataka. It is recorded that the first news paper to be started in Mumbai-Karnataka was the SubuddiPrakashika in 1849. The well-known writer Dr.D.V.Gundappa was the first to write a brief outline of the development of Kannada journalism in Mysore state. In his book The Press in Mysore state, Dr.D.V.Gundappa had observed that Karnataka prakashida was the first newspaper started in old Mysore state in the year 1859 at Mysore city. Dr.D.V.Gundappa estimates that the Kannada journalism emerged in Karnataka due to the active participation of many eminent journalists like Bhasym Bhasyacharya, Venkatakrishnaiah and soon. Dr.Nadig Krishnamurthy in his book Indian journalism writes that the first newspaper ever to appear in Karnataka was an Urdu newspaper. The first Kannada newspaper according to Nadig Krishnamurthy was Kannada Samachara, which was started at Bellary in the year 1843.

- The early Kannada newspapers were started by Christian missionaries. According to him early Kannada newspapers were benefited by the efforts of Christian missionaries such as Basel, Wesleyan and other Catholic Christian service institutions dedicated to the religious and educational services. Hosagannadadha Arunodaya by Dr. Sreenivasa Havanooora is the first serious research work which has established that the first Kannada newspapers ever to be published in Karnataka was the Mangalooru Samachara by Basel mission in Mangalore city first. (Nadiga Krishnamurthy, 1966) Sreenivasa Havanooora clearly provides historical evidence to prove that the very first newspaper of Kannada was Mangalooru Samachara in 1843. Kannada Samachara was another newspaper started by the same missionaries at Bellary later.

- Sreenivasa Havanooora also confirms that Christian missionaries were responsible for establishing a printing press, publishing Kannada books and starting journalism first in Karnataka. Kannada journalism flourished later in Bangalore, Mysore, Hubli and other small towns. Sreenivasa Havanooora also confirms that Christian missionaries were responsible for establishing a printing press, publishing Kannada books and starting journalism first in Karnataka. Kannada journalism flourished later in Bangalore, Mysore, Hubli and other small towns. (Sreeivasa Havanooora, 1974) With the starting of the Karnataka Prakashika. Kannada press emerged as an important purveyor of public opinion in the princely Mysore state, Mysore Gazette (1866), Hitabodini (1881), Vritanta Chitamani (1885), Vrithanta Patrike (1887), Suryodaya Prakashika (1888), Karnataka Kesari (1888), Kannada Nadegannadi (1895), Mysore star (1900), Vokaligara Patrike (1907). Samacahara Sangraha (1907), Mail (1908), Hero (1910), Mysore Times (1910), Karnataka (1913), Viswa Karnataka (1921), Tai Naadu (1926), Janani (1934), were some of the other important newspapers of old Karnataka .

Some of the major contributors for the growth of print media in Karnataka till date

- [A.R. Krishnasastry](#) started Prabuddha Karnataka (1918)
- Mohare Hanamanthraya started Samyukta Karnataka (1929)
- Yajaman Veer Basappa of Mysore Star Ti. Ta. Sharma ran Vishwa Karnataka for many years
- B. Puttaswamiah of Okkaligara Patrike
- B.M. Srikantiah operated a regional paper Kannada Bavuta
- M. Venkatakrishtiah (1844-1933) of Mysore.
- Heran Sadhvi - Vrittanta Chintamani, Grama Jeevana and many other periodicals.
- K. N. Guruswamy (b. 1901) who started Mysore Printers. Prajavani, Sudha, Mayur and Deccan Herald were started here.
- Patil Puttappa started Vishwavani
- [Kadengodlu Shankar Bhat](#) started Rashrabandhu
- N.R. Karibasappa Shastry (1872-1923) served as the editor of Mysore Star, and also ran "
- Veerashiva Grantha Prakashike" monthly.
- V.B.Naik edited Samyukta Karnataka

- P.R. Ramayya (1894-1970) started a hand-written newspaper Dinavani
- [Ranganath Diwakar](#) established the Loka Shikshana Trust and edited Samyukta Karnataka, Kasturi, and Karmaveera.
- Siddavanahalli Krishnasharma (1904-1973), a freedom fighter and edited Vishwa Karnataka, Vahini, Jai Karnataka, and Navodaya
- [Gourish Kaikini](#) (1913-2002) edited Belaku and Nagarika
- B.N. Gupta (1895-1976) who invested and started Prajamata, Janavani, Chitragupta and Mallige
- [R. Kalyanamma](#) (1894-1965) operated a women's paper Saraswati
- M.R. Lakshamma (1913-1984) started a weekly for women called Sodari
- Khadri Shamanna was well known for his editorials, served in Prajavani, Samyukta Karnataka and Kannada Prabha newspapers.
- Nadig Krishnamurthy (1921-1983) mentored many arts students to take up journalism, and served as a professor of journalism
- [Niranjan](#) contributed as a columnist and assistant editor in Rashrabandhu, Janashakti and Prajavani
- Mathihalli Nagaraja Rao served with Samyukta Karnataka daily.
- H.V. Nagaraj Rao served as editor of Prajamata
- Pa.Su. Bhat (1931-1981) worked with papers Samyukta Karnataka and Prajaprabhwa

- P. Lankesh who started and edited Lankesh Patrike, which was free of advertisements and was very popular with the subscribers for its casteist coverage of politics, crude humor, and all original content.
- Vijaya Subramanyam of Roopatara Cinema magazine
- T. Satish U. Pai served the Udayavani newspaper for many years as managing editor and editor
- Vishweshwar Bhat who as editor of Vijaya Karnataka daily, exploded its subscriptions and popularized daily reading of Kannada newspapers.
- Ravi Belegere popular columnist who wrote "Hi Bangalore" and edits a weekly with the same name.
- Kru. Na. Murthy of Hasan who ran "Janamitra"
- H.S. Rammanna of Tumkur who runs "Tumkur Varte" since 1985

THANK YOU

The text 'THANK YOU' is rendered in a bold, serif font with a metallic, reddish-brown gradient. Below the text is a soft, white-to-transparent gradient reflection, giving it a three-dimensional appearance. The entire graphic is centered within a white rounded rectangle with a thin black border.