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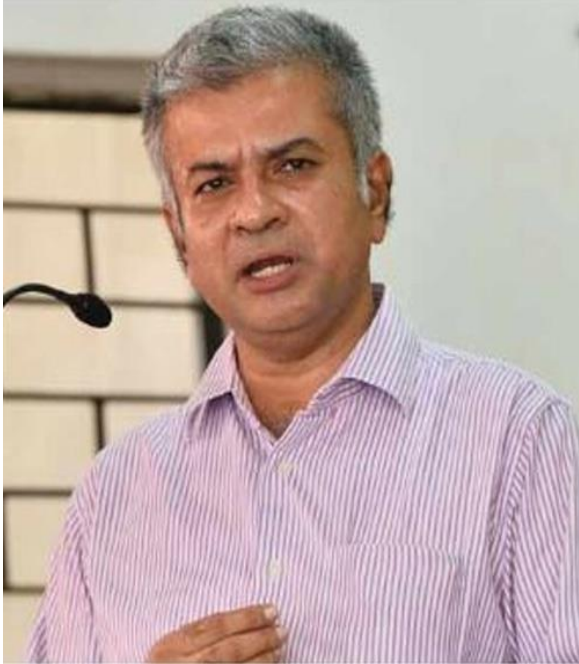
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Dr. Raju Narayana Swamy popularly known as Kerala's Anti Corruption Crusader is the All India Topper of the 1991 batch of the IAS and is currently posted as Principal Secretary to the Government of Kerala . He has earned many accolades as he hit against the political-bureaucrat corruption nexus in India. Dr Swamy holds a B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering from the IIT Madras and a Ph. D. in Cyber Law from Gujarat National Law University . He also has an LLM (Pro) ( with specialization in IPR) as well

as three PG Diplomas from the National Law University, Delhi- one in Urban Environmental Management and Law, another in Environmental Law and Policy and a third one in Tourism and Environmental Law. He also holds a post-graduate diploma in

IPR from the National Law School, Bengaluru and a professional diploma in Public Procurement from the World Bank.

## **Dr. R. K. Upadhyay**

Dr. R. K. Upadhyay is Registrar, University of Kota (Raj.), Dr Upadhyay obtained LLB , LLM degrees from Banaras Hindu University & Phd from university of Kota.He has succesfully completed UGC sponsored M.R.P for the work in the ares of the various prisoners reforms in the state of the Rajasthan.



## **Senior Editor**

### **Dr. Neha Mishra**



Dr. Neha Mishra is Associate Professor & Associate Dean (Scholarships) in Jindal Global Law School, OP Jindal Global University. She was awarded both her PhD degree and Associate Professor & Associate Dean M.A.; LL.B. (University of Delhi); LL.M.; Ph.D. (NLSIU, Bangalore) LLM from National Law School of India University, Bengaluru; she did her LL.B. from Faculty of Law, Delhi University as well as M.A. and B.A. from Hindu College and DCAC from DU respectively. Neha has been a Visiting Fellow, School of Social Work, Michigan State University, 2016 and invited speaker Panelist at Global Conference, Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute, Washington University in St.Louis, 2015.

### **Ms. Sumiti Ahuja**

Ms. Sumiti Ahuja, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi,

Ms. Sumiti Ahuja completed her LL.M. from the Indian Law Institute with specialization in Criminal Law and Corporate Law, and has over nine years of teaching experience. She has done her LL.B. from the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi. She is currently pursuing Ph.D. in the area of Forensics and Law. Prior to joining the teaching profession, she has worked as Research Assistant for projects funded by different agencies of Govt. of India. She has developed various audio-video teaching modules under UGC e-PG Pathshala programme in the area of Criminology, under the aegis of an MHRD Project. Her areas of interest are Criminal Law, Law of Evidence, Interpretation of Statutes, and Clinical Legal Education.



### **Dr. Navtika Singh Nautiyal**

Dr. Navtika Singh Nautiyal presently working as an Assistant Professor in School of law, Forensic Justice and Policy studies at National Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. She has 9 years of Teaching and Research Experience. She has completed her Philosophy of Doctorate in 'Intercountry adoption laws from Uttranchal University, Dehradun' and LLM from Indian Law Institute, New Delhi.

## **Dr. Rinu Saraswat**



Associate Professor at School of Law, Apex University, Jaipur, M.A, LL.M, Ph.D,

Dr. Rinu have 5 yrs of teaching experience in renowned institutions like Jagannath University and Apex University. Participated in more than 20 national and international seminars and conferences and 5 workshops and training programmes.

## **Dr. Nitesh Saraswat**

E.MBA, LL.M, Ph.D, PGDSAPM

Currently working as Assistant Professor at Law Centre II, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi. Dr. Nitesh have 14 years of Teaching, Administrative and research experience in Renowned Institutions like Amity University, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Jai Narain Vyas University Jodhpur, Jagannath University and Nirma University.

More than 25 Publications in renowned National and International Journals and has authored a Text book on Cr.P.C and Juvenile Delinquency law.



## **Subhrajit Chanda**



BBA. LL.B. (Hons.) (Amity University, Rajasthan); LL. M. (UPES, Dehradun) (Nottingham Trent University, UK); Ph.D. Candidate (G.D. Goenka University)

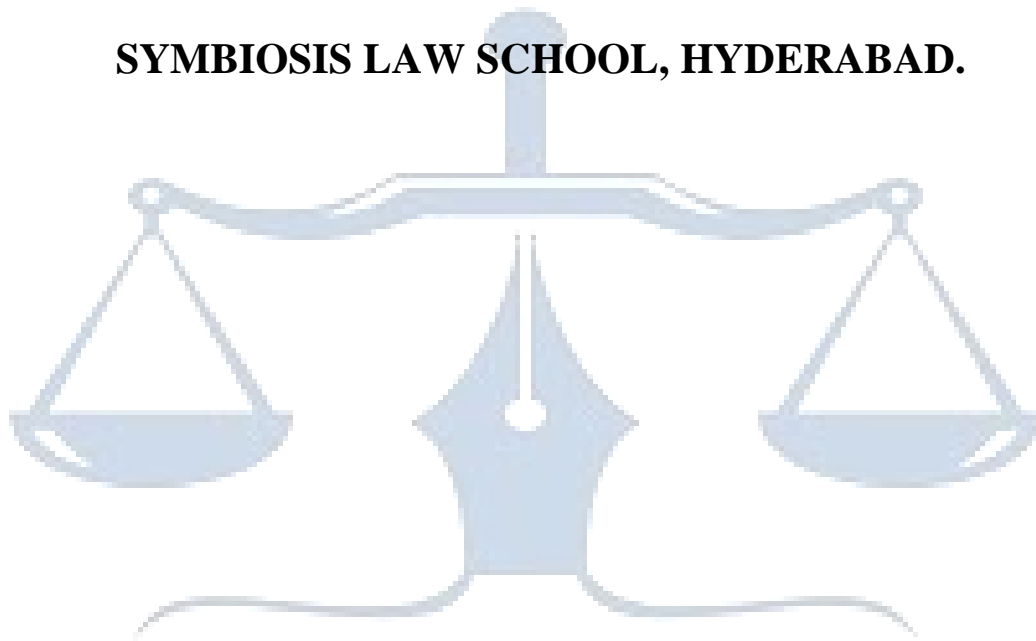
Subhrajit did his LL.M. in Sports Law, from Nottingham Trent University of United Kingdoms, with international scholarship provided by university; he has also completed another LL.M. in Energy Law from University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, India. He did his B.B.A.LL.B. (Hons.) focussing on International Trade Law.

**RESTRICTIONS ON NEWSPAPER IN COLONIAL INDIA,  
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO BENGAL PRESIDENCY.**

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**Submitted by**  
ADITI BOMMERLA<sup>1</sup>

**SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, HYDERABAD.**



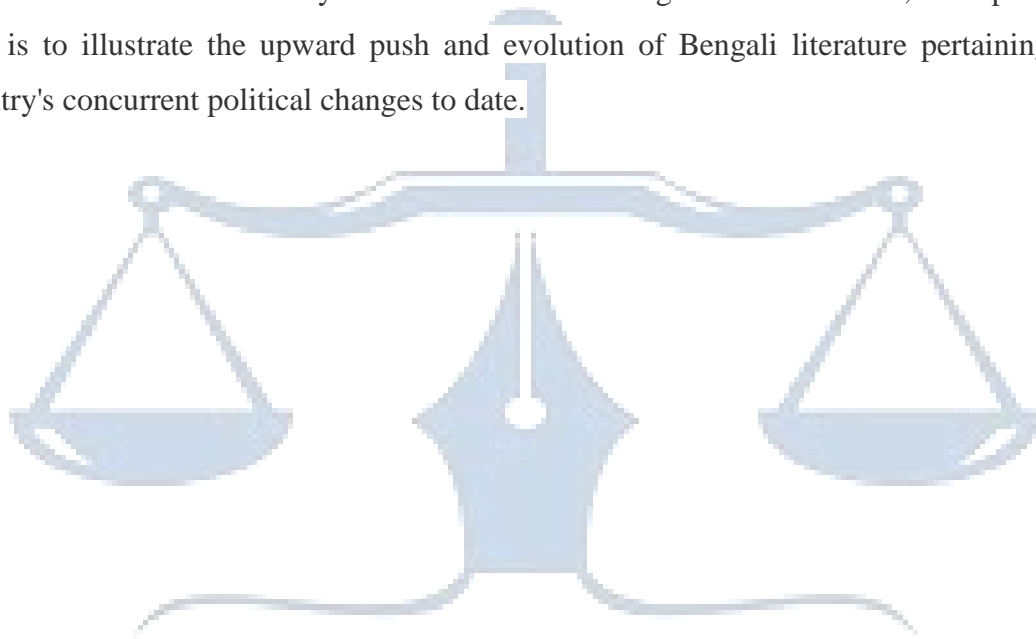
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<sup>1</sup> Student, Symbiosis Law School, Hyderabad.

## **ABSTRACT**

This study paper attempts to describe the historical journey of media, specifically press, in Bengal since the day "*Hickey's Bengal Gazette*" was published in Calcutta in 1780 to the current media development in the state. While following the development of the mainstream press in Bengal, it is critical to be aware of the different areas of the mainstream ("media-politics interface") where ministerial scenes in the country regularly influence the establishment and functionality of the media. Its conversion from "press" to "media" has been marred by occurrences within the greater political environment of the monarchy and the United States in general. As a result, the topic of focus here is to illustrate the upward push and evolution of Bengali literature pertaining to the country's concurrent political changes to date.



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LEGAL



## INTRODUCTION

Bengal has a strong intellectual legacy and a vibrant arts scene history that has been reflected in all aspects of societal life within the country, including “art, literature, science, politics, and journalism.” The nation cherished a rich academic culture, thanks to a pool of Bengali middle-elegance intellectuals. “Even before the British attempted to instill the spirit of western medical education in the minds of Indians, Bengal had been endowed with men of letters and visionaries who were critical of the then-British rule within the country and also witnessed the weaknesses and malpractices of Bengali society and network at the times”<sup>2</sup>. Together such thinkers gave start to the technology of Bengal Renaissance. Bengal Renaissance refers to a social reform movement that occurred during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the state of West Bengal in an undivided India during British rule. The technology is said to have begun with “Raja Ram Mohan Roy (1775-1833)” and terminated with “Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)”, though the intellectual heritage has been carried on via following scholars. In the nineteenth century, Bengal was transformed into an amazing amalgamation of spiritual and social reformers, scholars, literary giants, journalists, patriotic orators, and scientists, all combining to represent the image of a renaissance and staining the transition from the “medieval” to the “modern.”

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<sup>2</sup> Norman D. Palmer, *India in 1975: Democracy in Eclipse*, 16 Asian Survey. 95, 95-110 (1976).

## **CHAPTER I**

### **I. RENAISSANCE ALONG WITH BENGALI PRESS**

The Bengali press has been adaptive to new changes and crucial of the current authorities, the invasion of the British throughout India's battle for independence, as well as a constant intonation of resistance for the hundreds towards the aristocracy since the Renaissance. Hickey's Bengal Gazette, India's first newspaper, was published in "Calcutta in 1780, as were the first four non-English newspapers in Bengali, Urdu, Hindi, and Persian. The year 1818 marks the beginning of Bengali journalism," with Serampore Mission Press publishing the first Bengali newspaper, "Samachar Darpan, on May 23, 1818". It started as a monthly publication but quickly became a weekly publication thanks to missionaries Carey and Marshman. After surviving some of crises, it closed down in 1852.

The early Bengali periodicals have taken up the issue of suffered people on "the indigo plantation and the peasants. Among them were Som Prakash, Grambartha Prakashika, and Amrita Bazar Patrika" (earlier than it have become an English weekly). "Amrita Bazar Patrika" becomes a concern to the state as a result of its highlighting of forced labour in estates and fields, as well as its vehement condemnation of European colonists and the authorities. Throughout this effort, it developed to be Bengal's most important newspaper at the time, spawning the development of additional smaller publications in localities and regions across the country. Nevertheless, any effort at social economic liberation is faced resistance and rivalry, and Bengal's newspaper change fits the bill perfectly. The officials were continually hitting back. The British government enacted and implemented a number of repressive laws that harmed the functioning and independence of the press. However, it can by no means undermine Bengali press's dedication to its readers in combating injustice, racial prejudice, and maladministration; additionally, Bengali press became a number of the pioneers in accusing the Conservative nationalist leaders have been accused of weakness and a loss of boldness in the midst of the British attack. But, the Bengali press endured greatly as a result of the government's retaliation following the revolt in 1857, specially through "The Vernacular Press Act of 1878"<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Senugupta Barun, *Pala Badaler Pala*, KOLKATA: ANANDA PUBLISHERS (1982).

## II. "THE VERNACULAR PRESS ACT, 1878"<sup>4</sup>.

The "Vernacular Press Act" appeared in 1878, near "Lord Lytton's Governor Generalship and Vice royalty". The goal was to limit the publication and distribution of obscene content that created contempt as in opinion of the general public towards the British. According to "The Vernacular Press Act, any magistrate or Commissioner of Police had the power to order any printer or publisher of a newspaper to enter into a bond, undertaking not to print a specified type of material, and to seize all written information offensive". The British Government, on the other hand, resuscitate the qualities of "Lytton's Vernacular Press Act in 1910", changing it with the "Indian Press Act 1910."



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<sup>4</sup> It became enacted in British India to restriction the liberty of the Indian press and save the expression of complaint closer to British policies, especially the competition that had grown for the reason that begin of the Second Anglo-Afghan War (1878–80).

## CHAPTER II

### **III. TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE: BENGALI NEWSPAPERS AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY**

Bengal, on the other hand, was the center of newspaper publishing until the 1880s. A survey of Indian newspapers by "Sir George Campbell in 1876" found that newspapers across the country were also published during this period, but half of the 38 newspapers were published in Calcutta. In the late 1890s and early 20th century, Bengal published several notable newspapers and magazines, involving "Sulava Samchar (1870) by Keshab Chandra Sen" and "Haishakar Patrika edited by Babu Kisari Mohan Ganguli". The newspaper which was primarily related to defend the cause of the working class, "Bharat Sramajibi", was founded as a weekly newspaper during this period. The first Bengal daily to adopt modern production types was the "Basmati (1880), founded by "Hemedra Prasad Gauche" and changed by "Kirishna Kamal Batacharya." "Surendranath Banerjee published Bengalee (1900)," the first native newspaper to subscribe to Reuters' international news works. Bengali's collaborator was "Nayak (1908)", edited by "Punch Cowley Banagher". Through another important newspaper of the time, "Vande Mataram, Aurobindo Ghose" promulgated his beliefs and a "new path", meaning inactive opposition as a means of political action. In 1922, "Ananda Bazar Patrika", founded by "Miralinal Kanti Ghosh, Prafulla Kumar Sarkar and Suresh Chandra Majumdar", was introduced. Together with its English version, the Hindustan Standard, it played a brilliant role in the free movement. Later, "Chapala Kanta Bhattacharya", chairman of the "All-Indian Newspaper Editors' Conference", became the editor and made a significant contribution to the readers and popularity of the newspaper. Another daily newspaper, called "Jugantar", was founded in 1937 by the leaders of "Amrita Bazaar Patrica", who reached good positions under the guidance of "Vivikananda Mukelzi". After Gandhi took control of the national movement, moderate institutions officially due to the enormous pressure exerted by "C.R. Darth", the leader of the indisputable parliament in Bengal during that period. Despite his support, he soon lost.

### **IV. POST INDEPENDENCE AND JOURNALISM IN BENGAL**

Bengali newspapers went through a lot after division in 1947, losing a large percentage of their readership to "East Pakistan (later Bangladesh)". Nonetheless, new journals such as Lok sevak (1948) and Jansevak continued to develop over very first few decades following independence, particularly under "Congressman Atulya Ghosh's" guidance. The greatest risk

for “journalism and media in Bengal”, and India at normal, came in (“1975-77”), during-  
“Prime Minister Indira Gandhi” brought a state of emergency throughout the country.



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## ANALYSIS

The media today, in Bengal aid the political events in their desire relying on which celebration might earn them higher TRP and commercial sales and now no longer on information capacity; As an instance, Bengali information “channel 24 Ghanta” is understood to have a left leniency at the same time as channels like ABP Ananda are taken into consideration to be near the “TMC line” within side the territory. For 5 years among “2006 and 2011”, among Assembly elections, the state have become a hotbed for politics, with an instantaneous effect at the media, which become instantly separate. Situations led to three troubles by how they took sides. One become the motion at “Singur—a motion of the competition towards the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress” towards the authorities’s “land acquisition for a Tata Group industry”. Similar moves had been visible in “Nandigram.” These moves made the human beings of the kingdom livid and pretty inconstant of their views—with a few assisting the authorities’s selection on land acquisition for industrialization at the same time as the relaxation hostile land grab<sup>5</sup>. “Papers like Ananda Bazar Patrika, Times of India, Telegraph, and Bartaman” had been all towards the authorities’s selection on land acquisition and rallied at the back of “Mamata Banerjee.”

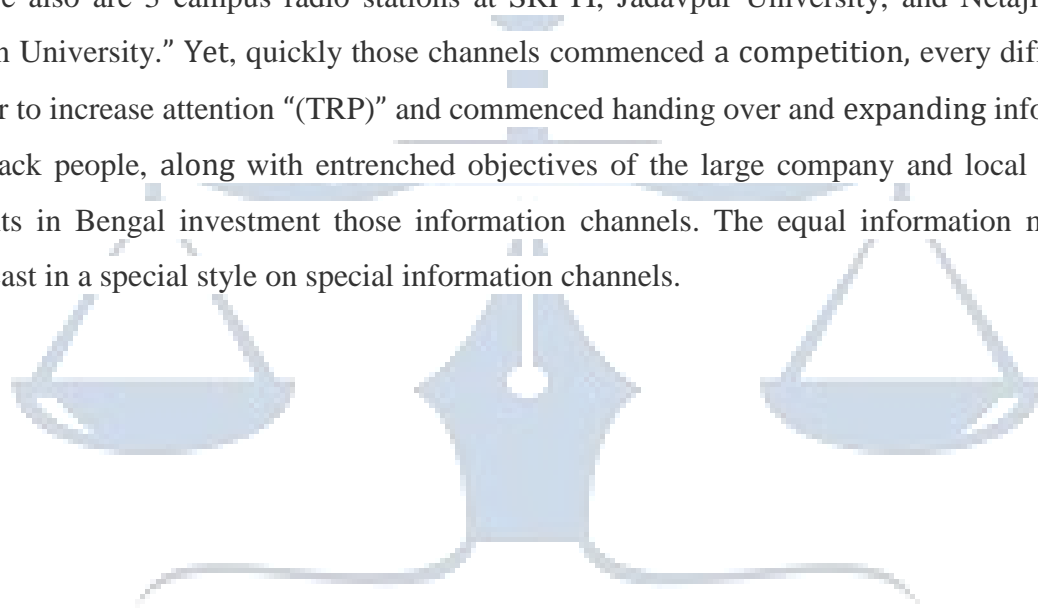
Factory or farming, which has to take delivery of extra priority, have become the problem of the kingdom; also, a prime segment of the Bengali giants came into motion later. With the division of politics in the area, the media, each print and electronic, have become separated. While “Aajkal and 24 Ghanta” powerfully encouraged the reason of manufacturing and supported the stairs taken through “The Left-Front authorities”, papers like “Ananda Bazar Patrika, The Telegraph, The Times of India, and ABP Ananda” had been towards the land coverage taken through the authorities and had been brutally criticised all through that period. Also, the department become a long way extra distinguished simply earlier than the “2011 Assembly polls. In a few occasions, newspapers or information channels” grow to be a prolonged part of the political events within side the kingdom, spreading celebration manifestos. Along with, political events were located to be the usage of information channels for his or her campaigns simply earlier than elections. Favored information channels telecasted stay packages both with the ministers of the authorities or the competition chief all through the times main as much as the election; this regularly caused the maneuvering of

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<sup>5</sup> Rajan Nalini, *21st Century Journalism in India*, Chennai: Sage Publications (2007).

information content material and stressed the vulnerable public<sup>6</sup>. On the opposite hand, within side the USA, the ordinary exercise is that large newspapers sponsor one or the opposite primary events, however such resource comes through a unique web page and on the equal time by no means impacts the objectivity in reporting or independent editorial writing<sup>7</sup>.

At the equal time, numerous FM radio stations owned through non-public groups began out operations within side the kingdom. Some radio channels with infotainment and panel discussions have grow to be extra famous than the publications within side the proximity. During that time, there are over 20 non-public radio stations in “West Bengal, such as Radio Mirchi, Radio One, Red FM (Kolkata, Asansol, and Siliguri), Big Friends, Power FM, etc. There also are 3 campus radio stations at SRFTI, Jadavpur University, and Netaji Subhas Open University.” Yet, quickly those channels commenced a competition, every different in order to increase attention “(TRP)” and commenced handing over and expanding information in track people, along with entrenched objectives of the large company and local political events in Bengal investment those information channels. The equal information might be telecast in a special style on special information channels.



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<sup>6</sup> Chomsky Noam: *Media Control*, New York: Seven Stories Press (1997).

<sup>7</sup> Goldberg Bernard, *Bias: A CBS Insider Exposes How the Media Distort the News*, New York: Harper Collins (2003).

## CONCLUSION

As a result, the career of news reporting - from "press" to "media" - has been a complicated one within Bengal's borders. As previously said, "media and journalism" are known partners of a country's politics, hence political changes play a significant role in shaping the paradigm, ideology, and prominence of media inside the country. "From Hickey's Bengal Gazette to ABP Ananda and 24 Ghanta, Bengal's media has come a long way, witnessing the rise of the Congress, its fall, the rise of the Left Front-led CPI (M), and its response via Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress." One of several key facets that these events may reveal is a steady change with in structure of nation's ruling elite. Political power and economic power have been inextricably linked, as evidenced by the way media capacities in Bengal have evolved in recent years. Media in Bengal has come a long way by absolute great nation news restrictions to an encompassing nation smugness in which threads are pulled collectively by means of the authorities and commercial enterprise barons to enhance certain information gadgets and undermine others. The opening of the financial system has undoubtedly resulted in collusion in the vested interests of the political and financial classes, necessitating a review of citizens' democratic rights. As "Chomsky (1997) notes, the last tool for the capitalist government in Bengal today is the media, which effectively silences the masses." If, in the past, only "Ganashakti" represented and supported the authorities' policies, "Mamata Banerjee's dictatorship" has attracted the bulk of publications and communication connections into its camp in order to propagate their ideology. Such changes the essence of Bengal's broadcasting result in a lack of faith in the main foundation of democracy. By immediate comparison towards the position the media spins during the Bengal nationalist movement, it now functions primarily as an instrument for implementing official diktats. To summarise, journalism in Bengal has undergone tremendous change as it transitioned from "press" to "media," and as a result, has significantly impacted the country's core method of functioning.



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SYMBIOSIS INTERNATIONAL DEEMED UNIVERSITY.

RESTRICTIONS ON NEWSPAPER IN COLONIAL INDIA, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO BENGAL PRESIDENCY.

SUBJECT – HISTORY II

SEMESTER: ‘II’

CLASS – BA. LLB

DIVISION – ‘A’


Submitted by  
ADITI BOMMERLA

SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, HYDERABAD.

### **ABSTRACT**

This study paper attempts to describe the historical journey of media, specifically press, in Bengal since the day “Hickey's Bengal Gazette” was published in Calcutta in 1780 to the current media

development in the state. While following the development of the mainstream press in Bengal, it is critical to be aware of the different areas of the mainstream (“media-politics interface”) where ministerial scenes in the country regularly influence the establishment and functionality of the media. Its conversion from "press" to "media" has been marred by occurrences within the greater political environment of the monarchy and the United States in general. As a result, the topic of focus here is to illustrate the upward push and evolution of Bengali literature pertaining to the country's concurrent political changes to date.



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## INTRODUCTION

Bengal has a strong intellectual legacy and a vibrant arts scene history that has been reflected in all aspects of societal life within the country, including “art, literature, science, politics, and journalism.” The nation cherished a rich academic culture, thanks to a pool of Bengali middle-elegance intellectuals. “Even before the British attempted to instill the spirit of western medical education in the minds of Indians, Bengal had been endowed with men of letters and visionaries who were critical of the then-British rule within the country and also witnessed the weaknesses and malpractices of Bengali society and network at the times” . Together such thinkers gave start to the

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## CHAPTER I

### I. RENAISSANCE ALONG WITH BENGALI PRESS

The Bengali press has been adaptive to new changes and crucial of the current authorities, the invasion of the British throughout India's battle for independence, as well as a constant intonation of resistance for the hundreds towards the aristocracy since the Renaissance. Hickey's Bengal Gazette, India's first newspaper, was published in “Calcutta in 1780, as were the first four non-English newspapers in Bengali, Urdu, Hindi, and Persian. The year 1818 marks the beginning of Bengali journalism,” with Serampore Mission Press publishing the first Bengali newspaper, “Samachar Darpan, on May 23, 1818”. It started as a monthly publication but quickly became a weekly publication thanks to missionaries Carey and Marshman. After surviving some of crises, it closed down in 1852.

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### II. “THE VERNACULAR PRESS ACT, 1878” .

The "Vernacular Press Act" appeared in 1878, near “Lord Lytton's Governor Generalship and Vice royalty”. The goal was to limit the publication and distribution of obscene content that created contempt as in opinion of the general public towards the British. According to “The Vernacular Press Act, any magistrate or Commissioner of Police had the power to order any printer or publisher of a newspaper to enter into a bond, undertaking not to print a specified type of material, and to seize all written information offensive”. The British Government, on the other hand, resuscitate the qualities of “Lytton's Vernacular Press Act in 1910”, changing it with the "Indian Press Act 1910."

## CHAPTER II

### III. TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE: BENGALI NEWSPAPERS AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

Bengal, on the other hand, was the center of newspaper publishing until the 1880s. A survey of

Indian newspapers by “Sir George Campbell in 1876” found that newspapers across the country were also published during this period, but half of the 38 newspapers were published in Calcutta. In the late 1890s and early 20th century, Bengal published several notable newspapers and magazines, involving “Sulava Samchar (1870) by Keshab Chandra Sen” and “Haishakar Patrika edited by Babu Kisari Mohan Ganguli”. The newspaper which was primarily related to defend the cause of the working class, “Bharat Sramajibi”, was founded as a weekly newspaper during this period. The first Bengal daily to adopt modern production types was the “Basmati (1880), founded by “Hemedra Prasad Gauche” and changed by “Kirishna Kamal Batacharya.” “Surendranath Banerjee published Bengalee (1900),” the first native newspaper to subscribe to Reuters' international news works. Bengali's collaborator was “Nayak (1908)”, edited by “Punch Cowley Banagher”. Through another important newspaper of the time, “Vande Mataram, Aurobindo Ghose” promulgated his beliefs and a "new path", meaning inactive opposition as a means of political action. In 1922, “Ananda Bazar Patrika”, founded by “Miralinal Kanti Ghosh, Prafulla Kumar Sarkar and Suresh Chandra Majumdar”, was introduced. Together with its English version, the Hindustan Standard, it played a brilliant role in the free movement. Later, “Chapala Kanta Bhattacharya”, chairman of the “All-Indian Newspaper Editors' Conference”, became the editor and made a significant contribution to the readers and popularity of the newspaper. Another daily newspaper, called “Jugantar”, was founded in 1937 by the leaders of “Amrita Bazaar Patrica”, who reached good positions under the guidance of “Vivikananda Mukelzi”. After Gandhi took control of the national movement, moderate institutions officially due to the enormous pressure exerted by “C.R. Darth”, the leader of the indisputable parliament in Bengal during that period. Despite his support, he soon lost.

#### IV. POST INDEPENDENCE AND JOURNALISM IN BENGAL

Bengali newspapers went through a lot after division in 1947, losing a large percentage of their readership to “East Pakistan (later Bangladesh)”. Nonetheless, new journals such as Lok sevak (1948) and Jansevak continued to develop over very first few decades following independence, particularly under “Congressman Atulya Ghosh's” guidance. The greatest risk for “journalism and media in Bengal”, and India at normal, came in (“1975-77”), during- “Prime Minister Indira Gandhi” brought a state of emergency throughout the country.

#### ANALYSIS

The media today, in Bengal aid the political events in their desire relying on which celebration might earn them higher TRP and commercial sales and now no longer on information capacity; As an instance, Bengali information “channel 24 Ghanta” is understood to have a left leniency at the same time as channels like ABP Ananda are taken into consideration to be near the “TMC line” within side the territory. For 5 years among “2006 and 2011”, among Assembly elections, the state have become a hotbed for politics, with an instantaneous effect at the media, which become instantly separate. Situations led to three troubles by how they took sides. One become the motion at “Singur—a motion of the competition towards the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress” towards the authorities’s “land acquisition for a Tata Group industry”. Similar moves had been visible in “Nandigram.” These moves made the human beings of the kingdom livid and pretty inconstant of their views—with a few assisting the authorities’s selection on land acquisition for industrialization at the same time as the relaxation hostile land grab . “Papers like Ananda Bazar Patrika, Times of India, Telegraph, and Bartaman” had been all towards the authorities’s selection on land acquisition and rallied at the back of “Mamata Banerjee.”

Factory or farming, which has to take delivery of extra priority, have become the problem of the kingdom; also, a prime segment of the Bengali giants came into motion later. With the division of politics in the area, the media, each print and electronic, have become separated. While “Aajkal and 24 Ghanta” powerfully encouraged the reason of manufacturing and supported the stairs taken

through “The Left-Front authorities”, papers like “Ananda Bazar Patrika, The Telegraph, The Times of India, and ABP Ananda” had been towards the land coverage taken through the authorities and had been brutally criticised all through that period. Also, the department become a long way extra distinguished simply earlier than the “2011 Assembly polls. In a few occasions, newspapers or information channels” grow to be a prolonged part of the political events within side the kingdom, spreading celebration manifestos. Along with, political events were located to be the usage of information channels for his or her campaigns simply earlier than elections. Favored information channels telecasted stay packages both with the ministers of the authorities or the competition chief all through the times main as much as the election; this regularly caused the maneuvering of information content material and stressed the vulnerable public . On the opposite hand, within side the USA, the ordinary exercise is that large newspapers sponsor one or the opposite primary events, however such resource comes through a unique web page and on the equal time by no means impacts the objectivity in reporting or independent editorial writing .

At the equal time, numerous FM radio stations owned through non-public groups began out operations within side the kingdom. Some radio channels with infotainment and panel discussions have grow to be extra famous than the publications within side the proximity. During that time, there are over 20 non-public radio stations in “West Bengal, such as Radio Mirchi, Radio One, Red FM (Kolkata, Asansol, and Siliguri), Big Friends, Power FM, etc. There also are 3 campus radio stations at SRFTI, Jadavpur University, and Netaji Subhas Open University.” Yet, quickly those channels commenced a competition, every different in order to increase attention “(TRP)” and commenced handing over and expanding information in track people, along with entrenched objectives of the large company and local political events in Bengal investment those information channels. The equal information might be telecast in a special style on special information channels.

## CONCLUSION

As a result, the career of news reporting - from “press” to “media” - has been a complicated one within Bengal's borders As previously said, “media and journalism” are known partners of a country's politics, hence political changes play a significant role in shaping the paradigm, ideology, and prominence of media inside the country. “From Hickey's Bengal Gazette to ABP Ananda and 24 Ghanta, Bengal's media has come a long way, witnessing the rise of the Congress, its fall, the rise of the Left Front-led CPI (M), and its response via Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress.” One of several key facets that these events may reveal is a steady change with in structure of nation's ruling elite. Political power and economic power have been inextricably linked, as evidenced by the way media capacities in Bengal have evolved in recent years. Media in Bengal has come a long way by absolute great nation news restrictions to an encompassing nation smugness in which threads are pulled collectively by means of the authorities and commercial enterprise barons to enhance certain information gadgets and undermine others. The opening of the financial system has undoubtedly resulted in collusion in the vested interests of the political and financial classes, necessitating a review of citizens' democratic rights. As “Chomsky (1997) notes, the last tool for the capitalist government in Bengal today is the media, which effectively silences the masses.” If, in the past, only “Ganashakti” represented and supported the authorities' policies, “Mamata Banerjee's dictatorship” has attracted the bulk of publications and communication connections into its camp in order to propagate their ideology. Such changes the essence of Bengal's broadcasting result in a lack of faith in the main foundation of democracy. By immediate comparison towards the position the media spins during the Bengal nationalist movement, it now functions primarily as an instrument for implementing official diktats. To summarise, journalism in Bengal has undergone tremendous change as it transitioned from “press” to “media,” and as a result, has significantly impacted the country's core method of functioning.

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