

**CHAPTER TWO / GROWTH OF THE PRESS FROM 1931 TO 1940**  
**(SECOND DECADE OF CHH.RAJARAM ERA).**

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The Nineteenthirties formed a very significant period in the history of India. It could not escape from the impact of events taking place outside. For example, economic depression in the beginning of this decade and beginning of Second World War at the end of it. The Princely State of Kolhapur also felt the impact of these developments - one economic, another political. It entered the 'thirties with the surfacing of political movement. The process was indirectly quickened with the visit of Mahatma Gandhi in 1927. 'Karveer Congress Committee' was founded in 1932.<sup>1</sup> under the presidentship of Madhavrao Bagal, who, along with other local leaders such as Dinkarrao Desai, Nanasaheb Jagadale, R.D.Minche, Ratnappanna Kumbhar put forth the demands for the freedom of Assembly and political concessions for the first time.<sup>2</sup> Because of Gandhi's policy of non-interference in the matters of Princely State,<sup>3</sup> the Indian National Congress restrained itself from direct involvement in the State of Kolhapur and as such, it was left to the local leadership to stage out the political movement. The movement got intensified towards the fag-end of the decade under the leadership of Praja Parishad established. The Government initially responded favourably by accepting certain demands such as freedom of speech and organization,<sup>4</sup> but as it did not pacify the workers in the movement, the Government decided to nab the movement through force.



On the economic front, the performance of Kolhapur was good. Though there were instances of factory workers resorting to strike in the early years of the decade,<sup>5</sup> yet, slowly and steadily, the State recovered and progress was registered in the industry and agriculture. Loans were extended through the Kolhapur Bank to the Needy traders, farmers, etc.<sup>6</sup> With four new oil mills starting in this decade, the total number of the oil-mills reached nine.<sup>7</sup> The number of co-operative societies rose from 38 in 1922<sup>8</sup> to 291 in 1940.<sup>9</sup> The State took further lead in economic development with agricultural and industrial development with the establishment of 'Kolhapur Sugar Mill' in 1932.<sup>10</sup>

On the social front, Rajaram Maharaj continued to champion the cause of social equality. He imposed prohibition on 'Redejatra',<sup>11</sup> in which male-buffalo fights were organized. Similarly, for the first time, a High Court, consisting of three judges, was established in 1931.<sup>12</sup> In order to expedite justice a Supreme court of His Highness was also established. His Highness was the Supreme Judge in it. The establishment of that Court helped the people to get the judgements in time. In the field of cinema, to encourage the workers and the actors in the field, Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj also took a lead in establishing 'Kolhapur Cinetone' in 1931 and then 'Shalini Cinetone',<sup>13</sup> and thus, opened further vistas of entertainment to the subjects.

The decade also registered progress in the field of education. For the first time, arrangements were made for the

education in law. Chhatrapati Rajaram established the 'Council of Legal Education' in 1932 and through this institution, "Syke's Law College" was started in the same year.<sup>14</sup> Because of it, students from distant places such as Mysore, took admission there. Another Institution was established for the training of the secondary school teachers, viz. Shrimati Maharani Tarabai Teachers' Training College (S.M.T.T. or B.T.College), in June 1934. For practicing the less, the Model High School was also started.<sup>15</sup> Because of the above mentioned higher education institutions and Rajaram College, Kolhapur became an important centre of higher education in the western Presidency.

The secondary and primary school education also achieved much progress. The number of the second schools in the state in 1922-23 was 23<sup>16</sup> which reached upto 43 in 1940-41.<sup>17</sup> The number of the primary schools also increased from 614 to 841, in the year 1922<sup>18</sup> and 1940-41,<sup>19</sup> respectively.

All these socio-economic, political, educational aspects of 1930's shaped up and got reflected in the growth of the press. For the first time, some of the leading personalities got together to form an Association - 'The Kolhapur Newspapers Association' in 1937 to run a paper.<sup>20</sup> The decade saw quite many new additions.

#### **New Additions of Periodicals:**

The decade began with 'Atmoddhar', a fortnightly started by Mahadeo Vithal Kale in 1931.<sup>21</sup> The year 1933 saw two

other periodicals, viz. 'Sevak' and '(Sachitra) Balmasik'. The first one 'Sevak', a weekly started by Ganpatrao Govindrao Jadhav with Shankarrao Balwantrao Bhosale in August 1933 was edited by G.G.Jadhav.<sup>22</sup> The second paper of the year was '(Sachitra) Balmasik', a monthly started by Ramchandra Babaji Jadhav in September 1933, which was printed at 'Sudarshan Press', Kolhapur.<sup>23</sup> The 'Maratha Navjeevan', a weekly, was started by Raosaheb D.R. Bhosale in March, 1935. It was edited by Mr.D.A.Ghatge and was printed at Shree Shahuvijay Press.<sup>24</sup>

'Pudhari', a weekly, was started in 1937 with Mr.V.T. Patil as its editor, Mr.G.D.Patil as publisher and Mr.S.B.Bhosale as the printer.<sup>25</sup> The members of the Kolhapur Newspapers Association also started a weekly, 'Samaj' after publishing 'Pudhari' as daily in 1939.<sup>26</sup>

'Chandrakala', a monthly was started in January, 1938. It was edited by an editorial board consisting of D.S.Mule, S.B.Rane, R.T.Khurd, D.N.Mokashi, etc., and was published by Govind S.Mule at Kolhapur.<sup>27</sup>

Next year, that is in 1939, appeared 'Suvarta', monthly. It was edited by Rev.V.A.Satralkar.<sup>28</sup>

'Vidyapith Patrika Masik' in 1933,<sup>29</sup> "Syke's Law College Magazine' in 1935,<sup>30</sup> and 'Cinemasrushti'<sup>31</sup> were some of the other publications that appeared in 1930s.

### The Motives.

The newspapers that appeared in the 'thirties were different in their motives. The '(Sachitra) Balmasik', an illustrated monthly, was meant for the young ones, with its motto - Vidhyamrut Meva | Dei Maj Deva <sup>32</sup> (Bless me with the nectar of knowledge, O God). It aimed at the moral upliftment of the young ones, besides providing them with interesting and useful information.<sup>32</sup>

The 'Maratha Navjeevan' had the following motto:<sup>33</sup>

Mard Marathya Jeevan Deuni, Jaage Karuya Tayaprati |  
Parasparala Sahayya Karoni, Tej Dakhau Navshakti || 1 ||  
Vidya, Bal, Vyapar Karoni, Palavuni Lau Apangata |  
Gulamgirila Gaduni Sare, Zatu Karaya Rashtrahita || 2 ||

Thus, it aimed at social, economic and political welfare of the Maratha community on the basis of the principles championed by Mahatma Phule and Chhatrapati Shahu.<sup>34</sup>

The 'Pudhari' aimed at awakening and the welfare of masses without causing any disrespect to the throne of the Chhatrapati.<sup>35</sup>

The 'Chandrakala' was devoted to publishing standard literature and art.<sup>36</sup>

The last addition of this decade, 'Suvarta' had a specific aim to work as a mouthpiece of the Kolhapur Church Council.<sup>37</sup>

Thus, on the basis of motivation, it may be seen that the 'Maratha Navjeevan' and 'Pudhari' fall under one category whereas 'Suvarta', 'Chandrakala' and '(Sachitra) Balmasik' are of different types altogether.

#### **Ownership of Periodicals.**

The periodicals of this decade had different types of ownership - individual, in partnership and institutional.

Mahadeo Vithal Kale of 'Atmoddhar', Ramchandra Babaji Jadhav of '(Sachitra) Balmasik', Dr.Bhosale of 'Maratha Navjeevan' were individual owners. The 'Sevak' had two partners. Ganpatrao Govindrao Jadhav and Shankarrao Balwantrao Bhosale. The 'Pudhari' was started by the Kolhapur Newspapers Association and it was the owner of 'Pudhari' till 1943. Mr.G.G.Jadhav became the owner of the 'Pudhari' in December 1943<sup>38</sup>. At the same time, the weekly 'Samaj' also came under the ownership of G.G.Jadhav.

The 'Vidhyapith Patrika' and the "Syke's Law College Magazine' were of the institutional ownership.

#### **Editors:**

There were some papers which had certain changes in its editorship and also additions of editors and co-editors.

Raghunath Ganesh Gokhale took over 'Vidhyavilas' in 1938 from his father Ganesh Shankar Gokhale, who had edited

'Vidhyavilas' from 1916 onwards.<sup>39</sup>

The 'Upayukta Dhandeshikshan' was edited by Bhimaji Tukaram Atyalkar. In 1940, it had appointed G.G.Desai joined him as co-editor.<sup>40</sup>

Balasaheb Patil, the editor of 'Satyavadi' also appointed co-editors for his paper. G.G.Jadhav was the co-editor of 'Satyavadi' before 1933.<sup>41</sup> 'Satyavadi' started its women's section in 1934 and for it, separate women editors were appointed. Manorama Khabade was the first editor of this section. Then Sarojini Tophakhane, B.A.; Indumati Harolikar, B.A.; Shanta Kulkarni, Kusum Kulkarni, B.A.,LL.B.; worked as the editors of this section.<sup>42</sup>

This special section provided opportunities to women to take to writing. 'Satyavadi' became the first Marathi paper in Maharashtra to have a separate column for women, edited by a woman herself.<sup>43</sup>

The change of editorship occurred in 'Pudhari' within a month from its conversion into a Daily; as V.T.Patil, on getting the presidentship of the Local Board, resigned.<sup>44</sup> G.G.Jadhav was quite experienced and capable of editing the paper (as time was to prove it later), but he was not considered solely for the editorship, as he did not have an impressive academic qualifications. The mantle fell upon one D.S.Jadhav, who was appointed as the editor, and along with his name, the name of G.G.Jadhav also appeared on the Paper as an editor. However, much of the editorial work was done by G.G.Jadhav only.<sup>45</sup>

### Nature of Publications.

The nature of publication did not change for majority of the publications. In case of only two periodicals, the nature changed.

'Vidhyavilas' was a weekly but it was changed into a daily in 1935.<sup>46</sup> Similarly, the 'Pudhari' was initially started as a weekly and after one and half years, it was converted into a daily in 1939.<sup>47</sup>

### Press.

Out of the periodicals which were started in this decade, some were printed at the press other than their own and some had their own printing presses.

The 'Satyavadi' initially was printed at Sudarshan Press.<sup>48</sup> Then it established its own press, namely Veer Mudran Mandir, in November 1931.<sup>49</sup> It was started in a building of Shri.Pise in Laxmipuri, Kolhapur, and then it was shifted in the building of one Shri.Medhe in Shaniwar Peth, Kolhapur, in 1933. In the same year, the name 'Veer Mudran Mandir' was changed to 'Satyavadi Press'. Mr.Shankarrao Balwantrao Bhosale (Kavi Baltanay) was appointed as the Manager of the press.<sup>50</sup> The 'Sevak' had its own press.<sup>51</sup>

The 'Pudhari' was printed in its own 'Chhatrapati Press' which was established with a combination of the properties of two papers, viz. the 'Sevak' and the 'Maratha Navjeevan' in 1937.<sup>52</sup>

Before this combination, 'Maratha Navjeevan' was printed at



Shri Shahuvijay Press.

**Added Features.**

Efforts were made to popularise the periodicals and increase their circulation by introducing different columns, special issues so as to expand the readership in various sections of the society.

The 'Upayukta Dhandeshikshan' which was started in the previous decade (in 1927) had published two special issues, viz. 'Soap Special Issue' and 'Making the Mirrors Special Issues' in 1932.<sup>53</sup>

The 'Satyavadi' had introduced some new columns in this decade. These were women's section (Stree Vibhag), cinema-world (Cinema Jagat), weekly Deccan Maharashtra (Saptahik Dakshin Maharashtra), etc.

The women's section, with a separate woman editor, started in 1934, contained articles, poems, stories, etc., by women writers. The writings of Mai Aitavadekar, M.A.; Sulochana Bhokare; Durga Kulkarni, M.A.; Krishna Hujurbazar; Yamutai Hirlekar; Kamathnurkar, etc., were published through it.<sup>54</sup>

The special section provided opportunities to women to take to writing. The 'Satyavadi' became the first Marathi paper in Maharashtra to have a separate column for women, edited by a woman herself.<sup>55</sup>

In order to take advantage of growing popularity of movies. The 'Satyavadi' started a special column as 'Cinema-Jagat' in 1934.<sup>56</sup>

In 1936, the 'Satyavadi' had introduced the 'Weekly Deccan Maharashtra'. It contained information of the Deccan States, viz. Sangli, Miraj, Bhore, Phaltan, Sawantwadi, Jamkhadi, etc.<sup>57</sup>

At the end of this decade, the 'Satyavadi' introduced one more important column, namely, 'World War Events' (Mahayuddhachi Halhawal) in 1940. Like its name, the column contained the events of the war, warfield, etc.<sup>58</sup>

The 'Satyavadi' had published many special issues, the first was its 'Quinquennial' (Panchavarshik) published in 1931 edited by Mr. Tengase and Mr. Vasudeo Karekar. It took a survey of the paper's progress.<sup>59</sup>

In April 1934, it came out with a special issue on fakery and deception practised in various fields. It contained fortytwo pages and highlighted cheating and deception practised in the fields like politics, industry, business, so-called intelligentsia, reformation movements, cinema, literature and among the educated women practising as doctors and lawyers.<sup>60</sup>

During the same year, i.e. 1934, the 'Satyavadi' had published a special issue on 'cinema' (Cinema Khas Ank). This was a fortytwo page issue, packed with articles on and interviews of wellknown personalities associated with the film industry, i.e.

Govindrao Tembe, Diwan Bahadur Annasaheb Latthe, Balgandharva, 'Bhala'kar Bhopatkar, V.Shantaram, Baburao Pendharkar, Bhalaji Pendharkar, Kamatnurkar, 'Nirbhid'kar Anant H.Gadre, Dadasaheb Torane, Dattoba Ambapkar, etc.<sup>61</sup> This special issue, more than any other special issue, brought a wide publicity to the 'Satyavadi'. As such, it came out with a number of special issues on cinema subsequently, particularly on the popular films as 'Dharmatma', 'Sawakari Pash', 'Tukaram', 'Shakuntala', etc.<sup>62</sup>

The common readers looked for entertainment in papers as is obvious from the special cinema issues of the 'Satyavadi'.

The last special issue of the decade under consideration was devoted to the illustrated coverage of various Princely States in the Deccan, viz. Kolhapur, Phaltan, Sangli, Bhor, Miraj, Budhagaon, Kurundwad, Kurundwad (Jr.), Akkalkot, etc. It was published in June 1940 and contained 172 pages together with a considerable number of photographs.<sup>63</sup>

Mr.G.G.Jadhav and Shankarrao Bhosale paid more attention to make their paper, the 'Sevak' more attractive to the public. Fresh columns were introduced in it, such as 'Sharsandhan', 'Karveer Vrutta', 'Bawadyache Batamipatra', etc. The column 'Shaniwarche Phutane' by 'Prabodhan'kar Thakare became very popular. The wellknown journalist R.G.Sardesai also contributed to the 'Sevak'.<sup>64</sup>

In order to raise its sale, the 'Pudhari' introduced Art column. It included the pictures of world-famous artists,

immortal works of art. It also introduced a column covering the world news, which was titled as 'Duniyetil Vividh Ghadamodi'.

The cartoons were another feature added to 'Pudhari'. Dr. Baburao Ghatge of Kagal, contributed these cartoons. The 'Pudhari' also continued with its humour column 'Sharsandhan'.

It introduced another column to review the newly published literature. 'Pudhari' also started a section for the children. It was looked after by Dinkar D. Patil. A column on cinema was also introduced in 'Pudhari'. The persons associated with the films contributed the articles. Mr. D. N. Deshpande under the pen-name 'batadya' wrote the column 'Batmya ani Bata' and Ganpatrao Jadhav wrote 'Chavhatyavaril Chakatyā' which dealt with light humourous matters.<sup>65</sup> 'Akashvani', 'Bolghhevadyachya Shenga', 'Chalatinani' were the other popular features of 'Pudhari'.<sup>66</sup> Prominent writers like Mama Varkerkar, K. S. Dandekar, V. S. Khandekar contributed articles to the 'Pudhari'.

The arrival of a number of publications in 1930s introduced an element of competition. Leading publications vied with one another in increasing their sales. Reference is already made to the inclusions and introductions of various attractive features aimed at attracting the subscribers and readers. This competition not only affected the layout part of the papers but also the working of the press. The conversion of weeklies into daily papers meant time-bound work for the press. Besides 'Vidhyavikas' pressed in night-shift so as to bring out its paper early in the morning, about 3.00 AM, just to have

an edge over other papers which came out some time between 8 to 9 PM. The morning edition meant work for the compositors right from the evening.<sup>67</sup>

The competition also led to innovative salesmanship. Instead of waiting for the customers to come, it meant reaching out to the customers. Narayan Toggimani, Navare, Gopal Datar, Joshi, etc., who sold 'Vidhyavilas' paper employed a new tactic in selling the paper. They would cry out loudly the name of the paper and titles of the news borne in it. This method of selling the papers became popular instantly and others also started employing it. 'Vidhyavilas' also resorted to home-delivery of the paper. The boys were hired on monthly basis to deliver the paper to the subscribers.<sup>68</sup>

#### **Financial Aspects.**

Financial stability eluded many of these publications as the financial resources were limited and subscriptions were an important source for the revenue. But it depended on the number of subscribers. The annual subscription of the 'Satyavadi', for instance, was two Rupees (Rupees three with postal charges)<sup>69</sup> Its founder, Balasaheb, had toured extensively as far as Hubli and Solapur and Bombay to collect the subscriptions. Similarly, he had introduced a number of extra-features to make his paper more saleable. As a result, 'Satyavadi' was in a comfortable position. On the other hand, the 'Maratha Navjeevan' had a limited number of subscribers because of its limited appeal.<sup>70</sup>

Though its annual subscription, for instance, was one Rupee and eight annas (Rupees.Two and annas four with postal charges).<sup>71</sup>

Similarly, the monthly subscription of the 'Sevak', for instance, was Rupees.Two (Rupees.two and annas twelve with postal charges).<sup>72</sup>

The annual subscription of the daily 'Pudhari', for instance, was Rupees.four and annas eight (Rupees.nine with postal charges).<sup>73</sup>

Comparatively, the rate of subscription of 'Maratha Navjeevan' was less and with 'Satyavadi', it was somewhat equal.

Another financial source at the disposal of the papers were the advertisements run in it. The 'Satyavadi' charged 2 annas per line in a column. Comparatively, a more number of advertisements appeared in it. It was usually brought out in four pages, out of which one full page carried the advertisements.<sup>74</sup> As the movies became popular in the 'thirties, the owners of Rajaram, Capital and Venus theatres regularly inserted advertisements in many publications. The 'Pudhari' had the advertisements of the movies, public notices and the Karveer Gazette, but the rates of advertisements were not fixed and were decided through direct contact or through post.<sup>75</sup> However, the advertisements could not be the main financial source of a paper. The 'Maratha Navjeevan' received regular advertisements from various individuals and institutions, such as The Famous Cloth Merchants, Bagi Brothers, the proprietor of Subodh Granthamala, Mr.Deshmukh, the King Edward Agricultural Institute, the Kolhapur Bank, the Commercial Bank, the Maratha Bank, the Employees' Bank, the Kolhapur Central Stores, the proprietors of the Rajaram, Capital and Venus talkies and others.<sup>76</sup> Similarly, 'Sevak' received

regular advertisements from Jayakar Convulsion Cure, Ashtekar Brothers Cloth Merchants, The Kolhapur Bank, etc.<sup>77</sup> However, it could not save the papers from closure.

Another source to tackle the financial problems was loans. There are some instances of loans having been extended by individuals, institutions and Banks to the newspapers.

When the 'Pudhari' was converted from a weekly into daily by combining the two weeklies 'Sevak' and 'Maratha Navjeevan', the financial responsibility was taken over by one Raosaheb D.M.Bhosale and a loan was extended through the 'Kshatriya Maratha Mandal'. Shrimant Bhausahab Pant Amatya, the ruler of the Bawada Feudatory also got partnership in it.<sup>78</sup>

G.G.Jadhav and S.B.Bhosale had started their weekly with the financial help of Rs.500 from Kolhapur Bank and Rs.400 from one Govindrao Upalekar.<sup>79</sup>

Though it is mentioned that the 'Satyavadi' enjoyed comparatively comfortable position, however, its proprietor had taken loan from Kolhapur Bank to set up his own press, the Veer Mudran Mandir.<sup>80</sup>

### **Government Policy.**

In this decade, nine new publications were started, out of which only two ceased their publication, viz. 'Sevak' and 'Maratha Navjeevan', because of the combination of the above two and giving birth to 'Pudhari'. The combination took place

only because of the bad financial condition. Much of the publication remained as they were. Many of them remained loyal to the government and many of them received support from the government or the government officers directly or indirectly, except the 'Vidhyavilas'.

The 'Satyavadi' tried to remain in the good books of the Durbar. It had established its own printing press in 1931. The opening ceremony of this press, the 'Veer Mudran Mandir', was celebrated on 21st November 1931. On that occasion, most of the state government officers were present. Some of them were Raobahadur Surve, then the Diwan of the Princely State of Kolhapur, and Sir Raghunath Sabnis, an officer of a high rank of the state government, and other honourable persons of the State.<sup>81</sup>

Balasaheb Patil celebrated the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj in 1933 at the 'Satyavadi Press'. Chh.Rajaram Maharaj and his family members were present on this occasion.<sup>82</sup>

The 'Sevak' and 'Maratha Navjeevan' remained loyal to the Durbar. Later on also, these papers received support from the Durbar, departments of the Durbar, the prime-minister of the durbar and some officers who helped them.<sup>83</sup>

Similarly, the personalities associated with 'Pudhari' were Raosaheb Dattobasaheb Bhosale, Raosaheb V.T.Patil, Bhausahab Pant Amatya (Bavadekar), Raosaheb K.G.Sabnis, Raosaheb D.R.Bhosale, P.B.Patil, D.S.Mane, Keshavrao Bhosale, P.A.Rane, G.D.Patil, etc.,



received direct or indirect support from the Government. In fact, some of the members were actually the government employees.<sup>84</sup>

The exception was the 'Vidhyavilas', which criticised harshly the government policy and the government bureaucracy. As such, it came under heavy punishment.<sup>85</sup>

Another important factor which affected the press was the government policy. The government appointed a publicity officer to control the news and newspapers in 1939. It was stated in the government report that initially, the publicity officer would be known as the 'office of the reporter on the press'. The department of the publicity officer was under the charge of the prime-minister. The first and the foremost work of the publicity officer was to collect all the day to day information and criticism appearing in the Anglo-vernacular press, concerning the Kolhapur State in particular, and to sort these news items systematically and then submit the cuttings to the prime-minister for his personal perusal and necessary action. In this way, the prime-minister was kept constantly informed of all the happenings reported in the press and those taking place on the public platforms. When the question of a great public importance and utility was raised in the press, the publicity officer was always alert to give information on behalf of the Durbar, by issuing press-notes and communiques, which were regularly distributed to the representatives of the local mofussil papers, both English and Marathi.<sup>86</sup> The government was sensitive to press criticism.

However, the majority of the periodicals in this decade were supported and blessed by the Government directly or indirectly. However, some other periodicals were at the receiving end. For instance, the 'Vidhyavilas' criticised both the government and the government policies. As a result, the government levied security and punishment on the owners of the paper. For example, in the infamy case of S.P.Sawant, the then President of Kolhapur Municipality, the Government imposed a penalty of Rs.900 and fifteen months' imprisonment on the editor Raghunath Ganesh Gokhale in 1939.<sup>87</sup> But the publication of the 'Vidhyavilas' was not stopped. In case of 'Garud', the government confiscated its press because its owner Dadasaheb Shinde had supported Praja Parishad.<sup>88</sup>

Another problem the press faced in this decade was indirectly related to the outbreak of the second world war which had resulted into the wide scarcity of a number of essential goods. On one hand, if it flooded the press with a lot of information to publish; on the other hand, it created a shortage of paper, affecting the size or the number of periodicals. For instance, 'Pudhari' started to use papers of various types of colours, such as green, blue, pink and also change the size of the periodical from time to time.<sup>89</sup> Important periodicals of the 'thirties such as 'Pudhari', 'Satyavadi', 'Vidhyavilas' faced these problems courageously and continued to be in the market throughout the next decade.

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