



THREE DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND URDU MEDIA CONCLAVE

MEDIA MONOPOLY: A Challenge to Democracy

(Tentative Date: November/December 2018)



Organised By:
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زیر اہتمام
شعبہ ترسیل عامہ و صحافت
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The media in South Asian countries like India, Pakistan and Bangladesh has never been more obedient to corporate and political forces as it is today. As these countries are scrutinized for human rights violations and atrocities committed against minority groups, the freedom of journalists to objectively report is ceasing to exist, with governments and legal systems failing to protect or rescue them. Today, prominent Indian politicians and corporate entities are making increasingly investments in media, and the press is failing to serve as a potent, unbiased tool to inform public perception. In this way, it is also increasingly unable to provide an arena for public debates where issues of shared interest can be represented and discussed. Unlike many democracies, where political and corporate entities are ostensibly supposed to be prohibited from holding news media broadcasting and publishing rights, media outlets in India are openly owned and controlled by political and business conglomerates, which are using the media to undermine the relevance of their opponents with scant regard for overall national interest.

India has been debating the issue of cross-media ownership for the last over 60 years. However, it is only now that it is being raised by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) at the behest of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the first time. In fact, TRAI in its paper expresses limitation on checkmating cross-media ownership. Rather, softly it has given it up. TRAI Chairman, Rahul Khullar said the regulator would, with the help of the Competition Commission of India (CCI), attempt to ensure that there are a minimum number of mergers and acquisitions. A consultation paper will spell out restrictions, make mandatory disclosure requirements, spell out levels of market share which will ensure plurality and diversity, list general disqualifications, recommend how cross media ownership can be dealt with, set rules for disaggregated markets, and ensure minimum mergers and acquisitions

The Indian Media and entertainment industry is estimated at about Rs 1052 billion and is growing by the day. Apart from the monetary value, the industry is important as it can influence opinion in political domain and trends in business. Groups owning a cross section of media have the capacity to tilt the balance in their favor though the industry does not accept it.

It is also well-known that political parties and persons with political affiliation own/control increasing sections of the media in India. There are two kinds of such newspapers or channels. Many of the News Papers which are known to be published by political parties

While others published as independent channels show a marked tilt in favor of the owner's political preference. The credibility of news has always been an issue. But despite concerns about it, the Nehru government did not do much to control varied interests of newspaper owners. It was debated often. Everyone stressed on the merits of having a free press. Many agreed that when a newspaper owner has varied interests to serve, it compromises with news publication.

In India, journalism has evolved over a long period since the first newspaper, Bengal Gazette and Calcutta Advertiser of James Hickey, was published in 1780. Journalism took a new turn in the history of the sub-continent and the Indian press gradually reached a stage where it could begin to influence the country's economics, politics and culture. Here we are talking of a period when the Indian press was confronted with the might of British imperialism in whose domain the sun never set, as was the common refrain.



Deals like the three outlined raises several key concerns relating to consolidation within the Indian media industry. With larger television broadcast networks, including Zee, Turner/CNN, Viacom/MTV and Sony, expected to acquire/partner regional networks, the commoditization of news seems almost inevitable but not necessarily desirable. In this country, as in the world over, large media corporations are today clearly playing a bigger role in the political economy that they report on. Though a free media is fundamental to the existence of a liberal democracy, concerns about the accountability and transparency of media companies remain. For instance, the RIL deal has enabled Network 18, Eenadu, and the merged group to expand its offerings to benefit both its stakeholders and its advertising target audiences. What remains to be seen is whether clear boundaries can be etched between the boardroom and the newsroom. The deal, therefore, raises significant questions about the diminishing levels of media plurality in a multilingual and multicultural country. Most of the reportage on the deal has focused on its business aspects. Questions about the future nature of editorial control remain unanswered. The complicated holding structures and investments made through layers of subsidiary companies make it difficult to discern the real “bosses” and the powers they wield. The real challenges that lie ahead for the media in India are to ensure that growing concentration of ownership in an oligopolistic market does not lead to loss of heterogeneity and plurality. In the absence of cross-media restrictions and with government policies contributing to further corporatization, especially with respect to the television medium, diversity of news flows could be adversely affected contributing to the continuing privatization and co modification of information instead of making it more of a “Public Good”.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Original papers are invited on any one of the themes proposed. The papers are to be neatly typed in double space along with an abstract not exceeding 300 words. The text should be in 12 fonts, Times New Roman with 1.5 cm margins on all sides. Each submission should have a separate title page, including its theme, and author’s details. All papers will be blind referred by experts and information about their acceptance or otherwise will be intimated. The author’s details should not appear anywhere else in the paper.

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The organizers of the conference would have the first right to publish the papers presented at the conference and they can publish the papers in the form of booklets, proceedings or book volumes in consultations with the author(s). If any paper is not published within one years’ duration from the date of the conference then the author(s) may exercise their discretion to publish those papers anywhere else.

REGISTRATION FEES:

Foreign Delegates :	\$ 150/-
Academicians	₹ 2000/-
NGOs/Media Persons :	₹ 1500/-
Research Scholars:	₹ 1000/-
MANUU Faculty:	₹ 1500/-

Accommodation will be provided on the payment of ₹ 500/day on dual sharing basis a/c rooms.)

(Dates of Registration, Abstract submission and Full Paper Submission will be notified soon.)

About the DEPARTMENT

The Department of Mass Communication & Journalism will be the organizing the second International National Conference and Urdu Media Conclave. The first International Conference was and Urdu Media Conclave was held on 17th & 18th March 2015, where 50 eminent personalities from the field of Media had participated. Further, more than 150 academicians and researcher's have participated and presented research papers. It is expected that eminent personalities from the field of Media, academicians and researcher's may participate and presented research papers in II International Conference. This will throw light on the status the media, professionalism and the current problems faced by the media industry.

About the UNIVERSITY

The Maulana Azad National Urdu University is a Central University established at the national level in 1998 by an Act of Parliament to promote and develop the Urdu Language and to impart vocational and technical education in Urdu medium through conventional and distance modes. Sprawled over 200 acres, the Headquarters of the University is located at Gachibowli, Hyderabad. The objectives of the University are to promote and develop the Urdu language, and to impart education and training in vocational subjects through the medium of Urdu.



INVITED SPEAKERS (Tentative)

- Mr. M. J. Akbar**
Senior Journalist and Hon'ble MOS, External Affairs, GOI
- Mr. Parannoy Roy**
Editor, Founder NDTV, New Delhi
- Mr. Mark Tully**
Former Bureau Chief of the BBC, New Delhi
- Mr. Anupam Kher**
Actor & Chairman of FTII, Pune
- Mr. Prakash Raj**
Film Actor, Hyderabad
- Mr. Saeed Naqvi**
Senior Journalist, New Delhi
- Mr. Vinod Sharma**
Political Editor, Hindustan Times, New Delhi
- Mr. Hitesh Kumar**
Editor, Organizer, New Delhi
- Mr. Seshadri Chari**
Senior Journalist, New Delhi
- Mr. Swapan Das Gupta**
Sr. Journalist & M.P., New Delhi
- Mr. Shyam Benegal**
Film Director, Mumbai
- Mr. Rajath Sharma**
Chairman and Editor-in-Chief, India TV
- Mr. Arnab Goswami**
Managing Director, News Channel, Republic TV
- Mr. Mehdi Raza Hasan**
Political Editor, The Huffington Post & Al Jazeera English, UK
- Mr. Rahul Dev**
Sr. Journalslist, New Delhi
- Mr. N. Ram**
Chairman, Kasturi & Sons Limited and Publisher, The Hindu
- Mr. Satish Jacob**
Former Deputy Bureau Chief of the BBC, New Delhi
- Mr. Ravish Kumar**
Senior Journalist & News Anchor, NDTV, New Delhi
- Mr. Siddharth Varadarajan**
The Wire, New Delhi
- Mr. Vinod Dua**
Sr. Journalslist, New Delhi
- Mr. Om Thanvi**
Senior Journalist, New Delhi
- Mr. Ramchandra Guha**
Historian, Writer and Columnist, New Delhi
- Mr. Paranjoy Guha Thakurta**
Senior Journalist, New Delhi
- Ms. Seema Mustafa**
Editor-in-Chief, Citizen, New Delhi
- Ms. Swati Chaturvedi**
Senior Journalist, New Delhi
- Ms. Barkha Dutt**
Senior Journalist, New Delhi
- Mr. Bhupendrar Chaudhary**
Editor-in-Chief, CNN, News 18
- Mr. Shazi Zaman**
Former Head, ABP News & Zee News, New Delhi
- Mr. Prabhat Dabral**
Senior Journalist, New Delhi
- Dr. Ved Pratap Vaidik**
Senior Journalist, New Delhi
- Dr. Jawahar Sircar**
Former CEO, Prasar Bharti
- Mr. Gurdeep Singh Sappal**
Former CEO, Rajya Sabha TV, New Delhi
- Mr. Rajdeep Sardesai**
Consulting Editor, India Today Group, New Delhi
- Mr. Punya Prasunn Bajpai**
Senior Journalist and News Anchor, ABP News
- Mr. Pankaj Pachauri**
Senior Journalist and Former Advisor, PMO, GOI, New Delhi
- Mr. Sanjaya Baru**
Senior Journalist and Former Advisor, PMO, GOI
- Mr. Srinivasan Jain**
Senior Journalist and News Anchor, NDTV, New Delhi
- Mr. Javed Ansari**
Senior Journalist and Political Correspondent, TV Today, New Delhi
- Ms. Ruchika Bhagat**
Editor, India TV, Lucknow
- Mr. Chandan Mitra**
Chief Editor, The Pioneer, New Delhi
- Mr. Javed Naqvi**
Senior Journalist, New Delhi
- Mr. Qamar Waheed Naqvi**
Senior Journalist, New Delhi
- Mr. Zia Us Salam**
The Hindu, New Delhi
- Mr. Qurban Ali**
Senior Journalist, New Delhi
- Mr. Urmilesh Singh**
Senior Journalist, New Delhi
- Ms. Nalini Singh**
Senior Journalist, New Delhi
- Ms. Tavleen Singh**
Senior Journalist & Columnist, New Delhi
- Mr. Mohammad Waqas**
Senior Associate Editor, India Today Hindi, Noida
- Mr. Ram Sharan Joshi**
Senior Journalist, New Delhi
- Ms. Mariya Saleem**
Senior News Anchor, CNN News18, New Delhi
- Mr. Amir Haque**
Editor, Times Now, Lucknow
- Mr. Asad Mirza**
Media & Public Affairs Adviser, Editor at British High Commission
- Ms. Suhasini Haider**
Senior Journalist & Foreign Correspondent, CNN, New Delhi
- Mr. Syed Faisal Ali**
CEO & Editor-in-Chief, Probitas News Network (PNN) Pvt. Ltd.
- Ms. Nigar Ataulla**
Executive Editor, Islamic Voice, Bangalore
- Mr. K.G. Suresh**
Director General, IIMC, New Delhi
- Mr. Najam Sethi**
Senior Journalist & Columnist, Pakistan
- Ms. Mehmal Sarfraz**
Senior Journalist & Columnist, Pakistan
- Mr. Imtiyaz Alam**
Senior Journalist & Columnist, Pakistan
- Mr. Kamal Khan**
Editor, NDTV, Lucknow
- Mr. Jagdish Upasane**
Vice Chancellor, MCRPESV, Bhopal
- Mr. Pratik Sinha**
Founder and Editor, Alt News, New Delhi

- To discuss Fake News vs True News vs Hype
- To discuss the current trend of Media Ownership in India
- To debate how media monopoly is a threat/ challenge to democracy
- To thrash out how media is becoming a tool of opinion formation and Propaganda
- To discuss the impact of Cross Media Ownership and the evils of paid news
- To know how Corporate houses have dominated News Rooms
- To know the usage of Social Media and its Impact
- To know about the media ethics, professionalism and Media Regulations

The conference proposes to address the following broad themes:

1. Media Monopoly in India
2. Market Dominance, Media and TAM
3. Irresponsible/Biased reporting and Sensationalisation/Fake News
4. Image of Media Credibility among Masses
5. Political Lobbying and Media
6. Impact of Media ownership on Journalists
7. How the line between Journalism and politics is being blurred?
8. Media Ethics, Professionalism and Media Regulations

Chief Patron
Dr. Mohammad Aslam Parvaiz
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, MANUU

Seminar Director
Prof. Ehtesham Ahmad Khan
Dean & Head, MCJ

Patrons
Prof. Shakeel Ahmad
Pro-Vice-Chancellor
Dr. M.A. Sikandar
Registrar

Seminar Coordinators
Dr. Mohammad Fariyad
Associate Professor, MCJ
Mr. Meraj Ahmad
Assistant Professor, MCJ

Organisers

Mr. Mohd. Mustafa Ali, Asso. Prof., MCJ, **Mr. Syed Hussain Abbas Rizvi**, Asst. Prof., MCJ,
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