

**Original Article****Nature of 'Jagdadarsh' Newspaper in Ahmednagar Campus****Dr. Shinde Swati Bhaskar**Department of History, Shikshan Maharshi Dadasaheb Limaye College Kalamboli,  
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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17197819>**Quick Response Code:**Website: <https://bnir.us>**Abstract**

*The nineteenth century is a very meaningful period in the history of Maharashtra. In this century, the modern era started in Maharashtra and the political, social and economic transition gained momentum. The local history of each place should be presented before the society in order to create a true view of the history at the national level.*

From Ahmednagar *Dnyanodaya* June 1842, *Vrittavaibhav* 8th December 1861, Similarly *Nyayasindhu* (Ocean of Justice)- 1866 these magazines started publish.[1] *Jagdadarsh* newspaper was started in April 1882 in Ahmednagar. Political, economic and social topics are covered in this newspaper.

**Nature of Jagdadarsh** - *Jagdadarsh* means mirror of the World. This newspaper was started in April 1882 by Kashinath Bahirav Limaye. He was a school teacher and a member of the Municipal Committee-Managing Committee. The motto of *Jagdadarsh* was 'jagdadarsa jananche gunavgun darshani Pravin aso, gunavardhana avagunashama karavaya tyamadhe sudharma vaso' ('जगदादर्श जनाचे गुणवृण दर्शनी प्रवीण असो, गुणवृण दर्शनी व्यापारे सुधर्म वसो').

*Jagdadarsh* Newspaper was published every Sunday. This newspaper was printed on a typewriter. The newspaper *Nyayasindhu* was printed on stone Press. So compared to that, *Jagdadarsh* newspaper was able to give more text in less space due to nails. But his language was comparatively grammatically impure. Fewer numbers are available at the Ahmednagar Historical Museum. Three issues are used for the study.

**Keywords:** *Jagdadarsh* Newspaper, Ahmednagar, Nineteenth Century Maharashtra, Political Awareness, Social Reform, Economic Nationalism, Swadeshi Movement, Local History, British Rule, Print Media, Nationalism.

**Introduction**

The nineteenth century was a transformative period in the history of Maharashtra, marking the beginning of modernity and the acceleration of political, social, and economic transitions. Local histories played an important role in shaping a broader national narrative, and newspapers were instrumental in spreading awareness. Among these, *Jagdadarsh*, launched in Ahmednagar in April 1882 by Kashinath Bahirav Limaye, emerged as a significant publication.

The newspaper served as a medium to reflect the political, social, and economic issues of the time. Covering topics such as government policies, international conflicts, taxation, indigenous medicine, and nationalist thought, *Jagdadarsh* became a mirror of the world, as its name suggests. The newspaper was not only a source of information but also a platform for cultivating public opinion and spreading awareness about economic exploitation, political reforms, and the value of indigenous knowledge systems like Ayurveda.

Its content highlighted the interplay between local and global issues, from debates about the salt tax and agricultural policies to discussions on international affairs and European politics. By addressing such a wide spectrum of subjects, *Jagdadarsh* contributed to shaping public consciousness, encouraging Swadeshi thought, and promoting nationalist ideals in colonial Maharashtra.

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It included political news, government policies and laws, various notices, and various advertisements. There were advertisements of watches, Ayurvedic medicines, notices were also printed. In it, local and foreign news is being printed. Apart from this, local news was given very briefly in Ahmednagar local.

Annual subscription of this newspaper - 4 shillings. or 2 rupees (in advance)

Annual subscription - Rs. 3 (after)

Each number - Two Annas

Postage costs one year in advance - 13 Annas

As this newspaper of 'Nyayasindhu' was contemporary, both the editors' criticism of each other and other juggling activities were entertaining the readers of that time. They also criticized each other.

Professor Jinsiwale, Gopal Ganesh Agarkar, Rajaram Shastri Bhagwat, Gaikwad Maharaj of Baroda were mentioned in that newspaper. It is true, however, that in the other current papers in Ahmednagar at that time, no one mentioned Nyayasindhu and Jagdadarsh. No, but the recent generation is confused. They have no breath.[2]

The article was published in Jagdadarsh under the headline 'Sikkim province will be looted or not?' (*Sikkim Prant Latnar ki Kay?*[3]) There was peace in the case of Barmadesh Khalsa, Egypt, and the Afghan border before British rule in India. But there was a warlike situation as Tibet was claiming Sikkim. Since the King of Sikkim is a friend of the British government, the British need to help him. Jagdadarsh was of the opinion that this was a matter of Hindustan Desha (India). Taxes will be levied on Hindustanis till the time of war. In this way, Sikkim was going to empty the coffers of India. Many people would die." The newspaper felt it was right to impose taxes on India to fight Tibet. But it gave a reason why England could not cover the cost. From this it can be said that Jagdadarsh was a British-style newspaper to some extent.

The British government had to investigate the governance of India. But the British ruled the time pass under the name of Parliamentary Committee and Commission.[4] After the British Parliament came to know about the people of India and the governance, Jagdadarsh owner thought that the Hindi people would benefit from it. According to Jagdadarsh, it is not good to publish anything before it is accomplished. Make it public or not but if there is peace in Europe it is a good thing. But if there is a disturbance, its prefix is Hindustan. And Hindustan suffers. The newspaper believed that peace in Europe would benefit the Hindi people.[5]

In 1895, Surendranath Banerjee was to preside over the National Assembly session in Pune. The information about Surendranath Banerjee was published in Induprakash newspaper and the information was published in Jagdadarsh newspaper. In 1888, Governor Stuart Bailey praised Surendranath Banerjee and distributed prizes to college students.[6] This is how information about Surendranath Banerjee came about. This shows Jagdadarsh's work from the point of view of spreading nationalist ideology. In this way the political work was given publicity by this newspaper.

People from other countries were barred from coming to America in the same way as Hindi people were doing in ancient India. Such was the opinion of Jagdadarsh newspaper.

Lord Randolph Churchill must have gone to Russia to unite England, Russia and France. According to Jagdadarsh, it is not good to publish anything before it is accomplished. The Jagdadarsh newspaper believed that peace in Europe would benefit the Hindi people. War was likely to break out between Italy and Abyssinia. In it, Jagdadarsh explained the role of European leaders and the need for peace in Europe. The emperor of Russia was to visit the territory occupied by Russia in Central Asia. Such international news was coming in the newspapers.

Due to the foreign invasion of Hindustan, useful scriptures were lost. Compared to English medicine, Hindu medicine did not have a favourable condition.[7] Hindu medicine did not have a sanctuary. The financial life of doctors was simple. But the merit of Hindu medicine was very great. The incurable diseases were treated in a simple manner. English medicine had a sanctuary. There were various tools to develop it. But compared to that, it also proved how good Hindu medicine is on diseases. In other words, the importance of Ayurveda in today's language was explained in the newspaper Jagdadarsh. It must be said that a definite Swadeshi was given a boost from it.

#### **Government of India increases salt tax**

Jagdadarsh had suggested that the government of India should consider the issue of increase in salt tax. But more information about concrete measures, economic exploitation of Hindi people, public awareness was not given. The recent resolution of the Government of India to increase the tax on salt states that except for the two provinces of Burma and Punjab, all parts of the rest of India will be charged each maunds 2.5 Rupees. In the past, each maunds 2 Rupees, but now it is Rs 2.5 (Two and a half) are done. Doesn't the eminent

Lord Dufferin know that the people of India are bent on the burden of taxes? The burden of taxes other than salt falls on a certain class, but it falls from Rao to Ranka. This is very bad, so imposing a tax on such government goods is to endanger everyone's life.[8] Therefore, Jagdadarsh had suggested that the government should give full consideration to this matter. But there does not seem to be much information about concrete measures, economic exploitation of Hindi people, or public awareness. In comparison, the work of Nyayasindhu newspaper during this period seems to have been done vigorously in terms of economic nationalism.

In comparison, the work of Nyayasindhu newspaper during this period seems to have been done vigorously in terms of economic nationalism. In 1895, a report was published on the area under cotton cultivation in the country, rainfall, condition of cotton crop and future yield. So, it helps to understand the history of agriculture at that time.

Jagdadarsh reported about Pandita Ramabai and how her reputation was tarnished due to her conversion to Christianity. From this it has to be said that Jagdadarsh was a newspaper promoting Hindu Dharma. A group called 'London Hindu Association' was set up in London to discuss religion and secular issues. Twelve topics were decided in it. Should the Social Council be convened in the National Assembly at that time? There were debates and disagreements about this. Jagdadarsh had written about it in the newspaper.[9]

In this way, political news, government policies and laws, international news, various notices, and various advertisements were coming. There were advertisements of watches, advertisements of Ayurvedic medicines, notices and replies to notices were also printed. At present, it is also being printed. In it, local and foreign news is being printed. Explicit topics (Sfutavishay) are being run. Apart from this, local news was given very briefly in Ahmednagar local.

#### Evaluation:

An article on Hindu medicine and English medicine appeared on the front page of Jagdadarsh newspaper on 29/2/1888. An article on indigenous medicine, its medicine and medicine were published in Nyayasindhu newspapers on 20/02/1888.[10] Considering both the articles, Indian medicine, Ayurveda was given importance. It was a part of encouraging Swadeshi. From a political-economic point of view, 1888 was a moderate period and was laying the foundation for the next independence movement. Its suffix comes from an

article in this newspaper. Just as the imperialist British had adopted a policy of protective duty on the textile industry, so the British were trying to promote English medicine by ignoring Hindu medicine. English medicine needed to be given to Hindu medicine as well as protection of the government (Rajashraya) and protection of British people (Lokashraya). Therefore, the poor would benefit by getting medicines at lower prices. The opinion that Hindu medicine was good is also reported by Jagdadarsh newspaper.

In 1888, the British had imposed a tax on salt from Rs. 2 to Rs. 2.5 per maunds. As a result, the poor were being economically exploited. Therefore, Jagdadarsh newspaper had said that imposing tax on such essential commodities is to endanger the lives of the people. It was also suggested that this matter be reconsidered.

At the same time, Nyayasindhu newspaper had published 'History of Salt Tax' on February 6, 1888.[11] From the news in both these newspapers it is clear that the British government was carrying out large scale financial extortion. Jagdadarsh had a sincere intention to inquire into the governance of India and let the British Parliament know the truth. The 1916 issue provided information on land revenue settlement. In 1892, agricultural revenue of Rs. 57 lakhs were levied on 4 drought prone districts namely Nagar, Solapur, Pune and Satara. Sir W. Hunter also found it difficult to keep pace with the revision of agricultural revenue every thirty years and the passage of a debt relief law for farmers. This opinion was expressed by this newspaper. Due to the increasing agricultural revenue every thirty years and the strict method of its recovery, the farmers became poorer.[12] This awakened economic nationalism. The moderate National Assembly gradually became extremist. The newspaper appears to have raised financial awareness. However, Jagdadarsh had said that England would not invest in Sikkim as it was a matter for India. This newspaper worked to create political awareness by informing Surendranath Banerjee.

Conventions on National Assemblies and Social Councils should be held separately. Jagdadarsh newspaper showed that political reform is more important than social reform. The newspaper sought to elevate Hinduism and culture by expressing the view that the ancient Hindus had the same views as those who had been barred from entering the United States at that time. It was mentioned that the Hindu Association was started in London and was doing good work.

By giving various local and international news and advertisements, it is seen that Jagdadarsh was making a vision of the world as per the name.

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#### **Conflicts of interest**

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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