CONCLUSION

In democracy the press, the government and the people form a triangle in their relationship. The vernacular press, virtually developed into an indispensable institution during the 20th century. It played a vital role for keeping the struggle for independence in motion and shaping public opinion. It brought different parts of the country close to each other and tried to infuse the spirit of nationalism.

The vernacular press, from very beginning had a mission to liberate India from British. Aurobindo Ghose has remarked, “political freedom is the life and breath of a nation”. National consciousness was created and fostered by the press, which ultimately resulted into independence of the country.

Urdu journalism, reflected the true picture of socio-political, economic, cultural educational condition of the country during the 19th century. Virtually, the Urdu press represented the sentiments and emotions of the masses in the country. It served as a catalyst in preventing the government to adopt reckless measures. The Urdu newspapers exercised considerable influence on the British authorities. Further more it acted as a check and balance on the British imperialist to adopt and implement those policies which were considered thoroughly anti-Indians.
In the absence of electronic media, people were fascinated towards print media, which was the only source of information. Illiteracy and inability of the people to purchase the newspaper could not prevent them from getting them acquainted about the issues highlighted in the vernacular press.

With the growth of nationalist sentiments, the number of newspapers went on increasing and their circulation, too increased considerably. The revolt of 1857 was an expression of anti-British sentiments, though failed to achieve its objective to root out British imperialism from the soil of India. The Vernacular press in general and Urdu press in particular engineered the revolt to overthrow an alien rule. North India, which is considered as the Urdu-speaking belt, was the epicenter of revolt. After the revolt was suppressed the British authorities came forward to curb the activities of vernacular press. By harnessing the services of press, the English educated Indians fostered the spirit of nationalism. The greatest achievement of the press was its creation of feeling of oneness by bringing the people of different regions together. This feeling of Indianness make people to realize the home rule is only guarantee of safeguard to their interest.

The leaders like Dada Bhai Nauraji S.N.Banerjee, W.c. Banerjee, etc. expressed their voice against the exploitative nature of the British
rule. They explained to the people about social and discriminatory attitude of the colonial master.

The earliest nationalists were mostly drawn from the profession of journalism. The growth of extremists in Indian politics changed the entire course of nationalist activities. The reporting in the newspapers about the revolutionaries occupied most of the space and its impact was such that people got themselves convinced to overthrow the alien rule through a violent revolution.

When the vernacular press grown as a force, then British authorities in Indian started imposing various restrictions on the press to make it ineffective. Editors were persecuted, printing press was confiscated and license of various newspapers were seized. This act strengthened the colonial control on the pressmen yet they could not be permanently bowed down, as punishment only increased their bitterness and defiance.

The need for an all India organization was felt allover the country. This found an expression in the columns of language newspapers. The propaganda for an organized plate form was to be used as an vehicle for expressing public opinion, which found its expression in the foundation of Indian National Congress in 1885. The Indian National Congress soon caught the eye of newspapers and then press in India got divided into different stream First of all nationalist press was
divided as moderates and extremist others were characterized as liberals and conservatives, later on these were pro-British and anti-British.

The emergence of Muslim politics was a product of their fear psychosis of Hindu hegemony and enslavement by Hindu, their fellow citizens since they were numerically less. Hence they doubted the secular and non-castist character of the congress. At this point of time Sir Syed appealed to the Muslims to keep themselves aloof from any active politics. He argued that since Muslims were educationally backward what share they will get in governance. He, therefore, asked Muslims first to get them educated, for this purpose he started MAO College at Aligarh.

Thus, the political, social, economic, cultural educational and all matters found their expression in the Urdu press. Newspapers had become an effective medium of disseminating information and offering solution to problems. Though, the newspapers represented various trends, yet their columns revealed the prevailing conditions of period as no other source did. The colonial government made its best efforts to curb the newspapers but it failed. More restriction means more popularity.

The vernacular press, which stood for the cause of Indian freedom, shaped the political, social, economic agenda for the country after she achieved her independence.