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INDEX

S. No.	Content and Author	Page No.
	Cover Page, Index, and Editorial	
1.	डायस्पोरा से सम्बंधित पत्रिकाओं में भारतीय संस्कृति का विश्लेषणात्मक अध्ययन जसीम अहमद डॉ. चन्दन सिंह	1-11
2.	सनातन एवं सांस्कृतिक विरासत : महाकुम्भ डॉ. वन्दना गुप्ता	12-27
3.	भारतीय सिनेमा और गाँधी जी डॉ. आरती पाठक	28-38
4.	ग्रामीण महिलाओं के सशक्तिकरण में महात्मा गांधी के रचनात्मक कार्यों की भूमिका तथा सामाजिक व्यवस्था पर उसके दीर्घकालिक प्रभाव का उजाला कुमारी	39-46
5.	1857 की सशस्त्र क्रान्ति और बलरामपुर अविनाश गुप्ता	47-64
6.	Media Exaggeration and Psychological Impact: A Correlational Study on Women's Mental Noise During COVID-19 Dr. Vaishali Raj, Dr Monisha.M, Dr. Naneetha R	65-76
7.	Evaluating the effectiveness of government PR tools in shaping public perception Padmavathi S Dr. Ashish Sharma	77-93
8.	Shifting Audience Base and Diminishing Trust of Mainstream Mass Media among Youth: An Analysis Naveen Kumar Dr. Chitra Tanwar	94-108
9.	Digital Echoes of Caste: Social Support and Segregation in Tamil WhatsApp Communities Dr. Praveen Kumar P Dr. Shiva Shankaran K.R Mr. Aadhavan R	109-119
10.	Citizen Journalism: A Study of Reach and Impact Dr. Shambhoo Sharan Gupta Dr. Prashant Kumar Rai	120-125

Preface...

The evolving landscape of Indian television news has sparked growing concerns about the influence of media ownership patterns and political interference. Over the years, media ownership in India has become increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few corporate conglomerates. This consolidation raises critical questions about the independence and objectivity of television news, which plays a vital role in shaping public opinion, influencing policy decisions, and strengthening democratic participation.

The commercialization of media, combined with ownership concentration, has created an environment where political interference is not just a possibility but often a reality. This editorial examines the intricate relationship between media ownership, political influence, and their impact on journalistic integrity and democracy in India.

Addressing these challenges requires urgent and effective solutions. One of the most pressing measures is the implementation of stricter regulations on media ownership to prevent monopolization. Government bodies such as the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) must establish policies that promote diversity in media ownership, ensuring a plurality of voices and perspectives in public discourse.

Moreover, enforcing robust ethical standards is essential to curbing political interference in news coverage. Media organizations must be held accountable for maintaining journalistic integrity through accuracy, fairness, and impartiality in their reporting. Equally important is the promotion of media literacy among citizens, empowering them to critically evaluate the news they consume and recognize biases influenced by ownership patterns.

The increasing concentration of media ownership and political interference poses significant challenges to the credibility of television news in India. As these trends continue, they threaten to undermine public trust in the media and weaken its role as an independent watchdog of democracy. To safeguard the integrity of television news, it is imperative to implement policies that encourage media diversity, uphold ethical journalism, and foster an informed and discerning public. Only through these measures can Indian television news regain its credibility and fulfill its democratic responsibility.

Ramshankar

(Editor in Chief)