

History of Punjabi Newspaper Ajit

Established in 1941 Ajit, one of the leading Punjabi newspapers started its publication from Shaheed Sikh Missionary College, Amritsar. S. Amar Singh Dosanjh and Master Ajit Singh Ambalvi were the owner and editor of Ajit. It was a small size weekly newspaper in the beginning. There was no daily newspaper to address the needs of the Punjabi community. In November 1942 Ajit became daily and its publication shifted to Lahore. S. Baldev Singh civil supply minister then overtook the management of Ajit. Under the chairmanship of S. Sampooran Singh, Punjab News Papers Society was constituted to manage the affairs of the newspaper. At that time, MLA Lal Singh Kamla Akali was made Chief Editor of Ajit.

After independence, Ajit shifted to Jalandhar. S. Sadhu Singh Hamdard became its editor in chief. In 1955 Urdu Ajit was converted into Punjabi Ajit Patrika. Again in 1957, it was renamed as Ajit. It is still published with the same name Ajit. Founder editor S. Sadhu Singh Hamdard remained its editor in chief till his last breath. On 29th July 1984, he left for his heavenly abode. He was bestowed by 'Shiromani Patarkar' award by the government of Punjab in 1968. Due to his untiring efforts, Ajit's size was increased to 20x30/4 from its earlier size 20x30/2. At that time other newspapers offered 4 pages for one anna, Ajit started offering 6 pages in two annas. Then Ajit decreased its font size from 18 to 12. Other Punjabi newspapers followed the suit. Nowadays Ajit is published in 8.5 point size.

The tradition of supplement pullouts was also started by Ajit. Initially, it started publishing one supplement in a week, which was then increased to one or two supplements. Now, Ajit publishes a four-page multi-colour photographic supplement almost every day. These supplements cover sports, health, women, entertainment, education, religion, culture, agriculture, new technology, knowledge and science topics.

After the demise of S. Sadhu Singh Hamdard his son, S. Sadhu Singh Hamdard took over the responsibility of editorship of Ajit. He was the editor of 'Punjabi Tribune' before that. With his experience, S. Barjinder Singh Hamdard improved the design and content by leaps and bounds. Adopting the modern development and technology Ajit kept pace with time and its print order increased as well. Today, Ajit is a status symbol for the living room of every household. It was a wide network of reporters, photographers and distributors.

S. Sadhu Singh Hamdard Trust, the owner of Ajit Newspaper established another milestone by starting Ajit Samachar, a daily Hindi newspaper. It is circulated in Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Ajit made its online presence felt by starting www.ajitjalandhar.com on 21 July 2002. Then, Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh awarded Ajit Newspaper with 'Indian Language News Organisation Award on 3rd October 2007.

Ajit started its Ajit Web TV in January 2014. Ajit started another publication unit at Chandigarh on 26th December 2014. Now, Ajit and Ajit Samachar editions are published from Jalandhar and Chandigarh simultaneously.

With thanks from Ajit Website
Translated by Prof. Deep Jagdeep Singh
educatordeep@gmail.com