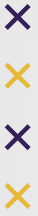


PERSON INTRODUCTION

HARIPRAKASH KONEMANE





Education and foray into journalism

Veteran Journalist Hariprakash Konemane hails from a rural background. He was born as the son of Mr. Venkataramana Konemane and Smt. Parvathi, farmers in Nandolli village in Yellapur taluk of Uttara Kannada district. His primary education up to high school was done in Nandolli and Yellapur. Later he went to MM Arts and Science College, Sirsi for his graduation in Bachelor of Arts.

He pursued his Master's Degree in Political Science and completed Diploma in Journalism from the University of Mysore. He was interested in the field of civil services, ever since his childhood. He studied to prepare for the UPSC exams for two years in Hyderabad, Delhi and Bangalore. By then, he felt a strong tug towards the field of journalism. So, he took up journalism full-time in 2002 through Samyukta Karnataka, the oldest newspaper in the country, where he started as a sub-editor, and was promoted to the post of 'news coordinator of all editions' within a few months.

In 2005, when VRL Media started the most coveted Usha Kirana daily, Hariprakash was appointed as the Head of its Hubli edition. At this juncture, Hariprakash's role was very significant in making Usha Kirana gain traction in terms of circulation, over all other editions. His concept and execution of Usha Kirana turned it into a paperless office starting from the Hubli edition. He pushed for wider use of computer and related technology in Kannada journalism. This was a big step into future prompted by Hariprakash through his vision.

Subsequently, when the Times of India Kannada daily was launched, Hariprakash served as its Bangalore Bureau Chief. In 2008 he re-entered the Samyukta Karnataka newspaper. This time around, he made special efforts to bring a new look to Samyukta Karnataka newspaper as its Assistant Editor. Samyukta Karnataka introduced a new design, a wide variety of news selection and a fresh writing style to the newspaper. A whole range of new columns were introduced. For two years between 2008 and 2010, Hariprakash's column Deshakala on current affairs, were the most sought after by the readers. Eventually, the collection of Deshakala columns was published in the form of a book with the same name and the book received a great acclaim, as well.

Moving forward, he was appointed as the News Editor of the Bangalore edition of another popular Kannada daily, Udayavani, in 2010. In a very short period, Udayavani relaunched its Bengaluru edition and Hariprakash played a crucial role in giving it a new look. The new format of Udayavani newspaper created ripples in Kannada journalism. During the relaunch of Udayavani, a new experiment in Kannada journalism, and the colorful news page Balcony went on to create a whole new tradition. This attempt was well received by the readers.

His keen insight and searing write-ups packing powerful and provocative pieces drew attention of the readers to important issues and challenge the status quo. His writings are known for a distinct voice and style of writing that makes his work stand out, and Hariprakash has never shied away from tackling controversial topics or take a strong stance on current events.

A keen observer and a writer that he is, Hariprakash has mastered the art of gaining significant insights into the world around him, and turning them into words that pack a punch. He also dabbles with deeply informative creative writing as well as providing excellent political analysis that strides into visionary, analytical and balanced writeups. Hariprakash cuts above the others in his field with his ability to grasp innovation instantly, comprehensively understands weaknesses and positives of the team members and uses their strengths for the benefit of the newspaper. Hariprakash is a rare journalistic leader who leads his team of journalists with calmness and clarity, taking right decisions despite the highly stressful situations he operates in during all times. These attributes are quite rare in the field of journalism which operates mostly in challenging sporadic moments; as opposed to an organized approach to work, unlike the other fields.

His leadership qualities and his creativity in tackling various high-level responsibilities in the field of journalism have been lauded by many. As a writer and journalist who has made a significant impact in his field, despite coming from a rural background Hariprakash carries a unique perspective and insights that helps shed light on important issues that affect communities across India and beyond. Hariprakash's ability to navigate the complex terrain of journalism and bring a fresh perspective to his writing is truly commendable.



Assistant Editor to Editor-in-chief: Vijayavani

In 2011, he returned to the VRL Group to start as Assistant Editor of Vijayavani newspaper owned by the VRL Media.

As a member of the foundation structure of Vijayavani, Hariprakash worked hard to build a team of good journalists across ten editions that covered the length and breadth of the state. Vijayavani newspaper found a strong foothold as Kannada's No. 1 newspaper in just two years, owing to the focus and integrity of the 400 strong team led by him. This is undoubtedly a strong and significant milestone in his career. On February 28, 2014, when the founder editor of the magazine, Mr. Thimmappa Bhat, retired from his office, the Newspaper's governing body handed over the chair and responsibilities of Editor-in-chief to Hariprakash Konemane, as a natural choice. This holds mirror to the ability and commitment to his work. Not just that, Hariprakash is the youngest person to become Editor-in-chief of the state's leading newspaper, at an age of 39.

Hariprakash's writing in Vijayavani (especially his column called 'Commentary') is both insightful and thought-provoking, as he draws on his personal experiences, as much as from the current social and political events, to bring a new perspective to his work. His writing style is both accessible and engaging, making it easy for readers to connect with his message and relate to the issues he is discussing. The series of articles he wrote during and after the trip to Malaysia in Jan 2014 representing Vijayavani to participate in Visit Malaysia 2014- Mega FAM event was well received by the readers.



VRL Media Director, Digvijaya 24X7 Editor-in-Chief

Acknowledging his accomplishments as the Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper, the Board of Directors also invited him to be the Director of VRL Media Limited. Eventually, when the governing body decided to start 'Digvijaya' television channel, it also entrusted the pivotal responsibility, to Mr. Hariprakash Konemane. Even here, as the Editor-in-Chief, he worked to ensure 'Digvijaya 24x7 News' to be the best. He did a programme 6 days a week at 9 PM every night, titled "News Outlook" - a wrap up capsule on the day's news - driving it to become a popular program through its intricate insight and objective analysis. On November 15, 2017, he left Vijayavani and Digvijaya.



US Media delegate

He was among the 2 delegates selected from Karnataka, to be part of the programme organized by the US Embassy, for those who have excelled in various fields including media, politics, health, environment and so on after detailed scrutiny.

As a part of this, he participated in the annual Global Leadership Exchange program under Edward R Murrow Program for Journalists and media persons in October 27 to November 15, 2014. He went to this program on the invitation of the US State Department, and participated in many discussions on social, economic and political framework of America, agenda of the media in foreign policy reporting, challenges in the current situation, etc. He received a special letter of appreciation from the US Govt.

During this visit, he traveled from the north to the south of America, visiting Washington, the US Congress (Parliament), holding discussions with the speaker, visiting the head office of the

State Department and discussion with the secretary, co-secretary and all high-level officials on both sides, visiting the prestigious Syracuse and Arizona Universities in America, where discussions on International Relations were held. Furthermore, discussion with experts on mass communication issues, visiting the New Yorker, USA Today (leading newspaper), MSNBC TV channel offices and holding discussions with the editorial staff to understand the challenges of illegal immigrants in the US/Mexico border area, and drug trafficking problems in America. Getting an opportunity to do hands-on study of various issues was an unforgettable experience for him.



Editor of Vijaya Karnataka newspaper

Scaling the next peak, was his highly notable work as the Editor-in-Chief of prestigious Kannada newspaper Vijaya Karnataka from 2018 to March 2022. Even while facing pressure from all across to stop the publication of the newspapers during the two years of covid pandemic, he ensured that the journalists also showed that they were covid warriors. Not just that, even in the face of such a challenge, they set a record in newspaper circulation and revenue generation and got the credit of pushing through and making this newspaper the No 1, up from its second position.

During the Covid time, he launched a programme 'Rebuild Karnataka', that engaged the readers in a very innovative way and elicited tremendous response.

He has been honored with the prestigious Times of India Group Chairman Award for two consecutive years for his best practices and highly motivating persona which never loses focus in the face of challenges. His column "Vistara" that he wrote for three consecutive years is still seen as a benchmark in Kannada commentary on current issues.



Heading Vistara Media

After a fruitful stint at the Vijaya Karnataka newspaper he decided to move on, in March 2022, to launch an independent TV and Digital Media company called 'Vistara Media Private Limited'. He is the Editor-in-Chief and CEO of Vistara News. Vistara News' digital properties - Web Portal/ News App - were launched on June 23, 2022. As a natural result of his leadership and innovative ideas, this is now the most popular digital platform that rose to popularity in a short time. Vistara News (TV / Satellite Channel) was launched on November 6, 2022 and in just three months, Vistara News has become a household name across Karnataka.

At Vistara, within three months, Hariprakash launched Nammoora Shale Nammellara Shale -- a programme to adopt a government school and, played a strong catalytic role to have 100 plus government schools adopted by the industry leaders, people's representatives, and prominent members of the society.

His 'Book Talk' is a unique program to reintroduce and promote the habit of reading and writing among common people. This programme is getting great response from viewers and readers alike, having merged both writing and visual media.

The evening programme of prime band created by Hariprakash, the Veekshaka Varadigara has become very popular among viewers who look forward to participatory journalism.

As a channel, instead of just being a visual media, Vistara is able to address public grievances and bringing out unsung achievers from all walks of life, to the fore. This has bridged the gap between the heard and unheard sections of the society. Needless to say, viewers have been watching this programme with renewed interest.

Along with his administrative and editorial responsibilities, Hariprakash also hosts two daily shows, of an hour each, on Vistara News (TV) – one at 7:30am, to kickstart the day, and the second, an analytical wrap of the day's news / events, at 9:00pm.



Columns

- **Deshakala** - Hugely popular column written for Samyukta Karnataka newspaper, published in two parts of his column writings.
- **Commentary** - High readership column written for Vijayavani magazine with more than 300 published articles.
- **Vistara:** Popular column in Vijaya Karnataka newspaper. This has been published in book form in 2 parts consisting 150 articles.



Awards & Honour

- **2107** Prestigious Kempegowda Award
- **2019** KaSaPa Datti Puraskar
- **2019/2020**- the prestigious Times of India Chairperson's Award
- **2023** Karnataka Media Academy Award



Conclusion

Hariprakash's journey to success is an inspiration to many. Coming from a rural background, he has faced numerous challenges and obstacles along the way, but he persevered and remained committed to his passion for journalism. His success is a testament to his hard work, dedication, and talent, and serves as a reminder that with determination and grit, anything is possible.

His massive success is in connecting media to common man, to get his issues and challenges addressed by the powers that be. His Janata Darshana, Reader Report, Super Star Raita programmes are a few examples of his innovation.

Hariprakash Konemane is a talented and inspiring journalist whose work has had a significant impact on the field of journalism. His unique perspective and powerful writing have helped bring attention to important issues, and his success is a testament to the power of hard work and determination. He is a true inspiration to anyone who aspires to make a mark in their chosen field.



Revolution in Educatio Sector

(Organisations chaired by)

- Vishwadarshana Educational Institutions, Yellapur, Uttara Kannada District.
- It is a Prestigious educataional institute in this region
- Vishwadarshana Central School (CBSE)
- Vishwadarshana Pre University College (Combined Education of Science and Commerce)
- Vishwadarshana B.Ed. College
- Vishwadarshana School of Nursing (Ankola)
- Vishwadarshana BCA College
- Two Kannada medium aided educational institutions
- Vishwadarshana Career Academy (Comprehensive Examination Training Centre)
- KSOU Study Centre, Yellapur
- A unique quadrilingual learning center has been introduced for the first time
- Vishwadarshana Seva
- Dr. Vijaya Sankeshwara Center for Media Studies (Coming Soon)