

Department of Mass Communication and Journalism Tezpur University, Assam, India - 78 4028

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Mass Communication and Journalism TU

#### Assam Sahitya Sabha President interacts with MCJ students



Dr Kula Saikia, former Director General of Assam Police and President of Assam Sahitya Sabha interacted with the students of the department on the afternoon of January 21st, 2020. In his illuminating conversation with the students and faculty alike he inspired and enthralled everyone with anecdotes of wisdom gathered throughout his life. He urged the students to look at everything in life with a positive, humanitarian and socially-beneficial outlook so that a sense of satisfaction is derived from all activities. This was irrespective of a person's personal, social or professional life. He also asked them to continue pursuing their passion for knowledge and interest by judiciously managing one's time. It was a highly-lively session coordinated by Prof. Abhijit Bora of the department in which students asked a lot of questions answered by Dr Saikia in a lucid and engaging manner. It may be mentioned that Dr Saikia is a former IPS officer and a writer of repute with Sahitya Akademi award to his credit. This was one of the first few public programmes of Dr Saikia after just being elected as President of the Sabha.

Ms Leena Sharma, Senior Indian Railway Service officer and spouse of Dr Saikia who was also present in the interaction exchanged a few words of encouragement with the students. It may be mentioned that Ms Sharma is also a renowned litterateur of Assamese.

### Department observes National Press Day, 2020

The Department observed National Press Day (NPD) via online mode on 16 November 2020 on the Press Council of India (PCI) prescribed theme - Role of media during the covid-19 pandemic and its impact of media. It was a very lively discussion programme with two eminent media persons of the country – Mr A.S. Paneerselvan, Readers' Editor of The Hindu (Chennai), and Ammu Joseph, Independent Journalist and Author (Bengaluru). About a 100 enthusiastic participants including department's students, practicing media professionals, media educators etc. were present throughout the discussion. Mr Paneerselvan in his speech made it clear that the ethical deficit of media predated COVID-19. It was a 'legacy' being carried ou since the last two-three decades. He said that it



would be quite wrong to make COVID-19 the main reason for all the problems in the media. The other expert, Ms Joseph spoke on the topic – The media, pandemic and comorbidities. In her short talk, the Independent Journalist was critical of the role of Press Council of India (PCI). Mentioning about her association with this university earlier, she reflected on many unfortunate comorbidities happening due to the pandemic. Prof. V.K. Jain, Vice-Chancellor in his speech spoke about the importance of ethical reporting and shared his thoughts on journalism that led to greater accountability and endured welfare of the people. The programmes was coordinated by Prof. Abhijit Bora.

## Workshops/ Events



### DEPARTMENT OF MCJ ORGANISES THE FIRST TEZPUR QUEER FILM FESTIVAL

First Tezpur Queer Film Festival was organised in the Department on March 11, 2020. The Event was organised in collaboration with Xobdo, and Green Hub, Tezpur based NGOs working on environment and gender sensitivities at 2.30 PM at MCJ screening Hall. Introductory talk on LGBTQ+ issues was delivered by Ms Arpana Choudhury, Member, Xobdo and Green Hub. There was screening of six award winning short films produced by PSBT.

#### **Department of MCJ organises participatory media workshop**



The department organized a 5 days workshop on Participatory Audio Video Production conducted by Mr. Debarun Dutta, Drishti, Ahmedabad during 22-26 January 2020. The workshop was attended by students of department along with 30 school children from 3 different schools in the vicinity of Tezpur University. Three PV productions emerged out of the workshop. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Anjuman Borah.

#### DEPT OF MCJ CO-ORGANISES **"YUVA MANN MEET"**, A WELLNESS FESTIVAL 2020

YUVA MANN MEET, a virtual Wellness Festival 2020 was organized by Youth Wellness HUB, LGBRIHM, Tezpur in collaborations with Green HUB, Tezpur and Department of Mass Communication and Journalism on 5-6 December 2020 via Zoom platform. Dr. Anjuman Borah was the department coordinator of the event.



#### Online Workshop on Fake news and Online news verification



An online workshop on 'Fake news and online news verification' was organized by the Department on 10 December 2020 via Google Meet from 11 AM to 1PM. The resource person of the workshop was Mr. Bharat Nayak, founding Editor of The Logical Indian and the workshop was coordinated by Dr. Anjuman Borah.



#### Factshala: an online workshop on digital literacy organised in the Department of MCJ

An online workshop was organised by the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism in association with Factshala for the students of the Department on 19 December 2020. Hands-on training on online fact-checking techniques and talk on the issues related to misinformation were the key deliverables during the workshop. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Manoj Deori and the resource person of the workshop was Manjori Borkotoky, a Factshala Trainer and a Media professional.

#### Department of MCJ organises a day-long session on career prospects

A day-long session on career prospects in the disciplines of Mass Communication and Journalism and Communication For Development was organized by the Department on 29 October 2020 as part of orientation program for the Autumn Semester batch 2020. The alumni of the department are currently working in the fields of academics, journalism, Public Relations, NGOs, FM Radio and Advertising. Some of the Alumni, who chaired the session were Dr. Sayanika Dutta Sarkar, Rimiana Baruah, Simantik Dowerah, Sachin Gogoi, Kuwoli Hazarika, Ruma Chakraborty, Gaurav Das, Manash Pratim Bhuyan etc.

# National& International

#### THE DEPARTMENT OF MCJ ORGANISES WEBINAR ON 'CHALLENGES And opportunities for media students in the time of covid 19'

A webinar on 'Challenges and Opportunities for media students in the time of COVID 19' was organized by the Department in collaboration with its Global Alumni Association on July 26, 2020. The webinar began with a welcome address by Sachin Gogoi, the President of the Global Alumni Association of the department who is presently working as the Editorial Lead, BBC News. He worked as the Media Chief Specialist for India in the U.S. Embassy, New Delhi and as a Reporter cum Sub-Editor at Indo-Asian News Service (IANS). In his introductory remarks, he highlighted the key objectives of the webinar and introduced the moderator for the session, Indrani Das, who is the Vice President of the Global Alumni Association of the department and a former faculty of Assam Institute of Mass Communication and Media Research. A woman of many talents; she is an actor, singer, writer, poet and a painter. She is also working as a Communication Skills and Personality Development coach. Indrani Das introduced the panelists for the session which consisted of Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, a Development Communication specialist, CSR and Management Consultant with experiences of working as a quest faculty at Indian Institute of Mass Communication and Xavier's Institute of Communication; Nurul Islam Laskar who is the founder of North East India's first Public Relations Agency, Cabsford PR, a Consulting Editor of The Sentinel and an Executive Editor of the Northeast Chronicle; Karma Paljor, an award winning Journalist and TV news anchor with CNN-NEWS 18 who is currently the



Editor-in-Chief at EastMojo; and Agam Choudhury, Chief Revenue Officer at DigitaLabs, a global Digital Marketing Agency The panelists expressed concern about the present state of Journalism and how COVID-19 has deeply affected the industry. The session ended with a vote of thanks by the Head of Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Dr. Joya Chakraborty.

#### Department of MCJ organises a Webinar on the topic "Mahatma Gandhi: Making of History and Contemporary"



The Department organized a webinar through Google Meet on the topic - 'Mahatma Gandhi: Making of History and Contemporary' on 15 August, 2020, on the auspicious occasion of two-years long program commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, and also 74th Independence Day. The esteemed speakers of the webinar, Dr. Jacob Pulickan, Director of Gandhi Centre for Rural Development and Founder Coordinator of Centre for Gandhian Studies, University of Kerala, delivered the first talk on 'Contemporary relevance of Gandhi' and Prof. Biswajit Das, founder director and Professor of Centre for Culture, Media and Governance, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, delivered the second talk on 'Gandhian Thought and Practice: Perspectives from Intellectual History of Communication'. The participants consisted of representatives of media educators, media professionals, development professionals, researchers and students from over 50 different institutions and organizations across the length and breadth of the country. Webinar Director Prof. Sunil Kanta Behera (Professor of Eminence, Dept of MCJ) also contextualized the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in shaping the contemporary times. Prof. Joya Chakraborty, Head of the Department, concluded the two and half hours long webinar by acknowledging gratitude to the esteemed speakers for such enlightening talks and appreciated the participants for posing questions, which made the webinar more engaging and thanked Dr. Manoj Deori, Assistant Professor of MCJ for the technical support.

#### DEPARTMENT OF MCJ ORGANISES INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR SDG SENSITIVE RISK COMMUNICATIONANDCOMMUNITYENGAGEMENT (RCCE) RESPONSES TO COVID-19

'Communication for All' was proposed as the 18<sup>th</sup> SDG to bridge the everwidening inequalities in the society during a four-day International Webinar series organized by the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University in collaboration with UNICEF, Assam. The webinar 'SDG Sensitive Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Responses to Covid-19' held during 14-17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 was undertaken with a view to bring together global, regional and local narratives to highlight instances of best practices in RCCE responses to COVID 19. The Webinar series deliberated upon the key principles and issues in risk communication and made a strong case for the need to address the gaps in communication at the community level and strengthen the voices of the people.

The event brought together eight professionals and academics from seven different countries like - India, USA, Belgium, Chile, Brazil, Sri Lanka and New Zealand, to address over 400 registered participants consisting representatives of media, development professionals, researchers and students from over 50 different institutions in India. Participants from USA, Pakistan, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Nigeria also joined the webinar. The live stream of the daily sessions over YouTube and Facebook also received an audience of over 1000 each day.

The inaugural session on December 14, 2020 was addressed by personalities like Mr. Siddartha Shrestha (Chief, Communication for Development, UNICEF India), Dr. Supriya Bezbaruah (Technical Officer, Risk Communication, WHO South-East Asia Region) and Dr. Madhulika Jonathan (Chief of Field Office, UNICEF Assam and North East India). The Vice Chancellor of Tezpur University, Prof. V.K. Jain delivered the inaugural address. Prof. David H. Mould (Professor Emeritus, School of Media Arts and Studies, Ohio University, USA) delivered the first lecture on "Risk Communication in Emergencies:



Principles and Practices". He elaborated that Risk Communication strategies during Covid-19 cannot be universalized, it needs to be contextualized based on the social, political, cultural and linguistic differences among segments of population in various countries.

#### Invited Talks organized/Invited talks delivered& Paper presentations by Dept. faculty

- Professor Sunil Kanta Behera delivered a lecture titled, "Tools of Data Collection: Questionnaire Method" in a Webinar organised by Institute of Media Studies, Utkal University on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- 2. Professor Sunil Kanta Behera delivered a lecture on the fifth Webinar Series on Media Response to Crises organised by Press Club, Kolkata in collaboration with UNICEF, West Bengal on 21 December 2020.
- 3. An online exclusive session on 'Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace' was organized for the newly admitted students in M.A MCJ and M.A C4D (first semester) by the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism in collaboration with Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) of Tezpur University on 30 October 2020. The session was chaired by Ms. Angel Habamon Syiem, member ICC and Assistant Professor Department of Law, Tezpur University. The session was coordinated by Dr. Anjuman Borah.
- Prof. Abhijit Bora delivered a lecture session on the topic "Teaching Profession and Public Relations" (online) at the Faculty Development Programme for college and university teachers on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 organized by PMMMNMTT Teaching Learning Centre (TLC) of Tezpur University.
- 5. Prof. Abhijit Bora chaired a technical session with the theme "Media and Empowerment" in the International Transdisciplinary E-conference on the theme "Crafting the contours of Mass Media for new India: A global perspective" on November 2, 2020. It was organized jointly by Departments of Mass Communication of Rajiv Gandhi (Central) University, Assam (Central) University and the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Eastern Regional Centre at Dhenkanal.
- 6. Prof. Abhijit Bora delivered the National Press Day lecture at the programme organized by the Sonitpur Civil Administration with the local Journalists' Association on November 16, 2020 at the District Library auditorium, Tezpur. In his speech Dr Bora called upon the scribes for continuing to live up to the expectations of the society at large by discharging the noble duties and responsibilities. The community's role in the Pandemic situation was also appreciated by the resource person and said that he also felt proud



of the fraternity as he himself was a serving journalist prior to joining academics fulltime.



- 7. Prof. Joya Chakraborty, Head, Dept. of MCJ delivered the keynote address at the Assam state level celebration of National Press Day 2020 organized by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, at Guwahati, Madhavdev Stadium on 16 November 2020. Honourable Chief Minister of Assam Sri Sarbananda Sonowal was the Chief Guest for the programme.
- Prof. Abhijit Bora presented a talk (Online) on the theme "Indian Films, Tracing a Few Trends" on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Ranjit Guru Memorial Series of International Webinars on Initiative Policy Dialogue 2020: COVID19 Pandemic Life Beyond Practice organized by the Deptt. of History and political Science, JN College, Kuanpal, Cuttack, Odisha.
- 9. Prof. Abhijit Bora chaired a parallel session

(paper presentations) of the 4th National Media Conclave-2020 (online) with the broad theme "Communication for Social Change" on November 22, 2020 from 11.30 am to 1.30 pm. It was organized by the Institute of Media Studies, Utkal University, Cuttack, Odisha.



- 10. Prof. Joya Chakraborty delivered a lecture on Development Communication to Communication for Social Change: Contextualizing the changing paradigms as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> national webinar series organized by Institute of Media Studies, Utkal University, Odhisa on 13 May 2020.
- 11. Prof. Abhijit Bora presented a paper on the topic "A century of India's media education: An introspection on quality" at the International Web Convention on Hundred Years of Media Education: Decoding the South Asian Mystique on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. It was organized jointly by International Institute of Journalism of EW Scripps School of Journalism of Ohio University, USA and Dr Anamika Ray Memorial Trust (ARMT).
- 12. Prof. Abhijit Bora took part in the Plenary Session VII on "Communication research: In search of parameters for glocalization" on December 20 of the International Web Convention on Hundred Years of Media Education: Decoding the South Asian Mystique on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. It was organized jointly by International Institute of Journalism of EW Scripps School of Journalism of Ohio University, USA and Dr Anamika Ray Memorial Trust (ARMT).
- 13. Prof. Abhijit Bora delivered two lecture sessions on

the topic "Mass media in Assamese language in the first two decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century" at the Faculty Development Programme for college and university teachers of Assamese Language on December 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 organized by the Assamese Department of TU in collaboration with the PMMMNMTT Teaching Learning Centre (TLC) of Tezpur University.

14. Prof. Joya Chakraborty delivered the valedictory address on March 28, 2020 as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference ICAN 2020 on the theme Issues of Community Agenda and News.



15. Prof. Joya Chakraborty delivered a lecture on Risk Communication on 9 July 2020 as part of a webinar on Disaster Management and Crisis Communication organized by Press Information Bureau, Guwahati.



16. Prof. Joya Chakraborty delivered a lecture titled Communication Technology and Gandhian Philosophy for Human-e Development as part of the International webinar on Sustainable Technologies and Rural Development: A Gandhian Perspective on 31 August 2020 commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The international webinar was jointly organized by GIC, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand and Tezpur University.

17. Prof. Joya Chakraborty delivered a lecture titled Communicating Khadi: Gandhi and his symbolism as part of a webinar organized by Press Information Buruau, Guwahati commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 11 September 2020.



- 18. Prof. Joya Chakraborty delivered the inaugural address as the Guest of Honour during the webinar on Brand Premiumization organized by Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Tripura University on 22 September 2020.
- 19. A webinar on "NGOs in Development Debate" was organised by the Department of Mass Communication and journalism, Tezpur University on 2nd of December, 2020. Mr Wasi Alam from NGO CARE India resourced the session. While delineating the strategies to build the community awareness, the webinar focussed on the development of capacities of vulnerable population and the importance of strengthening of human resources. The session

necessitated the importance of strategic partnership and investment like the collaboration of academia, media and government.

Mr Alam while sharing some post disaster initiatives to build back better and safer, discussed the adopted approaches by NGOs to bring social change with an emphasize on need-based programming interventions and promoting and engaging collectives such as social monitoring committees, SHGs, clusters and federation. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Kapou Malakar.



20. Prof. Joya Chakraborty delivered a lecture titled Gandhian Philosophy for Endearing ICT centric SGD imperatives in Indian Context as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> National Media Conclave on Communication for Social Change organized by Institute of Media Studies, Utkal University, Odisha during 21-22 November 2020.



- Dr. Anjuman Borah delivered a lecture titled "Children and Media: Listening to the Unheard voice" as part of the 3rd Webinar Series organized by Institute of Media Studies, Utkal University, on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020.
- 22. Dr. Junali Deka delivered a lecture titled "ICT for Development: Socio-cultural Perspective of E-learning Society" as part of the 3rd Webinar Series organized



by Institute of Media Studies, Utkal University, on  $3^{\rm rd}$  June 2020.



 Dr. Manoj Deori delivered a lecture titled "Social Marketing through Social Media" as part of the 3rd Webinar Series organized by Institute of Media Studies, Utkal University, on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020.



 Dr Madhusmita Boruah (SRF), Assistant Professor, Mass Communication, CDOE was awarded Ph D under the supervision of Prof. Abhijit Bora in August 2020 on the topic "Critical Media Literacy in Assam: A study on the Postgraduate Students of Media and Communication Studies in Public Institutions in Assam.



 Dr Muktikam Hazarika, Assistant Professor, Cotton University was awarded Ph D under the supervision of Prof. Joya Chakraborty in August 2020 on the topic "Locating Women in Digital India: A Study on ICT policy and grassroots perspectives from Assam".

### Students' Achievements (2020)

- 1. Abhishek Kabra, a fourth semester student of MA- MCJ programme of the Department of MCJ cleared UGC NET.
- 2. Chandan Kumar Nath, a first semester student of MA-C4D programme of the Department of MCJ has made his way to the Assam Book of Records for publishing the greatest number of articles and letters (326 articles in three languages) within a span of one year.
- 3. Parthona Phukan and Arpita Deb of first semester M.A in MCJ have won the 2nd prize in the Team category and Arpita Deb won the 2nd prize in Individual Best Debater category in the Combat of the Intellects by IIC Tezpur University.
- 4. Abhilash Bapanasha, a student of the fourth semester MA MCJ bagged second prize in the Promising Anchor category in "Yuva Media Manthan Young Media Innovation Award, 2020."
- 5. Dina Abu Jarad of MA MCJ 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester received 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in the Citizen Journalism Contest organised by The Assam Tribune in association with Headway Group.
- Abhishek Kabra of MA MCJ 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester and Himakshi Thakuria of 4<sup>th</sup> Semester bagged the title of Best Debater and Second-best debater respectively, in the Progyan 2.0 at Tezpur University which was sponsored by Oil India Limited.
- 7. Simanta Barman of MA MCJ 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester bagged third prize at SBI Numero Yono Quiz held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at ITA, Machkhuwa, Guwahati.





# Publications (2020)

- Bora, Abhijit. (2020). Cinema As A Tool For Health And Risk Communication: Issues And Challenges. Global Media Journal – Indian Edition. December 2020. Vol. 12, no 2. ISSN 2249-5835. Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Manipal.
- Bora, Abhijit (Co-author). (2020). Assamese Cinema through Nine Decades : Challenging Journey With Encouraging Trends. Global Media Journal – Indian Edition. December, 2020. Vol. 12, No. 2. ISSN 2249-5835. Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Manipal.
- Bora, Abhijit. (2020). Education During COVID19 and Beyond: Transition from Face-to-Face to Blended Learning. Vivekananda Journal of Research. Vol. 9, No 2. July-Dec., 2020. ISSN 2456-7574 (Online) 2319-8702 (Print). Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies, Delhi.
- 4. Deori, M., Bora, A. (2020). Assamese Cinema Through Nine Decades: Challenging Journey with Encouraging Trends. Global Media Journal, Indian Edition, 12(2). ISSN: 2249-5835.
- Malakar, Kapou (2020). NGOs for the Socio-Economic Development of the Women of Rural Dwelling Households in Aegaeum Journal, An UGC Care approved list of Journal, Volume 8 issue 8, ISSN NO: 0776-3808. Paper ID AGM.J-3796, DOI:16.10089.AJ.2020.V818.285311.3988
- Malakar, Kapou (2020). Use of Twitter as a Tool for Digital Activism: A Study on the Citizen Amendment Act, 2020 in Reference to Assam in Paideuma Journal, Volume XIII, Issue VIII, ISSN NO: 15SN NO: 0090-5674. Paper ID PA2104 (with Manas Protim Ray) DOI:11.3991/Pjr.V13I8.85106
- Malakar, Kapou (2020). Information Privacy and Surveillance: A Study of the Use of Digital Media by the Consumer in Waffen-Und Kostumkunde Journal, Volume XI, Issue VIII, August/2020 ISSN no: 0042-9945 (with Rizwan Choudhury) DOI: 010.11205.WJ.2020.V11I8.05.100984
- Malakar, Kapou (2020). Hedonic Disposition and Consuming Perspective: Saving or Slaving in Aegaeum Journal An UGC Care approved list of Journal, Volume 8 issue 6, ISSN NO : 0776-3808. Paper ID AGM.J-3312, DOI:16.10089. AJ.2020.V816.285311.3616
- 9. Malakar, Kapou (2020). Public versus Private Space: Re-contextualizing the Role and Identity of Housewives in Aegaeum Journal, An UGC Care approved list of Journal, Volume 8 Issue 6, ISSN NO : 0776-3808. Paper ID AGM.J-3311, DOI:16.10089.AJ.2020.V816.285311.3615
- Malakar, Kapou (2020). Informality of Work, Poverty and Feminization of Workforce: Implications of Neoliberalism in EPRA International Journal of Research and Development (IJRD), Volume: 5, Issue: 4, April 2020 Journal DOI: https://doi.org/10.36713/epra2016 SJIF Impact Factor: 6.260, ISI I.F.Value:1.241, ISSN: 2455-7838(Online)