

About the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University

Established in 2001, the Department of Mass Communication & Journalism, Tezpur University provides state-of-the-art facilities for the students with an objective of producing skilled manpower in the ever-changing dynamic media world. It offers an intensive two-year M A program in Mass Communication & Journalism that includes print journalism, television production, advertising and public relations, new media, development communication, communication research methods, etc.; and M A in Communication for Development focusing on development communication, content production and social reconstruction.

The department owns some of the most modern infrastructure, allowing a rich exposure and hands on experience on the equipment(s) of the media such as Audio-edit Suite, Non-Linear Video Editing Suite, Television studio, and Exclusive computer workstations with 24 hours net connectivity, Screening Hall, New Media Lab and many more.

There is a balanced emphasis between theory and practice in the syllabus designed keeping in mind the global standards. The curriculum of the various courses offered by the department has a strong focus on communication for social change. Courses on Media Law and Ethics, Development Communication, Specialized reporting on conflict, environment etc. included in the pedagogy aims at creating responsible media professionals with aptitude for technical skills combined with sense of ethical and social commitment. The department has also been ranked No. 1 in the entire country in the recent Times Higher Education Survey 2018.

About the Event

A Seminar and Workshop on “Gandhian Philosophy and Peace Journalism” was organized by Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University, Assam in collaboration with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi on the 21st and 22nd February 2018. The two day event saw a rich amalgamation of industry and academia where experts in the field of media and journalism shared their thoughts and experiences about Mahatma Gandhi and his pioneering work in advocating peace journalism. The invited speakers and the student participants reflected on the theme and brought forth their knowledge and opinions as to how journalism can be used as a powerful tool to spread peace in the world.

Media plays a very important role in shaping social reality. Mass media are often people's only source of information about events happening outside of one's locality. Particularly during conflict situations, media reportage on a story can be the sole information available to the audience. The slant of public opinion, the society's construction of reality and the role of the media therein can well be decisive factors in the possible escalation or resolution of the conflict. While professionally practiced journalism of constructive agenda-setting in a conflict environment can open up channels for communication, educate people, build confidence, humanize disputants, provide emotional outlets and note solutions elsewhere; poor or deliberately manipulated conflict coverage can further fuel the conflict. A responsible media, which is 'conflict-sensitive' can not only set in motion the process of construction of a general 'culture of tolerance', but can also help dispel the sense of 'singular affiliation' by emphasizing 'multicultural knowledge'.

In this context the concept of peace journalism assumes significance. Peace journalism identifies itself as socially responsible journalism and interprets the events to resolve the conflicts. According to Jake Lynch, Peace journalism is when editors and reporters make choices – about what to report, and how to report it – that create opportunities for society at large to consider and to value non-violent responses to conflict. Peace journalism, is a remedial strategy and an attempt to supplement the news conventions to give peace a chance. It explores the backgrounds and contexts of conflict formation, presenting causes and options on every side (not just 'both sides'); gives voice to the views of all rival parties, from all levels; offers creative ideas for conflict resolution, development, peace-making and peacekeeping; exposes lies, cover-up attempts and culprits on all sides, and reveals excesses committed by, and suffering inflicted on, peoples of all parties; pays attention to peace stories and post-war developments.

Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation who led India to freedom through his non-violent struggle was also a great journalist. Gandhiji published Navajivan, Young India, Harijan, Harijansevak and Harijanbandhu during the freedom struggle in India. He advocated peace as an important news value for journalists and practiced peace journalism in his role as a journalist, a columnist, an editor, and a publisher. Ethical journalism in general and peace journalism in particular has a lot to draw from Gandhiji and his ideology of non-violence. It is high time for journalism practitioners, educators and students to reflect upon and learn from Gandhiji's thoughts on non-violent communication as well as the journalistic values that he espoused. This could go a long way in making the practice of journalism much more ethical, responsible and socially relevant.

Under the aforementioned backdrop, the two day programme on Gandhian Philosophy and Peace Journalism was aimed towards reflecting upon the need for peace Journalism in the present day context and to discuss about the relevance of Gandhiji's philosophy of non-violence and peace communication in this context. The purpose was to mainly orient the MCJ students who are media professionals of the future towards using journalism for peace.

Objectives of the Seminar cum Workshop

- To reflect upon the need for peace Journalism in the present day context;
- To discuss about the relevance of Gandhiji's philosophy of non-violence and peace communication;
- To orient the MCJ students who are media professionals of the future towards using journalism for peace.

List of Participants

Resource Persons:

Sl. No	Name	Designation	Affiliation
1	Dr. Syed Murtaza Alfarid Hussain	Assistant Professor	Department of Mass Communication, Assam University
2	Mr. P. J. Baruah	Executive Editor	The Assam Tribune
3	Mr. Sushanta Talukdar	Editor	Nezine
4	Mr. Rajeev Bhattacharyya	Freelance Journalist and Author	

Representatives from Local Media:

Sl. No	Name	Designation	Affiliation
1	Mr. Shambhu Boro	Dist. H.Q. Correspondent	The Assam Tribune
2	Mr. Samir Kar	Photo Journalist	UB Photos
3	Mr. Raj Kumar Mahanta	Correspondent	Asomiya Pratidin
4	Mr. Aswini Bora	Correspondent	Assam Talks
5	Mr. Amarjeet Prasad	Video Journalist	Assam Talks

Representatives from Tezpur University

Sl. No	Name	Designation	Affiliation
1	Dr. Biren Das	Registrar	Tezpur University
2	Prof. P.K. Das	Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences	Tezpur University
3	Mr. Samaresh Barman	Public Relations & Information Officer	Tezpur University
4	Prof. Abhijit Bora	Associate Professor and Head	Dept. of MCJ, Tezpur University
5	Dr. P Anbarasan	Associate Professor	Dept. of MCJ, Tezpur University
6	Dr. Uttam Kr Pegu	Associate Professor	Dept. of MCJ, Tezpur University
7	Dr. Joya Chakraborty	Associate Professor	Dept. of MCJ, Tezpur University
8	Dr. Anjuman Borah	Assistant Professor	Dept. of MCJ, Tezpur University
9	Dr. Junali Deka	Assistant Professor	Dept. of MCJ, Tezpur University
10	Mr. Manoj Deori	Assistant Professor	Dept. of MCJ, Tezpur University
11	Ms. Veda Yumnam	Assistant Professor	Dept. of Social Work, Tezpur University
12	Mr. Debajit. K. Sarmah	Assistant Professor	Dept. of Law, Tezpur University

Student Participants

Sl. No	Name	Programme	Semester
1.	Ritu Raj Choudhury	M.A. Communication for Development	II
2.	Ankita Dutta	M.A. Communication for Development	II
3.	Shaheed Ahmed Alomgir	M.A. Communication for Development	II
4.	Abhishree Borah	M.A. Communication for Development	II
5.	Rajat Kamal Hazarika	M.A. Communication for Development	II
6.	Pratyush Deep Kotoky	M.A. Communication for Development	II
7.	Arnab Jyoti Arya	M.A. Communication for Development	II
8.	Sujit Bhattacharya	M.A. Communication for Development	II
9.	Pranamee Chutia	M.A. Communication for Development	II
10.	Bhaswati Saharia	M.A. Communication for Development	II
11.	Anamika Mazumder	M.A. Communication for Development	II
12.	Mr. Debajit. K. Sarmah	M.A. Communication for Development	II
13.	Shruti Sharma	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
14.	Nidarshana Mahanta	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
15.	Seauj Sajib Nath	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
16.	Indrani Choudhury	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II

17.	Srishti Saikia	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
18.	Ruma Kalita	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
19.	Amlan Jyoti Das	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
20.	Khushbu Bin	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
21.	Jiri Swargiary	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
22.	Pubali Das	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
23.	Tirtharaj Gohain	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
24.	Shreejana Rai	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
25.	Abhilasha Pathak	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
26.	Barsaindi Naiding	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
27.	Syed Towhid Momin	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
28.	Kaushik Das	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
29.	Nibirjyoti Mriduta	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
30.	Tanuj Nath	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
31.	Shyam Gogoi	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
32.	Komal Doley	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
33.	Bina Sharma	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
34.	Pankhi Das	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
35.	Ayan Goswami	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
36.	Bishal Sharma	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
37.	Atlanta Baruah	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
38.	Partha Protim Das	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
39.	Anurupa Sonowal	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
40.	Debojit Das	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
41.	Debabrat Gogoi	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
42.	Anindita Kashyap	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
43.	Ananya Dewgharia	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
44.	Lipika Chutia	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
45.	Bedanan Borah	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	II
46.	Arindam Goswami	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
47.	Upasana Swargiary	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
48.	Rinkumani Pathak	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
49.	Debashis Pratim Sarma	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
50.	Jayasmita Deka	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
51.	Pranati Sinha	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
52.	R K Yaibiren Sana	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
53.	Kuwoli Hazarika	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
54.	Tapas Mali	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
55.	Deepak Kumar	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV

	Leonard Kanime	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
57.	Rahul Sinha	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
58.	Abhilekh Gogoi	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
59.	Saibal Krishna Sharma	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
60.	Pritesh Kumar	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
61.	Sudarkhina Basumatari	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
62.	Priyadarshini Saikia	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
63.	Pulakesh Das	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
64.	Maumita Mazumdar	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
65.	Sneha Kumari	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
66.	Gangutri Borgohain	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
67.	Upasana Gogoi	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
68.	Mridusmita Chakraborty	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
69.	Rimiana Baruah	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
70.	Sonal Sidhu K. Sharma	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
71.	Gaurav Verma	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
72.	Sushmita Dey	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
73.	Kakoli Phukan	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
74.	Toka V	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
75.	Polash Patangia	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
76.	Angita Mahanta	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
77.	Mahamaya Ghosh	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
78.	Kuntala Das	M.A. Mass Communication and Journalism	IV
79.	Saket Kumar Bhardwaj	Ph.D. Research Scholar	
80.	Kumari Pallavi	Ph.D. Research Scholar	
81.	Eishita Das	Ph.D. Research Scholar	
82.	Madhusmita Boruah	Ph.D. Research Scholar	
83.	Muktikam Hazarika	Ph.D. Research Scholar	
84.	Vansanglura	Ph.D. Research Scholar	
85.	Richa Chattapadhyay	Ph.D. Research Scholar	
86.	Subhajit Paul	Ph.D. Research Scholar	
87.	Harshwardhani Sharma	Ph.D. Research Scholar	
88.	Manaswinee Mahanta	Ph.D. Research Scholar	

The profiles of the invited speakers

Mr. Prasanta J Baruah

Mr. Prasanta J Baruah is a senior journalist with over thirty years of working experience in Assam and the North East. He is presently the Executive Editor of The Assam Tribune, the oldest and premier English daily of the region. He started his journalistic career with the English daily The Sentinel in Guwahati after completing his postgraduate studies in English from Dibrugarh University In 1984. He joined as the Principal Correspondent of the Assamese newspaper Dainik Janambhumi at their Guwahati office in 1986. In 1987, he became the North East correspondent of the English daily Newstime (Eenadu Group) of Hyderabad. He later worked for a year at the paper's Hyderabad office before returning to Guwahati in 1989 to join The Assam Tribune. He has been associated with the Tribune ever since and took over as the Executive Editor the paper in 1998.

Mr. Baruah has been closely associated with journalism education in the region. He has been a Guest lecturer of the Journalism department of Gauhati University, Dibrugarh University, Assam University, KK Handique State Open University, and Cotton College among others. Widely travelled, Mr. Baruah has been a member of the Prime Minister's Media delegation to South Africa, USA, Philippines, Japan, Malaysia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Switzerland and Trinidad & Tobago. He has visited the USA and UK on invitation from the respective governments.

He is presently doing a PhD research work on the issues of identity and humanity in the songs of the internationally reputed Assamese singer, composer, film maker and journalist Dr. Bhupen Hazarika.

Mr. Rajeev Bhattacharyya

Mr. Rajeev Bhattacharyya, is currently working as a Freelance Journalist and Author. He has more than two decades of experience in the media world and has worked as a correspondent for various newspapers including The Times of India, The Telegraph, The Indian Express, Times Now, The Bengal Post, and Seven Sisters Post and now with The Wire, First Post and the DNA. In his career he has covered North east India, Bhutan, Jharkhand, New Delhi, and adjacent regions in Myanmar and Bangladesh.

His book "Rendezvous with Rebels: Journey to Meet India's Most Wanted Men" has been inspiring journalist across the country. Rajeev Bhattacharyya walked nearly 800 kilometers, over some of the most hostile terrain and through no man's land. His journey, which took three months and twenty

days to complete, is unprecedented in Indian journalism. He visited the rebel bases in Eastern Nagaland, which covers a part of Myanmar's Sagaing Division, stayed in the ULFA camp and interviewed its chief of staff Paresh Baruah, as also chairman of the NSCN (Khaplang), S.S. Khaplang himself. He interacted with rebels from banned outfits like the NDFB, UPPK, PLA and other groups - for many of them, this was their first conversation with an Indian journalist. Bhattacharyya is one of very few journalists in the world to have made this journey, and among the fewer still to have had such intimate access.

He actively participates in seminars and workshops throughout the country on issues like insurgency, ethnic conflicts, border relations, peace struggles and many more.

Mr. Sushanta Talukdar

Mr. Sushanta Talukdar, Editor, Nezine, also has an experience of over 25 years in the field of journalism and has worked for leading newspapers like The Hindu, Frontline, The Telegraph, The North East Daily, and The North East Times. He was awarded with the prestigious Parag Kumar Das journalism award in 2016. He has reported on varied issues like national politics, ethnic conflicts, communal riots, natural disasters, tribes & traditions, environment, trade & commerce, migration issues, development & government and many more. He is one of the celebrated names in Assamese journalism.

His recent venture, Nezine is an online magazine focusing on India's Northeast region, published by Nezine Media. It makes efforts to bridge the information gap on the region – a repository of traditional knowledge, a bio-diversity hotspot and a living museum of cultural diversities. We generate and publish content that add to a state-of-the-art digital archive of quality information about the region.

Nezine provides a platform for publication of news, features and articles on wide-ranging subjects and issues which will help its visitors derive their own notions about the region instead of looking at it through fixed frames of perception about its geography, history, society, culture and tradition.

Dr. Syed Murtaza Alfarid Hussain

Dr. Syed Murtaza Alfarid Hussain is a senior Assistant Professor at the Department of Mass Communication, Assam University at Silchar. A postgraduate in English Literature from Delhi University, he also has a master's degree in Mass Communication and Journalism from Tezpur

Central University. In 2006, he was awarded with a British Council fellowship and attended a training course on Conflict Reporting in the UK, conducted by Thomson Foundation at Cardiff University in Wales and Belfast in Northern Ireland. In 2008, he was awarded a Rotary scholarship to attend a six-month course on Peace and Conflict Studies at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. He did his PhD on 'Media Framing of Intra-State Conflicts in Assam' from Berhampur University, Odisha. His primary research interest is Media Framing, and is currently supervising doctoral research in the areas of Social Media and Political Communication, Human-Computer Interaction for Development (HCI4D), Mediatisation and Media Literacy. He has presented his research findings at the IVSA 2017 conference held at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada and also at the AMIC conference in Manila, Philippines, besides presenting papers at several national and international seminars and conferences in different parts of the country. He has also directed a few documentary films on issues of culture, health, ethnicity and marginality in northeast India. He was awarded the best postgraduate gold medal in Tezpur University in 2004.

Details of the two day event

DAY 1

Inauguration

[10:30 am – 11:15 am]

The seminar began with a formal inauguration ceremony where the students presented a classical song "Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram" in memory of *Father of the Nation*, whose hard work and determination has always been a source of inspiration. The same took us back to the perennial efforts of Mahatma Gandhi who tried to unite the citizens across all communities and identities by his communication skills, diction, writings and even songs.

Prof Abhijit Bora, Head of the Department, Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University welcomed all the distinguished guests and dignitaries who spared their time to share their knowledge with the students and other participants. He said that Mahatma Gandhi possessed an unimaginable vision that he visualized the use and potential of mass media much ahead of

anyone else in the country. The same was evident in Gandhiji's speech when he used the phrase "Broadcasting is power" in his message on All India Radio, 1947 while addressing the refugees of partition in Kurukshetra. Prof Abhijit Bora also mentioned that it is extremely relevant to hold the seminar amidst budding media aspirants, i.e. the students as this is an opportunity for all of us to contribute towards the noble cause of peace journalism. He invited the distinguished guests to share their expertise and enlighten the audience, while he remembered the wonderful work of John Lennon, "Give Peace a Chance".

Prof Bora announced with great delight that Tezpur University is ranked 100th in Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2018 and that its Department of Mass Communication & Journalism was ranked 1st in the country by the same survey. He gave the credit of this milestone achieved by the department to faculties and students who work ceaselessly and add value to it. He said that maintaining this reputation is always a challenge for the university and the same cannot be fulfilled without the support of the media and resource personalities who visit the department and enrich and nurture it with a positive flow of information as well as ordeals.



Prof P K Das felicitating Mr. P J Baruah

After the welcome address by Prof Abhijit Bora, a 'Felicitation Ceremony' followed, where the invited guests Mr. P J Baruah, Executive Editor, The Assam Tribune, Mr. Rajeev Bhattacharyya, Freelance Journalist and Author, Mr. Sushanta Talukdar, Editor, Nezine and Dr. Syed Murtaza Alfarid Hussain, Assistant Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Assam University were honored by the traditional Assamese 'Gamusa', flowers and

small tokens of respect from Tezpur University.

Further, **Dr. Anjuman Borah**, Assistant Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University, introduced the theme of the event and why it is crucial to deliberate on the topic for the media fraternity.

She emphasized that there was a felt need to discuss the relevance of Peace Journalism as we witness that the whole world is conflict struck. Mass Media these days shapes social realities and it

can go miles in resolving warlike situations and spread peace across the globe. She further elaborated that the panel of the speakers were meaningfully selected in order to make the most of the deliberations that the entire audience would engage in and gave a brief introduction about each of the members.

Dr. Anjuman anticipated that post the seminar and the workshop that would take place on Day 2, the students shall acquire the ability to construct media messages that highlight peace and not conflict.

Prof P K Das, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tezpur University delivered the inaugural address and declared the event open. He expressed that he honored to share the dice with such eminent personalities and extended his whole hearted gratitude to them for taking out time to enlighten the students and other participants. He said that north east itself is a conflict sensitive region and prone to violence and other forms of distress. It is high time that media inclines itself to peaceful narratives and bring about the required change in its communication strategies for a larger social benefit. He recollected the fact that Mahatma Gandhi was a journalist all his life, who knew that journalism can be used for good and bad purposes alike. He envisaged that if Gandhiji was alive in the present world, he would also made use of social networking sites like Twitter and Facebook to spread peace and positivity, just as he electrified the nation using print media in a very effective way.

Prof P K Das declared the event open by announcing a brief lamp lighting ritual where all the dignitaries participated in loving memory of the Mahatma.



A glimpse of the inauguration ceremony

Dr. Biren Das, Registrar, Tezpur University was also present to grace the occasion and he conveyed sincere gratitude to all the guests and participants who assembled to hold such a significant discussion. He remembered the famous quote while addressing the audience, “There is no way to peace, but peace is the only way.” Dr. Biren Das wished that the mandates of the event be fulfilled and it comes out in flying

colors of success.

Mr. P J Baruah, Executive Editor, The Assam Tribune delivered his introductory remarks where he conceded that the theme selected for the seminar & workshop is quite different from usual ones and probably cardinal to the profession in the recent times. He said that the 20th century was a game changing century for entire human civilization as it saw the rise and fall of empires, wars, racial conflicts, bloodshed and subsequent attempts of proliferating peace amongst the affected. He mentioned that Gandhiji's concept of truth, non-violence (Ahinsa) and peace were capable to convince the opponents, i.e. the British rule, that they are wrong and must be fair in their conduct. He asked them to provide the Indian nation, justice, as they deserved to be free and independent in their own native land.

Mr. P J Baruah felt that a lot of circumstances must have affected Gandhiji's philosophy in the Indian freedom struggle. Since he studied in England, he was already familiar with the English way of thinking and also must have built up a connection with the local communal. He avoided any direct conflict and sought for peaceful communication to end the disharmony and bring about social justice in the Indian subcontinent. He further adds in the present times, one is not that familiar with the opponents and hence resort to violent defensive measures in order to safeguard one's own interests. Under these situations, we must look back to the historical accounts of peaceful struggles and their long lasting impact in the achievement of intended goals. It shall also be practical to study the findings of Johan Galtung in the arena of peace and conflict resolution. Mass Media as a profession should be free from any bias and must have the confidence of both the opposing parties in order to practice peace journalism successfully. He said that the eminent panel would further discuss the intricacies of the matter and appraise the gathering on the same.

Giving a formal end to the inaugural ceremony, **Dr. Junali Deka**, Assistant Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University conveyed the vote of thanks. She conveyed sincere gratitude to Gandhi Smriti and darshan Samiti, New Delhi for agreeing to collaborate with the Department of MCJ, TU to organize the seminar and workshop. She also thanked Mr. P K Das, Dean, Humanities and Social Sciences, Tezpur University and Dr. Biren Das, Registrar, Tezpur University for their presence and support. Also, the guests, speakers, media personnel, faculties and students were appreciated for taking the effort to participate and organize the seminar cum workshop. Dr. Junali said that it is expected that a productive discussion will take place between the experts and the budding journalist, i.e. the students that will in turn help them to grow in the right direction.

[11:30 am – 1 pm]

The first session of the seminar included two student presentations and a detailed lecture by Mr. Rajeev Bhattacharyya, Freelance Journalist and Author who spoke upon Peace Journalism in Theory and Practice: Observations in North East. The session brought forth important insights of the expert as well as the students who spoke about their views on the topic under scrutiny.

The first student presenter was **Mr. Amlan Jyoti Das**, Semester II, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University and his topic was *Gandhi and Peace Journalism*. He touched upon Gandhiji's way of life, his philosophy and his journalistic competencies that enriched the Indian society and paved the path of peace journalism that influenced the century.

Mr. Amlan gave a brief account of Gandhiji's early life and how he worked to transform the social structure of the nation. His ideas and practices of non-violence and truth can serve as the best content for the discipline of peace education.

One of the greatest attributes of Mahatma Gandhi was the simplicity with which he spoke, wrote and communicated. Quoting the Mahatma, "Each one has to find his peace from within. And peace to be real must be unaffected by outside circumstances." Today, when the contemporary media scenario bristles with turmoil and over-riding role of market forces in the media, it would be worthwhile to revisit Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy and his contribution as a journalist.

Gandhiji started his journalistic foray in South Africa with Indian Opinion in 1903. It featured articles and editorials that highlighted the discrimination and harsh conditions under which indentured laborers worked. Through the 19th century Indians were brought to South Africa as laborers by the authorities of the British Empire, which governs both South Africa and India. Alongside various multi-ethnic communities, the Indian community suffered from significant political, economic and social discrimination, administered by the system of apartheid. Gandhiji's Indian Opinion became a crucial vehicle for challenging state laws and urging defiance of unjust regulations. His views evolved into the concept of Satyagraha, the philosophy and practice of non-violent resistance, which was adopted by other freedom movements throughout the latter half of the 20th-century.



Student Presenter Mr. Amlan Jyoti Das talking about Gandhian philosophy

Young India was another weekly paper or journal in English edited by Gandhiji from 1919 to 1931. He used *Young India* to spread his unique ideology and thoughts regarding the use of non-violence in organizing movements in India's struggle to freedom. It helped masses to understand the concept of 'Satyagraha' and its far reaching consequences. In 1933, Gandhiji started another weekly named *Harijan* meaning 'People of God' with an intention to eradicate untouchability, discrimination and poverty. Quoting him in the *Harijan*, "My faith in truth and non-violence is ever growing, and as I am ever trying to follow them in my life I too am growing every moment. I see new implications about them. I see them in a newer light every day and read in them a newer meaning."

According to his book, *My Experiments with Truth*, the cornerstone of Gandhian journalism were to understand popular opinion and give expression to it, to arouse desirable sentiments among the people and to fearlessly expose popular defects. The objectives of his newspapers included provision of news to all the sections of the society in vernacular languages, to advocate their cause, provision of information regarding the various happening in India and to garner contributions from competent writers, Indian as well as Europeans.

Further Mr. Amlan elaborated on his understanding of Peace Journalism, and said that it is a programme or a frame of journalistic news coverage which contributes to the process of making and keeping peace respectively to the peaceful settlement of conflicts. He also illustrated upon five core principles of peaceful and ethical journalism, viz. Truth & Accuracy, Independence, Fairness & Impartiality, Humanity and Accountability.

He further added that 'Peaceful Journalism' was one of the key factors that transformed Gandhi into "Mahatma Gandhi". Even a wooden stick, which we often associate with violence and force was used by Gandhiji as a symbol of support. There were many leaders and freedom fighters who struggled for Indian Freedom and many who remained alongside him, but it is Gandhi that we remember the most because no one could have caused an upheaval in the colonial rule like him.

He ended his presentation by the famous words of Mahatma Gandhi, "*Freedom of the press is a precious privilege that no country can forgo.*"

The second student presenter was **Ms. Nidarshana Mahanta**, Semester II, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University and her topic was *Role of Media in Conflict*. She gave real time examples on how media can arouse or mitigate conflict and crisis situations.



Student Presenter Ms. Nidarshana Mahanta explaining the role of media in conflict

She began with the classic example of William Hearst and his hate journalism which instigated war between the Americans and the Spanish citizens. He use to tell his out stationed correspondents that "You furnish the pictures, I'll furnish the war." His paper vigorously published stories that helped create and foster the American sentiment reflected in the popular phrases, "Remember the Maine, to Hell with Spain!", "Spanish Treachery", and many more that finally led to the Spanish-American war. It also signified the growing influence of mass media, which had never before proven to be as immediate and far-reaching.

Another example of was the pictures of Alan Kurdi, a 3 year old Syrian boy drowned to death. The heartbreaking photograph of Alan, whose body washed up in Turkey, had a great impact on policy, with the U.K. agreeing to take thousands more refugees. Thus, the use of mass media can lead to good or bad outcome; it's the power that needs to be handled with care.

Ms. Nidarshana added that *words can become swords* if used inappropriately. When ULFA attacked Hindi speaking people in the districts of Tinsukia and Dibrugarh, Assam and it was reported as an attack on 'Biharis' by the national media; it further led to retaliation by the people in Bihar who counter attacked the north eastern people leading to prolonged crisis. In another case, the assassination of Smt. Indira Gandhi was reported as carried out by her 'Sikh' bodyguards which gave communal colors to the conflict. Contemporary media seems to use conflict as a tool to rise up the popularity ladder. In case of war and conflict, sensationalism becomes common and there is a mutual competition among the media houses, as to who will publish or broadcast the news in the most provocative manner. The Indo-Pak conflict sees a number of news channels blaming Pakistan and using hate statements very often. Here, the example of Anchor Gaurav Sawant from India Today was given, who created a war room in the studio and is dressed up like a warrior all set to attack the enemies any moment.

In fact, in a very interesting survey published in The Hoot, the researcher, compared the coverage of India in Dawn (Islamabad edition) and Pakistan in The Hindu (Delhi edition) during the period May 01 - May 31, 2016. Both these newspapers are known to be liberal and, as such, are not representative of the news media. Dawn published more news items, editorials, and opinion pieces on India than The Hindu on Pakistan, which means it better voiced India's side than the Hindu did for Pakistan.

Another observation made in the presentation was that China's aggressive state-backed media has accused Western media of being biased in favor of India simply because it is a democracy. It emphasized that India "arouses sympathy" because it is "in a weaker position compared with China", elaborated in an opinion piece in China's Global Times.

At times, governments also use conflict as a tool for propaganda as seen in the case of *embedded journalism*. National media journalists are taken into war zones under full security who usually ends up publishing what the military wants them to; while the local media of such conflict ridden states have no voice. This in turn we may refer to as planted stories which are biased in nature as the other side of the conflict remains untouched.

Also, the flare up tension in the race to break news can cause a lot of damage to the safety and security of the country. One such example is the 26/11 Mumbai Attacks that shook the nation; media constantly reported the movement of NSG commanders and soldiers that in turn helped the enemies to cause more damage as they got firsthand information about where the soldiers are located. In the age of social media and digital networking platforms, the circulation of news and information has become easier and faster. This calls for more caution to be exercised in the rush to break the news as once published the message reaches thousand and lakhs of people in a few hours and any mistake cannot be rectified with ease thereafter.

Ms. Nidarshana ended her presentation with the term CSR of mass media; not Corporate Social Responsibility but Cultural and Social Responsibility that the media fraternity should put into practice. Since, media is deemed as the forth pillar of democracy, it should fulfill its larger responsibility of positive social construction and pave the path of peace and prosperity.

After the two presentations by the students, next **Mr. Rajeev Bhattacharyya**, Freelance Journalist and Author enlightened the gathering on the theory and practice of peace journalism in north east India and the various conflict situations he has reported.

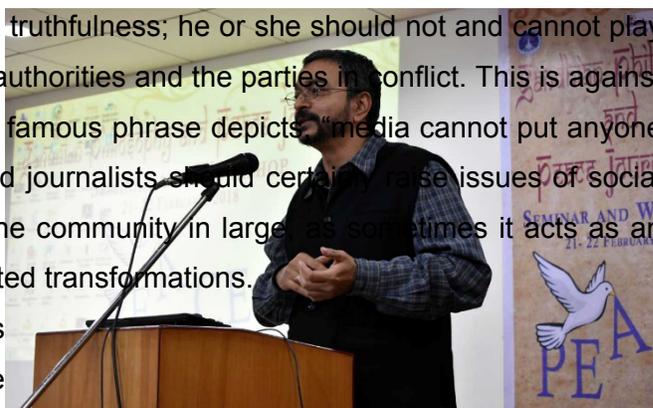
He began his speech by recalling his visit to rebel camps of Myanmar in 2011 where it was mandatory to move around in camouflage, else it could risk a journalist's life. Such situations makes one understand the importance of peace and futility of war and conflict.

Mr. Rajeev said that Mahatma Gandhi was a great journalist and edited three newspapers which had a lasting impact on the society. One can read truth and non-violence in all his writings. Very few people know that he wrote a book on Srimad Bhagwat Geeta. He was aware that the British rule in India was a technologically strong one and it was impossible to dodge them with aggression and rebellious revolts. It was only through peace and persistent efforts that the country received the rightful independence. We must make India what Gandhiji envisioned it to be so that his divine soul can rest in peace.

He said that North east as a region is not the perfect spot for modernization and industrial activities. It is a biodiversity hotspot and not a place to establish smoke emitting factories. The beauty of the region lies in its greenery and agricultural opulence.

A journalist's role is to report with objectivity and truthfulness; he or she should not and cannot play the role of a facilitator between the government/authorities and the parties in conflict. This is against the modus operandi of peace journalism, as the famous phrase depicts, "media cannot put anyone on trial". Again sometimes, media personnel and journalists should certainly raise issues of social interest again and again for the betterment of the community in large as sometimes it acts as an awakening message and brings about long awaited transformations.

North eastern media has no culture of follow ups and there is an acute necessity to be more methodical in their approach. Sometimes crucial



Mr. Rajeev Bhattacharyya sharing his experiences

news items are covered but what happens to them in near future is not even attempted to be reported. For example, there was less emphasis in reporting Tibet earthquakes. There are artificial dams that might affect the flow of water in the Brahmaputra River; might as well cause unexpected floods in Assam and adjoining areas. There is culture to let go off some such climacteric incidents and more focus is on Global Summits and networking conclaves. Mr. Rajeev re-emphasizes that

north east is not a place for establishment of jumbo industries; rather its distinguishing feature lies in its natural beauty and rich flora and fauna.

Coming to peace journalism and ethical reporting, he says that a journalist should consult all sources equally and not just rely on one single source. There can be varied sources of information that may include intelligence agencies, government agents, correspondents and many more; one should try to take in view both sides of the conflict and not just be publishing what one view informs him. At the same time, it's equally important to sort and filter news and use caution in disseminating news related to conflict.

There is always some degree of risk involved in the life of a war journalist and one must be courageous and prepared to face such consternations. For example, Mr. Rajeev said he was detained with a pistol on his head in a case of mistaken identity in the region of Dima Hasao while he was reporting there. He said that north east India is a goldmine of information and usual sight of communal conflicts; but peace journalism was never practiced in the region before. The Anti-Dam project in Dhemaji area gave him the idea that what wonders can peace journalism bring about to conflict resolution where the construction of dam was disputed in the Arunachal Pradesh as it directly affects the district. One should check all the facts and should not publish wrong stories intentionally just for the sake of viewership or readership.

He further gave the example of Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao conflicts that occurred in October 2005 in Assam where there was a lot of violence that took place. There was attacks on buses, arsons, beating and so on that triggered from one single incident of violence. He consulted both the parties and tried to gather information on what was the root cause of such happenings which was later disclosed to him as a race or competition for collection of taxes in the boundaries. He published his findings in good light so as to resolve the conflict as soon as possible and put an end to the instances of bloodshed. While he was researching in the region, he also came across facts as to who was the miscreant who initiated violence, but preferred not to talk against one party in order to maintain peace. But he also mentioned that sometimes access to leaders and members of both the parties of conflict becomes difficult as they might recognize the journalist as belonging to or representing one side of the conflicting parties.

The next example he gave was of the 2012 Bodo vs. illegal migrants' conflict who were popularly understood as the illegally migrated Muslims. In this scenario, access to Bodo leaders and members was easily available but it was difficult to gather any information or talk to the so called

illegal migrants without which the story remains incomplete for a peace journalist as he or she should never consult only one angle. In the north east, terrain and geography at times is a huge barrier, as there are places where land and road connectivity is even absent. A journalist should be physically and mentally prepare to surpass such barriers in information gathering process.

Further, Mr. Rajeev spoke about the Rohingya refugees of Myanmar and Bangladesh and how the western media have covered their tragic lives. Also, many Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar are doubtful of returning to their homes in Myanmar's Rakhine state engulfed by violence, riots and a brutal crackdown by the army since 2016. Around six lakh Rohingya are estimated to have crossed over to Bangladesh and they join two lakh of earlier Rohingya settlers in the coastal district in camps and at other locations. Most of the refugees, who had arrived in 1978 and 1992, had settled in Chittagong, some granted citizenship, while others migrated to the Middle East and Southeast Asia. We usually see reports of massacre in the refugee camps of the Rohingyas, extreme food shortage, beating, killing and arsons and the whole world has developed a sympathy for the tribe. But the unfortunate fact that they have indulged into drug pedaling is unknown to most of us. About 30 lacs pills of Ya ba drug is smuggled in the adjoining areas. Mr. Rajeev further adds that sometimes a journalist may get some stories that are of importance but even if there is a slight doubt on the authenticity, one should clearly structure the report like, "It is speculated that...." So that in future, if there are any corrections, they can be easily accommodated.

Lastly, Mr. Rajeev said that technology is very democratic and with the advent of social media and citizen journalism, more and more people are getting access to first hand access to information. He believes that news should be filtered and verified before its mass circulation so that the credibility of journalistic profession is maintained.

Academic Session 2

[2:30pm – 3:30pm]

The post lunch second session saw one student presentation, by Mr. Tirtharaj Gohain, Semester II, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University and one expert lecture by Mr. Sushanta Talukdar, Editor, Nezine, Guwahati.

Mr. Tirtharaj Gohain elaborated on his topic Peace Journalism vs. War Journalism and what are the radical differences between the two. He began with the famous words of Jake Lynch “Peace journalism is when editors and reporters make choices – about what to report, and how to report it – that create opportunities for society at large to consider and to value non-violent responses to conflict.” He adds that when peace is combined with journalism, the motive clearly becomes conflict resolution. Peace journalism allows one to explore the background and context of conflict formation, on every side, not just ‘both sides’, gives voice to the views of all rival parties, offers ideas for conflict resolution, peacemaking and peacekeeping, exposes lies, reveals suffering inflicted on peoples, and pays attention to peace stories & post-war developments.



Student Presenter Mr. Tirtharaj Gohain establishing distinction between war & peace

Mr. Tirtharaj said that in Indian mythology, Narad Muni is perfect personification of war journalism, as he instigated the ‘devas’ and ‘asuras’ alike and leaked information that provoked each of the parties to violent consequences. While if we see the epic Mahabharatha, Sanjay, the blind man who narrated the war proceedings to Dhritarashtra, requested him to stop the war as it will lead to killing of brothers amongst

themselves; the same we can relate to peace journalism.

War journalism is about conflict that has a value bias towards violence; it usually leads audiences to overvalue violent responses to conflict and ignore non-violent alternative. He further gave examples of the Syrian bombing by American nation and how heart moving pictures of Syria’s devastated people have had attracted international aids to the innocent localities. Also, the details of the agony of people of Kashmir and the death of Burhan Wani have given a clear picture of what is happening in the valleys and how local people suffer due to the ongoing wars and military violence. Such a literature is necessary to establish peace and mutual cooperation of the communities in the region. He also believes that war and war related news sells in news media as due to the interest garnered by violence and fear among the masses that anything can happen to them anytime. So they prefer reading and viewing war related content in order to be prepared for any mishap.

In the era of new media and digital platforms, it becomes the responsibility of each and every journalist and even the common man to only publish peaceful messages and not incite violent and hatred through our words and depictions.

Next was the expert speech by **Mr. Sushanta Talukdar**, Editor, Nezine, who elaborated on the topic: Looking for Stories of Rebuilding Lives and untold stories of Rehabilitation Fault lines in conflict-hit areas. He began with a note of thanks to the earlier speakers who did a lot of context setting and expanded the theme of the seminar and forthcoming workshop.



Mr. Sushanta Talukdar talking about rebuilding lives in conflict zones

He initiated his presentation by reminiscing the Joypur Relief Camp in Kokrajhar district of Assam. A series of violent ethnic clashes between the Bodos and the adivasis in lower Assam's Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon district in 1996 and 1998 and between Bodos and Muslims in 1993 uprooted 48,556 families from their homes. Some of them have been rehabilitated. However, for past 16 years, thousands of refugees, mostly adivasis, are still languishing in congested makeshift relief camps in sub-human conditions without proper food, drinking water, sanitation, healthcare and livelihoods. Children born in the camps do not have any idea what a proper home is. For more than 13,000 occupants of the Joypur relief camp at Karigaon by the side of the National Highway there are only five tube wells as the only source of water for drinking and other household purposes. The refugees have not heard about the Total Sanitation Campaign and open defecation is the normal practice for children and elders alike. Among such strife what impressed Mr. Talukdar the most was school for the refugee children which was set up by the camp members who saved the relief meal and ration that they got, sold it in the market and made arrangements to educate their children in such adversity. This rehabilitation story is truly inspiring and giving people hope that they can have a better future and need not live an entire life in vain.

It is evident that whenever conflict happens, it leads to displacement of innocent people and civilians being victimized. There is always a narrative and a counter narrative to any conflict situation and the challenge for a journalist is not to get trapped between the true and produce only truthful narratives. Access to both the sides of a conflict is usually very difficult and one finds himself biased or overtly sympathetic to one side that is accessible and visible. Hence, it goes without

saying that one must attempt to gather information from both and if possible from all sides of the conflict.

Mr. Sushanta Talukdar further spoke about the role of social scientists in conflict and war like situations. He says that they play a major role in post conflict rehabilitation and rebuilding of lives; but the initial role of communication and information dissemination should be carried on by a professional communicator and not a social scientist. The content that is created for mass circulation at an early stage of any conflict impacts its course. Usually communities are not at war and prefer to remain in peace and interdependence. Hence while reporting on violence or any similar activity, one must use terms like “Miscreants among the community....” And should refrain from accusing any community directly or indirectly as it further aggravates the situation.

He furnished examples of Barpeta riots of 1994 which he investigated as a journalist and told that every party had its own story and it was extremely difficult to judge whose was correct. At times shots were fired in abandoned village to ensure that fear prevails in the region, which some journalists mistook and reported as acts of violence; so a fact finding exercise was missing and resolution of the conflict could not be achieved amidst massacre and bloodshed. Survivors usually lose hope to rebuild their life under such circumstances and prefer to keep quiet and not to give any media statements.

What is needed in such conflict sensitive regions is confidence among the victims and a hope to survive. One such way to evoke confidence is the relief materials and food that is provided to them that brings life to their already wounded and dead minds. He also recalled that in the Joypur Relief camp, children made balls out of waste plastic bags and were playing with the same; what is remarkable here is that they are not even aware about the brutality of war and the pitiable living conditions they are in, joyous and want to live life up to the fullest. He even attended rituals and subsequent religious ceremonies taking place in the camp which streaked in a ray of positive energy and strong desire to lead a normal life and not to be tagged as refugees.

Another story was of a lady named Vimala, in Saron Basti, Assam who was an inhabitant of a relief camp; when all other establishments of the camp were destroyed in violence, she decided to convert her own house into a school for children in a hope that their will to live and rehabilitate should remain undaunted. Such stories should be entertained more and more by the mass media rather than focusing only on conflict and violence. Also, there is dire need to reframe the rehabilitation policies if we really have to hope for an independent life for the victims. Media should

also work in this angle aggressively. At times political forces do not allow two communities to be interdependent for their own selfish motives; such flaws in political procedures need to be checked by the media professionals. Mr. Talukdar ends his lecture by saying that we should analyze history and saints like the Mahatma Gandhi to become a just journalist and offer balance in conflict reporting.

Academic Session 3

[3:45pm – 5:30pm]

The last session of the day one saw a student presentation by Mr. R K Yaibiren Sana, Semester IV, Department of Mass communication and Journalism, Tezpur University and expert talk by Mr. P J Baruah, Executive Editor, The Assam Tribune. Lastly, the concluding remarks were delivered by Dr. Syed Murtaza Alfarid Hussain, Assistant Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Assam University summing up the entire learnings of the day.

Mr. R K Yaibiren Sana, presented on his topic Peace Journalism in North East India with special reference to Naga Peace Accord. He began by saying that the objectives of his presentation includes understanding media's reaction to Naga Peace Framework Agreement and to analyze whether the national and local media has made any attempts to resolve conflict and avoid the prevailing violence.



Student Presenter Mr. R K Yaibiren Sana throwing light on the Naga Accord

Mr. R K Yaibiren Sana defines conflict as a process through which two or more actors try to pursue incompatible aims or goals while trying to stop the other(s) from pursuing their own goals. Conflict may sometimes lead to violence, but not always and mass media has a major role to play in information distribution in a conflict situation. It can be a tool for peace building and development of mutual trust and harmony; yet a common journalist's principle is "If it bleeds, it leads." Violence and conflict often happens to make the headlines while peace building takes a backseat in most of the print and broadcast media channels. This tendency to cover conflict and violence distorts reality and

leads many people to think that conflict is pervasive and peace is abnormal. Now the question to be discussed is that is the same fact true with the media vis a vis the Naga Peace Accord?

On the other hand, Peace Journalism is when the editors and the reporters make choices of what to report and how to report in conflict situation. It uses conflict analysis and transformation to update the concept of balance, fairness and accuracy in reporting. It calls for positive representation of facts and appropriate balance between what is to be said and what is not to be said.

Post the signing of the agreement, On the 4th of August 2015, the Huyen Lanpao, a daily vernacular newspaper published from Imphal put its headline as, “The Indian Government and the IM (NSCN) signed Peace accord: Manipur Government left un-consulted; contents of the agreement left secret”. It is understandable in the situation that the vernacular media communalized the whole situation without even any detailing of the draft as seen evident from various Assamese and Manipuri newspapers.

The National Media including the NDTV, Lok Sabha TV, RJ TV, Times Now held panel discussions on the issue--the Peace agreement. These talks were arranged to focus on the objectivity of the issue rather than making assumptions. However, many local channels of Assam exaggerated the issue and brought in a communal element in their dissemination of information. Many things were spoken on mere assumptions. Further on, the local news channel in Manipur- Impact TV and ISTV held a series of panel discussions and talks to bring about objective knowledge on the agreement. Further the impact TV also had a one to one talk with RN Ravi, the interlocutor to have a clear opinion on the framework. It seemed that there is lack of detailed research and the Dima Hasao violence was a result of misinformation.

He ended his presentation by pointing out that much depends on the socialization of the journalist, esp. in context of communal reporting. There are always a few people who instigate violence and media should not be one of them or aid them in any way for the overall benefit of the communities in conflict.

Mr. P J Baruah, Executive Editor, The Assam Tribune initiated his lecture on Issues and Challenges of Covering Conflict: An Editor’s Perspective by highlighting the fact that there is a proliferation in the media business with cut throat competition. He recalled that he joined the media business in 1984 in The Sentinel. In those days, The Assam Tribune was the 1st English Daily of

Assam and a few vernacular newspapers such as Dainik Asom, Dainik Janambhumi and so on cropped up in the information world. In the same year, Television was developing as a medium in India and the country also won its 1st Cricket world cup. In contrast, the present day Guwahati alone sees 15 plus local language newspapers and 6-7 news channels broadcasting news; all aspiring to top the charts.

He further recalls an incident of bomb explosion in Guwahati in the 80s, where a leading Kolkata newspaper gave headlines with names of the culprits inciting rage in almost all parts of Assam. This made Mr. P J Baruah to write to the editor not to publish such provocative news items in the larger good of the society. The Editor reacted by publishing his letter under the headline 'Hide the Truth' whereas his intention was only to instill peace among the common people and assure them of their safety by avoiding communal colors to media reporting. He further sighted the example of Godhara train blasts that was repeatedly projected in media and became an important ingredient to the rising of the Gujrat riots that killed hundreds of innocent souls. He says that if journalists break the lines of ethical reporting, conflict will certainly follow without exception.



P. J. Baruah elaborating on the Editor's Perspective

He specifically feels that TV news channels exaggerate information and presents a dramatic picture of petty issues that can be resorted with peace. Just like we have guidelines for Press functioning, similar regulations are needed to control the TV news channels so that they do not broadcast misleading or sensationalized news. In a pluralistic country like ours, we need more rules and regulatory bodies due to the diversity we accommodate. Such regulations might not have been anticipated by the makers of the Indian constitution on account of limited technology available in those times. Electronic media should put a check on those news and features that go against the sovereignty, safety and security of its people. This in turn calls for a greater responsibility on the part of the editor or the 'gatekeepers' as they are the one who filter news.

Mr. Baruah recalled an incident in a Guwahati-Adivasi rally where there arose a conflict and a minor girl was stripped naked and the footage was captured by local television. The same was repeatedly shown in news channels to make the public more furious and thus resulted in larger damage. It was the right to dignity, privacy and respect of the girl which was violated by the news media in lieu of their own profits. Hence, certain professional attributes need to be inculcated and seeking permission before publishing any controversial content is very important and falls under media ethics. An Editor is supposed to practice restraint in the times when he finds a news piece too alluring for the popularity of his channel or newspaper.

He further mentions that Gandhiji and his philosophy has deeply influenced Assam and its people during the freedom struggle. He says that Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, himself was affected by Gandhian thoughts on peace and truthfulness that he composed many verses propagating his messages to the Assamese people. Assam was a land of peace and tranquility in the ancient times owing to its natural heritage; but communal violence has broken this peace into pieces. Media has a critical role to play to mitigate such adversity and restore peace in the land; one should put the interest of people foremost during reporting and gatekeeping.

The last speech of the day was delivered by **Dr. Syed Murtaza Alfarid Hussain**, Assistant Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Assam University in his concluding remarks.



Dr. Syed Murtaza Alfarid Hussain sharing the concluding remarks

He said that that there can be no peace without conflict and vice-versa and there is a lot of sensitivity & maturity that goes in construction of peaceful journalistic messages. There can be different categories of conflict, with or without bloodshed and violence that require fruitful resolutions.

He gave the example of 'Hotel Europa' in Belfast which has gained popularity to be world's most bombed hotel as it has been attacked more than 36 times. Many a time terrorist groups informed BBC before attacking in order to gain media coverage. This is exploiting the reach and power of media by the defaulters. The then UK Prime Minister Ms. Margaret Thatcher has requested many a times not to give coverage to insurgent group like Irish Republican Army and cut down their "oxygen of publicity".

He said that there are deep fissures and faultiness in Northeast too, that require immediate attention. Seminars and events of this nature certainly provide us with a platform to judge the existing media framework in the region and allow us to work to improve upon the drawbacks. Sometimes media professionals deem that they are striking debates on important social issues but the same might not fulfil the desired purpose and end up in adding fuel to the fire.

Dr. Syed also touched upon the importance of sources of gathering information in a journalistic journey. Normally, one attaches a lot of importance to government agents and military personnel as reliable conduits of information, but it is equally important for us to give context to a story and ensure careful construction of media messages with objectivity. At the same time media should give a platform to common people to vent out their grievances. Newsroom diversity can make a huge impact to the purpose of peace journalism and there should be unity, not segregation of journalists based on the communities they hail from. Another important factor is gender sensitivity as people make moral judgements, especially in the contemporary times. There should be equal number of men and women in the newsroom too.

He ended by saying that the seminar was indeed an eye opening experience and gave food for thought in media's role in covering conflict.



A pledge for peace - Participants putting their thumb impressions

The first day ended with a '**pledge taking ceremony**' where the respected industry experts, guests, faculties, students and all other participants placed their thumb impressions in a silhouette outline of Mahatma Gandhi and vowed to stand for peace throughout their lives. A simple promise would certainly serve as a beacon light to show the righteous path to justice and peace.

DAY 2

Full Day workshop on “Peace Journalism”

By

Dr. Syed Murtaza Alfarid Hussain

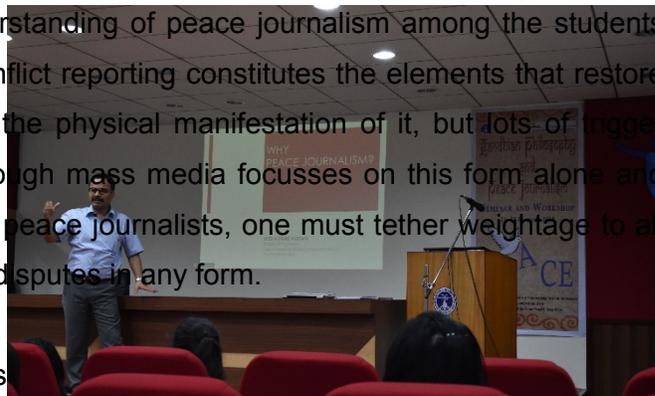
[10am – 5pm]

Morning Session

Dr. Syed Murtaza Alfarid Hussain, Assistant Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Assam University, took an extensive workshop for the second and forth semester

students of Tezpur University on the theme of 'Peace Journalism'. He has conducted in depth research on the same in the region of northeast and its conflict areas.

He began by clarifying on the conceptual understanding of peace journalism among the students and sculpted their know how on the theme. Conflict reporting constitutes the elements that restore order in crisis conditions. Violence is not only the physical manifestation of it, but lots of trigger points that leads to such physical violence. Though mass media focusses on this form alone and need not give much coverage to the others. As peace journalists, one must tether weightage to all forms of violence alike and endeavor to resolve disputes in any form.



It was felt that the concept of peace journalism is less deliberated among the other topics related to media and mass communication, both in practice as well as academia. One should take small steps to inculcate an attitude towards the discipline and become 'peace warriors', i.e. aggressively acting towards restoring and propagating peace.

Dr. Syed gave a practical situation to the students to ponder about. He asked them that if you know that one of your hostel boarders have stolen INR 500 and some books from your room, what shall be your immediate reaction to the situation? The room was filled with varied responses ranging from beating the culprit, expelling him/her out of the hostel, complaining against him or her to the warden/authorities and so on. But among these answers, a few voices called for a peaceful solution. They said that it was better if we interrogated the boy or the girl on what made him or her commit such an unlawful activity and try to help rather than punish the culprit. At times it is the circumstances that lead to breach of law and moral ethics, it should be dealt with maturity and sensibility rather than outrage and volatile reactions.

The same maturity is needed in a journalistic career and peaceful deliberations can make a lot of impact on a person's or a group's way of thinking. What is needed is 'empathy' and not 'sympathy' under these situations where complex issues can be accommodated with simplest steps.

Another situation presented before the students was when a journalist was told that someone shall be murdered in a particular area well in advanced by a trustworthy informer; he put up cameras and captured the entire brawl without the knowledge of the attackers who actually murdered an individual on a street. As a media worker, what is one's social role in these circumstances? Should

they show footages of a man being murdered on national news television with audiences of all age groups watching it? These incidents pose question marks on ethics of a journalist and he or she must look for practical solutions as well as perform their duties as a responsible citizens of the world. Ideally, the journalist should share the evidences generated to the local police who should immediately arrest the attackers and then give a peaceful, non-violent message on their news channel or newspaper about the sad event without arousing emotions of fury and insecurity in the public. Also, the discretion and human ideology of the Editor/Gatekeeper is also very crucial in such significant occasions as to what to show and what to hide from the viewers.

A BBC correspondent while covering the Kosovo bombing in Eastern Europe, came across British troops entering the sight of conflict. He reported the same incident as “Our boys have arrived.....” which was criticized immensely by fellow colleagues as he clearly displayed his personal affiliation towards his country and projected an image of being biased with his own people. A peace journalist trying to disseminate information for conflict resolution would have never used such phrases and would always prefer to remain neutral in the times of distress. “We should make patriotic journalists” is a wrong statement by any nation for the cause of peace in the world as only one side of the conflict shall be looked into by them. Rather, one should attempt to understand the brad paradigm that leads to peace movements across the globe.

The Anti-war movement in Vietnam in the 1960s-1970s furnishes a great example of a peace movement given due importance by the mass media. The movement against U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War began small—among peace activists and leftist intellectuals on college campuses—but gained national prominence in 1965, after the United States began bombing North Vietnam in earnest. Anti-war marches and other protests, such as the ones organized by Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), attracted a widening base of support over the next three years, peaking in early 1968 after the successful Tet Offensive by North Vietnamese troops proved that war’s end was nowhere in sight.



The students brainstorming during the workshop

Dr. Syed said that the ‘mainstream media’ is inclined towards using the logic of 3Ps, viz. Power, Politics and Profit. While the ‘alternative media’ such as news websites, applications, social networking sites, volunteer movements, blogs and so on (example of The Wire, The Hoot, Firstpost, etc.) are also occupying prominent space

in the business. The mainstream media is living in a “delusion of grandeur” that they are setting the agenda; on the contrary they pick up agenda from the alternative media based on citizen interests. It is noteworthy to read the *Agenda Setting Theory* and the *Framing Theory* to a deeper understanding of the role played by different mass media.

Earlier, mass communication was understood to be the one initiated by professional journalists over a specified platform meant for the purpose. But in the contemporary era of citizen journalism, every man or woman is a source of information that can be accessed by the common masses. For example, Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has 37 million plus followers on Twitter. If he sends out a message on the Twitter rostrum, and the same gets retweeted by his followers, it automatically becomes a mass communication as it reached millions of people within hours. We can add that ‘objectivity’ is very ‘subjective’ in journalism as it depends on the numerous interpretations of the content circulated, by different groups and individuals exposed to it. The role of academia is to analyze empirically the different works and stories produced by different media houses and making a comparative study of their performances. Stories can be assessed as peace frames and conflict frames. He further suggested that we all live in the age of ‘spectacle’, i.e. dramatic events affect us more than the peaceful ones.

In the context of north eastern society, the pre industrial era was full of amity where peace had a larger part in our lives and there was interdependence between communities. But the post-industrial times saw that man became more self-centered and stopped interfering in each other’s life. These days, people’s sense of reality is determined by screen images and they are more depended on simulations, moving away from the authenticity of social reality. The big question here was whether media is fulfilling its duty or making us feel more vulnerable?

Dr. Syed presented a VUCA model (Volatility/Vulnerability, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity). This implies that mass media wants us to believe that the world is in a bad state with no hope for improvement and that anything can happen any moment. This they furnish by extreme escalation of violence and proliferation of fake news sent with a motive of incitement.

Talking about citizen journalism, he said that apart from the positive faith that it has earned, there is a darker side to it as well. It is making traditional media weak; as they have stopped employing correspondents and rely greatly on the information generated by general public and showcase it on air without any fact checking or verification. Many reporters are losing their jobs in the due course.

These days consumers have transformed into “Prosumers = Consumers + Producers”. The catch here is one can easily produce content but not in the discipline and ethics of a journalist. This affects the social structure to a great extent.

Coming to the question, why do we need peace journalism? The answer is to add a fourth P in the 3Ps policy of mass media conglomerates and motivate them to work for peace in their quest to earn power and profit with political support. We find that people are amused with war scenes on news television and become glued to the screen in case of any violent conflict being broadcasted. News media uses the terms collateral damage, friendly fire, smart bomb, peace process, terrorism, etc. with ease not realizing its true nature and that the innocent soul such activities victimizes. We must remember that we all are in great danger of losing democracy if journalists act as a conduit to state government and military of a nation.

In the 5W and 1H of the traditional journalism (Who, What, When, Where, What & How) we can add 1C and 1S of peace journalism, i.e. Common ground of agreement and Solution to the problem. Peace journalists should bring about some kind of resolution in the way they structure the content. One should leave his or her ethnic identity and prejudice behind and never allow them to sweep to the content of the story.

Dr. Syed then discussed the 11 Framing Tools of James Tankard that must be looked into while reporting and writing media messages. They are headlines, subheads, photos, photo captions, leads, source selection, quotes selection, pull quotes, logos, statistics and charts, concluding statements and paragraphs. All these aspects must be taken into account while framing a message for the masses and must ensure that they adhere to the peace phenomena.

Afternoon Session

The post lunch session began with Dr. Syed explaining the students some important concepts related to peace and conflict journalism, such as embedded and unilateral war journalism, episodic and thematic frames, culture of impunity, difference between intractable and normal conflict and so on. He furnish India vs. Pakistan, North vs South Korea and Israel vs. Palestine as examples of intractable conflicts where all possible efforts of peace and conflict resolution have failed and there

is no chance of mutual agreement. He adds that the worst sufferers of such a conflict are the women and children of any nation who are often exposed to inhuman brutality.

As peace journalists, we must be familiar with International Humanitarian Laws (IHL) commonly known as the Geneva Convention that specifically deal with rules governing the execution of war and treatment ought to be given to the refugees. We must also be capable of distinguishing between IHL and Human Right Laws in detail.

It is worth knowing that peace can be both positive and negative; when peace is forced by external peace keeping forces without the inner will of the parties involved, it is a negative form of peace. Positive peace allows freedom of choice and when people are actually free to pursue their goals without any external interference. Examples of negative peace keeping forces are the digital peace keeping panoptic surveillance systems like the Unique Identification Number.

Apart from physical/direct violence, which is most popular amongst the media fraternity, violence can also be categorized as Cultural violence or Structural violence. Direct violence includes individuals or groups intending to hurt/kill people; example - Mob Violence/Lynching/Stabbing/Shooting/Bombing/Raping/Stone Pelting. Cultural violence takes place when images and stories which justify or glorify violence. Example - hate speech/xenophobia/persecution complex/myths and legends of war heroes/religious justifications for war/gender violence. Structural violence is built in to customs, practices, and organizations like Poverty/systems based on exploitation/excessive material inequality/racism/sexism/colonialism/corruption, collusion, nepotism/gender inequality/ economic exploitation/ political repression/cultural alienation/climate change, etc. A peace journalist is supposed to look into all aspects of violence in view of restoring peace and not just focus on brutality of bloodshed.

Next, Dr. Syed opened the forum for a healthy debate among the students to interact.

Ali-Aye-Ligang is a spring festival associated with agriculture, especially with the beginning of the Ahu paddy cultivation. It is celebrated by the Mising or Mishing ethnic community of Assam, India. The festival marks onset of sowing seeds. The name of the festival is made up of three terms, 'Ali', legumes, 'Aye', seed and 'Ligang', to sow. The debate was about a tweet by a famous personality, who said that we should call it a festival of whole of the Assam state rather than calling it a Mising culture. Now how far is it correct to generalize this important ritual of a particular tribe? The

students presented various views on the statement and in the process what came up was understanding how deep the communal colors can act to disrupt peace. Another important aspect of the debate was to realize that diversity and plurality of a society should be appreciated and the cultures should be preserved in peace.

Next in line, followed the discussion about the 'Semantics of Peace Journalism'. It included points such as avoiding use of opinions as established facts, avoiding elite bias, single sourced reporting, avoiding of rumor-mongering, discouraging provocative language, avoiding sensational headlines, curbing inflammatory content- text and visuals, and avoiding unverified information. These points can make an enormous difference in day to day sentence construction of a reporter.

The last session of the workshop saw an open interaction amongst the students and their mentor Dr. Syed Murtaza Alfarid Hussain. He divided the batch into teams of two, each team comprising of a junior (Semester II) and a senior (Semester IV) student. The junior was supposed to narrate a conflict incident that he or she came across and the senior one was supposed to re-narrate it to the entire gathering with a probable solution to the said issue. The conflict could be in any form, direct, cultural or structural. The students after mutual discussions touch based on a variety of issues such as the National Register of Citizens in Assam & its effects, College level disputes, Nepal Gorkhaland conflict, The Naga Accord, Discord in the nearby villages, ULFA & the distress in Kokrajhar and many more.

The idea behind this activity was to generate a sensitivity among students as to what damage simple words can make if not used properly and gauge their understanding of peaceful means in conflict resolution. The discussion went on for about an hour and a half with many case studies sprouting up that can be of potential danger to the society. With these discussions and a hope to vouch for peace under all positive and negative situations of a journalistic life, the two day seminar cum workshop ended.



Students creating memories during the workshop with Dr. Hussain

Media Coverage

The event was well covered by a number of media houses with detailed reports published in their leading dailies, including The Assam Tribune, The Sentinel, Niyomiya Barta, Dainik Purvoday, Dainik Asam, Purvanchal Prahri, Amar Asom, Northeast Now to name a few. These were published across English, Hindi, and Assamese newspapers. The reports showcased that how Gandhian philosophy is still relevant in practicing peaceful journalism even till this date and how ethics and responsible reporting can make a huge difference in conflict resolution of any nature. Electronic media channels like Assam Talks, Newslive and All India Radio Tezpur also aired the news.

A few snippets of the media clips are added as below for an immediate reference.

THE SENTINEL,
DATE-23.02.2018, PG NO-05

Seminar on Gandhian
philosophy and peace journalism

FROM A
CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, Feb 22: A two-day seminar and workshop on Gandhian Philosophy and Peace Journalism began on Wednesday at the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of Tezpur University. The programme, organized by the Department in collaboration with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, was inaugurated by Prof. PK Das, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences of the university. In his introductory remarks, journalist PJ Baruah said that Gandhi introduced a novel way of seeking justice. Speaking on the topic 'Peace journalism in theory and practice: observations on

India's Northeast', freelance journalist and author Rajeew Bhattacharyya shared his experiences of reporting in the conflict areas. He urged the journalists to stick to objectivity and accuracy.

Prof. Abhijit Borah, Head of the Department of MCJ, gave welcome address at the beginning of the seminar. In his speech, he highlighted the recent achievements of the department as the best mass communication department among Indian universities in the Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2018. Prof Borah also added that it was now a big responsibility on the part of the MCJ department to live up to this achievement.

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE, DATE-23.02.2018, PG NO-08

‘Gandhian philosophy still relevant while practising journalism’

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, Feb 22: “Gandhian philosophy is still relevant while practising journalism as Gandhiji was not only the father of the nation, but he was also the father of true journalism. The application of his philosophy needs greater courage and moral strength. He believed that Ahimsa has a universal application and it can be used in one’s own family, society and the world at large. Through the technique of non-violence, an opponent can be changed morally, and by using this tool, Gandhiji defeated his opponent and gained India’s freedom.” This was observed by PJ Baruah, noted journalist and Executive Editor of *The Assam Tribune*, while giving the introductory remark in the inaugural ceremony of the two-day-long symposium cum workshop on the issue of ‘Gandhian Philosophy and Peace Journalism’ organised at the Mass Communication and Journalism Department of Tezpur University here.

In his speech, Baruah put stress

on the positive role of the media so that it can bring peace and development in the society. “As we live in a conflict zone like the North-east, the media should always try to be very sincere in its reporting so that peace, communal fabric and the human integrity are not harmed.”

He spoke on the subjects of ‘Looking for Stories of Rebuilding Lives and Untold Stories of Rehabilitation Faultiness in Conflict-hit Areas’ and ‘Issues and Challenges of Covering Conflict: An Editor’s Perspective’.

The event organised by the department in collaboration with the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti was formally inaugurated by Prof PK Das, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University

Das, in his speech, appreciated the positive and balanced reporting done by *The Assam Tribune*.

Speaking on the topic ‘Peace Journalism in Theory and Practice: Observations on India’s Northeast’, freelance journalist and author Rajeev Bhattacharyya shared his experiences of reporting in the conflict zones. He urged the journalists to stick to

objectivity and accuracy.

Prominent journalist Sushanta Talukdar, Editor of *The Nezine*, spoke on the subjects of ‘Looking for Stories of Rebuilding Lives and Untold Stories of Rehabilitation Faultiness in Conflict-hit Areas’ and ‘Issues and Challenges of Covering Conflict: An Editor’s Perspective’, while giving concluding remarks on the event.

Dr Syed Murtaza Alfarid Husain, Assistant Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Assam University, stated that there is an urgent need of maintaining accuracy and positivity in reporting.

Biren Das, Registrar of Tezpur University, and a few students of the department, like Amlan Jyoti Das, Nidarshana Mahanta, Tirtharaj Gohain and RK Yaibiren Sana, also spoke on the occasion.

Prof Abhijit Borah, Head of the Mass Communication and Journalism Department, gave the welcome speech. Dr Anjuman Borah and Dr Junali Deka gave the introduction and the vote of thanks respectively.

NIYOMIYA BARTA

DATE - 24.02.2018, PG NO - 01

তেজপুৰ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ত আলোচনা-চক্ৰ, কৰ্মশালাৰ শুভাৰম্ভ

বৃহৎ উদ্যোগ গঢ়ি তুলিলে জৈৱ বৈচিত্ৰ্য সমৃদ্ধ অসমলৈ আহিব চৰম ভাবুকি



বাৰ্তা বুৰ', তেজপুৰ, ২১ ফেব্ৰুৱাৰী
ঃ 'টি আৰ পিৰ বাবে নহয়, সমাজ
আৰু দেশৰ স্বার্থ আগত ৰাখিহে
সাংবাদিকতা কৰা উচিত। সমস্যাৰ
সন্মুখীন হোৱা তথা সংঘৰ্ষপীড়িত
জনসাধাৰণৰ ১০ পৃষ্ঠাত

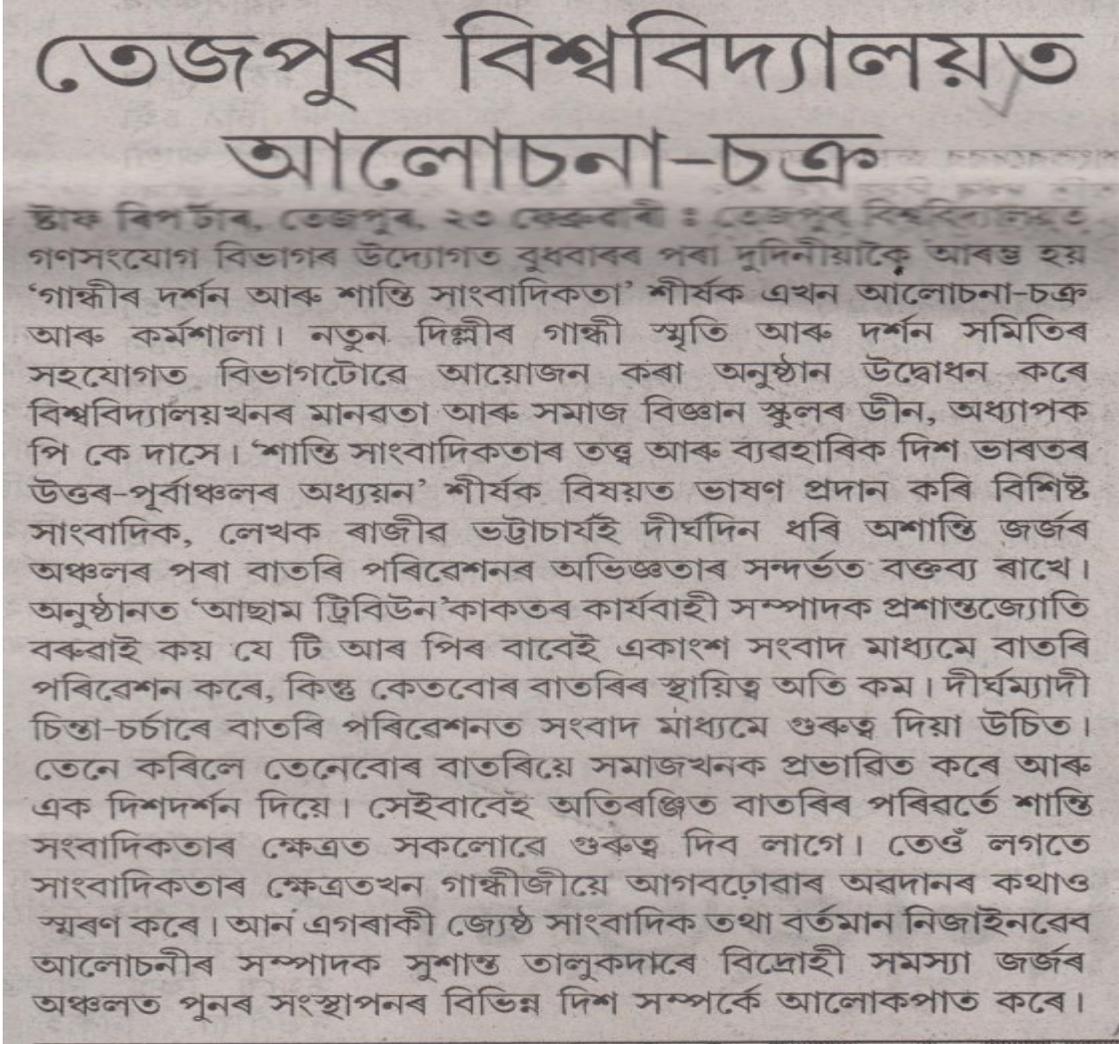
NIYOMIYA BARTA

DATE - 24.02.2018, PG NO - 10

বৃহৎ উদ্যোগ গঢ়ি তুলিলে জৈৱ বৈচিত্ৰ্য সমৃদ্ধ অসমলৈ

সমস্যাৱলীৰ সমাধানৰ বাবে ঋণাত্মক নহয়, গঠনমূলক তথা ইতিবাচক চিন্তাচৰ্চাৰেহে সাংবাদিকতা কৰা প্ৰয়োজন।' আজি তেজপুৰ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ত এই মন্তব্য কৰে বিশিষ্ট সাংবাদিক তথা 'দ্য আছাম ট্ৰিবিউন' কাকতৰ কাৰ্যবাহী সম্পাদক প্ৰশান্তজ্যোতি বৰুৱাই। উল্লেখ্য যে তেজপুৰ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ গণসংযোগ আৰু সাংবাদিকতা বিভাগৰ উদ্যোগত আৰু নতুন দিল্লীৰ গান্ধী স্মৃতি আৰু দৰ্শন সমিতিৰ সহযোগত আজি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়খনৰ সংশ্লিষ্ট বিভাগৰ সন্মিলনকক্ষত 'গান্ধী দৰ্শন আৰু শান্তি সাংবাদিকতা' শীৰ্ষক বিষয়ত দুদিনীয়া আলোচনা-চক্ৰ আৰু কৰ্মশালাৰ শুভাৰম্ভ কৰা হয়। উক্ত আলোচনা-চক্ৰ আৰু কৰ্মশালা মুকলি কৰি বিশিষ্ট সাংবাদিক বৰুৱাই আগবঢ়োৱা উদ্বোধনী ভাষণত আৰু কয় যে সংঘৰ্ষজৰ্জৰিত বুলি চিহ্নিত উত্তৰ-পূৰ্বাঞ্চলৰ বহুবিষয়ক লৈ চলি থকা বিতৰ্ক সমস্যাৱলীৰ কিয়দংশ মীমাংসা হৈছে যদিও আনবোৰ বিষয়ক লৈ কথা-বতৰা চলি আছে। এনে পৰিপ্ৰেক্ষিতত শান্তি বাতাবৰণ সৃষ্টিৰে সমস্যাৱলীসমূহৰ সমাধানৰ পথ প্ৰশস্ত কৰাত সাংবাদিকৰ বিশেষ ভূমিকা আছে। সেয়েহে কোনোধৰণৰ উৰা বাতৰিৰ পৰিৱৰ্তে সত্যাসত্য পৰীক্ষা কৰি স্বচ্ছতা আৰু দায়বদ্ধতাৰে বাতৰি পৰিৱেশনৰে প্ৰকৃত প্ৰতিছবি প্ৰকাশ কৰাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত সংবাদ মাধ্যমৰ গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ ভূমিকা আছে। সাম্প্ৰতিক কালৰ আধুনিক তথ্য প্ৰযুক্তিয়ে সংবাদ ক্ষেত্ৰখন আৰু ওপৰলৈ নি বিশ্বজুৰি অভাৱ বিস্তাৰ কৰিবলৈ সক্ষম হোৱাৰ সমান্তৰালভাৱে সমগ্ৰ বিশ্বত গান্ধীজীৰ দৰ্শন আৰু শান্তি সাংবাদিকতাৰ প্ৰাসংগিকতা বৃদ্ধি পাইছে। এনে প্ৰেক্ষাপটত সংবাদ মাধ্যমে সকলো দিশ চালিজাৰি চাই বাতৰি প্ৰকাশ কৰাটো অতি গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ হৈ পৰিছে বুলি মন্তব্য কৰে বিশিষ্ট সাংবাদিক প্ৰশান্তজ্যোতি বৰুৱাই। উল্লেখ্য যে গণসংযোগ আৰু সাংবাদিকতা বিভাগৰ ছাত্ৰীসকলে পৰিৱেশন কৰা 'বধুপতি ৰাঘৱ ৰাজা ৰাম.ঈশ্বৰ আল্লা তেৰে নাম' শীৰ্ষক ভজন আৰু বস্ত্ৰি প্ৰজ্বলনেৰে শুভাৰম্ভ হোৱা এই উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠানত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়খনৰ মানৱিকতা আৰু সমাজ বিজ্ঞান বিভাগৰ মুৰব্বী ড° প্ৰশান্ত কুমাৰ দাসে আমন্ত্ৰিত অতিথিসকলক সম্বৰ্ণনা জ্ঞাপন কৰি আগবঢ়োৱা বক্তব্যত উত্তৰ-পূৰ্বাঞ্চলত গান্ধীজীৰ দৰ্শন আৰু শান্তি সাংবাদিকতাৰ প্ৰাসংগিকতা আছে বুলি মন্তব্য কৰে। আনহাতে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়খনৰ পঞ্জীয়ক ড° বীৰেন দাসে আগবঢ়োৱা বক্তব্যত শান্তিৰ কোনো পথ নাই যদিও শান্তি জীৱনৰ পথ বুলি মন্তব্য কৰে। গণসংযোগ আৰু সাংবাদিকতা বিভাগৰ মুৰব্বী অধ্যাপক অভিজিৎ বৰাই আগবঢ়োৱা আদৰ্শী ভাষণত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়খনৰ অগ্ৰগতিৰ বিষয়ে দাঙি ধৰি আজিৰ এই আলোচনা-চক্ৰ আৰু কৰ্মশালাৰ গুৰুতৰ বিষয়ে বক্তব্য আগবঢ়ায়। গণসংযোগ আৰু সাংবাদিকতা বিভাগৰ সহকাৰী অধ্যাপিকা অঞ্জলিমা বৰাই অনুষ্ঠানটিৰ উদ্দেশ্য ব্যাখ্যা কৰি হিংসা আৰু সংঘৰ্ষপূৰ্ণ পৰিস্থিতিৰ সময়ত সংবাদ মাধ্যমে শান্তি বাৰ্তা কঢ়িওৱাত কেনেদৰে ভূমিকা গ্ৰহণ কৰিব পাৰে এই সন্দৰ্ভত বক্তব্য আগবঢ়ায়। ইয়াৰ পিছত 'শান্তি সাংবাদিকতাৰ তত্ত্ব আৰু ব্যৱহাৰিক দিশ- ভাৰতৰ উত্তৰ-পূৰ্বাঞ্চলৰ অধ্যয়ন' শীৰ্ষক বিষয়ত সমল ব্যক্তি হিচাপে ভাষণ দিয়ে বিশিষ্ট সাংবাদিক আৰু লেখক ৰাজীৱ ভট্টাচাৰ্যই। অশান্ত উত্তৰ-পূৰ্বাঞ্চলৰ বিশেষ বিশেষ অঞ্চলত চৰজমিন তদন্তৰে বাতৰি পৰিৱেশন কৰা অভিজ্ঞতাৰ বিষয়ে ব্যক্ত কৰি ভট্টাচাৰ্যই দিয়া ভাষণত প্ৰসংগক্ৰমে জৈৱ-বৈচিত্ৰ্যৰ বাবে খ্যাত উত্তৰ-পূৰ্বাঞ্চলৰ বিভিন্ন সমস্যা আৰু বিষয়ক লৈ এতিয়াও বহু বাতৰি প্ৰকাশৰ সমল আছে বুলি মন্তব্য কৰে। জৈৱ-বৈচিত্ৰ্যৰে ভৰপূৰ অসমত কৃষিভিত্তিক উদ্যোগ, বাঁহ উদ্যোগ আৰু পৰ্যটন উদ্যোগৰ দৰে ক্ষুদ্ৰ উদ্যোগৰ প্ৰাসংগিকতা আৰু প্ৰয়োজন আছে যদিও চৰকাৰী পক্ষই বিশাল অনুষ্ঠান আয়োজনেৰে বৃহৎ পুঁজিপতিৰ দ্বাৰা বৃহৎ বৃহৎ উদ্যোগ গঢ়ি তুলিলে ৰাজ্যখনৰ প্ৰতি চৰম ভাবুকি কঢ়িয়াই আনিব বুলিও তাৎপৰ্যপূৰ্ণ মন্তব্য কৰে ভট্টাচাৰ্যই। নিজৰ সাংবাদিকতা জীৱনৰ অভিজ্ঞতা সদৰী কৰি সাংবাদিক ভট্টাচাৰ্যই জাতিৰ পিতা গান্ধীজী সন্দৰ্ভত কয় যে গান্ধীজী এজন মহান সাংবাদিকেই নহয়, তেওঁ এগৰাকী মহান লেখকো আছিল। শান্তি সাংবাদিকতাৰ অন্যতম প্ৰৱৰ্তক গান্ধীজীৰ দৰ্শন আৰু শান্তি সাংবাদিকতাই ক্ৰমান্বয়ে প্ৰাসংগিকতা লাভ কৰিছে বুলি উল্লেখ কৰি ভট্টাচাৰ্যই ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীসকলক উদ্দেশ্যি প্ৰদান কৰা ভাষণত নীতিগত সাংবাদিকতা বৰ্তাই ৰাখিবলৈ আহ্বান জনাই জনগণ সবাতোকৈ উৰ্বৰ বুলি মন্তব্য কৰে। প্ৰকাশ যে গণসংযোগ আৰু সাংবাদিকতা বিভাগৰ ছাত্ৰ অম্লানজ্যোতি দাসে 'গান্ধী আৰু শান্তি সাংবাদিকতা' আৰু ছাত্ৰী নিদৰ্শনা মহন্তই 'বিতৰ্কিত বিষয়ত সংবাদ মাধ্যমৰ ভূমিকা' শীৰ্ষক বিষয়ৰ ওপৰত প্ৰতিবেদনসহ আগবঢ়োৱা তথ্যসমৃদ্ধ ভাষণে সকলোকে মুগ্ধ কৰে। আনহাতে বিশিষ্ট সাংবাদিক তথা নিজাইন ৰেব আলোচনীৰ সম্পাদক সুশান্ত তালুকদাৰে বিদ্রোহী সমস্যা জৰ্জৰিত অঞ্চলত পুনৰ সংস্থাপনৰ বিভিন্ন দিশৰ ওপৰত আলোকপাত কৰে। ইপিনে অসম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ গণসংযোগ আৰু সাংবাদিকতা বিভাগৰ অধ্যাপক ড° চৈয়দ মূৰ্তাজা আলফাৰিদ হুচেইনে সামৰণী ভাষণ দিয়া আজিৰ অনুষ্ঠানটিত শলাগৰ শৰাই আগবঢ়ায় তেজপুৰ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ গণসংযোগ আৰু সাংবাদিকতা বিভাগৰ সহকাৰী অধ্যাপিকা ড° জোনালী ডেকাই।

AMAR ASOM , DATE-24.02.2018, PG NO-06



DAINIK PURVODAY, DATE-24.02.2018, PG NO-05

तेजपुर : पत्रकारिता पर सेमिनार आयोजित

तेजपुर, 23 फरवरी (पू.सं.)। तेजपुर विश्वविद्यालय के मास कम्युनिकेशन एंड जर्नलिज्म विभाग में 21 व 22 फरवरी को गांधीवादी विचारधारा और शांति पत्रकारिता विषय पर दो दिवसीय संगोष्ठी तथा कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया। मास कम्युनिकेशन और जर्नलिज्म विभाग द्वारा गांधी स्मृति और दर्शन समिति के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में आयोजित इस संगोष्ठी का उद्घाटन स्कूल ऑफ ह्यूमनिटीज एंड सोशल साइंसेज के डीन प्रो. पीके दास ने गत 21 फरवरी को किया।

इस अवसर पर असम ट्रिब्यून के कार्यकारी संपादक पीजे बरुवा ने कहा कि गांधी ने न्याय पाने के लिए एक विशेष तरीके से परिचय कराया। गांधीजी ने कहा था, 'मजहब इंसान को बैर रखना नहीं सिखता, वह तो लोगों को प्रेम के धागों में बांधने के लिए है। गांधीजी ने सिखाया था कि सबसे बड़ा नैतिक कानून यही है कि हम मानव जाति की भलाई के लिए निरंतर कार्य

करते रहें। गांधी जी का मानना था कि हिंसा की बनियाद पर कोई भी चीज टिक नहीं सकती।

'पीस जर्नलिज्म इन थ्योरी एंड प्रैक्टिस: ऑवजरवेशंस ऑन इंडियाज नॉर्थ ईस्ट' विषय पर अपने अनुभवों के बारे में बताते हुए फ्रीलांस जर्नलिस्ट तथा लेखक राजीव भट्टाचार्य ने पत्रकारों को उद्देश्यपूर्ण और सटीक रिपोर्टिंग करने की सलाह दी। इस अवसर पर दो अन्य प्रतिष्ठित पत्रकार सुशांत तालुकदार तथा पीजी बरुवा ने 'लुकिंग फॉर स्टोरीज ऑफ रिनिविलिंग लाइव्स एंड अनटोल्ड स्टोरीज ऑफ रिहेविलेशन पाल्टीनेस इन कन्फ्लिक्ट-हिट-एरीयाज' विषय और 'इस्यूजेज एंड चैलेंजेज ऑफ कवरींग कनफ्लिक्ट : एडीटर्स पर्सपेक्टिव' विषय पर अपने ज्ञानवर्धक विचार व्यक्त किए।

मास कम्युनिकेशन एंड जर्नलिज्म विभाग, असम विश्वविद्यालय के असिस्टेंट प्रो. डॉ. मुर्तजा अलफ्रेड हुसैन ने प्रथम दिन समापन भाषण

दिया और द्वितीय दिन पीस जर्नलिज्म कार्यशाला का संचालन किया। तेजपुर विश्वविद्यालय के रजिस्ट्रार डॉ. बीरेन दास ने इस अवसर पर अपने विचार व्यक्त किए। सेमिनार की शुरुआत में एमजीजे विभागाध्यक्ष प्रो. अभिजीत बोरा ने सभी उपस्थित लोगों का स्वागत करते हुए टाइम्स हायर एजुकेशन एशिया यूनिवर्सिटीज रैंकिंग 2018 में भारतीय विश्वविद्यालयों में तेजपुर विश्वविद्यालय के मास कम्युनिकेशन विभाग को सर्वश्रेष्ठ मास कम्युनिकेशन विभाग घोषित किए जाने पर प्रसन्नता जाहिर करते हुए कहा कि इस महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि से हमारी जिम्मेदारियां और भी बढ़ गई हैं, जिन पर हमें खरा उतरना है। एमए के छात्र एम्लान ज्योतिदास, निदर्शना महंत, तीर्थराज गोहाई और आरके थाविरेन साना ने भी कार्यशाला में अपने विचार व्यक्त किए। डॉ. अंजुमन बोरा ने कार्यक्रमों का परिचय कराया जबकि डॉ. जुलानी डेका ने धन्यवाद ज्ञापन प्रस्तुत किया।

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तेजपुर विवि में पत्रकारिता पर संगोष्ठी संपन्न

तेजपुर। तेजपुर विश्वविद्यालय के मास कम्यूनिकेशन एंड जर्नलिज्म विभाग में गत 21 तथा 22 फरवरी को 'गांधीवादी विचारधारा और शांति पत्रकारिता' विषय पर दो दिवसीय संगोष्ठी तथा कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया। मास कम्यूनिकेशन और जर्नलिज्म विभाग द्वारा गांधी स्मृति और दर्शन समिति के संयुक्त तत्वाधान में आयोजित उक्त संगोष्ठी का उद्घाटन स्कूल ऑफ ह्यूमेनिटीज एंड सोशल साइंसेज के डीन प्रो. पीके दास ने गत 21 फरवरी को किया। इस अवसर पर असम ट्रिब्यून के कार्यकारी संपादक पीजे बरुवा ने गांधी के न्याय पाने के लिए एक विशेष तरीके से परिचय कराया। गांधी जी ने कहा था कि मजहब

इंसान को बैर रखना नहीं सिखाता, वह तो लोगों को प्रेम के धागे में बांधने के लिए है। गांधी जी ने सिखाया था कि सबसे बड़ा नैतिक कानून यही है कि हम मानव जाति की भलाई के लिए निरंतर कार्य करते रहें। गांधी जी का मानना था कि हिंसा की बुनियाद पर कोई भी चीज टिक नहीं सकती। 'पीस जर्नलिज्म इन थ्योरी एंड प्रैक्टिस : ऑब्जरवेशंस ऑन इंडियाज नार्थ ईस्ट' विषय पर अपने अनुभवों के बारे में बताते हुए फ्रीलांस जर्नलिस्ट तथा लेखक राजीव भट्टाचार्य ने पत्रकारों को उद्देश्यपूर्ण और सटीक रिपोर्टिंग करने की सलाह दी। इस अवसर पर दो अन्य प्रतिष्ठित पत्रकार सुशांत तालुकदार तथा पीजी बरुवा ने 'लुकिंग फॉर स्टोरीज ऑफ

रिबिल्टिंग लाइन्ज एंड अनटोल्ड स्टोरीज ऑफ रिहेबिलिटेशन फाल्टीनेस इन कन्फ्लिक्ट-हिट-एरियाज' विषय पर और 'इश्यूजेज एंड चैलेंजेज ऑफ कवरींग कनफ्लिक्ट : एन एड्रीटर्स पर्सपेक्टिव' विषय पर अपने ज्ञानवर्द्धक विचार व्यक्त किए। मास कम्यूनिकेशन एंड जर्नलिज्म विभाग, असम विश्वविद्यालय के एसिसटेंट प्रोफेसर डॉ. मूर्तजा अलफ्रेड हुसैन ने प्रथम दिन समापन भाषण दिया और द्वितीय दिन 'पीस जर्नलिज्म' कार्यशाला का संचालन किया। तेजपुर विश्वविद्यालय के रजिस्ट्रार डॉ. वीरेन दास ने इस अवसर पर अपने विचार व्यक्त किए। सेमिनार की शुरुआत में एमसीजे विभागाध्यक्ष प्रो. अभिजीत बोरा ने

सभी उपस्थित लोगों का स्वागत करते हुए टाइम्स हायर एजुकेशन एशिया यूनिवर्सिटीज रैंकिंग-2018 में भारतीय विश्वविद्यालयों में तेजपुर विश्वविद्यालय के मास कम्यूनिकेशन विभाग को सर्वश्रेष्ठ मास कम्यूनिकेशन विभाग घोषित किए जाने पर प्रसन्नता जाहिर करते हुए कहा कि इस महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि से हमारी जिम्मेदारियां और भी बढ़ गई हैं, जिन पर हमें खरा उतरना है। एमए के छात्र अम्लान ज्योति दास, निदर्शना महंत, तीर्थराज गोहाई और आरके याविरन साना में भी कार्यशाला में अपने विचार व्यक्त किए। डॉ. अंजुमन बोरा ने कार्यक्रमों का परिचय कराया जबकि डॉ. जोनाली डेका ने धन्यवाद ज्ञापन प्रस्तुत किया। (निसं)

Conclusion & Recommendations

The two day event was accomplished as per expectations as it saw a lot of knowledge sharing, opinion analysis, debates, discussions and discourses that inspired the young media aspirants to lead an ethical and responsible life and work for peace. It acquainted the participants with a variety of conflict situations and how they must and must not react under specific circumstances. It is one of the most important duties of a journalist to work towards a peaceful society by deploying the means of mass communication at his or her disposal. People usually trust mass media and the news and information circulated by them; this trust can also revive their faith in peaceful means of conflict resolution.

After the workshop, the participants understood that violence can be of many forms and not only its physical manifestation. Cultural and structural violence too act as major triggers resulting in brutal conflicts across the globe. Peace has be inculcated as an attitude amongst the common people, and especially in the media fraternity who should avoid glorifying discord and violence of any nature. It's a herculean responsibility on the forth pillar of democracy to build the path of progress and prosperity without compromising on social justice and tranquility. It the innocent people of any country who suffer the most in case of any conflict, just as we see in case of Syria. War and bloodshed is not the only solution to reconcile any disagreement; it is peaceful compatibility and mutual compromises that brings about common good for all.

The expert speakers of the session shared their views and anecdotes as to how they had confronted conflict situations and maintained peace and objectivity at the same time. Propagating peace does not mean manipulating facts or telling lies; verification of facts and their accuracy is of utmost importance at any given point of time.

After the successful completion of the seminar & workshop, it was unanimously recommended by all the participants that "peace journalism" should be included in the course content of all the institutions imparting degree and diplomas in mass communication. Strong academic foundation of the aspiring journalists can yield favorable results as they shall be exposed to the knowhow of how to react during conflict situations with objectivity and glorify the path of cordial resolutions, as against to incitement and provocation of the parties in disagreement.

Another important recommendation is that workshops on similar themes should be periodically conducted for the working journalists on field. Many a times soaring competition, thirst for power, political affiliations, etc. makes media & journalism a mere business for its executors. A deliberation on peace journalism and real time problem solving discussions can go a long way in improving the quality of mass communication that the world is witnessing in the present times.

Also, reading about the history & work of various peacemakers who have brought about a difference in the way we see conflict and war is a must read for the media fraternity. These include eminent peace personalities such as Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Daisaku Ikeda and many more. The world is in dire need of familiarization with peace and handling conflict situations peacefully rather than furiously.

The seminar and workshop was indeed an eye opening session which boosted the sensitivity of the participants about the much unexplored avenue of peace journalism.

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