



Netaji Subhas Open University School of Humanities

Established By Act (W.B. Act (XIX) of 1997 and Recognized by U.G.C.)
DD-26, Sector-I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700064; Phone: 03340663214
Kalyani Campus: Ghoshpara, Kalyani 741235; Phone: 03325820103
Durgapur Campus: Jawahar Lal Nehru Road, Burdwan, Phone:03432500418
Jalpaiguri Campus: Pat kata, Jalpaiguri, Phone:03561257012
Website: www.wbnsou.ac.in

One-Day Research Colloquium On 'Freedom of Press in India'

Programme Report

Workshop Coordinates:

Date & Time- 10th January, 2023

Tuesday- 12 noon- 2 PM

Venue: Board Room , NSOU HQs, Salt Lake, Kolkata

No. of participants (Physical): 40

Online participants (Via Google meet)- 130

Overture

India being the sixth most dangerous countries for journalism in the world, after Afghanistan, Mexico, Syria, Somalia, and Yemen. Still, we have not seen any process to make safety modules for young journalists. The research project will map the issues faced by journalists, as well as how they operationalize current codes of practise, in order to create a set of country-specific journalistic rules.

This will provide an evidence base for capacity building workshops with journalists and development of tentative journalism curricula. Working with tandem with various agencies will help in building capacity to help educators at the higher education level to create a culture that promotes safety modules for all aspiring journalism and communication students. After various brain-storming sessions, the present study will be able to develop tentative modules for risk reporting which will include safety of female journalists, covering civil unrest, reporting during COVID-19 pandemic interviewing hostile sources, safety of photo journalists, significance of diversity in newsrooms, reporting on foreign conflicts, and reporting during natural calamities.

The research will mostly be qualitative and analytical. While major part of the objectives will be achieved through primary sources such as in-depth interviews and workshops, an overview of the different implications of security issues while reporting will be provided.

Considering the backdrop, department of journalism and mass communication under the aegis of the School of Humanities organized a research colloquium with the objective to orient the students and other guests on different contours of freedom of press in India .



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Objectives:

1. Awareness on the present situation of Press Freedom in India
2. Orientation on the need of Press Freedom in India
3. Clarify doubts faced by the learners concerning Press Freedom

The one-day research colloquium illuminated the minds of many by bringing forth the opportunity for discussion among the illuminati from the sphere of media. The focus of the colloquium was on 'Press Freedom in India' was very much appropriate and needs pondering upon. Learners interested on the topic were urged to register for the colloquium to take full advantage of the lecture. The colloquium was also conducted via Google meet for the online participants.

Nature of the participants- Students of the PG in Journalism and Mass Communication, Advance Diploma Programs. Director of SoH, NSOU, and faculty members from SoH were also acknowledged for their august presence.

Speaker- Shri Jayanta Ghosal- With over 35 years of experience, Jayanta Ghosal started out as a staff reporter in Bartaman in 1984. He was the editor (Delhi) ABP. He is now working as the Consulting Editor, India Today Group.

Programme Flow: The research colloquium progressed systematically through :

Excerpts of the Addresses:

Opening: The colloquium started with a brief inaugural in the presence of a host of guests and participants. The 'dignitaries of the Inaugural Session included Professor Manan Kumar Mandal, Director, School of Humanities, Prof. Sarmistha Chatterjee, Professor of ELT, NSOU, Dr. Srideep Mukherjee, Associate Professor and Head, Dept. of English, and Dr. Baidyanath Bhattacharya, Associate Professor of JMC, NSOU. Arijit Ghosh, Assistant Professor of JMC and Principal Investigator of the NSOU Sponsored Research project acted as the host on the occasion.

Arijit Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication, while introducing the theme to the participants emphasized that freedom of the press in India is not absolute. It is believed to be covered under Freedom of Speech and Expression.

"As of 2021, 6 journalists have been killed because of their work. India is among the top 4 countries with the greatest number of deaths on record. Journalists have been targeted and attacked due to their work", he added. The colloquium, he believed, would not only help the participants in knowing the present status of press freedom in India but it would also help them to understand the different nuances of press freedom.

Prof. Manan Kumar Mandal, Director, School of Humanities, in his speech welcomed all the participants who attended the event. He spoke briefly on the catchy details of NSOU. He



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further highlighted the different research projects undertaken by the faculty members. He also welcomed Shri Jayanta Ghosal, the speaker of the research colloquium.



Dr. Baidyanath Bhattacharya, Associate Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication, in his speech discussed about the journalistic health of the country. Dr. Bhattacharya acted as the chairperson on the occasion.





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Speaker of the Colloquium

Shri Jayanta Ghosal, Consulting Editor, India Today Group stressed on the need of value-based journalism. He emphasized that journalists also need to be objective while reporting any event.



‘Journalists should stay away from propagating or forwarding any fake news’, he added. The issue related to press freedom came during his speech. He presented facts and figures on the journalists who were killed because of their work. He also discussed on several issues related to them by explaining and analysing various developments across the country. He won the heart of audience with his mesmerising talks. His presentation was interesting and invoked clear comprehension and ideas regarding the theme.



Dr. Baidyanath Bhattacharya, chairperson of the session thanked the speaker for his lucid and compact deliberation.

The house was open for an encouraging and promising interaction among all attendees.



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Q & A session: Few queries and doubts were raised by the faculty members, students, and other participants. Those were addressed and explained by the speakers. Mr Ghosal's erudite responses clarified and satiated the seekers.



Outcome of the Workshop: Freedom of press and media is widely recognized in India. It does have reasonable restrictions under Article 19 (2) to protect the safety of the people of the nation. The number of journalists jailed around the world also set another record in the year 2022. But, in spite of all these, journalists need to keep doing their work in an objective manner.

Closure and Way Forward: The session was summarized by Arijit Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication, School of Humanities. The house was invited for interaction and suggestions. The guests and participants had a fruitful discussion and exchange of views. It was a promising event that led to a true orientation of the students on the freedom of press in India. Mr Ghosh further extended gratitude to all the concerned visionaries, esteemed dignitaries, and other participants for making the colloquium outcome-based and meaningful. He also thanked Dr Md. Intaj Ali, Assistant Professor of English for extending his support in conducting the program through google meet. The entire colloquium was conscientiously facilitated by Arijit Ghosh, principal investigator of the NSOU Sponsored Research Project.

-----Report Prepared by Arijit Ghosh,
Asst. Prof., J &MC



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Program Brochure

NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

School of Humanities
Organizes
A Research Project Colloquium

Freedom of Press in India
ভারতবর্ষে
প্রেসের স্বাধীনতা

Speaker
Shri Jayanta Ghoshal
Veteran Journalist

Chair
Dr. Baidyanath Bhattacharya,
Associate Professor of Journalism
and Mass Communication, SoH, NSOU

Date **10th January, 2023**
Timing **12 Noon Onwards**
Venue **Board Room, NSOU HQ,**
DD 26, Sector 1, Salt Lake City, Kolkata

Prof. Manan Kumar Mandal
Director, School of Humanities

Arijit Ghosh
PI, NSOU Research Project
Assistant Professor of JMC



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Registration Desk



Participants list

Sl.No	Name	Designation	Mob & Email	Signature & Date
01	Tarika Lebnath	Student	9439433616	T. Lebnath 10/01/23
02	Sabitri Patra	u	6290422913	Sabita - 10/1/23
03	ARKA CHAKRABORTY	u	932546426	A. Chakraborty
04	FRATAP DAS	Student	8554010459	FRATAP DAS
05	Mayima De	u	6290809528	M.D. 10/1/23
06	Prasanna Banerjee	u	3002904702	P. Banerjee 10/1/23
07	Rijyabrata Chandra	P.A	9038344858	R. Chandra, 10/1/23
08	Amit Das	Student	9745217785	Amit Das 10/1/23
09	Sutranja Dutta	Student	9348282647	S. Dutta 10/1/23
10	Priyanka Saha	Student	7050299719	P. Saha 10/1/23
11	Bonita Roy	student	7003130947	B. Roy 10/1/23
12	Fayel Bora	student	8240463791	P. Bora 10/1/23
13	Suchismita Ghosh	Student	7003912251	S. Ghosh 10/1/23
14	Subir Das	Student	6287764860	S. Das 10/1/23
15	Amrita Laha	Student	9064905396	A. Laha 10/1/23
16	Yashwantrao Babunan	Student	9477101060	Y. Babunan
17	Geetika Dutta	student	9674799081	G. Dutta 10/1/23
18	Mousumi Das	Student	7803541355	M. Das
19	Rumela Poddar	Student	9804038525	R. Poddar 10/1/2022
20	Dipansita Dasgupta	Student	8033566769	D. Dasgupta 10/1/23
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NAME	DESIGNATION	MOB-Email	Signature-Date
22	Sreeparna Chatterjee	Student 9375423604	Sh 10/01/23
23	Arbika Chatterjee	student 9733628373	Arbika 10/01/23
24	ANUPAM MODAK	STUDENT 9434105322	to 10-1-23
25	NIRVIK SEAL	STUDENT 8825808063	N Seal 10-1-23
26	Sanya Haldare	student 7049375441	Sanya Haldare 10/01/23
27	Sonali Dutta	student 9330296224	Sonali Dutta
28	Rinki Das	student 7044402320	Rinki Das
29	Pabitara Mukherjee	Student 7003668191	P. Mukherjee
30	Nandisha Das	student 8290495664	N Das
31	Sumita Das	student 6290304894	SDas
32	Balarami Mukherjee	Student 6289434268	B Mukherjee
33	Debdoot Mukherjee	Faculty 8017957018	D. Mukherjee
34	Sanyal Thekate	Student 7330297436	Sanyal Thekate
35	Arunima Das	Advocate 9877721767	A Das
36	TAPAS NASKAR	student 8503120006	Tapas Naskar
37	GAURANGA SARKAR	student 9836058826	Gaurang Sarkar
38	Angee Modhan	Student 6290415448	Angee Modhan
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Online Participants list

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1j1arBd1ueL7d5s31xHh-Gx2LHPCoKSK-/edit?usp=sharing&oid=103638146850760463857&rtpof=true&sd=true>