


Tezpur University observes National Press Day, 2020

(Coordinator – Prof. Abhijit Bora)



Photo: Celebrating National press day in an online platform

The Department of Mass Communication and Journalism (MCJ), Tezpur University observed the National Press Day (NPD) via online mode on 16 November 2020 on the Press Council of India (PCI) prescribed theme - Role of media during the covid-19 pandemic and its impact of media. The Department organized a very lively discussion programme with two eminent media persons of the country - A.S. Paneerselvan, Readers' Editor of *The Hindu* (Chennai), and Ammu Joseph, Independent Journalist and Author (Bengaluru). About a 100 enthusiastic participants including department's students, practicing media professionals, media educators etc. were present throughout the discussion. In the introductory speech, the convenor of the programme, Prof. Abhijit Bora, said that the role of the journalists, during the pandemic was not at all less than the medical practitioners and other COVID-19 warriors. Welcoming the participants and invitees, Prof. Joya Chakraborty, Head of the Department said that the pandemic has not only affected media practise but also Media Education and laid down the problems that the Department was also facing in providing the hands-on experience to the students, which the Department emphasises a lot. In his inaugural address, Prof. V.K. Jain, Vice-Chancellor, spoke about the importance of ethical reporting and shared his thoughts on journalism that leads to greater accountability and endures welfare of the people.


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Invited speaker AS Paneerselvan started his speech with a very clear observation that he wanted to share- that the ethical deficit of media predates COVID-19. It is a ‘legacy’ that is being carried since the last two-three decades. He said that it will be quite wrong to make COVID-19, the reasons for all the problems in the media. The topic for his speech was - Maintaining journalistic integrity – view from the other side. Secondly, in the core part of his discussion, Mr Paneersevan laid down criticism of some terms in the present-day context which are highly associated with media like ‘multi-tasking’.

The other expert, Ms Ammu Joseph spoke on the topic – The media, pandemic and comorbidities. In her short talk, the Independent Journalist was critical of the role of Press Council of India (PCI). Starting her talk by recollecting memories of her older associations with the University, she reflected on many unfortunate comorbidities going on due to the pandemic. She began by saying that this day was observed because of the establishment of the PCI but she has been critical of the way this organization had dealt with these comorbidities. She said that the organisation has remained silent on many matters where it should have been vocal and had never been as effective as an institution.

The speeches were followed by a lively question-answer session which saw queries from participants including media educators, journalists, students from University of Hyderabad, Mizoram University, Tezpur University and so on. At the end of the session, Professor Sunil Kanta Behera, the session Chair summed up the entire discussion by both the resource persons guests and the Vice Chancellors. While summing up the discussion, Professor Behera also expressed his opinions on PCI’s performance and suggestions in this regard. He thanked the Vice-Chancellor for raising another important issue – “Freedom versus Spread of Half-truth.”

Students’ feedback :

The department has also received quite a few students’ feedback on the programme, two of which are mentioned for record -

The event on National Press Day by our Department was quite interactive and lively, an enriching experience with A.S. Paneerselvan and Ammu Joseph which is beyond the boundaries

of textbook. The discussion opened up our perspectives to new horizons in the field of media and journalism. The deliberations on issues of representation relating to mainland media and media in Northeast India was one that really clicked with us. The students are grateful to the department for organising this event which was informative and educational at the same time and no doubt will be very beneficial for us as people of media, in the future.

-Zeenat Mazid (MA MCJ Sem I)

Student, Dept of Mass communication and Journalism, Tezpur University

Interacting directly with the industry experts helped us understand the media industry beyond the limited scope of our textbooks. We could receive a lot of serious inputs which are not possible within the scope of the classroom texts.

- Akanshya Bhagabati, (MA MCJ Sem I),



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DEPARTMENT OF MASS
COMMUNICATION AND
JOURNALISM, TEZPUR
UNIVERSITY



OBSERVES

National Press Day

16th November 2020 at 3:00 PM



Invited talks



A S PANNEERSELVAN

Reader's Editor, The Hindu

AMMU JOSEPH

Independent Journalist & Author



PATRON

Prof. V.K. Jain,
Vice-Chancellor,
Tezpur University



Convenor

Prof. A. Bora,
Dept. of MCJ, Tezpur
University



HOD

Prof. J. Chakraborty,
Dept. of MCJ, Tezpur
University

**PROFESSOR SUNIL
KANTA BEHERA**

Session Chair



**DR. ANJUMAN
BORAH**

Moderator



Meet meet.google.com/nqm-embq-orc

Photo: Poster of National Press day celebration at Dept. of MCJ, TU, 2020

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