

50 Celebrating
Media & Communication
Education in
India's North East



International Seminar
**Reinventing
Nationalism**

Secularism & Plurality

Media Discourses
& Deconstruction

November 11 & 12, 2017
Gauhati University

Organised by

Department of Communication and Journalism
Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam, India

In collaboration with

Department of Mass Communication m
Mizoram University, Aizawl, India



We often describe India as a nation of diversity, be it religion, ethnicity, culture or language. Naturally such diversity has also prompted sub-nationalist tendencies, leading to political conflicts or otherwise. Besides, today we have also seen the emergence of new narratives of nationalism, based on different socio-political precepts. The role of religion in deciding the political structure or administration of a country is well-known. The question of religion dominating the political discourses is not a new phenomenon, but its aggressive promotion in techno times is surprising. In fact, technology is used for branding religion anew. India, being constitutionally secular, has adopted a lenient approach to accept diverse views based on religion.

Related to this, today the new discourse on nationalism in India has prompted an endless debate in the public sphere. The media have also taken their strategic positions. The media discourses of nationalism have added their own perspectives to the political debate. Ethnicity in different forms has also contributed to the nationalist discourse. The core issue of identity is sidelined, though it has its own place of importance in the governance structure of the country. Does nationalism affect the plurality of the society and also the media freedom? Is nationalism one-dimensional? Whether the media and/or public discourses deliberately ignore the subaltern views? In a mediated society, the power of media cannot be ignored. Possible the media can also become hegemonic. The media discourse on nationalism vis-a-vis corporate objectives will have to be deconstructed in public sphere, for educating the media consumers on the need for democratic plurality in the country. The mainstream media in India, in the opinion of some critics, have retreated from their earlier ideological positions, leaving behind a void in the discourse for a vibrant plurality. On the other side, the alternative media outlets do not have the economic backbone and struggle to survive in an economic flux. The shoptalk of democratizing, rather pluralizing big media houses has not found many takers. On the other, monopolistic and cross ownership tend are on the increase. The euphemism, media as public watchdog, has arrogated its own distortions in economic bargains. Have the ideals enshrined in the constitution been converted into synthetic expositions?

It is true that a dynamic democracy like India passes through many contradictory vicissitudes. Obviously, the media, as an instrument of polity, experience these changes. Yet, the fundamental freedoms cannot and should not be relegated to the background. Scholars have also reflected upon whether nationalism is authoritarian in character and

practice and the media expositions in this regard can definitely be some of relevance to future historians. With such questions to debate and deconstruct the issue, the Department of Communication and Journalism, Gauhati University and the Department of Mass Communication, Mizoram University has planned to organize an international seminar, Nationalism, Secularism and Plurality: Media Discourses and Deconstruction, on November 11 and 12, 2017.

Noteworthy, that this also marks the 50 years of media education in the Northeast since the Department of Communication and Journalism, Gauhati University which is the first media department has entered its 50th year. The seminar would provide opportunities to all media educators of the northeastern states to be a part of this very diverse and dynamic academic endeavour.

The sub-themes for technical sessions are:

-  Nationalism and Mediated Inflections
-  Secularism vs. Nationalism: Media Deconstruction.
-  Media Discourse of Ethnic Identities and Conflicts.
-  Media, Political Hegemony and Plurality.
-  Media, Violence and Exclusivity: The Indian Dystopia.
-  Media vs. Religion: Is it Aberrant Decoding?
-  Mediated Democracy as Entertainment.
-  Homogenization of Ideology during Media Times.
-  Technology and Political Marginalization: Indian Contours.
-  Contra-postures of Media vis-à-vis Judicial Supra-authority in India.
-  Media Literacy and National Paradigm
-  Communication for Development: Democratic Decentralisation of media

Full papers along with abstracts may be sent to:

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for **online registration** visit
<https://www.communika.in/conference.html> or
scan the QR code



Papers sent will be reviewed for acceptance and intimated well-in-advance.

Last date to receive the abstract is September 30, 2017 and
Full paper is October 23, 2017

Registration Fee:

For teachers and others Rs.1,000.00

For research scholars Rs. 500.00

Accommodation and boarding will be arranged for outstation participants.

Conference Secretariat:

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