



New academic year gets 'online start'

Nanditha Heman

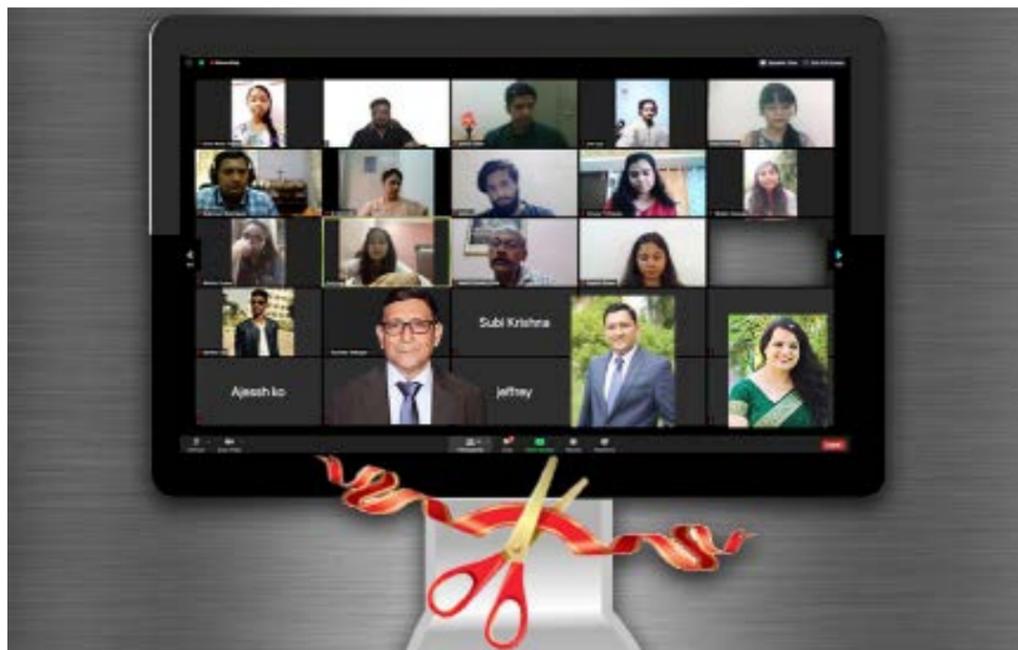
The new academic year 2020-21 got an 'online' beginning on 4th August when Professor Debashis Chakrabarti, Dean, School of Communication of GD Goenka University, inaugurated it. He gave the keynote address on the topic, 'Future of Media Studies in the time of a Pandemic'.

Professor Chakrabarti elaborated on the future of media, its landscapes and challenges.

He also explained various media platforms to be utilized by media persons during the lockdown.

He made special reference to online news portals and mobile journalism as alternative media platforms.

He explained various methods of utilizing various



media platforms during the lockdown and the importance of taking assignments seriously in media studies.

Professor Chakrabarti specially focused on the importance of industry-oriented academics and took the example of

how media shaped the novel Alice in Wonderland.

He pinpointed the nuances and newness in the media industry and motivated the students and staff to be the light of the world.

Fr Jose Murickan, the Di-

rector, gave welcome address and Dr. Ritu Dubey Tiwari, the Principal, proposed vote of thanks.

The session ended with the Principal explaining the guidelines to be followed during the online classes, asking students to take the classes seriously.

NISCORT gets new Director



August 14, 2020 came with a pleasant surprise for the entire NISCORT family when Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) announced Fr Robinson Rodrigues as its interim Director. At the time of appointment, Fr Rodrigues was serving the media college as its resident Faculty member. He succeeds Dr. Jose Murickan, who, on completing his six-year term, has gone back to his Norbantine Province.

Fr Rodrigues is a priest of the Archdiocese of Delhi and native of Vasai in Maharashtra. Prior to his appointment in NISCORT he has served as Secretary to the Archbishop of Delhi; Editor of Diocesan Magazine; Manager of a School; and Assistant in different Parishes, including Sacred Heart Cathedral, New Delhi.

Fr Rodrigues has a bachelor's degree from Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, with Hindi Literature and Master's Degree in Journalism (Print) from Makhn Lal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication. At present he is pursuing PhD in Journalism.

It is a matter of great pride for NISCORT to have a former student as its Director.

Administrator with a golden heart

Sr. Patricia Michelle

Fr. Jose always had a pleasant and dignified demeanour. He embodied all the qualities of being an able administrator with a heart of gold. His vast experience, his humble nature, his focus on planning a project and its successful completion in making NISCORT a name to reckon with are signs of his great leadership.

To us teachers too, he was a father figure, whom we could always turn to in good and in the not so good times. He understood us and was a guid-

ing force, in providing us a healthy platform to hone our skills and tal-



ents as teachers, event managers and varied department heads. It was his

vision to make NISCORT popular as a graduation college and furthermore

a research centre and he laboured day and night with the college team to

make it happen. Fr Jose was exemplary in his dealings. He won hearts, he won friends, he won us through his humble, simple, laborious yet goal-oriented lifestyle.

A priest par excellence, he was a man rooted in prayer. Those of us, who knew him closely are aware that he never stepped into his office without a prayer. Every decision was strengthened, in and through prayer.

We will miss his presence, his consoling smile, his jovial and forgiving nature.

He made NISCORT proud



Alice Mary Topno

Bidding farewell is always tough, words can never prove to be enough. Saying goodbye to a teacher, mentor and director like Dr. Jose Murickan is not easy. A man full of simplicity, knowledge, having a positive aura and who has played a vital role in building NISCORT what

it is today. We want to let you realize that you are an integral part of it and we all feel sad that we will not be able to see you again in the office. He is not only an intellectual person but a good friend and father figure to all. His guidance and advice have helped many of us to be more confident in what we do

and what we say. His decision-making skills have always inspired us to be more focused on what we do. The way he organized and managed events and programs, assigning students their duties, was incredible. Entering NISCORT and seeing his charming bright and smiling face every

morning will really be missed by all of us. His contributions to this college have been immense. Some of the major contributions of Dr. Jose Murickan are: Affiliation for Bachelor's degree from a university; Niscort production; Niscort National Conference; Niscort

inner voice radio; Online journal; Online courses; Niscort audio and video studio; Computer labs; and Media Museum. Thank you for everything you've accomplished so far, and good luck for your future ahead. The NISCORT family will always remember you and will be very grateful to you always.

Motivator par excellence

Matilda

A man who never leaves any stone unturned. Always on his toes to make the Institute stand strong and tall. He is close to the youngsters and colleagues. He very well knows how to motivate and influence them at all cost. He never gives space to failures but paves the al-

ternative path in the most untrodden ways. Always challenging and inspiring. He is Dr. Jose Murickan, our former Director. We are bidding him farewell and offering our best wishes in his new ministry. We thank you for all that you have been to each one of us and you will ever be remembered in NISCORT.

Sunil Dandavathi

Dr. Jose Murickan, the former Director.... the Niscortians love you so much and miss your presence in the portals of the college. We salute your dedicated and selfless service to NISCORT in the past six years. As your name indicates, we found the spirit of joy,

With a grateful heart...



cheerfulness and enthusiasm in all your activities. It is your hard work and tireless efforts that made NISCORT what it is today. Your interaction with

every student, the teaching and the non-teaching staff, has been a source of encouragement and motivation to do better in our every activity. We thank you for all that you have been to NISCORT and wish you all the very best for your future mission. May God's abundant blessings be on you always.....

Online courses focus on developing skills

Amal Tomy Murickan

The New Institute of Social Communications, Research and Training, organised several short-term online courses during COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown to enhance the skills of students, communicators and media persons. The training programmes on News Writing and Reporting, Media Education, Pastoral Communication, and Digital Photography were conducted in May and June 2020. More than



40 participants including students, priests, sisters and laity from Germany, India, Kuwait, and Nigeria attended the online courses. Sr. Rini Lawrence, from Mumbai, said, "This course gave me a strong

conviction that regular practice of writing can help me grow and my fellow participants in our journalistic skills, news drafting and reporting style." "The teachers gave us an in-depth knowledge

on each and every topic that were taught during the session. They were very supportive and were a constant guide throughout the sessions," said Sr. Elizabeth Titilayo Adulojo, a participant of Media Education Course from

Nigeria. Dr. Fr. Jose Murickan, the Director NISCORT Media College and his team, who took initiative to organise these creative Online Courses. While Dr. A. Magimai Pragasam conducted the sessions on Media Education, Dr. Jose Murickan taught Pastoral Communication, Fr. Jenith Sekar took classes on Digital Photography, and Mr. Sumit Dhanraj was the resource person for News Writing and Reporting. (Courtesy: Signis India)

A unique celebration of Teacher's Day

Opinions vary
on new
Education policy



Christeena

The new National Education Policy (NEP 2020) is the third overhaul of India's education system in the life of the Republic. Unfortunately, the present education system needs a lot of improvement. The language conundrum is one. There is a great merit in valuing Indian languages, including Sanskrit. However, the recommendation that students be instructed in such a way that "by the end of Grade 9 they can speak about science and other subjects both in their home language and English" carries little conviction.

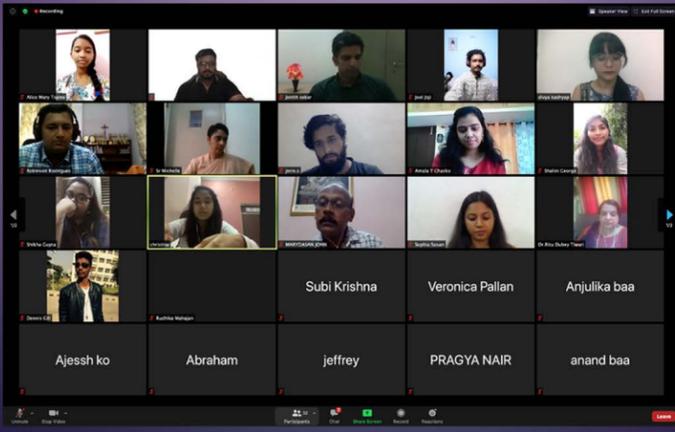
The government spends a meagre amount on education and it is unclear how the devaluation of Indian languages would be addressed. Barring a handful of professional institutions, our higher education system neither produces employable graduates nor capable researchers. This is the outcome of lack of proper training of both students and teachers and neglect of regional universities. There have been two kinds of prominent responses to NEP. The first suggests that it is another tool to dislodge the older "Nehruvian" intelligentsia through the emphasis on Indian languages and Sanskrit. The second is education can best be addressed by greater privatization, with the State funding (poor) parents to send their children to private schools of their choice.

of a teacher who guides students not only in their education but also in their life enhancement, he added.

In her brief speech, Principal Dr. Ritu Dubey Tiwari said that the relationship between a student and a teacher is like in a family. She exhorted the students to show dignity and respect towards teachers. Teacher's Day is celebrated to express gratitude towards teachers and appreciate their hard work. It is observed on the birthday of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan that falls on 5th of September every year.

In the wake of coronavirus pandemic, all schools have been closed for the last few months. Just as classes are held online, students and teachers celebrated Teacher's Day 2020 virtually in many schools.

HAPPY TEACHER DAY



Shika Gupta

It was a unique celebration of Teacher's Day this year at Niscort media college. In the backdrop of Covid 19, with students attending classes online, Teacher's Day also took a different style of celebration.

An online meeting was arranged to celebrate the day on 4th September, though the day falls on September 5, the birthday

of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. An online cultural event was put up by students of various batches.

The events included live singing performances as well as pre-recorded dance performances.

For the teachers, a riddle game was arranged and the names of winners were also announced.

Some of the students shared their thoughts,

appreciating the roles of teachers in shaping their lives. They expressed their love and respect for them and gratitude for their efforts.

The interim Director, Rev. Fr. Robinson Rodrigues, in his words of appreciation said that in the new era of technology it was easy for students to google and find out answers for their problems. But it cannot substitute the role

My lock-down experience

Melvin Jacob

With the spread of Covid 19, towards the end of March, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced lock-down in the country. All shops and transport facilities were closed. It was meant for people to stay at home and thereby eliminate the social spread of the virus.

Then we were in the college hostel. A few students had gone home just before the lockdown started. But we did not have enough transport facilities. Most of those left-out in the hostel were from Kerala. We observed the Good Friday and celebrated the Easter in the hostel and participated in the Mass in the chapel there. The temperature in Delhi was about 45 degrees Celsius. It was impossible to go out of the rooms. We made two short films



during the lockdown. We spent two months inside the hostel, without much contact with the outside world. As the days went by, the virus began to spread across the country.

It was then that the government introduced Special Trains to Kerala. We managed to get tickets to go home on May 23. Everyone inside the train was sitting at a distance and they were using masks and sanitizers. The train was carrying a

large number of students and senior citizens. I got down at Ernakulam railway station on the morning of May 27. Then I boarded a government-provided bus to reach home. Since I came from outside Kerala, I had to stay at home quarantine for 14 days. Before I arrived, we had arranged the necessary groceries at home because none could go to the store for 14 days. I found out that the locals were a little scared. Ev-

ery day when I was at home, the police and the health department staff would call me and inquire about my well-being. They should be informed if I felt any discomfort. After 14 days I was taken for corona test. The result came 2 days later and it was negative. Many positive cases are still being reported in Kerala every day. However, the Government of Kerala is taking exemplary steps.

India still reels under Covid 19 impact

Anand Baa

Covid 19 is taking a heavy toll across the nation. It has impact in every sphere of life. Commercial establishments have suffered badly. Many restaurants, hotels, cinema halls, and grocery shops have been closed for long time. The education system is also seriously affected. However, many schools and colleges are providing online classes.

In the field of entertainment, many films could not be released; Indian film academy awards are cancelled. Most religious places are still closed, though some have started live-streaming to help



devotees' worship from home.

All the historical buildings such as Taj mahal, Red Fort, Qutub Minar and other national monuments and museums continue to remain closed. Many Sports were sched-

uled to be held in different places such as the 2020 ISSF World Cup, which was to commence on March 15 in New Delhi, but it was postponed. The IAAF Gold Label Road Race scheduled to be held

on May 17 has also been postponed.

Transportation is also broadly affected. Except few international and national flights, all other flights are suspended. Railway and road traffic too are yet to resume fully. Many factories and workplaces are shut and lakhs of jobs have been lost. The reliefs announced by the government have not been sufficient to revive the economy.

Now all eyes are on the arrival of vaccine to contain the virus. The revival of the economy and normal life too will depend on how soon the vaccine is made available in the market.

PUBG ban: A digital war against China



Gargi Singh

In response to the Chinese stepped up activities on the border, the Central Government has banned Chinese products and is promoting the slogan 'vocal for local'. It has banned several Chinese mobile apps in two installments.

Many are calling it India's digital strike on China amid the ongoing stand-off along the LAC. Among the apps banned is PUBG, which is the heart and soul game of many young Indians. There's always been a lot of confusion about the origin of PUBG Mobile since it is the mobile version of PUBG, an online multiplayer battle royal game made by South Korean video game company Bluehole, a subsidiary of PUBG Corporation. PUBG Mobile isn't made by the same subsidiary though — it is made by Shenzhen-based Tencent Games.

After the announcement was made, young students and professionals, who would play the game to relieve after a hectic day, said the ban was uncalled

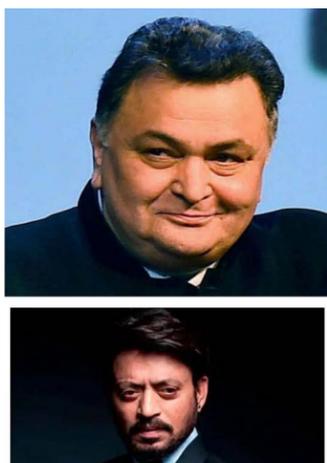
Bollywood loses three versatile actors

Shika Gupta

This year has been very tough for the Bollywood industry because it lost three versatile actors. There are only a handful of actors that you remember watching with such awe and whose performance remains etched in your memory.

Rishi Kapoor (1952-2020): Rishi Kapoor, a widely popular film actor from one of Bollywood's most celebrated families, died on 30th April in Mumbai. He was 67. Mr Kapoor learned he had leukemia in 2018. He was best known as a romantic hero, and his charm and charisma quickly made him one of Bollywood's leading men of 1970s and '80s.

He later began taking on more supporting roles and



character parts.

Irrfan Khan (1967-2020): Irrfan Khan passed away on April 29 at a hospital in Mumbai, where he was admitted for colon infection. The 53-year-old actor had been battling cancer since 2018. In the 90s, he was the household TV star, thanks to shows such as Chandrakanta (1994) and became the kind of actor you notice irrespective of the length of the role.

Although there was a great legacy of the likes of Om Puri, Smita Patil and Naseeruddin Shah breaking through in Bombay cinema even with the kind of face that the trade didn't qualify to be 'star' material, things were not the same. The arrival of the three Khans -- Aamir, Salman and Shah Rukh -- along with Akshay Kumar and Ajay Devgan made it near-impossible for someone like Irrfan

to be the typical leading man.

Sushant Singh Rajput (1986-2020): The news of the sudden demise of Sushant Singh Rajput left his fans, and Bollywood celebrities in shock, triggering an outpouring of condolences. He was found dead by hanging at his Bandra residence in Mumbai on 14th June.

Sushant was a popular Bollywood film and television actor. He started his career with television serial Kis Desh Mein Hai Meraa Dil, followed by Pavitra Rishta and two dance reality shows. He made his Bollywood debut with Kai Po Che! (2013). His other notable films include Shuddh Desi Romance, M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story (2016), Kedarnath (2018) and Chhichhore (2019).

Goodbye dear friends, you were our inspiration

The outgoing AVC batch (bottom row from left) Runali Deb Roy, Sally Kamei, Metilda Lakra, and Divya Mathew; (middle row from left) Ruchika Mahajan (Faculty), Sanu Cyriac, Sabu Koshy (Faculty) Sanal Raju, Santhosh Thomas, and Manoj Kumar; (top row from left) Diana Teres Mathew, Praween Joshi Kerketta, Dominic Molson, and Sunil Dandavathi.



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