

Media Engagements in Contemporary Times

Conference to Celebrate the Centenary of Nikhil Chakravarty

Nikhil Chakravarty(1913-1998) was a towering journalist and public figure of post-Independence India who engaged with the intellectual and ideological moorings and trajectories of the Indian state, society and institutions, how these responded to issues of national and international significance, and their location in the contemporary world.

As a journalist, NC, as he was fondly called, was steadfast in his commitment to a scientific approach to issues, and a compassionate and secular understanding of society, politics and cultural dynamics of India and its people. His contribution to the way intellectuals and media tried to change the political and social dynamic in favour of a more equitable and just society has been enormous. Under the leadership of NC and his peer Indian media always tried to find a response which was to bring about a progressive change. The India was ever conscious of its serious role in not only informing about the Affairs in the neighbourhood but also try and intervene at the intellectual level. In this NC's role has been one of singular importance. The ever evocative writings on neighbouring countries and India's relations with them, and the alliance of third world countries for more open and democratic space was almost an article of faith for them

All these made him and the journal that he founded – MAINSTREAM – the centre of a dynamic and intellectually engaging media in the country and in south

Asia. His efforts to enlarge this for an independent media space by being the founding figure of NAMEDIA have been of much significance. His efforts to bring Mediaprofessionals from abroad, particularly those of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, close to Indian Professionals through close interactions was also tremendously helped the Indian media and at the end Indian reading public by having informed opinions on issues far away from their homes.

The Centre for Media Studies wishes to pay tribute to the contributions of an important figure in the development of an independent and engaged media in the Indian context by organizing a conference in honour of Nikhil Chakravarty. We aim in this conference to explore issues such as social movements in contemporary times, democracy and information and food security, non alignment and regional cooperation, etc. The two-day programme will see scholars and media professionals and intellectuals discussing NC's contributions and their own understanding of these themes. The conference is scheduled on 4-5 November 2013.

Rakesh Batabyal

Media Engagements in Contemporary Times

Conference to pay Tribute to the Memory of

Nikhil Chakravartty (1913– 1998)

**Centre for Media Studies
School of Social Sciences
Jawaharlal Nehru University**

In Association with

India International Centre

Editors' Guild of India

&

Nikhil Chakravartty Memorial Foundation

**Conference Room II,
India international Centre,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi**

4–5 November 2013

Media Engagements in the Contemporary World

**Conference Room II, India international Centre,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi
4-5 November 2013**

Inauguration: 10.00am to 11.00am:

Welcome: 10.00-10.15:

Dean School of Social Sciences, JNU

About the Conference: Rakesh Batabyal, Convenor of the Conference,
Centre for Media Studies, JNU

Inaugural Address : 10.15 to 11.00

Chair: Chairman, Nikhil Charkaravartty Memorial Foundation

NC's World: The Universe of Nikhil Chakravartty

Dr. Syeda Hameed

Member,

Planning Commission, GOI

Vote of Thanks: Professor Deepak Kumar, Chairperson, Centre for
Media Studies, School of Social Sciences, JNU

Session II

11.15 to 1.00 p.m. India: the Nation and the Agents of Change

Chair:

Speaker: Prof. Amit Bhaduri, Professor, Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru
University

Session III

**2.00 P.M. 5.00 P.M. Media Engagements in times of Social
Movements**

Nationalist intelligentsia and the Evolution of Indian Media

J.V. Naik, Formerly Professor of History, Bombay University and
President, Indian History congress

Nature of Peoples' Movement in Post Independent India

T.K.Oommen, Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru university and president International Sociological congress, 1991

Commodification and Media (to be confirmed)
Rami Chaabra,

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DayTwo : Tuesday: 5 November 2013

Session III: Democracy and Information: Famine of 1943 to Right to Information and Food Security Bill

10.00 AM. To 10.45 Keynote Address: Aruna Roy, leading
social activists and founder member of MKSS, Rajasthan
Chair: ShriKuldeepNayar, Senior
Journalist

Papers: 11.00 to 12.30 p.m.

Chair: K.B. Saxena

Famine of 1943: The Enduring Features

RakeshBatabyal, Centre for Media Studies and author of communalism in Bengal from Famine to Noakhali 1943–47

Food crisis of 1965–67: Politics of Food Aid and self reliance:

Venugopal, Formerly, Secretary to Government of India in charge of poverty alleviation, GOI

The Movement for Right to Food and Information

Bharat Dogra, Senior Journalist

12. 30 to 1.30

Keynote speech: From Freedom movement to Peoples' Movement

MedhaPatkar, people's leader and founder of Narmada BachaoAndolan

**Session IV: India, the Non Aligned Movement, Quest for a New
International Order and South Asian regional
Cooperation**

2.30 to 3.30 Key note Address: Professor Muchkund Dubey
**Formerly Foreign Secretary, GOI and Visiting Professor,
JNU**

Chair: Dr. Mubashir Hasan

3.30 to 5.30 papers

Chair: To be Confirmed

I.A. Rahman

Mubashir Hasan

Badrul Ehsan