

March 27, 2019

**Press Release**

**National Conference on Caste and Communication begins at JMI**

The two-day National Conference on Caste and Communication has begun today at JMI. This National Conference has been organized by the Centre for Culture, Media & Governance (CCMG), JMI in collaboration with All India Communication and Media Association (AICMA) on March 27 & 28, 2019.

Professor Hira Singh from Toronto University Canada challenged some of the key interpretations of Caste in Social Sciences and Humanities discipline in his inaugural address. He said, Caste is not unique to India. Prof. Singh suggested, with regard to the historical development of India, the idea of class emerged before caste. There has been many initiatives to theorize caste in sociology and social anthropology, but no one before Dr. B. R Ambedkar questioned "caste as normal". Dr. Ambedkar and Gandhi both had a shared understating of Caste.

Shri. D. P. Majhi, director of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation emphasized on stepping outside the boundaries of social work to engage more seriously and critically with the idea of caste. For that, more academic and scholarly endeavors similar to this conference is required. Prof. Gopalan Ravindran, Secretary of All India Communication and Media Association (AICMA) stressed on the need to bring together the emerging scholar of India in a larger and diversely connected platform. Such initiatives are much welcome given the global challenges of diversity, democracy and globalization. Prof. Biswajit Das, director of the Centre for Culture, Media and Governance welcomed the participants and key speakers. He indicated the lag in media studies to engage with the issues of Caste and Social discrimination. Given the epistemic shift in Indian scholarly arena, Caste is now in the forefront of discussion and has an agency of its own in the media. Therefore studies related to communication and media need to take caste into serious consideration as both mutually influence each other.

In the two day conference 56 scholars are presenting research papers, including 30 faculties and 26 research scholars. Participants of this conference have come from 21 universities and 15 states of India. Many key figures of Social Sciences, Communication and Media Studies in India are going to deliver lectures in the two-day conference including renowned Sociologist Prof. Yogendra Singh and Prof. K.L Sharma, former VC of JNU, Prof. Kalam, Prof. Amrit Srivivasan and Prof. Bhairabi Prasad Sahu, Prof. Tulsi Patel and Prof. NeshatQuaiser. More than 150 scholars participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the conference.

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