



At NSoJ, our learn in the newsroom is unique for a media school. To give an opportunity for a would-be-opinion maker to make his or her voice heard loud and clear, we are happy to announce **Slant 2015**. The event is open to final year undergraduate students.

P4>>

INAUGURAL ISSUE

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Editor's Desk

Why enter a classroom, when you can work in a newsroom? This pedagogical vision is one of the main thrusts of National School of Journalism (NSoJ) which offers a 11-month PG Diploma courses in Broadcast (TV/Radio) and Convergence (Print/Online) media.

The student journalists at NSoJ are not simply assigned to a classroom where they are supposed to learn the 'tricks of the trade', but trained by highly experienced media professionals in a newsroom, equipped with state-of-the-art news gathering, production and broadcasting technology. The best that the industry has.

With today's media engaged in an unhealthy competition to 'break' news and sensationalize it, accuracy, impartiality, and credibility have taken a severe beating. Journalism has thus lost some measure of public trust. NSoJ strives to restore this trust by producing young journalists who are ingrained with healthy journalism principles and a commitment to values such as social justice, global peace, and fairness in all dealings.

NSoJ's other highlights include high-quality daily TV news capsules by Broadcast students, daily blogs by Convergence students and fortnightly satirical TV show by all students. Outcomes that showcase talent in a manner different from any other journalism school in the country.

NSoJ Post, a fortnightly newspaper brought out by the student journalists under the supervision of the faculty, represents the high standards that we have inculcated in our students. This is the first issue. Not only does it have news gathered and written by our student journalists but also provides a peek into NSoJ's modern and sophisticated professional environment.

To know more on National School of Journalism, please visit www.nsoj.in

H S Balram
Editor-in-Chief, NSoJ Post
(Former Resident Editor,
The Times of India, Bangalore)



The Alma Mater, National School of Journalism (NSoJ), is situated in a new, swank building opposite Jakkur aerodrome, along the New Airport Road, in Bengaluru.

Art that breaks BARRIERS

Visuals are both windows and mirrors: Raghava

By Khushboo Aneja

Does quitting formal education after class 12 make sense? If you are Raghava KK, it does.

But then Raghava, a New York-based internationally acclaimed contemporary artist, five-time TED speaker, and a National Geographic Emerging Explorer (in 2013), has never believed in the one-size-fits-all philosophy.

"I am just not an artist. I am a husband, a father, a son, a teacher, a bit of a politician, and a businessman, and I also sell beauty. I do all these different things and it's ridiculous to think I am only one

thing," he told a mixed audience at the first round table session held at the National School of Journalism, Bengaluru. Listening to him were NSoJ faculty and students, as well as students from city schools such as Bishop Cotton Girl's High School, DPS (Delhi Public School), Vidya Niketan, and Vidya Shilp Academy.

He started cartooning, he said, as a young boy growing up in Bengaluru. "Cartoons are important, as they can make one laugh and think at the same time," he explained. He quit formal education to become a cartoonist and freelanced for several publications. That was when Mr. Balram,

Today, anyone with a good idea can change the world

(now) NSoJ Director and formerly Editor, The Times of India, played an important role in his life. "He published my cartoons in ToI and encouraged me. That support enabled a school dropout to shine," he said.

Raghava, through his work, wants to shake up people's perceptions. He used technology extensively in his own artwork in order to break barriers—social, emotional and psychological. "News, art, and literature are a mirror of who you are. If you don't like a work of art, it's because of your limitations or because the artwork punctures your comfort level," he stressed.

"Today, anyone with a good idea can change the world," he pointed out. "Everyone is now a publisher, a broadcaster. Every human being is now also a journalist bringing his or her own perception to the table." But he emphasized that NSoJ students, on the other hand, had the added responsibility of bringing varied perspectives into the media. He urged them not to become self-righteous and authoritative, but to be empathetic in their work.

The NSoJ roundtables are meant to get NSoJ students and other young people in touch with the brightest minds to brainstorm and thereby learn from each other.



▲ Artist Raghava interacts with NSoJ students

Goodness of Chai

P2



Chai 3:16 is a café that is popular with the student community for more than one reason. The quaint 400-seater not only serves chai at a price decided by students, but offers support to lonely, disturbed students who, probably, need a patient hearing and counselling.

Even fresh air isn't free

P2

As more cities celebrate Open Street Day—where vehicular traffic is kept off the roads – NSoJ team gives a 360 degree view into this much celebrated, often hyped day. While citizens, including children make the most of the day, others need to get enterprising to ensure that their day is not affected.



Newsroom in classrooms

P3



The general angst against regular classroom learning is the focus on rote learning and often outdated curriculum. At NSoJ, the focus is on hands-on training where the media students are exposed to cutting-edge systems and technology in various facets of the newsroom.

Wanderlust

P4



Discover the beauty and history of one of Karnataka's well-known tourist spots which is also a beloved pilgrimage centre. NSoJ student reporter shares her story of discovery and adventure as she stumbles upon interesting but forgotten facts.

Share distress and have chai at your price

By Khushboo Aneja

“A young college student came to us and shared his distress: he was so discouraged and depressed that he wanted to jump in front of the running train,” says a volunteer at Chai 3:16. This is the first case in which Chai 3:16 was able to save a young person from ending his life. But Bangalore nonetheless has gained the disrepute of being the suicide capital of India.

Chai 3:16, a 400-seater café in Bengaluru, tries to reach out to college students who are depressed, lonely and suicidal. Chai means life in Hebrew and 3:16 refers John 3:16 which talks about eternal life. Chai 3:16 aims to foster, aid, and equip children and college students to develop and grow in Christ-like character.

Its goal here is 80 per cent listening and 20 per cent talking. The volunteers who work here as waiter/waitresses are given instructions on how to talk to young people in distress, what questions to ask, and how to build a relationship with them to make them feel valued and loved. “It takes an average of a week and a half for a student to open up. Some share their problems on the very first day itself,” says Blessy Kinglesy, volunteer. Chai 3:16 mostly hosts the crowd of the nearby Kristu Jayanti College. Psychologists also visit



▲ A regular session at Chai 3:16

the place occasionally and guide those in need of help.

On an average, 70 students visit the café daily. Chai 3:16 works as a café from Monday to Thursday serving tea at a price decided by the customers. On Fridays, they organize a concert. Saturdays are for movies, and on Sundays they have church service.

Roshini Ross, from Kristu Jayanti found herself comfortable talking about her problems. It took her only a week. “I bonded really well with the volunteers from Brazil. They were nice people. They actually understood our problems. But I haven’t gone since they



▲ A gathering at Chai 3:16

left.” Asked if she found it difficult to bond with new volunteer every month,

she said it was not a problem as she could get to know more people and

SUCCOUR FOR SOULS

- A 400-seater café, Chai 3:16 reaches out to college students who are depressed, lonely and suicidal.
- Chai means life in Hebrew and 3:16 refers John 3:16 which talks about eternal life.
- Volunteers who work as waiter/waitresses are trained as counsellors.
- Here, 80 per cent is listening and 20 per cent is talking.

make more friends.

Chai 3:16 is founded by Benny Prasad, a world record holder to travel fastest to every nation in shortest time. He has covered 257 countries including Antarctica in 6.6 years.

Nothing comes for free, not even fresh air



▲ Cycle came in handy for these delivery boys

By Khushboo Aneja and Pavani Kodati

Recently HSR Layout, one of Bengaluru’s most sought after residential areas observed Open Street Day. What it simply meant was that the residents were discouraged from driving four-wheelers and two-wheelers through the area. In return, they were to get

fresh air, traffic jam-free roads, and ample public spaces to relax and rejoice.

More and more state governments have taken up this kind of initiative to encourage people to use public transport and make them realize how good it feels without private vehicles and how important it has become.

The mood of HSR’s residents was

Voices on Open Street Day
A Sunday with a difference. Street plays, storytelling, pottery, graffiti lent colour to the streets. While children made most of the traffic-free roads, some businesses got enterprising to keep their cash counters ringing.

visibly upbeat and the atmosphere festive but children, of course, made the most of it. They played cricket matches in the middle of the road and cycled without fear of being knocked down by a speeding vehicle.



▲ Children took to the vehicle-free streets - cycling, playing cricket and other games - making most of the day.

“It feels good to cycle in the streets without any traffic. It is a good initiative and should be organized once a month,” said Faraaz, 17, who cycled with his 12-year-old brother Askan.

Street plays, storytelling, pottery, painting, street graffiti, enumeration of trees, and sapling distribution were among the other activities organized by different local citizen initiative groups.

It probably was a Sunday with a difference, but for businesses it was not a happy day: cash registers did not ring as usual. “Normally, we earn about Rs 1.2 lakh on any Sunday. But today it’s just Rs 40,000. The initiative is good but it’s affecting the business a lot,” said Gaurav Sharma, manager of Dunkin’ Doughnuts in HSR Layout. Similar was the case of

Subway whose manager Vijay said, “We collect Rs 30,000 during lunch hour, but today we did only Rs 7,000. We can’t do home deliveries which generally fetch us sales of Rs 15,000.”

However, a few outlets had done some planning to meet the challenge posed by vehicle-free roads. McDonald’s had tied up with Pro-Runners who did home deliveries on bicycles. Iqbal Basha of HSR Fresh Fish suffered a loss of Rs 23,000. He said: “Nothing good comes for free.” Though almost every business entity suffered losses, they were supportive of the initiative.

The business losses for the day may have gone into lakhs of rupees. No one dared to count. But one thing was clear: even fresh air does not come for free; it has a price.

The newsroom which doubles up as classroom is bathed in morning light as it gets ready for yet another exciting day.

Pictures by student journalists

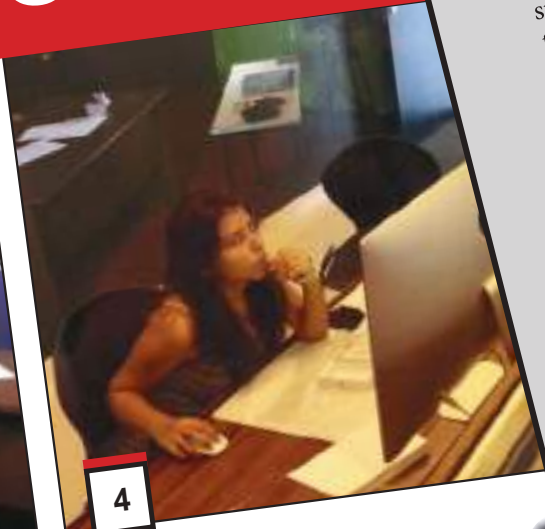


National School of Journalism (NSoJ) draws from the collective experience of some of India's most experienced media professionals, including journalists, editors, publishers, and industry leaders, to offer a new approach to preparing graduates for successful careers in journalism.

With an emphasis on the newsroom rather than the classroom, NSoJ endeavours to provide aspiring journalists hands-on skills that prepare them for the rigours of life as a journalist.

All the students have access to cutting-edge news gathering, production, and broadcasting technology. Our students are trained in and use software tools that are commonly used in media organisations in India and internationally.

Newsroom, not classroom



- 1 Students prepare themselves for a news-filled day ahead at the NSoJ newsroom
- 2 Welcome to hands-on training and learning on sophisticated technology at NSoJ
- 3 Broadcast students practice at the college studio
- 4 Editing in session
- 5 Faculty of NSoJ in conversation with students visiting from different schools
- 6 Aditya Sondhi, senior advocate, at a NSoJ round table event
- 7 Batch 1 students "say cheese" to the camera
- 8 NSoJ student covering an event at the college

The sacred and spectacular

By Namrata Srivastava

Shravanabelagola, a small historical place in Hassan district of Karnataka, is one of the most revered pilgrim centres of the Jain community. A delight for nature lovers, the picturesque town is 158 km. to the west of Bengaluru and is well connected by road and rail.

Although one can visit Shravanabelagola throughout the year, the winter months between October and February offer an enthralling view of the town particularly when it is covered in a blanket of mist. If one loves to walk and experience the whole region first hand, travelling on foot from Channarayana Patna Cross is perhaps the best way of getting around the place.

The road from Channarayana Patna to Shravanabelagola is a narrow pathway, spacious enough for only one bus to pass at a time. The lush greenery on either side of the road is a visual treat. The place is named after the "White Pond" situated in the middle of the town and has two hills, Vindhyagiri and Chandragiri.

The 58-foot-tall monolithic statue of Gommateshvara or Bahubali is located on Vindhyagiri. Considered to be the world's largest monolithic statue, it represents Bahubali, the younger son of Rishabha, the first of the 24 Jain Tirthankaras. Bahubali himself was not a Tirthankara — the central figure



Photos: Namrata Srivastava

of worship in a Jain temple —but he is revered as the first Mokshagami soul of this cosmic cycle and occupies an exalted position in the Jain pantheon, inspiring deep spiritual adoration among his devotees.

Legend says that Bahubali was born several millennia ago when the cosmic cycle moved from a period of bliss to an age of turmoil. Rishabha, who ruled Ayodhya, renounced his kingdom to seek eternal quiet in the forests. Before embarking on his spiritual quest, Rishabha appointed his elder son Bharata the ruler of Ayodhya and named Bahubali the chieftain of an important principality. Soon Bharata grew extremely powerful and conquered every kingdom except the principality of Bahubali who refused to accept his brother as

the unquestioned emperor.

After a great battle between the two brothers, the victorious Bahubali realised that pride and desire only brought misery. He sacrificed the material world and went to the forest in quest of spiritual happiness.

The statue of Bahubali, carved out of a monolithic rock, is the world's biggest image of a deity. Chavundaraya, prime minister and commander-in-chief of the Ganga kings, is said to have undertaken the mammoth task of establishing the statue on top of Vindhyagiri to fulfil a promise made to his mother.

The base of the statue has inscriptions in Kannada, which is by far the

The statue of Bahubali, carved out of a monolithic rock, is the world's biggest image of a deity. Every 12 years, thousands of devotees congregate here to perform the Mahamastakabhisheka, a spectacular ceremony in which the statue is covered with milk, curds, ghee, saffron, and gold coins.



oldest evidence of written Konkani. Every twelve years, thousands of devotees congregate here to perform the Mahamastakabhisheka, a spectacular ceremony in which the statue is covered with milk, curds, ghee, saffron, and gold coins. The next Mahamastakabhisheka will be held in 2018.

Chandragiri has memorials to numerous monks and Śrāvakas who have meditated there since the fifth century CE, including the founder of the Mauryan dynasty Chandragupta Maurya, who worshiped at the feet

of Bahubali until he too attained samadhi.

The temples of Shravanabelagola contain several manuscripts received as offerings from the devotees of Gomateshvara. Most of them, which are known as the Dhavala, the MahaDhavala and the Jaya Dhavala, deal with the karma philosophy of the Jains and together they represent the Digambara Jain philosophy in its entirety.

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation runs frequent bus services from Bengaluru for which tickets can be booked online.

MAURYA DYNASTY CONNECTION!

After winning over the Nanda dynasty, Chandragupta Maurya established the Mauryan Empire from the present day Bengal and Assam in the East, to Afghanistan and Baluchistan in the West, to Kashmir and Nepal in the North and to the Deccan Plateau in the South.

It worsened the situation. Even after amassing so much of power, the Emperor lived a disturbed life. Loss of his beloved Queen Durdhara worsened the situations. Hence, in the last days of his life, he gave up his throne and adopted asceticism under the Jain saint, Bhadrabahu Swami.

Temples number 12 and 13 on the Chandragiri Hills, named Kattale Basadi or the dark temple, were built by Ashoka the Great in honour of his grandfather. The carvings on the wall depict the life story of Chandragupta Maurya.



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THE WRITE WAY

We would love to hear from you. Share your thoughts and feedback with us. Please write to: nsojpost@nsoj.in

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NSJ NATIONAL SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM™ BANGALORE

Slant 2015
All India Festival of Journalism

Give expression to your talent at NSoJ™

We invite final-year undergraduate students in any discipline to express your courage, independence, curiosity, open-mindedness, your ability to communicate and your engagement with society, your country and the world.

Submit a 500-word story on any of the topics listed below

- "Make in India" campaign: PR exercise or FDI driver?
- Corporatisation of sports leagues in India (IPL, HIL, Pro Kabaddi and ISL): can India become a sports super power?
- Does mainstream Indian cinema (Bollywood, Tollywood, etc.) reflect the culture, values and aspirations of modern India?
- India in the villages versus urban India: development, social justice and poverty.

The three best entrants as determined by NSoJ will win the prestigious NSoJ Award for Outstanding Journalism Potential. The top 10 entrants will qualify for generous merit scholarships to pursue a postgraduate diploma in journalism at National School of Journalism. Send in your entries by December 15.

All entrants must submit their stories by email to slant@nsoj.in in a portable document format (PDF). In your email, please include the following details:

1. Name
2. College / University
3. Undergraduate course details (for example, BA in English Literature, BE in Mechanical Engineering, etc)
4. Mobile number

For more information, please visit our website

www.nsoj.in

You can also write to us at

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