

THE BHARATI GAZETTE

Special Lecture on War Reporting by Rahul Dabas

On March 19, 2024, Bharati College's Journalism department hosted a lecture titled "Between Bullets & Bylines: The Reality of Reporting in War Zones," featuring Mr. Rahul Dabas, a senior Conflict and Defense Correspondent from News Station (Delhi). The event, held in the college's seminar hall, commenced with a lamp-lighting ceremony and a presentation by journalism students, showcasing Dabas's reporting work. Principal Prof. Saloni Gupta expressed gratitude for Mr. Dabas's presence, highlighting the importance of his firsthand experiences for students' learning.

During his lecture, Mr. Dabas shared insights gleaned from his reporting experiences in conflict zones like Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Gaza. He emphasized the necessity of thorough pre-planning before venturing into such environments, stressing the importance of conducting medical research and understanding the geopolitical landscape and historical context of the conflict.



Mr. Dabas advised students to learn basic phrases in the local language to establish rapport with locals, underscoring the significance of respecting national interests and geopolitical dynamics. Drawing from his experiences covering the Israel-Palestine conflict, Mr. Dabas recounted moments of unexpected camaraderie between Israeli forces and locals, demonstrating the nuanced interactions inherent in war reporting.

He highlighted the critical role of teamwork, particularly the indispensability of local drivers in navigating dangerous situations, such as internet shutdowns or missile attacks.

Mr. Dabas concluded his lecture by imparting a poignant message to aspiring war reporters: to cherish life and experiences amidst the chaos of conflict zones. His words resonated deeply with attendees, offering invaluable insights into the challenges and responsibilities of war journalism.



In conclusion, Mr. Rahul Dabas's lecture provided a rare glimpse into the world of conflict and war reporting, offering students a wealth of knowledge and inspiration. His experiences underscored the importance of meticulous preparation, cultural sensitivity, and the resilience required to navigate perilous situations.

As students left the seminar hall, they carried with them a newfound appreciation for the courage and dedication of journalists like Dabas, who risk their lives to bring the realities of war to the forefront. The event served as a reminder of the profound impact that journalism can have on shaping public understanding and discourse.

Navigating Identity: Blessing or Curse?

Within the framework of the "I identify as" movement that started on social media, the piece explores the intricate aspects of identity. It gave people a platform to express who they really were, especially in terms of gender identification, while initially concentrating on encouraging inclusivity and a gender-neutral environment. However, the movement has brought about discussions and disputes, especially when it comes to transgender athletes, where the benefits of their biology are questioned.



Along with the controversy surrounding the setup of transgender individuals in the justice system, there have been safety concerns such as an increase in aggressiveness and harassment.

The last phase of the article reflects on the contradictory nature of the identity concept, asking whether it's a blessing or a curse and taking into account both its potentially positive and negative effects.

Combatting Acid Attacks

The article addresses the sensitive but critical issue of acid attacks, which is frequently ignored due to its unpleasant flavor. It emphasizes the importance of addressing and establishing safe areas for victims to thrive. An acid attack entails throwing highly acidic substances with the goal to torture, murder, or disfigure. Victims, primarily women, experience physical and psychological trauma, which is frequently caused by gender inequity and societal concerns such as rejection or conflict.

An analysis of statistics from Denmark and India demonstrates the impact of gender equality on acid attack rates. While Denmark reports fewer occurrences due to greater gender equality, India experiences much more attacks, highlighting the sharp gap between industrialized and developing countries. Despite Denmark's gains, both countries must confront acid attacks and attain full gender equality.



Stricter penalties for the perpetrators, bans on the availability of corrosive substances, compensation to victims, free healthcare and self-defense instruction, public education, and support to non-governmental organizations and rehabilitation facilities are some of the suggested remedies. It highlights the need of working together to stop these crimes and presents India as a nation that cares for and defends its people.