



A National Honour for Prof. Ankuran Dutta

Communication Today records with great satisfaction the conferment of the National Teachers' Award 2026 upon its Associate Editor, Prof. Ankuran Dutta, Head, Dept of Communication and Journalism, Gauhati University, by the President of India. The recognition is particularly noteworthy as Prof. Dutta is the first media educator to receive the Award and the only teacher from the Social Sciences selected for this national honour in 2026.

Prof. Dutta's academic career has been distinguished by a sustained effort to integrate teaching with professional practice, research and community engagement. His sustained contribution to public understanding of science was nationally recognised in 2019 by the Govt of India. The integration of practice and scholarship is central to his conception of the teacher as a "practitioner-researcher."

Prof. Dutta's international experience includes his tenure from 2022 to 2026 as Director of ISVCC, High Commission of India in Colombo, with the diplomatic rank of First Secretary, where his work encompassed cultural diplomacy, academic collaboration, translation, institutional development and initiatives advancing India-Sri Lanka cultural relations. Together with his earlier engagement with CEMCA across South Asia, and his research and professional associations with the Commonwealth of Learning, UNICEF, UNESCO and a few leading universities India, US, UK, Canada, Sri Lanka etc. these experiences have informed his teaching of international communication and soft-power diplomacy, bringing sustained professional and cross-cultural practice into the classroom.

Prof. Dutta has dedicated the Award to his late wife, Dr. Anamika Ray, an accomplished media scholar whose contribution formed an important part of his academic and professional journey.

Prof. Sanjeev Bhanawat

Editor