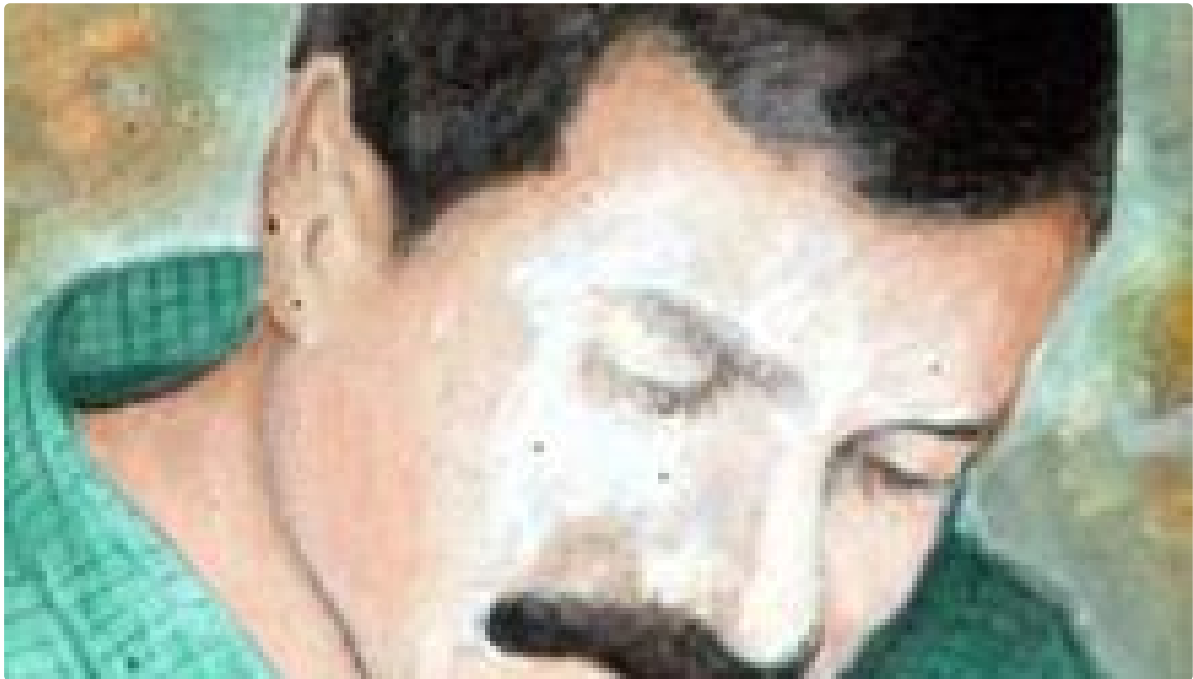


Remembering Parag Kumar Das



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Rinkumani Pathak 17 May 2017 13390 views

Parag Kumar [Das](#) was the person who paved a new way for journalism in Assam. He was the one who transformed journalism into activism. The firebrand journalist cum activist exposed the corruption of the government and gross human [rights](#) violations in the name of anti-insurgency operations. Therefore, there were many heinous efforts to silence this courageous voice. On May 17, 1996, Parag [Das](#), then Executive Editor of the assamese daily Asomiya Pratidin' was killed in broad daylight in Guwahati while he was heading towards his residence with his his son. Unfortunately, after more than two decades of his murder, the family of [Das](#) is yet to get justice.

He lived only for 35 years, but within such a short span of life he became a genuine voice of the people. He had ordinary life style, but his journey was truly extraordinary. Being a brilliant [student](#) throughout his academic [career](#), Parag [Das](#) could have lived a lavish life doing some white collar jobs. But such a flamboyant life never attracted him. He ranked 4th position both in Matriculation and Pre-University (science) exams. [Das](#) did his graduation from [ST](#). Stephen's College and Post-graduate from Delhi School of Economics. He left the [job](#) of General Manager at Guwahati Stock Exchange to become the Executive Editor of 'Asomiya Pratidin'.

Parag Kumar [Das](#) was a regular columnist for [The Sentinel](#), an English daily. He was the Editor of 'Budhbar', a weekly which began its publication in March, 1989. After the closure of Budhbar, he brought out another magazine named 'Aagan' in 1994. Both in Budhbar and Aagan he highlighted the cases of human [rights](#) violation by the security forces. He exposed the nexus between the government and surrendered militants in carrying out these sinister activities. [Journalist Das](#) reported extensively on the incidents of rape by the Indian Army. [Das](#) criticised the Indian [state's](#) [claim over](#) the resources of Assam. On the other hand, he was critical of the [ULFA](#) too. [Journalist Das](#) vehemently criticised the misdeeds of the outfit and the aberration of their struggle.

Because of his strong criticism of the Indian [state](#) and uncompromising attitude, Parag [Das](#) had to encounter different kinds of harassment. He was arrested under [National Security Act](#) and [TADA Act](#) in 1992 and 1993 respectively. On the other hand, his book titled 'Swadhinotar Prastab' was banned by the government. But such suppressive measures couldn't [stop](#) his pen. Consequently, journalist [Das](#) had to sacrifice his own life. He was brutally killed in the [heart](#) of the [city](#) for his honesty and integrity. But Parag Kumar [Das](#) will always be remembered for his journalism of courage and sacrifices he made for it.

Rinkumani Pathak

BY RINKUMANI PATHAK

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