

## **Statement**

Upon the Jury's recommendation, the Department of Media & Communication at MIT-WPU had chosen to honor Ms. Safina Nabi during its annual Media & Journalism conference on October 18, 2023. We wish to express our deep appreciation for her substantial contributions to the field of journalism. Nevertheless, we have been made aware of some of her published opinions and views, which have the potential to be viewed as contentious and not in alignment with the foreign policy of the Indian Government. Without taking a stance of either endorsing or renouncing her expressed views, we anticipated that presenting her with an award at this time could have given rise to unwelcome controversies. Such controversies are something our institution, being an academic, apolitical, and non-partisan entity, should not be associated with. It is crucial to emphasize that no external political or non-political pressure has been exerted to rescind the award granted to Ms. Nabi.

Our institution takes immense pride in its long-standing commitment to nurturing and shaping young media enthusiasts into world-class professionals. Therefore, our decision should be understood as an effort to safeguard the fundamental purpose of the conference and maintain the unshakable academic integrity of our institution. The annual National Conference on Media & Journalism stands as a testament to our abiding academic dedication and has consistently attracted the participation of nationally renowned journalists and media professionals, providing invaluable insights to aspiring students in the field of Media & Communication.