

DELHI SCHOOL of JOURNALISM

University of Delhi

Ethical and Professional Aspects of Journalism



Lectures by Shri Atul Kothari (General Secretary of *Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas*) and Prof. Arun Kumar Bhagat (Professor of Mass Communication at Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication Bhopal) held on 29 September 2017 @ DSJ.

On Friday, 29 September 2017 - the last day of the orientation week at Delhi School of Journalism, an interactive session with Shri Atul Kothari - General Secretary of *Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas* and Prof. Arun Kumar Bhagat, Professor of Mass Communication at Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication Bhopal was conducted. It was the first session of the weekly **Seminar cum Workshop Series** on the theme "Ethical and Professional Aspects of Journalism". The session was divided into two parts – first part was taken by Dr. Arun Kumar Bhagat and the second part was taken by Shri. Atul Kothari. Both the speakers emphasized on the importance of 'positive journalism' in contrast with 'activist journalism' and provided a sensible critique of the contemporary media practices in India.



Shivam Pathak, a student of journalism welcomed the honourable guests by quoting poetic verses. In his talk, Prof. Bhagat told that journalism is a very powerful tool to change the world for the better and for the same journalists must abstain from clandestine agenda of various interest groups and political and ideological inclinations. He exhorted the students that in journalism it is important to sit on the fence as an impartial spectator than involving in the events, while reporting. Journalists must serve the truth, and have the clarity in communication to uncover the reality than decorating it with fancy words to get the attention of the readers or viewers.

After Prof. Bhagat, Shri Atul Kothari took over the dais and began his talk with a Yoga session which helped the students to experience peace and serenity within. Shri Kothari expressed his concerns over negative news gaining more space in Indian media. He asserted on the importance of being positive in the journalism pursuits. He quoted former president APJ Abdul Kalam's assessment of coverage of a bomb attack in Israeli media and compared the same with the negativities that Indian media reflect in the contemporary public discourse. He emphasized on the importance of being rational, nationalistic, and altruistic in journalism.

The session was concluded with an insightful interactive question and answer session with the speakers.

(With inputs from **Harshita Sharma**, I Semester BJ)