

Seminar Report



Journalist must know Everything: Vineet Tripathi, Dainik Jagran

"From Economy to Politics to the International Relations -- being a journalist you cannot afford to stay uninformed on any of these fields and beyond."

Delhi School of Journalism organized a workshop for the I semester students with specific emphasis on 'Reporting For Print' in the journalistic dynamics of present times, on Monday 16th Sept. 2019 -- in which Dainik Jagran's senior Political correspondent Mr. Vineet Tripathi narrated some first-hand accounts of the way things work on-and-off the field, while reporting the stories of different journalistic dimensions. The in-campus workshop focused in detail on the challenges a journalist faces on the field -- from riot inflicted zones -- to the power corridors of New Delhi, while reporting the stories of national importance.

"Unlike other professions, a journalist has to know everything, from Economy to Politics to International Relations -- being a journalist you cannot afford to stay uninformed on any of these fields and beyond," Mr. Tripathi said. "Be precisely informed and before reporting, try to presume the amount of impact your story will have on the society and the country-at large," added Mr. Tripathi.

"Today's Indian media is polarized. You all can identify which media house inclines towards which political party. Furthermore, the corporate influence has increased many folds in past few years, which makes you dependent on some specific corporate houses for advertisements. And this is how some sections of media are serving the Corporate powers and political deities instead of serving the people," Mr. Tripathi told the first-year students of Delhi School of Journalism.

The senior journalist who reported from the riot inflicted Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh in 2011, shared an anecdote that how his source in a government department was eventually suspended for 'leaking out' a crucial piece of information to him.

"No matter what, always protect your sources,' emphasised Mr. Tripathi.

Further during the interaction, Mr. Tripathi stressed upon the need of reporting the incidents based absolutely on the hard facts, in these hyper-connected times, often adulterated with a barrage of fake news.

"Never file a report based on the hearsay, always prefer the official channels of information -- as the Public Relation departments of different ministries -- and the authenticated sources on-field." Mr. Tripathi added.

While interacting with the students, Mr. Tripathi told the aspiring journalists to be ready for anything while reporting from the field. "During Anna Hazare's Jan Lokpal movement, for more than a week I was reporting from Ramleela Maidan at 2 am in the night," said Mr. Tripathi.

Highlighting the notion that Print Media continues to be more reliable than any other mode of news dissemination, Mr. Tripathi reasoned that unlike electronic media's TRP driven brand of journalism, Print media has enough time to verify and analyze any concerned story from multiple sources, which in turn provides more credibility and substance to a news piece.

The fresher students which comprised of mostly the millennial seasoned youngsters, also took the interaction towards future of the media in web and digital mediums.

"It has just been a few years that the internet revolution has spanned across the length and breadth of this country. And we are already seeing an enormous expansion in the web impressions of most of the news mediums -- be it the completely digital ones -- or the already established print and electronic media houses, the digitization is overriding the circulation or viewership for most part. Some of these well-established media houses have got their 'Live' broadcasts on streaming services like Hotstar. With the passage of time, this digital phenomenon is going to be bigger and bigger," remarked Suyash Kumar Jha, a first year DSJite.

On a question raised by another first-year student, that why the media fraternity doesn't come along united when it comes to dealing with the heckling of journalists on-field by prominent politicians, Mr. Tripathi pragmatically responded that in India every media house has some core reservations. And you got to deal with such incidents yourself. "I agree that this sounds quite pessimistic for you the aspiring journalists, but that's how it is on-field," deduced Mr. Tripathi.

"In the fight between facts and opinions, facts are the eventual winners," concluded Mr. Tripathi at the end of the session while emphasizing on the need to precisely disseminate the emotions of the general population through media -- be it electronic, digital or print.

Report by
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