

**NATIONAL SEMINAR ON  
“MEDIA REGULATORY FRAMEWORK IN INDIA: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES”**

Faculty of Law, Banaras Hindu University organized a National Seminar on the topic “Media Regulatory Framework in India: Issues and Challenges” on October 12, 2018. The program was graced by eminent guests Prof. Harbansh Dixit, Member, UP Higher Education Service Commission, Allahabad (Chief Guest); Shri S.S. Upadhyay, Legal Advisor, Governor of U.P., Raj Bhawan, Lucknow (Guest of Honour), Prof. Omprakash Singh (Chairman), Director, MMM Institute of Hindi Journalism, MGKVP, Varanasi. The program began with the auspicious ceremony of lighting the lamp followed by garlanding on the bust of Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji.



Prof. R. P. Rai, Head and Dean, Faculty of Law, BHU welcomed the dignitaries and emphasized on the role played by media in our day to day lives. He highlighted the reports suggesting that India has become world’s largest market for media in the world. Besides this, he stressed on the role played by another part of media i.e. social media. Prof. Rai elaborated the efforts taken and the kind of work done by social media. With this, he laid focus on the need to effectively tackle the negatives embedded in it.

The theme of the seminar was introduced by Joint Director of Seminar, Prof. J. P. Rai. He highlighted as to how the theme of the seminar will be taken under two sub themes i.e.1. Freedom of Speech and Expression of Media: Constitutional and Other Regulation and 2. Freedom of Speech and Expression and Social Media. He discussed four important points worth remembering when we talk about media i.e. self-fulfillment, discovery of truth, participation in decision making and choosing between right and wrong.

Prof. Harbansh Dixit, Chief Guest of the Seminar emphasized on the growing concept of “Sting Journalism”. He highlighted the tussle between sting journalism and right to privacy and the need to frame laws regulating sting journalism. Not only this, he compared the laws of various countries, particularly

Britain where the law speaks for two main points. First, there should not be any personal interest of the person involved in Sting Journalism and secondly, the sting journalism must be in public interest. If these two conditions are not fulfilled, sting journalism is punishable. Apart from this, he emphasized on the role played by electronic media and the various shortcomings faced by it.



Shri S. S. Upadhyay, Guest of Honour, addressed the gathering and sensitized them regarding one of the most controversial topic i.e. “Media Trial”. He dealt this broad topic under the sub-heading of “Impact of Interference by Media in Investigation and Trial of Offences”. He discussed as to under what circumstances the Freedom of Speech and Expression was incorporated as a Fundamental Right in the Indian Constitution and the various limitations governing it. Shri Upadhyay spoke about this fourth pillar of democracy in detail. He also laid stress on the various statutory and legislative provisions governing this fourth pillar. The Press Councils Act, 1978 and Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 were discussed in detail by him. He cited various verses of Manu Smriti, the provisions of Indian Evidence Act, The Criminal Procedure Code and other criminal laws to substantiate his argument.

Prof. Omprakash Singh, Chairman focused his deliberations on the regulation of media. He discussed as to how media is controlled by two important components i.e. ethics and state law. He addressed the gathering as to how we should not misinterpret media. Media is actually not an information centre but a platform for the exchange of our personal views and communication. He highlighted the need of the hour i.e. media and law should go hand in hand not in opposite directions.

The session ended with the presentation of bouquet and memento to the dignitaries and guests. A formal vote of thanks was given by Dr. Adesh Kumar, Organising Secretary of the Seminar and master of ceremony was of this National Seminar was Dr. Anjali Agrawal.

After the Tea, the first Technical Session was convened which was chaired by learned Prof. J. P. Rai, Faculty of Law, BHU. In this Technical Session the learned Professor R. K. Murali, Faculty of Law, BHU presented his research paper on topic "" and learned Professor M. K. Padhy, Faculty of Law, BHU presented his research paper on topic "Roll of Media in Indian Democratic Systems: Contemporary Issues". After their deliberations, the question answer session was conducted in which august gathering asked questions from the learned speakers and they answered the questions asked.

After the Lunch, the Second Technical Session was convened which was chaired by learned Prof. V. S. Mishra, Faculty of Law, BHU. In this Technical Session the learned Associate Professor Dr. Kiran Rai, Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai presented her research paper on topic "Public Activism on Social Media" and learned Associate Professor Dr. G. P. Sahoo, Faculty of Law, BHU presented his research paper on topic "New Media and New Crimes: A Special reference to Information Technology Law". After their deliberations, the question answer session was conducted in which august gathering asked questions from the learned speakers and they answered the questions asked.

Prof. M. C. Vijawat, Shri S. K. Verma, Prof. D. K. Sharma, Prof. Ali Mehndi, Prof. D. K. Mishra, Prof. P. K. Singh, Prof. C. P. Upadhyay, Prof. Naseemul Haq, Prof. Sibaram Tripathi, Prof. Ajendra Srivastava, Prof. M.K. Padhy, Prof. Bibha Tripathi Dr. Rajneesh Kumar Patel, Student advisor, Dr. Naval Kishore Mishra, Dr. Raju Majhi, Dr. Vijay Kumar Saroj, Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh, Dr. Babita Barieya. Dr. Mayank Pratap, Dr. Kabindra Brijwal, Dr. Prabhat Saha, Sweta Chturvedi, Chandranath Singh, Sri Ashok Padey, All India Radio, Varanasi, Various editors of different daily newspaper and Media Agencies and Co-organiser of the National Seminar Dr. Anil Kumar Maurya and Dr. Pradeep Kumar and were present in the seminar.