

Invertis Institute of Law

Invertis University, Bareilly

E-Conference

ON

Freedom of Speech and Expression
and responsibility of Media
30th December, 2020

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ABOUT INVERTIS UNIVERSITY

Invertis is a leading university offering wide range of courses pertaining to different fields of study. It is situated at 10 km stone on Bareilly-Lucknow NH 24, equidistant from the country capital Delhi and state capital Lucknow. Established in the year 1998, Invertis University stands tall and is today a conglomerate of eight colleges. It has carved a niche for itself in the academic circles as a premier institute with an intense focus on nurturing technical competence and holistic development of its students. It is prudent to highlight that Invertis University has emerged as one of the biggest private Universities in Uttar Pradesh having 15000+ alumni and 7000+ students studying across a wide spectrum of academic disciplines such as Management, Computer Applications, Engineering, Architecture, Applied Science & Humanities, Law, Pharmacy, Journalism & Mass Communication, and Fashion Design along with Diploma programs in Engineering and Pharmacy.

Offering doctoral, post graduate, and under graduate programmes, Invertis University is known for its innovative teaching pedagogy and extensive research to provide a holistic development to the budding professionals. The University is committed to meet the need of competitive world around us through a valued systematic functioning and turn out professionals of caliber and competence who would bring about a qualitative change to the nation through their contribution. The University is in collaboration with many international Universities and seeks opportunity to be explored by students. Students should search the courses available for the exchange programme and discover new internship opportunities to enhance practical exposure and widen their knowledge and experience.

Our faculty members are highly educated from the premier institutions of the country. They are scientists, researchers, trainers who work as facilitators for the growth of students. Our faculty members foster knowledge and skills for 'Holistic Development' among students to prepare them to meet the challenges of professional world. The key for our learning modules are focusing on an all round development of our students through personality grooming classes, communication skills workshop, sports activity, musical concerns, fashion shows, and cultural programs. The University believes in learning beyond classrooms, therefore, industry visits, internships, industry-institute interface programs, educational tours are regular feature of us.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Freedom is important, so is responsibility. In countries like India, the media have a responsibility to fight backward ideas such as casteism and communalism, and help the people fight poverty and other social evils. Freedom of the press and journalistic ethics is an important topic today in India with the word 'press' encompassing the electronic media also. In India, freedom of the press has been treated as part of the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed by Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, vide *Brij Bhushan and Another vs. The State of Delhi*, AIR 1950 SC 129 and *Sakal Papers (P) Ltd vs. Union of India*, AIR 1961 SC 305, among others. However, as mentioned in Article 19(2), reasonable restrictions can be placed on this right, in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the state, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence. Hence, freedom of the media is not an absolute freedom.

The importance of the freedom of the press lies in the fact that for most citizens the prospect of personal familiarity with newsworthy events is unrealistic. In seeking out news, the media therefore act for the public at large. It is the means by which people receive free flow of information and ideas, which is essential to intelligent self-governance, that is, democracy. For a proper functioning of democracy it is essential that citizens are kept informed about news from various parts of the country and even abroad, because only then can they form rational opinions. A citizen surely cannot be expected personally to gather news to enable him or her to form such opinions. Hence, the media play an important role in a democracy and serve as an agency of the people to gather news for them. It is for this reason that freedom of the press has been emphasized in all democratic countries, while it was not permitted in feudal or totalitarian regimes.

In India, the media have played a historical role in providing information to the people about social and economic evils. The media have informed the people about the tremendous poverty in the country, the suicide of farmers in various States, the so-called honour killings in many places by Khap panchayats, corruption, and so on. For this, the media in India deserve kudos.

However, the media have a great responsibility also to see that the news they present is accurate and serve the interest of the people. If the media convey false news that may harm the reputation of a person or a section of society, it may do great damage since reputation is a valuable asset for a person. Even if the media subsequently correct a statement, the damage done may be irreparable. Hence, the media should take care to carefully investigate any news item before reporting it.

Free press is the heart and soul of political intercourse and is a public educator, but this freedom is not absolute and cannot be used by the media to cause injury to an individual's precious reputation.

Press has to also observe "reasonable restrictions" and its purpose is to "advance the public interest by publishing facts and opinions without which a democratic electorate cannot make responsible judgments." There should be a serious discussion on the topic. That discussion should include issues of the responsibilities of the press, since the media have become very prominent and very powerful.

SPEAKERS



Dr. (Prof.) Priti Saxena
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THEME

Freedom of Speech and Expression and Responsibility of Media

SUB THEMES

1. National and International Perspective on Freedom of Speech and Expression and Responsibility of Media in the Present Scenario
2. The Balance between freedom of speech and expression and regulation of media.
3. Need for Strengthening Institutional Framework
4. Challenges for the Media in the Present Context of Democratic System.
5. Adherence to Media Ethics
6. Media Trials
7. Tackling Fake News
8. Right to Privacy
9. Paid News

Above identified issues/sub-themes are only illustrative. Participants may select the related topics covered under the main theme.

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