

## Fifth Estate 2018



### SIMC organises a national seminar on alternative media 2018

A discussion on alternative media and its challenges in the Indian environment was held at the Lavale campus of Symbiosis Institute of Media and Communication on the 18th of August, 2018. The day-long event started at 10 am in the presence of the guests, that included Sevanti Ninan founder of the The Hoot, Pankaj Jain from Social Media Hoax Slayer. Govindraj Ethiraj, from IndiaSpend, one of the four winners of the McNulty Prize this year along with Jaskirat Singh Bawa of the Quint were the other eminent guests and speakers on this occasion.

The idea was to create an open forum and change the context a bit so that people could talk freely about issues related to news today.

Sevanti Ninan spoke from her experience of 17 years of running The Hoot, and about the evolution of Indian media through the years.

Govindraj Ethiraj spoke about how he was inspired to begin IndiaSpend after the Anna Hazare movement. His approach to data journalism was defined by figures and emotions.

Ethiraj who also runs fact checking sites like the Fact Checker and Boom also cited examples that showed how public rage with a clouded vision obfuscates public policy.

The second half of the day was marked by the panel discussion between the speakers. The session allowed the group to expand on several subjects like business models of online news organizations and the importance of breaking news.

