

Bringing out the 'Real India' – Orientation Program – The Sanjoy Ghose Media Awards- 2020



Soon after announcing the winners of the Sanjoy Ghose Media Awards 2020, Charkha – The Development Communication Network – a non-profit organization, organized an online orientation event for the five winners on November 23, 2020. The objective of the session was to introduce the awardees with the purpose of the awards dedicated to the founder of Charkha, Sanjoy Ghose.

The orientation began with a welcome note, and an introduction session by the Charkha team. The CEO of Charkha, Mario Noronha shared the genesis and history of Charkha's work, and the awards. In the next session, the esteemed members of this year's jury addressed the awardees. While Jury Member, Sudeep Thakur (Resident Editor, Amar Ujala) provided feedback to individual awardees on their proposals, Nidhi Jamwal (Deputy Managing Editor, Gaon Connection) shared the nuances of good journalistic writing. She emphasized on the significance of checking facts before including them in the articles. The Chairperson of the Jury, Pamela Philipose (Public Editor, The Wire) explained the depth of research and perspective that will be required while engaging with the individual themes. Jury reflected that all 5 awardees must try to bring out the narratives of women residing in some of the most rural and remote areas of the country, in line with the purpose of the awards.

Charkha's Rural Writer, and Senior Journalist Dilip Bidawat was invited to share his experience of over three-decades of reporting in the Rajasthan hinterland. During an hour-long session, he focused on how his journey with Sanjoy Ghose inspired him to write on issues of rights of labourers and farmers. He has been a regular contributor to Charkha Features and has won several recognitions for his work. It was an interactive session where awardees asked him queries related to the challenges of working in rural areas.

To motivate the awardees, a special session was organized with Rajdeep Sardesai – Senior Journalist, Author, and Charkha's Governing Body Member. He reasserted the importance of the work required to be done in rural areas to ensure that voices of the disadvantaged communities are heard at national level. He shared that this award is a great opportunity to bring stories of the 'Real India'. The programme was concluded with the hope that by the end of 5 months, awardees will be able to bring out stories of challenges and strengths of women residing in rural India.