

PIB Jammu organises Rural Media Workshop-Vartalap at Kathua

Media should make use of PIB Fact Check to check genuineness of information; to counter rumours, false information: ADG PIB

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: To build a direct interface between PIB Jammu and the journalists working at district and sub-district levels across Jammu division, Press Information Bureau, Jammu, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India today organised Rural Media Workshop (Vartalap) at district Kathua. The workshop was inaugurated jointly by Additional Director General, Northern Region, Rajinder Chaudhry and Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, Rahul Pandey in presence of Ayushi Puri, Assistant Director & Sheikh Mudasir Amin, Media & Communications Officer, PIB, Jammu.

In his address during the workshop, Additional Director General, Northern Region, Rajinder Chaudhry said that as this year is being celebrated as International Year of Millets, media has a great responsibility to spread awareness throughout the country regarding daily use of millets, their advantages, value addition, nutritional benefits, recipe development etc. so that mass awareness is generated across India.

During his address, Chaudhry emphasized that media should follow Information & Broadcasting Ministry's various Twitter handles and use PIB Fact-check to counter false information and rumours that sometimes confuse public when some false information is viral on different



PIB Jammu officials during the workshop at Kathua.

social media platforms.

In his inaugural address, Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, Rahul Pandey appreciated the efforts of Press Information Bureau, Jammu for organizing this media workshop which is the best platform for a dialogue between media and government. He further said that media being the fourth pillar of democracy plays a great role in awareness generation as it is only through media that the information reaches the last man in the queue in the remotest corners of an area. He further said that media has always played a pivotal role in information dissemination especially during disaster like situations.

District Information Officer, Kathua, Neeraj Bhargav in his address said that media must follow the ethics while reporting in letter and spirit in order to preserve and promote public trust, maintain their own credibility. He said, when constitution has article 19 (1) (a), there are

reasonable restrictions also to be followed while reporting.

District Social Welfare Officer, Kathua, Ab. Raheem said that the social welfare department has now shifted totally from offline to online mode and now public has been able to avail the benefits of all the social welfare schemes in shortest possible time. He highlighted various integrated social welfare schemes and their implementation in district Kathua like different pension schemes like the transgender community pension scheme, schemes for Divyangs, minority scholarships, development schemes etc. and emphasized that media must disseminate important information related to these schemes before public so that people may be able to take benefits out of these schemes especially those who are living in the far-flung areas, border areas of district Kathua. District Statistical and Evaluation Officer, Kathua, Ranjeet Thakur presented detailed informa-

tion regarding completed and ongoing development projects in district Kathua.

LDM, Kathua, Amul Bhatia in his address on financial inclusion said that the people living in the remotest corners of the country are now enjoying every kind of banking facilities which had been earlier the prerogative of only those living in the cities and towns. He stressed on media that the schemes like PMEGP, PM Suanidhi, StartUp India, JJBY, APY etc. must be brought to the public so that they will be able to take best benefits out of them.

Assistant Director, Press Information Bureau, Ayushi Puri in her concluding remarks emphasised on the importance of 'Rural Media Workshop' 'Vartalap' which is a platform for journalists working at district level to gain some insights about their role in development Journalism & responsible reporting. Besides investigative journalism, the media should focus on development Journalism. During the Vartalap, the journalists put forward some issues regarding welfare and accreditation before Additional Director General, PIB, Sh. Rajinder Chaudhry who assured them to take up their genuine issues before the concerned authorities for an early redressal. Media & Communications Officer, PIB, Jammu, Sheikh Mudasir presented vote of thanks.

MVD organises valedictory function to mark end of Road Safety Week

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Department of Motor Vehicle, in collaboration with District Administration Samba on Tuesday organised an valedictory function to mark the end of the week long National Road Safety week here at Shivam Palace Ghagwal.

DDC Member, Suresh Kumar; BDC Chairman, Vijay Tagotra; Transport Commissioner, J&K, Rahul Sharma; Deputy Commissioner Samba, Anuradha Gupta, Project Director NHAI, Additional Secretary Road Safety Committee, Adl SSP Samba, SDM Ghagwal, team of Doctors from AIIMS Jammu, other members of PRI, students of GDC, members NCC, Drivers, Locals besides others were also present.

Speaking on the occasion Transport Commissioner appreciated team MVD Samba for successfully conducting an array of activities under the theme Swachta Pakhwada 2023 and sensitised different sections of society on road safety week contours. He laid emphasis upon providing



A section of dignitaries during the programme.

the community volunteers with the skills that they would need to respond to their community's immediate needs in the aftermath of an accident.

The DC Samba, in her address, highlighted the UT Government's commitment towards road safety and said that there was a dire need to save lives and have zero road fatalities in Samba district. She informed that the administration has launched a campaign of Raksha Mitra to provide first responder training to the community including youths. "This year road safety week saw a series of activities in Samba including sensitization of commercial vehicle drivers, rectification of black spots, awareness and cancellation of licenses under

MVD rules, pledge ceremony, Signature Campaigns, etc were also organized, added the DC Samba.

During the programme, a team of doctors from AIIMS Jammu gave a detailed demonstration on how to save life during the accidents- critical or Golden time period. The demonstration was hailed by the youth, driver community, locals and they undertook a pledge to become Good Samaritans.

The valedictory function also saw presentation of skits, poetry and awards distribution ceremony among the participants and members of road safety committee.

The function was conducted in association with National Highway authority of India, VSEPL and others.

Jammu Tennis tourney from Feb 3

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lawn Tennis Association (JKLTA) shall hold Jammu District Championship at newly laid lawn tennis courts of MA Stadium, here from February 3 to 5.

The three-day competition shall be held for those registered players of the Association, a handout issued by the JKLTA here on Tuesday informed. Interested and eligible players can contact for registration and other formalities to Khushboo Thaploo (9103029212) and joint secretary of the JKLTA, Hanumant Singh (94191-90876).

Billawaria felicitates Deaf Judo players for winning gold in Senior National

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria felicitated five Deaf Judo players for winning gold medals with their outstanding performance at the 25th Senior National Deaf Judo Championship held at Indore.

Billawaria congratulated all the players for their success and appreciated their hard work, dedication and wished them all the best for the future.

He said that 10 players won gold medals in the Deaf National Championship, in which five players are from Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that these five players will represent India in the Asia



Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria along with players.

Pacific Deaf Championship to be held in Kyrgyzstan this year, which is a matter of pride for India and Jammu and Kashmir. He promised to extend all possible assistance to the association and its members in order to improve the standard of the sport in the state. The Deputy Mayor Jammu, further urged the youth of the UT to take up

sports as a serious career option and strive to make them proud. Billawaria also facilitated Judo coach Surya Bhan Singh & praised and said that behind every player there is hard work of a good coach, only then the players reach such goals. The players expressed their gratitude to Deputy Mayor for his appreciation and felicitation.

DC Rajouri flags-off students' rally to spread awareness about road safety

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, on Tuesday flagged off a Students' Awareness Rally in Rajouri to create awareness about road safety and the importance of following road etiquette. The event was organized as part of the Road Safety Week-2023 celebrations.

The rally, with the participation from private and public schools, as well as from various colleges and institutions from across the district, was flagged off by the New Bus stand Rajouri.

The rally passed through



DC Rajouri, Vikas Kundal flagging-off rally.

various market places and residential areas of the city and culminated at PWD Dak Bungalow.

The Deputy Commissioner expressed his pleasure over the enthusi-

asm of the students for the noble cause. He hoped that the demonstration by the students and their creative slogans would help spread the message and bring a positive change in the

behavior of the people on the roads.

He urged everyone to be more aware and responsible while on the roads, so as to avoid accidents and save precious lives. He also mentioned various traffic rules and laws important for the safety of all.

He appealed to the public to be responsible and thoughtful when driving, as it benefits everyone to be safe on the road. The rally was well received by the general public with many of them joining in and showing their support for the cause.

VRS given RTC workers stage protest, seek release of arrears



VRS workers of RTC staging protest in Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Voluntarily retired employees of J&K Road Transport Corporation held a protest on Tuesday demanding release of pending dues of the VRS given employees.

The retired/VRS accorded employees of the JKRTC under the leadership of Dev Raj Bali assembled outside Press Club here today and started a protest demonstration. They were carrying banners in their hand, projecting their burning issues. They expressed serious concern over the delay being caused in the release of their COLA and Pay Commission

arrears. The protestors alleged that they have not been paid their COLA and 6th Pay Commission arrears by the RTC authorities despite the fact that the Central Government has paid an amount of Rs 76.95 crore including payment of the arrears of the more than 700 employees. Bali said that most of them are senior citizens and struggling for their hard earned money for the last more than nine years. But the authorities concerned have failed to pay their arrears. The officers in J&K administration are only harassing them and adopting

delaying tactics. He pointed out that at least 49 retired employees have passed away during one decade and the Government did not pay their arrears to them or their families till date.

They appealed to Prime Minister Modi and the Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha to intervene in the matter and provide justice to over 700 VRS given RTC workers of J&K, struggling for the last over eight years to get their own hard earned money. Prominent among those present during the protest included Sat Bhushan Singh, Surinder Singh, Deep Raj, B.B Sharma, Balvinder Singh, Suraj Singh, Ramesh Bhanu and Rajinder Sawhney.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMGARH: Pradesh BJP Vice President and former Minister Surjeet Singh Slathia on Tuesday said that the double engine mechanism of governance will ensure faster and equitable development in Jammu and Kashmir, which has undergone a difficult phase over decades.

Addressing Prabharis of various wings of the party of Mandal Baba Sidh Goria Swankha in the Ramgarh Assembly Constituency, as part of the Prawas Programme, Mr Slathia said the BJP is committed towards a prosperous and inclusive



Pradesh BJP Vice President Surjeet Singh Slathia addressing Party Prabharis at Ramgarh.

Jammu and Kashmir with the people getting equal opportunities of progress and development, irrespective of regional or religious affiliations.

"The people deserve a better and fair deal in opportunities without any discrimination or appease-

ment", he said, adding that every compatriot has to play their pivotal role in realising the PM's vision of Naya J&K, with avenues of progress to all, irrespective of religion or caste. He said this is possible with strong and stable governments at the

AJKPC holds protest against RDD for freezing funds

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC), representative body of elected PRI members today held a strong protest against the J&K government for its decision to freeze the funds for further utilization that were already available with the Panchayats under 14th Finance Commission.

Panches and Sarpanches from different areas of Jammu division participated in the protest.

The protestors while raising slogans against the Commissioner/secretary Rural Development condemned the officer for her dictatorial approach and undermining the Panchayati Raj Institutions in Jammu and Kashmir.

Anil Sharma, president of the AJKPC informed the media persons that an order dated 16/Jan/2023 has been issued by the office of Commissioner/Secretary Rural Development wherein all the BDOs have been asked to freeze the funds available with the Panchayats under 14th Finance Commission and



AJKPC members staging protest.

submit amount surrender statement by 22/01/2023.

Sharma intimated that earlier the union government had issued an order wherein the deadline for utilization of these funds (under 14th FC) was fixed till 31st March 2023 and all the PRI members and the officers of the Rural development department were working accordingly, but out of blue, government order No. 21-JK(RD & PR) of 2023 dated 16/01/2023 has been issued without any application of mind or taking any brief and inputs from the PRI members, Block Development Officers or district level officers(ACDs) of the Rural development department.

"Earlier the e-tendering process took so much time and now when the time has come for execution of developmental work, this order for freezing of amount under 14th FC within 6 days has come as a big shock for the elected Panches and Sarpanches as they are accountable to the people unlike the bureaucrats sitting in their cozy chambers of civil secretariat and sipping exotic coffee and juices", Sharma Lamented.

The other protestors also vowed to continue such protests outside the civil secretariat if such an authoritarian order is not rescinded back by the government.

Centre and in the Union Territory that can deliver on ground zero as per the urges and aspirations of the citizenry.

Mr Slathia said the continued support of the people to the BJP will help in expediting the development process and bringing about peace and harmony. While the developmental momentum is already in full gear, the Union Territory is all set to become an investment hub in the wake of path breaking initiatives of the Central, which will eventually lead to growth and generation of jobs for educated unemployed, skilled and unskilled workforce. The sustained measures taken during the past four

years are reflective of the Centre's intent to put this region on the path of inclusive development, he added.

He urged the Karyakartas to become a bridge between the people and the administration and play their role in getting their problems solved.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Chairman, District Development Councillors Keshav Sharma DDC Anita Choudhary, Mandal President Shamsher Singh, Shiv Choudhary, Convenor Darshan Choudhary, General Secretary Mandal Naveen Sharma, Vistarak Babu, Ram Bhagat and others.

Mridul of DPS Jammu excels in CBSE National Roller Skating Championship



Mridul Jungal along with Principal and Coach.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Mridul Jungal (Class II) of Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu brought laurels to the school and his parents by winning a silver medal and second position in CBSE National Roller Skating Championship held at Gurugram from 9-11 January, 2023. He performed in the U-8 age category with a timing of 38.57 seconds in 300 mts. event.

Mridul also received a Merit Certificate. Earlier, he also won Gold medal in 300 mts & 1 Silver medal

in 500 mts (U-8) in Inline Boys event in CBSE North Zone-II Roller Skating Tournament.

Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chhabra congratulated Mridul and his parents for the excellence of the achievement. She also appreciated the Coach, Arnav Mahajan for his support.

President - RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC, Dr. Ritu Singh and Director, S.S Sodhi congratulated Mridul and extended their best wishes for all his future endeavours.

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