

Journalism Department inaugurates Internship Program for students of GCW

Industry experts share expertise on evolving role of journalists in digital age

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Journalism and Media Studies, University of Jammu started on Monday a 10-day internship program for approximately 140 students from the Padma Shri Padma Sachdev (PSPS) Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

The program aims to provide hands-on training in media and communication, equipping students with practical skills to navigate the dynamic field of journalism and Mass Communication.

Media industry, invited to guide the students, shared their expertise on the evolving role of journalists in today's digital age.

Roshan Kishore, Data & Political Economy Editor Hindustan Times emphasized the importance of adaptability, ethical reporting, and storytelling in media. "Journalism is not just about reporting facts; it's about crafting narra-



A section of dignitaries and participants during the programme.

tives that inform and inspire. This internship will help students master these skills through practical assignments," Roshan Kishore said.

Sumit Chaturvedi, Delhi Bureau Chief, Senior News Editor, ET Now also shared his experiences with the students. He highlighted the significance of practical exposure in journalism education.

"The media landscape is evolving rapidly, and programs like this empower students to understand real-world challenges and devel-

op skills that align with industry standards," Sumit Chaturvedi said.

Earlier, the program was inaugurated with a welcome address by Prof. Garima Gupta, Head of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies.

She emphasized the importance of experiential learning in shaping future media professionals.

"This internship is a platform for students to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and industry demands. It is an opportunity to explore the intricacies of media and communication while fostering critical thinking and creativity," she said and added that this internship program is inspired by the visionary initiatives of the Vice Chancellor, Prof Umesh Rai.

Prof Dushyant Kumar Rai, senior professor of journalism and media studies extended formal vote and thanks. He noted that the internship would provide students with insights into reporting, content creation, and media ethics, preparing them for successful careers.

The 10-day program is designed to offer students a comprehensive understand-

ing of media and communication processes, including news production, digital media, and public relations.

Through workshops, field assignments, and interactions with industry experts, the 140 participating students will gain hands-on experience in various aspects of journalism.

This internship builds on the department's commitment to developing industry-academia collaboration, aligning with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) for experiential learning.

It is pertinent to mention that a similar 20-day internship program was successfully conducted in July 2024.

The initiative has been lauded by students and faculty alike, with participants expressing enthusiasm for the opportunity to apply their academic learning in a real-world setting. The stage was managed by Kumerjit Chajgotra and the other faculty member Dr Pardeep Bali and Dr Ramiyan Bharadwaj were also present in the program.

BJP's focus on ground-level development: Yudhvir Sethi

Starts development work at Gali Agnihotri, Ward 1

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi today kickstarted vital development work at Gali Agnihotri in Ward No. 1, reaffirming the party's commitment to holistic development and inclusive growth across all localities. Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi highlighted that a series of development works amounting to an estimated cost of Rs 23 lakhs have already been successfully completed in several key areas of the constituency. These include Gali Chogan Salathia, Gali Mandir Shri Gadhadhari, Billu Mandir Gali, and Gali Agnihotri. He said that the focus remains on improving civic infrastructure, sanitation, road connectivity, and other essential amenities in order to uplift the quality of life for residents. "These works are a reflection of our commitment to development without discrimination. Every lane, every household matters. We are reaching the last man in the last lane with the benefits of growth and development," said Yudhvir Sethi while addressing



MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi starting developmental work at Ward No 1.

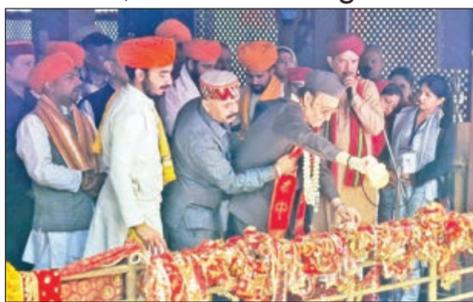
the gathering here today.

The senior BJP leader also appreciated the active involvement of the local community in identifying priority areas and assured that all genuine demands would be fulfilled in a time-bound manner. He reiterated that BJP believes in the politics of development and progress, and under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, every effort is being made to ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach the grassroots level. Later, Yudhvir Sethi also interacted with the residents of the area, listening to their concerns and suggestions regarding local issues. He assured

them that their feedback would be taken into account in planning future development works. The locals expressed gratitude for the completed projects and appreciated the MLA's continued efforts in ensuring timely redressal of their grievances and visible improvement in civic infrastructure.

Among those present on the occasion were Ramesh Gupta, Rajesh Bali, Vikram Singh, Naresh Abrol, Kuldeep Mehta, Neeru Anand, Sanjeev Sawhney, Ved Padha, Jivan Singh, Sudershan Singh, Jagdish Singh, Varinder Verma, Vijay Kumar, Ashwani Rakwal, Ravi Kant Sharma, and Sanjeev Gupta.

Dr. Karan Singh visits Mata Kheer Bhawani Shrine, reviews arrangements for Annual Mela



Chairman Trustee of J&K Dharmarth Trust, Dr. Karan Singh paying obeisance at Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chairman Trustee of J&K Dharmarth Trust, nonagenarian statesman Dr. Karan Singh, on Monday paid a visit to the revered Mata Kheer Bhawani Shrine to oversee the arrangements ahead of the Annual Mela, scheduled to commence tomorrow. Dr. Karan Singh was accompa-

nied by the President of the Trust, Dr. PS. Pathania, during the inspection. The visit was aimed at ensuring all necessary preparations have been made for the smooth conduct of the Mela, which draws thousands of devotees from across the country.

Expressing satisfaction over the progress, Dr. Karan Singh commended the

improvement in facilities at the shrine, made possible through the support of the Government grant. He noted that the infrastructural developments have significantly enhanced the experience for visiting pilgrims.

During the visit, Dr. Karan Singh also performed puja at the sacred temple and offered prayers to Goddess Ragnya Devi, seeking peace, prosperity, and well-being for the people of the country.

Dr. Karan Singh emphasized that the J&K Dharmarth Trust remains deeply committed to the preservation and promotion of the rich religious and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. He reiterated that the Trust will continue its dedicated efforts to ensure that all shrines under its care are well-maintained and spiritually uplifting spaces for devotees.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SUNDERBANI: Kalidhar Memorial Army School (KMAS), Sunderbani, celebrated its Foundation Day with enthusiasm and solemnity on Monday honouring its legacy rooted in patriotism and educational excellence.

KMAS was established in 1997 in memory of brave soldiers who laid down their lives in the 1971 Indo-Pak War. It has grown into a leading institution in the region, affiliated with JKBOSE upto Class 10, with a history of continued dedication and commitment to excellence for last 28 yrs. The school now caters to 340 students, each nurtured in an environment that fosters academic excellence, discipline, and holistic development.



Dignitaries along with faculty during the event.

The celebration began with welcome address by Neeru Sharma, School Principal, followed by a variety of cultural performances, patriotic songs, and honours presentations that showcased the talent pool and spirit of the students.

The event was graced by Brigadier Jaidev Singh Aswal, Vishist Seva Medal, Patron KMAS, who served as the Chief Guest, and in

his address, applauded the school's efforts in blending academic impetus with all round development of the students. He highlighted and appreciated newly launched initiatives like creating the technological laboratory for learning new generation technology, new shooting range for students, coaching classes for Sainik School, introduction

of NCC, regular participation in inter school competition to inculcate healthy competitive spirit amongst KMAS students.

The event was also attended by parents and alumni staying in and around Sunderbani. Ex students Deepak Sharma (2013) PWD as JEE, Atul Sharma (2014) PWD as JEE, Jeevan Prasher (2013), Rural Development as PA, Rupali Sharma (2014) Rural Development as Panchayat Secretary, Sakshi Sharma (2013) Finance Deptt as AA, Swarnjeet Singh (2013) JK Bank as Banking Associate, Rohit Sharma (2004) JK Bank as Banking Associate, Arti Kumari (2013) Medical Deptt as Community Health Officer, Pooja Sharma (2007) Medical

Deptt as Staff Nurse, Mohini Thakur (2013) Jr. Assistant, Manisha Raina (2017) JKP as Constable, Vikash Singh (2014) Indian Army as Soldier, Dr Nancy Sharma (2006) GMC Jammu as Ophthalmologist, Dr Priyanka Sharma (2012) Assistant professor at Department of Pol. Science, Delhi University shared virtually their feelings for the school.

Special recognitions were given to the staff, parents and alumni for their enduring contribution to the school's mission. The Foundation Day celebration concluded with a vote of thanks and a reaffirmation of the school's vision to provide value-based, future-ready education in a disciplined and conducive learning environment.

Nation will always remain indebted to families whose loved ones made supreme sacrifice: Brig. Balbir

Courage of people of border areas of Jammu province during Op Sindoor is matter of pride for entire country: Col Mankotia

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A team of Akhil Bhartiya Purv Sainik Seva Parishad visited border villages and organized a massive rally at Pragwal Tehsil Khour in which "Veernaris and Veermatas" were felicitated.

A large number of ex-servicemen and war widows of the three services were present on the occasion.

Brig Balbir Singh Sambyal, President ABPSSP presented shawls to the war widows and Veermata. In an emotional speech, Brig Balbir said that what the families of the fallen heroes have lost cannot be compensated but at least we can honour them in every possible way. When all the ex-



Team members of Akhil Bhartiya Purv Sainik Seva Parishad during visit to border village Pargwal.

servicemen above the age of eighty were also honoured, their eyes filled with tears and said "someone cared for us"

Addressing the ex-servicemen, Brigadier Balbir said, "We still have a lot to give to the motherland."

The elections of Tehsil Khour were held under the supervision of Colonel Sukhvir Mankotia (Retd) and Captain Kripal Singh was unanimously declared the President of Khour Tehsil.

Captain Kripal Singh, the newly elected President of

ABPSSP assured everyone that we will act as the eyes and ears of the defence forces.

Major CL Gupta (Retd) briefed everyone about the achievements of "Operation Sindoor".

Captain Resal Singh

recalled his days in uniform and urged everyone to unite and help the Army in every possible way.

Among others, Captain Surjit Singh Chib Vice President, Subedar Kamal Netra, Captain Krishan (Media Incharge) and Col Sham Manhas were present.

The meeting was declared closed with the singing of patriotic songs and the National Anthem.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant step towards community engagement and development, MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa conducted a comprehensive public outreach tour in Ward No. 45, Digjana. The tour was held in the presence of officials from key departments including PDD, PWD, JMC, EESL, PHE, among others, to address public grievances and review on-ground issues.

Accompanying the MLA were prominent local leaders and dignitaries including Ritika Trehan (Mandal President), Narinder Koki, Sahil Kumar, Sanjay Gupta, Satpaul Choudhary, Varinder Gupta, Vinod, and several others.

During the tour, various issues raised by residents such as irregular electricity supply, damaged roads, inadequate sanitation, water supply problems, and the need for improved street lighting were noted and addressed. On-the-



MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa during tour of Ward No 45.

spot directions were given to departmental officers for swift action. The MLA assured residents that development and infrastructure works will be carried out in a time-bound manner.

On the spot, MLA Randhawa instructed the PWD and JMC officials to prepare estimates for immediate road repairs and desilting of drains. PDD was directed to replace faulty transformers and improve load management, while EESL was asked to expedite installation of energy-efficient streetlights. PHE officers assured augmentation of water supply infrastructure.

Ch. Vikram Randhawa emphasized that such visits are crucial to bridge the gap between the administration and the public. He reiterated his focus on transparent, responsive, and development-oriented governance.

The residents expressed satisfaction over the outreach initiative and appreciated the MLA's continuous efforts to bring tangible change at the local level.

Delay in Panchayat polls blocking development funds: AJKPC

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC) has expressed deep concern over the prolonged delay in holding Panchayat elections in the Union Territory while pointing out that more than a year has passed since the dissolution of Panchayats on January 9, 2024. In a strong appeal to the Union Territory administration, AJKPC president Anil Sharma, during a press conference, has called for immediate action to restore grassroots democracy and unlock developmental funds meant for rural areas. Sharma said that failure to conduct elections within one year of dissolution has resulted in blockage of funds meant for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).



AJKPC President Anil Sharma briefing media.

"We had hoped that once Assembly elections were conducted in Jammu and Kashmir, the Panchayat administration, AJKPC president Anil Sharma, during a press conference, has called for immediate action to restore grassroots democracy and unlock developmental funds meant for rural areas. Sharma said that failure to conduct elections within one year of dissolution has resulted in blockage of funds meant for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

These funds, he stressed, are vital for the execution of key development projects across rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

(SEC) that is independent of political influence and capable of conducting elections on time.

"We fought for the establishment of a State Election Commission so that the people are not dependent on political parties for the conduct of elections. However things are not moving in right directions as elections are getting delayed," the AJKPC leader said.

He has urged the administration to not delay further, and to set a clear timeline for both Panchayat and Block Development Council (BDC) elections. The delay, they warned, is not only a

setback to democratic governance, but also a major roadblock to rural development and delivery of essential services.

The AJKPC leader has said that the dissolution of Panchayats, and the delay in fresh elections, has left a democratic vacuum at the village level. "Elections are not a formality—they are a necessity. Without them, rural governance is paralyzed, and the common man suffers," he said.

"We request the government to conduct the elections without further delay. The UT administration must take responsibility and act in the interest of rural people who are waiting for development, accountability, and representation," the AJKPC leader concluded.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion included Des Raj Bhagat, Jatinder Singh, Rakesh Sharma, Milkhi Ram, Ram Saroop Sharma.

Mohan Lal holds Public Darbar

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Mohan Lal Bhagat, MLA from Akhnoor, held a Public Darbar at the J&K BJP headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, here on Monday. The event witnessed the participation of more than 20 deputations from various regions who came forward to raise their concerns and share their grievances.

People from diverse localities such as Chack Kripalpur Jourian, Pargwal Akhnoor, Karwanda Bhalwal, Karan Nagar, Raipur Nardaini, Bhaderwah, Poonch, Channi Himmat, Roop Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Shakti Nagar, Wazir Lane Bohri, Raipur Mishriwala, Bishnah, Trilokpur, Gole Gujral, and many others met with the senior BJP leader.

They presented a wide range of issues including demand for new handpumps, introduction



MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal Bhagat listening to public issues.

of electric buses on Jammu-Pargwal road, water scarcity, the repair and construction of lanes and drains, street light repairs, and road restoration. Other pressing concerns included issues related to SPOs, development of parks, transfer of shops, blockage of drains, construction of link roads, revenue matters, and the implementation of welfare schemes.

Mohan Lal listened to each deputation and assured them

of swift action. He emphasized that the BJP follows the guiding principle of "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas," and remains committed to ensuring inclusive development across the Union Territory.

He added that such Public Darbars are instrumental in bringing governance closer to the people, allowing them to voice their concerns directly to their elected representatives.

Highlighting the importance of citizen engagement in policy

implementation, Bhagat said that open forums like these are vital in understanding the grassroots needs of the people.

"They help us in framing action plans that are grounded in reality and aligned with the development aspirations of the people," he stated.

The MLA also took immediate action during the darbar by communicating directly with concerned department officials and pressing for the speedy resolution of the raised issues, especially those related to public utilities and welfare measures.

The proceedings of the Public Darbar were smoothly coordinated by BJP Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Incharge, Er. Dil Bahadur Singh Janwal. While listening to the issues related to the PHE Department, he shared valuable insights about their redressal.