

Report - State Conference Cum Annual Function of Odisha Journalists Union, Bhubaneswar, 2013

The Odisha Journalists Union(OJU) organized its annual summit and third congregation at Jaydev Bhavan on August 17,2013. More than 700 working journalists from all the districts of the state had attended the meeting presided over by the organisation's State President Mr. Prabhat Kumar Dash.

Addressing the journalists at the event, Mr. S.N.Sinha, National President of Indian Journalists Union(IJU) stressed on the role of journalists in a democratic country. While many states have taken several steps for the identification of the working journalists, their safety and immediate pension to the retired working journalists, Odisha government has paid least attention to these demands raised by various journalists associations in Odisha, he said.He commended the OJU leadership for their continuous fight for the welfare of journalists of Odisha.

The event was attended by Information and Public Relations Minister Mr. Arun Sahu as the Chief Guest, who informed the journalists that the government has increased the Welfare Fund for journalists from Rs. 1.50 crore to Rs. 5 crore, which had been demanded by the associations- OJU and Orissa Union of Working Journalist. Talking on the issue of paid news in media, senior journalist Mr. Devulapalli Amar, Secretary General of the IJU, said ,it will pose a big threat to democracy if the trend continues for a long time.He called upon the journalists to fight the menace more unitedly. Noted Mass Communication Professor Dr. Subir Ghosh, who is also the visiting faculty of many University of West Bengal and IIMC, was also present at the function as Chief Speaker. Dr. Ghosh addressed many problems faced by present day working journalists and stressed on solving the problems as quickly as possible.

During the function, the organisation honoured Mr. Ajay Nehera, Commanding officer of territorial armed force 120 Battalion, Pratidin and Nijukti Khabar Editor Sudhir Panda, Women footballer Srijan Tamang, for their praise worthy efforts in different fields. Apart from them, OJU presented awards to Union's district's Presidents Mr. Manoranjan Tripathy(Sonepur), Ramakant Biswal (Sambalpur), Bijay Sais(Nuapada), and Subhankar Jena(Jagatsinghpur), who are doing their best for the organization and welfare of the rural journalists.

In the second session a media orientation programme was conducted for the members.