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# 'Jan Pahal' radio programme to improve school environment, enrollment in UP

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LUCKNOW: The Uttar Pradesh government is set to create awareness among the School Management Committees (SMC) on improving environment, enrollment and attendance in government schools, through an edutainment based radio programme. Launching the 'Jan Pahal' radio programme, aimed the government wants to sensitise SMCs about their roles, responsibilities and duties.

Launched by state project director, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Vedpati Mishra, the Jan Pahal radio programme, a joint initiative of UNICEF and SSA is an engaging 52-episode radio series that will reach out to 2.5 million SMCs across 75 districts of UP to motivate, empower and mobilize them in the state.

The episodes will talk about the importance of Right to Education (RTE) Act, extra efforts by teachers to help weak children, timely distribution of books, mid-day meal, ensuring teachers and students attend school regularly among others. The radio programme will be broadcast every Monday and Wednesday from 11.30 am to 11.45 am on all 12 primary channels of All India Radio (AIR) in UP. Besides, it will also be aired on one station each of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

Aimed at strengthening the SMCs, the radio programme will bridge the critical gap by sharing information on the roles and responsibilities of SMC members and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in an entertaining way. The primary responsibilities of SMCs is to ensure a school is child friendly, and all children have access to schooling with equity, and that institutions keep the

children healthy, safe and protect them from all forms of violence and harassment at school, in family and in society. It also works for improving enrolment and ensuring students attend school regularly.

On the occasion, director, All India Radio, Prithviraj Chauhan said, "The Jan Pahal radio programme is another progressive step taken by UP which would go a long way in improving the schools." Chauhan stressed on the need to make the last mile connect so that all parents are empowered to monitor and improve the school environment free from discrimination.

Chief, UNICEF state office for UP, Ruth Leano said strengthening communities is an effective strategy to turn around schools and learning environment. "Jan Pahal radio programme can be another model intervention for other states to follow," she said.