

# Radio Sakhi Madhvi: Known Broadcaster of Akashvani Jammu

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The people associated with the narration of news updates, commercials, interviews, interactive discussions or live commentary on the sports, adventure or any kind of live events etc. at radio or TV, are called announcers. They are either given the specific script or otherwise they have to manage it with any sort of improvisation or a combination of the both. These experts are also known as DJs in the modern context. The announcer or presenter of a programme must be a qualified person to have the knowledge of almost all fields of life as he/she has to interact with the people or talk about the things associated to different fields. I have the opportunity to meet a radio programmer Smt. Madhvi Sharma hailing from Jammu (J&K-UT), who is blessed with her melodious voice and the art of presenting programmes on radio, stage and in concert presentations etc. Quite long ago, she gave me a chance, to interact with the children in a children's programme of Radio Kashmir Jammu (now 'Akashvani Jammu'). Her velvet-textured melodious voice left a unique impact on my ears and heart. I am feeling proud to write an article on her art as a melodious and a popular radio and stage presenter.

Born on 21st October, 1964 in the family of Prof. Ram Swarup Gupta (J&K's 1st M.Sc. in Agriculture Plant Pathology) and Smt. Sarla Gupta, belonging to a reputed Mehta family of Kishtwar, Smt. Madhvi Sharma is such a radio programmer who started her journey of radio programmes by participating regularly in children's programme of Radio Kashmir Jammu when she was just six years old. As she grew, she continued taking part in those programmes. Later on, she was given the role of Didi (sister),

against a boy partner as a supposed Bhaya (brother) in a children's programme. That 'Bhaya' in children's programme, Dr Mahesh Gupta, is now a very well-known child specialist. She recalls that during those days, the roles were given to a participant on the basis of reproducing a script orally, without any fumble. The scripts were chosen from many pieces of scripted papers hanging on the branches of a plant/tree and the candidate had to pick up one of them at random. She had the ability to attempt and be successful in such trials with ease. During her adolescence, she got the contracts for presenting various programmes of Yuv Vani and Primary Service of the radio, ultimately, proving to be a broadcaster who made a niche in the broadcasting system. By the virtue of her qualities, she turned to be a popular programmer not only in J&K but beyond, and the one who has been competent to mould public opinion for education, entertainment and socio-economic transformation.

Her mother Smt. Sarla Gupta has been a great home maker and support for her in all aspects of her life. She escorted her to report at Radio Station in the early morning or late hours in the evening shifts of working there. Her maternal grandfather Sh. Jagat Ram Mehta, a Forest Officer, had been a down to earth person from whom Madhvi acquired the art of living in her life.

Having the inclination towards arts, Madhvi was interested in academics and art & culture pursuits but her father Prof. Ram Swarup, hailing from a well-to-do family background, and working at Sher-E-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science & Technology (SKAUST), Jammu was interested to make her an IAS Officer. She did her early schooling at Dewan Badrinath School, Jammu where

Principal Phoolan Ghai helped her in improving English. She had been good at studies and an all rounder student there. She then was living at her ancestral home at Mastgarh in Jammu. During 1976, she shifted to Mary's Presentation Convent, Jammu and matriculated from there during 1980. She joined Govt. College for Women (GCW), Parade, Jammu, and did her Graduation in Home Science from there during 1984. She was declared Best Debater many times in Inter-College and Inter-District competitions. She was declared as Best Drama Actor in a Dogri play in 'Display Your Talent' organized by University of Jammu. On the basis of her winning the Display Your Talent Competition, she got an opportunity to get admission in Master's Degree in English (MA English). She completed her B.Ed. from University of Jammu. She taught at Convent School but left after one year. She got qualified as a 'Casual Announcer' at Radio Kashmir Jammu and later on became regular Announcer for Dogri and Hindi at Radio Kashmir Jammu on 28th February, 1988. The next year, she got married to Sh. Soujanya Sharma, who in the coming years qualified JKAS.

During her early days at Radio, she had the opportunity to work with many stalwarts like Mehmood Ahmed, J S Pardesi, Pradhuman Singh, Prof. Rita Jitendra, Subhash Sharma, Yash Sharma, Chuni Lal Sharma, C Parwana, Sudesh Raj, Suman Pal and others, working in the field of Radio, theater and literature. As many of them were associated with different languages, she was lucky enough to learn more and more skills associated with language and performance, applicable in the programmes on Radio, stages or otherwise. The skills which she acquired from Prof. Rita Jitendra included pronunciation,



intonation, modulation, expression in creating sound effects, and other such intricacies dealing with oral expressions and presenting the programmes. From Prof. Rita, she got associated with the subtleties of using Sanskrit words. Similarly, she learnt from her so many things related to dramatization of the content in their presentation on air. She credits Sh. Subhash Sharma, a senior to her at Radio Kashmir Jammu, to improve her pronunciation of words in Hindi language. The leading radio programmers of their times like Mehmood Ahmed, J S Pardesi, C Parwana, Parduman Singh, K K Duggal, K C Manhas, Rita Yousuf associated with the recently popular programme 'Dareeche', where she was also a part of the programme, guided her in improving her knowledge in Urdu and Dogri languages. Being knowledgeable in many languages and other aspects, J S Pardesi helped her to improve in multiple areas related to radio programming as well as languages. She recalls that her father, who was otherwise a friendly human being, while dealing with her, would punctuate her diction whenever she used to pronounce a word in Hindi in an ill manner. She had to face some kind of fine also in return of such happenings. She, as an anchor, conducted

many popular programmes like 'Meri Pasand', 'Western Music' and weekly sports programme 'Khel Jagat' at Yuv Vani Service of Radio Kashmir Jammu. Later on, she presented music based programme 'Patravali Aur Aap Ki Pasand' for more than one and half decades; participated as Rama in 'Dareeche' - a family serial, for more than two decades; competed Women's programmes in Hindi, Dogri and English for more than a decade. She also gave the popular programmes like 'Phone-in... Tondee Farmayesh', a programme of Dogri songs. In this programme, a list of songs was announced prior to the conduct of the live programme on phone and the programme was responded according to the request of the listener of the Radio programme. Similarly, many theme based Dogri music programmes, celebrating certain days/festivities, and birthdays or on the death of legends (like those of Mohd. Rafi and Lata Mangeshkar) were also presented on Primary Service of the Radio. Similarly, her programme 'Sada Bahar Gaane' (Songs from old Hindi films, sung by Talit Mehmood to all others); and 'Sainikon Ke Live' had been very popular presentations. The other popular programmes included in the list of successful and popular ones include the programmes like 'Minjraan' (Dogri programme, presented along with other presenters like PEX Sudesh Raj, college announcer Sunita Sharma); 'Angana' (Hindi theme based programme for women, conducted with programmers Prof. Rita Jitendra, Girja Sharat and Rammi). She has conducted a number of music concerts featuring prominent film singers/ Indian classical musicians like Amjad Ali Khan, Pt. Shiv Kr. Sh. Ravinder Sathe, Suresh Wadkar, Jubin Nattal, Wadali Brothers, Radhika Chopra, Seema Anil

Saigal and many others. She has conducted many prestigious functions of Radio Kashmir Jammu/ Akashvani, like Golden Jubilee Celebrations of AIR, Jammu; Annual Day Celebrations at AIR etc. She has also been conducting many other major stage programmes conducted by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, like including the All India Mushaira Programmes held in connection with Republic Day celebrations. She has been having the privilege of hosting, as anchor, prestigious programmes conducted in the presence of President Pratibha Devisingh Patil, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other such dignitaries, during launching of Ayushman Bharat Card, Carona Virus Vaccination, and Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav and many other such important programmes. These occasions left deep imprints on her mind and provided great experiences and great memories in her life. Madhvi has been associated with Radio for fifty four years including thirty five years as a regular broadcaster. During that period, she saw many changes and things being reshaped. One example among those is that the name 'Radio Kashmir Jammu' was renamed as 'Akashvani', keeping in tune with other Radio Stations functioning throughout the country under the banner of Prasar Bharti. She recalls that the technology has changed the entire scenario of the functioning of Radio Stations. In place of the technology of reel to reel audio-tape recorders, the latest digital technology has been opted for recording/editing with multiple facilities readily available at hand.

At the age of fifty three, Prof. Ram Swarup Gupta, her father, resigned from his services at SKAUST, Jammu, for extending service to the community in general. During 1990, while

coming back by car from Kishtwar, after attending the grievances of the sufferers of riot hit situation there, he met with a mis-happening near Patni Top, causing his death. The opinion of her parents on various issues left an indelible impression and imprint on her young mind. She considers that the opinions of her father have ever influenced her viewpoint. According to her father, "Don't be over ambitious... To understand the society in a better way, you should see the world through the eyes of the people of lower section of society..." and such other views. It has been the desire of Madhvi Sharma to write a book dedicated to the life and principles of her father.

According to Smt. Madhvi Sharma, "To become an announcer/presenter on radio, one should be a good listener, as only a good listener can be a good speaker with good sense of expression. The announcer needs to learn technical intricacies of the profession and acquire knowledge of multiple aspects of life..." She added that aspirants should work hard to learn by practice and proper guidance under the veteran and experienced professionals. They should opt for professional courses from various media institutions in the field.

Radio has exclusively been a life soup for Madhvi. Microphone has been her life's passion, and the 'Live Studio' had been like her 'second home'. According to her, "Anchoring has been my special friend and a total strength of my life." She believes that she is committed to her passion for broadcasting which will never die in her life time. According to her belief, the services as a broadcaster are instrumental in spreading social awakening, infusing nationalistic spirit, strengthening democratic fabric, and pushing Bharat to its due slot on the top of the globe.

## JKAACL releases Dr. Tabeya Deep Kaur's Novel 'The Silent Guardian'

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Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) organized a book release function at K L Saigal Hall, Writers' Club, Jammu on 9th May, 2026, to release a novel in English 'The Silent Guardian', authored by Dr. Tabeya Deep Kaur. The event witnessed the participation of eminent academicians, writers, literary enthusiasts, students, and members of the cultural fraternity.

Smt. Sonali Arun Gupta, Additional Secretary, JKAACL, was the chief guest on the occasion, while the programme was presided over by Padam Shri (Prof.) Lalit Mangotra. Prof. Sucheta Pathania, former Head of the Deptt. English and former Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Jammu was the guest of honour on this occasion.

In her welcome address, Smt. Sonali Arun Gupta said that JKAACL has consistently been working towards the promotion of literature, art, and culture



by providing platforms to creative minds and emerging writers. She appreciated the literary contribution of Dr. Tabeya Deep Kaur.

A detailed paper on the book was presented by Prof. Geetanjali Rana, former Dean, Faculty of Arts, Cluster University of Jammu. Through her paper, she shared an insightful analysis of the book's narrative structure, thematic depth, and literary significance.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Sucheta Pathania appreciated the author for her creative vision and literary sensibility reflected in 'The Silent Guardian'. She remarked that the book presents a meaningful explo-

ration of human emotions, courage, and resilience, and congratulated Dr. Tabeya Deep Kaur for her commendable literary endeavour.

In his presidential address, Prof. Lalit Mangotra highlighted the importance of literature in shaping society and preserving cultural and human values. He lauded the efforts of the author and observed that contemporary writers have a vital role in inspiring readers through meaningful and socially relevant writings. He elaborated that the innocence of the writer as well as philosophical ideas, have been expressed in a poetic atmosphere, in simple language.

He added that to put forward a complex idea in simple language has been a great aspect of the content of the novel. He also appreciated JKAACL for continuously promoting literary activities and encouraging budding writers. The author, Dr. Tabeya Deep Kaur, expressed her views about the creation of her debut fiction work. She also shared her experiences and inspiration behind writing 'The Silent Guardian'. She expressed her gratitude to JKAACL for organizing the event and thanked the audience for their overwhelming response and encouragement. The programme was ably conducted by Mitali Gupta.

## S. Ajab Singh Honoured with Life Time Achievement Award

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Bhai Gurjeet Singh Gurnat Sanman Sanstha, Kathua in collaboration with Kartar Public School, Banoti organized a felicitation ceremony to honour S Ajab Singh Belicharan, Jammu with Life Time Achievement Award for his contribution for the preservation and development of Punjabi language as mother tongue and for his contribution as social activist to the society. This award was given in the function organized on the celebration of 51st birth anniversary of Bhai Gurjeet Singh.

Dr. Bharat Bhushan, hon'ble MLA, Kathua was the chief guest while Dr. Arvind Singh Amn, former Additional Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages presided over the function. S. Belicharan, a renowned social activist, S. Charanjit Singh, President, District Gurudwara Parbandhak, Committee, Kathua, Mrs. Tirath Kaur, former Principal, Higher Education, Mrs. Gurpreet Kaur, Government Teach-



er, S. Navjot Singh and Er. Nirmaljit Singh, Chairman, Kartar Public School, Barnoti were also present in the presidium.

While speaking on this occasion, Dr. Bharat Bhushan appreciated the organizing team of Bhai Gurjeet Singh Gurnat Sanman Sanstha, Kathua, and Kartar Public School, Barnoti for honouring S. Ajab Singh, Belicharan, a renowned Punjabi thinker & social activist with life time achievement award for his revered dedication towards mother tongue, Punjabi. He also applauded the family of Bhai Gurjit Singh for celebrating the birth anniversary of Bhai Gurjit Singh who left for heavenly abode in 2021 and also remembering him through his noble deeds.

S. Ajab Singh, while addressing the audience shared his experiences, struggles and hard work, resulting into a great success mentioning the examples of his self-made successful life. He said that by the grace of God, blessings of elders, especially his father, Sardar Hakam Singh, and with honesty & dedicated struggle as driver, he attained the position of the transporter and owner of a transport company. He also expressed his contributions as father for being a booster to his son Sardar Prabhjot Singh, who recently cleared the JKAS exams.

Earlier, Er. Nirmaljit Singh, Chairman, Kartar Public School, Barnoti extended welcome address and elab-

orated in detail the spirit behind creating Bhai Gurjeet Singh Gurnat Sanman Sanstha, Kathua.

S. Charanjit Singh, President, DGPC Kathua, Er. Naresh, Miss Raveen Kaur, daughter of Bhai Gurjeet Singh, Mrs. Harpreet Kaur, Principal, Kartar Public School, Barnoti, Mrs. Taranjeet Kaur, Mrs. Thirath Kaur, Prabhjot Singh JKAS and S. Gurnam Singh also spoke on the occasion and threw light on the contribution of S Ajit Singh Belicharan and also paid tributes to Bhai Gurjeet Singh. S. Ajab Singh was honoured with lifetime achievement award carrying Rs 5100 in cash, a citation, shawl and a memento. S. Prabhjot Singh was also honoured for clearing JKAS exams.

## Kuldeep Saproo honoured during Akashvani's Celebration

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On the glorious occasion of 90 years of Akashvani, a grand and impactful music concert titled 'Sur Vani' was organized at K L Saigal Auditorium, Writers' Club, Abhinav Theatre Complex, Jammu on 5th May, 2026. Various musical performances were given by the artists associated with the programmes of Akashvani.

On this special occasion, renowned music director Kuldeep Saproo was honoured by Akashvani. Two theme songs composed by him, were beautifully presented during the event. Both theme songs were wonderfully written by Dr. Nirmal Vinod Ji. One of the songs goes like: 'Jan-Gan-Man ki pyari/ Apni Vani hai Akashvani/ Nabbe varshon se seva mein/ Nit niranter yeh vardani'...

Kuldeep Saproo wrote, "I truly feel proud and privileged that I was given this opportunity... I ex-



tend my heartfelt gratitude to the Director Akashvani Jammu Smt. Renu Raina, for placing such trust in me and allowing me to contribute musically to this prestigious celebration... I dedicated myself with full passion and effort to compose music worthy of Akashvani's remarkable 90 years legacy. It was truly gratifying to see such respected personalities from the broadcasting field appreciating the work." He also thanked engineering team of Akashvani and all the musi-

cians, vocalists Kuldeep Saproo has done Diploma in Electronics from YMCA, Faridabad and B. Sc. from Punjab University, Chandigarh. He is a 'Grade-I Approved Music Composer' of Music Audition Board, All India Radio. He has developed his Recording Studio at Janipur, Jammu which is catering recording and dubbing facilities for films, documentaries, tele-films and audio-visual albums being produced in the area. He has also started an NGO, namely RMK (Revered Mother Kashmir) for the cause & promotion of art & culture in the region. He along with his team of fourteen members, has presented his Fusion Music 'Sharda Shuti' at Tokiyo, Kenezawa and Osaka in Japan, in connection with celebrations of 'India at 70', a Govt. of India's initiative. The fusion depicted the energy of Maa Durga in varied forms. The programme mesmerized the audiences there and had been a great success.

## Mrs. Neeru got Top Rank in Glitzy Finale of Tiara Vista India '26

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Mrs. Neeru from Sangam Theatre Group got top rank with mesmerising performance in Glitzy Finale of Tiara Vista India 2026, a premier national-level Fashion Beauty Pageant organised at Goa. The event brought together diverse talent from every corner of the country, showcasing the vibrant cultural fabric of India. Contestants competed with high energy and poise, turning the evening into a true celebration of Modern Indian Fashion.

Hon'ble MLA Delialah Lobo, from Goa, was the chief guest on this occasion. In her address, she commended the organizers for providing a national platform for aspir-



ing talent and highlighted the importance of such events in boosting Goa's profile as a hub for fashion and tourism. Neeru had participated in a beauty pageant 'Divine

Models of North' organised by Harman Cultural & Educational Society, Jammu at Katra in 2025 in which she qualified for national level competition 'Tiara Vista Beauty

Pageant' and was declared the Mrs. India Tiara Vista 2026 Winner. Participants from across the Indian states competed for the prestigious title and beyond the ramp

walk, contestants engaged the audience with various talent rounds, displaying a mix of performing arts and intellectual prowess. The pageant was curated and directed by Goa's very own renowned choreographer, Mr. Sudesh Salgaonkar. Known for his keen eye for detail and artistic flair, Mr. Salgaonkar's direction ensured a seamless flow of high-fashion sequences that captivated the audience and brought out the best in every participant. Eminent Film Actor & Theatre Director Mr. Shadab Khan congratulated Mrs. Neeru for the success in Tiara Vista India 2026 which marks another milestone for the Indian Pageant Industry, setting a high standard for future national competitions.