

BJP leaders listen to 125th episode of PM Modi’s Mann Ki Baat at 5K booths

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JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday organised extensive programmes across the Union Territory to collectively listen to the 125th episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s monthly radio address Mann Ki Baat. The programme was heard at around 5000 booths, drawing enthusiastic participation from BJP activists, booth-level workers, and prominent local citizens.

At booth number 111, Gangyal, Kunjwani Mandal in BJP District Jammu South, J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, Leader of Opposition in J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma, J&K BJP General Secretary Baldev Singh Billawaria, and MLA Ranbir Singh Pathania joined the activists and local residents to listen to the broadcast.

Similarly, at booth number 83 in Bishnah Constituency of BJP



District Jammu Border, J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, accompanied by MLA Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, participated in the programme along

with party workers and people from the community.

On the occasion, Sat Sharma said that Mann Ki Baat has evolved into a “people’s movement” that

directly connects the citizens with the vision and mission of PM Narendra Modi. He said that the PM’s monthly address is not merely a broadcast but a moral inspiration

that motivates society to contribute towards cleanliness, social reforms, women empowerment, and overall nation-building. This series has created a culture of positivity and public participation across the country, he added.

Ashok Koul appreciated the overwhelming response from the people across J&K. He said that the participation of thousands of people at more than 5000 booths is a testimony to the emotional bond citizens share with PM Modi. He stressed that the Mann Ki Baat is a symbol of participatory democracy, where every citizen feels a partner in the journey of development and nation-building.

BJP leaders expressed gratitude to booth-level activists and local residents for ensuring the success of the event and reaffirmed party’s commitment to carry forward the spirit of Mann Ki Baat to the grassroots.

Army holds interaction with tribes at Kesri Hill

RAJOURI: Gujjars and Bakkarwals are one of the most rustic ethnic groups of the Himalayas and are considered as one of the most historically rich tribes of the region due to their culture and ethnic traditions.

These tribes comprise approximately 11 percent of the total population of Jammu & Kashmir. A large number of Gujar and Bakkarwals follow nomadic lifestyle. Every year these Gujar and Bakkarwals migrate to the higher reaches of Pir Panjal Ranges as part of their customary seasonal migratory practice.

In continuation of efforts to maintain connect with these tribes and resolve their issues, Indian Army interacted with the Gujar and Bakarwals on Sunday at Kesri Hill village part of Rajouri district.

A total number of 70 Gujar and Bakarwals attended the event. The interaction was aimed at understanding their problems and issues faced by the community during their migration to higher reaches, their basic requirements pertaining to documentation for migration, awareness about Forest Rights Act of 2006 and education of their children.

The locals lauded the efforts of Indian Army for organising such a unique event for Gujjars and Bakkarwals during the migratory season and listening to various issues and problems faced by the community.

DC Rajesh inspects protection works along Ravi river bank at Lakkanpur



KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, on Sunday visited the Ravi river bank at Lakkanpur to review the ongoing protection works that have commenced with the receding of water levels.

The protection work is being undertaken to safeguard vital assets, including the District Development Council Chairman’s office building and peripheral structures such as the Animal Husbandry Department Check Post, which were at risk due to recent high discharge levels from the Ranjit Sagar Dam.

During the visit, DC Sharma, accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Vishavjeet Singh, inspected the latest discharge status from the dam and reviewed precautionary measures to mitigate potential future risks.

Deputy Commissioner directed the executing agency to undertake the restoration and protection works with utmost caution and efficiency, taking advantage of the improved weather conditions. He emphasized that all safety protocols must be adhered to while ensuring durable protection of the critical infrastructure along the riverbank.

He further instructed the concerned departments to remain vigilant and keep a close watch on discharge patterns from the dam to ensure timely action in case of any emergent situation.

Health Deptt holds awareness activities

BHADERWAH: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh and under the guidance of Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Om Kumar, a Health Department team on Sunday visited the flood-affected areas in Block Bhaderwah.

The purpose of the visit conducted under the supervision of BMO Bhaderwah, Dr. Versha Sharma, was to sensitize the local population about water-borne diseases and preventive measures.

During the visit, the health team also distributed ORS sachets among the locals and imparted health and hygiene education to raise awareness about safe practices in the aftermath of floods.

Health Department reiterated its commitment to stand with the affected communities and assured that all necessary support and preventive measures will continue to be provided to safeguard public health.

Shiv Sena raises questions on delay in relief package

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JAMMU: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has blamed the dual power system of Jammu-Kashmir and the delay in announcing the relief package by the Central Government for the ongoing delay in providing proper relief to the people affected by the horrific rains, landslides and cloudburst in Jammu Division, including the delay in repairing bridges and roads and improving the electricity and water supply, and has demanded immediate announcement of a proper relief package.

In a press conference held on Sunday at the party’s State Central Office, state chief Manish Sahni said that natural disasters have caused huge destruction in Jammu Division but it is surprising that despite being a union territory, no relief package has been announced by the Central Government till now.

On the other hand, despite the instructions of CM Omar Abdullah to the top officials for immediate relief, proper relief



is not reaching the ground level. He said that on August 14, a cloudburst incident (in which 60 people died) took place on the Machail Mata Yatra route in Chasoti village of Kishtwar. Despite more than two weeks having passed, no relief package has been announced.

About five days ago, a tragic incident of landslide took place on the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra route (35 devotees died), the Yatra has still not been restored.

Sahni said that due to the devastating rains and the rising water level of the Tawi

river, there was a lot of devastation in Jammu city and surrounding areas, people suffered huge economic losses and infrastructure including roads and bridges was heavily damaged.

In some areas, electricity and water supply has completely stopped. People have to depend on water tankers and candel.

The havoc of nature is not stopping.

The devastating rains till now, including the landslide and cloudburst in Ramban and Reasi on last Saturday, have taken the lives of about 140-150 people along with heavy economic loss.

Hundreds of people are forced to spend day and night with their families in tents, government schools and public places.

He demanded that the Home Minister to announce a proper relief package without any delay, provide land to the affected people, proper financial help and at least one crore cash to the families of those who lost their lives.

Natrang stages Dogri play ‘Diary Kuse Loknath Di’

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JAMMU: Despite heavy rains, Natrang Jammu upheld its unwavering commitment to theatre by staging Prof Madan Mohan Sharma’s Dogri play ‘Diary Kuse Loknath Di’ under the direction of Neeraj Kant as part of its regular Sunday Theatre Series.

The inclement weather could not dampen the spirit of the troupe, which continues to carry forward its legacy of dedication and consistency. This effort not only reflected the passion and resilience of the artists but also reinforced Natrang’s mission of keeping the essence of theatre alive, inspiring audiences with its unbroken tradition of cultural enrichment.

As the title suggests, the play revolves around the diary of one ‘Lok Nath’. The writer’s son finds a diary from a pack and takes it to his home. The cover of the diary was so tempting and attractive that the writer could not resist going through it, knowingly that peeping into someone’s personal affairs is not a good habit but reading the pages of the diary, he finds a very interesting and



dramatic life account of Lok Nath. Whenever there was any unus-

al happening in the life of Lok Nath he has not forgotten to pen it down. The life of Lok Nath is portrayed in such an interesting manner that a common-man identifies with each situation and turns of his life.

Later, he looks for something exciting to happen in his life. Cash starved Lok Nath opts to do tuitions by teaching the children of his own boss, this way he will be able to please the hierarchy and make some pocket money as well.

Here he happens to have some encounter with the sister-in-law of the boss. Lok Nath finds her very attractive, charming and pleasing, which prompts him to venture into an affair. Every day he goes with a new plan to approach her but is unable to muster courage to do so.

Finally he withdraws his plan for the reason that if his boss will come to know about his intentions he is not only going to lose the girl of his dreams but the tuition and the regular job as well.

The most interesting part of the play was its language which was itself a complete theatre.

Sant Nirankari Mission donates 60 blood units

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RAJOURI: Keeping the ideologies and teachings of Satguru Mata Sudiksha ji Maharaj in mind, saints of Sant Nirankari Mission, Rajouri, organised a blood donation camp at Sant Nirankari Satsang Bhawan, Rajouri on Sunday.

The blood Donation camp had been carried out under the banner of Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation. MLA Rajouri, Iftkar Ahmed and DDC Chairman, Advocate Naseem Liaqat jointly inaugurated the camp and urged all the members of society to come forward and donate their blood as donating blood is considered as the supreme donation towards humanity. Both of these dignitaries along with many civil society members, who marked



their presence on this occasion, lauded the efforts of saints of Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation for conducting these camps annually for the last 16 years in Rajouri.

Almost 135 saints volunteered themselves for this

Humanness Blood Drive, out of which , 60 donors donated their blood for the cause.

Rev Anil Kapoor Ji, Conventor informed that “Humanness Blood drive” has been a regular activity, that the saints of the Mission

from all across the globe, perform annually. This has helped in saving many lives and families.

As the Mission has been organising these camps for more than three decades, as the first camp was organised in 1986. Since then, more than 14 lakh blood units have been donated through 8644 blood donation camps for the welfare of mankind.

With the message of Satguru Baba Hardev Singh ji maharaj that “Blood should flow in Human veins and Not in Drains”, the Mission volunteers have already donated more than 50,000 units of blood this year itself on the occasion of Manav Ekta Diwas on 24th April, at the blood donation camps organized at more than 250 places across India.

SMVDU’s faculty secures ANRF Int’l Travel Award

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JAMMU: Architect Anoop Sharma, Faculty at School of Architecture and Landscape Design (SoALD), Shri Mata Vasihno Devi University (SMVDU) Katra secures the prestigious Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) international travel award.

ANRF acts as an apex body under MoE, Government of India to provide high-level strategic direction to scientific research in the country.

ANRF rewarded the grant to support Ar. Anoop’s research work dissemination among experts audience during an eminent international scientific event in Croatia to be held during October 2025. The ANRF’s grant is



yet another testimony of the exceptional work being carried out at SoALD, SMVDU in the academia, research and professional spheres. Ar. Anoop Sharma is currently working on the ‘resource efficiency in constructions’ with special focus on ‘embedded impacts and conservation through design and policy advocacy’.

JKEDI holds startup idea challenge boot camps

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JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) continued its mission of fostering innovation and empowering youth through entrepreneurship by organizing Startup Idea Challenge – Boot Camps at Government P.G. College Rajouri, Government Degree College Ganderbal, and Government Degree College Surankote (Poonch). The events, held under the J&K Startup Policy 2024–2027, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, aspiring entrepreneurs, and faculty members.

At Government P.G. College Rajouri, more than 150 students attended the

program, which was graced by Prof Zameer Ahmad Mirza, Principal of the College, as the chief guest. He emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship in youth empowerment.

Mehraj-ud-Din Bhat, District Nodal Officer (DNO) JKEDI Rajouri, presented details of the J&K Startup Policy 2024–27, while Mr.AdilRasool, Manager Estates JKEDI, guided students on startup idea pitching. A motivational address was delivered by Dr.Reyaz Ahmad, I/C IQAC Cell. A total of 20 participants pitched their ideas before a distinguished jury comprising JKEDI officials, J&K Bank representatives, and senior faculty members, out of which three ideas were shortlisted for

the next round.

At GDC Ganderbal, the boot camp was inaugurated by Prof Fouzia Fatima, Principal of the College, who appreciated JKEDI’s role in encouraging youth towards entrepreneurship. Ten aspiring entrepreneurs pitched their ideas before an expert jury.

Muhammad Rafiq Mir, DNO JKEDI Ganderbal, highlighted the role of startups in shaping resilient economies, while Sajad Hussain (APM) shared motivational startup stories. Ms. Sheikh Nowsheen, Assistant Faculty JKEDI. Bushra Ashraf, Functional Manager DIC, explained the benefits of the Startup Policy and encouraged students to pursue innovation with confidence.

DM reviews relief, restoration efforts, issues urgent directions

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DODA: District Magistrate (DM) Doda Harvinder Singh on Sunday convened a virtual meeting to review the ongoing relief and restoration operations across the district.

During the meeting, the DM issued a series of urgent directions to ensure timely response, transparent reporting and community-centric service delivery.

The meeting was attended by SSP Sandeep Kumar Mehta, ADDC Roshan Lal, ADC Anil Kumar, ACR, CPO, Tehsildars, along with SHOs and heads of departments responsible for essential services.

Tehsildars were instructed to conduct accurate categorization of affected areas and properties under

Shiv Sena Hindustan raises concerns over water scarcity

JAMMU: Shiv Sena Hindustan, Jammu and Kashmir, has expressed deep concern over the water scarcity in Jammu city, particularly in areas such as Narain Mohalla, Ustad Mohalla, Panjteri, Pakka Danga, and Kacchi Mohalla.

The party’s state president, Pandit Rajesh Kesari, highlighted the issue in a press conference, emphasizing the need for immediate action to address the crisis. The press conference was attended by prominent party members, including Urban President Rakesh Kumar, Secretary Raj Kumar, Border President Sanjeev Kumar, and others.