

PM Modi’s vision of Women-Led Development resonates across J&K: Rekha

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Rekha Mahajan today listened to the 123rd episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s monthly radio programme ‘Mann Ki Baat’ along with party workers and local residents at the residence of Subhash Choudhary, Ward No. 58, Booth No. 112 in Jammu South constituency.

Former Mandal President and Vice Chairman of the Cantonment Board Bharat Bhushan, Mandal General Secretary Gurcharan, Shakti Kendra Pramukh Subhash Choudhary, Vijay Dogra and other BJP karyakartas were also present on the occasion.

Speaking after the programme, Rekha Mahajan praised PM Modi for highlighting the transformative power of Women-Led Development, calling it a defining force shaping a new and empowered India.

She said that under the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister, women from all walks of life have emerged



Senior BJP leader Rekha Mahajan and others listening to PM’s ‘Mann Ki Baat’.

as agents of change, not just for their families, but for entire communities.

She lauded the inspiring stories shared by the Prime Minister-whether it was the women of Meghalaya promoting eco-friendly Eri Silk through Self Help Groups, or the remarkable transformation of tribal women in Telangana’s Bhadrachalam producing millet-based biscuits and affordable sanitary

pads, or the branding of traditional Jowar Rotis by women in Karnataka’s Kalaburgi.

"These stories are a testament to the fact that women are now at the forefront of economic and social progress, thanks to Modi’s consistent encouragement and support," she said.

Rekha Mahajan noted that the Prime Minister’s emphasis on local art, culture, and

products through campaigns like Vocal for Local and Atmanirbhar Bharat is empowering women to preserve heritage while contributing to economic growth.

"The Prime Minister rightly said that our mothers, sisters and daughters are scripting new success stories across India. This is not just development-it is a movement powered by self-confidence and self-reliance," she added.

The senior BJP leader further emphasized the need to strengthen and promote women-led initiatives in Jammu & Kashmir as well, stating that the UT has immense potential in handicrafts, agri-business, and micro-enterprise sectors.

"J&K’s women are talented, hardworking, and resilient. With the right support and training, they can lead a silent revolution, just like their counterparts in other parts of the country," she asserted.

Rekha urged all party workers to spread awareness about such success stories and encourage more women to join Self Help Groups, skill development programs, and entrepreneurship schemes initiated by the Modi government.

The event concluded with chants of Bharat Mata Ki Jai and a collective commitment to strengthening the vision of Women-Led Development in every corner of the nation.

55 students attend JYBT’s ‘Vedic Pathshala’

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant initiative to promote the rich heritage of "Sanatan Dharma" among the younger generation and interested individuals, Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust Jammu, has launched a "Vedic Pathshala" at its "Sankat Mochan Panchmukhi Shree Hanuman Mandir Bhawan", situated at BC Road, here on Sunday.

Under the visionary guidance/inspiration of Pawan Kumar Shastri, President of the Trust, the Pathshala aims to impart knowledge of Hindu "Dharma-Karam", culture and traditions.

The 3rd such session was held on June 29th, 2025 which also saw enthusiastic participation of 55 students across the province.

The curriculum includes "Shree Bhagavad Gita, Sunderkand Paath Shree Hanuman Chalisa Paath" and besides above Dharma-Karam Gyan was also given to the students participated.

This initiative of the Trust seeks to bridge the Knowledge gain and foster a

deeper understandings of "Sanatan Dharma" among the new generations, youth and interested individuals. This session commence from 5:00 PM in the evening and was culminated at 9 P.M. after performing Arti, Bhajan and Kirtan.

On the inaugural occasion of this "Vedic Pathshala's" launched, Pawan Kumar Shastri, President of the Trust, addressed the gathering announcing that since the Trust has decided to organise such regular classes on every Sunday.

These classes will provide students from far-off areas of the province i.e "Vedic Gyan", Shree Bhagavad Gita Paath, Sunderkand Paath.

Besides basic knowledge of Dharma scriptures. He further said that this programme of the Trust is to acquaint the new generation with the rich cultural heritage and traditions of "Sanatan Dharma".

We aim to empower future generations with a deeper understandings of their culture roots and spiritual identity. This initiative will foster

spiritual growth, culture awareness, a sense of community among participants. As our new generation seek to reconnect with their roots, it is essential to introduce then to the rich heritage of Sanatan Dharma, encompassing ancient traditions, spiritual texts and culture practices.

Sanatan Dharma’s wisdom and practices have been passed down through generations, shaping the lives of millions. It is timeless teachings continue to inspire and guide people worldwide, said Dr. Arun Shastri of the Trust.

This programme was attended by Dr. Ajay Shastri, and other prominent Sanskrit scholars, besides Sukhdev Sharma, W.C.M and staff of the Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust Jammu.

The initiative of the Trust received widespread acclaim and appreciation from all presents, highlighting the Trust’s commitment in preserving and promoting of Sanatan Dharma’s culture legacy.

JKAP-8th Battalion conducts plantation drive

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As a part of ongoing efforts to enhance green cover and to promote ecological balance, a plantation drive was organized on Sunday by JKAP-8th Battalion Miran Sahib in collaboration with the Social Forestry Department at Gho Manhasan, Marh, under the overall supervision of Suram Singh (SSP) Commandant JKAP-8th Bn.

In the aforesaid initiative, over 1000 saplings of various native and environment-friendly species were selected for their resilience and ecological benefits. Officers and staff from both departments participated in the drive.

Suram Singh highlighted the significance of community involvement in forest conservation efforts.

He said that this collaboration with the Social Forestry Department is a vital step toward restoring the natural environment and mitigating the impacts of climate



change. Besides the other benefits the aim of said plantation is also to prevent the soil erosion and to protect the land from the adverse affects of flood, during the coming rainy season, despite increase in the beauty of area adjoining to back of the Tawi river.

The Social Forestry Department provided technical support, saplings, and expert guidance for the drive, ensuring scientific planning and plantation of the species suitable for the region.

Green initiative aims not only to improve the local environment but also to raise awareness among the public about the critical role trees play in maintaining ecological balance.

During the drive 300 souls of JKAP8th Battalion participated despite the number of personnel of the social forestry team including the officers of Social forestry department, for this noble cause the team was headed by Majid Sofi (Range officer).

Daily Jammu Tawi Aarti to begin at scenic riverfront ahead of Amarnath Yatra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Shri Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council is proud to announce that the Jammu Tawi Aarti will now be held daily at the beautifully developed Aarti Ghat on the newly inaugurated Tawi River Front, a key initiative by Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL). The daily Aarti will commence on July 1, 2025, and continue until the conclusion of the Shri Amarnath Yatra.

Addressing the media in Jammu, the Council’s office bearers emphasized that the initiative aims to preserve Sanatan cultural identity, promote the cleanliness and sanctity of the revered River Tawi, and create an immersive spiritual atmosphere for pilgrims and tourists visiting the temple city.

The Aarti is expected to become a central attraction



Shri Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council members talking to reporters.

during the Yatra, inspiring the youth and future generations to reconnect with Jammu’s rich traditions.

The Council aspires to position Jammu as a self-sustained pilgrimage and tourist hub by drawing the attention of devotees visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and Baba Amarnath Ji to the city’s cultural and religious heritage, particularly its Dogra traditions.

Hoteliers, lodge owners, and sarai managers have been urged to actively inform Amarnath pilgrims about the daily Aarti and encourage their participation.

To facilitate this, the local administration has arranged transportation for Yatra pilgrims staying at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp, ensuring convenient to-and-fro travel to the Aarti venue.

The Shri Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council said they highly appreciate J&K Tourism deptt, Jammu Smart City Limited and Jammu Municipal Corporation besides the Vishav Hindu Parishad for coordinating with the council towards this initiative.

The Shri Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council remains committed to the development, preservation,

and promotion of the spiritual and cultural legacy surrounding Shri Raghunath Ji Temple and its environs.

The Council continues to work towards enriching the spiritual experience of devotees and establishing Jammu as a year-round destination for cultural tourism.

The Council said it extends all the best wishes to Amarnath pilgrims for success in their pilgrimage.

Prominent attendees at the announcement included Council President Rajesh Gupta, Senior Vice President Baldev Khullar, General Secretary Rajesh Dewan, Vice Presidents Jitendra Gupta and Anoop Jain, Treasurer Vijay Gupta, and Executive Members Bharat Bhushan Kotwal, Pankaj Mahajan, Ankush Sethi, Tanishq Mahajan, Ramesh Kumar Tak, and Sachin Raina.

Natrang presents Hindi play ‘Piano Vaadak’

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: 'Piano Vaadak' (Piano player), a play in Hindi based on a Russian story of Anton Chekhov dramatized by Satyendra Sharat and directed by Neeraj Kant was presented here today at Natrang Studio Theatre in its weekly Sunday Theatre Series.

The intellectual and thoughtful warmth of the play was good to counter the coldest day of the city and was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by the audience.

The story of the play very beautifully depicted the situation and humiliation which the artists, who have not been successful in making name, glory and money, have to face.

The callous materialistic



society values the status of a person much more than his intellect, talent and ability.

The play unfolds the condition of two genuine struggling artists (one writer and one musician) but it speaks about all those who are consistently trying to sustain their identity with lot of

efforts but still could not muster the respectability and status which they deserve. The unresponsive circumstances make them adjust in order to survive but this compromise kills them from within and converts them to clerks and subordinates rather than

artists.

The pianist is invited to score music in a very big party organized by a high status man for the high status gentry was belittled by one and all, not because he did not know his art well, but just because he appeared too ordinary to be a part of that party.

Some of the ladies approached him, showered fake praises and then embarrassed him at the same time with their true reflections about him. This insult shocks him so deeply as he was not expecting such uncalled for behavior from those so called well civilized people.

He narrates the whole story to his writer friend in despair who is also in a mis-

erable and pathetic condition as he is and they both console each other. The emotional quotient of the play was very well translated on stage by the young artists.

Natrang actors who performed in this well designed play included Kananpreet Kaur, Aryan Sharma, Priyal Ashok Gupta, Prena Sharma, Adaksh Bagal, Kushal Bhat and Kartik Kumar.

The lights of the play were designed and executed by Neeraj Kant whereas the music of the play was scored by Kushal Bhat. The sets of the play were designed by Pawan Verma.

The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen whereas Simran Bhagat did the presentations.

Every episode of PM’s ‘Mann Ki Baat’ enhances knowledge: Balbir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP spokesperson and former Vice Chairman Balbir Ram Rattan said that every episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s "Mann Ki Baat" programme on last Sunday of every month is not only connected with public sentiments, but also provides people with new information, inspiration, and ideas for social welfare.

He said the programme motivates every section of Indian society to move forward in a positive direction.

Balbir said that in "Mann Ki Baat", Prime Minister Narendra Modi communicates with the common people in such a simple language that it touches the hearts of citizens. Be it about environmental protection, discussions on women empowerment, promotion of new technologies, or honouring unsung heroes of the country - every topic spreads knowledge, compassion, and motiva-



tion.

He added that through "Mann Ki Baat", Prime Minister Narendra Modi also provides a national platform to individuals and institutions who are doing commendable work in their respective fields but have not received due recognition. This is a true reflection of the spirit of democracy, where every positive effort is acknowledged.

Balbir further stated that "Mann Ki Baat" is no longer just a radio programme but has taken the shape of a mass movement, in which common people share their experiences, suggestions, and stories. This has made the programme not just a one-way communication but an inclusive and participative platform.

He emphasized that every citizen should listen to "Mann Ki Baat" and try to bring changes in their life and society by learning from the messages conveyed in it.

SBBDT expresses concern over un-attending development projects of Devsthan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shri Bawa Bhair Devsthan Trust (SBBDT) today expressed concern over the un-attending development projects of the Devsthan and adjoining areas, due to which it said, devotees are facing a lot of hardships.

Addressing a meeting of trust activists at Shrine Complex Bawa Bhair in Katal Batal tehsil Nagrotra District Jammu, former Deputy Commissioner B.S. Jamwal, NMC President Subash Shastri, Bawa Bhair Devsthan Trust President Balwant Singh, General Secretary Ramesh Sharma, DBPS President Ved Parkash Sharma and other representatives of various social, religious said that with the efforts of the Trust in the past, a proposal for construction of

road from Village Aithem to Devsthan was got prepare for onward submission to the concerned quarter alongwith all require qualifying documents in light of the parameter set force by the Union Government but so far no progress on ground has been observed.

They urged all legislators of Jammu region to take up the issue of construction of road from Village Aithem to Bawa Bhair Devsthan to the LG, Chief Minister and high ups of UT JK Administration.

They lamented the fact that in spite of lakh of pilgrims visiting the holy Devsthan annually, the development of the place did not catch attention of public representatives of previous regimes.

The Trust members appealed all concerned to pay heed to this noble and

genuine cause of the general masses.

They further urged Deputy Chief Minister and local MP to pool their wisdom and resources to active the development of Devsthan to which they are also attached sentimentally and religiously.

They also urged the LG and Chief Minister to visit this holy place and include this place in the tourist map of Jammu, as the same is going to provide direct and indirect employment to youth, besides the development of the area.

Among other who were also present on the occasion included Om Parkash Sharma, Ritiz Khajuria, Advocate P.C. Sharma, Devinder Sharma (Baboo) Kirpal Singh, Gurdas Sharma, Subash Sharma, Girdhari Lal Sharma, Advocate Anchit Sharma and others.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, along with party workers and supporters, enthusiastically participated in the mass listening of the 123rd episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s flagship radio programme "Mann Ki Baat" at approx. six thousand booths across various districts of the Union Territory.

Tributes were also paid to the BJP ideologue Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee after the holding of Mann Ki Baat. It was emphasized that coming from Bengal, Dr. Mookherjee sacrificed his life on the soil of Jammu & Kashmir, championing the cause of Ek Pradhan, Ek Nishan, Ek Samvidhan, and removing the immediate binding of "Permit requirement" to move in and out of J&K.

BJP Jammu & Kashmir



Senior leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party Jammu & Kashmir listening to PM Narendra Modi’s ‘Mann Ki Baat’.

President Sat Sharma (CA) led the event at Suchetgarh border, where he was joined by MLA Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat and District Jammu Border President Rinku Chaudhary. The programme saw the participation of a large number of party activists and local residents.

Following the broadcast, Sat Sharma addressed an organizational meeting of senior party leaders of the Jammu Border District and emphasized the relevance of "Mann

Ki Baat" in inspiring social change and connecting with the grassroots.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Mann Ki Baat is not just a programme; it is a national movement that empowers citizens, highlights local heroes, and promotes collective action. It reflects the pulse of the people and their aspirations. Listening to it on the border among our dedicated workers is a moment of

pride."

Furthering the Prime Minister’s vision for environmental consciousness, BJP leaders also planted saplings under the campaign "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" in Suchetgarh.

BJP General Secretary (Organization), Ashok Koul, joined the party workers at Jammu West, Ward No. 41, Booth No. 5 to listen to the programme. He remarked, "Mann Ki Baat is a mirror to India’s changing social land-

scape. It carries the transformative power of ideas and action. Through this initiative, the Prime Minister continues to motivate every citizen to contribute to nation-building."

At Booth No. 62, Village Sangar, in Vijaypur Assembly Constituency, MP Lok Sabha Jugal Kishore Sharma and MLA Chander Parkash Ganga also participated in the listening session, further energizing the cadre and public engagement.