

# **Observations from a listening project on the English programmes at Radio Kashmir Srinagar**

by Dr Hansjoerg Biener

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{NB: All times are in UTC, ie IST (Indian Standard Time) -5.5 hours. Alan}

Radio Kashmir Srinagar broadcasts mainly in Kashmiri and Urdu, but also in Sanskrit, English and Hindi. According to Jose Jacob's web site Radio Kashmir Srinagar has the following shortwave schedule:

- s0030/w0100-0215 UTC: 4950 kHz (50 kW) (in October later sign on around 0120)
- 0225-0501: 6110 kHz (50 kW) (online stream with programme preview until 0505, so this needs to be locally compared with the actual short wave transmission too)
- 0501-0600: 6110 kHz (50 kW) Sundays only
- 0600-1115: 6110 kHz (50 kW)
- 1120-1743: 4950 kHz (50 kW)

The English newscasts are fed from All India Radio Delhi:

- 0245-0300: 6110 kHz Morning News
- 0630-0635: 6110 kHz News
- 0730-0735: 6110 kHz News
- 0830-0845: 6110 kHz Midday News
- 1230-1235: 4950 kHz News
- 1530-1545: 4950 kHz News at Nine
- 1730-1735: 4950 kHz News

The content is the same as in the newscasts in Hindi and other languages prepared by the centre.

Apart from the news, Radio Kashmir Srinagar has several weekly programmes in English.

- 0735-0820: Sunday request show with moderated English-language hit music
- 1000-1030: non-daily, moderated music programmes with English-language hit music

The Sunday request show (sundayrequestshow@gmail.com) is very lively and gives the impression of a live broadcast. This was not the case with the other music program at least once, because an identical programme was broadcast on 16 and 18 October. Both broadcasts also convey ideas of the kind "problems are there to be overcome."

In addition, English words and phrases appear in many programmes. Sometimes there are so many that one could get the content of the programme together in a reception report. Three examples from different time slots.

7 October conversation: "husband", "violence", "physical" / "mental harassment", "imprisonment for life". Obviously, the programme was about violence against women. Involuntarily, one wonders whether domestic violence is so foreign to the local culture that it requires a description by English loan words.

13 October conversation (young female and adult male and female voices): "support", "consensus", "duties". Apparently, the value of the family was held up despite typical parent-child conflicts. The keyword "domestic violence" in frequent public service announcements for a counselling hotline against domestic violence was not used here.

18 October conversation between two women: “persona”, “personality”, influence of parents, grandparents etc. (English and local vocabulary used), “learn to accept who you are”, “self concept”. You may put it together yourself.

So, even if you do not get the chance of hearing an English news programme, you might nonetheless be able to gather the content of another programme.

(Dr Hansjoerg Biener 22 October 2018)