

J&K power employees hold protest against Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Power employees and engineers across Jammu and Kashmir staged protest demonstrations against the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025, responding to a nationwide call by the All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) and the National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers (NCCOEE). The protest was organised under the banner of the Jammu & Kashmir Power Employees and Engineers Coordination Committee (JKPEECC).

Er. Sachin Tickoo, Convenor JKPEECC J&K, General Secretary of the J&K Electrical Engineering Graduates Association, and Vice Chairman of AIPEF, led the demonstrations. Protests were held at all dis-



Power employees and engineers raising slogans during a protest.

trict headquarters, affecting routine office and revenue-related work, though power supply remained uninterrupted.

Addressing the gathering, Tickoo said that, for the first time, the Samyukt Kisan

Morcha and ten Central Trade Unions extended support and joined the work boycott in solidarity with power employees. He described the February 12 action as one of the largest industrial protests in recent

times, with participation from engineers, workers, and farmers.

JKPEECC expressed concern that the proposed privatization of the power sector through multiple licensing in distribution and tariff-based

competitive bidding (TBCB) in generation and transmission would harm poor consumers, small and medium enterprises, and the general public. The committee cited the telecom and aviation sectors as examples of weakened regulatory control and profit-driven practices that allegedly compromise consumer interests.

The employees demanded immediate withdrawal of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 and the proposed National Electricity Policy 2026, along with restoration of the Old Pension Scheme. JKPEECC also appealed to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha to register strong opposition to the proposed reforms to safeguard public sector employees and consumer interests.

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DIET organises orientation programme for principals

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: District Institute of Education & Training (DIET) Jammu organised one-day orientation programme for Principals of Higher Secondary Schools (HSS/GHSS) of Jammu district to strengthen the implementation of national initiatives and training programmes under SCERT, J&K and the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

Seventy (70) Principals from all Higher Secondary Schools of the district participated in the programme.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of Prof Sindhu Kapoor, Joint Director SCERT Jammu and Naseem Choudhary, Director SCERT J&K.

It was inaugurated by R.G. Dogra, Principal DIET Jammu, in the presence of Ajeet Sharma, Chief Education Officer Jammu. The Principal emphasised that training programmes must translate into improved classroom practices and measurable outcomes. He urged Principals to work in close coordination with DIET Jammu and SCERT for effective ground-level implementation and sought their active cooperation.

The Chief Education Officer called upon Heads of Institutions to implement the man-

date of NEP 2020 in letter and spirit, focusing on competency-based education, digital integration, holistic development and special focus on the findings of Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024 (PARAKH).

During the technical sessions, Dr Romesh Kumar, HOD DIET Jammu & Nodal Officer (Counselling & Mental Health), spoke on the implementation of Supreme Court directives on student mental health counselling in light of the Sukdeb Saha vs State of Andhra Pradesh judgment, outlining court guidelines, the J&K framework and practical school-level strategies. Rakesh Chobber, Senior Academic Officer, discussed NEP 2020 and the Academic Planner issued by SCERT, while Vivek Jandial delivered a session on integration of digital technology in schools.

Heads of various DIET wings Jameel Ahmed (MSE), Kewal Ram Sagar (P&M), Kanwal Preet Kour (DRU), Anita Devi (PSTE), Monika Kalsotra (Education Technology) and Sarabjeet Kour (CMDE) along with their teams contributed to the successful organisation of the programme.

The event was coordinated by Dr Romesh Kumar, HOD DIET Jammu.

SMVDSB holds consultations for structured rehabilitation of pony operators, other service providers

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: In pursuance of the decisions taken during the 76th Meeting of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) under the Chairmanship of Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor, JK-UT and in compliance with the directives of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the Shrine Board convened a detailed consultative meeting with representatives of service providers including ponywallas, pithus and palikwallas associated with the Yatra along the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi track.

The meeting was chaired by Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB and was attended by senior officers of the Board along with a delegation led by Bhupinder Singh and representatives of various stakeholder groups.

The deliberations centered on developing a structured and sustainable rehabilitation framework designed to safeguard the livelihoods of traditional service providers, while



CEO SMVDSB, Sachin Kumar Vaishya chairing a meeting.

simultaneously ensuring environmentally responsible and pilgrim-friendly management of the Yatra.

During the discussions, it was emphasized that the Shrine Board is committed to balance environmental sustainability with the socio-economic security of families dependent on Yatra-related services. It was also reiterated that the proposed rehabilitation plan is intended to create alternative and sustainable livelihood opportunities in line with the directions of the Hon'ble NGT.

Representatives of the service providers expressed concerns regarding the existing registration mechanism and the associ-

ated fee structure. They requested that the matter be taken up with the concerned administration for appropriate review and resolution of issues related to the registration process.

The stakeholders further proposed the development of an alternate parking facility to ease congestion at the Banganga area, which witnesses heavy traffic during peak Yatra periods. The delegation also sought appropriate compensation as part of the rehabilitation package, emphasizing that the transition should be implemented in a phased manner to minimize disruptions and allow sufficient time for

affected families to adapt to alternative income opportunities.

The Shrine Board assured the participants that all concerns and suggestions would be duly examined in consultation with the concerned quarters while finalizing the comprehensive rehabilitation framework.

Subsequently, in continuation of the consultative meeting held yesterday with stakeholders from the sports fraternity, the Shrine Board conducted an interaction session with young sports persons to obtain valuable grassroots-level insights.

Athletes from various disciplines, including cricket, football, shooting, badminton, basketball, archery, judo and tennis, highlighted key challenges related to training, coaching, infrastructure and exposure which will help in formulating a comprehensive strategy for identifying talented person for strengthening sports development and creating a sustainable sporting ecosystem in the region.

Industry-Academia-Farmer interface, dog show highlight Day 2 of Kisan Mela

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The second day of the Agriculture Summit and Kisan Mela-2026 at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu) witnessed vibrant stakeholder engagement through technical deliberations, farmer-centric programmes and public outreach events, reinforcing the University's commitment to sustainable agricultural development.

A key highlight was the Industry-Academia-Farmer Meet held at the Main Campus, Chatha, with participation from over 30 industries, agri-startups and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). The meet provided a collaborative platform for interaction among industry leaders, academicians, researchers, students and farmers.

In his inaugural address, the Vice-Chancellor Prof B.N. Tripathi emphasised



The need for sustained industry-academia collaboration to ensure that research, innovation and education remain aligned with field and market realities. He highlighted initiatives such as MoUs with leading industries, appointment of Professors of Practice, industry-sponsored internships and the establishment of the Bayer Learning Centre, reiterating SKUAST-Jammu's focus on employability, entrepreneurship and innovation.

The Guest of Honour, Dr Owais Ahmad, Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Kashmir and Additional Charge Special Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, Government of J&K, stressed the importance of structured internship programmes and active industry participation in shaping job-ready agricultural graduates.

Two technical sessions and panel discussions were chaired by Dr Owais Ahmad, with Dr S.K. Gupta, Director Research and Dr Sudhakar Dwivedi, Director Students' Welfare, as Co-Chairs. Moderated by Dr Anil Bhat and Dr Pawan Sharma, the sessions underscored the need for bridging

the industry-academia gap through collaborative research, internships and continuous stakeholder engagement. The meet was guided by Dr Sanjay Guleria, Dean, Faculty of Basic Sciences.

The day also featured a popular dog show. Additionally, the Agrometeorology Section, SKUAST-Jammu, organised a farmer awareness programme on "Resource Conservation and High Income through Agro-Advisory Services" under Grameen Krishi Mausam Sewa, attended by over 100 farmers. Shri O.P. Vidyarthi, Member, J&K and Ladakh Biodiversity Council, emphasised the role of trees in combating climate change. On the occasion, 210 mango and citrus fruit plants were distributed among farmers.

Various sports and recreational events further added to the festive spirit of the Kisan Mela.

Arya Samaj celebrates 202nd Birth Anniversary of Swami Dayanand Saraswati

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Arya Samaj, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu led by its president, Bharat Bhushan Gupta today celebrated 202nd birth anniversary of founder of Arya Samaj-Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati Ji at Trikuta Nagar, here.

BJP J&K Vice President Rekha Mahajan, Sunil Mahajan, Ravindra Rekhli, Bharat Bhushan, Mahesh Arya, Ashok Gupta and Ranvijay Shastri, along with officials and members of Arya Samaj, offered floral tributes and remembered the teachings of the revered saint.

The event witnessed participation from social activists, Arya Samaj members, and local residents who gathered to remember the legacy of the great reformer.

Speaking on the occasion Rekha Mahajan described



BJP J&K Vice President Rekha Mahajan with Arya Samaj members at a programme.

Dayanand Saraswati as a visionary philosopher and fearless social reformer who awakened social consciousness across the country.

She said that through the Arya Samaj movement, he strongly advocated education,

women's empowerment, and a return to Vedic values, which continue to guide society even today.

"His message of truth, reform, and self-reliance remains highly relevant and inspires generations to work

for a progressive and enlightened India," she said.

Extending greetings to citizens on the sacred occasion, Bharat Bhushan Gupta highlighted the importance of following the teachings of Maharshi Dayanand

Saraswati in building a just and morally strong society. He added that Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati emphasised on social equality, education, and national awakening played a significant role in shaping modern India's reform movements.

Earlier, a special morning Yagya was performed at the Arya Samaj premises, where all participants offered floral tributes and remembered the teachings of the revered saint.

Participants emphasised that Swami Dayanand Saraswati's philosophy of truth and reform continues to inspire society to uphold values of integrity, knowledge, and social harmony.

The programme concluded with collective prayers and a pledge by attendees to carry forward his ideals for the betterment of society.

Thana Diwas aims to bridge gap between police-public: SP Hqrs

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As part of its ongoing public outreach and community engagement programme, Jammu Police today organised Thana Diwas across all several Police establishments in District, including Police Stations Miran Sahib, Bishnah Arnia & R S Pura.

The event was chaired by the SP Headquarters Jammu, Irshad H. Rather, at Police Station Miran Sahib while at other territorial Police officers chaired such events in other police Station.

During the Thana Diwas, a detailed interaction was held between police officers and participants to discuss a wide range of issues related to drug menace, local security, traffic management, registration of cases, proper



SP Headquarters Jammu, Irshad H. Rather chairing police-public meet.

investigation, verification processes and the strengthening of community policing measures. The participants freely shared their suggestions and concerns regarding public safety, and many practical inputs were received for improving police-public coordination.

SP Headquarters Jammu and other senior officers

assured the participants that every genuine issue raised during the meetings will be taken up on priority and appropriate action will be initiated. He further emphasized that the main objective of Thana Diwas is to bridge the gap between police and the public by ensuring that citizens feel heard, respected and protected.

JU inaugurates national conference on innovations in animal sciences



Sports Minister, Satish Sharma with other dignitaries at a conference.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The National Conference on Innovations in Animal Sciences: Integrating Conservation, Climate Resilience and Public Health Perspectives, organised by the Department of Zoology, University of Jammu, J&K, was inaugurated today at the University of Jammu.

The conference has brought together leading academicians, early-career researchers, and students from across the country to discuss emerging frontiers in animal sciences. The event underscores the Department's

commitment to encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration and advancing research that addresses pressing concerns in conservation, climate adaptation, and public health.

Satish Sharma, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Youth Services and Sports, ARI and training, Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir, was the chief guest, who, in his address, emphasised the importance of collaborative research, interdisciplinary dialogue, and innovation in addressing contemporary global challenges. He also

highlighted the role of universities as hubs of knowledge creation and societal transformation. The Chief Guest, along with other dignitaries, released a compilation of about a hundred abstracts in book form.

Guest of Honour Prof. Manoj Kumar Dhar, Director, Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research, AcSIR and Former Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, appreciated the initiative taken by the department of zoology in organising the event and encouraged participants to actively engage in knowledge-sharing sessions and discussions.

Prof. Rakesh Pandey, Emeritus Scientist, AcSIR & CSIR, Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Lucknow, was the keynote speaker; who, in his lecture, deliberated upon the need for experimental research and proper data analysis.

Earlier, Prof. Seema

Langer, Convener of the conference and Head of the Department of Zoology, extended a warm welcome and acknowledged the participation of senior academicians, researchers, faculty members, and delegates from across the country. She, along with the Co-Convener, Prof. Pankaj Kumar, extended a floral welcome to the dignitaries.

Dr Arti Dogra, the organising secretary of the conference, informed the house that more than 100 participants from different parts of the country and about 10 invited speakers would deliver their research talks over the two days.

The inaugural session witnessed active participation from faculty members of the life sciences stream. The function concluded with a formal vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the dignitaries, invited speakers, delegates, and student volunteers for their collective contributions to the event's success.

CUJ, JU organise workshop on Cyber Crime Against Women



CUJ faculty and students with dignitaries posing for a photograph.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of National Security Studies (NSS), Central University of Jammu (CUJ), in collaboration with the Centre for Women's Studies (CWS), University of Jammu (JU), organised a half-day workshop on "Cyber Crime against Women: Emerging Challenges and Legal Framework" at the Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium, CUJ. The programme was held under the patronage of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, CUJ, and supervised by Dr. Neeta Rani, Head, NSS, CUJ. Dr. Tilak Raj Sharma, Assistant Professor, NSS, coordinated

the event. The workshop began with a welcome address by Dr. R. Sudhakar, Associate Professor, NSS, who introduced the keynote speaker, Prof. Savita Nayyar, Director, CWS, JU. He highlighted the expanding dimensions of cybercrime and its gendered implications, stressing the need for sustained academic engagement with emerging digital threats.

Dr. Disha Sharma, Assistant Professor, CWS, outlined the workshop's theme and expressed gratitude to the Vice Chancellors of both universities for supporting the collaborative initiative. She emphasized the

importance of social sensitisation to gender issues, particularly in addressing cyber offenses and the often-insensitive handling of such cases. In her keynote address, Prof. Savita Nayyar discussed the evolving nature of cyber offenses targeting women, focusing on challenges posed by digital anonymity, social media misuse, and technological vulnerabilities. She elaborated on the legal framework, statutory safeguards, institutional mechanisms, and enforcement challenges, while identifying gaps in awareness and implementation. She underscored the importance of legal literacy, digital ethics, and

coordinated efforts among law enforcement, academia, and civil society.

Dr. Neeta Rani situated cybercrime against women within the broader context of non-traditional security threats, calling for interdisciplinary research and gender-sensitive governance. Dr. Tilak Raj Sharma highlighted the intersection of cyber-security, national security, and gender justice.

The session concluded with an interactive discussion, followed by a vote of thanks by Dr. Sarabjit Kaur, Faculty, scholars, and students participated actively, making the workshop a meaningful academic engagement.