

# Modi Govt empowering women in every field: Rekha Mahajan

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: On the occasion of International Women's Day, a programme was organised by the BJP Trikuta Nagar Mandal in Jammu to celebrate the achievements and contributions of women.



BJP J&K Vice President Rekha Mahajan with others at a meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, BJP J&K Vice President Rekha Mahajan said that the government led by Narendra Modi has taken several historic initiatives to empower women in every sphere of life. She said that the Modi government has been working with the vision of "women-led development," ensuring that women are not only beneficiaries of welfare schemes but active participants in the country's progress.

launched by the central government have significantly improved the social and economic status of women. She noted that schemes such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana have played an important role in promoting education for the girl child, ensuring financial

inclusion and improving the quality of life of women across the country. She further said that today women are making remarkable progress in diverse fields including administration, defence services, science and technology, entrepreneurship, education and sports. According to her, the policies and reforms introduced by

the Modi government have created an enabling environment where women can realise their full potential and contribute actively to national development. Extending her greetings to women on the occasion, Mahajan said that International Women's Day is an opportunity to recognise the achievements of women and reaffirm society's commitment towards gender equality and respect for women. Among those present on the occasion were Shailja Gupta, State Mahila Morcha Seh-Prabhari, Poonam Gupta, Mahila Morcha State General Secretary, along with members of Mahila Shakti of BJP Trikuta Nagar Mandal and other party workers.

# Retired Judge Pavitra Singh appoints Shamsher Singh Charak as Working President of SAKRS

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a grand gathering of the Shri Amar Kshatriya Rajput Sabha (SAKRS), Justice (Retd.) Pavitra Singh formally handed over the leadership of the organization by appointing Shamsher Singh Charak as its new Working President.



SAKRS Working President, Shamsher Singh Charak with others.

Addressing the gathering, Justice Pavitra Singh expressed strong confidence in Charak's leadership, citing his experience, dedication, and commitment to society. "Under his guidance, the Sabha is poised to reach new heights in serving the Rajput community and addressing its pressing needs," he said.

members for their trust. He assured that his focus would be on welfare initiatives for the community, including addressing social issues, creating employment opportunities for youth, promoting women's empowerment, and safeguarding the interests of senior citizens. In a ceremonial gesture, Justice Pavitra Singh honored Shamsher Singh by tying a traditional turban and presenting a ceremonial sword, symbolizing the trust and responsibility bestowed upon him.

# DSST distributes relief material to needy families in R S Pura

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A social service initiative was carried out in Dharp Panchayat of R. S. Pura under the Jammu South Assembly constituency, where relief material was distributed among needy and underprivileged families by the Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust. The initiative aimed to support weaker sections of society by providing essential daily-use items.



Baldev Singh Billawaria with others at a programme.

Baldev Singh Billawaria attended the programme as the Chief Guest. While appreciating the efforts of the Trust, Billawaria said that helping poor and needy families is the greatest humanitarian duty. He stated that when individuals and social organizations come forward for such service activities, it spreads positivity in society and strengthens the spirit of brotherhood.

humanity, cooperation and social responsibility. According to him, these efforts inspire others to step forward and contribute towards building a more compassionate and supportive society. Billawaria congratulated the entire team of the Trust, particularly Sohan Katal, for organising the initiative and expressed hope that the organisation would continue such service activities in the future as well. Speaking on the occasion,

# Kesri demands free power, LPG subsidy and restoration of Ration quota

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In dramatic demonstration of public dissent, Shiv Sena Hindustan workers set ablaze a life-size effigy of the Jammu and Kashmir government in Purkhoo village on Wednesday, protesting the alleged failure of the administration to fulfill welfare promises made prior to the Assembly elections. The protest was led by UT president Rajesh Kesri, who addressed a gathering of local residents and party workers, highlighting what he described as a betrayal of the electorate.



Shiv Sena Hindustan workers raising slogan during protest.

Speaking at the demonstration, Kesri read out the party's charter of demands, emphasizing the urgent need for relief measures that were promised before the polls. "Before the elections, the government assured Delhi-style relief: 200 units of free electricity

per household, 12 subsidized LPG cylinders per year for women, and double the public distribution ration. Today, ration shops provide just 3.45 kg per person instead of the earlier 7.30 kg. Can any household survive a month on such meager quantities?" he questioned. Kesri noted that similar grievances had emerged during mohalla meetings across the Jammu Division, where families reported cutting down meals while waiting for the promised benefits. Highlighting the party's demands, Kesri urged the government to provide a written timeline within a week. He called for the restoration of the 7.30 kg per person ration quota, the notification of eligibility for free electricity units, and the publication of the list of

beneficiaries for LPG subsidies. He added a stern warning: "If households do not see grains and cash benefits by the end of the month, we will escalate our agitation with dharnas at SDM offices and call for a Jammu Bandh. The responsibility for any unrest will lie entirely with the government." The protest drew participation from senior party leaders including

Border In-Charge Sanjeev Sharma, Vice-Chairman Raj Kumar, Sanjeev Kumar, Brijesh Kumar, Saurabh Sharma, Hariram, Darshana Devi, Gaurav Devi, Anu Devi, and Mohini Sharma, along with dozens of local men and women. Participants raised slogans condemning price rise, pending recruitments, and the administration's failure to deliver pre-election promises. Shiv Sena Hindustan announced that similar meetings and protests would be organized in R.S. Pura, Bishnah, and Gadigarh, aiming to collect ration-card testimonies from affected households for submission in a formal memorandum to the Lieutenant Governor. The party reiterated its commitment to mobilizing public opinion until the government fulfills the welfare commitments made to citizens.

# JKEEGA delegation participates in AIPF Federal Council Meeting at Dehradun, raises concerns over Electricity (Amendment) Bill

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU/DEHRADUN: A delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association (JKEEGA) led by Rajeshwar Jamwal and Yash Paul participated in the Federal Executive Council meeting of the All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPF) held at Dehradun on March 8, 2026.

power employees, engineers, farmers' organizations and consumer groups. The leaders emphasized that when public comments were invited on the proposed amendments, it was the responsibility of the government to transparently disclose how those objections were examined and addressed. Ignoring these concerns and pushing the Bill without proper democratic consultation, they said, undermines the principles of transparency and participatory governance. The Federation also strongly objected to the consultation process adopted by the Ministry of Power. AIPF pointed out that a Working Group constituted on January 30, 2026 included the Director General of the All India DISCOM Association, an organization that has consistently advocated privatization of the power distribution sector. According to AIPF, the inclusion of such a body

raises serious questions about the neutrality and fairness of the consultation process. The Federal Executive reiterated that the proposed Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 and the National Electricity Policy 2026 appear to be aimed at accelerating large-scale privatization in the power sector. The Federation warned that such moves could affect major hydel projects including Lakhwar and Kishau in the Yamuna basin. The Federal Executive also reiterated its demand for restoration of the Old Pension Scheme for power sector employees and engineers across the country. In view of these developments, AIPF has called for nationwide "lightning action" on March 10, 2026. If the government proceeds with the Bill, power employees across the country will boycott work and hold demonstrations outside offices and project sites, said Sachin Tickoo.

# Hindi play 'Girgit' featured in Natrang's Theatre series

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Hindi play 'Girgit' directed by Neeraj Kant featured here today in Natrang's weekly Theatre series 'Sunday Theatre' at Rani Park, Jammu. Based on a Russian short story by Anton Chekhov the play proved to be the hard hitting satire on the present socio-political system. The adaptation of the play was deeply rooted in the soil of Jammu and its dramatic structure made the audience feel as if they are watching their own story. Every time the play is staged, some highly contemporary and situational aspect is added to it which refines its beauty. Natrang has been endeavoring to showcase highly relevant political and social satires and today's play demonstrated to be the shining example of that.



A scene from the play 'Girgit' Directed by Neeraj Kant, presented at Rani Park, Jammu.

The play Girgit revolves around a Dog and corrupt Police Officer, who changes colours like a chameleon, every time as the situation changes irrespective of right or wrong. The stage action starts when a Dog bites a pickpocket who approaches the officers to help him to roundup owner but in vain. A passer-by hints that the dog belongs to the local Minister as he saw a similar dog moving around his Bungalow. On getting his clue, the officer starts beating the pickpocket for teasing a respectable dog. The officer claims that a dog of

minister cannot bite unless and until escorted back home with full official protocol. Mihir Gujral as Police Officer portrayed aesthetically the changes of colours of the central character who was equally supported by Aadesh Dhar as his subordinate. Kananpreet Kaur as the senior officer successfully exhibited the complexities of the senior bureaucrats. Among others who gave impressive performances included Mohd. Yaseen as Kaana (one-eyed), Vishal Sharma as thief, Kushal Bhat as Minister's Servant, Kartik Kumar as Dog, Arjun Sharma, Lovish and Sheetal Sen.

# Shiv Sena demands stronger safety measures for women in J&K; Calls for revival of pink patrol

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Jammu & Kashmir unit of Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) voiced serious concern over the rising crimes against women in the Union Territory and urged the government to implement stronger safety measures. State President Manish Sahni, while addressing the media, highlighted the alarming increase in harassment, rape, domestic violence, and crimes against minor girls. Citing official 2023 figures, he noted that around 231 rape cases, over 1,500 molestation cases, 524 domestic violence cases, and nearly 895 kidnappings of women were reported across J&K.



Courts to provide speedy justice in crimes against women. He further called for increasing women representation in the Jammu & Kashmir Police to 33%, noting that the current strength of approximately 15% is inadequate to effectively handle cases concerning women. Sahni also expressed concern over the disappearance of the "Pink Patrol" unit, launched in 2024 in Jammu to enhance the safety of women and girl students. He questioned why the initiative has been pushed into cold storage and urged the government to immediately reactivate the unit and increase its

strength. He said a fully functional Pink Patrol is crucial for ensuring a safer environment for women and students in public spaces. Sahni concluded by stressing that tangible action on the ground, rather than symbolic gestures, is essential to protect women and restore public confidence in safety measures. This statement comes amid growing demands from civil society and women's groups in J&K for enhanced law enforcement presence and community-based safety initiatives to curb rising crimes against women.

# MVD conducts special enforcement drive across Jammu Division

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) conducted a special drive across the Jammu Division district to enforce compliance with provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and to enhance overall road safety. The enforcement drive was carried out on the directions of Transport Commissioner J&K Vishesh Paul Mahajan in the districts of Jammu, Udhampur, Samba, Reasi, Rajouri, Poonch, Ramban, Kishtwar and Doda. A total of 24 nakas were established at strategic locations where 2494 vehicles were checked. During the enforcement operation, 445 challans were issued for the violation of the Motor Vehicles Act and 60 vehicles were seized for serious offences. Additionally, 64 driving licences (D/Ls) and 20 registration certificates (RCs) were recommended for suspension, generating Rs. 2.90 lakh in penalties.

wise enforcement revealed significant violations including overloading, driving without valid documents, permit violations, over-speeding, dangerous driving and other breaches of transport regulations. In Jammu district, 400 vehicles were checked, resulting in 44 challans and 2 vehicle seizures, with 5 driving licences recommended for suspension, amounting to Rs. 1.86 lakh in penalties. In Udhampur district, 260 vehicles were inspected, leading to 47 challans and 5 vehicle seizures, with 9 driving licences and 5 RCs recommended for suspension, generating Rs. 2.90 lakh in penalties. Similarly, in Samba district, 163 vehicles were checked and 31 challans issued, with 5 driving licences recommended for suspension and Rs. 2.43 lakh collected as penalties. In Reasi district, 300 vehicles were inspected, resulting in 43 challans, 4 vehicle seizures and 10 driving licences recommended for suspension, with Rs. 2.24 lakh realized as penalty. In Rajouri district, 26 vehicles were checked, leading to 52 challans, 11 vehicle seizures and 2 driving licences recommended for suspension, with Rs. 1.14 lakh collected. In Poonch district, 280 vehicles were inspected, resulting in 52 challans, 6 vehicle seizures and 7 driving licences recommended for suspension, with penalties amounting to Rs. 1.07 lakh. In Ramban district, 250 vehicles were checked, resulting in 50 challans, 4 vehicle seizures and 4 driving licences recommended for suspension, with Rs. 1.46 lakh collected. In Kishtwar district, 410 vehicles were inspected, leading to 37 challans, 14 vehicle seizures, with 5 driving licences and 3 RCs recommended for suspension and Rs. 1.04 lakh realized in penalties. In Doda district, 405 vehicles were checked, resulting in 89 challans, 14 vehicle seizures and 17 driving licences along with 12 RCs recommended for suspension, with penalties amounting to Rs. 4.04 lakh. The enforcement teams in all districts were headed by the concerned ARTOs along with Motor Vehicle Inspectors (MVIs) and other enforcement staff. The overall operation in Jammu District was closely supervised by RTO Jammu S. Jasmeetsingh ensuring effective coordination and strict implementation of enforcement measures. Such special enforcement drives are regularly undertaken by the Transport Department to enhance road safety, curb traffic violations and promote responsible driving behaviour among motorists. These initiatives play a crucial role in reducing road accidents, ensuring compliance with transport laws and safeguarding the lives of road users. The Transport Department has reiterated its commitment to continue such intensive enforcement drives to maintain discipline on roads and urged vehicle owners and drivers to strictly follow traffic rules, carry valid documents and operate vehicles in accordance with the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act.