

PM Modi's vision transforms Women's empowerment in India: Rekha Mahajan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: BJP Jammu & Kashmir Vice President Rekha Mahajan extended her heartfelt greetings to all mothers and sisters on the occasion of Women's Equality Day, emphasizing the importance of honoring women's strength, rights, and equal opportunities.

In a statement, Mahajan said, "This day is dedicated to the recognition, respect, and empowerment of women. It is a reminder of our collective responsibility to ensure that every



woman enjoys equal rights, dignity, and access to opportunities in all spheres of life."

Mahajan highlighted the significant steps taken under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra

Modi towards women's empowerment. "Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India has witnessed a transformative approach to empowering women. The passage of the Women's Reservation Bill, the expansion of Self-Help Groups, and initiatives such as the Ujjwala Scheme are all part of the government's commitment to enabling women to lead independent, dignified, and secure lives," she said. She further pointed out

that hundreds of schemes and programmes across the country are specifically designed to support women in education, entrepreneurship, health, and social development. "From financial inclusion to skill development, the government is ensuring that women have the tools and opportunities to shape their own futures," Mahajan added. Rekha Mahajan also called upon society at large to actively support women's participation in every field, stressing that empowerment goes beyond

legislation and requires collective cultural and social change. "Women are the backbone of our nation, and celebrating Women's Equality Day is not just symbolic-it is a reaffirmation of our commitment to gender equality and social justice," she said. Concluding her message, Mahajan reiterated her best wishes to all women on this occasion and called for continued efforts to create a society where every woman can thrive, lead, and contribute meaningfully to the nation's progress.

Managing Committee Meeting of Home for Aged & Infirm Jammu held

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A meeting of the Managing Committee of the Home for the Aged & Infirm (Old Age Home), Jammu was held on Tuesday under the chairmanship of I.D. Soni, President.

The meeting was attended by H.S. Manhas, Vice President; Vijay Gupta, Joint Secretary; Sat Pal Sharma and R.C. Vaid, Committee Members, besides other dignitaries.

After extending a welcome, the President placed the agenda items before the House for deliberation.

Dr. Dinesh Gupta, Hon. Secretary, apprised the members about the progress made

during the month under review. He informed that ten new Life Members have been enrolled. The Physiotherapy Unit is being re-started and a Dispensary Facility is being established, both of which are expected to become functional by 15th September.

The Committee also reviewed proposals for installing a Generator Set, two lifts, and arranging a Mobility Van for inmates. These initiatives are already in process, and progress reports will be shared periodically.

For ensuring security and better monitoring of inmates and visitors, it was unanimously resolved to advertise the post

of a Chowkidar (Watchman). The Committee also decided to serve notices to shopkeepers to clear their rent arrears without further delay. An interaction session with the inmates was also conducted, during which the residents were reminded of the rules, code of conduct, and discipline to be maintained during their stay. Their active cooperation was sought to further improve the facilities and services of the Home. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks, with members reaffirming their commitment to enhance the overall living conditions and to maintain a disciplined and caring environment for the inmates.

Dr Tahir slams Kashmiri leaders for "mud-slinging politics" amid public suffering

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson and senior leader Dr Tahir Chowdhary on launched a scathing attack on Kashmir-based political leaders, including Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, accusing them of indulging in "cheap theatrics" and "mud-slinging politics" at a time when people in Jammu and Kashmir are grappling with severe hardships. Dr Chowdhary said it was shameful that leaders in power "playing politics over prisoners" while the Union Territory struggles with weather vagaries, public grievances and governance challenges. "Instead of providing relief to people reeling under crises, these leaders are busy



in blame games and political dramas. The people of J&K deserve development and stability, not hollow slogans and street shows," he said.

He reminded that law and order decisions, including matters of detention, are governed strictly under constitutional frameworks.

"Law will take its own course. No one should attempt to pressurize institutions or mislead families of prisoners for political mileage," Dr

Chowdhary asserted. Taking on ruling and Kashmir based parties, the BJP leader said, "Whether in power or out of it, these parties have a history of exploiting people's sentiments. When in government, they used the same laws and institutions they now criticize. When cornered, they suddenly remember humanitarian issues. This hypocrisy stands exposed."

Reiterating BJP's stance, Dr Chowdhary said the Narendra Modi government is firmly committed to peace, development and justice in Jammu and Kashmir.

"No amount of political drama or manufactured protests can derail the Centre's resolve. The days of blackmail politics are over," he added.

Dr. Pardeep slams INDI Alliance, calls Congress habitual of attacking democracy and constitutional institutions

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dr. Pardeep Mahotra launched a strong attack on the INDI Alliance's recent rhetoric of "vote chori", terming it a dangerous narrative to mislead the people aimed at weakening democratic institutions.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge of J&K BJP, said the opposition's rhetoric only reflects its desperation in the face of an impending electoral defeat. "The so-called 'INDI Thugbandhan' has made it their sole agenda to create chaos in India and to take political advantage from it. Their attempts to paint constitu-



tional institutions like the Election Commission as thieves are highly objectionable and unacceptable to the people of India," he asserted.

He said that the Election Commission has already given a point-by-point reply to every allegation,

but those who do not want to understand cannot be explained. "The SIR exercise was conducted in Bihar two decades ago during election time, and no objection was raised then. Now, the same process is being twisted to manufacture controversy," he added.

Dr. Pardeep lashed out at Congress and its allies for consistently undermining democratic and constitutional institutions. "This is the same Congress that questioned the Army even after surgical strikes and air strikes, demanded proof of Rafale, and insulted the Army Chief by calling him a 'street goon'.

Their track record is full of such assaults on national institutions," he said.

Accusing Congress of shielding fake voters to regain power through illegitimate means, Dr. Pardeep said the recent revision of electoral rolls in Bihar exposed lakhs of bogus entries, including deceased persons, migrants without valid citizenship, and forged identities. "This is not a clerical error, it is a calculated attack on Indian democracy. The Congress and its allies are only protecting their fake vote banks created over decades," he charged.

Contrasting this with the Modi Government's

reformist approach, Dr. Pardeep highlighted initiatives like NRC in Assam, digital border surveillance, dismantling fake document rackets, and fast-tracking border fencing. "These measures are not just governance reforms but acts of democratic defense," he said. Dr. Pardeep further said: "For Congress, power is a birthright and a throne to be inherited. For BJP under Prime Minister Modi, power means service and accountability. Cleaning the electoral rolls is not discrimination, it is a constitutional necessity. Those who oppose it are opposing the very idea of India."

Dr. Rajeev Bhagat holds Public Grievances Camp at BJP headquarters

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, MLA of Bishnah Assembly Constituency, held a Public Grievances Camp at the Jammu & Kashmir BJP Headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to listen to the grievances of people.

The Public Grievances Camp witnessed participation from local residents and deputations hailing from various parts of Jammu, reflecting the strong public faith in the BJP's people-centric approach.

Among other deputations, the deputation from village Treva raised issue of damaged causeway connecting Treva to Shera-Chak disrupting connectivity of 20 villages. A deputation from village Kalyana apprised the



MLA Dr. Rajeev Bhagat listening to public issues.

BJP leader of the damaged Grore Bridge. A deputation raised the issue of old-age pension cases. Deputations from Gangyal, Talab Tillo and other areas complained about the damaged streets and other damages due to flashfloods. Another deputation from Treva requested for the construction of a memorial gate in the honour of Sepoy Sunil Kumar, who

martyred during operation Sindoor. A deputation requested for the appointment of Lambardar of another person in view of advanced age of the present Lambardar.

Giving a patient hearing to all the deputations and the individuals, Dr. Rajeev Bhagat immediately talked to the concerned department officials and issued written

correspondences wherever required. While communicating, he insisted for a time-bound resolution of the issues.

Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, while addressing on the occasion, stressed that the public representatives and the government should feel answerable to the public at all points of time. While lauding the Modi government for its consistent approach to address the issues of the public at the ground level, he committedly said that all the public representatives of BJP are always on the forefront to address the concerns of the masses.

Er. T.K. Sharma, Co-Convenor of BJP Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, coordinated the proceedings of the public grievances camp.

SkyJumper Trampoline Park opens its 21st Center in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: SkyJumper Trampoline Park, India's largest trampoline park chain, has launched its 21st location in Jammu, offering the city a world-class indoor entertainment experience. The park spans 22,000 sq. ft. and features a trampoline arena with over 15 activities, along with VR free room, laser tag, soft play, and more.

Suneel Dhar, Co-founder of SkyJumper, said, "SkyJumper was founded with a mission to establish India's own chain of amusement parks blending fitness, family time, and memorable experiences. Our foray into Jammu is another milestone in this journey. With this center launch, we continue to push boundaries in home-grown amusement innovation by integrating fitness, fun, and celebration into one hub



for every age group."

The Jammu park's Trampoline Arena offers attractions such as Foam Pit, Slam Dunk, Free Fall, Wall Running, and many more. In addition, visitors can enjoy the Soft Play Arena for children, an energetic laser tag arena, and the brand-new VR Free Roam Experience Zone.

A café and party/event area complete the experience, making it an ideal destination for birthday parties, school trips, corporate outings, and celebratory gatherings.

SkyJumper has also introduced an interactive trampoline gaming platform, entirely designed in-house, which transforms jumping into a

gamified digital experience. Trampoline, already recognized as an Olympic sport, offers numerous health benefits including improved balance, core strength, metabolism boost, and stress relief.

Parents can plan stress-free birthday celebrations at the park, while children enjoy fun-filled activities. The VR Free Roam Zone delivers a futuristic, adrenaline-fueled gaming experience, and Laser Tag offers competitive fun popular among schools, corporate groups, and friends.

SkyJumper Jammu operates seven days a week, from 11 AM to 10 PM on weekdays and 10 AM to 10 PM on weekends. Tickets start at Rs 390, with party packages priced between Rs 1,100 and Rs 1,300 per person. The center is located at Building No. 1, Deepak Pachnanda, NH 44, Kunjwani Main Chowk.

HC raps Rajouri DM for copy-paste detention orders, frees two detainees

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Coming down heavily on the misuse of preventive detention laws, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Jammu on Tuesday quashed two detention orders issued by the District Magistrate, Rajouri, describing them as mechanical, arbitrary and violative of constitutional safeguards.

Justice M.A. Chowdhary, while delivering two separate judgments, ordered the release of Asif Mehmood (31), of Manyal, Thanamandi, and Abrar Afzal (26), of Panghal, Thanamandi, who were detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA) in 2024.

Mehmood had been detained vide Order No. DMR/INDEX/06 of 2024 dated October 22, 2024, on the basis of his alleged involvement in FIRs registered in 2009 and 2019. His counsels, Advocates Muzaffar Iqbal Khan and Mazhar Ali Khan, argued that the cases were stale, lacked proximate link, and that the detention order was a "cut-and-paste reproduction of the police dossier", showing non-application of mind. The Court upheld the argument, observing that use of both grounds - "public order" and "security of the State" - in the same order made it legally unsustainable. Justice Chowdhary ruled that failure to inform the detainee of his

right to make representation within the stipulated time further vitiated the order. Similarly, Afzal was detained vide Order No. DMR/INDEX/07 of 2024 dated October 31, 2024. His counsels, Advocates Muzaffar Iqbal Khan and Mazhar Ali Khan, submitted that his detention was based on recycled FIRs already used in an earlier PSA detention in 2022, along with a single complaint under Sections 107/151 CrPC. They further contended that essential material was never supplied to the detainee, denying him the right to effective representation. The Court found substance in these submissions and held that the order suffered from non-supply of material, mechanical reproduction of dossiers, and denial of constitutional rights, making it untenable. Afzal was ordered to be released forthwith.

The Court reiterated that preventive detention, being a drastic measure, must be used sparingly and with strict adherence to constitutional safeguards. "Personal liberty is the most cherished freedom; even the slightest breach of procedure vitiates detention," Justice Chowdhary observed.

With both detention orders quashed, the Court directed the immediate release of the detainees unless required in any other case.

Illegal appointment can't be protected: HC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Jammu has ruled that illegal appointments cannot be shielded under equity or principles of natural justice, dismissing the petition of an Anganwari Helper from Kathua district who challenged her termination. The petitioner, Geeta Devi, had been engaged as an Anganwari Helper in 2006 at Malti Centre, Billawar, Kathua, but was terminated in 2014 following a complaint before the State Vigilance Commission (SVC). The Commission found that she, along with three others, was appointed without advertisement, competition, or proper selection process, relying instead on a recommendation letter from a local MLA.

Justice Sanjay Dhar, while pronouncing judgment, upheld the Vigilance Commission's findings, observing that the petition-

er's appointment was void ab initio. The Court made it clear that long years of service cannot validate an illegal entry into government service.

"Her engagement being illegal is nullity in the eyes of law. The petitioner has no legal right to remain on the post," the Court observed.

Citing several Supreme Court precedents, the Court stressed that fraudulent or backdoor appointments confer no rights, and hence, termination does not require a prior hearing.

Dismissing the writ petition, the Court held that the petitioner's continuance in service was merely due to an interim order and did not create any equity in her favour. With this, the High Court reinforced that clean recruitment practices must prevail over political recommendations and arbitrary appointments.

HC rules maternity leave cannot derail regularization

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Jammu has held that maternity leave availed by women employees cannot be treated as a break in service for the purpose of regularization, ruling that J&K Bank's orders deferring their confirmation were unconstitutional and discriminatory. Justice M.A. Chowdhary, while disposing of two connected writ petitions, quashed the Bank's orders that had postponed the regularization of four women Banking Associates - Basu Magotra, Isha Sudan, Bintul Hudda and Tanu Gupta - on account of their availing maternity leave during their contractual period.

The petitioners, represented by Advocates Amit Gupta and Advocate Rajiv Kumar Sharma, argued that their duly sanctioned maternity leave,

ranging between 83 and 180 days, had been wrongly excluded from their service tenure. This exclusion, they contended, led to delayed regularization, loss of seniority, and denial of benefits under Circular No. 752 of 2021, including revised pay, arrears and promotional avenues.

The respondents, represented by Senior Advocate Abhinav Sharma assisted by Advocate Akash Gupta, maintained that contractual Banking Associates were required to complete two years of active service before regularization. They argued that maternity leave fell under extraordinary leave and therefore extended the contractual term.

Rejecting the Bank's position, the Court underscored that maternity leave is a statutory right under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, and cannot

be considered a service break.

"Motherhood cannot be treated as absence from duty," Justice Chowdhary observed, adding that discounting maternity leave amounted to sex-based discrimination, offending Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution. The Court also noted that such exclusion had a cascading effect on the petitioners' entire careers, pushing them behind their colleagues despite joining on the same date.

The High Court allowed the petitions, quashed the impugned orders, and directed J&K Bank to treat maternity leave as continuous service, regularize the petitioners with retrospective effect from the date they completed two years and extend all consequential benefits, including revised pay, arrears, seniority and promotion opportunities.

Community organizations hailed for humanitarian efforts in Chashoti cloudburst relief

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KISHTWAR: In the aftermath of the devastating cloudburst in Chasoti, Padder, community organizations have emerged as pillars of support, complementing official machinery in one of the region's worst natural disasters. Seva Bharati, RSS volunteers, and local NGOs have played a crucial role in sustaining relief efforts and ensuring that no affected family feels abandoned. Seva Bharati set up community kitchens that served thousands of meals daily for 11 consecutive days, while RSS volunteers actively joined



Langar being served to people at Chashoti.

rescue operations, assisting in evacuations and providing first aid. The Mahajan Seva Samiti, representing Kishtwar's business community, organized round-the-clock langars, serving meals to thousands. Other

NGOs, including Ekal Abhiyan, distributed essential relief material to families in need. Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma praised the collective humanitarian response, stating: "Together, they created

a safety net, ensuring that no family felt abandoned and no rescuer was left unsupported."

Observers note that the experience in Padder highlights the importance of strengthening partnerships between government institutions and voluntary organizations for effective disaster management in the future. As the region now turns towards rebuilding and recovery, the selfless service of community organizations in disaster relief stands out as a shining example of solidarity, compassion, and voluntary commitment-an inspiration for others to follow.