

OBC Congress holds Meeting in Jammu, Demands OBC Recognition in Census



JAMMU, JUNE 17

A meeting of the OBC Congress was held in Jammu under the chairmanship of Madan Lal Chalotra, Chairman, OBC Congress J&K PCC. The meeting was attended by Parshotam Mehra, Vice Chairman, OBC Congress J&K PCC, Jagdish Kashyap, Prem Sagar Coordinator, Kewal Verma, Vice Chairman OBC Congress District Jammu, Camres David, Rattan Lal, Senior Congress Leader, Ravinder K. Rana, Sonu Gandhi, Youth Leader Naresh Kumar, Tarun Bagal and several other party workers and social activists.

The meeting discussed various issues concerning the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Jammu and Kashmir, with special focus on political representation, social justice and

participation of OBC youth in democratic institutions.

Addressing the gathering, Madan Lal Chalotra criticized the Narendra Modi Government for not providing a separate OBC column in the proposed caste census. He alleged that despite OBCs constituting more than the half of India's population, the government was unwilling to enumerate them separately. Chalotra said that excluding OBCs from a dedicated category raises serious questions about the government's commitment to social justice and fair representation. He maintained that a caste census without proper identification of OBC communities would fail to generate accurate data necessary for policy formulation, welfare measures and equitable distribution of resources. He further stated that backward communities have long

demanding a comprehensive caste census that reflects the true social composition of the country and enables evidence-based policymaking. Chalotra urged the Central Government to ensure that OBC communities are counted separately so that their educational, social and economic conditions can be properly assessed and addressed.

Speaking on the occasion, Parshotam Mehra highlighted the importance of the forthcoming Urban Local Body and Panchayat elections. He called upon OBC youth to actively participate in the democratic process and come forward to contest elections. He said that political empowerment can only be achieved when young people enter public life and secure representation in decision-making institutions. Encouraging the younger generation, Mehra stated that the OBC youth must prepare themselves for leadership roles and claim their rightful share in governance and public affairs.

Other speakers emphasized the need for unity among backward communities and stressed the importance of strengthening the organizational structure of the OBC Congress across Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting concluded with a collective resolve to continue the struggle for social justice, adequate representation and empowerment of OBC communities through democratic and constitutional means.

'12 Years of Modi Government Laid Strong Foundation for Viksit Bharat': BJP



JAMMU, JUNE 17

BJP today highlighted the achievements of the Narendra Modi-led Government at the Centre over the past 12 years, describing the period as an era of decisive leadership, good governance and transformative development across the country, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing a press conference at the BJP District Office in Akhnoor, BJP spokesperson Abhijeet Jasrotia, accompanied by MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal and District President Kuldeep Sharma, said the Modi Government has laid a strong foundation for achieving the vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047."

Congratulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi on completing 12 years in office, Jasrotia said the period would be remembered as a golden chapter in India's history. He

alleged that previous Governments were plagued by corruption, policy paralysis and weak governance, while the BJP-led Government brought transparency, accountability and a development-oriented approach. Highlighting key achievements, Jasrotia described the abrogation of Article 370 as a historic decision that accelerated development and strengthened national integration in Jammu and Kashmir. He said incidents of stone-pelting, separatist activities and terrorist recruitment have witnessed a significant decline, while tourism has reached record levels, with more than 1.88 crore visitors arriving in the Union Territory. He also cited the successful hosting of the G-20 meeting in J&K, major infrastructure projects, Smart City initiatives and the establishment of premier institutions such as AIIMS, IIT

and IIM as indicators of the region's transformation.

The BJP spokesperson further highlighted the expansion of digital governance through UPI, Jan Dhan Yojana and Direct Benefit Transfers, along with reforms such as GST, modernization of railways, airport expansion and growth in indigenous manufacturing under the "Make in India" initiative. Referring to the COVID-19 pandemic, he said India demonstrated strong leadership under Prime Minister Modi by developing indigenous vaccines and carrying out one of the world's largest vaccination drives. He also praised the Government's response to terrorism, including surgical strikes, air strikes and Operation Sindoor, asserting that the country has shown its resolve to deal firmly with threats to national security.

Jasrotia also launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and AIMIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi over their alleged silence on the situation in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). He said these leaders often project themselves as champions of Muslim causes, but have failed to speak out against the reported killings and hardships being faced by innocent people in PoJK. "If they genuinely care about the welfare of Muslims, they should raise their voice for those suffering across the border as well. Their silence on the issue exposes their selective

Rise in Jammu & Kashmir 2026 Inaugurated by RS MP Ghulam Ali Khatana at SKICC Srinagar

SRINAGAR, JUNE 17

The prestigious national exhibition and awareness initiative "Rise in Jammu & Kashmir 2026 - Building the Path Towards Viksit Bharat @ 2047" was inaugurated today at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar, by Ghulam Ali Khatana, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), under whose guidance the event has been conceptualized and organized.

The three-day event, being organized by Tarmeh Events, brings together leading Government Ministries, Public Sector Undertakings, Scientific and Research Institutions, Development Organizations, and Industry Stakeholders on a common platform to showcase India's developmental achievements, technological innovations, flagship schemes, and public welfare initiatives.

Addressing the gathering during the inaugural ceremony, Ghulam Ali Khatana emphasized the importance of creating awareness about the transformative initiatives undertaken across various sectors of the Indian economy. He stated that Jammu & Kashmir is witnessing a new era of development and progress and that such platforms play a crucial role in connecting citizens with institutions that are driving the nation's growth.

Shri Khatana highlighted the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047 and called upon all stakeholders, including government agencies, industry leaders, researchers, and young innova-



tors, to contribute actively towards building a developed and self-reliant India. He noted that the event serves as an important medium for showcasing achievements in infrastructure, science and technology, healthcare, agriculture, renewable energy, education, public services, and sustainable development. The exhibition features participation from several prominent organizations and institutions, including NHPC, BIS, ICMR, ISRO, CSIR, ICAR, APEDA, Northern Railway, IRCTC, CPCB, Survey of India, POWERGRID, HURL, NFL, NBCC, REC, NTPC, TRIFED, National Jute Board, NAFED, Department of Atomic Energy, and other leading public sector enterprises and government bodies.

Visitors witnessed a wide range of innovative exhibits, technology demonstrations, awareness campaigns, and information displays highlighting the achievements and contributions of participating

organizations towards national development. The exhibition also provides opportunities for interaction between citizens, policymakers, industry experts, academicians, entrepreneurs, and development agencies.

Speaking on the occasion, the organizers expressed their gratitude to all participating institutions and stakeholders for supporting the initiative and making the event a significant platform for knowledge sharing, innovation, and public engagement. The event will continue until 19th June 2026 and is expected to attract a large number of visitors, including students, professionals, researchers, entrepreneurs, government officials, and members of the general public. The organizers have invited citizens to visit the exhibition and gain firsthand knowledge of the various schemes, technologies, innovations, and developmental initiatives contributing towards the vision of a developed India by 2047.

Jobs Lost, Prices Soared, Institutions Weakened democracy crushed in non performed Modi Govt in 12 years: Rattan Lal Gupta

JAMMU, JUNE 17

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta launched a blistering attack on the BJP-led Union Government, accusing it of systematically betraying the aspirations of the people through what he described as a mix of hollow promises, aggressive propaganda, and political diversion.

Issued a statement at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu today, Gupta said that despite a decade of grandiose claims and headline-grabbing announcements, the government has failed to deliver tangible relief to ordinary citizens. He alleged that unemployment has reached alarming proportions, inflation has crippled household budgets, farmers continue to grapple with distress, and small traders and businesses have been pushed to the brink by flawed economic policies.

"The BJP government came to power promising jobs, prosperity, transparency, and good governance. Instead, the country has witnessed rising unemployment, soaring prices, widening economic inequality, and growing public frustration. The gap between promises and performance has never been wider," Gupta said.



He further accused the Centre of eroding the autonomy and credibility of key democratic and constitutional institutions, alleging that independent bodies are increasingly being subjected to political influence and pressure.

"The systematic weakening of institutional autonomy poses a grave threat to the democratic fabric of the country. Institutions that were meant to function independently and act as safeguards of democracy are facing unprecedented interference, undermining public trust and accountability," he said.

Gupta also expressed concern over repeated examination paper leaks and recruitment scandals, alleging that the

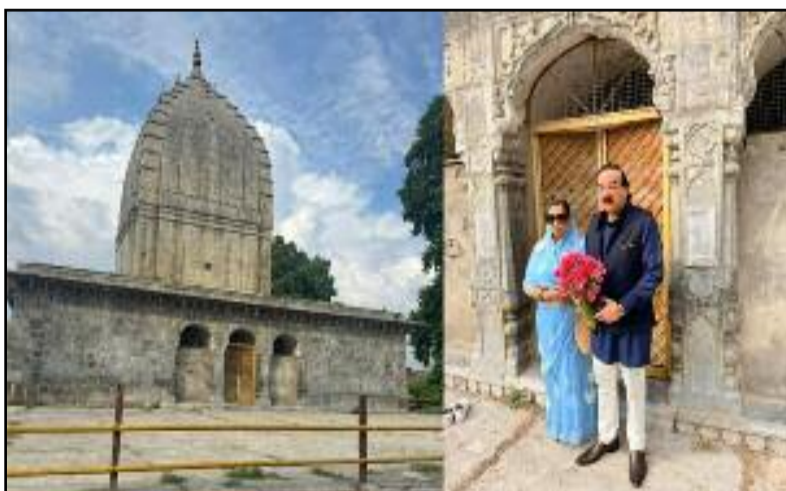
future of millions of young aspirants has been jeopardized by administrative failures.

"It is deeply unfortunate that while our youth are struggling for opportunities, examination scams, paper leaks, and recruitment irregularities have shattered their dreams and robbed them of faith in the system. The government has failed to protect the interests of deserving candidates and ensure a fair and transparent recruitment process," he added.

The senior NC leader further alleged that India's standing on several global indices and international platforms has suffered due to what he termed policy inconsistencies and increasing domestic polarization.

"A nation that once commanded immense respect for its democratic values and pluralistic traditions is today facing difficult questions about governance, social cohesion, and institutional integrity. Instead of strengthening India's global stature through inclusive growth and democratic confidence, the government has chosen divisive politics and image management," Gupta remarked.

M.K Ajatshatru, Kunwarani Dr. Ritu Singh pay floral tributes to Maharaja Gulab Singh on Raj Tilak Divas in Srinagar



SRINAGAR, JUNE 17

Former Minister & Trustee, J&K Dharmarth Trust M.K. Ajatshatru Singh, along with Kunwarani Dr. Ritu Singh, paid rich floral tributes to the founder of the erstwhile princely State of Jammu and Kashmir, Maharaja Gulab Singh Ji, on the occasion of his 204th Raj Tilak Divas at the Maharaja's Samadhi in Srinagar on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Ajatshatru Singh recalled the immense contribution of

Maharaja Gulab Singh in laying the foundation of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that June 17 holds immense historical significance as it was on this day in 1822 that Maharaja Gulab Singh was formally bestowed with the title of Raja of Jammu by Maharaja Ranjit Singh at the historic Jia Pota Ghat in Akhnoor, an event that marked the beginning of Dogra rule and eventually laid the foundation of the modern State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Kunwarani Dr. Ritu Singh, eminent educationist, entrepre-

neur, philanthropist, environmental advocate, a strong voice for women empowerment and recipient of the prestigious Nelson Mandela Peace Award, paid homage to Maharaja Gulab Singh and highlighted the importance of preserving historical monuments and promoting awareness about the region's heritage among youth. She said that the visionary leadership, courage and administrative acumen of Maharaja Gulab Singh continue to inspire generations and remain an integral part of the region's historical legacy. Dr. Ritu Singh emphasized that heritage conservation and historical awareness are essential for preserving cultural identity and fostering a sense of pride among the younger generation. She called for collective efforts to safeguard historical sites and ensure that the contributions of the Dogra rulers are widely known and appreciated. The visit concluded with prayers for peace, prosperity and harmony in Jammu and Kashmir, while reaffirming the commitment to preserve and promote the rich historical and cultural legacy of the Dogra heritage.

Army conducts lecture on yoga by yoga expert at Loran, Poonch



POONCH, JUNE 17

A lecture cum awareness session on the importance of yoga was organized at Loran Village today by the Indian Army as part of its ongoing efforts to promote health, wellness and com-

munity engagement among local residents. The session was conducted by a qualified yoga expert from the Indian Army, who highlighted the numerous physical, mental and emotional benefits of regular yoga practice. The expert emphasized

how yoga helps in improving flexibility, strengthening the immune system, reducing stress and promoting overall well-being.

During the interactive lecture, participants were introduced to various yoga postures (asanas), breathing techniques (pranayama) and meditation practices. The instructor encouraged villagers, especially youth and women to incorporate yoga into their daily routine for a healthier and more balanced lifestyle. A large number of local residents attended the programme and actively participated in the practical demonstrations. The attendees appreciated the initiative and expressed their enthusiasm for adopting yoga as a regular wellness practice.