

Modi Govt failed to project socio-economic position of Farmers: RL Gupta

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Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, on Tuesday launched a strong critique of the BJP, alleging that its decade-long rule has "failed farmers" and left them under mounting distress instead of delivering on its promise to double their income.

He made these remarks while interacting with party functionaries from the Balwal block, who met him under the leadership of Sukhdev Singh Langleh Block President Bhalwal and other local representatives at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu. On the occasion scores of political activists and farmers joined the party fold.

Gupta said there is growing public disillusionment with the BJP's policies, particularly among farmers, who he claimed are increasingly turning towards the

National Conference. "The BJP led Govt in Centre has failed to work for farmers; it has worked against them," Gupta said, citing the new-repealed farm laws, lack of a



statutory Minimum Support Price (MSP) at 50% above C2 cost, and policies that, according to him, have weakened cultivators while favouring corporate interests.

He asserted that instead of doubling farmers' incomes, the BJP government's policies at the Centre pushed them deeper into debt and uncertainty. Referring to trade-related concerns, he said that recent liberalisation measures and import pressures could further impact local agriculture, especially crops such as rice grown in Jammu. He questioned what options would remain for regional farmers if domestic markets are opened to subsidised imports.

Gupta also criticised the BJP central government over the prolonged water scarcity in the Kandi region, saying long-standing irrigation proposals had not been implemented despite being submitted years ago. "Promised lift irrigation projects never materialised, leaving rural areas neglected," he said.

He further alleged that Jammu has "lost a decade of development" due to what he termed BJP's mismanagement, though he added that the Omar Abdullah-led administration is now attempting to address key issues such as connectivity, drinking water, and agrarian distress.

On this occasion various prominent farmers joined

National Conference. The names are Parveen Singh, Pinto Singh, Sunil Sharma, Pawan Kumar, Sanjay Kumar, Jaswant Lal, Tersham Lal, Akash Verma, Shubam Kumar.

Among others who were present: Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu, Bimla Luthra former MLA, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Rakesh Singh Raka, Rita Gupta Vice Presidents Central Zone, Rajni Devi Working President Women Wing Jammu, Subash Chander Bhagat District President Jammu Rural "A", S. Gurnam Singh District Secretary Jammu Urban, Rajesh Bakshi, Rahul Attri, and others.

BJP to observe 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas' across J&K to expose emergency-era excesses: Chander Mohan

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Senior BJP leader and Convenor, Namami Gange, Adv. Chander Mohan Sharma, along with BJP Library Incharge Prof. Kulbhushan Mahotra, addressed a press conference at the BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

J&K BJP Vice-President Adv. Rekha Mahajan, and senior leader S. Varinderjit Singh were also present in the press conference.

Paying rich floral tributes to Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee on his martyrdom day, Adv. Sharma described him as the ideological fountainhead of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh and a visionary nationalist who made the supreme sacrifice for the complete integration of Jammu & Kashmir with the rest of India.

Referring to June 25, Adv. Sharma said that the day marks one of the darkest chapters in India's democratic history, when the Emergency was imposed by the then Prime Minister, Late Indira Gandhi, in 1975. He stated that the observance of "Samvidhan Hatya



Diwas" (Constitution Murder Day) is intended to remind the nation of the systematic suppression of democratic institutions, civil liberties, and fundamental rights during the Emergency period.

Sharma said that through this programme, the BJP aims to present the historical truth and effectively counter the false and politically motivated narratives being propagated against the Central Government and constitutional institutions, including the Judiciary, Election Commission,

and other statutory bodies.

Adv. Sharma informed that the Bharatiya Janata Party has decided to observe Samvidhan Hatya Diwas across the country. In Jammu & Kashmir, the programme will be organized at two locations, at BJP Headquarters, Jammu, and Srinagar.

As part of the observance, exhibitions showcasing photographs and documented accounts depicting the atrocities, repression, and hardships faced by ordinary citizens during the Emergency will be displayed.

He appealed to all those who suffered during the Emergency period, particularly in Jammu & Kashmir, to participate in the programme and share their experiences and memories so that future generations remain aware of the consequences of authoritarian rule.

Prof. Kulbhushan Mahotra also emphasized the importance of preserving historical facts and educating the younger generation about the challenges faced by democracy during the Emergency era.

Ensure Robust Security Arrangements During Amarnath Yatra, Promote Jammu Tourism: Bhalla

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 23

Senior Congress leader and Working President Raman Bhalla has appealed to the Lieutenant Governor's administration to ensure comprehensive and fool-proof security arrangements for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra. He stressed that the safety and well-being of lakhs of devotees visiting Jammu and Kashmir for the holy pilgrimage must remain the administration's top priority.

Ramabhalla accompanied with Latish Sharma Block president, Gagan Bral, Paras Ram, Sahil Mathi, Harvinder Kour, Kala Ram, Gorav Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Vimla Devi, Arjun Kumar, Ajay Kumar, zahid Bhat, Kishore Kumar, Sahil Singh visited Rajiv Nagar, today and met with the people of cross sections of the society and highlighted congress party's message of communal harmony and support for the Shri Amarnathji Yatra, commencing from July 2nd 2026.

Bhalla said that the Amarnath Yatra is one of the most significant religious pilgrimages in the country and attracts devotees from every corner of India. Therefore, all necessary measures related to security, healthcare, transportation, accommodation, and emergency response should be strengthened to



ensure a smooth and hassle-free pilgrimage experience.

He urged the administration to deploy adequate security personnel along the pilgrimage routes and enhance surveillance in sensitive areas. He also emphasized the need for efficient coordination among various departments to handle any unforeseen situations and guarantee the safety of pilgrims throughout the Yatra.

Highlighting the tourism potential of Jammu, Bhalla said that while ensuring security remains the foremost responsibility, efforts should also be made to encourage Amarnath pilgrims to spend some time exploring the major tourist and religious destinations of Jammu. He noted that most pilgrims travel directly to the shrine and return without getting an opportunity to experience the rich cultural, historical, and religious heritage of the Jammu region.

Bhalla suggested that the government and tourism department should create a structured plan to connect Amarnath pilgrims with

Jammu's prominent tourist attractions. Such an initiative, he said, would not only enhance the overall experience of visitors but also provide a significant boost to the local tourism industry and economy.

He pointed out that Jammu is home to several renowned destinations, including Mansar Lake, Surinsar Lake, Bagh-e-Bahu, Bahu Fort, Suchetgarh Border in R.S. Pura, Baba Chamliyal Shrine, Babe Wali Mata Temple, and many other places of religious and tourist interest. However, due to inadequate promotion and lack of convenient transportation facilities, many visitors are unable to explore these attractions.

According to Bhalla, if proper tourism packages and transportation arrangements are introduced during the Amarnath Yatra, a large number of pilgrims can be encouraged to visit these destinations. This would help generate economic activity across the Jammu region and benefit hoteliers, transport operators, shopkeepers, local businesses, and thousands of people

dependent on tourism for their livelihood.

He further stated that tourism-related activities in Jammu have witnessed challenges in recent times, affecting the income and employment opportunities of many local residents. Linking the Amarnath Yatra with the promotion of Jammu tourism, he said, can play a crucial role in revitalizing the local economy and creating new opportunities for growth.

Earlier, Raman Bhalla also met several saints and sadhus preparing for the Amarnath Yatra. During the interaction, he listened to their concerns and suggestions regarding various arrangements associated with the pilgrimage. He assured them that their issues and demands would be conveyed to the government and the concerned authorities for appropriate action.

Bhalla described the Amarnath Yatra as a symbol of faith, unity, and India's rich cultural heritage. Reiterating his appeal, he said that while ensuring the security of pilgrims is the primary responsibility of the administration, equal attention should be given to enabling devotees to explore Jammu's religious and tourist destinations. Such a balanced approach, he added, would not only enrich the pilgrimage experience but also provide a much-needed boost to tourism and economic activity in the Jammu region.

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BJP State General Secretary and Headquarters Incharge Sanjita Dogra, along with former Akhnoor District Development Council (DDC) member Sharda Bhau, organized a public darbar exclusively for women at Pt. Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan, Kachi Chawni, Jammu. They listened to the grievances of women and assured them of all possible assistance in resolving their issues. Many problems have already been resolved, while others are in the process of being addressed.

Under the BJP's outreach programme, Sanjita Dogra meets people, particularly women, every Tuesday at Pt. Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan. The initiative has received an encouraging response, with a large number of women regularly visiting the BJP headquarters to present their concerns and seek guidance on various social and public welfare-related matters.

While interacting with the women, Sanjita Dogra said that the BJP provides an effective platform for women to directly place their issues and concerns before the party leadership. She noted that many



women hesitate to approach government offices or are unaware of the appropriate channels through which they can seek assistance. Such public outreach programmes give them an opportunity to express their concerns with confidence.

Sanjita Dogra said that the Bharatiya Janata Party is fully committed to the welfare, dignity and empowerment of women. She added that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several welfare schemes and initiatives have been launched to strengthen the social and economic status of women and ensure their active participation in nation-build-

ing. These efforts have opened new opportunities for women in various spheres of life.

She further stated that the BJP believes in maintaining direct communication with the public and ensuring solutions to their problems by listening to their concerns. She assured that every genuine issue brought before her would be taken up with the concerned departments for prompt redressal.

Sharda Bhau also interacted with the women and encouraged them to actively participate in social and developmental activities. She said that women are an important force in society and their voices

must be heard in matters related to public welfare and development.

During the public darbar, women raised issues related to basic amenities, pensions, welfare schemes, education, healthcare services and other day-to-day concerns. Sanjita Dogra patiently listened to all the grievances and assured necessary follow-up action.

The women present on the occasion appreciated the initiative and expressed satisfaction at getting an opportunity to interact directly with BJP leaders. They said that the outreach programme is proving to be a meaningful platform for raising their concerns and facilitating their resolution.

JMC Commissioner Inspects Footpath Encroachments in Old City, Announces Strict Enforcement Drive

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JAMMU, JUNE 23

In a decisive step towards reclaiming public spaces and safeguarding the rights of pedestrians, Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav, today conducted an extensive inspection of various areas of the Old City to review the issue of encroachments on footpaths by shopkeepers, vendors and other unauthorized occupants.

During the visit, Dr. Yadav interacted with traders and street vendors and apprised them of the recent judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which has reaffirmed that the right of citizens to walk safely and freely on footpaths is a fundamental right.

He emphasized that footpaths are meant exclusively for pedestrians and cannot be used for commercial activities, unauthorized park-



ing, storage of goods or any other encroachment.

The Commissioner observed that in many parts of the city's old quarters, footpaths have been virtually swallowed up by shop extensions, display of merchandise, carts, parked vehicles and other unauthorized structures, forcing pedestrians—including school children, senior citizens and women—to walk

on busy roads and exposing them to avoidable risks and inconvenience.

Dr. Yadav stated that the Jammu Municipal Corporation is fully committed to restoring footpaths to their intended purpose and ensuring that public spaces remain accessible, safe and obstruction-free.

In compliance with the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the

provisions of municipal laws, the Corporation will undertake a sustained and intensive anti-encroachment drive across the city.

He further warned that strict action, including removal of encroachments, seizure of material and imposition of penalties, will be initiated against those who continue to occupy public footpaths and other civic spaces illegally.

SMVD Yatra Crosses 50 Lakh Pilgrim Mark

KATRA, JUNE 23: The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra has achieved a significant milestone during the current calendar year, with the number of pilgrims paying obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine crossing the landmark figure of 50 lakh on June 22, 2026. As on this date, a total of 50.70 lakh devotees have undertaken the sacred pilgrimage to seek the blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji.

The achievement assumes greater significance when compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year. During the same period in 2025, approximately 39.84 lakh pilgrims had visited the Holy Shrine, whereas the Yatra during the current



year has recorded 50.70 lakh pilgrims, reflecting a substantial increase of 10.86 lakh devotees. The remarkable growth in pilgrim footfall is a testimony to the unwavering faith and devotion of pilgrims from across the country and abroad towards the revered Shrine.

The sustained increase in the number of pilgrims also

reflects the confidence reposed by devotees in the arrangements made by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and the coordinated efforts of all stakeholders associated with the management of the Yatra.

Under the Chairmanship of Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, JK-UT, the Shrine Board has undertaken extensive mea-

sures to facilitate a smooth, safe and comfortable pilgrimage experience for devotees. Continuous improvements in infrastructure, accommodation facilities, sanitation, crowd management systems, healthcare services, battery car operations, ropeway services, disaster management preparedness and digital initiatives have significantly enhanced pilgrim convenience and overall service delivery.

The crossing of the 50-lakh mark at this stage of the year is indicative of the growing enthusiasm among devotees and augurs well for the continued progress of the Yatra during the remaining months of the year.