

Caste Census by the Modi govt to end decades of injustice with OBCs, others communities: Prajapati



TT CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU, MAY 01: Accusing the Congress of ignoring the recommendations of multiple Commissions for the welfare of the OBC community during the previous Congress governments, Sunil Prajapati, said that the Congress governments opposed caste census since Independence.

Congress severely harmed the interests of OBCs and other communities. This caste Census will go a long way in ending the injustice done with the needy population of these communities.

This was stated by Sunil Prajapati, President, OBC Morcha, J&K BJP, while addressing a Press Conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Suresh Salgotra, Vice President, OBC Morcha, Anil Balgotra,

Secretary, OBC Morcha and Ashok Salgotra, District President OBC Morcha Jammu were also present in the press conference.

Sunil Prajapati, while addressing the media persons, accused the Congress governments of opposing caste census for decades. He said that the Caste was not included in all the census operations conducted since independence.

In 2010, then Prime Minister Late Dr Manmohan Singh ji had assured the Lok Sabha that the matter of caste census would be considered in the Cabinet. A Group of Ministers was formed to consider this subject. Most of the political parties had recommended caste census. Despite this, the Congress government decided to conduct only a survey instead of a caste census, which was known as SECC.

Sunil Prajapati rued that Congress and its INDI alliance partners have used Caste Census only as a political tool to misguide the Indian population.

Some states have conducted surveys to enumerate castes. Some states have done this well, while some others have conducted such surveys purely from a political angle in a non-transparent way, which have created doubts in society.

Sunil Prajapati also stated that OBCs of Jammu Kashmir were even not granted the reservation under OBC category and provided mere 2% reservation under Social Caste (OSC) Category, while 20% OBC reservation quota was inadvertently provided to the people of certain specific unconstitutional categories under National Conference rule.

Considering all these facts, and to ensure that our social fabric is not disturbed by politics, caste enumeration should be transparently included in the Census instead of surveys. This will strengthen the social and economic structure of our society while the nation continues to progress. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, has decided that caste enumeration should be included in the forthcoming Census.

This demonstrates that our government is committed to the values and interests of our society and country.

JKAACL Organises Literary Meet to Commemorate the 35th Death Anniversary of Sarwanand Koul Premi

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, MAY 01: To mark the 35th death anniversary of the eminent poet, freedom fighter, and cultural icon Sarwanand Koul Premi, the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages organized a literary meet at K.L. Saigal Hall, Jammu. The event was graced by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary, J&K, as the Chief Guest, with Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary, Department of Culture, and Prof. Ratan Lal Hangloo, former Vice Chancellor of Allahabad University, attending as Guests of Honour.

The program commenced with floral tributes in honour of Sarwanand Koul Premi, paying homage to his multifaceted contributions to literature and society.

In his keynote address, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo highlighted Premi Ji's unparalleled legacy as a literary luminary and a symbol of social harmony and resistance. Recalling the honours conferred upon him, he mentioned the Sharada Award (2006) and the First Alag Samman (2016), along



with the monograph published by Sahitya Akademi in 2008 and the special felicitation by JKAACL in 2018. "He was a voice of resistance and unity, embodying truth, duty, and deep humanism," said the Chief Secretary. Quoting Dr. Sohan Lal, he added, "Death is not an end but a transformation - what is true lives on forever."

Sh. Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary, Department of Culture, in his address, underlined the importance of preserving and promoting the ideals Premi Ji stood for, especially in today's context of cultural resurgence.

Prof. Ratan Lal Hangloo lauded Sarwanand Koul Premi's commitment to inclusive values and intellectual

integrity. He stressed the need for young scholars to revisit the works of such towering figures to understand the interplay of literature, activism, and cultural identity.

Earlier, Smt. Harvinder Kour, Secretary, JKAACL, extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries and attendees. She spoke on the inspirational life of Sarwanand Koul Premi, emphasizing his enduring impact on the cultural ethos of Jammu and Kashmir. The literary session featured a detailed paper presentation by Dr. Sohan Lal Koul, Sahitya Akademi Awardee, shedding light on various dimensions of Premi Ji's literary oeuvre. Avtar Mota also presented a paper, exploring Sarwanand Koul Premi's life as a social activist,

poet, and visionary thinker.

The event also included a Mushaira, where celebrated poets including Ashok Gowher, Dr. Ramesh Nirash, Satish Koul, Santosh Nadam, B.K. Sanyasi, Kusum Dhar, Rajni Bahar Dhar, and Maharaj Krishan Bhat recited poems paying tribute to the legacy of Sarwanand Koul Premi.

The vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Javaid Rahi, Divisional Head, JKAACL, Jammu, who appreciated the presence of literary figures and reaffirmed the Academy's commitment to honouring the cultural icons of the region. The program was efficiently conducted by Smt. Kusum Tiku, adding to the solemnity and literary richness of the occasion.

SMVDU Bachelor of Design Students Visit IIT Delhi

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, MAY 01: As part of its ongoing efforts to promote academic enrichment and interdisciplinary engagement, students of the Bachelor of Design program at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) undertook an educational visit to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi. The visit was coordinated by Prof. Ankush Anand, highlighting SMVDU's strong emphasis on providing students with experiential learning and exposure to real-world innovation ecosystems. During the visit, the students participated in an interactive session with the Design faculty and students at IIT Delhi, led by Prof. Sumer Singh, Department of Design, IIT Delhi.

The session focused on key themes such as user-centered design, innovation methodologies, and the translation of academic learning into impactful design practices. Students also had the opportunity to tour various design and innovation labs at IIT Delhi, gaining firsthand insight into ongoing research projects and startup ventures currently being incubated at the institute.

Team also visited the newly established Central Facility - Makers Space, where Designers work on Design and Development of various Design Problems.

This visit not only enriched the students' understanding of design in a multidisciplinary context but also helped foster collaborative ties between SMVDU and one of India's premier technical institutions, paving the way for future partnerships in design education and research.

The students expressed their gratitude to the university administration and Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, for facilitating this invaluable opportunity.

AIBCU celebrates Birthday of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar



TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, MAY 01: In continuation of the celebration of Birth day of Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar, AIBCU organized a function by local Team of Panchayat Saeed Ghar headed by C.L Gandhi BDO Rtd and President of Bishnah to celebrate Birthday of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar in Community Hall at Village Chack Bhagwana in which a large number of locals participated besides UT leadership of AIBCU also joined the program.

On this occasion, Babu RamPaul former Minister and Veteran Senior Leader of ruling J&K National Conference (JKNC) Party was the Chief Guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Babu RamPaul paid his rich tributes to the father of Indian Constitution whose Birthday is not only celebrated in India but throughout the world. His whole life was full of struggles and sacrifices. He resigned from Union Govt as Law Minister when he found that the Govt of that time was not implementing the Constitution in its letters and spirits. His contribution to empower women population which forms 50% of India's population, will be remembered for ever.

Besides he provided some rights to those depressed and oppressed sections of India, Babu RamPaul added.

Referring to the role of the ruling National Conference that how Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohd Abdullah implemented the land reforms Act i.e. "Land to Tiller" in the light of Indian Constitution framed by Baba Sahib. Such revolutionary reforms have not been implemented by any political party of India so far, RamPaul said.

He assured that the present Govt headed by Omar Abdullah is responding to the demands of other speakers about implementation of Mandal Commission, reservation in promotion the Govt jobs. In this regard a high level Cabinet Sub Committee has been constituted to look into this issue.

State Vice President Ashiq Hussain Hajam termed the Indian Constitution as most wonderful and best Constitution in the world which is based on equality, fraternity and Justice.

Advocate Rajinder Kumar appreciated the steps taken by Omar Govt in which cabinet ministers were deputed to Himachal Pradesh, Uttara

Khand, Chandigarh Punjab and UP state to maintain harmony in the country in view of the Pahalgam massacre.

All the speakers appealed the public to keep public harmony.

State Chairman also threw light on Amedkar's life and appealed the Audience to remain united to save the Constitution which is so pious book for all. He thanked the Chief Guest for Showing his keen interest about our problems. MR Bangotra Chief Advisor share his experience when he used to see Shiekh Sahib in special Jail In Canal Road in the Company of Babu Milkhi Ram Advocate, Sardar Bachan Singh Panchhi, Balraj Puri renowned Journalist Ved Bhasin Editor -in- Chief KashmirTimes GM Baderwahi, Mast Faridi, Moulana Atta Ullah Sohrawardi and others who were men of words and highly Standard. Mr Bangotra also said, " we are here due to Ambedkar Sacrifice.

Prof Kali Dass drew whole picture in length about Mandal Commission and reservation in promotion and some particular problems of SCs STs and OBCs. All the speakers lambasted over the report submitted by the dedicated backward classes commission termed the report as fraudulent.

In the welcome address, C.L Gandhi BDO Rtd welcomed the Chief Guest and highlighted some local and others problems. Others who spoke at the occasion were Thoru Ram Mandi, Banarsi Lal and Gulshan Verma Organizer.

SKUAST Jammu Celebrates International Labour day

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, MAY 01: As the world commemorates International Labour Day today, it's a time to honor and acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the working class and laborers who tirelessly strive to build a better future for all. Originating from the Labour Union Movement, this day holds significance in putting an end to exploitation and advocating for fair treatment of workers worldwide. The theme for International Labour Day is Social Justice and Decent Work for all, resonates deeply with the core values of respect, equality, and dignity for every individual. It serves as a reminder that every human being deserves to be treated with care and respect, regardless of their occupation or social status. At the Central Library, Chatha of SKUAST- Jammu this important day was celebrated with fervor and compassion, as unskilled and skilled workers from Central Library, Chatha and Faculty Library, R S Pura came together to organize a series of events aimed at raising awareness and sensitizing their peers about the significance of International Labour Day. The celebration kicked off with an enlightening session on the history and significance of Labour Day, where workers learned about the struggles and triumphs of the labour movement and the importance of advocating for social justice and decent work conditions for all.

Following the awareness session, workers actively participated in various activities designed to express gratitude and appreciation towards the laborers and support staff of the libraries of the University.



Central Library organized an Awareness Campaign, spreading awareness about the dignity of labourers and their responsibilities, while regular staff engaged in crafting and distributing flowers as beautiful tokens of appreciation for the hardworking individuals who contribute to the smooth functioning of the SKUAST-Jammu Library under the overall guidance and supervision of Prof. R. K. Samnotra, University Librarian. The culmination of the day's events saw heartfelt gestures of gratitude as library staff had a small get together with a cup of tea/coffee with the housekeeping staff and supporting staff of the Central Library, Chatha. Each appreciable comment was a symbol of recognition and appreciation, conveying the staffs' deep gratitude for the dedication and hard work of the skilled and unskilled labourers.

Through these acts of kindness and appreciation, the SKUAST Jammu demonstrated their commitment to recognizing the efforts of all laborers and honouring the dignity of labour. The celebration of International Labour Day served as a poignant reminder of the importance of solidarity, compassion, and respect for every individual, regardless of their profession or background.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Samnotra said reiterated

that as we reflect on the words of wisdom, "There is joy in work. There is no happiness except in the realisation that we have accomplished something," let us continue to recognize and celebrate the invaluable contributions of the labourers around us, not just on Labour Day, but every day provided they made substantial contribution in supporting library's vision of growth and development as per the University policies. He also appreciated the efforts of unskilled labour engaged to facilitate a vibrant and ecologically diverse landscape on 15 kanals of land, massive plantation drives to develop a green library zone with an Open-Air Reading Area to enable library to reduce the carbon prints and to develop green zones into a Hort-Forresty tourist spot in near future. In nutshell, by leveraging the expertise of University Librarian who has created opportunities for real-world learning, the program has not only enriched labourers' awareness journey but also nurtured a sense of collaboration and partnership between home and library.

Prof. Samnotra expressed his gratitude for extending unwavering support to the Vice Chancellor for his vision to develop library on modern lines facilitating students, scholars and recognising efforts of engaged labour force.

Movement Kalki stages protest against Pahalgam attack



TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, MAY 01: A nationalist protest was organized from Trikuta Complex to Tawi Bridge in Jammu under the leadership of Krantikari Sanjeev Dubey, a core committee member of Movement Kalki.

The protest witnessed active participation from Rashtriya Bajrang Dal Gau Rakshak, several other nationalist organizations,

youth, social workers, and common citizens.

The demonstration was held in strong condemnation of the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, where innocent pilgrims were brutally killed - an incident that has deeply enraged the entire nation.

Along the entire protest route, "Pakistan Murdabad" posters were displayed, and passionate nationalist slo-

gans filled the air.

Addressing the crowd, Krantikari Sanjeev Dubey declared "The blood of our innocents will be avenged with blood. This attack is not just on our people but on the very soul of India. We will never forget our martyrs, and we will unmask every face of terror."

Rashtriya Bajrang Dal President Shri Rakesh Sharma also addressed the gathering, stating "Traitors will no longer be spared. Our armed forces must be given full freedom to hunt down and eliminate every enemy of the nation."

The protest sent a clear and united message - that India will not tolerate terrorism in any form. Participants unanimously demanded that terrorist elements be rooted out completely, ensuring that every Indian can live a safe and fearless life.

Modi Govt's decision to include Caste Data in Census ensures social justice: Kavinder

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, MAY 01: In a bold step towards strengthening the pillars of social justice and inclusive development, Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister has welcomed the decision of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to include caste-based enumeration in the forthcoming Census. He said that this landmark decision reflects the BJP's unwavering commitment to uplift all sections of society without compromising national unity. In a press release issued here today, the BJP stalwart stated that the Congress party has historically evaded the subject of caste census despite repeated demands from various political parties. "Since independence, Congress governments have conveniently excluded caste enumeration from every

Census exercise. Even in 2010, when Late Dr. Manmohan Singh was the Prime Minister, although he assured the Lok Sabha of considering the issue in Cabinet, it was ultimately reduced to a mere survey, known as the SECC," he said. The senior BJP leader emphasized that the Congress and its INDI Alliance partners have used the issue of caste census merely as a political tool to polarize society, lacking the will to implement it transparently. "Some states, led by opposition parties, have conducted caste surveys in an opaque and politically motivated manner, creating doubts and divisions within the society," he added. Kavinder asserted that the inclusion of caste enumeration in the official Census will help build a robust social and economic database, enabling targeted policies for welfare and empowerment of all communities.

Dimple appeals PM to review cancellation of visa of Pakistani married in India

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, MAY 01: Sunil Dimple President Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir has appealed Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, to review the cancellation of visa of India, Pakistan girls, boys married in India and Pakistan 10, 20 40 years ago married in India and have their Indian state subjects, domiciles, Adhar cards, working in govt jobs, CRPF, social welfare and have children, grand children born in India should not be sent to Pakistan.

Addressing the media, Sunil Dimple demanded Prime Minister Narendra Modi to call immediate parliament session to start war with Pakistan. He has appealed to PM Modi to review the cancellation of visa of India, Pakistan girls, boys married in india, 10, 20 40 years ago



don't separate them from their families. He assured Jammu Kashmir people stand in every decision of the Modi government

Dimple welcomes Prime Minister, Home Minister decision in the cabinet committee on security meeting to scrap of Indus water treaty with Pakistan, closure of Pakistan embassy in India, withdrawal of Indian embassy in Pakistan, closure of Amritsar Atari Railway Line, cancellation of Pakistan flights on India land and cancellation of all trade with Pakistan. He demands HM Amit Shah to

crush Pakistan militancy, start operation all out. Liberate POK and start war with Pakistan. He said Hafeez Sayeed is living in Pakistan under tight security of ISI, army of Pakistan, kill him.

He announced Rs 50 lakh reward for the person who will cut wanted terrorist Hafiz Sayeed's head and give it to India. He urged Home Minister Amit Shah Union Government is unable to control the situation, then the government should issue an advisory in India and abroad that no tourists should come to Kashmir.