

Arvind Gupta holds public darbar at BJP headquarters



TT CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU, JULY 03 : Arvind Gupta, J&K BJP Secretary and MLA from Jammu West, held a Public Darbar at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, which saw an overwhelming response from the public.

Deputations from various sections of society, visited party headquarters to highlight pressing civic and administrative issues. During the Darbar, dozens of deputations presented their grievances related to key public service departments such as Revenue, Public Health Engineering (PHE), Power Development Department

(PDD), Public Works Department (PWD), and Urban Local Bodies.

Prominent among the concerns raised were the attention seeking condition of roads and the urgent need for blacktopping and repairs.

Water scarcity emerged as a major issue, with residents pointing to erratic PHE supply and inadequate distribution infrastructure. Several deputations also reported frequent power cuts and voltage fluctuations.

The malfunctioning and absence of street lights in many areas were flagged as significant safety concerns, while others highlighted the long-pending repair

and construction of lanes and drains.

Issues related to ration card, exclusion from beneficiary schemes, and delays in receiving benefits under government welfare programs such as Ayushman Bharat were also brought to attention.

Arvind Gupta gave a patient hearing to each deputation and promptly directed that the grievances be forwarded to the concerned departmental officials for immediate action.

Emphasizing the need for timely redressal, he assured the public that all genuine concerns would be addressed on priority.

Speaking to the media and attendees, Gupta remarked that the massive turnout at the Darbar is a testament to the people's trust in the BJP's model of transparent and responsive governance. He underlined that the party is committed to ensuring that governance remains citizen-centric and inclusive, particularly for the underprivileged.

Reiterating the BJP's guiding philosophy, Arvind Gupta stated that the party, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is firmly committed to the mission of Antyodaya, uplifting the last person in the queue. He stressed that inclusive development and strong public outreach are cornerstones of the BJP's governance approach.

100 children perform at Abhinav Theatre on the culmination of 20 day Summer workshop

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, JULY 03 : The 20-day Children's Theatre Workshop, organized by the J&K Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages under the supervision and guidance of Harvinder Kour, Secretary, JKAACL, concluded today with a vibrant valedictory function at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu. Conducted from 12th June to 2nd July 2025, the workshop aimed to introduce about 100 children to the creative world of theatre, dance, and painting, helping them build confidence, expression, and discipline through the arts.

Ms. Deepika K Sharma, Secretary, Department of Culture, J&K, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. In her address, she lauded JKAACL for its continued efforts in cultural education and talent development among children.

She also appreciated the young participants for their enthusiasm, the parents for their encouragement, and the expert trainers for their tireless dedication in nurturing creativity. Earlier, Dr. Javaid



Rahi, Divisional Head, Jammu, JKAACL, formally welcomed the guests and briefed the audience about the objectives and structure of the workshop. "This initiative is part of our commitment to cultural education at the grassroots level."

These 20 days have not only trained the children artistically but also contributed to their personality development, teamwork, and confidence," he said.

The children received hands-on training under the guidance of well-known experts in their respective fields who worked with commitment and care to shape the

young minds. In theatre, renowned director Sunil Soni, assisted ably by Sahil Bazzaz, led the sessions with great insight and energy. In painting, Suresh Kumar Sharma and Ms. Mahua Gupta inspired the children with imaginative techniques and vibrant ideas. The dance sessions, conducted by seasoned trainer Satish Chander and his assistant Suneel Uppal, brought rhythm, coordination, and joy to the workshop.

The performances were further enriched by the presence of skilled accompanists whose contribution added aesthetic and rhythmic depth to the presentations-Purshotam Lal on

Pakhawaj, Rakesh Kumar on Dholak, and Sunil Joshi on Harmonium were appreciated for their seamless musical support throughout the sessions.

The concluding event featured engaging performances and an exhibition of artwork, showcasing the children's learning and creativity developed over the past three weeks.

The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Ms. Sonali Arun Gupta, Additional Secretary, JKAACL. In her remarks, she expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Guest, expert trainers, accompanists, participating children, their parents, and the entire organizing team.

"This workshop was not just an artistic exercise but a celebration of imagination, teamwork, and confidence-building. We are proud of each participant and thankful to everyone who made this journey successful," she said.

The event was attended by art lovers, cultural stakeholders, and proud parents, who appreciated the initiative and the wonderful culmination of the children's creative journey.

Dr. Jyotsna Singh appointed Member of INTACH's HCCD Advisory Committee

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, JULY 03 : Dr. Jyotsna Singh, Director of the Amar Mahal Museum & Library, Jammu, has been appointed as a Member of the Heritage Craft and Community Division (HCCD) Advisory Committee by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH).

Daughter of Dr. Karan Singh, former Sadr-e-Riyasat of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Jyotsna Singh is a noted cultural activist and heritage conservationist. She is also the founder of the much-acclaimed Tawi Festival, which celebrates the diverse cultural traditions of the region.

The appointment was confirmed through an official communication from INTACH, stating that the HCCD Advisory Committee has been reconstituted as of May 7, 2025.

Dr. Jyotsna Singh's inclusion in this prestigious committee reflects her longstanding contributions to the promotion and preservation of art, culture, and heritage in Jammu & Kashmir and beyond.

As a member of the HCCD Advisory Committee, Dr. Jyotsna Singh will play a key role in offering expert guidance and advice towards strengthening INTACH's initiatives focused on heritage crafts and community engagement across India.

Langer Sewa by JCMS continues for 3rd day



TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, JULY 03 : Former MLC & currently Provincial President of National Conference, Rattan Lal Gupta, as Chief Guest, commenced the langar seva on third day in the premises of Jammu Central Mahajan Sabha, Shalimar Road, Jammu, along with the senior functionaries of the Sabha.

Pertinent to mention that large number of pilgrims are reaching here to have meals. Over 1000 pilgrims had Langer prasad on its first day. The Sabha also facilitated 812 pilgrims in registering for the holy yatra in its premises.

Adv. Rattan Lal Gupta also took round of the Mahajan

Sabha to oversee and support the smooth functioning of the Langer Sewa. He interacted with the organizers and pilgrims, extending his best wishes for a successful Amarnath Yatra. He commended the efforts of Mahajan Biradari for their exemplary arrangements and the provision of free Langer Sewa.

On this occasion, Romesh Chander Gupta, President of JCMS, expressed gratitude to Adv. Rattan Lal Gupta for his support. Shiv Partap Gupta (Sr. Vice President) thanked all dignitaries present. He said that the langer sewa is a great service and JCMS has been organising it for the last so many years with the sup-

port of the biradari members and the prominent citizens of Jammu and they all need to be appreciated.

Sanjay Mahajan (General Secretary) expressed satisfaction with the meticulous arrangements and management of the Sabha. He acknowledged the relentless efforts of volunteers and organizations involved in ensuring a seamless experience for the pilgrims.

The Sabha received enthusiastic chants of "Baba Barfani" from the pilgrims, who appreciated the high quality of food and facilities provided. Subash Gupta and Balbir Gupta, the Langer In-charge, conveyed their appreciation for the valuable feedback received from the pilgrims. The President reiterated his heartfelt thanks to all contributors and urged the people of Jammu to sustain their commitment throughout the annual pilgrimage.

The event saw the presence of a distinguished team of JCMS, including Ramesh Gupta (Bartan Wale), C.P. Gupta (Patron), Surinder Gupta, Atul Gupta (Vice Presidents), and many others who contributed to the success of Langer Sewa.

Deputation from Kalka Colony (Ward 48) meets BJP leader Rajeev Charak regarding civic issues

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, JULY 03 : A deputation of residents from Kalka Colony, Ward No. 48, in the Bahu Fort area, met senior BJP leader Shri Rajeev Charak today to highlight a number of persistent civic problems affecting their locality.

The deputation informed Mr. Charak that a local resident, Christian Chand, has constructed a large structure (barrier-like obstruction) on the road in front of his shop and house for personal safety.

As a result, rainwater is unable to flow into the drainage system and instead floods the streets and nearby homes. Due to the lack of proper drainage, residents are often forced to stay up at night to clear water from their homes.

The residents said that they have repeatedly informed the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and Jammu Development Authority (JDA), but no effective action has been taken so far. They demanded that the illegal obstruction be removed immediately so that the newly constructed drain can function properly.

Additionally, the citizens complained that under the Jammu Smart City project, tin sheets have been erected along



the roadside to hide nearby slums. These have been placed in such a way that access from the lane to the main road has become hazardous.

The main access route, built over a drain, has also been encroached upon by a person named Krishan Lal. This has not only obstructed public passage but also poses a serious accident risk, especially for children who now have to jump directly onto the road from the narrow lanes.

Rajeev Charak listened attentively to the delegation's concerns and assured them that the matter would be promptly taken up with the concerned

departments. He emphasized that ensuring public safety and convenience, especially during the monsoon season, is a top priority.

He further stated firmly, "Those who encroach upon public spaces for personal gain, at the expense of public welfare, will not be spared under any circumstances. Strict action will be taken against such individuals to ensure that no one dares to damage or misuse public property in the future."

Other who a company delegation included Raj Pandey Anil Kumar Bhagat, Vimla Devi Savitri Devi Kalbhushan and Asha Devi

Tony reviews CAPEX PRI Plan, demands restoration of deducted Panchayat Funds

Suchetgarh witnesses unprecedented Rs 900 Cr development under Tony's tenure



TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, JULY 03 : Senior Congress leader and DDC Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony, today chaired a crucial meeting to review the CAPEX PRI Plan for the financial year 2025-26 at the office of the Block Development Officer (BDO) Chakroi in Suchetgarh.

The meeting was attended by BDO Suchetgarh Shailender Pakhroo, all Gram Sevaks, and PRI representatives from the area.

During the review, Tony emphasized the need to modernize governance at the grassroots level by connecting all Panchayat Ghars with CCTV cameras and linking them directly to the BDO office in Suchetgarh. He asserted that such digital integra-

tion would not only ensure transparency but also facilitate virtual Gram Sabha meetings, thereby speeding up developmental works.

Tony came down heavily on the bureaucratic establishment for arbitrary deductions of over 60 per cent from Panchayat funds, as well as significant cuts in BDC and DDC allocations. Calling it "undemocratic and illegal," he questioned the rationale behind such deductions when the Government of India is consistently sending development funds to the Union Territory.

"Why are bureaucrats acting as stumbling blocks to rural development?" Tony asked, adding that rather than promoting savings or ensuring judicious

expenditure, the concerned departments seem "hell-bent on slashing development allocations," effectively backstabbing the entire Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) system.

The senior Congress leader urged the Commissioner Secretary of the Rural Development Department and the concerned Minister to immediately release the deducted funds so that the "limping development activities can regain momentum and be completed in full swing."

Notably, Suchetgarh has seen development worth Rs 900 crore under the tenure and leadership of Tony. This includes the highest number of NABARD projects, a horticulture nursery worth Rs 250 crore, roads and bridges valued at Rs 100 crore, and the four-laning of the RS Pura to Suchetgarh border road—reflecting the overall transformation of the Suchetgarh constituency.

Tony reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening democratic institutions at the grassroots and warned that any attempt to paralyze PRI bodies through fund manipulation will be firmly resisted.

KCCI expresses gratitude to JK Bank for extending deadline under karz se Mukti scheme

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, JULY 03 : The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) conveys its deep appreciation to the Jammu and Kashmir Bank for extending the repayment deadline under its Special One-Time Settlement Scheme - Karz Se Mukti - by two months i.e. (up to 01-9-2025).

This much-needed relief comes in direct response to the Chamber's request and reflects the bank's continued commitment to the welfare of the business community in Jammu and Kashmir.

KCCI especially thanks the Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha, the Chief Minister Mr. Omar Abdullah, Chief Secretary Mr. Atal Dulla, Managing Director and CEO of J&K Bank, Mr. Amitava Chatterjee, for their timely intervention.

The Chamber had strongly raised this issue in view of the prevailing economic distress in the Valley, particularly after the unfortunate Pahalgam incident on April 22, which severely disrupted tourism, trade, and overall business activity.

The Karz Se Mukti scheme has offered vital support to struggling borrowers by enabling them to settle long-standing dues. However, the origi-

nal repayment deadline of June 30 posed challenges for many who, despite availing the scheme by March 31, were unable to arrange funds due to the sudden downturn. The extension will go a long way in allowing these enterprises to fulfill their obligations and avoid slipping into deeper financial hardship.

KCCI also recalls with appreciation the assurance given earlier by the J&K Bank management regarding the launch of a new One-Time Settlement scheme with a higher ceiling, aligned with MSME guidelines. Such an initiative is eagerly awaited by a large segment of borrowers who could not benefit from the existing framework.

The Chamber urges the bank to consider announcing this enhanced scheme at the earliest, to extend the same relief to larger but equally stressed accounts.

J&K Bank's responsiveness and sensitivity to the needs of local businesses send a strong signal of support and solidarity. KCCI looks forward to continued collaboration with the bank to strengthen the region's financial resilience and accelerate economic revival.

Sawhney Flags Off Pilgrimage Bus to Khatu Shyam Ji, Praises Women-Led Initiative

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, JULY 03 : Sawhney Supports Grassroots Pilgrimage Effort, Highlights Role of Community-Driven Initiatives

Former Minister Jammu & Kashmir and senior Congress leader Yogesh Sawhney on Thursday flagged off a pilgrimage bus from Jammu Darbar, Channi, to the revered Shri Khatu Shyam Maharaj Ji Temple. This initiative of the pilgrimage bus, now the second such one, has been organized by Neha Sharma, proprietor of Jai Durga Hardware, Kot Bhalwal, and Pooja Gupta, associated with Bawa Roadlines in Birpur. They have been managing this no profit, no loss pilgrimage service, providing pilgrims with comfortable AC sleeper bus travel and also ensure arrangements for meals and accommodation throughout the journey. Sawhney lauded their efforts and the initiative, stating that it was rooted in community service and devotion. Sawhney was accompanied by Ram Magotra, Vice President DCC Jammu (Urban) on his visit to flag off the pilgrimage bus from Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Sawhney said that these efforts reflect true devotion and commitment



to religious service, allowing many from Jammu to undertake this sacred journey without financial burden. Lauding the noble gesture, Yogesh Sawhney praised Neha Sharma and Pooja Gupta for setting a remarkable example of citizen-led religious service. "They are enabling people to fulfill their spiritual aspirations with comfort and care, and their devotion is truly commendable," said Sawhney. He emphasized that such voluntary efforts bring communities together and promote shared values of compassion, faith, and selflessness.

He further added that the bus journey also includes Salasar Balaji on its route, offering a spiritually enriching experience for the pilgrims. People such as the organisers of this initiative who have made it their mission to help pilgrims visit sacred sites with ease and dignity should be encouraged, and it is a welcome step.

Sawhney also wished the pilgrims for their journey and said he sent his regards with them to the holy sites. He expressed hope that more such efforts would inspire similar spiritual and social initiatives across Jammu & Kashmir. The community's growing participation in such yatras reflects the deep-rooted cultural and religious harmony of the region.

The initiative has received widespread appreciation from local residents, for the tireless work in organizing a well-structured and comfortable yatra. Beneficiaries of the service expressed their gratitude, noting how such arrangements make it possible for the elderly and financially challenged individuals to participate in spiritual journeys they had only dreamed of. Concluding the program, the Congress leaders appreciated the organizers for the initiative and thanked them for their efforts.