

Rohin hails PM Modi Govt's compassionate initiative for Ration Card holders

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In a significant step towards easing the hardships faced by millions of underprivileged families, especially during the scorching summer months, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District Jammu South Media Secretary Rohin Chandan warmly welcomed this people-centric decision: the Central Government under the visionary leadership of PM Narendra Modi has announced a major relief measure. Eligible ration cardholders will now receive three months' worth of free food grains in a single distribution, covering the months of April, May, and June 2026, under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). He's describing it as yet another example of the Modi government's unwavering commitment to the welfare of the poor and vulnerable sections of society. "This initiative reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's deep concern for the common man. By providing three months of free ration at once, the government is not only ensuring food security but also reducing the physical and logistical burden on beneficiaries during the peak summer season," Chandan stated.

Rohin explains the decision comes at a time when weather forecasts predict intense heatwaves across many parts of the country, including Jammu and Kashmir. Repeated visits to fair-price shops (ration shops) in extreme temperatures often lead to long queues, discomfort, and health risks for the elderly, women, and children. The bulk distribution approach addresses these challenges head-on by allowing beneficiaries to collect their full quota—typically 5 kg of food grains (wheat or rice) per



person per month, in addition to any pulses or other entitlements—in one convenient go. This streamlined process minimizes waiting times, prevents crowding at distribution points, and promotes better management of supplies. Under the ongoing PMGKAY scheme, which has been extended for five years starting January 1, 2024, free food grains are provided to approximately 81.35 crore beneficiaries nationwide, including those under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Households (PHH) categories as per the National Food Security Act (NFSA). The scheme has been a lifeline for the poor since its inception during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring nutritional security and reducing out-of-pocket expenditure on basic food items. This latest administrative innovation builds on the scheme's success by enhancing efficiency and beneficiary convenience. Rohin Chandan emphasized that such forward-thinking measures demonstrate the BJP-led government's pro-poor policies and its focus on last-mile

delivery. "The Modi government has consistently prioritized the welfare of every Indian, particularly those in need. Initiatives like this not only provide immediate relief but also strengthen the foundation of food security and social justice," he added. Chandan urged all eligible ration cardholders in J&K to stay informed through official channels and visit their nearest fair price shops as per the announced schedule. He also called upon party workers and local volunteers to assist beneficiaries, especially the elderly and differently abled, in availing this facility without hassle. Rohin explains the decision comes at a time when weather forecasts predict intense heatwaves across many parts of the country, including Jammu and Kashmir. Repeated visits to fair-price shops (ration shops) in extreme temperatures often lead to long queues, discomfort, and health risks for the elderly, women, and children. The bulk distribution approach addresses these challenges head-on by allowing beneficiaries to collect their full quota—typically 5 kg of

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BJP OBC Morcha raises key issues of OBC Communities in J&K

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Braham Jyot Satti, President of BJP OBC Morcha, Jammu & Kashmir, on Monday addressed a press conference at the BJP Head Office, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, highlighting several pressing issues faced by the Other Backward Classes (OBC) in the Union Territory. BJP Media Secretary Pardeep Mahotra was also present on the occasion. Addressing the media, Satti reiterated that the Bharatiya Janata Party has always remained committed to the welfare and upliftment of OBC communities and continues to work for their social, educational and economic empowerment. He raised serious concerns over the issuance of caste certificates to certain OBC communities, including Teli, Kumhar (Potter), Dhobi and Barber. He pointed out that these communities are presently issued caste certificates only in rural areas of Jammu & Kashmir, whereas in other parts of the country, such certificates are granted in both rural and urban areas. This disparity, he said, has deprived a significant section of the urban OBC population in J&K from availing constitutional safeguards and welfare benefits. Satti demanded the immediate removal of the "Rural Only" tag from the Central List of OBCs for these communities to ensure equal access to



benefits for eligible individuals residing in urban areas. Highlighting economic concerns, he stressed the need to revise the creamy layer income limit for OBCs, proposing an increase from the existing ₹8 lakh to ₹12 lakh in view of rising inflation and the increasing cost of living. He stated that such a revision would help ensure that genuinely deserving families are not excluded from reservation benefits and government welfare schemes.

Focusing on education, Satti proposed that laptops be provided to financially weaker OBC students who have passed their Class 12 examinations. He said this initiative would promote digital learning, enhance access to higher education and empower students to compete effectively in today's technology-driven environment. He also called for simplifying the process of issuing OBC caste certificates, suggesting that recommendations from registered community sabhas should be considered sufficient to expedite the process and reduce delays. Satti informed that

a delegation of the BJP OBC Morcha had recently met BJP J&K President Sat Sharma, who responded positively and even took up the matter with a Union Minister. He added that a memorandum had also been submitted to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who assured sympathetic consideration and necessary action. Reaffirming the party's commitment, Satti expressed confidence that the issues raised would be addressed at the earliest, reiterating that the BJP stands firmly with OBC communities. Earlier, members of the BJP OBC Morcha paid rich tributes to martyrs Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar on the occasion of their martyrdom day, remembering their supreme sacrifice for the nation. Among others present were Sunny Sangotra (State General Secretary OBC Morcha), Ashok Salgotra (State Secretary), Shivali Khengar (State Office Secretary), Ashok Pandey (State Media Secretary), Vinod Choudhary (State Publicity Secretary) and Ram Paul (State Treasurer).

GDC Thannamandi observes Shaheedi Diwas

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Thannamandi Government Degree College Thannamandi solemnly observed Shaheedi Diwas with great reverence and patriotic fervour under the able guidance of Principal, Dr. Shamim Ahmed Azad. A large number of students along with staff participated in the programme in the august presence of the Principal. The event commemorated the supreme sacrifices of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru, who laid down their lives for the freedom of the nation. As part of the observance, a mass

singing of the National Song "Vande Mataram" was organized, symbolizing unity, patriotism, and deep respect for the nation's rich legacy. Students and faculty members participated enthusiastically, creating an atmosphere filled with national pride and emotional tribute to the martyrs. The programme was organized by the committee constituted to commemorate 150 Years of National Pride - "Vande Mataram" (The National Song). The committee headed by Dr. Nazar-ul-Islam and comprising Prof. Supriya Gupta, Dr. Gulshan Rashid, Prof. Fatima Parveen, Dr. Ather

Aziz Raina, Prof. Rummy Dar, Prof. Rizwana Kouser, Dr. Meenakshi Sharma, and Dr. Attiq-ur-Rehman. The observance aimed to instill a sense of patriotism, national unity, and awareness among students about the invaluable sacrifices made by the freedom fighters. The programme concluded with a renewed pledge among participants to uphold the ideals of the nation and contribute positively towards society.

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PM Shri Government Higher Secondary School Bhalra, Bhaderwah, solemnly observed Shaheedi Diwas on March 23, 2026, in collaboration with 10 J&K Battalion NCC Bhaderwah as part of the nationwide commemoration "150 Years of National Pride - Vande Mataram." The programme began with heartfelt tributes to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation's freedom. NCC cadets, students and staff members participated with great enthusiasm and discipline, reflecting a strong sense of patriotism and respect for the sacrifices of the freedom fighters.

On the occasion, Associate NCC Officer Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Koul highlighted the significance of Shaheedi Diwas and elaborated

on the 150-year commemoration of Vande Mataram. He also informed the students about various activities scheduled by the District Administration Doda from March 23 to March 30, 2026, as part of the national celebrations. Cadet Kush Kumar Sharma addressed the gathering and spoke about the history and sacrifices of the freedom fighters, motivating students to follow the ideals of discipline, dedication and service to the nation. The Principal of the institution, Smt. Asha Bhalwal, emphasized the importance of Vande Mataram and urged students to uphold the values of unity, integrity and patriotism in their daily lives. A mass singing of "Vande Mataram" by all participants created a deeply emotional and patriotic atmosphere across the institution. The programme, organised

under the guidance of Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Koul and supervision of Principal Asha Bhalwal, concluded with a pledge to strengthen national unity and serve the nation with sincerity and commitment. A mass singing of "Vande Mataram" by all participants created a deeply emotional and patriotic atmosphere across the institution. The programme, organised under the guidance of Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Koul and supervision of Principal Asha Bhalwal, concluded with a pledge to strengthen national unity and serve the nation with sincerity and commitment. On the occasion, Associate NCC Officer Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Koul highlighted the significance of Shaheedi Diwas and elaborated on the 150-year commemoration of Vande Mataram. He also informed the students about various activities

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Omar-Led Govt Focused on Inclusive Growth of marginalized and underprivileged communities: Rattan Lal Gupta

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Jammu, March 23: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President (Jammu) Rattan Lal Gupta on Monday asserted that the NC has consistently championed the upliftment of socially and economically disadvantaged sections and remains steadfast in carrying forward that legacy.

He made these remarks while interacting with a delegation from the Global Christian Action Committee, Christian Colony Residency Road Jammu, which called on him at the party's provincial headquarters, Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu. During the interaction, Gupta underscored the party's historic commitment to marginalized and underprivileged communities, saying it is deeply rooted in the core philosophy and founding principles of the



National Conference. "The National Conference has always stood for the voiceless, and the marginalized. Our founding manifesto was not merely a document, but a promise to ensure dignity, justice, and equal opportunity for all," he said.

Highlighting the party's governance record, he added, "Successive NC governments have worked tirelessly to uplift the last person in the queue—be it through land reforms, social welfare measures, or inclusive development policies

that transformed lives across Jammu and Kashmir." Taking a dig at previous regimes, Gupta said that "lopsided and insensitive policies of earlier BJP-backed governments disrupted this progressive trajectory, pushing vulnerable sections further to the margins and undoing years of social and economic progress." Expressing optimism about the present dispensation, he said the Omar Abdullah-led government is committed to restoring the pro-people governance model

associated with the NC. "Under the dynamic leadership of Omar Abdullah, the government is once again focused on inclusive growth, equitable development, and grassroots empowerment. Every decision is being guided by the principle that no section of society should feel left out," he remarked. Gupta further assured the delegation that the concerns of minority communities and weaker sections remain a priority. "We are not just revisiting our legacy—we are strengthening it. The ongoing efforts of the present government reflect the National Conference's best traditions of compassion, secularism, and people-centric governance," he said, adding that "the aim is to rebuild trust and ensure that governance reaches every doorstep with fairness and sensitivity."

Teli urges workers to gear up for upcoming Panchayat elections

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Jammu, March 23: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference OBC Cell Chairman Abdul Gani Teli today called upon party workers to actively prepare for the forthcoming Panchayat elections. Addressing party workers at village Gandli in R.S Pura. The meeting was organized by Prem Kumar District President Jammu Rural "B" OBC Cell. Teli highlighted the performance of the Omar Abdullah-led government, stating that its focus on good governance and welfare schemes has significantly benefited the people. He urged workers to take these achievements to the grassroots level and ensure greater public awareness. Criticising the previous BJP-led government, Teli said that OBC communities were neglected and no concrete policies were



framed for their upliftment. He further appealed to party workers to strengthen grassroots outreach, remain closely connected with public issues, and begin preparations for the upcoming Panchayat elections with full dedication. Emphasising Rural development, Teli

said that the Omar-led government is committed to transforming Rural by improving civic infrastructure and beautification. He noted that several developmental projects have been launched from time to time to enhance Rural living standards. During the interaction, public griev-

ances were also heard. Participants raised concerns over the scarcity of drinking water and the deteriorating condition of roads. Teli assured that all genuine demands would be addressed on priority and taken up with the concerned Hon'ble Minister for timely redressal. Among others who were present in the meeting included: D.D Mehra District President Jammu OBC Cell, Tarsam Khullar, Nazir Hussain, Thoru Ram Mandi, Sunita Devi, Basit Malik and others. Teli assured that all genuine demands would be addressed on priority and taken up with the concerned Hon'ble Minister for timely redressal. Among others who were present in the meeting included: D.D Mehra District President Jammu OBC Cell, Tarsam Khullar, Nazir Hussain, Thoru Ram Mandi, Sunita Devi, Basit Malik and others.