

Sadhotra promises development under Omar Abdullah's leadership

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: Additional General Secretary National Conference (NC) and former Minister, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra on Sunday flayed Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for neglecting remote and far-flung hilly areas in Jammu and Kashmir during the past ten years.

Addressing a public meeting at Chenani in Udhampur District which was organized by Naresh Anthal and Ram Parshotam District President Udampur, Sadhotra highlighted several critical issues stemming from the BJP's governance directly and remotely, including developmental inertia, the breakdown of essential services, skyrocketing prices, and a sharp rise in unemployment among educated, skilled, and unskilled workers.

Exuding confidence in the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Sadhotra assured that the National Conference led government is



Additional General Secretary NC Ajay Sadhotra addressing public meeting at Chenani in Udhampur.

committed to rectifying the failures of the BJP government.

"Under Omar Abdullah's leadership, the National Conference government will undertake a course correction. We will ensure fast-track development, modernized infrastructure, and a comprehensive approach to upgrade essential services in every corner of Jammu and Kashmir," he asserted.

Sadhotra emphasized that the National Conference's governance model will prioritize marginalized areas to bridge the urban-rural divide and bring equitable growth.

"No area will be left behind, and no community will feel neglected. The National Conference is committed to ensuring that every citizen has access to the resources and opportunities they deserve," he added.

He also underscored the party's commitment to addressing unemployment by implementing effective employability measures and transparent recruitment processes.

"Our focus will be on creating jobs, empowering the youth, and fostering entrepreneurship. Omar Abdullah's government has

been working tirelessly to restore the trust of the people by ensuring merit-based recruitments and providing skill development opportunities," Sadhotra affirmed.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Ramban Arjun Singh Raju urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to support the National Conference in its mission to restore prosperity and progress.

"It is time for change. The National Conference stands with the people and will work relentlessly to fulfill their aspirations and build a better future for Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Provincial Secretary, Mohammad Ayub Malik dwelled in detail on track record of his part in service of the people, saying that the National Conference continues to be a voice for the voiceless, championing the cause of equitable development and inclusive governance in the region. On the occasion, many prominent people joined National Conference.

Those who joined are Mehboob Qazi Retd Tehsildar, Gh Hassan Retd ZEO, Gopal Singh, Rashid Malik, Bashir Ahmed, Ram Kumar, Sham Singh, Jugal Kishore and others.

Sadhotra welcomed new entrants in the party and hoped that their joining with further strengthen the hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Sunil Verma District President Udhampur; Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu, Raghubir Singh Manhas District President Jammu Rural-A, Ch Naresh Bittu District President Jammu Rural-B, Abdul Gani Teli OBC President, Ch Mohd Aslam, Ashwani Charak, Vijay Khajuria, Darshan Singh Dogra, Gopal Singh Saras, Haji Noor Mohd, Shrishta Devi District President NC Woman Wing, Om Parkash, K.D. Sharma Advocate.

NYKS organizes specialised interactions for participants under Border Area Youth Exchange Programme



HoD Cardiology GMC Jammu Dr. Sushil Sharma posing with other dignitaries and participants.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, organized two specialized interactions under the Mera Yuva Bharat initiative. These interactions were aimed to foster knowledge sharing between participants of the Border Area Youth Exchange Programme and professionals from medical and academic fields. The interactions featured esteemed speakers, including Dr. Sushil Sharma, renowned Cardiologist and Head of Cardiology at GMC Jammu, and Dr. Nitán Sharma, a faculty member at The Law School, University of Jammu. Dr. Sushil Sharma, with over three decades of experience in cardiology, led the discussion, addressing queries and providing insightful answers. He focused on cardiovascular diseases, emphasizing modifiable risk factors such as smoking, hypertension, and diabetes. He also urged participants to spread awareness about the dangers of drug addiction and its impact on cardiovascular health. Dr. Nitán Sharma emphasized the

spirit of "Ek Bharat, Shresth Bharat" and encouraged participants to uphold fundamental duties as outlined in the Constitution.

Earlier Nitin Hangloo, District Youth Officer, NYKS, Jammu, welcomed the speakers and expressed gratitude on behalf of his organization.

As part of the border area youth exchange program participants from 5 UTs and State viz., Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan are on visit to Jammu for five days who are exploring border areas and life of people living in those areas.

Yudhvir meets Dr. Jitendra in Delhi, discusses key issues concerning J&K youth

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi, today met Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh and held a detailed discussion on several issues concerning the youth of Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting focused on employment opportunities, skill development, and enhancing the role of premier educational institutions in shaping the future of young aspirants.

During the discussion, Sethi emphasized the need for greater opportunities in higher education and skill-based training to empower the youth of J&K.

He also highlighted the significant role played by IIM Jammu and IIT Jammu in transforming the education landscape of the region.

Stressing the need for further expansion and support for these premier institutions, he advocated for increased student intake, more industry collaborations, and enhanced placement opportunities.

Sethi also underscored the



MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi meeting with Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh.

importance of Central Government schemes and initiatives in uplifting the youth and ensuring they are equipped with the necessary skills to contribute to the nation's progress.

He urged Dr. Jitendra Singh to facilitate more job-oriented programs, scholarships, and incubation centers in J&K to foster innovation and entrepreneurship.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh assured full support to address the concerns raised and reiterated the government's commitment to the holistic development of Jammu & Kashmir.

He highlighted the ongoing efforts under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to make J&K a hub of education, employment, and economic growth.

Yudhvir Sethi expressed his gratitude to Dr. Jitendra Singh for his proactive approach and continuous efforts in ensuring the youth of J&K have access to better opportunities.

He reaffirmed his commitment to working for the welfare of the youth and strengthening B-JP's vision for a progressive and self-reliant Jammu & Kashmir.

Fraudulent complaint filed by senior JKAS officer exposed, FIR lodged

Balvinder demands stringent action

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Balvinder Singh, a prominent RTI activist and President of the Sikh Progressive Front, has exposed a shocking case of fraud and impersonation involving a senior JKAS officer.

Addressing the media, Singh revealed that a false complaint was lodged against another JKAS officer using a fabricated email ID created in Singh's name.

Singh shared his disbelief upon being summoned by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Jammu, regarding the complaint.

Upon investigation, it was discovered that his identity had been fraudulently used to file a baseless complaint, aiming to defame a fellow officer and tarnish Singh's own credibility as a social activist.

On October 4, 2023, Singh filed a formal complaint at the Cyber Police Station, Jammu, under Sections 66C and 66D of the IT Act, along with Section 356 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The investigation, supported by evidence from Google Inc. and telecom service providers, revealed the accused as Kulraj Singh, a JKAS officer currently serving as Joint Handloom Officer, along with Joshi Kumari, wife of Romesh Kumar of Dogra Hall. The digital and electronic evidence conclusively established their guilt in



RTI activist, Balvinder Singh talking to reporters.

spanning over a year, an FIR (No. 25/2024) was registered on December 24, 2024, at the Cyber Police Station, Jammu, under Sections 66C and 66D of the IT Act, along with Section 356 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The investigation, supported by evidence from Google Inc. and telecom service providers, revealed the accused as Kulraj Singh, a JKAS officer currently serving as Joint Handloom Officer, along with Joshi Kumari, wife of Romesh Kumar of Dogra Hall. The digital and electronic evidence conclusively established their guilt in

impersonating Singh and filing the false complaint.

Both accused surrendered to the court and obtained interim anticipatory bail from the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jammu, effective until January 31, 2025.

Singh strongly condemned this grave misconduct,

emphasizing that such actions by public servants undermine public trust and tarnish the reputation of the administrative system.

"This unethical and illegal behavior must be met with strict administrative action to set a strong precedent," Singh asserted.

He appealed to Lieutenant Governor J&K, Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary J&K, and Commissioner Secretary GAD to initiate stringent action against Kulraj Singh to uphold the integrity of the administrative services.

Additionally, Singh urged the J&K administration to issue a circular declaring

impersonation, misuse of digital identities, and filing of false complaints as serious breaches of conduct under service rules, with strict punitive measures for offenders.

Such measures, he said, would deter others from engaging in unethical and unlawful practices and restore public faith in governance.

Prominent Sikh Progressive members who were present in the press conference were Manjit Singh General Secretary, Rajinder Singh Sudan Vice President, Janak Singh, Paranjit Singh, T.P Singh and Satinder Pal Singh.

Natrang presents Hindi play 'Sarkari Afsar'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Natrang presented 'Sarkari Afsar', a play in Hindi in its weekly theatre series, Sunday Theatre today at its Studio Theatre here in Kachi Chawni, Jammu.

The play has been written by Laxmikant Vaishnav and was directed by Neeraj Kant. The play portrayed a real life situation of a 'Sarkari Daftar' (Government Office) and highlighted the vices in a very intelligent manner. The play opens in a Government Office where all the employees are shown to working in their own styles. As they have job security, no one bothers to exercise punctuality; on the contrary, they have their own reasons to modify the rules and regulations as per their personal convenience. The common vices like red-tapeism, nepotism, favouritism, corruption, absenteeism and sycophancy which are generally associated with such offices are prominently shown in the play in a very genuine manner. The office has a peon who listens to none as no one can remove him from his permanent job and moreover no one, even the boss has courage to say anything to him as he has lot of secrets of theirs and thus exploits them at appropriate times.



Natrang artists performing in a play.

Everyone in the office has his/her weakness and each one is busy exploiting that just to implement a personal agenda.

The only person who musters respect from this stubborn peon is an official who is relative of a minister who works fearlessly as being a relative of a Minister, as no one could harm him in any manner. On the top of it, the Head of the Department, who was supposed to maintain integrity and punctuality of the office himself, shirks from his duties and remains absconding from the office to cater to his personal merry making engagements. But to the dismay of all, a vigilance officer conducts

a surprise raid and finds no one in the office without any information and thus orders suspension of all the absconders.

But by the time this new situation could establish the faith of good governance, the raid by a vigilance officer turns out to be dream and the fate of working of a Government office continues to be the same.

Natrang young artists who performed in the play included Mihir Gujral, Aryan Sharma, Kartik Kumar, Adaksh Bagal and Lalita Sharma. Lights were operated by Neeraj Kant whereas the music of the play was scored by Kananpreet Kaur.

ADGP Jammu Zone flags off Kashmir to Kanyakumari Cycle expedition launch for pollution-free India

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A powerful message of environmental consciousness and national unity was sent forth on Sunday as Anand Jain, ADGP Jammu Zone, officially flagged off a dedicated team of cyclists embarking on a remarkable 4,080-kilometer journey from Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

This inspiring voyage, initiated by Mangal Bhanushali and his four-member team of friends, aims to raise awareness about the importance of a pollution-free India and inspire the nation's youth to take action.

The Cycle journey commenced from the historic Lal Chowk in Srinagar on January 16, 2025.



ADGP Jammu, Anand Jain flagging off cycle expedition.

After cycling through challenging terrain, the team arrived in Jammu this morning, where they were greeted with enthusiastic support and a formal send-off ceremony at the Police GO's Mess, Gulshan Ground, Gandhi Nagar.

ADGP Jammu, Anand Jain interacted with the cyclists, commending their dedication and highlighting the significance of their mission.

"This initiative is a testament to the power of individual action in driving

positive change," he stated.

"By undertaking this arduous journey, these cyclists are not only promoting a vital message about environmental protection but also embodying the spirit of adventure and national unity. We must all encourage our youth to embrace such initiatives and contribute to building a cleaner, healthier Bharat."

The core message of the cycle journey is to promote a pollution-free India and encourage sustainable practices. The cyclists aim to inspire young people across the country to become actively involved in environmental conservation. The 4,080-kilometer route presents a significant

physical challenge, demonstrating the team's commitment and resilience. The cyclists plan to engage with local communities along their route, spreading awareness and fostering a sense of collective responsibility towards the environment.

The Jammu Police provided support and ensured the team's safe passage through the region, underscoring their commitment to facilitating such positive initiatives.

Officers present at the flag-off ceremony were DIG JSK Range Shive Kumar, SSP Jammu Joginder Singh, SO to ADGP Jammu Zone, SP City North and other senior police officers.

Youth 4 Panun Kashmir observes Holocaust Day amidst massive gathering at Jagti

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Youth 4 Panun Kashmir observed Holocaust Day amidst a huge gathering at Jagti Township, near here on Sunday. The program "Chalo Jagti: Nishkasan Ka Dard," brought together Kashmiri Pandits, community leaders, youth, and cultural icons in a powerful display of unity and determination.

The programme aimed to reflect on the pain of the exodus, honour the resilience of the community, and chart a unified way forward through the historic Jagti Declaration.

The programme began with a warm welcome and an emotional address by Diganber Raina, General Secretary of Y4PK, who vividly depicted the horrors of Nishkasan Ka Dard (The Pain of Exodus).

In his speech, he recounted the atrocities faced by the Kashmiri Pandit community, including the Nadinar Massacre, the brutal murder of Svaranand Lal Koul



Premi, the heinous killing of Girija Tikoo, and the cold-blooded assassinations of A.K. Raina and Rahul Bhat, both of whom were targeted and murdered in their offices for their identity as Kashmiri Pandits.

These stories, among others, painted a grim picture of the genocide and displacement that devastated the community. Raina also highlighted the significance of commemorating Nishkasan Divas at Jagti, Jammu—a township that stands as a symbol of resilience for those displaced. He underscored the importance of ensuring that the pain and sacrifices of the exodus are never forgotten, serving as a reminder of the challenges that lie ahead in reclaiming justice and restoring dignity.

The program progressed with the ceremonial Dweep Prajvalan, led by dignitaries including Swami Kumar Ji and Kailash Mehra Sadhu, followed by a solemn Shardanjali Dhun, where attendees stood in silence to honor the victims of the exodus. The release of the poignant song "Aasey Chu Tarun Kashmir - Song in Exile," performed by Kailash Mehra Sadhu, resonated deeply with the audience, encapsulating both the sorrow and hope of the community.

Cultural performances further added depth to the program, with Nimrit Raina, winner of Koshur Kalakra, leading a musical segment, and talented students from Hee Maa Public School presenting stirring performances that showcased the vibrancy of the community's next generation.

The programme also featured impactful speeches by prominent figures. Dr Agnishekhar, Convenor of Panun Kashmir, emphasized the critical importance of the Margdarshan Resolution 1991, describing it as the cornerstone of the Kashmiri Pandit community's demand for a Union Territory within the Kashmir Valley.

He spoke about the ongoing

relevance of this resolution in achieving justice and dignity. Rahul Kaul, Apex Body Member of Y4PK, outlined a strategic roadmap for collective action, calling for unity and resilience to overcome the community's challenges.

Pintoo Ji Pandita, a respected socio-political activist, shared actionable insights on the way forward, while Shama Raina delivered an inspiring speech on the pivotal role of women in the community's struggle. Sahil Pandita focused on youth aspirations, highlighting their vital role in reclaiming and preserving the community's heritage and identity.

The program culminated in the announcement of the Jagti Declaration by Vithal Chowdhary, President of Y4PK. The declaration reaffirmed the community's unwavering commitment to the Margdarshan Resolution 1991, advocating for the establishment of a Union Territory to

secure a dignified and safe return to their homeland. It called for formal recognition of the genocide of Kashmiri Pandits, stressing the need for justice, accountability, and remembrance.

The declaration further outlined plans to empower the youth and women, encouraging their active participation in leadership and decision-making processes. It also emphasized the preservation of Kashmiri Pandit culture through literature, music, and art, along with a commitment to mobilize global awareness about the community's plight through outreach initiatives and collaborations.

The program concluded on an inspiring note as Dr. Kshama Kaul, accompanied by Smt. Chandra, Kailash Mehra Sadhu, and other dignitaries, flagged off the Re-claimathon. This symbolic act marked a united call to action, galvanizing efforts to reclaim the community's homeland and secure its cultural legacy.

13th Raising Day of 2nd Bn SDRF celebrated in Jammu



DGP, Nalin Prabhat inspecting displaying equipments.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The 13th Raising Day of the 2nd Bn State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) was celebrated on Sunday at Gulshan Ground, Jammu.

Nalin Prabhat, Director General of Police, was the chief guest on the occasion. He inspected the parade and took salute at the march past. In his address, the DGP appreciated the critical role that SDRF has been playing during times of disaster and natural calamities. The DGP told SDRF personnel that HQ

J&K Police shall proactively address issues related to HR Management, special equipment and training. The DGP inspected the special equipment layout and interacted with the rank and file.

Vijay Kumar, Commandant General HG/CD & SDRF J&K, welcomed the chief guest and all officers to the event and highlighted the achievements and role of SDRF.

MK Sinha, ADG HQ Coordination and other officers graced the occasion.