

BJP betrayed J&K, especially Jammu during past decade: Sadhotra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Additional General Secretary National Conference and Former Minister, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, on Sunday lambasted the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for failing the people of Jammu & Kashmir in general and Jammu in particular during the last ten years of its rule, both through direct governance and remote control administration.

Addressing public meeting at Jaganu in Udhampur Assembly Constituency, which was organized by Sunil Verma District President and Mohan Lal Sharma Block President Jaganoo, Sadhotra accused the BJP of adopting anti-poor, anti-youth, and anti-downtrodden policies, which have pushed the region into economic distress, administrative chaos, and developmental inertia. He said that the people of Jammu had high hopes from the BJP, but the party failed on all fronts and betrayed the trust of the common masses by insulting



NC Addl Gen Secy Ajay Kumar Sadhotra addressing gathering.

their mandate. Referring to the growing unemployment crisis, Sadhotra said that the youth of J&K are frustrated due to the lack of job opportunities and the slow, scandal-ridden recruitment process under the Double Engine Sarkar. He pointed out that several recruitment scams have shattered the dreams of thousands of educated youths who had aspired for government jobs.

"The recruitment process in various departments has been

marred by irregularities, corruption, and favoritism, leaving deserving candidates hopeless and disillusioned," he said.

Sadhotra asserted that instead of creating employment opportunities and promoting industrial growth, the Double Engine Sarkar worsened the situation by failing to generate jobs and mishandling the recruitment process. This has driven the youth to drugs, he said and cited the example of five to six young

boys succumbing due to this.

He demanded stern action against the drug mafia by tackling the source of narcotic dens and sought compassionate intervention in addressing the issues concerning the youth.

Reaffirming the National Conference's commitment to public welfare and development, Sadhotra assured the people that his party would work tirelessly to restore faith in governance, accelerate development, and ensure the delivery of all basic amenities as promised during elections.

He said that the National Conference has always prioritized the welfare of the common man and will continue to fight against policies that harm the interests of the poor, youth, and marginalized sections of society.

He urged the people to see through the BJP's false promises and support the National Conference in its mission to bring stability, progress, and justice to Jammu & Kashmir.

Sadhotra reiterated that the National Conference Government headed by Omar Abdullah remains steadfast in its ideology of inclusivity, progress, and people-centric governance, and will continue to stand with the people in their fight for justice and democratic rights.

Prominent among others present on the occasion included Mohd Ayoub Malik Provincial Secretary, Pardeep Kumar Bali Provincial Secretary, Ram Parshotam Sharma District President, Chander Mohan Sharma District President, Raghbir Singh Manhas District President, Tajinder Pal Singh Provincial President Youth National Conference, Randhir Singh Secretary District National Conference, Ashwani Charak, Aisha Bhan Migrant Women leader, Vishawinder Singh District Secretary YNC, Aman Singh Manhas, Paviter Singh, K. L. Sharma Advocate, Mohan Lal Verma, Capt Kulbir Singh, Devinder Singh.

Santoor maestro Pt Abhay Rustum Sopori conferred with Swar Shri Samman 2025

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Santoor maestro and music composer Pandit Abhay Rustum Sopori has been conferred with the Swar Shri Samman 2025 by Sargam Mandir during its 61st year celebrations in Delhi recognizing Pt. Abhay Sopori's path breaking works and contributions in the field of music at Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi.

Sargam Mandir is a well-known cultural organization of Delhi which was founded in 1964 by late Pt. Jagdish Mohan, an eminent vocalist of Kirana Gharana.

Dr. Deepak Sharma, Secretary of Sargam Mandir congratulated Pt. Sopori while presenting the award. Pandit Abhay Rustum Sopori is the present custodian of the age-old Santoor tradition and the Shaivite - Sufi musical tradition of Kashmir. A scion of the fabled Sopori - Sufiana Gharana of Kashmir, he represents the 3 centuries



Santoor maestro and music composer Pandit Abhay Rustum Sopori receiving award.

old Santoor legacy.

Taking forward the legacy of great masters like Pandit Shamboo Nath Sopori ji and Pandit Bhajan Sopori, Pt. Abhay Sopori dedicated the award to his Gurus, his father and grandfather, and thanked Sargam Mandir organization for bestowing the honour upon him.

Post award function Pt. Abhay Sopori presented his Santoor recital accompanied by Pandit Ram Kumar

Mishra on Tabla.

Pt. Sopori presented Aalap, Jod and Gats in Vilambit and Drutlaya 'Teentaal in Raga Bageshree highlighting his 'Sopori Baaj' style of Santoor with variations of Meend, Gamak, Laya, Chhand and Bol patterns and his Gayaki and Tantrakari aspects receiving a long standing ovation from the music connoisseurs and eminent personalities present in the auditorium.

SNM organises blood donation camp



A volunteer donating blood during the camp.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under the guidance of Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, the Sant Nirankari Mission (SNM) on Sunday organized hundreds of voluntary blood donation camps across India and Abroad in a Year.

In this regard Sant Nirankari Mission's Branch Muthi Rakvalan Organised a voluntarily Blood Donation Camp at Sant Nirankari Satsang Bhawan Muthi Rakvalan. Devotees from Branch Hariachak, Dayalchak and Marhen also participated in this camp. A total of 122 Units of blood donated in this camp.

The Camp was inaugurated by Rajeev Jasrotia MLA Jasrota Constituency District Kathua. While speaking on the

occasion he said, "Today, I feel truly honoured to be a part of this noble initiative organized by the Sant Nirankari Mission. Their unwavering commitment to the cause of humanity, especially in the field of blood donation, is truly commendable. The Sant Nirankari Mission has been at the forefront of this noble cause for decades, organizing blood donation camps across the country and ensuring that no life is lost due to a shortage of blood. This is a tremendous contribution to society, and I wholeheartedly congratulate the Mission for its dedicated efforts. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the organizers of today's camp, who have worked tirelessly to make this event a great success."

Ajit Singh Zonal Incharge Sant Nirankari Mission Jammu said that this initiative reflects the Mission's belief that "Blood should flow in veins, not in drains."

Blood donation is one of the greatest acts of service to mankind. It knows no boundaries of caste, religion, or status-it is a gift of life that strengthens the bonds of humanity.

The followers of the Mission believe that serving humanity is the true worship of God, and donating blood is one of the purest forms of service.

Tarsem Lal Mukhi Muthi Rakvalan welcome the Chief Guest and donors presented on the occasion.

Other dignitaries presented on the occasion were Dr. Suminder Attri Principal GMC Kathua, Dr. Sonia Incharge Blood Bank GMC Kathua, Dr. Zulfikar Ahmad Consultant and Dr. Ifa from Blood Bank GMC Jammu, Babu Ram Ji Sanyojak Kathua, Sat Pal Nirankari Khetriya Sanchalak Kathua.

The camp was held in collaboration with Blood & Transfusion Department of Govt. Medical College Jammu, Govt. Medical College Kathua, Sub-District Hospital Nagri and JKSAHS.

Bhalwal hosts 'Watershed Yatra' culmination: Leaders Advocate for solar energy, water conservation, and sanitation initiatives

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bhalwal in Jammu hosted a significant event as part of the nationwide 'Watershed Yatra' campaign under the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY 2.0).

This campaign, initiated on February 5, 2025, aimed to enhance water conservation, promote sustainable land management, and empower local communities through effective watershed development strategies.

The event was graced by prominent figures, including District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Bharat Bhushan, MLA North Jammu Sham Lal Sharma, many prominent Ex-PRI Members, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Jammu, Shahzada Noor UI Ain, Block Development Officer Bhalwal Dr.Sunil Sharma, and officials of RD&PR, ICDS, NRLM(UMEED), PDD.

A huge gathering of local residents of Block Bhalwal also participated in the event.

A highlight of the event



DDC Chairman Bharat Bhushan, MLA North Jammu Sham Lal Sharma and others during the event.

was the e-inauguration of various watershed developmental works aimed at improving local soil and water conservation practices. The dignitaries addressed the gathering, emphasizing the critical importance of watershed management.

They highlighted that effective watershed development is essential for improving soil moisture, enhancing agricultural productivity, and ensuring sustainable livelihoods for rural communities. The 'Watershed Yatra' campaign, which commenced on February 5, 2025, included a state-of-the-art 'Watershed Yatra Van' equipped with Augmented Reality (AR) tools and digi-

tal demonstrations. This van has traversed approximately 2,400 km across Jammu and Kashmir, targeted over 500,000 residents through interactive workshops, community activities, and awareness drives.

The campaign has today culminated in Jammu, showcasing cutting-edge techniques in watershed conservation, soil health enhancement, and rainwater harvesting.

The event in Bhalwal reflects the collective commitment of local leaders and officials to promote sustainable water management practices, aligning with the broader objectives of the 'Watershed Yatra' campaign. Chairman DDC Jammu

All-inclusive development Modi's mission: Sat

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been working on the line of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas"-a vision of inclusive development that ensures progress reaches every citizen, regardless of region, community, or economic status.

Sat Sharma, President, Jammu and Kashmir BJP, said this in a meeting with party senior leaders and prominent activists at Bismah town, along with General Secretary Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, local MLA Rajeev Bhagat, Jammu border district president Rinku Choudhary and Ex MLA Ashwani Sharma.

Sat Sharma said that PM Modi's leadership continues to focus on inclusive growth, empowerment, and equal opportunities for all.

Right from the day PM Narendra Modi assumed office, he has taken numerous initiatives aimed at uplifting marginalized communities and



BJP President Sat Sharma being honoured during the event in Jammu.

strengthening India's socio-economic fabric. His government has launched and successfully implemented landmark schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Jan Dhan Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, PM Garib Kalyan Yojana, and Startup India, which have impacted millions. These programmes are designed to bridge the development gap, ensuring that prosperity is not confined to a few but benefits every segment of society. Sat said that "inclusive development" is not just a slogan but a mission for

our PM. His vision is to create an India where every citizen, regardless of background, has access to basic necessities, opportunities, and a dignified life. Sat pointed out that one of the government's key areas of focus has been financial inclusion. The beneficiaries of different welfare schemes get the financial assistance into their bank accounts through DBT mode, without middlemen. Millions of Jan Dhan accounts have been opened, providing banking access to the unbanked and empowering them. Sat further shared that

infrastructure development is another pillar of PM Modi's inclusive growth strategy. Mega projects of road, rail and air connectivity, are transforming rural and urban landscapes, creating jobs, and boosting economic activity. The push for Digital India has accelerated technological penetration, bridging the urban-rural divide and fostering entrepreneurship.

Social empowerment remains at the heart of this mission. Women-led development is a priority, with programmes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao,

Ujjwala Yojana, and Mudra loans fostering financial independence and gender equality. Similarly, the government's focus on NEP 2020 (National Education Policy) is ensuring quality education for all, preparing India's youth for a knowledge-driven future.

Under PM Modi's leadership, India is embracing Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047, ensuring that growth is not limited to metros but reaches villages, small towns, and every citizen. As India continues its remarkable development journey, PM Modi's unwavering commitment to inclusive growth remains the cornerstone of his governance.

He stressed upon those in the meeting to keep making people aware about Modi's mission of serving every citizen.

Prominent among those who attended this meeting included State Executive Members, Raj Singh Langel, Narayan Dutt, DDC Dharminder Kumar, Ex District President Sunil Dutt, Satish Bharti, Mandal President Sumit Sadotra, Sujit Singh and others.

Amar Mahal Museum hosts six-day Art Camp as part of Tawi Festival



Students participating in the camp at Amar Mahal Museum.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The iconic Amar Mahal Museum has come alive with colors and creativity as it hosts a six-day art camp featuring Master Artist and Painter Sohan Billawria alongside 13 talented students from the Institute of Music and Fine Arts (IMFA).

This artistic endeavor is part of the third edition of the Tawi Festival, organized by the Hari Tara Charitable Trust, and aims to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scheduled from March 7 to March 9, the Tawi Festival promises to offer a mesmerizing journey through the vibrant traditions, art, and history of the region. The art camp serves as a prelude to this grand celebration, providing young artists with a unique opportunity to learn and create under the guidance of the acclaimed artist Sohan Billawria. The camp focuses on traditional techniques and contemporary themes, bridging the past and present of J&K's art scene.

Speaking at the inauguration, Sohan Billawria expressed his enthusiasm for the initiative, emphasizing the importance of nurturing young talent and preserving the region's artistic legacy. The participating students showcased remarkable skill and

creativity, drawing inspiration from the scenic landscapes and cultural motifs of Jammu and Kashmir. The Tawi Festival, with its diverse lineup of cultural programs, art exhibitions, and performances, seeks to foster a deeper appreciation for local heritage among residents and visitors alike. The Amar Mahal Museum, with its historic architecture and serene ambiance, serves as the perfect backdrop for this artistic confluence. Art enthusiasts and cultural aficionados are eagerly awaiting the main events of the festival, which are expected to draw significant participation and celebrate the essence of Jammu's rich traditions.

Notably, Sohan Singh Billawria, a self-trained artist, is renowned for his expertise in Basohli miniature painting, a distinctive style that emerged in the 17th and 18th centuries in the hill town of Basohli, Jammu region. His works have been showcased in the Amar Mahal Museum and Library in Jammu.

Natrang features Hindi play 'Rehearsal'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Natrang featured 'Rehearsal', a play in Hindi written by Lakshmi Kant Vaishnav and directed by Neeraj Kant here today at Natrang Studio Theatre Kachi Chawni in its weekly Theatre Series, Sunday Theatre. In the play the writer has very satirically mocked the people who want to do something without its proper knowledge and also without possessing the basic eligibility of the field. The play 'Rehearsal' very interestingly portrays the rehearsal scenario of a play where the cast is all women. Though they (Kitty-mates) want to present a good show, their approach is not good enough and too much immature. The basic ingredients which are required to mount a professional theatre production like discipline, punctuality, team spirit, self-motivation, neutrality of the mind etc were all missing in these



ladies and they were instead full of the traits like jealousy, gossip, lack of coordination and egotism.

The rehearsal becomes a free for all situation where everyone reveals her mind in a dramatic manner. Though there is a director also but because of her own limitations and lack of mettle, she is not able to control

the team. Where these ladies were required to act with compassion towards their fellow artists they had their own whims and fancies, few of them even had proud in their mind as their husbands are at higher posts resultantly they seek pampered treatment. Finally the rehearsal which was shown in the play Rehearsal ended up to be a chaos leaving a stern message that we need to be disciplined and committed to create a meaningful work of art.Natrang artists who performed in the play included Kananpreet Kaur; Kartik Kumar; Vandana Thakur; Supria Gorka;Priyal Ashok Gupta, Mehak Chib and Palshin Dutta. The lights of the play were operated by Neeraj Kant. The presentations were done by Aryan Sharma and the show was coordinated by Mohd Yaseen.

MLA Randhawa, Ritika Trehan assure swift action on Bahu Constituency issues

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a proactive outreach effort, BJP Mahila Morcha J&K UT Chief Spokesperson Ritika Trehan, accompanied by MLA Vikram Randhawa, District President Naresh, and Mandal President Rahul, toured Ward 20 Green Belt Park to engage with residents and address their concerns. During the visit, locals raised pressing issues such as irregular water and electricity supply, poor road conditions, faulty streetlights, clogged drainage systems, and tangled cable wires. Acknowledging their grievances, Ritika Trehan assured the people that she would escalate the matter to



BJP Mahila Morcha J&K UT Chief Spokesperson Ritika Trehan, along with MLA Vikram Randhawa listening to public issues.

the relevant authorities and work towards a swift resolution.

MLA Vikram Randhawa, while addressing the gathering, reaffirmed the B-JP government's commitment to efficient governance and public welfare. "Our priority is to ensure that

the basic amenities reach every household without delay. We are fully committed to improving the infrastructure, enhancing public services, and ensuring a better quality of life for the residents of Bahu constituency," he stated. He further assured that immediate

steps would be taken to address the water and electricity issues, emphasizing that sustainable solutions were being planned for long-term relief. Ritika Trehan, known for her hands-on approach, also stressed the importance of a clean and well-maintained neighborhood, highlighting B-JP's vision for a modern and livable constituency. "We are here not just to listen but to act. Every issue raised today will be taken up seriously, and we will work tirelessly to bring positive change," she said.

Residents appreciated the leaders' direct engagement and expressed hope that their concerns would soon be addressed.