

NC committed to holistic development of remote, far flung areas: Sadhotra

NC brought LATI (Udhampur) on a developmental map

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
UDHAMPUR: National Conference Additional General Secretary and Former Minister, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra has reaffirmed his party's commitment to the holistic development of far-flung and remote areas, saying that improving the ease of living for people in these pockets remains a top priority for the present popular government of Jammu and Kashmir led by Omar Abdullah.

Addressing a public meeting which was organized by Akash Verma and Gulzar Ahmad Wani at Lati in Udhampur District, Sadhotra recalled the efforts of the successive National Conference governments in putting the entire Lati area on the developmental map of J&K for its all round development on a fast track basis by then Chief Minister Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah by nominating Wazira Begum for two terms Sadhotra said this mission will be carried forward vigorously and single-mindedly.

He said that inclusive development is at the core of the National



Additional General Secretary NC, Ajay Sadhotra and others in a public meeting at Lati remotest area of District Udhampur.

Conference's philosophy, aimed at bridging the rural-urban divide and ensuring equal opportunities for all sections of society.

He asserted that the National Conference has always advocated policies that uplift underdeveloped regions and ensure that basic amenities reach the last person in the queue.

Lauding the developmental initiatives taken under the leadership of Omar Abdullah, Sadhotra said, "the Omar Abdullah-led government is working in a mission mode to boost growth, productivity, and infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir. The vision is to address unemployment and empower

every citizen economically, regardless of religion, region, or caste."

Responding to local issues raised by the residents, Sadhotra assured them that he would take up the matter regarding the resumption of the Sudhmahadev-Marmat Tunnel project, which has the potential to significantly reduce travel distance, enhance connectivity, and open up new avenues for agriculture and economic activities in the areas in the periphery.

Sharing the concerns of the local leaders and the youth, Sadhotra also demanded the opening of an Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in the area to facilitate skill develop-

ment and job readiness among the youth. He emphasized that technical education and vocational training are essential for tackling unemployment and equipping young people with market-oriented skills.

National Conference Additional General Secretary endorsed the demand of the youths of LATI to have a Sports Stadium at LATI so that the energy of the youth could be utilized in right direction.

Responding to healthcare and education concerns, Sadhotra called for the establishment of a Primary Health Centre (PHC) at LATI to serve the healthcare needs of adjoining

areas, stressing the need for accessible and quality health services. He also called for adequate staffing in local schools, pointing out that quality education must be supported by a sufficient number of teachers to ensure a brighter future for the next generation.

Sadhotra reiterated the National Conference's pledge to continue working at the grassroots level and take the voice of the people in policy-making processes.

He assured the locals that their issues will be taken up with the relevant authorities for immediate redressal. Those who spoke on the occasion included Ayoub Malik Provincial Secretary, Sunil Verma District President, Ram Purshotam District President, Chander Mohan Sharma District President, Raghubir Singh Manhas District President, Ch Naresh Bittu District President, Ayesha Gupta Women leader, Akash Verma.

Others who were present on the occasion are Randhir Singh Chib, Sandesh Shan, Rajesh Bakshi, Ashwani Charak, Veer Ji Salathia, Swaran Singh Manhas, Anju Rani, Priyanka, Shallu, Baby.

Randhawa inaugurates major sewerage project in Rajiv Nagar Basti



MLA, Ch. Vikram Randhawa commencing work in the sewerage network at Rajiv Nagar Basti.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Ch. Vikram Randhawa, MLA from Bahu Constituency, formally commenced the long-awaited work for providing and laying of missing links and house connections in the sewerage network at Rajiv Nagar Basti, falling under Ward Nos. 47 and 48.

The project, sanctioned under the CAPEX budget, is valued at Rs. 91.60 lakh and aims to significantly improve sanitation and public health infrastructure in the area.

The launch event witnessed the presence of key engineering personnel from the Sewerage Department, including Executive Engineer Ashwani Khajuria (XEN), Assistant Executive Engineer Naresh Kumar (AEE), and Assistant

Engineer Majid Hussain (AE), who will be overseeing the technical execution of the work.

Prominent local dignitaries who joined the occasion included Ajay Sharma, Amit Gupta, Dalbir Singh, Davinder Singh, Yash Pal Chouhan, Pawan Kumar, Mohinder Sharma, Ashok Vaid, and several others. Their presence underscored the community's collective support for this critical development initiative.

Speaking at the event, MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa highlighted the importance of modern infrastructure in ensuring a cleaner, healthier environment for residents. "This project is a long-pending demand of the locals, and its execution marks a significant step toward addressing

the sanitation challenges in Rajiv Nagar Basti. Our focus remains on inclusive development and the timely completion of public works," he said.

He also praised the dedication of the engineers and workers involved and appealed to the local population to cooperate with the executing agencies for smooth progress of the work. Further, the MLA reiterated his commitment to bringing more such development projects to the Bahu Constituency in the near future.

Residents of the area expressed gratitude to the MLA and concerned departments for taking concrete steps toward resolving infrastructure issues that had persisted for years.

Sham Lal, Mohan Bhagat hold Public Darbar



Sham Lal Sharma, J&K BJP vice-president and MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat listening to public grievances.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Sham Lal Sharma, J&K BJP vice-president and MLA, and Mohan Lal Bhagat, MLA listened to the public grievances in a public darbar held at party Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, here on Monday.

Around two dozen deputations visited BJP headquarters, to share their issues with the party's senior leader.

Among other issues, a deputation from Karan Nagar, requested new streetlights at extension Karan Nagar, Jammu. A deputation from Raipur, Bantalab requested for repair of transformer. Another deputation from Raipur requested for lanes/drains repair and fencing of cremation ground.

A deputation from ward 63 apprised about the scarcity of water.

A deputation from Jourian requested regarding an issue of Labour Commissioner's office. A deputation from Lalle Da Bagh requested for construction of street. A deputation from Mohalla Rajouri Line requested for repair of road. A deputation from Mishrivala requested for repair of street lights.

A deputation from Pandorian, Tubel requested for issuing new street lights and for the issue of electric poles. A deputation from Janipur Old apprised regarding the issues of felling of trees at government middle school.

A deputation from Akhnoor requested for the construction of link road Sungal. A deputation from RS Pura requested for the blacktopping of road.

While addressing the deputations, Sham Lal Sharma reflected upon the commitment of BJP to stand

besides the public in their even and odd. He said that the growing trust of the people in BJP's leadership is reflected in the increasing number of public delegations visiting the party office.

He assured that the concerns raised will be taken up with the relevant departments for early resolution. He further reiterated that the core aim of such public interactions is to provide relief to the underprivileged, marginalized, and needy sections of society.

MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat, in his address, emphasized that the Modi-led government has established a legacy of good governance and transparency by working at the grassroots level.

He termed the BJP as a social force, and not just a political organization.

He said that BJP activists are committed to public service, and their tireless efforts have been witnessed in their relentless services to the shelling-affected population. Er. Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal, Incharge of the BJP Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, conducted the Public Darbar proceedings.

Power shutdown

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Hatlimorh, Sawanchack, Shastri Nagar, Nag Nagar, Tara Nagar, Patel Nagar, Kalibari, Tangri, Police Line and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 27 from 6 am to 9 am.

Sahai submits memorandum to Regional Director RBI JK&L in 66th Empowered Committee Meeting

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Jammu, under the leadership of its Chairman Rahul Sahai, submitted a detailed memorandum to Chander Shekhar Azad, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh, during the 66th Empowered Committee Meeting.

The memorandum highlighted the pressing economic and sectoral concerns faced by MSMEs in the Union Territory in light of the recent war-like situation. The representation applauded the courage of the Armed Forces and the leadership of the Prime Minister of India for standing strong in difficult times. However, it emphasised that the ongoing uncertainty and threat of recurrence have deeply shaken the MSME sector and the broader business community across Jammu and Kashmir.

The fallout includes widespread damage to homes in border areas, business closures, grounding of flights



ICC Jammu Chairman Rahul Sahai presenting memento to Chander Shekhar Azad, Regional Director, RBI JK&L.

and trains, exodus of labour, a collapse of the tourism industry, and an alarming decline in business activity and income.

Additionally, concerns were raised over unsecured banks credit limits in case of "Act of War" situation, continued interest charges without proper economic activity, pending GST

refunds in treasuries and government scheme payments (such as under Ayushman Bharat), and unsecured properties of insurance claims due to the "Act of War" clause.

In its memorandum, ICC Jammu proposed several critical interventions. These include directing IRDAI to extend war-risk insurance

coverage for J&K properties, and ensuring banks refrain from blocking MSME accounts or classifying them as unsecured due to current instability.

The Chamber urged banks to develop new and simplified financial products such as loans against pending Ayushman Bharat dues, solar financing for MSMEs, and hassle-free loans against property in these difficult times. Regarding Treds, Sahai suggested audit that why buyers are not registering on treds platforms of RXIL, M1 Exchange etc.

Further, the Chamber called for liberal renewal of credit limits, issuance of special stress loans, restoration of ATM withdrawal limits to pre-war levels, six-month interest reimbursements as provided during COVID, and region-specific RBI relaxations in credit restructuring and working capital support and Cibil scores. Addressing the growing concern of cyber threats, ICC Jammu recommended immediate cyber

audits of banking systems and creation of a dedicated Cyber Response Team by banks. Another significant concern raised was the safety of public deposits and bank lockers in war-prone situations. The Chamber sought clarifications and called for enhanced security measures such as relocating lockers to secure zones and basements.

Rahul Sahai, while submitting the memorandum, emphasised the urgent need for the RBI's leadership to safeguard MSMEs and restore economic confidence in the region. ICC Jammu reaffirmed its support for the Government of India and appealed for swift action to stabilise the economic environment of Jammu and Kashmir.

Chander Shekhar Azad, while concluding, applauded role of banks and industry associations and said industry associations should educate MSME's more and more regarding benefits of Udyam registrations, Treds and other Govt of India schemes.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu hosted the inaugural ceremony of the Capacity Building Program (Batch-3) for officials from the Finance and Planning & Monitoring Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, at the Vivekananda Classroom, Jagti Campus, on Monday.

The program under the Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG), is a visionary initiative of the Planning Development & Monitoring Department, Government of J&K.

This center integrates the State Institute of Transformation, NITI Aayog, GoI, the PPP Cell funded by the Department of Economic Affairs, GoI, and the Future Ready Governance initiative of the J&K Government. IIM Jammu serves as the Nodal Knowledge Partner and implementing body for CITaG, guiding its mission to bring transformational change to the region.

The ceremony commenced with a traditional lamp lighting, symbolizing the illumination of knowledge and the commitment to excellence in governance.

Talat Parvez Rohella, Secretary, Planning Development and Monitoring Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, and Madan Gopal Sharma, Director, Planning,



Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu lighting ceremonial lamp.

Govt of Jammu and Kashmir presided over the inaugural ceremony in online mode. The event was graced by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu. The training program includes 111 officials from the Finance and Planning & Monitoring Department of Jammu and Kashmir. Present on the occasion were Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean, Faculty and Research; Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Dean, Academics; Prof. Ravij Seth, Dr. Pradeep K. Tarei, and Dr. Sourav Mondal-all serving as Program Directors under CITaG. Dr. Vivek Mishra and Dr. Prakrit Silal are also the Program Directors for the Capacity Building Program (Batch-3) under CITaG.

In his address, Talat Parvez Rohella emphasized the collaborative governance initiative "Future Ready Governance," led by the State Institute of Transformation with IIM Jammu as the Nodal Knowledge Partner.

He stressed the importance of data-driven decision-making and AI integration, with CITaG driving the government's transformation towards a developed Jammu and Kashmir.

He underlined that this training equips officers with advanced IT tools, governance models, and hands-on learning through case studies and real-time projects.

He expressed confidence that the program will strengthen institutional capacity and foster a governance ecosystem that can serve as a role model in driving transformative change in Jammu and Kashmir.

Prof. Sahay highlighted the vital role of advanced tools, technology, and innovation in accelerating Jammu and Kashmir's progress. Aligning with the Prime Minister's Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, he stressed technology, PPPs, data-driven governance, digital literacy, and transparency as pillars for growth.

He emphasized fostering collaboration and dialogue

through enhanced public-private partnerships under the Future Ready Governance framework.

Citing India's rapid economic growth from a \$2 trillion economy in 2014 to the world's fourth largest at \$4.187 trillion-he urged participants to become change-makers, stressing unity, institutional development, and youth empowerment.

He lauded initiatives like Operation Sindoor and the YUVA Scheme, reinforcing trust in India's leadership and merit-based progress.

He acknowledged the constant support and involvement of Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary, and Talat Parvez Rohella in CITaG. He emphasized hands-on live project work under CITaG and called for active participation, open dialogue, and shared ownership in building a developed and empowered Jammu and Kashmir and contributing to the nation at large. He reaffirmed IIM Jammu's commitment to fostering collaboration and dialogue to drive socio-economic development through enhanced public-private partnerships (PPP) and the Future Ready Governance (FRG) framework.

Noting that 200 officials have already completed the training, Madan Gopal Sharma encouraged the third batch to make the most of the three-day program. He emphasized the inclusion of new focus areas to ensure the training remains relevant for effective governance. Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean,

Faculty and Research, IIM Jammu, outlined the evolution of CITaG, built on collaboration, transformation, and strategic planning.

With 200 officials trained and another 200 in progress, he expressed confidence that the three-day training would further strengthen CITaG and foster vibrant campus engagement. He encouraged participants to actively contribute and make the most of this impactful learning opportunity.

Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, welcomed participants to the Capacity Building Program, highlighting its role in enhancing process efficiency and economic outcomes in line with the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. Prof. Ravij Seth, Program Director, delivered the inaugural address, outlining the program's objectives, structure, and anticipated outcomes aimed at enhancing the strategic capabilities of participants.

An audio-visual presentation on the history and achievements of IIM Jammu provided the participants with a comprehensive overview of the institute's journey, milestones, and unwavering commitment to nation-building.

The session also included an introduction of the participants, followed by a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Malay Ranjan Mohapatra, Program Director, Capacity Building Program for Finance and Planning Officials under CITaG.

AKWS organizes awareness proramme on Drugs Addiction



AKWS, Janipur Colony members with students at awareness programme on Drugs Addiction at Neelam Public High School, Jammu on Monday.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Asha Kiran Welfare Society (AKWS), Janipur Colony, Jammu organized a Awareness Programme on Drugs Addiction at Neelam Public High School, Janipur Colony, Jammu on Monday.

Seventeen students took part in this Symposium/Debate Competition programme regarding health, financial

and social evils of the society in general and youth in particular.

Sana, Nivedika and Sanvi and Manya secured first, second and third position respectively. They were given mementos in view of their performance in the competition by the society.

Besides, all other participants were also provided the consolation prizes of registers and pens.

Dr. Vikrant Sharma, President of the Society, spoke in detail about ill effects of use of drugs on health in presence of Kamal Netar, General Secretary, Vinod Kumar, Organizing Secretary, Hari Chand Sharma, Joint Secretary, Kulbhushan Sharma, Sushil Sultan and Subash Dutta Councillors of the society, teaching staff and students of the School.