

Sadhotra terms Cong statement unfortunate, says myopic criticism cannot undermine CM Omar's proactive governance

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: National Conference Additional General Secretary and former Minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra today said that the recent emergent situation caused by torrential rains, cloudbursts, flash floods and massive landslides, leading to prolonged closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, has once again brought to the fore the proactive role played by Chief Minister Jenab Omar Abdullah and his government.

"At a time when people were staring at despair, Omar Sahib remained at the helm, monitoring the ground situation, galvanizing the administration, and coordinating at all levels to ensure that essential supplies, medical aid and relief measures reached the affected population without delay", Sadhotra said while reacting to the uncalled for and unrealistic statement made by AICC General Secretary in-charge J&K, Dr. Syed Naseer Hussain.

He said that nearly month long massive outreach to the rain hit people has been unprecedented that instilled a sense of confidence and rekindled hope among the sufferers of natural calamity.

Sadhotra said that the Chief Minister's timely intervention led to freight trains being operated into the Valley to trans-

port fruit, maintain supplies and avert scarcity, while his meeting with Union Minister Nitin Gadkari secured deployment of a central team to oversee restoration efforts on the national highway. This is the hallmark of responsible and accountable leadership," he added.

Sadhotra said that the irresponsible statement by the Congress General Secretary appears to overlook these tangible measures that brought relief to the people in an hour of crisis.

"To suggest that elected representatives have abdicated responsibilities is not only misplaced but also unfair. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are witness to the manner in which the National Conference led government has consistently stood by them in testing times, raising their issues at every level, and ensuring that relief and justice are not denied," he added.

Sadhotra emphasized that any realistic evaluation of governance in Jammu and Kashmir must also take into account the system forced upon the people by the BJP-led dispensation at the Centre.

"By denying restoration of statehood, eroding democratic institutions, and deliberately disempowering elected representatives, the BJP has created an environment where the voice of the people and their aspirations get overshadowed.

To ignore this structural constraint is to paint a distorted picture. Yet, even in these circumstances, the National Conference government has not shied away from its duty and continues to fight for the rights of the people," he said.

He reiterated that the National Conference has always taken a principled and consistent stand, be it restoration of statehood, protection of land and job rights, safeguarding democratic institutions, or resisting authoritarian impositions by the Centre.

"Role of the Omar led government is transparent, accountable, and above all, people-centric. Congress should not see through a myopic prism but they should see holistically," he said.

Sadhotra underlined that constructive criticism is welcome, but misrepresentation of facts cannot go unchallenged. The people of Jammu and Kashmir know who stood with them in their darkest. National Conference has never betrayed their trust and never will, he added.

"Our larger goal must be restoration of democracy, rights, and dignity to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. This is the fight that the National Conference is leading with conviction and courage," he said.

Rekha congratulates Mulkh Raj Ashok Kumar Jewellers for honouring empowered women on Navratri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP J&K Vice President Rekha Mahajan congratulated Mulkh Raj Ashok Kumar Jewellers Pvt. Ltd., the state's finest wedding jewellery store, for its initiative to regularly organize functions to felicitate empowered women of Jammu and Kashmir.

Rekha mahajan was speaking at the felicitation ceremony organized by Mulkh Raj Ashok Kumar Jewellers Pvt. Ltd. on the auspicious occasion of the first Navratri, celebrating the strength and spirit of women. Event was managed by Moksha Abrol.

Speaking on the occasion, Rekha Mahajan lauded the efforts of the Suri family, led by Owner Directors Ankur Suri, Rahul Suri, and Shivam Suri, for taking the lead in honouring women achievers across different fields.

"By celebrating empowered women during Navratri, this initiative truly reflects the divine power and



BJP J&K Vice President Rekha Mahajan being honoured during the programme.

energy that women bring into society. The recognition not only motivates achievers but also inspires younger generations to strive for excellence," she said.

Rekha also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for creating an environment where women empowerment has become a core part of governance and policy-making.

"Today, under the leadership of PM Modi, women in India are reaching new heights in every sector, from education and entrepreneur-

ship to politics and defence. Initiatives like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and increased representation of women in key decision-making roles have made a historic impact," she added.

The organizers of the event highlighted their festive theme, "9 Days, 9 Powers, 1 Radiant You," symbolizing the divine energy of Navratri reflected in every ornament and every empowered woman.

The jewellery house, renowned for its craftsmanship and heritage, reiterated

its commitment to celebrating the cultural and spiritual traditions of J&K alongside modern aspirations.

Rekha Mahajan concluded by emphasizing that such platforms create a bridge between tradition and progress.

"Navratri celebrates Shakti-the embodiment of power. Honouring empowered women on this sacred occasion strengthens our belief that women are the real architects of a strong and prosperous nation," she said.

Jammu observes 10th Ayurveda Day at RARI



RARI officials during the programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In connection with the 10th Ayurveda Day, a press conference was held at the Regional Ayurveda Research Institute (RARI), Jammu, under the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, Ministry of Ayush, Government of India. Ayurveda Day celebrates India's ancient medicinal wisdom and promotes its application in modern lifestyles, inspiring people to adopt healthier, balanced living through natural healing methods.

Dr. Harbans Singh, Research Officer (Ay) and

Head of RARI, outlined the awareness campaigns and activities planned for the celebration. Notably, Ayurveda Day will now be observed annually on September 23, coinciding with the autumnal equinox-a symbol of balance-ensuring greater consistency and global visibility. This year's theme, "Ayurveda for People & Planet", emphasizes the synergy between individual health and environmental sustainability.

Dr. Aaditya Shah, Research Officer (Ay) and Nodal Officer of Ayurveda Day, presented the sched-

ule of events at RARI Jammu, which includes educational lectures, public awareness programs, medical camps, a run for Ayurveda, and interactive demonstrations and competitions.

Across India, the 10th Ayurveda Day will feature seminars, workshops, and health camps, where experts provide guidance on diet, yoga, and Ayurvedic therapies. The initiative also encourages research, student engagement, and public awareness about lifestyle modifications, herbal remedies, and preventive care.

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JAMMU: FICCI FLO Jammu-Kashmir & Ladakh (JKL), in collaboration with Luxuries of Kashmir, inaugurated the third season of its much-anticipated lifestyle exhibition "Vibrant Verve Season-3" at KC Regalia, Jammu. The two-day event, celebrating luxury, creativity, and festivity, was formally opened by Shieni Sharma, President AWWA Northern Command.

Sharma lauded the initiative, appreciating FICCI FLO JKL for creating a dynamic platform that brings together entrepreneurs, artisans, and designers. She highlighted how such events empower women by providing them avenues to network, grow, and gain visibility.

Aarti Choudhary, President of FICCI FLO JKL, shared the vision behind the exhibition. "Vibrant Verve is much more than just a lifestyle showcase- it's a celebration of women-led



Shieni Sharma, President AWWA Northern Command inaugurating the exhibition.

creativity and entrepreneurship. Our aim is to empower women by bridging rural talent with urban markets," she stated. She emphasized that the exhibition is designed to support women entrepreneurs, especially from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Farmer

Organizations (FPOs), by offering them a platform to showcase their products alongside established urban brands.

"This initiative not only promotes inclusivity but also ensures that the talent and efforts of rural women entre-

preneurs receive the recognition they truly deserve," Aarti added. This year's edition features an exclusive selection of curated collections in fashion, décor, jewellery, and accessories, highlighting the artistic excellence and business acumen of women entrepreneurs. The

event encourages mentorship, networking, and collaboration, fostering a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Powered by Square Infra Build and supported by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, the exhibition also received platinum sponsorship from Square Infra Build and silver sponsorship from Nidra Sleep Solutions. Exhibitors from across India are participating, making it one of the most diverse lifestyle showcases in the region.

The event is open to visitors from 11 AM onwards on September 22-23, 2025, at KC Regalia, Jammu.

Also present were Immediate Past Chairperson Ruchika Gupta, Past Chairperson Varuna Anand, Sr. Vice Chairperson Varsha Bansal, Vice Chairperson Rupika Sahai, Secretary Nandita Bajaj, and Joint Treasurer Shipra Aggarwal.

Rtn. Ravi Prabha Sharma installed as President of RC Jammu Midtown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The prestigious installation ceremony of Rtn. Ravi Prabha Sharma as the new President of Rotary Club Jammu Midtown was held at Jammu Club.

The solemn occasion was graced by District Governor Rtn. Rohit Oberoi and Past District Governor Rtn. Dushyant Choudhary, who jointly installed Rtn. Sharma into office, wishing her success in carrying forward the noble mission of Rotary.

The program was marked by warmth, fellowship, and a collective resolve to strengthen Rotary's service ideals.



New President Rtn. Ravi Prabha Sharma along with other members.

In their addresses, both DG Oberoi and PDG Choudhary lauded the selfless contributions of Rotarians in various spheres of community devel-

opment and expressed confidence that under the dynamic leadership of Rtn. Ravi Prabha Sharma, the Club will achieve greater heights

of service and fellowship.

The installation event was attended by enthusiastic Club Members, including Reecha Jain, Rtn. Chakshu Kapoor; Karuna Jain, and Meena Jambal, among others, who conveyed their best wishes to the new President.

Various other speakers highlighted the significance of teamwork, compassion, and dedication in strengthening the Club's ongoing and future initiatives for the underprivileged sections of society.

In her address, Rtn. Sharma expressed gratitude to the Rotary leadership and

fellow members for the trust reposed in her.

She pledged to work with full commitment to take forward impactful projects in health, education, women empowerment, and environmental conservation. She also stressed upon engaging youth and enhancing community partnerships to create sustainable social change.

The event ended with a note of optimism, as members reaffirmed their collective resolve to uphold Rotary's motto of Service Above Self and work unitedly under the new leadership for the betterment of society.

Duggar Di Shaan "Maharaja Hari Singh" Video Album unveiled at Hari Niwas Palace

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Dogri tribute "Duggar Di Shaan - Maharaja Hari Singh" was officially unveiled at a ceremonial event held at Hari Niwas Palace in Jammu.

The video album song, performed by acclaimed singer Deepak Raghuvanshi, honors the legacy of Maharaja Hari Singh and marks a cultural milestone for the Dogra community.

The unveiling attracted a distinguished gathering. Ajatshatru Singh graced the occasion as chief guest,



Ajatshatru Singh and others launching album.

joined by Maj. Gen. Goverdhan Singh Jamwal as guest of honour: Padmashree Romalo Ram attended as a special guest alongside Tarun Uppal, Chairman of the Nirbhay Bharat Foundation.

Creative contributors present included music director Sahil Nath, lyricist and composer Nirbhay Singh, choreographer Jackson, Director K K Malhotra, and perform-

ers Sahil Mahajan, Divyansh Baba, Subhash Jamwal, Ravinder Singh, Maninder Singh, Rahul Singh, Gurdeep Singh.

About the Project "Duggar Di Shaan - Maharaja Hari Singh" is a Dogri language video album produced to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh and to celebrate Dogra heritage.

Fostering Collaboration and Learning: IIM Jammu hosts Immersion Program for BBA Students of ITS, Ghaziabad



Faculty members and students during the event.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Indian Institute of Management Jammu, under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, organized an enriching Immersion Program for BBA students from the Institute of Technology and Science (ITS), Ghaziabad. Held at the Vedanta MDP Centre from Sept 22nd to 26th Sept 2025, the program aimed to foster collaborative learning and provide valuable industry exposure to aspiring management professionals.

The Immersion Program featured the participation of 25 enthusiastic BBA students and two faculty members from ITS Ghaziabad. The students received a warm welcome and were

taken on an engaging campus tour, beginning at the iconic Clock Tower and covering key facilities including the IIM Jammu Reception Area, Vishrantika (Faculty Lounge), Smart Classrooms, Manthan (Senate Hall) and the state-of-the-art Nalanda Library.

The Inaugural Ceremony commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the pursuit of wisdom. The event was graced by Prof. Rajesh Sikka, Co-Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy, IIM Jammu; Dr. Mamta Tripathi, Program Director, IIM Jammu; Dr. Dhirendra Prajapati, Program Director, IIM Jammu. Also present

were Dr. Vishal Kumar Tyagi, Assistant Professor, ITS Ghaziabad and Dr. Vanchan Tripathi, Assistant Professor and Chairperson, Outreach Programs, ITS Ghaziabad who extended their support and encouragement to the participating students.

The Immersion Program at IIM Jammu stands as a testament to the institute's unwavering commitment to nurturing talent and strengthening industry-academia partnerships. Through such transformative initiatives, IIM Jammu continues to set new benchmarks in management education and serves as an important catalyst for creating future-ready leaders.

Sat, Dadhichi release Dogri Ramayan Mala Video Album

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a landmark cultural event, the first-ever video album "Dogri Ramayan Mala" was released at a packed Abhinav Theatre, Jammu.

Conceptualized, written, sung, and produced by renowned Dogri writer and filmmaker Dr. Nasib Singh Manhas, the unique work presents the Ramayana in Dogri language through 108 artistically composed chaupais (verses), making it a monumental contribution to Dogri literature and devotional music.

The event was presided over by Sat Sharma, President, BJP J&K, as Chief Guest, with Purushottam Dadhichi, President, Sanatan Dharma Sabha J&K, as Guest of Honour. Jointly organized by Team Jammu, Pancham Society for Art, Culture, Education & Social Upliftment, and Duggar Baradari, the event drew a diverse audience of writers, artists, academicians, social workers, and youth from across the region.

Among the dignitaries present were B.M. Sharma



Sat Sharma, President, BJP J&K and others launching album.

(Secretary, J&K Cultural Department), Padma Shri Romalo Ram, Padma Shri Mohan Singh, Arun Gupta (President, Chamber of Commerce), Dr. Kasturi Lal Gupta, Maj. Gen. (Retd) S.K. Sharma, Ashwani Kumar (former Press Club President), Advocate Neha Gupta, Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Rajesh Gupta, Randheer Singh Raipuria, and Neha Mahajan. Chief Guest Sat Sharma praised Dr. Manhas for his unwavering dedication to Dogri language and culture. "In an era of commercialization, Dr. Manhas has remained committed to serving society through art and literature. Dogri Ramayan Mala is a historic effort that will be cherished for generations," he said.

Dadhichi hailed the creation as a significant contribution to both Sanatan Dharma and Dogri literature. "Dr. Manhas' deep-rooted cultural values and literary excellence are beautifully reflected in this project," he added.

Chairman of Team Jammu, Mr. Zorawar Singh Jamwal, termed the video album a "cultural treasure" that will preserve Dogri heritage and instill pride among the younger generation.

Dr. Nasib Singh Manhas was felicitated on the occasion for his multifaceted role in the project. The event proceedings were conducted gracefully by noted cultural figure Raj Kumar Behrupia.

To add to the festivities, SBI Card is providing exciting instant discount offers on purchases across leading partner brands including Amazon, Reliance Retail group, Max Fashion, Raymonds, Monte Carlo, among many others. Furthermore, SBI Card's EMI-focused offers with up to 27.5% instant discount are being rolled out across popular categories including consumer durables, mobiles, and laptops. Key brands that are participating in this festive offer initiative include Samsung, Haier, LG, Sony, OPPO, vivo, Panasonic, Whirlpool, Bosch, IFB, HP, and Lloyd, among others.

With this diverse range of offers and discounts, SBI Card continues to enhance its customers' overall shopping experience, making it more rewarding with bigger savings, unmatched convenience, and exceptional value.