

03 Regulation for irrational freebies & hollow promises during elections

09 13 drug peddlers arrested across J&K, contraband recovered

10 JDA directed to apprise Court regarding construction of Tawi river-front

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Union Budget: Rs 35,581 cr allocated to J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir was on Tuesday allocated Rs 35,581.44 crore in the Budget 2022-23 as part of the central government's assistance, grants and loans.

The erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated on August 5, 2019 into two UTs - Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh -- following the abrogation of Article 370. Both the UTs are currently under central rule.

While Jammu and Kashmir has been given Rs 35,581.44 crore for 2022-23, compared to Rs 34,704.46 crore in 2021-22, Ladakh has been given Rs 5,958, the same as in the current fiscal.

The bulk of the funds - Rs 33,923 crore- in the budget for Jammu and Kashmir is under central assistance.

A sum of Rs 273 crore has been allocated as grants towards rehabilitation of Dal Nageen lake and Rs 279 crore has been given as grants towards contribution to UT Disaster Response Fund.

The budget allocated Rs



Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman along with the Ministers of State for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary and Dr. Bhagwat Kishan Rao Karad and senior officials before presenting Union Budget 2022-23 in New Delhi.

Sitharaman presents Budget amid taunts, applause

NEW DELHI: Lok Sabha members heard Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's 90-minute budget speech in rapt attention, barring the occasional remarks by opposition members and regular applause from the treasury benches.

Keeping in line with changing times, Sitharaman read out the speech from a 'Made in India' tablet personal computer which she carried in a red cover with the National Emblem embossed on it, instead of a brief case or 'Bahi Khata'.

As Sitharaman walked into the Lok Sabha chamber, women ministers Shobha Karandlaje and Darshana Jardosh and member from Madhya Pradesh Riti Pathak were seen greeting her, while Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav gave her a thumbs up. With Covid pandemic guidelines in force, members were seated in the chambers of Lok Sabha

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500 crore as support for capital expenditure of UT. Rs 476.44 crore has been given as grants towards equity for Ratle 800 MW hydroelectric project and Rs 130 crore has been given as grants towards equity contribution for 624 MW Kiru hydroelectric project.

Among other UTs, Andaman and Nicobar Islands got Rs 5,703.65 crore compared to Rs 5,923.64 crore in 2021-22.

Lakshadweep has been allocated Rs 1,394.75 crore. The figure was Rs 1,296.26 crore in the current fiscal.

Chandigarh has been allocated Rs 4,846.79 crore compared to Rs 4,428.25 given in 2021-22.

Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu has been given Rs 2,374.10 crore. It was Rs 2,312.80 crore in the current fiscal.

The budget has also earmarked Rs 1,168 crore as transfers to Delhi, a UT.

A sum of Rs 1,729.79 crore has also been shown as transfer to Puducherry.

The Finance Minister said national highways will be expanded by 25,000

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HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET 2022-23

FISCAL POSITION

- India's growth estimated at 9.2 pc, to be highest among large economies
- Fiscal deficit in 2022-23 estimated at 6.4 pc of GDP
- Total expenditure in 2022-23 pegged at Rs 39.45 lakh cr
- Total receipts other than borrowings estimated at Rs 22.84 lakh cr in FY23
- Effective Capital Expenditure of Central Government estimated at Rs 10.68 lakh cr in 2022-23, which is about 4.1pc of GDP
- Fiscal deficit in current year at 6.9 pc of GDP (against 6.8pc in Budget Estimates)
- 60 lakh new jobs to be created under productivity linked incentive scheme in 14 sectors

TAX PROPOSALS

- No change in personal income tax rates
- Provision to file an updated return on payment of additional tax; can be filed within two years from the end of the relevant assessment year.
- Updated return provision to enable assessee to declare income missed out earlier
- Tax deduction limit increased from 10% to 14% on employer's contribution to the NPS account of State Government employees
- Incentives for Start-ups: Period of incorporation extended by 1 year, up to March 31, 2023 for eligible start-ups to avail tax benefit
- Any income from transfer of any virtual digital asset to be taxed at the rate of 30 pc; gift of virtual digital asset also to be taxed in the hands of recipient
- Health and Education Cess: any surcharge or cess on income, profits not allowable as business expenditure
- No set off, of any loss to be allowed against undisclosed income detected during search, survey operations
- Alternate Minimum Tax paid by cooperatives brought down from 18.5 per cent to 15 per cent
- Payment of annuity and lump sum amount from insurance scheme to be allowed to differently-abled dependent during the lifetime of parents/guardians, that is on parents/ guardian attaining the age of 60 years
- Surcharge on long term capital gains arising on transfer of any type of assets capped at 15 pc
- Gradual phasing out of concessional rates in capital goods and project imports; applying a tariff of 7.5 pc, conducive to the growth of domestic sector
- Over 350 exemption entries proposed to be gradually phased out, like exemption on certain agri produce, chemicals, fabrics, medical devices, and drugs and medicines for which sufficient domestic capacity exists
- Customs rate, tariff structure simplified particularly for sectors like chemicals, textiles and metals
- Customs duty rates to be calibrated for graded rate structure; to facilitate domestic manufacturing of wearable devices, hearable devices and electronic smart meters
- Duty concessions to parts of transformer of mobile phone chargers, camera lens of mobile camera module and some other items to promote domestic manufacturing of high growth electronic items -- Customs duty on cut, polished diamonds, gemstones cut to 5%; no duty on simply sawn diamond
- Customs duty of at least Rs 400 per kg to be paid on imitation jewellery import -- Customs duty on umbrellas raised to 20%; exemption to parts of umbrellas withdrawn
- Customs duty exemption given to steel scrap last year extended for another year to offer relief to MSME secondary steel producers
- Unblended fuel to attract an additional differential excise duty of Rs 2/ litre from Oct 1, 2022, to encourage blending of fuel

ALLOCATION AND REFORMS

- Rs 2.37 lakh cr direct payment to 1.63 crore farmers for procurement of wheat, paddy
- Rs 2 lakh cr additional credit for Micro and Small Enterprises to be facilitated under the Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises
- For MSMEs, guarantee cover under ECLGS to be expanded by

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Union budget is Modi Govt's development dream for poor, youth & farmers: Chugh

Commitment to MSP reaffirmed, driven by seven engines would see nation running

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Tuesday hailed the Union budget as a big step forward to help the farming community and to usher in a new era in agriculture revival and make the country enter into a new era of digitalisation in all sectors whereby the youth and economy would grow manifold.

Chugh said that the Modi government has reaffirmed its commitment to MSP which has been a matter of



doubt and debate in Punjab and given new hope to farmers in Punjab.

He said the Centre's commitment for procurement of wheat in the Rabi

season 2021-22 and the estimated procurement of paddy in Kharif season will cover 1,208 lakh metric tons of wheat and paddy from 163 lakh farmers & Rs 2.37 lakh crores will be the direct payment of MSP value to their accounts.

Chugh said it completely debunks the misleading and provocative propaganda unleashed by a section of society in Punjab in the last about two years.

He said the Centre's decision to push 2023 as the International Year

of Millets would open new windows for farmers in the state.

Chugh welcomed the Centre's decision to use Kisan Drones for crop assessment, digitization of land records, spraying of insecticides and nutrients.

He said the provision to promote Chemical-free natural farming the country would go a long way to help farmers in Punjab.

Chugh said the provision of financial support to farmers belonging to Scheduled

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J&K adds 2,751 COVID-19 cases, 9 deaths

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday recorded 2,751 fresh coronavirus cases that took its infection tally to 4,38,176, while the death toll climbed to 4,683 as nine more people succumbed to the virus, officials said.

Of the fresh cases, 1,105 were from the Jammu division and 1,646 from the Kashmir division of the union territory, they said.

Jammu district recorded the highest number of fresh cases at 561, followed by 440 in Srinagar district.

There are 32,558 active coronavirus cases in Jammu

Operation of eateries & canteens, home delivery of Goods & Services allowed during weekend restrictions

JAMMU: District Magistrate Jammu, Anshul Garg on Tuesday notified permissible activities during the weekend Covid restrictions (Friday 09:00 PM to Monday 06:00 AM).

In an order issued in exercise of powers conferred under Section 144 of CrPC with National Disaster Management Act, 2005 in him, the DM has permitted operation of Dhabas/Eateries and Canteens at Bus Stand, Railway Station, Airport and along the National Highways and Home delivery of Goods & Services. The order shall come into effect from February 1, 2022 onwards.

and Kashmir. So far, 4,00,935 patients have recovered from the infection, the officials said.

There are 51 confirmed

mucormycosis (black fungus) cases in the union territory. No fresh case has been reported since last evening, they said.

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Four doctors suspended over death of employee due to medical negligence

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Authorities in Kashmir on Tuesday put under suspension four doctors and ordered an inquiry into the alleged medical negligence leading to the death of an employee of the municipal committee at a hospital in Pulwama district, officials said.

Pending enquiry regarding the death of patient at District Hospital Pulwama, the following doctors are hereby put under suspension with immediate effect and are attached with Directorate of Health Services Kashmir; Director;

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Lt Gen Dwivedi assumes charge of Army's Northern Command

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi on Tuesday assumed the appointment of General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Udhampur-based prestigious Northern Command of the Army. Lt Gen Dwivedi assumed the post



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Police officer injured in Shopian terror attack

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A police officer was injured when terrorists fired at him while he was returning home from a mosque in Shopian district, police said.

They said the officer has been hospitalised and a hunt launched to trace the attackers. #Terrorists fired upon ASI (assistant sub-inspector) Shabir Ahmad while he

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Time to free J&K exchequer from shackles of chronic parasites

Tale of a 'fraud' Director thriving on 'fake' birth testimonial



J A M M U : Immediate superannuation of Syed Shabir Shafi, Director (P&S) of J&K Economics and Statistics (Gazetted)

Service, posted in Industries and Commerce Department, is no news. And, if all there is anything worth news in the 'breaking news' is the Government ordering 'Salary after March 31, 2021 to be recovered from the officer'. It is a win-win situation for the officer, who has been retired for committing forgery in his date of birth. Does the recovery of salary beyond a particular date exonerate the disgraceful officer for the offences committed? Shouldn't he have been booked and arrested immediately.

The retirement has preceded a thorough probe by multiple agencies, which have been candid in detecting the fraud. As per the order issued by the

Additional Chief Secretary Finance vide Government Order No 21-FD/2022 of 01-02-2022, "In terms of article 35-AA(d) of the J&K Civil Services Regulations, Vol-I, necessary correction in the date of birth needs to be made in the service book of the said officer and in terms of Article 226(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services Regulations, 1956, Vol-I every Government employee has to retire on attaining the age of sixty years which in this case would emerge as March 31, 2021 (Thirty First of March Two Thousand and Twenty One); and in terms of Government instructions No.1 below Article 226(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services Regulations, 1956, Vol-I, retirement of a Government servant is automatic on attaining the age of compulsory retirement and in absence of specific orders to the contrary by the competent authority a Government Servant must retire on due date."

This is the official side of the story which relates to 'compulsory retirement'

of the officer as per the Civil Services Conduct Rules. What about the criminal action to be taken against the fraudster? His retirement has been ordered with the approval of the Lieutenant Government, who is both the executive and the constitutional head of the Union Territory. He should have been advised to take a simultaneous action of retiring the officer and booking him under the law. Though the detailed order issued by the Finance Department stresses the 'need' for investigation (perhaps to the criminal side of the story) yet failure on proceeding against the offender is a lease to him, which he use for manipulations and other practices to get out of the noose of the law. The order states, "It has been established by the J&K Board of School Education that the Date of Birth of the officer is April 1, 1961 instead of April 1, 1966; and whereas, from the above mentioned facts, prima facie it appears that a fraud has been committed by way of manipulation of the actual date

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 20.5°C Min: 7.2°C

Humidity

Max : 87 Min : 58

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 11.8°C Min: 1.8°C

Humidity

Max : 91 Min: 46

Sunset : 18:04 Hours

Sunrise : 07:26 Hours

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