

Futuristic Budget, revolutionary decision to involve private sector in Nuclear Projects: Dr Jitendra

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NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh described Budget 2025 as a futuristic budget with a revolutionary and far reaching announcement to involve the private sector in Nuclear Projects or to facilitate private participation in Nuclear Power projects.

This announcement is going to startle the world, he said, and reflects the same courage of conviction which PM Modi had demonstrated when he opened the Space sector to the private sector and the outcomes were miraculous within a few years.

Speaking to a series of media channels here today, Dr Jitendra said, the Union Budget 2025-25 reflects sensitivity of the Government at the Centre and also the futuristic vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

While its sensitivity is reflected in the middle class relief to taxpayer and other measures like Duty exemption on certain life saving drugs, its long term futuristic vision is reflected in provisions like Nuclear Mission, Small Modular Reactors, Green Tech Mission, Centre of Excellence for AI



, etc, he said.

It is going to be a definitive stride towards realizing Viksit Bharat @2047 and also going to raise India's esteem in the global arena, the Minister said.

Dr. Jitendra appreciated the Budget with its sensitivity to ease of living because of its a middle class-focused with a lot of tax-relieved and ease of business as well. Terming the Budget citizen-centric, the Union Minister said, it is comprehensively encompassing the synergy of technology and tradition.

The Minister referred to the Union

Budget as very revolutionary with the bringing about an amendment in Atomic Energy Act in order to involve the private sector players something the Prime Minister had done a few years ago in the space sector.

Appreciating the Union Budget for stimulating a paradigm shift in the global perspective of the country in the arena of nuclear energy, Dr. Singh said, we are also laying the target of generating 100 Gigawatt nuclear energy by 2047 which sends a huge message across the world that India is no longer a follower and we are giving lead and paving the way for others to follow.

He also said, even the farming sector is giving the edge of technology with Rs. 20,000 Crore allocation for Small Modular Reactors(SMRs) and commitment to realize a minimum of five(5) SMRs by 2033 and the initiative itself is again a futuristic area with scientific and technological support to the farmers.

The Union Minister said, additional Increase in startup support (Fund of Funds for startup FFS) by Rs. 10,000 Crore, provisions to install

50,000 more Atal Tinkering Labs in Government schools in the next five(5) years, to boost Maritime Development Fund with a corpus of Rs. 25,000 Crore and allocation of Rs. 20,000 Crore to boost Research and Development as well as innovation will provide impetus to technology-led development for realization of Viksit Bharat@2047.

Dr. Jitendra further said, PM Research Fellowship scheme which will provide an ecosystem of 10,000 fellowships over the next five years at top notch institutions like IITs and IISc.

He said, the setting up of National Geospatial Mission will lead to develop foundational geospatial infrastructure and data. He also said, the government will use PM Gati Shakti to facilitate modernisation of land records, urban planning and design of infrastructure projects.

He said, the Second Gene bank with 10 lakhs germ plasma lines will be set up for future Food and Nutritional Security and conservation support from genetic resources in both public and private sectors.



Budget 2025, a step towards Viksit Bharat: Sat Sharma

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JAMMU: Terming the Union Budget 2025 as another milestone to achieve the mission of "Viksit Bharat Sankalp", Sat Sharma, President J&K Bharatiya Janata Party, hailed the commitment of Modi government to achieve the aim of Bharat that is free from social evils, and creating opportunities for everyone, while providing best and affordable health, education, and growth with advancements in the technology.

Sat thanked the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for presenting a complete Budget taking care of all the sections of the society and called it as people friendly.

He said that the Union Budget talks of various reforms taken to ensure the growth momentum in the power sector and other things. This budget is to empower the common man by increasing the private investments.

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) form the backbone of India's economy. To ensure the growth of this crucial sector, the government is focusing on easy access to credit, and credit guarantee scheme extension, he said.



The budget talks of the disposable income by ensuring access of people to the money ultimately contributing to the spending capacity of the individual household, contributing to the market growth and hence development in all sectors while improving the living standards of the people.

This is inclusive growth for everyone, especially focusing on the Middle Class. Nil Income tax upto 12,00,000 is a big relief to the middle class and the Modi government has also planned to undo many cumbersome laws making the income tax process simpler.

Sat Sharma stressed on Rs. 500 Cr. for Centre for Excellence in AI upscaling the readiness of India for future. He said that 10,000 more seats to be added in medical colleges in next year and 75,000 in next five years to boost the healthcare system in India along with inclusion of pocket friendly medicine slabs.

The Union budget 2025 has stressed on main four divisions (GYAN) to strengthen them socio-economically to achieve the Viksit Bharat Sankalp. First is poor (Garib) specific, second is youth oriented involving education & technology, third is farmer (Annadata), and fourth is women (Nari) oriented, said Sat Sharma.

Presenting the Union Budget 2025-26, the finance minister also said a scheme for the socio-economic upliftment of urban workers will be implemented. The government will arrange identity cards and registration on the e-Shram portal to assist 1 crore gig workers. The government will also facilitate the setting up of daycare cancer centers in all district hospitals in the next three years. Besides, the infrastructure ministries will come up with a 3-year pipeline of projects to be implemented in PPP (public-private partnership) mode, he said.

In conclusion, Sharma said that the Modi government aims Growth, Stability, and Inclusivity for every section of society with a visionary financial management plan in Budget 2025.

CS visits Kathua Industrial Estates, pledges infrastructure enhancement

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KATHUA: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Saturday visited the Industrial Estates Kathua, including Ghatti and Bhagthali.

He was accompanied by a team of senior officials including Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Vikramjeet Singh; MD, JPDCL, Mohd. Yasin Choudhary; Director, Industries and Commerce, Jammu, Arun Manhas; Managing Director, SIDCO/SICOP Inderjeet; Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rakesh Minhas; SSP Kathua, Shobhit Saxena; ADC Kathua, Ranjit Singh and GM DIC among others. During the visit, the Chief Secretary inspected various industrial units, including Devyani Food Industries Pvt. Ltd., an ice-cream manufacturing plant and Varun Beverages Ltd. at Ghatti. He interacted with the officials of the industries and enquired about the facilities they are being extended in the units besides assessing the challenges faced by them.



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo visiting Industrial Estates Kathua, including Ghatti and Bhagthali.

Atal Dulloo also visited the Kandhari Global Beverages Pvt. Ltd. at Bhagthali, where he was briefed by the officials about the plant and its functioning.

While briefing the media, the Chief Secretary highlighted the key features of Jammu and Kashmir Industrial Policy, which aims to provide a conducive environment for industrial growth in J&K. He emphasized that the policy is part of Rs. 28,400 crore package from Government of India to attract Industries in JK UT besides generating

employment opportunities and boost the local economy. The Chief Secretary stressed that the government is committed towards providing all necessary support to the industries including incentives, infrastructure and single-window clearances. Atal Dulloo also emphasised the importance of environmental sustainability in industrial development. He directed the industries to adhere to environmental laws and norms and adopt eco-friendly practices in their operations. The government, he assured, will

CS visits IE Samba to take stock of its development

SAMBA: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today conducted a comprehensive review of the operations and service efficiency being provided to the industrial houses in the Industrial Estates (IEs) of Samba district.

During the visit, General Manager, ACTL Samba, Jitendra Khanna, briefed the Chief Secretary on the operational blueprint, ongoing projects, and key initiatives undertaken to enhance efficiency and delivery of services. The Chief Secretary inspected various operational aspects of the facility, assessed workflow mechanisms, and reviewed measures adopted to streamline industrial processes. He took stock of all the amenities like power, water, roads and sewerage network there. He took this occasion to emphasise on the fact that the government is committed to provide the work environment best for the development and prosperity of the industrial sector here. Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Vikramjeet Singh, Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma, along with other senior officers, was present during the visit. The Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of ensuring seamless industrial operations and directed officials to facilitate an enabling environment for industrial growth in the region.

provide all necessary support to the industries to ensure that they comply with environmental regulations.

Later, the Chief Secretary chaired the meeting with Industrialists Ghatti, Kathua and Bhagthali Industrial Estates at DC

Office complex.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on the present status of infrastructure and facilities in these estates besides underlining the issues to be taken up on priority to facilitate Industries in the region.

Dy CM visits Jammu Polytechnic College, interacts with faculty, students

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JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on Saturday visited the Government Polytechnic College Jammu and reviewed functioning of the institution.

He was accompanied by senior faculty members of the college.

During his extensive visit to the college premises, the Deputy Chief Minister inspected the classrooms, labs and other facilities being provided to the students pursuing their studies in different faculties.

While interacting with the faculty members, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the government has undertaken a holistic programme of imparting different skills to youth and making them trained in various industrial trades.



Dy CM, Surinder Choudhary during visit to Government Polytechnic College Jammu.

Surinder Choudhary said that this will make them technically skilled, so that they can imbibe entrepreneurial skills and start their own income generating units. This would make them job creators and contribute their bit in providing employment avenues to others as well, he added.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the College Administration for providing all the requisite facilities to the students. He said that youth has crucial role in shaping nation's future and they should not face any difficulty in teaching facilities and related services.

FICCI FLO JKL felicitates Trailblazer Women Achievers of J&K

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JAMMU: The FICCI FLO JKL Trailblazer Awards celebrated its 4th edition with great enthusiasm and grandeur at Radisson, Jammu, honoring exemplary women achievers from diverse fields. The prestigious event was graced by Chief Guest Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary of the Housing and Urban Development Department, Jammu & Kashmir.

In her welcome address, Ruchika Gupta, Chairperson of FICCI FLO JKL, emphasized the relentless efforts of women in the region who have defied societal norms, overcome adversity, and claimed their rightful place as leaders and changemakers. She stated, "Our region's women, in particular, have had to work even harder to carve a place for themselves in society." Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary of the Housing and Urban Development Department, Jammu & Kashmir, lauded the efforts of FLO JKL in recognizing and celebrating the remarkable achievements of women. She congratulated the awardees and encouraged them to inspire and mentor more women. The



FICCI FLO JKL Trailblazer Award winners with dignitaries.

Trailblazer Awards honored outstanding women achievers across multiple domains. In the field of Public Service, the award was conferred upon Rehana Batul, Director, J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration, and Rural Development (IMPARD), and Neha Jalali (IIS), Director, Press Information Bureau Jammu and Indian Institute of Mass Communication (Jammu campus). Recognizing excellence in the Medical Fraternity, the awards were presented to Dr. Meeta Gupta, Dean (Academics), Professor & Head, Dept. of Obstetrics &

Gynecology and Dept. of Family Medicine at AIIMS, and Dr. Sushma Shall Kaul, Gynecologist. In the Education sector, the awardees were Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affairs and Professor of Physics, University of Jammu, and Prof. Meena Sharma, Dean of Planning and Development, University of Jammu. Honoring their service in the Forces, Capt. Neeru Sambyal and Manjit Kour, Principal, SPS PTS Kathua, were recognized. In the Entertainment industry, the awards went to Tanya Gupta, Singer, and

Ridhi Dogra, Actress. The Hospitality sector was represented by Ms. Vanika Choudhary, Founder, Noon, and Vidushi Gupta, Founder, Eden. The Media category recognized RJ Julie Mohan from 92.7 Big FM and RJ Tani from Radio Mirchi. Excellence in Sports was acknowledged with awards for Mitali, International Gymnast/Coach, and Suvidha Sarin, International Roll Ball Athlete. In Politics, Shagun Parihar, MLA, Kishtwar, was honored. The Entrepreneurship category saw recognition for Sana Dua, Former Femina Miss India 2017 & Founder, 'Image & Beyond', Sumedha Mahajan and Priya Gour, Founders of Paper Baag Company, and Meenakshi Devi, Director, Baba Jitto Basmati FPO. Co. Ltd. for rural entrepreneurship.

The awardees were felicitated by the Chief Guest in recognition of their outstanding contributions. The event was skillfully emceed by Deepti Gandotra and Shiwangi Sachdev, while the vote of thanks was delivered by Aarti Chowdhary, Sr. Vice Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL.

IIPA J&K Regional Branch hold its 46th AGM

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JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Regional Branch of Indian Institute of Public Administration (JKRB) on Saturday held its 46th Annual General Meeting (AGM) which was attended by a record number of its Life members.

They made several suggestions to make the IIPA JKRB more vibrant and productive forum for useful interaction for good governance.

Patron of the branch, Dr. Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd) in his presidential address envisioned the futureroadmap of the branch and urged it to design innovative and quality capacity building / training program for the Government departments.

He said that the JK RB of IIPA should inspire excellence in Governance so that it becomes more responsive to

human needs and aspirations that are aligned with the human values.

He said that the efforts should be to make IIPA a quality training institute for the Govt personnel.

He urged the Executive Committee to conduct more and more training programs for the officers of the J&K UT on the wide-ranging subjects of good governance and public administration and include subjects like Atamirbar Bhart, Mission Karamyogi, Cyber-Crimes, Social Media, Environmental Conservation and new Criminal Laws.

Dr Bhan said that IIPA JKRB should create an annual event involving various stakeholders from academia, government, civil society, and students that brainstorm on various issues related to good governance and welfare of the society. After



IIPA J&K Regional Branch members during a 46th Annual General Meeting at Jammu on Saturday.

civic elections, IIPA should consider programs for the elected members to make them aware of their duties and responsibilities.

Referring to the inclusion of 100 new members into IIPA JK RB, Dr Bhan asked them to add to IIPA's true value by their innovative ideas and active involvement in the programs.

Addressing the AGM, the Chairman of the Branch and the State Election Commissioner, B R Sharma, IAS (R), referred to the historical growth and development of IIPA JKRB and said that it has consistently performed as one of the best IIPA's branches in the country and got top ranking last year which was the result of

the collective effort of all past leadership and members.

He said efforts would continue in the coming year as well to maintain its glory.

He said that JKRB is a role model for other branches of the country for many of our achievements like having its own building and grant-in-aid.

The Chairman said the JK

RB proposes to curate more academic programs in the year ahead. While congratulating J A Khan, IAS (Retd) for receiving the IIPA's prestigious Paul H Appleby award, he said that JKRB of IIPA has the distinction of receiving the maximum number of this coveted award in the country.

Sharma referred to the sug-

gestions made by the members at the AGM and that the EC would consider these and action initiated to make IIPA JKRB the best performing Institute for Good Governance in the country.

He called upon all members, especially the new entrants, to be more active with commitment and dedication. He also thanked members for attending the AGM in such a large number and hoped that future functions would see their similar attendance as well.

While presenting the annual report for the year 2024, Prof Alka Sharma, Hony Secretary, IIPA JKRB shared that in the last year the branch has been able to organize various capacity building programmes for the government officers in line with the vision of the government.

She said that for the first

time, two Research Projects of the Social Welfare Deptt have been taken up, of which one is complete and submitted for observations.

Hony Treasurer Vikrant Kuthiala presented the Annual Statement of Accounts which was approved by the AGM.

While presenting the formal welcome address, Director Seminars Er M M Gupta travelled through the 45 years long journey of the JKRB of IIPA and said that it has grown from a small branch operating some from a makeshift office to a full-fledged impressive building of its own.

Joint Director (Seminars) Manoj Pandita, JKPS, presented the formal vote of thanks. Prof Anil Gupta, Joint Secretary conducted the proceedings of the function.