

# Union Budget game changer for India's growth, J&K's transformation: Slathia

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SAMBA: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir Vice President and former minister Surjeet Singh Slathia today hailed the Union Budget 2024-25 as a game-changer, placing India firmly on the path toward achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat.



J&K BJP Vice President Surjeet Singh Slathia addressing public rally.

Addressing a rally at Village Naran in Gagwal Block this afternoon, Slathia described the budget as a pro-people, growth-oriented, and futuristic financial roadmap that ensures inclusive development, economic empowerment, and national security.

Slathia welcomed the relief measures for the middle class, stating that these provisions will go a long way in easing the financial burden on families across the country. He asserted that by focusing on tax reliefs, incentives for homebuyers, and subsidies on essential commodities, the government has reaffirmed its commitment to improving the quality of life for millions of citizens.

Further enhance opportunities for the working population.

Slathia highlighted that the allocation for Jammu & Kashmir in the Union Budget reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's unwavering resolve to transform the region. The enhanced funding for infrastructure, agriculture, education, and healthcare will accelerate the pace of development and bring long-lasting economic stability to the Union Territory.

"This budget has once again reaffirmed the Modi government's commitment to the holistic development of J&K. The increased allocation will provide a significant push to road connectivity, tourism, industrial growth, and skill development programs, ensuring that the Union Territory emerges as a hub of economic prosperity," he said.

The BJP MLA Samba particularly appreciated the focus on infrastructure, with funds earmarked for road and rail networks, power projects, and rural connectivity. He asserted that these investments will not only boost local economies but also generate employment opportunities for youth.

A special highlight of the budget is the enhanced allocation for the police force, which he described as a well-deserved recognition of the bravery and sacrifices of J&K Police and security

forces in combating terrorism and safeguarding national security. Slathia reaffirmed that the Union Budget 2024-25 is not just a financial document but a visionary blueprint that lays the foundation for New India's economic prosperity and self-reliance. He called upon the people of Jammu & Kashmir to support and take advantage of the opportunities this budget presents, reinforcing their role in the country's growth journey.

Prominent among those present in the rally included District President BJP Samba Asha Rani, Mandal President Nishant Sharma, DDC Suresh Kumar Sharma, Rashpal Verma National General Secretary OBC EX Sarpanch Parveen Sharma, Jasbir Singh, Tersaim Singh, Arpan Sharma, Dev Raj Sharma, Sorab Sharma, Gopal Sharma and others.



## Follow teachings of seers, saints for peaceful living: Dy CM



Dy CM, Surinder Chaudhary attending 684th Prakash Utsav of Shri Guru Ravi Dass ji Maharaj at Bishnah.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Highlighting the role of saints, seers in making the society inclusive, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Chaudhary, on Sunday said that we should follow their teachings for living a peaceful, contented and spiritual life.

The Deputy Chief Minister was speaking at a function organised in connection with celebration of Shobha yatra of 684th Prakash Utsav of Shri Guru Ravi Dass ji Maharaj at Bisnah here today.

visionary role of Guru ji, the Deputy Chief Minister said that his contribution is immense and the need of the hour is to popularise his teachings. "Our country has been fortunate to have a plethora of saints and seers, who through their teachings have played an immense role in ensuring social reform and transformation. The onus lies on us to spread the message for broadening the inclusiveness and also ensuring that their teachings are preserved for posterity", he added.

While referring to the role of saints and seers who have contributed immensely in ensuring the concept of social equality and egalitarianism is adopted in a big way. We should not get carried away by various tendencies but follow them steadfastly for living a peaceful and contented life", he maintained.

Earlier, the Deputy Chief Minister paid obeisance at the Ashram. He prayed for peace and prosperity of the country and Jammu and Kashmir in particular. He also interacted with the devotees.

## FADA delegation takes up issue of EV Charging Infrastructure with JMC, JDA

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Sanjay Aggarwal, Chairperson Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) Jammu along with Sanjay Mahajan and Sahil Mahajan, Regional Director FADA Jammu met Devansh Yadav, CEO Jammu Smart City, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Commissioner and Pankaj Sharma, Vice Chairman, Jammu Development Authority (JDA) in separate meetings. In the meetings, installation of EV Charging Infrastructure under the Jammu Smart City Project and National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) were discussed. Aggarwal said, "The Smart City Project has been a commendable initiative by the Government of India (GOI), bringing transformative change to urban living across the coun-



FADA Jammu delegation meeting with VC JDA, Pankaj Sharma on Sunday.

try. The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, through the Jammu Smart City Project, has witnessed remarkable development, positioning Jammu as a beacon of sustainable, progressive, and healthy living."

Aggarwal said that, in alignment with the project's objectives of Smart Energy, Smart Transportation/ Mobility, and Smart Infrastructure, it is

imperative to address the pressing need for the development of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in the Jammu city. Unfortunately, despite the city's inclusion in the Smart City initiative, the much-needed EV infrastructure has yet to be installed. This gap hinders the promotion of eco-friendly mobility solutions, which are pivotal to achieving a sustainable urban ecosystem.

Aggarwal shared that, the Electric Mobility Policy Framework of GOI underscores the importance of developing public charging infrastructure to support the transition to electric vehicles. Establishing EV charging stations across Jammu is not only crucial for reducing reliance on Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles but also for improving air quality and achieving the overarching goal of a high Happiness Quotient for residents he added.

He emphasized that EV charging infrastructure must be an integral part of the Jammu Smart City Project. Such an initiative would not only enhance urban mobility but also position Jammu as a leader in adopting sustainable and futuristic transportation solutions.

Aggarwal requested Devansh

Yadav to prioritize this critical aspect of smart city development and ensure the swift execution of EV infrastructure plans.

He also requested Pankaj Sharma to identify the parking areas / land under JDA for installing EV Charging Stations under Jammu Smart City Project and National Clean Air Programme.

Devansh Yadav said that initially they will install the EV charging station at the JMC parking area under NCAP and in due course of time will set up EV charging stations at other areas too.

Pankaj Sharma said that JDA will provide all necessary support in setting of EV Charging Stations at JDA Parking Areas and will also look at suitable new places that come under JDA, for setting up EV Charging stations.

# Union BUDGET 2025-26

## Smarter Indirect Taxes, Stronger Economic Growth

### Trade Facilitation

- Fixed 2-year timeline for provisional Customs assessment (extendable by 1 year).
- Voluntary compliance: Importers/exporters can declare material facts & pay duty with interest, penalty-free.
- Extended usage period for imported inputs: From 6 months to 1 year; quarterly filing replaces monthly.

### Boosting Exports

- Handicrafts export timeline extended to 1 year (+ 3 months extension).
- Full BCD exemption on Wet Blue leather for domestic value addition.
- BCD on Frozen Fish Paste (Surimi) reduced from 30% to 5%.
- Extended export window for railway goods imported for repairs: From 6 months to 1 year (+ 1-year extension).

### Strengthening Domestic Manufacturing

- BCD exemption on cobalt powder, 12 critical minerals, lithium-ion battery waste, lead & zinc scrap.
- Textile machinery exemption expanded to more shuttle-less looms.
- BCD exemption on open cell parts for LCD/LED TV panels.
- 10-year BCD exemption extension for shipbuilding & vessel breaking.

### Customs & Trade Reforms

- Export credit, MSME support, & cross-border factoring to ease global trade.
- Launch of Bharat TradeNet (BTN) for seamless digital trade documentation & financing.
- Facilitation groups for key supply chains & industries.
- Govt. boost for domestic electronic industry & Industry 4.0 adoption.
- National framework to promote Global Capability Centres in tier-2 cities.

### Healthcare & Lifesaving Medicines

- Full BCD exemption on 36 lifesaving drugs & 13 patient assistance programs.
- 6 more medicines added to the concessional 5% BCD list.

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