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J&K budget growth...

The budget envisages inclusive, all-round development in Jammu and Kashmir and has also provided resources to realize the vision of developed and prosperous Jammu & Kashmir, he further added.

The Lt Governor spoke on the sector-wise allocation and highlighted the key features of the budget 2022-23.

Good Governance, Agriculture & Horticulture, Power Sector, Rural Development, Strengthening Grass-Root Democracy, Facilitating Investment & Industrial Growth, Infrastructure Development, Improving Connectivity, Broadening Social Inclusion, Har Ghar Nal se Jal, Education, Youth, Tourism, and Health & Medical Education sectors have remained the focus areas of the budget 2022-23.

Allocation of Rs 1313 crore to Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies is aimed at strengthening the grassroot democratic setup in the UT. Rs 200 crore have been earmarked as Development Fund for 20 District Development Councils (Rs 10 crore for each DDC) and Rs 71.25 crore for Block Development Councils (Rs 25 lakh each). Besides, Rs 357 crore has been kept for Solid Waste Management with the two Municipal Corporations and other ULBs.

Huge allocation of Rs 9,289.15 crore has been allocated to the Jal Shakti Department this year. Rs 7750 crore kept under Jal Jeevan Mission for achieving the objective of 100% piped water supply to each household. Apart from this, 43 irrigation schemes are being targeted for completion this year under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana and 28,000 hectares of irrigation potential will be created/stabilized during 2022-23.

This year, Rs 2,835 crore have been allocated to the agriculture sector and Rs 646 crore to horticulture. The budget aims at doubling the farmers' income in a planned manner. The strategy is to focus on cultivation of high yielding/high density crops, use of modern technology and a host of other measures. Nine lakh farmers are being benefitted by distribution of High Yield Varieties/Hybrid seeds. Provision for coverage of 400 hectares under high density apple plantation and 1000 hectares under sub-tropical fruit plants has also been made in the budget.

The allocation of Rs 391.90 crore for Animal, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries sector will help to meet our target of setting up 2,000 additional dairy units in the Union Territory providing direct employment to 5000 people.

This year's allocation of Rs 5,443 crore for the rural sector will give a major fillip to our endeavours of Rural Development and Economy. Under MGNREGA, 426 lakh person-days to be generated and more than 14,000 youth will be trained under the Rural Skill Development Programme. Target has been set for constructing 54,000 houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana during 2022-23. We are also targeting to include 21,994 additional Self-Help Groups to our existing tally. Dedicated focus is being given to connect all Gram Panchayats with the Internet. Under Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, 1500 elected public representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions will be sent for exposure visits outside Jammu and Kashmir.

Connectivity is a priority sector and critical for all round development of the UT of J&K. Unprecedented progress has been made in the last two years in this regard. Allocation to the tune of Rs 6296 crore has been made to further strengthen the road and bridge network in Jammu and Kashmir. Four major National Highway projects viz; Jammu-Akhnoor Road, Chenani-Sudhamaheav road, Baramulla-Gulmarg road and Semi-ring Road Jammu are being completed during 2022. Execution of Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway project is also being taken-up, besides 10 new road/tunnel projects for the UT under Bharatmala project. Overall 6000 Kms of black topping of roads will be achieved during 2022-23 under various components.

For the power sector, Rs 8,768 crore has been allocated in the budget this year. In the last one and a half year, historic steps have been taken to strengthen power generation and infrastructure. We are working diligently towards the target of generating 3500 MW of electricity in three years and this will be further increased to three times in 7 years. The Central Government has also approved Rs 11,000 crore Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) project aimed at improving the power system in the UT and providing quality power to the people of J&K. In this financial year, 3 lakh smart meters each will be installed in Jammu and Srinagar to ensure reliable power supply.

As far as the Health sector is concerned, the Union Government has earmarked Rs 7,873 crore which will go a long way in extending best-in-class medical facilities to the people of the UT. The pace of coverage of AB-PMJAY will be accelerated covering all the residents of J&K. Efforts will be made to start the First Batch of MBBS classes in New Medical colleges at Handwara, Kupwara and Udhampur, increasing the overall intake capacity to 1300 MBBS seats in J&K. Completion of seven nursing colleges is also targeted for 2022-23.

The Union Government has given special attention to the School and Higher Education Department by allocating Rs 11,832 crore in this year's budget. 500 Kindergartens will be established in government schools; 518 smart classrooms and 200 Vocational Laboratories are targeted to be established. We aim at completing 37 Girls Hostel Buildings and 12 KGBV buildings, constructing 7 college buildings, setting up Centers for Invention, Innovation, Incubation and Training (CIIT) in Jammu and Srinagar; giving computer tablets to 8000 meritorious tribal students, besides providing skill training to around 20,000 undergraduate students. We have also set the target to accomplish 100% coverage of pre-matric and post-matric scholarship to Tribal students.

Rs.1,003 crore allocation to the Industries and Commerce Department will complement the ongoing efforts being made to take industrial development in the UT to new heights. Substantial amount will be spent on establishing new industrial estates in Jammu and Kashmir. The Industries Department will also assist 2000 Self Help Groups for promoting handicrafts.

In this year's budget, an amount of Rs 200 crore has been allocated to provide financial assistance to young aspiring entrepreneurs of J&K.

The Social welfare department's Rs. 3,203 crore budget allocation will ensure that the benefits of the welfare schemes reach every eligible beneficiary. Motorized Tricycles will be provided to all Divyangan.

Tourism contributes significantly to J&K's economy. Rs. 508 crore tourism budget will enable the sector to grow, thus benefiting the local population. 75 offbeat destinations are being identified and developed, and unexplored areas are also being developed under public-private partnership.

Keeping in mind the welfare of the tribal community, provision has been made to establish 14 new milk villages, besides constructing 7 transit accommodations for the community. Moreover, 29 Cluster Model Villages are being established which are at different stages of implementation.

Best policies are being worked out to encourage the sporting talents like Arif, Sadia, and Aarushi Kotwal, who made J&K proud with their distinct achievements. In this financial year, national level events will be organized in different disciplines of 17 sports. Around 7.5 lakh youth will be provided an opportunity to showcase their talent, and 221 playfields will be constructed in all 20 districts of the UT.

Development of Border Villages is another important sector that received a dedicated focus in the budget. With allocation of Rs 600 crore for border villages, and Rs. 50 crore under the Samridhi Seema Yojana, special efforts will be made for the development of villages along the borders.

Under Smart City Mission, 80 projects will be completed and Rs. 200 crore has been earmarked for this. 100 electric buses each will ply on the roads of Jammu and Srinagar. 90 major sewerage schemes at an estimated cost of Rs. 1131 crore are to be executed and Rs. 373 crore will be spent for the revival of Dal and Nagin lake. Moreover, the balance portion of work on Tawi Barrage costing Rs. 73.34 crore is expected to be completed during 2022-23.

Replying to the question on the government's efforts for the welfare of Kashmiri Pandits, the Lt Governor said that the relief and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits is one of the prime focus areas of both the Central and the UT governments. 1025 Transit Accommodations are ready at various places in Kashmir Valley and 1488 units are at various stages of completion. Out of 6000 posts, appointments have been made to 4678 posts and the process of recruitment on the remaining posts is also being completed in mission mode, he added.

On the issue of employment, the Lt Governor said that in the last one and half year, 11,000 appointments have been made in the most transparent manner. For the first time in history, meritorious candidates from disadvantaged sections have got government jobs on the basis of merit. Apart from this, 20,323 other posts have been identified and recommended for the recruitment process on a fast track basis. We are exploring all possibilities for generating a host of employment opportunities in every sector, he added.

Business delegates from Gulf Countries visited Kashmir to explore investment opportunities in the UT. We have cleared investment proposals to the tune of Rs 27,000 crore, within a year's time and allotted them land for their projects. The investment proposals are expected to cross Rs 70,000 crores in the next six months, the Lt Governor further added.

The Government is encouraging cultivation by border dwellers on the abandoned land near the IB to increase acreage and production thus benefiting the farmers, said the Lt Governor in reply to a question by the media person.

Police busts hideout...

ammunition including one pistol with eight rounds, a Chinese grenade, three UBGL grenades, three RPG rounds, three explosive sticks, one IED remote and one pressure cooker, they said.

Accordingly, a FIR was registered at the Marwah police station under relevant sections of the law.

Army Commander briefs ...

in Jammu and Kashmir.

Lt Gen Dwivedi briefed the Lt Governor about the security situation in the forward areas and hinterland of J&K.

The Lt Governor commended the important role of the Army in maintaining peace, harmony and ensuring a secure environment for the people in J&K, which is witnessing rapid development and growth.

Lt General ADS Aujla also remained present.

Peace in border...

will obviously require a restoration of peace and tranquillity," he added.

Jaishankar said the military and diplomatic talks produced positive outcomes but noted that the situation in the region was not normal.

"We have a situation where peace and tranquillity in the border areas have been disturbed. So the situation there is not normal. (if) the situation there is not normal, if peace and tranquillity is the foundation of the basis of how we are going forward, then obviously that is also disturbed," he said.

The external affairs minister described the talks as a "candid" exchange of views.

"We met for about three hours and addressed a broad and substantive agenda in an open and candid manner. We discussed our bilateral relations that have been disturbed as a result of the Chinese actions in April 2020," Jaishankar said.

"The occasion provided an opportunity to exchange views on major international issues including Afghanistan and Ukraine. We also took up some other important concerns in our bilateral relationship including education travel and commerce."

India and China have held 15 rounds of military talks to resolve the face-off in the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh.

Adityanath takes oath...

from BJP-run states and dignitaries from the world of industry and entertainment.

A festive atmosphere prevailed at Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana stadium. Enthusiastic BJP supporters chanted "Modi, Modi" during event.

Apart from the chief minister, 18 cabinet ministers -- including the two deputy CMs - 14 ministers of state (independent charge) and 20 other ministers of state were administered the oath by Governor Anandiben Patel.

As the event progressed, the oath was administered to two and even four ministers of state in each go to save time.

Besides Modi, the ceremony was attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and BJP national president J P Nadda.

Apart from the CMs of BJP-run state, Bihar chief minister and JDU leader Nitish Kumar attended the ceremony as an NDA partner.

There was much speculation over the possible return of Keshav Prasad Maurya as a deputy CM. He had lost the assembly election from his native Sirathu seat.

But after the repeat of Pushkar Singh Dhami as the chief minister of Uttarakhand for the second term despite losing from his own constituency, it appeared that the party might also favour the influential Other Backward Class leader in UP.

Former Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya, who too was counted among the frontrunners for the deputy CMs post, gets a cabinet berth.

So do BJP state unit president Swatantra Dev Singh, former IAS officer A K Sharma, Finance minister Suresh Khanna is back.

Jitin Prasada, who had quit the Congress to join the BJP ahead of the polls, made it to the state cabinet.

On Twitter, PM Modi congratulated Adityanath and expressed confidence that his government in its fresh term will write another chapter of progress in Uttar Pradesh while fulfilling the people's aspirations.

The BJP-led alliance had won 273 of 403 seats in the UP Assembly polls. While the BJP got 255 seats, its allies Nishad Party and the Apna Dal (S) bagged 18.

This is the first time in over three decades that a party has won the assembly elections twice in a row in the crucial state, a feat that BJP leaders feel brightens the chances of its return to power in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as well.

There can be a maximum of 60 ministers including the chief minister in Uttar Pradesh under the constitutional provisions.

BJP ally Ashish Patel of Apna Dal (Sonelal) and Nishad Party chief Sanjay Nishad also took the oath as cabinet ministers.

In the earlier government, Apna Dal (S) had one member with the MoS rank.

Danish Azad Ansari has been made a minister of state. He is the lone Muslim face in the Adityanath government.

Hailing from Balia, Azad has replaced Mohsin Raza as the representative of the minority community in the Adityanath 2.0 government. He is not a member of the state assembly or the legislative council at present.

Former IPS officer Aseem Arun, Daya Shankar Singh, Nitin Agarwal and Kalyan Singh's grandson Sandip Singh have been made ministers of state (independent charge).

Several prominent members of the outgoing UP ministry do not find a berth in the new government.

Apart from former deputy CM Dinesh Sharma, these include Satish Mahana, Ramapati Shastri, Siddharth Nath Singh and Srikant Sharma.

There is speculation that either Mahana or Shastri could get Assembly Speaker's post. Both are eight-time MLAs.

Shastri was appointed the pro-tem speaker by the Governor for administering the oaths to the new MLAs.

Some other names doing the rounds in political circles also did not figure in the list of ministers.

They include former Enforcement Directorate officer Rajeshwar Singh, Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav's daughter-in-law Aparna Yadav and Aditi Singh, who had switched over from the Congress to the BJP and won the Rae Bareli seat.

Excited BJP supporters had started thronging the venue after its gates were opened at 11 am, hours before the ceremony was to begin.

27 employees found...

explanations from the officer/officials, who were found absent during the inspection. The DM directed for remaining punctual in future and said that such inspections will continue in future also and dereliction of unauthorized absence will not be tolerated at all.

No Judicial Officer...

District Judges often leave station without seeking prior permission from Competent Authority.

Chief Justice directed Judicial Officers to ensure strict compliance of aforementioned circulars, and that no officer shall leave station without obtaining prior permission of Competent Authority, as any failure or non-compliance shall be viewed seriously.

CBI granted consent...

Sinha said that he considered the allegations and decided that truth needs to come out. Malik in his allegation last year had said that he was offered a bribe of Rs 150 crore each for clearing two files, one of them related to Ambani and other to a former minister in the previous Mehbooba Mufti-led (PDP-BJP coalition) government.

He had also alleged that the minister was also said to be someone very close to the prime minister.

I was informed by secretaries in both the departments that there is a scandal involved and I accordingly cancelled both the deals. The secretaries said to me you will get Rs 150 crore for clearing the files' but I told them that I had come with five kurtas-pajamas and would leave with that only," Malik had said at an event in Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is reported to have initiated a probe into the allegations of the former J&K governor.

DB upholds PSA...

the DB after hearing both the sides, observed that from a plain reading of impugned Judgment passed by the Single Judge in context of facts and circumstances of the instant case, the court is of considered view that aforesaid Judgment is lucid and clear. DB further observed that Writ Court has not only appreciated all the grounds urged by the Appellant in the Writ Petition, but has also rendered clear and accurate findings with regard to each and every ground pressed into service by Appellant in tune with the mandate of law governing the subject. "After going through relevant records, it can be safely said that the impugned Judgment has taken care of all the aspects of matter in detail and that no such ground/ material has been placed before us in this appeal so as to reverse the findings returned by the learned Single Judge and take a view contrary to the one taken in the impugned Judgment. In that view of the matter, we find no merit in this appeal which is, accordingly, dismissed," the Court observed.

We need to...

said, "We therefore decline to entertain the petition only on this ground and without expressing any opinion on the question of law, which are sought to be raised. The question of law is kept open to be decided in the appropriate case. The Special Leave Petition is dismissed."

At the outset, Justice Chandrachud said, "She is a young person pursuing MBBS from a college in Bangladesh. Yes, mistakes are there on her part, but we all have done mistakes in our youth days."

Justice Surya Kant told the counsel for union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, "Kashmiri youth need to be brought into mainstream. We need to promote the youth of Jammu and Kashmir by educating them. You want to deny the young girl her academic career."

Justice Chandrachud said that entertaining the appeal of Jammu and Kashmir administration would impact her educational career negatively.

Standing counsel for Jammu and Kashmir administration Taruna Prasad said that there are substantial questions of law as there is breach of trust.

The top court was hearing an appeal filed by Jammu and Kashmir against the high court order directing the Jammu and Kashmir women's development corporation to release loan instalment in favour of Bhat.

The corporation had released the first instalment of Rs 30 lakh loan sanctioned in favour of Bhat in 2018 but had refused to release subsequent amounts on the ground that she had changed her admission to Khwaja Yunus Ali Medical College, Bangladesh from Community Based Medical College, Bangladesh.

Bhat had moved the high court after the corporation demanded back the first instalment of Rs 6 lakh and refused to release the subsequent funds.

She had contended that she was forced to change her admission to non-availability of seats in Community Based Medical College.

The corporation, on the other hand, submitted that it had released the fund for Community Based Medical College but Bhat had transferred it to Khwaja Yunus Ali Medical College without prior information, which is a breach of terms and conditions of the loan. The division bench of the high court had set aside the single-judge order which had ruled against Bhat.

J&K ranks 3rd...

promotes competitive federalism and a fair contest among States/UTs.