

# Dr Jitendra updates Rajya Sabha on latest 'Small Modular Reactors'

## STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Close on the heels of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcement in her Budget speech about the plan to develop "Small Modular Reactors" (SMRs) with a gross allocation of Rs 36,159.93 crore for 2024-25 for the projects under the Department of Atomic Energy, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space and MoS Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh today updated the Rajya Sabha about the progress in the initiative to develop "Small Modular Reactors".

In reply to a question, the Minister informed the House that the Department of Atomic Energy is taking note of the developments and



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

recent trends worldwide in the field of small modular reactors. While the different technologies and designs of small modular reactors, as published by different countries and foreign-based vendors, are being studied for gathering technical details, no proposal to collaborate with foreign vendors/

countries is under consideration at present. At present, no private player has shown interest in producing small modular reactors. However, a few private players have shown interest to deploy small reactors in their captive site.

Pertinent to mention that SMRs are said to be game changers in the times to come, as these are defined as small nuclear reactors with a maximum output of 300 Megawatt electric (MWe) and can produce 7.2 million kWh per day. By comparison, large-size nuclear power plants have an output of over 1,000 MWe and can produce 24 million kWh per day.

In reply to another related question, Dr. Jitendra Singh informed that Government of India and Government of Russian Federation have expressed interest to expand the cooperation in the field of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes including cooperation in the field of

Small Modular Reactor.

Dr. Jitendra Singh further informed that The present installed nuclear power capacity in the country is 8180 MW, comprising of 24 nuclear power reactors. There are nine (09) reactors with a total capacity of 7300 MW [including Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidhyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI)] under construction and twelve (12) reactors with a capacity of 8000 MW [including 2 X 500 MW twin unit of Fast Breeder Reactors (FBR) 1 & 2 by BHAVINI] are under pre-project activities.

The installed nuclear power capacity in 2013-14 has increased from 4780 MW to 8180 MW at present. The annual electricity generation from nuclear power plants has increased from 34228 Million units in 2013-14 to 47971 Million Units in 2023-24, stated the Minister in his reply.



# Our spiritual saints taught us the lesson of inclusivity: Dr Andrabi

## STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Thursday paid obeisance at the shrine of sufi saint Lala Baba Sahib (RA) at Zakura Srinagar on the occasion of Annual Urs and participated in the special Sufi event held there as the Chief Guest.

A local Management Committee looks after the affairs of the shrine. The committee is headed by its Chairman Aijaz Ahmad Bhat.

A rousing welcome was accorded to Dr. Andrabi by the Committee and the devotees on her arrival at the shrine.

Andrabi attended a prayer session and prayed for the peace, prosperity and progress of all. She presided over the Special Sufi Session



Chairperson JKWB Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi participating in Annual Urs at Sufi shrine of Lala Baba Sahib (RA) in Srinagar.

held in the shrine.

"Our Sufi Saints are the everlasting torch bearers for us of all. They lead us to the path of Almighty. They infuse in us the spirit of cordiality and humanity", said Dr. Darakhshan while speak-

ing at the event.

She applauded the local committee for impressive arrangements at the shrine. "Our spiritual saints taught us the lesson of inclusivity which is the basis for peace", said Dr. Andrabi.

# Union Budget 2024-25 shows Modi Govt's commitment to pioneering women-led development: Priya Sethi

## STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: The Union Budget 2024-25 is a testament to the Modi government's unwavering dedication to empowering women and fostering their leadership in all spheres of life. This unprecedented allocation of Rs 3 lakh crore for women-led development initiatives marks a pivotal moment in our journey towards a more equitable society.

This was stated by Priya Sethi, National Executive Member BJP and Former Minister while addressing Mahila Morcha programme at Akhnoor today. Former MLA Rajiv Sharma was also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering of women folk here, the senior

DGP pays homage to bravery & sacrifice of army on Kargil Vijay Divas

## STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: On the occasion of Kargil Vijay Divas, the Director General of Police (DGP), J&K, R.R. Swain has paid a heartfelt homage to the bravery and sacrifice of the Indian Army, who fought valiantly to defend territorial integrity and sovereignty of the motherland in 1999, in the mountains of Kargil.

The DGP in his message has said that as we commemorate this day, let us remember the sacrifices made by our soldiers and their families. "Let us also reiterate our commitment to defending our country's interests and upholding the values of courage, loyalty, and duty. The unwavering dedication and courage of the Indian Army in the face of adversity is an inspiration to us all", he said.

While paying homage to the martyrs, he said that Kargil Vijay Divas is a solemn celebration of the valour, selflessness, and indomitable will of our brave soldiers, who put their lives on the line to safeguard Country's sovereignty.

This day stands as a powerful testament to the Indian Army's unshakable resolve and bravery, evoking a deep sense of national pride, reverence, and gratitude for their sacrifices, he added.



Former Minister, Priya Sethi addressing Mahila Morcha programme at Akhnoor on Thursday.

BJP leader Priya Sethi has lauded the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for allocating Rs 3 lakh crore for women-centric schemes, terming it as a transformative step towards gender equality and economic inclusivity. She said that the establishment of working women's hostels and creches will provide essential support to enhance female workforce participation, enabling them to seamlessly balance their professional and personal responsibilities,

thereby contributing more effectively to the nation's economy.

"The Union Budget also introduces increased allocations for existing schemes aimed at women's empowerment and safety. Programs such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), and One Stop Centres (OSC) for women affected by violence have received a substantial boost, ensuring their continued

impact and effectiveness," he added. Priya Sethi emphasized the transformative impact of these initiatives, noting, "The Modi government's policies have been instrumental in providing women with the necessary resources and opportunities to thrive. From financial support for mothers under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) to encouraging savings for the girl child's education through the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, these schemes have brought about significant positive changes in the lives of countless women."

The former Minister contrasted the proactive measures of the Modi government with the approaches of previous regimes. "The Modi government has worked tirelessly to empower women in last ten years, far surpassing the efforts of successive regimes headed by the NC and Congress, under which women

were often deprived of their due rights," she asserted.

Highlighting the success of the Stand Up India scheme, Sethi noted its crucial role in fostering entrepreneurship among women and marginalized communities. By facilitating bank loans between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore for women and SC/ST entrepreneurs, the scheme has paved the way for increased financial independence and business opportunities.

Priya Sethi urged the women folk of Jammu and Kashmir to recognize and support the policies of the Modi government in the upcoming Assembly polls. "The BJP has consistently championed the cause of women's empowerment and development. I urge all women to come forward, support the BJP, and ensure that we continue on this path of progress and inclusivity. Together, we can build a stronger, more equitable future for all."

# CS stresses for timely completion of road projects across J&K

## STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Thursday chaired a meeting to take stock of ongoing works on various roads and bridges taken under PMGSY, CRIF, NABARD and UT Capex across Jammu and Kashmir. Secretary, PWD; Secretary, Law; Engineer-in-Chief; Deputy Commissioners; Chief Engineers besides senior officers from the concerned department attended the meeting.

Outstation officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

The Chief Secretary, during this meeting, enquired about the starting dates of works on these Roads and Bridges taken under different phases of PM Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Central Road Infrastructure Fund (CRIF), NABARD funding and UT Capex.

He noted that the work on remaining 11 habitations under phase-I of PMGSY needs to be expedited under every circumstances besides strenuous efforts should be



Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting.

made to complete works on Long Span Bridges (LSBs) under progress in various districts of J&K.

Dulloo observed that since reorganization of department, there is sufficient manpower including senior engineers available in peripheral areas. He maintained that this should entail into better supervision and quality outcomes for the department.

The Chief Secretary also advised the officers to take swift actions in resolution of bottlenecks like land compensation, seeking forest clearances or other contractor related concerns. He asked them to avail the assistance of divisional/district administrations for executing swift

actions on ground.

In his presentation Secretary, PWD, gave an overview of the works in progress under these programs. He highlighted the achievements made by the department in past few years regarding completion of roads, bridges and blacktopping of thousands of kilometers of riding surfaces all across the UT.

He informed the meeting that under PMGSY I & II 18, 205 Kms of road length and 217 LSBs stands completed connecting 2129 habitations in J&K. Under PMGSY-III, 1207 kms of road length, 66 LSBs are currently at different stages of completion, he added.

It was further given out that

the department is making all efforts to take up the 1820 unconnected habitations under PMGSY-IV having around 100-250 households as per 2011 census.

It was revealed that 294 projects had been taken under CRIF at a cumulative cost of Rs 4317 Cr of which 173 works stands completed till date.

Regarding the Bridge Program, it was revealed that 143 LSBs at a sanctioned cost of Rs 515.54 Cr were undertaken, out of which 36 have been completed and more 36 are slated to be finished by the end of this financial year.

Among the targets for 2024-25 it was given out that macadamization of 5000 Kms of road length under various central & UT sector schemes would be achieved, 100 bridges sanctioned under various schemes, 2338 works under UT Capex, 200 Roads/Bridges sanctioned under NABARD besides completion of 1100 Kms of road length under PMGSY would also be completed during this period.

# Dir Agriculture assesses agricultural projects, HADP initiatives



Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen conducting field visit to Marh Sub-Division.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, accompanied by a team of officers, on Thursday conducted a comprehensive field visit to Marh Sub-Division to evaluate various agricultural projects and initiatives under HADP.

DAJ expressed views on the transformative impact of HADP in agricultural advancements and increasing productivity. He underscored that HADP initiatives not only aim to boost agricultural output but also play a crucial role in generating employment opportunities for youth.

He emphasized the importance of bridging the gap between farmers and the Agriculture Department's schemes, ensuring effective

implementation and maximum benefit to farmers across the region.

The visit commenced with a thorough inspection of the paddy fields owned by Vijay Kumar in Marh. The primary objective was to assess the progress of line sowing of the paddy crop. During this inspection, Director and his team meticulously examined all facets of the cultivation process, ensuring strict adherence to recommended agricultural practices.

They also verified the effective utilization of Hybrid seed varieties issued by the Agriculture Department on subsidized rates.

Additionally, the Director inspected the combine harvester belonging to Tilak Raj in Gajansoo, which was

provided on subsidy under the HADP. The inspection aimed to ensure optimal functioning and utilization of the farm machinery component under HADP.

Furthering the assessment, the Director visited the apiculture unit of Rajinder Singh in Village Gajansoo, where he inspected 35 bee colonies provided on subsidy under the HADP. Rajinder Singh had successfully harvested approximately 100kg of honey from these colonies.

DAJ suggested strategies to the farmer on enhancing honey production and expanding 50 more bee colonies from 35 units through multiplication techniques.

Concluding the visit, the Director visited the Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) named Shradha Milk & Milk Products managed by KJMPCL, to meet Sushma Kumari, a dedicated women entrepreneur. The visit aimed to evaluate the FPO's operations and achievements in dairy production and marketing.

Joint Director Agriculture Extension Satish Sharma, SDAO Marh Sahil Gandotra and other agriculture staff accompanied DAJ during the field visit.

# UNION BUDGET 2024-25: WHAT STAKEHOLDERS SAY?



**Naghma, Businesswoman**

Each year, with the introduction of the budget, people's expectations also skyrocket, anticipating welfare and prosperity. This year's budget has somewhat met those expectations, with simplified loan processes and the numerous schemes to empower local businesses. If, I talk with regard to women and their interests, the prices of gold and silver have been reduced but still these developments seem irrelevant in the current scenario of rampant inflation. When a common man struggles to afford basic commodities like vegetables for daily use, the reduced prices of jewels hold no significance.



**Harsh Sharma, Student**

First of all, I extend a hearty welcome to this year's budget. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, has done a commendable job in taking care of the interests of all the segments of the society. As a student, I am highly optimistic about this year's agenda. I feel, this budget will prove beneficial for all of us. Finally, some significant steps have been taken to tackle the pressing issue of unemployment and I am eagerly looking forward to this new era of change that our country is poised to witness.



**Asha Gupta, Teacher**

I view this year's budget as a catalyst for development in India. I am very satisfied with the schemes and proposals outlined in the budget, especially its emphasis on the welfare and empowerment of women, children and youth. One such praiseworthy achievement is the notable reduction in the prices of cancer medications, a great relief for patients suffering from the fatal disease. The budget has also introduced various impactful schemes like 'Anmol Yojana' etc in J&K. A lot of emphasis has been put on dealing with the challenges of unemployment. Hence, I believe this year's budget is well-equipped on the face of the rising economic inflation.



**Sudarshan Dogra, Student**

I think that after a long time, the budget has been made with genuine consideration for the general public, catering to their issues and demands, while giving greater importance to the future nation builders- our youth. With the introduction of internship opportunities and stipends, now, even the underprivileged students can be nurtured into skilful assets for the nation and its development.



**Sahil Thakur, Student**

Lately, Jammu and the nation as a whole have experienced a huge surge in the number of terror attacks, posing threats to nation's sovereignty and security. In this context, the government's decision to allocate substantial amounts of capital to the defense sector is a very wise call that deserves appreciation. I think, with improved training and investments on infrastructure and better equipments, the security forces would be greatly benefitted.



**Pawan Gupta, Trader**

The budget has been mindful of everyone, with a keen focus on income tax across India, but unfortunately, relief seems elusive. In our country, inflation is also quite high. The government should have reduced the prices of LPG, petrol, and diesel, but that hasn't happened. Our Government had already provided the funding for the Amarnath Yatra, which I really appreciate. However, this time, the old budget has been repeated once again.