

Dr Jitendra shares with Lok Sabha budget hike provisions for Science, Technology, StartUps

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister for Science and Technology, addressed the Lok Sabha on budget hikes for Science & Technology and StartUps. He highlighted several initiatives to boost resources for innovation, research, and technology. Key measures include increased budget allocations for scientific departments, promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship, and encouragement of public-private partnerships. The establishment of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation aims to increase R&D budget allocations in collaboration with industry.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh speaking in the Lok Sabha.
Section 135 of the Companies

Act, 2013 mandates companies with significant financial standing to allocate at least 2% of their average net profits towards CSR, including contributions to R&D projects in science and technology. No additional mandatory policies for industries to allocate profits towards R&D are currently under consideration. Dr. Singh outlined initiatives to enhance the S&T sector, such as establishing Centres of Excellence, participating in mega scientific facilities, and providing extramural research funding. The government has scaled up funding in critical areas like Clean Energy, Smart Grids, and Climate Change

Research and introduced National Missions like the National Quantum Mission. The Ministry has granted autonomy to Autonomous Institutions (AIs) for initiating R&D activities and made relaxations in procurement procedures for scientific research. Programmes like lectures, seminars, and the "JIGYASA" initiative in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan aim to foster scientific temper and research-oriented thinking among students. The Ministry also provides doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships to support research in science and technology across the country.



Kavinder calls on MoS Railways, projects demands of business community

Seeks goods storage sheds at BD Bari Railway Station, restoration of pre-Covid time train stops

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta on Wednesday called on MoS Railways Ravneet Singh Bittu and highlighted various demands of the business community belonging to the UT.

During a threadbare discussion, the BJP stalwart from J&K projected the long pending demands of the business fraternity of the region especially concerning the Railways as its network is vast and resourceful. Kavinder also discussed how the things will transform after the trains start chugging between Jammu and Kashmir regions without any break as soon as later break-free train connectivity is expected between the two provinces in the Union Territory. Kavinder also raised the demand of establishing an adequate goods storage shed facility at the Bari



Senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta calling on MoS Railways Ravneet Singh Bittu.

Brahmana Railway Station claiming that things become difficult due to lack of the aforesaid facility especially during the inclement weather conditions. He also asked the MoS Railways to ensure restoration of pre-Covid time train stops as this is vital for public welfare because due to changed schedules and halt points, the people have to face many problems while boarding or alighting from the trains which earlier used to stop at the nearby Railway Stations. He also raised some issues of Labour

Unions. Giving a patient hearing to the demands and issues raised by the former DyCM J&K, Ravneet Singh Bittu assured to fulfill the aforesaid demands and also promised more for the people of J&K as he said that the train to Kashmir will bring many surprises for one and all, who love to travel by this most popular mode of transport in the country. Rakesh Mahajan, Incharge All Cells, BJP, J&K also accompanied the former Deputy Chief Minister.

CS for pacing up works of Dal, Nigeen Lake conservation

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Wednesday held a meeting of Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to take appraisal of the progress made on works to develop the twin lakes of Dal and Nigeen here.

Those who were present includes Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; VC, LCMA; besides other concerned officers of the Department. Dulloo while having appraisal of the ongoing projects for beautification and conservation of Dal and Nigeen Lakes impressed upon the concerned to ensure further acceleration in the works initiated for conservation and development of the Dal and Nigeen lakes. He stressed on taking the tendering process to logical conclusion so that the work on these illustrious projects would be taken in hand and completed within the specific timeframes. The Chief Secretary took this occasion to also advise the Department to take assessment of all the



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

demands and concerns taken up by the Dal dwellers and those by Houseboat owners here. He enjoined upon the concerned to consider them on merits and resolve all the genuine ones without any delay. The Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandep Kaur gave a detailed account of the projects under progress and those in pipeline to make Dal and Nigeen lakes among the most beautiful and developed lakes in the country. She gave out that the commercial production of NAFED project for biometanation of weeds has started from June this year. It was further added that the plant has a capacity of 70000 MT with supply of 2600 tons of waste supplied till now.

Regarding other projects like installation of Musical fountains it was revealed that DPR has been prepared and administrative approval is currently sought from the finance department to float tenders. As far as the works like installation of high jet fountains and Ferris Wheel inside Dal Lake, establishment of Amusement Park near Shalimar Canal under PPP mode it was given out that the consultations with National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) are going on which are shortly making a visit to the city to finalize the Terms of Reference (ToR) for these projects. Besides the meeting was informed that 5 more clusters

of cascade aerators with 1300 nozzles/fountains at an estimated cost of Rs 8.71 crore are being set up in the Northern Foreshore area under CAPEX to enhance oxygenation of Dal waters and add beauty to the lake. The meeting also took appraisal of the status of the project Integrated Management Plan for conservation of Dal Nigeen Lake Ecosystem funded under PMDP. It was added that the RFP for PDMC was been floated on 19th of June and the project is expected to be completed by 2027. The meeting was informed that 605 houseboats out of total tourism registered 888 in Dal lake are being connected through a floating Type of Sewerage Network at a cost of Rs 6.5 Cr.

About the development of eco hamlets it was given out that one namely Kachri Mohalla has been completed at Rs 4.33 Cr. Moreover 28 internal hamlets are being taken up under PMDP project for development. The scope of works includes sewerage treatment (4-5MLD), beautification, slope stabilization, eco parks, catchment area management etc. About dredging work, the meeting was apprised that 140,000 cubic meters of silt has been removed from the settling basin during the last two years besides shoreline dredging of 1.5 km has also been done for the first time in Nishat Basin. As far as the dewatering of the water surface is concerned it was divulged that out of 4, Gagri Basin and Nigeen basins are clear. Lokut Dal will be done by 15th August and Hazratbal by 31st August this year. It was added that the open expanse of Dal Lake has been extended to more than 20.3 sq km for the first time making the view of Dal more attractive for tourists.

Yudhvir slams Smart City authorities over flood damage in residential areas

Warehouse Traders protest, demand early completion of ongoing work of Tawi River Front

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President of Jammu and Kashmir B-JP, has strongly criticized Jammu Smart City Limited for failing to construct protective walls during the Tawi River Front development, resulting in substantial losses for people residing in the area, as floodwaters entered their houses in Mohalla Fishery Goyal Lane and the backside Mohalla of Warehouse, causing damage to household items, including furniture, amounting to lakhs of rupees. In this regard, Yudhvir Sethi intervened in a protest staged



Vice President J&K BJP, Yudhvir Sethi visiting rain effecting area.

today by members of the Warehouse Traders Association, expressing solidarity with the affected residents.

Deepak Gupta, President of the Warehouse Traders Association, joined the protest along with Charanjit Singh, Gurbinder Ji, D.S. Janwal, Rohit Mehra, Opinder Ji, Kanchan Singh, and others. During his address, Yudhvir criticized the Smart City Project authorities for not taking the issues faced by the people seriously. He highlighted that a similar incident occurred last year, and despite assurances from the authorities to complete the ongoing work on the banks of River Tawi, the promises remain unfulfilled. "The negligence of the Smart City Project authorities is unacceptable. The residents have suffered significant losses, and the authorities must be held accountable for their failure to protect the community," he said and stressed the urgent need for action to prevent such inci-

dents in the future. Sethi also spoke with the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Commissioner, urging the immediate installation of machines to drain the rain and floodwater from the affected areas. He emphasized the importance of taking swift measures to mitigate further damage and protect the residents. The protesting Warehouse Association members demanded immediate action from the authorities to address the problem and prevent future occurrences. Yudhvir Sethi assured the residents and traders that he would continue to advocate for their concerns and hold the responsible parties accountable. He called for a comprehensive review of the Smart City Project's progress and measures to ensure the safety and well-being of the community.

DIPR celebrates Swachhta Pakhwada; DI leads plantation, cleanliness drives

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) on Wednesday organised a series of impactful activities under the ongoing Swachhta Pakhwada. Speaking on the occasion, Director Information, Jatin Kishore, remarked that Swachhta Pakhwada is a unique initiative of the Government aimed at promoting cleanliness and sanitation across the country. He highlighted that the initiative, part of the nationwide Swachh Bharat Mission, underscores the commitment of the government to create a cleaner and healthier environment for its citizens. He underlined that by organising this initiative we are being reminded of importance of maintaining cleanliness in public spaces for the well-being of all the citizens. The DIPR officials and officers led by Director Information, Jatin Kishore, also held a plantation drive in the DIPR office complex as part of the 'Ek Ped Shaheedon Ke Naam' initiative of the Government. Later, the officials and officers also participated in the cleanliness drive, demonstrating a commitment for preserving the local environment and fostering a sense of civic duty. Joint Director Information (Hq), Veveik Puri; Deputy Director Information



Director Information, Jatin Kishore planting a sapling.

(AV/PR), Deepak Dubey; Deputy Director Information (Central), Sunil Kumar; Editor Films, Zahoor Ahmad Garu; Maheer Thakur, Information Officer and other officers and officials of DIPR were also present and participated in the event enthusiastically.

Dir Panchayati Raj visits Kashmiri Migrant Camp in Nagrota



STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Director, Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal on Wednesday visited the TRF Camp in Nagrota to address the concerns of Kashmiri migrant families. The visit, part of his role as Purbhari Officer under the 'Back to Village Program' was aimed to gain firsthand insights into the challenges faced by these displaced families. During his visit, Director Panchayati Raj resolved several issues on the spot and initiated discussions with relevant authorities to tackle remaining concerns. During his interaction, Sham Lal emphasized the government's commitment to providing all necessary facilities and services at the doorstep of the people. He highlighted that various services have been made available online, allowing residents to benefit from these services from the comfort of their homes, eliminating the need to visit any offices. Director Panchayati Raj also focused on the numerous online schemes designed for unemployed youth, encouraging them to take advantage of these opportunities to secure employment. He stressed the importance of maximizing the benefits of these schemes to fulfill the vision of a Vikshit Bharat. Regarding the issues raised by the migrant families, he mentioned that he has gathered detailed information from the Deputy

Commissioner Relief Organization about various developmental concerns. These include the provision of additional facilities in the community hall, the functioning of the primary health center, the supply of clean water, and sanitation. Director Panchayati Raj assured that necessary interventions will be made to resolve these issues. He also urged the local community to participate in the Swachhta Pakhwada campaign for cleanliness and to maintain cleanliness in their surroundings. He reiterated that migrant families will benefit from all government-sponsored schemes. Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Relief Organization, Vijay Sharma, informed that all eligible migrant families will benefit from schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Old age Pension, and other welfare programs. On this occasion, DIC Manager Jammu, Bharat Bhushan, Block Program Manager JKSRIM, Akash Jaiswal, Assistant Director Employment and Nodal Officer Mission Youth Mukhlis Ali shared details about schemes for unemployed youth. Various departments had set up stalls during the camp to provide information about government schemes and programs to the migrants. Director Panchayati Raj later toured the entire camp to assess the issues firsthand and issued instructions on the spot for their resolution.

Sanskrit promotion, Drug De-addiction rally Death penalty to abettors of Drug menace: Rana

STATE TIMES NEWS
GHAROTA: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Wednesday pleaded death penalty for drug peddlers, saying they cannot get away with their heinous crimes against the young generation. "The abettors of drug menace should be dealt sternly", Devender Rana said at a function after flagging off a grand awareness rally, for promoting the divine language Sanskrit and drug de-addiction, from Government Higher Secondary School Gharota in Jandyal Chowk in Nagrota assembly constituency as part of Sanskrit Month. Organised by Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, under the stewardship of Mahant Rohit Shastri, the rally was aimed at educating society about the importance of Sanskrit and dangers of drug addiction. The event began with tree planting and distribution of saplings and concluded with a seminar after 3 km road rally. Highlighting the significance



Senior BJP leader Devender Rana participating in rally.

of generating awareness against drug addiction, Rana expressed concern over the younger generation largely getting affected by this malady, saying the rally in this regard organized by the Trust headed by Mahant Rohit Shastri is of crucial importance. Such efforts are certainly going to generate awareness about the evils of drug addiction, he added. Rana, who was the chief guest on the occasion, said that only through drug de-addiction, families can achieve happiness, prosperity, and well-being. The ongoing awareness campaign is therefore a way forward to free-

ing individuals from addiction. Social awareness is essential to controlling drug addiction, leading to happy families and a better society, he added. Rana called for collective efforts to promote Sanskrit, the mother of all languages, saying that learning this language holds the key to understanding the Indian worldview. "Sanskrit, a fundamental part of our traditions, helps us understand the soul of India", he added. Rana referred to Prime Minister Yashasvi Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' programme, emphasizing the importance of Sanskrit, noting

that many world languages have developed from Sanskrit. He also called for optimum use of technology in promoting the Sanskrit language. Responding to local issues, Rana sought a Degree College in the 22 Panchayats of Mathwar and Amb Gharota area, saying this is the long pending demand of the people of the area and will cater to the remote population of Gorla, Rabta, Bhagani, Keri and adjoining areas. In his discourse, Mahant Rohit Shastri said that Sanskrit carries forward the concept of Akhand Bharat and ensures unity in diversity, highlighting India's unique civilization and culture. He said the Trust is committed to the preservation and promotion of Sanskrit. "The glorious heritage of ancient Indian knowledge and traditions is embedded in the Sanskrit language and literature", Shastri mentioned and said that grand programs are being held to promote the divine language Sanskrit during the

Sanskrit Month, concluding on August 19, Shrawan Purnima. Speaking on the occasion, Dil Bahadur Singh said that drugs are harmful in every form and lead individuals toward crime, as drug addicts often promote criminal activities. "Therefore, we should stay away from drugs", he said and lauded the efforts of the Trust in this regard. He also appreciated the endeavours to promote Sanskrit by the Trust and said this language is uniting the world. Its literature is ancient, vast, and diverse, he observed. The main highlight of the programme was the preparation of several slogans by young children to promote drug de-addiction campaign and Sanskrit, which they carried on placards while touring Gharota to raise awareness. Students of the Government Higher Secondary School, Gharota, prominent citizens of the area including Ex-BDC Chairmen, Ex-Sarpanches, Panches and social & political activists were present in the event.