

India's economy strengthened with Modi-led Govt policies: MP Sat Sharma

MP Sat Sharma supports Appropriation Bill-II, 2026 in Rajya Sabha

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI: Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP and MP (Rajya Sabha), spoke in strong support of the Appropriation Bill-II, 2026 in the Rajya Sabha, emphasizing that the legislation empowers the government to effectively allocate and utilize financial resources for national development.

Speaking during the debate, Sat Sharma stated that the bill reflects the government's commitment to fiscal discipline and robust economic management, with total expenditure reaching Rupees 357.14 lakh crore and India maintaining a strong foreign exchange reserve of approximately 686 billion dollars. He termed this as a decisive step towards



achieving the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

He underscored that India's economic policies are designed to ensure stability even amidst global uncertainties, highlighting the Economic Stabilization Fund of Rupees 57,381.84 crore as a safeguard against fluctuations in global energy prices. He noted that the roadmap to 2047 is rooted

in inclusive and universal development, where growth benefits every section of society.

Sat Sharma lauded the leadership of Narendra Modi for maintaining a steady growth rate of around 7% and successfully lifting nearly 25 crore people out of poverty. He contrasted this with earlier regimes, stating that today's governance model focuses on transparency, accountability, and direct benefit delivery.

Highlighting flagship schemes, he said that under the Jal Jeevan Mission, over 13 crore households have been provided tap water connections, including in difficult terrains like Jammu & Kashmir. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, more than 12 crore toilets

have been constructed, ensuring dignity for women, while the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has facilitated the construction of over 4 crore houses for the poor.

He further emphasized the success of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), through which Rupees 43.45 lakh crore has been directly transferred to beneficiaries, eliminating leakages and ensuring transparency in governance.

On the economic front, Sat Sharma highlighted the role of MSMEs, agriculture, and rural development in strengthening the nation's growth. He noted significant provisions of over Rupees 2.32 lakh crore for agriculture and Rupees 2.40 lakh crore for rural development, which will boost irrigation, rural

infrastructure, and reduce migration.

Touching upon national security, he stated that a strong nation must be capable of defending its borders. He welcomed the substantial allocation in the defence sector, including over Rupees 3.73 lakh crore in revenue and Rupees 2.19 lakh crore in capital expenditure, which will enhance modernization and promote indigenous defence manufacturing under Make in India.

Referring to Jammu & Kashmir, Sat Sharma said that the region has witnessed unprecedented development after the abrogation of Article 370, with the budgetary allocation rising to Rupees 43,290 crore for 2026-27, compared to around Rupees 18,000 crore earlier.

Secy Transport inspects ICC; pitches infrastructure upgrade

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA: Secretary Transport, Avny Lavasa, on Wednesday conducted an extensive inspection of the Inspection and Certification Centre (ICC), Samba, to review its functioning, infrastructure and availability of basic facilities at the centre.



Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan and Transport Commissioner Vishesh Pal Mahajan accompanied her during the visit.

The Secretary conducted a thorough examination of the building structure and machinery installed at the centre. She assessed the status of equipment to verify its operational status and compliance with the prescribed technical standards, ensuring that the vehicle fitness testing process

is carried out efficiently and in a transparent manner.

Emphasising the importance of adequate public amenities, she directed the concerned officials to ensure that properly functional washrooms and drinking water facilities are made available for the visiting drivers and vehicle owners. She also instructed the concerned officials to install separate and clearly visible boards for Light Motor

Vehicles (LMV) and Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMV) to facilitate smooth functioning and avoid inconvenience to the public.

The Secretary highlighted that the establishment and proper functioning of Inspection & Certification Centres will significantly enhance transparency in the vehicle fitness certification process, thereby increasing public trust and ensuring satisfaction among the vehicle owners.

FICCI FLO JKL receives recognition from LG

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: FICCI FLO Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh (JKL) Chapter has been honoured by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, for its impactful contribution towards the national mission of tuberculosis eradication under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan.



Reinforcing its commitment to building a TB-free India, FICCI FLO JKL successfully implemented a large-scale nutrition support initiative as a registered Nishay Mitra. As part of this effort, the chapter distributed a total of 1,350 nutrition kits to 225 tuberculosis patients, ensuring sustained nutritional support throughout their treatment period.

This drive was initiated in the year 2024 and has since evolved into a structured and continuous support model. Under this initiative, 750 nutrition kits were distributed to 125 active TB

patients, building upon an earlier effort where 600 kits were provided to 100 patients through funds raised via the Run 4 Health marathon.

This ensured that patients received essential nutrition over the critical six-month treatment cycle. The nutrition kits were carefully curated to include protein-rich and essential dietary items such as pulses, millets, rice, atta, soya, oil, and nutritional supplements, aimed at improving treatment adherence and recovery outcomes. The initiative was carried out in collaboration with the health department

and implemented across Jammu and surrounding areas, including Bantialab, Marh, Akhnoor, and Khanpur, thereby extending its reach to both urban and peripheral communities. The event was graced by several senior government dignitaries, including Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir; M. Raju, Administrative Secretary, Health and Education Department and Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor; and Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, among others.



DBT In-House Advisory Committee holds meet

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The 4th meeting of the In-House Advisory Committee for DBT supported M.Sc Biotechnology programme was held in the Committee Room at Chanakya Bhavan in the Central University of Jammu on 25th March 2026. The DBT-supported M.Sc Biotechnology programme is run by the Centre for Molecular Biology (CMB) at the CUJ. This project was sanctioned by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India in 2020

for five years and Prof. Mushtaq Ahmed, the founder Director of CMB was appointed as DBT programme Coordinator.

The students under DBT-supported M.Sc Biotechnology programme under this project are admitted based on the GAT-B score conducted by the NTA. Each student admitted under this programme is paid Rs. 5000 per month scholarship for the entire duration of two years. The CMB has mobilized around two crores extramural grant under this prestigious project.

Alarming fuel prices: BJP All Cells call for protest against NC on Mar 27

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: J&K BJP held a meeting of its Cells at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, slamming the NC government over unfair fuel price hike, while calling for a strong protest on March 27, 2026.

Ved Sharma, BJP All Cells Incharge, chiefly addressed the meeting attended by Cell Convenors, Co-Convenors, and Executive Members. Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Secretary, J&K BJP, and Munish Khajuria, All Cells Co-Incharge, also addressed the meeting. Ved Sharma called upon all Cell

Convenors, Co-Convenors, and Executive Members to actively engage at the grassroots level and ensure massive public participation in the protest. He appealed to the people of Jammu & Kashmir to come forward and join the march on March 27 to raise their voice against the unjustified increase in fuel prices and transport fares, which have adversely affected every section of society. He stressed that such anti-people decisions must be strongly opposed through democratic means. Ved Sharma asked the Cells to mobilize party cadres and the general public to join the

movement in large numbers against what the party termed as anti-people policies of the Omar Abdullah-led National Conference (NC) government. Dr. Pardeep Mahotra criticized the NC government for failing on multiple fronts and renegeing on its poll promises. He stated that the Omar-led administration has backfired on its commitments and betrayed the trust of the public. He added that the continuous rise in fuel prices and transport costs has placed an unbearable burden on the common man, reflecting the government's insensitivity towards public hardships.

STATE BANK OF INDIA
REGIONAL BUSINESS OFFICE-05
2nd FLOOR, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, RAIL HEAD COMPLEX JAMMU (J&K) -180012

REQUIRES PREMISES

State Bank of India invites bids from the owners of premises (to be built by bidder as per bank specifications) on lease rental basis for Commercial / Office use having built up area of approx. 1800 Sq. ft. The premises should be ready build and the entire space should be preferably on Ground floor. The premises for branch mentioned below should be in the commercial establishments with all facilities including good visibility, adequate power, place for Gen Set and water supply (not in the area notified for land acquisition). The premises should be commercially approved from the Competent Authority having sufficient parking area and frontage. Interested landlords having ready to move property and agreeable for any alterations as per Bank's requirement should submit their offer in the below mentioned office on Bank's prescribed format of "TECHNICAL BID" AND "PRICE BID" in two (02) separate sealed envelopes super scribing "Technical bid"/"Price bid" with "Name of the Branch" along with one demand draft of any scheduled bank of Rs 20,000 payable at SBI Leh Branch in favour of State Bank of India (refundable) during the office hour at below mentioned address, on or before 15/04/2026 up to 05:00 p.m.

The format for the Technical and Price bid can be downloaded from the SBI website <https://www.bankofindia.in> at "procurement news" or can be collected personally from below mentioned office during banking hours on any working day. No bid will be considered on format other than uploaded on our website www.bankofindia.in under "procurement news". The proposal along with site plan, proof of ownership, terms and conditions be kept in Technical Bid Envelope. The minimum acceptable rent per Sq. Ft. floor area be kept in Price Bid Envelope clearly mentioned rent as negotiable/ non negotiable. Preference will be given to the premises belonging to the public sector unit/Govt. Department.

S No.	Name of the Branch Office	Floor Area Required in Sq. ft.	Electricity Load	Preferred Location	EMD
1.	Phyang Branch	1800 sq. ft approx.	20-30 KW	On Leh Karigil Highway Near to Phyang Entrance Gate	Rs. 20,000/-

Submission of Offers:
The offers should be submitted to the following address on or before 15/04/2026 during working hours:
Lead District Manager, State Bank of India,
Lead District Office, Malpak Zangst, Leh (Pin Code-194101).
Contact Number:962233367

The Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any/all offers without assigning any reason thereof.

Regional Manager
RBO-05 Jammu

Guru-Shishya Parampara prog completes five years

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Hari Tara Charitable Trust, custodian of Jammu's iconic Amar Mahal Museum & Library, continues to lead efforts in preserving and promoting the rich heritage of Basohli miniature painting—an ancient art form renowned for its intricate detailing, vibrant colours, and depictions of Hindu mythology.



Launched in March 2021, the Guru-Shishya Parampara Programme at Amar Mahal Museum has now successfully completed five years. Fully financed and supported by the Trust, the initiative is dedicated to nurturing young artists in the traditional Basohli painting style through immersive mentorship. Eminent State and National Award-winning artist Shri Sohan Singh Billawria has been instrumental in guiding students and passing on this invaluable

artistic legacy. Speaking on the occasion, Martand Singh, Trustee of Hari Tara Charitable Trust, highlighted that the programme provides complete financial support to both mentors and students, enabling them to focus entirely on mastering

the art form. He noted that Basohli painting requires years of dedication and practice, and such initiatives are crucial for its survival and growth.

Encouraged by the programme's success and increasing participation, the Trust plans to expand

its scope through more frequent workshops, exhibitions, and art camps to engage aspiring artists. Martand Singh also appreciated the enthusiastic response from young participants during a recent Basohli art camp held at Amar Mahal

Museum as part of the annual Tawi Festival.

NOTICE

I, Kalo Jagari S/o Hari Lal Jagari R/o Thiksey, Leh-Ladakh UT do hereby inform that my name has been wrongly recorded in Matriculation Exam/Admit Card of my son namely Bipen Jagari who appeared in CBSE Matric Exam bearing Roll No.13133568, Year 2026, Govt High School Thiksay, as Gutti Jagari instead of Kalo Jagari. His mother's name has also been recorded incorrectly as Kalo Jagari instead of Gutti Jagari. Now, I have applied for said corrections in his examination record. Objection, if any, conveyed within seven days of this publication.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RAVI CANAL CONSTRUCTION UPPER, DIVISION KATHUA,

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 19 of 2025-26 RCC UPPER DIVISION KATHUA DATE: 24-03-2026

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer Ravi Canal Construction Upper Division Kathua invites e-Tenders from the approved/eligible PWD contractors registered in appropriate class/category for the below noted works.

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of tender document	Time completion	Class	Contract of
1.	Restoration of still portion of under sluice No.2 and siphon No.1 and 10 of UJ Barrage.	5.086	10172/-	600/-	10 Days	"A, B, C & D"	

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:MH-4701 Capex Budget
Position of Funds: Budgeted in principle
Position of AA: Under Process
Position of TS: Under Process

Important dates:
i) **Date of publishing from** 24-03-2026 (18:00Hrs.)
ii) **Downloading from** 24-03-2026 (18:00 Hrs.)
iii) **Uploading from** 24-03-2026 (18:55 Hrs.)
iv) **Uploading stops** 01-04-2026 (18:55 Hrs.)
v) **Tender opens on** 02-04-2026 (01:00 Hrs.)

- The bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from 24-03-2026 (18:00 PM) onwards.
- The bid shall be uploaded in electronic format on the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from 24-03-2026 (18:55 PM) to 01-04-2026 (18:55 PM).
- The complete bidding process shall be ONLINE.
- The tender uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 02-04-2026 (01:00 PM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer RCC Upper Division Kathua in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Bidding documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>. Bidding documents contain qualifying criteria for bidders and other details such as terms and conditions etc.
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of document as mentioned in the above table in the form as specified in the Bidding document. The Earnest Money (EMD) in the shape of CDR shall be pledged to Executive Engineer, RCC Upper Division Kathua & payable at Kathua & shall be valid for at least for 180 days from the date of submission of tender.
- The successful bidder needs to furnish the required additional performance security as per circular of Principal Secretary to Government, Finance Department Vide. No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated: 08.08.2025, for unbalanced bid in addition to normal performance security @ 3% of the quoted cost in the form of CDR/FDR/DD/BG.
- The bids for the work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
(a) Any bidder withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
(b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security @ 3% of the quoted cost within three days after opening of Financial Bid.
- Other relevant details can be seen in the bidding document.
- Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process & General conditions of contract.**
10. **The Tender opening Authority reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.**
a) The interested bidder can download the bidding documents from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>.
b) The bidders are advised to download bid submission manual for the help of Bid submission process from the "Download" option as well as from "Bidders manual kit" on website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>.
c) To participate in online bidding process, bidders have to get (DSC) "Digital Signature Certificate" as per Information Technology Act-2000. This certificate will be required for digitally signing the bid. Bidders can get above mentioned digital certificate from any approved vendors. The Bidders, who already possess valid (DSC) Digital Signature Certificates, need not procure new Digital Signature Certificate.
d) The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. The bids cannot be uploaded without Digital Signature. No Proposal will be accepted in physical form.
e) Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in the NIT.
f) Before submission of online bids, bidders must scan all necessary copies of all the necessary documents have been attached with bid. **Bidders are advised to scan their documents at 100 DPI (Dots per Inch) resolutions with Black and White, JPEG Scan properly, convert scanned images to PDF.**
g) The department shall not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids for whatsoever reasons they may be.
h) All the required information for bid must be filled and submitted online
i) Bidders should get ready with the scanned copies of cost of documents & EMD as specified in the tender documents.
j) The detail of EMD specified in the tender documents should be the same as submitted online (scanned copies). Otherwise bid shall not be accepted and is liable to be rejected.
k) Extra lead, lift, water allowance, dewatering and carriage of material beyond whatever is provided in the BOQ shall be not allowed.
l) **The bidders are advised to visit the site of work and satisfy themselves regarding the status of the work. The classification of the work is fixed and no claim, whatsoever on account of change of classification shall be entertained. The cross sections of earthwork are fixed except otherwise specified and are to be signed by the contractor at the time of nishan dahi. The payment shall be made for complete work only and account payment shall be entertained. N. S. L. shall be incorporated in the work register before the work is started and the successful contractor shall have to sign the work.**
m) Bidders can contact the office of the Executive Engineer or NIC authorities for a guidelines for getting DSC or any other relevant detail in e-tendering process.
n) A certificate of quality check for cement in addition to existing prescribed certificate shall be recorded in the works register and measurement book by the Assistant Ex- Engineer in charge of the work.
o) Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user profile on www.jktenders.gov.in, e-tendering portal to store important documents like Service Tax Clearance Certificate, IT certificate, and other related documents etc., and attach these certificates as Non Statutory documents while submitting their bids.
p) Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities), technical and commercial contents or its names. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the rates and taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains the guidelines for submission of bid online can be downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>.
r) Original Documents of any bidder if required at any point of time shall be called for by the department before opening of the financial bid or allotment of work.

List of Tender Documents to be scanned and uploaded within the period of Bid submission:
A. Scanned copy of EMD in shape of CDR/FDR/BG only.
B. Scanned copy of PAN Card.
C. Scanned copy of registration Certificate renewed for the year 2025-26.
D. Scanned copy of GST No. with Latest GST Return for last proceeding quarter for the year 2025-26.
E. Scanned copy of Treasury Challan/Receipt (under revenue Head 0701) towards the cost of tender documents mentioning the name of work as well as NIT No. of the said work shall be deposited in the respective treasury within the prescribed dates of NIT floated.
F. Address Proof: Passbook copy, Mobile No. and Email ID.
G. Mandatory Disclosure of GST-linked Bank Account Number.
H. Scanned copy of Affidavit in Annexure "A" must be duly signed by contractors and notarised with specifically recorded reference, name of work and e-stamp No. should also be recorded on Annexure "A". Affidavit must be between the period of downloading of Bidding documents as per format mentioned in Annexure "A".

General Terms and Conditions

- The tender should be accompanied with scanned copy of Registration Card duly renewed for the current year 2025-26.
- The tender should be accompanied with stated Earnest Money mentioned in the NIT in the shape of CDR from the scheduled bank pledged to the tender opening authority and the tender without the Earnest money shall not be entertained in any case.
- Separate tender for individual work should be filed online and sent separately accordingly stating therein the name of work and S. No as per NIT.
- Registered /reputed firms of approved and appropriate class of contractors of J & K state or other State Govt./Central Govt. with sufficient experience and financial resources dealing in civil construction works of similar nature are only eligible to cast the tender.
- The tenderers are required to quote for a work according to their capacity in the registration/enlistment card. Any contractor who will tender beyond his capacity is liable to be rejected.
- The tender opening authority is competent and reserves himself the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning an reason thereof for which any contractor /firm shall have no right to object or claim either at the time of opening or subsequently.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids for whatsoever reasons.
- The successful bidder shall be bound by all labour laws presently in vogue besides minimum wage Act. If at any stages any complaint regarding violation of labour laws is received, the contractor shall be wholly/solely responsible.
- No extra lead, lift or carriage of any materials and dewatering shall be paid other than as advertised even if involved at site.
- In case the contractor does not start the work within the stipulated time, he/she shall be issued notice and even after 10 days after issuance of notice, he/she does not start the work the work shall be cancelled without giving any further notice besides forfeited of performance security.
- In case of any error if found in the rate list or in the agreement due to type, over sight in respect of rates, Quantities or in units etc., the same shall be corrected and paid to the contractor as per new sanctioned Schedule of rates of 2020 with contractor's allotted tender appreciation/depreciation.
- The classification of earth work is fixed and not subject to any variation met during execution. No claim whatever shall be entertained regarding change in classification by the department.
- The work shall have to be executed to the satisfaction of the Department strictly in accordance with the standard specifications and designs.
- The rates quoted by the tenderer shall remain valid for at least 90 days from the date of opening of tenders.

No: RCU/6994-7008
Date: 24-03-2026

For & on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory

Executive Engineer, Ravi Canal Const. Upper Division Kathua.

DIP/J-13154/25