

SUMMARY OF UNION BUDGET

INTRODUCTION

- As per article 112 of the Constitution, Union Budget is basically the statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government. Budget word is not mentioned in the Constitution.
 - It is also known as **Annual Financial Statement** of the Government.
 - Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance is the nodal body responsible for preparing of the Budget.
 - Union Budget is classified into Revenue Budget and Capital Budget.
- Part A of the Budget is the macroeconomic part of the budget where various schemes and priorities of government are announced, and allocations are made to several sectors.
- Part B of the Budget deals with Finance Bill, which contains taxation proposals such as income tax revisions and indirect taxes. (A Finance Bill is a Money Bill as defined in Article 110 of the Constitution.)
- Major Budget documents presented to the Parliament, besides the Finance Minister's Budget Speech are Annual Financial Statement (under Article 112), Demands for Grants (under Article 113), Finance Bill (under article 110) and Fiscal Policy Statements mandated under FRBM Act Macro-Economic Framework Statement.
- Medium-Term Fiscal Policy cum Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement.
- Other explanatory documents are also presented like
 - Expenditure Budget
 - Receipt Budget
 - Expenditure Profile
 - Budget at a Glance
 - Memorandum Explaining the Provisions in the Finance Bill
- Output Outcome Monitoring Framework
- Key Features of Budget 2023-24
- Implementation of Budget Announcements 2022-23.

BUDGET PROCESS



Budget 2023-24 is the first budget in Amrit Kaal which is roadmap of next 25 years – from India @75 to India @100. A Three-pronged focus driven by four transformative opportunities constitutes the foundation of Amrit Kaal.



- Opportuinites for citizens with focus on youth
- Growth in job creation.
- Strong and stable Macro Economic Enviorment.

4 Transformative Opportunities

- Economic Empowerment of Women
- PM VIshwakarma KAushal Samman (PM VIKAS)
- Tapping the potential of Tourism.
- Green Growth leading to efficient use of energy across sectors and green jobs.

PART A

Budget proposal for 2023-2024 rests on 7 guiding pillars - **'SAPTARISHI'** in the **AMRIT** KAAL.

PRIORITY 1: INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION

- **Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture:** Will be built as an open source, open standard and inter-operable public good.
 - It aims to promote farmer-centric solutions related to inputs, marketing, etc.
- Agriculture Accelerator Fund: To encourage agri-startups in rural areas.
- Enhancing productivity of cotton crop: Aims to adopt a cluster-based and value chain approach through Public Private Partnerships (PPP).





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Also aim is to facilitate setting up cooperative societies in uncovered panchayats and villages in the next 5 years.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH FOR ALL



- Nursing Colleges: 157 new nursing colleges co-location with the existing 157 medical colleges established since 2014.
- Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission: Mission to eliminate Sickle Cell Anaemia by 2047 will be launched.
 - Focuses on awareness creation, universal screening of 7 crore people in the age group of 0-40 years in affected tribal areas.
- Multidisciplinary courses for medical devices: To ensure availability of skilled manpower for futuristic medical technologies, high-end manufacturing and research.
- Pharma Innovation: A new programme to promote research and innovation in pharmaceuticals will be taken up through centres of excellence.

ACCESSING EDUCATION AND SKILLING

- Teachers' Training: The District Institutes of Education and Training will be developed as vibrant institutes of excellence for this purpose.
- National Digital Library for Children and Adolescents

PRIORITY 2: REACHING THE LAST MILE AFFORDABLE HEALTH FOR ALL

- Aspirational Districts and Blocks Programme: It covers 500 blocks for saturation of essential government services.
- Pradhan Mantri PVTG (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group) Development Mission:
 - ■An amount of ₹15,000 crore will be made available to implement the Mission in the next three years under the Development Action Plan for the Scheduled Tribes.
- Eklavya Model Residential Schools: In the next three years, centre will recruit 38,800 teachers and support staff for the 740 Eklavya Model Residential Schools, serving 3.5 lakh tribal students.
- Water for Drought Prone Region: For Upper Bhadra Project, central assistance of ₹5,300 crore will be given.
- PM Awas Yojana: The outlay for PM Awas Yojana is being enhanced by 66%.
- Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions (Bharat SHRI): It will be set up in a digital epigraphy museum, with digitization of one lakh ancient inscriptions in the first stage.
- Support for poor prisoners: For poor persons who are in prisons and unable to afford the penalty or the bail amount, required financial support will be provided.



PRIORITY 3: INFRASTRUCTURE & INVESTMENT INVESTMENT

- Capital Investment as driver of growth and jobs: Capital investment outlay is being increased to ₹10 lakh crore which would be 3.3% of GDP.
- Effective Capital Expenditure: It has been budgeted at 4.5% of GDP.
- Support to State Governments for Capital Investment: Continue the 50-year interest free loan to state governments for one more year, with a significantly enhanced outlay of ₹1.3 lakh crore.
- Enhancing opportunities for private investment in Infrastructure: Establishing new Infrastructure Finance Secretariat.
 - More private investment in infrastructure, including railways, roads, urban infrastructure and power.

ENSURING LAST MILE CONNECTIVITY



- Harmonized Master List of Infrastructure: It will be reviewed by an expert committee to become suitable for Amrit Kaal.
- Railways: A capital outlay of ₹2.40 lakh crore is the highest ever outlay.
- Logistics: 100 critical transport infrastructure projects, for last and first mile connectivity for ports, coal, steel, fertilizer, and food grains sectors have been identified.
- Regional Connectivity: 50 additional airports, heliports, water aerodromes and advance landing grounds will be revived for improving regional air connectivity.
- Coastal Shipping: To be promoted through PPP model.



URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- Sustainable Cities of Tomorrow: States and cities will be encouraged to undertake urban planning reforms and actions.
- Making Cities ready for Municipal Bonds through property tax governance reforms and ring-fencing user charges on urban infrastructure.
- Urban Infrastructure Development Fund: Will be established through use of priority sector lending shortfall.
 - This will be managed by the **National Housing Bank**.
 - For creation of urban infrastructure in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- Urban Sanitation: 100% mechanical desludging of septic tanks and sewers to transition from manhole to machine-hole mode.
 - Enhanced focus will be provided for scientific management of dry and wet waste.

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PRIORITY 4: UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL

GOOD GOVERNANCE

- Jan Vishwas Bill: Introduced for furthering the trust based governance and amend 42 Central Acts.
- National Data Governance Policy: To unleash innovation and research by start-ups and academia.
- Centres of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence: For realizing the vision of "Make AI in India and Make AI work for India", three centres of excellence for AI will be set-up.
- Simplification of Know Your Customer (KYC) process: Adopting a 'risk-based' instead of 'one size fits all' approach.
- One stop solution for identity and address updating: By using DigiLocker service and Aadhaar as foundational identity.
- Common Business Identifier: The PAN (Permanent Account Number) will be used as the common identifier for all digital systems of specified government agencies.
- Unified Filing Process: For obviating the need for separate submission of same information to different government agencies.



TOWARDS TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE ADMINISTRATION

- Vivad se Vishwas I Relief for MSMEs: In cases of failure by MSMEs to execute contracts during the Covid period, 95% of the forfeited amount relating to bid or performance security, will be returned to them by government and government undertakings.
- Vivad se Vishwas II Settling Contractual Disputes: Voluntary settlement scheme with standardized terms will be introduced.
 - This will be done by offering graded settlement terms depending on pendency level of the dispute.
- **Result Based Financing: 'input-based' to 'result-based'** financing for better allocation of scarce resources.
- E-Courts: Phase-3 of the E-Courts project will be launched.
- Fintech Services: To enable more Fintech innovative services, the scope of documents available in DigiLocker for individuals will be expanded.
- Entity DigiLocker: An Entity DigiLocker will be set up for use by MSMEs, large business and charitable trusts.
- **5G Services:** 100 labs for developing applications using 5G services will be set up in engineering institutions.
- Lab Grown Diamonds: It is a technology-and innovation-driven emerging sector with high employment potential.
 - A research and development grant will be provided to one of the IITs for five years.

PRIORITY 5: GREEN GROWTH MOVING FORWARDS TO ACHIEVE THE CLIMATE GOALS

- Green Hydrogen Mission: Facilitate transition of the economy to low-carbon intensity.
 - Target is to reach an annual production of 5 MMT by 2030.
- Battery Energy Storage Systems: Developing capacity of 4,000 MWH will be supported with Viability Gap Funding.
- Renewable Energy Evacuation: Inter-state transmission system for evacuation and grid integration of 13 GW renewable energy from Ladakh.
- Amrit Dharohar: Promote local communities unique conservation style for wetland.
 - Implementing in next three years to encourage optimal use of wetlands.
- Green Credit Programme: Will be notified under the Environment (Protection) Act.
 - Inducing behavioural change and incentivize environmentally sustainable and responsive actions by companies, individuals and local bodies.
- PM-PRANAM (PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth): Aim to incentivize States and Union Territories to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers.
- GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) scheme: 500 new 'waste to wealth' plants under GOBARdhan for promoting circular economy.
 - It includes Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants, Urban Plants, community or cluster-based plants.



- Bhartiya Prakritik Kheti Bio-Input Resource Centres: 10,000 Bio-Input Resource Centres will be set-up
 Creating a national-level distributed micro-fertilizer and pesticide manufacturing network
 - Aim is that over the next 3 years, government will facilitate 1 crore farmers to adopt natural farming.
- MISHTI(Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes): Mangrove plantation along the coastline and on salt pan lands.
 - Through convergence between MGNREGS, CAMPA Fund and other sources.

PRIORITY 6: YOUTH POWER

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0: To skill youth for international opportunities, 30 Skill India International Centres will be set up across different States.
- Unified Skill India Digital Platform: For enabling demand-based formal skilling,
 - Linking with employers including MSMEs,
 - Facilitating access to entrepreneurship schemes
- National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme: To provide stipend support to 47 lakh youth in three years, Direct Benefit Transfer under a pan-India National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme will be rolled out.
- Boosting Tourism: At least 50 destinations will be selected through challenge mode and developed as complete package for domestic and foreign tourists.
 - Sector specific skilling and entrepreneurship development will be dovetailed to achieve the objectives of the 'Dekho Apna Desh' initiative.
 - Under the Vibrant Villages Programme, tourism infrastructure and amenities will also be facilitated in border villages.
- Setting up of Unity Mall in state: In state capital or most prominent tourism centre or the financial capital.
 - For promotion and sale of their own ODOPs (one district, one product), GI products and other handicraft products.

PRIORITY 6: YOUTH POWER TO EMPOWER YOUTH AND HELP THE "AMRIT PEEDHI REALIZE THEIR DREAMS, FORMULATED THE NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY, FOCUSED ON SKILLING, ADOPTED ECONOMIC POLICIES THAT FACILITATE JOB CREATION AT SCALE, AND HAVE SUPPORTED



PRIORITY 7: FINANCIAL SECTOR

- Credit Guarantee for MSMEs: This will enable additional collateral-free guaranteed credit of ₹2 lakh crore.
 - Cost of the credit will be reduced by about 1%.
- National Financial Information Registry: It will be set up to serve as the central repository of financial and ancillary information. This will facilitate efficient flow of credit, promote financial inclusion, and foster financial stability.
 - A new legislative framework will govern this credit public infrastructure, and it will be designed in consultation with the RBI.



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- Financial Sector Regulations: To simplify, ease and reduce cost of compliance, financial sector regulators will be requested to carry out a comprehensive review of existing regulations.
- Data Embassy: For countries looking for digital continuity solutions, GIFT IFSC will facilitate setting up of their Data Embassies.
- Capacity Building in Securities Market: SEBI will be empowered to develop, regulate, maintain and enforce norms and standards for education in the National Institute of Securities Markets.
- Digital Payments: Fiscal support for digital public infrastructure will continue in 2023-24.
- Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Mahila Samman Bachat Patra: One-time new small savings scheme, Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC), will be made available for a two-year period up to March 2025.
 - ■This will offer deposit facility upto ₹2 lakh in the name of women or girls for a tenor of 2 years at fixed interest rate of 7.5% with partial withdrawal option.
- Benefits for Senior Citizens: The maximum deposit limit for Senior Citizen Savings Scheme will be enhanced from ₹15 lakh to ₹30 lakh.
 - ■The maximum deposit limit for Monthly Income Account Scheme will be enhanced from ₹4.5 lakh to ₹9 lakh for single account and from ₹9 lakh to ₹15 lakh for joint account.

• Fiscal Management:

- 50 year interest free loan to States: It has to be spent on capital expenditure within 2023-24. The loan will be partly conditional.
- Fiscal Deficit of States: States will be allowed a fiscal deficit of 3.5% of GSDP of which 0.5% will be tied to power sector reforms.

PRIORITY 7: FINANCIAL SECTOR

REFORMS IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR AND INNOVATIVE USE OF TECHNOLOGY HAVE LED TO FINANCIAL INCLUSION AT SCALE, BETTER AND FASTER SERVICE DELIVERY, EASE OF ACCESS TO CREDIT AND PARTICIPATION IN FINANCIAL MARKETS.



PART B >

DIRECT TAXES

- Simplifying Personal Income Tax Regime -
 - No income tax for persons with income up to ₹7 lakh in the new tax regime.
 - The tax structure in the new personal tax regime has been changed by reducing number of slabs to five and increasing the tax exemption limit to ₹3 lakh.
 - **Reduction of the highest surcharge rate** from 37% to 25% under new tax regime for income above ₹2 crore.
 - New income tax regime has been made the default tax regime.
 - However, the citizens will continue to have the option to avail the benefit of the old tax regime.

• Roll Out Of Common IT Return Form

For tax payer convenience and strengthening of grievance redressal mechanism to further improve Tax Payers Services.

• MSMEs and Professionals

- Currently micro enterprises with turnover up to Rs 2 crore and certain professionals with turnover of up to Rs 50 lakh can avail the **benefit of presumptive taxation**.
- Budget proposed to enhance limits of presumptive taxation to ₹3 crores for Micro Enterprises and ₹75 lakh for professionals with cash payment less than 5%.
- Any payment made to MSME shall be **allowed as expenditure only when payment is actually made**.
- Co-operatives Sector
 - Benefit of concessional tax rate of 15% to new co-operatives that commence manufacturing by 31st March, 2024.
 - Sugar co-operatives can claim payments made to sugarcane farmers for the period prior to assessment year 2016-17 as expenditure.
 - **TDS limit on cash withdrawals is increased** to **₹**3 crores for co-operatives societies.
 - Higher limit of ₹2 lakh per member for cash deposits and loans by Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies (PACS) and Primary Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs)
- Start-ups
 - **Date of incorporation** for **income tax benefits to start-ups** to be **extended** to 31st March 2024.
 - Time limit for carry forward of losses on change of shareholding of start-ups increased from 7 years of incorporation to 10 years.
- Reducing pendency of appeals
 - 100 Joint Commissioners for disposal of small appeals to be deploy.
- Better Targeting Of Tax Concessions
 - To cap deduction from capital gains on investment in residential house to ₹10 Cr.
- Improving Compliance And Tax Administration
 - Reduction in the minimum time period required to be provided by the transfer pricing officer to assessee for production of documents and information from 30 days to 10 days.





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- Rationalization
 - Removing the minimum threshold of ₹10,000/- for TDS and clarifying taxability relating to online gaming.
 - Conversion of gold into electronic gold receipt and vice versa will not be treated as capital gain.
 - **TDS rate to be reduced from 30% to 20%** on taxable portion of EPF withdrawal in non-PAN cases.
 - Taxation on income from Market Linked Debentures.
- EEE status to Agniveer Fund
 - Payment received from the Agniveer Corpus Fund by the Agniveers enrolled in Agnipath Scheme, 2022 proposed to be exempt from taxes.
- Others
 - Extension of period of tax benefits to funds relocating to IFSC, GIFT City till 31st March 2025.
 - Allowing carry forward of losses on strategic disinvestment including that of IDBI Bank.



INDIRECT TAXES

Changes in GST Laws

Decriminalization of certain offences under section 132 of CGST Act, 2017 –

- Obstruction or preventing any officer in discharge of his duties.
- Deliberate tampering of material evidence.
- Failure to supply the information.
- Reducing the compounding of offences from the present range of 50% to 150% of tax amount to the range of 25% to 100%.
- Raising the minimum threshold of tax amount for launching prosecution under GST from ₹ 1 crore to ₹2 crore.



- Sections 37, 39, 44 and 52 of CGST Act, 2017 are amended to restrict filing of returns to a maximum period of 3 years from due date.
- Proposed to enable unregistered suppliers and composition taxpayers to make intra-state supply of goods through E-Commerce Operators (ECOs).

• Changes in Customs Laws

- Customs Act, 1962 to be amended to specify a time limit of nine months from date of filing application for passing final order by Settlement Commission.
- Number of basic customs duty rates on goods, other than textiles and agriculture, reduced to 13 from 21.

SECTOR SPECIFIC PROPOSALS

SECTORS	PROPOSALS
GREEN MOBILITY	• To avoid cascading of taxes, budget proposed to exempt excise duty on GST -paid compressed bio gas.
	 Customs duty exemption to be extended to import of capital goods and machinery required for manufacture of lithium-ion cells for batteries used in electric vehicles.
IT & ELECTRONICS	• To deepen domestic value addition in manufacture of mobile phones relief in customs duty on import of certain parts and inputs like camera lens.
	 Basic Custom Duty(BCD) to be reduced on parts of open cells of TV panels to 2.5%.
	 The concessional duty on lithium-ion cells for batteries will continue for another year.

ELECTRICAL	 To rectify inversion of duty structure and encourage manufacturing of electric kitchen chimneys - Increase in the BCD on electric kitchen chimney from 7.5% to 15% and a reduction on heat coils from 20% to 15%.
CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS	 To support Ethanol Blending Programme, exempting BCD on denatured ethyl alcohol. Reducing BCD on acid grade fluorspar and on crude glycerine to 2.5 %.
MARINE PRODUCTS	 Reduction in BCD on key inputs for domestic manufacture of shrimp feed to boost export.
LAB GROWN DIAMONDS	 BCD on seeds used in the manufacturing of Lab Grown Diamonds to be nullified from the current 5% to support diamond industry.
PRECIOUS METALS	 To enhance the duty differential, Custom duties to be increased on articles made from gold and platinum. To increase the import duty on silver dore, bars and articles to align them with that on gold and platinum.
COMPOUNDED RUBBER	 To curb circumvention of duty, BCD rate on compounded rubber to be increased from 10% to 25 % or ₹ 30/kg whichever is lower.
CIGARETTES	 National Calamity Contingent Duty (NCCD), on specified cigarettes to be revised upwards by about 16%.

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- GLOSSARY –

TERM	DESCRIPTION
AMRIT KAAL	 Amrit Kaal is a roadmap of next 25 years – from India @75 to India @100.
EFFECTIVE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	 Capital expenditure taken together with the provision made for creation of capital assets through Grants-in-Aid to States.
LAB-GROWN DIAMONDS	 They are produced using specific technology which mimics the geological processes that grow natural diamonds. They are not the same as "diamond sim- ulants" – LGDs are chemically, physically and optically diamond and thus are difficult to identify as "lab-grown."
CUSTOM DUTY	 It refers to the tax imposed on goods when they are transported across international borders. The government uses this duty to raise its revenues, safeguard domestic industries, and regulate movement of goods. Types of custom duty includes: Basic Customs Duty, Countervailing Duty, Additional Customs Duty, Protective Duty and Anti-dumping Duty.
CAPITAL GAINS	 It is increase in the value of wealth of a bondholder due to an appreciation or reduction in the price of her bonds in the bond mark.
GIFT-IFSC	 Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Co. Ltd (GIFT) is being developed as the country's first International Financial Services Centres (IFSC). IFSC provides services to customers outside jurisdiction of domestic economy, dealing with flows of finance, financial products and services across borders.
PRESUMPTIVE TAXATION	 Section 44D of Indian Income Tax Act defines the rules of presumptive taxation. It allows one to pay tax based on presumptive income. One doesn't need to estimate income by deducting expenses from revenue. One can simply take a percentage of total revenue and pay tax on that.
NATIONAL CALAMITY CONTINGENT DUTY (NCCD)	 It is levied under Finance Act 2001, as a duty of excise on specified duties at rates specified under seventh schedule of Finance Act 2001. It is used to finance National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) and additional budgetary support provided as and when necessary.
INVERTED DUTY STRUCTURE	 Situation where import duties on input goods are higher than on finished goods. An inverted duty structure discourages domestic value addition.
EEE TAX CATEGORY	 EEE stands for exempt-exempt. The individuals putting their money in 'EEE' categorised investment options will be eligible for a tax break upon investment at the time of filing the income tax returns.
TRANSFER PRICING	 It is an accounting and taxation practice that allows for pricing transactions internally within businesses and between subsidiaries that operate under common control or ownership. The transfer pricing practice extends to cross-border transactions as well as domestic ones.