

Ministry of Finance



SUMMARY OF THE UNION BUDGET 2024-2025

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INDIA'S INFLATION CONTINUES TO BE LOW, STABLE AND
MOVING TOWARDS THE 4 PER CENT TARGET

PM'S PACKAGE OF 5 SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES WITH AN
OUTLAY OF ₹ 2 LAKH CRORE TO FACILITATE EMPLOYMENT,
SKILLING AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR 4.1 CRORE
YOUTH IN 5 YEARS

FOR PURSUIT OF 'VIKSIT BHARAT', THE BUDGET ENVISAGES
SUSTAINED EFFORTS ON 9 PRIORITIES FOR GENERATING
AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

BUDGET 2024-25 FOCUSES ON EMPLOYMENT, SKILLING,
MSME's AND MIDDLE CLASS

NEW 109 HIGH-YIELDING AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT VARIETIES
OF 32 FIELD AND HORTICULTURE CROPS WILL BE RELEASED
FOR CULTIVATION BY FARMERS

IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS, 1 CRORE FARMERS ACROSS THE
COUNTRY WILL BE INITIATED INTO NATURAL FARMING
A PROVISION OF ₹ 1.52 LAKH CRORE FOR AGRICULTURE AND
ALLIED SECTOR ANNOUNCED FOR THIS YEAR.

1,000 INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTES WILL BE UPGRADED

GOVERNMENT WILL FORMULATE A PLAN, PURVODAYA, FOR THE ALL-ROUND DEVELOPMENT OF THE EASTERN REGION COVERING BIHAR, JHARKHAND, WEST BENGAL, ODISHA AND ANDHRA PRADESH

FOR PROMOTING WOMEN-LED DEVELOPMENT, THE BUDGET CARRIES AN ALLOCATION OF MORE THAN ` 3 LAKH CRORE FOR SCHEMES BENEFITTING WOMEN AND GIRLS

A PROVISION OF ₹ 2.66 LAKH CRORE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE MADE THIS YEAR

THE LIMIT OF MUDRA LOANS WILL BE ENHANCED TO ₹ 20 LAKH FROM THE CURRENT ₹ 10 LAKH

GOVERNMENT TO LAUNCH A COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME FOR PROVIDING INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN 500 TOP COMPANIES TO 1 CRORE YOUTH IN 5 YEARS

UNDER PM AWAS YOJANA URBAN 2.0, HOUSING NEEDS OF 1 CRORE URBAN POOR AND MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES WILL BE ADDRESSED WITH AN INVESTMENT OF ₹ 10 LAKH CRORE

PHASE IV OF PMGSY WILL BE LAUNCHED TO PROVIDE ALL-WEATHER CONNECTIVITY TO 25,000 RURAL HABITATIONS EMPHASIS ON EXPANDING THE SPACE ECONOMY BY 5 TIMES IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS WITH A VENTURE CAPITAL FUND OF ₹ 1,000 CRORE

MAJOR RELIEF TO 4 CRORE SALARIED INDIVIDUALS AND PENSIONERS IN INCOME TAX

STANDARD DEDUCTION INCREASED FROM ₹ 50,000 TO ₹ 75,000/- FOR THOSE IN NEW TAX REGIME

DEDUCTION ON FAMILY PENSION INCREASED FROM ₹ 15,000/-
TO ₹ 25,000/-

OVER 58 PER CENT CORPORATE TAX RECEIPTS COLLECTED
UNDER THE NEW REGIME

TWO THIRD OF INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX PAYERS SWITCHED
OVER TO NEW INCOME TAX REGIME

ANGEL TAX ABOLISHED FOR ALL CLASS OF INVESTORS TO
BOOST START-UPS AND INVESTMENTS

CORPORATE TAX ON FOREIGN COMPANIES REDUCED FROM
40 TO 35 PER CENT TO INVITE INVESTMENTS

5 PER CENT TDS ON MANY PAYMENTS MERGED TO 2 PER
CENT TDS

CAPITAL GAIN EXEMPTION LIMIT INCREASED TO ₹ 1.25 LAKH
PER YEAR TO BENEFIT LOWER AND MIDDLE INCOME CLASSES

CUSTOM DUTY ON X-RAY PANELS, MOBILE PHONES & PCBA
REDUCED TO 15 PER CENT

PRECIOUS METALS INCLUDING GOLD AND SILVER TO BECOME
CHEAPER, CUSTOM DUTY REDUCED TO 6 PER CENT

PART A

Despite global economy remaining under the grip of policy uncertainties, India's economic growth continues to be the shining exception and will remain so in the years ahead. Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting the Union Budget 2024-25 in Parliament today said that India's inflation continues to be low, stable and moving towards the 4 per cent target. Core inflation (non-food, non-fuel) currently is 3.1 per cent and steps are being taken to ensure supplies of perishable goods reach market adequately.

Interim Budget

The Finance Minister said that as mentioned in the interim budget, the focus is on 4 major castes, namely 'Garib' (Poor), 'Mahilayen' (Women), 'Yuva' (Youth) and 'Annadata' (Farmer).

Budget Theme

Dwelling on the Budget theme, Smt Sitharaman said, turning attention to the full year and beyond, in this budget, we particularly focus on employment, skilling, MSMEs, and the middle class. She announced the Prime Minister's package of 5 schemes and initiatives to facilitate employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth over a 5-year period with a central outlay of ₹2 lakh crore. This year, ₹1.48 lakh crore has been allocated for education, employment and skilling.



Budget Priorities

The Finance Minister said, for pursuit of '*Viksit Bharat*', the budget envisages sustained efforts on the following 9 priorities for generating ample opportunities for all.

1. Productivity and resilience in Agriculture
2. Employment & Skilling
3. Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice
4. Manufacturing & Services
5. Urban Development
6. Energy Security
7. Infrastructure
8. Innovation, Research & Development and
9. Next Generation Reforms



Priority 1: Productivity and resilience in Agriculture

The Finance Minister announced that the government will undertake a comprehensive review of the agriculture research setup to bring the focus on raising productivity. New 109 high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties of 32 field and horticulture crops will be released for cultivation by farmers.



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Productivity and Resilience in Agriculture

1.52 lakh crore allotted for agriculture and allied sectors

- New 109 high-yielding & climate-resilient varieties of 32 field & horticulture crops to be released for cultivation by farmers
- A strong push to 1 crore farmers across the country towards natural farming, supported through certification & branding
- 10,000 need-based bio-input resource centres to be established, assisting the implementation

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In the next two years, 1 crore farmers across the country will be initiated into natural farming supported by certification and branding.

10,000 need-based bio-input resource centres will be established.

For achieving self-sufficiency in pulses and oilseeds, government will strengthen their production, storage and marketing and to achieve '*atmanirbharta*' for oil seeds such as mustard, groundnut, sesame, soybean, and sunflower.

Government, in partnership with the states, will facilitate the implementation of the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in agriculture for coverage of farmers and their lands in 3 years.

Smt Sitharaman announced a provision of ₹1.52 lakh crore for agriculture and allied sector this year.



The graphic features a large yellow '₹' symbol on the left, with 'UNION BUDGET 2024-25' in bold red and black text. To the right is the Ministry of Finance logo with the text 'वित्त मंत्रालय' and 'MINISTRY OF FINANCE'. A circular PIB logo is in the top right. The central theme is 'Productivity and Resilience in Agriculture' in orange and black text. Below this, four bullet points are listed, each preceded by an orange dot and separated by horizontal lines. On the right side of the graphic is a photograph of a smiling woman in a yellow sari holding a small plant, with a man in a red shirt in the background. At the bottom, a row of social media icons and handles is displayed.

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Productivity and Resilience in Agriculture

- Digital Public Infrastructure: Digital crop survey for Kharif using DPI to be taken up in 400 districts.
- Issuance of Jan Samarth based Kisan Credit Cards to be enabled in 5 states
- Financial support for setting up a network of Nucleus Breeding Centres for Shrimp Broodstocks to be provided
- National Cooperation Policy to be framed with an objective to Fast-tracking growth of rural economy & generation of employment opportunities

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Priority 2: Employment & Skilling

The Finance Minister said that the government will implement 3 schemes for 'Employment Linked Incentive', as part of the Prime Minister's package. These will be based on enrolment in the EPFO, and focus on recognition of first-time employees, and support to employees and employers.



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Employment & Skilling

Prime Minister's Package: 3 schemes announced under "Employment Linked Incentive"

Scheme A: First Timers

- Direct benefit transfer of 1-month salary in 3 installments up to ₹ 15,000 to first-time employees registered in EPFO

Scheme B: Job Creation in Manufacturing

- Incentive to be provided directly to both employee and employer as per their EPFO contribution, in the first 4 years of employment

Scheme C: Support to Employers

- Reimbursement to employers up to ₹ 3,000 per month for 2 years towards their EPFO contribution for each additional employee

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Government will also facilitate higher participation of women in the workforce through setting up of working women hostels in collaboration with industry, and establishing creches.



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Employment & Skilling

Prime Minister's Package: Boost to Skilling

Skilling Programme and Upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes

- 1,000 ITIs to be upgraded in hub & spoke arrangements in 5 years
- Focus on outcome and quality in collaboration with states and industry

Internship in Top Companies

- One crore youth to be skilled by India's top companies in five years
- 12-month Prime Minister's Internship with monthly allowance of ₹ 5,000

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Referring to the Skilling programme, the Finance Minister announced a new centrally sponsored scheme, as the 4th scheme under the Prime Minister's package, for skilling in collaboration with state governments and Industry. 20 lakh youth will be skilled over a 5-year period and 1,000 Industrial

Training Institutes will be upgraded in hub and spoke arrangements with outcome orientation.

She also announced that the Model Skill Loan Scheme will be revised to facilitate loans up to ₹7.5 lakh with a guarantee from a government promoted Fund, which is expected to help 25,000 students every year.

For helping the youth, who have not been eligible for any benefit under government schemes and policies, she announced a financial support for loans upto ₹10 lakh for higher education in domestic institutions. E-vouchers for this purpose will be given directly to 1 lakh students every year for annual interest subvention of 3 per cent of the loan amount.

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Employment & Skilling
Special Focus on Women & Students

- Setting up of working women's hostels & creches in collaboration with industry
- Model Skill Loan Scheme to be revised to facilitate loans up to ₹ 7.5 lakh with a guarantee from a government-promoted fund; expected to help 25,000 students every year
- E-vouchers for loans upto ₹ 10 lakh for higher education in domestic institutions to be given directly to 1 lakh students every year for annual interest subvention of 3% of loan amount

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Priority 3: Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice

Talking about the Saturation approach, the Finance Minister emphasised that implementation of schemes meant for supporting economic activities by craftsmen, artisans, self-help groups, scheduled caste, schedule tribe and women entrepreneurs, and street vendors, such as PM Vishwakarma, PM SVANidhi, National Livelihood Missions, and Stand-Up India will be stepped up.

Purvodaya

Government will formulate a plan, Purvodaya, for the all-round development of the eastern region of the country covering Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. This will cover human resource development, infrastructure, and generation of economic opportunities to make the region an engine to attain Viksit Bharat.

Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan

The Finance Minister announced that for improving the socio-economic condition of tribal communities, government will launch the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan by adopting saturation coverage for tribal families in tribal-majority villages and aspirational districts covering 63,000 villages and benefitting 5 crore tribal people.



More than 100 branches of India Post Payment Bank will be set up in the North East region to expand the banking services.

She said, a provision of ₹2.66 lakh crore for rural development including rural infrastructure was made this year.

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Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice

- Rs 3 lakh crore for schemes benefitting women and girls
- More than 100 branches of India Post Payment Bank to be set up in the North Eastern Region
- Completion of Polavaram Irrigation Project to ensure food security of the nation
- Funds to be provided for essential infrastructure development in Kopparthy node on Vishakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor & Orvakal node on Hyderabad-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor

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Priority 4: Manufacturing & Services

Support for promotion of MSMEs

Smt Sitharaman said, this budget provides special attention to MSMEs and manufacturing, particularly labour-intensive manufacturing. A separately constituted self-financing guarantee fund will provide, to each applicant, guarantee cover up to ₹100 crore, while the loan amount may be larger. Similarly, Public sector banks will build their in-house capability to assess MSMEs for credit, instead of relying on external assessment. She also announced a new mechanism for facilitating continuation of bank credit to MSMEs during their stress period.

Mudra Loans

The limit of Mudra loans will be enhanced to ₹ 20 lakh from the current ₹ 10 lakh for those entrepreneurs who have availed and successfully repaid previous loans under the 'Tarun' category.

MSME Units for Food Irradiation, Quality & Safety Testing

Financial support for setting up of 50 multi-product food irradiation units in the MSME sector will be provided. Setting up of 100 food quality and safety testing labs with NABL accreditation will also be facilitated. To enable MSMEs and traditional artisans to sell their products in international markets, E-Commerce Export Hubs will be set up in public-private-partnership (PPP) mode .

Internship in Top Companies

The Finance Minister said that as the 5th scheme under the Prime Minister's package, government will launch a comprehensive scheme for providing internship opportunities in 500 top companies to 1 crore youth in 5 years.

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Manufacturing & Services

MSMEs

- New mechanism announced for facilitating continuation of bank credit to MSMEs during their stress period
- Limit of Mudra loans increased from ₹ 10 lakh to ₹ 20 lakh
- Turnover threshold of buyers for mandatory onboarding on TReDS platform to be reduced from ₹ 500 Cr to ₹ 250 Cr
- Financial support for 50 multi-product food irradiation units in MSME sector
- E-Commerce Export Hubs to be set up in PPP* mode to enable MSMEs & traditional artisans to sell their products in international markets

Public Private Partnership*

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Priority 5: Urban Development

Urban Housing

Under the PM AwasYojana Urban 2.0, housing needs of 1 crore urban poor and middle-class families will be addressed with an investment of ₹ 10 lakh crore. This will include the central assistance of ₹ 2.2 lakh crore in the next 5 years.

Water Supply and Sanitation

In partnership with the State Governments and Multilateral Development Banks, government will promote water supply, sewage treatment and solid waste management projects and services for 100 large cities through bankable projects.

PM SVANidhi

She added that building on the success of PM SVANidhi Scheme in transforming the lives of street vendors, Government envisions a scheme to support each year, over the next five years, the development of 100 weekly 'haats' or street food hubs in select cities.

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Urban Development
'Cities as Growth Hubs'

- Orderly development of peri-urban areas through economic and transit planning
- Framework for creative brownfield redevelopment of existing cities
- Water supply, sewage treatment and solid waste management projects and services for 100 large cities
- 14 large cities with a population above 30 lakh will have Transit Oriented Development Plans
- 1 cr urban poor and middle-class families to be covered under the PM Awas Yojana Urban 2.0
- 100 weekly 'haats' or street food hubs in select cities
- Rental housing for industrial workers to be facilitated in PPP mode

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Priority 6: Energy Security

The Finance Minister said, in line with the announcement in the interim budget, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana has been launched to install rooftop solar plants to enable 1 crore households obtain free electricity up to 300 units every month. The scheme has generated remarkable response with more than 1.28 crore registrations and 14 lakh applications.

Nuclear energy is expected to form a very significant part of the energy mix for Viksit Bharat.



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Energy Security

Availability, Accessibility and Affordability

- More than 1.28 crore registrations and 14 lakh applications received under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana
- Pumped Storage Policy to be brought out for electricity storage and integration of renewable energy in the overall energy mix
- R&D of small and modular nuclear reactors and newer technologies for nuclear energy
- Joint venture between NTPC and BHEL to set up a full scale 800 MW commercial thermal plant using AUSC* technology
- Roadmap for 'hard to abate' industries to be formulated for transition from 'Perform, Achieve and Trade' mode to 'Indian Carbon Market' mode
- Energy audit of traditional micro and small industries in 60 clusters with financial support for shifting them to cleaner forms

* Advanced Ultra Super Critical

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Priority 7: Infrastructure

The Finance Minister underlined that significant investment the Central Government has made over the years in building and improving infrastructure has had a strong multiplier effect on the economy. Government will endeavour to maintain strong fiscal support for infrastructure over the next 5 years, in conjunction with imperatives of other priorities and fiscal consolidation. ₹11,11,111 crore for capital expenditure has been allocated this year, which is 3.4 per cent of our GDP.



The infographic features a large yellow '₹' symbol and the text 'UNION BUDGET 2024-25' in bold red and black. To the right is the Ministry of Finance logo with the text 'वित्त मंत्रालय' and 'MINISTRY OF FINANCE'. The word 'Infrastructure' is written in green. A list of five bullet points is on the left, each preceded by a green dot. To the right of the text are two images: a bridge and a person pointing at a sunset. At the bottom right, the text 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*' is present. A row of social media icons and handles is at the very bottom.

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Infrastructure

- Capital expenditure to be ₹11,11,111 Cr @ 3.4% of our GDP
- ₹1.5 lakh crore provision for long-term interest-free loans to support Infrastructure investment by state governments
- Phase IV of PMGSY* to provide all-weather connectivity to 25,000 rural habitations
- Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme to provide support of ₹11,500 crore for projects such as Kosi-Mechi intra-state link
- Assistance to Assam & Himachal Pradesh for flood management and for Uttarakhand & Sikkim for losses due to cloud bursts, flash floods and landslides

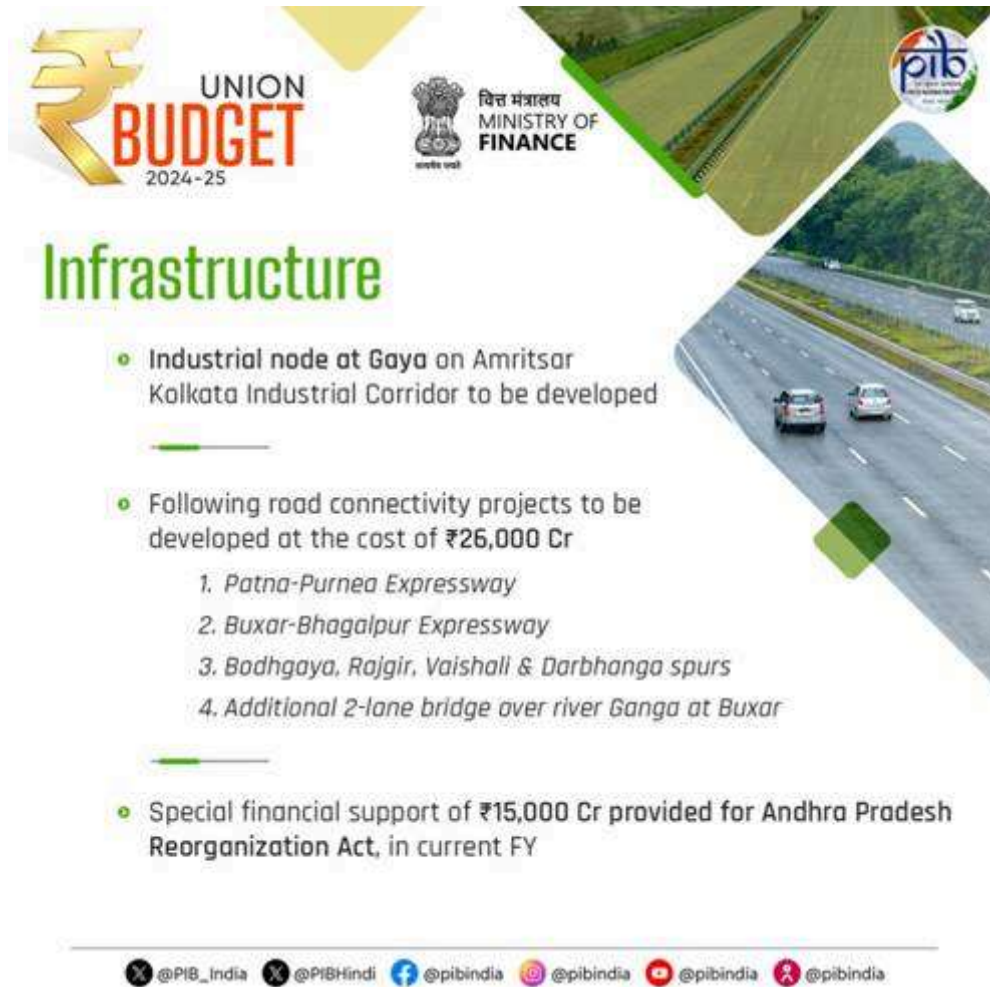
Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*

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Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

The Finance Minister announced that Phase IV of PMGSY will be launched to provide all-weather connectivity to 25,000 rural habitations which have become eligible in view of their population increase.

For Irrigation and Flood Mitigation in Bihar, through the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and other sources, government will provide financial support for projects with estimated cost of ₹11,500 crore such as the Kosi-Mechi intra-state link and 20 other ongoing and new schemes including barrages, river pollution abatement and irrigation projects. Government will also provide assistance to Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim for flood management, landslides and related projects.



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Infrastructure

- Industrial node at Gaya on Amritsar Kolkata Industrial Corridor to be developed
- Following road connectivity projects to be developed at the cost of ₹26,000 Cr
 1. Patna-Purnea Expressway
 2. Buxar-Bhagalpur Expressway
 3. Bodhgaya, Rajgir, Vaishali & Darbhanga spurs
 4. Additional 2-lane bridge over river Ganga at Buxar
- Special financial support of ₹15,000 Cr provided for Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, in current FY

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Priority 8: Innovation, Research & Development

The Finance Minister said that government will operationalize the Anusandhan National Research Fund for basic research and prototype development and set up a mechanism for spurring private sector-driven research and innovation at commercial scale with a financing pool of ₹1 lakh crore in line with the announcement in the interim budget.

Space Economy

With our continued emphasis on expanding the space economy by 5 times in the next 10 years, a venture capital fund of ₹1,000 crore will be set up.



Powering Innovation, Research & Development

- Anusandhan National Research Fund to be set up for basic research and prototype development
- Financing pool of Rs. 1 lakh crore to spur private sector-driven research and innovation at commercial scale
- Venture capital fund of Rs. 1,000 crore to expand space economy by 5 times in the next 10 years

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Priority 9: Next Generation Reforms



Economic Policy Framework

The Finance Minister said that the government will formulate an Economic Policy Framework to delineate the overarching approach to economic development and set the scope of the next generation of reforms for facilitating employment opportunities and sustaining high growth.

Labour related reforms

Government will facilitate the provision of a wide array of services to labour, including those for employment and skilling. A comprehensive integration of e-shram portal with other portals will facilitate such one-stop solution. Shram Suvidha and Samadhan portals will be revamped to enhance ease of compliance for industry and trade.



Government will develop a taxonomy for climate finance for enhancing the availability of capital for climate adaptation and mitigation.

Foreign Direct Investment and Overseas Investment

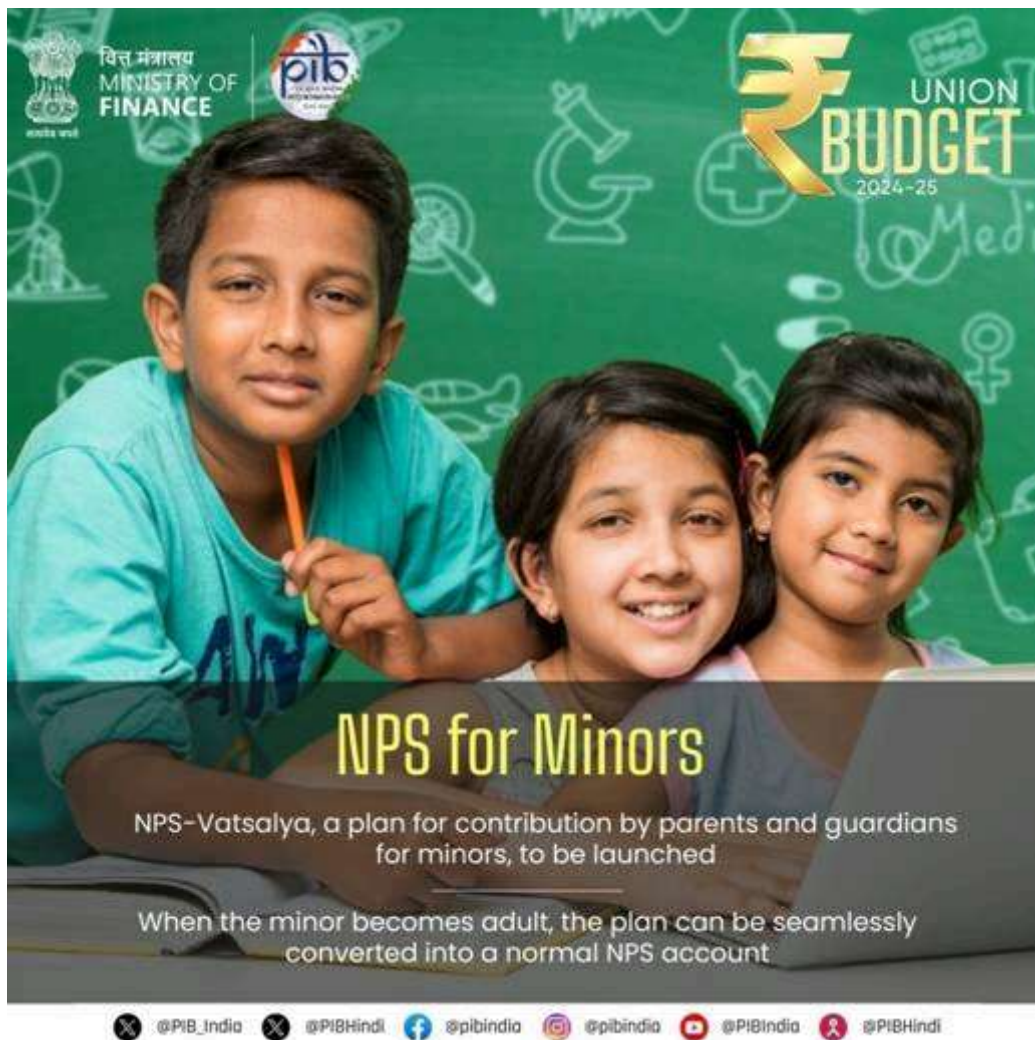
The rules and regulations for Foreign Direct Investment and Overseas Investments will be simplified to (1) facilitate foreign direct investments, (2) nudge prioritization, and (3) promote opportunities for using Indian Rupee as a currency for overseas investments.

NPS Vatsalya

NPS-Vatsalya, a plan for contribution by parents and guardians for minors will be started. On attaining the age of majority, the plan can be converted seamlessly into a normal NPS account.

New Pension Scheme (NPS)

The Finance Minister said that the Committee to review the NPS has made considerable progress in its work and a solution will be evolved which addresses the relevant issues while maintaining fiscal prudence to protect the common citizens.



Budget Estimates 2024-25

The Finance Minister informed that for the year 2024-25, the total receipts other than borrowings and the total expenditure are estimated at ₹32.07 lakh crore and ₹48.21 lakh crore respectively. The net tax receipts are estimated at ₹25.83 lakh crore and the fiscal deficit is estimated at 4.9 per cent of GDP.

She said, the gross and net market borrowings through dated securities during 2024-25 are estimated at ₹14.01 lakh crore and ₹11.63 lakh crore respectively.

Smt Sitharaman emphasised that the fiscal consolidation path announced by her in 2021 has served economy very well, and the government will aim to reach a deficit below 4.5 per cent next year.

PART B

Apart from giving relief to four crore salaried individuals and pensioners of the country in the direct taxes, Union Budget 2024-25 seeks to comprehensively review the direct and indirect taxes in the next six months, simplifying them, reducing tax incidence and compliance burdens and broadening the tax nets. The Budget proposes comprehensive rationalization of GST tax structure along with review of the Custom Duty rate structure to improve the tax base and support domestic manufacturing. A comprehensive review of Income – Tax Act is targeted at reducing disputes and litigations and to make the act lucid, concise and easy to read. Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman said that simplification of tax regimes without exemptions and deductions for corporate and

personal income tax has been appreciated by tax payers as over 58 per cent of corporate tax came from simplified tax regime in 2022-23 and more than two third tax payers have switched over to the new personal income tax regime.

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Simplification of IT Act, Tax Reassessment, Capital Gains Taxation

- ◆ Income-tax Act, 1961 to be made concise and easy to read
- ◆ Opening of Reassessment beyond three years from end of assessment year only if escaped income is ₹ 50 lakh or more, up to a maximum period of five years from end of assessment year
- ◆ Time limit for search cases to be reduced from 10 years to 6 years before year of search
- ◆ Short-term gains on certain financial assets to be taxed at 20%, Long-term gains on all financial and non-financial assets to be taxed at 12.5%
- ◆ Listed financial assets held for more than a year to be classified as long-term
- ◆ Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme, 2024 for resolution of certain income tax disputes pending in appeal

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Budget 2024-25 increased standard deduction of salaried employees from ₹ 50,000/- to ₹ 75,000/- for those opting for new tax regime. Similarly, deduction on family pension for pensioners enhanced from ₹ 15,000/- to ₹ 25,000/-. Assessments now, can be reopened beyond three years up to 5 years from end of year of assessment, only if, the escaped income is more than ₹ 50 Lakh. The new tax regime rate structure is also revised to give a salaried employee benefits up to ₹ 17,500/- in income tax.

Income Slabs	Tax Rate
0 – 3 Lakh rupees	NIL
3 – 7 Lakh rupees	5 per cent
7 – 10 Lakh rupees	10 per cent
10 – 12 Lakh rupees	15 per cent

12 – 15 Lakh rupees	20 per cent
Above 15 Lakh rupees	30 per cent

Table 1: New Tax Regime Tax Structure

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Tax Relief and Revised Tax Slabs in New Tax Regime

0-3 lakh rupees	Nil
3-7 lakh rupees	5 per cent
7-10 lakh rupees	10 per cent
10-12 lakh rupees	15 per cent
12-15 lakh rupees	20 per cent
Above 15 lakh rupees	30 per cent

- Income tax saving of up to ₹ 17,500/- for salaried employee in new tax regime

Income Tax Relief for around Four Crore Salaried Individuals and Pensioners

- Standard deduction for salaried employees to be increased from ₹ 50,000/- to ₹ 75,000/-
- Deduction on family pension for pensioners to be increased from ₹ 15,000/- to ₹ 25,000/-

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To promote investment and foster employment, Budget has given boost to entrepreneurial spirit and start-up ecosystem, abolishing angel tax for all classes of investors. Further, a simpler tax regime for foreign shipping companies operating domestic cruises is proposed looking at the tremendous potential of cruise tourism. Foreign mining companies selling raw diamonds in the country can now benefit from safe harbor rates which will benefit the diamond industry. Further, corporate tax rate on foreign companies reduced from 40 to 35 per cent to attract foreign capital.

Budget further simplified the direct tax regime for charities, TDS rate structure and capital gains taxation. The two tax exemption regimes for charities will be merged into one. 5 per cent TDS on many payments to be merged into 2 per cent TDS and 20 per cent TDS on repurchase of units by mutual funds or UTI stands withdrawn. TDS rate on e-commerce operators reduced from 1 per cent to 0.1 per cent. Now credit of TCS will be given on TDS deducted from salary. Budget decriminalized delay of payment of TDS up to the due date of filing of TDS statement. Standard Operating Procedure soon for simplified and rationalized compounding guidelines for TDS defaults.

On Capital gains, short term gains shall henceforth attract a rate of 20 per cent on certain financial assets. Long term gains on all financial and non-financial assets to attract 12.5 per cent rate. Limit of exemption of capital gains has been increased to ₹1.25 Lakh per year to benefit lower and middle-income classes. Listed financial assets held for more than a year and unlisted assets (financial and non-financial) held for more than two years to be classified as long term assets. Unlisted bonds and debentures, debt mutual funds and market linked debentures will continue to attract applicable capital gains tax.

Acknowledging that GST has decreased tax incidence on common man and terming it as a success of vast proportions, Union Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman said that GST has reduced compliance burden and logistics cost for trade and industry. Now the Government envisages further simplifying and rationalizing the tax structure to expand it to remaining sectors. Budget also proposed to further digitalise and make paperless the remaining services of Customs and Income Tax including rectification and order giving effect to appellate orders over the next two years.

Custom duties have been revised to rationalize and revise them for ease of trade and reduction of disputes. Giving relief to cancer patients, Budget fully exempted three more cancer treating medicines from custom duties, namely, Trastuzumab Deruxtecan, Osimertinib and Durvalumab. There will be reduction in Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on X-ray machines tubes and flat panel detectors. BCD on mobile phones, Printed Circuit Board Assembly (PCBA) and mobile chargers reduced to 15 per cent. To give a fillip to processing and refining of critical minerals, Budget fully exempted custom duties on 25 rare earth minerals like lithium and reduced BCD on two of them. Budget proposed to exempt capital goods for manufacturing of solar panels. To boost India's seafood exports, BCD on broodstock, polychaete worms, shrimps and fish feed reduced to 5 per cent. Budget will foster competitiveness of Indian leather and textiles articles of export. BCD reduced from 7.5 per cent to 5 per cent in Methylene Diphenyl Diisocyanate (MDI) used for manufacture of spandex yarn. Custom duties on gold and silver reduced to 6 per cent and on platinum to 6.4 per cent. BCD on ferro nickel and blister copper removed, while, BCD on ammonium nitrate increased from 7.5 to 10 per cent to support existing and new capacities in pipeline. Similarly, BCD on PVC flex banners increased from 10 to 25 per cent considering the hazard to environment. To incentivize domestic manufacturing, BCD on PCBA of specific telecom equipments increased from 10 to 15 per cent.

UNION BUDGET 2024-25

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INDIRECT TAXES

Customs Duty Proposals [1/2]

- Customs duty on three more medicines to be fully removed, to provide relief to cancer patients
- Basic customs duty on mobile phone, mobile PCBA and mobile charger to be reduced to 15%
- 25 critical minerals to be exempted from customs duties & basic customs duty on two of them to be reduced
- List of exempted capital goods for use in the manufacture of solar cells & panels in the country to be expanded
- Customs duty proposed to be removed on oxygen free copper for manufacture of resistors & certain parts for manufacture of connectors to be exempted

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INDIRECT TAXES

Customs Duty Proposals [2/2]

- BCD to be reduced to 5% on certain broodstock, polychaete worms, shrimp & fish feed
- BCD to be reduced on real down filling material from duck or goose
- BCD on methylene diphenyl diisocyanate (MDI) for manufacture of spandex yarn to be reduced from 7.5 to 5%
- Customs duties on gold and silver to be reduced to 5% & on platinum to 6.4%

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For dispute resolution and dispose-off backlogs, Union Finance Minister proposed Vivad se Vishwas Scheme, 2024 for resolution of certain income tax disputes pending in appeal. The monetary limits for filing appeals related to direct taxes, excise and service tax in High Courts, Supreme Courts and tribunals has been increased to ₹ 60 Lakh, ₹ 2 Crore and ₹ 5 Crore, respectively. Further to reduce litigation and provide certainty in international taxation, scope of safe harbour rules to be expanded and transfer pricing assessment procedure to be streamlined.

NB/SNC/VV/VC

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