

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE UNION BUDGET 2024-25

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The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2024-25 in Parliament today. The highlights of the budget are as follows:



Part-A

Budget Estimates 2024-25:

- Total receipts other than borrowings: `32.07 lakh crore.
- Total expenditure: `48.21 lakh crore.
- Net tax receipt: `25.83 lakh crore.
- Fiscal deficit: 4.9 per cent of GDP.
- Government aims to reach a deficit below 4.5 per cent next year.
- Inflation continues to be low, stable and moving towards the 4% target; Core inflation (non-food, non-fuel) at 3.1%.
- The focus of budget is on **EMPLOYMENT, SKILLING, MSMEs, and the MIDDLE CLASS.**

Package of PM's five schemes for Employment and Skilling

- Prime Minister's Package of 5 Schemes and Initiatives for employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth over a 5-year period.
 1. **Scheme A - First Timers:** One-month salary of up to `15,000 to be provided in 3 installments to first-time employees, as registered in the EPFO.

2. **Scheme B - Job Creation in manufacturing:** Incentive to be provided at specified scale directly, both employee and employer, with respect to their EPFO contribution in the first 4 years of employment.
3. **Scheme C - Support to employers:** Government to reimburse up to `3,000 per month for 2 years towards EPFO contribution of employers, for each additional employee.
4. **New centrally sponsored scheme for Skilling**
 - 20 lakh youth to be skilled over a 5-year period.
 - 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes to be upgraded in hub and spoke arrangements.
5. **New Scheme for Internship in 500 Top Companies** to 1 crore youth in 5 years

Nine Budget Priorities in pursuit of 'Viksit Bharat':

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

- Allocation of `1.52 lakh crore for agriculture and allied sectors.
- New 109 high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties of 32 field and horticulture crops to be released for cultivation by farmers.
- 1 crore farmers across the country to be initiated into natural farming, with certification and branding in next 2 years.
- 10,000 need-based bio-input resource centres to be established for natural farming.
- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Agriculture to be implemented for coverage of farmers and their lands in 3 years.

Priority 2: Employment & Skilling

- As part of the Prime Minister's package, 3 schemes for 'Employment Linked Incentive' to be implemented - Scheme A - First Timers; Scheme B - Job Creation in manufacturing; Scheme C - Support to employers.
- To facilitate higher participation of women in the workforce,
 - working women hostels and crèches to be established with industrial collaboration
 - women-specific skilling programmes to be organized
 - market access for women SHG enterprises to be promoted

Skill Development

- New centrally sponsored scheme for Skilling under Prime Minister's Package for 20 lakh youth over a 5-year period.
- Model Skill Loan Scheme to be revised to facilitate loans up to `7.5 lakh.

- Financial support for loans upto `10 lakh for higher education in domestic institutions to be provided to youth who have not been eligible for any benefit under government schemes and policies.

Priority 3: Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice

Purvodaya

- Industrial node at Gaya to be developed along the Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor.
- Power projects, including new 2400 MW power plant at Pirpainti, to be taken up at a cost of `21,400 crore.

Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act

- Special financial support through multilateral development agencies of `15,000 crore in the current financial year.
- Industrial node at Kopparthy along Vishakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor and at Orvakal along Hyderabad-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor.

Women-led development

- Total allocation of more than `3 lakh crore for schemes benefitting women and girls.

Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan

- Socio-economic development of tribal families in tribal-majority villages and aspirational districts, covering 63,000 villages benefitting 5 crore tribal people.

Bank branches in North-Eastern Region

- 100 branches of India Post Payment Bank to be set up in the North East region.

Priority 4: Manufacturing & Services

Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs in the Manufacturing Sector

- A credit guarantee scheme without collateral or third-party guarantee in term loans to MSMEs for purchase of machinery and equipment.

Credit Support to MSMEs during Stress Period

- New mechanism to facilitate continuation of bank credit to MSMEs during their stress period.

Mudra Loans

- The limit of Mudra loans under 'Tarun' category to be enhanced to `20 lakh from `10 lakh for those who have successfully repaid previous loans.

Enhanced scope for mandatory onboarding in TReDS

- Turnover threshold of buyers for mandatory onboarding on the TReDS platform to be reduced from `500 crore to `250 crore..

MSME Units for Food Irradiation, Quality & Safety Testing

- Financial support to set up 50 multi-product food irradiation units in the MSME sector .

E-Commerce Export Hubs

- E-Commerce Export Hubs to be set up under public-private-partnership (PPP) mode for MSMEs and traditional artisans to sell their products in international markets.

Critical Mineral Mission

- Critical Mineral Mission to be set up for domestic production, recycling of critical minerals, and overseas acquisition of critical mineral assets.

Offshore mining of minerals

- Auction of the first tranche of offshore blocks for mining, building on the exploration already carried out.

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Applications

- Development of DPI applications in the areas of credit, e-commerce, education, health, law and justice, logistics, MSME, services delivery, and urban governance.

Priority 5: Urban Development

Transit Oriented Development

- Formulation of Transit Oriented Development plans and strategies to implement and finance 14 large cities above 30 lakh population.

Urban Housing

- Investment of ₹10 lakh crore, including the central assistance of ₹2.2 lakh crore in next 5 years, under PM Awas Yojana Urban 2.0 proposed to address the , housing needs of 1 crore urban poor and middle-class families.

Street Markets

- New scheme to support the development of 100 weekly 'haats' or street food hubs every year for the next 5 years in select cities.

Priority 6: Energy Security

Energy Transition

- Policy document on 'Energy Transition Pathways' to balance the imperatives of employment, growth and environmental sustainability to be brought out.

Pumped Storage Policy

- Policy for promoting pumped storage projects for electricity storage to be brought out.

Research and development of small and modular nuclear reactors

- Government to partner with private sector for R&D of Bharat Small Modular Reactor and newer technologies for nuclear energy, and to set up Bharat Small Reactors.

Advanced Ultra Super Critical Thermal Power Plants

- Joint venture proposed between NTPC and BHEL to set up a full scale 800 MW commercial plant using Advanced Ultra Super Critical (AUSC) technology.

Roadmap for 'hard to abate' industries

- Appropriate regulations for transition of 'hard to abate' industries from the current 'Perform, Achieve and Trade' mode to 'Indian Carbon Market' mode to be put in place.

Priority 7: Infrastructure

Infrastructure investment by Central Government

- ₹11,11,111 crore (3.4 % of GDP) to be provided for capital expenditure.

Infrastructure investment by state governments

- Provision of ₹1.5 lakh crore for long-term interest free loans to support states in infrastructure investment.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- Launch of phase IV of PMGSY to provide all-weather connectivity to 25,000 rural habitations.

Irrigation and Flood Mitigation

- Financial support of ₹11,500 crore to projects such as the Kosi-Mechi intra-state link and other schemes in Bihar.
- Government to provide assistance to Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim for floods, landslides and other related projects.

Tourism

- Comprehensive development of Vishnupad Temple Corridor, Mahabodhi Temple Corridor and Rajgir.
- Assistance for development of temples, monuments, craftsmanship, wildlife sanctuaries, natural landscapes and pristine beaches of Odisha.

Priority 8: Innovation, Research & Development

- Anusandhan National Research Fund for basic research and prototype development to be operationalised.
- Financing pool of ₹1 lakh crore for spurring private sector-driven research and innovation at commercial scale.

Space Economy

- Venture capital fund of ₹1,000 crore to be set up for expanding the space economy by 5 times in the next 10 years.

Priority 9: Next Generation Reforms

Rural Land Related Actions

- Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) or Bhu-Aadhaar for all lands
- Digitization of cadastral maps
- Survey of map sub-divisions as per current ownership
- Establishment of land registry
- Linking to the farmers registry

Urban Land Related Actions

- Land records in urban areas to be digitized with GIS mapping.

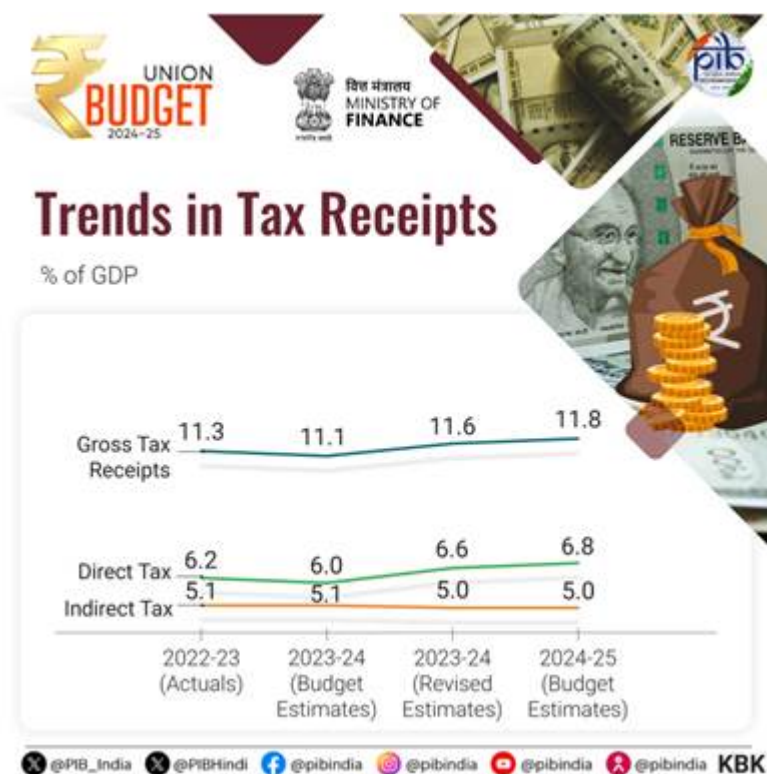
Services to Labour

- Integration of e-shram portal with other portals to facilitate such one-stop solution.
- Open architecture databases for the rapidly changing labour market, skill requirements and available job roles.
- Mechanism to connect job-aspirants with potential employers and skill providers.

NPS Vatsalya

- NPS-Vatsalya as a plan for contribution by parents and guardians for minors.

PART B



Indirect Taxes

GST

- Buoyed by GST's success, tax structure to be simplified and rationalised to expand GST to remaining sectors.

Sector specific customs duty proposals

Medicines and Medical Equipment

- Three cancer drugs namely TrastuzumabDeruxtectan, Osimertinib and Durvalumab fully exempted from custom duty.
- Changes in Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on x-ray tubes & flat panel detectors for use in medical x-ray machines under the Phased Manufacturing Programme.

Mobile Phone and Related Parts

- BCD on mobile phone, mobile Printed Circuit Board Assembly (PCBA) and mobile charger reduced to 15 per cent.

Precious Metals

- Customs duties on gold and silver reduced to 6 per cent and that on platinum to 6.4 per cent.

Other Metals

- BCD removed on ferro nickel and blister copper.
- BCD removed on ferrous scrap and nickel cathode.
- Concessional BCD of 2.5 per cent on copper scrap.

Electronics

- BCD removed, subject to conditions, on oxygen free copper for manufacture of resistors.

Chemicals and Petrochemicals

- BCD on ammonium nitrate increased from 7.5 to 10 per cent.

Plastics

- BCD on PVC flex banners increased from 10 to 25 per cent.

Telecommunication Equipment

- BCD increased from 10 to 15 per cent on PCBA of specified telecom equipment.

Trade facilitation

- For promotion of domestic aviation and boat & ship MRO, time period for export of goods imported for repairs extended from six months to one year.
- Time-limit for re-import of goods for repairs under warranty extended from three to five years.

Critical Minerals

- 25 critical minerals fully exempted from customs duties.
- BCD on two critical minerals reduced.

Solar Energy

- Capital goods for use in manufacture of solar cells and panels exempted from customs duty.

Marine products

- BCD on certain broodstock, polychaete worms, shrimp and fish feed reduced to 5 per cent.
- Various inputs for manufacture of shrimp and fish feed exempted from customs duty.

Leather and Textile

- BCD reduced on real down filling material from duck or goose.
- BCD reduced, subject to conditions, on methylene diphenyl diisocyanate (MDI) for manufacture of spandex yarn from 7.5 to 5 per cent.

Direct Taxes

- Efforts to simplify taxes, improve tax payer services, provide tax certainty and reduce litigation to be continued.

- Enhance revenues for funding development and welfare schemes of government.
- 58 per cent of corporate tax from simplified tax regime in FY23, more than two-thirds taxpayers availed simplified tax regime for personal income tax in FY 24.

Simplification for Charities and of TDS

- Two tax exemption regimes for charities to be merged into one.
- 5 per cent TDS rate on many payments merged into 2 per cent TDS rate.
- 20 per cent TDS rate on repurchase of units by mutual funds or UTI withdrawn.
- TDS rate on e-commerce operators reduced from one to 0.1 per cent.
- Delay for payment of TDS up to due date of filing statement decriminalized.

Simplification of Reassessment

- Assessment can be reopened beyond three years upto five years from the end of Assessment Year only if the escaped income is ₹ 50 lakh or more.
- In search cases, time limit reduced from ten to six years before the year of search.

Simplification and Rationalisation of Capital Gains

- Short term gains on certain financial assets to attract a tax rate of 20 per cent.
- Long term gains on all financial and non-financial assets to attract a tax rate of 12.5 per cent.
- Exemption limit of capital gains on certain financial assets increased to ₹ 1.25 lakh per year.

Tax Payer Services

- All remaining services of Customs and Income Tax including rectification and order giving effect to appellate orders to be digitalized over the next two years.

Litigation and Appeals

- ‘Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme, 2024’ for resolution of income tax disputes pending in appeal.
- Monetary limits for filing direct taxes, excise and service tax related appeals in Tax Tribunals, High Courts and Supreme Court increased to ₹60 lakh, ₹2 crore and ₹5 crore respectively.
- Safe harbour rules expanded to reduce litigation and provide certainty in international taxation.

Employment and Investment

- Angel tax for all classes of investors abolished to bolster start-up eco-system.
- Simpler tax regime for foreign shipping companies operating domestic cruises to promote cruise tourism in India.
- Safe harbour rates for foreign mining companies selling raw diamonds in the country.
- Corporate tax rate on foreign companies reduced from 40 to 35 per cent.

Deepening tax base

- Security Transactions Tax on futures and options of securities increased to 0.02 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively.
- Income received on buy back of shares in the hands of recipient to be taxed.

Social Security Benefits.

- Deduction of expenditure by employers towards NPS to be increased from 10 to 14 per cent of the employee’s salary.

- Non-reporting of small movable foreign assets up to ₹20 lakh de-penalised.

Other major proposal in Finance Bill

- Equalization levy of 2 per cent withdrawn.

Changes in Personal Income Tax under new tax regime

- Standard deduction for salaried employees increased from ₹50,000 to ₹75,000.
- Deduction on family pension for pensioners enhanced from ₹15,000/- to ₹25,000/-
- Revised tax rate structure:

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

- Salaried employee in the new tax regime stands to save up to ₹ 17,500/- in income tax.

NB/SNC/VV/VN/PD/CNAN/KSS/LPS/RK

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