VITTSHALA THE FINANCIAL LITERACY CELL | PROJECT ASHA & UMEED

presents

BUDGET 2023

THROUGH THE LENS OF SOCIAL WELFARE

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BOMBAY: FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1947 PRICE TWO ANNAS

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GOOD WISHES TO FREE INDIA

On the dawn of newly gained independence in 1947, the millions of Indian hearts were gleaming and the throngs were rejoicing together, with hope of building a nation resilient of hunger, providing better amenities to the downtrodden section, creating a heaven of opportunities and making India a place of confluence of economic growth, social welfare & humanity.

Story of Indian economic growth since then has not been a merry tale, rather it has been a roller coaster ride with various ups and downs, bewildering swings and twists, yet, it has been a story where our trajectory has always been higher and upwards despite all the odds!

When India got its baby steps into the free world, it had various challenges roaring in front, with ever increasing unemployment, falling production, widespread hunger, falling agro-productivity and a country with scant health and educational infrastructure. A nation with squeezed level of consumption and capital expenditure had to simultaneously rise as a leader for the third world to take forward non-alignment in the era of USA-Soviet face-off. Rising from such a deplorable state to today, being the world's 5th largest economy and a force to reckon, Indian saga has been a heroic one.

With the advent of new era, the world is coming up with changing dynamics and unseen problems like never before. In the context of India, although our economy has bloomed even in the grey patches, be it global financial crisis of 2008, or upcoming recessionary signals to world in 2023, we have various puzzles still unsolved!

India has faced debacles when it comes to development of social infrastructure in the country. There have been consistent efforts to reduce the income - inequality existing in economy , to utilize the demographic dividend by strengthening the grassroots of nation with a vibrant institutional framework. The main thing India has been lacking is, lack of investment and transparency in the social domain.

Budget is a very important landmark for a country, which acts a harbinger of growth, and foretells the solutions of government to various such aforementioned challenges. Budget of a nation is like a mirror reflecting vision of government to estimate the locus of growth that a country is wishing to undergo & approach of the government to solve the fiscal problems. 'Budget Announcement' stands as one of the most important ritual for a country, with tons of expectations of masses, diversified interests of industries and ever increasing financial needs and challenges of the dynamic world. Allocations in the budget are key to induce socio-economic changes in the country.

As India is moving with full pace in this Amritkaal, social development becomes a very important aspect, to cater to the needs of a gigantic population and strengthening the workforce of the country by improving socio-economic indicators. So, with notion to analyse the Budget 2023, not with an intention to unfold the visions of futuristic India, but to critically scrutinize and inspect this budget through the lens of social welfare and strengthening of the roots, this detailed report has been prepared under the aegis of ***Project Asha & Umeed- Vittshala, SRCC*** to give insights into various initiatives taken by government in this domain, current state of implementation and a comparative study from the past years to draw out various recommendations and strategies.

01

HEALTH
AGRICULTURE
DIGITISATION

AYUSHMAN BHARAT DIGITAL MISSION

ABOUT

On 15.08.2020, Prime Minister announced the implementation of the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) in the country with a vision to create a national digital health ecosystem as proposed in NDHB. The NDHM is envisaged to be implemented in 3 phases:

Phase 1 is to cover 6 UTs on a pilot basis;
Phase 2 to cover additional states with the expansion of services; and
Phase 3 to target nationwide roll-out, operationalizing, and converging with all health schemes across India along with the promotion, on-boarding, and acceptance of NDHM across the country.

The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) aims to develop the backbone necessary to support the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country. It will bridge the existing gaps among different stakeholders of the Healthcare ecosystem through digital highways. With the help of medical data collection tools, it is possible to quickly and effectively collect and evaluate patient data and results. Doctors, caregivers, insurance plans, and more need to quickly exchange information securely, which can save lives and lead to better care.

Indian Council for Medical Research level will be available for research in public and private medical college faculty and private sector teams will be forcing collaborative research and innovation. New form of a program will be rolled out to promote research and innovation and pharmaceuticals will be taken up in the sector of Excellence. It will increase industrial investment, research & development. Dedicated multidisciplinary courses for medical devices will be supported in existing Institutes of Excellence.

National Tele Mental Health Programme for quality mental health counselling and care services has been launched. It helps to connect with various mental care services, the health and wellness centres under Ayushman bharat as well as the E-Sanjeevani system.

INITIATIVES

Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PMABHIM) has been allocated Rs 4,200 crore under the Budget 2023. Pharma Innovation Programme-In the Budget 2023, the Financial Minister proposed to launch a new program to promote innovation and research in pharmaceuticals, which will be taken up through centres of xcellence. 157 new nursing colleges will be established in collaboration with the existing 157 medical colleges established since 2014. To eliminate sickle cell anaemia by 2047, the government is conducting Universal screening of 7 crore people in the 0-40 years age group in affected tribal areas and counselling through collaborative efforts of central ministries and state governments.

IMPLEMENTATION

The mission will keep two separate arms – one for regulation and the other for implementation and operational management. These will work under a defined governance framework, with roles and responsibilities at various levels of NDHM:

- The Mission Steering Group will be set up under the chairpersonship of the Hon'ble Minister, of Health & Family Welfare – and will oversee and guide the Mission.

- The Empowered Committee will be set up under the chairpersonship of Secretary, Health and Family Welfare. The Committee will take the necessary policy-level decisions, help the Mission for coordination with different stakeholders and engagement with different Ministries & Departments to ensure their participation in the NDHM. It will also supervise the roll-out of the Mission to all parts of the country and population of various directories.

- The MoHFW will provide overall supervision and guidance for the implementation of NDHM to National Health Authority. In addition, the Ministry will also work towards the legal and regulatory framework for NDHM and help NHA coordinate with States/UTs and the private sector to ensure their participation in NDHM. The Ministry will also issue necessary directions for adoption of NDHM by all health-related initiatives across the country.

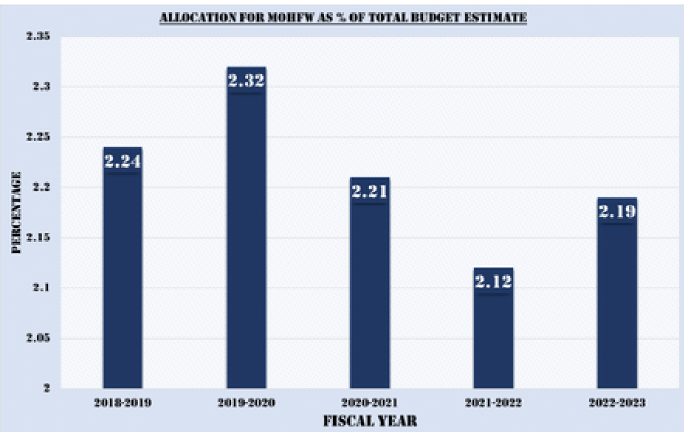
AYUSHMAN BHARAT DIGITAL MISSION

- IMeitY will work with MoHFW for legal and regulatory framework for NDHM wherever necessary and related to MeitY. In addition, MeitY will play a key role in providing guidance on the proper technological framework, leveraging digital services in a proper fashion and emerging technologies across the globe
- NHA will lead the implementation of NDHM and coordinate with different ministries/departments of the Government of India, State Governments, and private sector/civil society organizations. An officer of the rank of Additional Secretary / Joint Secretary will be deployed full-time as Mission Director of NDHM overseeing operations and implementation.

Healthcare providers will experience the ease of doing business as a verified entry in the registry will enable them to apply online for several licences like pollution clearance, AERB, Drug/Pharmacy licences, PNDT, medical waste management, etc. The registry will also enable paperless empanelment to government schemes and private insurances as a standardized efacility record can be shared from the registry with consent. The registry will:

- Enable hospitals and diagnostic clinics to participate in the digital health ecosystem
- Allow healthcare facilities to be able to e-sign agreements, claim forms and payments-related documents
- Maintain references to ROHINI, NIN and NHRR codes to ensure data linkage; d. ensure that the contents are unique and there is only one entry for each unique facility. The system will include methods to ensure duplicate entries cannot be created. The registry will store the facility information; e. make available detailed facility information in standard machine-readable format; and f. offer a set of APIs for applications to query, add, update, and verify the data present for each provider.

FUND ALLOCATED



The finance ministry has allocated Rs 36,785 crore for the National Health Mission, a Rs 375 crore decrease of one percent from the Rs 37,160 crore budgeted in 2022-2023. Rs 341.02 crore to the Ayushman Bharat National Digital Health Mission (ABDM) in Budget 2023.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	
Year	Allocation
FY24	Rs 89,155 crore
FY23	Rs 86,200.65 crore
FY22	Rs 73,931.77 crore
FY21	Rs 67,111.8 crore

NATIONAL TELE-MENTAL HEALTH MISSION

The Union Budget 22 widely focused on mental health and the government allocated 0.8 percent of the total health budget towards mental health. Nearly USD 5 million was earmarked for the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP). A 'National Tele Mental Health Programme' will also be launched for better access to quality mental health counselling and care.

Electronic health records are the digital version of a patient's record. They can show a patient's entire medical history in a few clicks in real-time. The digitization of health records can help in ensuring accurate diagnosis, reducing errors, and preventing medical mishaps. The Indian Government's National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) to digitise health data in India is a step in the right direction.

Bengaluru has been designated as the nodal centre and is providing all necessary support. International Institute of Information Technology, Bengaluru is providing technical support. Meghalaya became the first northeastern state and the third in the country to focus on Mental Health and Social Care policy. Tele-MANAS helpline centres are located in Pune, Thane, and Ambejogai. Each centre has 20 counsellors manning telephone lines throughout the day.

The National Mental Health Policy (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 2014), which advocates for the integration of care across public mental health and health systems, with an emphasis on community living and special attention to vulnerable populations, also influences the policy. Coordination and convergence between the social and health sectors are necessary to effectively address the social determinants of mental ill-health. The budget allocation has been increased from ₹121 crores to ₹133.73 crore in FY 23-24.

NATIONAL TELE-MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

ABOUT

The Centre informed Rajya Sabha in December 2021 that 10.6 per cent of adults in India face some kind of mental disorder.
According to the World Health Organization, the economic loss due to mental health conditions between 2012-2030 is estimated to be $ 1.03 trillion in India.
According to the Indian Journal of Psychiatry in 2019, even before the pandemic, at least 50 million children in India were affected by mental health issues and 80 – 90 per cent has not sought support.
Sitharaman said, "The pandemic has accentuated mental health problems in people of all ages. To better the access to quality mental health counselling and care services, a national tele-mental health programme will be launched. This will include a network of 23 tele-mental health centres of excellence with NIMHANS being the nodal centre and Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) Bangalore providing technology support."
Acknowledging the mental health crisis in wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and an urgent need to establish a digital mental health network that will withstand the challenges amplified by the pandemic, Government of India announced National Tele Mental Health Programme (NTMHP) in the Union Budget 2022-23. Tele-MANAS aims to provide free tele-mental health services all over the country round the clock, particularly catering to people in remote or under-served areas.
A toll-free, 24/7 helpline number (14416) has been set up across the country allowing callers to select the language of choice for availing services. Service is also accessible with 1-800-91-4416. The calls would be routed to Tele-MANAS cells in the respective state and union territory

MENTOR INSTITUTIONS

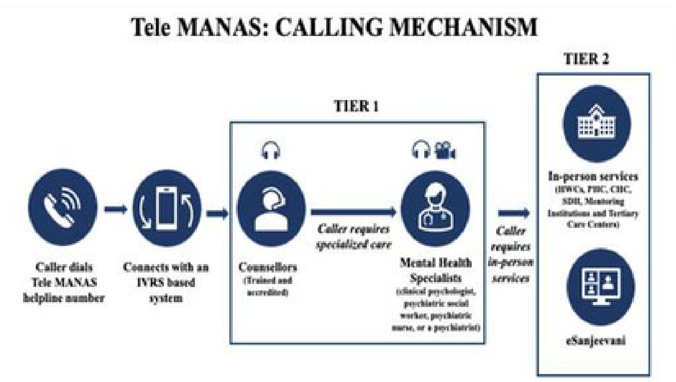
AIIMS, Patna, AIIMS Raipur, CIP Ranchi, AIIMS Bhopal, AIIMS Kalyani, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, PGIMER, Chandigarh, Hospital for Mental Health, Ahmedabad, etc.

INITIATIVES UNDER NTMHP

The District Mental Health Program (DMHP) was launched under NMHP in 1996 (in IX Five Year Plan). The DMHP was based on 'Bellary Model' with the following components:

- Early detection & treatment,
- Life skills education & counselling in schools,
- College counselling services,
- Workplace stress management, and.
- Suicide prevention services.

Further, with a view to provide affordable and accessible mental healthcare facilities, the Government is implementing the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) in the country.Provides services for early detection & treatment of mental illness in the community (OPD/ Indoor & follow up).Provides valuable data & experience at the level of community at the state & center for future planning & improvement in service & research.



TELE MANAS CELLS

The Union Government aims to open at least one Tele-MANAS Cell in each State/UT. A toll-free, 24/7 helpline number (14416) has been set up across the country allowing callers to select the language of choice for availing services. Service is also accessible with 1-800-91-4416.
Tele-MANAS are organised in two tier systems; Tier 1 comprises state Tele-MANAS cells which include trained counsellors and mental health specialists. Tier 2 will comprise specialists at District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)/Medical College resources for physical consultation and/or *e-Sanjeevani* for audio visual consultation. Presently there are 5 regional coordination centres along with 51 State/UT Tele MANAS cells.

DOES AYUSHMAN BHARAT COVER MENTAL ILLNESS?

Ayushman Bharat Yojana (PM-JAY) covers mental disorders. If you have a stressful life or had a painful experience of losing a loved one or you have any other reason to minimise the financial burden related to mental illness, then go ahead and buy a health insurance policy that covers mental illness.

NATIONAL TELE-MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

CHALLENGES FACED BY NTMHP

ISSUES IN THE INITIAL MODEL:

The very launch of the program and its subsequent progress is not beyond scrutiny and criticism. The initial model for service delivery through PHC/CHC was affected by the lack of skilled human resource, ambiguity about the role of health professionals in service delivery, and lack of managerial skill at the community level.
there was a lack of clarity regarding who would fund the program in the long run for its sustenance – central or state government.
The program followed a top-down approach, not involving the local voice in the planning and implementation of the programme, which led to the poor show of the program.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES:

The coverage and functioning of DMHP remained non uniform across the country. Various evaluations and reviews of the programme have highlighted that the success of the programme was predominantly determined by the commitment of the nodal officer but there has been a lack of leadership at all levels (central, state, and districts). Further, lack of fund utilisation by the states, administrative bottleneck at the centre level, and lack of enthusiasm of the PHC professionals (medical officer and the supporting staff) led to the poor implementation of the program.

TRAINING AND MONITORING ISSUES:

Training of primary health care service providers has been another major area of concern. Under DMHP, duration of training for community health professionals was reduced and so was the specialists' support to already overburdened primary health service providers. Moreover, when training was provided, it was found to be less comprehensive and too biomedically driven without incorporation of psychosocial aspects.

ISSUES RELATED TO COVERAGE OF MENTAL ILLNESSES AND PROVISION OF TREATMENT:

The program has also been criticised for noncoverage of a full range of mental disorders such as substance use disorders (SUDs) and child and geriatric psychiatric disorders.

NTMHP IN 2022-23

In 2022-23 -$5 million is allocated for the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP), responsible for delivery of 90% of the mental health services across the country.NIMHANS is the nodal organisation.

NTMHP AND BUDGET 2023-24

- For the National Tele Mental Health Programme, the budget allocation has been increased from ₹121 crore to ₹133.73 crore, the budget allocation for autonomous bodies has gone up from ₹10,348.17 crore in 2022-23 to ₹17,322.55 crore in 2023-24.
- New facilities in selected ICMR lab will be provided for research to public and private medical facilities.
- A new programme to promote research and innovation in the pharmaceutical and neurological industry will be brought by CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE.
- The National Tele Mental Health Programme, which was first announced at Sitharaman's last Budget presentation, has been allocated Rs 133.73 crore, up by Rs 12.73 crore or 10.52 percent from its inaugural Rs 121 crore in FY23.

1. Dedicated multidisciplinary courses for medical devices will be supported in existing institutions to ensure availability of skilled manpower for futuristic medical technologies, high-end manufacturing and research.
2. Leading industry players will partner in conducting interdisciplinary research, develop cutting-edge applications and scalable problem solutions in the areas of agriculture, health and sustainable cities.
3. Three Centers of Excellences of Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be set up to in top educational institutions, leading industry players will partner in conducting interdisciplinary research, develop cutting edge

CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY

E-RUPI

2022-23-Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that RBI will introduce CBDC using block chain and other technology, and Digital Rupee will boost digital economy.
A Digital Currency is any currency that is available entirely in electronic form. The Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) pilot launched by the RBI in the retail segment has components based on block chain technology. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a concept note on Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) on October 7, 2022. "Digital currency will also lead to a more efficient and cheaper currency management system. It is therefore proposed to introduce digital rupee using block chain and other technologies to be issued by the Reserve Bank of India, starting 2022-23," Sitharaman said. "Creation of a block chain-based central bank digital currency while bringing virtual digital assets under the tax net at the highest rate of 30 percent will help reduce speculative play, especially in the crypto currency space," Shravan Shetty, MD, Primus Partners- Digital Currency, said.

HOW DOES E-RUPI WORKS?

As per the RBI press release, the pilot (trial) for retail Digital Rupee would cover select locations in closed user groups (CUG) comprising participating customers and merchants. The pilot will test the robustness of the entire process of digital rupee creation, distribution and retail usage in real-time. Different features and applications of the (e₹-R) token and architecture will be tested in future pilots based on the learnings from this pilot. The Digital Rupee (e₹-R) would be in the form of a digital token that represents legal tender. It would be issued in the same denominations as paper currency and coins. It would be distributed through intermediaries, i.e., banks. Users will be able to transact with e-Rupee or Digital Rupee through a digital wallet offered by the eligible banks and stored on mobile phones or devices. Crypto currencies are immune to any central authority or government interference. However, their relationship with the Indian government has been quite uncomfortable.

- April 2018 – People were warned that virtual currencies are not legal tender in India. The finance ministry appointed a committee to frame a bill for crypto currencies in India. But the ministry overruled the ban.
- In 2019 – A bill forbade mining, holding, selling, issuing, transferring and using crypto currencies. If found violating the law, people would pay a hefty fine or face imprisonment.
- March 2020 – The ban was removed by the Supreme Court.
- November 2021 – Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman raised the topic of crypto currency in the Rajya Sabha. She said the government hadn't taken concrete steps to ban crypto currency advertisements in India, but it'll spread awareness.

Union Budget 2022-23 – The government of India recognized crypto currencies and decided to tax 30% of any virtual asset. The FM also announced the launch of a CBDC called the digital rupee. Advantages of cbdc : faster mode of payment, cheaper global transfers,24/7 availability, no manufacturing required, well organised government payment.

HOW IS E-RUPI DIFFERENT FROM UPI?

- The biggest difference between e Rupi and UPI is that, e Rupi itself is a currency in digital form enabling digital transactions, whereas UPI is a platform through which transactions happen digitally, said Archit Gupta, Founder and CEO, Clear.
- The bank acts as an intermediary in every UPI transaction. As a result, in the UPI app, the bank account is debited and money is sent to the bank of the recipient. Nidhi Aggarwal, Founder, Space mantra said you can withdraw the amount from the bank in paper money, retain it in your wallet, and use it to make a purchase at a store. In CBDC, you will draw the virtual money and retain it in your mobile wallet. When you pay at a store or to someone else, the money is transferred from your wallet to their wallet. The bank does not route payments or act as a middleman," she added.
- Archit Gupta said that similar to physical cash, you can withdraw e Rupi from your bank account, put it in your phone wallet and spend the money from the wallet at any shop. Whereas while using UPI you instruct your bank to transfer money from your account to the bank account of the vendor.
- According to Archit Gupta, UPI is a payment platform, one can use debit or credit card, net-banking, mobile wallet etc to make the payment. e Rupi in this respect is like spending physical money in digital form, using one's mobile phone.
- Ravi Singhal, CEO, GCL said that when we pay in rupees, the amount is deducted from your bank. On the other hand, in e rupee, the amount is deducted directly from your e rupee. you have bought.My bank account is debited when I use a UPI app, and money is transferred to the recipient's bank account. Keeping paper currency in your wallet and spending it at a shop is just as easy as drawing it from the bank and putting it in your wallet," explained Amit Gupta, MD, Sag Infotech.
- This electronic form of sovereign currency is operated by the RBI and does not entail any individual handlers, as is the case of UPI transactions. Hence, payments with e-rupee are direct and instant, said Kumar Saurav, Global Mobile Business Head, Adcounty India.
- Another intrinsic property of the CBDC is its anonymity, similar to the case of physical cash. However, the intermediaries (banks) have the data in UPI transactions, added Kumar Saurav.

CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY

DIGITAL CURRENCY AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

In India, CBDCs are primarily piloted for institutional purposes and wholesale settlements, but the retail version surpassing UPI's reach can bring immense strength to the CBDC. This holds for any CBDC in any country.

THE PRESENT SCENARIO:

A key feature of blockchain is its use in cryptocurrencies, making it highly desirable, especially in downturns for stablecoins. However, governments worldwide are now highly vigilant of failing digital currencies and do not wish to lose control over their reserve currency to privately run stablecoins. While many private issuers of stablecoins work independently, some are focused on collaborating with governments from the beginning. Hence, the priority for the interest in different currencies across shareholders is quite different. While governments love the control that CBDCs bring, Private institutions and retail have a higher preference for private stablecoins. With proper audits and checks, private stablecoins are already an amazing solution for global trade, but CBDC's higher backing from regulators and governments makes it more attractive for a few specific use cases and reasons.

FUTURE POSSIBILITIES OF DIGITAL CURRENCY:

Currently, a single asset holds less value than a network, and the number of users and institutions determines the value of any asset or network. The rupee, digital rupee, e-rupee, and CBDCs (Central Bank Digital Currency) solve similar transactions, but the ultimate custody of assets and the network differ.

In India, CBDCs are primarily piloted for institutional purposes and wholesale settlements, but the retail version surpassing UPI's reach can bring immense strength to the CBDC. This holds for any CBDC in any country. China, being one of the earliest adopters, has already started seeing the benefits of its CBDC and being the dominant mode of value exchange in parts of Africa and its adjoining regions too. While CBDCs and networks like bitcoin are vying for SWIFT users, UPI has begun a war with VISA and PayPal for market share in global transactions.

The MSMEs and retail sectors are now being aided the most by UPI, but the same might be offered to the top institutions and governments for significant payments. For that purpose, CBDCs check the boxes of compliance, backing, regulation, and reconciliations.

PROBLEMS AND DEVELOPMENTS:

A lot of value has been destroyed in the crypto market due to the collapse of Luna Foundation UST stablecoin earlier this year.

Some structural vulnerabilities were even exposed in different stablecoin designs. Since then, governments and regulators worldwide have become extremely cautious about the stablecoin industry. Given that stablecoins based on the US dollar are the most common stablecoins in use, the USA is where regulation and inspection are most intense. While the EU, India, Japan and Singapore are now testing their versions of the same, China has already launched its version and has a clear lead in the currency dominance race.

Countries like the UK and Singapore (known for their financial prowess) are taking a nimble yet bold approach to pilot different strategies for their stablecoin and DeFi plans.

Although India hasn't decided on its final position or policy on digital currencies, many pilot projects have finally been implemented to take advantage of the digital economy's infrastructure. While tech and interoperability are a big aspect, the value of exports and services provided by a country will continue to play a major role.

Collaborations with firms like polygon have been fruitful for governments in certain use cases. The same firm also demonstrated real-time NFT(non-fungible token) purchasing with Mastercard. Such high composability is one of the big USPs of blockchain technology. Additionally, this does benefit the nation's population too. The Indian rap and music scene benefits directly from using INR onramps to purchase NFTs.

Illustrating once more how receptive the younger generation is to digital life, assets, and currencies- considering that the average age of cryptocurrency users in India is 24, it shows a high level of acceptance on the younger end of the spectrum.

THE ROAD AHEAD:

The current state of digital currencies provides many opportunities for players in the infrastructure layer to come and gain huge market share. Still, collaboration and compliance with regulators will be key to the long-term success of the industry and economy.

WHAT MORE CAN BE DONE?

By employing blockchain and related technology, private businesses and governments can cut the cost of their overall money operations across public and private channels by 4-5 times. This, in turn, can create more value for the nation.While UPIs tech originates in India, a lot of competition globally is booming for CBDCs. In this case, the real competition is to establish and spread the dominance of the nation's CBDC or digital currency across multiple geographies. Here, the first step is to make it as ubiquitous as possible. Though savvy consumers have already adopted digital currencies due to their attractive economic design and open nature, time will tell how they respond to a more regulated version of the same.

CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY

DIGITAL CURRENCY AND BUDGET 2023

Budget 2023-24: India's crypto ecosystem is crying out for urgent intervention. The crypto ecosystem is looking forward to the 2023-24 union budget with hope amidst uncertain times. As with a lot of other industries, the crypto ecosystem looks forward to the 2023-24 union budget with hope amidst uncertain times. Some of our key asks include:
1) a rationalisation in crypto taxation and TDS deduction.
2) regulatory focus on consumer protection.
3) recognition of compliant Indian entities that are building the digital infrastructure in India.

Despite a market downturn in 2022, crypto assets are gaining traction across India with an estimated 25-30 million investors who are parking some of their investments in this volatile but exciting sector. India is home to more than 450 Web3 start-ups and has the third largest Web3 talent pool in the world.

The benefits of block chain technology as an enabler of digital infrastructure is already recognized by companies and governments globally. India has a thriving crypto environment but lacks well defined regulations on digital assets.

CBDC PILOT RUN

How many banks were part of the pilot?

1. State bank of india
2. Bank Of Baroda
3. Union Bank Of India
4. HDFC Bank
5. ICICI Bank
6. Kotak Mahindra bank
7. Yes Bank
8. IDFC First bank
9. HSBC

How will the 'Digital Rupee' transactions take place?

The Central Bank further clarified that both Person-to-Person (P2P) and Person-to-Merchant transactions (P2M) in digital rupee are possible. The party transferring the digital currency must have the recipient's public key (similar to a digital address). The recipient's private key (a unique password) is then used in conjunction with the public key to complete the transfer. Transactions are likely to be partially anonymous, with the possibility of mandatory disclosure for transactions with higher amounts. In contrast, those of smaller ones can remain anonymous, just like in cash transactions.

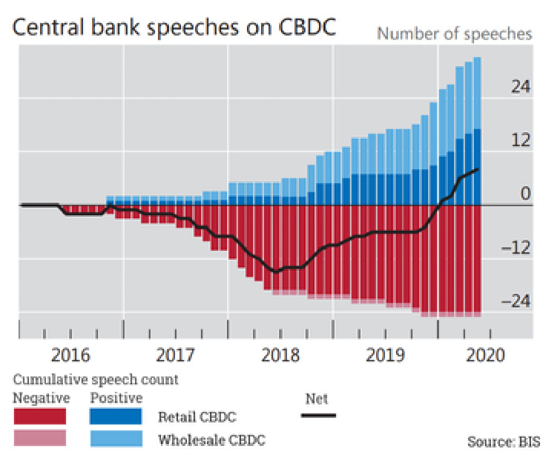
Transactions gained momentum in the pilots for the central bank digital currency(CBDC), with the wholesale segment (CBDC-W) averaging Rs 325 crore worth of deals per day in November, while in the retail segment (CBDC-R), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) created Rs 3-crore digital currencies in the first two days of the pilot.

Users will be able to make payments through e-Rupee using QR codes displayed at merchant locations, just like online transactions are done. The official RBI release stated, "The e-Rupee would offer features similar to that of physical cash like trust, safety and settlement finality. As in the case of cash, it will not earn any interest and can be converted to other forms of money, like deposits with banks."

Finally, once the above aspects are addressed, a way to recognize and support legal compliant businesses will make us compete with international companies.To increase the confidence of institutional and retail stakeholders, India will need a professional digital wallet infrastructure that businesses can use. RBI's retail CBDC PILOT has, so far, demonstrated good adoption. If our businesses are 'licensed' in some way by the government, we will be able to grow the formal sector with consumer interests at heart. Banks will also extend a welcome hand to meritorious crypto projects.

This is the right time for the government to build on this ecosystem of safety. They would have already recognized our efforts in bringing about the right order. A regulatory regime that defines and captures consumer interests in the sector will go a long way in building trust.

DIGITAL CURRENCY AND CENTRAL BANK



PM SVANIDHI

ABOUT

PM SVANIDHI is a micro-credit facility aiming to provide cushion to rickshaw pullers, thelawalas, and street vendors, assisting them in availing collateral free credit, to support them in revamping from the havocs of Covid-19 pandemic. I.t is centrally funded scheme under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Scheme was announced to continue till March 2022. But the scheme has been extended to December 2024.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Vendors
- Hawkers
- Thelawalas
- Rickshaw puller

They are active participants in supply of goods like vegetables, fruits, street food, apparel, footwear etc.

ELIGIBILITY

- Scheme can be availed by any vendor having Certificate of Vending or ID card issued by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)
- In absence of the document, if a vendor has been covered under the survey, he/she can get provisional Certificate of Vending from the developed IT portal.
- A vendor associated with National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) or National Hawkers Federation (NHF)
- Must have an Aadhar number linked with mobile number.

PARTICIPATING BANKS

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the implementation partner of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for implementation of this scheme.

SIDBI coordinates working of following institutions for execution of policy:

- NFBC's
- MFI's
- Cooperative banks
- RRB's
- SCB's

WORKING OF THE SCHEME

- Applications have to filled online to avail the benefits.
- Scheme aims at providing collateral-free loans Rs. 10,000 for a period of 12 months in first cycle
- After timely repayments, vendors can avail loan of Rs. 20,000 for a period of 18 months.
- In the third cycle, micro-workers can have collateral free credit of Rs. 50,000 for a period of 36 months
- Loans have to be repaid to the banks as EMIs on monthly basis.

FEATURES

INTEREST SUBSIDY:

Total interest payment by vendors is subsidised by the government at the rate of 7%, which is claimed quarterly by the vendor.

CASHBACK OFFERS FOR DIGITISATION:

Farmers also receive cashbacks for achieving targets of completing digital transactions and repayment of loans digitally.

DEDICATED IT PORTAL AND MOBILE APP:

A new IT portal and application to enable data collection and integration for policy formation.

CREDIT GUARANTEE:

Lenders have been given a guarantee to insure them against risk of default, and can induce more players to promote safe credit to the micro-workers.

AVAILABILITY OF IDENTIFIED VENDORS ON OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

Complete data of beneficiaries and identified vendors under the scheme will be present over the website and can be accessed through the mobile application of PM SVANIDHI.

PM SVANIDHI

PM SVANidhi

COVERAGE

- Under the scheme, approximately 61 lakhs applications have been registered.
- Approximately 46 lakhs+ loans have been sanctioned.
- The RTI findings show that women street vendors had a better success rate than men.According to the results, 90.72% of the female applicants from UP were approved for both first and second loans. Ladakh had the highest success rate for female street sellers at 83.33%, while Meghalaya, HP, J&K, Telangana, Kerala, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Mizoram had success rates of between 70 and 78%. Punjab had the lowest success percentage for female candidates i.e., 34.14%, followed by West Bengal (37.42%), Bihar (42.84%), Tamil Nadu (43.74%), and Haryana (45.03%).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A large number of vendors do not even have an awareness about the scheme. Therefore, efforts should be put into imparting knowledge about such schemes to the vendors so that more beneficiaries can be benefitted from this scheme.

- Seminars and workshops should be conducted.

- There should be a removal of the accessibility barriers. Various non-governmental organisations can be reached out for this purpose. Banks should go ahead with recommendations of a standing committee of minimal documentation and identities. It should reassess the applications which got deflected or rejected in the process.

LOOPHOLES

- The main issue with the scheme is its implementation. There is an overdependence on urban local bodies which has created a bridge between desired outcome and actual results. The insufficient data from the surveys done has left out many vendors.
- The scheme has limited coverage. According to the government of India there are a total of 125 cities covered under this scheme. However, all the street vendors are not concentrated only in these cities.
- There are about 15.88% of vendors called as "non performing assets". They are the ones who are not able to repay the loan granted under the scheme. Therefore, this decreases the efficiency of the scheme.
- Rather than helping the beneficiaries, the banks are creating hurdles for them. According to the study conducted by primax in bengaluru, it was noticed that banks were hesitant to grant the loans to vendors as they anticipated the unsuccessful repayment of the amount.
- There is no mention about pm svanidhi scheme in the budget 2023.

An illustration on the cash-back and interest subsidy under the Scheme for a loan amounting to ₹10,000

Month	Principal	Interest @ 24%	EMI	Interest Subsidy (7%)	Cash back Incentive	Total Benefit
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(D+E)
1	₹746	₹200	₹946	₹58	₹100	₹158
2	₹761	₹185	₹946	₹54	₹100	₹154
3	₹776	₹170	₹946	₹50	₹100	₹150
4	₹791	₹154	₹945	₹46	₹100	₹146
5	₹807	₹139	₹946	₹42	₹100	₹142
6	₹823	₹122	₹945	₹36	₹100	₹136
7	₹840	₹106	₹946	₹32	₹100	₹132
8	₹856	₹89	₹945	₹27	₹100	₹127
9	₹874	₹72	₹946	₹22	₹100	₹122
10	₹891	₹55	₹946	₹17	₹100	₹117
11	₹909	₹37	₹946	₹12	₹100	₹112
12	₹927	₹19	₹946	₹6	₹100	₹106
Total	₹10,001	₹1,348	₹11,349	₹402	₹1,200	₹1,602
% w.r.t interest		100%		30% of Interest	88% of Interest	118%

"Thus, the Maximum Cashback amount and the Interest subsidy amount would sum up to ₹1,600 (₹1,200 as cashback and ₹400 as interest subsidy), which is 118% of the total interest of ₹1,348 on a loan of ₹10,000 with an interest rate of 24%".

Government of India
Department of Fertilizers

FERTILISER SUBSIDY SCHEME

BACKGROUND

The government launched the Fertilizer Subsidy Scheme to provide a subsidy amount to farmers to purchase fertilisers at a price lower than the market price. The government introduced the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system for fertilisers in October 2016. A 100% subsidy on various fertiliser grades is released to the fertiliser companies under the fertiliser DBT system based on actual sales made to the beneficiaries by the retailers. This scheme aims to reduce the role of mediators in fertiliser costs. The introduction of this scheme digitises the entire system, as the producers will get a 100% subsidy amount after the registered purchase of fertiliser from the farmers. It will also ensure that agricultural labourers purchase fertilisers at the proper rates. Furthermore, the government will receive a record of farmers who have benefited from the subsidy.

MERITS

- Because the fertiliser subsidy has been reduced, the proportion of the budget allocated to subsidies has also been reduced, lowering the overall fiscal deficit.
- The money earlier spent on giving subsidies can be used to incentivize other sectors for the overall growth of the country.
- Subsidies are not needed to promote fertiliser use any more, but only to maintain the balance between farm output prices and input costs.
- The reduction of subsidies will regulate the use of fertilizers. Hence, this step is taken to prevent hazardous chemicals from entering water bodies and disturbing the food chain.
- This step can reduce the irrelevant production of some food grains and increase uniformity among all the crops.

Subsidy	2020-21 Actuals	2021-22 Revised	2021-22 Budgeted	% change in BE 2022-23 over RE 2021-22
Urea	90,549	75,930	63,222	-16.7%
Nutrient based	37,372	64,192	42,000	-34.6%
Fertiliser subsidy	**1,27,922**	**1,40,122**	**1,05,262**	**-24.9%**

Sources: Expenditure Budget No.6, Union Budget 2022-23; PRS.

BUDGET 2023

The subsidy on fertilisers has been cut by Rs 50,121 crore. The government has earmarked Rs 1,75,099 crore for fertiliser subsidies in the 2023–24 budget, as opposed to Rs 2,25,220 crore in the revised estimate of 2022–23. The government provides a nutrient-based subsidy on fertilisers and a subsidy on urea. The nutrient-based subsidy has been reduced from Rs 71,122 crore to Rs 44,000 crore (revised estimate for 2022-23). Urea subsidies have been reduced to Rs 1,31,099 crore from Rs 154,097 crore. Overall, the amount of these two subsidies has decreased by 22 percent.

DEMERITS

- It will increase dissatisfaction among the farmers and reduce faith in the Indian government.
- This step can slow the growth of the agricultural and fertiliser manufacturing industries.
- Reduced fertiliser use will result in lower productivity and production of major food grains.
- Because of the rise in the cost of food grains, the burden may be shifted to consumers.

02

NUTRITION
SOCIAL SECURITY
SOCIETY

ONE DISTRICT, ONE PRODUCT

ABOUT

The Ministry of Railways has launched the 'One Station One Product' (OSOP) scheme over Indian Railways with objectives to promote the 'Vocal for Local' vision of the Government of India, provide a market for local/indigenous products, and create additional income opportunities for the marginalised sections of society.

CURRENT INITIATIVES

One District One Product will be popularised to help the local businesses and supply chain. 1275 station redevelopment has been started in FY 23-24. World-class trains and facilities will be brought such that they can assist the businesses in tier 2 and tier 3 cities of the country.

Vande bharat trains are also being focused and constant development is being brought in that area. This year's budget allocation shows unprecedented growth in several segments like new line and doubling projects, track renewal work traffic facilities, road safety works, bridge works, signalling, workshop modernization, customer amenities, etc. The bullet train is also being focused and the construction pending in Maharashtra due to political issues will be continued this year.

Amrit Bharat station schemes attempts will be made to club different grades/types of waiting halls and provide good cafeteria/retail facilities as far as possible, high level platforms (760-840 mill metres) will be provided at all categories of stations. Vibrant Villages Programme for developing Border villages with sparse populations, limited connectivity, and infrastructure on the northern border.

Border Area Development Programme (BADP) is being implemented through the State Governments/UT Administrations in habitations located within 0-10 km from the first habitation at the international border in 460 border blocks of 117 border districts in 16 States and 2 UTs viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir (UT) and Ladakh (UT). Under BADP, the annual action plans of the States/UTs consisting of works related to village infrastructure like roads and bridges, health, education, agriculture, sports, drinking water & sanitation are considered and approved as per BADP guidelines in vogue.

Modernization of building byelaws, Town Planning Schemes (TPS), and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) will be implemented along with the preparation of local area plans and town planning schemes, and the creation of sponge cities by integrating blue and green infrastructure.

Battery swapping policy to be brought out for setting up charging stations at scale in urban areas. Battery swapping is an alternative that involves exchanging discharged batteries for charged ones. Battery swapping de-links the vehicle and fuel (in this case, the battery) and thereby leads to a reduction in the upfront cost of the vehicles.

The unity malls would focus on the promotion and sale of the state's own "ODOPs (one district, one product), GI products and other handicraft products, and for providing space for such products of all other States".

Unity Mall aka Ekta Mall is not a novel concept, one such Ekta Mall is already operational near the Statue of Unity in Gujarat. It is located about 3.5 km away from the statue at Ekta Nagar in Kevadia.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Government has been at the forefront of various interventions aimed at the development of food processing in the country. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, through the component schemes of Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY), provides financial assistance for the overall growth and development of the food processing sector. Under PMKSY, 677 projects have been completed till 31 December 2022. The Ministry also launched 2020 the Prime Minister's Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme as part of the ANB Abhiyan to enhance the competitiveness of individual micro-enterprises in the unorganised segment and promote the formalisation of this sector by providing financial, technical, and business support for upgradation/setting up of 2 lakh micro units in the country.

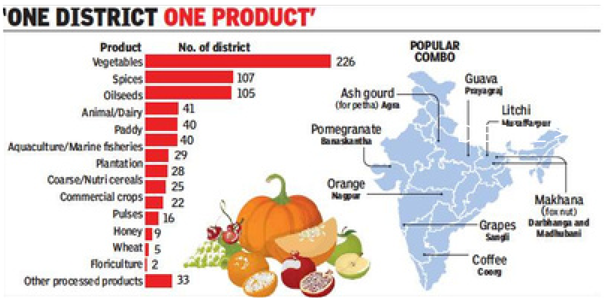
As of 31 December 2022, 15,095 loans of ₹1402.6 crores were sanctioned. The scheme adopts the One District One Product (ODOP) approach to reap the benefit of scale in procuring inputs, using shared services and marketing products. So far, 713 Districts with 137 unique products were approved under the ODOP in 35 States/ UTs.

ONE DISTRICT, ONE PRODUCT

IDENTIFIED STATION AND THEIR PRODUCTS

Tirupati is the first among the railway stations coming under the purview of South-Central Railways (SCR) to implement the concept of 'One station One product' (OSOP). It is famous for the world-famous Lord Balaji Temple. The surrounding areas of the Tirupati station are famous for Kalamkari art and textiles.

Patna has also had its step in this scheme by promoting Madhubani painting and related schemes. Howrah has taken forward Tant handloom sarees and textiles in front of the world. Balasore presented coconut mat products, and Jaleshwar is getting famous for silver and stone jewellery. There are many cities taking initiative in the field of presenting new products to the whole world. The railway station, with a heavy footfall of pilgrims from across the country, has been chosen for marketing ethnic products so as to enhance the livelihood of local artisans, potters, weavers, and tribal communities. The concept is meant to use the station as a marketing channel in the form of an earmarked stall through which the local product distinct to the particular area is sold to the passengers. The Railway Board has identified one station in every zone for implementing the pilot project for a period of fifteen days.



SIGNIFICANCE OF OSOP

The artisans involved in Kalamkari textiles/art and woodcraft, products considered local to Tirupati and its vicinity, are invited to use the opportunity by selling their products on the platforms and on the trains (in identified routes), during this period. It will help channel the government's organs into making productive initiatives. It emphasises regional initiatives, women collectives, and small-scale industries, hence ensuring the employment generation and availability of better markets. ODOP is based on the philosophy to select, brand, and promote one product from each district of India that has a specific characteristic feature to enable profitable trade in that product and generate employment.

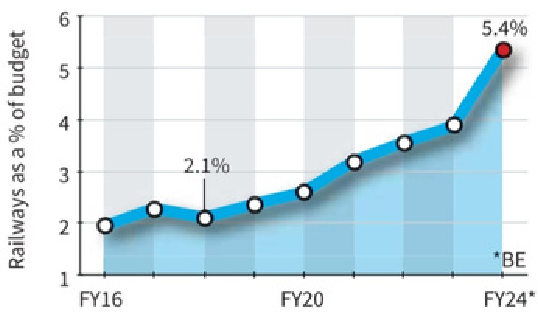
States will be encouraged to set up a 'Unity Mall' in the State capital or the most popular tourist destination in the state for the promotion and sale of 'One District, One product' and GI products and other handicrafts.

PROBLEM FACED

Agri products are facing the problem of getting rotten. Due to the large duration between production and selling due to long-distance travel, the producers are facing losses in some scenarios.
The States would identify the food product for a district, keeping in perspective the focus of the scheme on perishables. A baseline study would be carried out by the State Government.
The ODOP product could be a perishable Agri produce, cereal-based product, or a food product widely produced in a district and their allied sectors. An illustrative list of such products includes mango, potato, litchi, tomato, tapioca, kinnu, bhujia, petha, papad, pickle, millet-based products, fisheries, poultry, meat as well as animal feed among others. Besides, certain other traditional and innovative products including waste-to-wealth products could be supported under the Scheme. Government should spend on warehouses with the best technology so that the producers could not suffer losses. Support to groups processing other products in such districts would only be for those already processing those products and with adequate technical, financial, and entrepreneurial strength. New units, whether for individuals or groups, would only be supported for ODOP products.

FUND ALLOCATED

Gross Budget Allocation for N. F. Railway for the FY 2023-24 is Rs. 10,988.80 crores. It is 13.75% more than previous year's allotment (Rs 9,660.14 Crs). The allocation for North-eastern states is Rs. 10,269 crores which is about Rs. 300 crores higher than the last year.



MGNREGA

ABOUT

The Government of India passed the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 in September, 2005. The Act gives legal guarantee of a hundred days of wage employment in a financial year to adult members of a rural household who demand employment and are willing to do unskilled manual work. The Act will be applicable to areas notified by the Central Government. The objective of the Act is to enhance the livelihood security of the people in the rural areas by generating wage employment through works that develop the infrastructure base of that area.

DETAILS

- MGNREGA provides employment to rural people and till today there are 15.13 crore active workers under this scheme.
- This scheme has been very beneficial and the total households benefitted by this scheme till now are 5.76 crore .
- This scheme has generated a lot of assets for the country and assets created till date by MGNREGA are 7.08 crore.

BUDGET ALLOCATION IN 2022-23

The central government allocated RS 73,000 crore for the scheme in budget 2022-23, even though the revised estimate was of RS98,000 crore.

प्रमुख योजनाओं पर परिव्यय *Outlay on Major Schemes*

(₹ करोड़) (In ₹ crore)

		2020-2021 वास्तविक Actuals	2021-2022 बजट अनुमान Budget Estimates	2021-2022 संशोधित अनुमान Revised Estimates	2022-2023 बजट अनुमान Budget Estimates
क) अति महत्वपूर्ण स्कीमें	(A) Core of the Core Schemes				
1. महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी कार्यक्रम	1 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Program	111170	73000	98000	73000

BUDGET ALLOCATION IN 2023-24

MGNREGA scheme got 21.66% less funds than the last year. It is lower than the last four years.
In the union budget 2023-24 ; RS 60,000 crore has been allocated to MGNREGA . Though the revised estimate for financial year 2023 was , RS 89,400 crore up from the budget estimate of RS 73,000 crore.

16

प्रमुख योजनाओं पर परिव्यय Outlay on Major Schemes

(₹ करोड़) (₹ crore)

		2021-2022 वास्तविक Actual	2022-2023 बजट अनुमान Budget Estimates	2022-2023 संशोधित अनुमान Revised Estimates	2023-2024 बजट अनुमान Budget Estimates
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1 महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी कार्यक्रम	1 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Program	98468	73000	89400	60000

RECENT ISSUES

A group of researchers at Azim Premji University conducted a survey and found that 39 % of households could not get a single day of work in MGNREGA in the surveyed block. The lack of adequate funding has been a problem in the past. Even the payments to workers were being delayed.

Digitization of Attendance
A provision for capturing of attendance at work site through National mobile monitoring System app with geo-tagged time stamp photographs of the worker in a day had been started on 21st may 2021 for all the worksites were mustard rolls are issued for 20 or more beneficiaries but from January 1,2023 it became mandatory for all worksites to register attendance on the mobile app NMMS irrespective of the number of workers engaged except for "individual beneficiary scheme /project"

NMMS

- The National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) App was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development in 2021. This app is proposed to be used for digital recording of attendance of workers working under MGNREGA.
- It aimed at bringing more transparency and ensuring proper monitoring of the schemes.
- It is available in English, Hindi ,Tamil ,Telugu and Malayalam.

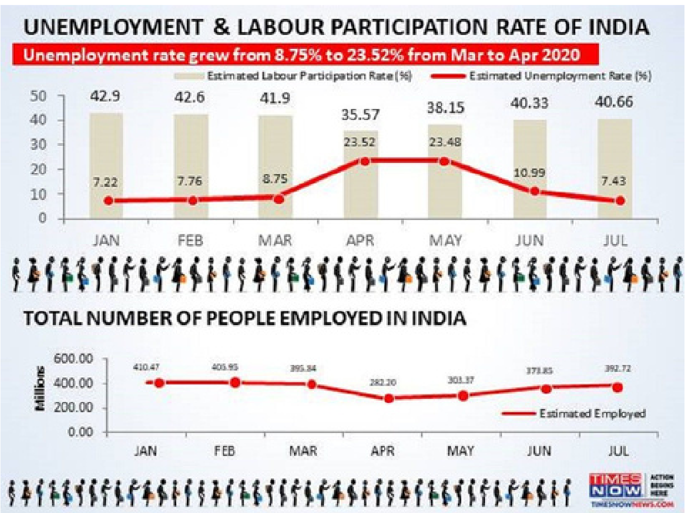
MGNREGA

ISSUES OF NMMS AND DIGITAL ATTENDANCE

- Poor internet connectivity, little access to smartphones and glitches in the app have created a problem in the daily activities of the workers.
- The workers are forced to buy a smartphone which is pushing them to leave the job.
- Many workers have complained that the process is very difficult, and they are illiterate.
- This digital capturing was already causing a disaster in States where it was under implementation. For instance in Rajasthan photographs of workers coming to the job are not being uploaded for issues like poor internet connectivity in hence the wages are not even half of work it should be for the number of days they have worked.

OTHER PROBLEMS

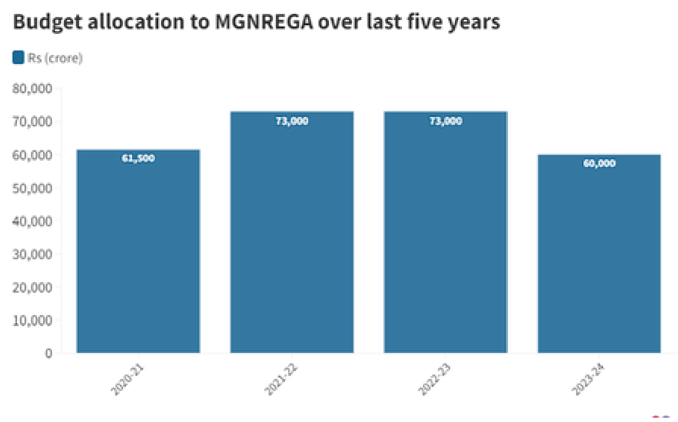
Problems associated with not increasing the allocation of budget for this scheme
The MGNREGA is a demand-driven wage employment scheme, which guarantees 100 days of unskilled work per household in rural areas. The Demand for work had exponentially increased during the pandemic years. For lakhs of people who lost their jobs, wages under the scheme were the only source of basic income security.
But still, the government is not increasing the budget allocation of this scheme since 2021 and this time it even reduced the budget allocation from the last year which is not justified when the demand for the same is increasing rapidly.



MGNREGA AND WOMEN PARTICIPATION

According to the scheme, priority should be given to women in such a way that at least one third of the beneficiaries of the scheme shall be women who have registered and requested for the work. The scheme also endeavours to provide works near the residence of the beneficiaries and all these measures haVE enhanced the participation of women. The rate of participation of women in MGNREGA in the past years is given below

Financial Year	Women Participation Rate (%)	Computed Women person days (in crores)
2018-19	54.59%	125.12
2019-20	54.78%	145.36
2020-21	53.19%	206.96
2021-22	54.54%	187.38



SAKSHAM ANGANWADI SCHEME

ABOUT

In Financial Year (FY) 2021-22, the Government of India (GoI) restructured the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan into Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0.
The restructured scheme consists of the following sub-schemes
1) ICDS
2) POSHAN Abhiyaan
3) Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG)
4) National Creche Scheme

DETAILS

Currently, there are more than 13 lakh AWCs operational in the country. Saksham Anganwadi. Under this scheme, in the first phase, two lakh AWCs, will receive
₹40,000 each to make requisite upgrades. These will include better infrastructure, including smart learning aids, audio-and-video tools, and interactive toys to strengthen children's skills and abilities. Water purifiers and devices such as rain-water harvesters will be installed to optimise sanitation and hygiene, while also ensuring sustainability. There are plans to set up Poshan Vatikas at or near these centres and transform them into a source for nutrient-rich foods. This will surely help bridge gaps in achieving dietary diversity. The new generation Anganwadis are likely to drive enormous transformations in early childhood care and development, not only from a nutrition viewpoint, but in contributing to the overall mental and physical health of children.

BUDGET ALLOCATION IN 2022-23

The budget allocated to the Women and Child Development Ministry stood at Rs 25,172.28 crore in 2022-23, a slight increase of 3 per cent from Rs 24,435 crore that was given in 2021-22.

- The budget allocated for Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 (Umbrella ICDS - Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls) was Rs 20,263 crore, a small increase from Rs 20,105 crore in 2021-22.
- The Finance Minister, in her budget speech, also announced that two lakh anganwadis will be upgraded under the Saksham Anganwadis scheme.

Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 (Umbrella ICDS - Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls)	20105	20000	20263

BUDGET ALLOCATION IN 2023-24

The budget allocated to the Women and Child Development Ministry, the nodal department of the government for the welfare of women and children, stood at Rs 25,448.75 crore in 2023-24, an increase of Rs 267 crore from Rs 25,172.28 crore allotted in 2022-23.
For the ministry, the largest allocation has been for the Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 (Umbrella ICDS - Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls) of Rs 20,554.31 crore.

Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 (Umbrella ICDS - Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls)	18382	20263	20263	20554

IMPLEMENTATION

Execution and implementation of programmes have been largely affected by absence of effective participation of beneficiaries and local stakeholders, resulting in low community ownership in Anganwadi activities. It is imperative to intensify engagement at the community level, by adopting a Jan Andolan strategy as outlined in Poshan Abhiyaan, for more acceptability to the programme. Lastly, monitoring and evaluation of the programme and addressing any systemic and on ground challenges is critical for the success of this effort.

PRADHAN MANTRI KAUSHAL VIKAS YOJANA

ABOUT

Launched in 2015

Aim: to encourage and promote skill development in the country by providing free short duration skill training and incentivizing this by providing monetary rewards to youth for skill certification. The overall idea is to boost both industry and employability of youths. Implemented by the **National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC)** under the guidance of the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).**

OBJECTIVES

- Enable and mobilize a large number of youths to take up industry designed quality skill training, become employable and earn their livelihood.
- Increase productivity of the existing workforce, and align skill training with the actual needs of the country.
- Encourage standardisation of the Certification process and put in place the foundation for creating a registry of skills.

KEY COMPONENTS OF PMKVY

a) Short-term Training:

- Domains: entrepreneurship, soft skills, and financial and digital literacy
- Targeted candidates: unemployed people and school or college dropouts
- Time duration: 150 – 300 hours

b) Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

- Individuals with prior learning experience or skills are assessed.
- Presently more than 6 lakh individuals are RPL certified.
- Individuals are offered bridge courses by Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) to address their knowledge gaps and make them ready for current market conditions.

Incentives of joining RPL:

- Free: No fee charged for participating in the RPL program
- INR 500 is given to each successfully certified candidate
- iFree accidental insurance coverage for 3 years to candidates
- provides a government certificate to candidates for their skills
- exposure to the concepts of financial and digital literacy

c) Special Projects:

- Terms and conditions are slightly different from the short-term training under PMKVY for any stockholder.
- Primary objective: to encourage training in weak and sidelined groups of society.

d) Kaushal and Rozgaar Mela:

- conducted by Training Partners every 6 months with media coverage
- actively participate in National Career Service Melas and on-ground activities.

e) Placement assistance

A candidate is considered to be placed if he/she fulfils the following criteria:

- Candidate is certified and placed within the 90 days of certification
- Candidate has successfully completed 3 months of regular employment (self/wage)
- Candidates placed in wage employment are earning at least equal to or above minimum wages, as defined by the state employment guidelines

f) Continuous Monitoring:

- Empanelled inspection agencies may use various actions to maintain high standards of quality that include self-audit reporting, call validations, surprise visits, and monitoring through the Skills Development Management System (SDMS).

g) Standard Branding & Communication

- All the Training Centres are required to brand their promotional and centre activities as per the guidelines.

IMPLEMENATION

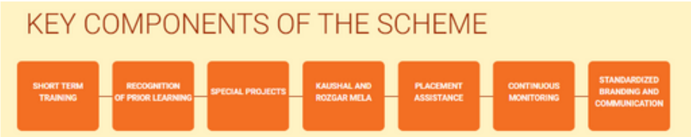
PMKVY 1.0 & 2.0:

- Scaled up both in terms of Sector and Geography and by greater alignment with other missions of the Government of India like Make in India, Digital India, Swachh Bharat, etc.
- Budget: Rs. 12,000 Crore.
- Centrally Sponsored Centrally Managed (CSCM): This component was implemented by National Skill Development Corporation. 75% of the PMKVY 2016-20 funds and corresponding physical targets have been allocated under CSCM.
- Centrally Sponsored State Managed (CSSM): This component was implemented by State Governments through State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs). 25% of the PMKVY 2016-20 funds and corresponding physical targets have been allocated under CSSM.

PMKVY 3.0:

- Launched in 717 districts, 28 States/eight UTs.
- Budget Allocation: Rs. 948.90 crore.
- District Skill Committees (DSCs), under the guidance of State Skill Development Missions (SSDM), played a key role.
- identified job roles that have demand at the local level and skill the youth, linking them to these opportunities.

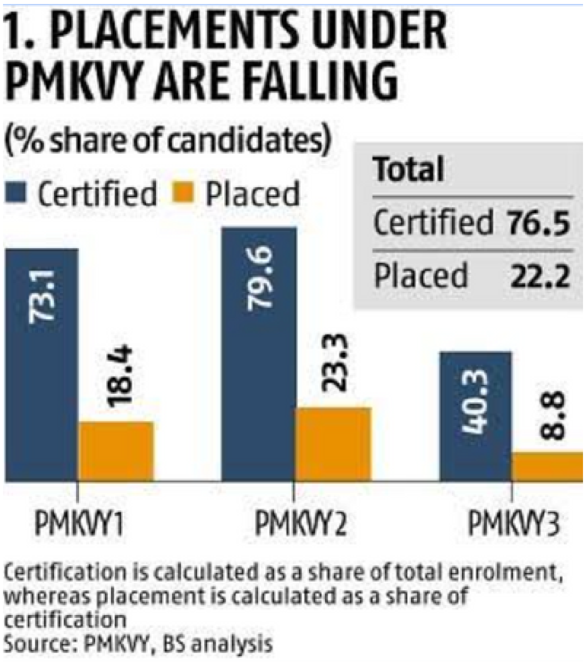
PRADHAN MANTRI KAUSHAL VIKAS YOJANA

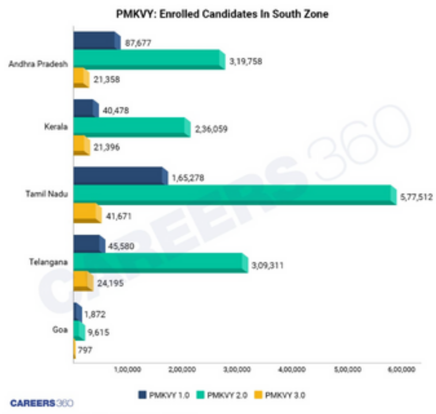


2022 YEAR END REVIEW OF PMKVY 3.0

As per the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, more than 7.36 Lakh candidates trained under (PMKVY) 3.0 over the last 1 year and 1.20 lakh candidates trained under Customised Crash Course program for COVID warriors.

- 2.28 lakhs students enrolled in 1957 Skill Hubs in 2022
- 10,000 working women and ITI girl students are being given training for self-defence
- 116 Govt ITIs are given approval for running Drone courses
- 1st ever convocation for more than 14000 ITIs at National, State and ITI level on 17th September 2022 for more than 8.5 lakh trainees with a participation of 1.1 million virtually





CURRENT STATUS (BUDGET 2023)

- PMKVY 4.0 has been launched to skill lakhs of youth within the next three years.
- On-job training, industry partnership, and alignment of courses with needs of industry will be emphasised.
- The scheme will also cover new age courses for Industry 4.0 like coding, AI, robotics, mechatronics, IOT, 3D printing, drones, and soft skills.
- To skill youth for international opportunities, 30 Skill India International Centres will be set up across different States.

Of the total Rs 3,517.31 crore, received by The Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, the majority — Rs 2,278.37 crore — has been allocated to the Skill India program. Even as the PMKVY 4.0 has been announced in this year's budget, no allocation has been made for the same so far.

REPORT CARD

	Certified	Placed	Placed in %
PMKVY 2.0			
Central part	84,82,187	19,07,919	22.5
State part	6,56,478	2,24,796	34.2
Total	91,38,665	21,32,715	23.3
PMKVY 3.0			
Central part	3,02,572	22,643	7.5
State part	97,288	7,956	8.2
Total	3,99,860	30,599	7.7

BETI BACHAO, BETI PADHAO

ABOUT

- The Scheme was launched by Prime Minister on January 22, 2015 to address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of women's empowerment over a life-cycle continuum.
- It is a Tri-ministerial effort of the Ministries of Women and Child Development (MW&CD), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MH&FW), and Ministry of Education.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Prevention of gender-biased sex-selective elimination.
- Ensuring survival & protection of the girl child.
- Ensuring education and participation of the girl child.
- Protecting rights of Girl children.

INNOVATIVE INTERVENTIONS UNDER BBBP

Innovations that have created a positive ecosystem/ enabling environment for girls include:

- Guddi-Gudda Boards: (Display of Birth Statistics (number of Girls born vis-à-vis number of Boys) in public). Example: Jalgaon district, Maharashtra has installed digital Guddi-Gudda Display Boards.
- Breaking Gender Stereotypes & Challenging Son-centric Rituals: Celebration of birth of the girl child, dedicating special day on value of girl child, plantation drives symbolizing nurturing and care for girl child. Example: Cuddalore (Tamil Nadu), Selfie with Daughters (Jind district, Haryana).
- Selfie with Daughter: It was a campaign started by Sunil Jaglan, who was a sarpanch at Bibipur - a village in Jind, Haryana in 2015 and was later picked & promoted by PM Narendra Modi through a radio program. President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, in year 2017, launched a mobile Application 'Selfie with Daughter'. This campaign was an innovative concept & an act of gentle persuasion, which became a world-wide movement against female foeticide & sex selection, which eventually helped dealing with gender imbalance. People were urged to take photos with their daughters & upload on the app & social media sites, to make the campaign a success.

WHAT ARE THE NEW CHANGES IN THE BBBP SCHEME?

- Ensuring 1% increment in enrolment at the secondary level particularly in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subjects.
- Skilling of girls and women every year (mainly in non-traditional livelihoods)
- Raising awareness about safe menstrual hygiene
- Promulgating elimination of child marriages

- The MW&CD also emphasised the convergence between various departments for providing quality education (including vocational) to empower girls.
- A MoU was signed between the MW&CD and Ministries Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and Minority Affairs to ensure adolescents complete their education, build skills, and enter the workforce in a diverse range of professions.
- A national committee headed by the Secretary of MW&CD, formed under the larger Mission Shakti will review the implementation of the BBBP scheme with states and UTs.

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE (IN RS CRORE)

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Revised Estimates (R.E)	Total Expenditure by Ministry	Expenditure	
				At Ministry level for media/advocacy	Funds released for Multi Sectoral Intervention
1	2014-15	50	34.84	21.46	13.38
2	2015-16	75	59.37	21.01	38.36
3	2016-17	43	28.66	25.84	2.82
4	2017-18	200	169.10	135.92	33.18
5	2018-19	280	244.73	164.04	80.69
6	2019-20	200	85.78	25.75	60.03
7	2020-21	100	60.57	7.02	53.55
8	2021-22	100	57.13	0	57.13
9	2022-23	222	34.07*	0	34.07
	Total	1270	774.25	401.04	373.21

* As on 05.12.2022

COVERAGE

FIRST PHASE:
Identification of 10 districts on the basis of low CSR as per covering all States/UTs as a pilot.
At least one district selected in each state

SECOND PHASE:
The scheme has further been expanded to 61 additional districts selected from 11 States/UT having CSR below 918.

PAN INDIA EXPANSION:
Covering all 640 districts (as per census 2011) of the country was launched on March 8, 2018.

BENEFICIARIES

PRIMARY:
Young & newly married couples, Pregnant & lactating mothers and Parents

SECONDARY:
Youth, Adolescents (girls & boys), In-laws, Medical Doctors/ Practitioners, Private Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Diagnostic Centres

TERTIARY:
Officials, Panchayats, Frontline workers, SHGs/Collectives, Religious Leaders, Voluntary Organisations

NUTRITION PROGRAMMES: A DEEP GLANCE

ABOUT

In spite of a pressing need for a big hike, unfortunately, the Union budget 2022-23 did not have anything major to offer for nutrition. Contrarily, budgetary allocation towards many of the centrally-sponsored schemes for nutrition registered either a decline or no significance enhancement, particularly at a time when child and maternal nutrition had deteriorated in many Indian states as per the reports released by National Family Health Survey for 2019-20.

BUDGET ALLOCATION IN 2022-23

- In 2022-23, an estimated budget of Rs 10,234 crore has been sanctioned to the **Pradhan Matri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) programme**, which was earlier known as the 'National Program of Midday Meal in Schools' and provided hot cooked meals to school children between the ages of 6 and 14 years. In 2021, the revised estimate was Rs 10,234 crore, which registered 11% decline over its budget estimates. This indicates that the total allocation earmarked was not spent during the current financial year primarily due to pandemic induced shut-down of schools and anganwadi centres.

- In case of **Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 schemes** (umbrella Integrated Child Development Schemes which provide supplementary nutrition to children below six years), Rs 20,263 crore was made available. In 2021, revised estimate was Rs 20,000 crore. Both represent 0.5 per cent of the total budget.

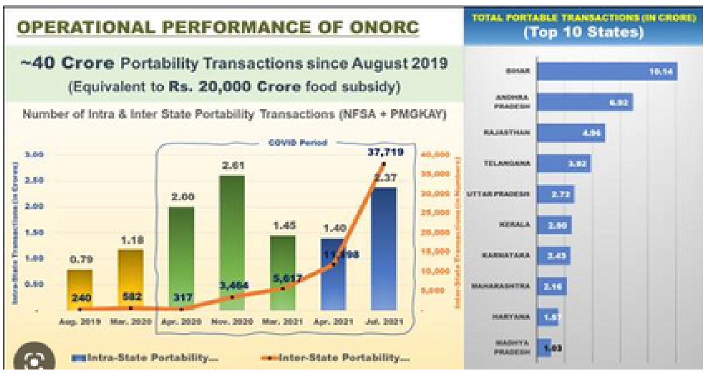
- In the **Pradhan Mantri Matri Vandana Yojana**, which insures good food to pregnant and lactating women. The allocation for the scheme has gone up to Rs 2,622.11 crore in budget 2022, compared to the revised estimate of Rs 1,862 crore in 2021-22. In 2021, this was 0.05 per cent of the total budget while it is 0.07 per cent of the total budget in 2022.

- Food subsidy, another important head for nutrition, was allocated Rs 2.43 lakh crore in 2021-22. However, these estimates were revised to Rs 2.86 lakh crore due to the extension of the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)** till March 2022. With no extension of PMGKAY or no outstanding dues of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), food subsidy in 2022-23 is budgeted at Rs 2.07 lakh crore. Clearly, the allocation towards direct nutritional programmes has gone down, albeit initiatives such as the Centre's proposal to introduce millets in the Mid-Day meal.

- The ONORC scheme has been rolled out by the Finance Minister on 16 May during the last phase of the Prime Minister's Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan which included stimulus funds of Rs.20 lakh crore. This ration card has been launched in all states and Union Territories in the country and 20 states have already agreed to implement this scheme in their state.
- **One Nation One ration card (ONORC)** will help in providing grains, rice and wheat flour at subsidised rates for the economically weaker section of the nation. Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman's announcement of the 'One Nation One Ration Card'(ONORC) scheme for the poor in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic. With this conversion of a regular ration card to the One Ration Card, all beneficiaries and cardholders can purchase subsidised food from any Public Distribution Shop all over the country. Financial assistance given under this scheme in the financial year 2022-23 is Rs. 10.45 crore. Currently an average of nearly 3.5 crore portability transactions are being reported under ONORC every month in the country.

Some of the other benefits of the ONORC are:

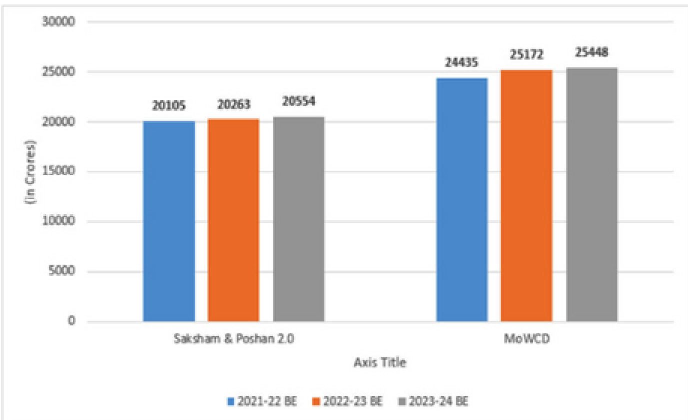
- Under the ONORC, all the beneficiaries from one state can get their share of rations in other states where the ration card was originally issued. Any recipient can use their ration cards at any PDS shop across the country. ONORC is aimed at providing universal access to PDS food grains for migrant workers.
- Apart from this, ONORC will also give the beneficiaries the opportunity to choose their own dealer. With many cases of misallocation, the beneficiary can switch to another FPS shop instantly, if there is any case of foul play.
- This scheme will be beneficial for women and other groups, since social identity and other contextual factors will provide them with a strong backdrop in accessing PDS.
- The ONORC will also help achieve the target set under SDG 2: Ending hunger by 2030. It also aims to address the poor state of hunger in India, where India has been ranked 102 out of 117 countries in the Global Hunger Index.



NUTRITION PROGRAMMES: A DEEP GLANCE

BUDGET ALLOCATION IN 2023-24

- **Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0** under the Mission Poshan 2.0, brings together under one umbrella the ICDS, POSHAN Abhiyan, Scheme for Adolescent girls, and National Creche Scheme, and has been allocated INR 20,554.31 crores of the total allocated INR 25,448.75 crores in 2023-24. This shows an increase of INR 267 crore from the INR 25,172.28 crore allotted in 2022-23. The graph below indicates the comparative allocation of funds under Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 and the overall Ministry of Women and Child Development. It indicates a marginal rise over the years.

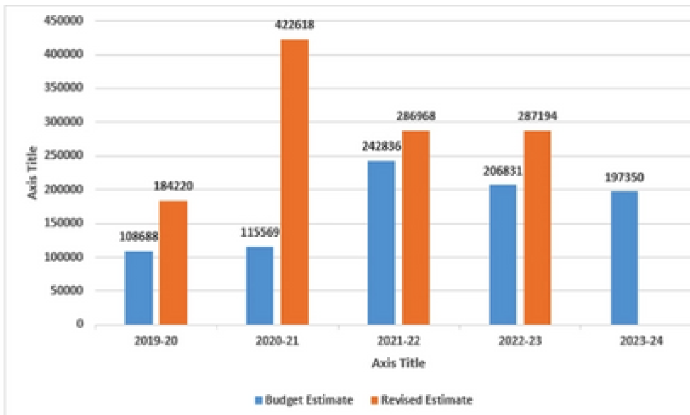


- **Pradhan Matri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) programme** (renamed mid-day meal scheme) received an outlay of INR 11,600 crore in 2023-24 from INR 10,233 crores in 2022-23; it was increased by 13 percent but it decreased as to the revised estimates.

- **The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** has been underfunded since it began in 2017. As against the requirement of INR 14,000 crore as per the National Food Security Act (NFSA) mandate, the allocation for Budget 2023-24 has been a scanty INR 2581.96 crores.

- The government has announced that the scheme to supply free grains to poor under the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY)** has been extended for one year, implemented with an expenditure of Rs 2 lakh crore from Jan 1. Under the scheme, free food grains are being given to 80 crore poor people from January 1.

- The Food Subsidy programme that ensures distribution of food grains at a subsidised price through the **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)** has been slashed by 32 percent in the 2023-24 budget to INR 1,97,350 crore from INR 2,06,831 crore allocated during the financial year 2022-23. The graph below indicates the food subsidy allocations (estimated and revised) since budget 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24. It clearly shows the lowest allocation to food subsidy since 2019-20, pre pandemic time. Food subsidies were planned by the Centre for financial year 2022-23 at INR 2,06,831 crore, but the revised estimate reveals that they actually increased by approximately 39 percent to INR 2,87,194 crores as a result of the Centre's continued implementation of the free grains programme under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).



FISCAL IMBALANCE ISSUES DUE TO ALLOCATION TO SUCH SCHEMES

Almost 1/8th of the total budget allocation has been distributed in schemes related to food and fertilizers. But due to an increase in the fiscal deficit and to shift the resources to boost infrastructure, the EV sector, and the renewable sector, the government is declining the budget of food schemes from the financial year 2022–2023 itself, which is quite worrisome.

Critics say that there has been a massive increase in unemployment and hunger due to COVID-19, and it is the responsibility of the government to provide basic food security to its citizens. Those in favour argue that shifting resources will improve overall growth and employment opportunities in India, eventually eliminating hunger needs.

While the general public wonders why the budget allocation for nutrition programmes has remained constant or decreased over the last two years. However, the solutions and consequences of the schemes can only be seen with time.

RICE FORTIFICATION PROGRAMME

FORTIFIED
SAMPOORNA POSHAN
SWASTH JEEVAN

ABOUT

This Scheme was announced in 2021 on Independence Day, by PM Modi and targets to deliver only fortified rice to the people through PDS and through PM POSHAN by 2024-25. India in past few years has placed massive thrust over the fortification of food products, particularly of Rice. This scheme aims to counter the teething issue of iron deficiency of all the people in India. In the case of women, almost 57% in 15 -49 age group have iron deficiency as per the NFHS survey. The Scheme of providing fortified rice, which is rich in folic acid and iron and can indeed bridge this gap. This Scheme was announced in 2021 on Independence Day, by PM Modi and targets to deliver only fortified rice to the people through PDS and through PM POSHAN by 2024-25.

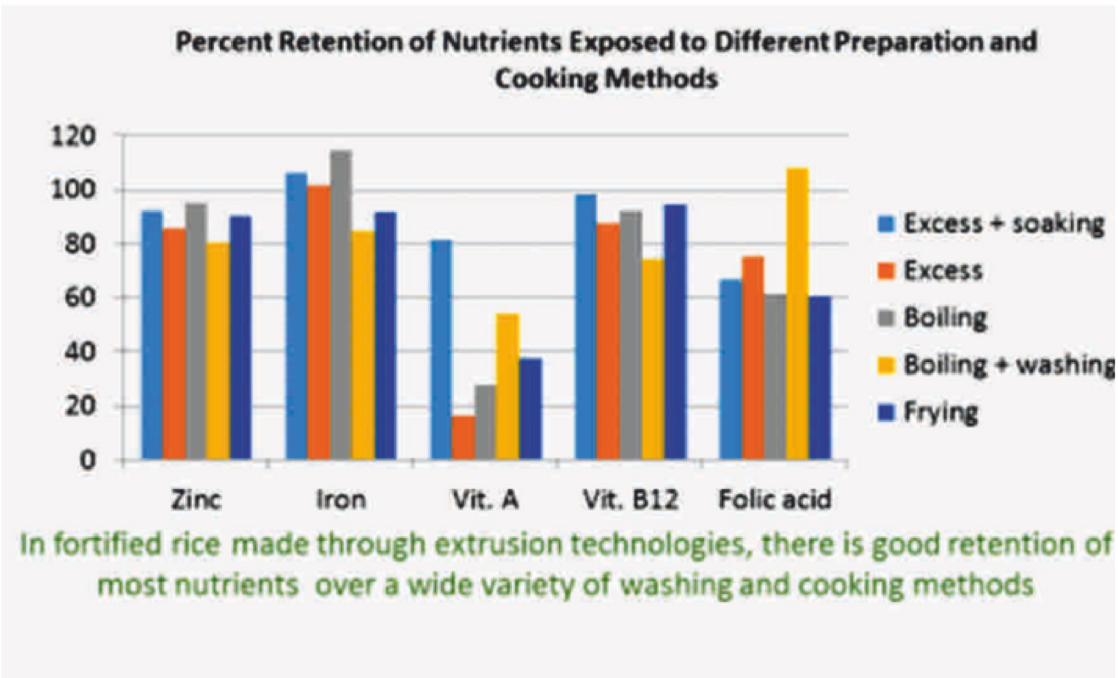
India ranks 107th out of 121 countries in the global hunger index 2022.with a score of 29.1, india has a level of hunger which is serious. India has slipped 6 positions from its rank of 101 in 2021. In terms of human development index, India ranked at 132nd position out of 191 countries. This shows the poor position of india globally. Thus, the implementation of schemes like rice fortification is extremely important to eradicate hunger and increase the nutritional quotient of people in the country.

WHY RICE FORTIFICATIONS

Though other food items like fruits and green vegetables can also provide the much-needed micronutrients to the body, but due to high prices many people couldn't afford them, thus providing fortified rice was easy and affordable way to counter the issues of nutrition deficiency. While cooking, there is a good retention of nutrients while preparing the fortified rice.

PREPARATIONS OF FORTIFIED RICE

The most effective way of fortifying rice is hot extrusion, which is supported by a plethora of studies and is shown to improve micronutrient inadequacies. Broken rice grains are ground into rice flour, then mixed with water and required nutrients to form a dough. fortified dough, the fortified kernels are then combined with ordinary rice, usually at a ratio of 0.5–2%. The extrusion temperature, which determines whether we are talking about hot or warm extrusion, also affects the gelatinization of rice starch and, consequently, the firmness of the strengthened kernels that are created.



RICE FORTIFICATION PROGRAMME

FORTIFIED
SAMPOORNA POSHAN
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IMPLEMENTATION

The Scheme has 3 phases-

- Under Phase-1, which was completed in 2021-22, nearly 17 LMT fortified rice had been distributed under ICDS and PM-POSHAN.
- The second phase began on April 1, 2022, under which 291 aspirational and high burden districts are to be covered for fortified rice distribution under the PDS by March 31, 2023. As per recent information given by PIB a total of 151 districts have lifted almost 71 MT fortified rice.
- The above two phases have been implemented.
- Under the third phase, the remaining districts of the entire country are targeted to be covered by 2024.

ALLOCATION UNDER THE BUDGET

- The proposal for supply of fortified rice treating it as a Central Sector Initiative which is to be funded 100% by the Government of India as part of food subsidy in the form of incidental in the Cost sheet for the period upto 30th June, 2024. Thereafter, a review may be undertaken regarding the cost-sharing pattern of this initiative. The complete implementation of the initiative throughout the country in a phased manner is envisaged below:
- Phase 1-a proposed cost of rs 266.91 cr to be born by women and child development & department of school education and literacy.
- Phase 2-the proposed cost under this phase is rs 1328.38cr. (to be a part of the food subsidy bill)
- Phase 3- the proposed cost under this phase is rs 2679.47 cr. (to be a part of the food subsidy bill)

WAY AHEAD

The latest report by greenpeace India which is based on a series of right to information (RTI) queries has revealed that there is a lack of scientific evidence and significant information to validate the need for rice fortification policy in India. The government's vision of solving the issue of iron deficiency is welcoming but distributing it without heeding to key scientific concern can backfire the government and have perilous health consequences for poor tribal population. Therefore, this scheme should implemented with the required caution and care.

There is a lot more to food than rice. A healthy food plate should contain a diversity of food, of which only a certain fraction should be from rice. Thus, the government should start diversifying in other food categories as well to ensure a diversity in food availability. This would further increase the efficacy of this policy by the government.

PAIN POINTS UNDER THIS SCHEME

- Many experts have strongly argued that blind and aggressive distribution of fortified rice in tribal populated areas like Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh can be problematic and can increase the menace of sickle cell anaemia due to overdose of iron. Moreover, it's blanket distribution can increase the cases of hypertension and diabetes due to excess iron intake particularly in men.
- It is a failure on the part of the government of India to not to mention about this scheme and targets associated with it in the budget 2023.

TAX EXEMPTIONS TO COOPERATIVES

2023: TAX EXEMPTIONS TO COOPERATIVES

- New co-operatives that commence manufacturing activities till 31.3.2024 shall get the benefit of a lower tax rate of 15 per cent, as is presently available to new manufacturing companies.
- To provide an opportunity to sugar co-operatives to claim payments made to sugarcane farmers for the period prior to assessment year 2016-17 as expenditure. This is expected to provide them with a relief of almost INR 10,000 crore.
- Providing a higher limit of INR 2 lakh per member for cash deposits to and loans in cash by Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies (PACS) and Primary Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs).
- A higher limit of Rs. 3 crore for TDS on cash withdrawal is being provided to co-operative societies

2022: TAX EXEMPTIONS TO COOPERATIVES

- to reduce the minimum alternative tax (MAT) for cooperative societies from current 18.5% to 15% on a par with private companies
- Reducing the surcharge on cooperative societies from the present 12% to 7%, the reduction in surcharge was for those having a total income of more than ₹1 crore to up to ₹10 crore.

03

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT

KISAN DRONE

ABOUT

This initiative was brought by the government under Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) to promote the use of 'Kisan drones' in the agricultural sector as part of the Budget for 2022-23. A recent study forecasts the Indian agriculture drone market to witness a four-fold increase by 2028, with a projected compound annual growth rate of over 25 percent during 2022-2028.As part of inclusive development, the government has been promoting the use of 'Kisan Drones' for crop assessment, the digitalization of land records, and the spraying of insecticides.

- Standardize Data Collection- Due to which proper checks can be implemented on the crops, which eventually helped the farmers
- Safety - In our country majority of farmers spray chemicals without taking basic safety precautions and suffer from various ailments due to the spraying of pesticides. Safety and Health improvement of our farmers no direct contact with the pesticide
- Manually executing the task of survey or spreading pesticides was quite time-consuming but it reduced the time spend on the same task.
- It solved the issue of labour availability. With trained farmers, the same task performed by many can be performed only with fewer people.
- It initiated Climate-Smart Farming Practices. Though the process was slowly gaining acceptance by the farmers. It also added to the aggrotech start-ups in India. These assist farmers in improving farming techniques.

BACKGROUND

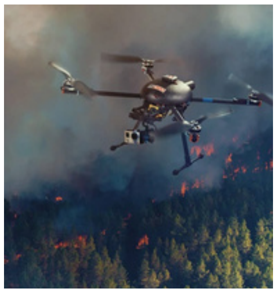
PM’s dream may look like an ambitious target, but it points to the importance the Indian government has given to the role of drones in agriculture. Budget 2022-23 mentioned ramping up the use of drone-based technologies in agriculture. More importantly, “Kisan drones” will be used in assessing crops.

DEBACLES TO OVERCOME

- High costs- Adopting drones in Indian agriculture has its pros and cons. A drone costs anywhere between ₹10 lakhs and ₹12 lakhs. An ordinary farmer will not be able to afford it. However, drones can be made available through a farm-as-a-service platform. Probably, economies of scale can help realise this dream.
- Gains over manual spraying- With the cost of manual spraying of pesticides. Safety and Health improvement of our farmers. No direct contact with the pesticide.
- Time consumption - Manually executing the task of survey or spreading pesticides was quite time-consuming but drones will reduce the time spent on the same task.
- Labour usage - It will solve the issue of labour availability. With trained farmers, the same task which was performed by many can be performed only with few people.
- Job creation - It initiated ‘Climate-Smart Farming Practices’. Though the process was slowly gaining acceptance by the farmers. It also added to the aggrotech start-ups in India. These assist farmers in improving farming techniques.

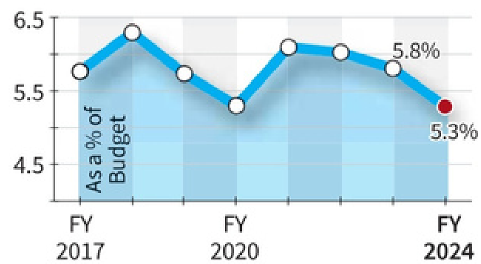
CURRENT INITIATIVES

- Water-aero-drones - It will be used to improve regional air connectivity in the country.
- Emergency Services & Disaster Recovery
- Security services
- Business and commerce
- Media and communication
- Recreation and Entertainment



FUNDS ALLOCATED

The share of funds allocated has decreased to 5.3% in FY24 from 5.8% in FY23



PM GATISHAKTI

ABOUT

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the Gati Shakti – National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity in New Delhi, heralding a new chapter in governance. Gati Shakti — a digital platform — will bring 16 Ministries including Railways and Roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects
It will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, UDAN etc. Economic Zones like textile clusters, pharmaceutical clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fishing clusters, agri zones will be covered to improve connectivity & make Indian businesses more competitive. It will also leverage technology extensively including spatial planning tools with ISRO imagery developed by BiSAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics).

SEVEN ENGINES OF PMGS

2022 budget announcements: pm gatishakti is a transformative approach for economic growth and sustainable development. The approach is driven by seven engines:
1) Roads
2) Railways
3) Airports
4) Ports
5) Mass transport
6) Waterways
7) Logistics infrastructure
All seven engines will pull forward the economy in unison these engines are supported by the complementary roles of energy transmission communication bulk water and sewerage and social infrastructure, finally the approach is powered by clean energy and “sib ka prays” .the efforts of the central government the state governments and the private sector together leading to a huge job and entrepreneurial opportunities for all especially the youth, pm gatishakti master plan national master plan. The scope of pm gatishakti national master plan will encompass the seven engines for economic transformation, seamless multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency; it will also include the infrastructure development by the state governments. As per gati shakti master plan the focus will be on planning financing including through innovative ways use of technology and speedier implementation the projects pertaining to these seven engines in the national infrastructure. pipeline will be aligned with pm gatishakti framework. The touchstone of the master plan will be world-class modern infrastructure and logistics energy among different modes of movement.

FEATURES

- Promises: ‘Power of speed’,” integrating planning and coordinated execution “:
- The Gati Shakti plan intends to develop 11 industrial corridors, 109 pharmaceutical clusters, and 38 technology production clusters by the year 2024-25. Development of these clusters will translate into the demand for office spaces, factories, warehouses, hotels, co-working spaces, etc.
- Brings 16 ministries, including rail and railways for the implementation of infrastructure connectivity project.
- Provides high resolution satellite images, utilities, infrastructure, administrative boundaries, land and logistics. builders and engineers can now use the data and predict the pathway of railways and other infrastructure projects.
- Concept of ‘super ministers’ by allocating each cabinet member to various synergic ministries. These are ministers from similar ministries appointed over other synergic ministries.
- To beat the categorised bureaucratic system, PM has urged for the gati shakti proposal to make sure all mega infrastructure and connectivity targets are completed by 2024-25.

Problems faced before PMGS:

- Lack of coordination, wasteful expenditure, inconvenience to people.
- Time taking approval processes multiplicity of regulatory clearance.

How PMGS SOLVED these problem:

- Institutional holistic planning for major infra projects. Instead of planning in separate silos, have common vision.
- Incorporate various ministries and projects like bharatmala, sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land UDAN (ude desh ka aam naagrik) ETC.
- ECONOMICS ZONES like textile clusters, pharmaceutical clusters, electronic parks etc .made the market more competitive.

PM GS IS BASED ON SIX PILLARS

- Comprehensiveness: It will include all the existing and planned initiatives of various Ministries and Departments with one centralised portal. Each and every Department will now have visibility of each other's activities providing critical data while planning & execution of projects in a comprehensive manner.

PM GATISHAKTI

- **Prioritisation:** Through this, different Departments will be able to prioritise their projects through cross-sectoral interactions.

- **Optimization:** The National Master Plan will assist different ministries in planning for projects after identification of critical gaps. For the transportation of the goods from one place to another, the plan will help in selecting the most optimum route in terms of time and cost.

- **Synchronisation:** Individual Ministries and Departments often work in silos. There is lack of coordination in planning and implementation of the project resulting in delays. PM Gati Shakti will help in synchronising the activities of each department, as well as of different layers of governance, in a holistic manner by ensuring coordination of work between them.

- **Analytical**: The plan will provide the entire data at one place with GIS based spatial planning and analytical tools having 200+ layers, enabling better visibility to the executing agency.

- **Dynamic**: All Ministries and Departments will now be able to visualise, review and monitor the progress of cross-sectoral projects, through the GIS platform, as the satellite imagery will give on-ground progress periodically and progress of the projects will be updated on a regular basis on the portal. It will help in identifying the vital interventions for enhancing and updating the master plan.

DIMENSIONS OF GATISHAKTI

SANCHAR PORTAL:

About:
The portal has been developed keeping in view the vision areas of the National Broadband Mission at the core, which are providing broadband infrastructure as a core utility to every citizen, Governance and services on demand, and in particular, digital empowerment of the citizens of the country.

Objective:
The portal shall act as an enabler to the objective of "Ease of doing business" for telecommunications infrastructure works.

Timely Rollout of 5G Network:
The timely disposal of RoW applications of various Service and Infrastructure providers shall enable speedy infrastructure creation which would be an enabler for the timely rollout of the 5G Network also.

For effective monitoring of RoW applications across the country, the portal even comes fitted with a potent dashboard showing State and District wise pendency status.

Improved Quality of Telecom Services:
This will lead to:
Fast laying of more Optical Fiber Cable will thus accelerate fiberization.

Increased tower density which will enhance connectivity and improve the quality of various telecom services.

The telecom industry has noticed a significant reduction in the time it takes to get permissions for the installation of telecom towers and the laying of optical fibre cables across all states since the portal's inception. Since the portal's introduction, above 30,925 RoW pending applications have been approved across India, improving telecom connectivity. Out of 30,925 RoW applications 23000 have been approved online and almost 7000 have been approved offline, both of which will be reflected on the Gati Shakti Portal shortly.

TR Dua, Director-General, Digital Infrastructure Providers Association, stated:" PM Modi's GatiShakti Master Plan is a major boost to developing a robust telecom infrastructure in our country, and it is imperative to develop 'state-of-art' network architecture just like other infrastructure facilities such as water, sewage, railway, roads and transportation, and so on, as telecommunication services have become an integral and essential necessity of our daily lives.

The advent of Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal has proven to be a game changer in terms of getting long-awaited RoW applications approved quickly and efficiently."

Increased fiberization of telecom towers, thus ensuring better Broadband speed, across the country.

Empowerment of the Country:
This portal is expected to give a fillip to the nation's 'Atma Nirbhar' movement, contributing actively to transforming the country into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

Significant for Both Rural and Urban India:
This will ensure uninterrupted digital access, digital delivery of services, and digital inclusion of all, based on technology that is sustainable, affordable and transformative.

PM GATISHAKTI

THE MASTER PLAN

MULTI MODAL MOVEMENTS:

The multi-modal connectivity will provide integrated and seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services from one mode of transport to another. It will facilitate the last mile connectivity of infrastructure and also reduce travel time for people.

The multimodal connectivity master plan of Mumbai Port Trust is founded on two pillars, namely cargo-related projects and Sea Tourism.

I.CARGO-RELATED PROJECTS OF MUMBAI PORT TRUST:

Expanding POL capacity: The biggest crude oil jetty with a capacity of 22 Million Tonnes Per Annum is constructed at Marine Oil Terminal with pipeline connectivity for its evacuation. This project released other four jetties for more coastal traffic of P.O.L ((Petroleum Oil and Lubricant).

BUNKERING TERMINAL:

This project takes advantage of the more than 5,000 ships visiting the Mumbai Harbor annually, utilising Pipelines connectivity for its evacuation.

FACILITY FOR LNG HANDLING:

This project shall provide LNG as clean energy up to 5 Million Tonnes per annum without creating stress on landside facilities as the Floating Terminal would be in sea and evacuation of LNG would be through pipeline connectivity with the National Grid.

BARGING OF CONTAINERS BETWEEN JNPT AND MUMBAI:

This project is to get more containers from JNPT through waterways connectivity, by covering only a distance of 14 kms, thereby eliminating a long road journey of 120 kms and its resultant pollution and road congestion.

COASTAL FACILITIES:

Berth No. 10, 11 of Indira Dock along with a shed, are exclusively reserved for handling of coastal cargo.

Erection of temporary silos for bulk commodities of Cement Fly Ash on MbPT land by private parties. EOI has already been invited.

IMPROVING RAIL CONNECTIVITY :

Most importantly, to improve Rail connectivity to the dedicated rail freight corridor to Delhi, Mumbai port is reworking on its rail assets on two fronts. On one hand it has planned to reorganise and upgrade the railway network and operations by handing over the rail assets to a dedicated govt. company - Indian Port Railway & Ropeway company Ltd. On the other hand, a dedicated rail line for port freight movement from Wadala to Kurla is being laid.

II. SEA TOURISM PROJECTS OF MUMBAI PORT TRUST:

International Cruise Terminal (ICT): The most important and ambitious project for Cruise Tourism, not only for Mumbai but for India, is the Mumbai International Cruise Terminal, which is under development at Ballard Pier extension berth at an estimated cost of Rs. 500/- Crores. This terminal shall not only be used for Cruise ships, but also by the city folks as it will have retails, Restaurants, leisure areas and many more facilities.

1 km- long Mumbai Port Waterfront at Prince's & Victoria Dock Wall: This integrated water transport hub will have all modern requirements for leisure and commuting for city folks. This facility has a Ro-Pax Terminal and will include seaside Restaurants, Amphitheatre, Domestic Cruise Terminal, Marina, Floating Restaurants, Harbour Cruises, Water taxis, etc.

RO-PAX TERMINAL:

It is a perfect example of harnessing water ways for commuting / tourist movements and reducing the road traffic. Ro-Pax services between Mumbai and Mandwa open up a new commuter / tourist transportation connecting these two important nodes. This will be extended to connect to Navi Mumbai's new upcoming airport. The Ropax ship is operating, bringing a huge relief for travellers combining Multimodal transportation of Roadways & Waterways.

ROPEWAY BETWEEN SEWREE TO ELEPHANTA:

The World's longest Ropeway over the sea of approx. 8 Kms. shall be built in PPP mode costing about Rs.700/- Crores. This project will open up a new travel mode for the City's population besides giving beautiful views of marine facilities like ships, Marine Oil Terminal, and the upcoming Mumbai Trans Harbour Link etc.

GATI SHAKTI AND BUDGET 2023

Aviation:50 additional airports, helipads, water aero drones, advanced landing grounds will be revived to improve regional air connectivity.

100 critical transports infra projects for steel, ports, fertilisers, coal, food grain sector have been identified. an investment of 75000 crore including 15000 cr from private sector.

Increment in capex :2020-21:4.39 lakh cr

2021-22: 5.4 lakh cr

2022-23: 7.5 lakh cr

2023-24: 10 lakh cr, increment of 33% from last year..

Here is the comparison from last year:

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has been allocated 2.7 lakh cr and the ministry of railways has been allocated 2.49 lakh cr. Increment is evident due to increase in capital expenditure. Presenting the Budget for 2023-24, she said the newly established infrastructure finance secretariat will assist in attracting more private investment.

PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA

ABOUT

The scheme was launched in 2015 with the objective of providing affordable housing to all citizens. The scheme was created to assist the middle-income community, economically disadvantaged groups (EWS) and low-income groups (LIG).
Beneficiaries of the scheme
According to a government data, out of the overall target of 2.95 crore houses, a target of 2.92 crore houses had been allocated to States/Union Territories UTs), out of which, 2.49 crore houses have been sanctioned to beneficiaries by various States/UTs and 2.10 crore houses have been completed as on December 07, 2022.

BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR 2023-24

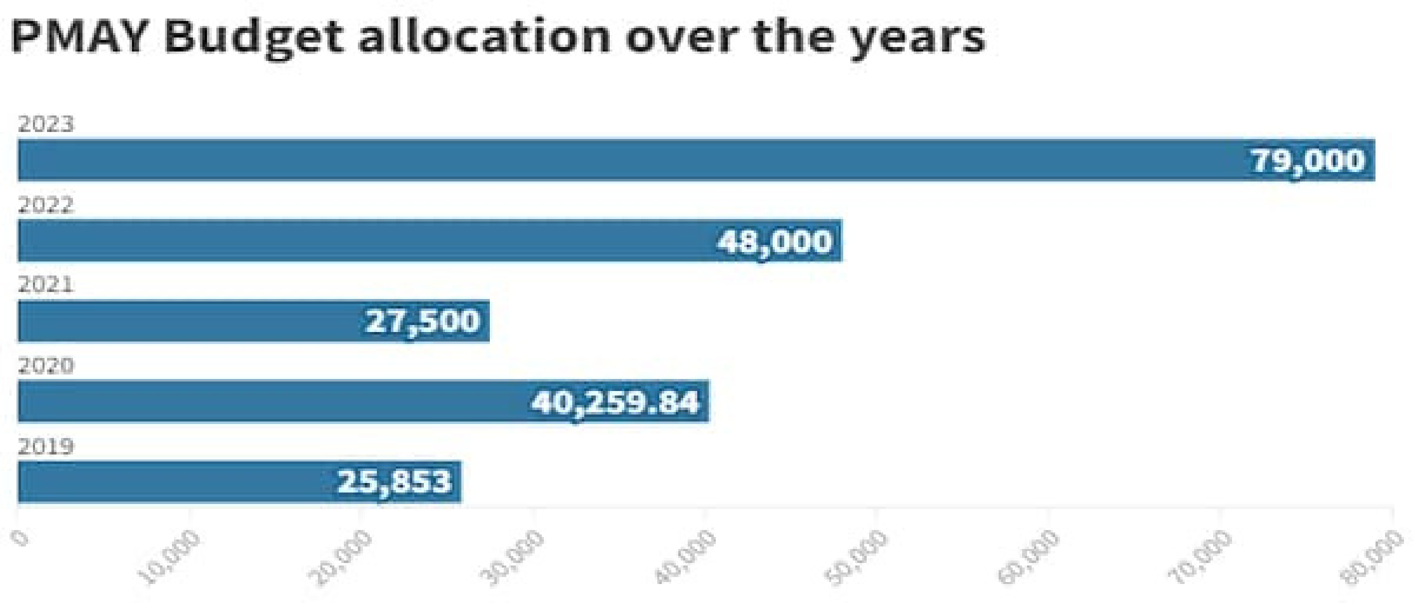
There has been a great hike in the budget allocation of PM Awas Yojana.
PM Awas Yojana share rose by 66%, with more focus on Tier 2 and 3 cities.
PMAY was allocated over ₹79,000 crore this fiscal as compared to last year's ₹48,000 crore.

NEW ANNOUNCEMETS IN THE UNION BUDGET 2023

The Urban Infrastructure Development Fund will be established through the use of priority sector lending shortfall. This will be managed by the National Housing Bank, and will be used by public agencies to create urban infrastructure in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. The Centre will spend ₹ Rs 10,000 crore per year for the fund. Like the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, an Urban Infrastructure Development Fund will be established through the use of priority sector lending shortfall.

RESULTS

Incremental PMAY allocation upto ₹79,000 crore will give impetus to affordable housing and benefit a wide segment of homebuyers.



DIGITAL UNIVERSITY

ABOUT

In the simplest term, as the name suggests a Digital University is university that functions completely through the digital mode i.e with the use of internet facilities. So in digital university the process of teaching and learning for all courses are taught through the use of digital and electronic media (in the virtual mode).
The idea of digital university is in essence an innovative amalgamation of a number of existing educational frameworks in India- online learning, open distance learning (odl) and edtech measures.
A digital university envisages a hub-and-spoke model acting as a hub for multiple national and international academic institutions.Students can register in diverse courses from different institutions and obtain a degree or diploma from the university.
Starting 2023-24 academic session, students can get 50% of requisite credits from one university and rest from a higher education institution (HEI) of their choice to earn a degree from any top university of the country. The other option is to earn credits from different partner HEIs and get a degree from the National Digital University (NDU).

ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE BUDGET OF 2023-24

The National Digital University announced in the 2022 Budget will become a reality from the next academic session.
The Centre will set up a National Digital Library for children and youth to facilitate access to quality books across subjects. National Digital Library of India (NDLI) is a virtual repository of learning resources which is not just a repository with search/browse facilities but provides a host of services for the learner community. It is sponsored and mentored by Ministry of Education through its National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT).
The government had announced the setting up of a national digital university in the last budget to resolve the problem of limited access to seats within the higher education ecosystem. The university is likely to start operations in June-July this year(2023).

States will also be urged to set up physical libraries at panchayat levels to provide infrastructure for accessing the national digital library resources.
To realise the vision of “Make AI in India" and “Make AI work for India", three centres of excellence for artificial intelligence (AI) will be set up in top educational institutions.
The Union Budget 2023-24 set aside ₹1.12 lakh crore for education – the highest ever and an increase of around 8.2% than what was pegged in 2022-23.

MORE ABOUT NDU

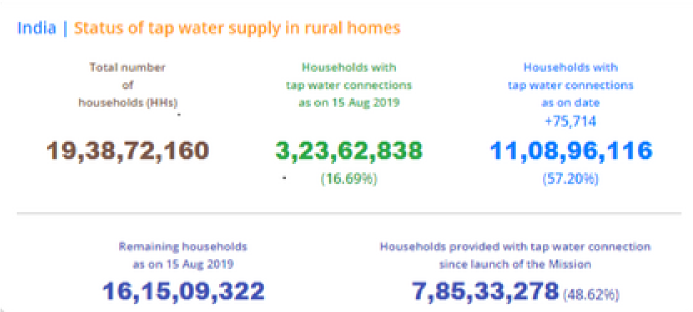
The digital content would be hosted on the Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) platform. At the same time, the technology and administrative delivery will be entrusted to the Samarth platform. Initially, the courses available in the SWAYAM platform will form the core courses of the university, along with a few select universities already offering such online programmes.Both government and private universities fulfilling the eligibility conditions can offer online programmes through NDU.Students can register for programmes of individual universities via NDU. However, a candidate may also register with NDU and earn the requisite credits from different partner universities.Based on the credits accumulated and credited with the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC), the degree, diploma or certificate will be conferred by the NDU.Like any undergraduate programme, multiple entry and exit facilities will also be offered by the digital university.

Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission
Building Partnerships
Changing lives

HAR GHAR, NAL SE JAL

ABOUT

- It was launched in 2019 by the ministry of Jal Shakti. It is a component of the Government's Jal Jeevan Mission.
- It aims to provide every household with a Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) in its premises to reduce the burden of fetching water on women in the household. With the Scheme, the government looks to provide all citizens public institutions in villages like schools, anganwadi centres, tribal residential schools, health centres and Gram panchayats of the country by 2024.
- For this, an allocation of Rs. 60,000 has been made to cover 3.8 crore households in Budget 2022-23.

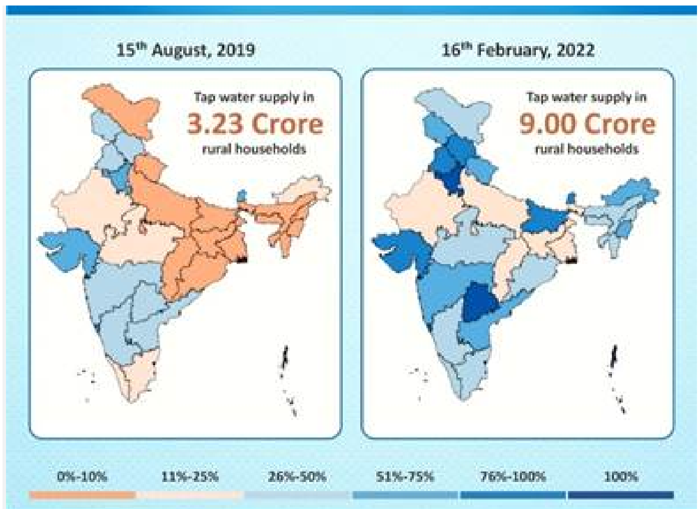


IMPLEMENTATION

- The scheme is based on the unique model where Paani Samitis (water communities) comprising villagers will decide what they will pay for the water they consume.
- The tariff they fix will not be same for everyone in the village. Those who have large households will pay more, while poor households or households where there is no earning member, will be exempted.
- Jal Jeevan Mission looks to create a jan andolan for water, thereby making it everyone's priority.
- The mission is working in collaboration with the states to achieve the target. States have emphasised retrofitting and augmentation of existing water supply schemes to provide household tap connections to household of those villages belonging to poor and marginalised people. The funding sharing pattern between the Centre and states is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-eastern States, 50:50 for other states, and 100% for Union Territories.
- During the pandemic, the provision of FHTC assisted rural households in accessing water avoiding gathering at public stand-posts to fetch water.

CURRENT STATUS

- The current coverage of the 'Har Ghar, Nal Se Jal' scheme is 8.7 crores, out of which 5.5 crore households were provided tap water connections in the last two years.
- Several states and union territories which includes Goa, Telangana, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, Dad and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Haryana have already achieved 100% of tap water connections under the scheme.
- However, there remains a disparity among states and UTs. For instance, in Uttar Pradesh, just above 13% of rural households have been provided tap water connections. States like Rajasthan and west Bengal have also seen low coverage.



BUDGET ALLOCATION IN 2023-24

- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), under which the government's flagship Har Ghar Jal scheme to provide potable drinking water to every rural household comes, also saw a jump in allocation.
- The Centre allocated Rs. 97,277.67 crore to the Ministry of Jal Shakti in this year's Budget, up 40.7% from last year's Rs 69,053.02 crore.
- An outlay of Rs 70,000 crore has been earmarked for the drinking water programme in 2023-24, up from Rs 60,000 crore in 2022-23. The actual spending, however, was Rs 55,000 crore in the 2022-23 revised estimate (RE).

HAR GHAR, NAL SE JAL

Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission
Building Partnerships
Changing lives

Har Ghar Jal* Status

Certified States/ UTs : Goa, A & N Islands, Puducherry, D&NH and D&D, Haryana

Reported States/ UTs : Telangana, Gujarat

Districts		Blocks		Panchayats		Villages	
Reported	Certified	Reported	Certified	Reported	Certified	Reported	Certified
123	56	1,321	414	73,393	33,730	1,52,840	48,494

* Har Ghar Jal means all households in that unit are provided with tap water supply

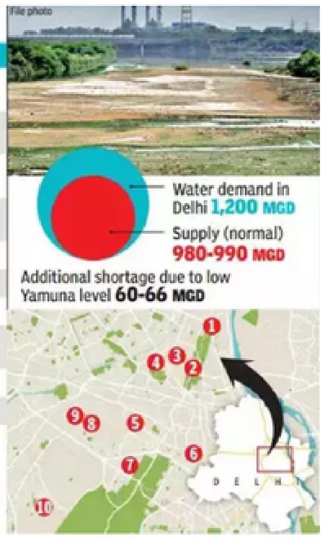
DELHI WATER CASE STUDY

Water scarcity in the national capital has aggravated due to a consistent drop in the Yamuna's levels at Wazirabad barrage, leading to a shortage of nearly 60 million gallons per day (MGD) at treatment plants that is affecting more than 3 lakh households. The government has issued a water shortage alert in two assembly constituencies, including Greater Kailash, Punjabi Bagh, Karol Bagh, Patel Nagar, and Civil Lines. Supply will also be hit in high-security areas surrounding Rashtrapati Bhavan, the Supreme Court, the High Court, and embassies. According to the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), Delhi's drinking water demand is 1,260 MGD. Water level at Wazirabad has dropped by about 5.5 feet, which has led to a shortage at the Wazirabad, Chandrawal, and Okhla treatment plants. The board has written to neighbouring Haryana for the fourth time in less than a month regarding the low supply of water at Delhi's treatment plants. Due to a lack of supply from Haryana, Delhi's treatment plants are running at a fraction of their peak capability. Even a one-foot drop in the Yamuna's levels causes scarcity in Delhi, as the river provides most of the city's drinking water.

THE RIVER RUNS DRY

Source of water	Plant	Capacity (MGD)
Yamuna	Chandrawal water House (I & II)	94
Yamuna	Wazirabad (I,II & III)	134
Bhakra storage/ Yamuna	Haiderpur	216
Bhakra storage/ Yamuna	Nangloi	40
Munak canal	Okhla	20
Munak canal	Dwarka	50
Munak canal	Bawana	20
Upper Ganga canal	North Shahdara (Bhagirathi)	110
Upper Ganga canal	Sonia Vihar	140
Groundwater	Various	120 (approx)

Areas to be affected 1 Civil Lines 2 Hindu Rao Hospital, 3 Kamla Nagar 4 Shakti Nagar 5 Karol Bagh 6 Paharganj 7 Old and New Rajendra Nagar 8 Patel Nagar 9 Baljit Nagar 10 Indrapuri and the surrounding districts



As seen in the above case study, Delhi is facing a major water crisis which can be solved by this scheme- Har Ghar, Nal se Jal, if implemented in Delhi.

INCENTIVES TO MSME SECTOR

STATE OF MSME SECTOR

Union Budget 2022-23 highlights the MSME sector, a critical sector that makes up for about 45% of the country's total manufacturing output, 40% of exports, and almost 30% of the national Gross domestic product (GDP). With a focus on growth, the government announced the following welcome measures to boost the MSME economy in India.

IMPLEMENTATION

- ECLGs have provided the much-needed additional support to more than 130 lakh MSMEs helping them mitigate the worst effects of a pandemic.
- The hospitality and related services, especially for MSMEs, are yet to regain their pre-pandemic level.
- CGTMSE dramatically supports MSMEs, facilitating additional credit of Rs 2 lakh crore for MSEs and expanding employment opportunities.
- Production Linked Scheme (PLI) scheme applied in 14 sectors has received an excellent response and has the potential to create 60 lakh new jobs and additional production of 30 lakh crore during the next five years.

Activity Category	Estimated Number of Enterprises (in lakh)			Share (%)
	Rural	Urban	Total	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Manufacturing	114.14	82.50	**196.65**	**31**
Electricity*	0.03	0.01	**0.03**	**0**
Trade	108.71	121.64	**230.35**	**36**
Other Services	102.00	104.85	**206.85**	**33**
All	**324.88**	**309.00**	**633.88**	**100**

Broad Activity Category	Employment (in lakh)			Share (%)
	Rural	Urban	Total	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Manufacturing	186.56	173.86	360.41	32
Electricity*	0.06	0.02	0.07	0
Trade	160.64	226.54	387.18	35
Other Services	150.53	211.69	362.22	33
All	**497.78**	**612.10**	**1109.89**	**100**

INCENTIVES TO MSME SECTOR

INCENTIVES GIVEN UNDER BUDGET 2022

- To focus on the hospitality sector, the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) was launched amid the Covid-19 pandemic to help MSMEs cope with pandemic losses and was extended up to March 31, 2022 and its guarantee cover will be expanded by Rs. 50,000 core to a total surface of Rs. 5 lakh crore.
- Credit guarantee trust for small micro-enterprises scheme (CGTMSE) will be revamped with the required infusion of funds.
- Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) program will be rolled out with an Rs.6000 crore outlay spread over five years.
- Udyam, e-Shram, NCS, and ASEEM portal will be interlinked to formalise the economy with the scope of offering G2C, B2B, and B2C services.
- This step aims to create credit facilitation, skulking, recruitment efficiency, and employment opportunitieS.
- Additional allocation of Rs 19,500 crore for PLI for mfg of high-efficiency modules with a priority to fully integrate manufacturing units from polysilicon to solar PV modules will be made.
- Railways would develop new products and efficient logistics services for small farmers and small and medium enterprises.
- Project for design-led manufacturing to be launched for 5G ecosystem as part of PLI scheme to enable affordable broadband and mobile.
- The government introduced a concessional tax regime of 15 percent for newly incorporated domestic manufacturing companies.
- Customs duty exemption on importing steel scraps is being extended by a year to help the MSME sector.

INCENTIVES GIVEN UNDER BUDGET 2023

- The government has introduced several measures to ensure liquidity in hands of MSMEs.
- Allowance of deduction of amounts payable to MSMEs only once the same are actually paid.
- Refund of upto 95 per cent of performance securities forfeited by govt/govt undertakings because of failure to execute contracts during the Covid period.
- Infusion of Rs 9,000 crore in revamp of credit guarantee scheme (CGTMSE) to facilitate collateral-free credit and reduced credit cost.
- Focusing on digital enablement and inclusiveness, DigiLocker will be set up for use by MSMEs, for storing and sharing documents online securely, whenever needed, with various authorities, regulators, banks and other business entities.

The digital ecosystem for skilling will also be further expanded with the launch of a unified Skill India Digital platform for MSMEs.

CHALLENGES FACED BY MSME SECTOR

Financial Issues

As most MSME owners come from rural and education-deprived areas, and their ignorance of government benefits makes them unaware of their special financial privileges. Their carelessness leads them to make bad financial decisions, causing financial difficulties.

Furthermore, MSME firms in India are typically less creditworthy than their larger counterparts. As MSMEs have no assets to surrender as collateral, lenders cannot analyse or know whether they can repay their loans.

Skills

Since Indian MSMEs depend heavily on informal workers who are often underpaid and lack the technical skills necessary to boost productivity, Indian MSMEs are far behind their counterparts in other countries. In the long run, this impacts the growth prospects of smaller firms by making them take on jobs requiring limited skill and expertise.

Marketing and Managerial-Related Challenges

MSME growth remains a significant hurdle due to the absence of entrepreneurial, managerial, and marketing skills. Boosting sales and acquiring new customers requires the right marketing strategies. Additionally, MSMEs face challenges related to ineffective marketing strategies, lack of market analysis, and identifying target audiences in India. Thus, MSMEs cannot compete due to a lack of professionalism and structured management.

Furthermore, a lack of education, knowledge about market trends, consumer preferences, and advanced technology has hindered the development of this sector.

Technology Remains A Primary Deterrent

Due to a lack of expertise and awareness, most businesses miss out on the latest technological developments. To grow their businesses, MSMEs must keep up with the changing trends in technology.

Labour-Related Challenges

A successful manufacturing enterprise depends on skilled labour. Many inconsistencies exist in MSMEs regarding skilled personnel and complying with labour laws. The lack of affordable skilled labour further compounds MSMEs' woes.

VIBRANT VILLAGE PROGRAMME

ABOUT

The multidimensional Vibrant village programme was mooted in the budget of 2022-23 to put special focus on the development of village that are in far flung areas particularly in the border areas of Northeast and states like J&K, HP and Uttarakhand. The programme envisages to develop communication, connectivity, education, tourism & health based infrastructure in these areas.

NEED FOR THIS SCHEME

- Strategic importance of this scheme to China- This programme was introduced to cater the need of those villages where development has been largely ignored due to tough geographical conditions and security reasons. These schemes also aims to cater the growing need of people who have been largely untouched of government incentives due to mobility constraints. The villages in north east regions face multifaceted problems such as poverty, healthcare, sanitation, access to clean drinking water, etc. this scheme aims at improvement in these problems by their development.

- Strategic advantage of this scheme to china-
  The announcement of this scheme is of extreme importance to China. It has increased China's presence along Himalayan frontier with China. China has taken large scale construction along the border and strengthen their presence along the frontier.

THE STATE OF NORTH-EASTERN VILLAGES AND EFFORTS TO DEVELOP

- Poor transport connectivity among the seven states, as well as with the rest of India and neighbouring nations, has historically been a problem for the Northeast. This has hampered not only daily life and means of subsistence but also national security and regional growth. In the government-run schools, colleges, hospitals, offices, and so forth, the state of the infrastructure has likewise deteriorated to an extremely pitiful level. The saddest thing is that they lack the necessities of life. The GOI is taking steps to develop the border infrastructure. Recently, shri Rajnath singh dedicated the nation 28 infrastructure projects of border roads organisation. The project includes 22 bridges, including Siyom bridge; three roads and three other projects in seven border States/Union Territories of Northern & North-Eastern regions.

- North-eastern region is endowed with scenic natural beauty, rich biodiversity, rare wildlife, historical sites, distinct cultural and ethnic heritage. Thus, it has a potential to attract a lot of tourism. This should be tapped for the development of the villages in the northeast.

- In an effort to develop the villages in the north east , the DoNER budget has more than doubled from INR 2,755 crore to INR 5,892 crore including the PM- deVINE (prime minister develop initiative for north east) allocation increasing 5 times to INR 2,200 crore.

IMPLEMENTATION

This scheme has not been implemented with a fast pace despite PM himself calling it as a game changer. As per the statement released by Home Ministry the expenditure Finance Committee meeting was held on 20th May, 2022. 17 Pilot Vibrant Villages have been identified for comprehensive development. No further progress has been informed thus far.

WAY AHEAD

As even acknowledged by PM this scheme can indeed bring a positive change in the life of people living in border areas but the slow pace of its implementation puts a huge upside down risk over this scheme being implemented in letter and spirit.

04

BUDGET 2023: FOCUS POINTS

BUDGET 2023 FOCUS POINTS

PM VISHWAKARMA KAUSHAL SAMMAN

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman (PM-VIKAS) scheme during the Union Budget presentation. The scheme is developed to allow the nation's craftsmen to enhance the calibre, scope, and reach of their goods.

They are also to be incorporated into the Micro, Small, and Medium-scale Enterprises (MSME) value chain.

Some of the primary factors of the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman are:

- Financial aid
- Advanced skill training
- Access to the latest technology
- Integration into the MSMEs
- Paperless payments
- Wider reach and introduction to a global market

The following are referred to as *Vishwakarmas*:
Achar, Achari, Achari Thacher, Achary, Acharya, Akkasale, Arkasali, Asari, Asari Oddi, Asula, Ausul or Kamsali, Badhel, Badiger, Bagga, Bailapathara, Bailukammara, Bhadivadlla, Bhardwaj, Bidhani, Bishwakarma, Bogaara, Bose, Brahmalu, Chari, Chatuevedi, Chettian, Chikkamanes, Chipegara, Chola, Choudry, Das, Devgan, Devkamlakar, Dhiman, Dhole, Dwivedi, Gajjar, Geed, Gejjigar, Gijjegara, Gill, Gujjar, Janger, Jangid, Kalsi, Kamar, Kambhara, Kammalan, Kammalar, Kammara, Kammari, Kammiyar, Kamsala, Kamsali, Kanchari, Kanchugara, Kannalan, Kanallar, Kannar.

WHAT IS MAHILA SAMMAN SAVING CERTIFICATE?

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday, 1 February, announced the Mahila Samman Saving Certificate' for women with a fixed interest rate of 7.5 percent, for a period of two years during the Union Budget 2023.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 1 February 2023, Wednesday, announced the 'Mahila Samman Saving Certificate' for women. It is a one-time new small savings scheme for a two-year period up to March 2025.
This initiative will avail a deposit facility for a woman up to ₹2 lakhs for a two-year period at a fixed interest rate of 7.5% with a partial withdrawal option. The initiative is launched to commemorate the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

DETAILS ON THE SCHEME:

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the issue of the Mahila Saving Samman Certificate in Budget 2023.
- This will be a two-year saving scheme, which can be availed till 2025.
- In this, there will be an investment option of up to Rs 2 lakh for women.
- They will get a fixed interest of 7.5 percent.
- They will also be able to make partial withdrawals.
- This scheme is expected to be a source of savings for them in this era of inflation.

ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS AND BLOCKS PROGRAMME

The government has launched the Aspirational Blocks Programme, covering 500 blocks to provide essential government services across multiple areas such as nutrition, health, agriculture, skill development, education, financial inclusion, water resources and basic infrastructure.

GREEN CREDIT PROGRAMME

The Green Credit Programme will be launched under the Environment (Protection) Act to encourage behavioural change. It will incentivize environmentally responsible and sustainable actions by individuals, companies and local bodies and help mobilise additional resources for such activities.

AMRIT DHAROHAR

Wetlands are crucial ecosystems to sustain biological diversity. The government will promote the conservation values of locals towards wetlands through the Amrit Dharohar scheme. This scheme will be implemented over the next three years to enhance carbon stock, biodiversity, income generation for local communities and eco-tourism opportunities, and encourage optimal use of wetlands.

PHARMA INNOVATION PROGRAMME

In the Budget 2023, the Financial Minister proposed to launch a new programme to promote innovation and research in pharmaceuticals, which will be taken up through centres of excellence.

BUDGET 2023 FOCUS POINTS

PRADHAN MANTRI PVTG DEVELOPMENT MISSION

The Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission will be launched to improve the socio-economic conditions of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). This mission will saturate PVTG habitations and families with basic facilities such as clean drinking water and sanitation, safe housing, health and nutrition, road and telecom connectivity, improved access to education and sustainable livelihood opportunities. The government will provide an amount of Rs.15,000 crore to implement this mission in the coming 3 yrs.

PM- PRANAM

The PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth (PM-PRANAM) will be launched to incentivize states and UTs to promote the balanced use of chemical fertilisers and alternative fertilisers.

ATMA NIRBHAR HORTICULTURE CLEAN PLANT PROGRAMME

The Atma Nirbhar Clean Plant Programme will be launched to boost the availability of quality and disease-free planting material for high-value horticultural crops at an outlay of Rs.2,200 crore.

DIGILOCKER 2.0

DigiLocker has been provided a huge push in the Union Budget. It is going to have another major use case by becoming a repository for digital health documents making it convenient for individuals. DigiLocker has been expanded for both personal and organisational support to streamline know-your-customer (KYC) processes. The facility of storing and sharing health documents on the cloud-based platform has been there for quite some time but is going to be "upscaled for more people to use it". Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) App is a platform patients can maintain and manage their health information in a secure environment. The integration with DigiLocker enables all ABHA-linked health records to be verified and shared with consent.

There has already been more than 17 crore ABHA-linked health records and more than 13 lakh health records app downloads. Aimed at the concept of paperless governance, it reduces administrative overhead by minimising the use of paper and curtailing the verification process.

PAN TO BE USED AS COMMON BUSINESS IDENTIFIER

Nirmala Sitharaman stated that the PAN would be utilised as an universal identifier for all digital systems of the designated government entities while presenting the Union Budget 2023. This will make doing business easier and be put into effect under legal authority. This promotes uniform data management and centralized consent-based data management, using DigiLocker and Aadhaar and PAN-based cross-agency submission and filing.

BENEFITS TO BUSINESSES-

- reduce compliance burden by reducing multiple requirements of KYC
- cut gestation period of projects
- Promote ease of starting and doing business since the basic data is already authenticated once at the time of allotment of PAN.
- provides a lot of opportunity for tech players to design solutions that are universal and easy to use
- The lead time for approvals can be reduced by almost 50%.

BENEFITS TO GOVERNMENT

- This would enable the government to identify individuals across different agencies without having to maintain separate records for each agency.
- PAN will be the sole identifier and would help in stopping multiple submissions for MSMEs. The UID/UAN will be used to securely store and access personal information of citizens.
- Enable the government to better track the usage of public services
- Improve public service delivery, and reduce fraud and corruption.
- India’s open source and public-utility FinTech infrastructure is globally best-in-class, further expanding the scope of DigiLocker documents and their applicability and utility would go on to further strengthen the usage of these applications built atop this infrastructure.
- Reducing duplicity of information submission to different ministries.

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