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UNION BUDGET 2020

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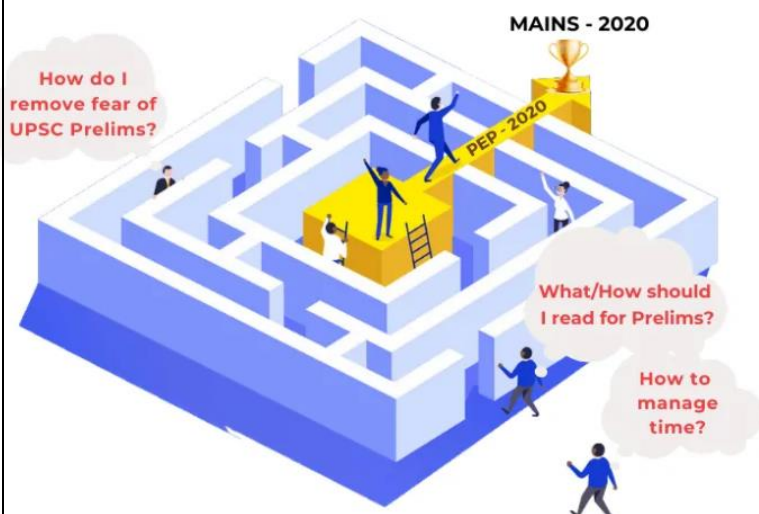
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Preface

This is our 60th edition of Yojana Gist and 51st edition of Kurukshetra Gist, released for the month of March 2020. It is increasingly finding a place in the questions of both UPSC Prelims and Mains and therefore, we've come up with this initiative to equip you with knowledge that'll help you in your preparation for the CSE.

Every issue deals with a single topic comprehensively sharing views from a wide spectrum ranging from academicians to policy makers to scholars. The magazine is essential to build an in-depth understanding of various socio-economic issues.

From the exam point of view, however, not all articles are important. Some go into scholarly depths and others discuss agendas that are not relevant for your preparation. Added to this is the difficulty of going through a large volume of information, facts and analysis to finally extract their essence that may be useful for the exam.

We are not discouraging from reading the magazine itself. So, do not take this as a document which you take read, remember and reproduce in the examination. Its only purpose is to equip you with the right understanding. But, if you do not have enough time to go through the magazines, you can rely on the content provided here for it sums up the most essential points from all the articles.

You need not put hours and hours in reading and making its notes in pages. We believe, a smart study, rather than hard study, can improve your preparation levels.

Think, learn, practice and keep improving!

You know that's your success mantra 😊

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Note:

This issue deals with a lot of numbers. Now, numbers are often considered very boring. There is nothing new that you will be reading in this edition. The budget is the same. The numbers are going to be same. But what matters is how we are structuring it, or bucketing it for you to gain an understanding of the interconnectedness that exists.

So when you start flipping through the pages, know that the merit will not be in crunching up the numbers but inter-relating and inter-connecting with all the other updates, comparing it and forming a good foundation of understanding and therefore solutions, that will help you through Mains and Interview, as well as when you actually become an officer and have to work through these numbers! 😊

UNION BUDGET 2020-21

Presenting the Union Budget for 2020-21, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, “In May 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a massive mandate to form the government again. People of India have unequivocally given their janaadesh for not just political stability, but have also reposed their faith in our economic policy. This is a budget to boost their income and enhance their purchasing power.”

Ease of Living underlined by the three prominent themes of the Budget

1. Aspirational India - Better standards of living with access to health, education and better jobs for all sections of the society

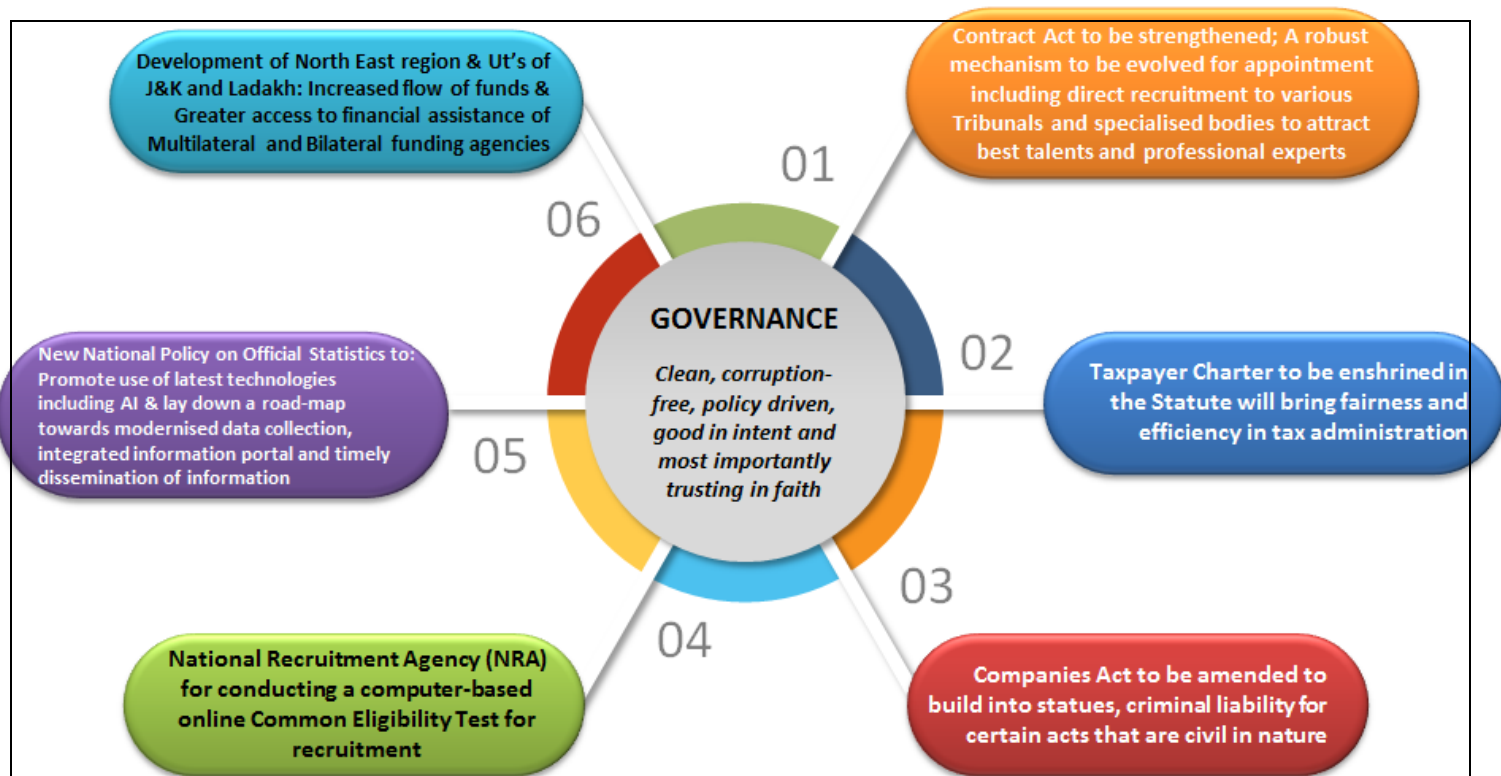
- Agriculture, Irrigation, and Rural Development
- Wellness, Water, and Sanitation
- Education and Skills

2. Economic Development for all - “Sabka Saath , Sabka Vikas , Sabka Vishwas”.

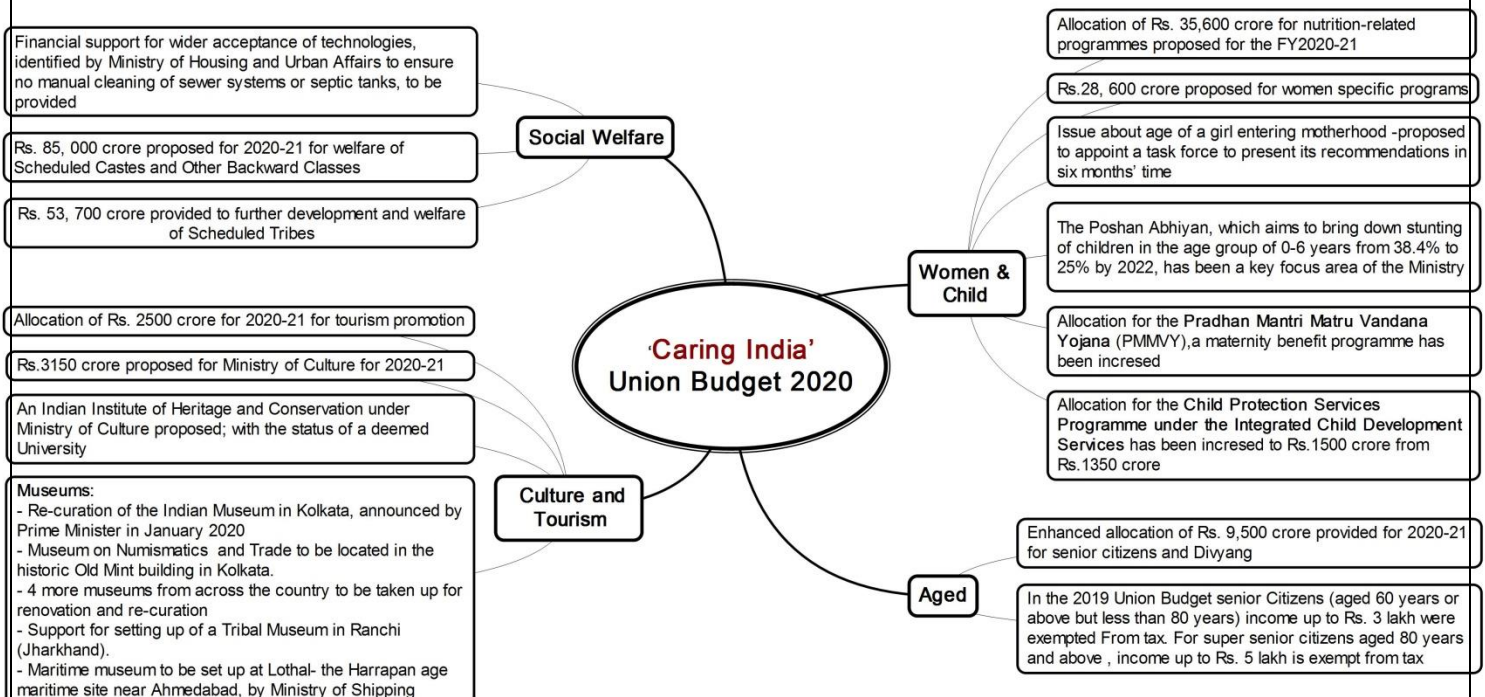
3. Caring Society - Both humane and compassionate; Antyodaya as an article of faith.

Three broad themes are held together by:

- Corruption free, policy-driven Good Governance.
- Clean and sound financial sector.



Caring India: Women & Child, Social Welfare and Culture



Socio-economic and educational empowerment of women from minority communities

Pradhan Mantri Jan VikasKaryakram (PMJVK): Earlier known as Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, in identified Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs) of the country with the objective of developing socio-economic assets and basic amenities in these areas to bring them at par with other parts of the country. The thrust of the PMJVK programme is to allocate at least 80% of the resources for education, health and skill development and at least 33-40% of the resources for women centric projects.

Socio-Economic-Educational Empowerment of Minority Women: Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme, Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme – For educational empowerment of students; Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship for Meritorious Girls belonging to the Minorities. More than 1.94 Crore girl students have benefitted during the last 5 years. Others schemes include: “Maulana Azad National Fellowship Scheme”; “Naya Savera” – Free Coaching and Allied Scheme; “Padho Pardesh” and “Nai Udaan”.

Leadership Development: “Nai Roshni” scheme and various welfare schemes – Leadership development of women belonging to minority communities. About three (3) lakh women have been provided various leadership development training in the last five years.

Skill Development:

- “Gharib Nawaz Swarojgar Yojna” for providing shortterm job oriented skill development courses to youth belonging to minority communities
- “Seekho Aur Kamao” – Skill development scheme for youth of 14 – 35 years age group and aiming at improving the employability of existing workers, school dropouts etc.
- Nai Manzil – A scheme for formal school education & skilling of school dropouts.
- 4.35 lakh women have been provided employment oriented skill development training
- “Hunar Haats”, organised by the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs in various cities, offer unique opportunities to young entrepreneurs and aspirants to experiment and explore novel means of creativity coupled with livelihood.” “Hunar Haats” have a 50% reservation for women. It started at 20%, but over the years it has increased to ensure more women’s participation. There are a large number of women self-help groups associated with Hunar Haats. 1.35 lakh women artisans have benefitted through Hunar Haats during the last three (3) years

Haj without “Mehram: Restrictions lifted on Muslim women going for Haj without “Mehram” (male companion). 5,544 Muslim women have performed Haj without “Mehram” during the last three (3) years

Social Empowerment: Brought the law to ban the social evils like Triple Talaq; Constitutional and Social rights of Muslim women have been ensured

Transform Urban Landscape

01

BUDGETARY SUPPORT

Allocated a total of Rs. 50,040 crore to the ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). Over and above this, there is provision of Rs. 10,000 crore as Extra Budgetary Resource (EBR) for housing.

02

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PIPELINE (NIP)

To facilitate supply-side interventions in infrastructure development to boost GDP growth - Out of the projected total infrastructure investment of Rs. 103 lakh crore during the period FY 2020 to 2025, 16% has been earmarked for urban rejuvenation

03

FOCUSING ON CONNECTIVITY

A total of Rs. 20,000 crore has been allocated for total **Mass Rapid Transit system (MRTS) and Metro Projects**. Budget earmarks provisions for Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail, Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway, Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and promotion of economic activities along river banks with waterways. Digital connectivity through BharatNet program for the ULBs along with **prepaid smart electricity meters**

04

PROMOTING WATER CONSERVATION: JAN ANDOLAN

Ministry has launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan to make water conservation a "**Jan Andolan**" with four major thrust areas: a) Rain Water Harvesting B) Re-use of treated waste water; c) Rejuvenation of water bodies and d) Plantation. 2.39 lakh Rain Water Harvesting points have been installed, and another 2.22 lakh are under construction

05

SMART CITIES MISSION

Over 80% of the proposed 5,151 projects are at different stages of implementation. Innovative projects like Integrated Command and Control Centers (ICCC), Smart Streets/Roads, Smart Water, Integrated Smart Traffic/Transit Management are pioneering efforts being undertaken by Indian cities for the very first time. This Budget has allocated Rs. 13,750 crore for Smart Cities Mission and AMRUT for 2020-21.

06

POVERTY ALLEVIATION, LIVELIHOOD & SKILL DEVELOPMENT

DAY-NULM allocation is Rs. 795 crore. The Finance Minister has proposed to provide 1 year internship to fresh engineers in all ULBs in order to enhance the skill of the youth to fulfill the dream of the Prime Minister

07

EASE OF LIVING AND EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

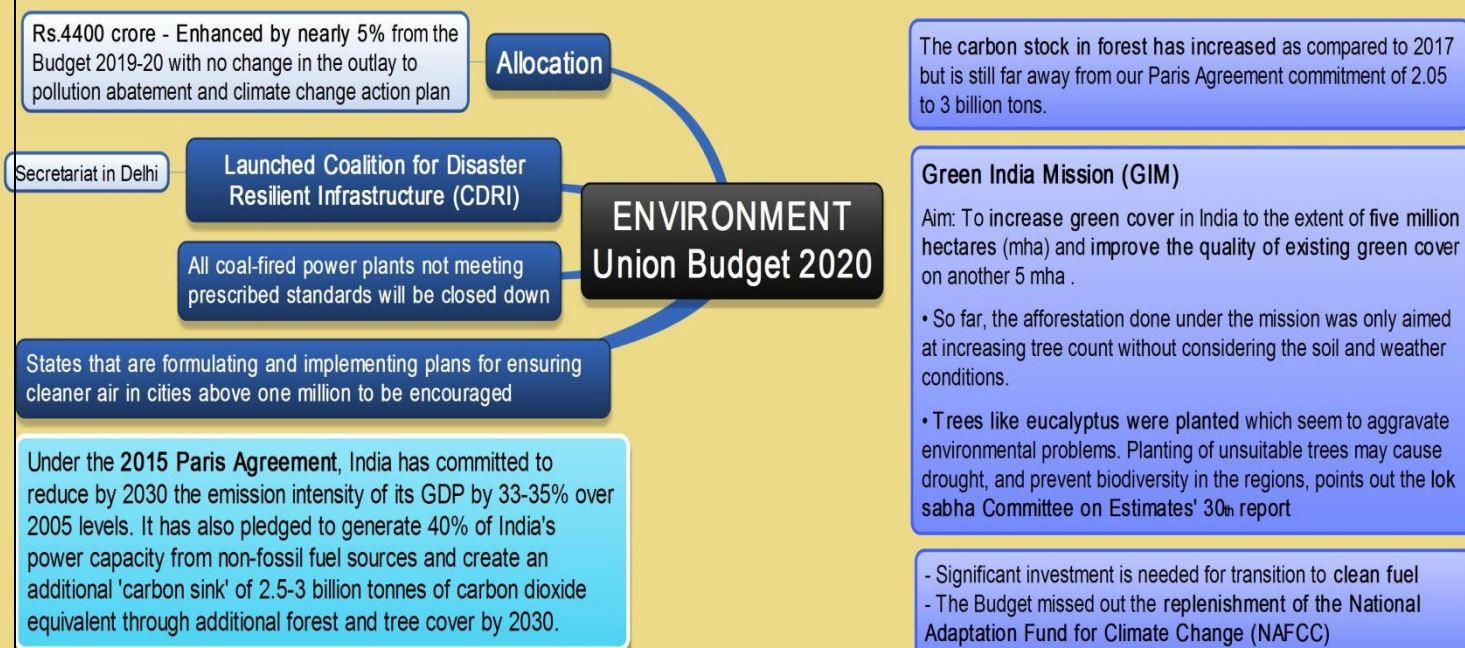
MoHUA released the first-ever 'Ease of living Index' in 2018 covering 111 cities, and assessment for 'Ease of Living Index 2019' is currently in progress. As per World Bank's Doing Business Report-2020, India's rank in Ease of Doing Business is 63, compared to its 2019 ranking of 77. Currently, India ranks 27 in terms of construction permits, compared to rank of 185 in 2017. This is due to the fact that Online Building Permission System (OBPS) has been implemented

08

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ALL

National Urban Housing Funds (NUHF) has been approved by Union Cabinet to mobilise resources through Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR) to the tune of Rs. 60,000 crore for funding housing scheme. Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) in the National Housing Bank with an initial corpus of Rs. 10,000 crore using priority sector lending shortfall of banks/financial institutions; Allocated a total of Rs. 8,000 crore in the Budget and provision for extra-budgetary resources (EBR) of Rs. 10,00 crore for PMAY-U.O

Environment & Climate Change



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Economy & Financial Sector

Industry, Banking, Commerce, Investment, Taxes

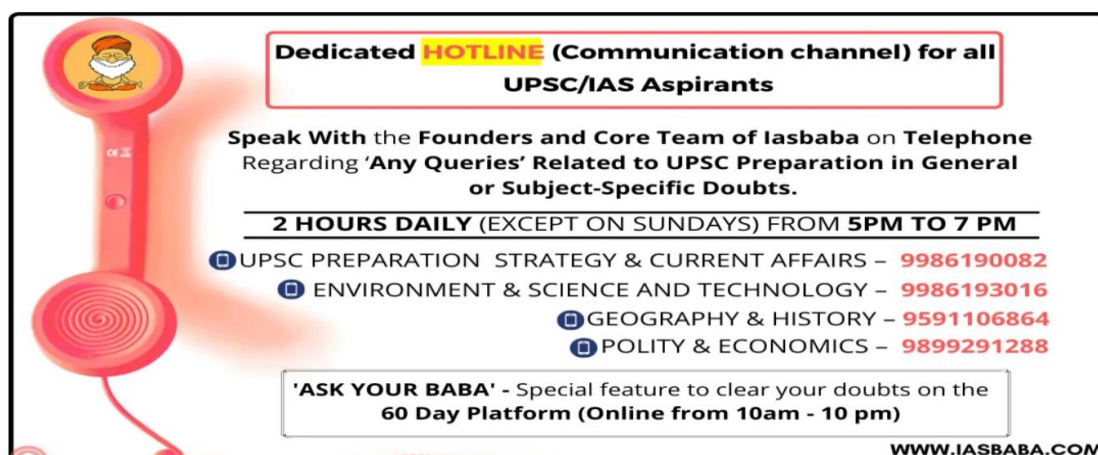
Industry

A. To take advantage of new technologies:

- Policy to enable private sector to build Data Centre parks throughout the country to be brought out soon.
- Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections through Bharatnet to link 100,000 gram panchayats this year
- Rs.6000 crore proposed for Bharatnet programme in 2020-21.

B. Measures proposed to benefit Start-ups:

- A digital platform to be promoted to facilitate seamless application and capture of IPRs
- Knowledge Translation Clusters to be set up across different technology sectors including new and emerging areas
- For designing, fabrication and validation of proof of concept, and further scaling up Technology Clusters, harbouring test beds and small scale manufacturing facilities to be established
- Mapping of India's genetic landscape- Two new national level Science Schemes to be initiated to create a comprehensive database
- Early life funding proposed, including a seed fund to support ideation and development of early stage Start-ups
- Rs.8000 crore proposed over five years for National Mission on Quantum Technologies and Applications.



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Financial Sector

- Reforms accomplished in PSBs :
 - 10 banks consolidated into 4.
 - Rs. 3,50,000 crore capital infused.
- Governance reforms to be carried out to bring in transparency and greater professionalism in PSBs.
- Few PSBs to be encouraged to approach the capital market to raise additional capital
- Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) permitted to increase Deposit Insurance Coverage to Rs. 5 lakh from Rs.1 lakh per depositor.
- Scheduled Commercial Bank's health under monitoring through a robust mechanism, keeping depositors' money safe.
- Cooperative Banks to be strengthened by amending Banking Regulation Act for:
 - Increasing professionalism.
 - Enabling access to capital.
 - Improving governance and oversight for sound banking through the RBI.
- NBFCs eligibility limit for debt recovery reduced from:
 - Rs. 500 crore to Rs 100 crore asset size.
 - Rs 1 crore to Rs 50 lakh loan size.
- Private capital in Banking system:
 - Government to sell its balance holding in IDBI Bank to private, retail and institutional investors through the stock exchange.
- Easier mobility in jobs:
 - Auto-enrolment in Universal Pension coverage.
 - Inter-operability mechanism to safeguard the accumulated corpus.
- Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority of India Act to be amended to:
 - Strengthen regulating role of PFRDAI.
 - Facilitate separation of NPS trust for government employees from PFRDAI.
 - Enable establishment of a Pension Trust by the employees other than Government.
- Factor Regulation Act 2011 to be amended to:
 - Enable NBFCs to extend invoice financing to the MSMEs through TReDS
- New scheme to provide subordinate debt for entrepreneurs of MSMEs by the banks
 - Would be counted as quasi-equity.
 - Would be fully guaranteed through the Credit Guarantee Trust for Medium and Small Entrepreneurs (CGTMSE).
 - The corpus of the CGTMSE would accordingly be augmented by the government.
- Window for MSME's debt restructuring by RBI to be extended by one year till March 31, 2021.
 - More than five lakh MSMEs have already been benefitted.

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- An app-based invoice financing loans product for MSMEs to be launched.
 - To prevent the problem of delayed payments and consequential cash flows mismatches.
- Export promotion of MSMEs:
 - For selected sector such as pharmaceuticals, auto components and others.
 - An Rs 1000 crore scheme anchored by EXIM Bank together with SIDBI.
- Hand holding support for technology upgradations, R&D, business strategy etc.

Financial Market

- Deepening Bond Market
 - Certain specified categories of Government securities to be opened fully for non -resident investors also.
 - FPI limit in corporate bonds increased to 15% from 9% of its outstanding stock.
- New legislation to be formulated for laying down a mechanism for netting of financial contracts.
 - Scope of credit default swaps to expand.
- Debt Based Exchange Traded Fund expanded by a new Debt-ETF consisting primarily of Government Securities.
 - To give attractive access to retail investors, pension funds and long-term investors.
- A Partial Credit Guarantee scheme for the NBFCs formulated post the Union budget 2019-20 to address their liquidity constraints.
 - New mechanism to be devised to further this
 - Government support to securities so floated.

Infrastructure Financing

- Rs.103 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline projects earlier announced.
- Rs 22,000 crore to cater to the equity support to Infrastructure Finance Companies such as IIFCL and a subsidiary of NIIF.
- IFSC, GIFT city: full of potential to become a centre of international finance as well as a centre for high end data processing
- An International Bullion exchange(s) to be set up as an additional option for trade by global market participants with the approval of regulator.

Disinvestment

- Government to sell a part of its holding in LIC by way of Initial Public Offer (IPO).

Fiscal Management

- XV Finance Commission (FC):
 - XV Finance Commission has given its first report for FY2020-21
 - Recommendations accepted in substantial measure
 - Its final report for five years beginning 2021-22 to be submitted during the latter part of the year.
- GST Compensation Fund:
 - Balances due out of collection of the years 2016-17 and 2017-18 to be transferred to the Fund, in two instalments
 - Hereinafter, transfers to the fund to be limited only to collection by way of GST compensation cess.
- Overhaul of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes necessary:
 - To align them with emerging social and economic needs of tomorrow
 - To ensure that scarce public resources are spent optimally
- On the recent debate over transparency and credibility of projected fiscal numbers, it is assured that procedure adopted is compliant with the FRBM Act.
- For the FY 2019-20:
 - Revised Estimates of Expenditure: at Rs.26.99 lakh crore
 - Revised Estimates of Receipts: estimated at Rs.19.32 lakh crore.
- For year 2020-21:
 - Nominal growth of GDP estimated at 10%.
 - Receipts: estimated at Rs.22.46 lakh cr
 - Expenditure: at Rs.30.42 lakh cr.
- Significant tax reforms for boosting investments recently undertaken. However, expected tax buoyancy expected to take time.
- Fiscal deficit of 3.8% estimated in RE 2019-20 and 3.5% for BE 2020-21. It comprises two ingredients;
 - 3.3% for year 2019-20 and 3% for the 2020-21 budget estimate.
 - Deviation of 0.5%, consistent with Section 4(3) of FRBM Act, both for RE 2019-20 and BE 2020-21. (Section 4 (2) of the FRBM Act provides for a trigger

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- mechanism for a deviation from the estimated fiscal deficit on account of structural reforms in the economy with unanticipated fiscal implications.)
- Return path, committing to fiscal consolidation without compromising needs of investment out of public funds, is laid in Medium Term Fiscal Policy cum Strategy Statement.
 - Market borrowings: Net market borrowings: Rs.4.99 lakh crore for 2019-20 and Rs.5.36 lakh crore for 2020-21.
- A good part of the borrowings for the financial year 2020-21 to go towards Capital expenditure that has been scaled up by more than 21%.



CENTRAL GOVT EXPENDITURE

Budget Estimates for 2020-21 (in ₹ crore)

Heads	Heads
Pension 2,10,682	Interest 7,08,203
Defence 3,23,053	IT and Telecom 59,349
Major Subsidies 2,27,794	Planning and Statistics 6,094
Agriculture and Allied Activities 1,54,775	Rural Development 1,44,817
Commerce & Industry 27,227	Scientific Departments 30023
Development of North East 3,049	Social Welfare 53,876
Education 99,312	Tax Administration 1,52,962
Energy 42,725	Transfer to States 2,00,447
External Affairs 17,347	Transport 1,69,637
Finance 41,829	Union Territories 52,864
Health 67,484	Urban Development 50,040
Home Affairs 1,14,387	Others 84,256
	Grand Total 30,42,230

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Tax

- A new tax regime has been announced. Those who want to be in the old regime with exemptions, can continue to pay at the old rates.
- Over 70 deductions have been removed.
- Companies will no longer be required to pay Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT).
- Aadhaar-based verification for GST compliance to be introduced.
- Aadhaar-based quick issuance of PAN announced

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Income	Tax
Between ₹5 lakh and ₹7.5 lakh	Reduced to 10% from the current 20%
Between ₹7.5 lakh to ₹10 lakh	Reduced to 15% from the current 20%
Between ₹10 lakh to ₹12.5 lakh	Reduced to 20% from the current 30%
Between ₹12.5 lakh to ₹15 lakh	Reduced to 25% from the current 30%
Above ₹15 lakh	Continue at 30%, but without exemptions

- **Corporate Tax:**

- Tax rate of 15% extended to new electricity generation companies.
- Indian corporate tax rates now amongst the lowest in the world.

- **Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT):**

- **DDT removed making India a more attractive investment destination.**
- Deduction to be allowed for dividend received by holding company from its subsidiary.
- Rs. 25,000 crore estimated annual revenue forgone.

- **Start-ups:**

- Start-ups with turnover up to Rs. 100 crore to enjoy 100% deduction for 3 consecutive assessment years out of 10 years.
- Tax payment on ESOPs deferred.

- **MSMEs to boost less-cash economy:**

- Turnover threshold for audit increased to Rs. 5 crore from Rs. 1 crore for businesses carrying out less than 5% business transactions in cash.

- **Cooperatives:**

- Parity brought between cooperatives and corporate sector.
- Option to cooperative societies to be taxed at 22% + 10% surcharge and 4% cess with no exemption/deductions.
- Cooperative societies exempted from Alternate Minimum Tax (AMT) just like Companies are exempted from the Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT).

- **Tax concession for foreign investments:**

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- 100% tax exemption to the interest, dividend and capital gains income on investment made in infrastructure and priority sectors before 31st March, 2024 with a minimum lock-in period of 3 years by the Sovereign Wealth Fund of foreign governments.
- **Affordable housing:**
 - Additional deduction up to Rs. 1.5 lakhs for interest paid on loans taken for an affordable house extended till 31st March, 2021.
 - Date of approval of affordable housing projects for availing tax holiday on profits earned by developers extended till 31st March, 2021.

Tax Facilitation Measures

- **Instant PAN** to be allotted online through Aadhaar.
- **‘Vivad Se Vishwas’** scheme, with a deadline of 30th June, 2020, to reduce litigations in direct taxes:
 - Waiver of interest and penalty - only disputed taxes to be paid for payments till 31st March, 2020.
 - Additional amount to be paid if availed after 31st March, 2020.
 - Benefits to taxpayers in whose cases appeals are pending at any level.
- **Faceless appeals** to be enabled by amending the Income Tax Act.
- **For charity institutions:**
 - Pre-filling in return through information of donations furnished by the donee.
 - Process of registration to be made completely electronic.
 - Unique registration number (URN) to be issued to all new and existing charity institutions.
 - Provisional registration to be allowed for new charity institutions for three years.
 - CBDT to adopt a Taxpayers’ Charter.
- **Losses of merged banks:**
 - Amendments proposed to the Income-tax Act to ensure that entities benefit from unabsorbed losses and depreciation of the amalgamating entities.

Indirect Tax

- **GST:**

- Cash reward system envisaged to incentivise customers to seek invoice.
- **Simplified return with features like SMS based filing for nil return and improved input tax credit flow to be implemented from 1st April, 2020 as a pilot run.**
- Dynamic QR-code capturing GST parameters proposed for consumer invoices.
- Electronic invoice to capture critical information in a centralized system to be implemented in a phased manner.
- Aadhaar based verification of taxpayers being introduced to weed out dummy or non-existent units.
- GST rate structure being deliberated to address inverted duty structure.

- **Customs Duties:**

- Customs duty raised on footwear to 35% from 25% and on furniture goods to 25% from 20%.
- Basic customs duty on imports of news print and light-weight coated paper reduced from 10% to 5%.
- Customs duty rates revised on electric vehicles and parts of mobiles.
- 5% health cess to be imposed on the imports of medical devices, except those exempt from BCD.
- Lower customs duty on certain inputs and raw materials like fuse, chemicals, and plastics.
- Higher customs duty on certain goods like auto-parts, chemicals, etc. which are also being made domestically.

- **Trade Policy Measures**

- Customs Act being amended to enable proper checks of imports under FTAs.
- Rules of Origin requirements to be reviewed for certain sensitive items.
- Provisions relating to safeguard duties to be strengthened to enable regulating such surge in imports in a systematic way.

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- Provisions for checking dumping of goods and imports of subsidized goods being strengthened.
- Suggestions for reviews of exemptions from customs duty to be crowd-sourced.
- **Excise duty proposed to be raised on Cigarettes and other tobacco products**, no change made in the duty rates of *bidis*.
- Anti-dumping duty on PTA abolished to benefit the textile sector.

Unprecedented Milestones and Achievements of Indian Economy

- India now the fifth largest economy of the world.
- 7.4% average growth clocked during 2014-19 with inflation averaging around 4.5%.
- 271 million people raised out of poverty during 2006-16.
- India's Foreign Direct Investment elevated to US\$ 284 billion during 2014-19 from US\$ 190 billion during 2009-14.
- Central Government debt reduced to 48.7% of GDP (March 2019) from 52.2% (March 2014).
- Two cross-cutting developments:
 - Proliferation of technologies (Analytics, Machine Learning, robotics, Bio-informatics and Artificial Intelligence).
 - Highest ever number of people in the productive age group (15-65 years) in India.
- GST removed many bottlenecks in the system.









Future Aim for sustaining India's unique global leadership, driven by Digital Revolution

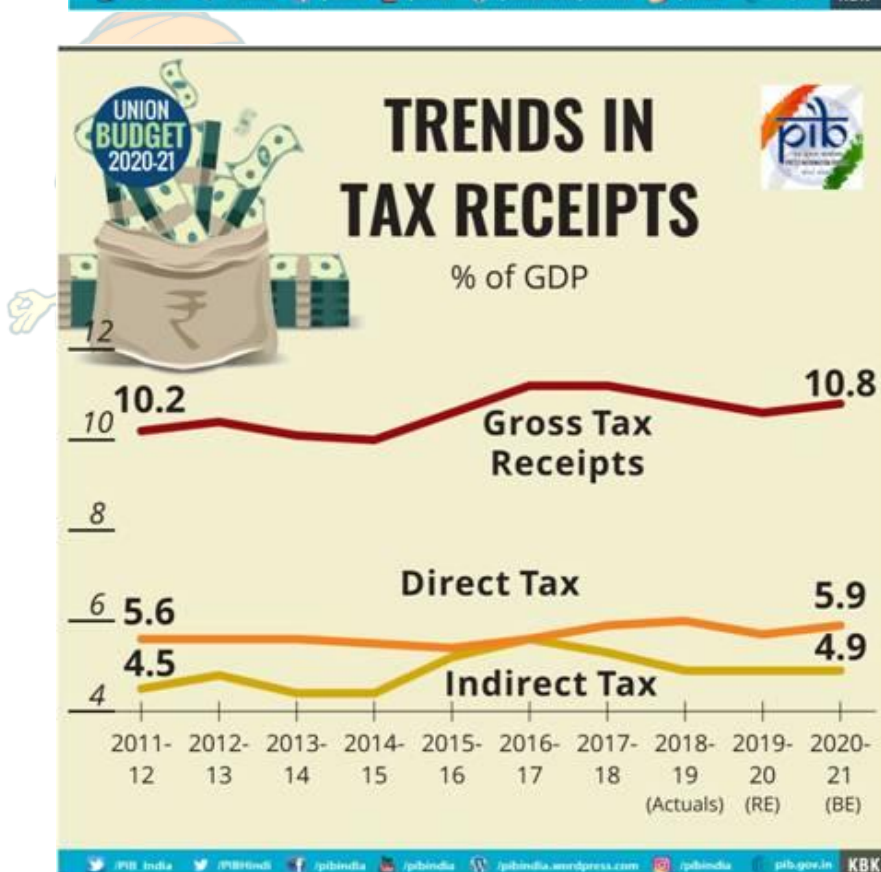
- Seamless delivery of services through *Digital Governance*.
- Improvement in physical quality of life through *National Infrastructure Pipeline*.
- Risk mitigation through *Disaster Resilience*.
- *Social security* through Pension and Insurance penetration.

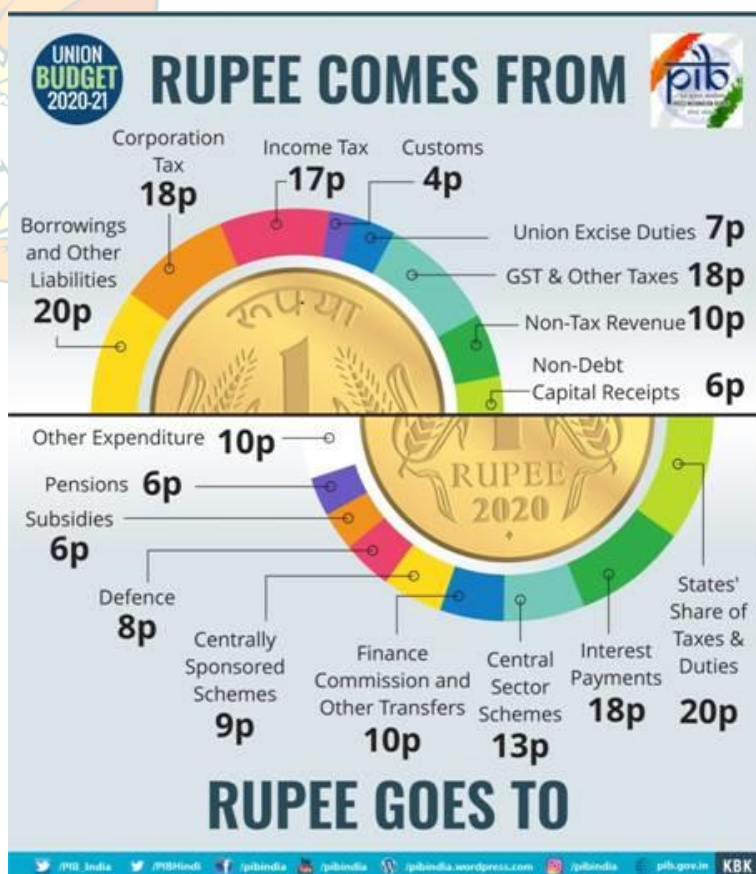
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KEY NUMBERS
(in ₹ crore)

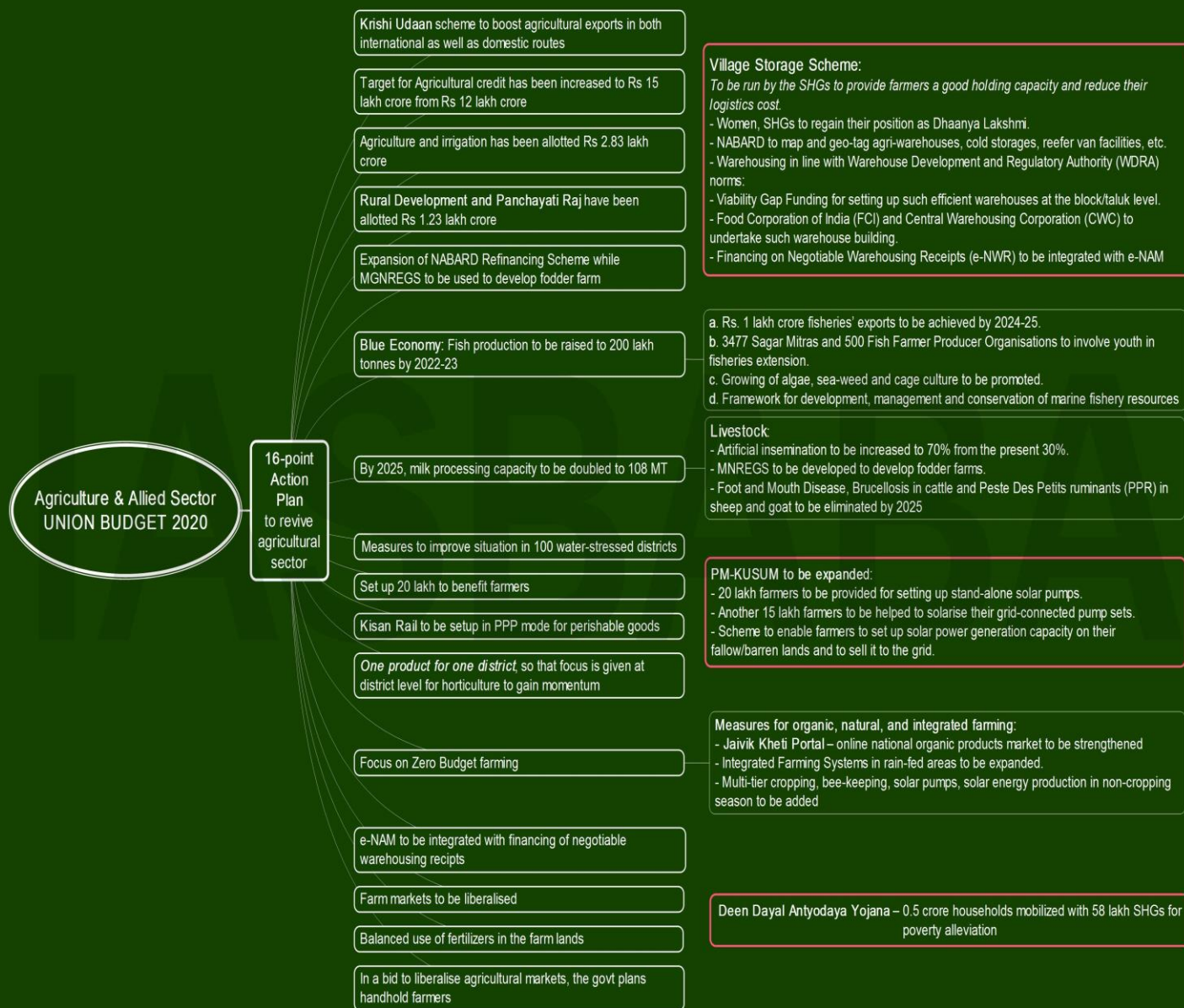
	2018-19 (Actuals)	2019-20 (Budget Estimates)	2019-20 (Revised Estimates)	2020-21 (Budget Estimates)
Revenue Receipts	15,52,916	19,62,761	18,50,101	20,20,926
Capital Receipts	7,62,197	8,23,588	8,48,451	10,21,304
Total Receipts	23,15,113	27,86,349	26,98,552	30,42,230
Total Expenditure	23,15,113	27,86,349	26,98,552	30,42,230
Revenue Deficit	4,54,483	4,85,019	4,99,544	6,09,219
Effective Revenue Deficit	2,62,702	2,77,686	3,07,807	4,02,719
Fiscal Deficit	6,49,418	7,03,760	7,66,846	7,96,337
Primary Deficit	66,770	43,289	1,41,741	88,134

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MIND MAPS



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Females constitute 48.6% of the total enrolment in higher education

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for females in higher education at 26.4% is higher than the national GER of boys at 26.3%

Gender Parity Index (GPI) has increased during the last 5 years, from 0.92 in 2014-15 to 1 in 2018-19

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for females in higher education is higher than the National Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)

Rs. 99,300 crore Reflects an increase of 5% from the previous year

National Police University
National Forensic Science University

Proposed Degree level full-fledged online education program by Top-100 institutions in the National Institutional Ranking Framework will help in increasing Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education

Ind-SAT proposed for Asian and African countries as a part of Study in India program

Improved Financing: External Commercial Borrowings and FDI to be enabled

Teacher Education: Striving to utilize ICT in teacher training (e.g. Diksha Portal)

The focus has shifted from merely providing access to schools and colleges towards pursuit of quality in education, in line with the SDG-4.

Skill Development

Education & Skills

Education

Rs. 3000 crore

Up to 1-year internship to fresh engineers to be provided by Urban Local Bodies

Proposes to attach a medical college to an existing district hospital in PPP mode

Special bridge courses to be designed by the Ministries of Health, and Skill Development:
- To fulfill the demand for teachers, nurses, para-medical staff and care-givers abroad.
- To bring in equivalence in the skill sets of the workforce and employers' standards.

150 higher educational institutions to start apprenticeship embedded degree/diploma courses by March 2021

National Education Policy: In the year of 2019 Dr K. Kasturirangan Committee submitted the Draft National Education Policy. The Government of India had initiated the process of formulating a New Education Policy to meet the changing dynamics of the requirements of the population with regard to quality education, innovation and research, aiming to make India a knowledge superpower by equipping its students with the necessary skills and knowledge and to eliminate the shortage of manpower in science, technology, academics and industry.

Five-year vision plan 'Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP)' finalised and released by HRD Ministry:
- Sets out to deliver further on principles of Access, Inclusion, Quality, Excellence and enhancing employability in Higher Education.
- EQUIP is a vision plan aiming at ushering transformation in India's higher education system by implementing strategic interventions in the sector over five years (2019-2024).
- Currently EQUIP has been submitted for in principal approval of EFC.

Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Program (DHRUV) to identify and encourage talented children to enrich their skills and knowledge.

Launch of Impactful Policy Research in Social Science (IMPRESS) to support the social science research in the higher educational institutions and to enable research to guide policy making

SWAYAM 2.0: To offer Online Degree Programmes through SWAYAM by Top Ranking Universities

Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS)

- For providing industry apprenticeship opportunities to the general graduates exiting through the National Apprenticeship Promotional Scheme (NAPS).
- The program aims to enhance the employability of Indian youth by providing 'on the job work exposure' and earning of stipend.

National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT)

- Finalized a newly proposed scheme i.e. National Education Alliance of Technologies (NEAT) through PPP Model between MHRD and EdTech companies
- For offering Adaptive and personalized learning through Artificial Intelligence (AI) to the students with specific emphasis on students from economically and socially backward regions.

Infrastructure Union Budget 2020

HIGHWAYS

Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and two other packages to be completed by 2023

Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway to be started

Proposed to monetise at least 12 lots of highway bundles of over 6000 Km before 2024

Accelerated development of highways to be undertaken, including:
- 2500 Km access control highways.
- 9000 Km of economic corridors.
- 2000 Km of coastal and land port roads.
- 2000 Km of strategic highways

WATERWAYS

Corporatizing at least one major port and its listing on stock exchanges to be considered

Governance framework keeping with global benchmarks needed for more efficient sea-ports

Economic activity along river banks to be energised as per Prime Minister's Arth Ganga concept

AIRWAYS

- 100 more airports to be developed by 2024 to support Udaan scheme
- Air fleet number expected to go up from present 600 to 1200 during this time

POWER

Rs.22, 000 crore proposed for power and renewable energy sector in 2020-21

Expansion of national gas grid from the present 16200 km to 27000 km proposed

Further reforms to facilitate transparent price discovery and ease of transactions

"Smart" metering to be promoted

More measures to reform DISCOMs to be taken

HIGHLIGHTS

Rs.100 lakh crore to be invested on infrastructure over the next 5 years.

National Infrastructure Pipeline: Rs.103 lakh crore worth projects; More than 6500 projects across sectors, to be classified as per their size and stage of development.

National Logistics Policy to be launched: A single window e-logistics market to be created to clarify roles of the Union Government, State Governments and key regulators

National Skill Development Agency to give special thrust to infrastructure-focused skill development opportunities

Project preparation facility for infrastructure projects proposed: To actively involve young engineers, management graduates and economists from Universities.

Infrastructure agencies of the government to involve youth-power in start-ups

Rs.1.7 lakh crore proposed for transport infrastructure in 2020-21

RAILWAYS

550 Wi-fi facilities commissioned in as many stations

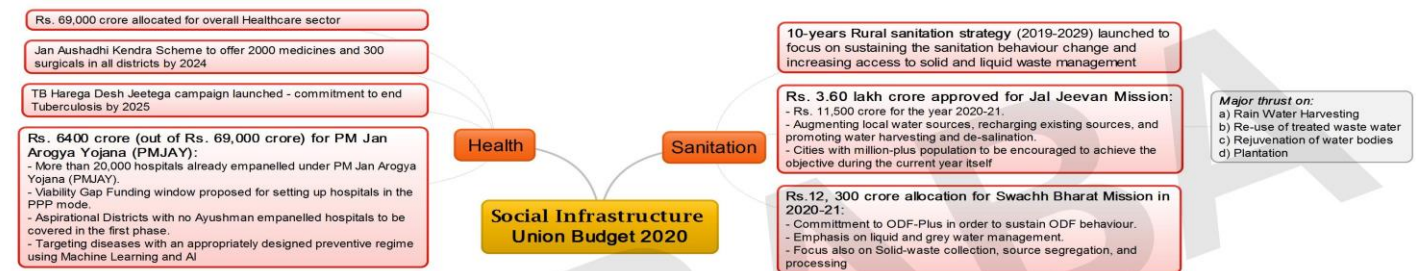
Zero unmanned crossings

27000 Km of tracks to be electrified

Five measures:

- Large solar power capacity to be set up alongside rail tracks, on land owned by railways.
- Four station re-development projects and operation of 150 passenger trains through PPP.
- More Tejas type trains to connect iconic tourist destinations.
- High speed train between Mumbai and Ahmedabad to be actively pursued.
- 148 km long Bengaluru Suburban transport project at a cost of Rs 18600 crore, to have fares on metro model. Central Government to provide 20% of equity and facilitate external assistance up to 60% of the project cost.

IASBABA – YK GIST MARCH UNION BUDGET 2020



Indian's Quest for universal Coverage rests on FOUR pillars

Pillar 1: Ensuring preventive health

- Special emphasis on yoga, ayurveda and fitness
- Complete ban on e-cigarettes
- Ayushman Bharat: Through its two components Health and wellness Centres (HWCs) and Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) addresses health holistically covering preventive care

Pillar 2: Affordable Healthcare

- addressed by the second component of Ayushman Bharat scheme—PM-JAY
- PM-JAY is the world's largest publicly -funded health assurance scheme and provide more than 50 crore poor and vulnerable citizens with a health cover of Rs.5 lakh for cashless secondary and tertiary inpatient care
- Special pharmacies have been set up under which 800 critical drugs have been made available at affordable prices. Because of this initiative, the price of cardiac stent has been reduced by 80% and that of knee implants reduced by 50-70%.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme, lakhs of people are able to avail free dialysis at district hospital, bringing major for ESRD patient

Pillar 3: Improving supply of Quality Health Services

- Supply side expansion focuses on building medical infrastructure and providing quality medical education
- National Medical Commission act, 2019. This will transform healthcare in the country by paving the way for the establishment of the country's new regulator of medical education and certification

Pillar 4: Implementation of government health schemes in mission – mode

- The Government of India has also launched Poshan Abhiyan or National Nutrition Mission to tackle anaemia and stunting.
- As a signatory to sustainable development goals, other mission mode Interventions include eliminating tuberculosis by 2025 and single use plastic by 2022.

Budget 2020-2021: Demonstration of strong political will towards health

- Several schemes have been strengthened giving emphasis to universal immunisation; mission Indradhanush has been expanded to cover 12 related diseases, including five new vaccines. Fit India movement is a vital part of fight against diseases resulting from lifestyle issues.
- The budget allocation for both component of Ayushman Bharat has been maintained with HWCs and Rs. 6400 crores.

All the best

Team IASbaba 😊

