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A photograph of a desert landscape under a clear blue sky. A paved road curves through the foreground. In the middle ground, two large white wind turbines stand on a sandy dune. To the right of the road, there is a black and white directional sign pointing left. The overall scene is bright and open.

If people are not laughing at your goals, your goals are too small.

Azim Premji

Tax brackets

Budget 2024: A look at various income tax scenarios following the new slabs

— PAGE 2

14%

INFRA. OUTLAY AS % OF BUDGET

Transport, power, telecom spending retained

INFRASTRUCTURE - PAGE 2, 9

5.5%

SOCIAL SECTOR SHARE IN BUDGET

Health, education, social welfare spending dips from FY24 RE

SOCIAL SECTOR - PAGE 7

9.43%

DEFENCE SHARE IN BUDGET

Defence outlay in Budget is lowest in nine years

ECONOMY - PAGE 6



ILLUSTRATION: SOUMYANIP/SHIMA

Inside

Investor

Stock markets react negatively to capital gain tax proposal

— PAGE 3

Economy

Flagship schemes get more food, fertilizer subsidies trimmed

— PAGE 5

Social Sector

Flagship schemes for women and girl children get a fillip

— PAGE 7

Infrastructure

₹10 lakh crore investment in housing scheme

— PAGE 8

Small servings, MANY PLATES

FM signals shift from previous trickle-down strategy to a package of schemes for jobless youth, MSMEs; announces tax cuts for middle class; tightens fiscal deficit target to 4.5% of the GDP

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Presenting her seventh Union Budget and the first after this year's Lok Sabha election, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday unveiled a flurry of measures aimed at fixing the woes of unemployed youth, small businesses, and the middle class, and sought to strengthen the ruling NDA coalition's bonds with support for multiple investment projects in Bihar and Andhra Pradesh.

Ms. Sitharaman proposed income tax rate cuts worth up to ₹7,500 a year, putting an extra ₹1,458 a month in the hands of these taxpayers, and hiked standard deductions for salaried taxpayers and pensioners by ₹25,000 and ₹10,000, respectively. She also vowed to spend ₹2 lakh crore over five years on five schemes which are part of what she called "the Prime Minister's package", aimed at sparing jobs and improving skills to 4.1 crore youth.

This marked a shift in strategy, or rather a frenetic changing of lanes ahead of a roundabout as drivers in the capital are prone to do, from the previous government's preferred reliance on letting multiplier and trickle-down effects work while avoiding direct handouts to such sections of society.

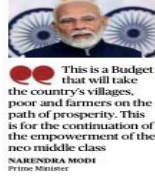
A similar lane change was last seen when Ms. Sitharaman's predecessor, the late Arun Jaitley, presented his third Budget, for 2016-17.

Seeking to shed the "suit-boot sapka" (uniform) used by the Opposition at the time, Jaitley dedicated the Budget to the farmers, the poor, and vulnerable sections of society and switched his focus to the rural economy and job creation.

The trigger for the shift could be the BJP's electoral



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with the Budget ahead of the presentation in Parliament on Tuesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR



This is a Budget that will take the country's villages, poor and farmers on the path of prosperity. This is for the continuation of the empowerment of the neo middle class

reverses after a decade of outright majority in Parliament, preceded by revelations such as big businesses' poll bond purchases.

Theme of the budget At a briefing after her roughly 90-minute speech, which appeared to acknowledge and begin addressing the perceived disenchantment among specific voter groups like the young, the salaried class, farmers, and small entrepreneurs, Ms. Sitharaman made it clear that the overarching theme of Budget was "EMPLOYMENT".

Used as an acronym, the theme was split out - Employment and Education;

end there. While he had released a plan to "Transform India" based on action points around nine pillars, Ms. Sitharaman on Tuesday laid out nine priorities for generating ample opportunities for all. Five of those are, in fact, similar to Jaitley's list that led with the promise to "double farmers' incomes in five years". Ms. Sitharaman said that her first priority would be to raise productivity and resilience in agriculture, followed by employment and skilling, inclusive human resource development and social justice.

Infrastructure and next generation reforms also figure in the priorities, with the Minister promising more details about the latter through an economic policy framework to be formulated later, with a focus on fixing factors of productivity, including land, labour, capital, and entrepreneurship. She also announced a review of the Income Tax and Customs Acts and a simplification of Foreign Direct Investment norms.

The Finance Minister did provide some indirect support to private investments by accelerating the fiscal consolidation process, armed with a ₹2.1 lakh crore surprise dividend from the central bank. The fiscal deficit target for this year has been pegged at 4.3% of GDP from the 5.1% projected in the Interim Budget, and the 5.6% of GDP achieved last year.

As is the case with many initiatives of this Budget, more details will emerge over time. But, Ms. Sitharaman will be hoping that past achievements rather than the future in the Interim Budget presented this February. References to growth slipped to 10, from a combined 34 mentions in the last two Budget speeches. Jaitley's third Budget had also slashed growth references, but the similarities with that speech don't

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs); Productivity; Land; Opportunities; Youth; Middle class; Energy Security; New Generation Reforms; and Technology.

Her speech referred to "employment" 23 times, sharply from three mentions of the word in the 2024 Budget, and seven (four of which were about past achievements rather than the future) in the Interim Budget presented this February. References to growth slipped to 10, from a combined 34 mentions in the last two Budget speeches. Jaitley's third Budget had also slashed growth references, but the similarities with that speech don't

SHUFFLING THE DECK
— PAGE 10
MORE REPORTS
— PAGES 2-13

Nitish hails Budget as Bihar gets ₹58,900 cr.

Amit Bhehari
PATNA

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday announced development projects worth ₹58,900 crore for Bihar in the Union Budget.

While ₹26,000 crore will be allocated for road projects, a 2,400-MW power plant will be set up in Pirpainti at a cost of ₹20,400 crore, and ₹11,500 crore will be used for flood control.

Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) chief Nitish Kumar, a key NDA ally, called the announcement a big gift to the State, which was denied the Special Category Status by the Centre in another Opposition Kashtriyajana Dal (RJD) termed



Bihar CM Nitish Kumar with PM Narendra Modi. FILE PHOTO

them an eyeshot.

"We had proposed that if special status was not feasible for technical reasons, Bihar should receive special assistance from the Centre in another form, which has been announced today," Mr. Ku-

mar said. He evaded a direct reply to a query as to whether the Centre was giving up the demand for special status. Later, Mr. Kumar welcomed the Budget in a post on X.

"Special attention has

been paid to the needs of Bihar and special funds have been provided for road projects, power projects, airports and medical colleges. Special assistance has been announced for the development of tourist places in the State and a big announcement has also been made to protect Bihar from floods," Mr. Kumar posted on X.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition in Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav called the Budget disappointing.

Bihar Congress Legislature Party leader Shabeeb Ahmad Khan said the Modi government had cheated the people of Bihar and there should not be any compromise on the Special Category Status. (With PTI inputs)

Supreme Court declines petitions to cancel NEET

Krishnanand Rajasopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to cancel the National Eligibility Test (NEET) for 2024 held on May 5, while observing there is no material on record "at the present stage" to prove that a systemic leak of question papers has destroyed the sanctity of the exam.

The judgment seemed to agree with the arguments of the government and the Central Bureau of Investigation, both repre-

sented by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, that the leaks "so far" looked "isolated" to Hazratnagar and Patna in Bihar. An ongoing CBI probe has led to several arrests.

The Bench acknowledged the government's viewpoint that cancellation of the exam would have serious consequences on the 23 lakh students, including disruption of the admission schedule of the courses.

Full Report
— PAGE 13

A.P. gets ₹15,000 cr. to build Amaravati, aid for Polavaram

Appaji Reddem
VIJAYAWADA

The Union Budget spells a boost to Andhra Pradesh, with a special financial support of ₹15,000 crore for developing its capital Amaravati, besides assistance for the Polavaram irrigation project, grants for backward regions.

"Recognising the State's need for a capital, we will facilitate special financial support through multilateral development agencies. In the current financial year, ₹15,000 crore will be arranged, with additional amounts in future

years," Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her Budget speech on Tuesday.

She said the government has made concerted efforts to fulfil the commitments in the AP Reorganisation Act.

Ms. Sitharaman said the Centre would come up with a plan named "Paryaday" for the overall development of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

A few days ahead of the Budget, Chief Minister and NDA ally, Chandrababu Naidu, a key NDA ally, had apprised the Centre of the



A.P. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in Amaravati. G. N. RAO

"dismal" financial situation of Polavaram project and other projects in the State.

Blaming the past government for "irregularities", Ms. Sitharaman said the Centre is also fully committed to the completion of the Polavaram irrigation pro-

ject. This apart, she has also ensured the promotion of industrial development, and funds for essential infrastructure such as roads, water, power and railways.

As part of it, the Koppurthi Industrial Node, the corridor between Visakhapatnam and Chennai, will be developed on a priority basis. Grants for backward regions of Rayalaseema, Telangana and north coastal Andhra Pradesh will also be provided.

The State is also expected to benefit from the funding plan that will cover 53,000 tribal villages across the country.

Mr. Naidu thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi on X for the allocation to the State. "On behalf of the people of Andhra Pradesh, I thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister, @narendramodi ji and Hon'ble Union Finance Minister, @nitharaman ji, for recognising the needs of our State and focusing on a capital... This support from the Centre will go a long way towards rebuilding Andhra Pradesh. I congratulate you on the presentation of this progressive and confidence-boosting Budget," Mr. Naidu said

Budget Estimates 2024-25

- For the year 2024-25, the total receipts other than borrowings and the total expenditure are estimated at **Rs 32.07 lakh crore** and **Rs 48.21 lakh crore** respectively.
- The **net tax receipts** are estimated at **Rs 25.83 lakh crore** and the **fiscal deficit** is estimated at **4.9%** of GDP. Also, the government will aim to reach a deficit below **4.5%** next year.
- वर्ष 2024-25 के लिए, उधार के अलावा कुल प्राप्तियां और कुल व्यय क्रमशः 32.07 लाख करोड़ रुपये और 48.21 लाख करोड़ रुपये होने का अनुमान है।
- शुद्ध कर प्राप्तियाँ 25.83 लाख करोड़ रुपये अनुमानित हैं और राजकोषीय घाटा सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का 4.9% अनुमानित है। साथ ही, सरकार अगले साल घाटे को 4.5% से नीचे लाने का लक्ष्य रखेगी।

- The **gross and net market borrowings** through **dated securities** during 2024-25 are estimated at **Rs 14.01 lakh crore** and **Rs 11.63 lakh crore** respectively.
- Budget speech highlighted India's low and stable inflation moving towards the **4% target**, with specific measures to ensure adequate supply of perishable goods.
- 2024-25 के दौरान दिनांकित प्रतिभूतियों के माध्यम से सकल और शुद्ध बाजार उधार क्रमशः 14.01 लाख करोड़ रुपये और 11.63 लाख करोड़ रुपये होने का अनुमान है।
- बजट भाषण में खराब होने वाली वस्तुओं की पर्याप्त आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करने के विशिष्ट उपायों के साथ भारत की कम और स्थिर मुद्रास्फीति को 4% लक्ष्य की ओर बढ़ने पर प्रकाश डाला गया।

बजट अधिनियमित करने के चरण

- प्रस्तुति
- सामान्य चर्चा
- विभाग समितियों द्वारा समीक्षा
- अनुदानों की मांग पर मतदान
- विनियोग विधेयक पारित करना
- वित्त विधेयक पारित करना

Stages of Budget Enactment

- Presentation
- General discussion
- Scrutiny by Department Committees
- Voting on Demands for Grants
- Passing an Appropriation Bill
- Passing of Finance Bill

What else does the Constitution of India provide for the Budget?

- Without the recommendation of the President:
 - No demand for a grant can be made
 - No money bill imposing tax can be introduced
- No money can be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India except under appropriation made by law

भारतीय संविधान बजट के लिए और क्या प्रावधान करता है?

- राष्ट्रपति की सिफारिश के बिना:
 - अनुदान की मांग नहीं की जा सकती
 - कोई भी धन विधेयक जो कर लगाता है, प्रस्तुत नहीं किया जा सकता
- संचित निधि से कोई पैसा नहीं निकाला जा सकता है सिवाय विनियोग द्वारा जो कानून द्वारा बनाया गया है

FMSpeak

To bolster Indian start-ups and support innovation, I propose to abolish the so-called angel tax for all classes of investors



Markets say “meh”

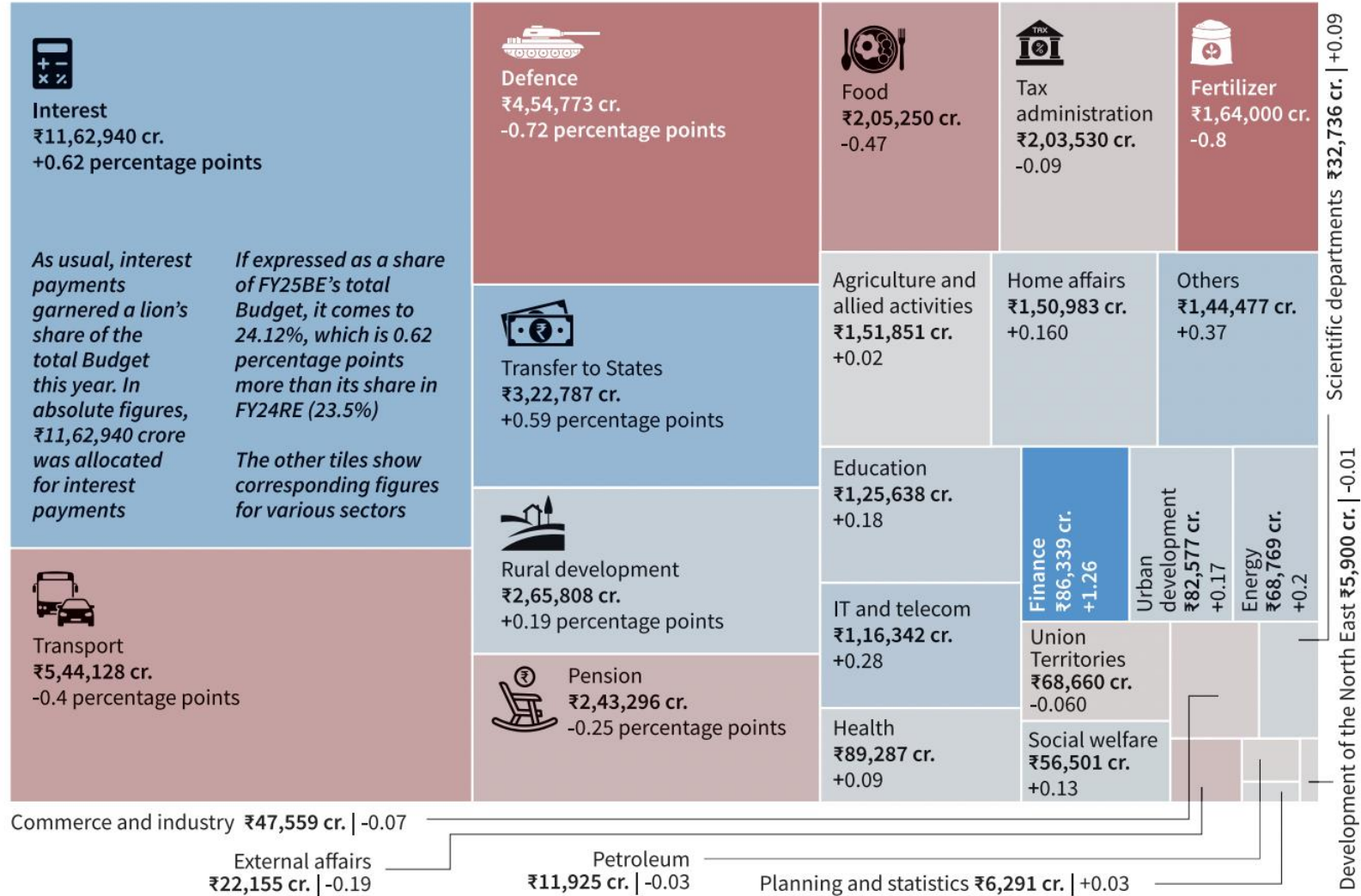
The market did not react well to the budget speech, with stock prices of most sectors declining, except for fast moving consumer goods, which gained considerably. Healthcare, IT and auto sectors too gained marginally. Realty sector recorded the steepest decline

Source: BSE

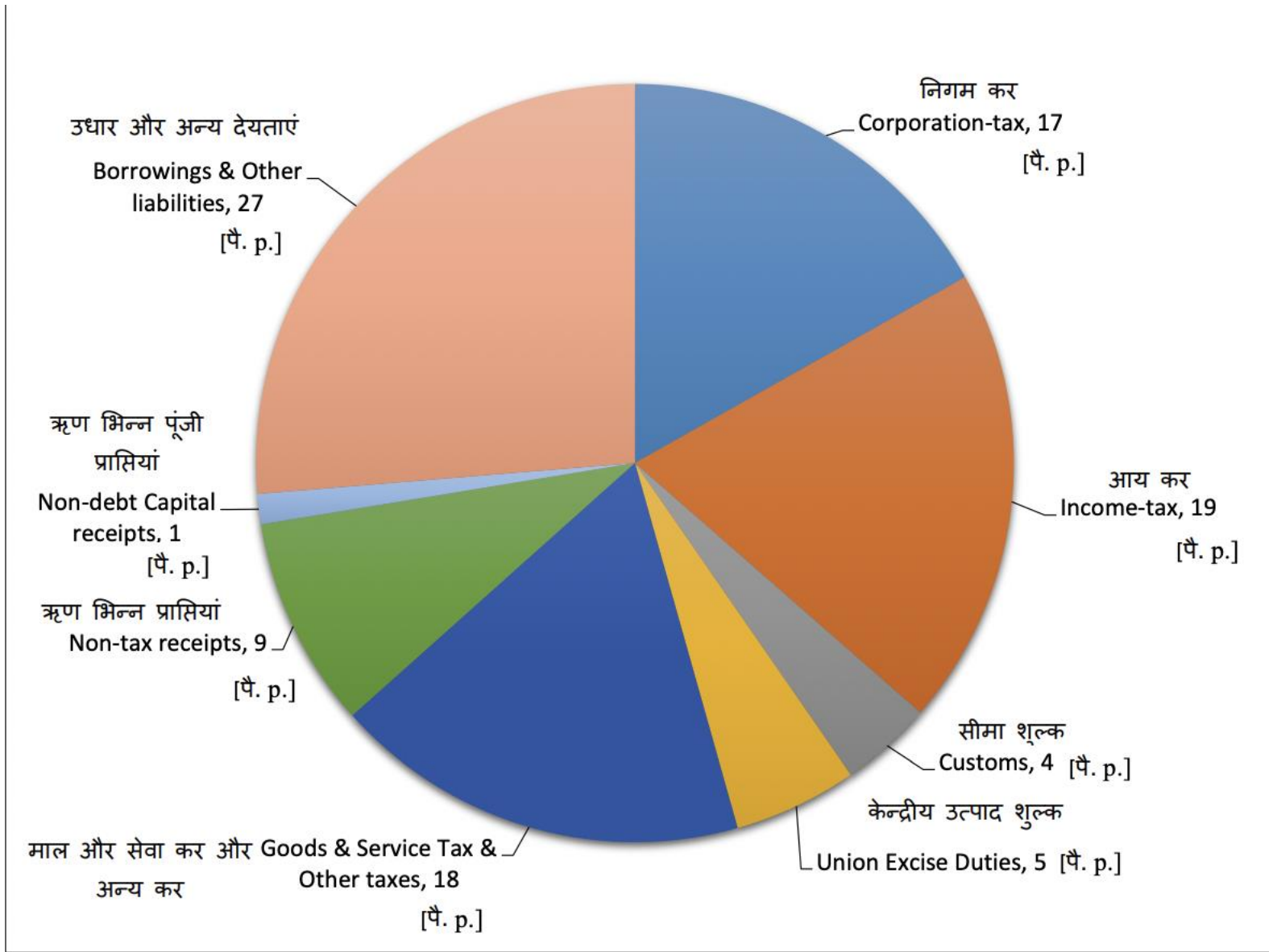
Sector	% change
● Energy.....	-1.16% ▼
● Healthcare.....	+0.59% ▲
● Fast Moving Consumer Goods.....	+2.48% ▲
● Industrials	-1.48% ▼
● IT.....	+0.82% ▲
● Auto	+0.19% ▲
● Telecom.....	-0.51% ▼
● Finance.....	-1.27% ▼
● Realty.....	-2.15% ▼
● Oil and gas.....	-1.32% ▼
● Capital goods.....	-2.03% ▼
● Power	-0.17% ▼

Budget breakdown

The outlay for the transport sector (apart from interest payments) formed the bulk of the expenditure in FY25BE. However, transport's share in total Budget came down by 0.4% points from last year (11.69% in FY24RE to 11.29% in FY25BE). The graphic depicts budgeted expenditure (₹ crore) and the change from FY24RE in percentage points



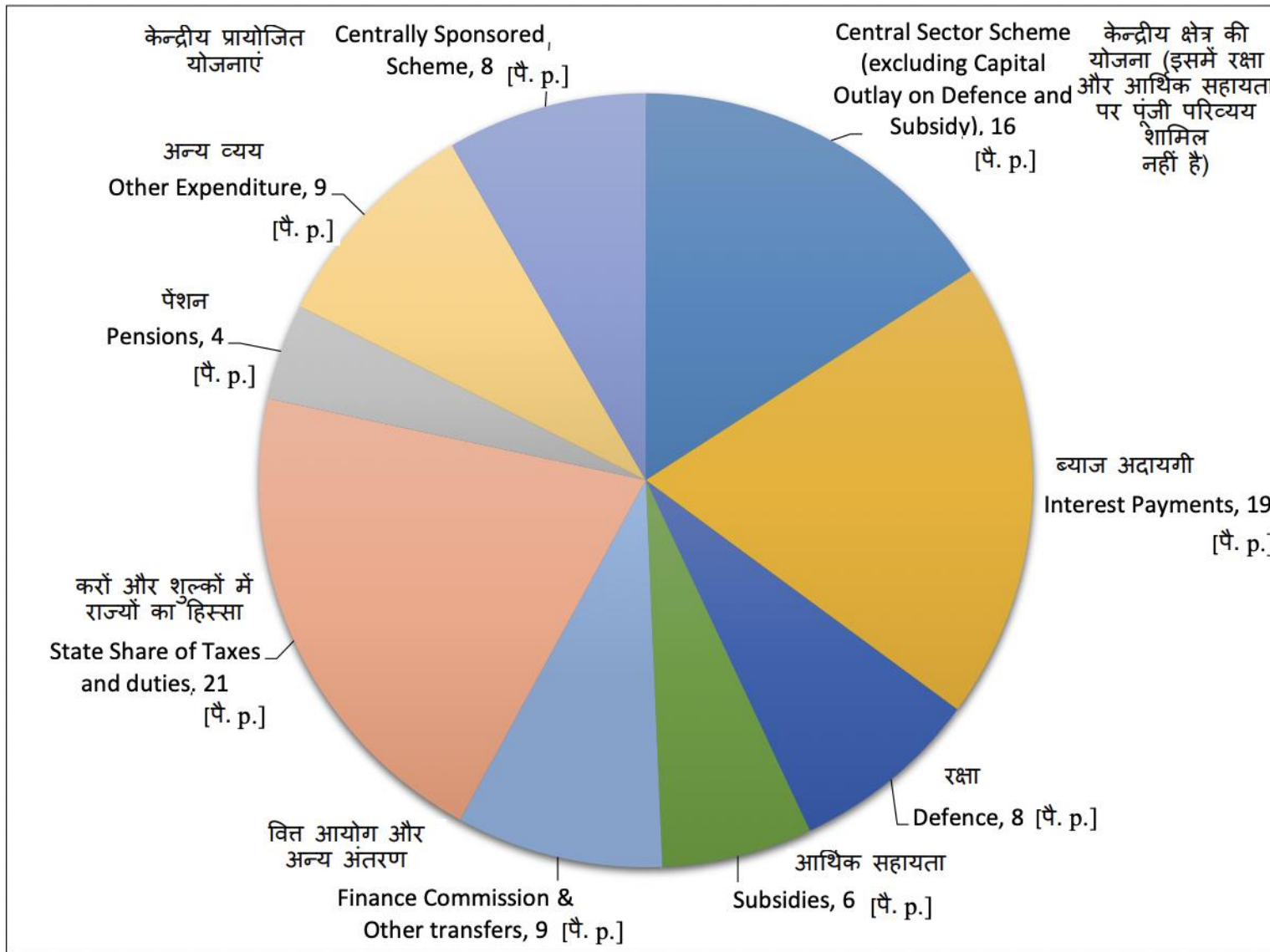
SOURCE: THE FIGURES ARE SOURCED FROM "THE EXPENDITURE OF MAJOR ITEMS" PAGE WHICH FEATURES IN THE "BUDGET AT A GLANCE" DOCUMENT



Money comes from

टिप्पणियां:- 1. कुल प्राप्तियों में करों और शुल्कों में राज्यों का हिस्सा शामिल है, जिन्हें पृष्ठ 1 पर सारणी में घटा दिया गया है।
2. आंकड़ों को पूर्णांकित किया गया है।

Notes :- 1. Total receipts are inclusive of States' share of taxes and duties which have been netted in the table on page 1.
2. Figures have been rounded off.



Money goes to

टिप्पणियां:- 1. कुल व्यय में करों और शुल्कों में राज्यों का हिस्सा शामिल है, जिन्हें पृष्ठ 1 पर सारणी में प्राप्तियों में से घटा दिया गया है।
2. आंकड़ों को पूर्णांकित किया गया है।

Notes :- 1. Total expenditure is inclusive of States' share of taxes and duties which have been netted against receipts in the table on page 1.
2. Figures have been rounded off.

प्रमुख मदों का व्यय Expenditure of Major Items

(₹ करोड़ में) (In ₹ crore)

		2022-2023 वास्तविक Actuals	2023-2024 बजट अनुमान Budget Estimates	2023-2024 संशोधित अनुमान Revised Estimates	2024-2025 बजट अनुमान Budget Estimates
पेंशन	Pension	241599	234359	238049	243296
रक्षा	Defence	399123	432720	455897	454773
सब्सिडी -	Subsidy -				
उर्वरक	Fertiliser	251339	175100	188894	164000
खाद्य	Food	272802	197350	212332	205250
पेट्रोलियम	Petroleum	6817	2257	12240	11925
कृषि और संबद्ध कार्यकलाप#	Agriculture and Allied Activities#	125875	144214	140533	151851
वाणिज्य और उद्योग	Commerce and Industry	44363	48169	47350	47559
पूर्वोत्तर का विकास	Development of North East	990	5892	5892	5900
शिक्षा#	Education#	98567	116417	108878	125638
ऊर्जा	Energy	65717	94915	54989	68769
विदेश	External Affairs	16661	18050	29122	22155
वित्त	Finance	11551	13574	23982	86339
स्वास्थ्य	Health	73551	88956	79221	89287
गृह	Home Affairs	120932	134917	133360	150983
ब्याज	Interest	928517	1079971	1055427	1162940
आईटी और दूरसंचार	IT and Telecom	111629	93478	95781	116342
अन्य#	Others#	101108	117008	118020	144477
योजना और सांख्यिकी	Planning and Statistics	4560	6268	4475	6291
ग्रामीण विकास#	Rural Development#	238396	238204	238984	265808
वैज्ञानिक विभाग	Scientific Departments	24041	32225	26651	32736
सामाजिक कल्याण	Social Welfare	40470	55080	46741	56501
कर प्रशासन@	Tax Administration@	207431	194749	193695	203530
जिसमें से जीसटी	of which Transfer to				
क्षतिपूर्ति निधि को अंतरण	GST Compensation Fund	163506	145000	145000	150000
राज्यों को अंतरण	Transfer to States	273393	324641	273985	322787
परिवहन#	Transport#	390508	517034	524941	544128
संघ राज्य क्षेत्र	Union Territories	65907	61118	66676	68660
शहरी विकास	Urban Development	77310	76432	69271	82577
निवल अतिरिक्त संसाधन जिसे समर्पित आरक्षित निधि में अंतरित (+) किया गया/पूरा किया गया (-)*	Net additional resources transferred to (+)/ met from (-) dedicated reserve funds*	45100	-13990
कुल जोड़	Grand Total	4193157	4503097	4490486	4820512

घाटे का सार Deficit Statistics

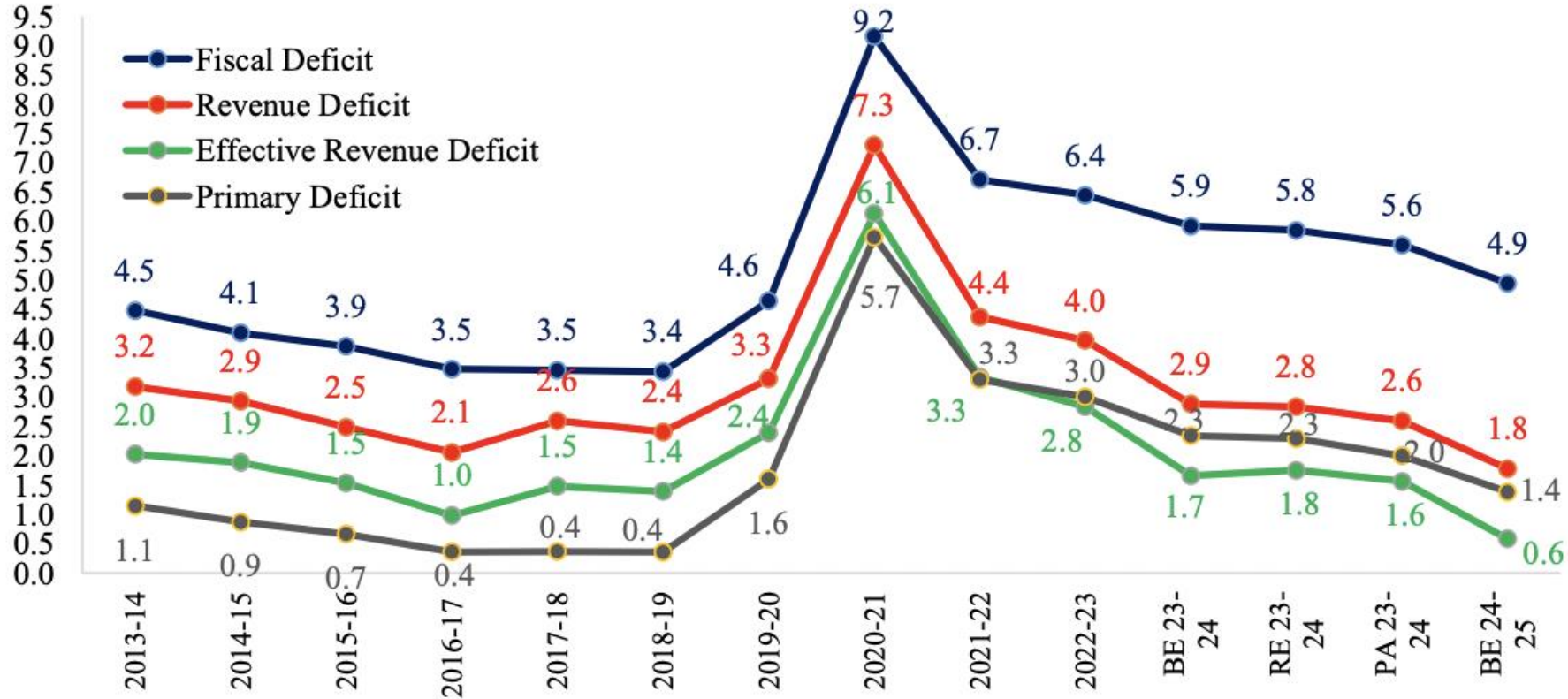
(₹ करोड़ में) (In ₹ crore)

		2022-2023 वास्तविक Actuals	2023-2024 बजट अनुमान Budget Estimates	2023-2024 संशोधित अनुमान Revised Estimates	2023-2024 अनंतिम वास्तविक ¹ Provisional Actuals ¹	2024-2025 बजट अनुमान Budget Estimates
1. राजकोषीय घाटा	1. Fiscal Deficit	1737755 (6.4)	1786816 (5.9)	1734773 (5.8)	1653670 (5.6)	1613312 (4.9)
2. राजस्व घाटा	2. Revenue Deficit	1069926 (4.0)	869855 (2.9)	840527 (2.8)	765624 (2.6)	580201 (1.8)
3. प्रभावी राजस्व घाटा	3. Effective Revenue Deficit	763662 (2.8)	499867 (1.7)	519337 (1.8)	461837 (1.6)	189423 (0.6)
4. प्राथमिक घाटा	4. Primary Deficit	809238 (3.0)	706845 (2.3)	679346 (2.3)	589799 (2.0)	450372 (1.4)

¹ विच वर्ष 2022-24 के लिए अंतिम वास्तविक आंकड़ों को प्राथमिक नहीं है और परिवर्तन के अग्रणी है।

घाटे की प्रवृत्तियां DEFICIT TRENDS

(% of GDP)



¹ वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 के लिए अनंतिम वास्तविक आंकड़ें लेखा परीक्षित नहीं हैं और परिवर्तन के अध्वधीन है।

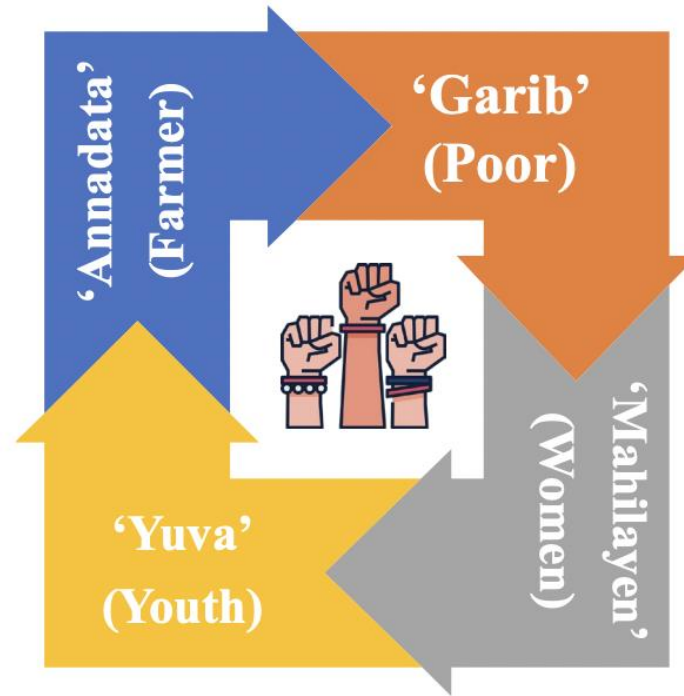
¹ Provisional Actuals for FY 2023-24 are unaudited and subject to change.

नोट: जीडीपी, केन्द्रीय सांख्यिकी कार्यालय द्वारा प्रकाशित नवीनतम अनुमानों के अनुसार है।

Note : GDP is as per the latest estimates published by CSO.

Roadmap for our pursuit of '*Viksit Bharat*'

Focus on 4 major castes



Budget Theme



Priorities for Viksit Bharat

Productivity and resilience in Agriculture



Transforming Agriculture Research

Comprehensive review of the agriculture research setup to bring focus on raising productivity and developing climate resilient varieties.

National Cooperation Policy

For systematic, orderly and all-round development of the cooperative sector

Atmanirbharta

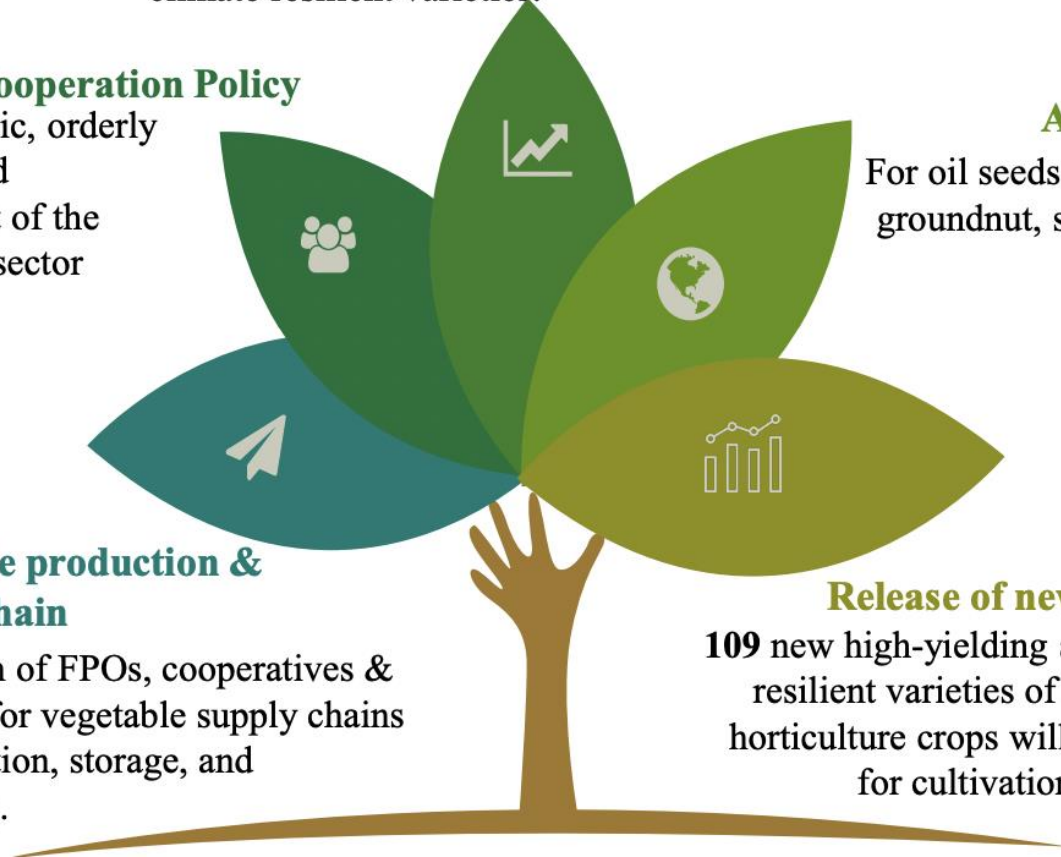
For oil seeds such as mustard, groundnut, sesame, soyabean and sunflower

Vegetable production & supply chain

Promotion of FPOs, cooperatives & start-ups for vegetable supply chains for collection, storage, and marketing.

Release of new varieties

109 new high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties of 32 field and horticulture crops will be released for cultivation by farmers



Natural Farming

- 1 crore farmers across the country will be initiated into natural farming, supported by certification and branding in next 2 years.
- 10,000 need-based bio-input resource centres to be established.

Shrimp Production & Export

- Financing for Shrimp farming, processing and export will be facilitated through NABARD.

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)

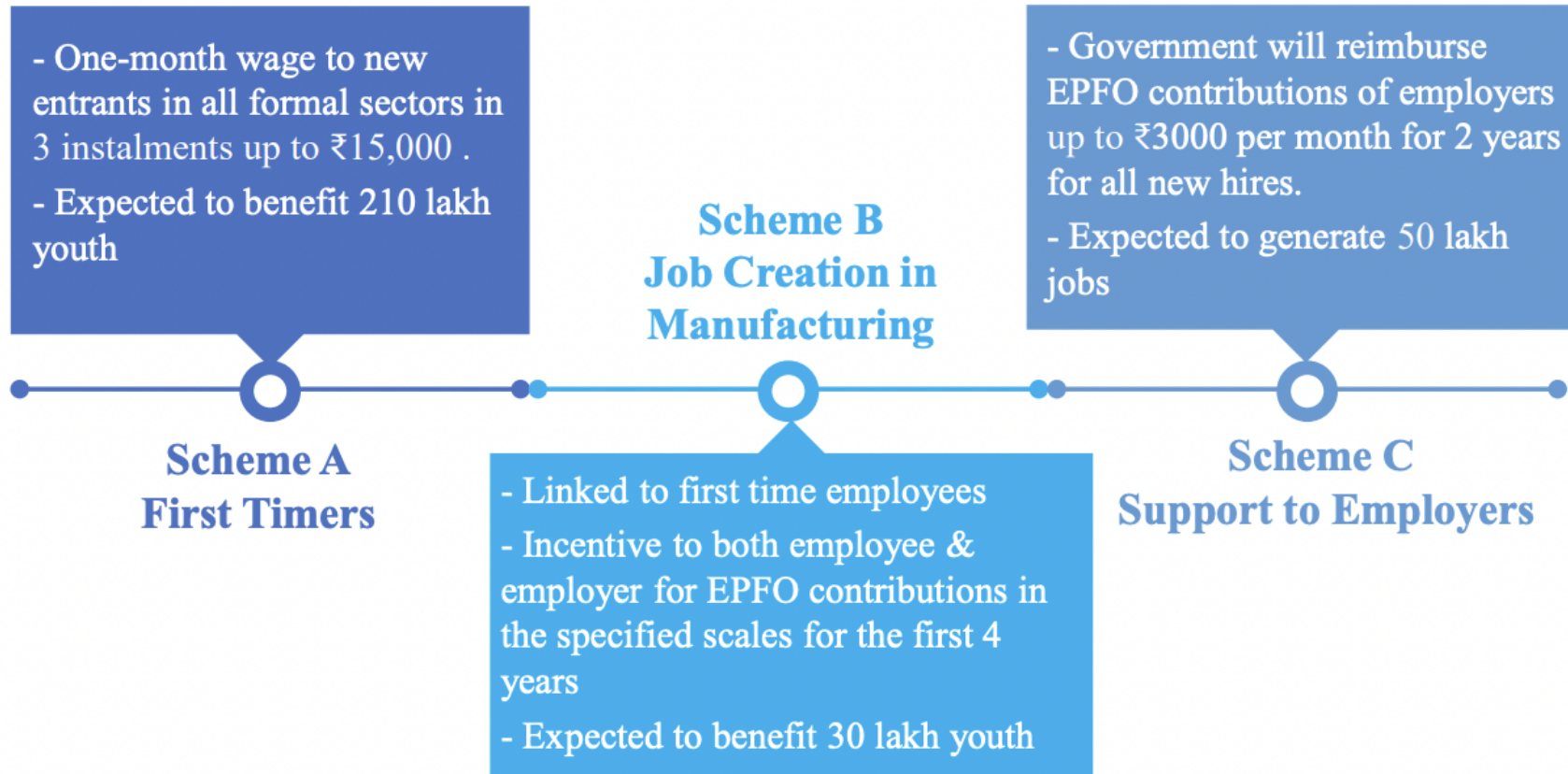
- DPI for coverage of farmers and their lands in 3 years.
- Digital crop survey in 400 districts
- Issuance of *Jan Samarth* based Kisan Credit Cards

Priorities for Viksit Bharat

Employment & Skilling



PM's Package (3 schemes for Employment Linked Incentive)



- Facilitate higher participation of **women** in the workforce through setting up of working women hostels in collaboration with industry, and establishing creches.

- Loans up to **₹7.5 lakh** with a guarantee from a government promoted Fund.
- Expected to help **25,000** students every year.

- Financial support for loans upto ₹10 lakh for higher education in domestic institutions.
- Direct E-vouchers to 1 lakh students every year.
- Annual interest subvention of 3%

Skilling Programme

- 20 lakh youth will be skilled over a 5-year period.
- 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes will be upgraded in hub and spoke arrangements with outcome orientation.
- Course content & design aligned as per skill needs of industry.

PM's Package (4th scheme)

Priorities for Viksit Bharat

Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice



Purvodaya: *Vikas bhi Virasat bhi*

- Plan for endowment rich states in the Eastern parts covering Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh for generation of economic opportunities to attain Viksit Bharat.
- Amritsar Kolkata Industrial Corridor with development of an industrial node at Gaya.



Allocation of more than **₹3 lakh** crore for schemes benefitting women and girls.

Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan: Improving the socio-economic condition of tribal communities covering **63,000** villages benefitting **5 crore** tribal people.





More than 100 branches of **India Post Payment Bank** will be set up in the North East region.

Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act:

- Financial support of ₹15,000 crores will be arranged in FY 24-25.
- Completion of Polavaram Irrigation Project ensuring food security of the nation.
- Essential infrastructure such as water, power, railways and roads in Koppaerthy node on the Vishakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor and Orvakal node on Hyderabad-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor.



Priorities for Viksit Bharat

Manufacturing & Services



04

Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs in the Manufacturing Sector

New assessment model for MSME credit

Enhanced scope for mandatory onboarding in TReDS

Mudra Loans: The limit enhanced to ₹ 20 lakh from the current ₹ 10 lakh under the 'Tarun' category.

MSME Units for Food Irradiation, Quality & Safety Testing

Credit Support to MSMEs during Stress Period

Twelve industrial parks under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme

Rental housing with dormitory type accommodation for industrial workers in PPP mode with VGF support.

Critical Minerals Mission for domestic production, recycling and overseas acquisition.

Strengthening of the tribunal and appellate tribunals to speed up insolvency resolution and additional tribunals to be established

Internship Opportunities

- Scheme for providing internship opportunities in 500 top companies to 1 crore youth in 5 years.
- Allowance of ₹5,000 per month along with a one-time assistance of ₹6,000 through the CSR funds.

PM's Package (5th scheme)

Priorities for Viksit Bharat

Urban Development



Stamp Duty

Encouraging states to lower stamp duties for properties purchased by women.



Street Markets

Envisioning a scheme to develop 100 weekly 'haats' or street food hubs in select cities



Transit Oriented Development

Transit Oriented Development plans for 14 large cities with a population above 30 lakh



Water Management

Promote water supply, sewage treatment and solid waste management projects and services for 100 large cities through bankable projects.

Housing Needs



PM Awas Yojana Urban 2.0

Needs of 1 crore urban poor and middle-class families will be addressed with an investment of ₹10 lakh crore



Enabling policies and regulations for efficient and **transparent rental housing markets** with enhanced availability will also be put in place.

Priorities for Viksit Bharat

Energy Security

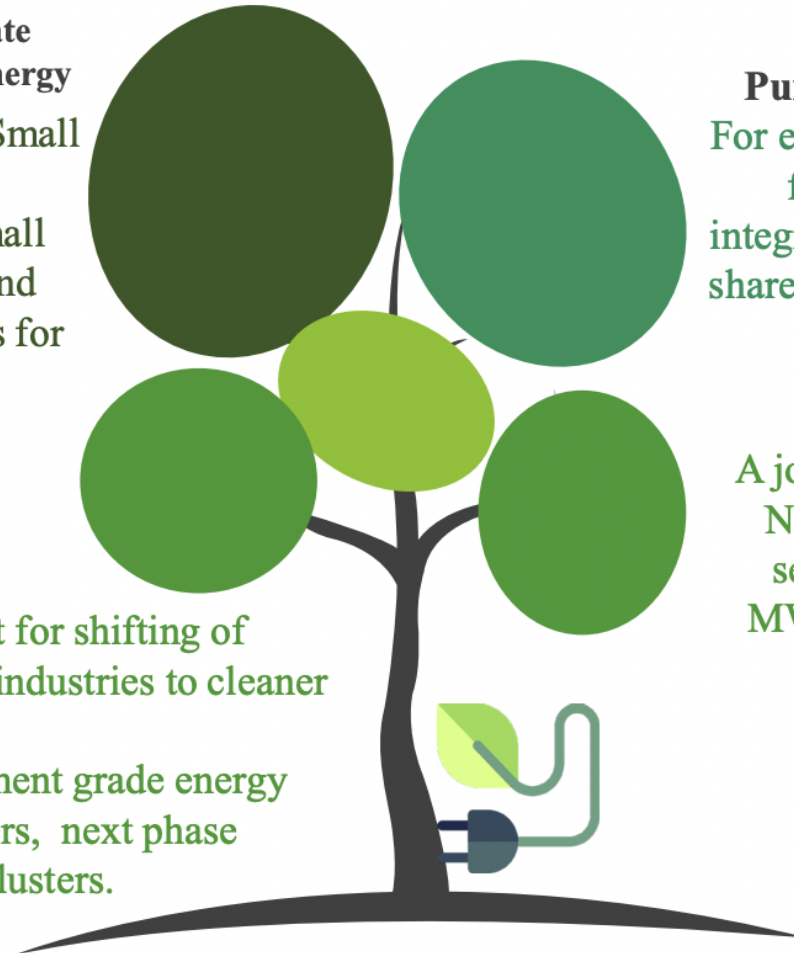


Initiatives with private sector in Nuclear Energy

- Setting up Bharat Small Reactors
- R&D of Bharat Small Modular Reactor and newer technologies for nuclear energy

Energy Audit

- Financial support for shifting of micro and small industries to cleaner forms of energy
- Facilitate investment grade energy audit in 60 clusters, next phase expands to 100 clusters.

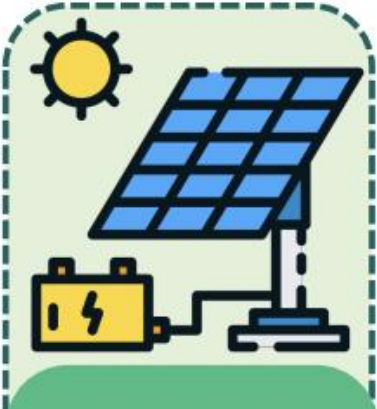


Pumped Storage Policy

For electricity storage and facilitation of smooth integration of the growing share of renewable energy

AUSC Thermal Power Plants

A joint venture between NTPC and BHEL will set up a full scale 800 MW commercial plant.



**PM Surya Ghar
Muft Bijli Yojana**



1 crore

**Households obtain free
electricity**

Up to 300

Units every month

1.28 crore

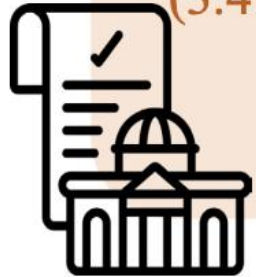
**Registrations and 14
lakh applications so far**

Priorities for Viksit Bharat

Infrastructure



Provision of
₹11,11,111
crore for
infrastructure
(3.4% of GDP).



₹1.5 lakh crore
to states as long-
term interest free
loans to support
resource
allocation.



Phase IV of
PMGSY will be
launched to
provide all-
weather
connectivity to
25,000 rural
habitations.



Irrigation and Flood Mitigation

Financial support for projects with estimated cost of ₹11,500 crore such as the **Kosi-Mechi** intra-state link and 20 other ongoing and new schemes

Assistance for flood management and related projects in Assam, Sikkim & Uttarakhand

Assistance for reconstruction and rehabilitation in Himachal Pradesh

Priorities for Viksit Bharat

Infrastructure



Tourism

- Development of **Vishnupad Temple Corridor** and **Mahabodhi Temple Corridor** modelled on Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor
- Comprehensive development initiative for **Rajgir** will be undertaken which holds religious significance for Hindus, Buddhists and Jains.
- The development of **Nalanda** as a tourist centre besides reviving Nalanda University to its glorious stature.
- Assistance to development of **Odisha's** scenic beauty, temples, monuments, craftsmanship, wildlife sanctuaries, natural landscapes and pristine beaches making it an ultimate tourism destination.

Innovation, Research & Development



Operationalization of the **Anusandhan National Research Fund** for basic research and prototype development.

Private sector-driven research and innovation at commercial scale with a financing pool of ₹1 lakh crore

Space Economy: A venture capital fund of ₹1,000 crore is to be set up

NPS Vatsalya: A plan for contribution by parents and guardians for minors.

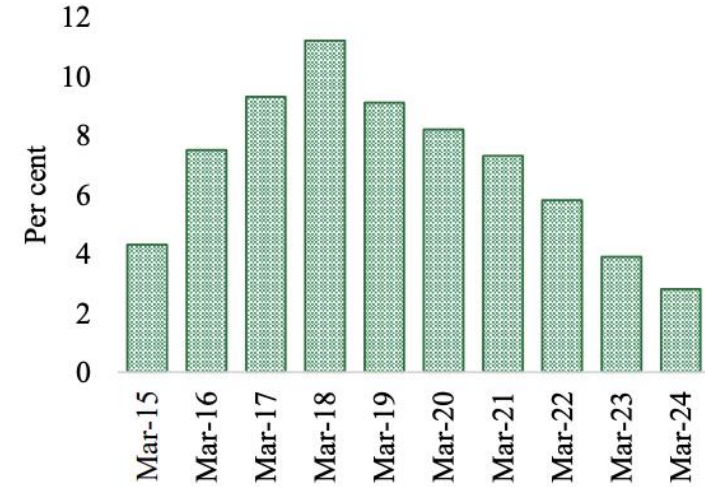
Improvement of data governance, collection, processing and management of data and statistics.

New Pension Scheme (NPS): A solution that address the relevant issues, protects the common citizen and maintains fiscal prudence will be formed.

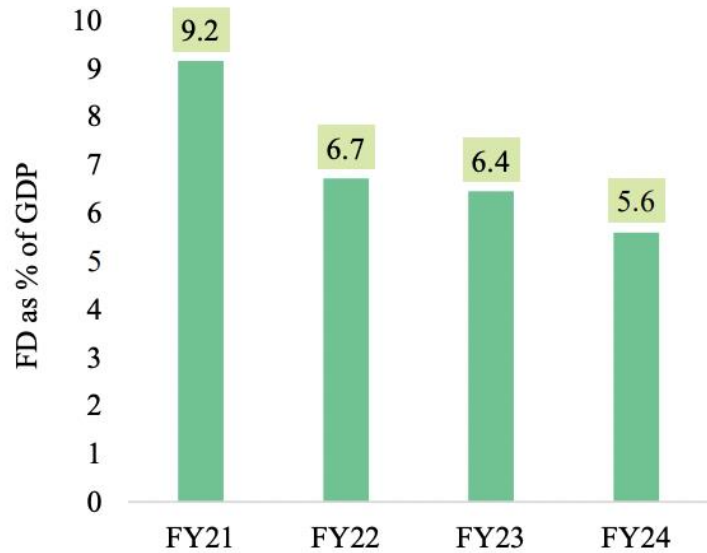
Expansionary PMI Index



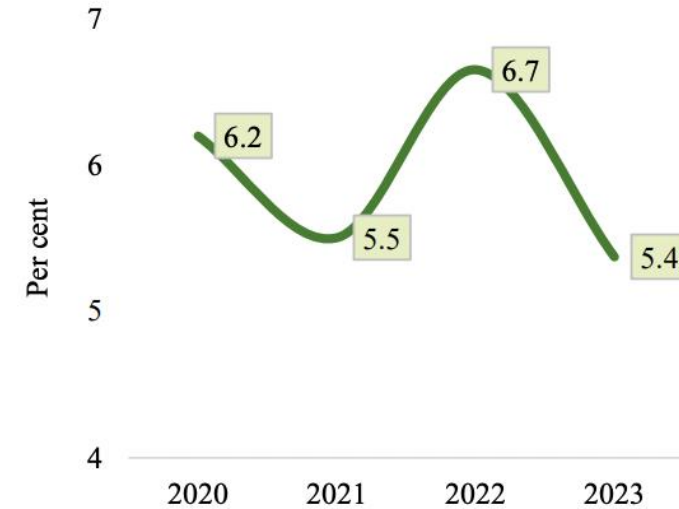
Decline in Gross NPAs of SCBs



Decreasing Fiscal Deficit as % of GDP



Taming Inflation



Changes in Custom Duty

Beneficiaries

Fully exempt 3 more cancer medicines from custom duties

Affordable medicines

Reduce BCD to 15% on Mobile phone, Mobile PCBA and charger

Mobile industry

Reduce custom duty on gold and silver to 6% and platinum to 6.4%

Domestic value addition

Reduce BCD on shrimp and fish feed to 5%

Enhance competitiveness in marine exports

Exempted more capital goods for manufacturing of solar cells & panels

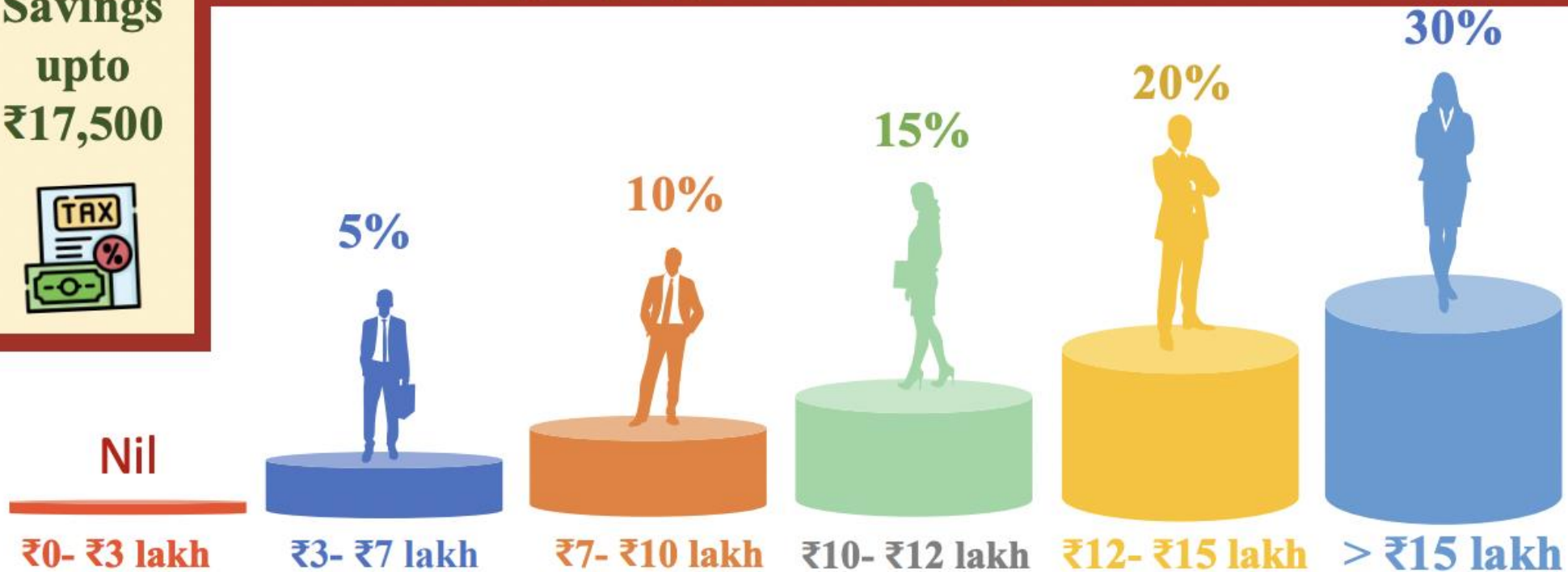
Support energy transition

Fully exempt custom duties on 25 critical minerals

Boost to strategic sectors

Simplifying New Tax Regime

Savings
upto
₹17,500

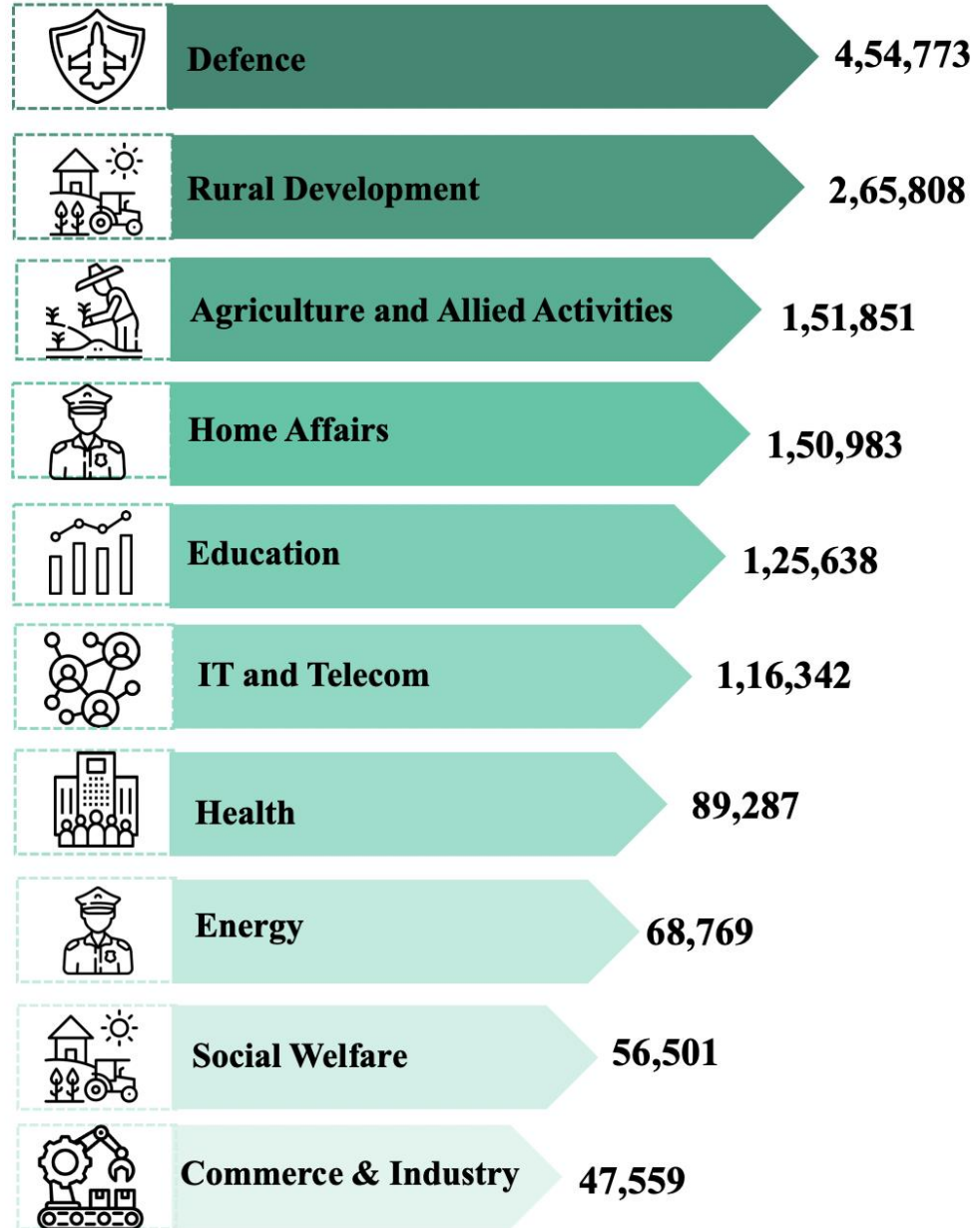


Standard Deduction for salaried employees increased from ₹50,000 to ₹75,000

Deduction on family pension for pensioners increased from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000

Expenditure of Major Items

in ₹ Crore



Allocation to Major Schemes (in ₹ crore)

MGNREGA



2023-24(BE)

2024-25(BE)

Research and Development Projects



2023-24(BE)

2024-25(BE)

Nuclear Power Projects



2023-24(BE)

2024-25(BE)

PLI for Pharmaceutical Industry



2023-24(BE)

2024-25(BE)

Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing



2023-24(BE)

2024-25(BE)

Solar Power (Grid)



2023-24(BE)

2024-25(BE)

Direct Benefit Transfer- LPG



2023-24(BE)

2024-25(BE)

Lines of Credit under IDEA Scheme



2023-24(BE)

2024-25(BE)

With ₹2.55 lakh cr. outlay, Railways to prioritise safety

Maitri Porecha

NEW DELHI

The Railway Ministry has received a record allocation of over ₹2.55 lakh crore in the financial year 2024-25, a jump of 4.9% from the previous year's ₹2.43 lakh crore, show Union Budget documents.

The outlay for capital expenditure includes ₹2.52 lakh crore from general revenues, ₹200 crore from the Nirbhaya Fund, ₹3,000 crore from internal resources and ₹10,000 crore from extra-budgetary resources, bringing it up to ₹2.55 lakh crore. This amount will be spent on assets, acquisitions, construction and replacement, the Budget says.

Union Minister says priority will be on comfort and increasing capacity and infrastructure

gone up a bit to 98.22%.

He said the priority of the Railways would be safety, comfort, and increase in capacity and infrastructure. Having received approvals for Kavach 4.0, the pace of installation of the automatic train protection system would be rapid.

“Kavach consists of multiple components like hardware, software, optical fibre. And India has a diverse network of Railway systems, so the challenge is to combine all networks

In 2014, only ₹35,000 crore was spent towards capital expenditure on the Railways. “Compared with that, current Bud-



get estimates are a record allocation for capital expenditure for Railways. And a majority of this fund will be spent on ensuring safety works,” Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

The operating ratio, or the rupees spent to earn every hundred rupees, of the Railways for the financial year 2022-23 stood at 98.1%. In the Budget Estimates of 2024-25, this has

for deployment of Kavach,” he said.

He said there was a major focus on generating employment in the Railways and

38,000 to 40,000 new jobs were being created. “In the first two terms of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, up to five lakh jobs were created,” he said. There would be focus on new projects, connectivity with Kashmir, and connecting all capitals of the northeastern States. The thrust would be on procuring new rolling stock, developing Vande Bharat and Amrit Bharat trains and Vande Metro.

Nepal, Sri Lanka, Seychelles secure more funds under Budget allocation for MEA

Kallol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

India-funded projects in the neighbourhood received the bulk of the allocation for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in the Union Budget.

Nepal secured an allocation of ₹700 crore, which is a jump of ₹150 crore from the previous year's allocation of ₹550 crore. Sri Lanka received ₹245 crore, an improvement of ₹95 crore over last year's funding of ₹150 crore. The Seychelles, which had an allocation of ₹10 crore, got a boost with the infusion of ₹30 crore.

Dip in funding

Bhutan, the largest recipient of the annual allocation under the MEA, has seen a dip in funding by ₹332.02 crore. Total funding for Bhutan this year stands at ₹2,068.56 crore.

Bhutan and India are



Annual allocation: Dips in funding were seen for Myanmar, Mauritius, Bangladesh, and Mongolia. ANI

close economic partners and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri visited Thimphu last week, when the two sides cleared 61 projects amounting to ₹4,958 crore.

The slight reduction in the annual allocation therefore does not indicate a reduction in funding for projects in Bhutan.

Dips in funding were seen for Myanmar, Mauritius, Bangladesh, and Mongolia. Conflict-torn Myanmar, which had an allocation of ₹400 crore

last year, received ₹250 crore this year. Mauritius, with an allocation of ₹370 crore, has received ₹90.79 crore less than the previous year. The allocation for Mongolia, which earlier received ₹7 crore, has been scaled down to ₹5 crore.

Allocation for Bangladesh has dropped by ₹80 crore to ₹120 crore. Both Afghanistan and the Maldives, with ₹200 crore and ₹400 crore, respectively, have secured the same allocation as last year.



Today's speech by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was the shortest ever in the five years (excluding the interim Budget speech)

Take a look at how long she spoke for:

- 2019 - 2 hour 15 mint (135 mins)
- 2020 - 2 hour 42 mint (162 mins)
- 2021 - 1 hour 40 mint (100 mins)
- 2022 - 1 hour 30 mint (90 mins)
- 2023 - 1 hour 27 mint (87 mins)
- 2024 - 1 hour 25 mint (85 mins)

BEIJING

Taiwan Strait is not a 'political showground', China tells Japan



China warned Japan that the Taiwan Strait is not a "political showground" and that Japan should be cautious in its words and deeds when it comes to the Taiwan issue. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi gave the warning during a meeting with visiting MP Hiroshi Moriyama of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party, in Tokyo.

TULKAREM

Woman and daughter among five killed in Israeli raid in West Bank



An Israeli raid in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday killed five, including a woman and her daughter, while the Israeli military said it "eliminated" a Hamas commander. During the operation in Tulkarem camp, Israeli drones struck and killed the head of Hamas military wing in Tulkarem, Adnan Nafes, the military said.

ADDIS ABABA

Search for survivors on after 229 people killed in Ethiopia landslide



Local residents on Tuesday searched desperately for survivors after a landslide in a remote area of southern Ethiopia killed at least 229 people, the deadliest such disaster recorded in the Horn of Africa region. So far, 148 men and 81 women are confirmed to have lost their lives after the disaster struck in the Gofa Zone on Monday.

WASHINGTON

U.S. Secret Service director resigns after Trump assassination attempt



U.S. Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle resigned on Tuesday, a day after acknowledging that the agency failed to prevent an assassination attempt against Donald Trump. She was facing calls to step down after a gunman wounded the former Republican President at a July 13 campaign rally in Pennsylvania.

Hamas and Fatah sign declaration in Beijing on ending rift amid Gaza war

14 Palestinian factions agree in the declaration to 'end division and strengthen' national unity; the groups also expressed commitment to the creation of a Palestinian state on lands Israel captured in the 1967 war, according to a joint statement

Associated Press RAMALLAH

Palestinian factions in Hamas and Fatah signed a declaration in Beijing on ending a years-long rift, the groups said on Tuesday, taking a step toward resolving a deep divide which has hindered for years despite repeated attempts at unifying the sides.

The two heavyweights of Palestinian politics signed the Beijing Declaration on "ending division and strengthening Palestinian unity," according to Chinese state broadcaster CCTV, pledging to form a unity government for the Palestinian territory.

The declaration comes at a sensitive time, as the war in Gaza rages on into its 10th month and as Israel



Common ground: Wang Yi, centre, with Fatah's Mahmoud al-Aboul, left, and Hamas's Mussa Abu Marzuk in Beijing on Tuesday.

and Hamas are weighing an internationally backed cease-fire proposal that would wind down the war and free dozens of Israeli hostages held by Hamas.

Gaza's post-war future remains in doubt, as Israel vehemently opposes any Hamas role in governing

nance between Hamas and Fatah in Gaza will take place "because Hamas's rule will be crushed".

The two rival Palestinian groups, along with 12 other political factions, met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, concluding talks that started on Sunday, according to a post on social media platform Weibo from Chinese TV network CGTN.

The agreement also underscores China's growing role in West Asian diplomacy, with success in the restoration of relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

A joint statement issued after the most recent talks in Beijing gave no details on how or when the government would be formed, saying only that it

would be done "by agreement among the factions". According to the joint statement, the two groups are committed to the creation of a Palestinian state on lands Israel captured in the 1967 war with its Arab neighbours.

The agreement signed by the Palestinian factions promised to follow up on previous reconciliation agreements signed in both 2011 and 2022.

"The understanding in China is based on widening the scope of the membership on the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) to include other factions who have not joined it" including Hamas, said Jamal Nazari, a Hamas spokesman.

"It's a long way ahead, and most of it will be implemented after a possible cease-fire," he added.

Harris wins enough support to clinch party nomination

Agence France-Presse WASHINGTON

U.S. Vice-President Kamala Harris appeared poised to clinch her party's presidential nomination after receiving support from enough Democratic delegates on Monday, as she launched a blistering campaign against Donald Trump.

The formal nomination process for a U.S. presidential candidate occurs when delegates from across the U.S. gather to officially anoint a nominee chosen by voters during the primaries.

But when President Joe Biden dropped out of the race on Sunday, the fate of those delegates, who had been slated to vote for him, came into question.

With the support of a slew of Democratic heavyweights, including Mr. Biden himself, and massive voter donations, Ms. Harris closed in as the Democrat-



Well begun: Kamala Harris has received the support of some of the Democratic heavyweights as well as massive voters donations.

ic party's heir apparent, and delegates began to pledge their support.

"Tonight, I am proud to have secured the broad support needed to secure our party's nominee," Ms. Harris wrote in a statement, after she had sailed past the number of delegates needed - 1,975 out of nearly 4,000 - to secure the Democratic presidential nomination during voting in the coming weeks.

The news came after

More than 2,500 held in Bangladesh over job quota protests

Agence France-Presse DHAKA

The number of arrests in days of violence in Bangladesh passed the 2,500 mark on Tuesday, after protests over employment quotas sparked widespread unrest.

At least 174 people have died, including several police officers.

What began as demonstrations against politicised admission quotas for sought-after government jobs snowballed last week into some of the worst unrest of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's tenure.

A curfew was imposed and soldiers deployed

At least 174 have died, including police officers, in the unrest over quotas in government jobs

across the country. A nationwide Internet blackout drastically restricted the flow of information.

The student group leading the demonstrations suspended its protests on Monday for 48 hours, with its leader saying they had not wanted reform "at the expense of so much blood". The halt was extended by another 48 hours on Tuesday evening, taking it to Friday.

Lucie Castets is Left-wing's PM candidate in France

Agence France-Presse PARIS

Left-wing French parties said on Tuesday they had chosen a little-known economist as prospective Prime Minister, after butting heads for weeks over a name since winning snap elections.

The New Popular Front (NFP) pick Lucie Castets is an economist and senior civil servant with a background in "fighting tax evasion and financial crime" as well as campaigning for public services, the alliance said in a statement.

Blinken, Wang Yi to meet at ASEAN that will discuss Myanmar, South China Sea

Agence France-Presse VIENTIANE

Southeast Asian Foreign Ministers gather in Laos this week for talks on the disputed South China Sea and the conflict in Myanmar, with top diplomats from China and the United States slated to meet on the sidelines.

The three-day meeting of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) starts in the capital, Vientiane on Thursday.

Antony Blinken will meet Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the sidelines of the event at which he will

Storm is coming



Slippery grounds: Motorists ride through a flooded street in Manila on Tuesday amid heavy rains brought about by Typhoon Gaemi. Taiwan, which is set to face the wrath of the storm, cancelled some drills in its annual war games as the typhoon barreled towards the island.

July 21 hottest day recorded globally, says EU monitor

Agence France-Presse PARIS

July 21 was the hottest day ever registered globally, according to data published on Tuesday by the EU's climate monitor.

The Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) said the global average surface air temperature of 17.09° C on Sunday was the warmest in their record books, which go back to 1940.

The new daily high was 0.01° C above the previous record, a temperature of 17.08 registered on July 6, 2023.

Flash point: The ASEAN grouping, of which Myanmar is a member, has led efforts to resolve the crisis but has made little progress.

No junta The junta is excluded from the bloc's top-level meetings over its refusal to negotiate with its opponents and its brutal crackdown on dissent.

The crisis has divided the bloc, with Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines calling for tougher action against the junta.

Thailand has held its own bilateral talks with the generals, as well as detained democracy leader Aung San Sun Kyi.

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Sri Lanka apologises for 'cremation only' policy during COVID

Meera Srinivasan COLOMBO

Sri Lanka on Tuesday apologised for enforcing a "cremations only" policy during COVID-19 pandemic, going against the religious sentiments of Muslims, as well as expert views that burials were

Issuing a statement on Tuesday, the government said the Cabinet approved a joint proposal from a group of Ministers to plead an apology on behalf of the government "from all communities affected by the compulsory cremation policy during the pandemic, when President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was in office.

The claim that authorities buried the bodies of COVID-19 victims presented a risk the virus spreading through the water table - the claim that authorities based their policy decision on.

The Gotabaya Rajapaksa administration's policy, which disregarded prevalent opinion of scientists



Rushed proceedings: A total of 276 Muslims were cremated during the time of COVID-19 sparking an outcry from the community.

and global bodies - including the World Health Organization - that victims could be buried or cremated, caused much agony especially to Sri Lanka's Muslim community. They were prohibited from burying their relatives according to their religious beliefs.

Persistent campaign According to the official statement, a total of 276 Muslims who succumbed to the virus were cremated at that time, despite a persistent campaign from the Muslim community, which makes up about 10% of the country's 22-million population, and rights defenders. Some went to the Supreme Court in 2020, but the top court dismissed the petitions challenging the government's decision that was widely seen as unscientific and discriminatory. The policy, which came into effect in April 2020, was later reversed in February 2021 reportedly after an appeal made by then Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan who visited the island nation earlier that month.

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Agence France-Presse

PARIS

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FANBOY MOMENT

Shuttler Satwiksairaj meets tennis legend Nadal in Paris



Indian shuttler R. Satwiksairaj had a fanboy moment ahead of the Paris Olympics as he met with legendary Spanish tennis player Rafael Nadal at the Olympics Village. On Monday, Satwiksairaj shared a picture with Nadal on his Instagram story, with him being ecstatic about posing "with the best".

INSTAGRAM@SATWIK_RANIKREDDY

THE DREAM

Hope our athletes give Ukrainians moments of joy, says Dobrynska



Ukraine's 2008 heptathlon Olympic champion Nataliya Dobrynska said the Paris Games can serve as a platform to raise awareness about the war in her country. "Our athletes train and dream of seeing our flag fly high at the Olympics, to give the people of Ukraine moments of joy and distraction from the war," she said.

FILE PHOTO

HOOPSTERS' DELIGHT

Sabally sisters thrilled to represent Germany in the Olympics



Satou and Nyara Sabally plan on enjoying Germany's first Olympics in women's basketball. It means everything. "I was so excited to court with her," said Satou. The sisters helped Germany reach the Olympics by rallying to beat Brazil in a qualifying event. "That was a lot of fun. It's special and comes natural on the court," Nyara said.

GETTY IMAGES

GUNNING FOR GLORY

French judo star Riner hopes for another Olympic record



Three-time Olympic judo champion Teddy Riner has his sights set on two more gold medals in Paris, as he attempts to beat the French's most successful summer Olympian of all time. The 35-year-old Riner, twice a gold medalist in the heavyweight category and a winner of the mixed team event, is also a record 13-time world champion.

FILE PHOTO

Indian pugilists capable of landing medal-winning punches

World champion Nikhat, who has been consistent and won honours in international events for over a year, will carry that confidence and form into the ring on Olympic debut. Lovlina has performed better after switching to 75kg two years ago



PARIS 2024

Y.B. Sarangi

The presence of two World champions, including an Olympic medalist, and two World medalists in the six-member Indian squad brightens up the country's prospects in the Paris 2024 boxing ring.

After the dismal performance of the male boxers in the initial qualifying phase and the loss of the women's 57kg quota place due to Farween Hooda's missed dope tests, the boxing scene looked better as Anit Panghal (51kg) and Nishant Dev (71kg) notched up two quota places and Jaismine Lamboria (61kg) claimed the 57kg slot.

Olympic debut
World champion Nikhat Zareen (50kg) is a key figure to India's medal aspirations. She has performed consistently, winning medals in international events for more than a year and will carry that confidence and form into the ring on her Olympic debut.
Nikhat will have to bank

on her experience as her weight class consists of several strong boxers including Turkey's Tokyo Olympic silver medalist Banaraz Calderon, China's Asian Games champion Wu Yu, Thailand's two-time Worlds medalist Chuthamat Rakasat, and Colombia's Olympic medalist Ingrid Valencia.

Another World champion, Lovlina Borgohain, the 69kg bronze medalist in Tokyo, has performed better after switching to 75kg two years back. She must overcome her recent fitness issues and attain peak form in order to secure a second medal.
France's Worlds bronze

medallist Davina Michel, Ireland's European Games champion O'Rourke, Turkey's World champion and list and Asian Games champion China's Li Qian and Commonwealth Games champion Canada's Tammara Thibault are some formidable boxers in 75kg.

Former Worlds silver medalist Panghal, who chose to train in India unlike his teammates, will be asked to erase his disappointing memories of Tokyo. His category will have elite boxers, including three-time Worlds medalist Bilal Bennisma of France, Turkey's European champion Samet Gu-

mus, Thailand's Asian Games silver medalist Thitisan Farnrod, Uzbekistan's World champion and former Olympic champion Hasanboy Dustrmatov and Kazakhstan's World and Olympic medalist Saken Bilosizov.

Nishant, who impressed by beating Cuban boxer Jorge Caellier in the World Championships and securing a bronze, is gifted with talent and intent.
The debutant must give his best in a field containing boxers such as Serbia's European Games silver medalist Valid Abasov, Japan's Asian Games champion Sewon Okazawa, Uzbekistan's World

welterweight champion Asadkhujayev, Kazakhstan's Asian Games bronze medalist Ashyrbek Shymbergenov and Ireland's Olympic medalist Aidan Walsh.

Asian Games bronze medalist Preeti Pawar (54kg), who was hospitalized with health issues at the camp in Germany, and Commonwealth Games bronze medalist Jaismine Lamboria (57kg), Lovlina Borgohain (75kg).

Anshu, Antim and Sehrawat have their task cut out

WRESTLING

Y.B. Sarangi

For the first time, women wrestlers have outnumbered men in the Indian squad bound for the Olympics in Paris.

Five women - two-time World championships bronze medalist Vinesh Phogat (50kg), Worlds and Asian Games bronze medalist Antim Panghal (53kg), former Worlds silver medalist Anshu Malik (57kg), Asian silver medalist Nisha Dahiyia (68kg) and World under-23 champion Reetika Hooda (76kg) - form the bulk of the all-member squad, while former Asian champion Anant Sehrawat (57kg) is the lone male freestyle wrestler to secure a quota place.

Vinesh, a prominent face in the wrestlers' protest, has dropped down from 53kg to 50kg for her third Olympics. A gritty competitor, Vinesh will face a dual challenge. The 2019 World champion and former seven-time world-class opponents.

Japan's four-time World champion and Olympic champion Yui Susaki, China's Worlds bronze medalist Feng Jijie, Mongolia's triple Worlds bronze medalist Dolgorjavn Oigongjav, USA's Tokyo bronze medalist Sarah Hildebrandt, North Korea's Asian Games silver medalist Kim Son-hyang, Azerbaijan's four-time Olympic medalist Mariya Stadnik are part of the star-studded

line-up.
Double World under-20 champion Antim is seeded fourth and has got a good draw, in which she would avoid two strong opponents - Japan's two-time World champion and Asian Games champion Akari Fujinami and Sweden's two-time European champion.

In a short career, Antim has medalled in some big events and will be keen to make her Olympic debut successful. The top-half of 53kg draw may pit Antim against Ecuador's Pan-American gold medalist and top-seeded Lucia Lopez, Greece's three-time Worlds medalist Maria Prevolaraki and USA's 2022 World champion Dominique Parrish.

Anshu will have to recover from her recent shoulder injury to make a mark in her second Olympics. Her category will be packed with proven performers, including Japan's three-time World cham-

pion and Asian Games champion Tsugumi Sakurai, Nigeria's four-time World medalist Odunayo Adekocoreye and USA's double Olympic medalist and multiple Worlds medalist Helen Maroulis.

Debutants Nisha and Reetika will try to give their best in competitive fields. Sehrawat, seeded sixth, may face tough challenge from Japan's 2016 Olympic silver medalist and former World champion Rei Higuchi, Armenia's three-time Worlds bronze medalist Arsen Harutyunyan and China's Wanbao Zou, who are placed in bottom half of the 57kg draw.

India would like to match its tally of two wrestling medals, won by Ravi Dahiya and Brijrang Punia three years ago, in Tokyo.

The wrestling squad:
Men: Anit Sehrawat (51kg), Nishant Dev (71kg).
Women: Vinesh Phogat (50kg), Antim Panghal (53kg), Anshu Malik (57kg), Nisha Dahiyia (68kg), Reetika Hooda (76kg).

IOA ropes in BPCL as principal sponsor

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Tuesday named Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) as its official principal sponsor for four years, starting with the Paris Olympics till the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

The collaboration between BPCL, a Maharashtra company, and IOA will also encompass the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, Summer Youth Olympics, Winter Olympics, and Winter Youth Olympics.



As part of this collaboration, BPCL will also encompass the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, Summer Youth Olympics, Winter Olympics, and Winter Youth Olympics. The collaboration between BPCL, a Maharashtra company, and IOA will also encompass the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, Summer Youth Olympics, Winter Olympics, and Winter Youth Olympics.

Will the 'nucleus of Indian sports' live up to its title?

SHOOTING

Kamesh Srinivasan

The health of Indian sports will largely depend on the contribution of Olympic medals by the shooters in the Paris Games.

It may sound ironical that a sport that has brought honour to the last two Games in Rio and Tokyo, finds itself as the nucleus of Indian sports. There will be 21 shooters, the best from any country including China competing for 27 medals. Can quality come from quantity? Can there be another gold medal from shooting, the way Abhinav Bindra won by asserting his mastery in air rifle in the Athens Olympic Games in 2004. Bindra was building on the strong tradition laid by Rajawardhan Rathore with the silver medal in double trap in the Athens Games in 2004.



Eyeing a medal: India will look to begin well with Sandeep, Ramita, Arjun and Elavenil in the air rifle event. A.M. FARUQI

Double trap does not figure any more in the Olympic program, but Vijay Kumar and Gagan Narang had sustained the legacy by winning the silver in rapid fire pistol and bronze in air rifle in the London Games in 2012.

Indian shooting will look to air rifle shooters Sandeep Singh, Arjun Babuta, Elavenil Valarivan and Ramita Jindal to deliver the first medal, as the schedule starts with mixed air rifle on July 27.

The air pistol qualification will also be on the opening day, but this time all finals are scheduled on the day after qualification. It means a strong qualification will not drain shooters and stop them from being at their best in the finals that start with their scores on zero.

The fact that some of the best shooters have not been able to confirm their place in the Indian team, despite having won the Olympic quota against stiff competition, should provide a hint about the depth of Indian shooting.

replaced the world champion Rudranksh Patil in the team, if you have lived on the Siachen glacier, the way the army jawan has done for six months, competing in the Olympics should be a walk in the park.

Indian shooting has the potential to take Indian sport to the next level in the Olympics in Paris. Let us just back and enjoy the firing!

The shooting squad:
Men: Sandeep Singh, Arjun Babuta (10m air rifle), Elavenil Valarivan, Swapnil Kusale (50m rifle 3-position), Sandeep Singh, Arjun Chema (10m air pistol), Anshu Malik (25m rapid fire pistol), Prithviraj Torwani (trap), Anantjeet Singh Nanuku (sneak and skeet mixed team).
Women: Elavenil Valarivan, Ramita Jindal (10m air rifle), Sift Sangwan (10m air pistol), Manu Bhaker (10m air pistol and 25m pistol), Esha Singh (25m pistol), Rajeshwari Kumari, Shree Singh (trap), Maheshwari Chudhan (sneak and skeet mixed team), Raiza Dhillon (sneak).

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As part of this collaboration, BPCL will launch series of campaigns designed to support the Indian contingent heading to Paris.

“We thank BPCL for partnering with the IOA, as a principal partner for a four-year journey starting from Paris Olympics 2024 and for supporting and believing in the potential of Indian athletes,” said IOA



president P.T. Usha in a release. “This partnership signifies our shared commitment of nurturing sporting talent and cultivating role models for India.”

BPCL has some top athletes among its employees, including M.M. Somaya, a hockey gold medallist in the 1980 Moscow Olympics, shuttler P.V. Sindhu, silver and bronze winner at the 2016 and 2020 Olympics respectively.

Saina Nehwal, who is currently employed, won bronze in badminton at the 2012 London Olympics. Additionally, five men’s hockey team players from the Tokyo Olympics bronze medal-winning side have also been BPCL employees.

Demand for Bhil Pradesh

-
- Recently, the **demand for a separate Bhil state, “Bhil Pradesh,”** has been gaining momentum in **Rajasthan and neighbouring states.**
 - हाल ही में, राजस्थान और पड़ोसी राज्यों में एक अलग भील राज्य, "भील प्रदेश" की मांग जोर पकड़ रही है।

- Who are Bhills and What are their Demands?

- **About Bhills:**

- Bhills are considered as **one of the oldest tribe in India** and identified as one of the **Dravidian racial tribe of Western India** belonging to **Austroloid group of tribes**.

- भील कौन हैं और उनकी मांगें क्या हैं?

- भील के बारे में:

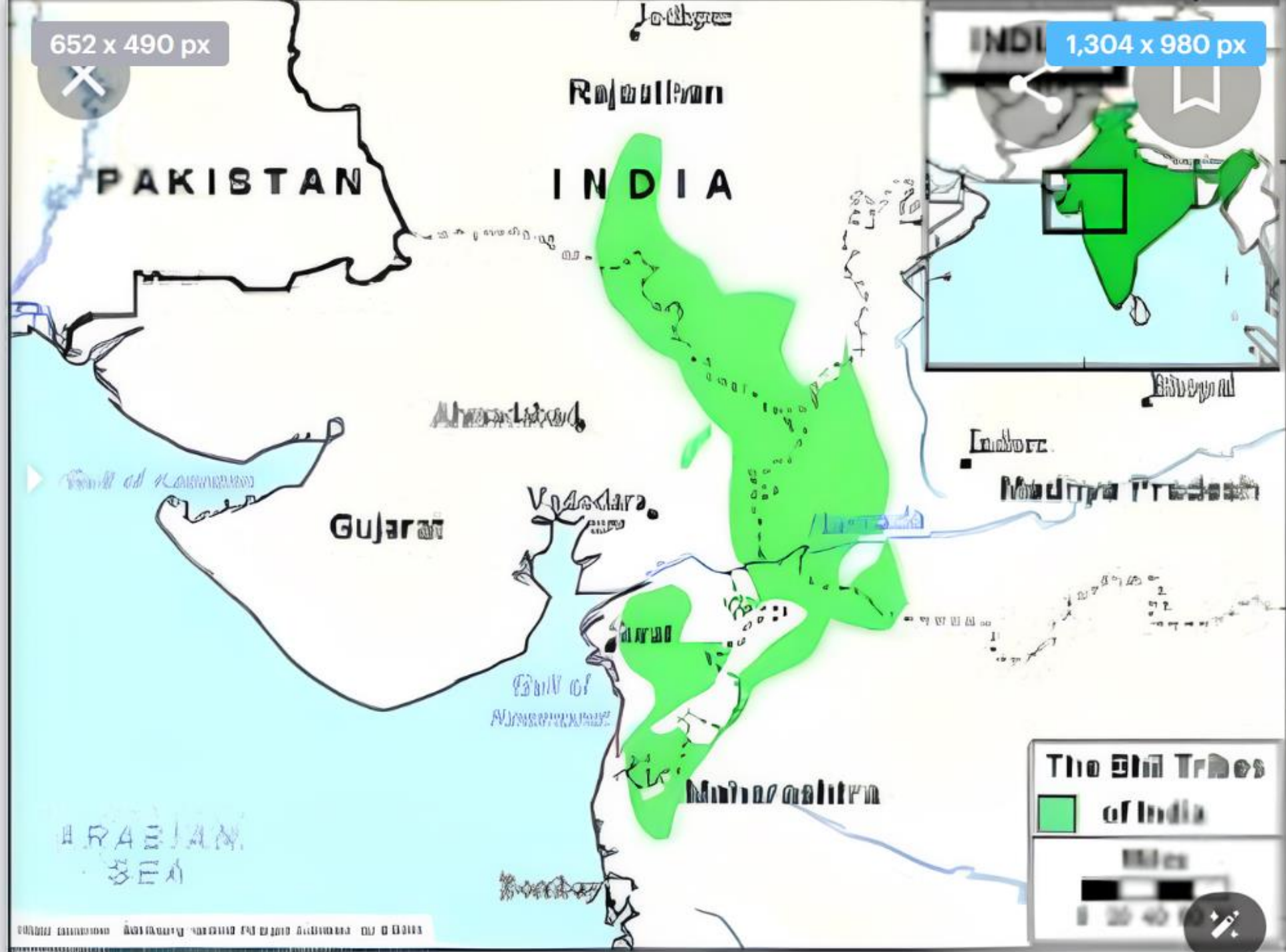
- भीलों को भारत की सबसे पुरानी जनजातियों में से एक माना जाता है और पश्चिमी भारत की द्रविड़ नस्लीय जनजातियों में से एक के रूप में पहचाना जाता है जो ऑस्ट्रोलाइड जनजातियों के समूह से संबंधित है।

-
- They are a **cross section of great Munda race and a wild tribe of India** and speak a language (**Bhili**) of **Dravidian origin**.
 - Once they were the ruler in parts of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Malwa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar.
 - As per Census 2011, there are **1.7 crore Bhils across the country**.
 - वे महान मुंडा जाति और भारत की एक जंगली जनजाति के विभिन्न वर्ग हैं और द्रविड़ मूल की भाषा (भीली) बोलते हैं।
 - एक समय वे राजस्थान, गुजरात, मालवा, मध्य प्रदेश और बिहार के कुछ हिस्सों में शासक थे।
 - 2011 की जनगणना के अनुसार, देश भर में 1.7 करोड़ भील हैं।

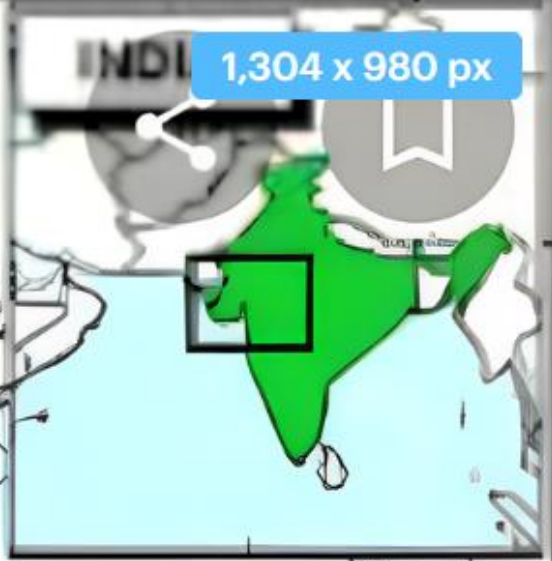
-
- Their largest concentration is in **Madhya Pradesh** at about 60 lakh, followed by 42 lakh in **Gujarat**, 41 lakh in **Rajasthan** and 26 lakh in **Maharashtra**.
 - **Bhills are Hindus by religion** and appease deities of forest and evil spirits beside pujas of Lord Shiva and Durga.

- उनकी सबसे बड़ी सघनता मध्य प्रदेश में लगभग 60 लाख है, इसके बाद गुजरात में 42 लाख, राजस्थान में 41 लाख और महाराष्ट्र में 26 लाख हैं।
- भील धर्म से हिंदू हैं और भगवान शिव और दुर्गा की पूजा के अलावा जंगल के देवताओं और बुरी आत्माओं को प्रसन्न करते हैं।

652 x 490 px



1,304 x 980 px



The Old Trades
of India



- **Demand of Bhil Pradesh:**


- The **demand for Bhil Pradesh dates back to 1913** when **Govind Giri Banjara**, a **tribal activist and social reformer**, first called for a separate Bhil state during a mobilisation at Mangarh Hill.

- भील प्रदेश की मांग:

- भील प्रदेश की मांग 1913 से चली आ रही है जब एक आदिवासी कार्यकर्ता और समाज सुधारक गोविंद गिरी बंजारा ने पहली बार मानगढ़ हिल में एक लामबंदी के दौरान एक अलग भील राज्य की मांग की थी।

-
- This was **followed by a tragic massacre** where British forces killed around 1,500 tribals.
 - Over the decades, various tribal leaders, including political figures, have periodically revived this demand.
-
- इसके बाद एक दुखद नरसंहार हुआ जहां ब्रिटिश सेना ने लगभग 1,500 आदिवासियों को मार डाला।
 - दशकों से, राजनीतिक हस्तियों सहित विभिन्न आदिवासी नेताओं ने समय-समय पर इस मांग को पुनर्जीवित किया है।

-
- The proposed Bhil Pradesh would cover 49 districts across four contiguous states including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.
 - This would involve 12 districts from Rajasthan.
 - प्रस्तावित भील प्रदेश राजस्थान, मध्य प्रदेश, गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र सहित चार सन्निकित राज्यों के 49 जिलों को कवर करेगा।
 - इसमें राजस्थान के 12 जिले शामिल होंगे।

- 
- **Reasons for the Demand:**
 - **Cultural and Linguistic Homogeneity**
 - **Geographic Considerations**
 - **Political Marginalisation**
 - **Developmental Focus**

- मांग के कारण:
- सांस्कृतिक और भाषाई एकरूपता
- भौगोलिक विचार
- राजनीतिक हाशिए पर जाना
- विकासात्मक फोकस



Chandra Shekhar Azad Birth Anniversary

-
- Recently, the Prime Minister paid tributes to Chandra Shekhar Azad on his birth anniversary, 23rd July 2024.
 - He was a popular Indian leader and revolutionary, who fought valiantly for Indian independence.
 - He was born on 23rd July 1906 in the Alirajpur district of Madhya Pradesh.
 - हाल ही में, प्रधान मंत्री ने 23 जुलाई 2024 को चंद्र शेखर आज़ाद को उनकी जयंती पर श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की।
 - वह एक लोकप्रिय भारतीय नेता और क्रांतिकारी थे, जिन्होंने भारतीय स्वतंत्रता के लिए बहादुरी से लड़ाई लड़ी।
 - उनका जन्म 23 जुलाई 1906 को मध्य प्रदेश के अलीराजपुर जिले में हुआ था।

-
- As a 15-year-old student, joined the Non-Cooperation Movement in December 1921.
 - After the suspension of the non-cooperation movement in 1922 by Gandhi, Azad joined Hindustan Republican Association (HRA).

- 15 वर्षीय छात्र के रूप में, दिसंबर 1921 में असहयोग आंदोलन में शामिल हुए।
- 1922 में गांधीजी द्वारा असहयोग आंदोलन के निलंबन के बाद, आज़ाद हिंदुस्तान रिपब्लिकन एसोसिएशन (एचआरए) में शामिल हो गए।

-
- HRA was a revolutionary organization, established in 1924 in Kanpur by Sachindra Nath Sanyal, Ram Prasad Bismil, and Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee, to organise an armed revolution to overthrow the colonial government.
 - Members were Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad, Sukhdev, Roshan Singh, Ashfaqulla Khan, and Rajendra Lahiri.
 - एचआरए एक क्रांतिकारी संगठन था, जिसकी स्थापना 1924 में कानपुर में सचिन्द्र नाथ सान्याल, राम प्रसाद बिस्मिल और जोगेश चंद्र चटर्जी द्वारा औपनिवेशिक सरकार को उखाड़ फेंकने के लिए एक सशस्त्र क्रांति आयोजित करने के लिए की गई थी।
 - सदस्य थे भगत सिंह, चन्द्रशेखर आज़ाद, सुखदेव, रोशन सिंह, अशफाकुल्ला खान और राजेंद्र लाहिड़ी।

-
- HRA was later **reorganised as the Hindustan Socialist Republican Army (HSRA)**.
 - It was **established in 1928 at Feroz Shah Kotla** in New Delhi by Chandra Shekhar Azad, Ashfaqulla Khan, Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee.
 - Chandra Shekar Azad was also involved in the conspiracy to blow up Lord Irwin's train in 1929.
 - He was martyred **at Azad Park in Allahabad on 27th February 1931**.

 - HRA को बाद में हिंदुस्तान सोशलिस्ट रिपब्लिकन आर्मी (HSRA) के रूप में पुनर्गठित किया गया।
 - इसकी स्थापना 1928 में नई दिल्ली के फ़िरोज़ शाह कोटला में चंद्र शेखर आज़ाद, अशफ़ाकुल्ला खान, भगत सिंह, सुखदेव थापर और जोगेश चंद्र चटर्जी द्वारा की गई थी।
 - 1929 में लॉर्ड इरविन की ट्रेन को उड़ाने की साजिश में चन्द्रशेखर आज़ाद भी शामिल थे।
 - 27 फरवरी 1931 को इलाहाबाद के आज़ाद पार्क में उनकी शहादत हो गई।

Birth Anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak



-
- PM Narendra Modi has paid tributes to **Lokmanya Tilak** on his birth anniversary.
 - **Early Life**
 - **Birth:** Born on **July 23, 1856**, in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri.
 - He was a freedom fighter, social thinker, philosopher, teacher, one of the **first and strongest advocates of Swaraj ("self-rule")** who had played an important role in India's freedom movement.
 - He organized two important festivals, **Ganeshotsav in 1893** and **Shiv Jayanti in 1895.**
 -

-
- पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी ने लोकमान्य तिलक को उनकी जयंती पर श्रद्धांजलि दी है।
 - प्रारंभिक जीवन
 - जन्म: 23 जुलाई, 1856 को महाराष्ट्र के रत्नागिरी में जन्म।
 - वह एक स्वतंत्रता सेनानी, सामाजिक विचारक, दार्शनिक, शिक्षक, स्वराज ("स्व-शासन") के पहले और सबसे मजबूत समर्थकों में से एक थे जिन्होंने भारत के स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई थी।
 - उन्होंने दो महत्वपूर्ण त्योहारों का आयोजन किया, 1893 में गणेशोत्सव और 1895 में शिव जयंती।

Literary Work

He launched two weeklies, **Kesari (in Marathi)** and **Mahratta (in English)**, which criticized British policies of the time.

He published **The Orion or Researches into the Antiquity of the Vedas (1893)** and **The Arctic Home in the Vedas (1903)**.

In the **Mandalay jail**, he wrote the **Srimad Bhagavadgita Rahasya (Secret of the Bhagavadgita)**, an original exposition of the most sacred book of the Hindus.

साहित्यिक रचना

उन्होंने दो साप्ताहिक पत्रिकाएँ, केसरी (मराठी में) और महरत्ता (अंग्रेजी में) शुरू कीं, जिसमें उस समय की ब्रिटिश नीतियों की आलोचना की गई।

उन्होंने द ओरियन ऑर रिसर्चेस इनटू द एंटीक्विटी ऑफ द वेदाज़ (1893) और द आर्कटिक होम इन द वेदाज़ (1903) प्रकाशित किए।

मांडले जेल में, उन्होंने श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता रहस्य (भगवद्गीता का रहस्य) लिखा, जो हिंदुओं की सबसे पवित्र पुस्तक की एक मूल व्याख्या है।

International Mathematics Olympiad



-
- A six-member student team from India have secured the country its best performance ever in the **International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) 2024**.
 - **About International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO)**
 - It is the World Championship Mathematics Competition for High School students and is held annually in a different country.
 - भारत की छह सदस्यीय छात्र टीम ने अंतर्राष्ट्रीय गणितीय ओलंपियाड (आईएमओ) 2024 में देश का अब तक का सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन हासिल किया है।
 - अंतर्राष्ट्रीय गणित ओलंपियाड (आईएमओ) के बारे में
 - यह हाई स्कूल के छात्रों के लिए विश्व चैम्पियनशिप गणित प्रतियोगिता है और हर साल एक अलग देश में आयोजित की जाती है।

-
- The first IMO was held in 1959 in Romania, with 7 countries participating.
 - It has gradually expanded to over 100 countries from 5 continents.
 - The IMO Board ensures that the competition takes place each year and that each host country observes the regulations and traditions of the IMO.
-
- पहला IMO 1959 में रोमानिया में आयोजित किया गया था, जिसमें 7 देशों ने भाग लिया था।
 - धीरे-धीरे इसका विस्तार 5 महाद्वीपों के 100 से अधिक देशों तक हो गया है।
 - आईएमओ बोर्ड यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि प्रतियोगिता हर साल हो और प्रत्येक मेजबान देश आईएमओ के नियमों और परंपराओं का पालन करे।

Ineffable (adjective)

-
- **Definition:** Too great or extreme to be expressed or described in words.
 - **Example Sentence:** The beauty of the sunset over the mountains was ineffable, leaving everyone in silent awe.

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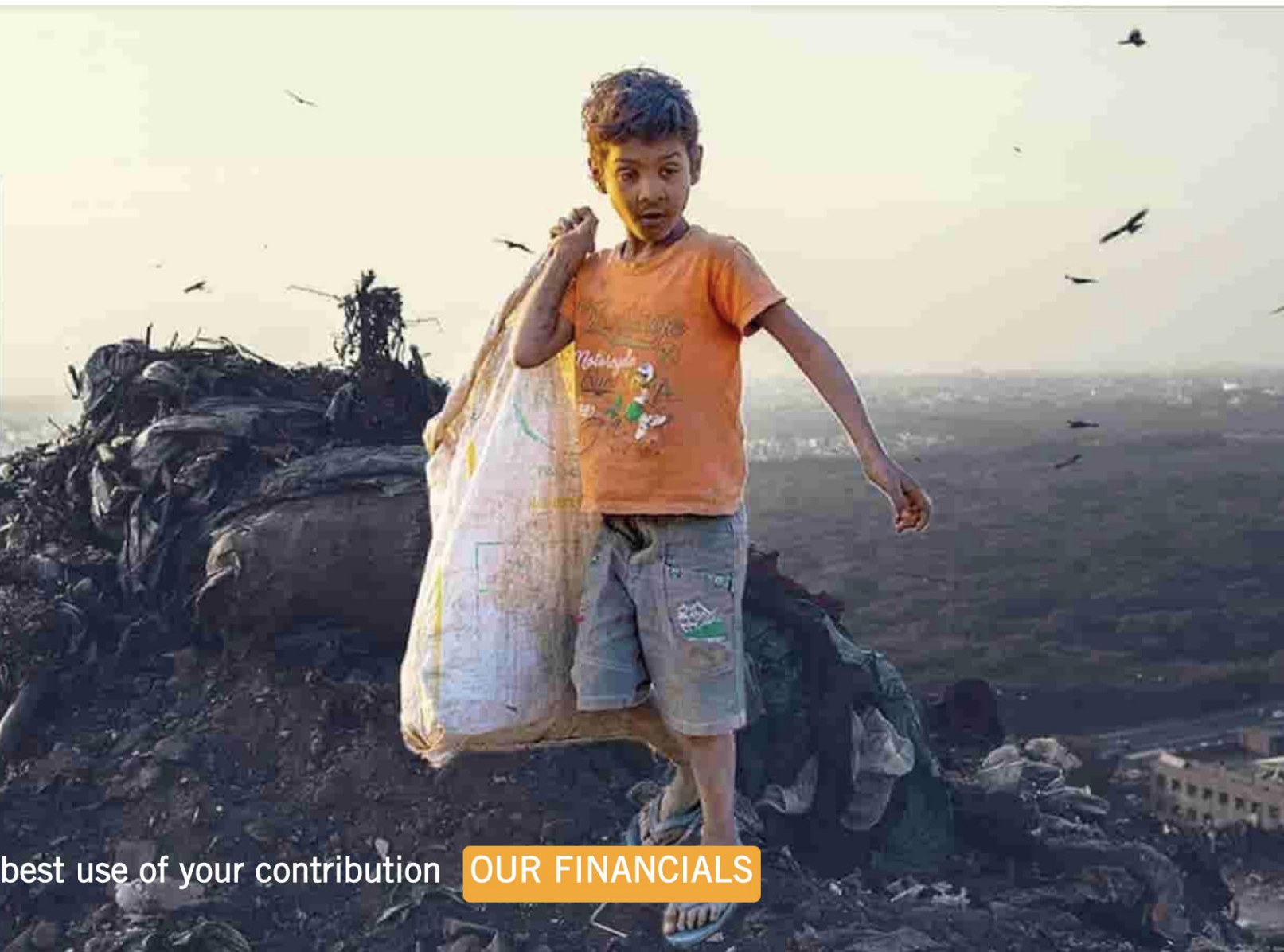





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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. In the foreground, a hand is reaching out towards the center. The background is dark, with some light coming from a window on the right. There are some red dots and an orange bar in the top left corner.

Thank you
guys.
