

GIST OF Kurukshetra MAGAZINE

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**Important Articles
Simplified!**

Union Budget 2022-23
Agricultural Development

Union Budget 2022-23
Transforming Industrial Ecosystem

Union Budget 2022-23 : Sustainable Agripreneurship

Union Budget 2022-23 : Learning Recovery

Union Budget 2022-23 : Localization Of SDGs



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1. Union Budget 2022-23: Agricultural Development

Relevance

"GS 3: Government Policies & Interventions, E-Technology in the Aid of Farmers"

Introduction

- Union Budget 2022-23 released on **February 1**
- The overall allocation for agriculture increased by **4.4 per cent** for the year.
- The Budget 2022-23 is futuristic and its approach towards agri-development indicates the government's resolve in ensuring adequate **crop diversification** in India's Agriculture.

Budget Allocation For Agriculture

- The overall allocation for the sector increased to **Rs 132,513.62 crore in 2022-23**, from the 2021-22 **revised estimates (RE)** of **Rs 126,807.86 crore**.
- There is a 12.59 per cent increase in the allocation during 2022-23 vis-a-vis the actual expenditure recorded during the year 2020-21.
- This indicates that the union budgetary process has now started adopting an absorption capacity-driven allocation approach.

Key Provisions for the sector in Budget 2022-23

- The GOI will promote the use of **'Kisan Drones'** for crop assessment, digitisation of land records and spraying of insecticides.
- The GOI will facilitate a fund with blended capital raised under the co-investment model through **NABARD** to finance agri start-ups and rural enterprises.
- The GOI will promote chemical-free natural farming throughout the country with a focus on farmers' lands in five-kilometre wide corridors along the longer river Ganga in the first stage.
- To reduce the country's dependence on imports of edible oils, a rationalised and comprehensive scheme to increase the domestic production of oilseeds will be implemented.
- For the delivery of digital and high-tech services to farmers, the government will launch a scheme of PPP mode with the involvement of public sector research and extension institutions along with private agritech players and stakeholders of Agri value chains.
- States will be encouraged to revise syllabi of agricultural universities to meet the needs of **natural zero budget and organic farming, modern-day agriculture, value addition and management**.
- The government will support post-harvest support for enhancing domestic consumption of millet products internationally. As 2023 has been announced as the **International Year of Millets**.
- The government will bring in policies and required legislative changes to promote agroforestry and private forestry.

RKVY Strengthened

- **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)** that has been losing its sheen in the last few years has been restructured to include schemes like:
 - **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna-Per Drop More Crop**
 - **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna**
 - **National Project on Soil and Health Fertility**
 - **Rainfed Area Development and Climate Change**

- **Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanization including Management of Crop Residue**

- These schemes were earlier a part of the **Green Revolution programme**.
- This scheme has been running since **2007-08** and allocations had reduced over the years.
- The scheme will give more autonomy to states and they can prioritise their spending under this.

How this year's Budget will boost the agriculture sector?

- According to the Budget, the **PM Gati Shakti Master Plan** for Expressways will be formulated in 2022-23 to facilitate faster movement of people and goods and the National Highways network will be **expanded by 25,000 km**.
- The increased outlay for **PM Gati Shakti**, including 100 new railways logistics hubs will speed up the supply chain, reduce logistic costs, ensure smooth movement of agricultural produce across the country and help in reducing wastage.
- By promoting chemical-free farming, with a focus on farmers' lands in 5-km wide corridors along river Ganga, at the first stage, the government will help boost exports.
- A fund with blended capital, raised under the **co-investment model**, will be facilitated through NABARD. This will finance startups for agriculture and rural enterprise, relevant for farm produce value chain.
- The emphasis on digital infrastructure for infusion of agriculture technologies in a public-private partnership model will help combat the serious threat of climate change and could attract new opportunities for companies in the agriculture sector.
- The decision to revise syllabi of agricultural universities and use of **Kisan Drones** for crop assessment, digitisation of land records, spraying of insect pesticides is a step in the right direction to modernise the agriculture sector.
- The introduction of post offices into the core banking sector will provide an impetus to financial inclusion in the rural parts of the country. Usage of drones can increase agriculture **GDP by 1-1.5%**,
- It also focuses on ensuring assured income to farmers with an announcement of **₹2.37 lakh crore** towards direct payments for **minimum support price (MSP)** to wheat and paddy farmers.

Conclusion

The efforts of the government are directed towards facilitating infrastructure for Agri-value chains, integrating FPOs, cooperatives and private sector Agri tech players through startups, simplifying the use of drone technology for crop production, etc. The proposed initiatives and investments in various key areas of Agri development have the required potential to re-orient the farm economy.

2. Union Budget 2022-23 - Transforming Industrial Ecosystem

Relevance

GS 3: Growth & Development, Planning, Inclusive Growth

Introduction

- Union Budget 2022-23 unveiled a long-term blueprint of economic growth for 25 years – '**Amrit Kaal**' enabling transition of India's growth from India at **75 to India at 100**.
- **Amrit Kaal** is well articulated with long-term perspectives to (a) focus on growth and all-inclusive welfare (b) promote technology-enabled development, energy transition and climate action and (c) virtuous cycle starting from private investment, crowded in by public capital investment.

4 Strategic Thrust Areas

Budget 2022-23 reinforced its thrust on growth orientation opening up innovative opportunities. Acknowledging that the recovery of the economy is reflective of country's resilience. Union Budget 2022-23 clearly built around four strategic thrust areas –

- PM Gatishakti**
- Inclusive development,**
- Productivity Enhancement and Investment, Sunrise Opportunities, Energy Transition and Climate action**
- financing of investments.**

MSME

- The Budget proposes to strengthen at least two of the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** components, viz. **Udyam and ECLGS**.
- The Budget has proposed to link Udyam Portal to: **National career service, e-shram, ASEEM(Aatmanirbhar skilled employee-employer mapping)**.
- The budget proposed rolling out of **Raising and Accelerating MSME performance(RAMP)** over the next 5 years.
- Another announcement is **credit augmentation to credit guarantee fund trust for Micro and small enterprises(CGTMSE)** to Rs. 2 lakh crore.

Skill Development

Announcement for aligning the **National Skill Qualification Framework**, the launch of **digital ecosystem** for skilling and livelihood and '**drone shakti**' are in line with the Industry's need.

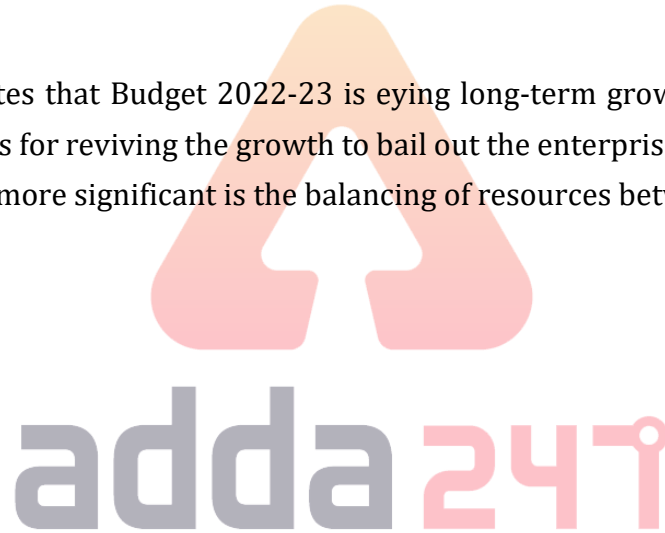
Capex and infrastructure

- Union Budget 2022-23 is well poised to fast-track the growth walking through the multiplier impact of **CAPEX** and enhanced infrastructure allocations.
- Effective capital expenditure will be Rs **10.68 lakh crore, or 4.1 per cent of GDP in FY23** while the total expenditure works out to Rs.39.45 trillion during the fiscal.

- Infrastructure growth is designed to be driven by seven engines: **Roads, Railways, Airports, Ports, Mass Transport, Waterways, and the total Logistics Infrastructure.**
- **National Master Plan** is aimed at creating world-class modern infrastructure and logistics synergy that is set to create employment and growth.
- **Energy transition and climate action** will be the major government priority in executing the infrastructure projects.
- The **5 G spectrum auctions** are slated to take place during FY 2022-23.
- The laying of optical fibre in rural areas to establish internet connectivity will be implemented by using the private-public partnership (PPP) model and will be executed to complete by 2025.
- The CAPEX during the fiscal is raised from **Rs.5.5 trillion to Rs.7.5 trillion** with an added allocation of Rs.19500 crores for productivity linked incentives (PLI) for manufacturing in 13 sectors including high-efficiency solar modules that is expected to open up 60 lakh new job opportunities while speeding up the revival of the economy.

Conclusion

The holistic analysis indicates that Budget 2022-23 is eyeing long-term growth prospects without losing sight on the near-term needs for reviving the growth to bail out the enterprises from the adversities of the ongoing pandemic. What is more significant is the balancing of resources between social sector needs and infrastructure/capex.



3. Union Budget 2022-23 – Sustainable Agripreneurship

Relevance

GS 3: Inclusive Growth, Climate Change

Introduction

- In the agricultural sector, sustainable development focussing on **production, value addition and marketing** is of paramount importance for rejuvenation in the present scenario.
- According to the report of the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2017)**, about **20-40 per cent** of crops are lost annually due to pests and diseases and as a result of lack of good monitoring system of the state of the crop.
- Government of India enhancing the use of **Digital Technologies in agriculture** to increase the overall efficiency of the agricultural production processes as well as the entire value chain.
- **India's National Strategy on AI** also aims to realise the potential economic and social benefits the technology offers.

About Agripreneurship

- Agripreneurship **converts the agricultural production system into a profitable entrepreneurial, holistic agricultural unit.**
- By adopting revolutionary thoughts in agriculture and allied sectors an agripreneur who's an innovator additionally drives the modifications in rural financial systems.
- To build up a strong framework for agriculture that should be **productive, community-oriented and multifaceted, sustainable agriculture** is the right choice.
- The idea of agripreneurship gives enough possibilities in agriculture and performs dynamic functions at every degree of farming.

Provisions under the budget 2022-23

- Adequate emphasis on digital infrastructure for infusion of agriculture technologies in **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** modes.
- The use of **Kisan Drones** for crop assessments, land records, spraying of insecticides, & micronutrients, etc. will bring transformative change in the agriculture sector.
- Capital allocation towards aid for **Agri and rural startups FPOs** and custom machinery hiring centres.
- Promotion of chemical-free natural farming.
- Various measures have also been proposed to streamline the **agri-value chain & enhance farm productivity.**

What is INDIA'S pledge of Panchamrit?

- India's pledge of **panchamrit (five-fold strategy)** to fight climate change, announced during the 26th Conference of the Parties (cop26) at Glasgow, Scotland, has caught global attention.
- The country's new commitments include reaching **500 GW of non-fossil fuel energy capacity by 2030; producing 50 per cent of energy** requirements via renewable energy sources **by 2030**; a reduction of **1 billion** tonnes of carbon by **2030**; reducing the carbon emission intensity of the **GDP by 45 per cent by 2030**; and most importantly, achieving net-zero emissions by **2070**.

Conclusion

The scenario for smart farming is promising in India. Smart farming aims to increase production and improve the efficient use of land, water and other resources used in agriculture. Therefore, smart farming is the future facilitating better utilisation of precious resources, inputs and environmental protection. The key factors to succeed in smart farming in India are affordability of technology, ease of access and operations, easy maintenance of systems, timely grievance redressal and appropriate policy, support. Robust research and development in the field of smart farming are needed so that farming can empower Indian farmers to sustain their farm productivity and livelihood.

4. Union Budget 2022-23 - Learning Recovery

Relevance

GS 3: Growth & Development, Planning, Government Budgeting, Inclusive Growth

Introduction

- The years that have gone by, struck by the **Covid-19 pandemic**, have created a demand for technological advancements in the education sector.
- These considerations are reflected in the Budget to accentuate the learning experience and reduce the gap created by offline schooling.
- While the **NEP** reiterates the importance of **6% of GDP** to the education formula, the previous trend shows that the sector was allocated much lesser in recent years.
- The education budget for 2022-23 has increased by 11.86% from the previous year.

Background

- In a country like ours, where almost **40%** of the population is under the employable age, we spend only about **3% of GDP** on the education sector.
- Since **1968**, the sector has expressed the need for increasing the allocation to **5-6% of the GDP**. The realisation needs to factor in that this investment for the future generation is only reaping benefits in terms of a far more educated and equipped youth, ready to take on challenges in every aspect of life.
- Children have witnessed the longest school closures in recent history and were at the receiving end of disruptions in services aiming at basic health, nutrition and child protection services. Thus, the cumulative effect on their overall well-being is likely to be **long lasting, unless swift, child-centric** measures are taken.

The budget is not in compliance with NEP 2020

- The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** was launched last year with a huge fanfare. It advocated that **6 per cent of GDP** should be allocated to the education sector.
- But, this year's budget comes down to **less than 2 per cent**. The education budget may have crossed a landmark of **1 lakh crore** but it has been decreasing as a percentage of total expenditure.

Key Provisions

- **'One class-One TV channel' programme of PM eVIDYA** to be expanded to **200 TV channels**. This will enable all states to provide supplementary education in regional languages for classes 1-12.
- Virtual labs and skilling **e-labs** to be set up to promote critical thinking skills and a simulated learning environment.
- **High-quality e-content** will be developed for delivery through **Digital Teachers**.
- The government also announced the creation of a **high-quality digital content library** for access via all mediums.
- **Digital University** for world-class quality universal education with a personalised learning experience to be established.

- It also announced a digital university following a hub and spoke model, where the quality educational institutions across the country will collaborate on the project. The best public universities and institutions in the country will collaborate as a network of hub-spoke.

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

Also called the National Education Mission, this is India's biggest school education scheme. This scheme had seen a big reduction in budget allocation last year. This year's allocation wasn't able to go back to the level of 2020-21 even after a hike of more than Rs 6000 crores. A loan of USD 500 million has been taken from Asian Development Bank for funding Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and creating 'exemplar schools'. Budget allocation for 2022-23: Rs 37,383.36 crores.

Major Concerns

- The budget does not account for the learning losses during the two-and-a-half years of the pandemic.
- Bringing digitisation with no proper thought is dangerous and will create inequalities socially and in terms of educational opportunities.
- Learning through TV cannot substitute classroom teaching but the budget did not focus on teacher training, school infrastructure etc.
- In 2011, the education budget was **11.4 per cent** of the total budget, which came down to a low of **10.2 per cent in 2016-17**. In **2020-21**, it was **10.4 per cent**.

Conclusion

Overall, the Budget has set the direction, but a lot needs to be done. Implementation is the key and states must carry the load more than the Centre.



5. Union Budget 2022-23 - Localization Of SDGs

Relevance

GS 3: Inclusive Growth, Environmental Pollution & Degradation, Conservation, International Treaties & Agreements

Introduction

- **Localization** relates to both how local and sub-national governments can support the achievement of the SDGs through bottom-up action.
- India's success in adopting, implementing, and monitoring **SDGs** stands as a testament to the **principle of cooperative federalism**, envisioned by the Government of India and promoted by **NITI Aayog**.
- The localisation of SDGs has been ascribed utmost importance, as the **States and Union Territories (UTs)** are the actual implementors of the country's ambitious development agenda.

Importance of Localization of SDGs

- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** are a global effort that has one major objective — **achieving a better future for all**.
- To achieve these global and national targets, localisation is a crucial lever.
- It correlates how local and State governments can support the accomplishments of the SDGs through bottom-up action, and how the SDGs can provide a **framework for local policy**.
- If India is to achieve its goals by **2030**, it must build a mechanism for effectively localising the SDGs — one that leverages and integrates the social capital that exists in women's collectives and with the local self-governance of the Panchayati Raj system.
- Today, 76 million women have been mobilised into **self-help groups (SHGs)** under the **National Rural Livelihoods Mission** and there are 3.1 million elected panchayat representatives. For localisation to truly work, we need to leverage the strength of both these institutions through a partnership.

About NITI Aayog's SDG India Index

- Since its inaugural launch in 2018, the index has been comprehensively documenting and ranking the progress made by States and Union Territories towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The index has become the primary tool for monitoring progress on the SDGs in the country and has simultaneously fostered competition among the States and Union Territories.
- The SDG India Index computes goal-wise scores on the 16 SDGs for each State and Union Territory.
- Overall State and UT scores are generated from goal-wise scores to measure the aggregate performance of the sub-national unit based on its performance across the **16 SDGs**.
- These scores range between 0–100, and if a State/UT achieves a score of 100, it signifies it has achieved the 2030 targets. The higher the score of a State/UT, the greater the distance to target achieved.
- States and Union Territories are classified as below based on their **SDG India Index score**:
 - **Aspirant: 0–49**
 - **Performer: 50–64**
 - **Front-Runner: 65–99**
 - **Achiever: 100**

NITI Aayog and SDGs

- NITI Aayog has the twin mandate to oversee the adoption and monitoring of the SDGs in the country, and also promote competitive and cooperative federalism among States and UTs.
- The index represents the articulation of the comprehensive nature of the **Global Goals under the 2030 Agenda** while being attuned to the national priorities.

- The modular nature of the index has become a policy tool and a ready reckoner for gauging the progress of States and UTs on the expansive nature of the Goals, including health, education, gender, economic growth, institutions, climate change and environment.

Conclusion

The 5 tiers of SDGs-People, Partnership, Prosperity, Planet and Peace should be taken sub-district level to blocks, to each village panchayat and it is best done with 3 tiers of the local self-government.



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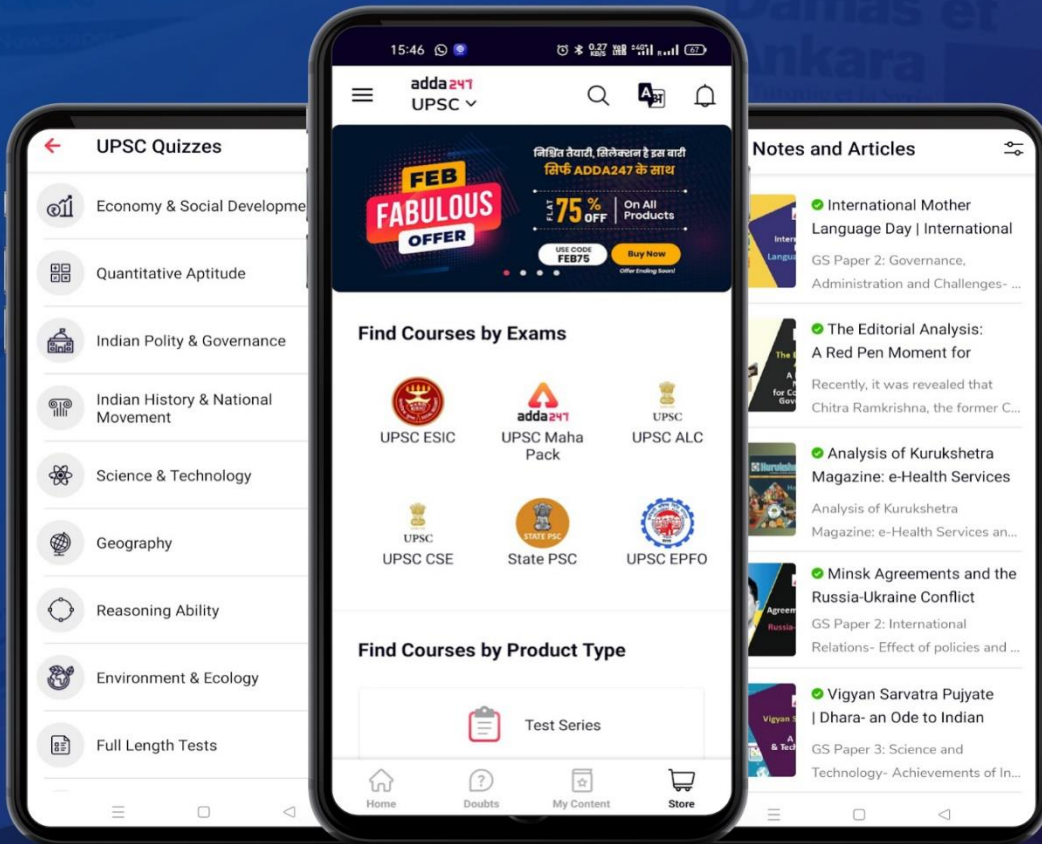


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