



Union Budget 2023-24

Why in News?

The Finance Minister of India introduced the **last full-fledged [Union Budget](#)** (for 2023-24) **before the Lok Sabha elections of 2024.**

What are the Constitutional Provisions regarding Budget?

- According to **Article 112 of the Indian Constitution**, the Union Budget of a year is referred to as the **Annual Financial Statement (AFS)**.
 - It is a statement of the **estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government in a Financial Year** (which begins on 1st April of the current year and ends on 31st March of the following year).
- Overall, the Budget contains:
 - Estimates of **revenue and capital receipts**,
 - Ways and means to raise the **revenue**,
 - Estimates of **expenditure**,
 - Details of the **actual receipts and expenditure of the closing financial year** and the **reasons for any deficit/surplus in that year**, and
 - The **economic and financial policy of the coming year**, i.e., taxation proposals, prospects of revenue, spending programme and introduction of new schemes/projects.
- In Parliament, the Budget goes through **six stages**:
 - **Presentation** of Budget
 - General **discussion**
 - **Scrutiny** by Departmental Committees
 - **Voting** on Demands for Grants
 - Passing an [Appropriation Bill](#)
 - Passing of [Finance Bill](#)
- The **Budget Division of the Department of Economic Affairs** in the Ministry of Finance is the **nodal body** responsible for preparing the Budget.
 - The **first Budget of Independent India** was presented in **1947**.

What are the Highlights of Budget 2023-24?

- A key theme of Union Budget 2023-24 is the focus on inclusive development - **Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas** which specifically covers;
 - **Farmers, Women, Youth, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes**, Other Backward Classes (**OBCs**), Divyangjan (**PwDs**) and Economically Weaker Sections (**EWS**),
 - Overall **priority for the underprivileged** (vanchiton ko varyata),
 - There has also been a sustained focus on [UTs of J&K and Ladakh](#) and the [Northeast Region \(NER\)](#).
- The Budget is along the lines of the **two-pronged growth strategy** first unveiled in 2019:
 - **Incentivising the private sector** thus creating jobs and pushing growth.
 - **'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance'**; increasing capex and raising more revenues via [disinvestment](#).

▪ **Key Takeaways of the Budget:**

- Changes in the **new income tax regime** (in rebate limit and in tax slabs).
- A **33% increase in capital investment outlay** has been proposed, raising it to Rs 10 lakh crore (the **biggest in the past decade**).
- **Changes in customs duty; reduced on** import of certain inputs for mobile phone manufacturing, shrimp feed etc. and **increased on** cigarettes, gold articles, compounded rubber etc.
- **Capital outlay for the railways increased to the highest ever** – Rs 2.40 lakh crore.

Part - A

What is the Budget's Vision for Amrit Kaal?

▪ **Amrit Kaal:**

- The Finance Minister of India called it the **first Budget in Amrit Kaal**. The vision for the Amrit Kaal is an **empowered and inclusive economy** that is **technology-driven and knowledge-based** with a **robust financial sector**.

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Vision for Amrit Kaal



▪ **The Budget identifies 4 transformative opportunities to be leveraged before reaching India@100:**

- Economic Empowerment of Women through SHGs
- PM Vishwakarma KAushal Samman (PM VIKAS)
- Tourism Promotion in Mission Mode
- Green Growth

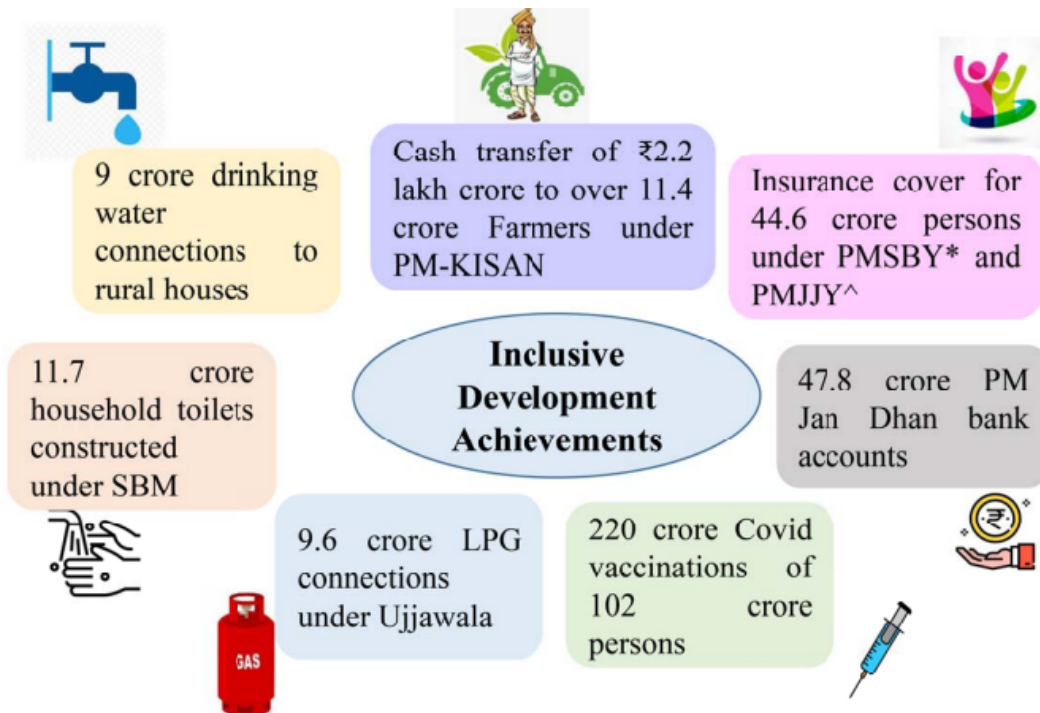
What are the Priorities of Budget 2023-24?

▪ **Saptarishi:**

Saptarishi-7 priorities



Priority 1: Inclusive Development



▪ Agriculture:

- **Digital Public Infrastructure:** Digital Public Infrastructure for agriculture will be built as an open source, open standard and interoperable public good resulting in:

- Inclusive **farmer-centric solutions**
 - Relevant information services for **crop planning/health**
 - Better access to **farm inputs, credit, and insurance**
 - Growth-support of the **agri-tech industry and start-ups**
 - **Funding for Agri-startups: Agriculture Accelerator Fund** will be set-up to **encourage agri-startups by young entrepreneurs** in rural areas.
 - **Agri-Credit:** Agriculture credit target to be **increased to Rs 20 lakh crore** with **focus on animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries**.
 - A new **sub-scheme of [PM Matsya Sampada Yojana](#)** with targeted investment of Rs 6,000 crore to be launched for fishermen, fish vendors and MSMEs.
 - **Horticulture: Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Programme** will be launched to boost availability of disease-free, quality planting material **for high value [horticultural crops](#) at an outlay of Rs 2,200 crore**.
 - **Millets:** To make India a global hub for '**Shree Anna**' ([Millets](#)), the **Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad** will be supported as the **Centre of Excellence** for sharing best practices, research and technologies at the international level.
 - **Agri-Cooperatives:** To fulfil the vision of "**Sahakar Se Samridhi**", the Government plans to establish decentralized storage capacity and set up **multiple [cooperative societies](#) in uncovered villages** over the next 5 years.
- **Education and Skilling:**

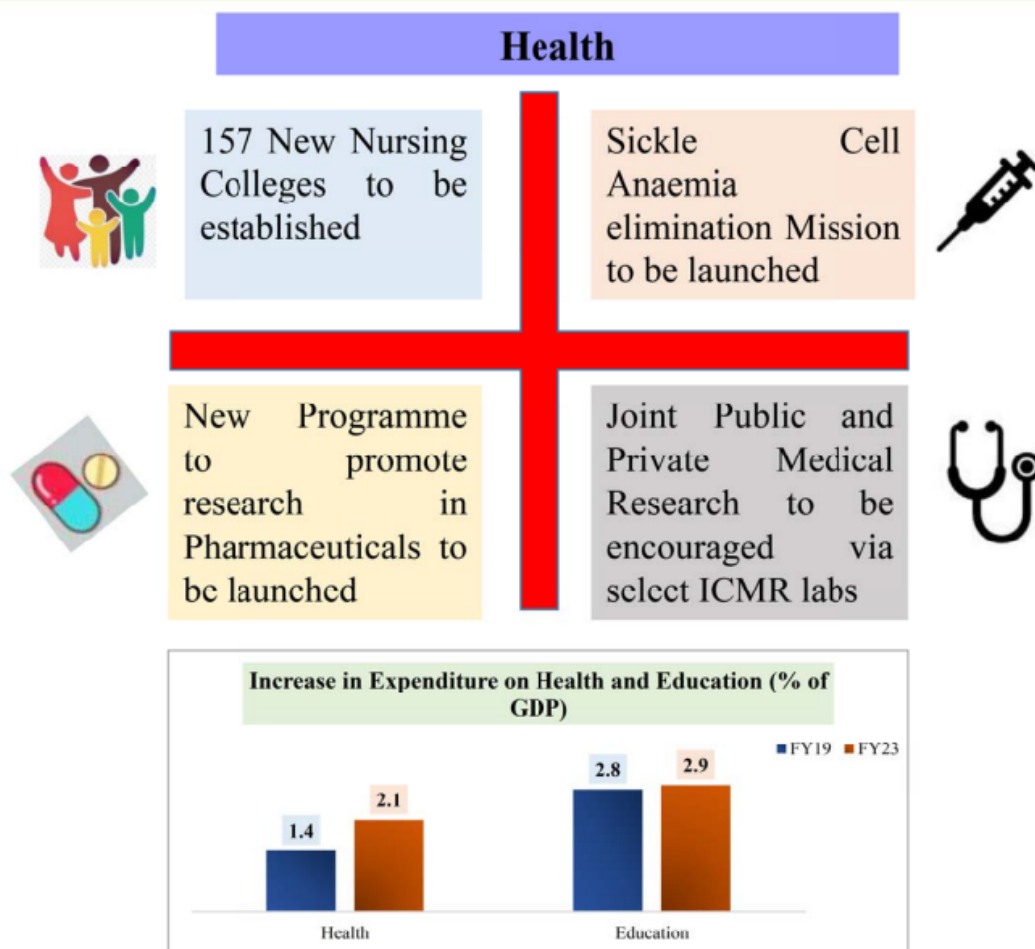
Education and Skilling

- ✓ Revamped Teachers' training via **District Institutes of Education and Training**
- ✓ **National Digital Library** to be set up for children and adolescents
- ✓ States will be encouraged to set up physical libraries at Panchayat and ward levels



- **Health:**
- **157 new nursing colleges will be established** in co-location with the existing 157 medical colleges established since 2014.
 - A Mission to **eliminate [Sickle Cell Anaemia](#) by 2047** will be launched.

Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas-Inclusive Development



Priority 2: Reaching the Last Mile

- **New 'Aspirational Blocks Programme':**
 - Building on the success of the [Aspirational Districts Programme](#), the [Aspirational Blocks Programme](#) was recently launched covering 500 blocks.
 - It is aimed at improving the performance of areas across multiple domains such as **health, nutrition, education, agriculture, water resources, financial inclusion, skill development, and basic infrastructure.**
- **PM PVTG Development Mission:**
 - To improve socio-economic conditions of the [Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups \(PVTGs\)](#), **Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission** will be launched.
 - An amount of **Rs 15,000 crore** will be made available to implement the Mission in the next 3 years under the **Development Action Plan for the Scheduled Tribes.**
 - The Centre will also **recruit 38,800 teachers and support staff** for the 740 [Eklavya Model Residential Schools](#), serving 3.5 lakh tribal students.
- **Water for Drought Prone Region:**
 - In the **drought prone central region of Karnataka**, central assistance of **Rs 5,300 crore** will be given to the **Upper Bhadra Project** to provide sustainable micro irrigation and filling up of surface tanks for drinking water.
- **Other Initiatives:**
 - The **outlay for [PM Awas Yojana](#) is being enhanced by 66%** to over Rs 79,000 crore.
 - A '**Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions (Bharat SHRI)**' will be set up in a digital epigraphy museum, with **digitization of 1 lakh ancient inscriptions** in the first stage.

Priority 3: Infrastructure and Investment

- **Increase in Capex for Infra:**
 - Capital investment outlay increased for the third consecutive year - by **33% to Rs 10 lakh crore** making it **3.3% of GDP**.
 - The '**Effective [Capital Expenditure](#)**' is budgeted at Rs 13.7 lakh crore - **4.5% of GDP**.
- **Support to State Govts for Cap-Investment:**
 - The Government has decided to **continue the [50-year interest free loan to state governments](#) for one more year** to spur investment in infrastructure and to incentivize them for complementary policy actions.
 - The enhanced **outlay for this is Rs 1.3 lakh crore**.
- **Railways:**
 - A capital outlay of **Rs 2.40 lakh crore** has been provided for the [Railways](#) - the highest ever outlay and about 9 times the outlay made in 2013- 14.
- **Aviation:**
 - **50 additional airports, heliports, water aerodromes and advanced landing grounds** will be revived for improving regional air connectivity.
- **Other Transportation Projects:**
 - **100 critical transport infrastructure projects**, for last and first mile connectivity for ports, coal, steel, fertiliser, and food grains sectors have been identified and **will be taken up on priority with investment of Rs 75,000 crore**, including **Rs 15,000 crore from private sources**.
 - An **Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF)** will be established through use of [priority sector lending](#) shortfall.
 - UIDF will be managed by the [National Housing Bank](#), and will be used by public agencies to **create urban infrastructure in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities**.
 - **Rs 10,000 crore on a yearly basis** will be allocated for this purpose.

Infrastructure and Investment

Incentives to boost Investment in Infrastructure and productive capacity

[Multiplier Impact](#)

Rise in growth and employment



Increased capital investment outlay by 33.4% to ₹10 lakh crore



Continuation of 50 year interest free loan to State Governments to incentivize infrastructure investment



Highest ever Capital outlay of ₹2.4 lakh crore for Railways



100 transport infrastructure projects identified for end-to-end connectivity for ports, coal, steel, fertilizer sectors



Creating Urban Infrastructure in Tier 2 and 3 cities via establishment of UIDF**

Priority 4: Unleashing the Potential

- **Reduced Compliances and Jan Vishwas Bill:**
 - To enhance ease of doing business, more than **39,000 compliances have been reduced** and **more than 3,400 legal provisions have been decriminalised** under the [amendments to the Companies Act 2013](#).
 - To further the trust-based governance, the Government introduced the [Jan Vishwas Bill](#) to amend 42 Central Acts.

- **Centres of Excellence for AI:**
 - To realise the vision of “**Make AI in India and Make AI work for India**”, three **centres of excellence for [Artificial Intelligence](#)** will be set-up in top educational institutions.
- **National Data Governance Policy:**
 - To **facilitate innovation and research by start-ups** and academia, a **National Data Governance Policy** will be brought out, which will enable **access to anonymized data**.
- **Digilocker for Data Sharing:**
 - An **Entity [DigiLocker](#)** will be set up for use by **MSMEs**, large business and charitable trusts for **storing and sharing documents online securely**, whenever needed, with various authorities, regulators, banks and other business entities.
- **Resolving Disputes:**
 - **Vivad se Vishwas: Less stringent contract execution** for MSMEs (being provided as a relief to the MSMEs affected during the Covid period).
 - **Easier and standardised settlement scheme** enabling **faster settlement of contractual disputes** of Govt and Govt undertakings.
 - **e-Courts: Phase III of [e-courts](#)** will be launched for effective administration of justice.
- **5G Technology:**
 - **100 labs for developing applications using 5G services** will be set up in engineering institutions to realise a new range of opportunities, business models, and employment potential.
 - The labs will cover, among others, applications such as **smart classrooms, precision farming, intelligent transport systems, and healthcare apps**.

Priority 5: Green Growth



- **National Green Hydrogen Mission:**
 - **An outlay of Rs 19,700 crores has been allocated** to the **[National Green Hydrogen Mission](#)** to facilitate transition of the economy to **low carbon intensity, reduce dependence on fossil fuel imports, and make the country assume technology and market leadership** in this sunrise sector.
 - The target is to reach an annual production of 5 MMT by 2030.
- **GOBARdhan Scheme:**
 - **500 new 'waste to wealth' plants under [GOBARdhan scheme](#)** will be established to promote **[Circular Economy](#) (200 [compressed biogas \(CBG\)](#) plants and 300 **community/cluster-based plants**)**. Total Investment - Rs 10,000 crore.
 - In due course, a **5% CBG mandate** will be introduced for all organizations marketing

natural and biogas.

▪ **Bhartiya Prakritik Kheti Bio-Input Resource Centres:**

- Over the next 3 years, the Centre will facilitate **1 crore farmers to adopt natural farming** by setting up **10,000 Bio-Input Resource Centres**, creating a national-level distributed **micro-fertilizer and pesticide manufacturing network**.

▪ **Other Investments in Green Energy:**

- **Rs. 35,000 crore for priority capital investments towards energy transition and [net zero objectives](#)**, and energy security (Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas).
- **Battery Energy Storage Systems** with capacity of 4,000 MWH to be supported with [Viability Gap Funding](#).
- **Rs 20,700 crore** (central support - Rs 8,300 crore) for **inter-state transmission system** for evacuation and [grid integration](#) of **13 GW renewable energy from Ladakh**.

Priority 6: Youth Power

Youth Power

Empowering 'Amrit Peedhi'

UNION BUDGET 2023-24

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- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0**
 - › On-job training, industry partnership, new age courses like AI, robotics, mechatronics, 3D printing, drones, etc
- **Skill India Digital Platform**
 - › Expanding digital ecosystem to enable demand-based formal skilling, linking with employers and facilitating access to entrepreneurship schemes

Youth Power

Empowering 'Amrit Peedhi'

UNION BUDGET 2023-24

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- **National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme**
 - › To provide stipend support to 47 lakh youth in three years
- **Boosting Tourism**
 - › 50 destinations to be selected and developed as complete package for domestic & foreign tourists
- **Setting Up Of Unity Malls In State Capitals**
 - › For promotion and sale of ODOs (One District, One Product), GI and handicraft products

Priority 7: Financial Sector

▪ **Credit Guarantee for MSMEs:**

- In 2022, the [credit guarantee scheme for MSMEs](#) was revamped and will take effect from 1st April 2023 through **infusion of Rs 9,000 crore** in the corpus.
 - This will enable **additional collateral-free guaranteed credit of Rs 2 lakh crore**.
 - The **cost of the credit** will be **reduced** by about **1%**.

▪ **Financial Information Registry:**

- A National Financial Information Registry will be set up to **serve as the central repository of financial and ancillary information**.
- This will facilitate efficient flow of credit, promote financial inclusion, and foster financial stability.
- A **new legislative framework, designed in consultation with the RBI**, will govern this credit public infrastructure.

▪ **Small Savings Schemes:**

- To commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a **one-time new [small savings scheme](#), Mahila Samman Savings Certificate**, will be made **available for a two-year period up to March 2025**.
 - This will offer **deposit facility upto Rs 2 lakh in the name of women or girls** (fixed interest rate of **7.5%**) with **partial withdrawal option**.
- The **maximum deposit limit** for [Senior Citizen Savings Scheme](#) will be **enhanced from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 30 lakh**.
- The maximum deposit limit for the **Monthly Income Account Scheme** will be **enhanced**

from Rs 4.5 lakh to Rs 9 lakh (for single account) and from Rs 9 lakh to Rs 15 lakh (for joint account).

Financial Sector

Setting up of National Financial Information registry

To enable efficient lending, promote financial inclusion and enhance financial stability

Mahila Samman Bachat Patra

One-time new small savings scheme for a 2-year period with a deposit facility of up to ₹2 lakh for women

Setting up of a Central Data processing Centre

For faster handling of administrative work under the Companies Act

Benefits for Senior Citizens

Enhanced maximum deposit limit for senior citizens savings scheme from ₹15 lakh to ₹30 lakh

Credit Guarantee scheme for MSMEs

Expanded corpus under a revamped scheme to enable additional collateral free guaranteed credit of ₹2 lakh crore

Other Initiatives

- Initiatives to promote business activities in GIFT IFSC
- Create more trained professionals in Securities Markets via award of educational certificates



What is the Status of Fiscal Management?

▪ Utilisation of Funds for Capital Expenditure:

- The **Indian Finance Minister** stated that **all states must utilise their fifty-year loan for capital expenses** by the end of **2023-24**.
- Most of this will be at the discretion of states, but a part will be conditional on states designated for specific purposes, such as:
 - Replacing outdated **government vehicles**
 - Improving **urban planning**
 - Making **urban local bodies eligible for obtaining municipal bonds**
 - Building housing for police officers
 - **Constructing Unity Malls**
 - **Creating libraries and digital infrastructure for children** and adolescents
 - Contributing to the **capital expenses of central schemes**.

▪ Fiscal Deficit Allowed to States:

- States are allowed to have a deficit of **3.5% of their Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)**, with **0.5%** of this amount specifically designated for power sector reforms.

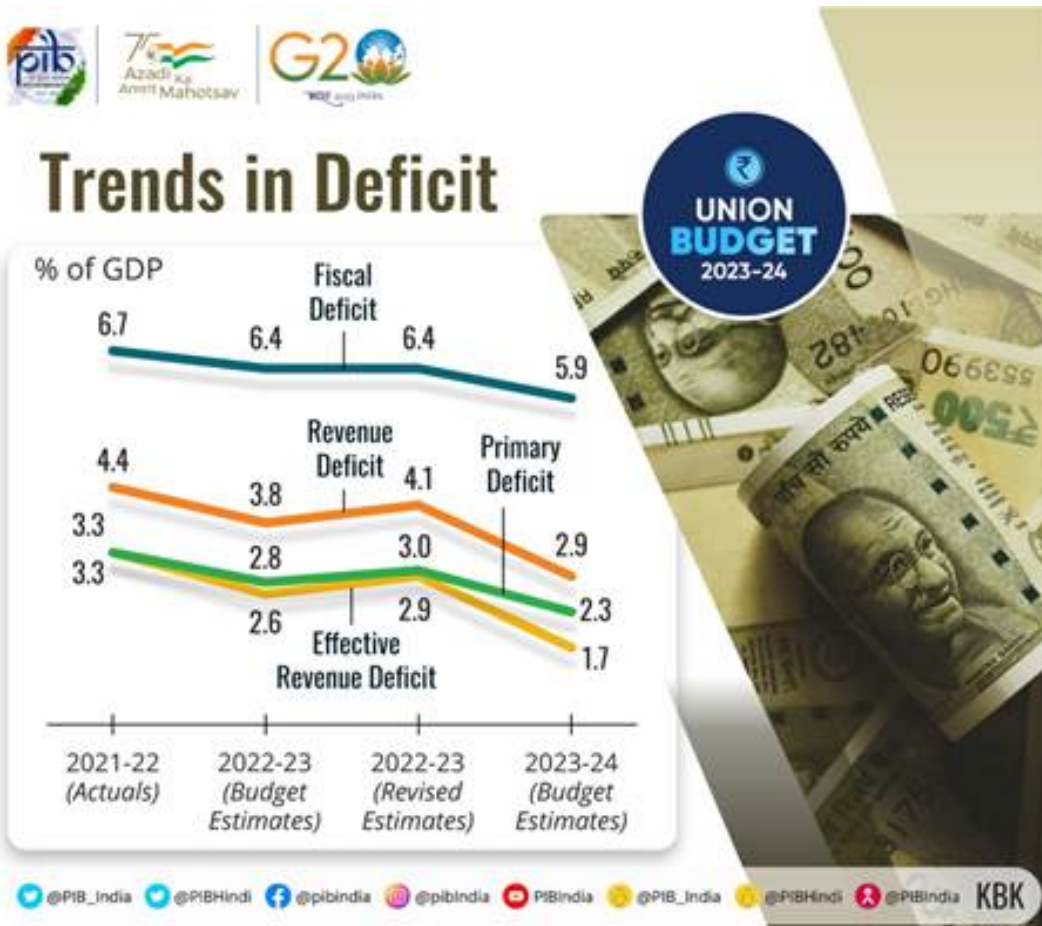
▪ Revised Estimates 2022-23:

- **Total receipts**, (excluding borrowings): **Rs 24.3 lakh crore**
 - **Net tax receipt: Rs 20.9 lakh crore.**
- Total expenditure: **Rs 41.9 lakh crore**
 - **Capital expenditure: Rs 7.3 lakh crore.**
- **Fiscal deficit** : **6.4%** of GDP.

▪ Budget Estimates 2023-24:

- Total **estimated receipts** (excluding borrowings): **Rs 27.2 lakh crore**,
- Total estimated expenditure: **Rs 45 lakh crore.**
 - **Net tax receipts: Rs 23.3 lakh crore.**
- **Fiscal deficit: 5.9%** of GDP.
 - To **finance the fiscal deficit in 2023-24**, the net market borrowings from dated securities are estimated at **Rs 11.8 lakh crore.**
 - The **gross market borrowings** are estimated at **Rs 15.4 lakh crore.**
- Also, the government is committed to sticking to this plan to **reduce the fiscal deficit to**

below **4.5% by 2025-26.**



Part - B

What are the Reforms Proposed in Direct Taxation?

▪ **Personal Income Tax:**

- There are five major announcements relating to the personal income tax. The **rebate limit in the new tax regime has been increased to ₹ 7 lakh.**
 - It means that persons in the new tax regime with **income up to ₹ 7 lakh will not have to pay any tax.**
- The tax structure in the new personal tax regime has been changed by **reducing the number of slabs to five and increasing the tax exemption limit to ₹ 3 lakh.**

▪ **Other Tax Reforms:**

- **Standard Deduction:**
 - The new tax regime has proposed to **increase the standard deduction for salaried individuals to 50,000 rupees** and the deduction for family pension up to **15,000 rupees.**
- **MSMEs:**
 - The limits for **presumptive taxation have been increased for micro enterprises and certain professionals** as long as the amount received in cash does not exceed **5% of the total gross receipts/turnover.**
 - The **deduction for payments made to MSMEs** will only be allowed when payment is actually made to support their timely receipt of payments.
- **Cooperatives:**
 - New **manufacturing co-operatives** that start manufacturing before 31.3.2024 will have a **lower tax rate of 15%.**
 - The limit for cash deposits and loans by **Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies and Primary Co-operative Agriculture** and Rural Development Banks has been increased to **2 lakh rupees per member.**

- **Tax Deduction at Source (TDS)** on cash withdrawals for co-operative societies has been increased to **3 crore rupees**.
- **Startups:**
 - The date for [start-ups](#) to receive income tax benefits has been **extended to 31.3.2024**. The carry forward of losses for start-ups has been increased from **7 years of incorporation to 10 years**.
- **Online Gaming:**
 - **Taxability on [online gaming](#)** will be clarified with TDS and taxability on **net winnings at the time of withdrawal** or at the end of the financial year.
- **Gold:**
 - **Conversion of gold** into electronic gold receipt and vice versa will **not be treated as capital gains**.
- **Exception from Income Tax:**
 - **Income of authorities, boards and commissions set up by Union or State laws** for housing, town and village development, and regulation, will be **exempt from income tax**.
 - **Agniveer Fund** has been given **Exempt-Exempt-Exempt (EEE) status**. Payments received by Agniveers enrolled in Agneepath Scheme, 2022 will be **exempt from taxes**.
 - Deduction in total income will be allowed for **contributions to the Agniveer Seva Nidhi** account by the Agniveer or the Central Government.
- **Common IT Return Form:**
 - To improve taxpayer services, the government **rolled out a proposal for next-generation Common IT Return Form** for taxpayer convenience, along with plans to strengthen the grievance redressal mechanism.
- **Current and Proposed Tax Slabs:**

Tax Rate	Current Income Slab	Proposed Income Slab
Nil	Up to Rs 2.5 lakh	Up to Rs 3 lakh
5%	Rs 2.5 lakh to Rs 5 lakh	Rs 3 lakh to Rs 6 lakh
10%	Rs 5 lakh to Rs 7.5 lakh	Rs 6 lakh to Rs 9 lakh
15%	Rs 7.5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh	Rs 9 lakh to Rs 12 lakh
20%	Rs 10 lakh to Rs 12 lakh	Rs 12 lakh to Rs 15 lakh
25%	Rs 12 lakh to Rs 15 lakh	-
30%	Above Rs 15 lakh	Above Rs 15 lakh

What are the Reforms Proposed in Indirect Taxation?

- **Custom Duties:**
 - The number of [basic customs duty rates](#) for goods **other than textiles and agriculture** has been decreased to **13 from 21**.
 - [National Calamity Contingent Duty \(NCCD\)](#) on specified **cigarettes** revised upwards by about **16%**
 - **Increased Duties:**
 - Articles made from gold and platinum
 - Import duties on silver dore, bars, and articles
 - **Exception from Duties:**
 - [Compressed biogas](#) contained in blended compressed natural gas.
 - Testing agencies that import **vehicles, automobile parts/components, sub-systems**, and tires for testing and/or certification purposes.
 - Also, the **deadline for the customs duty on specified machinery for lithium-ion cell manufacturing for [EV batteries](#)** has been extended to 31.03.2024.
 - **Denatured ethyl alcohol** used in the chemical industry.
- **Legislative Changes in Customs Laws:**

- The [Customs Act, 1962](#) is going to be revised to set a **nine-month deadline for the Settlement Commission** to make a final decision after an application has been filed.
- The [Customs Tariff Act](#) will be revised to make the purpose and scope of Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD), Countervailing Duty (CVD), and Safeguard Measures clearer.
- Changes will also be made to the [Central Goods and Service Tax Act](#):
 - The minimum amount of tax for starting a **prosecution under GST will be raised from 1 crore to 2 crore.**
 - The **compounding amount for tax will be reduced from 50-150% to 25-100%** of the tax amount.
 - Certain offences will be decriminalised.
 - The **filing of returns or statements will be limited to a maximum of three years** from the due date.
 - Unregistered suppliers and composition taxpayers will be allowed to make **intra-state supply of goods through E-Commerce Operators (ECOs).**

Indirect Tax Proposals

- ◉ **Green Mobility:**
 - To exempt excise duty on GST-paid compressed bio gas
- ◉ **Electronics:**
 - To provide relief in customs duty on import of certain parts of mobile phones
 - To reduce basic customs duty on parts of open cells of TV panels to 2.5%
- ◉ **Electricals:**
 - To increase basic customs duty on electric kitchen chimney from 7.5% to 15%
 - To reduce basic customs duty on chimney heat coils from 20% to 15%
- ◉ **Chemicals and Petrochemicals:**
 - To exempt basic customs duty on chemicals and petrochemicals
 - To reduce basic customs duty on acid grade fluorspar and crude glycerine to 2.5%

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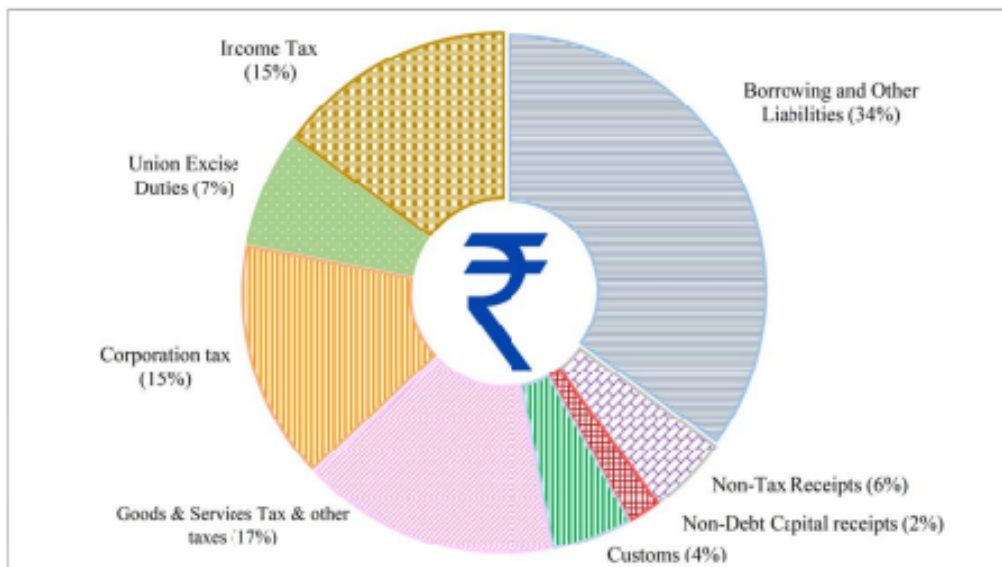
Indirect Tax Proposals

- ◉ **Marine products:**
 - To reduce duty on key inputs for domestic manufacture of shrimp feed
- ◉ **Lab Grown Diamonds:**
 - To reduce basic customs duty on seeds used in their manufacturing
- ◉ **Precious Metals:**
 - To increase customs duties on articles made from gold and platinum
 - To increase import duty on silver dore, bars and articles
- ◉ **Compounded Rubber:**
 - To increase basic customs duty rate on compounded rubber from 10% to 25%
- ◉ **Cigarettes:**
 - National Calamity Contingent Duty (NCCD) on specified cigarettes to be revised upwards by about 16%

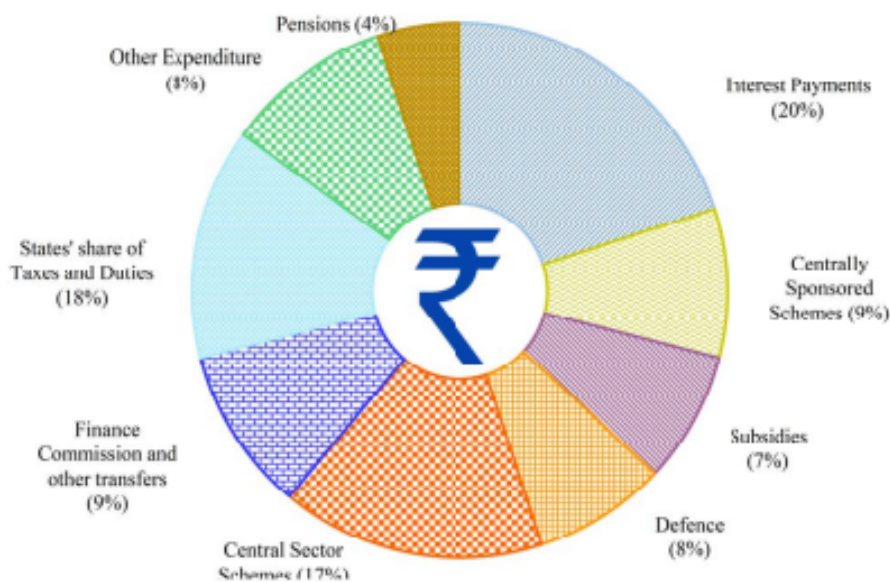
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Where does the Rupee Come from and where does it Go?

Rupee Comes From



Rupee Goes To



[Source: Union Budget 2023-24](#)

Armed Forces and Adultery

Prelims: Adultery, Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Mains: Armed Forces and Adultery.

Why in News?

Recently, the [Supreme Court](#) has ruled that armed forces can take action against their officers for adulterous acts, while stating the decriminalization of [adultery](#) does not apply to Armed Forces.

- In September 2018 Joseph Shine Judgment, the SC struck down **Section 497 of the IPC that criminalised adultery**, ruling that it was unconstitutional and **violated women's right to equality** in treating them as inferior to their husbands.

What is the Recent Ruling?

- The SC clarified that in the 2018 judgment, the SC was concerned **only with the validity of Section 497 of the IPC and Section 198(2)** of the CrPC dealing with adultery, and had “no occasion whatsoever to consider the effect” **with respect to the Army, Navy and Air Force Acts**.
 - Defence personnel of the three wings — **the Army, Navy and the Air Force were governed by special legislation**, the Army Act, the Navy Act and the Air Force Act.
 - These special **laws impose restrictions on the fundamental rights of the personnel**, who function in peculiar situation requiring utmost discipline.
 - The **three laws are protected by Article 33 of the Constitution**, which allow the government to **modify the fundamental rights** of the armed forces personnel
- The Bench delivered the final Order in the case, clarifying that the Joseph Shine Judgment **did not apply to members of the armed forces who are accused of ‘conduct unbecoming’ and dismissed the application**.

What are the Significances?

- Abolishing adultery as a crime, **might prevent members of the armed services from being found guilty** of adulterous activities. When jawans and officers are deployed to hostile environments, other officers look after their families at base camp, **and the laws and regulations that specify consequences for engaging in adulterous or promiscuous behavior aid** in upholding discipline.
- Armed services soldiers who commit adultery with a coworker's wife may be cashiered from their jobs for acting unbecomingly.

What is Adultery?

- **About:**
 - The act of adultery is a voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and someone other than that person's current spouse or partner.
- **Section 497 of the IPC:**
 - It mandates that whoever has sexual intercourse with the wife of another man, **without the consent or connivance of that man**, such sexual intercourse not amounting the offence of rape is guilty of the offence of adultery and shall be punished.
 - The **law does not punish his wife**, since it presumes that only a man can seduce a woman into a sexual act, and that it is the husband who has suffered due to the sexual relationship of his wife, carried out without his consent. At the same time, **the wife is not protected from similar behaviour committed by her husband**.
- **Adultery in the Indian Armed Forces:**
 - Regarding the Indian Armed Forces, **military personnel are subject to the provisions of the IPC**, including the law on adultery. In addition, the **Indian military has its own set of regulations and codes of conduct** that prohibit adultery and other forms of immoral behavior.
 - The specific consequences for committing adultery in the Indian Armed Forces may vary, but can **include administrative action, disciplinary action, or court-martial**.
 - The rules and procedures for dealing with such cases **are established by the Indian military justice system**.

World Economic Outlook: IMF

Prelims: World Economic Outlook, IMF, Global Financial Stability Report, World Economic Outlook.

Mains: Important International Institutions, Effect of Policies & Politics of Countries on India's Interests.

Why in News?

Recently, the [International Monetary Fund \(IMF\)](#) has released its World Economic Outlook (WEO) Update, which has marginally improved the **forecast for global growth in 2023**.

What are the Key Takeaways of WEO?

- **Global Growth will Bottom Out:**
 - The global growth, which was estimated at 3.4% in 2022, is now projected to fall to 2.9% in 2023 before rising to 3.1% in 2024.
 - The IMF effectively rules out a global [recession](#).
 - Negative growth in global [GDP \(Gross Domestic Product\)](#) or global GDP per capita—which often happens when there is a global recession—is not expected.
 - Instead, it expects **global growth to bottom out in 2023** before starting to gather speed in 2024.
- **Relief of Inflation will be Slower:**
 - **Inflation-Disinflation:**
 - Inflation is expected to have peaked in 2022 but the **disinflation will be slow** and take all of 2023 and 2024.
 - **Headline Inflation:**
 - About 84% of countries are expected to **have lower headline ([consumer price index](#)) inflation** in 2023 than in 2022.
 - **Global Inflation:**
 - Global inflation is set to fall from 8.8 % in 2022 (annual average) to 6.6 % in 2023 and 4.3 % in 2024—above pre-pandemic (2017–19) levels of about 3.5 %.
 - **Slowing of Price Rise:**
 - Price rise is slowing **for two main reasons:**
 - One, **monetary tightening all across** the world — higher interest rates drag down overall demand for goods and services and that, in turn, slows down inflation.
 - Two, in the wake of a faltering demand, prices of different commodities — both fuel and non-fuel — have come down from their recent highs.
 - In 2023, advanced economies are expected to **have an inflation of 4.6%** while emerging economies will continue to face an inflation of 8.1%.
- **India will be the Fastest Growing Economy:**
 - India will be the world's fastest growing economy in 2023 and 2024.
 - Growth in India is set **to decline from 6.8 % in 2022 to 6.1 % in 2023** before picking up to 6.8% in 2024, with resilient domestic demand despite external headwinds.

What is the International Monetary Fund?

- **About:**

- The IMF was set up along with the [World Bank](#) after the [Second World War](#) to assist in the reconstruction of war-ravaged countries.
 - The two organizations agreed to be set up at a conference in Bretton Woods in the US. Hence, they are known as **the Bretton Woods twins**.
- **Created in 1944, the IMF is governed by and accountable to the 190 countries** that make up its near-global membership. India joined on 27th December 1945.
 - The IMF came into **formal existence in December 1945**.
- The IMF's primary purpose is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system — the system of exchange rates and international payments that enables countries (and their citizens) to transact with each other.
 - The Fund's mandate was **updated in 2012 to include all macroeconomic and financial sector issues** that bear on global stability.
- **Reports by IMF:**
 - [Global Financial Stability Report](#).
 - [World Economic Outlook](#).
- **World Economic Outlook:**
 - It is a survey by the IMF that is **usually published twice a year in the months of April and October**.
 - It analyzes and predicts global economic developments during the near and medium term.
 - In response to the growing demand for more frequent forecast updates, the WEO Update is published in January and July, between the two main WEO publications released usually in April and October.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q1. "Rapid Financing Instrument" and "Rapid Credit Facility" are related to the provisions of lending by which one of the following? (2022)

- (a) Asian Development Bank
- (b) International Monetary Fund
- (c) United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative
- (d) World Bank

Ans: (b)

Exp:

- **Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI)** provides quick financial assistance, which is available to all member countries facing urgent balance of payments requirements. The RFI was created as part of a broader reform to **make IMF financial support more flexible** to meet the diverse needs of member states. The RFI replaces the IMF's previous emergency assistance policy and can be used in a wide variety of circumstances.
- The **Rapid Credit Facility (RCF)** provides immediate balance of payments (BoP) requirements to low-income countries (LICs) with no ex-post condition, where a full economic program is neither necessary nor feasible. RCF was set up as part of a comprehensive reform to make the fund's financial support more flexible and better suited to suit the diverse needs of LIC including times of crisis.
- There are three areas under the RCF: (i) a "regular window" for immediate BoP needs due to a wide range of sources such as household instability, emergencies and fragility (ii) for immediate BoP needs due to sudden, exogenous shocks. an "exogenous shock window" and (iii) a "large natural disaster window" for immediate BoP needs due to natural disasters where the damage is estimated to be equal to or greater than 20% of the member's GDP.

Q2. “Gold Tranche” (Reserve Tranche) refers to (2020)

- (a) a loan system of the World Bank
- (b) one of the operations of a Central Bank
- (c) a credit system granted by WTO to its members
- (d) a credit system granted by IMF to its members

Ans: (d)

Q3. ‘Global Financial Stability Report’ is prepared by the (2016)

- (a) European Central Bank
- (b) International Monetary Fund
- (c) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- (d) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Ans: (b)

Mains

Q. The World Bank and the IMF, collectively known as the Bretton Woods Institutions, are the two inter-governmental pillars supporting the structure of the world’s economic and financial order. Superficially, the World Bank and the IMF exhibit many common characteristics, yet their role, functions and mandate are distinctly different. Elucidate. **(2013)**

[Source: TH](#)

World Likely to See 2°C Warming by 2050

Prelims: ANN, Climate Change, Global Warming, Paris Agreement.

Mains: Implications of Global warming.

Why in News?

Recently, a study published titled “**contradicted projections from the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#)**”, states that the planet is **likely to warm up by two degrees Celsius by 2050**, even under a low-emission scenario.

- The researchers used **artificial intelligence** called [Artificial Neural Networks \(ANN\)](#) to predict the time for reaching the 1.5 °C and 2°C thresholds.
- The world has recorded **a 1.1°C rise in temperature compared with the average in 1850-1900**.

What are the Key Findings?

- **Projection:**

- There is a higher likelihood that 2°C will be reached under the low emission scenario compared with the **IPCC AR6 (Sixth Assessment Report) synthesis assessment**, and may **fail to uphold the [Paris Agreement](#)**.
 - The Paris Agreement aims to limit the rise to below 2°C while pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C.
 - The IPCC estimated that the 1.5°C threshold could be attained as early as the 2030s under all emission scenarios.
- Global warming is already on the verge of crossing the 1.5°C threshold, even if the **climate forcing pathway is substantially reduced** in the near term.
 - The threshold of 1.5°C will reach somewhere between 2033 and 2035 in the **high, intermediate and low forcing scenarios**.
- The **world could touch 2°C by 2050 under the high-emission scenario**, 2049 and 2054 in the intermediate and low-emission scenarios, respectively.
 - In contrast, the IPCC estimated the likelihood of touching 2°C of global warming during the **mid-21st century is high under a high-emission scenario**.
- **Significance of Limiting Warming:**
 - Limiting warming to 1.5°C will **reduce the number of people frequently exposed to extreme [heat waves](#)** by about 420 million.
 - It can also **reduce the probability of [drought](#) and risks related to water availability**.
- **Implications:**
 - Warming above the threshold of 1.5°C can cause a **broad range of climate risks** — such as impacts on human health, economic growth, crop yields, coastal and small island communities, terrestrial and marine ecosystems, as well as the **frequency, intensity and cost of [extreme climate events](#)**.

What are Artificial Neural Networks?

- ANN is a vital **subset of machine learning** that helps computer scientists in their work on complex tasks, such as, strategizing, making predictions, and recognizing trends.
- It is a **computational model that mimics the way nerve cells work in the human brain**. It is designed to simulate the way the human brain analyzes and processes information.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. With reference to the Agreement at the UNFCCC Meeting in Paris in 2015, which of the following statements is/are correct? (2016)

1. The Agreement was signed by all the member countries of the UN and it will go into effect in 2017.
2. The Agreement aims to limit the greenhouse gas emissions so that the rise in average global temperature by the end of this century does not exceed 2°C or even 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
3. Developed countries acknowledged their historical responsibility in global warming and committed to donate \$ 1000 billion a year from 2020 to help developing countries to cope with climate change.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Mains

- Q1.** Assess the impact of global warming on the coral life system with examples. **(2017)**
- Q2.** 'Climate change' is a global problem. How India will be affected by climate change? How Himalayan and coastal states of India will be affected by climate change? **(2017)**
- Q3.** Discuss global warming and mention its effects on the global climate. Explain the control measures to bring down the level of greenhouse gases which cause global warming, in the light of the Kyoto Protocol, 1997. **(2022)**

[Source: DTE](#)

Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Khadi Fashion Show



Recently, a mega '**Khadi fashion show**' was organised by the Khadi and Village Industries

Commission (KVIC) in Rann of Kutch/ Kachchh. This mega event was the first such event of KVIC to **establish new dimensions of the Khadi brand all over the world.** The government of Gujarat holds a **three-month long festival known as 'The Rann Utsav' every year.**

The Rann of Kachchh is a **salt marshy land in the Thar Desert in the kachchh district of western Gujarat.** It lies between Gujarat in India and the **Sindh province in Pakistan.**

It is famous for its white salty desert sand and is **reputed to be the largest salt desert in the world.** The inhabitants of Kachchh are called Kachchhi and **have a language of their own with the same name.** Most of the population in Rann of Kachchh comprises of Hindus, Muslims, Jains and Sikhs.

Read More: [Rann of Kutch/Kachchh](#), [Thar Desert](#), [Khadi and Village Industries Commission \(KVIC\)](#)

WAN-IFRA

Recently, the Hindu Group has won four awards at the **World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) Digital Media [South Asia](#) Awards 2022** for its various products and services. This was the **sixth edition of the digital media awards for South Asia.**

WAN-IFRA is the **global organisation of the world's press.** Its mission is to **protect the rights of journalists and publishers** around the world to operate independent media. The goal is to **provide members with expertise and services** to innovate and prosper in a digital world and **perform their crucial role in society.**

Read More: [Freedom of Media](#)

IIMR in Hyderabad: Centre of Excellence (CoE)

Recently, during the presentation of the **Union Budget 2023**, Union Finance Minister announced that the **Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR) in Hyderabad will act as a Centre of Excellence (CoE)** for 'Shree Anna' to take the research on millets to the international level and make India a global hub for millets.

India is the **world's largest producer and second largest exporter of several types of 'Shree Anna' (millets)** with a share of 41% in 2020, as per the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). **Rajasthan, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh are leading producers.**

As the year 2023 has been declared the **'International Year of Millet' by the [United Nations General Assembly \(UNGA\)](#).** The IIMR is considered the **main driver behind the surge in the interest and consumption of millet-based products** in the country in the last 5-6 years.

Read More: [Centre of Excellence \(CoE\)](#), [Food and Agricultural Organisation \(FAO\)](#), [India's Millet Revolution](#), [International Year of Millet](#)

Myanmar Extends Emergency Rule



Recently, Myanmar's junta **announced the extension of the country's state of emergency by another six months.**

‘Coup’ is **generally described as a sudden, violent, and illegal seizure of power from a government.**

In the November 2020 parliamentary election, **Suu Kyi’s party National League for Democracy (NLD) secured the majority of the seats.**

In Myanmar's Parliament, **the military holds 25% of the total seats** according to the 2008 military-drafted constitution and several key ministerial positions are also reserved for military appointees. When the **newly elected Myanmar lawmakers were to hold the first session of Parliament in 2021, the military imposed a state of emergency for one year** citing massive voting fraud in the parliamentary elections.

Read More: [Military Coup in Myanmar](#)

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