

Daily Current Affairs

24 July 2024

Budget

- In Lok Sabha, Presenting The **Union Budget For 2024 – 2025**, The Finance Minister Said Despite Global Headwinds, The Indian Economy Continues To Be A **Shining Exception** And Will Be The Fastest-growing Economy In Years Ahead.
- The Finance Minister Said This **Budget Is Mainly Focused On** Employment, Skilling, MsmeS And Middle Class As She Announced The Prime Minister's **Package For Youth**.



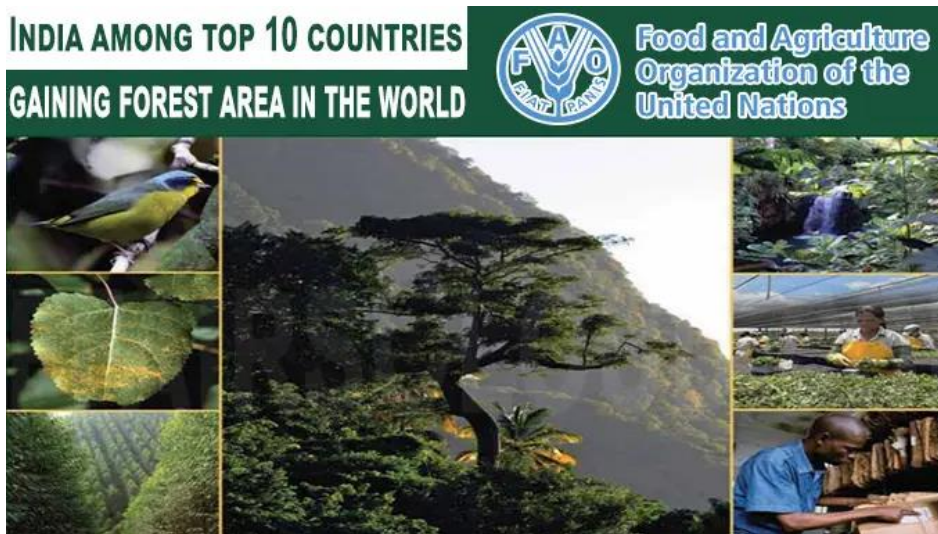
- Presenting A Detailed Road Map For The **Pursuit Of 'Viksit Bharat'**, The Budget Mentioned **Nine Priorities Of The Government** Providing Opportunities For All.
- It Includes Productivity And Resilience In Agriculture, Employment & Skilling, Inclusive Human Resource Development And Social Justice, Manufacturing & Services, Urban Development, Energy Security, Infrastructure, Innovation, Research & Development And Next Generation Reforms.
- Government Will **Incentivize Additional Employment** In The Manufacturing Sector In The First **4 Years Of Employment**.
- **Thirty Lakh Youth** And Their Employer Will Get Incentive In Respect Of Their EPFO Contribution.



- Government Will Formulate A Plan, **Purvodaya**, For The **All-round Development** Of The Eastern Region Of The Country Covering Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha And Andhra Pradesh With Special Financial Support Of 15 Thousand Crore Rupees For Andhra Pradesh In Current Financial Year.
- The Finance Minister Has Announced Several Proposals For The Housing Sector. She Said, Three Crore Additional Houses Under The **PM Awas Yojana** In Rural And Urban Areas In The Country Have Been Announced, For Which The Necessary Allocations Are Being Made.
- Also For Promoting Women-led Development, The Budget Carries An Allocation Of More **Than 3 Lakh Crore Rupees** For Schemes Benefitting Women And Girls.
- The Union Budget 2024-25, the government has announced various measures for improving the **socio-economic condition** of the tribal communities. A provision of **2.66 lakh crore rupees** has been proposed for rural development including rural infrastructure.
- The Finance Minister has also announced that more **than 100 branches of India Post Payment Bank** will be set up in the North East region to expand the banking services.
- This year the Budget has made a **provision of 1.52 lakh crore rupees** for Agriculture and allied sectors. The Finance Minister said in the next two years, one crore farmers across the country will be initiated into natural farming supported by certification and branding. She said, the government will bring out a **National Cooperation Policy for systematic**, orderly and all-round development of the cooperative sector.

Global Forest Area Gains

- India has made great progress in **protecting forests**. From 2010 to 2020, 266,000 hectares of new forest will be added each year.
- According to the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, this makes India the **third country in the world** in terms of forest area growth.
- **China and Australia lead the rankings**, having increased their forest areas by 1,937,000 and 446,000 hectares respectively.



- **Other countries in the top ten** include Chile, Vietnam, Turkey, the United States, France, Italy, and Romania. When India worked hard to fix up damaged lands and promote agroforestry using new ideas and new national policies meant to support these practices, the FAO praised the country.



- The FAO's study shows that the rate of deforestation has gone down significantly in many parts of the world. In 2023, the **rainforests in Indonesia shrank** by 8.4%, and the **rainforests in Brazil's Amazon** shrank by a shocking 50%. Climate change makes woods more vulnerable to wildfires and pests, even though there are some good signs.
- **A big part of the world's carbon** emissions in 2021 came from boreal woods. In 2023, wildfires are expected to release 6,687 megatonnes of carbon dioxide into the air. The amount of gross world mangrove loss went down by 23% between 2000 and 2010 and will continue to go down until 2020. The FAO did say, though, that insects and diseases pose a major threat to U.S. forests, and they expect big losses by 2027.

ESA Prepares RAMSES Mission

- **ESA has started getting ready for Ramses, the Rapid Apophis Mission for Space Safety.** The goal of Ramses is to study **asteroid 99942 Apophis** when it comes close to Earth in 2029.
- **Apophis, which is about 375 meters** across, will pass within **32,000 km of Earth** on April 13, 2029, and billions of people will be able to see it. This event is very rare; it only happens about once every 5,000 to 10,000 years.



- It won't be a crash threat for at least 100 years. During its flyby, the **Ramses spaceship will see** how Earth's gravity affects Apophis. This includes looking at how the **asteroid's shape, rotation, and surface features** change over time. This will help us learn more about these qualities, which will be important for future defense plans.



- **NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft** will also go after Apophis, which will help experts figure out what changes happened after the flyby. This two-pronged method lets us fully compare the asteroid's state before and after.
- Ramses is a good example of how to quickly send out reconnaissance missions to keep an eye on possibly dangerous asteroids. Accurate data will help with tactics for deflecting asteroids and avoiding impacts.

U-WIN Portal

- Indian government has made a **100-day health plan that includes U-WIN**, an online platform for managing vaccines that aims to increase the number of children in the **country who get vaccinated**. **U-WIN** is about to go live across the whole country, building on the successful digital infrastructure that was set up during the Covid-19 vaccination program by CoWIN.

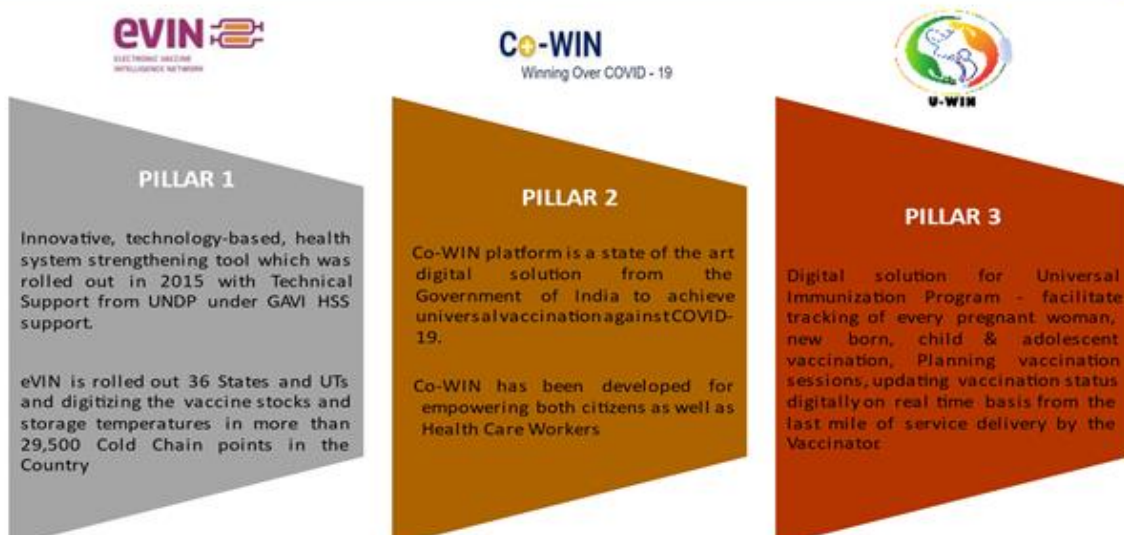


- U-WIN is a website that helps people keep track of immunization records for kids younger than six and women who are pregnant. Users sign up with a government ID (like Aadhaar) and a cellphone number, which lets the system keep track of their vaccination records.



- When a kid signs up for U-WIN, all of their required vaccinations can be added, which creates a color-coded vaccination certificate. Users are reminded of future vaccines by text message, and the platform makes it easy to find vaccination centers and make appointments.

BACKGROUND FOR U-WIN



- It gets rid of the need for **actual vaccination books**, making them easy to get all over the country.
- **U-WIN will be linked to eVIN**, a **system** that keeps track of vaccine stock and temperatures all along the cold chain. Using digital frameworks that health workers already know how to use, this integration aims to make sure that vaccine stocks are managed efficiently and that waste is kept to a minimum.

SIDBI To Build \$1B Fund For Green Financing

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, which received approval of funding of \$ 215.6 m from the *Green Climate Fund*, will create a **corpus of \$1 billion** for '**financing mitigation and adaptation projects**' (FMAP) of Medium and Small Enterprises (MSMEs).



- The board of the **Green Climate Fund**, which is an entity set up by the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, approved a \$200 million loan and **\$15.6 million grant** for capacity building to SIDBI.
- A press release issued by SIDBI says that the **FMAP facility would provide** “nearly 10,000 concessional loans to MSMEs”, to promote low-emission, climate-resilient technologies.
- **The FMAP programme is** expected to result in a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to the tune of 35.3 million tonnes. Adaptation activities would lead to “**substantial water savings**” and building resilience in vulnerable communities, “**benefiting more than 10.8 million beneficiaries**.”
- The development financial institution **would bring in another \$ 800 m**, partly from its balance sheet and partly raised from the market – to form a fund of \$ 1 billion.



- **The fund will provide a 'FMAP facility' for MSMEs, for projects such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy storage and e-mobility.**
- Notably, this comes close on the heels of the Asian Development Bank **approving \$240 m for lending for rooftop solar projects** in India, which was announced on July 17. The ADB loan is to be routed through the State Bank of India and NABARD.

Abhinav Bindra Awarded Prestigious Olympic Order

- **International Olympic Committee Executive Board** has decided to award India's **first individual Olympic gold medallist** Abhinav Bindra with the **Olympic Order** for his outstanding services to the Olympic Movement.



- The award will be given during the **142nd IOC Session in Paris** on 10th of August 2024.
- The **Olympic Order is the highest award of the IOC**, given for distinguished contributions to the Olympic Movement.
- 41-year-old Bindra, won the men's 10 meter air rifle event at the 2008 Beijing Games and became **first Indian individual to win an Olympic gold medal**.
- Bindra has also been a member of the IOC Athlete Commission since 2018.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. RAMSES Mission Will Be Launched By

- A. JAXA
- B. ISRO
- C. ESA
- D. NASA

ANSWER: C

2. How Much Did India Receive In Remittances In 2023

- A. \$80 billion
- B. \$100 billion
- C. \$120 billion
- D. \$140 billion

ANSWER: C

3. What Percentage Of India's Installed Electricity Generation Capacity Came From Non-fossil Sources By 31 May 2024

- A. 35.4%
- B. 45.4%
- C. 50.4%
- D. 55.4%

ANSWER: D

4. Which Country Declared Animal Health Emergency After Newcastle Disease

- A. Peru
- B. Brazil
- C. Chile
- D. Guyana

ANSWER: B

5. Modified Interest Subvention Is Implemented By Which Two Organizations

- A. NABARD and RBI
- B. RBI and SEBI
- C. NABARD and SEBI
- D. SEBI and NITI Aayog

ANSWER: A

6. Pralay Missile, Was Developed By Which Organization

- A. DRDO
- B. ISRO
- C. JAXA
- D. CNSA

ANSWER: B

7. Union Minister Of Coal And Mines Inaugurated National Landslide Forecasting Centre In Which City

- A. Jaipur
- B. Bhopal
- C. Kolkata
- D. Varanasi

ANSWER: C

8. Which State Government Launched Rajiv Gandhi Civil Abhaya Hastham Scheme

- A. Telangana
- B. Karnataka
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: A

9. Institute Received Best Technology Award For Work In Horticultural Sciences

- A. Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture
- B. Indian Institute of Spices Research
- C. Indian Institute of Horticultural Research
- D. Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology

ANSWER: B

10. Remission Of Duties And Taxes On Exported Products Scheme Is A WTO Compliant Scheme Of Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Defence
- B. Ministry of Agriculture
- C. Ministry of Commerce
- D. Ministry of Finance

ANSWER: C

11. Which Former Indian Players Were Inducted Into International Tennis Hall Of Fame In Newport, USA

- A. Vijay Amritraj and Leander Paes
- B. Ajay Ramaswami and Rohit Rajpal
- C. Mahesh Bhupathi and Rohan Bopanna
- D. Karan Rastogi and Jay Royappa

ANSWER: A

12. Rapid Apophis Mission For Space Safety Is Mission Of

- A. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- B. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- C. European Space Agency (ESA)
- D. Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

ANSWER: C

13. What Is 'Syntrichia Caninervis'

- A. Malware
- B. A species of spider
- C. Weather monitoring satellite
- D. A species of desert moss

ANSWER: D

14. Archaeologists Have Uncovered A 41,000-year-old Ostrich Nest In Which State

- A. Karnataka
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Maharashtra

ANSWER: A

15. Which State Launched The 'NTR Bharosa Pension Scheme

- A. Kerala
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: C

16. Where Was The District Mineral Foundation Gallery Inaugurated

- A. Bhopal
- B. New Delhi
- C. Chennai
- D. Bengaluru

ANSWER: B

17. Which Government Agency Launched 'Sampoornata Abhiyaan'

- A. National Informatics Centre
- B. NABARD
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. Ministry of Finance

ANSWER: C

18. Technology Development Fund Scheme, Is A Under Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Finance
- B. Ministry of Science and Technology
- C. Ministry of Defence
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

ANSWER: C

19. Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve Is Located In

- A. Karnataka
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: A

20. Who Was The Founder Of Dal Khalsa

- A. Nawab Kapur Singh
- B. Guru Gobind Singh
- C. Ranjit Singh
- D. Amar Singh

ANSWER: A

