

Weekly One Liners 22nd to 28th of July 2024

Economic Survey 2023-24: Key Highlights and Analysis

The **Economic Survey 2023-24**, presented by Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, provides a detailed overview of India's economic performance and future outlook. Here are the key highlights and analysis, organized by thematic chapters:

Chapter 1: State of the Economy – Steady as She Goes

- **GDP Growth Projection:** The Economic Survey conservatively projects a **real GDP growth of 6.5–7%**, with balanced risks, despite higher market expectations.
- **Momentum Maintenance:** India's economy continued its momentum from FY23 into FY24, facing minimal impact from external challenges due to macroeconomic stability.
- **Real GDP Growth:** Real GDP grew by **8.2% in FY24**, exceeding 8% in three out of four quarters.
- **Gross Value Added (GVA):** GVA grew by **7.2% in FY24** (at 2011-12 prices) and net taxes at constant prices grew by **19.1%**.
- **Inflation Management:** Retail inflation reduced from **6.7% in FY23 to 5.4% in FY24** due to effective administrative and monetary policies.
- **Current Account Deficit (CAD):** CAD improved to **0.7% of GDP in FY24** from 2.0% in FY23.
- **Post-Pandemic Recovery:** Real GDP in FY24 was **20% higher than FY20**, a notable recovery achieved by few major economies.
- **Tax Collection:** **55%** of tax collected from direct taxes, and **45%** from indirect taxes.
- **Welfare Programs:** Government ensured free food grains to **81.4 crore people** and progressively increased capital expenditure.

Chapter 2: Monetary Management and Financial Intermediation - Stability is the Watchword

- **Banking Sector Performance:** India's banking and financial sectors performed exceptionally well in FY24.
- **Policy Rate:** RBI maintained a steady policy rate, keeping the **policy repo rate at 6.5%**.
- **Credit Growth:** Credit disbursement by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) reached **₹164.3 lakh crore**, growing by **20.2%** by March 2024.
- **Broad Money (M3) Growth:** Excluding HDFC merger, M3 grew by **11.2% YoY** as of 22 March 2024.
- **Non-Performing Assets (NPA):** Gross and net NPAs at multi-year lows, indicating improved bank asset quality.
- **Agriculture Credit:** Agriculture and allied activities saw double-digit credit growth in FY24.
- **Industrial Credit:** Industrial credit growth was **8.5%**, up from 5.2% the previous year.
- **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC):** **31,394 corporate debtors** involving **₹13.9 lakh crore** disposed off by March 2024.

- **Capital Markets:** Primary capital markets facilitated capital formation of **₹10.9 lakh crore** in FY24.
- **Market Capitalisation:** Indian stock market's market capitalisation to GDP ratio is the fifth largest in the world.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Digital Financial Inclusion (DFI) is the next big challenge for sustainable economic growth.

Chapter 3: Prices and Inflation - Under Control

- **Retail Inflation:** Maintained at **5.4%** in FY24, the lowest since the pandemic, due to timely policy interventions.
- **Fuel Prices:** Central Government announced price cuts for LPG, petrol, and diesel, keeping retail fuel inflation low.
- **LPG and Fuel Inflation:** LPG cylinder prices reduced by **₹200** in August 2023; petrol and diesel prices lowered by **₹2 per litre**.
- **Core Inflation:** Core services inflation eased to a nine-year low; core goods inflation declined to a four-year low.
- **Food Inflation:** Increased from **6.6% in FY23 to 7.5% in FY24** due to extreme weather events impacting farm output.
- **Inflation Management:** Dynamic stock management, open market operations, and subsidised food items helped mitigate food inflation.
- **State Inflation:** **29 States and UTs** recorded inflation below 6% in FY24.

Chapter 4: External Sector - Stability Amid Plenty

- **Geopolitical Challenges:** Despite geopolitical headwinds, India's external sector remained strong.
- **Logistics Performance Index:** Improved rank from **44th in 2018 to 38th in 2023** out of 139 countries.
- **Current Account Deficit:** Improved to **0.7% of GDP in FY24** due to moderation in imports and rising services exports.
- **Global Export Share:** India's share in global goods exports was **1.8% in FY24**.
- **Services Exports:** Grew by **4.9% to USD 341.1 billion**, driven by IT/software services and other business services.



- **Remittances:** India is the top remittance recipient globally with **USD 120 billion** in 2023.
- **External Debt:** External debt to GDP ratio was **18.7%** at the end of March 2024.

Chapter 5: Medium-Term Outlook – A Growth Strategy for New India

- **Policy Focus Areas:** Job and skill creation, agricultural potential, MSME bottlenecks, green transition, managing relations with China, deepening the corporate bond market, tackling inequality, and improving youth health.
- **Amrit Kaal Strategy:** Based on six key areas: boosting private investment, expanding MSMEs, agriculture as a growth engine, financing green transition, bridging education-employment gap, and building state capacity.
- **Growth Compact:** For 7%+ growth, a tripartite compact between the Union Government, State Governments, and the private sector is essential.

Chapter 6: Climate Change and Energy Transition: Dealing with Trade-Offs

- **Climate Action Recognition:** India is the only G20 nation aligned with a 2-degree centigrade warming target.
- **Renewable Energy:** Non-fossil sources reached **45.4%** of installed electricity generation capacity by 31 May 2024.
- **Emission Reduction:** Reduced emission intensity of GDP by **33% from 2005 levels by 2019.**
- **Energy Savings:** Total annual energy savings of **51 million tonnes of oil equivalent**, translating to annual cost savings of **₹1,94,320 Crore.**
- **Green Bonds:** Issued **₹16,000 Crore** in January-February 2023 and **₹20,000 Crore** in October-December 2023.

Chapter 7: Social Sector - Benefits that Empower

- **Welfare Impact:** Digitisation of healthcare, education, and governance has increased the impact per rupee spent.
- **Welfare Expenditure Growth:** Nominal GDP grew at **9.5% CAGR** while welfare expenditure grew at **12.8% CAGR** between FY18 and FY24.
- **Inequality Reduction:** Gini coefficient declined in both rural (from **0.283 to 0.266**) and urban (from **0.363 to 0.314**) sectors.
- **Ayushman Bharat:** **34.7 crore cards** generated, covering **7.37 crore hospital admissions.**
- **Mental Health Coverage:** **22 mental disorders** covered under Ayushman Bharat – PMJAY.
- **Early Childhood Education:** 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi' programme aims to develop the world's largest, universal, high-quality preschool network at Anganwadi Centres.
- **Vidyanjali Initiative:** Enhanced educational experiences for **1.44 crore students** through community engagement.
- **Higher Education Enrolment:** Faster growth in enrolment from underprivileged sections (SC, ST, OBC) with a **31.6% increase** since FY15.
- **R&D Progress:** Nearly **one lakh patents** granted in FY24, up from less than 25,000 in FY20.

- **Housing and Roads:** Under PM-AWAS-Gramin, **2.63 crore houses** constructed; **15.14 lakh km** roads completed under Gram Sadak Yojana since 2014-15.

Chapter 8: Employment and Skill Development: Towards Quality

- **Labour Market Improvement:** Unemployment rate declined to **3.2% in 2022-23.**
- **Urban Unemployment:** Declined to **6.7%** in the quarter ending March 2024.
- **Workforce Distribution:** **45%** in agriculture, **11.4%** in manufacturing, **28.9%** in services, and **13%** in construction.
- **Youth Unemployment:** Declined from **17.8% in 2017-18 to 10% in 2022-23.**
- **EPFO Payroll:** Significant growth in new subscribers, especially in the **18-28 years band.**
- **Female Labour Force Participation:** Rising steadily for six years.
- **Manufacturing Sector Recovery:** Employment in organised manufacturing sector above pre-pandemic levels.
- **Wages Growth:** Rural wages grew at **6.9% CAGR**, urban at **6.1% CAGR.**
- **Factories Growth:** Number of factories employing over 100 workers grew by **11.8%** over FY18 to FY22.
- **EPFO Membership:** Grew at **8.4% CAGR** between FY15 and FY24.
- **Job Generation Requirement:** **78.5 lakh jobs** annually needed in the non-farm sector until 2030.

Chapter 9: Agriculture and Food Management – Plenty of Upside Left if We Get It Right

- **Agriculture Growth:** Registered an average annual growth rate of **4.18%** over the last five years.
- **Agricultural Credit:** Total credit disbursed to agriculture amounted to **₹22.84 lakh crore** as of January 31, 2024.
- **Kisan Credit Cards:** **7.5 crore KCCs** issued with a limit of **₹9.4 lakh crore.**
- **Micro Irrigation:** **90.0 lakh hectares** covered under 'Per drop more crop' from 2015-16 to 2023-24.

Chapter 10: Industry - Small and Medium Matters

- **Industrial Growth:** **9.5%** growth rate supporting overall economic growth of **8.2%** in FY24.
- **Manufacturing Sector:** Achieved an average annual growth rate of **5.2%** over the last decade.
- **Coal Production:** Accelerated coal production reduced import dependence.
- **Pharmaceutical Market:** India is the world's third largest by volume with a valuation of **USD 50 billion.**
- **Clothing Manufacturing:** India is the second-largest globally and among the top five exporters.
- **Electronics Manufacturing:** Accounts for **3.7%** of the global market share in FY22.
- **PLI Schemes:** Attracted over **₹1.28 lakh crore** of investment until May 2024, leading to production/sales of **₹10.8 lakh crore** and employment generation of **over 8.5 lakh.**

Chapter 11: Services - Fuelling Growth Opportunities

- **Services Sector Contribution:** 55% of overall GVA, back to pre-pandemic levels.
- **Active Companies:** 65% of the highest number of active companies are in the services sector.
- **Global Services Exports:** Constituted 4.4% of the world's commercial services exports in 2022.
- **Computer and Business Services Exports:** Accounted for 73% of India's services exports, with a 9.6% YoY growth.
- **Aviation Sector Growth:** 15% YoY increase in total air passengers handled.
- **Services Sector Credit:** ₹45.9 lakh crore in March 2024, with a 22.9% YoY growth.

Chapter 12: Infrastructure – Lifting Potential Growth

- **Public Sector Investment:** Significant role in funding large-scale infrastructure projects.
- **National Highway Construction:** Pace increased to around 34 km per day by FY24.
- **Railway Capital Expenditure:** Increased by 77% in the past five years.
- **Airport Infrastructure:** New terminal buildings operationalised at 21 airports, increasing passenger handling capacity by 62 million per annum.
- **Clean Energy Investment:** ₹8.5 lakh crore (USD 102.4 billion) between 2014 and 2023.

Chapter 13: Climate Change and India

- **Global Climate Strategies:** Flawed and not universally applicable, overconsumption not addressed.
- **India's Ethos:** Emphasizes a harmonious relationship with nature, contrasting with overconsumption cultures.
- **Sustainable Housing:** Shift towards 'traditional multi-generational households'.
- **Mission LIFE:** Focuses on human-nature harmony, promoting mindful consumption to address global climate change.

The Economic Survey 2023-24 provides a detailed analysis of India's economic landscape, highlighting its resilience and strategic initiatives aimed at sustainable and inclusive growth. With focused efforts on macroeconomic stability, financial inclusion, climate action, and social welfare, India is well-positioned to navigate future challenges and capitalize on growth opportunities.

Budget 2024-25

The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2024-25 in Parliament. The highlights of the budget are as follows:

Part-A

Budget Estimates 2024-25:

- Total receipts other than borrowings: Rs. 32.07 lakh crore.
- Total expenditure: Rs. 48.21 lakh crore.
- Net tax receipt: Rs. 25.83 lakh crore.

- Fiscal deficit: 4.9 per cent of GDP.
- The government aims to reach a deficit below 4.5 per cent next year.
- Inflation continues to be low, stable and moving towards the 4% target; Core inflation (non-food, non-fuel) at 3.1%.
- The budget focuses on **EMPLOYMENT, SKILLING, MSMEs, and the MIDDLE CLASS.**

Package of PM's five schemes for Employment and Skilling

- Prime Minister's Package of 5 Schemes and Initiatives for employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth over a 5-year period.
 1. **Scheme A - First Timers:** One-month salary of up to Rs. 15,000 to be provided in 3 installments to first-time employees, as registered in the EPFO.
 2. **Scheme B - Job Creation in manufacturing:** Incentive to be provided at specified scale directly, both employee and employer, with respect to their EPFO contribution in the first 4 years of employment.
 3. **Scheme C - Support to employers:** Government to reimburse up to Rs. 3,000 per month for 2 years towards EPFO contribution of employers, for each additional employee.
 4. **New centrally sponsored scheme for Skilling-** 20 lakh youth to be skilled over a 5-year period and 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes to be upgraded in hub and spoke arrangements.
 5. **New Scheme for Internship in 500 Top Companies** to 1 crore youth in 5 years

Nine Budget Priorities in Pursuit of 'Viksit Bharat':

1. Productivity and Resilience in Agriculture
2. Employment & Skilling
3. Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice
4. Manufacturing & Services
5. Urban Development
6. Energy Security
7. Infrastructure
8. Innovation, Research & Development and
9. Next Generation Reforms

Priority 1: Productivity and resilience in Agriculture

- Allocation of Rs. 1.52 lakh crore for agriculture and allied sectors.
- New 109 high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties of 32 field and horticulture crops to be released for cultivation by farmers.
- 1 crore farmers across the country to be initiated into natural farming, with certification and branding in next 2 years.
- 10,000 need-based bio-input resource centres to be established for natural farming.
- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Agriculture to be implemented for coverage of farmers and their lands in 3 years.

Priority 2: Employment & Skilling

- As part of the Prime Minister's package, 3 schemes for 'Employment Linked Incentive' to be implemented - Scheme A - First Timers; Scheme B - Job Creation in manufacturing; Scheme C - Support to employers.
- To facilitate higher participation of women in the workforce,
 1. working women hostels and crèches to be established with industrial collaboration
 2. women-specific skilling programmes to be organized
 3. market access for women SHG enterprises to be promoted

Skill Development

- New centrally sponsored scheme for Skilling under Prime Minister's Package for 20 lakh youth over a 5-year period.
- Model Skill Loan Scheme to be revised to facilitate loans up to Rs. 7.5 lakh.
- Financial support for loans upto Rs. 10 lakh for higher education in domestic institutions to be provided to youth who have not been eligible for any benefit under government schemes and policies.

Priority 3: Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice**Purvodaya**

- Industrial node at Gaya to be developed along the Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor.
- Power projects, including new 2400 MW power plant at Pirpainti, to be taken up at a cost of Rs. 21,400 crore.

Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act

- Special financial support through multilateral development agencies of Rs. 15,000 crore in the current financial year.
- Industrial node at Kopparthy along Vishakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor and at Orvakal along Hyderabad-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor.

Women-led development

- Total allocation of more than Rs. 3 lakh crore for schemes benefitting women and girls.

Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan

- Socio-economic development of tribal families in tribal-majority villages and aspirational districts, covering 63,000 villages benefitting 5 crore tribal people.

Bank branches in North-Eastern Region

- 100 branches of India Post Payment Bank to be set up in the North East region.

Priority 4: Manufacturing & Services**Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs in the Manufacturing Sector**

- A credit guarantee scheme without collateral or third-party guarantee in term loans to MSMEs for purchase of machinery and equipment.

Credit Support to MSMEs during Stress Period

- New mechanism to facilitate continuation of bank credit to MSMEs during their stress period.

Mudra Loans

- The limit of Mudra loans under 'Tarun' category to be enhanced to Rs. 20 lakh from Rs. 10 lakh for those who have successfully repaid previous loans.

Enhanced scope for mandatory onboarding in TReDS

- Turnover threshold of buyers for mandatory onboarding on the TReDS platform to be reduced from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 250 crore..

MSME Units for Food Irradiation, Quality & Safety Testing

- Financial support to set up 50 multi-product food irradiation units in the MSME sector .

E-Commerce Export Hubs

- E-Commerce Export Hubs to be set up under public-private-partnership (PPP) mode for MSMEs and traditional artisans to sell their products in international markets.

Critical Mineral Mission

- Critical Mineral Mission to be set up for domestic production, recycling of critical minerals, and overseas acquisition of critical mineral assets.

Offshore mining of minerals

- Auction of the first tranche of offshore blocks for mining, building on the exploration already carried out.

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Applications

- Development of DPI applications in the areas of credit, e-commerce, education, health, law and justice, logistics, MSME, services delivery, and urban governance.

Priority 5: Urban Development**Transit Oriented Development**

- Formulation of Transit Oriented Development plans and strategies to implement and finance 14 large cities above 30 lakh population.

Urban Housing

- Investment of Rs. 10 lakh crore, including the central assistance of Rs. 2.2 lakh crore in next 5 years, under PM Awas Yojana Urban 2.0 proposed to address the , housing needs of 1 crore urban poor and middle-class families.

Street Markets

- New scheme to support the development of 100 weekly 'haats' or street food hubs every year for the next 5 years in select cities.

Priority 6: Energy Security**Energy Transition**

- Policy document on 'Energy Transition Pathways' to balance the imperatives of employment, growth and environmental sustainability to be brought out.

Pumped Storage Policy

- Policy for promoting pumped storage projects for electricity storage to be brought out.

Research and development of small and modular nuclear reactors

- Government to partner with private sector for R&D of Bharat Small Modular Reactor and newer technologies for nuclear energy, and to set up Bharat Small Reactors.

Advanced Ultra Super Critical Thermal Power Plants

- Joint venture proposed between NTPC and BHEL to set up a full scale 800 MW commercial plant using Advanced Ultra Super Critical (AUSC) technology.

Roadmap for 'hard to abate' industries

- Appropriate regulations for transition of 'hard to abate' industries from the current 'Perform, Achieve and Trade' mode to 'Indian Carbon Market' mode to be put in place.

Priority 7: Infrastructure

Infrastructure investment by Central Government

- Rs. 11,11,111 crore (3.4 % of GDP) to be provided for capital expenditure.

Infrastructure investment by state governments

- Provision of Rs. 1.5 lakh crore for long-term interest free loans to support states in infrastructure investment.

Pradhan Mantri Gram SadakYojana (PMGSY)

- Launch of phase IV of PMGSY to provide all-weather connectivity to 25,000 rural habitations.

Irrigation and Flood Mitigation

- Financial support of Rs. 11,500 crore to projects such as the Kosi-Mechi intra-state link and other schemes in Bihar.
- Government to provide assistance to Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim for floods, landslides and other related projects.

Tourism

- Comprehensive development of Vishnupad Temple Corridor, Mahabodhi Temple Corridor and Rajgir.
- Assistance for development of temples, monuments, craftsmanship, wildlife sanctuaries, natural landscapes and pristine beaches of Odisha.

Priority 8: Innovation, Research & Development

- Anusandhan National Research Fund for basic research and prototype development to be operationalised.
- Financing pool of Rs. 1 lakh crore for spurring private sector-driven research and innovation at commercial scale.

Space Economy

- Venture capital fund of Rs. 1,000 crore to be set up for expanding the space economy by 5 times in the next 10 years.

Priority 9: Next Generation Reforms

Rural Land-Related Actions

- Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) or Bhu-Aadhaar for all lands
- Digitization of cadastral maps
- Survey of map sub-divisions as per current ownership
- Establishment of land registry
- Linking to the farmers registry

Urban Land-Related Actions

- Land records in urban areas to be digitized with GIS mapping.

Services to Labour

- Integration of e-shram portal with other portals to facilitate such one-stop solution.
- Open architecture databases for the rapidly changing labour market, skill requirements and available job roles.
- Mechanism to connect job-aspirants with potential employers and skill providers.

NPS Vatsalya

- NPS-Vatsalya as a plan for contribution by parents and guardians for minors.

PART B

Indirect Taxes

GST

- Buoyed by GST's success, tax structure to be simplified and rationalised to expand GST to remaining sectors.

Sector specific customs duty proposals

Medicines and Medical Equipment

- Three cancer drugs namely TrastuzumabDeruxtecan, Osimertinib and Durvalumab fully exempted from custom duty.
- Changes in Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on x-ray tubes & flat panel detectors for use in medical x-ray machines under the Phased Manufacturing Programme.



Mobile Phone and Related Parts

- BCD on mobile phone, mobile Printed Circuit Board Assembly (PCBA) and mobile charger reduced to 15 per cent.

Precious Metals

- Customs duties on gold and silver reduced to 6 per cent and that on platinum to 6.4 per cent.

Other Metals

- BCD removed on ferro nickel and blister copper.
- BCD removed on ferrous scrap and nickel cathode.
- Concessional BCD of 2.5 per cent on copper scrap.

Electronics

- BCD removed, subject to conditions, on oxygen free copper for manufacture of resistors.

Chemicals and Petrochemicals

- BCD on ammonium nitrate increased from 7.5 to 10 per cent.

Plastics

- BCD on PVC flex banners increased from 10 to 25 per cent.

Telecommunication Equipment

- BCD increased from 10 to 15 per cent on PCBA of specified telecom equipment.

Trade facilitation

- For promotion of domestic aviation and boat & ship MRO, time period for export of goods imported for repairs extended from six months to one year.
- Time-limit for re-import of goods for repairs under warranty extended from three to five years.

Critical Minerals

- 25 critical minerals fully exempted from customs duties.
- BCD on two critical minerals reduced.

Solar Energy

- Capital goods for use in manufacture of solar cells and panels exempted from customs duty.

Marine products

- BCD on certain broodstock, polychaete worms, shrimp and fish feed reduced to 5 per cent.
- Various inputs for manufacture of shrimp and fish feed exempted from customs duty.

Leather and Textile

- BCD reduced on real down filling material from duck or goose.
- BCD reduced, subject to conditions, on methylene diphenyl diisocyanate (MDI) for manufacture of spandex yarn from 7.5 to 5 per cent.

Direct Taxes

- Efforts to simplify taxes, improve tax payer services, provide tax certainty and reduce litigation to be continued.
- Enhance revenues for funding development and welfare schemes of government.

- 58 per cent of corporate tax from simplified tax regime in FY23, more than two-thirds taxpayers availed simplified tax regime for personal income tax in FY 24.

Simplification for Charities and of TDS

- Two tax exemption regimes for charities to be merged into one.
- 5 per cent TDS rate on many payments merged into 2 per cent TDS rate.
- 20 per cent TDS rate on repurchase of units by mutual funds or UTI withdrawn.
- TDS rate on e-commerce operators reduced from one to 0.1 per cent.
- Delay for payment of TDS up to due date of filing statement decriminalized.

Simplification of Reassessment

- Assessment can be reopened beyond three years upto five years from the end of Assessment Year only if the escaped income is ₹ 50 lakh or more.
- In search cases, time limit reduced from ten to six years before the year of search.

Simplification and Rationalisation of Capital Gains

- Short term gains on certain financial assets to attract a tax rate of 20 per cent.
- Long term gains on all financial and non-financial assets to attract a tax rate of 12.5 per cent.
- Exemption limit of capital gains on certain financial assets increased to ₹ 1.25 lakh per year.

Tax Payer Services

- All remaining services of Customs and Income Tax including rectification and order giving effect to appellate orders to be digitalized over the next two years.

Litigation and Appeals

- 'Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme, 2024' for resolution of income tax disputes pending in appeal.
- Monetary limits for filing direct taxes, excise and service tax related appeals in Tax Tribunals, High Courts and Supreme Court increased to ₹60 lakh, ₹2 crore and ₹5 crore respectively.
- Safe harbour rules expanded to reduce litigation and provide certainty in international taxation.

Employment and Investment

- Angel tax for all classes of investors abolished to bolster start-up eco-system,.
- Simpler tax regime for foreign shipping companies operating domestic cruises to promote cruise tourism in India.
- Safe harbour rates for foreign mining companies selling raw diamonds in the country.
- Corporate tax rate on foreign companies reduced from 40 to 35 per cent.

Deepening tax base

- Security Transactions Tax on futures and options of securities increased to 0.02 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively.
- Income received on buy back of shares in the hands of recipient to be taxed.

Social Security Benefits.

- Deduction of expenditure by employers towards NPS to be increased from 10 to 14 per cent of the employee's salary.
- Non-reporting of small movable foreign assets up to ₹20 lakh de-penalised.

Other major proposal in Finance Bill

- Equalization levy of 2 per cent withdrawn.

Changes in Personal Income Tax under new tax regime

- Standard deduction for salaried employees increased from ₹50,000 to ₹75,000.
- Deduction on family pension for pensioners enhanced from ₹15,000/- to ₹25,000/-

Revised tax rate structure:

0-3 lakh rupees	Nil
3-7 lakh rupees	5 per cent
7-10 lakh rupees	10 per cent
10-12 lakh rupees	15 per cent
12-15 lakh rupees	20 per cent
Above 15 lakh rupees	30 per cent

- Salaried employee in the new tax regime stands to save up to ₹ 17,500/- in income tax.

National Affairs

- **India's National Flag Day** commemorates the adoption of the Indian national flag on July 22, 1947, by the Constituent Assembly, just days before the country attained Independence from British rule on August 15, 1947. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- **The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) at NITI Aayog** and the **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)** on July 22, joined hands towards building joint innovation programmes in the Global South. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced India's contribution of **one million dollars** to the **UNESCO World Heritage Centre** to support heritage conservation globally, particularly in the Global South. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- The Department of School Education and Literacy is observing **Shiksha Saptah from July 22 to July 28, 2024**, to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- The Indian Railways has been allocated a record **capital expenditure (Capex) of Rs 2,62,200 crore** for the fiscal year 2024-25, maintaining the same level as announced in the **Interim Budget 2024**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))

- In the Regular Union Budget for FY 2024-25, the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has received an allocation of **Rs 6,21,940.85 crore (approximately US \$75 billion)**, marking the highest allocation among all ministries. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- **Forest Survey of India (FSI)**, Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover biennially. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- **Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy**, Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries, launched **SIMS 2.0**, the upgraded Steel Import Monitoring System. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- **President Droupadi Murmu** has renamed two important halls in **Rashtrapati Bhavan**, formerly known as 'Durbar Hall' and 'Ashok Hall', to 'Ganatantra Mandap' and 'Ashok Mandap' respectively. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- **India's installed nuclear power capacity** is set to increase from 8,180 MW to 22,480 MW by 2031-32, according to Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- **Mankind Pharma** has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire a 100 per cent stake in **Bharat Serums and Vaccines (BSV)** from Advent International. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- **India** has taken over the Chair of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) for the year 2024-25, succeeding China. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** will chair the 9th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog on July 27, 2024, at the **Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, New Delhi**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- The Government has approved setting up of 7 (Seven) PM Mega Integrated Textile Region. Apparel (**PM MITRA Parks** in Greenfield/Brownfield sites (including a Greenfield project in Virudhanagar Tamil Nadu) with world class infrastructure including plug and play facility with an outlay of Rs. 4,445 cr for a period of seven years upto 2027-28. ([Click here to read complete article](#))



- To fulfill Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of disaster resilient India, Ministry of Home Affairs under the guidance of Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah has taken several initiatives to ensure effective management of disasters in the country. ([Click here to read complete article](#))

States in the News

- Meghalaya** launched State-owned **Hello Meghalaya**, an **OTT platform** primarily for regional languages with a limited reach or small market, on July 11. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- The **Assam Cabinet** has approved the repeal of the **Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorce Registration Act of 1935** through the **Assam Repealing Bill, 2024**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- In a significant step towards eradicating tuberculosis (TB), Telangana launched the "**Project Swasthya Nagaram**," a unique model for **TB-free municipalities**, on July 24, 2024, in **Hyderabad**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- On July 24, 2024, the Bihar Assembly passed the **Anti-Paper Leak Bill** to combat malpractices in government recruitment exams. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Mumbai**, India's bustling financial capital, is set to witness a significant transformation in its urban transit system with the inauguration of its first underground metro, the **Aqua Line**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Municipal Corporations of Gurugram and Faridabad are all set to establish **two waste-to-charcoal plants**, also known as **green coal plants**, in the two districts at a cost of **₹500 crore each**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- The **Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD)**, a unit of the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**, has identified lithium resources in the **Mandya and Yadgiri districts of Karnataka**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- On July 25, 2024, **Union Minister of Coal and Mines, Shri G. Kishan Reddy**, launched the **Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2024** at **Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) in Dhanbad**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- In a significant milestone for India's community radio landscape, **Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw** inaugurated the **country's 500th community radio station**, **Apna Radio 90.0 FM**, at the **Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) in Aizawl, Mizoram**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- On July 27, 1939, the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** was established as the **Crown Representatives Police** in response to political turmoil within princely states. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- The **Department of Posts** has released a commemorative postage stamp at **Dras, Kargil in Ladakh**, marking the **Silver Jubilee of Kargil Vijay Diwas**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))

- The **Ahom dynasty's Moidams in Assam** have been officially inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List** as **India's 43rd entry**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))

International Affairs

- China** has built the **world's first passenger train** made from carbon fibre, a material that makes it much lighter and more energy-efficient than conventional trains. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy** spoke with Estonia's newly elected **Prime Minister Kristen Michal** on his first day in office, July 22. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- The **Israeli Knesset** has approved a bill to designate the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA)** as a terrorist organization. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- The **International Olympic Committee** named the **French Alps** as the host for the **2030 Winter Games** on July 24, though the decision is subject to certain conditions. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Salt Lake City in Utah state of the USA** will host the **Winter Olympics and Paralympics Games in 2034**. The decision was taken by the **IOC Members during the 142nd IOC Session in Paris** here on July 24. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Azerbaijan, hosting COP29 from November 11 to 22 this year**, has announced the creation of a **Climate Finance Action Fund (CFAF)**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Singapore** has reclaimed its title as the **world's most powerful passport**, offering visa-free access to a record **195 global destinations** according to the **Henley Passport Index**. **India ranks 82nd**, allowing **visa-free entry to 58 countries**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- India is hosting the **World Heritage Committee Meeting** for the first time. It takes place from **21 to 31 July 2024**, at **Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- In a significant step towards developing Indigenous technology, the **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)**, signed an agreement with the **Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT Roorkee)** and **Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi (IIT Mandi)**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- India is hosting the **World Heritage Committee Meeting** for the first time. It takes place from **21 to 31 July 2024**, at **Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Singapore** has reclaimed its title as the **world's most powerful passport**, offering visa-free access to a record **195 global destinations** according to the **Henley Passport Index**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))

- On July 26, 2024, India and the United States signed their first-ever Cultural Property Agreement (CPA) during the 46th World Heritage Committee meeting at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))

Books and Authors

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh was recently presented with a significant book titled **“Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi”**, authored by **Dr. R Balasubramaniam**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Interwoven with engaging **real-life stories** and interesting anecdotes that went into the making of India’s popular brands such as **Tata Tea, Tata Motors, Titan and Tanishq**. This unique account brings alive the **vision of Jamsetji Tata** and what we can learn from it. ([Click here to read complete article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL)**, a subsidiary of ONGC, has acquired **Norwegian firm Equinor’s stake in Azerbaijan’s offshore Azeri Chirag Gunashli (ACG) oil field** and an associated **oil pipeline for \$60 million**. This increases OVL’s stake in the oil field to 2.95% and in the **Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline to 3.097%**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Kush Maini** achieved his **first-ever Formula 2 win** at the **Hungarian Grand Prix after Richard Verschoor**, the original sprint race winner, was disqualified due to a technical infringement. This victory marks **Maini’s fifth podium of the season**, placing him eighth in the championship standings, just three points behind Dennis Hauger. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- IndusInd Bank has announced the launch of ‘Wrestle for Glory’ program, a CSR initiative of the Bank, continuing the longstanding collaboration with the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS). ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Airbus and Tata** are joining forces to manufacture India’s first H125 helicopter, which is set to roll out by 2026. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- The **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). ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- AU Small Finance Bank’s** board has approved a proposal to transition from a Small Finance Bank (SFB) to a universal bank. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- The **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)** is set to develop India’s first integrated agricultural export facility at Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai. ([Click here to read complete article](#))

- The **All-India Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL)** and Rural Labourers (CPI-RL) (Base: 1986-87=100) saw an increase of 11 points each in June 2024, reaching 1280 and 1292, respectively. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** on July 26 prescribed a Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework for relatively weak urban co-operative banks (UCBs), with deposits above ₹100 crore (upper tier category), to nurse them back to health. ([Click here to read complete article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- Sanjeev Krishan** has been re-elected as the **chairperson of PwC India** for a second term, set to begin on April 1, 2025. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Ronald L. Rowe Jr.** has been appointed as the **acting chief of the US Secret Service** following the resignation of Kimberly Cheatle. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the appointment of **Krishnan Venkat Subramanian** as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Federal Bank, the bank said in an exchange filing on July 22. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- CMA Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak**, a Fellow Member of the **Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI)** and a member of the Bhubaneswar Chapter, has been unanimously elected as the **67th President of ICMAI for the 2024-2025 term**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Nita Ambani**, has been re-elected unanimously as the **IOC from India** at the 142nd session. Nita is the founder of Reliance Foundation and won unanimously with 100 per cent of the vote. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** on July 25, appointed senior **IPS officer Hargobinder Singh Dhaliwal** as the new **Director General of Police of Andaman and Nicobar Islands**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Veteran **filmmaker Shekhar Kapur**, known for films such as **“Mr India”, “Bandit Queen” and “Elizabeth”**, has been appointed **festival director** for the International Film Festival of India (IFFI). ([Click here to read complete article](#))

Defence News

- Captain Supreetha C.T.** has etched her name in history by becoming the **first woman officer from the Corps of Army Air Defence** to be operationally deployed at the **Siachen Glacier**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- On July 23, 2024, India’s naval prowess took a significant leap forward with the launch of the first of two Advanced Frigates at **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- On July 24, 2024, the **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** of India achieved a significant milestone in its ongoing efforts to enhance national security. ([Click here to read complete article](#))

- The Indian Army contingent has embarked on its journey to participate in the multinational military exercise **KHAAN QUEST 2024**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- Curator and author Rahaab Allana** has been awarded the insignia of **Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres** by the **French government**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has honored **Abhinav Bindra**, **India's first individual Olympic gold medallist**, with the prestigious Olympic Order. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Bollywood superstar **Shah Rukh Khan** has been honoured with customised **gold coins by the Grevin Museum** in Paris. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, announced the winners of the **10th National Community Radio Awards** and inaugurated the country's **500th Community Radio Station**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- The Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC) honored **Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)** in Visakhapatnam with the '**Rajbhasha Gaurav Samman**' for the year 2023-24. ([Click here to read complete article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **46th session of the World Heritage Committee** at **Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi**, emphasizing India's commitment to global heritage preservation. **PM Modi announced a \$1 million contribution to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for heritage conservation**, particularly in the Global South. He highlighted India's efforts in conserving heritage sites in countries like Cambodia, Vietnam, and Myanmar. ([Click here to read complete article](#))

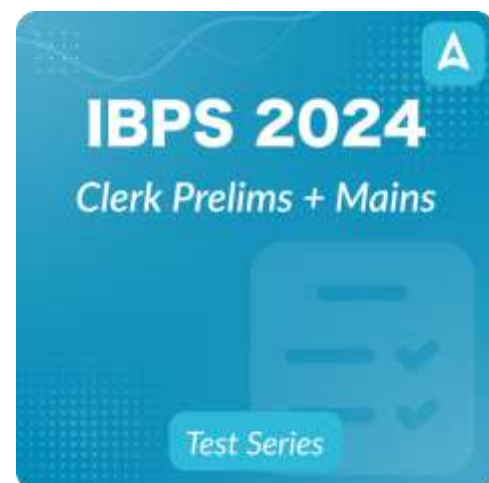
Ranks and Reports

- In a recent report by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, India has made significant strides in increasing its **forest area**, **gaining 266,000 hectares** annually from **2010 to 2020**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- The **data on Employment and Unemployment** is collected through **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** which is conducted by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** since 2017-18. ([Click here to read complete article](#))

Sports News

- Eurosport India** has announced the appointment of renowned Indian cricketer **Shikhar Dhawan** as the brand ambassador for **MotoGP™** in India. ([Click here to read complete article](#))

- Former Indian tennis stars **Leander Paes** and **Vijay Amritraj** have become the **first Asian men** to be inducted into the prestigious **International Tennis Hall of Fame**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Manolo Marquez** was appointed as the new head coach of the **Indian men's football team** by the **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** on July 20. **Marquez will take over as the full-time national team head coach after ISL 2024-25**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- The **Board of Control for Cricket** in India Secretary Jay Shah on July 20 said that the **BCCI will provide Rs 8.5 crore** to the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** as a support for the Indian contingent. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Harmanpreet Kaur** has now become the top run-scorer in women's T20I cricket for India, overtaking **Smriti Mandhana**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Indian hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh**, a pivotal figure in the sport, has announced that he will retire from international hockey following the **Paris Olympics 2024**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- The Australian Formula 1 (F1) racer **Oscar Piastri** secured his first-ever F1 title victory at the **Hungarian Grand Prix**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** on July 12, announced that it has partnered with the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of **Saudi Arabia** to host the inaugural **Olympic Esports Games 2025** in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Ajinkya Naik**, at 37 years old, has been elected as the youngest president in the history of the **Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA)**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Six-time Grand Slam winner and former **World No. 1** in women's doubles **Sania Mirza**, six-time World Champion and Olympic bronze medallist **MC Mary Kom** and actor **Rannvijay Singha** have joined '**Play Sports**' as brand ambassadors. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- The Australian Formula 1 (F1) racer **Oscar Piastri** secured his first-ever F1 title victory at the **Hungarian Grand Prix**. The Australian rookie led a strong McLaren one-two finish alongside the British-Belgian racer **Lando Norris**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))



Schemes and Committees News

- The **Gujarat state government** launched the **Shramik Basera Scheme 2024**. The Gujarat state government introduced the **Shramik Basera Scheme 2024** to provide temporary housing facilities to the financially unstable, especially the laborers. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- **The Centre has introduced a revised Model Skill Loan Scheme, designed to provide financial support for skill development courses to the nation's youth.** ([Click here to read complete article](#))

Science and Technology News

- In a bold move that could reshape the landscape of internet search, **OpenAI**, the company behind the revolutionary ChatGPT, has announced the development of an **AI-powered search engine** called **SearchGPT**. ([Click here to read complete article](#))

Important Days News

- **National Mango Day** is celebrated annually on **July 22**. In 2024, this falls on a Monday, providing a perfect start to the week with a fruity celebration. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- **National Broadcasting Day in India**, observed annually on **July 23**, commemorates the evolution of the country's broadcasting landscape since its inception in 1927. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- The **National Brain Research Centre (NBRC)** marked **World Brain Day** with a significant event aimed at fostering interest in neuroscience among young minds. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- On July 25, 2024, we join the global community in observing **World Drowning Prevention Day**, a crucial initiative dedicated to raising awareness and accelerating action on global drowning prevention. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- **National Income Tax Day** marks a significant milestone in India's fiscal history. The day is marked on **July 24**. Income tax is a crucial **government levy** on the income earned by individuals and businesses during a financial year. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- Every year on **July 26**, India observes **Kargil Vijay Diwas** to commemorate the brave hearts of the Indian Army and celebrate the victory of the Indian Armed Forces over Pakistan during the 1999 Kargil Conflict. ([Click here to read complete article](#))

Obituaries News

- **Kamala Pujari, the renowned Padma Shri awardee and pioneering organic farmer, passed away at the age of 74 due to kidney-related ailments.** ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- On July 23, 2024, the world of economics lost a brilliant mind and compassionate soul. **C.T. Kurien**, a distinguished

economist and former professor of Madras Christian College, passed away at the age of 93 due to age-related ailments. ([Click here to read complete article](#))

- Vasai-based **Catholic priest Father Francis D'Britto**, writer and environmentalist, who translated the Bible into Marathi, passed away on July 25, 2024, after prolonged illness. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- **Hamzah Haz, the vice-president of Indonesia from 2001 to 2004**, has died. He was aged 84. Hamzah, who served under President Megawati Soekarnoputri. ([Click here to read complete article](#))
- **World Hepatitis Day**, observed annually on **July 28th**, serves as a global platform to raise awareness about viral hepatitis, a group of infectious diseases that cause inflammation of the liver and can lead to severe liver disease and cancer. ([Click here to read complete article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- The **Ahom dynasty's Moidams in Assam** have been officially inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List as India's 43rd entry**. Announced on July 26, 2024, during the **46th session** of the World Heritage Committee in New Delhi, this makes the Moidams the first cultural property from Northeast India to receive this honor. The nomination was submitted on July 4, 2024, and underscores the global recognition of Assam's unique cultural heritage. ([Click here to read complete article](#))

Static Takeaways

- UNESCO DG: Audrey Azoulay;
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945;
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France.
- International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach
- International Olympic Committee (IOC) Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- International Olympic Committee (IOC) Established: June 23, 1894
- Indian Olympic Association President: P. T. Usha
- Indian Olympic Association Founded: 1927
- Indian Olympic Association Founders: Harry Buck, Arthur Noehren
- Food and Agriculture Organization President: Qu Dongyu
- Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters: Rome, Italy
- Food and Agriculture Organization Founded: 16 October 1945, Québec City, Canada
- Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) Chairman & Managing Director: Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay;
- Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) Headquarters: Goa;
- Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) Founded: 1957.
- CRPF Founded: 27 July 1939;
- CRPF Headquarters: New Delhi;
- CRPF Director General: Anish Dayal Singh.