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TNPSC

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS
(ENGLISH)

For TNPSC Group I, II/IIA, IV & VAO Exams

February week - 1, 2022

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Tamil Nadu News

Super 40

1. The Tamil Nadu School education department has launched its own residential programme for government school students to crack national level exams including JEE, NEET, CLAT and CA exams.

2. It is inspired by Bihar's 'Super 30' programme, which prepares underprivileged students for the JEE-Advanced exam.

3. It selected **40 students** from Tamil medium and 40 students from English medium in Class 12 from each district based on their previous performances in assessment exams.

4. The selected students are given food, accommodation, books, study material, uniforms along with a tablet for academic activities.

5. Government school students will be trained to crack all type of competitive exams in later phases. They will also be trained in extra-curricular activities.

Stamp duty collection

1. **Tamil Nadu ranks third** in stamp duty collections aided by recovery in real estate sector.

2. It has reported third-highest stamp duty and registration charges, after **Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh**, during the eight months of this fiscal.

3. Tamil Nadu collects 11% of the project cost as these charges. (7% stamp duty and 4% registration fee)

Chief Justice of Tamil Nadu High Court

1. The Supreme Court collegium recommends **Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari** as Madras High Court Chief Justice and 17 names for High Court judgeship.

2. Justice Bhandari, whose parent high court is the Rajasthan HC, has been serving as the Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.

National

New Ramsar sites

1. Two new Ramsar sites **— Khijadiya wildlife sanctuary in Gujarat and Bakhira wildlife sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh** have been added to the list.

2. India now has the highest number of, and area under, Ramsar wetlands in South Asia.

3. With this, there are 49 Ramsar sites of India.

4. Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance as per **UNESCO's 1971 Convention on Wetlands held in Ramsar, Iran.**

5. The certification brings visibility to ecologically sensitive wetlands and helps in conservation.

6. Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat, a coastal wetland with rich avifaunal diversity, is home to several endangered and vulnerable species.

Hoysala Temples

1. The Union Culture Ministry announced that the Hoysala Temples of **Belur, Halebid and Somnathapura in Karnataka** are India's official nominations for the World Heritage List for the year 2022-2023.

2. The '**Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala'** have been on UNESCO's Tentative List since April 15, 2014, and they are testimony to the rich historical and cultural heritage of this country.

3. The Hoysaleswara temple, also called 'Halebidu' temple, is a 12th-century temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, the God of Destruction.

4. It is said to be the largest monument in Halebidu, a town in Karnataka and erstwhile capital of the Hoysala Empire. It was sponsored by **King Vishnuvardhana.**

5. In the 14th century, Halebidu was plundered by northern invaders of the Delhi Sultanate, which resulted in its ruin and neglect.

6. The Hoysaleswara temple follows the Shaivism tradition, but includes themes from Vaishnavism and Shaktism, too, along with images from Jainism.

7. Along with this temple, the nearby Chennakesava temple in Belur has also been proposed to be listed under UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

8. The temples portray the skill of Hoysala artists; they have a basic Dravidian style, but also show a strong influence of 'Bhumija', which is seen in central India, along with 'Nagara' traditions of northern and western India.

National Commission for Women

1. PM addressed the **30th National Commission for Women (NCW) Foundation Day** program on January 31.

2. The theme of the program is '**She The Change Maker'**, aimed at celebrating the achievements of women in different fields.

3. The National Commission for Women was set up as statutory body in January 1992 under the **National Commission for Women Act, 1990**.

4. It was set up to review the Constitutional and legal safeguards for women; recommend remedial legislative measures, facilitate redressal of grievances and advise the Government on all policy matters affecting women.

5. The First Commission was constituted on 31st January 1992 with Mrs. Jayanti Patnaik as the Chairperson.

6. It consists of a Chairperson, five members and a member-secretary all appointed by the Central Government.

India's first OECM site

1. **Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Gurugram** was declared as India's first **other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM)** site.

2. It is given by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to areas that are not protected but support rich biodiversity.

3. The tag does not bring any legal, financial or management implications, but designates the area as a biodiversity hotspot on the international map.

Startups in India

1. Startups in India have grown remarkably over the last six years, most of these belong to the services sector.

2. Over the recent years, **Delhi has replaced Bangalore as the startup capital of India.**

3. With a total of 11,308 startups, **Maharashtra has the highest number of recognised startups.**

4. India had a record number of start-ups (44) reach unicorn status in 2021.

5. It overtook UK to emerge as the **third highest country** in number of unicorns after US and China.

6. As of January 14, 2022, India has 83 unicorns, with most of them from the Service sector.

SeHAT Scheme

1. **The Services e-Health Assistance and Teleconsultation (SeHAT)** -- the tri-services teleconsultation service has begun from Feb 1, 2022.

2. It is a service of the Ministry of Defence designed for all entitled tri-service personnel and their families.

3. After enabling e-consultations on OPD between personnel and family with the doctors, now medicines too will be delivered at home.

4. It is also a part of the Government's commitment to Digital India and e-Governance, especially amidst the pandemic.

India's First Geological Park

1. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has approved the setting up of the country's first geopark at Lamheta village on the banks of the Narmada river in Jabalpur district of **Madhya Pradesh.**

2. A geopark is a unified area that advances the protection and use of geological heritage in a sustainable way and promotes the economic well-being of the people who live there.

3. This site is already there in the UNESCO geo-heritage tentative list for the conservation of the natural heritage.

4. Several dinosaur fossils had been found in the Narmada valley, particularly in the Bhedaghat-Lameta Ghat area of Jabalpur.

5. In 1828, the first dinosaur fossil was collected from the Lameta Bed by Indian Civil Service (ICS) officer William Sleeman.

Corruption Perception Index 2021

1. It is released by **Transparency International**.

2. The index will rank 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business people.

3. It uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.

4. India's rank improved by one place to **85** in 2021 from 86th in 2020.

5. Denmark, Finland, New Zealand, and Norway topped the list with the highest score.

Spice Xchange India:

• The Spice Board of India launched the Spice Exchange Portal, which will connect the Indian spice exporters with buyers from all over the world.

• The portal is a 3D virtual platform created exclusively for spice exports which is a first-of-its-kind platform was developed by the **Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**

• Spices are ranked fourth in Indian agricultural commodities after marine products, non basmati rice and basmati rice.

• **India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of spices in the world** and contribute 41% of total horticultural exports by exporting 225 different spices and spice products to more than 180 countries.

International

India-Israel ties

1. On **January 30, India and Israel marked 30 years** of full diplomatic relations of a wonderful partnership, deep cultural connection, and economic and military co-operation

2. India recognised Israel as far back as **1950** but normalisation took another four decades.

3. In 1992, there were defence deals, and cooperation in science, technology, and agriculture.

4. India was reticent about its ties with Israel as it balanced this with its historical support for the Palestinian cause, its dependence on the Arab world for oil, and the pro-Palestinian sentiments of the country's Muslim citizens.

5. In 2000, the two countries set up a joint anti-terror commission.

Year of the Tiger- Chinese Calendar

1. The Lunar New Year -- also known as the Chinese New Year and, in China, as the Spring Festival -- was rung in this year on February 1.

2. Festivities go on for more than two weeks, with feasts, family reunions, street parades and visits to shrines.

3. This week's celebration marked the **end of the Year of the Ox and the start of the Year of the Tiger.**

4. Many Asian cultures historically follow a lunar, rather than solar, calendar, so the Lunar New Year falls on a different day on the **Gregorian calendar** every year.

5. In 2022, Lunar New Year's Eve fell on Jan. 31, and the Year of the Tiger began Tuesday, Feb. 1.

6. This year, China is also set to host the Winter Olympics in Beijing.

First Female President of Honduras

1. **Xiomara Castro**, a member of Honduras' Freedom and Refoundation Party (Libre), has been sworn in as the country's first female president.

2. Castro, 62, succeeds President Juan Orlando Hernández as Honduras' 56th President.

3. Hernández was in charge for eight years, from 2014 to 2022.

> Honduras, officially the Republic of Honduras, is a country in Central America.
> Capital: Tegucigalpa
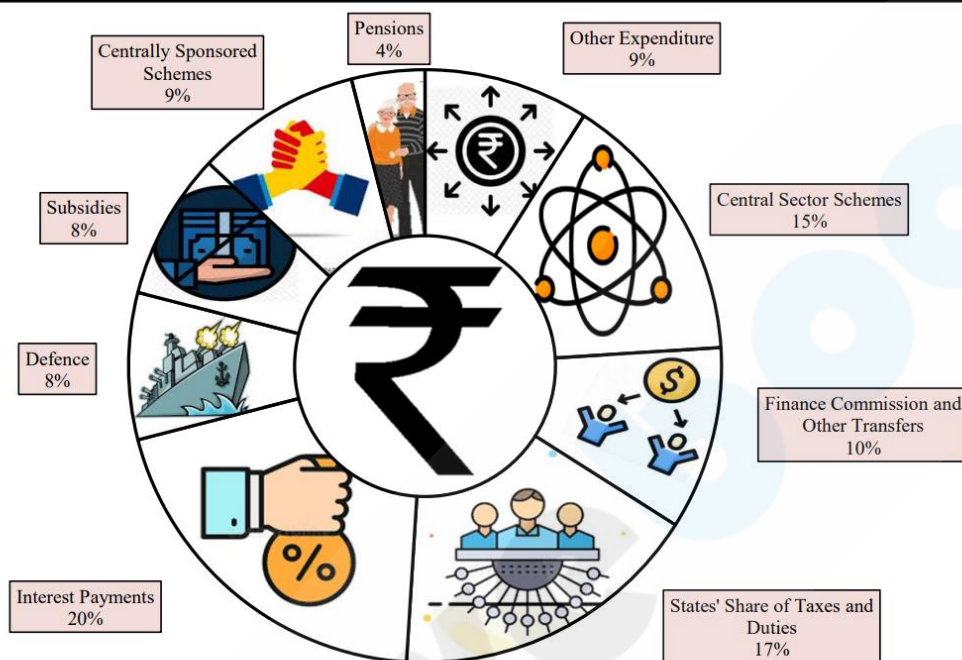> President: Xiomara Castro
> Currency: Lempira

Union Budget 2022-23

I. Budget

1. Expenditure: The government proposes to spend Rs 39,44,909 crore in 2022-23, which is an increase of 4.6% over the revised estimate of 2021-22. In 2021-22, total expenditure is estimated to be 8.2% higher than the budget estimate.


Component	% of Total Expenditure
1. Interest Payments	20%
2. States' Share of Taxes and Duties	17%
3. Central Sector Schemes	15%
4. Finance Commission and Other Transfers	10%
5. Centrally Sponsored Schemes	9%
6. Other Expenditures	9%
7. Defence	8%
8. Subsidies	8%
9. Pensions	4%

2. Receipts: The receipts (other than borrowings) in 2022-23 are expected to be to Rs 22,83,713 crore, an increase of 4.8% over revised estimate of 2021-22. In 2021-22, total receipts (other than borrowings) are estimated to be 10.2% higher than the budget estimates.

RUPEE COMES FROM
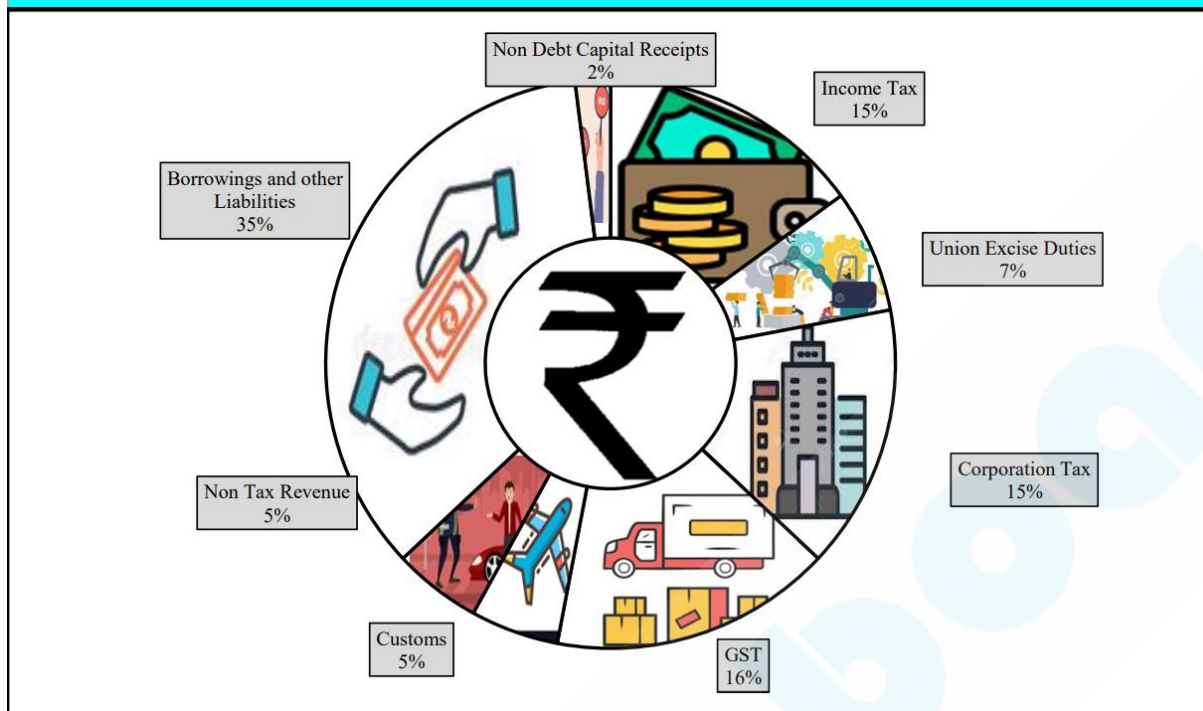
Component	% of Total Receipts
1. Borrowings and Other Liabilities	35%
2. GST	16%
3. Income Tax	15%
4. Corporation Tax	15%
5. Union Excise Duties	7%
6. Customs	5%
7. Non Tax Revenue	5%
8. Non Debt Capital Receipts	2%

Trends in Tax Receipts:

TREND IN TAX RECEIPTS (% of GDP)
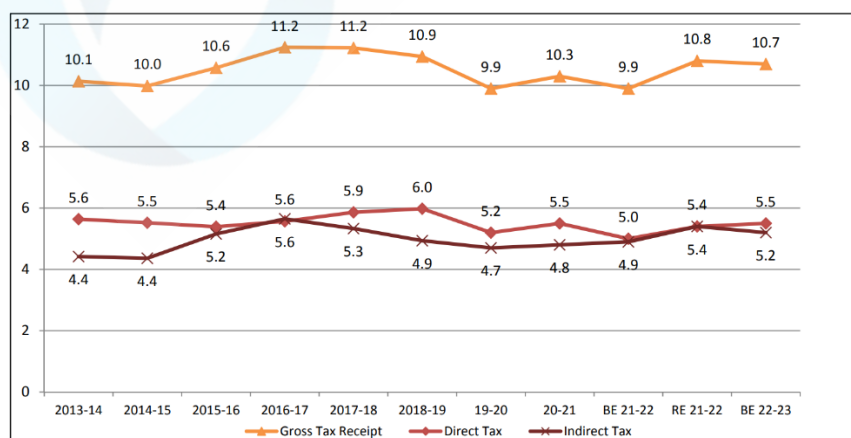
Note : GDP is as per the latest estimates published by CSO.

3. GDP:

The government has estimated a **nominal GDP growth rate of 11.1%** in 2022-23 (i.e., real growth plus inflation), **and 9.2% real GDP growth rate**, highest among all large economies. The overall, sharp rebound and recovery of the economy from the adverse effects of the pandemic is reflective of our country's strong resilience.

4. Deficits:

• Revenue deficit in 2022-23 is targeted at 3.8% of GDP, which is lower than the revised estimate of 4.7% in 2021-22.

• Fiscal deficit in 2022-23 is targeted at 6.4% of GDP, lower than the revised estimate of 6.9% of GDP in 2021- 22 (marginally higher than the budget estimate of 6.8% of GDP).

• Interest expenditure at Rs 9,40,651 crore is estimated to be 43% of revenue receipts.
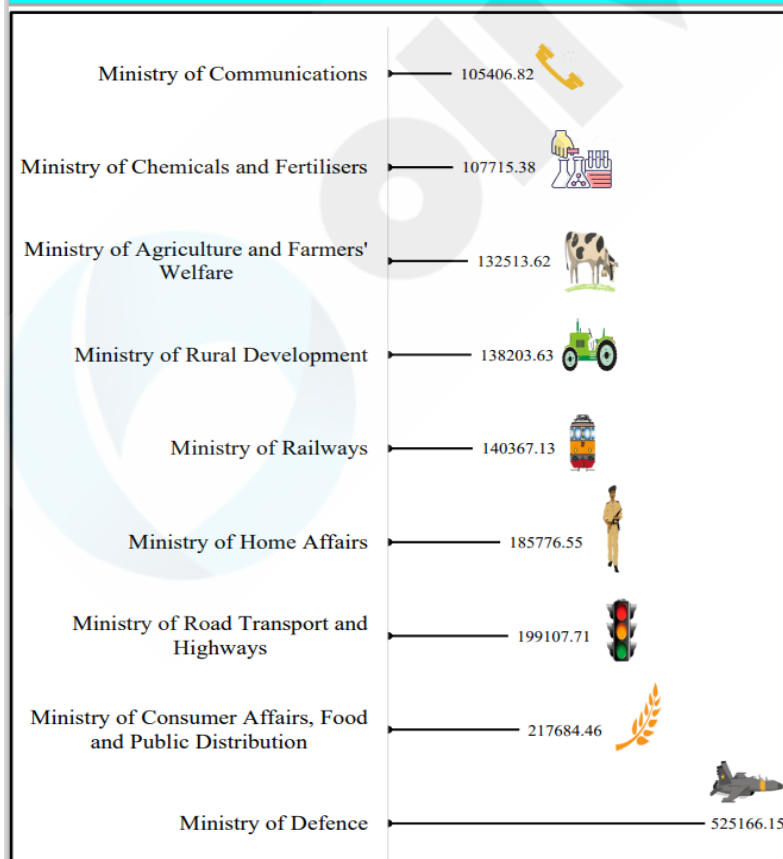
5. Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR): After a number of years, the budget has not relied on EBR or loans from National Small Savings Fund.

6. Ministry allocations: Among the top 13 ministries with the highest allocations, in 2022-23, the **highest percentage increase** in allocation is observed in the **Ministry of Communications (93%)**, **followed by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (52%), and the Ministry of Jal Shakti (25%).**

Top 5 Ministries with highest allocations are as follows:

1. Ministry of Defence
2. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
3. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
4. Ministry of Home Affairs
5. Ministry of Railways

MINISTRY WISE ALLOCATIONS

| Ministry	Allocation
Ministry of Communications	105406.82
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers	107715.38
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare	132513.62
Ministry of Rural Development	138203.63
Ministry of Railways	140367.13
Ministry of Home Affairs	185776.55
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	199107.71
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	217684.46
Ministry of Defence	525166.15

II. Fiscal Management

Fiscal deficit in 2022-23 estimated at 6.4% of GDP. Providing greater fiscal space to States is reflected in:

• Enhanced outlay to Scheme for Financial Assistance to States for Capital Investment.

• For 2022-23 **States will be allowed a fiscal deficit of 4% of GSDP** of which 0.5% will be tied to power sector reforms.

Major deficit and debt indicators of state governments (percent of GDP)
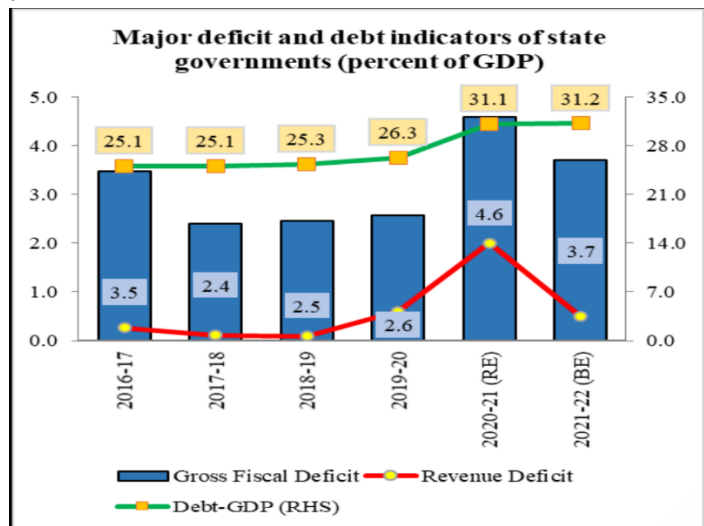
III. Policy Highlights

AmritKaal is the 25-year-long leadup to India@100. Goals of Amrit Kaal are:

o Focus on growth and all-inclusive welfare.

o Promoting technology enabled development, energy transition and climate action.

o Virtuous cycle starting from private investment, crowded in by public capital investment.

Government has identified four Priorities:

1. PM GatiShakti

2. Inclusive Development

3. Productivity Enhancement & Investment, Sunrise Opportunities, Energy Transition, and Climate Action

4. Financing of Investments
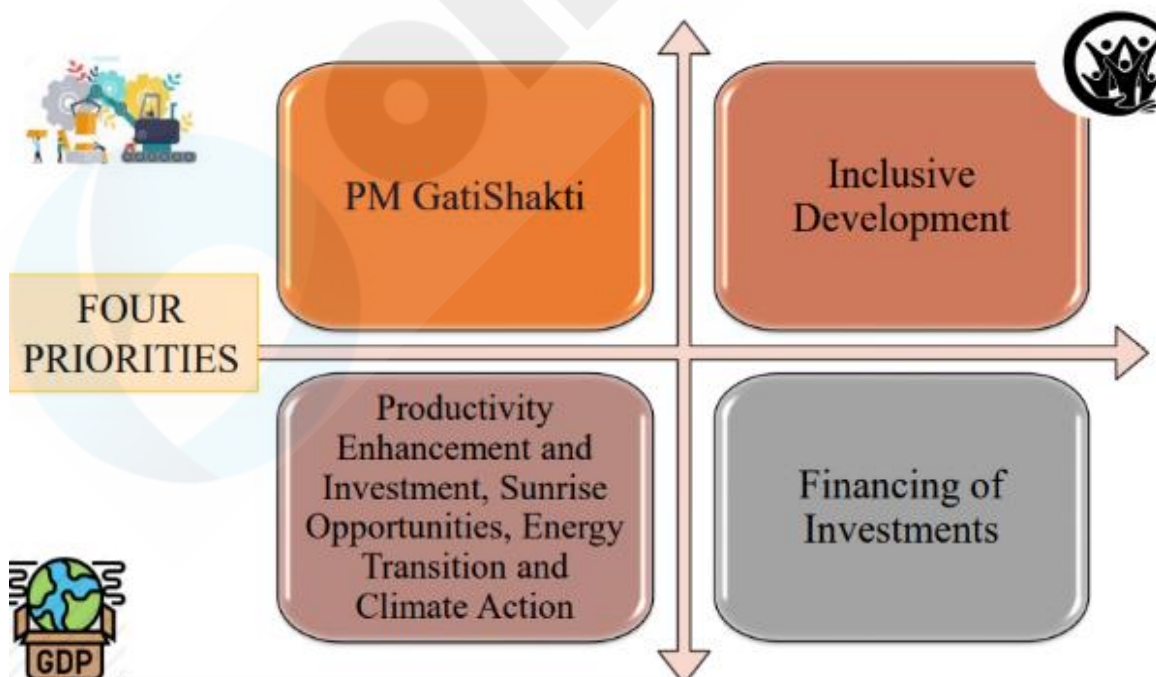
1. PM GatiShakti

• Projects relating to transport and logistics infrastructure in the National Infrastructure Pipeline will be aligned with PM GatiShakti framework.

▪ The Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East (PM-DevINE) will be implemented through the North-Eastern Council to fund development projects in the North-East region. The seven engines that drive PM GatiShakti are **Roads, Railways, Airports, Ports, Mass Transport, Waterways and Logistics Infrastructure.**

National Master Plan For World Class Modern Infrastructure

- Completing 25,000 Km National Highways in 2022-23

- Unified Logistics Interface Platform

- Open Source Mobility Stack

- Integration of Postal and Railways Network

- One Station One Product

- 400 New-generation Vande Bharat Trains

- Multimodal Connectivity Between Urban Transport & Railway Stations

- National Ropeways Development Plan

- Capacity Building for Infrastructure Projects

▪ **Road**

o **Formulation of Master Plan for expressways**: Completing 25000 km national highways in 2022-23.

o **Unified Logistics Interface Platform:** allowing data exchange among all mode operators. Open Source Mobility Stack for seamless travel of passengers.

o **4 Multimodal Logistics parks** through PPP to be awarded in 2022-23.

▪ **Railways**

o **One Station One Product** concept to help local businesses & supply chains.

o 2000 Km of railway network to be brought under **Kavach**, the indigenous world class technology and capacity augmentation in 2022-23.

o 400 new generation **Vande Bharat Trains** to be manufactured during the next three years.

o 100 PM GatiShakti Cargo terminals for multimodal logistics to be developed during the next three years.

▪ **Parvatmala**

o **National Ropeways Development Program**, Parvatmala to be taken up on PPP mode.

o Contracts to be awarded in 2022-23 for 8 ropeway projects of 60 Km length.

2. Inclusive Development
MSMEs:

▪ **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)** will be extended up to March 2023 and its guarantee cover will be expanded by Rs 50,000 crore to total cover of five lakh crore rupees.

▪ **Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises** will be revamped to facilitate additional credit of two lakh crore rupees.

▪ **Udyam, e-shram, NCS and ASEEM portals to be interlinked.**

- **Raising and Accelerating MSME performance (RAMP)** programme with outlay of Rs 6000 Crore to be rolled out.

Agriculture:

- Chemical free Natural farming to be promoted throughout the county.
- NABARD to facilitate fund with blended capital to finance startups for agriculture & rural enterprise.
- '**Kisan Drones'** for crop assessment, digitization of land records, spraying of insecticides and nutrients.
- Implementation of **Ken Betwa Link Project** benefitting 9.1 lakh hectare farm land, providing drinking water to 62 lakh people and generating 130MW power. 5 more such projects under process of implementation.
- Delivery of Digital and Hi-Tech services to farmers in PPP mode.

Education

- '**One class-One TV channel' programme of PM eVIDYA** to be expanded to 200 TV channels.
- Virtual labs and skilling e-labs to be set up to promote critical thinking skills and simulated learning environment.
- High-quality e-content will be developed for delivery through Digital Teachers.
- Digital University for world-class quality universal education with personalised learning experience to be established.
- **Skill Development -** Digital Ecosystem for Skilling and Livelihood (**DESH-Stack e-portal**) will be launched to empower citizens to skill, reskill or upskill through on-line training. Startups will be promoted to facilitate '**Drone Shakti'** and for **Drone-As-A-Service (DrAAS).**

Health and Nutrition

- An open platform for National Digital Health Ecosystem to be rolled out.
- '**National Tele Mental Health Programme**' for quality mental health counselling and care services to be launched.
- A network of 23 tele-mental health centres of excellence will be set up, with NIMHANS being the nodal centre and International Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore (IIITB) providing technology support.
- **Saksham Anganwadi-** Integrated benefits to women and children through Mission Shakti, Mission Vatsalya, Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0. Two lakh anganwadis to be upgraded to Saksham Anganwadis.

Schemes	Targets
Har Ghar, Nal Se Jal:	3.8 crore households to be covered in 2022-23
PM Awas Yojana	80 lakh houses to be completed in 2022-23
PM-DevINE	To fund infrastructure and social development based on felt needs of the **North East.**
Aspirational Blocks Programme:	For development of lagging blocks of aspirational districts .
Vibrant Villages Programme:	Targeting development of villages on the Northern Border left out from the development gains .
Digital Banking by Post Offices:	100% of post offices to come on the core banking system .
Digital Payments:	Scheduled Commercial Banks to set up 75 Digital Banking Units in 75 districts.

3a. Productivity enhancement and investment

A. For Ease of Doing Business:

- Trust based governance Integration of central and state level systems through IT bridges.
- Expanding scope of PARIVESH Portal.
- Unique Land Parcel Identification Number for IT based management of land records.

- Establishing C-PACE to facilitate voluntary winding up of companies.
- End to end online e-Bill System and utilising surety bonds in government procurement.
- AVCG promotion task force Support to 5G under PLI scheme Opening up defence R&D for industry, startups and academia.

B. For Ease of Living

- Issuance of chip embedded e-Passports.
- Modernisation of building bye-laws, implementing Town Planning Schemes and Transit Oriented Development.
- Establishing Centres of Excellence in urban planning Providing a battery swapping policy as an alternative to setting up charging stations in urban areas.

3b. Sunrise Opportunities

Government contribution to be provided for R&D in Sunrise Opportunities like Artificial Intelligence, Geospatial Systems and Drones, Semiconductor and its eco-system, Space Economy, Genomics and Pharmaceuticals, Green Energy, and Clean Mobility Systems.

3c. Energy Transition and Climate Action

- Additional allocation for Production Linked Incentive for the manufacture of high efficiency solar modules to meet the goal of 280 GW of installed solar power by 2030.
- Five to seven per cent biomass pellets to be co-fired in thermal power plants: CO_2 savings of 38 MMT annually, Extra income to farmers and job opportunities to locals, Help avoid stubble burning in agriculture fields.
- Four pilot projects to be set up for coal gasification and conversion of coal into chemicals for the industry.
- Financial support to farmers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who want to take up agro-forestry.
- A battery swapping policy for electric vehicles will be implemented. Sovereign Green Bonds will be issued in 2022-23 for mobilising resources for green infrastructure.

2. Financing of Investment

- Public investment to continue to pump prime private investment and demand in 2022-23.
- Introduction of Digital Rupee by RBI starting 2022-23.

CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY — UNION BUDGET 2022-23

₹ RBI to introduce Digital Rupee using Blockchain and other technologies starting 2022-23

₹ This will lead to more efficient and cheaper currency management system

₹ It will also give boost to digital economy

- Infrastructure status for Data Centres and Energy Storage Systems.
- World-class foreign universities and institutions to be allowed in the GIFT City.
- An International Arbitration Centre to be set up for timely settlement of disputes under international jurisprudence.
- Measures to aid investment by Venture Capital and Private Equity Investment.

- Blended Finance for sunrise sectors.
- Sovereign Green Bonds to be issued for mobilizing resources for green infrastructure.

Science & Technology

Graphene Research Centre

1. The India Innovation Centre for Graphene (IICG) will be established in **Thrissur, Kerala.**

2. It is part of a joint venture between Pune-headquartered Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (CMET), Digital University Kerala (DUK), Tata Steel Limited and other industries.

3. CMET, Thrissur, is mandated with research on graphene for supercapacitor purposes.

> • **Graphene is a good conductor of electricity and is highly flexible**.
>
> • It is a **two-dimensional form of crystalline carbon.** It is the strongest material in the world with good chemical stability.
>
> • It has an enormous number of applications ranging from electronic wearable devices, biomedical devices, sensors, fuel cells, etc.
>
> • It is also used in semiconductors, field emission displays, nanoelectrodes for inexpensive organic electronic devices.
>
> • Known as a **wonder material for its nanotechnology applications,** its coatings prevent corrosion in factories and industries.

Param Pravega

1. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) has installed and commissioned Param Pravega.

2. It is one of the most powerful **supercomputers** in India, and the largest in an Indian academic institution, under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).

3. The system is expected to power diverse research and educational pursuits.

4. It has a total supercomputing capacity of 3.3 petaflops (**1 petaflop equals a quadrillion, or 10^{15} floating-point operations per second**).

5. It has been designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (**C-DAC**).

6. A majority of the components used to build this system have been manufactured and assembled within India, along with an indigenous software stack developed by C-DAC, in line with the Make in India initiative.

7. NSM is steered jointly by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and implemented by C-DAC and IISc.

Super Computer
• **A supercomputer is a computer with a high level of performance as compared to a general-purpose computer.**
• **The performance of a supercomputer is commonly measured in floating-point operations per second (FLOPS) instead of million instructions per second (MIPS).**
• **As of November 2020 when ranking by number of supercomputer systems in the TOP500 list, India is ranked 63rd in the world, with the PARAM Siddhi-AI being the fastest supercomputer in India.**
• **As of June 2021 there are 3 systems based in India on the TOP500 supercomputer list:**
○ **Param Siddji-AI**
○ **Pratyush (Cray XC40)**
○ **Mihir (Cray XC40)**

Hydrogen-Powered Flying Boat

1. World's first hydrogen-powered flying boat, 'THE JET,' is set to be launched in **Dubai, UAE.**

2. THE JET' features cutting-edge characteristics and technologies, making it capable of flying in silence over the waters at a cruising speed of 40 knots.

3. The luxurious boat has a capacity of 8/12 passengers, and is equipped with two fuel cells and an air conditioner as well as other clean-tech, environmentally friendly technologies.

4. An agreement signed between Swiss startup THE JET ZeroEmission, UAE-based Zenith Marine Services, US based DWYN regarding the manufacture.

Personalities & Places

Dr V Anantha Nageswaran

1. The government appointed Dr V Anantha Nageswaran as the new **Chief Economic Advisor.**

2. Dr Nageswaran succeeds KV Subramanian, who demitted office of CEA in December 2021 after the completion of his three-year term.

3. Nageswaran was the Dean of the IFMR Graduate School of Business and a Visiting Professor of Economics at Krea University.

4. He has also been a part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister from 2019 to 2021.

5. He is also the co-founder of the Takshashila Institution, a centre for research and education in public policy.

Chief Economic Advisor (CEA)
o **The Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) is a post in Government of India which is equivalent to rank of Secretary to the GOI.**
o **The CEA is the ex-officio cadre controlling authority of the Indian Economic Service.**
o **The CEA is head of Economic Division of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.**
o **He/she is traditionally the main architect of the economic survey every year.**
o **The first CEA of Independent India was JJ Anjaria.**

Lieutenant General GAV Reddy

1. Lieutenant General GAV Reddy, SC, has been appointed as the new head of the **Defence Intelligence Agency**.

2. General Reddy would be succeeding Lt Gen KJS Dhillon.

3. The Director-General of the Defence Intelligence Agency is the head of the organisation and is among the principal advisors on intelligence to the Minister of Defence and the Chief of Defence Staff.

4. The post of the director general is held on a rotation basis between the three Armed services.

5. The first Director-General of the DIA was Lt Gen Kamal Davar.

6. The Defence Intelligence Agency was formed in March 2002 and is administered within and directly under the due guidance of the Ministry of Defence.

Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi

1. Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi has joined as Director General **of National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT).**

2. National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India.

3. Before joining NIELIT, Dr. Madan was working as Professor with Delhi Technological University (DTU), New Delhi.

Ravi Mittal

1. The government has appointed former civil servant Ravi Mittal as the **chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).**

2. The post fell vacant following the retirement of M S Sahoo who completed his five-year term on September 30, 2021.

3. Mittal had had served as Secretary of Information and Broadcasting (I&B), among other positions.

4. He will be the second full-time Chairperson of the IBBI.

Important Terms
Insolvency: It refers to a state of financial distress wherein a person or enterprise is no longer able to pay the debts when they fall due for payment.
Bankruptcy: It is a legal declaration by the court, on the failure of the insolvency resolution process to settle the debts of the person.

IBBI is the regulator for overseeing insolvency proceedings and entities like Insolvency Professional Agencies (IPA), Insolvency Professionals (IP) and Information Utilities (IU) in India.

It was established on 1 October 2016 and given statutory powers through the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code,2016.

Important Days

Data Privacy Week (Jan 24 – Jan 28)

1. Data Protection Day commemorates the **January 28, 1981** signing of **Convention 108**, the first legally binding international treaty dealing with privacy and data protection.

2. In 2022, National Cybersecurity Alliance (NCA) is excited to expand the Data Privacy Day campaign into Data Privacy Week.

3. It spreads awareness about online privacy and educates citizens on how to manage their personal information and keep it secure.

4. The theme for this year is 'Privacy Matters'.

Shaheed Diwas

1. Martyrs' Day or Shaheed Diwas or Sarvodaya Day is celebrated in India several times a year to remember freedom fighters who laid down their lives for India to become independent from British colonization.

2. The most important Martyrs' Day is celebrated on **January 30, the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.**

3. The second most popular Martyrs' Day is on **March 23, the day when Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were hanged in 1931.**

4. The President, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister, and the Defence Minister assemble at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi at Raj Ghat memorial on January 30 and pay respects to Indian martyrs and Mahatma Gandhi.

5. People observe a two-minute silence in the memory of Indian freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives.

6. **Gandhi,** who was assassinated at Gandhi Smriti in the Birla House by **Nathuram Godse in 1948.**

7. This year nation observed **74th** Martyrs' Day .

World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day

1. It is celebrated every year on **January 30** to raise awareness about neglected tropical diseases.

2. The theme for 2022 is **'Achieving health equity to end the neglect of poverty-related diseases.'**

3. The 2022 slogan is "From neglect to care".

4. 74th World Health Assembly declared January 30 as 'World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day' in 2021.

5. This year**, World Leprosy Day(celebrated on last Sunday of January**) coincides with WNTD Day.

6. NTDs are a diverse group of 20 conditions that are caused by a variety of pathogens including viruses, bacteria, parasites, fungi and toxins.

7. They cause devastating health, social and economic consequences to more than one billion people.

World Wetlands Day

1. World Wetlands Day, celebrated annually on 2 February, aims to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and planet.

2. This day also marks the date of the adoption of the **Convention on Wetlands** on **2 February 1971**, in the Iranian city of **Ramsar**.

3. 2 February 2022 is the first year that World Wetlands Day will be observed as a United Nations international day, following its adoption by the General Assembly in August 2021.

4. The theme for 2022 is **'Wetlands Action for People and Nature'.**

Wetlands are defined as:

a. areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water,

b. whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary,

c. with water that is static or flowing,

d. fresh, brackish or salt,

e. including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres.

The Ramsar Convention has adopted a Ramsar Classification of Wetland Type which includes 42 types, grouped into three categories: **Marine and Coastal Wetlands, Inland Wetlands, and Human-made Wetlands.**

World Cancer Day

1. It is an international day marked **on 4 February** to raise awareness of cancer and to encourage its prevention, detection, and treatment.

2. It is led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC).

3. World Cancer Day was born on the 4 February 2000 at the **World Summit Against Cancer for the New Millennium in Paris.**

4. The Paris Charter aims to promote research, prevent cancer, improve patient services, raise awareness and mobilise the global community to make progress against cancer, and includes the adoption of World Cancer Day.

Sports

Australia Open 2022

1. **Rafael Nadal** from Spain defeated Daniill Medvedev in a five-set thriller to lift his second Australian Open title.

2. This is also his 21st Grand Slam men's single title, becoming the first man to do so.

3. He is ranked world No. 5 by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP).

4. In women's singles, **Ashleigh Barty** became the first Australian woman in 44 years to win a Grand Slam title at home after she defeated Danielle Collins.

5. She is World No.1 who joins the legendary Serena Williams in an elite list of only two active players to have won a Grand Slam title on three different surfaces.

Chennai Super Kings

1. MS Dhoni-led Chennai Super Kings becomes **India's first sports Unicorn** with a market cap of $1 billion.

2. CSK now has a market cap more than its parent entity, India Cements.

3. Till now, CSK has won the Indian Premier League 4 times, just behind Mumbai Indians which has won 5 times.

> **Unicorn:**
> - **Unicorn is the term used in the venture capital industry to describe a startup company with a value of over $1 billion.**
> - **The term was first coined by venture capitalist Aileen Lee in 2013.**
> - **Some popular unicorns include SpaceX, Robinhood, and Instacart.**

2022 Odisha Open

1. The 2022 Odisha Open was the third tournament of the 2022 BWF World Tour and was the first edition of the Odisha Open.

2. The tournament was organized by the Badminton Association of India with sanction from the Badminton World Federation.

3. **Unnati Hooda** beat compatriot Smit Toshniwal to claim the women's singles title.

4. She became the youngest Indian to win a Super 100 tournament at 14.

5. 21-year old **Kiran George** emerged triumphant in men's singles final after defeating Priyanshu Rajawat.

Tata Steel Chess 2022 Tournament

1. The Tata Steel Chess Tournament is an annual chess tournament held in January in Wijk aan Zee, the Netherlands.

2. Magnus Carlsen takes the title from Van Foreest and his eighth Tata Steel Title in total.

3. Erigaisi Arjun (India) has won the Tata Steel Challengers. By doing so he has earned a spot in the Tata Steel Masters next year.

4. This was the 85th edition of the Tata Steel Chess Tournament.

Women's Asia Cup – Hockey.

- India - defeated China 2-0 to finish with a bronze at the women's 2022 Asia Cup hockey tournament in Oman, Muscat.

- In the final, Japan beat South Korea to win the gold medal by 4-2 margin

Books & Authors

Book	Author	Description
Fearless Governance	Dr. Kiran Bedi	This book is based on the ground realities of nearly five years of service of Dr. Bedi as Lt. Governor of Puducherry and her vast experience of 40 years in the Indian Police Service.
Operation Khatma	R C Ganjoo & Ashwini Bhatnagar	The book is a graphic first-hand thriller on the build-up of terrorism in Kashmir and the rivalry between terror groups.
The $10 Trillion Dream	Subhash Chandra Garg	Touted to be the "first book" with a plan for India to become a USD 10 trillion economy, it analyses India's macroeconomy in the light of its evolution since Independence and elaborates on the performance of the economy on macro parameters.
'A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence'	Ruskin Bond	The book is the blend of "physical and spiritual" attributes of India and also highlights the last 75 years of India's progress as a nation.