

## CONTEMPORARY

**BANKING & FINANCE****CORPORATE TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CTDI)**

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**CTDI**<sup>TM</sup>**CORPORATE TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE****GURUKUL FOR BANKERS**

SCO 91, (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor), Sector 47-D,  
Chandigarh-160047,  
Mob: 9041086057, 9317723230

Website: www.corporatetraininginstitute.com  
Email: training@corporatetraininginstitute.com

**HYDERABAD BRANCH****CORPORATE TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CTDI)**

Kachiguda Pride, Ground Floor, Nimboli  
Adda, Kachiguda Station Road,  
Hyderabad-500027. Mob. 9395140742

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**THE UNION BUDGET : 2024-25**

The Union Budget for the financial year 2024-25 was tabled in the Parliament by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. This was the seventh budget presented by the current FM and the first one of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government's third term.

The Union Budget 2024-25 presents a detailed roadmap for India's pursuit of 'Viksit Bharat'- envisioning a prosperous and inclusive India by 2047.

The Finance Minister said that as mentioned in the interim budget, the focus is on 4 major castes, namely 'Garib' (Poor), 'Mahilayen' (Women), 'Yuva' (Youth) and 'Annadata' (Farmer).

**HIGHLIGHTS****● BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-25:**

- 1) Total receipts other than borrowings: Rs.32.07 lakh crore.
- 2) Total expenditure: Rs.48.21 lakh crore.
- 3) Net tax receipt: Rs.25.83 lakh crore.
- 4) Fiscal Deficit: The Budget announced the revised fiscal deficit target for 2024-25 at 4.9 percent of the GDP - lower than the 5.1 percent announced in the interim budget. The government aims to reduce the fiscal deficit to 4.5% or lower by FY 2025-26.
- 5) Inflation continues to be low, stable and moving towards the 4% target; Core inflation (non-food, non-fuel) at 3.1%.
- 6) The focus of budget is 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.**

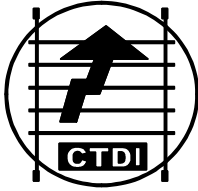
- 1) **Scheme A - First Timers:** One-month salary of up to Rs.15,000 to be provided in 3 instalments to first-time employees, as registered in the EPFO.
- 2) **Scheme B - Job Creation in manufacturing:** Incentive to be provided at specified scale directly, both employee and employer, with respect to 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:**
  - > Twenty lakh youth to be skilled over a 5-year period.
  - > One thousand Industrial Training Institutes to be upgraded in hub and spoke arrangements.
- 5) **New Scheme for Internship in 500 Top Companies** to one crore youths in 5 years.

**● NINE BUDGET PRIORITIES 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

**POSITIVE ATTITUDE**

**The Bamboo Tree:** A farmer planted a bamboo seed, watered, and nurtured it for an entire year, but nothing happened. The farmer persisted for five years, and in the fifth year, the bamboo tree grew 90 feet tall in just six weeks. Sometimes, your hard work and patience will pay off, even if you don't see immediate results.



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### DIRECTOR:

**Dr. G.S. Bhalla**

### ASSOCIATES:

**Harvinder Singh Bedi**

**Harsimran Singh Bhalla**

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### DESIGNED BY:

**Ankita Sharma**



SCO 91, (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor), Sector  
47-D, Near PNB, Chandigarh  
Pin - 160047.

MOB: 9041086057, 9317723230

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### SCAN AND PAY



9316009205m@punb

### Priority 1: Productivity and resilience in Agriculture:

The Government will undertake a comprehensive review of the agriculture research setup to focus on raising productivity. New 109 high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties of 32 field and horticulture crops will be released for cultivation by farmers.

- Allocation of Rs.1.52 lakh crore for agriculture & allied sectors.
- 1 crore farmers across the country to be initiated into natural farming, with certification and branding in next 2 years.
- Issuance of **Jan Samarth based KCC** to be enabled in 5 states.
- 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 - working women hostels and crèches to be established with industrial collaboration; women-specific skilling programmes to be organized; market access for women SHG 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:** 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. This will cover human resource development, infrastructure, and generation of economic opportunities to make the region an engine to attain Viksit Bharat.

➤ 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:

➤ The budget provides special attention to MSMEs and manufacturing, particularly labour-intensive manufacturing. A separately constituted self-financing guarantee fund will provide, to each applicant, guarantee cover up to **Rs.100 crore**, while the loan amount may be larger. Similarly, Public sector banks will build their in-house capability to assess MSMEs for credit, instead of relying on external assessment.

➤ **Credit Guarantee Scheme:** Budget has proposed to set up 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 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.**

**(Cont'd on Page no. 4)**

**BUDGET TERMINOLOGIES**

● **BUDGET:** It is the Annual Financial Statement by the Finance Ministry in accordance with provisions of Article 112 of the Indian Constitution, giving details of proposed govt expenditure and how money will be raised.

● **CENTRAL PLAN:** It consists of the Government's budget support to the Plan and the internal and extra budgetary resources raised by public enterprises.

➤ **Plan Expenditure:** It includes both revenue and capital expenditure of the government on the Central Plan, Central assistance to States and Union Territory plans.

➤ **Non-Plan Expenditure:** It includes both revenue and capital expenditure on interest payments, the entire defence expenditure (both revenue and capital expenditure), subsidies, postal deficit, policy, pensions, and economic services, loans to public enterprises and loans as well as grants to State Govt., UT and foreign Govt.

**Budget is divided in to two parts: Capital and Revenue, pertaining broadly to one-time and recurring expenditure, respectively.**

● **CAPITAL BUDGET:** It consists of capital receipts and payments. It also incorporates transactions in the Public Account. It has two components: **Capital Receipt and Capital Expenditure.**

➤ **Capital Receipt:** Include loans raised by the government from public which are called market loans, borrowings from the RBI and other parties through sale of Treasury Bills, loans received from foreign governments, recoveries of loans granted by Centre to State and UT governments and other parties.

➤ **Capital Expenditure:** Payments for acquisition of assets like land, buildings, machinery, equipment, as also investments in shares etc, and loans by the Centre to States, Govt. companies, corporations and other parties.

● **REVENUE BUDGET:** Revenue receipts of the government (tax revenues plus other revenues) and the expenditure met from these revenues. It has two components: **Revenue Receipt and Revenue Expenditure.**

➤ **Revenue Receipt:** It includes proceeds of taxes and other duties levied by the Centre, interest and dividend on investments made by the Govt. fees and other receipts for services rendered by the government.

➤ **Revenue Expenditure:** It is meant for the normal running of government departments and various services, interest charges on debt incurred by the government and subsidies. Broadly speaking, expenditure which does not result in creation of assets is treated as revenue expenditure. All grants given to State Govt. and other parties are also treated as revenue expenditure even though some of the grants may be for creation of assets.

● **STEPS IN BUDGET PRESENTATION:**

➤ **Budget Speech:** It is the first step in presentation of budget.

➤ **Expenditure Budget:** Contains expenditure estimates made for a scheme or programme under both revenue and capital heads.

➤ **Finance Bill:** This contains the government's proposals for levy of new taxes, modification of the existing tax structure or continuance of the existing tax structure beyond the period approved by Parliament.

➤ **Demands for Grants:** It is a statement of estimates of expenditure from the Consolidated Fund and is required to be voted by the Lok Sabha. Generally, one Demand for Grant is presented by each Ministry.

➤ **Appropriation Bill:** It is presented to Parliament for its approval, so that the government can withdraw from the Consolidated Fund the amounts required for meeting the expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund. No amount can be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund till the Appropriation Bill is voted and enacted.

● **TYPES OF DEFICIT:**

**Excess of Expenditure over Receipts is known as Deficit:**

➤ **Budgetary Deficit:** It is the excess of total expenditure over total receipts.

➤ **Capital Deficit:** It refers to the excess of capital expenditure over capital receipts.

➤ **Revenue Deficit:** It refers to the excess of revenue expenditure over revenue receipts.

➤ **Fiscal Deficit:** It is the difference between the revenue receipts plus certain non-debt capital receipts and the total expenditure including loans (net of repayments). This indicates the total borrowing requirements of the government from all sources.

➤ **Primary Deficit:** It is the difference between fiscal deficit and interest payments.

➤ **Monetised Deficit:** It indicates the level of support extended by the RBI to the Govt's borrowing programme.

● **VARIOUS GOVT ACCOUNTS:**

➤ **Consolidated Fund (CF):** It is made up of all revenues received by the Govt. loans raised by it, and also its receipts from recoveries of loans granted by it. All expenditure of the Govt. is incurred from the CF and no amount can be withdrawn from the Fund without authorisation from Parliament.

➤ **Public Account (PA):** It is an account in which money received through transactions not relating to the CF is kept. Besides the normal receipts and expenditure of the Govt. relating to the Consolidated Fund, certain other transactions enter government accounts in respect of which the government acts more as a banker, for example, transactions relating to provident funds, small savings collections, other deposits etc. Such money is kept in the Public Account and the connected disbursements.

➤ **Contingency Fund:** It is an imprest placed at the disposal of the President and is used by the government to incur all its urgent and unforeseen expenditure. Parliamentary approval for such expenditure and for withdrawal of an equivalent amount from the Consolidated Fund is subsequently obtained and the amount spent from the Contingency Fund is recouped to the Fund.

**COMPLIMENTS**

**OUR SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPANTS**

**IDBI (SCALE C TO D)**

**JAN 2024**

NAME	MOBILE
1. GAJANAN TIPLE	7020241705
2. KAPIL GANESH	9739675979
3. VIKRANT SHINDE	9892230824
4. D SENTHIL KUMAR	9493742349
5. LALITNARAYAN	9826099493
6. AJINKYA PAWAR	9881240444
7. TABISH RAZA	9977454851
8. AMIT WAGH	8850873419
1. VISHWESHWAR	9769732313
2. KUMAR RANJEET	8879770593
3. ANKUR MATHUR	7508313184
4. MEENAKSHI GOUD	9937410736
5. SHRI KIRAN	9029027111
6. MANJU KUMARI	8825176739
7. VATSALA SEMANTI	9031033354
8. GANESH PATIL	9552557437
9. SHAILESH K ROY	8797000109
10. BHARTI	7087793313
11. MOHIT K VATTS	9876018108
12. SREEKANTH S	8608800777
13. SURESH B	9940333207
14. SURAJ	9769946591
15. JANARDAN	9574944478
16. MALAY KUMAR	9597030614
17. AJAY KUMAR	8791022207
18. PANKAJ KUMAR	8699002105
19. KARTHIK	9840787888
20. SANJEET KUMAR	9766901487
21. SANJIT KUMAR	9405565185
22. PRADEEP KUMAR	9010574422
23. SURAJ KAMBLE	7400184880
24. SRI SOUMYA	8280709235
25. ARIJIT DASGUPTA	9830355810
26. SATHYA G	9094437722
27. SHAILESH PATEL	9574376999
28. S. DESHMUKH	9096708431
29. DINKAR DEVKAR	9527527000
30. PANKAJ DUBEY	9828563797

**PNB (SCALE 5 TO 6) JAN 2024**

1. CHINMAY GOPAL	8227000070
2. HARISH	9600139440

**PNB (SCALE 4 TO 5) JAN 2024**

1. RAVI SHANKAR	9971622667
2. N. K. BANSAL	8053135151
3. ABHIRAM KUMAR	7087851697
4. SATISH KUMAR	9718694674
5. SATISH LATHAR	9466747145
6. VIVEK KUMAR	7054303153
7. MRINAL MOHANTI	9007829271

**PNB (SCALE 3 TO 4) JAN 2024**

1. ANKIT YADAV	9599884177
2. CH L V RAMANA	9849899366
3. KOMAL GUPTA	7405250342
4. RAJNISH KUMAR	9047542109
5. DALBIR KAUR	9599819219
6. SHASANK KUMAR	9415295255
7. RAJNI KUMARI	8922011131

*(Cont'd from Page No 2)*

**THE UNION BUDGET 2024-25**

➤ **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:** In view of the success of PM SVANidhi Scheme in transforming the lives of street vendors, Govt. envisions a scheme to support each year, over the next five years, the development of 100 weekly 'haats' or street food hubs.

**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 (AUSC) Thermal Power Plants:** Joint venture proposed between NTPC and BHEL to set up a full scale 800 MW commercial plant using 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 Govt.:** Rs.11,11,111 crore (3.4 % of GDP) to be provided for capital expenditure.

➤ **Infrastructure investment by state governments:** Provision of Rs1.5 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.

➤ **Key Road Projects:** Rs. 26,000 crore allotment for funding Patna-Purnea Expressway, Buxar-Bhagalpur Expressway, and Bodhgaya, Rajgir, Vaishali and Darbhanga spurs, in the state. It also includes two-lane bridge over river Ganga at Buxar.

➤ Government to provide assistance to Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim for floods, landslides.

➤ **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 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:**

The Finance Minister introduced the **Finance Bill 2024** and the Final Budget for the fiscal year 2024-25. The Finance Bill includes provisions to streamline tax administration, reduce compliance burdens, and enhance transparency in financial transactions.

**DIRECT TAXES:** Efforts to simplify taxes, improve tax payer services, provide tax certainty and reduce litigation to be continued. Fifty eight 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 of Reassessment:**

➤ **Assessment can be reopened** beyond three years upto five years from the end of Assessment Year only if the escaped income is Rs. 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 Rs.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 Rs.60 lakh, Rs.2 crore and Rs.5 cr respectively.

**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.

➤ **Corporate tax rate** on foreign companies reduced from 40 to 35% to attract foreign capital.

**Deepening Tax base:**

**Security Transactions Tax** on futures and options of securities increased to 0.02% and 0.1% 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.

➤ The **threshold limit for reporting the value of foreign assets** (excluding immovable property) in the Income Tax Return has been increased from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh.

**Other Major proposals:**

➤ Equalization levy of 2 per cent withdrawn.

➤ Non-government employees will be allowed a deduction under Section 80CCD for employer's contributions to NPS of up to 14% of their salary. This increased deduction applies only if the employee's salary is chargeable to tax under the new regime Section 115BAC.

➤ For the first **Rs. 6,00,000** of book profit or in case of a loss, the limit of remuneration to working partners in a partnership firm is increased to **Rs. 3,00,000** or 90% of the book profit, whichever is higher.

**Changes in Personal Income Tax under new tax regime:**

➤ **Standard deduction** for salaried employees increased from Rs.50,000 to **Rs.75,000**.

➤ **Deduction on family pension** for pensioners enhanced from Rs.15,000/- to **Rs.25,000/-**.

➤ **Pension contribution will be tax deductible** for the employer and the employee up to 14% of the salary (from 10% earlier).

**CURRENT AND PROPOSED TAX SLABS**

Tax Rate	Current Income Slab	PROPOSED INCOME SLAB
<b>Nil</b>	Up to Rs 3 lakh	Up to Rs 3 lakh
<b>5%</b>	Rs 3 lakh to Rs 6 lakh	Rs 3 lakh to Rs 7 lakh
<b>10%</b>	Rs 6 lakh to Rs 9 lakh	Rs 7 lakh to Rs 10 lakh
<b>15%</b>	Rs 9 lakh to Rs 12 lakh	Rs 10 lakh to Rs 12 lakh
<b>20%</b>	Rs 12 lakh to Rs 15 lakh	Rs 12 lakh to Rs 15 lakh
<b>30%</b>	Above Rs 15 lakh	Above Rs 15 lakh

**TDS/TCS RATES:**

➤ The Budget has simplified the direct tax regime for charities, TDS rate structure and capital gains taxation. The two tax exemption regimes for charities will be merged into one. TDS of 5% on many payments to be merged into 2% TDS and 20 per cent TDS on repurchase of units by mutual funds or UTI stands withdrawn.

➤ Credit of TCS will be given on TDS deducted from salary.

➤ Budget decriminalized delay of payment of TDS up to the due date of filing of TDS statement.

➤ The rate for **short-term capital gains** under Section 111A on STT-paid equity shares, units of equity oriented mutual funds, and units of a business trust increased to 20% from the current 15%.

➤ A new section 194T has been introduced, requiring 10% TDS on salary, remuneration, interest, bonus, or commission payments to partners by a partnership firm. TDS liability arises if the total payments exceed Rs 20,000 in a financial year.

➤ **Purchasing notified luxury goods** exceeding Rs. 10 lakh will be subject to TCS.

➤ Section 193 TDS will apply while paying interest exceeding Rs. 10,000 on **Floating Rate Savings Bonds (FRSB) 2020** (Taxable) and any securities notified by the government.

➤ **TDS rate on e-commerce operators** reduced from 1% to **0.1%**.

➤ The interest rate is increased from 1% to 1.5% where **TCS has been collected but not been deposited** to Government account.

➤ **TDS/TCS correction statement** cannot be filed beyond **six years** after the end of the financial year in which the original statements under Section 200 and Section 206C were filed.

**RATIONALISED TDS RATES (IMPORTANT SECTIONS)**

Section	Present Rate	Proposed rate	Effective date
194D: Payment of insurance commission (in case of person other than Co)	5%	2%	April 1 <sup>st</sup> 2025
194DA: Payment in respect of Life Insurance Policy	5%	2%	Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> 2024
194H: Payment of commission or brokerage	5%	2%	Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> 2024
194IB: Payment of rent by certain individuals or HUF	5%	2%	Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> 2024
194O: Payment of certain sums by ecommerce operator to e-commerce participant	1%	0.1%	Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> 2024
194F: Payment on account of repurchase of units by Mutual Funds or UTI.	Proposed to be omitted		Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> 2024

**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 Trastuzumab, Deruxtecan, 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:** Basic Custom Duty (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%**.

➤ **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.

**IMPORTANT DATA - BUDGET : 2024-25**

**BUDGET AT A GLANCE 2024-25 (Rs crore)**

	Actuals 2022-23	Budgeted 2023-24	Actuals 2023-24	Budgeted 2024-25	% change (2023-24 Actuals to 2024-25 BE)
Revenue Expenditure	34,53,132	35,02,136	34,94,036	37,09,401	6.2%
Capital Expenditure of which:	7,40,025	10,00,961	9,48,506	11,11,111	17.1%
Capital Outlay	6,24,757	8,37,127	7,87,411	9,18,695	16.7%
Loans and Advances	1,15,268	1,63,834	1,61,095	1,92,416	19.4%
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>41,93,157</b>	<b>45,03,097</b>	<b>44,42,542</b>	<b>48,20,512</b>	<b>8.5%</b>
Revenue Receipts	23,83,206	26,32,281	27,28,412	31,29,200	14.7%
Capital Receipts of which:	72,196	84,000	60,461	78,000	29.0%
Recoveries of Loans*	26,161	23,000	27,338	28,000	2.4%
Other receipts (including disinvestments)*	46,035	61,000	33,123	50,000	51.0%
<b>Total Receipts (excluding borrowings)</b>	<b>24,55,402</b>	<b>27,16,281</b>	<b>27,88,872</b>	<b>32,07,200</b>	<b>15.0%</b>
Revenue Deficit	10,69,926	8,69,855	7,65,624	5,80,201	-24.2%
% of GDP	3.9%	2.9%	2.6%	1.8%	
Fiscal Deficit	17,37,755	17,86,816	16,53,670	16,13,312	-2.4%
% of GDP	6.4%	5.9%	5.6%	4.9%	
Primary Deficit	8,09,238	7,06,845	5,89,799	4,50,372	-23.6%
% of GDP	3.0%	2.3%	2.0%	1.4%	

**SCHEME WISE ALLOCATION IN 2024-25 (Rs crore)**

	Actuals 2022-23	Budgeted 2023-24	Revised 2023-24	Budgeted 2024-2025	% change (2023- 24 RE to 2024-25 BE)
<b>MGNREGS</b>	90,806	60,000	86,000	86,000	0%
<b>Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana</b>	73,615	79,590	54,103	84,671	56.5%
<b>Jal Jeevan Mission/National Rural Drinking Water Mission</b>	54,700	70,000	70,000	70,163	0.2%
<b>PM-KISAN</b>	58,254	60,000	60,000	60,000	0%
<b>Samagra Shiksha</b>	32,515	37,453	33,000	37,500	13.6%
<b>National Health Mission</b>	31,279	29,085	31,551	36,000	14.1%
<b>Modified Interest Subvention Scheme</b>	17,998	23,000	18,500	22,600	22.2%
<b>Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0</b>	19,876	20,554	21,523	21,200	-1.5%
<b>Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana</b>	18,783	19,000	17,000	19,000	11.8%
<b>National Livelihood Mission-Ajeevika</b>	11,536	14,129	14,129	15,047	6.5%
<b>Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana</b>	10,296	13,625	15,000	14,600	-2.7%
<b>Reform Linked Distribution Scheme</b>	2,738	12,072	10,400	12,585	21.0%
<b>Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)</b>	12,681	11,600	10,000	12,467	24.7%
<b>Swachh Bharat Mission</b>	6,851	12,192	9,550	12,192	27.7%
<b>Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana</b>	6,380	10,787	8,781	11,840	34.8%

**FRBM TARGETS FOR DEFICITS (as % of GDP)**

	Actuals 2022-23	Actuals 2023-24	Budgeted 2024-25
Fiscal Deficit	6.4%	5.6%	4.9%
Revenue Deficit	3.9%	2.6%	1.8%
Primary Deficit	3.0%	2.0%	1.4%

**WHERE DOES RUPEE COME FROM & WHERE DOES IT GO**

WHERE DOES RUPEE COME FROM	SHARE	WHERE DOES RUPEE GOES	SHARE
Borrowing and Other Liabilities	28%	States' share of Taxes and Duties	20%
Income Tax	19%	Interest Payments	20%
GST and other taxes	18%	Central Sector Schemes	16%
Corporation tax	17%	Other Expenditure	9%
Non-Tax Receipts	7%	Finance Commission and other transfers	8%
Union Excise Duties	5%	Centrally Sponsored Schemes	8%
Customs	4%	Defence	8%
Non-Debt Capital Receipts	1%	Subsidies	6%
		Pensions	4%

## ECONOMIC SURVEY: 2023-24

The Economic Survey of the Financial Year 2023-24 was presented by the Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitaraman. The Survey provided a comprehensive overview of the Indian economy's performance, prospects, challenges, and policy recommendations in the Previous Year. This includes information about things like the size of the economy (GDP), inflation, jobs, and trade.

➤ Every year, the Ministry of Finance publishes a report and usually comes out a day before the Union Budget is presented in the Parliament. The Economics Division of the Department of Economic Affairs creates this report with guidance from the Chief Economic Advisor.

➤ The Economic Survey 2023-24, showcases India's economy growth at 8.2%, with improvements in fiscal balances, inflation management, and financial sector.

➤ Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran expressed confidence in achieving the 7 percent projected growth target set in the Economic Survey. While acknowledging the attainability of this target, he noted several risk factors, including unpredictable weather patterns, financial market uncertainties in developed economies, and geopolitical complexities. Despite these challenges, the government remains hopeful about reaching the growth target.

**The Economic Survey 2023-24 focuses on six key areas in Amrit Kaal namely:**

- 1) Boost Private Investment;
- 2) Expansion of MSMEs;
- 3) Agriculture as Growth Engine;
- 4) Financing Green Transition;
- 5) Bridging Education Employment Gap, and
- 6) Capacity Building of State

➤ According to the Economic Survey 2023-24, inflationary pressures, driven by global issues, supply chain disruptions, have been effectively managed through strategic administrative and monetary policies. The report further noted that the government's timely policy interventions, combined with the RBI's measures to ensure price stability, successfully kept retail inflation at 5.4% in FY24, marking the lowest level since the pandemic.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

#### RESILIENT ECONOMY:

➤ India's real GDP projected to grow between 6.5–7 per cent in 2024-25, with risks evenly balanced. This is below the Reserve Bank of India's forecast of 7.2 percent and last year's GDP growth of 8.2 percent.

➤ As per the Economic Survey, India's economy showed resilience to a gamut of global and external challenges as real GDP grew by 8.2% in FY 24, exceeding 8% mark in three out of four quarters of FY 24, driven by stable consumption demand and steadily improving investment demand.

➤ The Survey highlighted that India's real GDP in FY24 was 20 percent higher than in FY20, a notable achievement among major economies, and suggested strong potential for continued robust growth in FY 2024-25 and beyond. The Survey expressed optimism for FY 2024-25, anticipating broad-based and inclusive growth for the country's economy. It claims that in FY25 India's economic growth will see reductions in unemployment and multidimensional poverty.

➤ India has positioned itself as the world's third-largest fintech economy, trailing only the USA and the UK. Furthermore, it has surpassed Hong Kong to claim the fourth spot in global stock markets.

#### GROSS VALUE ADDED (GVA):

➤ **On supply side**, Gross value added (GVA) grew by 7.2 per cent in FY24 (at 2011-12 prices) and net taxes at constant prices grew by 19.1 per cent in FY24.

➤ The Survey underlines that the shares of the agriculture, industry and services sectors in overall GVA at current prices were 17.7 per cent, 27.6 per cent and 54.7 per cent respectively in FY24.

➤ GVA in the agriculture sector continued to grow at a slower pace, as the erratic weather patterns during the year and an uneven spatial distribution of the monsoon in 2023 impacted overall output.

➤ Within the industrial sector, manufacturing GVA shrugged off a disappointing FY23 and grew by 9.9 per cent in FY24, as manufacturing activities benefitted from reduced input prices while catering to stable domestic demand.

➤ Various high-frequency indicators reflect the growth in the services sector. Both Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections and the issuance of e-way bills, reflecting wholesale and retail trade, demonstrated double-digit growth in FY24. Financial and professional services have been a major driver of growth post the pandemic.

#### INDIA'S FISCAL HEALTH:

➤ The Survey says, against the global trend of widening fiscal deficit and increasing debt burden, India has remained on the course of fiscal consolidation. The fiscal deficit of the Union Government has been brought down from 6.4 per cent of GDP in FY23 to 5.6 per cent of GDP in FY24, according to provisional actuals (PA) data released by the Office of Controller General of Accounts (CGA). This reduction was driven by robust growth in direct and indirect tax revenues. Additionally, higher-than-expected non-tax revenue from RBI dividends boosted revenue receipts.

➤ 55% of tax collected accrued from direct taxes and remaining 45% from indirect taxes.

➤ On fiscal balances, the Survey noted that "tax compliance gains from procedural reforms, expenditure restraint, and rising digitization" have offset the impact of "expansionary public investment."

#### CORE INFLATION:

➤ The Retail inflation reduced from 6.7 per cent in FY23 to 5.4 per cent in FY24, the lowest since the pandemic, due to effective policy interventions and RBI measures. Core inflation for goods and services has reached multi-year lows. Core inflation is measured by excluding food and energy items from CPI headline inflation.

➤ To improve the precision and relevance of economic data, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has begun updating the base year for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from 2012 to 2024.

➤ Inflation is expected to decline to 4.5% in FY25 and 4.1% in FY26, assuming normal monsoon and no external shocks.

➤ IMF forecasts inflation of 4.6 per cent in 2024 and 4.2 per cent in 2025 for India.

#### CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT (CAD):

➤ Current Account Deficit stood at 0.7 per cent of the GDP during FY24, an improvement from the deficit of 2.0 per cent of GDP in FY23. While global demand for goods has been weak, strong services exports have largely balanced the external trade balance.

➤ The Survey highlights that the moderation in merchandise exports continued during FY24, mainly on account of weaker global demand and persistent geopolitical tensions. Despite

that India's service exports have remained robust, reaching a new high of USD 341.1 billion in FY24.

- The exports (merchandise and services) in FY24 grew by 0.15 per cent, while the total imports declined by 4.9 percent.
- India's rank in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index improved by six places, from 44th in 2018 to 38th in 2023, out of 139 countries.
- India is gaining market share in global exports of goods and services. Its share in global goods exports was 1.8 per cent in FY24, against an average of 1.7 per cent during FY16- FY20.

#### **FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) INFLOWS:**

- Net FDI inflows declined from \$42 billion in FY23 to \$26.5 billion in FY24, with gross FDI inflows moderating slightly.
- India is the top remittance recipient country globally, with remittances reaching a milestone of USD 120 billion in 2023.

#### **ROBUST FOREX RESERVES:**

- At the end of March 2024, India's forex reserves could cover more than 10 months of projected imports and 98% of external debt.
- The Survey underscores that the Indian Rupee has also been one of the least volatile currencies among its emerging market peers in FY24. India's external debt vulnerability indicators also continued to be benign. External debt as a ratio to GDP stood at a low level of 18.7 per cent as of end-March 2024. The ratio of foreign exchange reserves to total debt stood at 97.4 per cent as of March 2024.

#### **STABLE BANKING SECTOR:**

- The banking sector showcased stellar performance with double-digit credit growth, low NPAs, and improved asset quality.
- The Survey highlights that the RBI's vigil over the banking and financial system and its prompt regulatory actions ensure that the system can withstand any macroeconomic or systemic shock.
- Double-digit and broad-based growth in bank credit, gross and net non-performing assets at multi-year lows, and improvement in bank asset quality highlight the government's commitment to a healthy and stable banking sector.
- Data from the RBI's Financial Stability Report of June 2024 show that the asset quality of Scheduled commercial banks has improved, with the Gross Non-Performing Assets ratio declining to 2.8 per cent in March 2024, a 12-year low.
- IBC has been recognised as an effective solution for the twin balance sheet problem, in the last 8 years, 31,394 corporate debtors involving a value of Rs. 13.9 Lakh Crore have been disposed off as of March 2024.
- The profitability of SCBs remained steady, with the return on equity and return on assets ratios at 13.8 per cent and 1.3 per cent, respectively, as of March 2024.
- Macro stress tests also reveal that SCBs would be able to comply with minimum capital requirements even under severe stress scenarios. The soundness of the banking system will facilitate the financing of productive opportunities and lengthen the financial cycle, both of which are necessary to sustain economic growth.
- The market capitalisation of the Indian stock market has seen a remarkable surge, with the market capitalisation to GDP ratio being the fifth largest in the world.
- Financial inclusion is an enabler for sustainable economic growth, reduction of inequality and elimination of poverty. The next big challenge is Digital Financial Inclusion (DFI).

➤ Indian microfinance sector emerges as the second largest in the world after China.

#### **INDIA'S SOCIAL WELFARE APPROACH:**

- The new welfare approach focuses on increasing the impact per rupee spent. The digitisation of healthcare, education and governance has been a force multiplier for every rupee spent on a welfare programme.
- The Survey points out that India's social welfare approach has undergone a shift from an input-based approach to outcome-based empowerment. Government initiatives like providing free-of-cost gas connections under PM Ujjwala Yojana, building toilets under the Swachh Bharat Mission, opening bank accounts under Jan Dhan Yojana, building pucca houses under PM-AWAS Yojana have improved capabilities and enhanced opportunities for the underprivileged sections.
- The approach also involves the targeted implementation of reforms for last-mile service delivery to truly realise the maxim of "no person left behind".
- Government has been able to ensure free food grains to 81.4 Crore people. Total expenditure allotted to capital spending have progressively enhanced.
- The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme and Jan Dhan Yojana-Aadhaar-Mobile trinity have been boosters of fiscal efficiency and minimization of leakages, with Rs.36.9 lakh cr having been transferred via DBT since its inception in 2013.

#### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE:**

- Indian labour market indicators have improved in the last six years, with the unemployment rate declining to 3.2 per cent in 2022-23.
- The quarterly urban unemployment rate for people aged 15 years and above declined to 6.7 percent in the quarter ending March 2024 from 6.8 per cent in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.
- According to Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), more than 45 per cent of the workforce is employed in agriculture, 11.4 per cent in manufacturing, 28.9 per cent in services, and 13.0 percent is in construction.
- According to PLFS, youth (age 15-29 years) unemployment rate has declined from 17.8 per cent in 2017-18 to 10 per cent in 2022-23.
- The Survey highlights that the all-India annual unemployment rate (persons aged 15 years and above, as per usual status) has been declining since the pandemic and this has been accompanied by a rise in the labour force participation rate and worker-to-population ratio.
- From the gender perspective, the female labour force participation rate has been rising for six years, i.e., from 23.3 per cent in 2017-18 to 37 per cent in 2022-23, driven mainly by the rising participation of rural women.

#### **GROWING ENERGY NEEDS:**

- India's energy needs are projected to grow 2 to 2.5 times by 2047, with significant progress in renewable energy and emissions reduction.

#### **MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK – A GROWTH STRATEGY FOR NEW INDIA:**

- Key areas of policy focus in the short to medium term - job and skill creation, tapping the full potential of the agriculture sector, addressing MSME bottlenecks, managing India's green transition, deftly dealing with the Chinese conundrum, deepening the corporate bond market, tackling inequality and improving our young population's quality of health.



**POLICY GUIDELINES**

**●ONLINE SUBMISSION OF FORM A2 - REMOVAL OF LIMITS ON AMOUNT OF REMITTANCE:**

Form A2 is a FEMA declaration cum application for the purchase of foreign exchange for remittance purposes. The remitter needs to fill up the details on the amount of remittance, beneficiary detail and the NRI repatriation purpose code to indicate the reason for repatriation.

➤ **As per the extant guidelines**, RBI had permitted AD Category-I banks and AD Category-II entities to allow submission of Form A2 through online mode by their customers, with an upper limit of USD 25,000 (or its equivalent) for individuals and USD 100,000 (or its equivalent) for Corporates.

➤ **On a review, and to improve ease of doing business**, RBI has permitted AD Cat-I banks and AD Cat-II entities to facilitate remittances *on the basis of online of Form A2 without any limit*.

➤ ADs shall frame appropriate guidelines for the purpose, with the approval of their Board within the ambit of extant statutory and regulatory framework. Further, reporting of transactions in FETERS shall continue, as earlier, by the ADs banks.

**●RELEASE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR MISCELLANEOUS REMITTANCES:**

**As per the extant guidelines**, Authorised Dealers are permitted to release foreign exchange for any current account transaction, on the basis of a simple letter containing basic information and subject to an upper limit of USD 25,000 or its equivalent. For that ADs need not obtain any other documents, including Form A2, and that the payment was to be made by the applicant through Demand Draft or a cheque drawn on his bank account.

➤ **With a view on streamlining the regulatory compliances and operational procedures**, RBI has now decided that Authorised Dealers shall obtain Form A2 in physical or digital form for *all cross-border remittances irrespective of the value of transaction*. Banks to ensure that such transactions do not involve any contravention of the provisions of FEMA.

**●BANK FINANCE AGAINST SHARES AND DEBENTURES:**

**As per the extant guidelines**, Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs) were advised that the aggregate of their all loans against the security of shares and debentures should be within the overall ceiling of 20 per cent of their owned funds.

➤ **On a review**, RBI has decided that the *overall ceiling of 20 per cent shall be linked to Tier I capital of the bank as on 31st March of the previous financial year*. The change stipulated shall be effective from Jan. 01, 2025.

**●REMITTANCES TO IFSCs UNDER THE LRS:**

**As per the extant guidelines**, remittances under LRS to IFSCs can be made only for:

- a) Making investments in IFSCs in securities except those issued by entities/ companies resident in India (outside IFSC); and
- b) Payment of fees for education to foreign universities or foreign institutions in IFSCs for pursuing courses mentioned in the gazette notification issued by the Central Government.

➤ For these permissible purposes, resident individuals can open Foreign Currency Account (FCA) in IFSCs.

**On a review, RBI has decided that Authorised Persons may facilitate remittances for all permissible purposes under LRS to IFSCs for:**

a) Availing financial services or financial products as per the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019 within IFSCs; and

b) All current or capital account transactions, in any other foreign jurisdiction (other than IFSCs) through an Foreign Currency Account (FCA) held in IFSCs.

➤ For these permissible purposes, resident individuals can open Foreign Currency Account (FCA) in IFSCs.

**●FAR FOR NRIs EXCLUSION OF SECURITIES:**

**Fully Accessible Route (FAR)** was introduced by the RBI in the year 2020, in which Non Resident Indians were permitted to invest in certain specified categories of Central Government securities without any restrictions.

➤ **On a recent review**, RBI has decided to exclude all new securities of 14-year and 30-year tenors as 'specified securities' from the Fully Accessible Route.

➤ Consequently, future issuances of Govt. Securities in these tenors shall not be available for investment under the Fully Accessible Route. Existing stocks of Govt. Securities in 14-year and 30-year tenors already included as 'specified securities' under the FAR shall, however, continue to be available for investments by non-residents in the secondary market. However, Foreign Portfolio Investors can continue to invest in new Govt. Securities of 14-year and 30-year tenors within the stipulated limits.

➤ The Revised limit for the HY Apr 2024-Sept 2024 is Rs. 12,33,951 crore and for HY Oct 2024-Mar 2025 is Rs. 12,95,000 crore. The aggregate limit of the notional amount of Credit Default Swaps sold by FPIs shall be 5% of the outstanding stock of corporate bonds. Accordingly, an additional limit of Rs.2,54,500 crore is set out for 2024-25

**●BASEL III CAPITAL REGULATIONS - RBI PERMITS BRICKWORK RATINGS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED (CRA):**

➤ **As per the extant guidelines**, on Basel III Capital Regulations, following domestic credit rating agencies have been accredited for the purpose of risk weighting banks' claims for capital adequacy purposes:

- a) Acuite Ratings & Research Limited;
- b) CARE Ratings Limited;
- c) CRISIL Ratings Limited;
- d) ICRA Limited;
- e) India Ratings and Research Private Limited (India Ratings); and
- f) INFOMERICS Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd. (INFOMERICS).

➤ **As per Press Release dated Oct. 12, 2022**, RBI had advised that no such fresh ratings / evaluations shall be obtained from Brickwork Ratings India Private Limited (the CRA).

➤ **On a review**, RBI has permitted Banks to use the ratings of Brickwork Ratings India Private Limited for risk weighting.

➤ **Further, banks permitted to use the ratings of the CRA for risk weighting for capital adequacy purposes, subject to:**

- a) In respect of fresh rating mandates, rating may be obtained from the CRA for bank loans not exceeding Rs.250 crore.
- b) In respect of existing ratings, the CRA may undertake rating surveillance irrespective of the rated amount, till the residual tenure of such loans.

➤ **Provided** that in case of existing ratings assigned to working capital facilities exceeding Rs.250 crore, the CRA shall undertake rating surveillance only till the next renewal of such facility by the banks.

**●GUIDELINES ON SMALL VALUE LOANS - UCBs:**

➤ **As per the extant guidelines**, UCBs were required, to have at least 50% of their aggregate loans and advances comprising of Small Value Loans, i.e., loans of value not more than Rs.25 lakh or 0.2 per cent of their Tier I capital, whichever is higher, subject to a maximum of Rs.1 crore, per borrower. The target date for complying with the above requirement was March 31, 2024.

➤ Taking into account the representations received by the Bank, RBI has decided to extend the glide path to achieve the *mentioned target by two years i.e., 40% by 31st March 2025 and 50% by 31st March 2026*.

**●RBI - DIGITAL PAYMENTS INDEX FOR MARCH 2024:**

➤ RBI publishes a composite RBI - Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) since January 1, 2021 with March 2018 as base to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country.

➤ The index for March 2024 stands at 445.50 as against 418.77 for Sept 2023. The RBI-DPI index has increased across all parameters driven by significant growth in payment performance and payment infrastructure across the country

**PROMPT CORRECTIVE ACTION (PCA) FRAMEWORK FOR PRIMARY (URBAN) CO-OPERATIVE BANKS (UCBs)**

The Reserve Bank of India has reviewed the existing Supervisory Action Framework (SAF) for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) and advised the revised framework replacing the SAF, under the nomenclature Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework.

> The objective of the PCA Framework is to enable supervisory intervention at an appropriate time and require the UCBs to initiate and implement remedial measures in a timely manner, to restore their financial health. The provisions of the PCA Framework will be effective from April 1, 2025.

> As per RBI guidelines, a copy of this circular should be placed before the Board of Directors in the next meeting and a confirmation thereof should be sent to the office of the Senior Supervisory Manager concerned.

**Applicability:** The PCA Framework shall be applicable to all UCBs under Tier 2, Tier 3 and Tier 4 categories except UCBs under All Inclusive Directions. Tier 1 UCBs, though not covered under the PCA Framework as of now, shall be subject to enhanced monitoring under the extant supervisory framework. The exemption of Tier 1 UCBs from the PCA Framework shall be reviewed in due course.

> UCBs which are currently subject to supervisory actions as per the extant guidelines, will continue to be governed by the restrictions imposed on them. Such UCBs will be considered for an exit from SAF or to be placed under PCA on a case-by-case basis by the RBI.

**PCA Framework for Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks:**

- a) Capital, Asset Quality and Profitability will be the key areas for monitoring in the revised PCA Framework.
- b) Indicators to be tracked for Capital, Asset Quality and Profitability would be CRAR, Net NPA Ratio (percentage of net NPA to net advances) and net profit, respectively.
- c) The PCA Framework would apply to all Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs) in Tier 2, Tier 3 and Tier 4, based on breach of risk thresholds of identified indicators.
- d) Breach of any risk threshold may result in invocation of PCA.

<b>PCA MATRIX (Parameters, Indicators and Risk Thresholds)</b>				
<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Risk Threshold 1</b>	<b>Risk Threshold 2</b>	<b>Risk Threshold 3</b>
<b>(1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(5)</b>
<b>CAPITAL (Breach of CRAR)</b>	CRAR – Minimum Regulatory Requirement, as applicable*	Up to 250 bps below the Indicator prescribed at column (2)	More than 250 bps but not exceeding 400 bps below the Indicator prescribed at column (2)	In excess of 400 bps below the Indicator prescribed at column (2)
<b>ASSET QUALITY</b>	Net Non-Performing Advances (NPA) Ratio	>=6.0% but <9.0%	>=9.0% but < 12.0%	>=12.0%
<b>PROFITABILITY</b>	Net profit	Incurring losses during two consecutive years	--	--

\* For Tier 2 to 4 UCBs as per the glide path provided for achieving the regulatory minimum CRAR of 12% by March 31, 2026.

e) A bank will generally be placed under PCA Framework based on the Reported/Audited Annual Financial Results and/or the ongoing Supervisory Assessment made by RBI. However, RBI may impose PCA on any bank during the course of a year (including migration from one threshold to another) in case the circumstances so warrant. Although supervisory action taken will primarily be based on the criteria specified under the PCA Framework, the Reserve Bank will not be precluded from taking appropriate supervisory action in case stress is noticed in other important indicators/parameters or in case of serious governance issues. Also, the Reserve Bank will not be precluded from taking any supervisory action other than those indicated in this circular, based on the merits of each case.

f) Exit from PCA and Withdrawal of Restrictions under PCA - Once a bank is placed under PCA, taking the bank out of PCA Framework and/or withdrawal of restrictions imposed under the PCA Framework will be considered: a) if no breaches in risk thresholds in any of the parameters are observed as per four continuous quarterly financial statements, one of which should be Audited Annual Financial Statement (subject to assessment by RBI); and b) based on supervisory comfort of the RBI, including an assessment on sustainable improvement in key financials of the bank.

g) When a bank is placed under PCA, one or more of the following corrective actions may be prescribed:

<b>MANDATORY AND DISCRETIONARY ACTIONS</b>		
<b>Specifications</b>	<b>Mandatory actions</b>	<b>Discretionary actions</b>
<b>Risk Threshold 1</b>	i. Bank to raise capital either from existing members or by issuance of equity and other permissible capital instruments ii. Restriction on declaration/payment of dividend/donation iii. Appropriate restrictions on capital expenditure, other than for technological upgradation	<b>Common menu - Actions pertaining to:</b> i. Special Supervisory Actions ii. Strategy related iii. Governance related iv. Capital related v. Credit risk related vi. Market risk related vii. HR related viii. Profitability related ix. Operations/Business related x. Imposition of All Inclusive Directions/ Cancellation of Banking License xi. Any other
<b>Risk Threshold 2</b>	In addition to mandatory actions of Threshold 1, i. Restriction on branch expansion	
<b>Risk Threshold 3</b>	In addition to mandatory actions of Thresholds 1 & 2, i. Appropriate restrictions/ prohibition on expansion of total size of the deposits	

## TIT BITS

- **PM MODI CONFERRED HIGHEST CIVILIAN HONOUR:** PM Modi was ceremoniously presented with the Russia's highest civilian honour 'Order of St Andrew the Apostle' in recognition of his contribution to the development of a strategic partnership between Russia and India. Modi is the first Indian leader to receive this prestigious award, which was established in 1698 by Tsar Peter the Great in honor of Saint Andrew, the first apostle of Jesus and the patron saint of Russia.
- **INDIAN DESTINATIONS ON TIME'S 'WORLD'S':** TIME magazine has highlighted three Indian destinations in its prestigious list of 'World's Greatest Places of 2024.' Museum of Solutions (MuSo), a unique children's museum in Mumbai, Manam Chocolate, a factory in Hyderabad, and NAAR, a restaurant in Himachal Pradesh.
- **INDIA'S MOST VALUABLE BRAND:** Tata Group has maintained its position as India's most valuable brand with a value of US\$ 28.6 billion, marking a 9% increase from last year. Infosys ranks second, and HDFC Group has surged to third place. Taj remains India's strongest brand, with a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 92.9 out of 100 and an AAA+ rating.
- **RBI EASES LRS NORMS FOR INVESTMENT:** RBI has expanded the scope of remittances to International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS). This allows resident Indians to open fixed deposits in dollars at GIFT IFSC, facilitating various financial services and products as per the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019.
- **WHO INTRODUCES MEDEVIS PLATFORM:** The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched MeDeViS (Medical Devices Information System), an online platform designed to be the first global open access clearing house for information on medical devices. It will support governments, regulators, and users in making informed decisions about the selection, procurement, and use of medical devices for diagnostics, testing, and treatment of various health conditions.
- **APPLE EXCEEDS INDIA'S PLI SCHEME TARGETS:** 'Apple' the poster boy of India's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, has exceeded its targets on five of the six parameters. A company must achieve the minimum target on four parameters i.e. incremental production value, exports, investment, and the freight on board (FOB) value every year to be eligible for PLI, which ranges from 4 per cent to 6 per cent under the scheme for mobile devices. The iPhone maker's three India vendors Foxconn, Pegatron and Tata Electronics have collectively surpassed these targets.
- **PROJECT NEXUS:** RBI has joined Project Nexus, a multilateral international initiative to enable instant cross-border retail payments by interlinking domestic Fast Payments Systems (FPSs). Project Nexus conceptualized by the Innovation Hub of the BIS, aims to connect the FPSs of four ASEAN countries for efficiency by 2026.
- **'MITRA VAN':** The Uttar Pradesh government has unveiled a major environmental initiative called 'Mitra Van' (Friendship Forest) as part of the Vriksharopan Jan Abhiyan-2024. This project aims to enhance greenery along the borders of UP.
- **IBBI INTRODUCES DIGITAL FORMS:** IBBI has launched a set of electronic forms forms LIQ 1 to LIQ 4, covering different stages of the liquidation process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. These forms will facilitate systematic and transparent record-keeping and seamless reporting.
- **RBI PERMITS BRICKWORK RATINGS:** RBI has lifted restrictions on banks using ratings from 'Brickwork Ratings India Private Limited', two years after forbidding fresh ratings due to regulatory concerns.

● **GOVT. LAUNCHES 'NIRMAN' PORTAL:** Govt. has launched a portal "Noble Initiative for Rewarding Mains Aspirants of National Civil Services Examination (NIRMAN)". In alignment with the PM's vision "Mission Karmayogi" this is a unique Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) scheme by Coal India Limited for youth of its operating districts who have qualified the Preliminary round of UPSC examination.

● **RUSSIA BECOMES A HIGH-INCOME ECONOMY:** In its latest rankings, the World Bank has promoted the Russian economy to the top income category.

● **NABARD PARTNERS WITH ONLINE PSB LOANS LTD:** National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Online PSB Loans Limited have signed an agreement to promote financial inclusion and smoothen the process of enrolment and claim settlement under the Jan Suraksha Schemes. All 43 Regional Rural Banks onboarded on one platform through the Jan Suraksha Portal.

● **'NAMO DRONE DIDI' SCHEME:** Union Minister of Commerce & Industry has said that government is ready to promote the drone industry that has seen rapid growth in the last three years. He asserted that development of the drone ecosystem and deploying them in villages across the nation aligns with the PMs 'NAMO Drone Didi' initiative that will help empower the women in the agriculture sector.

● **OVER 42 LAKH NEW DEMAT ADDITIONS IN JUNE:** According to data from the Central Depository Service and National Securities Depository, the number of demat accounts opened in June totalled over 42.4 lakh, marking the highest account opening rate compared to 23.6 lakh a year ago. The total demat accounts now exceed 16.2 crore, reflecting a 4.24 percent increase from the previous month and a 34.66 percent rise compared to last year.

● **ICAI TO HOLD CA FIRMS ACCOUNTABLE FOR MISCONDUCT:** Delhi High Court has held that the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India's disciplinary body is empowered to proceed for misconduct even against the CA firms besides individual chartered accountants. The Court said that there was a need for enhancing and strengthening the disciplinary mechanisms against firms of Chartered Accountants.

● **GREEN-KO GETS NABFID SANCTION TO PREPAY OVERSEAS BONDS:** Renewable energy company Green-ko will prepay more than \$1 billion of dollar bonds maturing next year through funds raised from the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NABFID) to lower overseas liabilities amid higher rates abroad.

● **LIC REGAINS MARKET IN NEW BUSINESS PREMIUM:** Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has regained its market share in new business premium. Data released by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India reveals that LIC's market share had peaked to 68.25 per cent in Q3FY23, which gradually declined over subsequent quarters, with private sector insurers gaining significant market share.

● **INDIANS CAN NOW PAY VIA UPI IN QATAR:** Indians in Qatar will be able to scan a QR code and make payments via UPI as NPCI International Payments (NIPL) has signed an agreement with QNB, the largest financial institution in the Middle East and Africa, headquartered in Qatar.

● **INDIA TOPS CHINA IN REALTY COMPANIES:** India's real estate sector has surged, boasting 36 homegrown companies valued at \$1 billion or more, surpassing China in this sector. As per 2024 GROHE-Hurun India Real Estate 100 report, growth highlights the sector's robust expansion driven by urbanization, infrastructure development, and shifting consumer preferences. Leading the pack is DLF with a valuation of Rs.2 lakh crore, followed by Macrotech Developers and Adani Realty.

● **EPF INTEREST RATE OF 8.25% FOR FY 2024-25:** The Finance Ministry has approved the annual interest rate of 8.25% for provident fund deposits. The EPFO increased the interest rate to 8.25% for 2023-24 from the previous year's rate of 8.15%.

● **33 HEALTH INSURANCE CO'S JOIN NHCX:** Out of the major health insurance companies in India, at least 33 have joined the National Health Claims Exchange (NHCX). The new system aims to expedite the insurance claims process and make it more transparent, with real-time access to claims settlement status by the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India.

● **MOODY'S AFFIRMS HDFC BANK'S CREDIT RATINGS:** Moody's Ratings affirmed HDFC Bank Limited's Baa3 long term deposit ratings and baa3 Baseline Credit Assessment, maintaining a stable outlook due to India's favorable operating environment. The bank's diversified loan portfolio and profitability support its capital generation and solvency.

● **DETAILED DISCLOSURES BY COMPANIES ON DUES PENDING TO MSMEs:** The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has unveiled an updated MSME-1 Form on the MCA V3 platform, mandating all companies to report detailed information on outstanding payments owed to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). According to the latest notification, the new MSME-1 Form on MCA V3 must be submitted by all companies with payments overdue for more than 45 days to any micro or small enterprises, starting from the date of acceptance or deemed acceptance.

● **PRIORITY SECTOR STATUS:** Gold loan companies want the government to grant eligible gold loan NBFCs with 'priority sector status' and to reduce the import duty on gold. They have further stated that providing priority sector status to eligible gold loans NBFCs will be a step forward in driving financial inclusion as it majorly impacts the small borrowers whose borrowing needs are frequently less than Rs. 50,000.

● **FEE STRUCTURE FOR WHITE-LABEL ATMs:** RBI has set up a review committee to revise the fee structure for white label ATMs (WLAs) to propose a fair and sustainable model. The committee, led by Indian Banks' Association CEO Sunil Mehta, will assess current policies, ATM infrastructure, and global best practices. The interchange fee remains at Rs.17 for financial and Rs.6 for non-financial transactions.

● **OUTWARD REMITTANCES FELL UNDER LRS:** Outward remittances under the RBI's Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) declined by over 16 per cent in May 2024 from the year ago period due to the TCS.

● **TAX NET 2.0:** The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has awarded the 'Taxnet 2.0' project to M/s Bharti Airtel Ltd. for providing network connectivity, facility management services and video conferencing services to the Income Tax Department (ITD). This is a state-of-the-art technology, providing secure, reliable and seamless connectivity services and marks a significant advancement over the current Taxnet 1.0 project.

● **GENERATIVE AI-POWERED VIRTUAL RELATIONSHIP:** Bank of Baroda has launched a range of digital and technology led initiatives, including a Generative AI-powered virtual relationship manager (VRM), and credit line on UPI for real-time information about the bank's products and services.

● **CREDIT GROWTH CONTINUES TO LAG DEPOSIT GROWTH:** The RBI governor Shaktikanta Das expressed his concerns about structural changes taking place in the financial sector as a faster pace of credit growth than deposit growth potentially exposes the banking system to structural liquidity issues. Even one year after the full merger impact of HDFC with HDFC Bank, deposits growth continues to lag credit growth, as deposits rose 11.3 percent whereas credit grew by a higher rate of 14 percent year-on-year.

● **INCOME TAX CLEARANCE NOW MANDATORY TO LEAVE INDIA:** The Finance Bill, 2024 has mandated that any person domiciled in India would require an income tax clearance certificate to leave the country. This certificate confirms that the person has no unpaid taxes or has arranged to pay any outstanding amounts. The 2024 Budget also proposed removing the Rs.10 lakh penalty under sections 42 and 43 of the Black Money Act for not reporting foreign assets (other than real estate) if their total value is less than Rs.20 lakh. This change will be effective from October 1, 2024.

● **SHIRAM CAPITAL GETS RBI NOD TO LAUNCH ARC:** Chennai based Shriram Capital has received in-principle approval for its asset reconstruction company (ARC) from the RBI. The ARC will be a 100 percent subsidiary of Shriram Capital, Umesh Revankar said.

● **PSBs CHARGED RS. 2K CR IN FY24 FOR NOT KEEPING MINIMUM BALANCE:** State run banks have charged depositors Rs.2,331 crore penalty for non-maintenance quarterly or monthly average balance in FY24, the finance ministry informed the Lok Sabha. Among banks, Punjab National Bank charged the highest sum of Rs.633 crore followed by Bank of Baroda at Rs.386 crore and Indian Bank charged Rs.369 crore as penalty for non-maintenance of average monthly balance.

● **BANKS FACE BACKLOG IN DEBT RECOVERY CASES:** Banks are dealing with a massive backlog in debt recovery cases, which will take seven years to clear at the current pace. Over 2 lakh cases are pending in Debt Recovery Tribunals, which currently handle about 30,000-40,000 cases annually.

● **NON-BANK PSOs TO PREVENT CYBER SECURITY RISKS:** The RBI has issued guidelines for non-bank payment system operators (PSOs) to ensure that they are resilient in the face of existing and emerging information systems and cyber security risks. These include Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL), NPCI, Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units (BBPOUs), and Payment Aggregators (PAs), Non-bank ATM Networks, White Label ATM Operators, TReDs among others.

● **WRESTLE FOR GLORY CSR INITIATIVE:** IndusInd Bank has introduced the 'Wrestle for Glory program', a significant CSR initiative developed in partnership with the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS). This aims to support 50 promising female wrestling athletes from across India by providing them with fully-funded scholarships for coaching at IIS's premier facility.

● **SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS AGED 18-30 MOST DIGITALLY ADEPT:** According to a report by Pay-Nearby, over 65% of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) utilise some form of digital technology for their daily operations. The report also emphasised that 68% of MSMEs acknowledged the growth and beneficial impact of adopting digital technology on both their businesses and personal lives.

● **NEW CGHS CARD ONLINE:** Central government employees have to mandatorily apply for a new Central Govt. Health Scheme (CGHS) card online. A central government employee can visit [www.cghs.nic.in](http://www.cghs.nic.in) to generate a temporary reference number.

● **CHECK WILFUL DEFAULTERS IN NPA ACCOUNTS:** As per latest master direction, RBI has told banks and NBFCs to be watchful of 'wilful default' aspect in all NPA accounts with outstanding amounts of Rs. 25 lakh and above. The RBI said a lender will identify and classify a person as a 'wilful defaulter' by following a specified procedure. The evidence of wilful default will be examined by an identification committee. RBI asked banks to issue show cause notices to borrowers identified as wilful defaulters, give them a personal hearing, and provide them at least 21 days to reply.

**BANKING & FINANCIAL NEWS****●ECONOMIC SURVEY MAKES A CASE FOR FDI FROM CHINA DESPITE BAN:**

The pre-budget Economic Survey tabled by the Indian government has argued for seeking foreign direct investments (FDI) from Beijing to enhance local manufacturing and tap into the export market.

➤ This marked a departure from the country's hostile stance towards China post the 2020 Galwan clashes, leading to the ban of over 200 Chinese mobile apps like TikTok and others, and tightening of FDI rules aimed to discourage China.

➤ The recommendation in the survey comes as the US and Europe shift their sourcing away from China, suggesting it may be more effective to have Chinese companies invest in India and export products to these markets rather than importing from China.

➤ Discussing the 'China Plus One' strategy adopted by companies in recent years to reduce dependency on the country for inputs, the survey struck a pragmatic note highlighting the examples of Mexico, Vietnam and China, which it said were direct beneficiaries of the US's trade diversion from China but also displayed a rise in Chinese FDI. Therefore, the world cannot completely look past China, even as it pursues China plus one.

➤ The survey said that India has two options to benefit from the "China plus one" strategy:

- a) Integrating into China's supply chain; or
- b) Promoting FDI from China.

➤ Among these choices, focusing on FDI from China seems more promising for boosting India's exports to the US, similar to how East Asian economies did in the past. Moreover, choosing FDI as a strategy to benefit from the China plus one approach appears more advantageous than relying on trade.

➤ The survey added that this is because China is India's top import partner, and the trade deficit with China has been growing. As the US and Europe shift their immediate sourcing away from China, it is more effective to have Chinese companies invest in India and then export the products to these markets rather than importing from China, adding minimal value, and then re-exporting them.

➤ It also added a research note from the Rhodium group saying, "China's dominance over so many product categories creates, first and foremost, a risk of economic coercion, where the government restrains access to crucial inputs for political leverage."

➤ The Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran emphasized the need to re-examine India's policy regarding FDI from China, advocating for a balance between importing goods and importing capital (FDI). He highlighted examples from countries like Brazil and Turkey, which have successfully attracted foreign investments by creating a favourable environment for investors.

➤ The Economic Survey suggestions also draws from India's widening trade deficit with China despite strained relations with imports from China far outpacing exports to the country.

➤ In the fiscal year 2023-24, India's exports to China amounted to \$16.6 billion, while imports totalled \$101.7 billion, resulting in a trade deficit of \$85 billion, up from \$83 billion in FY23. Encouraging Chinese investments would not only help reduce this deficit but also foster domestic technical expertise.

➤ The Economic Survey suggested that increased FDI from China could help mitigate this imbalance and enhance India's participation in global supply chains. Currently, China ranks 22nd in terms of FDI equity inflow into India, contributing only 0.37 percent (\$2.5 billion) from April 2000 to March 2024.

➤ Most FDI in India is under the automatic approval route, but investments from countries sharing land borders with India, including China, require mandatory government approval.

**●ECONOMIC SURVEY FLAGS MIS-SELLING, CLAIMS ISSUE IN INSURANCE SECTOR:**

➤ The Economic Survey 2024 said that product mis-selling is rampant in the insurance sector and cannot be dismissed as a few rogue agents. The Economic Survey 2024 emphasised on the need for prompt and reasonable claim settlements and a lower rejection rate to boost insurance penetration.

➤ While referring to financial products mis-selling, the survey said that mis-selling and misrepresentation need acknowledgment, with firms compensating for consequential losses. This practice is important for stockbroking, fund management, banking, and insurance firms, the survey said.

➤ The IRDAI Annual Report for FY23 showed that the centralised grievance portal received over 200,000 complaints. Excluding LIC, over 50% of complaints against life insurers were about unfair business practices, often a code for misselling. For general insurers, 66% of complaints were about claims, including delays and denials.

➤ The survey said that the industry must focus on the long term to improve insurance penetration. Data for FY23 showed a decline in penetration. Overall insurance penetration in India moderated slightly to 4% in FY23, from 4.2% in FY22. During the same period, insurance penetration in the life-insurance segment declined from 3.2 % in FY22 to 3% in FY23, while it remained flat at 1% for the non-life insurance segment.

➤ While the industry has taken several steps to address this, such as implementing call recording during sales pitches to ensure customers are fully informed about the products and their terms, misselling seems to be high. The free look period has been extended from 15 to 30 days, giving customers more time to assess their needs, and the introduction of the customer information sheet (CIS) aims to facilitate more transparent and informed selling practices.

➤ Insurance and pension fund assets in India account for 19% and 5% of GDP, respectively. This contrasts with 52% and 122% in the USA, and 112% and 80% in the UK, indicating significant room for growth.

**●THRESHOLD-BASED INCENTIVES FOR MSMEs MUST HAVE SUNSET CLAUSES: SURVEY**

➤ As per the Economic Survey 2024, MSMEs are the backbone of the Indian economy, contributing approximately 30 per cent of the country's GDP, 45 per cent of manufacturing output, and providing employment to 11 crore of India's population. It says the Government of India has been proactive in boosting the growth of the MSME sector, through initiatives such as the allocation of 5 lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme for businesses, including MSMEs; equity infusion of 50,000 crore through the MSME Self-Reliant India Fund; New revised criteria for the classification of MSMEs; rollout of Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance programme with an outlay of 6,000 crores over 5 years; Launch of Udyam Assist Platform on 11-01-2023 to bring the Informal Micro Enterprises under the formal ambit for availing the benefit under Priority Sector Lending. The Survey says these initiatives have been formulated keeping in mind the key challenges the sector faces, primarily for access to timely and affordable credit.

➤ The threshold-based concessions and exemptions for the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) sector create the unintended effect of incentivising enterprises to cap their sizes below the thresholds and therefore, must have sunset clauses, the Economic Survey 2023-24 said.

➤ Noting that the MSME sector occupies the centre stage in India's economic story, the Survey adds the sector continues to face extensive regulation and compliance requirements and faces significant bottlenecks with access to affordable and timely funding being one of the core concerns.

➤ "Licensing, inspection and compliance requirements that MSMEs have to deal with, imposed particularly by sub-national governments, hold them back from growing to their potential and being job creators of substance," said the survey.

➤ The Economic Survey 2023-24 has stated that for Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs), while bridging the credit gap remains a crucial element, the focus also needs to be on deregulation, enhancing physical and digital connectivity, and putting in place an export strategy that enables MSMEs to broaden their market exposure and scale up. MSME entrepreneurs also need training in critical areas of enterprise management, such as human resource management, financial management, and technology.

#### **● RBI's FINANCIAL INCLUSION INDEX SHOWS SIGNIFICANT GROWTH:**

➤ The RBI reported a notable increase in its Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) to 64.2 in March 2024, up from 60.1 in March 2023. This growth was observed across all sub-indices, indicating a deepening of financial inclusion nationwide.

➤ The FI-Index is a comprehensive measure, ranging from 0 (complete exclusion) to 100 (full inclusion), that combines various aspects of financial inclusion into a single value.

➤ The index encompasses three key parameters: access (35%), usage (45%), and quality (20%). These are further divided into dimensions, calculated based on numerous indicators. The consistent rise in the FI-Index from 43.4 in March 2017 to 64.2 in March 2024 demonstrates the ongoing progress in financial inclusion.

➤ The FI-Index is designed as a comprehensive tool, incorporating details from banking, investments, insurance, postal services, and the pension sector. It is developed in consultation with the government and relevant regulators to ensure it reflects the ease of access, availability, usage, and quality of financial services. Additionally, a unique feature of the index is the "quality parameter," which assesses financial literacy, consumer protection, and inequalities in services.

#### **● RBI RAISES ALARM OVER FRAUDULENT ACCOUNTS AND EVERGREENING:**

➤ The Reserve Bank of India has expressed concerns regarding the misuse of internal accounts by certain banks for fraudulent activities and evergreening of loans. Deputy Governor Swaminathan highlighted the significant increase in such accounts without valid reasons, urging Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) to streamline these accounts and implement stricter controls.

➤ Swaminathan stressed the importance of CFOs maintaining the integrity of financial reporting by avoiding misinterpretations of regulations and ensuring transparent communication with top management and the Audit Committee of the Board.

#### **RBI's Expectations:**

##### **From CFOs:**

- Lead the institution towards sustainable growth and resilience.
- Maintain open and honest communication with auditors and bank supervisors.
- Ensure the integrity of financial reporting, avoiding misadventure or creative interpretation.
- Invest in technology and data analytics.

##### **From Auditors:**

- Apply rigorous audit processes to prevent divergence, under-provisioning, and non-compliance.
- Holistically assess material risks posed by businesses.
- Demand robust sustainability reporting from financial and non-financial entities.
- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has also highlighted the issue of mule accounts (illegal accounts) involved in digital frauds, stressing the importance of banks taking proactive measures to curb such activities.

#### **● FOREIGN BANKS LEAD INVESTMENT SURGE IN INDIAN BONDS AHEAD OF JP MORGAN INDEX INCLUSION:**

➤ The RBI Bulletin has highlighted that the Foreign banks have become the largest investors in Indian bonds, with their investments surpassing net inflows into index-eligible bonds.

➤ Significant contributions from some of the world's largest sovereign wealth funds have boosted their investments in India. Despite the initial inclusion, inflows have been steady rather than volatile, suggesting consistent investment activity in the coming months.

➤ Ahead of India's inclusion in JP Morgan's Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets (GBI-EM), foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have increased their holdings of Indian sovereign bonds by over \$10 billion. The inclusion process began on June 28, 2024, with Indian bonds' weight in the index increasing by 1% each month, reaching 10% by March 2025. The debt segment has continued to attract substantial FPI inflows, estimated to bring in around \$20 billion to \$40 billion within 18-21 months following the announcement. The outlook for FPI debt inflows remains positive, with expectations of India's inclusion in other global indices. Net FPI inflows up to mid-July 2024 amounted to approximately \$3 bn.

➤ Since June 1, FPIs have significantly boosted their investments in India's debt segment, injecting Rs 26,251 crore. Foreign banks alone have purchased over \$6 billion worth of debt during this period. Indian government securities under the fully accessible route (FAR) have seen particularly strong inflows, with Rs 23,351 crore invested.

#### **● SHARE OF LOW-COST CASA DEPOSITS HAS LARGELY BOTTOMED OUT: RBI BULLETIN:**

➤ According to the Reserve Bank of India, banks are likely to experience a squeeze on their net margins and will need to reprice their deposit books. The share of low-cost current and savings deposits (CASA) has declined steadily, reaching 39- 40%, down from about 44% in 2021-22, as noted in the RBI's latest monthly bulletin.

➤ To address funding needs, banks increased their mobilisation of funds through certificates of deposits (CDs) in June, particularly ahead of the quarter's end. Mutual funds played a key role in providing these funds. The issuance of CDs gained momentum in May-June after a lull in April, with banks issuing CDs worth Rs.2.65 lakh crore during 2024-25 (up to June 28), compared to Rs.1.45 lakh crore in the same period the previous year. The decline in short-term rates in June further prompted banks to increase CD issuances.

➤ Similarly, commercial papers (CPs) issuance reached Rs.3.8 lakh crore during 2024-25 (up to June 30), mirroring activity from the previous year.

➤ Scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) saw a decline in credit growth from 15.5% in the previous fortnight to 13.9% as of June 28, 2024. Despite the withdrawal of Rs.2,000 banknotes boosting deposit growth, it has remained in double digits since April 2023. As of June 28, 2024, the system-level incremental credit deposit ratio was 101%, with approximately 77% of deposits available for credit expansion after meeting statutory requirements for cash reserve ratio (CRR) and statutory liquidity ratio (SLR).

#### **● SHIFT IN HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS: CAPITAL MARKETS OVER TRADITIONAL BANKS.**

➤ The RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das speaking at the FE Modern BFSI Summit 2024, highlighted a notable shift in household savings preferences from traditional banks to capital markets. This change reflects a broadening of investment choices to include mutual funds and other financial intermediaries.

➤ Historically, households primarily relied on banks for savings deposits. However, Das noted an increasing trend towards investing in capital markets and financial intermediaries. While bank deposits still constitute a major portion of household financial

assets, their share is declining as more households allocate savings to mutual funds, insurance funds, and pension funds. This shift has significant implications for the banking sector.

➤ The Governor emphasized the need for banks to explore new methods to manage the gap between credit and deposits. Banks have been compensating for this gap by relying more on short-term borrowings and certificates of deposit, increasing their sensitivity to interest rate changes and posing challenges to liquidity management.

➤ Das also pointed out the transition from CASA (Current Account Saving Account) deposits and urged banks to adapt by refining credit underwriting standards and risk pricing to maintain stability and profitability. He referenced past global banking crises, such as those in the US and Switzerland in 2023, which highlighted vulnerabilities in certain banking business models. Governor Das concluded by stressing the importance of learning from these crises to enhance the resilience of the banking sector.

#### ●**NARCL TO ACQUIRE ADDITIONAL Rs. 1.25 LAKH CORE IN NPAs:**

➤ The government-backed National Asset Reconstruction Co Ltd (NARCL) has proposed to acquire an additional Rs. 1.25 lakh crore of non-performing assets (NPAs) from banks, with offers at various stages of due diligence and evaluation, as noted in the pre-budget economic survey for 2023-24 by the finance ministry. This follows the acquisition of 18 accounts, totaling Rs. 92,000 crore in banking loan exposure, including distressed NBFCs Srei Infrastructure Finance Ltd and Srei Equipment Finance Ltd.

➤ Currently, offers on assets worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore are progressing through various acquisition stages, while due diligence and evaluations for assets worth approximately Rs. 40,000 crore are ongoing.

➤ The establishment of NARCL, a government backed entity for aggregating and resolving distressed assets, is expected to enhance market liquidity and competition. Operational since January 2022, NARCL acquires bad loans from banks by paying 15% of the amount in cash and the remainder in security receipts (SRs), which are to be matched with recovery over time. These SRs, guaranteed by the government and valid for five years, are invoked by banks in case of resolution or liquidation of the bad loan. This guarantee, covering the shortfall between the face value of SRs and actual realization, is the main advantage of the government backed bad bank.

#### ●**EU's CARBON TAX MECHANISM EXPECTED TO COST INDIA 0.05% OF GDP:**

➤ The European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will impose additional 25 per cent tax on energy intensive goods exported from India to the EU. This tax burden would represent 0.05 per cent of India's GDP, according to the report titled "The Global South's response to a changing trade regime in the era of climate change" by independent think tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

➤ CBAM is the EU's proposed tax on energy-intensive products, such as iron, steel, cement, fertilizers, and aluminum, imported from countries like India and China. The tax is based on the carbon emissions generated during the production of these goods. The EU argues that this mechanism creates a level playing field for domestically manufactured goods, which must adhere to stricter environmental standards, and helps reduce emissions from imports.

#### ●**IMPACT OF IBC ON REDUCING NPAs AND RESCUING CORPORATE DEBTORS:**

➤ The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) has proven to be an effective mechanism for alleviating banking stress by significantly reducing gross nonperforming assets (GNPAs) and aiding in the recovery of failing corporate debtors, according to the economic survey. It has invigorated the recovery segment of

financial markets and facilitated the reconstruction of distressed assets.

➤ Since its implementation in 2016, the IBC has addressed 31,394 corporate debtors, involving a value of Rs 13.9 trillion, as of March 2024. This includes pre-admission case disposals. The loss of control post-admission into the resolution process has encouraged debtors to settle with creditors early, with Rs 10.2 trillion of underlying defaults being resolved at the pre-admission stage.

➤ As of March 2024, 4,131 corporate insolvency resolution processes (CIRPs) have been successfully closed. Of these, 3,171 corporate debtors were rescued, with 947 cases resolved through approved resolution plans, yielding a realizable value of Rs 3.36 trillion. Creditors recovered approximately 32% of their claims, equating to 85% of the fair value and 162% of the liquidation value of assets.

➤ Additionally, 2,476 CIRPs ended in liquidation, with 77% of these debtors being defunct at the start of the process, valued at 7% of the outstanding debt. The IBC's influence on financial market health is notable, being the primary recovery route for scheduled commercial banks (SCBs).

#### ●**PSBs CHARGED RS 2K CR IN FY24 FOR NOT KEEPING MINIMUM BALANCE:**

➤ State run banks have charged depositors Rs.2,331 crore penalty for nonmaintenance quarterly or monthly average balance in FY24, the minister of state in the finance ministry, Pankaj Chaudhary informed the Lok Sabha. Among lenders, Punjab National Bank charged the highest sum of Rs.633 crore followed by Bank of Baroda at Rs.386 crore for non-maintenance quarterly balance.

➤ In reply to another question, the finance ministry stated that availability of banking outlets is monitored by a Geographic Information System (GIS) based App., namely, Jan Dhan Darshak (JDD) App and out of the 6,01,328 inhabited villages mapped on this App, 6,00,458 villages (99.85%) are covered with banking outlets within a radius of 5 kms.

#### ●**NCLT ORDERS LIQUIDATION OF FUTURE RETAIL AS RESOLUTION PROCESS FAILS:**

➤ Future Retail, the flagship firm of Kishore Biyani's Future Group, will cease to exist as the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has ordered its liquidation to pay off dues exceeding Rs 17,000 crore to lenders. A bench led by Justice Kuldip Kumar Kareer said that the maximum period of the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) had expired without any resolution plan being approved by the Committee of Creditors (CoC).

➤ This order concludes the legacy of Future Retail, founded by Biyani over 35 years ago, which included some of India's most popular retail chains such as Big Bazaar, Foodhall and fbb.

#### ●**GLOBAL DISRUPTION: MICROSOFT OUTAGE GROUNDS FLIGHTS, HITS BANKS:**

➤ A widespread outage severely disrupted services for millions of people and businesses worldwide, prompting concerns about the risks associated with centralized control of technology in the hands of a few players. The outage, which crippled systems running on the Microsoft Windows platform, knocked several banks offline, grounded airlines, hit stock trading operations and pushed many media outlets off air across the globe, including India. Microsoft blamed a content update by its cybersecurity partner CrowdStrike for the global outage.

➤ In India, delays and disruption were the order of the day at airports, banks, hospitals. The Reserve Bank of India issued an advisory asking banks to take necessary steps to ensure operational resilience and continuity.

●**SOURCE: RBI / GOVT. NOTIFICATIONS, BUSINESS STANDARD, ECONOMIC TIMES, FINANCIAL EXPRESS, LIVEMENT ETC.**

**UNION BUDGET 2024-25**

**(BRAIN STORMING)**

1) As per the Union Budget 2024-25, which is not the focus of the budget:

- a) Employment                      b) Skilling  
c) MSMEs                              d) Kisan                              e) Middle class.

2) The Budget 2024-25 has identified nine budget priorities in pursuit of 'Viksit Bharat'. Which of the following is not a part of the priority identified?

- a) Productivity and resilience in Agriculture  
b) Employment & Skilling  
c) Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice  
d) Manufacturing & Services  
e) Urban Development  
f) Old Generation Reforms  
g) Infrastructure  
h) Innovation, Research & Development  
i) Energy Security

3) The Budget announced the revised fiscal deficit target for 2024-25 at \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the GDP - lower than the 5.1 percent announced in the interim budget. The government aims to reduce the fiscal deficit to \_\_\_\_\_ per cent or lower by FY 2025-26.

- a) 4.9 ; 4.3                      b) 4.9 ; 4.5                      c) 4.6 ; 4.5                      d) 4.6 ; 4.2

4) As per the Budget 2024-25, Inflation continues to be low, stable and moving towards the \_\_\_\_\_ % target; Core inflation (non-food, non-fuel) at \_\_\_\_\_ %.

- a) 4.5; 4.0                      b) 4.3 ; 4.0                      c) 4 ; 3.5                      d) 4 ; 3.1

5) Which of the following is not part of the Prime Minister's package, for 'Employment Linked Incentive' to be implemented as per the Budget 2024-25?

- a) Scheme A - First Timers  
b) Scheme B - Job Creation in manufacturing;  
c) Scheme C - Support to employers.  
d) Scheme D - Job for skilled workers

6) As per Budget for 2024-25, \_\_\_\_\_ (3.4 % of GDP) to be provided for infrastructure investment by Central Government.

- a) Rs.11,11,100 crore                      b) Rs.11,11,111 crore  
c) Rs.11,11,200 crore                      d) Rs.11,11,211 crore

7) Prime Minister's Package of 5 Schemes and Initiatives for employment, skilling and other opportunities is applicable for \_\_\_\_\_ crore youth over a 5 year period.

- a) 4.1                      b) 4.2                      c) 4.4                      d) 4.5

8) Under PM's Package, as per Scheme A (First Timers), one month salary up to \_\_\_\_\_ to be provided in 3 installments to first-time employees, as registered in the EPFO.

- a) Rs.12000                      b) Rs.15000                      c) Rs.18000                      d) Rs.20000

9) Under PM's Package, as per 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 \_\_\_\_\_ years of employment.

- a) 2                      b) 3                      c) 4                      d) 5

10) Under PM's Package, as per Scheme C (Support to employers), Government to reimburse up to \_\_\_\_\_ per month for 2 years towards EPFO contribution of employers, for each additional employee.

- a) Rs.3000                      b) Rs.4000                      c) Rs.5000                      d) Rs.6000

11) Under PM's Package, as per 'New centrally sponsored scheme for Skilling', \_\_\_\_\_ lakh youth to be skilled over a 5-year period and \_\_\_\_\_ Industrial Training Institutes to be upgraded in hub and spoke arrangements.

- a) 15; 1000                      b) 20; 1000                      c) 25; 2000                      d) 30; 2000

12) Under PM's Package, 'New Scheme for Internship in 500 Top Companies', to be provided to \_\_\_\_\_ crore youth in 5 years.

- a) 1                      b) 2                      c) 3                      d) 5

13) As per Budget for 2024-25, financial support to set up \_\_\_\_\_ multi-product food irradiation units in the MSME sector will be provided.

- a) 40                      b) 50                      c) 60                      d) 80

14) As per Budget for 2024-25, \_\_\_\_\_ crore farmers across the country to be initiated into natural farming, with certification and branding in next 2 years.

- a) 1                      b) 1.2                      c) 1.3                      d) 1.5

15) As per Budget for 2024-25, \_\_\_\_\_ need-based bio-input resource centres to be established for natural farming.

- a) Rs.5000                      b) Rs.8000                      c) Rs.10000                      d) Rs.15000

16) As per Budget for 2024-25, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Agriculture to be implemented for coverage of farmers and their lands in \_\_\_\_\_ years

- a) 3                      b) 4                      c) 5                      d) 6

17) As per Budget for 2024-25, Model Skill Loan Scheme to be revised to facilitate loans up to Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ lakh.

- a) 6                      b) 7.5                      c) 8                      d) 10

18) As per Budget for 2024-25, financial support for loans upto Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

- a) 5                      b) 7.5                      c) 10                      d) 15

19) As per Budget for 2024-25, Industrial node at \_\_\_\_\_ to be developed along the Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor.

- a) Bhagalpur                      b) Patna                      c) Ranchi                      d) Gaya

20) As per Budget for 2024-25, Power projects, including new 2400 MW power plant at \_\_\_\_\_ taken up at a cost of Rs.21400 crore.

- a) Pirpainti                      b) Bhagalpur                      c) Patna                      d) Ranchi

21) As per Budget for 2024-25 and Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act; special financial support of \_\_\_\_\_ has been provided to A.P. through multilateral development agencies in the current financial year.

- a) Rs.12000 crore                      b) Rs.15000 crore  
c) Rs.18000 crore                      d) Rs.20000 crore

22) Under Budget for the year 2024-25, more than Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ lakh crore has been allocated for schemes benefitting women and girls.

- a) 23                      b) 4                      c) 5                      d) 6

23) As per Budget for 2024-25, under 'Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan'; \_\_\_\_\_ villages have been covered for Socio-economic development of tribal families in tribal-majority villages and aspirational districts, benefitting \_\_\_\_\_ crore tribal people.

- a) 60000;4                      b) 63000;5                      c) 65000;6                      d) 68000;8

24) As per Budget for 2024-25, \_\_\_\_\_ branches of India Post Payment Bank to be set up in the North East region.

- a) 75                      b) 80                      c) 100                      d) 200

25) As per Budget for 2024-25, a credit guarantee scheme without collateral or third-party guarantee will be launched in term loans to \_\_\_\_\_ for purchase of machinery and equipment.

- a) MSMEs                      b) Retailers                      c) Agriculturists                      d) None

26) As per Budget for 2024-25, new mechanism is to be launched to facilitate continuation of bank credit to MSMEs during their \_\_\_\_\_ period.

- a) Burden                      b) Stress                      c) Cooling                      d) None

27) As per Budget for 2024-25, limit of Mudra loans under 'Tarun' category to be enhanced to Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ lakh from Rs.10 lakh for those who have successfully repaid previous loans.

- a) 12                      b) 15                      c) 20                      d) 25

28) As per Budget for 2024-25, turnover threshold of buyers for mandatory on boarding on the TReDS platform to be reduced from Rs.500 crore to Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ crore.

- a) 250                      b) 300                      c) 350                      d) 400

29) Under Budget for the year 2024-25, Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ lakh crore has been allocated for agriculture and allied sectors.

- a) 1.50                      b) 1.52                      c) 1.54                      d) 1.56

30) As per Budget, \_\_\_\_\_ to be set up under public-private-partnership (PPP) mode for MSMEs and traditional artisans to sell their products in international markets.

- a) E-Commerce Export Houses                      b) E-Commercial Export Hubs  
c) E-Commerce Export Hubs                      d) None



31) As per Budget for 2024-25 and Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act; Industrial node at \_\_\_\_\_ along Vishakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor and at Orvakal along Hyderabad-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor.

- a) Kakinada    b) Gannavaram    c) Yerpedu    d) Kopparthi

32) As per Budget for 2024-25, auction of the \_\_\_\_\_ tranche of offshore blocks for mining, building on the exploration already carried out.

- a) Third    b) Second    c) First    d) None

33) Development of \_\_\_\_\_ applications to be made in the areas of credit, e-commerce, education, health, law and justice, logistics, MSME, services delivery, and urban governance.

- a) Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)  
b) Digit Public Infrastructure (DPI)  
c) Digital Public Infra (DPI)    d) None

34) As per Budget for 2024-25, formulation of transit oriented development plans and strategies to be implemented and financed in \_\_\_\_\_ large cities above \_\_\_\_\_ lakh population.

- a) 12; 25    b) 14; 30    c) 16; 35    d) 18; 40

35) As per Budget for 2024-25, investment of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ lakh crore, including the central assistance of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ lakh crore to be made 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.

- a) 7; 1.5    b) 8; 2    c) 10; 2.2    d) 12; 2.5

36) As per Budget for 2024-25, new scheme to be launched to support the development of \_\_\_\_\_ weekly 'haats' or street food hubs every year for the next 5 years in select cities.

- a) 50    b) 60    c) 80    d) 100

37) As per Budget for 2024-25, policy document on \_\_\_\_\_ to balance the imperatives of employment, growth and environmental sustainability to be brought out.

- a) 'Energy Transition Pathways'  
b) 'Energy Transformation Pathways'  
c) 'Energy Transition Passageway'  
d) 'Efficiency Transition Pathways'

38) As per Budget for 2024-25, policy for promoting \_\_\_\_\_ projects for electricity storage to be brought out.

- a) Purged storage    b) Pumped storage  
c) Pumped hydropower storage    d) None

39) As per Budget for 2024-25, Government to partner with private sector for Research and development (R&D) of Bharat Small Modular Reactor and newer technologies for nuclear energy, and to set up:

- a) Bharat Reactors    b) Bharat Big Reactors  
c) Bharat Small Reactors    d) None

40) As per Budget for 2024-25, joint venture proposed between NTPC and BHEL to set up a full scale \_\_\_\_\_ MW commercial plant using Advanced Ultra Super Critical (AUSC) technology.

- a) 650    b) 700    c) 750    d) 800

41) As per Budget for 2024-25, industries appropriate regulations for transition of 'hard to abate' industries from the current 'Perform, Achieve and Trade' mode to \_\_\_\_\_ mode to be put in place.

- a) 'Indian Carbon Market'    b) 'Indian Coal Market'  
c) 'Indian Coke Market'    d) None

42) As per Budget for 2024-25, \_\_\_\_\_ to be set up for domestic production, recycling of critical minerals, and overseas acquisition of critical mineral assets.

- a) Critical Mineral Mission    b) Critical Mines Mission  
c) Critic Mineral Mission    d) None

43) As per Budget for 2024-25, Provision of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ lakh crore for long-term interest free loans to support states in infrastructure investment.

- a) 1    b) 1.25    c) 1.5    d) 2

44) As per Budget for 2024-25, launch of phase IV of PradhanMantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to provide all-weather connectivity to \_\_\_\_\_ rural habitation

- a) 10000    b) 15000    c) 20000    d) 25000

45) As per Budget for 2024-25, financial support of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ crore to be provided for irrigation and flood mitigation in Bihar.

- a) 11500    b) 12500    c) 15000    d) 20000

46) As per Budget for 2024-25, Government to provide assistance to \_\_\_\_\_ for floods, landslides and other related projects.

- a) Assam    b) Himachal Pradesh    c) Uttarakhand    d) Sikkim    e) All

47) As per Budget for 2024-25, comprehensive development of \_\_\_\_\_ will take place.

- a) Vishnupad Temple Corridor    b) Mahabodhi Temple Corridor  
c) Rajgir    d) All of these

48) As per Budget for 2024-25, assistance will be given for development of temples, monuments, craftsmanship, wildlife sanctuaries, natural landscapes and pristine beaches of:

- a) Kerala    b) Odisha    c) Tamilnadu    d) Andhra Pradesh

49) As per Budget for 2024-25, \_\_\_\_\_ National Research Fund for basic research and prototype development to be operationalised.

- a) Shodh    b) Anveshan    c) Anusandhan    d) None

50) As per Budget for 2024-25, financing pool of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ lakh crore will be prepared for spurring private sector-driven research and innovation at commercial scale.

- a) 1    b) 1.5    c) 2    d) 2.5

51) As per Budget for 2024-25, venture capital fund of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ crore to be set up for expanding the space economy by 5 times in the next 10 years.

- a) 500    b) 1000    c) 2000    d) 2500

52) As per Budget for 2024-25, following action relating to rural land will be undertaken:

- a) Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) or Bhuaadhaar for all lands  
b) Digitization of cadastral maps  
c) Survey of map sub-divisions as per current ownership  
d) Establishment of land registry  
e) Linking to the farmers registryf) All of the above

53) As per Budget for 2024-25, land records in urban areas to be digitized with \_\_\_\_\_ mapping.

- a) Geography Information System (GIS)  
b) Geographic Informative System (GIS)  
c) Geographic Information System (GIS)d) None

54) As per Budget, integration of \_\_\_\_\_ portal will be done with other portals to facilitate such one-stop solution.

- a) e-shram    b) e-prishram    c) e-mehanat    d) e-mashakat

55) As per Budget for 2024-25, Open architecture databases will be provided for:

- a) Rapidly changing labour market    b) Skill requirements  
c) Available job roles    d) All of these

56) As per Budget for 2024-25, \_\_\_\_\_ as a plan for contribution by parents and guardians for minors will be launched.

- a) NPS-Preeti    b) NPS-Pranay    c) NPS-Vatsalya    d) None

57) As per Budget for 2024-25, customs duties on gold and silver reduced to \_\_\_\_\_ per cent and that on platinum to \_\_\_\_\_ %.

- a) 6; 6.4    b) 6.2; 6.5    c) 6.3; 6.6    d) 6.5; 6.7

58) As per Budget for 2024-25, direct taxes, assessment can be reopened beyond three years upto five years from the end of Assessment Year only if the escaped income is Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ lakh or more.

- a) 40    b) 50    c) 60    d) 80

59) As per Budget, long term gains on all financial and non-financial assets to attract a tax rate of \_\_\_\_\_ per cent.

- a) 11.5    b) 12    c) 12.5    d) 15

60) As per Budget for 2024-25, corporate tax rate on foreign companies reduced from 40 to \_\_\_\_\_ per cent.

- a) 25    b) 30    c) 32    d) 35

61) Credit Guarantee Scheme and term loans for machinery purchase, technology support package for Ministry of MSMEs are focused on providing internship opportunities in top \_\_\_\_\_ companies to \_\_\_\_\_ crore youth in 5 years.

- a) 500; 1    b) 550; 1.5    c) 600; 2    d) 650; 2.5

- 62) As per Budget for 2024-25, Security Transactions Tax on futures and options of securities increased to \_\_\_ per cent and \_\_\_ per cent respectively.  
 a) 0.02; 0.1    b) 0.03; 0.15    c) 0.04; 0.2    d) 0.05; 0.25
- 63) As per Budget for 2024-25, deduction of expenditure by employers towards NPS to be increased from 10 to \_\_\_ per cent of the employee's salary.  
 a) 12    b) 14    c) 15    d) 16
- 64) As per Budget for 2024-25, equalization levy of \_\_\_ per cent withdrawn from August 1, 2024.  
 a) 4    b) 3    c) 2    d) 1
- 65) As per Budget for 2024-25, standard deduction for salaried employees increased from Rs.50,000 to Rs. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a) 75,000    b) 80,000    c) 85,000    d) 90,000
- 66) As per Budget for 2024-25, deduction on family pension for pensioners enhanced from Rs.15,000/- to Rs. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a) 20,000    b) 25,000    c) 30,000    d) 40,000
- 67) The government has estimated a nominal GDP growth rate of \_\_\_% in 2024-25 (i.e., real growth plus inflation).  
 a) 9.5    b) 10    c) 10.5    d) 11
- 68) 'Direct Tax \_\_\_\_\_ Scheme, 2024' will be introduced for settlement of tax related disputes which provides for leniency in payment of disputed interest or penalty on the tax amount.  
 a) Vivad Se Vishwas    b) Vamatya Se Vishwas  
 c) Takrar Se Vishwas    d) Matbhed Se Vishwas
- 69) As per Budget for 2024-25, penalty will not apply for not declaring movable assets up to Rs. \_\_\_ lakh held abroad.  
 a) 15    b) 20    c) 25    d) 30
- 70) As per Budget for 2024-25, MGNREGS has the highest allocation in 2024-25 at Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ crore  
 a) 80000    b) 85000    c) 86000    d) 90000
- 71) As per Budget for 2024-25, PradhanMantri Awas Yojana has allocation at Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ crore, an increase of 56.5% over the revised estimate of 2023-24.  
 a) 84000    b) 84200    c) 84500    d) 84671
- 72) As per Budget for 2024-25, JalJeevan Mission has the allocation at Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ crore, an increase of 0.2% over the revised estimate of 2023-24.  
 a) 70163    b) 70165    c) 70200    d) 70500
- 73) This year the outlay for infrastructure e.g., roads, highways, bridges, railways, ports, etc., marked a rise of \_\_\_ from last year.  
 a) 10%    b) 10.5%    c) 11%    d) 11.5%
- 74) As per the Budget 2024-25, the New Innovation Fund includes \_\_\_ year interest-free loan, long-term financing or refinancing with long tenures with low or nil interest rates to encourage the private sector to scale up research and innovations "significantly in sunrise domains".  
 a) 30    b) 40    c) 45    d) 50
- 75) To achieve the mission of 'Viksit Bharat', the Budget 2024-25 has proposed sustained efforts on \_\_\_ priority areas for driving the economy forward through policy continuity and fiscal consolidation.  
 a) 7    b) 8    c) 9    d) 10
- 76) The Budget has provided for allowance of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ per month along with a one-time assistance of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ through the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds under the Credit guarantee scheme and term loans for machinery purchase, technology support package for MSMEs:  
 a) 4000;5000    b) 5000;6000    c) 6000;7000    d) 7000;8000
- 77) Under PradhanMantri Mudra Yojana, in the Tarun category, the government has increased the limit to Rs. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a) 30 lakh    b) 25 lakh    c) 20 lakh    d) 15 lakh.
- 78) As a proportion of GDP, the current account deficit (CAD) dipped sharply from 2% in FY23 to \_\_\_ in FY24.  
 a) 0.6%    b) 0.7%    c) 0.8%    d) 0.9%
- 79) As per Budget, customs duty on mobiles, chargers, and accessories has been reduced to \_\_\_\_\_. Customs duties on 25 critical minerals have been fully removed, and duties on shrimp and fish feed have been lowered to 5%.  
 a) 12%    b) 14%    c) 15%    d) 20%

**ECONOMIC SURVEY: 2023-24**

- 1) The Economics Division of the Department of Economic Affairs creates a report with guidance of the \_\_\_\_\_ and same is published and presented by FM in the Parliament, a day before the Union Budget.  
 a) Chief Economic Advisor    b) Chief Accounts Officer  
 c) Chief Audit Officer    d) None
- 2) Which of the following is not among six key areas in AmritKaaland focused in the Economic Survey 2023-24?  
 a) Boost Private Investment    b) Expansion of MSMEs  
 c) Agriculture as Growth Engine    d) Financing Green Transition  
 e) Bridging Education Employment Gap  
 f) Capacity Building
- 3) India has positioned itself as the world's third largest fintech economy, trailing USA and \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a) Japan    b) China    c) U.K.    d) Germany
- 4) India has surpassed Hong Kong to claim the \_\_\_ spot in global stock markets.  
 a) 4<sup>th</sup>    b) 3<sup>rd</sup>    c) 2<sup>nd</sup>    d) None
- 5) To improve the precision and relevance of economic data, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has begun updating the base year for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from 2012 to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a) 2022    b) 2023    c) 2024    d) None
- 6) As per Economic Survey 2023-24, against the global trend of widening fiscal deficit and increasing debt burden, India has remained on the course of fiscal consolidation. Fiscal deficit of the Government has been brought down from 6.4 per cent of GDP in FY23 to \_\_\_\_\_ of GDP in FY24.  
 a) 5.8%    b) 5.7%    c) 5.6%    d) 5.5%,
- 7) As per Economic Survey 2023-24, the reduction in fiscal deficit was driven by robust growth in direct and indirect tax revenues. \_\_\_% of tax collected accrued from direct taxes and remaining \_\_\_% from indirect taxes.  
 a) 55; 45    b) 56; 44    c) 57; 43    d) 58; 42
- 8) Indian microfinance sector emerges as the second largest in the world after:  
 a) China    b) USA    c) UK    d) France
- 9) The exports (merchandise and services) in FY24 grew by \_\_\_, while the total imports declined by \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a) 0.15%; 4.9%    b) 0.16%; 5.0%    c) 0.17%; 5.1%    d) 0.18%; 5.2%
- 10) Out of 139 countries, India's rank in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index has been improved by six places, from \_\_\_ in 2018 to \_\_\_ in 2023.  
 a) 45<sup>th</sup>; 39<sup>th</sup>    b) 44<sup>th</sup>; 38<sup>th</sup>    c) 43<sup>rd</sup>; 37<sup>th</sup>    d) 42<sup>nd</sup>; 36<sup>th</sup>
- 11) India is gaining market share in global exports of goods and services. Its share in global goods exports was \_\_\_ in FY24, against an average of 1.7 % during FY16- FY20.  
 a) 1.8%    b) 1.9%    c) 1.10%    d) 1.11%,

**ANSWER KEY**

1	D	2	F	3	B	4	D	5	D
6	B	7	A	8	B	9	C	10	A
11	B	12	A	13	B	14	A	15	C
16	A	17	B	18	C	19	D	20	A
21	B	22	A	23	B	24	C	25	A
26	B	27	C	28	A	29	B	30	C
31	D	32	C	33	A	34	B	35	C
36	D	37	A	38	B	39	C	40	D
41	A	42	A	43	C	44	D	45	A
46	E	47	D	48	B	49	C	50	A
51	B	52	F	53	C	54	A	55	D
56	C	57	A	58	B	59	C	60	D
61	A	62	A	63	B	64	C	65	A
66	B	67	C	68	A	69	B	70	C
71	D	72	A	73	C	74	D	75	C
76	B	77	C	78	B	79	C		

**ECONOMIC SURVEY: 2023-24**

1	A	2	F	3	C	4	A	5	C
6	C	7	A	8	A	9	A	10	B
11	A								

**RECOLLECTED QUESTIONS**

**UNION BANK OF INDIA – (SCALE 4 TO 5 ON 15-10-23)**

- Money Laundering monitoring agency: **The primary legal authority responsible for investigating and prosecuting money laundering offences under the PMLA at the national level is the Directorate of Enforcement (“ED”), under the aegis of the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.**
- RBI App: **MANI - for visually impaired to identify the denomination of Indian banknotes of Mahatma Gandhi Series and Mahatma Gandhi (New) series by capturing the image of the notes placed in front of rear mobile camera.**
- Priority sector housing loan in Metro: **Loans to individuals up to Rs.35 lakh in metropolitan centres (with population of ten lakh and above) and up to Rs.25 lakh in other centres for purchase/construction of a dwelling unit per family provided the overall cost of the dwelling unit in the metropolitan centre and at other centres.**
- Loan to Food & Agro processing under Priority Sector: **Upto an aggregate sanctioned limit of Rs.100 crore per borrower from the banking system.**
- What is the full form of CAPTCHA: **Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart.**
- Start-ups for MSME under Priority Sector: **Loans up to Rs.50 crore to Start-ups, as per definition of Ministry of Commerce and Industry, that confirm to the definition of MSME.**
- Small Enterprise cut off limit under Priority Sector: **An enterprise, where the investment in plant and machinery or equipment does not exceed ten crore rupees and turnover does not exceed fifty crore rupees.**
- Priority sector Agricultural target: **18% of ANBC or CEOBE, whichever is higher; out of which a target of 10% is prescribed for Small and Marginal Farmers (2023-24).**
- Cloud computing: **Cloud computing is the on-demand availability of computer system resources, especially data storage (cloud storage) and computing power, without direct active management by the user.**
- Tax saver Fixed Deposit: **Minimum Amount Rs. 100 and in Multiples of Rs. 100; Maximum amount – Rs. 1.5 Lakhs (in a FY); Tenure – 5 Years (lock-in); Can be booked with monthly and quarterly payout; Tax benefit under 80C will be available only to the first holder of the deposit.**
- A Non-Callable deposit: **Deposits for a period of 46 days and above and cannot be closed before maturity. Bank offer additional interest rate above the rate as applicable to general Public for callable deposits.**
- Resident Indian individuals are permitted to freely remit up to USD \_\_\_\_\_ per financial year (over all limit) for any current or capital a/c transactions or a combination of both: **2,50,000.**
- Full form of RAROC: **Risk Adjusted Return on Capital.**
- Under Agri clinic / Agri business centre scheme the outer ceiling for the cost of project by individuals is Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ lac and for joint / group projects, the ceiling is Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ lakh, pro-rata: **20; 100.**
- As per second method of lending of Tandon/Chore committee 25% margin is of \_\_\_\_\_: **total current assets.**
- RBI introduced the Lead Bank scheme on recommendation of which committee: **Nariman Committee**
- Borrowers' including Special Mention Accounts (SMA 0, 1 & 2) with credit exposures having aggregate fund-based and non-fund based exposure of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ have to be reported on CRILC platform: **50 million and above.**
- Bank has given Overdraft to a customer. The account has become NPA. In the meantime while the FDR of the customer has matured. Which right bank can exercise to adjust the overdraft: **Right of Set Off.**

- The RBI has established the Centralised Receipt and Processing Centre (CRPC) at \_\_\_\_\_ to receive the complaints filed under the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme and process them. The complaints under the Scheme made online shall be registered on the portal (<https://cms.rbi.org.in>): **Chandigarh.**
- As a part of their ongoing due diligence on bank accounts, banks are required to periodically update KYC records. KYC is required to be done at least every two years for High Risk customer; at least every eight years for Medium Risk customer and every \_\_\_\_\_ years for Low Risk customers: **ten.**
- Debt Equity ratio, Total Indebtedness ratio and Debt Service coverage ratio are: **Solvency ratios.**
- Under Integrated Ombudsman scheme, the Ombudsman shall have the power to provide a compensation up to Rupees \_\_\_\_\_ lakh, in addition to, up to Rs. One lakh for the loss of the complainant's time, expenses incurred and for harassment and anguish suffered: **Twenty.**
- Statutory Liquidity Ratio is defined in \_\_\_\_\_ section and \_\_\_\_\_ Act: **Sec 24 of Banking Regulation Act**
- The Capital Conservation Buffer (CCB) is designed to ensure that banks build up capital buffers during normal times (i.e., outside periods of stress) which can be drawn down as losses are incurred during a stressed period. With effect from October 1, 2021, the CCB is \_\_\_\_\_: **2.50%**
- RBI has asked bank customers to update their KYC by furnishing a fresh KYC or re-KYC. Customers can furnish updated or revised addresses through non-face-to-face channels when there is only an address change. The banks must undertake the verification of the updated addresses within \_\_\_\_\_ months of submission of the revised address: **two.**
- Fraud reporting to FIU: **7<sup>th</sup> of succeeding month.**
- For cases of detection of counterfeit notes of \_\_\_\_\_ or more pieces, in a single transaction, FIRs should be lodged with the Nodal Police Station / Police Authorities. A copy of the FIR shall be sent to the Forged (Counterfeit) Banknote Vigilance Cell at the HO of the bank: **Five.**
- PM SVANidhi has been formulated by \_\_\_\_\_. The scheme has been extended from March 2022 to December 2024.: **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.**
- The Branch level Customer service committee meetings should be held on: **15th every month**
- The Commission payable to banks on Govt. transactions is \_\_\_\_\_ in case of Receipts in physical mode and \_\_\_\_\_ in case of e-mode: **Rs. 40 and Rs. 9**
- Digital Payment Index: **RBI on July 27, 2023 published the Digital Payment Index (DPI) for March 2023. The index stood at 395.57. (LATEST is 445.50 for March 2024)**
- What is the full form of GAAP: **Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.**
- Family in case of PM Vishwakarma Scheme includes: **Husband, Wife and Unmarried children.**
- Margin requirement in case of PMEGP loans for general and special categories: **10% and 5% respectively.**
- What are the Panchasutra under NRLM: **Regular meetings, regular savings, regular internal lending, regular recoveries and maintenance of proper books of accounts.**
- As per the criteria of classification of housing loans under Priority Sector Lending guidelines, what is the definition of a metro center: **City with population of 10 Lakh and above)**
- Nomination is defined under which act/section: **Section 45 ZA to ZF of Banking Regulation Act.**
- What is the method for Working Capital Assessment in case of seasonal industries: **Cash Budget Method**
- Risk arising out of mismatch in maturity pattern in assets and liability is: \_\_\_\_\_. To deal with this risk RBI has provided the framework of \_\_\_\_\_: **Liquidity Risk; ALM framework.**

**LATEST GENERAL KNOWLEDGE**

- The Reserve Bank of India has appointed \_\_\_\_\_ as Executive Director from July 1, 2024: **Smt. Charulatha S Kar**
- Financial Services Institution Bureau (FSIB) has selected \_\_\_\_\_ as the next chairman of State Bank of India: **Challa Sreenivasulu Setty**
- \_\_\_\_\_ has re-designated its chairman Siddhartha Mohanty as MD & CEO with effect from 30 June 2024: **Life Insurance Corporation**
- Bandhan Bank names \_\_\_\_\_ as its interim head: **Ratan Kumar Kesh**
- Former Union Health Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ is set to assume the role of Chairperson of UPSC: **Preeti Sudan**
- \_\_\_\_\_ has taken charge as CMD of SIDBI: **Manoj Mittal**
- \_\_\_\_\_ of Mexico has assumed the presidency of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for a two-year term: **Elisa de Anda Madrazo**
- RBI has approved the appointment of \_\_\_\_\_ as MD & CEO of Federal Bank: **Krishnan Venkat Subramanian**
- \_\_\_\_\_ has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited: **Robert Jerard Ravi**
- The RBI has approved the reappointment of \_\_\_\_\_ as the MD & CEO of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank: **Govind Singh**
- Paytm Payments Bank has appointed \_\_\_\_\_ as its MD & CEO: **Arun Kumar Bansal**
- \_\_\_\_\_, the renowned Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Guatemalan human rights activist, has been honored with the Gandhi Mandela Award 2020: **Rigoberta Menchú Tum**
- \_\_\_\_\_ of Kallungal Plantation, Thrissur, received Spice Award 2024, instituted by ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research: **Sopna Kallungal**
- Writer, critic, and feminist activist \_\_\_\_\_ has been awarded the first K. Saraswathi Amma Award instituted by WINGS (Women's Integration and Growth Through Sports) Kerala: **P. Geetha**
- \_\_\_\_\_, Chairperson of HCLTech, has been conferred with the "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" (Knight of the Legion of Honour), the highest civilian award of France: **Roshni Nadar Malhotra**
- Tamil literature author \_\_\_\_\_ has been selected as the recipient of the highly esteemed Dr. C. Narayana Reddy National Literary Award: **Sivashankari**
- \_\_\_\_\_ has been presented with the 'Order of St Andrew- the Apostle' the the highest award of Russia, which was bestowed on him in the year 2019 at the Moscow: **PM Modi**
- \_\_\_\_\_ has been recognized as the Best Ship of the Eastern Fleet for its outstanding performance and operational prowess: **INS Delhi**
- \_\_\_\_\_ has been awarded the title of best state in horticulture at the prestigious Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024: **Nagaland**
- \_\_\_\_\_ has won the Best Agriculture State Award for 2024, as announced by 15th Agriculture Leadership Awards Committee: **Maharashtra**
- \_\_\_\_\_ and two other transgender individuals have become the first transwoman sub-inspectors in Bihar Police: **Manvi Madhu Kashyap**
- A Book "Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi." a landmark book on leadership has been authored by: **Dr. R Balasubramaniam.**
- Union Bank of India has launched \_\_\_\_\_ branches tailored for high-value customers in rural and semi-urban markets: **"Union Premier"**
- Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation has introduced the \_\_\_\_\_ portal to revolutionize data accessibility and user experience: **eSankhyiki**
- One 97 Communications Limited (parent Co of Paytm) has introduced \_\_\_\_\_, an affordable healthcare and income protection plan: **'Paytm Health Saathi'**
- \_\_\_\_\_ has partnered with Online PSB Loans Ltd. to digitalize Jan Suraksha Schemes for regional rural banks: **NABARD**
- SEBI has introduced \_\_\_\_\_ an AI-powered chatbot designed to assist investors with a range of functions: **'SEVA'**
- ICICI Prudential mutual fund has launched India's First: **Oil & Gas ETF (Exchange Traded Fund).**
- ICICI Lombard has launched \_\_\_\_\_ a pioneering health insurance product integrating AI technology: **'Elevate'**
- Indiabulls Housing Finance rebrands as: **Sammaan Capital Limited.**
- ICICI Bank has launched \_\_\_\_\_, a premium forex prepaid card for students who are going abroad for higher education: **'Student Sapphire Forex Card'**
- \_\_\_\_\_ has become the first country in the world to prepare a checklist of its entire fauna, covering 104,561 species: **India**

- M.P. Govt. has launched \_\_\_\_\_ with a view to have a more transparent and accountable working system towards the public: **'Lokpath Mobile App'**
- The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and TransUnion CIBIL have launched \_\_\_\_\_, a credit education program designed to empower women entrepreneurs in India: **'SEHER'**
- Union Minister Gadkari has launched Bajaj Auto's new bike, \_\_\_\_\_ which is a "eco-friendly" and "sustainable,": **World's first CNG motorcycle**
- PNB has launched \_\_\_\_\_ to Enhance Internet and Mobile Banking Security: **'Safety Ring'**
- For contributions to the field of victimology, retired professor \_\_\_\_\_ has been selected for Hans von Hentig award: **K. Chockalingam**
- In a study conducted by InterNations in 2024, \_\_\_\_\_ has once again secured its position as the most affordable destination for expatriates: **Vietnam**
- Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd. has launched the \_\_\_\_\_ initiative in U.P. aimed at providing clean energy through rooftop solar solutions: **'Ghar Ghar Solar'**
- Sobha Group's CSR wing \_\_\_\_\_, has been honoured with the "Best Child and Women Development Initiatives of the Year 2024": **Sri Kurumba Educational and Charitable Trust**
- Three training institutes of DoT- National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT), the National Institute of Communication Finance (NICF) and Wireless Monitoring Training & Development Centre (WMTDC) have been merged into a single administrative entity, named: **'National Communications Academy' (NCA)**
- \_\_\_\_\_ has been recognized as the 'Best Performing State' under the PM SVANidhi scheme: **Madhya Pradesh**
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has awarded the Taxnet 2.0 project to: **Bharti Airtel Ltd.**
- Former Indian tennis stars \_\_\_\_\_ have become the first Asian men to be inducted into the prestigious International Tennis Hall of Fame: **Leander Paes and Vijay Amritraj**
- \_\_\_\_\_ has been nominated to become North East India's first UNESCO World Heritage Site in the cultural category: **Charaideo Maidam**
- The International Olympic Committee has honored \_\_\_\_\_, India's first individual Olympic gold medalist, with the prestigious Olympic Order: **Abhinav Bindra**
- \_\_\_\_\_ have been named the top-performing states in NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2023-24: **Uttarakhand and Kerala**
- \_\_\_\_\_ ranks 82nd, allowing visa-free entry to 58 countries whereas Singapore has reclaimed its title as the world's most powerful passport, according to the Henley Passport Index: **India**
- Bollywood superstar \_\_\_\_\_ has been honoured with customised gold coins by the Grevin Museum in Paris: **Shah Rukh Khan**
- \_\_\_\_\_ has secured a bronze medal in the 10m Air Pistol individual event at the Paris Olympics: **Manu Bhaker**
- \_\_\_\_\_ has secured a bronze medal in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event at the Paris Olympics: **Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh**
- Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, has launched the \_\_\_\_\_ at the IIT Delhi: **Ideas4LiFE portal**
- The Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) has introduced the \_\_\_\_\_ module on July 30, 2024: **Electronic Services e-Health Assistance and Tele-consultation (E-SeHAT)**
- Union Education Minister has launched the \_\_\_\_\_ portal and disbursed Rs.100 crore in stipends to apprentices via Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT): **National Apprenticeship and Training Scheme (NATS) 2.0**
- Paytm has launched \_\_\_\_\_ plan for its merchant partners: **'Health Saathi'**

**KEY INDICATORS**

REPO RATE	6.50%	FOREX RESERVES- Rs. (in Cr)	5587802
CRR	4.50%	FOREX RESERVES US (\$ Million)	667386
SLR	18.00%	SCB's AGGREGATE DEPOSITS - (Cr)	21177216
BANK RATE & MSF	6.75%	SCB's BANK CREDIT - (Cr)	16812421
SDF	6.25%	FIXED RATE REVERSE REPO	3.35%