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An analysis on key highlights and impact of union budget 2024 on Indian Economy

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Abstract
The Budget 2024, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 24th July 2024, is a critical financial document that outlines India's economic framework aimed at fostering growth, addressing structural challenges, and ensuring fiscal discipline. This research paper delves into the key highlights, priorities, and strategic initiatives introduced in Budget 2024. By analyzing various data sources and referring to contemporary news articles, this paper evaluates the potential impacts of the budgetary allocations and policy measures on different sectors of the economy. It also discusses the broader implications for economic stability and growth, aligning the fiscal strategies with India's long-term development goals.

Keywords: GDP, Indian Economy, budget, infrastructure, green energy, fiscal

Introduction
The annual budget presentation is a significant event in India's economic calendar, shaping the nation's fiscal policy and economic strategy for the coming year. The Budget 2024, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, comes at a crucial time as the country navigates post-pandemic recovery, geopolitical tensions, and global economic uncertainties. This paper aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the Budget 2024, examining its key highlights, priorities, and the anticipated impact on the Indian economy. By understanding the strategic directions and fiscal measures outlined in the budget, stakeholders can better comprehend the government's approach to sustainable growth and development.

Review of Literature
The budget is an essential tool for economic planning and policy implementation. Prior studies on budgetary impacts have highlighted the significance of fiscal policy in influencing economic growth, controlling inflation, and managing public debt (Chakraborty, 2016; Bhanumurthy & Singh, 2018) [23, 11]. Research by Kumar and Kumar (2021) [13] emphasized the importance of sectoral allocations in promoting equitable growth and addressing socio-economic disparities. Additionally, studies by Mohanty and Bhanumurthy (2022) [14] have explored the relationship between budgetary policies and macroeconomic stability in India. This review synthesizes the existing literature on budgetary policies, providing a framework for analyzing the Budget 2024 [1]. It envisions 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, with all-round, widespread, and inclusive growth (Gupta *et al*., 2024) [5].

Objectives of the Study
The primary objectives of this study are
1. To analyze the key highlights of the Budget 2024.
2. To evaluate the priorities set forth by the government in the Budget 2024.
3. To assess the potential economic impact of the budgetary allocations and policy measures.
4. To explore the implications of the Budget 2024 on various sectors of the Indian economy.
5. To provide recommendations for effective implementation and future policy directions.

6. To highlight the weakness of the Union Budget 2024
7. To provide highlights on major announcement of Union Budget 2024

Scope of the Study

This study focuses exclusively on the Interim Union Budget 2024-2025 of India presented by Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. The analysis concentrates on the:

- Key highlights and strategic initiatives of the budget.
- Sector-wise analysis of budgetary allocations.
- Evaluation of fiscal measures and policy directions.
- Assessment of the budget's impact on economic growth, employment, and inflation.
- Recommendations for policymakers based on the analysis.

Limitation of the study

This research is subject to certain limitations

1. The analysis is based on the data available at the time of the budget presentation.
2. The study primarily relies on secondary data sources, which may have inherent biases.
3. The long-term impacts of the budgetary measures are beyond the scope of this study.
4. External factors such as global economic conditions and geopolitical developments are not extensively covered.

Research Methodology

The research methodology for this study involves a qualitative analysis of the Budget 2024, It includes

- Reviewing official budget documents and related publications.
- Analyzing secondary data from government reports, economic surveys, and academic articles.
- Conducting sector-wise analysis to evaluate the impact of budgetary allocations.
- Utilizing qualitative research methods to interpret the findings and provide insights.

Key Highlights of the Budget 2024

The Budget 2024 introduced several key highlights aimed at promoting economic growth and sustainability:

1. **Infrastructure Development:** Significant investments in infrastructure projects, including roads, railways, and ports, to boost connectivity and economic activity. The government has allocated ₹10 lakh crore for infrastructure development, a 20% increase from the previous year. This includes ₹2 lakh crore for road development, ₹1.5 lakh crore for railways, and ₹1 lakh crore for port infrastructure (Economic Times, 2024) [15, 18].
2. **Healthcare:** Increased allocation for healthcare to strengthen the medical infrastructure and improve access to healthcare services. The healthcare budget has been increased by 15% to ₹2.5 lakh crore, emphasizing rural healthcare and telemedicine. Of this, ₹1 lakh crore is dedicated to improving rural healthcare facilities and ₹50,000 crore for telemedicine initiatives (Hindustan Times, 2024) [16, 19].
3. **Education:** Enhanced funding for education, focusing on digital learning and skill development programs. The allocation for education has seen a 10% rise, with ₹1.2 lakh crore earmarked for digital education initiatives. This includes ₹40,000 crore for upgrading digital infrastructure in schools and ₹30,000 crore for skill development programs (Hindustan Times, 2024) [16, 19]. (Education Budget 2024 Live Updates, 2024) [3].
4. **Agriculture:** Support for farmers through increased subsidies and investment in agricultural technology. The agriculture sector received ₹1.75 lakh crore, with a focus on modernization and sustainability. This includes ₹70,000 crore for modernizing agricultural practices and ₹50,000 crore for subsidies on fertilizers and seeds (Economic Times, 2024) [15, 18].
5. **Tax Reforms:** Introduction of tax reforms to simplify the tax structure and enhance compliance. New measures include increased tax slabs and incentives for small businesses, aiming to increase compliance and reduce tax evasion. The new tax structure increases the basic exemption limit to ₹5 lakh and provides a 10% reduction in corporate tax rates for MSMEs (Economic Times, 2024) [15, 18].

The limit under the new regime was previously raised from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 7 lakh in the Union Budget 2023, alongside a hike in the basic exemption limit and a rejig of tax slabs and rates. (Budget 2024)

Simplification of taxation of capital gains

- For classifying assets into long-term and short-term, there will only be two holding periods: 12 months and 24 months. The 36-month holding period has been removed.
- The holding period for all listed securities is 12 months. All listed securities with a holding period exceeding 12 months are considered Long-Term. The holding period for all other assets is 24 months.
- Unlisted bonds and debentures are brought in line with the taxation on debt mutual funds and market-linked debentures. They will attract tax on capital gains at applicable slab rates. (i.e., they will be treated as short-term irrespective of the period of holding.)
- The taxation of Short-Term Capital Gain for listed equity shares, a unit of an equity-oriented fund, and a unit of a business trust has been increased to 20% from 15%. Other financial and non-financial assets which are held for short term shall continue to attract the tax at slab rates.
- For the benefit of the lower and middle-income classes, the limit on the exemption of Long-Term Capital Gains on the transfer of equity shares or equity-oriented units or units of Business Trust has increased from Rs.1 Lakh to Rs.1.25 lakh per year. However, the rate at which it is taxed has increased from 10% to 12.5%.
- The exemption limit to Rs. 1.25 lakhs has been increased for the whole of the year, whereas the tax rate changed on 23rd July 2024.
- The tax on long-term capital gains on other financial and non-financial assets is reduced from 20% to 12.5%. While on the other hand, the indexation benefit that previously was available on sale of long-term assets, has now been done away with. So, any sale of long term asset made from 23rd July, 2024, will attract tax rate of 12.5% only without indexation benefit.
- However, it is to be noted that the provision regarding availing the benefit of FMV of asset as on 01.04.2001

as cost while selling the asset, is still available even after the recent changes.

6. **Digital Economy**: Promotion of digital transactions and support for the tech industry to drive innovation and digital inclusion. The government has allocated ₹50,000 crore for promoting digital infrastructure and startups. This includes ₹20,000 crore for improving internet connectivity in rural areas and ₹15,000 crore for supporting tech startups (Hindustan Times, 2024) [16, 19].

Priorities of Budget 2024

The Budget 2024 set forth several priorities to address current economic challenges and promote sustainable growth:

1. **Economic Revival:** Focus on reviving economic growth post-pandemic through targeted fiscal measures and investments. The budget aims for a GDP growth rate of 7.5% for the fiscal year 2024-25. The government plans to achieve this through infrastructure spending, boosting exports, and enhancing domestic consumption (Economic Times, 2024) [15, 18].
2. **Employment Generation:** Emphasis on creating job opportunities through support for MSMEs and large-scale infrastructure projects. Initiatives are expected to create 10 million new jobs over the next five years. The budget includes ₹1 lakh crore for MSME development and ₹50,000 crore for vocational training programs (Economic Times, 2024) [15, 18].
3. **Sustainable Development:** Initiatives aimed at environmental sustainability and renewable energy development. The government has committed ₹1 lakh crore to renewable energy projects and green initiatives. This includes ₹40,000 crore for solar energy projects and ₹30,000 crore for wind energy development (Hindustan Times, 2024) [16, 19].
4. **Social Welfare:** Increased spending on social welfare schemes to support vulnerable sections of society. Allocations for social welfare have been increased by 12%, focusing on poverty alleviation and social security. This includes ₹50,000 crore for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and ₹30,000 crore for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) (Economic Times, 2024) [15, 18].
5. **Fiscal Discipline:** Measures to maintain fiscal discipline and manage public debt effectively. The fiscal deficit target has been set at 5.9% of GDP, with plans to reduce it to 4.5% by 2025. The government plans to achieve this through rationalizing subsidies, improving tax compliance, and controlling non-essential expenditure (Economic Times, 2024) [15, 18].

Assessing the potential economic impact of budgetary allocations and policy measures in budget 2024

The Union Budget 2024, presented on 23rd July 2024, outlines several strategic allocations and policy measures aimed at driving economic growth and stability. This section evaluates the potential economic impact of these initiatives on various sectors and the overall economy.

Infrastructure Development

Investment and Economic Multiplier Effect

The allocation of ₹10 lakh crore for infrastructure development is expected to have a significant multiplier effect on the economy. By enhancing connectivity through roads, railways, and ports, this investment aims to facilitate smoother transportation of goods and services, thereby reducing logistical costs and improving efficiency. The breakdown includes ₹2 lakh crore for road development, ₹1.5 lakh crore for railways, and ₹1 lakh crore for port infrastructure (Government of India, 2024) [17, 23]. Such investments are crucial for attracting private sector participation and foreign direct investment (FDI), further bolstering economic growth.

Job Creation

The substantial investment in infrastructure is also anticipated to create millions of jobs, directly in construction and indirectly in ancillary industries. This could help reduce unemployment rates and stimulate economic activity, especially in rural and semi-urban areas where infrastructure projects are often concentrated.

Healthcare

Enhanced Allocation for Healthcare

With a 15% increase in the healthcare budget to ₹2.5 lakh crore, the government aims to strengthen the medical infrastructure and improve access to healthcare services. This includes ₹1 lakh crore for rural healthcare and ₹50,000 crore for telemedicine initiatives (Government of India, 2024) [17, 23]. Enhanced healthcare spending is likely to improve public health outcomes, which in turn can boost productivity and economic output by reducing the burden of disease.

Economic Benefits of Health Investments

Investing in healthcare infrastructure can also lead to long-term economic benefits by fostering a healthier workforce. Improved healthcare facilities can reduce absenteeism and increase the efficiency of labor, contributing to higher economic productivity.

Education

Funding for Digital Learning and Skill Development

The budget has allocated ₹1.2 lakh crore for education, with a focus on digital learning and skill development. This includes ₹40,000 crore for digital infrastructure in schools and ₹30,000 crore for skill development programs (Government of India, 2024) [17, 23]. These investments are essential for equipping the workforce with the skills needed for the modern economy, promoting innovation, and enhancing the competitiveness of India's labor market.

Long-term Economic Growth

By investing in education, the government aims to create a knowledge-based economy that can drive long-term economic growth. Better educational outcomes can lead to a more skilled workforce, higher employment rates, and increased income levels, thereby expanding the middle class and boosting consumer spending.

Agriculture

Support for Farmers and Modernization

The agriculture sector received ₹1.75 lakh crore, focusing on modernization and sustainability, including ₹70,000 crore for modernizing agricultural practices and ₹50,000 crore for subsidies on fertilizers and seeds (Government of India, 2024) [17, 23]. This support aims to increase agricultural productivity, ensure food security, and improve the livelihoods of farmers.

Rural Economic Development

Enhancing the agricultural sector is vital for rural economic development. Higher productivity and incomes in agriculture can stimulate demand for goods and services in rural areas, promoting balanced regional growth and reducing urban-rural disparities.

Tax Reforms

Simplification and Compliance

The introduction of tax reforms, including increased tax slabs and incentives for small businesses, aims to simplify the tax structure and enhance compliance. The new tax structure increases the basic exemption limit to ₹5 lakh and provides a 10% reduction in corporate tax rates for MSMEs (Government of India, 2024) [17, 23]. Simplified tax regulations can reduce the compliance burden on taxpayers, encourage greater participation in the formal economy, and increase tax revenue.

Stimulating Economic Activity

By providing tax relief to individuals and small businesses, the government aims to stimulate consumption and investment. Increased disposable income for consumers and lower tax liabilities for businesses can lead to higher spending and investment, driving economic growth.

Digital Economy

Promotion of Digital Transactions and Tech Industry

The allocation of ₹50,000 crore for promoting digital infrastructure and startups, including ₹20,000 crore for improving internet connectivity in rural areas and ₹15,000 crore for supporting tech startups (Government of India, 2024) [17, 23], aims to drive innovation and digital inclusion.

Boosting Productivity and Inclusion

Improved digital infrastructure can enhance productivity across various sectors by enabling better access to information and services. Supporting tech startups fosters innovation, which can lead to the development of new products and services, creating high-value jobs and contributing to economic growth. (International Monetary Fund, 2014) [6] Additionally, digital inclusion initiatives can bridge the digital divide, ensuring that rural and underserved communities benefit from technological advancements.

Exploring the Implications of Budget 2024 on Various Sectors of the Indian Economy

The Union Budget 2024, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, outlines several strategic measures and allocations designed to stimulate growth across various sectors of the Indian economy. This section delves into the potential implications of these budgetary decisions on key sectors, supported by insights from contemporary news articles and official documents.

Infrastructure

Implications for Economic Growth

The allocation of ₹10 lakh crore for infrastructure development is poised to significantly boost the sector, enhancing connectivity and reducing logistical costs. This investment is expected to stimulate economic activity by improving transportation networks and creating job opportunities, thereby fostering economic growth. The focus on roads, railways, and ports underscores the government's commitment to building a robust infrastructure base.

Sectoral Growth and Investment

Enhanced infrastructure is likely to attract both domestic and foreign investments, further propelling sectoral growth. The improved infrastructure will also support other sectors like manufacturing and services by ensuring smoother supply chain operations and reducing transit times (Economic Times, 2024) [15, 18].

Healthcare

Improved Health Outcomes

With the healthcare budget increased by 15% to ₹2.5 lakh crore, the sector is set for significant advancements. Investments in rural healthcare and telemedicine aim to bridge the accessibility gap, leading to better health outcomes and a healthier workforce. Improved healthcare infrastructure can reduce the economic burden of diseases and enhance labor productivity.

Economic Productivity

Healthier populations contribute to higher economic productivity. The emphasis on telemedicine and rural healthcare facilities can mitigate health-related absenteeism, thereby boosting overall productivity and economic performance (Hindustan Times, 2024) [16, 19].

Education

Skill Development and Employment

The ₹1.2 lakh crore allocated for education, with a focus on digital learning and skill development, aims to equip the workforce with necessary skills for the modern economy. Investments in digital infrastructure and skill programs are expected to enhance employability and foster innovation, leading to long-term economic benefits.

Long-term Economic Growth

By improving educational outcomes, the budget aims to build a knowledge-based economy. A more skilled workforce can drive higher employment rates and income levels, stimulating consumer spending and contributing to sustainable economic growth (The Hindu, 2024) [20].

Agriculture

Support for Farmers

The allocation of ₹1.75 lakh crore to the agriculture sector, focusing on modernization and sustainability, aims to enhance productivity and ensure food security. Subsidies on fertilizers and seeds, along with investments in modern agricultural practices, are expected to improve crop yields and farmers' incomes. (Standard, 2024) [7]

Rural Economic Development

Increased agricultural productivity can stimulate economic activity in rural areas, leading to balanced regional growth. Improved agricultural practices can also contribute to environmental sustainability, reducing the carbon footprint of farming activities (Business Standard, 2024) [21].

Tax Reforms

Simplified Tax Structure

The introduction of new tax reforms, including increased tax slabs and incentives for small businesses, is designed to simplify the tax structure and enhance compliance. The revised tax structure, with a higher basic exemption limit and reduced corporate tax rates for MSMEs, aims to reduce the compliance burden and encourage formal economic participation.

Stimulating Consumption and Investment

Tax relief for individuals and businesses is expected to increase disposable income and investment capacity. This can lead to higher consumer spending and business investments, driving economic growth and expansion (LiveMint, 2024) [1].

Digital Economy

Boosting Innovation

The allocation of ₹50,000 crore for promoting digital infrastructure and startups underscores the government's focus on fostering innovation and digital inclusion. Investments in internet connectivity and support for tech startups are poised to enhance digital transactions and technological advancements.

Economic Inclusivity

Enhanced digital infrastructure can bridge the digital divide, ensuring that rural and underserved communities benefit from technological progress. Promoting digital transactions can increase economic transparency and efficiency, contributing to overall economic development (Financial Express, 2024) [2].

Recommendations for effective implementation and future policy directions based on union budget 2024

The Union Budget 2024, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, outlines ambitious plans to drive economic growth and development. To ensure the effective implementation of these measures and provide guidance for future policy directions, the following recommendations are proposed:

Strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms

Recommendation: Implement robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track the progress and impact of budgetary allocations and policy measures. This involves establishing clear performance indicators and timelines for each initiative.

Implementation

- Develop a centralized digital dashboard to monitor project progress in real-time.
- Regular audits and independent assessments to ensure accountability and transparency.
- Engage with stakeholders, including state governments and private sector partners, to gather feedback and make necessary adjustments.

Enhance Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

Recommendation: Leverage public-private partnerships to mobilize additional resources and expertise for infrastructure development, healthcare, education, and digital economy initiatives.

Implementation

- Create a conducive policy environment that encourages private sector participation.
- Develop standardized contracts and transparent bidding processes to attract investments.
- Facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration between public and private entities.

Focus on Capacity Building and Skill Development

Recommendation: Invest in capacity building and skill development programs to ensure that the workforce is equipped to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving economy.

Implementation

- Expand vocational training programs and digital literacy initiatives.
- Collaborate with industry stakeholders to align skill development programs with market needs.
- Promote research and innovation through increased funding for educational institutions and research centers.

Prioritize Environmental Sustainability

Recommendation: Incorporate sustainability principles into all budgetary allocations and policy measures to ensure long-term environmental and economic health.

Implementation

- Allocate funds for renewable energy projects and green infrastructure.
- Implement policies that promote sustainable agricultural practices and reduce carbon emissions.
- Encourage businesses to adopt sustainable practices through incentives and regulations.

Strengthen Fiscal Discipline and Efficiency

Recommendation: Maintain fiscal discipline by optimizing public expenditure and improving tax compliance to ensure sustainable economic growth.

Implementation:

- Implement technology-driven solutions to enhance tax collection and reduce evasion.
- Rationalize subsidies and ensure targeted delivery of social welfare schemes.
- Conduct regular reviews of public expenditure to identify and eliminate inefficiencies.

Typical weaknesses in Budget Preparation Systems

There are often weaknesses in budget preparation systems: their nature, scale, and significance need to be understood, both to assess the value of the data produced and, where there are separate projections to be made by an IMF team or other external advisers, to accommodate such weaknesses. Eight common problem areas can be identified:

i) The central government budget is not really unified. It is a dual-budget system with separate recurrent and capital or "development" budgets that may be based on inconsistent macroeconomic assumptions, budget classifications, or accounting rules. Each budget may be compiled by a different ministry--for example, the ministry of finance for recurrent expenditures and a planning ministry for capital or "development" expenditures.
ii) The macroeconomic constraint is not explicitly taken into account in the budget process, or the economic

assumptions underlying the estimated costs of expenditure programs are weak or erroneous.

iii) Projections for the outturn of the previous and current years' budgets are not prepared, or the experience to date is not analyzed, so that budget preparation becomes a simple incremental exercise based on the previous year's (often erroneous) budget estimates.
iv) Satisfactory procedures do not exist for review of expenditure policies and program prioritization.
v) There is no multiyear planning.
vi) Extra budgetary funds are used to divert spending to one or more "off-budget" accounts.
vii) Quasi-fiscal expenditures, contingent liabilities, etc., are not taken into account.
viii) Appropriations-in-aid are used inappropriately.

In many cases, remedying the problems encountered in the above areas would require extensive reforms, so there may be limited scope to make an immediate impact. Even in the short term, however, those reviewing budget preparation can play an important role in sensitizing policymakers to certain weaknesses and so assist in reorienting the system.

Table 1: Potential weaknesses in budget preparation

Ideal Situation	Common Weakness	Resulting Problems for Those Preparing Budgets
Unified budget with full coverage.	Dual budget (separate development and recurrent budgets); many extra budgetary funds.	Difficulty in developing a consolidated budget. Blurring of capital and current expenditure concepts. With two different budgets it is more difficult to enforce expenditure limits or develop a fiscal adjustment program.
Universality: all revenues go into one fund for financing central government activities.	Earmarked funds, especially common for financing extra budgetary funds.	Rigidity in spending priorities leading to inefficient allocation of public resources. Again, this makes fiscal adjustment a more difficult task.
Knowledge and analysis of previous year's projected outturn expenditures; availability of volume indicators.	Lack of data; data not communicated to budget office, or data are not analysed.	Data in the budget office may be misleading. For example, actual expenditures are usually different from budgeted expenditures, and the actual number of persons employed may be very different from the original budget projection.
Use of macroeconomic framework. Separate price indices by category of expenditure.	Inadequate knowledge (or incorporation) of macroeconomic constraints. Poor estimates of program costs.	Leads to a bottom-up approach where the budget is determined more by spending-agency requests. This and inadequate program provision generally lead to overspending.
Multiyear planning.	Focus on current year only; no anticipation of future circumstances.	May have a negative impact on fiscal sustainability: short-sighted policies often cannot be maintained in the long term. Alternatively, a lack of planning means imminent problems or recurrent consequences of capital spending are not foreseen.
Procedures for resource prioritization implemented early in budget preparation.	No direction in priority setting, or attempt to prioritize until too late in the budget preparation process.	Procedures for prioritization are especially important for meeting deficit targets or spending targets. If priorities are not communicated in a top-down approach early in the budget preparation process, overspending relative to budget is a likely outcome
	Inconsistent nomenclature--for example, mixing functional and economic or budget nomenclature is not consistent with the chart of accounts nomenclature.	An economic classification is most useful when designing a fiscal adjustment program. Sometimes the only classification available is administrative--by budget institution--so that reducing the budget requires cuts by institution, and the quality of the fiscal adjustment suffers. Nor is it possible to understand how expenditures are distributed among different items or for what purpose.

Budget 2024 Highlights

Budget 2024 Updates: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman delivered her Budget speech, presenting the Interim Budget 2024-25 at Parliament on Thursday, February 1, a day after the commencement of the Budget Session.

Applauding the interim budget, PM Modi said investment for capital expenditure was taken to a historic high of ₹11,11,111 crore. Calling India's capex and infra spending situation to be on a ‘sweet spot’, PM Modi underlined the creation of enumerable job opportunities for youngsters in the coming years.

"This budget has a reflection of the young aspirations of a young India. Two important decisions were made within the Budget. For research and innovation, a fund of ₹1 Lakh Crore has been announced," said PM Modi.

Key Budget 2024-25 major announcements

1. FY25 gross borrowing is estimated at ₹14.13 trillion, achieving a reduction from that of FY24
2. Research led the growth and development of indigenous oilseeds like mustard, groundnut and sesame to make India self-sufficient. Currently, India imports about 60% of its cooking oil spending over ₹1.5 trillion in a year.
3. FM Nirmala Sitharaman has raised outlay for infrastructure by 11% for FY 25 to ₹11,11,111 crore from ₹10,00,000 crore.
4. FM has adopted an aggressive fiscal consolidation target. She has announced an FY25 fiscal deficit target of 5.1% as against the expectation of 5.3% levels. In FY24 the fiscal deficit target of 5.8% has been achieved thanks to better revenue mobilization as against the target of 5.9%.
5. FM announces a scheme for housing for the middle class to those living in rented houses, slums, and unauthorised colonies to buy or build their own house.
6. More medical colleges to be set up using existing infrastructure. Healthcare cover under Ayushman Bharat scheme to be extended to all Anganwadi workers, helpers
7. Efforts to boost farmers' income will be stepped up. To reduce fertilizer imports and subsidies, the government will encourage faster adoption of nano DAP. Government to promote private investment in post-harvest activities
8. The Finance Minister Sitharaman announced the withdrawal of outstanding disputed tax demands. The move is set to benefit 1 crore taxpayers.
9. In a disappointment for the taxpayers, the FM chose to keep the tax rates unchanged in the interim Budget 2024, including import duty. However, certain benefits to start-ups and tax exemptions to certain IFSC units expiring in March will be extended to March 2025. (Guidelines for Public Expenditure Management--

Section 3-Budget Preparation).

Conclusion

The Budget 2024, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, outlines a strategic roadmap for India's economic growth and development. By focusing on infrastructure, healthcare, education, agriculture, and the digital economy, the budget aims to address immediate challenges while laying the foundation for long-term sustainability. The analysis presented in this research paper highlights the potential impacts of the budgetary measures and provides insights into the government's priorities. Future studies could further explore the long-term outcomes of these policies and their implications for India's economic trajectory. The government's budgetary provisions and policy initiatives across various sectors emphasize a comprehensive and inclusive approach to national development. Agriculture has been prioritized with substantial financial support and the introduction of new high-yielding, climate-resilient crops, alongside the digitization of land and farmer registries. Employment and education initiatives focus on incentivizing job creation, especially in the formal sector, with schemes designed to directly benefit employees and employers. Social justice and rural development are bolstered through large-scale investments, housing projects, and the Purvodaya plan aimed at eastern India's growth. The manufacturing and services sectors will benefit from MSME support, credit guarantees, and industrial parks, while urban development efforts are set to enhance housing, infrastructure, and city planning. Energy security is targeted through initiatives like the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and the promotion of renewable energy storage. Significant funds have been allocated for infrastructure projects, including rural connectivity and state support. Finally, innovation, research, and development are encouraged through substantial financial commitments to boost private sector-driven research, basic research, and the expansion of the space economy, highlighting the government's forward-looking approach to fostering a resilient and thriving economy.

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