

2. Budget 2020-21 - Social Sector and Infrastructure

Prelims level: Economics - Budget

Mains Level: GS-III Government Budgeting.

Why in News?

- The Union Budget 2020-21 has been presented in the parliament recently. The key provisions related to the Social Sector and infrastructure sector has been discussed in brief below.

1. Agriculture Sector:

- ✓ Agri-credit availability set at ₹15 lakh crore for 2020-21.
- ✓ A budget allocation of ₹2.83 lakh crore for 16 action points.
- ✓ The action points include measures to provide farmers access to faraway markets by running trains (Kisan Rail) and flights (Krishi Udaan) and providing relief to farmers from water shortage.
- ✓ It will also include '**One-Product One-District**' for better marketing and export in the Horticulture sector. The scheme is already functional in Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ The focus is also on **Jaivik Kheti Portal** (online national organic products market), Zero-Budget Natural Farming, PM-KUSUM.

2. Health Sector:

- ✓ An allocation of ₹69,000 crore for the health sector.
- ✓ Proposal to set up hospitals in Tier-II and Tier-III cities with the private sector using PPP model.
- ✓ Expansion of Jan Aushadhi Kendra Scheme to all districts by 2024.
- ✓ A task force to be appointed to recommend regarding steps required to lower the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) and Improving Nutrition.

3. Education:

- ✓ An amount of ₹99,300 crore has been allocated for the education sector and about ₹3,000 crore for skill development respectively.
- ✓ Degree-level full-fledged online education programmes by institutions ranked in the top 100 in NIRF rankings, especially to benefit underprivileged students.
- ✓ Urban local bodies to provide internship to young engineers for a year.
- ✓ Proposal to set up **National Police University** and a **National Forensic Science University**.
- ✓ IND SAT exam for students of Asia and Africa to promote "study in India" programme.

4. Infrastructure

- ✓ Rs. 103 lakh crore's for National Infrastructure Pipeline projects announced.
- ✓ An international bullion exchange to be set up at GIFT City.
- ✓ The budget has also announced that proceeds from divestment will go only into capital expenditure and not revenue expenditure.

• Transport

- ✓ Budget proposes to provide ₹1.7 lakh crore for transport infrastructure in 2021.
- ✓ National Logistics Policy to be released soon.
- ✓ Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway to be started.

• Railways

- ✓ Aims to achieve electrification of 27,000 km of railway lines.
- ✓ Plan to have a large solar power capacity for Indian Railways.
- ✓ 100 more airports will be developed by 2024 to support UDAN.
- ✓ 5 new smart cities in public-private partnership mode.

5. Culture and Tourism

• Five Archaeological Sites to be developed as Iconic Sites:

- a) Rakhigarhi (Haryana)
- b) Hastinapur (Uttar Pradesh)
- c) Shivsagar (Assam)
- d) Dholavira (Gujarat)
- e) Adichanallur (Tamil Nadu)

• Proposal to Establish:

- a) Indian Institute of Heritage and Conservation.
- b) Maritime museum at Lothal (Gujarat).
- c) Tribal Museum in Ranchi
- d) A museum on Numismatics and Trade.