

An Analysis on the Indian Budget and Information Communication Technology Boosted Development

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Abstract: *On February 1, 2022, the Indian government released the Union Budget for 2022. The new financial plan has drawn significant consideration for, in addition to other things, its accentuation on programs in the space of ICT-driven improvement. India would be able to make significant progress toward equitable human development if the budget's goals were fully realized. However, similar initiatives have failed in the past due to the budget's lack of detail regarding the funding mechanisms that would support these ambitious programs. These documents should provide states and ministries with concrete information on the dedicated revenue flows they will have at their disposal in order for them to proceed with these initiatives in a timely and efficient manner if India intends to promote ICT-driven development at the central level through its budget.*

Keywords: Budget, Information Communication Technology, Boosted Development, Union Budget

I. INTRODUCTION

On February 1, Money Clergyman Nirmala Sitharaman introduced India's 2022 Association Spending plan. The Union Budget, which is an estimate of the central government's annual revenues and expenditures for the upcoming year, is an important part of the GOI's fiscal planning.

Additionally, the budget has evolved over time into a more comprehensive statement of the government's guiding principles. The obligation imposed by the Constitution to present the financial plan and intentions of the government is an excellent opportunity to explain how the administration's other concerns and existing programs would fit together. The contents of the Union Budget for 2022 should be viewed through the lens of how the Government of India intends to advance its ongoing mission of sustainable development throughout the country. The Union Budget is not simply a fiscal document; rather, it is a statement of priorities.

While some themes from previous budgets have been retained and expanded upon in the 420 billion USD 2022 budget, others take a completely new path. Given the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2022 budget has made infrastructure its top priority, whereas the budget for 2021 placed a heavy emphasis on health. There was a 35% increase in capital expenditures planned, with as much as a 50% increase in roads and railways. The national highway network will be expanded by 25,000 kilometers, new investments will be made in rail and cargo terminals, and the JalJeevan Mission's infrastructure for clean, running water will receive an increase in funding of 20%. The budget calls for bidding on brand-new 5G spectrum and expanding fiberoptic networks in relation to digital infrastructure. As part of a National Infrastructure Pipeline with an anticipated scope of up to 111 lakh crore (1.3 trillion USD) through 2025, approximately 10 lakh crore INR (130 billion USD) would be invested in infrastructure in 2022 and 2023 alone.

Mirroring the strategy approach of drives like the Savvy Urban areas Mission (SCM), the 2022

Association Financial plan supports more prominent degrees of cooperation in these midway characterized programs from state legislatures and the confidential area. For instance, after the focal government covered generally 45% of the proposed cost, the spending plan's vision for the Public Foundation Pipeline would approach state legislatures and confidential financial backers to give by far most of the remaining subsidizing prerequisites.

In the beginning, this would be made easier by making 50-year, interest-free concessional loans to state governments for 1 lakh crore INR (13 billion USD). Tax breaks for pension and sovereign wealth funds, development financing through the National Bank for Infrastructure and Development (NABFID), and even green bonds have been proposed

as ways to encourage more private investment. The SCM's blended finance strategy has the potential to mobilize a significant amount of resources in exchange for less freedom to invest in projects that do not immediately generate profits. The Government of India (GOI) envisions a variety of infrastructure projects that would make India a global manufacturing hub. Some of these projects are ideal for private financing, but others, like those that provide basic services to the population like potable water and sanitation, may not generate profits for decades, if at all. As a result, it is still difficult to determine whether or not this blended model can attract a variety of investments that are in line with India's development requirements.

II. ICT-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT IN THE 2022 UNION BUDGET

One of the most important programs under the current administration's umbrella is Digital India, which aims to integrate digital services into Indian government, industry, and individual lives. As is customary, the 2022 budget places an overwhelming emphasis on the development and application of digital tools in nearly every area of focus. In the draft budget, the education sector receives the most attention for its use of digital technology. The budget aims to make information and communication technology (ICT) a driver of equality rather than inequality in education, as the COVID-19 pandemic only highlighted the digital divide between urban, rural, wealthy, and poor children within the Indian educational system. First, the budget makes new plans to expand educational media content, like making the eVidya One Class-One TV program available to every state so that it can be used as a classroom supplement in all of India's regional languages. In a similar vein, the budget calls for the establishment of a digital university that would connect students all over India to the best higher education that is currently available in the nation. This model would be more structured and rigorous than the open university that is currently prevalent. The budget aims to continue India's tradition of utilizing ICT to make quality education accessible to the masses by providing these opportunities to previously excluded segments of the population. The spending plan's proposed drives in the training area aren't restricted to the customary or even the advanced homeroom. It also suggests programs that would make it easier for Indian workers to compete in and adapt to a global and domestic economy that is changing quickly. The DESH-Stack e-portal is a digital skill development ecosystem that the budget proposes for adult learners and people looking to advance in the workforce. After a series of online trainings with significant industry partners, the portal would issue formal skill certifications. Individuals could then interface with occupations through the gateway that utilization abilities they have been guaranteed for, making an input component which would urge the partaking labor force to increase their intensity constantly. In a similar vein, the budget calls for the establishment of 75 virtual training environments for vocational courses and more than 750 virtual science and mathematics labs. The first would increase India's capacity to expand the high-quality STEM education required for entry into high-tech manufacturing and services, and the second would provide semi-tactile environments in which students could practice trade skills under the direct supervision of experienced remote instructors. The budget envisions an ICT-powered national education environment that leverages the reach of technology and adapts to regional language needs to provide inclusive, high-quality workforce development for a highly diverse and rapidly evolving economy through such initiatives and an update to the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) to bring key training standards in line with industry needs. The headway of these drives is given as the principal avocation to a 11.86% year-on-year expansion in the focal schooling spending plan, for the structure and support both of this advanced framework and for the vital actual foundation which should be executed close by it.

III. IMPROVING POLICY SUPPORT FOR ICT-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT

The Union Budget for 2022–23 is a document that is infused with both implicit and explicit ambition. The budget says that India's GDP will grow by 8.5% in 2022-23, which would be the highest rate since 2010, excluding the post-lockdown recovery year of 2021-22. In terms of the longer term, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has stated that the budget is an outline for laying the foundation for India's growth and prosperity over the next 25 years. The goal is to achieve the extremely ambitious “AmritKaal” development benchmarks by the time India celebrates its 100th anniversary of independence in 2047. Over the next few decades, significant progress must be made in order to reach these goals. Given India's points and its requirements, does the financial plan do what's needed to assist India with understanding this general vision? And does it take the most effective approach to India's development issues? The

COVID-19 pandemic has already resulted in the complete abandonment of a similar set of objectives, "India@75," which were established in 2018 and were intended to be completed by FY2021-22. Objectives which went neglected included extending the Gross domestic product to 4 trillion USD (presently 2.85 trillion USD), expanding percapita Gross domestic product to 3000 USD (assessed at 1258 USD for 2021-22), raising the female workforce interest rate to 30% (current worth 16.9%), and most fundamentally, multiplying rancher pay (genuine increment starting around 2015-16 assessed at simply 13.1%).³ This year, the spending plan for the Market Intercession and Value Backing Plan (MI-PSS) declined by 62% from 2021-22, and the comparative PM-AASHA plan to offer a base help cost for heartbeats and oilseeds was sliced to approach zero, bringing up issues about whether the spending plan's creators expect to keep chasing after an objective once considered to be basic or whether this could rather flag the beginning of a drawn out shift away from direct monetary help for rustic government assistance. The budget presents a highly detailed sustainable vision for the entire nation in support of the "AmritKaal" vision. It is based on the pillars of inclusive development, increased productivity, energy transition, and climate action, and it is powered by investments made by both public and private entities. The financial plan likewise gives a close extraordinary degree of detail on what accomplishing these objectives will resemble, and on the focal government's assumptions for how India's state legislatures and Metropolitan Neighborhood Bodies (ULBs) will be entrusted with accomplishing these objectives. On the other hand, the budget offers very little information about the specific revenue sources that would be made available for these programs. Because a budget is, in some ways, a list of priorities, it makes sense to focus on the big picture goals rather than the specifics of how a policy will be implemented. However, on the other hand, introducing so many ambitious programs without providing much information about the resources or funding mechanisms available nearly amounts to an unfunded mandate from a central government that is becoming increasingly powerful.

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