

★★★★★ **Starred Articles** ★★★★★

10 Indian Union Budget 2014-15 announced

Jul **India > Union Budget**

Finance Minister Mr. Arun Jaitley presented the Union Budget of India for 2014-15 on 10 July. The total budgeted expenditure estimates including Plan and Non-Plan stand at Rs 17,94,892 crore. Out of this planned expenditure is estimated at Rs 5,75,000 crore whereas non-planned expenditure is Rs 12,19,892 crore.

**Highlights of the Union Budget 2014-15:**

- Tax proposals on indirect tax front would yield Rs 7,525 crore.
- No changes in personal income tax slabs. But tax exemption limit has been increased to ₹250,000 from ₹200,000 for those below the age of 60. Income tax exemption limit for senior citizens has been raised to ₹300,000.
- Investment limit under Section 80C has also been increased to INR150,000 from the current INR100,000
- Housing loan rebate to be raised from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 2 lakh. FDI in real estate for low cost housing.
- ₹70.6 billion (US\$1.2 billion) provided for the development of smart cities.
- ₹10 billion (US\$170 million) provided for irrigation
- 5 new IITs in Jammu, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala and five new IIMs in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar, Odisha and Maharashtra.
- 4 more AIIMS in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Vidharbha, Purvanchal.
- Rs 3650 crore for safe drinking water. More than Rs 26000 crore set aside for toilets and drinking water in all girls' schools.
- Rs 100 crore for training of sportspersons for upcoming Asian Games.
- 14,389 cr for the 'Pradhanmantri sadak yojna' for development of roads.
- Rs 1000 crore provided for rail connectivity in northeastern region.
- Rs 100 crore for modernization of madrassas.
- Rs 50,548 crore proposed for Schedule Caste development.
- National multi-scale programme 'Skill India' to be introduced to provide training and support for employment.

**Key budget proposals across various sectors:**

**Agriculture:**

- Initial amount of Rs. 100 crore for climate change fund.
- Banks to target Rs. 800000 crore to lend to agricultural sector.
- Farmers who pay on time to get further incentive of 3%. They already getting loan at 7%.
- Rs 5000 crore for infrastructure fund in agriculture. 24-hour news channel , Kisan TV, aimed at providing farmers real time information on agriculture.
- Rs 5 lakh allocation to Bhumeehen Kisan groups through NABARD.

**Science and Technology:**

- Turn 5 centres into research instituions. PPP model.
- 2 clusters for research in Kolkata and Pune.

**Defence:**

- Rs 2,29,000 crore for defense.
- FDI in defence up from 26 to 49 % with Indian management and control.
- 1 rank- 1 pension for army.
- Capital outlay increased by Rs 5000 crore over interim Budget.
- Rs 3000 crore set aside for police reforms.

**Banking and Insurance:**

- Govt in principle agrees to consolidation of PSU banks.
- 6 new revival tribunals to be set up.
- Banks will be encouraged to give long term funds & loans to the infrastructure sector.
- FDI in insurance to be increased to 49%.

**Energy and Transport:**

- Rs 4200 crore for Inland navigation.
- NHAI to get Rs 37000 crore including Rs 3000 crore for North East.
- Scheme for airport in Tier 1 and 2 cities under Airport Authority of India.
- E-Visa facilities at 9 airports to facilitate visa on arrival.
- Ultra-modern solar plant in Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Ladakh.
- Additional 15000 km of gas pipeline to be developed.

**Rivers:**

- 4200 cr set aside for the Jal Marg Vikas project on river Ganga connecting Allahabad to Haldia, over 1620 km.
- Rs 2037 crore for Integrated Ganga Conservative Mission.
- Rs 100 crore for Ghat development.

| Cheaper   | Costlier  |
|---|---|
| LED/LCD TVs especially below 19 inch                              | Cigarettes, Cigars  |
| Footwear priced between Rs 500 to Rs 1,000 per pair               | Pan masala, Gutka and chewing tobacco, Jarda scented tobacco      |
| Desktop computers, laptops, tablets, e-book readers               | Aerated drinks with sugar, juices, flavoured water, energy drinks |
| Soaps , RO based water purifiers                                  | Imported electronic products                                      |
| LED Lights, fixtures and lamps                                    | Half cut/broken/polished diamonds.                                |
| Pre forms of precious and semi-precious stones                    | Radio Taxi  |
| HIV/AIDS drugs and diagnostic kits, Life micro insurance policies | Portable X-ray machines   |
| Branded petrol  |   |
| Pre forms of precious and semi-precious stones                    |   |

## 14 Germany wins the FIFA World Cup 2014

Jul **Sports > Football**

Germany became the 2014 FIFA World Cup champion for the fourth time after defeating Argentina 1-0 at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Germany also became the first European country to win a World Cup played in North or South America.

### **FIFA Awards for World Cup 2014:**

- Golden Ball - Lionel Messi (Argentina)
- Golden Boot - James Rodriguez (Colombia)
- Golden Glove - Manuel Neuer (Germany)
- Best Young Player - Paul Pogba (France)
- FIFA Fair Play Trophy – Colombia

## 14 Lok Sabha passes TRAI Bill amendment

Jul **Politics and Government > TRAI Bill**

The Lok Sabha has passed a bill to amend the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act which will pave the way for appointment of former TRAI chairman Nripendra Misra as principal secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The bill replaces an ordinance brought by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, to amend the act which prohibited its chairman and members from taking up any other job in the central or state governments after ending of their office terms.

Following the amendment, they can take up Central or State Government jobs, or positions in private telecom companies, two years after demitting office. However, with prior approval from the Central Government, they can be reemployed even before the completion of two years.

## 15 BRICS announces launch of \$100 billion bank headquartered in China; 1st President to be Indian

Jul **World > BRICS**

Leaders of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries met in Fortaleza Brazil for the 6th BRICS summit. The most important development of the 6th BRICS summit was the launch of a \$100 billion bank, called the New Development Bank, and a currency reserve pool seen as an alternative to the Western-dominated international financial system. The bank will aim at funding infrastructure projects in developing nations and will be based in Shanghai, China. The first president will be Indian while the first board chair will hail from Brazil. China is making the biggest contribution, \$41 billion, followed by \$18 billion each from Brazil, India and Russia and \$5 billion from South Africa. Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff left open the possibility of using the fund to help non-BRICS nations, saying the group would be willing to "examine" any request from Argentina, which is in danger of defaulting on its debt.

## Others

### 08 Government forms core group to eradicate Kala Azar by 2015

Jul **India > Kala Azar**

Government has formed a core group to spearhead measures to eradicate the disease Kala Azar from India by 2015. Ranjit Roy Chaudhury, a clinical pharmacologist who headed the World Health Organisation's rational use of drugs in India programme, has been named to coordinate the core group.

Kala Azar, scientifically known as visceral leishmaniasis, usually strikes during the monsoon months. It is the second deadliest vector-borne disease after malaria.

### 09 Emma Watson appointed as UN Women Goodwill Ambassador

Jul **World > United Nations**

Emma Watson has been made a UN Women Goodwill Ambassador. She joins the United Nations Organisation, which is dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment.

She has been involved in the promotion of girls' education for several years, and previously visited Bangladesh and Zambia as part of her humanitarian efforts. She will work with UN Women's HeForShe campaign, which promotes gender equality, in her new role.

### 09 2 Indian banks among 5 new entrants in UK banking sector

Jul **Bank Specific > Banking in UK**

Axis Bank and Union Bank are among the five new entities authorized to do banking business in the UK as per latest statistics released by the UK regulators in the last 12 months. As many as 30 new banks could open in the United Kingdom following changes introduced by the UK regulators to reduce barriers for entry of new financial institutions. Other prominent Indian banks present in the UK include ICICI Bank, SBI, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, Syndicate Bank and Bank of India.

### 10 Kisan TV announced in Union Budget for farmers, agriculture

Jul **Politics and Government > Kisan TV**

In a bid to provide real-time information to farmers on farming techniques and organic farming among other issues, the government plans to launch Kisan TV this year. It has decided to set aside a sum of ₹100 crore for this channel. The government has also decided to allocate ₹100 crore for development of community radios in the country. This scheme will support 600 new and existing Community Radio Stations. The government has so far given permissions to 400 community radio stations.

### 14 Electric bus pilot project to be launched in Gujarat

Jul **India > Electric Bus**

The Gujarat government will soon introduce a pilot project to run 'electric-buses' for public transport between state capital Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad. The state-run Gujarat Power Corporation Limited (GPCL) has invited bids from the potential companies interested in the project. This project will initially start with the purchase of 15-40 seater mini-buses same as the city-buses used in capital Gandhinagar. The project also includes setting up of solar-power based electric charging stations at regular distances on the over 35 km long

stretch between Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar. If the project becomes successful, it can be implemented in other parts of the state too. The project is to be launched to reduce the carbon emission and to create a pollution-free environment by using non-traditional fuel like electricity.

## 14 Five new governors to be appointed by President

### Jul **Politics and Government > Governor**

The Home Ministry has recommended the names of former UP BJP president Kesari Nath Tripathi, VK Malhotra, Kailash Joshi, BL Tandon and Naik to the President for filling vacancies in the Raj Bhawans in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and Nagaland.. This could be the first set of governor appointments under the new NDA government. Former BJP minister Ram Naik is set to become governor of Uttar Pradesh and Vijay Kumar Malhotra could be the new West Bengal Governor. BL Joshi had resigned as the governor of UP last month while M K Narayanan quit as the West Bengal governor after his questioning by CBI in the Agusta Westland scam. Malhotra is expected to replace him in the Kolkata Raj Bhawan. Kamla Beniwal was shifted from the Raj Bhawan of Gujarat to Mizoram earlier this month while the governors of Chhattisgarh and Nagaland - Shekhar Dutt and Ashwani Kumar had resigned last month. The government also has to appoint the governors of Goa, Tripura, Mizoram and Karnataka. The Lt. Governor of Puducherry, Virendra Katarai, was removed on Friday after a serious complaint against him.

## 14 YES Bank wins prestigious Golden Peacock Environment Management Award

### Jul **Awards > Golden Peacock Environment Management Award**

YES Bank, India's fourth largest private sector Bank was awarded the "Golden Peacock Environment Management Award - 2014" in the Banking (financial) Category at the 16th World Congress on Environment Management. Organized by Institute of Directors (IOD), YES Bank is the only bank to win this prestigious award in the history of the Golden Peacock Environment Management Award. This is the third year running that YES Bank has been recognized by the Golden Peacock Global Award, having won for 'CSR' in 2013 and 'Sustainability' in 2012, at the London Global Convention. Recently, YES Bank had won the 'Outstanding Sustainable Project Financing' at Karlsruhe Sustainable Finance Award in Germany and a commendation certificate for significant achievement at CII ITC Sustainability Award 2013.

## 15 Banks to set ATMs that can generate small denominations notes

### Jul **Bank Specific > RBI**

The Reserve Bank of India has asked the banks to come up with ATMs for the rural areas that can generate the currencies with smaller denominations. The ATMs in the urban areas generate the notes of the higher denominations, generally 500 or 1000. It has been reported that the people in rural areas are requiring the currency of the smaller denominations.

The RBI has also initiated a measure to allow banks to mobilise all unclaimed and unused deposits to form a fund that would be utilized for educating customers about banking.