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Union Budget 2026-27 — Complete Analysis: Fiscal Architecture, Tax Reforms, New Missions, and Sector-wise Priorities

1 February 2026

SUBJECTS COVERED**ECONOMY****POLITY****REPORTS & SCHEMES****CURATED & WRITTEN BY****Bharat Choudhary**

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WHY IN NEWS

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented Union Budget 2026-27 in Parliament on February 1, 2026 — her eighth consecutive Budget presentation, and the first prepared in **Kartavya Bhawan** (renamed from North Block). The Budget set total expenditure at Rs 53.47 lakh crore, capital expenditure at Rs 12.2 lakh crore (3.1% of GDP), and targeted a fiscal deficit of 4.3% of GDP, while introducing the new Income Tax Act 2025 and launching multiple new missions in pharma, electronics, carbon capture, and infrastructure.

WHAT THE BUDGET IS — CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Union Budget (Annual Financial Statement) is presented under **Article 112** of the Constitution, which requires the government to lay before Parliament an annual statement of estimated receipts and expenditure. As a **Money Bill** under **Article 110**, it can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha and requires President's recommendation.

Key constitutional articles:

Article 112 — Annual Financial Statement (Union Budget)

Article 110(1) — Money Bill definition (all appropriation and tax bills)

Article 265 — No tax shall be levied except by authority of law

Article 266 — Consolidated Fund of India (all revenues + borrowings go here; all expenditure comes from here)

Article 267 — Contingency Fund of India (Rs 500 crore corpus; used for unforeseen expenditure)

Article 280 — Finance Commission (constituted every 5 years; recommends Centre-State tax devolution)

FRBM Act, 2003 — Mandates fiscal consolidation targets (deficit, debt-to-GDP)

THE THREE KARTAVYAS — BUDGET PHILOSOPHY

Budget 2026-27 is organised around three stated objectives (termed “Kartavyas” — duties/obligations):

Accelerate and sustain economic growth — enhancing productivity and competitiveness

Fulfil aspirations of people and build capacity — Yuva Shakti-driven, skills, education, entrepreneurship

Ensure inclusive development — every family, community, region, and sector included (Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas)

This framing is significant for UPSC Mains — it links budget priorities to constitutional obligations (Directive Principles: Article 38, 39, 41, 43A) and the government’s stated Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

MACRO FRAMEWORK — THE NUMBERS THAT MATTER

Revenue and Expenditure

Item	Amount
Total Expenditure (BE 2026-27)	Rs 53,47,315 crore (~Rs 53.5 lakh crore)
Non-debt Receipts	Rs 36,51,547 crore (~Rs 36.5 lakh crore)
Net Tax Receipts	Rs 28.7 lakh crore
Capital Expenditure	Rs 12,20,000 crore (3.1% of GDP)
Effective Capex (incl. grants to states)	Rs 17,10,000 crore (4.4% of GDP)
Expenditure increase over RE 2025-26	7.7%

Deficit and Debt Targets

Metric	FY 2026-27 (BE)	FY 2025-26 (RE)
Fiscal Deficit	4.3% of GDP	4.4% of GDP
Revenue Deficit	1.5% of GDP	1.5% of GDP
Debt-to-GDP	55.6%	56.1%
FRBM long-term target	50% of GDP by March 2031	—

Borrowings (FY 2026-27)

Type	Amount
Gross Market Borrowings	Rs 17.2 lakh crore
Net Market Borrowings	Rs 11.7 lakh crore
Interest payments	26% of total expenditure; 40% of revenue receipts

Fiscal consolidation trajectory: 5.1% (FY24) → 4.8% (FY25) → 4.4% (FY26 RE) → **4.3% (FY27 BE)** — steady but gradual consolidation.

Revenue deficit at 1.5% means the government is borrowing primarily for capital, not for consumption — economically sound. A zero revenue deficit would mean borrowing only funds long-lived infrastructure assets.

Interest payments consuming 26% of expenditure is a warning: past accumulated debt is crowding future fiscal space. Every rupee that goes to interest cannot fund infrastructure, education, or healthcare.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE — GROWTH ENGINE

Capital expenditure (capex) is the most productive form of government spending — it creates physical assets that generate economic activity for decades. India's capex-to-GDP ratio has risen sharply:

FY 2019-20: 1.5% of GDP

FY 2023-24: 3.3% of GDP

FY 2026-27 (BE): **3.1% of GDP** (Rs 12.2 lakh crore)

With grants-in-aid to states: **4.4% of GDP** (Rs 17.1 lakh crore)

Crowding-in effect: Government capex in roads, ports, and railways reduces the private sector's logistics and energy costs, improving return on private investment and drawing in private capital.

50-year interest-free loans to states for capital works (introduced Budget 2022-23; continued) mobilise state-level capex — states collectively outspend the Centre on infrastructure.

THE NEW INCOME TAX ARCHITECTURE

New Income Tax Act, 2025

Budget 2026-27 implements the **New Income Tax Act, 2025** effective **April 1, 2026**, replacing the Income Tax Act, 1961 — which had 298 sections, hundreds of provisos-to-provisos, and six decades of layered amendments.

Key changes:

New Act condenses provisions, improves readability, and **codifies the new tax regime as default** (taxpayers must actively opt out to use the old exemption-based regime)

Income tax **slabs are unchanged** — the slab reform was done in Budget 2025-26

Tax year 2026-27 slabs (new regime):

Nil: up to Rs 4 lakh

5%: Rs 4–8 lakh

10%: Rs 8–12 lakh

15%: Rs 12–16 lakh

20%: Rs 16–20 lakh

25%: Rs 20–24 lakh

30%: above Rs 24 lakh

TCS and TDS Rationalisation

Transaction	Old Rate	New Rate
Overseas tour packages (TCS)	5%/20%	2% (uniform)
LRS education/medical remittances	5%	2%
Tendu leaves (TCS)	5%	2%
Manpower services — Individuals/HUF (TDS)	—	1%
Manpower services — Others (TDS)	—	2%

MAT (Minimum Alternate Tax)

MAT rate: **15%** → **14%** (benefit for companies on old corporate tax regime)

MAT credit accumulation prohibited from April 1, 2026

MAT credits offset limited to **25%** of tax liability under new regime

MAT exemption for all non-residents paying presumptive tax

Securities Transaction Tax (STT) – INCREASED

Transaction	Old Rate	New Rate
Futures	0.02%	0.05%
Options premium	0.10%	0.15%
Options exercised	0.125%	0.15%

Significance: Higher STT increases transaction costs for F&O traders; signal to reduce speculative activity in derivatives markets.

Capital Gains Rationalisation

Share buybacks now taxed as **capital gains** (not dividend income)

Corporate promoters: 22% effective rate

Non-corporate promoters: 30% effective rate

Pre-payment quantum for dispute settlement reduced: **20% → 10%** of core demand

International Tax / Non-Resident Provisions

Cloud services (foreign companies using Indian data centres): Tax holiday until **2047**

IFSC/GIFT City Offshore Banking Units: Tax holiday extended from **10 → 20 years**; taxed at **15%** thereafter

Non-resident expert global income: **5-year exemption** under notified schemes

Foreign Assets Disclosure Scheme 2026: Graded relief for unreported foreign assets

Non-disclosure immunity: Foreign assets below **Rs 20 lakh** → immunity from prosecution (retrospective from October 1, 2024)

IT Sector Safe Harbour

Common margin: **15.5%**

Threshold raised: Rs 300 crore → **Rs 2,000 crore**

Duration: **5 consecutive years**

INDIRECT TAX AND CUSTOMS CHANGES

Customs Duty Exemptions (Sector-wise)

Category	Change
17 cancer drugs	Fully exempted
7 rare disease medicines/foods	Fully exempted
Critical mineral processing capital goods	Exempted
Lithium-ion cell capital goods	Exemption extended
Sodium antimonate (solar glass production)	Exempted
Microwave oven parts	Exempted
Aircraft components	Exempted
Defence MRO raw materials	Exempted
Nuclear Power Project goods	Exemption extended to 2035
Personal use imports	20% → 10%

Export Facilitation

Fish/seafood caught in India's **EEZ or high seas**: Duty-free

Foreign port landings of Indian vessels treated as **exports**

Courier export value cap REMOVED (previously Rs 10 lakh per consignment) — major boost for MSMEs, artisans, startups exporting via e-commerce

Customs Administration

AEO (Authorised Economic Operator) Tier 2/3 duty deferral: 15 → **30 days**

Advance rulings validity: 3 → **5 years**

Single digital window for multi-agency approvals: By FY end

Customs Integrated System (CIS) rollout: 2-year timeline

Non-intrusive container scanning expanded at major ports

INFRASTRUCTURE — BUILDING THE 2047 ECONOMY

Railways: 7 Growth Connector High-Speed Corridors

Budget 2026-27 announces seven high-speed rail corridors creating a peninsular and eastern spine:

Corridor	Route
1	Mumbai — Pune
2	Pune — Hyderabad
3	Hyderabad — Bengaluru
4	Hyderabad — Chennai
5	Chennai — Bengaluru
6	Delhi — Varanasi
7	Varanasi — Siliguri

Significance: Together these corridors will link India’s major economic clusters, reduce travel times, and free existing rail capacity for freight. The Delhi–Varanasi and Varanasi–Siliguri corridors are particularly significant for Purvanchal and eastern India development.

Freight Corridors and Logistics

Surat–Dankuni Freight Corridor (new dedicated freight corridor) — links the Golden Quadrilateral’s western and eastern arms

East Coast Industrial Corridor with a **Durgapur node** (West Bengal) — builds industrial capacity in eastern India

Waterways

20 new National Waterways to be operationalized over 5 years

Coastal cargo modal share target: **6% → 12% by 2047** (doubling the share of inland/coastal shipping)

Significance: Waterways have the lowest carbon footprint per tonne-km among all freight modes; critical for Viksit Bharat green logistics

Urban Infrastructure

City Economic Regions (CERs): Rs 5,000 crore per CER over 5 years — pooled development funding for metropolitan economic regions

4,000 electric buses for Purvodaya States (eastern India states: UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha)

Municipal Bond incentive: Rs 100 crore for single bond issuance exceeding Rs 1,000 crore — deepens urban infrastructure financing

Warehousing

Shift to **operator-centric model** with self-declarations and electronic tracking — reduces compliance burden for warehousing operators

MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRY MISSIONS

Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)

Budget scaled up: Rs 22,919 crore → **Rs 40,000 crore**

Semiconductor Mission 2.0 launched — Phase 2 focuses on equipment and materials manufacturing (supply chain niches) in addition to chip fabrication

Target: PCBA (printed circuit board assembly), passive components, semiconductor testing equipment

Context: India's electronics exports reached USD 26 billion (FY24) but >80% of components imported

Biopharma SHAKTI Mission

Allocation: **Rs 10,000 crore over 5 years**

3 new NIPERs (National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research) established

7 existing NIPERs **upgraded**

1,000+ accredited India Clinical Trials sites established

Goal: Make India a global biopharma/biologics manufacturing hub

Context: India supplies 20% of global generic medicines but has limited biologics manufacturing capacity; biologics/biosimilars are the next growth frontier

Container Manufacturing Scheme

Allocation: **Rs 10,000 crore** — new scheme

Context: India imports most of its shipping containers from China; domestic manufacturing creates strategic supply chain resilience

CCUS — Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage

Allocation: **Rs 20,000 crore over 5 years**

Significance: Essential for hard-to-abate sectors (cement, steel, fertilisers) that cannot easily electrify

Links to: India's NDC (45% reduction in emissions intensity vs 2005 levels by 2030) and Net-Zero 2070 target

MSME, SME, and Startups

SME Growth Fund: Rs 10,000 crore for high-potential firms ("future Champions")

Self-Reliant India Fund top-up: Rs 2,000 crore additional

Courier export value cap removed (boosts artisans, small businesses, startups exporting via e-commerce platforms)

350+ reforms rolled out post-Independence Day 2025: GST simplification, Labour Codes notification, Quality Control Orders rationalisation

Textiles Mission (Integrated 5-component program)

National Fibre Scheme

Textile Expansion and Employment

Handloom and Handicraft

Tex-Eco Initiative (sustainable textiles)

Samarth 2.0 (skill development for textile workers)

Mega Textile Parks

Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj Initiative (khadi, handloom, handicrafts)

Rare Earth Corridors

Designated corridors in: **Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu**

Critical mineral processing capital goods: Customs duty exempted

Context: India holds ~6% of world's rare earth reserves — strategic for EVs, defence electronics, green energy

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL ECONOMY

Bharat-VISTAAR

Bharat-VISTAAR (Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources) is an AI-driven multilingual agricultural advisory platform that integrates **AgriStack** data with **ICAR** research and local weather/soil data.

Delivers real-time advisory to farmers on crop choices, fertiliser use, pest management, climate risk

Available in regional languages — critical for outreach to 146 million agricultural households

Allocation: Rs 150 crore (seed funding for AI infrastructure)

Other Agriculture Measures

Animal husbandry credit-linked subsidy program — expands livestock credit access

Coconut promotion scheme for increased production

20,000+ additional veterinary professionals to be trained

SHE Marts (Self-Help Entrepreneur Marts): Community-owned retail outlets within cluster federations (building on Lakhpati Didi success)

Major Agriculture Allocations (for reference)

Agriculture Ministry: ~Rs 1,40,529 crore

PM-KISAN: Rs 63,500 crore (Rs 6,000/year to ~100 million farmer families)

Interest Subvention (MISS): Rs 22,600 crore (agricultural credit at 7%)

EDUCATION, SKILLS, AND HUMAN CAPITAL

New Institutions

5 University Townships in industrial/logistics corridors — integrates higher education with manufacturing clusters

Indian Institute of Creative Technologies, Mumbai — new institution for design, media, digital arts

National Institute of Hospitality — upgrade of existing NCHM&CT (National Council for Hotel Management & Catering Technology)

AVGC Sector (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics)

AVGC Content Creator Labs established in:

15,000 secondary schools

500 colleges

Demand: India needs **2 million AVGC professionals by 2030**

India's AVGC export potential: USD 40 billion by 2030 (per NASSCOM estimates)

Skilling and Social Infrastructure

Girls' hostel in every district via Viability Gap Funding (focus on STEM institutions) — addresses safety barrier to girls' secondary and higher education

Tourist guide upskilling: 10,000 guides across 20 tourist sites; 12-week hybrid course with IIM partnership

Khelo India Mission deepened: Decade-long transformation including talent development, coach capacity, sports science infrastructure, competitive leagues

HEALTH SECTOR

New Institutions

5 Regional Medical Hubs for medical value tourism — integrated AYUSH centres, state partnerships

NIMHANS-2 — new National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (second campus)

Regional mental health apex institutions upgraded: **Ranchi** and **Tezpur**

3 All India Institutes of Ayurveda (AIAs) established

Allied Health Professional institutions: Radiology, anaesthesia, behavioural health

Health Allocations

Health Ministry: ~Rs 1,06,530 crore (+10%)

17 cancer drugs: Customs duty fully exempted

7 rare disease medicines/foods: Customs duty fully exempted

KEY SECTOR ALLOCATIONS

Ministry/Sector	Budget (BE 2026-27)	Change
Defence	Rs 7,84,678 crore	+7%
Defence Capital	Rs 2,31,010 crore	+17%
Domestic procurement (of defence capital)	Rs 1,39,000 crore	~75%
Railways (Capital)	Rs 2,93,030 crore	+10.5%
Agriculture	Rs 1,40,529 crore	—
Education	Rs 1,39,289 crore	+14%
Health	Rs 1,06,530 crore	+10%
Rural Development	Rs 1,97,023 crore	—
PM Awas Yojana Grameen	Rs 54,917 crore	+69%
PMGSY (Rural Roads)	Rs 19,000 crore	+73%

TOURISM AND CULTURE

Buddhist Circuit Development: 6 northeastern states (Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura) — leverages the region’s Buddhist heritage for religious tourism

Purvodaya Tourism: 5 destinations across 5 eastern states developed as tourist hubs

GIFT City / IFSC: Tax holiday extended to 20 years (from 10) — strengthens India’s international financial services hub

CRITICAL ANALYSIS — WHAT UPSC EXPECTS YOU TO ASSESS

Strengths

Steady fiscal consolidation without abandoning growth-oriented capex

Strategic bets on future industries (biopharma, electronics, CCUS, semiconductors)

Infrastructure push (high-speed rail corridors, waterways, freight corridors) addresses supply-side constraints

MAT reduction, TCS simplification, and STT rationalisation reduce compliance complexity

Concerns

Private consumption (~60% of GDP) remains subdued — government capex alone cannot sustain 7%+ growth indefinitely

Interest payments at 26% of expenditure severely constrain fiscal flexibility

Revenue shortfalls in direct and indirect taxes: if collections miss targets, actual capex may be compressed

K-shaped growth risk: headline GDP growth masks disparate trajectories for urban formal sector vs rural households

Implementation capacity: Multiple new missions announced simultaneously; India’s track record on complex multi-year schemes is mixed

Defence capital at ~28% of defence budget: Parliamentary Standing Committee recommends 40% — manpower costs squeeze modernisation

UPSC RELEVANCE

Presentation date February 1, 2026; Total Expenditure Rs 53,47,315 crore; Capex Rs 12.2 lakh crore (3.1% GDP); Effective Capex Rs 17.1 lakh crore (4.4% GDP); Fiscal Deficit 4.3% GDP; Revenue Deficit 1.5% GDP; Debt-to-GDP 55.6%; FRBM target 50% GDP by March 2031; Gross borrowings Rs 17.2 lakh crore; MAT 15%→14%; New Income Tax Act 2025 effective April 1, 2026; STT on Futures 0.02%→0.05%; Biopharma SHAKTI Rs 10,000 crore; CCUS Rs 20,000 crore; Electronics Components Rs 40,000 crore; Container Manufacturing Rs 10,000 crore; SME Growth Fund Rs 10,000 crore; 7 Growth Connector HSR corridors; Surat-Dankuni Freight Corridor; 20 new National Waterways; Coastal cargo target 12% by 2047; NIMHANS-2; 5 Regional Medical Hubs; Bharat-VISTAAR; AVGC Labs (15,000 schools + 500 colleges); 5 University Townships; IFSC tax holiday 20 years; Article 112 (Annual Financial Statement); Article 266 (Consolidated Fund); Article 265 (no tax without law); FRBM Act 2003.

*Union Budget 2026-27 — fiscal consolidation path and growth implications; capital expenditure multiplier effect; Biopharma SHAKTI and Semiconductor Mission 2.0 — significance for industrial policy; CCUS mission and India's net-zero 2070 pathway; new income tax architecture; defence budget adequacy. **GS-2:** Constitutional provisions governing the budget process (Articles 112, 110, 265, 266, 280); FRBM Act and fiscal federalism; Finance Commission; Parliament's budget scrutiny (PAC, DFCs, CAG). **GS-1/Essay:** Budget as a statement of state priorities — welfare vs growth orientation.*

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

UNION BUDGET 2026-27 — MACRO NUMBERS:

Presented by: **Nirmala Sitharaman** (8th consecutive Budget; FM since May 2019)

Presentation date: **February 1, 2026** (from Kartavya Bhawan — renamed from North Block)

Budget shifted to Feb 1 from: **2017** (by Arun Jaitley; previously last day of February)

Total Expenditure: **Rs 53,47,315 crore** (~Rs 53.5 lakh crore); +7.7% over RE 2025-26

Capital Expenditure: **Rs 12.2 lakh crore** (3.1% of GDP); Effective Capex: Rs 17.1 lakh crore (4.4%)

Fiscal Deficit: **4.3% of GDP** | Revenue Deficit: **1.5% of GDP**

Debt-to-GDP: **55.6%** | FRBM target: **50% by March 2031**

Gross Market Borrowings: **Rs 17.2 lakh crore** | Net: Rs 11.7 lakh crore

Nominal GDP growth assumption: **10–10.5%** | Real GDP: ~7%

Interest payments: **26%** of total expenditure; **40%** of revenue receipts

THREE KARTAVYAS (BUDGET PILLARS):

- Accelerate and sustain economic growth
- Fulfil aspirations of people (Yuva Shakti)
- Ensure inclusive development (Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas)

TAX CHANGES:

New Income Tax Act **2025**: Replaces IT Act 1961; effective **April 1, 2026**

Income tax slabs: **Unchanged** (slab reform was done in Budget 2025-26)

MAT: **15%** → **14%**; MAT credit offset limited to **25%** of tax liability

LRS education/medical TCS: **5%** → **2%** | Overseas tour TCS: **5%/20%** → **2%**

STT on Futures: **0.02%** → **0.05%** | Options premium: **0.10%** → **0.15%**

Share buybacks: Taxed as **capital gains** (not dividend) — 22% corporate / 30% non-corporate

Foreign assets below **Rs 20 lakh**: Immunity from prosecution (retrospective October 1, 2024)

IFSC/GIFT City tax holiday: **10** → **20 years**; taxed at **15%** thereafter

Advance rulings validity: **3** → **5 years**

Appeal pre-deposit: **20%** → **10%** of core demand

IT sector safe harbour threshold: Rs 300 crore → **Rs 2,000 crore**; margin: **15.5%** (5 years)

NEW MISSIONS AND SCHEMES:

Biopharma SHAKTI: **Rs 10,000 crore** (5 yr; 3 new NIPERs + 7 upgrades; 1,000+ clinical trial sites)

Electronics Components (ECMS): **Rs 40,000 crore** (scaled up from Rs 22,919 crore)

Semiconductor Mission **2.0**: Equipment and materials manufacturing (supply chain niches)

CCUS Mission: **Rs 20,000 crore** (5 yr; hard-to-abate sectors — cement, steel, fertiliser)

Container Manufacturing: **Rs 10,000 crore** (5 yr; new scheme)

SME Growth Fund: **Rs 10,000 crore** (high-potential “future Champions”)

Bharat-VISTAAR: AI multilingual agri advisory (AgriStack + ICAR integration)

SHE Marts: Community-owned retail outlets (Lakhpatri Didi extension)

INFRASTRUCTURE:

7 High-Speed Rail Corridors: Mumbai–Pune, Pune–Hyderabad, Hyderabad–Bengaluru, Hyderabad–Chennai, Chennai–Bengaluru, Delhi–Varanasi, Varanasi–Siliguri

New freight corridor: **Surat–Dankuni** | New industrial corridor: East Coast with **Durgapur node**

20 new National Waterways (5-year plan); coastal cargo modal share: **6% → 12% by 2047**

City Economic Regions (CERs): **Rs 5,000 crore/region** over 5 years

4,000 electric buses for Purvodaya States

Municipal Bond incentive: **Rs 100 crore** for bonds exceeding Rs 1,000 crore

SECTOR ALLOCATIONS:

Defence: **Rs 7,84,678 crore** (+7%); Capital: Rs 2,31,010 crore (+17%); Domestic: Rs 1,39,000 crore

Railways (Capex): **Rs 2,93,030 crore** (+10.5%)

Agriculture: **Rs 1,40,529 crore**; PM-KISAN: **Rs 63,500 crore**

Education: **Rs 1,39,289 crore** (+14%); Health: **Rs 1,06,530 crore** (+10%)

Rural Dev: **Rs 1,97,023 crore**; PM Awas Yojana Grameen: Rs 54,917 crore (+69%)

PMGSY: **Rs 19,000 crore** (+73%)

EDUCATION AND INSTITUTIONS:

5 University Townships in industrial corridors

Indian Institute of Creative Technologies, Mumbai (new)

AVGC Content Creator Labs: **15,000 secondary schools + 500 colleges**

AVGC demand: **2 million professionals by 2030**

Girls' hostel in every district (VGF; STEM focus)

HEALTH:

NIMHANS-2 (new campus); Regional upgrades: **Ranchi** and **Tezpur**

5 Regional Medical Hubs for medical value tourism

3 All India Institutes of Ayurveda (new)

17 cancer drugs + 7 rare disease medicines/foods: **Customs duty fully exempted**

CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK:

Article **112** (Annual Financial Statement) | Article **110** (Money Bill)

Article **265** (No tax without law) | Article **266** (Consolidated Fund)

Article **267** (Contingency Fund: Rs 500 crore)

Article **280** (Finance Commission) | **FRBM Act 2003**

16th Finance Commission: Dr Arvind Panagariya (Chairman)

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

Economic Survey 2025-26 tabled: **January 30, 2026** (CEA V. Anantha Nageswaran)

Budget Session 2026: Part I — late January to mid-March

Nirmala Sitharaman: 8th consecutive budget; FM since **May 2019** (first woman FM to present full budget)

Previous longest budget streak: Morarji Desai — 7 (1959-64; 1967-69 as Finance Minister)

India's nominal GDP FY27 assumption: **~10–10.5%** growth

Rare Earth Corridors designated in: **Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu**

Tourist guide upskilling: **10,000 guides** at 20 sites; **IIM partnership**

Buddhist Circuit Development: Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura

Sources: PIB, PRS Legislative Research, Drishti IAS

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