

Hon'ble Speaker, I present the Budget for 2023-24. This is the first Budget in Amrit Kaal. Introduction

1. This Budget hopes to build on the foundation laid in the previous Budget, and the blueprint drawn for India@100. We envision a prosperous and inclusive India, in which the fruits of development reach all regions and citizens, especially our youth, women, farmers, OBCs, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
2. In the 75th year of our Independence, the world has recognised the Indian economy as a 'bright star'. Our current year's economic growth is estimated to be at 7 per cent. It is notable that this is the highest among all the major economies. This is in spite of the massive slowdown globally caused by Covid-19 and a war. The Indian economy is therefore on the right track, and despite a time of challenges, heading towards a bright future.
3. Today as Indians stand with their head held high, and the world appreciates India's achievements and successes, we are sure that elders who had fought for India's independence, will with joy, bless our endeavors going forward. Resilience amidst multiple crises
4. Our focus on wide-ranging reforms and sound policies, implemented through Sabka Prayas resulting in Jan Bhagidari and targeted support to those in need, helped us perform well in trying times. India's rising global profile is because of several accomplishments: unique world class digital public infrastructure, e.g., Aadhaar, Co-Win and UPI; Covid vaccination drive in unparalleled scale and speed; proactive role in frontier areas such as achieving the climate related goals, mission LiFE, and National Hydrogen Mission