



# Budget 2021 Highlights: Inclusive Development for Aspirational India and Reinvigorating Human Capital

## Why in News

Recently, the Finance Minister presented the Union [Budget](#) 2021-22. This was the **first digital budget**.

- This section deals with the theme '**Inclusive Development for Aspirational India and Reinvigorating Human Capital**'.

## Key Points

- **Inclusive Development for Aspirational India:**

- **Agriculture:**

- Ensured [Minimum Support Price \(MSP\)](#) at minimum 1.5 times the cost of production across all commodities.
- [SWAMITVA Scheme](#) to be extended to all States/UTs.
- [Operation Green Scheme](#) to be extended to 22 perishable products, to boost value addition in agriculture and allied products.
- 1,000 more mandis to be integrated with the [National Agricultural Market \(e-NAM\)](#) to bring transparency and competitiveness.
- [APMCs \(agricultural produce market committee\)](#) to get access to the Agriculture Infrastructure Funds for augmenting infrastructure facilities.

- **Fisheries:**

- 5 major fishing harbours - Kochi, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Paradip, and Petuaghat to be developed as hubs of economic activity.
- Multipurpose [Seaweed Park](#) in Tamil Nadu to promote seaweed cultivation.

- **Migrant Workers and Labourers:**

- [One Nation One Ration Card scheme](#) for beneficiaries to claim rations anywhere in the country - migrant workers to benefit the most.
- **Portal to collect information on unorganized labour force**, migrant workers especially, to help formulate schemes for them.
- Implementation of 4 [labour codes](#) underway:

- **Social security benefits for gig and platform workers** too.
- **Minimum wages and coverage** under the Employees State Insurance Corporation applicable for all categories of workers.
- **Women workers** allowed in all categories, including night-shifts with adequate protection.
- **Compliance burden** on employers reduced with single registration and licensing, and online returns.

- **Financial Inclusion:**

- Under **Stand Up India Scheme** for [Scheduled Castes](#) (SC), [Scheduled Tribes](#) (ST) and women,

- Margin money requirement reduced to 15%.
- To also include loans for allied agricultural activities.

▪ **Reinvigorating Human Capital:**

◦ **School Education:**

- 15,000 schools to be strengthened by implementing all [National Education Policy \(NEP\)](#) components. Shall act as exemplar schools in their regions for mentoring others.
- **100 new Sainik Schools** to be set up in partnership with NGOs/private schools/states.

◦ **Higher Education:**

- Legislation to be introduced to set up the **Higher Education Commission of India** as an umbrella body with 4 separate vehicles for **standard-setting, accreditation, regulation, and funding**.
- Creation of formal umbrella structure to cover all Government colleges, universities, research institutions in a city for greater synergy.
- **Central University to come up in Leh** for accessibility of higher education in Ladakh.

◦ **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Welfare:**

- 750 [Eklavya model residential schools](#) in tribal areas.
- Revamped [Post Matric Scholarship Scheme](#) for welfare of SCs.

◦ **Skilling:**

- Proposed amendment to Apprenticeship Act to enhance opportunities for youth.
- Rs. 3000 crore for realignment of existing **National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS)** towards post-education apprenticeship, training of graduates and diploma holders in Engineering.
- Initiatives for **partnership with other countries** in skilling to be taken forward, similar to partnership:
  - **With UAE** to benchmark skill qualifications, assessment, certification, and deployment of certified workforce.
  - **With Japan** for a collaborative **Technical Intern Training Programme (TITP)** to transfer skills, technique and knowledge.

◦ **Innovation and Research & Development:**

- **National Language Translation Mission (NTLM)** to make governance-and-policy related knowledge available in major Indian languages.
- PSLV-CS51 to be launched by [New Space India Limited \(NSIL\)](#) carrying Brazil's Amazonia Satellite and some Indian satellites.
- As part of the [Gaganyaan mission](#) activities:
  - 4 Indian astronauts being trained on Generic Space Flight aspects, in Russia.
  - First unmanned launch is slated for December 2021.
- Rs. 4,000 crore over five years for [Deep Ocean Mission](#) **survey** exploration and conservation of deep sea biodiversity.

[Source:PIB](#)

