



# Chhattisgarh Budget

## Why in News?

The Chhattisgarh Finance Minister presented the **Rs 1,65,000 crore Budget** in the State Assembly and unveiled measures to **reduce red-tapism and boost capital expenditure**.

- He also introduced the acronym **GATI (good governance, accelerating infrastructure, technology, and industrial growth)** to highlight the government's vision.

## Key Points

### ▪ Reform Push:

- The government has set a target of implementing 216 reforms in 20 departments in the first phase to promote **ease of doing business**.
- **The Business Reform Action Plan** aims to **enhance transparency and simplify rules**.
- **Digitisation initiatives** are being implemented at various levels to **prevent fraud, curb corruption, and enable paperless and faceless processes**.
- A **new land registration system**, similar to passport office procedures, will be introduced for simplification.
- A fixed Rs 500 charge will replace high fees for relinquishment and division of assets, helping prevent revenue disputes.

### ▪ Sectoral Initiatives:

- New initiatives announced for education, rural development, urban infrastructure, and security.
- Special schemes will focus on **transport and mobile connectivity** in remote tribal regions like Bastar and Sarguja.

### ▪ Budget Estimates & Growth Projections:

- **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** for the upcoming fiscal is projected at Rs 6,35,918 crore, marking a 12% growth from the 2024-25 estimate of Rs 5,67,880 crore.
- Capital expenditure has increased by 18%, from Rs 22,300 crore to Rs 26,341 crore.

### ▪ Infrastructure and Road Plan 2030:

- The budget allocates Rs 2,000 crore for road construction, the highest since the State's creation.
- **Road Plan 2030** will connect the State capital with districts and improve connectivity among districts and development blocks.

### ▪ Mobile Connectivity & Transport:

- **Mukhyamantri Mobile Tower Scheme** will enhance cellphone connectivity in remote areas.
- **The Mukhyamantri Parivahan Yojana** will fund transport services from gram panchayats to blocks and districts, addressing the lack of public transport in low-density areas.

### ▪ Technology & Industrial Growth:

- Budget allocations include:
  - Computerisation of courts
  - State data centre creation
  - Emergency response systems

- The industry budget outlay has tripled compared to the previous year.
- **Pension Fund & Financial Stability:**
  - A **new pension fund** ensures secure pensions for government employees, a first-of-its-kind initiative in India.
  - The Chhattisgarh Growth and Stability Fund will strengthen the State's financial position.
  - This pension fund addresses concerns about fiscal burden post-2039, when a majority of employees recruited after the State's creation will retire.
- **Cooperatives & Education:**
  - 500 **new cooperative societies** will be established.
  - A **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)** will be set up in the State.
- **Welfare Schemes & Fiscal Management:**
  - **Krishak Unnati Yojana** (for farmers) receives Rs 10,000 crore allocation.
  - **Pradhanmantri Aawas Yojana (Rural)** gets Rs 8,500 crore.
  - **Mahtari Vandan Yojana**, a cash assistance scheme for eligible married women, receives Rs 5,500 crore.
  - The fiscal deficit has increased from 2.90% to 2.97% of GSDP.
  - No new taxes were announced, but **Value Added Tax (VAT)** on petrol will be reduced by Rs 1 per litre from 1st April, 2025.

## Mahtari Vandan Yojana

- The scheme aims to ensure the **economic empowerment of women, provide them with financial security**, promote gender equality, and strengthen their decisive role within families.
  - All married women above the age of 21, including widows, divorced, and deserted women, are eligible to benefit from this scheme.
- Eligible married women in Chhattisgarh will receive financial aid of **Rs 1000 per month** through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**.

## Pradhanmantri Aawas Yojana (Rural)

- **Launch:** To achieve the objective of **"Housing for All"**, the erstwhile rural housing scheme Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) was restructured to **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) w.e.f 1st April, 2016.**
- **Ministry Involved:** Ministry of Rural development.
- **Aim:** To provide a pucca house with basic amenities to all rural families, who are homeless or living in kutcha or dilapidated houses.
  - To help **rural people Below the Poverty Line (BPL) in construction of dwelling units and upgradation of existing unserviceable kutcha houses** by providing assistance in the form of a full grant.
- **Beneficiaries:** People belonging to SCs/STs, freed bonded labourers and non-SC/ST categories, widows or next-of-kin of defence personnel killed in action, ex servicemen and retired members of the paramilitary forces, disabled persons and minorities.