

Kurukshetra

March Edition



Welcome to PadhAI

KURUKSHETRA MONTHLY COVERAGE

You are here because you understand a fundamental truth of UPSC preparation: ***it's not about reading everything – it's about reading what truly matters, in the right way, at the right time.***

Magazines like Kurukshetra offer deep insights into rural development, governance, social schemes, and grassroots policy implementation. Yet for many aspirants, the challenge lies in separating exam-relevant content from general narratives.

PadhAI's Kurukshetra coverage is designed to do exactly that - ***filter, structure, and align policy discussions with UPSC requirements.***

Why This Kurukshetra Coverage Matters

At PadhAI, we don't reproduce articles. We ***extract core themes***, map them with the syllabus, and connect them with ***Prelims and Mains PYQs***.

Every topic included here:

- carries relevance for ***GS Papers or Essay***,
- strengthens understanding of ***developmental and governance issues, and***
- builds ***analytical depth*** rather than surface-level knowledge.

Nothing is added for volume.

Everything is added for value.

Part of the PadhAI Preparation Ecosystem

This Kurukshetra coverage forms part of a larger, integrated learning system that includes:

- early and concise ***monthly magazines***,
- ***daily PIB summaries*** with exam-focused clarity,
- ***monthly compliance tracking***,
- complete ***Prelims & Mains PYQs with structured answers***,
- relevant ***news article summaries***, and
- ***personal tutor chat support*** for continuous guidance.

The aim is simple:

one trusted ecosystem instead of multiple scattered sources.

Our Guiding Philosophy

At PadhAI, everything is built around one belief:

- *Learn only what matters.*
- *Learn it the right way.*
- *Learn it at the right time.*

We don't believe in shortcuts.

We believe in clarity, consistency, and cumulative preparation.

A Final Note

UPSC preparation is demanding and often overwhelming.

PadhAI exists to ensure you prepare with ***direction, relevance, and confidence*** — never blindly, never alone.

If this **Kurukshetra** coverage helps you save time, connect policy with practice, and strengthen your answers, then it has served its purpose.

Welcome to PadhAI.

A community built to prepare — not to overwhelm.

Topic I: Union Budget 2025–26: Development Dimensions



Summary: The **Union Budget 2025–26** serves as a strategic blueprint to achieve the vision of **Viksit Bharat by 2047**. It prioritizes **resilient growth** through substantial increases in capital expenditure and targeted sectoral allocations for infrastructure, social welfare, and economic reforms.

Background: The budget aligns with the **Economic Survey 2024–25**, which highlighted India's steady growth despite global manufacturing slowdowns and supply chain disruptions. It addresses citizens' expectations for income growth, employment, and an enabling business environment.

Key Points:

- **Total Expenditure:** The budget sets a total expenditure of **Rs. 50.65 lakh crore** for 2025–26.
- **Capital Expenditure:** Effective capital expenditure is significantly increased to **Rs. 15.48 lakh crore**.
- **Skill Development:** This sector leads priorities with a massive **35% increase** in allocation.
- **Subsidies:** A total of **Rs. 3.83 lakh crore** is earmarked for food and fertilizer subsidies alongside rural development and employment programs.

Prelims Facts (One Liners):

1. The target year for achieving a developed India (Viksit Bharat) is **2047**.
2. The total expenditure for 2025–26 is budgeted at **Rs. 50.65 lakh crore**.

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3. The allocation for **Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** saw the highest percentage increase at **35%**.
4. Rural Development allocation has increased by **5.75%** from the previous year.

MCQ Practice: Q. What is the total effective capital expenditure (CapEx) allocated in the Union Budget 2025-26? A) Rs. 10.18 lakh crore B) Rs. 15.48 lakh crore C) Rs. 47.16 lakh crore D) Rs. 50.65 lakh crore

Answer: B (The budget allocates Rs. 15.48 lakh crore for effective capital expenditure to drive infrastructure growth.)

Topic 2: Government Initiatives to Boost Rural Economy



Summary: The government aims to strengthen the **rural economy** by enhancing infrastructure, increasing consumption, and empowering farmers through expanded credit access and productivity schemes. These initiatives target **inclusive growth** to reduce the rural-urban divide and support India's **\$5 trillion economy vision**.

Background: The rural economy is a cornerstone of India's GDP and employment, yet it faces challenges like **declining demand** and slow growth in the MSME and informal sectors.

Key Points:

- **Kisan Credit Card (KCC):** The loan limit has been raised from **Rs. 3 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh**, benefiting **7.75 crore farmers**.

- **PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana:** This scheme targets **100 low-yield districts** to improve productivity for **1.7 crore farmers**.
- **Pulses Mission:** A 6-year mission aims for self-sufficiency with a **100% procurement guarantee** through NAFED and NCCF.
- **Fisheries:** Introduction of **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)** for fisheries to boost exports and rural employment.

Prelims Facts (One Liners):

1. The KCC loan limit has been enhanced to **Rs. 5 lakh**.
2. **Rs. 2.66 lakh crore** has been allocated for agriculture and allied sectors in 2025-26.
3. The Cotton Technology Mission is designed for a duration of **5 years**.
4. The ambitious revenue collection target for FY 2025-26 is **Rs. 42.70 lakh crore**.

MCQ Practice: Q. Under the 6-year Pulses Mission, which organizations ensure a 100% procurement guarantee for price stability? A) RBI and NABARD B) NAFED and NCCF C) NSO and NITI Aayog D) SEZ and MSME

Answer: B (NAFED and NCCF provide a 100% procurement guarantee to ensure price stability for pulses like tur and urad.)

Topic 3: Budgetary Initiatives for Women Empowerment



Summary: Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) is utilized as an analytical tool to address gender disparities by planning and auditing public expenditure for women's development. The

2025-26 budget continues to prioritize women's welfare to ensure their equal role in socio-economic progress.

Background: Gender Budgeting was first introduced in India in **2005-06** to assess the impact of budgets on women and ensure equity.

Key Points:

- **DAY-NRLM:** Allocation increased by **26.3% (Rs. 19,005 crore)** to support women's entrepreneurship and skill development.
- **PMMVY:** A conditional cash transfer scheme supporting the health and nutrition of **pregnant and lactating women**.
- **Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK):** Provides grassroots-level digital literacy, skill development, and employment opportunities.
- **One Stop Centres (OSCs):** Offers integrated support, including legal aid and counseling, for women facing violence.

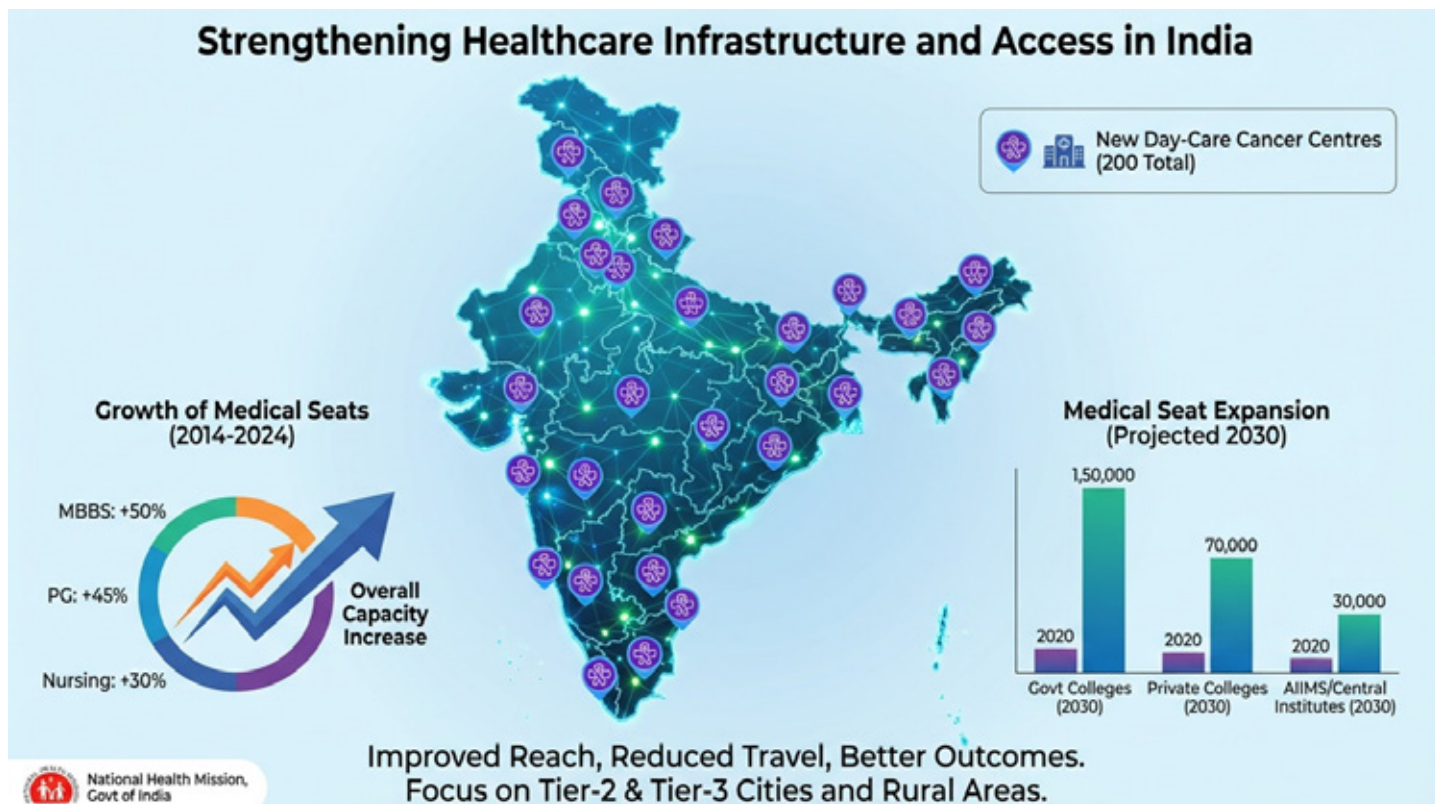
Prelims Facts (One Liners):

1. Gender Budgeting was introduced in India in the financial year **2005-06**.
2. The **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** scheme was launched in **2015**.
3. The DAY-NRLM allocation saw a significant rise of **26.3%** in the current budget.
4. The National Creche Scheme is designed to facilitate **workforce participation** for working mothers.

MCQ Practice: Q. What is the primary objective of the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)? A) Establishing safe hostels for working women B) Providing cash transfers for health and nutrition of pregnant women C) Offering 100% procurement guarantee for agricultural products D) Training women in high-yielding seed varieties

Answer: B (PMMVY is a conditional cash transfer scheme specifically for improved health and nutrition of pregnant and lactating women.)

Topic 4: Strengthening Healthcare Infrastructure and Access



Summary: The 2025–26 budget prioritizes a **holistic healthcare approach** by integrating infrastructure expansion, medical education, and digital transformation. Significant investments aim to reduce the burden on metro hospitals and ensure financial protection for vulnerable groups.

Background: Strengthening healthcare is vital to address doctor shortages and achieve **universal health coverage** goals.

Key Points:

- **Budget Increase:** The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare received **Rs. 99,858.56 crore**, an **11% increase**.
- **Medical Seats:** Target to add **75,000 new medical seats** over five years, with 10,000 added in the coming year.
- **Cancer Care:** Setting up **200 district-level day-care cancer centres** within three years.
- **Drug Affordability:** **36 life-saving medicines** are fully exempted from basic customs duty to make them affordable.

Prelims Facts (One Liners):

1. The Health Ministry budget has been increased by **11%** this year.
2. A total of **75,000 new medical seats** are targeted over the next five years.
3. **200 district-level day-care cancer centres** will be established within three years.
4. **36 life-saving drugs** are now fully exempt from basic customs duty.

MCQ Practice: Q. Under the Union Budget 2025-26, how many district-level day-care cancer centres are planned to be set up within three years? A) 50 B) 100 C) 200 D) 500

Answer: C (The budget proposes setting up 200 district-level day-care cancer centres to decentralize treatment access.)

Topic 5: Swachh Bharat and Jal Jeevan Missions

TOPIC 5: SWACHH BHARAT AND JAL JEEVAN MISSIONS



Summary: The budget underscores a commitment to **sanitation and water security** through flagship missions. Increased funding focuses on achieving **universal sanitation coverage** and sustainable potable water access through technology and community participation.

Background: These missions are essential for improving public health indicators and achieving **environmental sustainability**.

Key Points:

- **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM):** Aims to provide **pipled water to every rural household by 2026**.
- **Smart Water Monitoring:** Funds are earmarked for **sensor-based monitoring** to ensure real-time data transparency in water supply.
- **ODF Plus:** Villages are being transitioned to **ODF Plus status**, emphasizing greywater and faecal sludge management.
- **Waste Management:** Urban drives include incentives for **waste-to-energy projects** and source segregation.

Prelims Facts (One Liners):

1. The Jal Jeevan Mission target for providing piped water to every rural home is **2026**.
2. The Swachh Bharat Mission now emphasizes making villages **ODF Plus**.
3. Technology integration in JJM includes **sensor-based monitoring** for efficiency.
4. The budget dedicates significant portions to **climate-resilient water infrastructure**.

MCQ Practice: Q. What is the target year for the Jal Jeevan Mission to provide piped water to every rural household? A) 2024 B) 2025 C) 2026 D) 2030

Answer: C (The Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide piped water to every rural household by the year 2026.)