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DPI integrated in agriculture

Sinchan Saha

Rejoicing the success of the pilot project brings the Indian Government one step closer to the goal of building a digital economy for India, expressed Financial Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during her Union Budget speech on Tuesday.

Sitharaman announced the implementation of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in agriculture. The farmers across the country and their lands will be covered in three years. After the initial announcement of DPI in January's Budget, she highlighted that the government has been trying to run the pilot operations for this project and it has finally paid off.

"During this year, a digital crop survey for Kharif using the DPI will be taken up in 400 districts. The details of 6 crore farmers and their lands will be brought into the farmer and land registries," Sitharaman said.

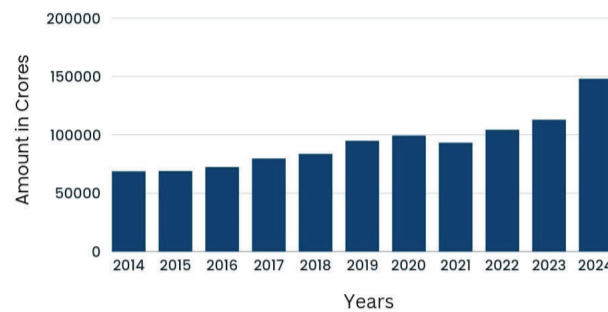
DPI for agriculture includes three broad elements: AgriStack, Krishi-DSS, and Soil Profile Maps. Under AgriStack, three foundational registries will be prepared, including: farmers' registry, an Aadhaar-like unique ID for farmers linked dynamically with land records; crops sown registry, based on digital crop survey of crops sown by farmers in their fields; and geo referenced maps of villages. In the last financial year, the farmers' registry had already been rolled out as a pilot project in one district each in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Education falls short in the budget race

Parvathi Nair

The allocation towards the education sector has seen a significant climb in the past decade. Despite being almost 215 times higher in the last 10 years, citizens have argued that the 2024 budget has neglected the crucial sector with a meagre allocation.

On Tuesday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that this year's budget particularly focuses on employment, skilling, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and the middle class. She also introduced the Prime Minister's package of 5 schemes and initiatives to facilitate employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth over a 5-year period with a cen-



Budget allocated to education sector over the years.

Parvathi Nair

tral outlay of ₹2 lakh crore.

For this year, Rs 1.48 lakh crore has been designated towards education, employment, and skill development. While many lauded the youth-centric approach to the budget this year, others took to X to express disappointment at not seeing a higher number. "Firstly the budget claims to prioritize

economic growth, yet the allocation for crucial sectors like healthcare and education remains insufficient. How can India thrive if our citizens aren't healthy and educated?" wrote a user on X. **What does 2024 offer?** The Finance Minister said that the government will implement 3 schemes for 'Employment Linked Incentive',

as part of the Prime Minister's package. These will be based on enrolment in the Employee's Provident Fund Organization (EPFO), and focus on recognition of first-time employees, and support to employees and employers.

She also announced a new scheme which will offer internship opportunities at 500 top companies for 1 crore students over the next five years. Each student will receive a monthly stipend of Rs 5,000 and a one-time assistance payment of Rs 6,000.

Referring to the Skilling programme, she introduced the 4th scheme under the Prime Minister's package, for skilling in collaboration with state governments and Industry wherein 20 lakh youth will be skilled over a

5-year period and 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes will be upgraded. It was also stated that the 'Model Skill Loan Scheme' will be revised to facilitate loans up to ₹7.5 lakh with a guarantee from a government promoted fund, which is expected to help 25,000 students every year.

Sitharaman added that for helping the youth who have not been eligible for any benefit under government schemes and policies, the government plans to offer financial support for loans upto ₹10 lakh for higher education in domestic institutions. E-vouchers for this purpose will be given directly to 1 lakh students every year for annual interest subvention of 3 percent of the loan amount.

Empowering social movements with martial arts

Aatrevi Bose

Martial arts is not only about self defence but also dignity, and imbuing certain values in oneself. The ones who oppress are also given the message that they can't continue it beyond a point as there is a possibility of a fight back, said Rohan D'Souza, educator and martial arts practitioner.

On July 23, the Alternative Law Forum organised a talk titled 'Social Movements & Martial Arts'. It focused on the intent and practice of martial arts with respect to resistance, and shed light upon India's Ayyankali movement, the USA's Black Panther Party, and Europe's Suffrage movement.



A demonstration on martial art forms

Aatrevi Bose

Speaking to The Beacon, Rohan explained, "The Ayyankali movement with Kalaripayattu is about self defence and also bringing in self-respect while pushing back on the cultural appropriation of martial arts only being controlled by certain dominant castes. Black Panther Party used it

as a means for self defence for sure, but also to bring some dignity and physical discipline among the younger people." The third one, Jiu Jitsu, took roots in Europe to counter domestic violence at home, and then it went on to streets as the movement where women got their rights to vote, which they were

demanding for, he added.

Edith Garrud combined suffrage with Jiu Jitsu, which the journalists chronicled as 'Suffrajitsu', to put The Bodyguard Unit of 30 women protecting the movement leaders in force. Mahatma Ayyankali was one of the most influential anti-caste activists who integrated Kalaripayattu as "a physical culture of training for Dalits" to demand their rights for clothing against sartorial exclusivity, and education for children, confidently, Rohan elaborated.

"It was much easier in the older times... there was an intention of changing society itself. But there's a containment of martial arts itself as an idea as we progress," he expressed.

Injuries impact sentences:

HC lawyer

Neenu M

Not all attempted murder attacks can cause extreme injuries, so the imprisonment year can vary depending on the injuries inflicted on the victim, said Jai George, a lawyer from Kerala High Court.

Under Section 307 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Supreme Court on 23 July ruled that a person convicted of an attempted murder cannot be sentenced for more than 10 years unless the punishment is life imprisonment. The decision arose from an appeal involving two convicts who received a 14-year imprisonment for attempted murder. The lawyers argued on the seriousness of the injuries justifying the sentence, but there was no life sentence declared.

"Even when the outcome of the attempt is minimal or extreme, imprisonment is of utmost importance as it is something which was already planned by the convict beforehand, and also as there's only a narrow gap between life and death," said George.

The final verdict on attempted murder cases depends on the injuries caused by the convict, and also the motives they had and the preparation one goes through, he added.

Budget hike crashes market

Kiranmai Basavaraj

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman raised the Union Budget 2024 by short term capital gain (STCG) to 20%, long term capital gain (LTCG) to 12.5%, increased exemption limits and hiked the new securities transaction tax (STT) rate to 0.02%.

On July 23, Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2024 in the Lok Sabha, which is the first budget of the Narendra Modi government in its third term.

The Sensex and Nifty



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crashed after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed to increase Securities Transaction Tax (STT). The BSE Sensex dropped 102 points to settle at 80,502, the Bank Nifty index ended 14 points higher at 52,280, and the Nifty 50 index

concluded 21 points lower at 24,509 points.

However, there was expectation of a rise in consumer stocks after the government's announcement that ₹1.52 trillion will be allocated to agriculture and related sectors. Stocks in the agriculture sector, such as Dhanuka Agritech, Mangalam Seed, and Kaveri Seeds, increased by 4.4% to 10.5%. Similarly, stocks of fishing industry companies like Avanti Feed and Coastal Corp increased by 4.3% and 2.3%, respectively.

K'taka CM scrutinizes UB'24

Sinchan Saha

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has criticised Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Union budget 2024-25, describing it as "disappointing" and "anti-human".

After the Union Budget announcement by the Finance Minister on Tuesday, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah promptly expressed his discontent with the allocation of funds. He pointed out that the FM being the Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka, was expected to protect the interest of the state.

"Injustice has been done specially to SC/STs, farmers... There are 28 states and eight union territories, ours is a federal state, but Karnataka has been totally neglected," Siddaramaiah said.

Following this, CM also said that they had sought for an increase in disaster relief and that too has not been given, in addition to the Rs 6000 crore that was previously promised.

"We have decided to boycott the NITI Aayog meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 27 July," Siddaramaiah said on X as a mark of protest.