

WHAT IS VOTE ON ACCOUNT

Vote on Account

- **Article 116 of the Constitution** allows the Lower House to make any grant in advance for the estimated expenditure for part of any financial year by voting and passing such a legislation. This is called vote on account.
- A simple vote on account includes presenting the Centre's fund requirements for salaries, ongoing projects and other expenditure for the transitional period.
- It cannot make any changes to tax rates. It is also valid only for two months and can be extended up to four months.

WHAT IS INTERIM BUDGET

Interim Budget

- As per Article 112 of the Indian Constitution, annual financial statement is laid before both Houses of Parliament.
 - Annual financial statement is a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for a specific financial year.
- The Centre seeks both Houses' approval to withdraw the necessary funds from the Consolidated Fund of India.
 - Hence, this statement has to be passed by both Houses.
- However, in an election year, the incumbent Government cannot present a full Budget as there may be a change in the executive after the polls.
- Hence, the need for an interim budget.
- **Constitutional provisions of interim Budget**
 - There is no constitutional provision for an interim budget.
 - Hence, the Centre chooses to seek the Lower House's approval for the funds required for the transition period (April - July) till the new government presents a full Budget— via the **votes on account provision**.

- **About**

- In an interim budget, the Finance Minister presents the current state of the Indian economy, its fiscal status including India's revised estimated growth in the next year.
- S/he will also detail the government's planned and non-planned expenditure and receipts.
- While the Centre has to desist from announcing any major scheme which could influence voters or present an Economic Survey, the government is allowed to revise tax rates via an interim budget.
- The interim budget too is presented to both Houses on February 1 by the Finance Minister, put to vote and then sent for Presidential approval.
- Like the Union budget, the interim budget too is debated in the Lok Sabha before passage and is **valid for the entire year** though it is merely a transition arrangement.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INTERIM BUDGET 2024

Why in the News?

- The Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Interim Union Budget for 2024-2025 in Parliament on 1st

Key Highlights of the 2024-25 Interim Budget:

- While presenting the Interim Budget, Union Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman announced that the capital expenditure outlay for the next year is being increased by 11.1 per cent to **Rs ~11 lakh crore**, which would be 3.4 per cent of the GDP.
- The Interim Budget contains a number of announcements and strategies indicating directions and development approach for making India **Viksit Bharat by 2047**.
- Making a slew of announcements, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman said, the Government will pay utmost attention to make the eastern region and its people a powerful driver of India's growth.

Key Highlights of the Budget Include:

- **No change relating to taxation**
 - No change relating to taxation has been proposed in the Interim Budget.
 - The same rates for direct taxes and indirect taxes, including import duties, have been retained.
- **For Tech Sector:**
 - A corpus of **Rs1 lakh crore** will be established with fifty-year interest free loan.
 - The corpus will provide long-term financing or refinancing with long tenors and low or nil interest rates.
 - This will also encourage the private sector to scale up research and innovation significantly in sunrise domains.
- **For Railways:**
 - Three major economic railway corridor programmes will be implemented-energy, mineral and cement corridors, port connectivity corridors, and high traffic density corridors.
 - Moreover, **forty thousand normal rail bogies will be converted to the Vande Bharat standards** to enhance safety, convenience and comfort of passengers.
- **Aviation Sector:**
 - The number of airports has doubled to 149 and today five hundred and seventeen new routes are carrying 1.3 crore passengers.
 - Indian carriers have pro-actively placed orders for over 1000 new aircrafts.
- **Allocation for MGNREGS:**
 - The Government has announced to provide Rs 86,000 crore for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme in the Interim Budget for 2024-25.
 - The amount was **Rs 60,000 crore** for 2023-24.
- **Subsidy on Food, Fertilizer & Fuel:**
 - As per the interim budget, the subsidy bill on the '3 Fs' — food, fertilizer and fuel — is slated to fall to a five-year-low of **Rs ~3.8 lakh crore in 2024-25**.

- The fertilizer subsidy has been decreased with hopes on improvement in situation in Ukraine & increased domestic production.
 - **Changes w.r.t. Demographics:**
 - Smt Nirmala Sitharaman announced that the Government will form a **high-powered committee for an extensive consideration of the challenges arising from fast population growth and demographic changes.**
 - The committee will be mandated to make recommendations for addressing these challenges comprehensively in relation to the goal of 'Viksit Bharat'.
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WHAT IS MAGSAFE?

There are a variety of power banks that are available online, but since the launch of MagSafe chargers from Apple, the industry has evolved.



About MagSafe:

- MagSafe charger is a **wireless charger/power bank** that connects to the back of your wireless-compatible mobile phone to charge your phone in the easiest of ways.
- It is equipped with either a 5,000 or a 10,000 mAh battery pack on the inside, which can be used as a power backup.
- This type of charger **uses the magnetic current** present at the **back of your mobile** phone and the magnets on the MagSafe charger.
- A good MagSafe charger is just like any other wireless power bank that attaches to your mobile phone and works as a power bank.
- As with any other power bank, a MagSafe charger also needs to be charged.

Working

- It is a type of power bank that is only compatible with devices that support wireless charging.

- The MagSafe chargers, after you fix them directly on the back of your mobile phone, **connect to the magnets** on the charger that complete the circuit.
 - The complete circuit allows the current to flow from the power bank to the device, which allows the charger to charge your mobile phone.
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SUBIKA PAINTING

Manipur boasts a rich cultural heritage but some of its invaluable art forms like Subika Paintings are on the brink of extinction due to neglect.



About Subika Paintings:

- It is a style of painting which is intricately linked to the **Meitei community's** cultural history.
- It is surviving through its six manuscripts — **Subika, Subika Achouba, Subika Laishaba, Subika Choudit, Subika Cheithil and Thengrakhel Subika.**
- Although the royal chronicle, Cheitharol Kumbaba, doesn't mention a specific founder, there is a possibility that this art form existed when the writing tradition was introduced in the state.
- Experts estimate the use of Subika paintings since the **18th or 19th century.**

Key points about Subika Laisaba:

- The painting of Subika Laisaba is a composition of **cultural motifs** made by pre-existing features and other influences stimulated by their cultural worldviews.
- Among the six manuscripts, **Subika Laishaba** represents a direct and authentic continuation of the Meitei cultural tradition depicted through visual images.
- The illustrations of Subika Laishaba have visual language from the elements such as **lines, shapes, forms, colours, and patterns.**
- These visual images become Meitei's cultural motif, and structure to create visual effects as well as express cultural significance, meaning and values.

- The visual images found in this manuscript are **painted on handmade paper**.
 - It is also found that the materials of manuscripts are prepared indigenously either **handmade paper or barks of trees**.
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WHAT IS THE MESOLITHIC PERIOD?

Mesolithic-era rock paintings have been recently discovered at Sitamma Loddi, Gattusingaram, in Peddapalli district, Telangana.



About Mesolithic Period:

- Mesolithic, also called **Middle Stone Age**, is an **ancient cultural stage** which existed **between the Paleolithic (Old Stone Age) and the Neolithic (New Stone Age)**.
- **Timeframe:** This period is generally considered to have occurred between **approximately 12,000-10,000 years ago**.
- **Some of the defining characteristics** of the Mesolithic Age are as follows:
 - People **transitioned from using large chipped stone tools to using smaller chipped stone tools (microliths)**.
 - Microliths were probably stuck onto handles of bone or wood to make **tools such as saws and sickles**.
 - At the same time, older varieties of tools continued to be in use.
 - People **transitioned from hunting large herds of animals in groups to a more hunter-gatherer lifestyle**.
 - Towards the end of the Mesolithic Age, people began **growing crops and practicing animal husbandry**, which is the controlled cultivation, management, and production of domestic animals.
 - It was during the Mesolithic Age that the **dog was domesticated**.
 - The **permanent settlements** in the Mesolithic Age **varied from villages of huts to walled cities**.

- During the Mesolithic Age, the **climate was warming after the last ice age**, which occurred at the end of the Palaeolithic period.
 - **The art created** in the Mesolithic Age is **highly reflective of the change in climate** that was happening at the time.
 - During the Mesolithic period, **humans developed cave paintings, engravings, and ceramics to reflect their daily lives.**
 - **In certain areas** of the world, a **range of pottery was made** during the Mesolithic Age.
 - **Mesolithic Sites in India: Bagor in Rajasthan, Sarai Nahar Rai in Allahabad and Chhota Nagpur plateau.**
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ANIMAL HUSBANDRY INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister of India approved the continuation of the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) to be implemented under the Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) for another three years up to 2025-26.



About the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund:

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme.**
- It has been approved for **incentivizing investments by individual entrepreneurs, private companies, MSME, Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) and Section 8 companies** to establish
 - the **dairy processing** and value-addition infrastructure
 - **meat processing** and value addition infrastructure and
 - Animal Feed Plant.

Objectives:

- To help **increase milk and meat processing capacity** and product diversification thereby providing greater access for unorganised rural milk and meat producers to organised milk and meat markets.

- To make available increased price realisation for the producer.
- To make available quality milk and meat products for the domestic consumer.
- To **promote exports** and increase the export contribution in the milk and meat sector.
- To make available **quality concentrated animal feed** to the cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, pig and poultry to provide balanced ration at affordable prices.
- The government of India will **provide a 3% interest subvention** for 8 years including two years of moratorium for loans up to 90% from the **scheduled bank and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), NABARD and NDDB**.
- Under this **government entities and cooperatives are not eligible** to get the benefit of this scheme

WHAT IS A TIDAL DISRUPTION EVENT (TDE)?

An international team of astronomers recently conducted multi-wavelength observations of AT 2023clx—the closest to Earth tidal disruption event (TDE).



About Tidal Disruption Event (TDE):

- Tidal disruption events (TDEs) are astronomical phenomena that **occur when a star passes close enough to a supermassive black hole and is pulled apart by the black hole's tidal forces, causing the process of disruption**.
- Such tidally disrupted stellar debris starts **raining down on the black hole and radiation emerges from the innermost region of accreting debris**, which is an indicator of the presence of a TDE.

How does a TDE typically unfold?

- **Close Approach:** A star in a galaxy **approaches a black hole on a very close trajectory** due to gravitational interactions within the galaxy.
- **Tidal Forces:** As the star gets closer to the black hole, the **gravitational forces acting on it become increasingly uneven** due to the difference in gravitational

pull on the near side and far side of the star. These tidal forces can be strong enough to disrupt the star.

- **Stellar Disruption:** When the tidal forces exceed the self-gravitational forces holding the star together, it undergoes a process called "tidal disruption." The star is stretched and eventually torn apart into a stream of gas and debris.
 - **Accretion Disk Formation:** The debris from the disrupted star forms an accretion disk around the black hole. This disk is composed of hot gas and dust, and it spirals inwards towards the black hole.
 - **Energy Release:** As the material in the accretion disk spirals inwards, it releases a tremendous amount of energy in the form of **X-rays and ultraviolet radiation**.
 - **Flares and Observations:** TDEs are often observed as bright flares of radiation from the centre of a galaxy. These flares can last for several months to years, gradually fading as the disrupted star's material is consumed by the black hole.
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