

## Gender Budgeting in India

### Why in News?

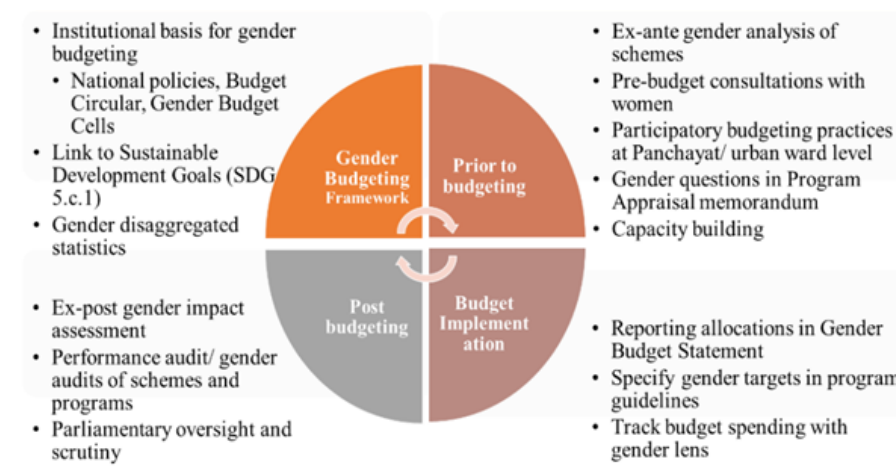
The Gender Budget reached 1% of GDP in the Budget 2024-25 for the first time, and overall allocations currently stand at more than ₹3 lakh crore for pro-women programmes.

### What is Gender Budgeting?

- **Gender Budgeting** - It is a public finance tool to allocate money in programs/schemes/initiates that attempt to reduce gender disparity.

*It was introduced in Australia in early 1980's and is currently implemented in more than 100 countries. Over 90 countries have adopted Gender budgeting and each one has had a unique experience with its implementation.*

- **Features** - It is an *outcome oriented expenditure*.
- It is a *tax based incentives* for women and girls.
- It is a dissection of the government budgets to establish gender differential impacts.
- It ensures that *gender commitments are translated into to budgetary commitments* through monitorable targets.
- It is ***not a separate budget for women*** and not about spending the same on men and women.
- **Approaches**
  - Needs-based Gender Budgeting
  - Gender-assessed Budgets
  - Gender-informed resource allocation



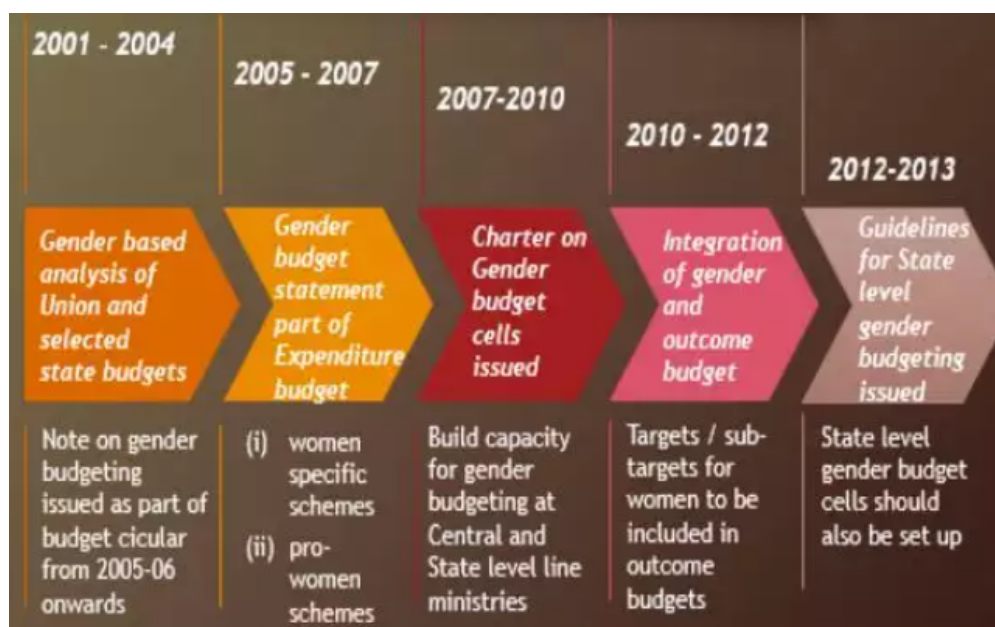
**Gender Budgeting Framework**

## How gender budgeting works in India?

- **Introduction** - It was **first introduced in 2005-06**, with an average share of 5% of the total budgetary allocation.
- **Gender Budgeting Cells** - In 2004-05, Ministry of Finance, mandated the setting up of Gender Budgeting Cells in all Ministries/Departments.
- **Gender Budget Statement** - It is an important tool of Gender Responsive Budgeting that *presents budget allocations and public expenditure* for gender equality and women's empowerment.
- The Government publishes it annually along with the Union Budget.
- It disaggregates the government's budget according to its differential impact on women and men.

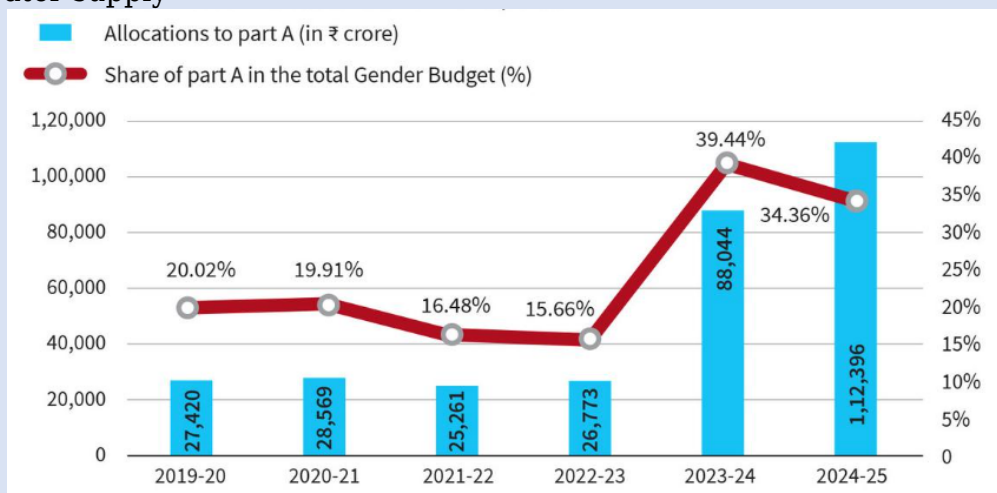
| Components of Gender Budgeting Statement |                                                                         |                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Part                                     | Statement                                                               | Schemes                                                                                                                                |
| A                                        | It reports expenditures in schemes with 100% allocation for women.      | Namo Drone Didi, Prime Minister's Girls' Hostel, Safe City Projects, Nirbhaya Fund Transfer, DISHA Programme for women in science etc. |
| B                                        | It reports programmes with allocations of 30-99% for women.             | Krishonnati Yojna, PM Schools for Rising India, Samagra Shiksha, PM POSHAN etc.                                                        |
| C                                        | It reports pro-women schemes with less than 30% provisioning for women. | PM Kisan Yojana                                                                                                                        |

- **Gender Budgeting Scheme** - It is implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development the Since 2007-08
- It aims to provide financial grant-in-aid to government departments, national and state training institutes and organisations to conduct training & workshops on gender budgeting.



## Status of Gender Budgeting in Budget 2024-25

- **Total amount allocated to women** - Rs. 327158.44 Crore, it reached 1% of GDP in the Budget 2024-25 for the first time.
- **Increased Allocation** - Its share in total Union Budget increased to 6.5% in 2024-25 from 5% in 2023-24
- Gender Budget in FY 2024-25 increased by 38.6% more than budget estimates of 2023-24.
- **Newer inclusion** - Ministry of Power and Ministry of Civil Aviation reported for the first time in this year budget.
- **Increase in Part A** - Part A had previously constituted 15-17% of overall allocations in the GBS till BE 2022-23.
- Since BE 2023-24, it is increased to almost 40%.
- **Major Allocated areas** - Nearly 3/4<sup>th</sup> of the gender budget is allocated to
  - Rural employment under the MGNREGA
  - Affordable housing
  - Education of the girl child,
  - Nutrition
  - Access to water supply



## What are the benefits of Gender Budgeting?

- GB seeks to view the Government Budget from a gender perspective in order to assess how it will address the different needs of women.
- **Gender Equality** - Gender responsive budgeting is a powerful tool to close the gender gaps in an economy.
- **Equal Resource Allocation** - It is a means of ensuring that public resources are allocated in an equitable way to meet the needs of specific gender groups are satisfied.
- **Gender Mainstreaming** - It uses the Budget as an entry point to apply a gender lens to the entire policy process.
- **Continuous Process** - It must be applied to all levels and stages of the policy process.
- It facilitates a gender sensitive analysis in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies, programmes and budgets (expenditure and revenue).
- **Monetary Need** - It recognizes the monetary requirement needed to get desired outcomes from gender sensitive legislations, programmes and schemes.
- **Monitoring the achievement of policy goals** - Gender Budgeting is a tool to monitor the achievement of the goals of the National Policy for Empowerment of Women 2001 and other policy goals in a gender-aware manner.

- **Improves efficiency** - Investing more on women improves social status and make the process of development more efficient and result-oriented.

### What are the challenges in Gender Budgeting?

- **Over/under reporting** - 100% reporting of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) Under Part A instead of part B.
- Beginning last year, the entire allocation of PMAY has been reported under part A, whereas Only a part of PMAY was reported under Part A earlier.
- Such reporting of PMAY may not be entirely accurate as not all beneficiaries are women.
- **Misallocation** - It deflates the amount spent by programmes on women's needs.
- This year for the first time the entire allocation to the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) is reflected in part A of the GBS which is technically correct.
- In 2023-24BE, only 50% of the scheme's total outlay used to be reflected in part B of the GBS.
- **Missed allocation** - Pro-women allocations in the schemes for women entrepreneurs such as PM Vishwakarma, SVANidhi, and Stand-Up India are missed out.
- **Ineffective implementation of schemes** - MGNREGS, which has the third highest allocation among schemes for women in the GBS, is currently reported under part B.
- Women constituted 59.3% of all person days under MGNREGA as of December 2023, and should have received commensurate wages yet only 33.6% gets reflected in the GBS.
- **Lack of scientific and systematic approach** - The above anomalies in reporting are reflections of the GBS still not having a scientific and systematic approach.
- **Lack of Explanation** - GBS reported an allocation of ₹920 crore for PM Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), without providing any explanation.
- **Data issue** - Ensuring sex disaggregated data in the gender-neutral sectors remains a major challenge.

### What lies ahead?

- Incorporate explanations for entries made in the GBS will ensure accounting accuracy and minimise anomalies.
- Conduct gender audits for improved gender outcomes in government programmes.
- Ensure actual spending for women in all government programmes.
- Strengthen our Gender Budgeting Cells to ensure systematic process of engendering of their policies, programmes and schemes.
- Collect gender disaggregated data to continuously track, and ensure greater women's participation in these schemes.

### References

1. [The Hindu | Analysing the Gender Budget of 2024-25](#)
2. [MoWCD | Gender Budgeting Handbook](#)
3. [India Budget | Gender Budget Statement 2024-25](#)



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