A-Z of the Budget

1. **Budget Estimates:** The government's estimates of revenue and expenditure for the upcoming fiscal year are presented in the budget speech.

2. **Capital Budget:** The part of the government budget that deals with capital expenditure, including investments in assets like infrastructure, machinery, and buildings.

3. **Capital Expenditure:** Government spending on acquiring or maintaining physical assets like infrastructure, machinery, and buildings.

4. **Consolidated Fund of India:** The single fund where all government revenues are deposited and from which expenditures are made, excluding exceptional items.

5. **Contingency Fund of India:** A fund set aside for unforeseen and emergency expenditures that do not fall under the Consolidated Fund.

6. **Customs Duty:** Tax imposed on goods imported or exported from a country.

7. **Deficit Financing:** The practice of funding budget deficits by borrowing rather than raising taxes or cutting expenditures.

8. **Direct Taxes:** Taxes directly levied on individuals and businesses, such as income and corporate taxes.

9. **Disinvestment:** The sale or liquidation of government assets in public-sector enterprises.

10. **Excess Grants:** Spending by the government in excess of the amount approved by the Parliament. It requires post facto approval.

11. **Expenditure Budget:** A detailed estimate of proposed government expenditures.

12. **Finance Bill:** A legislative proposal containing the government's taxation and public expenditure plans for the upcoming financial year.

13. **Fiscal Deficit:** The difference between the government's total expenditure and its total revenue, excluding money from borrowings.

14. **Fiscal Policy:** The government's use of taxation and spending to influence the economy, typically aimed at achieving economic objectives such as growth and stability.

15. **Fiscal Year:** The 12-month period used for accounting and budgeting purposes, often starting on April 1st and ending on March 31st in India.

16. **GDP (Gross Domestic Product):** The total value of all goods and services produced within a country's borders, used to measure economic performance.

17. **Goods and Services Tax (GST):** A unified indirect tax levied on the supply of goods and services.

18. **Guillotine:** The process of approving budgetary grants at the end of the financial year, even if detailed discussions on all grants have not occurred.

19. **Income Tax:** A tax levied on the income of individuals and corporations.

20. **Indirect Taxes:** Taxes imposed on goods and services, such as GST (Goods and Services Tax) in India.

21. **Inflation Rate:** The rate at which the general level of prices for goods and services rises, affecting purchasing power.

22. **Inflation Targeting:** A monetary policy framework where the central bank aims to achieve a specific inflation rate.

23. **Infrastructure Spending:** Government expenditure on developing and maintaining physical and organisational structures and facilities.

24. **MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act):** A social welfare program that guarantees employment and wages in rural areas.

25. **Monetary Policy:** The policy adopted by the central bank to control the money supply and interest rates to achieve economic goals.

26. **Non-Performing Assets (NPA):** Loans that are in default or are close to being in default, often used in the context of the banking sector.

27. **Outcome Budget:** A budget focusing on the expected outcomes and results of government programs and policies, providing a performance-based perspective.

28. **Plan and Non-Plan Expenditure:** Classification of government expenditure into planned development spending and non-planned routine spending.

29. **Public Account:** An account used for transactions relating to debt, deposits, and other transactions where the government acts as a banker.

30. **Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR):** The amount of money the government borrows to meet its spending requirements.

31. **Re-appropriations:** The shifting of funds from one head of expenditure to another within the sanctioned budget to meet changing priorities.

32. **Revenue Budget:** The part of the government budget deals with revenue receipts and expenditures, excluding capital expenditure.

33. **Revenue Deficit:** The difference between the government's revenue expenditure and its revenue receipts.

34. **Revised Estimates:** Adjustments made to the budget estimates during the fiscal year to account for changes in the economic scenario.

35. **Service Tax:** A tax levied on services provided by businesses.

36. **Subsidies:** Financial assistance or support the government provides to businesses or individuals to promote economic activities or social welfare.

37. **Surcharge:** An additional tax on top of the basic income tax rate, usually applied to higher-income individuals.

38. **Tax Deduction at Source (TDS):** A system where taxes are deducted directly from the source of income, such as salaries or dividends.

39. **Tax Rebate:** A reduction in the amount of income that is subject to taxation.

40. **Union Budget:** The annual financial statement of the government, presenting its revenue and expenditure for the upcoming fiscal year.

41. **Universal Basic Income (UBI):** A concept of providing all citizens with a regular, unconditional sum of money to meet their basic needs.

42. **Value Added Tax (VAT):** A consumption tax placed on a product whenever value is added at each stage of the supply chain.

43. **Vote on Account:** A provision by which the government obtains parliamentary approval for essential expenditures for a limited period, typically four months, until the full budget is passed.

44. **Ways and Means Advances:** Short-term funds provided by the Reserve Bank of India to the government to meet temporary mismatches in cash flow.

45. **Zero-Based Budgeting:** An approach where each expense must be justified for each new budget period.