

With 5-8% higher outlay, UP Budget to focus on infra, agriculture & youth

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The Budget session of the Uttar Pradesh legislature will start from Feb 18 and the Budget for financial year 2025-26 will be tabled on February 20.

Like previous years, the Budget will focus on infrastructure, agriculture, youth, and women. Interestingly, the budget size this time is expected to be 5-8% more than the previous year's Budget, sources said.

Including two supplementary budgets, the total budget outlay for the last year stood at approximately Rs 7.66 lakh crore. The budget tabled for 2024-25 was worth Rs 7,36,437.71 lakh crore. The main budget was followed by a first supplementary of Rs 12,209.93 crore and a second supplementary worth Rs 17,865.72 crore.

With the total outlay at over Rs 7.66 lakh crore, the Budget is likely to be between Rs 7.90 lakh crore and Rs 8.20 lakh crore. Sources said that the focus area would again be on infrastructure, youth, and women. They added that the state govt was aiming to excel in following economic parameters like FRBM limit. Sources said that the main revenue generation for the state govt was GST and VAT collection.

The estimated collection from GST/VAT for the current fiscal stood at around Rs 1.56 lakh crore. However, the collection so far has been around 73% of the target. With the increase in the total budget outlay in the coming fiscal, the estimated GST and VAT collection is likely to go up.

Regarding the state's GDP, against the estimate of Rs 27.5 lakh crore, the state's GDP is likely to reach the Rs 30 lakh crore mark, sources said, adding that it would further boost the state's economy and help the state move towards the goal of one trillion-dollar economy.

Similarly, with Rs 10 lakh crore investment intent already materialising, the state is ready with the investment intent worth Rs 7 lakh crore. All this will add to the state's GDP and strengthen the state's economic condition.

The Budget session, which will begin with the Governor's address on Feb 18, will be followed by discussions over the next two days until the Budget is tabled on Feb 20. The discussion on the Governor's address will continue thereafter. Of the total 16 days, there will be no sitting of the House on Feb 26 (Mahashivratri), and on weekends, thus making the House sitting effectively functional on 11 days.

As the Budget session coincides with Maha Kumbh, the session is likely to be stormy with the Opposition likely to raise issues like Kumbh stampede and alleged "mismanagement" in the Mela to corner the BJP govt.