

Prime Minister's Package: Five Schemes Announced in the Union Budget 2024-25

➤ About Scheme:

Parameter	Scheme	Key Features
Employment Linked Incentive Schemes	Scheme A: First Timers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Objective: Provide a one-month wage to all new formal sector employees. ➤ Eligibility: Salary up to ₹1 lakh per month. ➤ Benefit: One-month salary paid in three instalments, up to ₹15,000 for first-time employees.
	Scheme B: Job Creation in Manufacturing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Objective: Target first-time employees in the manufacturing sector. ➤ Benefit: Incentives for both employees and employers for EPFO contributions in the first four years.
	Scheme C: Support to Employers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Objective: Government reimburses employers' EPFO contributions up to ₹3,000 per month for two years for new hires. ➤ Coverage: Applies to all sectors for additional employment within a salary range of ₹1 lakh per month.
Skilling Programme	4th Scheme: Skilling Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Objective: A new centrally sponsored scheme for skill development in partnership with state governments and industry. ➤ Target: Aim to skill 20 lakh youth over five years. ➤ Implementation: Upgrading 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes with a hub and spoke model focused on outcome orientation.
Internship Opportunities	5th Scheme: Internship Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Objective: Comprehensive internship scheme for 1 crore youth in top 500 companies over five years. ➤ Benefit: Monthly allowance of ₹5,000 with a one-time assistance of ₹6,000.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - Signals Spotlight 2024 Report

- The UNDP's Signals Spotlight 2024 Report identifies emerging trends in development and proposes smart ideas for addressing long-term global challenges.
- **The report emphasizes intergenerational equity, focusing on three main areas:**
- **Hope for an Equitable Future**
 - **Rights of Nature:** There is increasing acknowledgment of the rights of nature in constitutions (Ecuador, Brazil, and Bolivia), laws, and even corporate boards.
 - **Economic Models:** There is a growing recognition of the need for alternatives to current economic models, such as circular or regenerative economies, and new forms of capitalism or post-capitalism.
 - **Nature as an Asset Class:** The concept of nature as an asset class is gaining traction.
 - **Youth Involvement:** Young people are expressing themselves and building a creative democracy through digital networks and the use of AI.
- **Hope for Responsible Technological Progress**
 - **AI in Development:** AI has the potential to bridge development gaps in agriculture, healthcare, pollution control, education, and even enhance democracy.
 - **Open Source AI:** The Open Source AI movement could democratize access to AI technologies.
 - **Space Cooperation:** Multilateral cooperation in space, with a focus on ethics, could improve lives on Earth, such as connecting the 2.5 billion people still offline with satellites.
- **Hope for Resilient and Connected Communities**
 - **Community Challenges:** Communities face persistent challenges, including the trauma of conflict and disaster, digital disinformation, and loneliness exacerbated by COVID-19.
 - **Investing in Connections:** Communities and start-ups are investing in social and intergenerational connections to foster resilience and unity.

Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS)

- The Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS) was launched in **March 2024** by the Union **Ministry of Heavy Industries** to boost the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in India.
- The scheme, which has a total fund of **Rs. 500 crore**, is set to end on **July 31, 2024**.
- **Key Details about EMPS:**
 - **Objective:** To accelerate the adoption of EVs in the country.
 - **Duration:** 4 months, from March to July 2024.
 - **Budget:** Rs. 500 crore.
- **Eligible EV Categories:**
 - **Two-Wheelers:** Includes private, corporate, and commercial vehicles.
 - **Three-Wheelers:** Includes E-Rickshaws and carts.
- **Eligibility Criteria:**
 - EVs must be manufactured and registered within the validity period of the EMPS-2024 certificate to qualify for incentives.

Withdrawal of 2% Equalisation Levy on Non-Resident E-Commerce Companies

- The government has proposed to **withdraw the 2% equalisation levy** that impacts non-resident e-commerce companies.
- **About Equalisation Levy**
 - **Introduction:** The equalisation levy was introduced in India in 2016.
 - **Initial Scope:** Initially, it applied to online advertisements and related payments for using digital ad space. The rate was set at 6% for non-residents without a permanent establishment in India.
 - **Extension in 2020:** In 2020, the levy was extended to include e-commerce supplies or services provided to Indian residents by non-resident e-commerce operators.
 - **Current Rate:** The levy is set at 2% for non-resident e-commerce operators who have a permanent establishment in India.
 - **Purpose:** The levy aims to ensure fair competition, maintain reasonableness, and enable governments to tax businesses effectively.

Department of Posts Releases Beta Version of DIGIPIN for Feedback

- The **Department of Posts** has released the beta version of **DIGIPIN (Digital Postal Index Number)** for public comments and expert opinion.
- **About DIGIPIN**
 - **Objective:** To create a geo-coded addressing system in India.
 - **Goal:** To develop a National Addressing Grid and provide simplified addressing solutions for delivering public and private services to citizens.
 - **Development:** Created in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad.
- **Significance of DIGIPIN**
 - **Address Locating:** Allows for logical location of addresses with built-in directional properties.
 - **Geospatial Governance:** Acts as a strong and robust foundation for Geospatial Governance.
 - **Base Layer:** Serves as a foundational layer for other ecosystems.

Indian Kalarippayattu Federation Recognized as Regional Sports Federation

- The Union **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** has recognized the **Indian Kalarippayattu Federation** as the official body to promote Kalarippayattu in the country.
- **About Kalarippayattu**
 - **Origin:** Developed in Kerala, it is considered one of the oldest martial arts in the world.
 - **Characteristics:** Known for its high-flying acrobatics, graceful movements, and the skillful use of deadly weapons.
- **Main Styles**
 - **Vadakkan (Northern Style):** Primarily practiced in the Malabar region of Kerala.
 - **Thekken (Southern Style):** Mainly practiced in the Travancore region of Kerala.