

## Drown-out Budget 2021-22: Weakness amid Majority Thumping in Uttar Pradesh

Dr Manjur Ali  
Assistant Professor  
GIDS, Lucknow

In 2019-20 (BE), Uttar Pradesh has presented Rs. 4,79,701.1 crore budget. It was lauded as the biggest budget ever presented in the State. But, it is a mere 11.97 percent increase over the previous budget 2018-19 (BE). The present increase in the year 2021-22 (BE) has been consistent with an increase of 11.27 percent in 2018-19 (BE) over 2017-18 (BE). So, the increase in the total state budget has been done keeping in mind the inflation rate. Any successive government will be doing the same. However, we should look at the progressiveness of the budget, which can be seen from the total social sector expenditure. It can also be gauged from the actual expenditure, rather than budget estimates.

The budget has three phases – Budget Estimate (BE), Revised Estimate (RE) and Actual Expenditure (AE). BE is a promise based on government estimates about their revenue and capital receipts from various sources. AE is the true amount that any government has spent in the state. The AE data for a particular year become available after two years of its BE. This is the third budget presentation of BJP government. Thus, we have AE of his first budget. But first, we will look at the total social sector expenditure.

*Table 1: Year-wise Social sector expenditure as percent of Total State Budget, UP*

	2015-16 (AE)	2016-17 (AE)	2017-18 (BE)	2017-18 (A)	2018-19 (A)	2019-20 (BE)	2020-21 (BE)
Rev. Exp	82486.46	91861.12	101406.86	84251.68	91311.73	128748.37	137478.66
Cap. Exp.	11706.76	17150.47	15111.06	11625	10589.12	22390.8	23486.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>94193.22</b>	<b>109011.59</b>	<b>116517.92</b>	<b>95876.68</b>	<b>101900.85</b>	<b>151139.17</b>	<b>160965.21</b>
<b>% of Total Budget</b>	<b>30.99</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>30.29</b>	<b>29.79</b>	<b>26.04</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>31.39</b>

Source: Uttar Pradesh Budget document of various years

As per government budget documents, 2018-19 (BE) has seen 31.1 percent of total state budget expenditure in the social sector. The percentage has been lower than 2016-17 (AE), the last budget of Akhilesh Yadav's government. In fact, in 2016-17 (BE), percent of the social sector estimate was 34.82 percent, which was the highest. Now, let us look at the 'Actual Expenditure' of various departments related to social sector schemes.

**Table 2: Selected Departments BE, RE and Actual Expenditure of various years, Uttar Pradesh**

Department		2016-17 (AE)	2017-18 (BE)	2017-18 (RE)	2017-18 (A)	2018-19 (BE)	2018-19 (RE)	2019-20 (BE)
Education								
	School	38049.04	50142.00	45823.25	32914.88	50534.39	49997.06	53990.10
	Secondary	8404.53	9387.44	8519.68	8601.74	9704.23	9609.79	11534.65
	Higher	2429.38	2655.81	2492.82	2120.44	2807.00	3758.70	2896.67
	<b>Total</b>	<b>48882.95</b>	<b>62185.24</b>	<b>56835.75</b>	<b>43637.06</b>	<b>63045.62</b>	<b>63365.55</b>	<b>68421.42</b>
Health	Ed. & Training	4091.44	3525.45	3764.66	3684.87	4738.03	4723.82	5699.81
	Allopathic	4974.46	6516.66	6185.76	5526.03	7694.49	7330.35	8555.15
	Ayurvedic & Unani	625.35	1000.34	916.42	771.12	1097.44	1039.03	1172.42
	Homopethic	294.21	405.46	368.80	345.49	422.71	397.07	503.50
	Family Welfare	3925.00	5054.66	4980.86	4461.84	5461.23	5054.59	6107.71
	Public Health	429.48	677.69	622.32	580.54	742.64	698.39	827.68
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14339.94</b>	<b>17180.26</b>	<b>16838.82</b>	<b>15369.89</b>	<b>20156.54</b>	<b>19243.25</b>	<b>22866.27</b>
Minority Welfare		1892.32	2475.6	2462.2	1364.87	2756.98	2753.98	3047.03
Social Welfare		5488.71	4335.87	4240.74	3707.84	4554.94	4539.72	4811.14
Urban Development		6237.65	13189.01	13144.03	7249.08	13483.51	14423.1	15852.96
Panchayati Raj		11057.67	12278.11	12737.6	12210.16	14227.6	22973.75	18944.77
Rural Development		10436.04	15821.3	15949.04	10507.98	19732.4	20410.62	20204.8

Source: Author's Calculation from UP budget documents of Various Years

Table 2 exposed the hollowness of large claims. Social sector departments such as Education, Rural Development, Minority department, Social Welfare, Urban Development and Health have seen lower actual expenditure than was announced in 2017-18 (BE). The education department – Primary, Middle and Higher education – had a total allocation of Rs. 62185 crore, but AE was merely Rs. 43637.06 crore i.e. 30 percent lesser than promised. Rural Development department had Rs. 15821 crore in 2017-18 (BE) which rose to Rs. 15949 crore in the revised budget. But, the actual expenditure was 34 percent lesser. A similar gap between budget announcement and actual expenditure can be seen in Social Welfare, Health and Urban Development departments. The Urban Development department has almost half the actual budget. But, the worst situation was faced by the Minority department which had a 45 percent lesser amount to its dispersion in 2017-18. So, whatever you claim on the day of the budget presentation proved meaningless, if there is a vast gap between BE and ‘Actual’.

What is going on in 2019-20 (BE) at the micro-level can be understood by further dissecting the department schemes. Let us look at the Social Welfare schemes, Rs. 932.5 i.e. 19.38 percent of total department money goes to General Caste welfare in 2019-20 (BE). In the Urban Development department, few schemes have a problem in actual expenditure despite high allocation. On the other hand, few have smoother implementation.

***Table 3: Selected Schemes under Urban Development Department, UP***

Schemes	2015-16 (AE)	2016-17 (BE)	2016-17 (A)	2017-18 (BE)	2017-18 (A)	2018-19 (BE)	2019- 20 (BE)
Kanha Gaushala evam besahara pashu Ashray Yojna	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.00	60.00	98.50	200.00
SBM (Urban)	0.00	600.00	119.14	1000.00	929.24	1100.00	1500
CM Urban Remedies of Slum Improve Schemes	0.00	0.00	0.00	225.00	97.40	250.00	250.00
Smart City	24.00	600.00	132.40	1500.00	883.60	1650.00	2000.00

PM Awas Yojna (urban)	0.00	0.00	0.00	2342.00	248.54	1514.00	3609.44
DDU Antodya Scheme (NRLM)	0.00	0.00	0.00	164.00	48.69	173.25	105.15
Ardhkumb Mela 2019 Allahabad	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	497.80	1500.00*	0

Source: UP budget document. \* In 2018-19 (RE) allocation has gone up.

Gaushala (Cow Shelter) scheme has not only had better implementation but exceeded what was allocated in 2017-18 (BE). Around Rs. 40 crores was allocated by actual expenditure was around Rs. 60 crore. In 2019-20 (BE), the allocation has been increased to Rs. 200 crores. Allocation for Ardh Kumb Mela was Rs. 1500 crore in 2018-19 (BE) but the expenditure has gone up to Rs. 2400 crore in 2018-19 (RE). On the other hand, schemes like NRLM, Slum improvement schemes; PM Awas Yojna and Smart City have lacked administrative will (Table 3).

Further, in 2017-18 (BE), BJP's government in the Union announced Rs. 2212 crore package for Bundelkhand to have surface water supply in the region but there is no trace of that amount in the UP budget. However, in 2019-20 (BE), another scheme has been announced for Bundelkhand, Vindhya and other regions affected by quality water. A total of Rs. 2310 crore based on a 50:50 share between centre and state has been allocated. The allocation for Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM, Rural) in 2017-18 (A) has been better. However, the amount for SBM<sup>1</sup> has been decreased to Rs. 4620 crore in 2019-20 (BE) from Rs. 9769.59 crore in 2018-19 (RE). Minority Welfare department schemes are badly hit by lower actual expenditure. In 2017-18 (A) 'The Modernisation of Madrasas has a total expenditure of Rs. 102.54 crore out of Rs. 394.04 crore. Similarly, there has been no information regarding actual expenditure on Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for Minority students, which has been 100 percent sponsored by the centre. Multi-Sectoral Development Programme (MSDP) has again marred non-implementation (table 4).

---

<sup>1</sup> The allocation also includes SBM (rural) under SCSP.

**Table 4: Selected Schemes-wise allocation (Actual, BE & RE) from Various Department, UP**

	2015-16 (AE)	2016-17 (A)	2017-18 (BE)	2017-18 (RE)	2017-18 (A)	2018-19 (BE)	2018-19 (RE)	2019-20 (BE)
Payment of honorarium to Shiksha Mitra	8.41	5.53	22	20.90	52.11	192.50	192.50	192.50
Mahila Samakhya Programme (100% CSS)	4.33	3.03	0	0.00		0.00		
SSA	8936.88	11466.54	15374.21	14058.54	4114.98	14355.27	14355.27	14155.27
Ayushman Bharat (NHPM)								1022.69
Ayushman Bharat, PM Jan Arogya Yojna								87.53
Rural Family Welfare Center located at PHC	225.63	220.79	331.43		246.39	349.18	324.02	383.02
Rural sub center (CSS 60 % - SSS 40 % )	813.39	839.90	1109.10		923.15	1180.69	1094.64	1323.41
Madrasa Modernisation	227.51	215.13	394.04	374.35	102.54	404.14	404.14	459.07
Post Matric S'Ship (State Plan)	90.53	140.64	148.67	148.67	130.44	148.67	148.67	148.67
MSDP	175.1	337.66	345.2	394.35	247.27	415.63	414.31	498.13
National Old Age Pension	1029.93	1148.09	1151.00	1093.45	1131.30	1151.00	1151.00	1170.00
National Family Benefit Scheme	266.27	237.87	450.00	427.50	208.61	450.00	450.00	450.00
SBM (Gramin)	925.65	1644.38	3230	4719.28	4935.7	4967.66	13370.9	5880

Source: UP budget documents for various years

We cannot talk about the implementation and influence of Ayushman Bharat, but as revealed in table 2, health expenditure is also lagging in 2017-18 (Actual). Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyan (SSA) is the core of primary education, in both structure and finance ways. Maximum allocation under SSA goes to 'Teacher/ Sikhsha Mitra appointed' based on 50 percent state contribution to it. In 2017-18 (BE) Rs. 14079.15 crore was allocated but the actual expenditure was just Rs. 3056.73 crores. This has pulled down the overall performance of SSA in 2017-18 (A) (table 4.)

## Conclusion

There has always been euphoria around the presentation of the budget and new announcements for public goods. If it would happen to be an election year, for a ruling party, both, in centre and state, supporters eulogies it as the best things for everyone – farmers, youth, middle and poor class. But, rarely do we focus on the actual expenditure versus what was promised as a debating point. As we can see above the total increment of the budget 2019-20 (BE) is around 11.97 percent. The only scheme which consistently worked so far, in terms of allocation and expenditure, has been Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM, rural). Otherwise, most of the schemes are marred by bad implementation. Let us not drown out Uttar Pradesh's budget weakness amid the majority thumping their benches in '*Vidhan Sabha*'.