

Professional community in the country has greeted Indian Finance Minister's budget has been hailed as a game-changer, and most business leaders e



Dr B. R. Shetty, chairman of UAE Exchange

Macro-economically a good budget. Common man to get great relief with the reduction of on income. Healthcare gets an impetus with establishment of two more AIIMS, which means affordable quality care to more people. Rural development gets into focus with infrastructure and cleanliness taking the lead. Farmers to get double the income in five years, intensifying focus on agriculture, the spine of the economy. National agricultural market on digital space will get the best price for the farmers. Digital economy aims to bring transparency in political funding, income structures and financial inclusion, enhancing the lifestyle of the poor.



Sunny Varkey, chairman of GEMS-Varkey Group

The budget's increased focus on growth, citizens' welfare, massive infrastructure development and poverty alleviation underscores the general view that India stands out as a bright spot amid world economic gloom. Other game-changing initiatives such as increased fund for secondary education and the \uparrow of annual learning outcome in schools ensure higher academic standards. Incentives for affordable housing and the pledge to provide ten million homes for the poor are indeed great initiatives.



Sudarshan Malpani, MD of Alpen Asset Advisors Limited

A growth-focused budget which gives further impetus to the Indian economy. The government has achieved a fine overall balance, boosting the key sectors of infrastructure, housing and agriculture. The budget will push consumption and demand higher leading to job creation across India in various industry sectors. Billions of dollars will be spent on housing, roads, railways and the rural economy.



Dr Ram Buxani, chairman of ITL Cosmos Group

First time in the history, I feel, the Finance Minister has openly admitted that ours is a largely non-tax compliant society who conveniently evade taxes and in that direction has decided to take stringent and punitive steps against economic offenders by introducing new law. And to give still one more opportunity to citizens to be responsible, he has brought down tax rates substantially. The budget shows that the government is keen to take the country forward.



Dr R. Seetharaman, group CEO of Doha Bank

India has benefited from lower oil prices resulting in improvement in current account deficit to 0.3 per cent of GDP and deceleration in CPI to 3.4 per cent in December 2016 from more than six per cent during 2016. The de-monetisation impact is expected to be transient in nature as the government has already re-monetised the system.



Abbas Ali Mirza, former president of IBPC

After the recent demonetisation drive, expectations were rife that the finance minister would present a budget that would contain several tax reforms including deductions and concessions and also address concerns with regard to ease in doing business in a cashless economy. To some extent these expectations were met. The proposed ban on cash payments exceeding Rs300,000 is yet another step that is worthy of mention.



Kiran Sangani, managing partner, Sangani & Company

A balanced budget covering all segments of the population, including farmers by giving incentives through Kissan Loan and reduction of rate of interest. Through Skill India and providing huge funds, and establishing different educational institute for high and secondary education, youth empowerment is given a big boost. The budget also takes care of the poor and underprivileged people.



Adeeb Ahamed, MD of Lulu Financial Group

A well-balanced budget with greater emphasis on the agriculture sector and increased provisions to uplift economic and social conditions in rural India. The agenda to transform, energise and clean India, will allow the government to lead the country towards a brighter future. Adherence to fiscal discipline, with emphasis on growth and development, increased allocation to agriculture credit and other development schemes, increase in infrastructure spending are this year's key elements.

