

Industry bodies hail budget as progressive, growth-oriented

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LUCKNOW : Industry bodies hailed the Union Budget-2026 as progressive with a long-term vision for India, focusing on infrastructure, youth, agriculture, women, export promotion and making the country ready to tackle AI with focus on data centres. They opined that the budget focuses on increasing capex to boost the economy.

According to experts, the budget shows vision towards long-term goals. Major announcements included new schemes for semiconductors, biopharma, rare earth corridors, and increased capital expenditure.

The government aims to lower the fiscal deficit further, a stated target of around 4.3% of the GDP for FY-27, continuing the medium-term consolidation path and reducing borrowing pressure on the economy. The fiscal discipline signal combined with capex support is designed to maintain mid-to-long-term growth momentum and keep debt dynamics manageable.

A record infrastructure outlay of around ₹2.2 trillion is projected, intended to sustain investment demand and stimulate private sector participation.

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HT expertvoices

LK Jhunjhunwala from sugar industry, Sarvesh Goyal from hospitality, Dharmendra Kumar and Arpit Gupta (CAs), Arvind Mohan (economist), DP Singh from agriculture, Manish Agarwal from Adani Group, and Vinayak Nath (FICCI) attended FICCI's live viewing session on budget.

Mukesh Bahadur Singh, chairman, UP Coordination Committee, IACC

Union Budget 2026 focuses on overall Industrial growth, inclusivity, women and 'yuva shakti'. In an era of unprecedented global change and turmoil, India has emerged as a stable macroeconomic force.



Vishwas Swarup, Co-chairman, FICCI UP State Council

The budget proposals will re-energise the economy by lifting sentiments of the middle class and nudging the private sector to advance its investment plans as demand improves across sectors. The proposals will scale up manufacturing across seven strategic and frontier sectors.



Abhishek Saraff, vice-chairman, CII, UP

The budget is clearly growth-focused, with a strong emphasis on strengthening manufacturing



expansion. The proposed SME Growth Fund, through improved access to equity and liquidity support, will help enterprises scale up, drive innovation, and integrate more deeply into India's manufacturing and export ecosystem.

Upasana Arora, chairperson, CII, UP

The budget takes important step towards strengthening the healthcare sector.



The Bio-Pharma Shakti initiative will boost manufacturing, R&D, and exports, while the enhanced focus on mental health, trauma care, and assistive technologies will improve access to quality healthcare.

Rajesh Nigam, co-chair, UP, PHDCCI

The budget is growth-oriented, forward-looking, and balanced for industries.



Record capital expenditure on infrastructure, strengthening of the manufacturing sector, improved financial support for MSMEs, and a special focus on logistics and connectivity will give a new impetus to industrial development.

electronics, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and strategic sectors will empower 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

Mayur Tandon, vice-chairman, IIA, CII

The budget will boost infrastructure for sustainable supply chains. Investments like ₹4,000-crore Self-Reliance Fund and ₹10,000 crore for champion SMEs will enhance credit access via TReDS mandates.



Khalid Masood, director, Shalimar Corp

The budget outlines a progressive roadmap for strengthening the real estate sector.



The introduction of the Infrastructure Risk Guarantee Fund will improve access to financing and mitigate project risks.

Dinesh Goel, national president, IIA

The budget announcements reflect a strong commitment to the growth of the Indian economy and MSMEs across all sectors, and that the budget is "forward-looking and

allocations for biopharma, semiconductor manufacturing and high-speed rail infrastructure, along with the proposed growth fund for micro-enterprises will collectively strengthen India's manufacturing ecosystem.

Tax corrections sans harsh penalties a big relief: Khemka

The government had given honest taxpayers a major relief by allowing voluntary correction of mistakes without facing harsh penalties or interest. He noted that even during the income tax department proceedings, taxpayers would be able to revise their returns, and authorities would be required to act on the updated filings.



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