

## A Pragmatic Fiscal Blueprint Balancing Priorities in India's Interim Budget

The recently presented interim Budget by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman lays out a fiscal strategy that mirrors a government poised for a potential reelection and steadfastly focused on long-term economic objectives. This budget underscores the government's commitment to fiscal consolidation and an emphasis on capital expenditure, sidelining populist measures. As the country gears up for the General Election, the blueprint places a strong emphasis on sustainability and responsible financial management.

One of the pivotal aspects of this budget is the commitment to reducing the fiscal deficit. For the fiscal year 2024-25, the government has set a target of 5.1 percent of the GDP, a noteworthy reduction from the revised 5.8 percent for 2023-24.

### Editorial

The fiscal deficit, a key metric indicating the variance between total government revenue and expenditure, is a barometer of potential borrowings. The government aims to bring this figure below 4.5 percent of the GDP by the financial year 2025-26, signaling a disciplined approach towards managing the country's finances.

In a bid to stimulate economic growth and align with the vision of a 'Developed India' or 'Viksit Bharat,' the budget proposes a substantial 11.1 percent increase in the capital expenditure outlay. The allocation for capital expenditure is set to rise to Rs 11.11 lakh crore in 2024-25, constituting 3.4 percent of the GDP, compared to the previous fiscal year's allocation of Rs 10 lakh crore. This push in capital expenditure is integral to the government's strategy, linking infrastructure development with employment generation.

Interestingly, the Defence Ministry takes the lead in allocation with Rs 6.2 lakh crore, underscoring the government's commitment to bolstering national security. On the flip side, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, with an allocation of Rs 1.27 lakh crore, finds itself ranked below several other ministries. Despite expectations, the interim Budget doesn't introduce fresh impetus to the agricultural sector, and the government largely reiterates the success of existing schemes.

The budget refrains from offering tax relief to the middle class, maintaining the status quo in various tax slabs. This decision underscores the government's determination to sustain the momentum in tax collections, which, according to the Finance Minister, have more than doubled over the past decade.

While lacking headline-grabbing announcements, the interim Budget encapsulates the government's self-assured approach, potentially perceived by critics as complacency. As India navigates its economic trajectory, the pragmatic fiscal measures outlined in this budget set the stage for a balanced and sustainable financial future, irrespective of the electoral outcome.

## Anup Jalota and Chiranjivi Bhatt Discuss Film 'Hindustva' in Jaipur

Renowned devotional singer Anup Jalota and Chiranjivi Bhatt visited Jaipur to discuss their upcoming film "Hindustva."

Jalota highlighted Jaipur's deep historical connection with Hindustva, citing iconic warriors like Veer Shivaji, Maharana Pratap, and Rana Sanga. The film, set to release on Mask TV's OTT platform on February 9th, explores themes of secularism and cultural identity. Anup Jalota

plays a significant role, while actor Ashish Sharma portrays a pivotal character. The team, including director Karan Rajdan, engaged with the media in Jaipur, emphasizing the film's contribution to promoting Hindustva values.

## Shooting for Shiv Aryan's 'Lockup Death 2' to Commence on April 15th

The filming for "Lockup Death 2," produced by Shiv Aryan, is scheduled to commence on April 15th. The shooting will cover coastal areas in Kerala, starting in Bangalore. Shiv Aryan, known for successful films with actors like Ajay Devgn and Salman Khan, expressed confidence in the film's entertainment value.

Directed by Mohan Kumar, "Lockup Death 2" aims to surpass its predecessor in suspense, thriller, mystery, and action. The film is produced under Registered Black Panther Movies Limited (London), with Dr. Surekha Mhatre, Mamta Sunar, and Vibha Kumari as producers. The casting for this season is yet to be finalized among Malayalam, Kannada, and Tamil superstars.

## "Majnoo" Teaser Release: Emotional Dialogues Resonate with Audiences

The teaser for the Punjabi film "Majnoo" has been revealed, leaving an impression with its emotional dialogues and captivating scenes. The teaser offers a sneak peek into the romantic and emotional elements of the film, featuring beautifully shot sequences and a poignant dialogue delivered by the lead actress. Breaking away from typical Punjabi cinema trends, "Majnoo" focuses on a unique romantic triangle, promising a distinctive and impactful presentation. Gurmeet Singh's soul-stirring melodies add to the narrative, setting high expectations for the film's music. Scheduled for release on March 22, 2024, the film is poised to deliver a compelling story of love and romance.



## Shri Ashish Kumar Chauhan, MD and CEO of NSE, Praises 2024 Interim Budget's Development-Focused Policies

In response to the interim budget announcement, Shri Ashish Kumar Chauhan, the MD and CEO of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), has given it a top rating of 10 out of 10. He commended the budget for its consistent focus on policies, fiscal discipline, and a centric approach towards development, welfare, and economic prudence. Chauhan highlighted

the emphasis on capacity building through increased spending on infrastructure, aiming to create employment opportunities. The budget is notably geared towards the welfare of the poor, farmers, women, and youth, signaling a positive direction for overall economic development.

He acknowledged the budget's efforts to achieve fiscal consolidation, with a revised



estimate indicating a 5.8% reduction in the fiscal deficit for the financial year 2023-24. Looking ahead, there is a commitment to reaching a target of 4.5% fiscal deficit by the financial year 2025-26.

The record-high expenditure of ₹11.11 lakh crores, a 16.9% increase in capital expenditure, has been directed towards various sectors, particularly roads, trans-

portation, and railways. This allocation, representing 3.4% of the total GDP, is the highest in the last 26 years, focusing on a special push in the past five years, resulting in a 27% compound annual growth rate (CAGR). Chauhan noted improvements in the quality of expenditure, with capital expenditure now constituting 23.3% of the total expenditure, the highest in the last 30 years.

The budget addresses critical areas such as electricity, healthcare, housing, cooking gas, and financial inclusion, providing social security frameworks for the poor and needy.

Summing up, Shri Ashish Kumar Chauhan deemed the budget as positive for the markets, highlighting the continued focus on development, prudence, and transparency.

## Resolute Commitment towards Developed India - Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari

Udaipur: A budget of INR 553.90 crores has been approved for smart development projects in four cities of the state under Smart City Mission Phase 2.0. Udaipur, allocated a sum of INR 134 crores, received the approval from Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Diya Kumari on Wednesday. Deputy Chief Minister

Kumari emphasized that Smart City Mission Phase 2.0 aims to facilitate smart development projects in Udaipur, Jaipur, Kota, and Ajmer, with a total investment of INR 553.90 crores. She expressed gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri for their support.

She highlighted that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, the state government is working diligently towards realizing the goals of Prime Minister Modi's vision for a developed India. The allocated funds will be utilized for the foundational development of key structures in the four major cities, ensuring the citizens benefit from the advan-

tages of a smart city.

Notably, the approved budget includes INR 134 crores for Udaipur, INR 154 crores for Jaipur, INR 168 crores for Kota, and INR 98 crores for Ajmer under Smart City Mission Phase 2.0. This funding will be instrumental in the development of basic infrastructures, with a special focus on integrated waste manage-

ment.

Keywords: Smart City Mission Phase 2.0, Development Projects, Budget Allocation, Udaipur, Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari, Integrated Waste Management, Developed India Vision.



## Interim Budget Focuses on Youth, Poor, Women, and Farmers, No Changes in Tax Slabs

Udaipur: C.A. Nirmal Singhvi, former president of Udaipur Tax Bar Association, highlighted that the interim budget presented by the Finance Minister remains focused on the youth, the poor, women, and farmers. He noted that while there were no changes in the tax slabs, the budget is supportive of the nation's all-encompassing development. Singhvi welcomed the provision to install solar systems on rooftops, offering up to 300 units of free electricity per month, potentially resulting in annual savings of ₹15,000 to ₹18,000 per family. The decision to refund direct taxes for certain financial years and the increase in capital expenditure were also seen as positive steps. The revised estimate of fiscal deficit for the financial year 2024-25 is set at 5.1% of the GDP, which is considered favorable despite lower growth projections. Singhvi also highlighted the provision of interest-free loans amounting to ₹75,000 crores for development in states as a positive aspect contributing to their progress.



## Dr. Nirmal Kunawat Applauds Budget Focused on Development Pillars

Udaipur: Dr. Nirmal Kunawat, a senior Chartered Accountant in the city, commends the Budget 2024-25 as a positive step towards achieving the goals of a developed India. He emphasizes the budget's orientation towards the central pillars of farmers, women, youth, and the underprivileged, anticipating their development and the nation's progress in the coming years. Dr. Kunawat recognizes the significant focus on the development of the northeastern region and applauds the proposal to provide 50,000 crores as interest-free loans over fifty years to enhance state contributions. Despite no changes in tax rates, he notes the introduction of a new scheme for filing tax defaults, where no taxes are levied on incomes up to 7 lakhs. Dr. Kunawat highlights the benefits of the rapid processing system for Income Tax Returns (ITR) for individuals seeking refunds and praises the decision to reclaim small tax demands up to 25,000 rupees related to specific financial years. Overall, he sees the deficit budget as a reflection of the government's commitment to strengthening the economy, promoting development, and creating conditions to fulfill people's aspirations for a 'Developed India.'



## Dr. JK Taliya, Chairman of ECHON, Applauds Union Budget's Focus on Infrastructure

Udaipur: Dr. JK Taliya, Chairman of ECHON, a prominent global PVC building board manufacturer based in Udaipur, India, expresses satisfaction with the Union Budget for 2023-24 after a thorough review of its implications for the industry and the broader manufacturing sector. The budget's significant emphasis on capital expenditure, with a substantial 33% increase to 10 trillion rupees, is seen as a strong commitment to infrastructure development. This focus aligns with ECHON's expectations for improved logistical frameworks and supply chain efficiencies, crucial for operational excellence and expansion plans, particularly in the export sector. The government's efforts to create a more business-friendly environment, including reducing compliances and decriminalizing legal provisions, resonate with ECHON's advocacy for regulatory reforms. While recognizing the positive direction, Dr. JK Taliya emphasizes that the actual impact on the industry will depend on detailed implementation strategies and sector-specific incentives. As ECHON's Chairman, he commits to closely monitoring developments, engaging with policymakers, and leveraging opportunities to drive sustainable growth and enhance contributions to the global building materials market.



## Viral Sensation: Apurv's Catchy Haryanvi Song on FMD Music by Ramesh Bhandari

In the dynamic world of music, achieving overnight success is a rarity, especially in the Haryanvi music genre. However, a recent Haryanvi song has defied the odds, rapidly gaining viral status. Produced by Ramesh Bhandari under the FMD Music channel, the track features the melodious voice of acclaimed Haryanvi singer Apurv. The song's impeccable musical arrangement and melodic structure have quickly captured the hearts of listeners, making it a standout in the Haryanvi music scene. With lyrics by Brijmohan and additional vocals by Manveer Singh, the song, accompanied by a captivating music video, is becoming a viral sensation, showcasing a perfect blend of vocals, lyrics, and music.

## Manali's Ranjeeta Singh Aims for Bollywood Stardom

Ranjeeta Singh, hailing from Manali's scenic valleys, is set to make her mark in Bollywood. Trained at 'Creating Character' in Mumbai, Ranjeeta, a former model for international magazines, eyes diverse roles in web series, TV, and films. Inspired by Rani Mukerji, she aspires to join Salman Khan's Bigg Boss. Ranjeeta, grounded in spirituality and Himachali culture, encourages kindness over envy in chah

## TVF's 'Sapne Versus Everyone' Enters IMDb Top 250

Presentation by: Kali Das Pandey TVF's 'Sapne Versus Everyone' has joined the IMDb Top 250 TV Shows list, solidifying The Viral Fever's (TVF) dominance in the global entertainment scene. The show becomes the seventh TVF production to enter the list, joining other successful shows like 'Aspirants', 'Kota Factory', 'Gullak', and 'Panchayat'. The success of TVF's shows underscores the growing influence of Indian content creators

on the international stage, particularly among the youth. With high ratings, positive reviews, and strong audience engagement, TVF continues to establish itself as a leading production house in India.

## Actress Ruchika Maheshwari: From Indore to Bollywood

Introduction: Kali Das Pandey Actress Ruchika Maheshwari, known for her roles in television shows and web series, gained recognition with the music album 'I Am Here.' Hailing from Indore, Madhya Pradesh, she has received honors from the state government for her contributions to the arts. Ruchika, with a background in classical and contemporary dance, made her mark in Mumbai with roles in shows like 'Crime Alert', 'Dil Dosti Dance', and 'Veera.' Beyond acting, she is a model, painter, and poet, drawing inspiration from Madhuri Dixit and Sridevi. Ruchika continues to explore various artistic endeavors, with upcoming projects in short films and web series.



## Aasha Kunawat's Culinary Book Unveiled by Annu Kapoor

Bollywood actor Annu Kapoor unveiled "Khana Pakane Ka Junoon" (The Passion for Cooking), a culinary book by Aasha Kunawat, in Jaipur. Aasha Kunawat, former president of the Inner Wheel Club, shared that the book features a hundred recipes, spanning breakfast, desserts, fruits, beverages, and home remedies. The event highlighted the dedication and enthusiasm reflected in the culinary journey captured in the book, which aims to be a valuable resource, especially for women.

## Sneha Ullal Receives Honor at V B Events and Productions'

## Awards of Excellence 2024

Actress Sneha Ullal was honored at the V B Events and Productions' Awards of Excellence 2024, bringing glamour to the prestigious event. The ceremony, organized by Vrinda Bhandari, celebrated participants from diverse fields, including social workers, influencers, and artists. Sneha Ullal praised the organizer's efforts in hosting successful charity programs that unite individuals from different sectors. The event, held in Mumbai's Oshiwara area, featured the participation of well-known actor and lyricist Pranav Vats, along with promoter Sanjay Bhushan Patiala, creating a memorable night.

## Target Mobile Accessories Receives Prestigious Award

At the Rising India Awards in Delhi, Mr. Magan Chaudhary, Director of Target Mobile Accessories, was honored for his significant contributions. The event, attended by Bollywood actress Hema Malini and BJP leader Shyam Jaju, celebrated individuals fostering self-reliance in India. With 15 years of excellence, Target Mobile Accessories, represented by Mr. Magan Chaudhary, received recognition for adapting to consumer needs and delivering high-quality products. This acknowledgment inspires the brand to continue its commitment to superior service and top-notch mobile accessories for customers nationwide and globally.

## Experts Applaud Inclusion of Cervical Cancer Vaccine in National Immunisation Programme

New Delhi: At the 5th Edition of the Cancer Summit, health experts praised the government's decision to include the cervical cancer vaccine in the national immunization program, as announced in the Interim Budget 2024. The integration of the HPV vaccine into the national immunization agenda was hailed as

a transformative step to reduce the burden of cervical cancer on a national scale. The experts also emphasized the need for an exclusive National Cancer Control Policy to address the growing number of cancer cases in the country. The Cancer Summit, organized by IHW Council and RAPID Global Cancer Alliance, brought together experts to discuss holistic cancer management, with discussions on the role of technology, genomics, artificial intelligence, immunotherapy, and precision medicine in enhancing patient outcomes.

## Focus on Skill Development

Udaipur: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Interim Budget in Parliament, hinting at potential major announcements, but adhering to tradition, maintaining continuity in tax provisions, and avoiding the announcement of local-centric schemes with an eye on upcoming elections.

Praveen Suthar, Chairman of the Federation of Rajasthan Trade and Industry (FORTI) Rajasthan Branch, highlighted that the Finance Minister's focus in the budget was on showcasing achievements so far, without altering tax provisions or introducing new schemes. However, the budget clarified the government's vision through new definitions of FDI (First Development India) and GDP (Governance, Development, and Performance).

## Renowned Martial Arts Guru Inaugurates Beekeeping Academy

Dr. Chita Yajnesh Shetty, Hollywood action choreographer, inaugurated the Farmers Beekeeping Academy and Training Center in Mysuru. B9's initiative offers beekeeping training, employment opportunities, and fair honey prices for farmers. The ceremony, attended by dignitaries like Shri Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, highlighted B9's efforts, including B9 Unit Boxes. Dr. Shetty, the brand ambassador, praised B9's farmer-centric initiatives. The event garnered international acclaim, with attendees from various countries acknowledging the positive impact of B9's endeavors.