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# Budget 2024 Reactions From India's Leading Entrepreneurs, Policy Makers & Economists (Good, Bad Or Ugly?)

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Mohul Ghosh

Feb 01, 2024

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Interim Union Budget 2024-25 in Parliament today. This was the current government's last budget ahead of 2024 Lok Sabha polls and FM Sitharaman's sixth overall.



Since a new government will take over later this year, a full budget will be presented post elections by the next finance ministry.

The interim budget focused on areas like infrastructure, agriculture, green energy and railways while maintaining fiscal prudence. However, income tax slabs were left unchanged.

This is how India's leading founders, entrepreneurs, business owners, policy makers and economists reacted:

#### Mr. Dinesh Khara, Chairman, SBI

"The interim budget has laid out an affirmative action of fiscal glide path towards 4.5% in FY26. The heartening news is that the anticipated tax buoyancy in FY24 excluding the outlier pandemic year is the highest in 7 years. This apart, the budget has laid out reinforced architecture of Big possibilities, creating an all-encompassing action-oriented roadmap to embark upon an arduous yet rewarding journey for each and every Indian, chiefly the fringe and hitherto vulnerable masses, entrepreneurs, agripreneurs and women, making them an equity holder in Viksit Bharat."

## Mr. George Alexander Muthoot, MD, Muthoot Finance

FM's interim budget is balanced from the point of view of adhering to fiscal prudence, boosting infrastructure growth and prioritizing focus on four key sections of the economy - the poor, women, youth and farmers. We believe the FM's focus on higher outlay for infrastructure will help in boosting the broader economy and in the long term will boost investment activity. The government's support to MSMEs, women entrepreneurs and the agricultural sector aptly aligns with our aim to provide credit support to MSMEs, small business owners, farmers and women entrepreneurs thereby addressing their economic needs. FM's focus on addressing housing challenges by building two crore additional homes under the PM Awas Yojana-Grameen is certainly positive for boosting the housing sector. While inflation has been a concern globally, FM's focus on staying on the path of fiscal prudence in the interim budget, will surely be an enabler for stable interest rate scenario in the economy and bodes well for the overall financial sector.

## Debashis Chatterjee, MD & CEO, LTIMindtree

We welcome the interim budget's focus on skilling, deeptech, R&D, innovation, and digital infrastructure, all of which are critical drivers for the IT industry's growth. The Skill India Mission has helped in building a highly skilled workforce, and the Rs. 1 lakh crore corpus with interest-free loans for tech-savvy youth will be a true game-changer. This will fuel innovation and entrepreneurship, fostering the next generation of tech leaders. As we strive towards achieving the goal of "Viksit Bharat" by 2047, LTIMindtree stands committed to partnering with the government in its digital transformation journey. We believe this interim budget has laid a strong foundation for continued growth, with technology playing a pivotal role in shaping India's future."

#### Dr. Malini Saba, a self-made businesswoman, Founder & ex-chairman, Saba Group, and founder & chairman, Anannke Foundation

As a woman in the startup ecosystem, the proposed corpus for tech-savvy youth is a beacon of hope for aspiring entrepreneurs. Schemes like Start Up India and Start Up Credit Guarantee provide crucial support for turning ideas into reality. The government's recognition of the contributions of SHGs through honoring them reflects the essence of philanthropy and community building. I am encouraged by the positive trajectory set by the government, promoting innovation and inclusivity in the startup landscape."

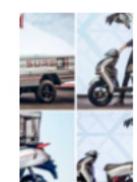
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