



# BUSINESS

FEBRUARY 2025

VOLUME:21  
**Digest**  
ISSUE No: 11

## ADVANTAGE ASSAM 2.0

pg**104**

Investment and Infrastructure Summit

25-26 February 2025

GAHATI



Organised By:



[via.advantageassam.assam.gov.in](http://via.advantageassam.assam.gov.in)



pg  
**126**

India and Israel target  
deeper economic ties  
as trade remains  
below potential



pg  
**84**

India accelerates  
critical minerals push  
with ambitious auction  
target



pg  
**114**

Bengal charts circular  
economy path to boost  
sustainable growth

Tamil Nadu unveils ambitious plans  
to boost entertainment industry

pg**110**



# Contents

FEBRUARY 2025 VOL 21 ISSUE 11

## COVER STORIES

**India unveils stimulus-led budget with focus on middle class agriculture and MSMEs**

**10**



**India shifts entire government borrowing to capital spending in inflation-fighting budget**

**14**

**Capex is still high, and helping economy**

**18**



## LEAD

**Indian manufacturing surge continues despite cost pressures**

**24**



## Special

**20** RBI's decision to ease policy rate is timely

## National

**74** Security chiefs must evolve into strategic leaders, says disaster management expert

**78** India office market defies global trends with record absorption

**80** India steps up tech-driven fight against smuggling as illicit trade surges

**84** India accelerates critical minerals push with ambitious auction target

**88** Indian startups pivot to profitability as funding landscape evolves

**90** India unveils ambitious Startup Mahakumbh 2025 showcase

**92** Mounting crisis in India's legacy waste management

**94** Water scarcity threatens India's pathway to becoming \$30 trillion economy

**98** India joins elite group of nations with indigenous metro train control system

## State

**104** India positions Assam as cornerstone of Act East policy

**106** Goyal hails Assam's emergence as investment hub at summit conclusion

**110** Tamil Nadu unveils ambitious plans to boost entertainment industry

**114** Bengal charts circular economy path to boost sustainable growth

**116** India advances ambitious plans for domestic engine manufacturing

**118** Kerala exporters urged to embrace ATA Carnet for duty-free trade expansion

**120** Odisha seeks private investment to drive tourism expansion

## International

**126** India and Israel target deeper economic ties as trade remains below potential

**130** India and Slovakia surpass €1bn in bilateral trade as business ties deepen

**Forthcoming Events**

**132**

**FICCI In News**

**134**

**#Social Wall**

**136**

**Statistical Snapshot**

**138**



FEBRUARY 2025

**Chairperson – Editorial Board**

Jyoti Vij

**Editor**

Santanu Ghosh

**Editorial Team**

Nitin Srivastava  
Anurag Mankhand  
Gargi Bhardwaj  
Mandeep Yadav

**Marketing & Advertising**

Rahul Siwach

**Subscription & Distribution**

Dinesh Bhandari

**Design & Art**

Sandeep Thapa

**Printed by**

GENESIS PRINTERS

All rights are reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording and/or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Printed and published by Director General on behalf of (or owned by) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi and Published at Federation House, Tansen Marg, New Delhi 110001

R.N.I No. DELENG/2004/13722

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry  
Federation House, Tansen Marg,  
New Delhi – 110001

Phone: 23738760-70 (11 Lines)

Fax: 23320714, 23721504

E-Mail: [ficci@ficci.com](mailto:ficci@ficci.com)

Website: [www.ficci.in](http://www.ficci.in)

FICCI is the voice of India's business and industry, reaching out to over 2,50,000 companies. Established in 1927, it is India's oldest and largest apex business organisation. FICCI serves its members from large (domestic and global companies) and MSME sectors as well as the public sector, drawing its strength from diverse regional chambers of commerce and industry.

## EDITORIAL

# From The Director General



After a considerable wait, the middle class can finally breathe easier with the tax-related announcements in the budget marking a watershed moment. The provision of full exemption to individuals earning up to 12.75 lakh annually places additional funds directly in consumers' hands, potentially triggering a significant consumption boost. This strategic tax restructuring could generate an economic multiplier effect, with experts suggesting that the 1 lakh crore returned to taxpayers might

stimulate consumption activity worth approximately 5 lakh crore.

The latest budget also presents a remarkable departure from conventional fiscal policy, channelling the entirety of government borrowing toward capital expenditure for the first time – a strategic shift that promises to stimulate growth without stoking inflation. This approach reflects a mature economic vision that addresses immediate consumption concerns while keeping sight of long-term structural transformation under the 'Viksit Bharat' agenda. The effective capex increase of over 17.4 per cent—from 13,18,320 crore in 2024-25 to 15,48,282 crore in 2025-26—underscores the government's commitment to infrastructure development.

At the FICCI Conference on the Union Budget, Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey highlighted the budget's non-inflationary character, emphasising that all government borrowing is now directed towards capital expenditure. CBDT Chairman Ravi Agrawal introduced the new PRUDENT framework for tax administration, focusing on transparency and cooperative approaches to revenue collection. CBIC Chairman Sanjay Kumar Agarwal detailed the comprehensive rationalisation of customs duties across 8,500 tariff lines, while FICCI President Harsha Vardhan Agarwal welcomed the budget as a blueprint for economic transformation.

While government officials at the FICCI Conference detailed these fiscal measures, the Reserve Bank of India's decision to cut the repo rate by 25 basis points—the first such reduction in nearly five years—further enhanced the broader economic landscape. This monetary policy adjustment strategically complements the budget's fiscal initiatives. The synchronised approach of targeted fiscal stimulus and timely monetary easing creates ideal conditions for crowding in private investment, positioning the economy for accelerated growth through coordinated public and private sector participation.

This edition of FICCI's Business Digest collates industry perspectives across sectors on these budgetary announcements, providing a comprehensive view of how various industries perceive the government's fiscal roadmap.

FICCI and its members remain committed to supporting the government's vision for a developed India. They recognise that this budget, emphasising reforms and fiscal prudence, represents a significant stride toward meeting the Viksit Bharat goal through balanced economic growth and comprehensive development.

**Jyoti Vij**