

# Budget on expected lines, says an unenthused T Inc

## Focus On Farmers & Middle Class Will Indirectly Benefit Industry

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**Hyderabad:** The interim budget failed to enthruse T Inc as it offered industry barely any direct benefits. However, T Inc said that the Budget's focus on farmers as well the middle class will indirectly benefit industry as the new announcements will lead to a rise in disposable incomes.

According to industry experts, the only major announcement that will boost the manufacturing sector is the extension of the 25% corporate tax, which was only applicable to companies with revenues of less than Rs 250 crore, to new manufacturing companies without any turnover limits.

CII Telangana chairman Sanjay Singh said that being an election year, the Budget was on expected lines and is a "People's Budget". "The Budget will go a long way in providing relief to distressed farmers and middle-income groups. Simplified procedures will help improve tax collections," he said.

Trade and industry body Federation of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTAPCCI)'s vice president Karunendra Jasti said that while the government has doled out



FTAPCCI members at a session on interim budget held in the city on Friday

many freebies for many sections, it has to be seen how it will raise resources for financing them. "The growth of the economy as well as widening of the tax base are expected to provide the wherewithal for these measures," he added.

FTAPCCI president Arun Luharika pointed out that animal husbandry and fisheries has been put on par with agricultural sector so nearly 2 crore people engaged in this sector will be benefitted.

FICCI national president Sandip Somany lauded the direct income support for far-

mers, the announcement of a pension program to provide social security to workers engaged in the unorganised sector and tax relief provided to the middle class. "The above, we feel, would improve demand and support investments going ahead. We see a positive momentum building for the housing and real estate sector, which has major forward and backward linkages. These are positive for growth, will have a multiplier impact and improve the outlook for the economy in the coming years," Somany explained.

Former Nasscom chairman

and Cyient executive chairman BVR Mohan Reddy said the government missed providing clarity on angel tax, which has been a major challenge for startups. "While there were some positive announcements for the general public, being an election year and an interim budget, it had few initiatives for the industry at large," he said while hailing the announcement for setting up a National Center for Artificial Intelligence that will help the country emerge as a key player in AI development and implementation in applications.

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