



EXPERT
VIEW

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Vote for putting more money in the hands of the consumers

Despite the current economic slowdown, India has stepped into the new decade with its inherent optimism intact. Bolstered by a majority government in place, a vibrant entrepreneurial culture and rich human capital, we are poised to claim our rightful place in the world economic order if we can resolve our short-term speed bumps in a focused manner. I have listed below some of the areas that I hope the budget will address:

Ensure higher tax compliance

There is still a considerable section of the population that is not contributing its rightful share to nation building. To get this segment of the population into the taxpaying fold, the government must leverage digital and analytics more aggressively and use the data collected from various sources to ensure greater compliance. Implementation of the direct tax code recommendation will contribute towards better compliance.

Disinvestment

The government has taken some fundamentally strong steps in its intent to wrap up the sale of Air India, Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd etc. over the next few months. PSU disinvestment holds great potential in nudging the economy back on track and also provides the government with much-needed funds for infrastructure and social sectors.

Scout for FDI in employment-intensive sectors

Create greater opportunities in labour-intensive sectors like manufacturing, electronics, assembly units, retail etc. Slashing the corporate tax rate was an important structural reform that made India an attractive destination for foreign investment. Easing labour laws along with a higher ease of doing business, will encourage more foreign direct investment (FDI) leading to generating higher employment.

Govt needs to take active steps to revive sectors that are facing headwinds like telecom, NBFCs

Increase farm productivity

Our policymakers need to facilitate increased agricultural productivity in the long term by focusing on better irrigation systems, crop selection, and the use of more efficient and sustainable methods of farming. Investment in rural infrastructure should continue to be a priority. This will create employment opportunities, improve the lives of the farmers and will be critical for the overall economy.

Support currently 'challenged' industries

A few sectors today that are facing headwinds like telecom, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), infrastructure etc. are critical to the economy. The government needs to take active steps to revive them. These sectors generate both direct as well as indirect employment. Shrinking of players below a certain level is never good for the overall industry.

Finally, I believe the crucial thing is to create a sense of "feel-good" in the economy. Higher optimism and confidence in the country's future, access to better housing, quality education-for-all and health facilities and greater employment opportunities contribute to a sense of stability and thus increase consumption.

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