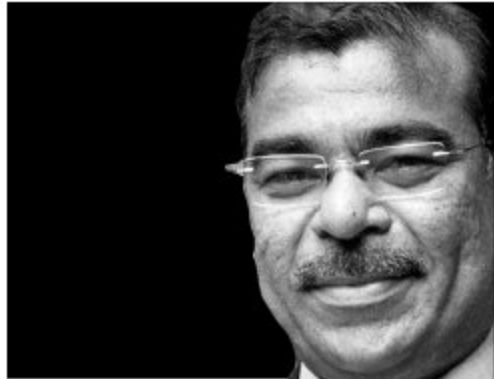


A good job under the current circumstances



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■ The government's thrust continues on the infrastructure like power and road sector

■ GST implementation will make small industries more competent

AFTER listening to the Union budget speech of finance minister Arun Jaitley, an immediate thought would come to anyone's mind is how to rate this budget. Is it a good budget or a bad one? Or it could have been better and so on are the words and phrases that come to one's mind and not to forget that the rating is usually based on the one's judgement as to 'What is in there for me?'

But instead of such a myopic view one should look at it from a broader economic perspective and then it will dawn upon you that 'Yes' the Budget is good under the current circumstances and it is certainly commendable job by the government to bring out such a balance budget.

Though on the face of it the budget is not a big bang reforms budget that many might have expected, but it certainly has a pro-growth stance and it has communicated the same.

What is also good to see here is that government seemed to have listened to the voices of all right from individuals to corporate to rural India to the underserved population, and all the important elements that could help Indian economy reach to high growth phase.

The best example of this is the government efforts to fund the underserved or funding the unfunded. Small businesses have been major contributors to the country's growth, but hardly have they been recognised as credit worthy for all these years.

The government's initiative to have Micro Units Development Refinance Agency (Mudra) Bank, with a corpus of Rs 20,000 crore, credit guarantee corpus of Rs 3,000 crore, making Mudra a refiner to all micro-finance institutions and last but not the least with lending priority given to schedule castes / schedule Tribes

enterprises is a huge step in addressing the needs of these largely neglected entrepreneurs who are the real face of 'Make In India'.

We also appreciate that the government's comforting view towards the non-banking financial companies as an important element in the country's financial system. We welcome the government's measure to consider non-banking financial companies registered with Reserve Bank of India having asset size of Rs 500 crore and above for notifications as 'financial institution' in terms of the SARFAESI Act, 2002.

This is extremely positive for The non-banking financial companies sector as it empowers us to attach the property of intended or willful defaulters, thereby arresting losses.

On the broader front, the government's thrust continues on the infrastructure like power and road sector. However what is com-

mendable is their urgency to improve rural infrastructure and rural income.

Besides, the higher allocations of funds towards rural programmes may it be the RFID, long term rural credit fund; the short term RRB refinance fund etc will go a long way in not only addressing the growth but more importantly accelerating India's story of rural emergence and the process urbanisation.

Similarly goods and services tax implementation roadmap by April 2016 should not only help in simplifying tax structures, but more importantly it will help small industries scale up and make them more competent and export efficient companies.

Last but not the least, a relief to the corporate sector on the tax is worth mentioning and a reduction of tax rate from 30 per cent to 25 per cent over the next four years is a welcome step.