

Interim Budget 2024-2025 Reaction and Analysis





Overview The interim Union Budget is largely focused on laying the vision for "Viksit Bharat" - to put India into a league of developed nations by 2047. It highlighted the major thrust areas of the government to achieve economic growth with modern infrastructure and growth opportunities. The government's plan to bring down the fiscal deficit to 5.1% of GDP in FY 2024-2025 from 5.8% in FY 2023-2024 showcases its adherence to the path of achieving the target of 4.5% by FY 2025-2026. Additionally, it hinted at the next-generation reforms in the pipeline for an aspirational economy in the next five years. The budget continued its focus on capex-led growth with an outlay of 3.4% of GDP at INR 11.1 lakh crore from 3.3% in the previous fiscal year. The special emphasis on research and innovation in sunrise sectors, green energy, start-ups, and support for EV infrastructure through viability gap funding along with long-term interest free loans highlights the government's focus areas to drive growth in the coming years.

Key Announcements & their Impact on the Real Estate Sector

Intent to launch a scheme to help the middle class buy or build their own houses

> This scheme is expected to fulfil the need of owning a house for an aspirational home buyer and will also help freeing up slums for redevelopment.

Enhancing multi-modal connectivity through economic railway corridor programmes

Development of port connectivity and dedicated freight corridors is expected to give a boost to the development of industrial infrastructure and reduce overall logistics costs. Under the PMAY (Gramin), two crore houses will be taken up in the next five years

Addresses growing housing needs and further advances the rural infrastructure.

Expansion and strengthening of the electric vehicle ecosystem via manufacturing and charging infrastructure and greater adoption of e-buses

The push will enable development of charging stations, manufacturing units, industrial and warehousing nodes.

Stress on research and innovation in sunrise sectors via strengthening deep-tech technologies for defence purposes; corpus of one lakh crore with 50-year interest free loan

Enhanced outlay for research and innovation sector would mean establishment of more institutional incubation and research centres with a ripple effect on development of tech-related real estate.

Source Savills India Researc

Domestic tourism promotion via long-term interest-free loans to states for comprehensive development of iconic tourist centres and related amenities

The announcement is expected to create a spur in the hospitality sector along with an improvement in overall infrastructure of tourist centres.

Proposal to extend certain tax benefits to start-ups and investments made by sovereign wealth or pension funds, as well as tax exemption on certain income of some IFSC units until 31st March 2025

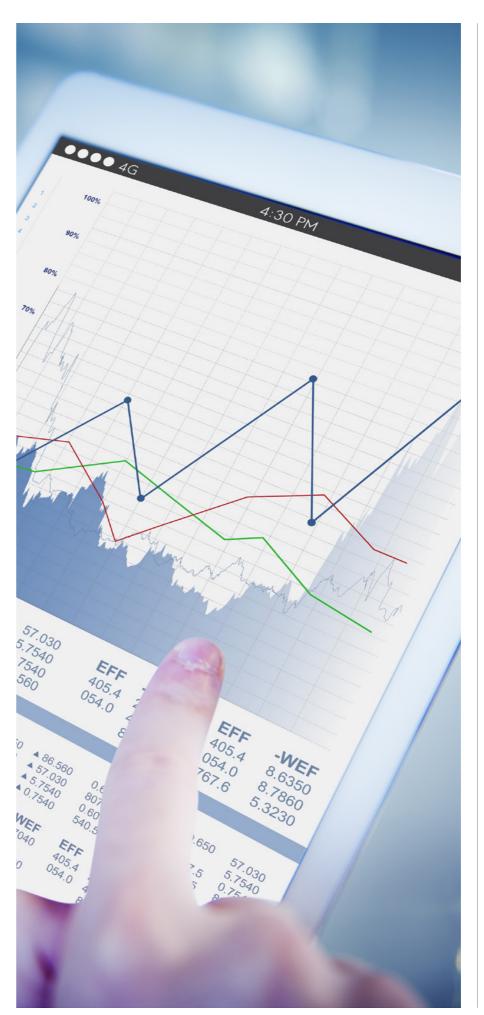
This will help in sustaining investments by sovereign wealth and pension funds in India and will augur well for the commercial office real estate segment.

Blue Economy 2.0 scheme for restoration and adaptation measures, and coastal aquaculture and mariculture

Sustainable utilisation of ocean resources under blue economy is expected to create a multi-pronged impact including development of life sciences real estate and aquaparks as it promotes manufacturing of modern equipment (to harness renewable energy), maritime transport and marine biotechnology.

Source: Savills India Research





Conclusion

The interim budget unwrapped the government's multi-pronged approach to drive economic growth with focus on building next-generation infrastructure, developing new energy avenues as well as key structural reforms for sustained growth.

A new vigour in towns due to investments announced under the infrastructure and tourism sector will strengthen real estate development and help in extending its activities beyond the top tier cities of the country. While there were limited direct announcements for the real estate sector, we believe the long-pending demand of 'infrastructure' status for real estate can help in bringing down the overall cost of delivery resulting in the reduction of housing prices over time.

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Research & Consulting

Megha Maan

Director megha.maan@savills.in

Diksha Gulati

General Manager diksha.gulati@savills.in

Raghudeep Ganugu

Senior Manager ganugu.raghudeep@savills.in

Shashwat Srivastava

Assistant Manager shashwat.srivastava@savills.in

Aloka Majumder

Assistant Manager aloka.majumder@savills.in

Arvind Nandan

Managing Director arvind.nandan@savills.in

Central Management

Anurag Mathur

Chief Executive Officer Savills India anurag.mathur@savills.in

Kaustuv Roy

Managing Director **Business Solutions** kaustuv.roy@savills.in

Naveen Nandwani

Managing Director Commercial Advisory & Transactions naveen.nandwani@savills.in

Media Queries

Chinmoyee Kalita

Corporate Communications Lead chinmoyee.kalita@savills.in

Regional Management

Sarita Hunt

Managing Director Bengaluru sarita.hunt@savills.in

Rajat Johar

Managing Director Delhi-NCR rajat.johar@savills.in

Anup Vasanth

Managing Director Chennai anup.vasanth@savills.in

Sesha Sai

Managing Director Hyderabad sesha.sai@savills.in

Naveen Raina

Executive Director Project Management Services Pune naveen.raina@savills.in

Kaustuv Roy

Managing Director **Business Solutions** Mumbai

kaustuv.roy@savills.in

Bengaluru

15th Floor, SKAV SEETHALAKSHMI Corporation No.21, Kasturba Road Bengaluru 560 001 Karnataka, India

Pune

Unit #4, 13th floor Phoenix Fountainhead Tower 2 Phoenix Market City Viman Nagar, Pune 411 014 Maharashtra, India

Kolkata

Apeejay Business Centre 15 Park Street, Apeejay House Block-A, 8th Floor, Kolkata 700 016 West Bengal, India

Gurugram

3-A, Second Floor, Building 9B DLF Cyber City, Phase 3 Sector 24, Gurugram 122 002 Haryana, India

Bengaluru

Vaishnavi Tech Park, WM9C+995 Sarjapur Main Rd, Bellandur Bengaluru 560 103 Karnataka, India

Hyderabad

5th Floor, DivyaSree Solitaire, Plot No. 14 & 15 Software Units Layout, Sy No 64, Madhapur, Serilingampally Mandal, Hyderabad 500 081 Telangana, India

Mumbai

403. Tower B. Level 4. The Capital Street 3, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex Bandra East, Mumbai 400 051 Maharashtra, India

Chennai

Savills, 5th Floor, North Wing Harmony Square, New No. 48 & 50 Praksam Street, T. Nagar Chennai 600 017 Tamil Nadu, India

Ahmedabad

INC-02, The First Commercial Complex B/S Keshavbaug Party Plot, Vastrapur Ahmedabad 380 015 Gujarat, India



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