



## FOCUS ON VISION OF AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT AND START-UPS

The Union Budget turns out to be an excellent budget but not a transformational budget as was made out to be. It has adopted a brilliant strategy of large scale infrastructure rollout, funded by asset monetization of existing road, power lines, gas pipelines and railway assets.

The budget also covers funding of New Education Policy which is what I have been asking for as it will provide the human resources needed for growth in this decade. Adequate provisions have been made for health, education, agriculture, MSME's and startups. Hope there is removal of GST on digital payments and removal of Angel tax as a followup of the budget.

The Union budget 2021 has brought relief for a lot of industries and is poised to take India to greater heights. For start-ups and entrepreneurs, one key highlight from the budget is the capital gains exemption for one more year to 31 March 2022, and secondly they will be eligible to claim a tax holiday for an additional year. These extensions presented by the Honourable Finance Minister will provide a much-needed post-pandemic boost to the upstarts.

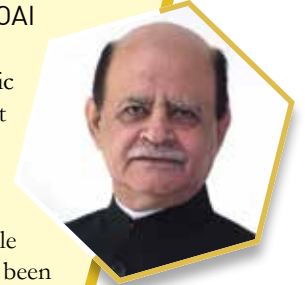
Secondly, increased focus on Innovation and on ease of doing business. This budget appears to have set the right pace for India's journey to a digital first approach. It has brought relief for a lot of industries and is poised to take India to greater heights.

Union Budget lays an increased emphasis on use of data analytics, artificial intelligence and machine learning across industries. Welcoming the Government of India's move in taking definitive steps towards using the power of digital technologies and boosting the fintech and startup ecosystem through initiatives such as fintech hub in Gujarat International Fintech Tec (GIFT). The benefits accrued through the allocation of Rs. 1,500 crores for promoting digital modes of payment as well as the increased tax audit limit for those who carry 95% of their transactions digitally will enable businesses, especially MSMEs to digitise their entire value chain and drive exponential impact on key business levers – innovation, growth and efficiency.

Overall, the budget manages to put up a convincing package to fund the desired goals while providing revenue lines for the same.

**BUDGET 2021 TO PUSH ECONOMIC GROWTH POST PANDEMIC AND LEAD TOWARDS ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT**

**LT. GEN. DR. SP KOCHHAR**  
DG, COAI



“We welcome the budget as it is pro-investment and pro-growth. It will provide the much-needed impetus to economic growth post the pandemic and will set us on the path to becoming Atmanirbhar Bharat. However, we are a bit disappointed that concerns of the telecom sector, which is the backbone of digital India, remained unaddressed. We were expecting a reduction in the burden of levies, such as LF and SUC on the telecom sector. The Government has also not considered the request of the Industry to exempt the GST from the payment of Government Levies such as LF, SUC and spectrum installments etc. As the telecom operators are going to launch 5G services in the country, it is imperative that 5G enabled telecom equipment are available to them at a reasonable price. Thus, there was the need for a reduction in customs duties on telecom equipment. It would have been a much awaited relief if the government provided the right incentives to the sector.”

**CP GURNANI**

MD & CEO,  
Tech Mahindra

**“BUDGET 2021 PROMISES TO PROVIDE THE MUCH-NEEDED ECONOMIC VELOCITY TO INDIA’S GROWTH CYCLE”**



“This budget is a step in the direction towards Atmanirbharta, clearly providing every opportunity that is required for a sustainable economic momentum and growth. The Finance Minister has provided for ample opportunity to boost and sustain the gig economy, digital payments and research and development taking place within the country. The focus on innovation and R&D (Research & Development) as an important pillar is a critical step in increasing the export income of Indian IT sector. Along with this, the ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ budget also outlines initiatives for gig economy, digital payments, human capital while also setting up fintech hub and National Natural Language Translation Missions. Therefore, with increased allocation towards infrastructure, financial inclusion and healthcare, Budget 2021 promises to provide the much-needed economic velocity to India’s growth cycle.”

**VEHICLE SCRAPPAGE POLICY TO BOOST THE AUTO SECTOR IMPACTED BY THE PANDEMIC**

**WARREN HARRIS**  
CEO & MD,  
Tata Technologies



“With a significant outlay on Infrastructure spend and the much-needed Vehicle Scrappage policy, the government of India has finally set the tone for recovery of Auto Sector which has been significantly impacted by the pandemic. This will not only help boost the demand for production of Commercial vehicles but also support the entire transportation ecosystem.

Also, while it would have been good to see some more initiatives to promote Electric Vehicles in this budget, we are glad that the government has noted India’s critical role in the global automotive supply chain post COVID 19. Specific initiatives through Production linked schemes, creation of infrastructure for R&D and enabling skill development in new-gen technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) will help drive investment in Engineering and Research.”

**DR. KESHAB PANDA**

CEO & MD,  
L&T Technology Services

**IMPETUS TO MANUFACTURING SECTOR TO PAVE THE WAY FOR ENHANCED ADOPTION OF DIGITAL ENGINEERING CAPABILITIES**



“The move to provide greater impetus to India’s manufacturing sector with outlay of almost Rs 2 trillion over the next five years is indeed a welcome move. We are hopeful, this will pave the way for enhanced adoption of digital engineering capabilities by domestic players, especially in the Industry 4.0 segment, to give them a global edge. With patents and innovations being at the core of our proposition as a pure-play engineering services provider, it was encouraging to know that Innovation and R&D was classified under the six pillars of focus for this year’s union budget. Unlike last year where explicit mention to initiatives such as National Mission on Quantum Computing and Technology were announced, one would have hoped that this year’s budget would have made provision for further focus.”

**GOVERNMENT PROJECTS TO INCREASE THE IMPORTANCE OF SECURITY**

**RAJESH MAURYA,**  
Regional Vice President,  
India & SAARC, Fortinet



“The budget has announced big-ticket projects to add to the digital capabilities with the next general census in the country being the first digital one and along with marque MCA 21 project this is likely to garner massive ‘crown jewel’ assets in terms of the sensitivity and quantity of data. As these projects are rolled out it will increase the importance of security as the government builds the tools and workflows supporting these services. These projects will need to prioritize solutions such as Zero Trust Access, automated endpoint security, users awareness training to counter a range of threats, and will also need to ensure that solutions such as software defined networking and multi-cloud services are implemented securely.

The real challenge in securing these digital assets that will continue to be targeted by both criminal and nation state (APT) actors is the availability of skilled resources.”



**"AT INTEL, WE ARE STEADFAST IN OUR COMMITMENT TO PARTNERING WITH THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS JOURNEY OF TECHNOLOGY FUELED INNOVATION AND GROWTH"**

**PRAKASH MALLYA**

VP and MD – Sales, Marketing and Communications Group, Intel India



"At a time of great uncertainty, the first ever paperless Union Budget 2021 stood out for its unremitting focus on economic recovery through higher spending and inclusive growth opportunities. The allocation of Rs. 50,000 crores over the next five years through the National Research Foundation to develop India's potential as a global innovation hub is particularly exciting. This will undoubtedly provide greater impetus to the Indian innovation story and cement our position on the global map of leading economies. At Intel, we are steadfast in our commitment to partnering with the Indian government on this journey of technology fueled innovation and growth. It is evident that the government is banking on India's digital technology foundation to power its revival journey. It is encouraging to see the government's sharpened focus on adoption of cutting edge technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. We are excited to see the future of Indian innovation and economic resurgence unfold over the next few months."

**BUDGET 2021 FOCUSES ON 'ATMANIRBHAR' ECOSYSTEM**

**BALAKRISHNAN ANANTHARAMAN**

VP and MD Sales, Nutanix India



"The outlook for innovation from the 2021 budget remains strong, with a lot more focus on making an 'Atmanirbhar' ecosystem. Today tech startup companies have become the backbone for the growth of the country, we are optimistic about the initiatives taken to strengthen India's digital drive and to further amplify the digital economy. The impact of the pandemic has forced sectors that operate traditionally to change their models rapidly to support modern trends. Two-thirds (70%) of the public sector are of the opinion that COVID-19 has caused IT to be viewed more strategically in their organisations, and hence the budget's intention to push for innovation and R&D is one step in the right direction for the tech sector, in establishing a Digital First mindset throughout India."

**BUDGET 2021: A MOVE TOWARDS PRO-GROWTH AND PRO-TECHNOLOGY**

**VIVEK SHARMA**

MD - India, Lenovo Data Center Group



"This is a pro-growth, pro-technology budget with a vision to disinvest where required and re-energize infrastructure, healthcare, banking, and agriculture sectors through numerous employment and capital generating reforms.

There is a strong focus on Digital India be it through setting a fintech hub at GIFT city, enhancing digital payments and use of AI, ML etc. in governance, or making tax appellates faceless and tech enabled – all provide a solid foundation for a forward looking data-economy."

**"A HISTORIC BUDGET MAKING A MARK OF THE BEGINNING OF A NEW INDIA"**

**HARI OM RAI**

CMD, Lava International



"It is a historic budget making a mark of the beginning of a new India.

Government has given a clarion call to the industry with the announcement of creating global champions from India and backing this strategy with new, "development finance institution".

Now the responsibility shifts to the industry to not only dream but dream big and stand together with the government to make the country progress from poverty to wealth over the next three decades."

**DIPESH KAURA**

GM, Kaspersky (South Asia)



**CYBERSECURITY TOOLS NEEDED FOR THE FUNCTIONING OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES**

"The budget for FY 2021- 22 was one with the aim to achieve and enhance our country's top priorities, by investing in the healthcare sector and major infrastructures. Enhanced healthcare systems, extensive research and development, and major infrastructure developments are definitely the need of the hour and have been effectively taken care of by the budget allocation set by our Finance Minister. The goal to empower 15000 schools and adapt to a hybrid education model is also a very promising step taken towards the digital transformation of the country. However, to make this a success, securing the hybrid education system is equally important, especially in the near future.

Similarly, cybersecurity tools will also be needed for the seamless functioning of advanced technologies like deep analytics and artificial intelligence that the government plans to use to identify tax evaders, fake billers and for the digital census."

## INVESTMENT IN NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION TO BOOST OVERALL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM OF THE COUNTRY

**SANJAY GUPTA**  
VP and India Country Manager,  
NXP Semiconductors



“The Union Budget 2021 has been the first-ever digital budget marking a major milestone in the digital journey of India. The budget has put the much-needed focus on Atmanirbhar Bharat and the need to grow the innovation and R&D sector in the country on a sustained basis. We are excited about the announcement of Rs 50,000 crores for the National Research Foundation over the period of five years. This will surely boost the overall research and innovation ecosystem of the country. In India, we have to focus parallelly on 'design-in-India' in addition to 'Make-in-India' to continue to be ahead of the curve. Looking forward to having more and more companies leverage this increased R&D budget from government and develop future researchers and Innovators. Overall, we are hopeful that Budget 2021 will propel India in the direction of becoming a global economic superpower.”

**VIKAS GARG**  
Chief Financial Officer, Paytm

## THE PROPOSED SCHEME TO INCENTIVIZE DIGITAL PAYMENTS TO ACCELERATE GROWTH OF CASHLESS TRANSACTIONS



“The Finance Minister has presented a balanced budget that is aimed at maximum growth of all sectors in the coming year. The Rs.1500 crore proposed scheme to incentivize digital payments is a welcome move that will accelerate the growth of cashless transactions in our country.

During the pandemic, digital payments emerged as one of the key enablers of empowerment at the grassroots and brought millions of people under the fold of the formal economy. Government's continued emphasis on increasing investment in Infrastructure, Insurance and digital payments will ensure financial inclusion of the masses.”

## PRAMA HIKVISION WELCOMES THE PROGRESSIVE BUDGET AND LOOKS FORWARD TO ECONOMIC GROWTH AND STABILITY

**ASHISH P. DHAKAN**  
MD & CEO,  
Prama Hikvision India



“The Union Budget FY 2021-22 is a transformative budget with positive resolve for India to grow further with a vision of the AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan that compliments the 'Make-in-India' initiative of the Government. AtmaNirbhar Bharat is an expression of 130 cr Indians, who have full confidence in their capabilities and skills. The Union Budget has identified the six pillars of Atmanirbhar Bharat's vision. On behalf of Prama Hikvision, we welcome the progressive and visionary budget and look forward to economic growth and stability. The budget has sincere intent to provide momentum to strengthen local manufacturing capabilities. The Production Linked Incentive scheme (PLI) is a welcome move by the government. The review of the customs duty structure is clearly seen as a move towards promoting the domestic manufacturing. The move to strengthen the overall research ecosystem to boost innovation and R&D in the country, an outlay of Rs 50,000 crore, is being announced, for National Research Foundation.”

**RAMANUJAM KOMANDURI**  
Country Manager, Pure Storage India

## “WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT PHASE OF DIGITAL INDIA WHICH WILL BE A BIG GROWTH DRIVER FOR BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS”



“Budget 2021 looks promising and rightly focuses on public healthcare, given the disruption caused due to the pandemic. We are particularly excited about the Finance Minister's announcement of smooth delivery of digital services as part of the next wave of digital revolution.

AI, ML, and Data Analytics are making greater inroads in India, as was observed in the budget. These are all essential elements of the modern data experience. We are looking forward to the next phase of Digital India which will be a big growth driver for businesses and individuals alike.”

## BUDGET 2021 EMPHASISES ON REVIVING THE ECONOMY

**ANIL CHAUDHRY**  
CEO,  
Schneider Electric India



“With its extensive focus on infrastructure and healthcare, the Budget FY21-22 clearly focuses on reviving the economy. The key pillars such as health and wellbeing, capital and infrastructure, inclusive development, enhancing human capital, innovation and R&D and minimum government and maximum governance rightly identifies the core areas for sustained growth and provides considerable thrust towards an Atmanirbhar Bharat. The proposal to offer more choice to consumers by introducing competition in the power distribution space by kick-starting Rs 3 lakh crore reforms-based result-linked power distribution sector scheme for state power distribution companies is likely to address the long hanging Transmission & Distribution (T&D) issues and give relief to the power producers, thereby ensuring health for the entire value chain. It is also good to see the government's focus towards ensuring smart metering, which will help cut the commercial losses in power distribution.”

**“THE INCENTIVE OF RS. 1,500 CRORE FOR DIGITAL PAYMENTS IS A MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION”**

**DILIP MODI**  
 Founder,  
 Spice Money



“It was encouraging to see the ‘Sankalp of Aatmanirbhar Bharat’ as well as inclusive and sustainable development come into focus right at the beginning of Financial Minister Nirmala Sitharaman’s budget speech. We had hoped for a boost to digital as it has the ability to bridge the gap between haves and have-nots when it comes to access to financial services. This was evident when the lockdown hit last year, when the digital financial infrastructure came to the rescue of millions of citizens. So, the incentive of Rs. 1,500 crore for digital payments is a move in the right direction. We are eagerly waiting to see what the scheme entails and how the industry can benefit from it. We are also excited to see the innovations that emerge out of GIFT International Financial Services Centre to support rural financial infrastructure to be on par with urban India. This is in alignment with Spice Money’s vision to bring innovation in rural fintech and uplift the underserved parts of India.”

**SUNIL SHARMA**  
 MD – sales, Sophos India & SAARC



**“THE GOVERNMENT’S UNION BUDGET 2021 IS BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES”**

“The Government’s Union Budget 2021 is built on the foundation of new technologies such as Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Machine Learning (ML) which will empower businesses with econsultation, escrutiny, and compliance management. This is surely going to enhance enterprise cybersecurity as AI has immense potential to bring in scalable and effective defenses against sophisticated attacks like ransomware. As per our recent survey, with 100% Indian businesses being concerned about their current level of cloud security, there is a need for initiatives that promote the development of cybersecurity skillsets. Additionally, this reskilling process should also take care of security of cloud environments which are the backbone of the accelerated digital transformation that India is witnessing due to the pandemic. While we welcome the Government’s proposed steps in strengthening MSMEs that provide employment to millions of people, we need more impetus on building skilled cybersecurity professionals in the country. The Government’s allocation of Rs. 3,000 crore towards skill development that will help reskill India’s youth and boost the overall economy, is a step in the right direction.”

**BUDGET 2021 EMPHASIZES ON JOB CREATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**SUPRIA DHANDA**  
 Vice President and Country Manager,  
 Western Digital India



“We congratulate the Government’s initiative in amplifying Atmanirbhar Bharat. Wonderfully captured by our Finance Minister, Atmanirbhar Bharat is an expression of 130 crores Indians who have full confidence in their capabilities and skills. Digitisation, Skill Development and Job Creation are necessary to lead India towards high growth and be self-reliant. With rapid digitisation across industries over the last year, it is an opportune time to enhance our spending in training imparting digital skills to the youth. The budget clearly prioritises job creation and rural development with generous allocations for various developmental schemes. The focus around National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) with an allocation of INR 3,000 crores will empower a new wave of talent transformation and adequate employability opportunities for the Indian youth.”

**KARTIK SHAHANI**  
 Country Manager, Tenable India



**“THE EVENTS OF 2020 MADE IT CLEAR HOW RELIANT WE ARE ON THE DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPLY CHAINS”**

“The events of 2020 made it clear how reliant we are on the digital infrastructure and supply chains that underpin modern society. As India seeks continued growth and competitiveness in the global economy through budget allocations in healthcare, infrastructure, innovation and R&D amongst other areas, securing the digital infrastructure that underpins our society needs to sit at the core of every single project. Budget allocations towards healthcare is a necessary step in our race to combat COVID-19. Along with the new opportunities that come from making the internet more accessible to citizens and organizations in various parts of India, there are significant cybersecurity challenges that organizations and governments need to manage. And if there are any lessons to be learnt from last year, it’s that cybercriminals are relentless and will seek to test the resilience of all defences whether digital or physical. Therefore, our digital progress must be thoughtfully guided by the considerations for the safety and security of our country.”

**PLI TO HELP ACHIEVE SCALE AND JOB CREATION FOR THE YOUTH OF INDIA**

**NITIN KUNKOLIENKER**  
 President  
 MAIT



“MAIT welcomes the continued focus of the Government on PLI and it is very encouraging. PLI will help achieve scale, and job creation for the youth of India. We look forward to the upcoming PLI including the electronics industry sub-sectors PCs, Datacom, Servers, Wearables, Telecom products, Smart meters and components.

We are happy to see the continued emphasis on the adoption of technology into economic activities. The National Language Translation Mission, earlier proposed by MEITY, will enable Bharat on the digital highway allowing the masses to take ride on the digitization of the economy.”



## AN OVERALL A BALANCED BUDGET

### RAJESH GOENKA

Director, Sales & Marketing,  
RP tech India

“Overall it is a very pleasant budget without any surprises which is good because in the current scenario consistency and continuity is more important rather than having mere aspirations. This is overall a balanced budget and only enhances the momentum set by our Prime Minister and Finance Minister in the last two years.

In terms of IT hardware industry, there is no major change, however, with the government investment, the overall market demand is likely to grow up. IMF has also forecasted the industry growth 11 to 11.5%, which is good for the industry. So overall we are optimistic about the budget.”



### SONIT JAIN

CEO,  
GajShield Infotech

## “THE BUDGET HAS A VISION OF AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT”

“Budget 2021 lays a strong foundation in Infrastructure, Health and Education. It provides a big boost in making India a leader in the World Economy and manufacturing hub of the world. Not only does it give an impetus to easing in doing business in India, it also gives a big push to rural development, which was impacted, the most, during the pandemic.

The budget has a vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and will motivate Indian entrepreneurs to make products in India for the World. Overall it is a pro-growth budget and will further fuel the growth of Indian IT companies with its strong focus on Digital India.”



## “BUDGET 2021 WAS POSITIVE GIVEN THE CHALLENGE AROUND HIGHER FISCAL DEFICIT DUE TO LOWER INCOME”

### S SRIRAM

Chief Strategy Officer,  
iValue InfoSolutions

“Budget 2021 was positive given the challenge around higher fiscal deficit due to lower income. It is great to see emphasis on growth front keeping fiscal deficit priority low for the next two to three years. The key highlights of the budget include additional allocation to health and wellbeing in a Covid ravaged year with Rs 35,000 Cr allocation to Covid vaccination with four Indian vaccines shortly. It is also great to see 35% enhancement of Government capital expenditure at Rs 5.54 Lac Cr to revive economy around Road, Rail and Metro infrastructure. It is encouraging to see focus around disinvestment with two PSU banks and one insurance company being planned for the year with Rs 1.75 Lac Cr target. FDI in insurance enhancement from 49% to 74% augers well for a country with very low penetration.”



### RAMESH MAMGAIN

Country Manager,  
India and SAARC, Commvault

## “IT IS AN INCLUSIVE AND PRO-GROWTH BUDGET”

“The Union Budget 2021 is sui generis considering that it is India’s first-ever ‘Digital Budget’. The gesture of doing away with the paper versions of Budget underlines government’s commitment towards PM’s ‘Digital India’ vision.

A renewed focus on infrastructure would mean accelerated technology adoption, which cannot be accomplished without data privacy measures, propelled by data protection. This approach would help in strengthening India’s data protection framework to protect individual information, with investments in key technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to secure cloud-based infrastructures. While the capital expenditure on the physical connectivity - road, railway and port - has been highlighted throughout, I am sure that digital connectivity will ultimately become a cornerstone of everything we do in the current times. Overall, it is an inclusive and pro-growth budget, presenting a balanced stance on the pathway to recovery.”



## “FOCUS ON SETTING UP OF FINTECH HUB, ENHANCING DIGITAL PAYMENTS AND USE OF AI IN GOVERNANCE – ALL PROVIDE A STRONG PLATFORM FOR DIGITAL INDIA”

### KARTHIKEYAN NATARAJAN

President and  
Chief Operating Officer, Cyient

“Coming out of the pandemic year, the Finance Minister has laid down a well-rounded Budget.

Focus on setting up of Fintech Hub at Gift City, enhancing digital payments and use of AI in governance – all provide a strong platform for Digital India. Allocation of Rs 50,000 cr towards National Research Foundation will work towards boosting India’s Innovation Quotient on the global map and is a welcome move.

Allocation of funds as incentives for promoting digital payments is also a step in the right direction and a significant step in ease of doing business. Lastly, increase in allocation for highways and railways will lead to employment generation and boost the economic growth of the nation.”



**RAJIV BHALLA**  
MD, Barco India



**“THE BUDGET IS A MAJOR STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION”**

“The budget is a major step in the right direction. It outlays a strong focus on infrastructure, healthcare, capital spending, disinvestment, monetization, job creation and digitization. These measures are not only progressive and recovery-led, if implemented correctly would ease the burden on the economy and lead India towards the projected v-shaped growth and development. The budget talks about structural reforms in banking, enhancing debt financing and credit limits for businesses and asset monetization.

This will lead to an increase in government spending, which, in turn will spur demand, therefore net positive for the industry. The several initiatives around job-creation, startups, reskilling, rural development and better quality of services to people are positive as a Nation cannot progress without care for the environment and inclusive all-round transformation.”

**THE INITIATIVE TO SETUP FINTECH HUB WILL ENCOURAGE INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION DESIGNED TO HELP FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

**SONALI KULKARNI**

Lead – Financial Services,  
Accenture India



“The investment outlay towards digital payments is a welcome inclusion in the Union Budget.

We are seeing some notable innovation coming out of India’s fintech ecosystem – be it for digital payments, credit and risk management, underwriting or security. The initiative to set up a fintech hub in Gujarat International Finance Tech-City (GIFT) will spur investment and innovation designed to help financial institutions not just meet compliance requirements but also build more-personalized customer products and services. The move to set up a new asset reconstruction company and an asset management company to take care of stressed assets of banks will facilitate more options for banks to manage their NPAs as the true impact of the pandemic on NPAs is still unclear, and is expected to be fully known only by Q1 FY2022. The disinvestment and privatization related announcements related to the banking and insurance sectors will enable much needed capital infusion, and thereby, unlock new growth opportunities in FY 22.”

**SHIBU PAUL**

Vice President - International Sales,  
Array Networks



**GOVERNMENT’S PROPOSAL TO USE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES FOR MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS’ DATABASE TO BOOST DIGITALIZATION**

“The government’s proposal to use data analytics, artificial intelligence, machine learning-driven for the Ministry of Corporate Affairs’ database is a boost to the digitalization where the Version 3.0 of MCA-21 includes additional modules for e-scrutiny, e-adjudication, e-consultation and compliance management. Connecting more than 1,000 mandis into E-NAM is an excellent move. Setting up a separate administration structure for ease of doing business would help many organizations from various sectors. The faceless dispute resolution panel would help the citizens by keeping them safe from tax harassment. The importance given to healthcare sector to fight Covid and any future healthcare issues, the stress made in green energy projects like keeping aside Rs 1,000 Cr for solar energy and Rs 1,500 Cr for renewable energy along with voluntary scrapping policy and the weightage given to education has made this budget wholesome.” Investment to boost urban infrastructure to be stepping stones towards invigorating Smart Cities planning and urban development

**INVESTMENT TO BOOST URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE STEPPING STONES TOWARDS INVIGORATING SMART CITIES PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

**SUDHINDRA HOLLA**

Director, Axis Communications,  
India & SAARC



“We are upbeat on the six pillars of the government agenda including focus on infrastructure, innovation and R&D that is all set to strengthen India’s power as a global digital hub. We are optimistic by the renewed focus on road safety with advanced traffic management system with speed radars, variable message signboards, GPS enabled recovery vans along with the outlay of Rs 2.28 lakh crores for developing the highways, roads, and railways. Good to see pertinent steps taken to revitalize the economy with key focus on allocating budget for healthcare, metro railways, ports, airports, and logistics to boost urban infrastructure. These in turn will be stepping stones towards invigorating Smart Cities planning and urban development and help in generating more jobs.”

**RAJENDRA CHITALE**

CFO, Crayon Software Experts India



**CRAYON SOFT WELCOMES GOVERNMENT’S MOVE OF IMPLEMENTING DATA ANALYTICS, AI, ML FOR MCA DATABASE**

“It is a welcoming move that the government is emphasizing on the implementation of data analytics, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML) for the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)’ database. We also welcome the digitization process and the introduction of e-scrutiny, e-adjudication, e-consultation and compliance management in MCA 3.0.

After the adversities of 2020, tax holiday for another year to startups is a commendable move for the government. Again, the tax audit bar raised to Rs 10 cr for those transacting 95% digitally shows the government’s commitment towards bringing in greater transparency. Apart from that the government’s promise on removing GST anomalies and the amount of Rs 1,500 cr earmarked for a scheme to boost digital payments are other welcoming moves for a stronger digitized India.”