


**Budget 2017: Small taxpayer gets a break, but little else to cheer about**

India, Feb. 1, 2017 -- There's not a lot that can be said about this budget and I guess that's not a bad thing. Most people agree on the fact that there's nothing path breaking in there but neither is there anything disastrous. Having said that, for me the direction of levelling the playing field, or at least giving the small taxpayer a better chance of success is the standout. Ironically, the Economist in its latest edition cover story talks

about global companies being in retreat all over...

**Budget 2017 a "lollipop" to nation for covering Centre's mess: Congress**


India, Feb. 2, 2017 -- Asserting that the Budget 2017 had completely ignored the lower strata of the economy, the Congress on Thursday tore into the Centre stating it had presented the Budget as an antidote to demonetisation and a 'lollipop' to appease the middle class tax-paying community.

**Union Budget 2017: A big positive from Arun Jaitley is – no major negative surprise**


New Delhi, Feb. 2, 2017 -- Ever since this government assumed power, it has been focusing on themes such as inclusive growth for all sections of society, skill building to develop long-term capability and the 'Make in India' programme to promote manufacturing competitiveness.

**ANALYSES**
**Union Budget 2017 gives 'Bharat' a reason to smile; purchasing power set to soar in rural areas**


India, Feb. 2, 2017 -- Finance minister Arun Jaitley's largesse for rural areas, what with a total allocation of Rs 1,87,223 crore (24% more funds in the next fiscal) for rural, agriculture and allied sectors for FY18, the highest ever by any government, is sure to give a substantial push to the purchasing power of people in rural areas.

With allocation for MNREGA also increased to Rs 48,000 crore, and tax exemption to professionals earning less than or up to Rs 5 lakh per annum, those in villages and small towns only stand to gain financially.

ITC chairman YC Deveshwar said the proposals to increase spends in rural areas and agricultural sector, infrastructure development and poverty alleviation should provide growth impetus to the domestic...

**Union Budget 2017: Here's how Arun Jaitley made housing affordable**

New Delhi, Feb. 2, 2017 -- The FINANCE minister's Budget proposals, by according infrastructure status to affordable housing and redefining carpet area, are likely to bring down costs for developers and incentivise home ownership, financiers said.

**What will be the impact of Budget 2017 on infrastructure?**

India, Feb. 2, 2017 -- Total outlay of Rs3,96,135 crore on infrastructure is up by 10% over FY17 revised estimate. Capital expenditure on defence is expected to increase by 20.6% to Rs86,488 crore. Roads and highways allocation up to Rs64,900 crore from Rs52,447 crore revised estimate.

**In real terms, the government is providing less expenditure for NREGA**

India, Feb 02, 2017 -- Because of the massive devastation wrought by demonetisation of the already fragile and low-end livelihoods of informal workers, small farmers and petty businesses, many...

**Jaitley's budget has traditional values, modern vision**

India, Feb. 1, 2017 -- The Union Budget for 2017-18 is a mirror image of the person who presented it: likeable, sensible, non-controversial, accommodative and with very few rough edges, if any at all. Indeed, like Arun Jaitley, the Union budget is traditional in terms of the...

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Union Budget 2017 in two minutes



India, Feb. 2, 2017 -- Soon after finance minister Arun Jaitley finished presenting Union Budget 2017, the stock markets spiked in what can only be...

### Union Budget 2017: Here's what's costlier, what's cheaper

New Delhi, Feb. 1, 2017 -- Finance minister Arun Jaitley's Union Budget 2017 on Wednesday revised excise and customs duties on a number of products which will make them either cheaper or costly. While tobacco products and mobile phones and imported cashew nuts will become...

### Union Budget 2017: Key highlights and themes

India, Feb. 2, 2017 -- Finance minister Arun Jaitley presented the Union Budget 2017 in Parliament on Wednesday. Here are the key highlights of his budget speech:

- Jaitley divided his budget proposal into 10 distinct themes: Farmers...

## REACTIONS

### ► Budget 2017: Market gives Jaitley a thumbs up, Sensex surges

India, Feb. 2, 2017-- The Bombay Stock Exchange Sensex cheered Union Budget 2017 by surging more than 400 points to regain the 28,000 mark on Wednesday, as finance minister Arun Jaitley unveiled a slew...

### ► Budget 2016: The move towards transparent funding is the first step towards electoral reform

India, Feb. 2, 2017 -- It is good to see in the budget an attempt to increase transparency in electoral funding. While my first reaction is indeed positive, I do feel that though it may be a good beginning, it does not go far enough.

### ► Union Budget 2017: How corporate India reacted to Arun Jaitley's budget speech

New Delhi, Feb. 1, 2017 -- Union finance minister Arun Jaitley's budget for the year 2017-18 has evoked diverse reactions from politicians, industry leaders, experts and the twitterati.

### ► Union Budget 2017: Here's how global media reacted

New Delhi, Feb. 2, 2017 -- Union finance minister Arun Jaitley's Union budget 2017 has mostly received an indifferent response in the international media. Most of them outlined it as a budget to revive the...

## PHOTOS



**FM Arun Jaitley Arrives At The Parliament To Present The Annual Budget 2017-18**

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## VIDEOS



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