As far as the housing sector is concerned, the benefits under Section 80-IB of the Income Tax Act have been extended for a year. This will be beneficial to developers focusing on the affordable housing segment. The other welcome measure for housing has been the one-year extension of the 1% interest subvention scheme for housing loans up to Rs 20 lakhs and where the cost of the property is under Rs 20 lakhs. It is encouraging that the government is increasingly focusing on the affordable housing shortage. Overall, the FM has delivered a well-balanced and pragmatic budget. The market did not expect any big bang measures and in that respect, the budget did not disappoint the market either.

Ajoy Sengupta
Chief Executive - Financial Services, Aditya Birla Group

"Globally the trend is to lay emphasis on reducing fiscal deficits. India is following the trend which is very positive. There is nothing negative for the housing sector in the budget: in fact, there are no surprises which are good for long-term plans."

Stuart Davis
CEO, ICICI, India

"Nothing has been announced on higher education. The Tech City and the National Institute of Design is welcome. GDP looks good on the face of it but there are no initiatives for small and medium enterprises."

Ashok Datar
Founder, JLL

"As far as consumer goods sector is concerned, profit margins will drop. I can see

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BUDGET 2010

were budgeted and in line with expectations with negative surprises. The thrust on infra and infrastructure is positive, specially for private sector non-banking companies were unexpected positive surprise."

Ganapati Das
Head Research, Shriram

The government's thrust to enhance the development of infrastructure, primarily in the roads, ports and power sector is a step in the right direction but much would depend on implementation. While no explicit steps have been made to curb the present food inflation, the increase in petrol price is a step in the right direction. The report duty on petroleum products would lead to higher cost of transportation, resulting in cascading effect on food prices further fueling inflation.

Vijay Kalantri
President, AIM

A progressive budget with a special focus on infrastructure and rural growth.

We are thankful to the policy makers of the country who have created an encouraging environment of conducive economic growth and development by steadily introducing reforms and measures. Such supportive measures have helped the corporate India in achieving high growth rate. The base of reforms has continued to be as impressive as in the past.

Moon Shin
MD, LGEI

"The Union Budget was announced on the back of high expectations. It clearly out

Kushal Sampat
COO, Dainik Bhaskar India

This is a balanced and good budget. The affordable housing fund will get a boost for another year and overall in its entirety is positive from an infrastructure point of view. There is a focus on rural and urban infrastructure. This is highly positive for the urban development. The emphasis on urban development was very much expected in this budget as it will play key role in accelerating

"Congratulations to the Finance Minister. It is a very realistic budget. This budget goes on to prove that government's pragmatic approach is a positive one."

Sushant Bhagwati
CEO, Sahara India Pariwar

"Overall, it seems to be a positive budget. Even though the government has not soared to heights of meeting the fiscal deficit, it has given the right message for the market to be positive."

Sanjiv Puri
CMD, Dabur India

It looks very promising especially with focus on the Health sector. We are especially glad about the increase in funding for the Health sector."

Girish Rau
MD, ICICI Medical Centers

With regard to the Power sector, the focus on "Clean Energy" and the decision to establish a National Clean Energy Fund will bring huge benefits to the power industry. This will enable the government to provide financial assistance to the power sector to improve its efficiency and reduce its carbon footprint.

Kalyan Bhattacharya
President & CEO, NTPC Solutions

"As far as consumer goods sector is concerned, the benefits under Section 80-IB of the Income Tax Act have been extended for a year. This will be beneficial to developers focusing on the affordable housing segment. The other welcome measure for housing has been the one-year extension of the 1% interest subvention scheme for housing loans up to Rs 20 lakhs and where the cost of the property is under Rs 20 lakhs. It is encouraging that the government is increasingly focusing on the affordable housing shortage. Overall, the FM has delivered a well-balanced and pragmatic budget. The market did not expect any big bang measures and in that respect, the budget did not disappoint the market either."
“Nothing has been mentioned on higher education... The Technology advisory board is welcome. GST looks good... as far as administr... are concerned. NREGA... is good. The budget looks like... some give some... a kind of a... I would call it a... flat budget.”

Ashish Desai, Founder, Mastek

“As far as consumer... goods sector is concerned, profit margins... will drop. I can see... quarterly net profit figures... going down. Though I don’t see much of an... impact on the sales figures.”

Himadri Agar, Chairman, SKA Advisors

“The Finance minister... played a very... critical role. I am happy... that service tax is not increased. GST should... be rolled out on... specific... exemption... date and should not be... post...”

Kashish Sangar, CEO, Din & Bradstreet India

“A balanced and... good budget. The... features... will benefit... from infrastructure... push. There is... a clear focus... rural and urban infrastructure... which is going to help the real estate... sector indirectly. More tax... benefit to common... middle class may also help housing which is the... need for everyone... SET benefits will bring more... toward... real estate sector.”

Ashok Kumar, MD, Crescenzo, India

“The Finance minister... addressed the key... issues of containing... fiscal slippage... outlined a... roadmap for the next... three years. The... government... program... is also well... under control... and... of... crossing... out bank credit for... sector. The... proposals related to... corporate and... capital markets... and taxes... compared to... expectations... been sentimentally... positive. To... summarize... the... focus on... inclusiveness... and... prudence.”

Naresh Narayan, MD, Kotak Securities

“A good budget. The... significant increase of... 40%... projects... The... the... increased... over... 17,550 crore... 19,094 crore... impact... urban development... was very... much expected in this budget... it play... role in... accelerating... growth.”

Ashok Kumar, MD, Crescenzo, India

“The real estate segment... has... played a... good... with... 1%... interest subsidy... for affordable... to March... continuing... with... residential... additional... in... infra bonds. The... middle class... benefits... time... slab... to... have the... spending... in... real estate... domain... cement.”

Vikram Phadnis, CMD, Phadnis Infrastructure

“With regard to the... Green energy... and... decision to... National Green... Power... will also... companies like... HPCL, to invest more... Renewables... Energy... Power... However, the... the... increase... of... will... your... may... increase... price... the... range... of... Products.”

Kalyan Bhattacharya, President & CEO, Birla Power Solutions

“A pragmatic approach... based on... intelligent... thinking... and... own... political... experience... the... result... what... can be... Indias... worst... budget... so far. The... that... he... managed... to contain the... deficit... I am extremely... bullish... work... for the... long term... would put... in... infrastructure... power... and... banking... stock.”

Dr. Anil Lamba, Chairman, Lancerin