



Finance Matters

News, Views & Perspectives on Financial Policies & Institutions

Why Should We Care About Development Finance? ...because it's our money!

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The Economy This Week!

Interim budget 2024 has come and gone. There was a lot expected from this budget presented just before the assembly elections, but instead, the government used it to boast about its 'achievements' in the last ten years. GDP has become 'Governance Development Performance,' FDI is 'First Develop India' and more acronyms are dropped in what can be best described as an attempt at oratory rather than data and substantial evidence.

The claim of doubling farmers' income has disappeared, there is no mention of 'jobs' or the acknowledgement of the crisis of unemployment. 'Naari Shakti' is being celebrated with more budget cuts on schemes that affect women and children. All in all, the idea of welfare has given place to 'beneficiaries' and 'service delivery.'

There are more promises of big infrastructure, increased capex expenditure and more Vande Bharats. But without investing in people and social infrastructure, can we truly have 'sabka sath, sabka vikas'?

We bring to you our special budget issue, analysing the budget from various perspectives, trying to capture, what it said, and what it left unsaid.

FAN India has come out with a 'Balance Sheet of a Decade' to examine some of the claims of the government, you can read them [here](#).

-Team CFA



A Social Autopsy: Navigating Rhetoric and Realities in the Interim Budget

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman used the interim budget before the Lok Sabha elections to highlight the 'achievements' of her government over the last ten years. She also outlined the new direction that the BJP regime has introduced in fiscal policy. Before we embark on a critical evaluation of the finance minister's assessment of the lost decade, it is crucial that we acknowledge the ideological underpinnings in her budget speech. [Read more.](#)



Analysis:

Union Budget 2024-25:
High on claims, less on substance.



Random Reflections:

Interim Budget or Report Card? Claims and Reality



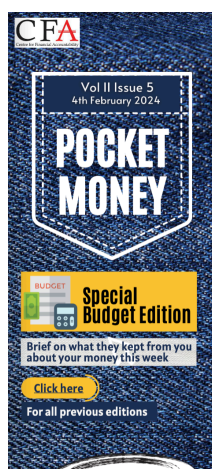
Article:

Budget 2024: How the Modi Government Has Neglected Social Security Pensions.



Podcast: Budget 2024: Reality Vs Rhetoric

Do the claims of empowering the 'Garib', 'Mahilayen', 'Yuva' and 'Annadata' stand the test of reality? Let's find out in this budget-special episode of You, Me and the Economy. [Listen Here.](#)



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman used the interim budget before Lok Sabha elections to celebrate the 'achievements' of her government in the last ten years. She also outlined the new orientation which the BJP regime has brought to fiscal policy. Sitharaman for instance denounced the inefficacy of "tackling poverty through 'entitlements'". Instead of such a rights based approach, she praised the model of **service delivery** which reduces citizens to mere "beneficiaries". She reduces "social justice" to mere service delivery. But in a society where access, opportunities and power are still determined by caste, can we overlook the political significance of social justice? Also, can one strin a

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Budget Special Edition

Brief on what they kept from you about your money this week.

A weekly In-Digest from the National Finance team at the Centre for Financial Accountability [CFA]

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