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Budget 2025 Expectations Live Updates: FM Sitharaman to present Union Budget 2025-26 on Feb 1; Here's what industry leaders expect from govt

Budget 2025 Expectations Live Updates: Union Budget 2025-26 is set to be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1. The first part of the Budget Session will have nine sittings from January 31 to February 13.

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Budget 2025 Expectations: FinTech | Sahil Anand, Founder and Managing Partner of Cedar-IBSi Capital

Sahil Anand, Founder and Managing Partner of Cedar-IBSi Capital said, "India's startup sector is one of the world's largest sectors, projected to witness \$15 billion of funding in 2025. In my view, budget 2025 needs to capture some key points so that rapid startup and startup funding momentum continues. First, tax breaks on early-stage investments and Angel Tax-related exemptions need to be allocated for further capital inflows towards startup companies. The current tax regime makes disinvestment in innovation rather unattractive and necessitates some restructuring.

Bringing down capital gains taxes for venture capital and private equity players would push India as a significant market destination for such investors into sectors like financial services and healthcare, among others. We request the government to make provisions under which FinTech start-ups will be able to access more credit through guarantees and less complicated collateral requirements, and investments in digital infrastructure should reach Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities first, as they are the next phase in FinTech progress.

Lastly, the regulatory sandboxes, especially in the Fintech space, need to see their capabilities and coverage expand, so that emerging technologies can be accelerated for testing and launching various financial services. Speedier approval processes will create a more dynamic FinTech ecosystem. The 2025 budget should focus on making India a stronger economy, for which start-ups and PE/ VC environment comprise a significant pillar for growth. The government should focus on strengthening the funding ecosystem, so that start-ups get an involuntary boost and there is cumulative growth in the industry."