

**ABHINANDAN SETHI**

Managing Director, SPML Infra

As India moves steadily toward the national vision of Viksit Bharat, the infrastructure sector continues to act as a key driver of economic growth, job creation, and long-term financial stability. In the Union Budget 2026–27, the Finance Minister has placed strong emphasis on building robust, modern, and future-ready infrastructure, with a renewed push for the national infrastructure growth plan. A major focus on developing city economic regions aims to improve urban productivity while strengthening regional

infrastructure.

The proposed increase in capital expenditure to ₹12.2 lakh crore for 2026–27 is a welcome step. It reinforces the government's commitment to infrastructure modernisation and supports long-term capacity creation across critical sectors.

The ₹85,222 crore allocation for urban development will help strengthen city infrastructure, improve water supply and sanitation, energy distribution, upgrade transport systems and housing, and enhance the overall quality of life in urban areas. This investment will promote sustainable urban growth, create employment opportunities, and make cities more resilient and future ready.

Significant allocations for key water infrastructure programmes; ₹67,670 crore for the Jal Jeevan Mission, ₹8,000 crore for AMRUT 2.0, ₹5,226 crore for river interlinking and irrigation, and ₹3,100 crore for the National Ganga Plan will substantially strengthen drinking water supply, urban water systems, and irrigation infrastructure across the country. These investments will improve access to clean water, support sustainable water management, and enhance climate resilience.

**VIMAL KEJRIWAL**

Managing Director, KEC International

India's Union Budget 2026 reinforces the government's strong commitment to infrastructure-led growth. The scale-up of capital expenditure to ₹12.2 lakh crore, along with the announcement of 20 new waterways and seven high-speed rail corridors, underlines a clear focus on building nationally integrated transport and connectivity networks. For the EPC sector, this creates a positive and sustained demand environment across transmission, highways, railways and water infrastructure. KEC International

is well aligned to these priorities, with deep execution capabilities across these segments. We welcome the continued emphasis on infrastructure, which will support long-term private investment, strengthen domestic supply chains and drive inclusive economic growth.

**DR NIRANJAN HIRANANDANI**

Chairman, NAREDCO &amp; Hiranandani

The Budget's transformative investment in logistics, warehousing, and data centre ecosystems underpins India's emergence as a global supply chain and digital hub. By facilitating multimodal logistics parks and cold chains, the reforms will drastically improve efficiency and reduce wastage, directly benefiting manufacturers and exporters. Simplified customs procedures through safe-harbour norms will lower operational barriers, enhancing ease of doing business. The extended tax holiday till

2047, combined with incentives fostering green and sustainable data centres, will attract crucial foreign investments, enabling India's growing digital economy to flourish. These developments collectively strengthen supply chain resilience, drive innovation, and fuel sustainable economic growth, anchoring India's competitive edge in the global market. The Union Budget 2026–27 lays down a strong, pragmatic, and future-ready framework for building competitive and resilient cities and economic regions. With a deliberate shift towards regional integration, sustained affordable housing growth, and transformative infrastructure investments, it paves the way for India to emerge as a global economic leader. The emphasis on improving real estate markets, logistics efficiency, and data infrastructure, coupled with policy stability and innovative risk mitigation, ensures a vibrant ecosystem for investors and stakeholders alike. Together, these measures promise to unlock new engines of growth, broaden economic opportunities beyond metropolitan hubs, and secure India's position as a beacon of sustainable urban and economic development.