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### FY24 Union Budget: Quality over Quantity

 Budget attempts to balance employment generation, social support, and infrastructure creation while keeping the fiscal glide path intact

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- Consistency visible in government policies despite being the last full budget prior to general elections in 2024
- Expect a multiplier effect from the near-term consumption boost due to tax breaks and targeted expenditure

**Setting the stage for growth:** The FY24 Budget carries the longstanding themes of the current government forward – these include ease of living, digitalisation, ease of doing business, formalisation of the economy, reduction in the scope for abuse and arbitrage, boosting Make in India, and last but not least, providing an ecosystem to bolster India's per capita income. Note, the capex allocation is 33% higher YoY. Moreover, the level of monitoring and, therefore, execution has improved significantly, implying that the actual economic impact of the capex is far more than in the past.

**Fiscal prudence:** The government has reiterated a credible glide path towards a 4.5% fiscal deficit by FY26 without affecting expenditure, with the FY24BE deficit at 5.9%.

**Building blocks:** A key feature of government policies has been the efforts to uplift the poorer sections of society while remaining focused on ease of doing business and boosting infrastructure spend. This means that subsidy expenditure remains elevated, though it is lower as a percentage of GDP. Separately, the hike in TCS (tax collection at source) for overseas tour packages to 20% will serve the twin purpose of prioritising local tourism over overseas tourism and capturing flows that may not have been subject to income tax. Lastly, funds have been allocated to catalyse the startup ecosystem in agriculture, a sector that is yet to see the full benefits of digitisation.

**Tax rationalisation:** Another important aspect of the Budget was rationalisation of direct and indirect taxes to remove anomalies and improve compliance. Measures include a hike in TCS on certain types of overseas expenses, removal of tax exemption on life insurance policies exceeding annual premium of Rs 500,000, plugging the tax loophole in Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) payment to unitholders, and capping capital gains tax exemption on reinvestment of house sale proceeds. The Budget also proposes to hike the limit for the presumptive tax scheme.

**Winners & losers:** We believe the capital goods, auto and power sectors are among the biggest beneficiaries of this capex-centric budget, with the next rung of gainers being consumer staples and discretionary. Some of the tax provisions are negative for life insurance companies. We have outlined the sectoral impact in this report.





# Salient announcements & implications

Fig 1 - FY24 Union Budget: Sector-wise implications

Sector	Budget announcement	Implications for the Sector		
Auto	<ul> <li>Fund allocation for central and state governments to scrap polluting vehicles</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Scrapping of polluting government vehicles to support replacement demand in the auto sector</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>5% concessional duty on lithium-ion cells for batteries extended for another year</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Extension of 5% concessional duty on lithium-ion cells positive for battery manufacturers</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>Basic customs duty exemption for capital goods/machinery for manufacture of lithium-ion cells for use in batteries of electrically operated vehicles (EV)</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>Basic customs duty increased from 60% to 70% on vehicles in completely built unit (CBU) form and EVs in CBU form, albeit for high-end vehicles</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Duty hike on CBU will have minimum impact on OEMs as this is largely targeted at the ultra-rich seeking high-end imported cars</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>Basic customs duty increased from 30% to 35% on vehicles, including EVs, in semi-knocked down (SKD) form</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>Duty on compounded rubber raised from 10% to 25% or Rs 30/kg, whichever is lower</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>No material impact as the contribution of compounded rubber in the raw material basket is minimal as it comes with specialised adhesives</li> </ul>		
Capital Goods	<ul> <li>Infrastructure capex hiked by 33% to Rs 10tn (LY: Rs 7.5tn); effective capex at Rs 13.7tn.</li> </ul>	Positive for the sector. Key beneficiaries: L&T, Siemens		
	<ul> <li>Railways capex highest ever at Rs 2.4tn (LY: Rs 1.4tn); rolling stock capex increased to Rs 376bn, up from Rs 152bn</li> </ul>	Key beneficiaries: Siemens, KEC, Hitachi Energy		
	<ul> <li>Defence outlay increased by 13% YoY to Rs 5.9tn with Rs 1.6tn allocated to purchasing new weapons, aircraft, warships and other military hardware</li> </ul>	Key beneficiaries: Defence PSUs		
	<ul> <li>Green initiatives: (i) Green Hydrogen Mission – outlay of Rs 197bn, government targets annual production of 5mmt by 2030; (ii) Energy transition – allocation of Rs 350bn; (iii) Energy storage projects – capacity of 4,000MWh to be supported by viability gap funding</li> </ul>	Key beneficiaries: L&T, Honeywell Automation		
	<ul> <li>Drinking Water and Sanitation Department allotted Rs 772bn, up from Rs 600bn a year ago</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Key beneficiaries: L&amp;T</li> </ul>		
Cement	Outlay of PM Awas Yojana enhanced by 66% to Rs 790bn	Higher allocation to PM Awas Yojana a boost to the cement		
	<ul> <li>Capital investment outlay raised 33% to Rs 10tn, i.e. 3.3% percent of GDP; effective capex of the Centre budgeted at Rs 13.7tn, i.e. 4.5% of GDP</li> </ul>	sector as it will further enhance demand, especially in the eastern region		
	<ul> <li>Investment of Rs 750bn, including Rs 150bn from private sector, allocated towards 100 transport infrastructure projects for ports, coal, steel, fertilizer, and food grains sectors</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Critical infrastructure projects including ports/coal/steel with Rs 150bn private participation will boost current low private capex, aiding demand for the cement sector</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>Rs 100bn p.a. allocated to urban infrastructure development fund</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>50-year interest-free loan to state governments continued for one more year, with outlay of Rs 1.3tn</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Cheap funding will continue to spur a state government infrastructure push, helping balance growth between the states and Centre and further encouraging cement demand</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>Basic customs duty on imported coal hiked from 1% to 2.5%</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Customs duty hike on imported coal/peat/lignite a negative surprise, especially for coastal cement manufacturers, as it will inflate costs</li> </ul>		



Sector	Budget announcement	Implications for the Sector			
Consumer Durables	<ul> <li>Customs duty reduced by 2.5% on imports of key parts for electronics such as televisions (open cell) and mobile phones (camera lens &amp; other input parts)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Lower duties to benefit India's nascent electronics manufacturing sector</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>Basic customs duty increased for electric kitchen chimneys (by 7.5%) and reduced for heat coil manufacture of such chimneys (by 5%)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Higher customs duty will prevent the import of electric chimneys, promoting domestic production and benefiting leading local manufacturers</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>PM Awas Yojana (affordable housing) outlay raised 66% YoY to Rs 790bn (LY: ~Rs 480bn)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Home development should drive demand for fast moving electrical goods (wires &amp; cables) in the initial stage and for consumer durables in the final stage</li> </ul>			
FMCG	<ul> <li>Rationalisation of personal income tax structure</li> </ul>	Increase in rebate limit on personal income tax to Rs 700,000 from Rs 500,000 under the new regime will ensur more money in the hands of the lower middle class and give a moderate boost to domestic consumption			
	<ul> <li>Increase in National Calamity Contingent Duty (NCCD) on cigarettes by 16%</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Increase in NCCD on certain cigarettes will have a nominal impact on the sector</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>Duty on other than filter cigarettes, of length (i) not exceeding 65mm, raised from Rs 200 to Rs 230 per 1000; (ii) exceeding 65mm but not exceeding 70mm, raised from Rs 250 to Rs 290 per 1000</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>We see a nominal impact for ITC as it can easily take a small price hike of 2-4% which is unlikely to impact sales as there have been hardly any price increases in the last three years</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>Duty on filter cigarettes of length (i) not exceeding 70mm, raised from Rs 440 to Rs 510 per 1000; (ii) exceeding 70mm but not exceeding 75mm, raised from Rs 545 to Rs 630 per 1000</li> </ul>				
	<ul> <li>For others, duty raised from Rs 735 to Rs 850 per 1000</li> </ul>				
	<ul> <li>Increase in rural spending</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Higher rural spending is expected to improve the overall health of the rural economy, which in turn will bolster demand for FMCG companies</li> </ul>			
Healthcare	<ul> <li>Total expenditure under Ministry of Family and Healthcare raised by 12.8% to Rs 861.7bn from FY23RE of Rs 763.7bn (down 8% from FY23BE of Rs 830bn)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>No big-ticket announcements for the sector, though higher fund allocations will help strengthen the Indian healthcare ecosystem</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>Budget allocation for Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) increased by 12% to Rs 72bn from FY23RE of Rs 64.3bn</li> </ul>				
	<ul> <li>Rs 6.5bn allocated for the Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)</li> </ul>				
	<ul> <li>157 new nursing colleges to be established</li> </ul>	Greater emphasis on R&D, innovation and results-based			
	<ul> <li>Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission to be launched which aims to eliminate the disease by 2047</li> </ul>	financing to drive the much-needed shift towards quality and higher value			
	<ul> <li>Facilities in select ICMR Labs will be made available for research by public and private medical college faculty and private sector R&amp;D teams to encourage collaborative research and innovation</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Announcement of dedicated multidisciplinary courses for medical devices to help strengthen the sector</li> </ul>			
	A new programme to promote research and innovation in pharmaceuticals will be taken up through centres of excellence.				
	Government shall also encourage industry to invest in research and development in specific priority areas				
	<ul> <li>Dedicated multidisciplinary courses for medical devices will be supported in existing institutions to ensure availability of skilled manpower for futuristic medical technologies, high-end manufacturing, and research</li> </ul>				



Sector	Budget announcement	Implications for the Sector			
Infrastructure	<ul> <li>Capital outlay of Rs 2.4tn provided for the Railways</li> <li>100 critical transport infrastructure projects for last and first mile connectivity for ports, coal, steel, fertilizer, and food grain sectors have been identified. These will be taken up on priority with investment of Rs 750bn (incl. Rs 150bn from private sources)</li> </ul>	Higher capex will boost infrastructure projects and drive higher order inflow across the board for construction companies			
Insurance	<ul> <li>Removal of tax exemption on income earned from life insurance policies (ex-ULIP) exceeding annual premium of Rs 500,000 (for policies issued after 1 Apr 2023)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Negative for the sector as big-ticket customers will be discouraged from investing in life insurance products. Last year, the government curbed exemptions for ULIP policies, and this can be viewed as a gradual extension to other products</li> </ul>			
		<ul> <li>On the flip side, this announcement will encourage customers to focus on pure term plans</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>Push for new tax regime which offers lower income tax rates and more slabs with no option of availing tax exemptions and deductions</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Push for the new tax regime will be detrimental to the life insurance business as a large chunk of taxpayers take policies only to garner Section 80C tax deductions, which are not available under the new regime</li> </ul>			
Internet Software and Services	<ul> <li>Digital India Programme: R&amp;D in IT, Electronics, CCBT (including Incubator, Innovation &amp; IPRs, Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL), Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE) 2.0, and IoT &amp; Emerging Technologies)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Under the 'Make Artificial Intelligence in India' concept, the government has already been supporting incubators and specialised Electropreneur Parks. We are also seeing government support for the AI and start-up/innovation-led ecosystem</li> </ul>			
		<ul> <li>New IPR, Proof of Concept, R&amp;D prototype and products are expected to drive digital growth in India</li> </ul>			
	3 Centres of Excellence (CoE) for Artificial intelligence (AI) will be set up in top educational institutes	The CoEs along with leading technology companies are encouraged to conduct interdisciplinary research, develop cutting-edge applications and scalable solutions in the areas of agriculture, health, and sustainable cities. Probable outcomes (IPR products) to be beneficial for the government as well as for tech companies			
		<ul> <li>Indian technology companies are likely to see solid traction in agricultural AI on the back of the Agricultural Accelerator Fund</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>One-stop solution for identity and address updating, as well as a common business identifier</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>An expanded scope of documents in the DigiLocker will be available for individuals, with setup of an entity DigiLocker for MSME, large business and charitable trusts along with PAN (permanent account number) as a common identifier</li> </ul>			
		<ul> <li>This will create a new path for revenue generation for BPM/back-end services of tier I &amp; II Indian tech companies</li> </ul>			
Metals & Mining	<ul> <li>Increase in effective government capex from Rs 10.5tn in FY23RE to Rs 13.7tn in FY24BE with increase across PM Awas Yojana, railways, and transport infrastructure projects</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Positive – Infrastructure push and additional funding for vehicle scrappage to improve demand environment for metal and mining sectors in medium term</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>Additional funding for vehicle scrappage by central and state governments</li> </ul>				
	<ul> <li>Development of green hydrogen, energy storage, solar energy and renewables projects (refer Oil &amp; Gas section for details)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>This could support green transition for the sector over the longer term</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>Increase in import duty on silver ore, bars and articles to align with that on gold and platinum</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Higher duty on silver items has the potential to increase import- parity price and benefit silver miners such as Hindustan Zinc</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>Exemption of basic customs duty on zinc metal recovered by toll smelting or toll processing from zinc concentrates exported from India extended till 31 Mar 2024</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Extension of exemption on zinc for tollers is positive. Limited impact for listed companies as exposure as a percentage of business is limited</li> </ul>			



Sector	Budget announcement	Implications for the Sector
	<ul> <li>Exemptions on ferrous waste &amp; scrap and on raw materials used in manufacture of cold rolled grain oriented (CRGO) steel extended to 31 Mar 2024</li> </ul>	Continuation of exemption and concessional duty positive for smaller manufacturers
	<ul> <li>Concessional basic customs duty on copper scrap extended to 31 Mar 2024</li> </ul>	
NBFC	<ul> <li>PM Awas Yojana outlay increased by 66% to Rs 790bn (LY: Rs 480bn)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Positive for low-cost/affordable housing financiers (last year's target was to complete 8mn houses for eligible beneficiaries in both rural and urban areas)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Revamping of the credit guarantee scheme under the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) with the infusion of Rs 90bn in the corpus, effective 1 Apr 2023, which will enable additional collateral-free guaranteed credit of Rs 2tn and reduce cost of credit by 1%</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Positive for last-mile lenders who extend financing to the underserved MSME (micro, small &amp; medium enterprises) sector</li> </ul>
Oil & Gas	Capital support of Rs 300bn to oil marketing companies (OMC)	We are still awaiting details to understand implications of capital support to OMCs
	GOBARdhan scheme – Rs 100bn allocated for investment in 500 new waste-to-wealth plants to convert cattle dung and solid waste on farms into compost, biogas and bio-CNG. This will involve 200 compressed biogas (CBG) plants, including 75 in urban areas, and 300 community or cluster-based plants. In due course, government plans to introduce a 5% CBG mandate for gas marketers	<ul> <li>GOBARdhan scheme can help support development of the CNG industry in India. The eventual 5% mandate has the potential to reduce LNG usage</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Indradhanush Gas Grid – Rs 18bn outlay in FY24 targeting 500km development of North-East Gas Grid</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Development of Indradhanush gas grid is positive for northeast- based gas players</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve – Award of concessionaire for Phase 2 construction of caverns</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Progress on Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve could help improve energy security</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Green Hydrogen – National Green Mission with an outlay of Rs 197bn to support development of 5mmtpa of green hydrogen by 2030</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Development of green hydrogen, energy storage and solar energy projects could support green transition for the sector over the longer term</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Energy storage – Viability gap funding for 4,000MWh of energy storage projects. Plan to formulate a detailed framework for pumped storage projects</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Solar energy projects – Extension of customs duty exemption on manufacture of preform of silica, EVA sheets or back sheets used in manufacture of solar cells or modules</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Petroleum subsidy increased from Rs 58bn in FY23BE to Rs 92bn in FY23RE and set at Rs 23bn for FY24BE</li> </ul>	Petroleum subsidy is restricted only to controlled products
	<ul> <li>Basic customs duty on denatured ethyl alcohol reduced from 5% to Nil</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Reduction in customs duty on ethyl alcohol has the potential to support the ethanol blending programme subject to economic viability of imports</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>VCM basic customs duty raised from 2% to 2.5%</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Increase in import duty on VCM is marginally negative for a standalone PVC player using VCM to produce PVC, like Chemplast Sanmar</li> </ul>



Sector	Budget announcement	Implications for the Sector			
Power	<ul> <li>Green Credit Programme will be notified under the Environment (Protection) Act</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Strong focus on green energy shows government's commitment to achieving renewable energy target of 500GW by 2030</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>Inter-state transmission system for evacuation and grid integration of 13GW of renewable energy from Ladakh will be constructed with an investment of Rs 207bn</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>New arena of grid connectivity will open up more bids and ensure last mile reach and 24-hour electricity</li> </ul>			
	Battery energy storage systems with capacity of 4,000MWh will be supported via viability gap funding	<ul> <li>Announcements on battery and pump storage would lend a fillip to such projects</li> </ul>			
Wealth	<ul> <li>Market Linked Debentures (MLD) to be taxed as short-term capital gains effective 1 Apr 2024 (vs. current taxation as long- term capital gains at the rate of 10% without indexation)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Higher taxation will increase the cost of funds and could make MLDs unpopular. Companies' ability to pass the burden on will remain the key as will their agility in realigning their borrowing mix</li> </ul>			

Source: Budget documents, BOBCAPS Research | BE: Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates, LY: Last Year

Fig 2 - Other key tax provisions

Provision	Measures			
Personal Income tax	Tax exempt income raised from Rs 500,000 to Rs 700,000			
	<ul> <li>Highest tax bracket reduced from 42.74% to 39%</li> </ul>			
	Slabs changed for the new tax regime to the following:			
	Slab Rate (%)			
	Rs 0-300,000 nil			
	Rs 300,000-600,000 5%			
	Rs 600,000-900,000 10%			
	Rs 900,000-12,00,000 15%			
	Rs 12,00,000-15,00,000 20%			
	>Rs 15,00,000 30%			
Presumptive tax regime	Under this scheme, a fixed percentage of the turnover or gross receipts is deemed to be the profits and gains from business subject to certain conditions. The turnover limit for micro enterprise and consultants has been raised from Rs 20mn and Rs 5mn to Rs 30mn and Rs 7.5mn respectively. There is also exemption from audit in specific cases.			
Online gaming	Minimum threshold of Rs 10,000 for TDS (tax deducted at source) has now been removed			
Carry forward of losses	<ul> <li>Carry forward of losses allowed on strategic disinvestment, including that of IDBI Bank</li> </ul>			
Capital gain on sale of residential house	<ul> <li>Maximum deduction limited to Rs 100mn. Further, if the cost of the new asset purchased is more than</li> </ul>			
	Rs 100mn, the cost of such asset shall be deemed to be Rs 100mn			
Conversion of gold to electronic gold receipt and vice versa	Mere conversion will not attract capital gain tax			
Distribution by REIT/InVITs	Rationalisation to remove loophole in taxation in hands of unitholder			
TCS on certain foreign remittances	<ul> <li>Except for education or medical treatment, TCS stands raised from 5% to 20%, including on sale of overseas tour packages</li> </ul>			

Source: Budget Documents, BOBCAPS Research



Fig 3 – Fiscal estimates

(Pa hn)	FY22	FY23BE	FY23RE	FY24BE —	Increase (%)	
(Rs bn)					FY23RE/FY22	FY24BE/FY23RE
Tax Revenue						
Corporation Tax	7,120	7,200	8,350	9,227	17.3	10.5
Taxes on Income	6,962	7,000	8,150	9,006	17.1	10.5
Indirect Taxes	12,935	13,300	13,850	15,292	7.1	10.4
Total - Tax Revenue	27,093	27,578	30,431	33,609	12.3	10.4
Less: State's Share	8,984	8,166	9,484	10,214	5.6	7.7
Centre's Tax Revenue	18,048	19,348	20,867	23,306	15.6	11.7
Total Non-Tax Revenue	3,651	2,697	2,618	3,017	-28.3	15.2
Centre's Revenue (net)	21,699	22,044	23,484	26,323	8.2	12.1
Capital Receipts						
Internal Debt Market Borrowing	7,041	11,186	11,082	11,809	57.4	6.6
Disinvestment	136	650	600	610	340.3	1.7
Others	9,036	5,561	6,739	6,407	(25.4)	(4.9)
Total Capital Receipts	16,214	17,397	18,421	18,826	13.6	2.2
Total Receipts	37,913	39,442	41,905	45,149	10.5	7.7
Expenditure						
Total Expenditure	37,937	39,449	41,872	45,031	10.4	7.5
Revenue	32,008	31,947	34,590	35,021	8.1	1.2
Capital	5,929	7,502	7,283	10,010	22.8	37.4
Revenue Deficit	10,310	9,902	11,105	8,699	-	-
Fiscal Deficit	15,845	16,612	17,553	17,868	-	-
% of GDP	6.7	6.4	6.4	5.9	-	-

Source: Budget Documents, Bank of Baroda Research



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