**FM should open like a pinch-hitter**

Need For A Bold, Imaginative And Growth-Oriented Budget That Can Pave Way For Meaningful Reforms

Bakul Dholakia

The finance minister is all set to present the Modi government’s first full-fledged budget on February 28 in the backdrop of huge expectations of various stakeholders. Within nine months in office, the government can bear noises expressing serious concerns over the lack of visible signs of major changes in policy and business environment marked by the lack of concrete action at grassroots level. This budget will prove to be an acid test of the government’s commitment and ability to move towards fulfilling poll-time promises of quickly raising growth rates of GDP, growth of industrial production and exports.

Lower tax rates have always yielded higher revenues in select areas. In select sectors, tax rates were hiked significantly to raise fiscal revenues, but this time the FM needs to adopt a different approach along the lines so ably suggested by the erstwhile Finance Minister of India, Mr. Arun Jaitley. The budget proposal for fiscal year 2015-16 is required to achieve the right balance between stimulative and non-stimulative policies.

Rajpal also argues that "Lower tax rates have always yielded higher revenues in select areas. In select sectors, tax rates were hiked significantly to raise fiscal revenues, but this time the FM needs to adopt a different approach along the lines so ably suggested by the erstwhile Finance Minister of India, Mr. Arun Jaitley. The budget proposal for fiscal year 2015-16 is required to achieve the right balance between stimulative and non-stimulative policies."