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Industry welcomes growth initiatives

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The Karnataka State Budget 2025-26 has sparked reactions from industry leaders and civic groups. While business chambers welcome infrastructure expansion, metro connectivity, and digitisation initiatives, concerns persist over implementation and local development priorities. Stakeholders emphasise the need for strategic execution to ensure that investments translate into tangible growth and sustainability.

A balanced approach

FKCCI welcomes Bengaluru Metro's expansion to the airport and Brand Bengaluru projects improving mobility. Key incentives for EVs align with sustainability goals, attracting investments. Balanced regional development focuses on infrastructure, education, and healthcare. Effective execution is crucial. FKCCI supports the MSME policy and urges strategic implementation for Karnataka's growth.

—M G Balakrishna, President, FKCCI

Growth, welfare and connectivity

The Karnataka government focuses on industrial growth, welfare, infrastructure, education, agriculture, tourism, and healthcare. Key initiatives include Bengaluru Metro expansion, 'Brand Bengaluru – Green Bengaluru,' and employer compliance reforms. These efforts aim to boost connectivity, ease business regulations, and enhance ecological sustainability, benefiting citizens and industries across the state.

—Vineet Verma, President, B CIC

Massive infra boost

A 40.5 km double-decker flyover (Rs 8,916 crore) and an 18.5 km North-South tunnel (Rs 15,000 crore) aim to ease congestion. Rs 7,000 crore is allocated for city development, including metro expansion to KIA. Healthcare, infrastructure, minority welfare, and Kannada content development receive significant funding in the latest budget.

—Murali Malayappan, Chairman & MD, Shriram Properties Ltd.

Real estate transparency

The Karnataka Budget 2025-26 prioritises real estate transparency through digitisation. CREDAI urges swift e-Khata implementation in BBMP limits by March 2025. A Rs7,000 crore grant supports development, including e-Khata. Digital e-stamping and GIS-based valuation promise efficiency, while tax reforms and ULMS streamline approvals, enhancing investor confidence and urban growth.

—Amar Mysore, President, CREDAI Bengaluru

Local issues overlooked

The Karnataka Budget 2025-26 has raised concerns about whether East Bengaluru's pressing issues are being addressed. While Rs 15,000 crore has been allocated for the 'Ego Tunnel' and Rs 1,000 crore for welfare schemes, key infrastructure problems like road conditions, traffic congestion, and lake restoration seem to have been sidelined. Despite growing environmental concerns, there is limited focus on lake restoration, leaving questions about sustainability and water conservation. The region's traffic and transport challenges remain largely unaddressed, affecting daily commuters. While large-scale infrastructure and welfare projects receive significant funding, the clarity on local development priorities is missing.

—Citizens Movement, East Bengaluru

Metro expansion futile

"We expected there would be some discussion regarding a fare hike. Very unfortunate to see the government not taking it up so far. The plans to expand Metro to 97 odd kilometres serve no purpose because ridership has fallen by 40 lakh in the last month. Unless you bring fare prices to affordable rates, and the government subsidises losses of Namma Metro, the plans to expand the network would be foiled by the present fare system"

—Rajesh Bhat, Bangalore Metro Commuters' Association