

Special: Bioscience sector expects big ticket budget

The union budget 2016-17 is being eagerly awaited to unfold few major announcements favoring expansion of bio business activities at a much broader level

By **Rahul Koul** - February 28, 2016



Budget Wishlist: Will he do it this time?

NEW DELHI: Will the budget 2016 set to be presented by the Union Finance Minister, Mr Arun Jaitley meet the demands of the bioscience sector? Hopefully yes or may be not? So, what holds for the sector when the minister opens his briefcase on the morning of February 28th. Above all the speculations, there are many examples which the government can set this time around. Let us take a look at the voices raised by various stakeholders from key verticals:

Agri-biotech expects fair share

Outlining the expectations of the sector from the Budget, Dr Shivendra Bajaj, Executive Director, Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE-AG), said, "Basis the events of 2015-16, the agri-biotechnology industry in India finds itself at the cross-roads. The focus on improving farmer livelihoods and Indian agriculture through new technology should be the focus in the budget.

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Dr Shivendra Bajaj, Executive Director, ABLE-AG



"The agri-biotech industry therefore is looking for a strong stimulus from Budget 2016, especially in the area of incentivising crop research. This goes hand-in-hand with infrastructure development to enable the growth of India's agri-economy, improve farm incomes, and subsequently make the Indian farmer globally competitive. We are therefore looking at a strong showing from the budget with regards to regulatory backing for the agri-biotech industry," he added.

The wishlist for budget 2016 is long and unending. Yet what the stakeholders expect from the government is decisiveness. So, will the history repeat itself again? or Mr Jaitley makes some big ticket announcements. Let us tune in.