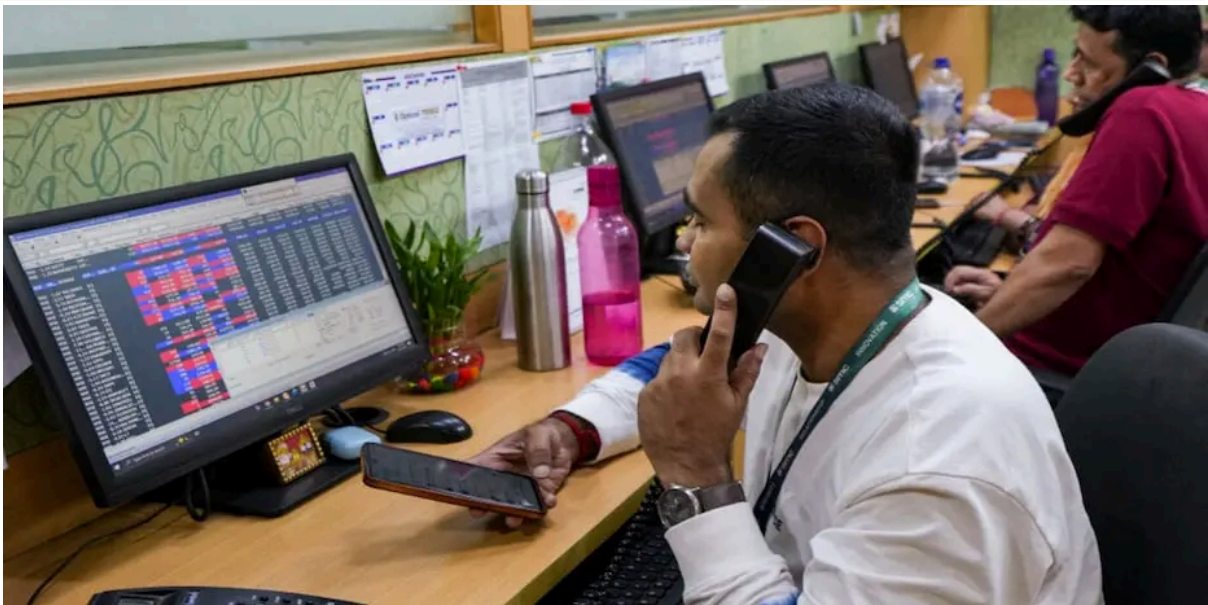


Union Budget 2026 Highlights: STT bombshell rattles market - Sensex, NIFTY nosedive over 2%, worst fall in 7 years



Union Budget 2026 Live: Equity markets saw a sharp correction on Sunday, with the Sensex plummeting 1,547 points and the Nifty falling below 24,850, while the India VIX surged 14% amid heightened volatility. Brokerages attributed the decline largely to the Union Budget proposal to raise the Securities Transaction Tax (STT) on futures and options, aimed at curbing excessive trading in the derivatives segment.

Union Budget 2026 Highlights: Budget 2026 is a call to action for self-reliant India, says Prof. Dr. Parin Somani

Prof. Dr. Parin Somani, CEO: London Organisation of Skills Development (LOSD)

A strategic thrust of Budget 2026 is the emphasis on domestic manufacturing and value chain resilience. Initiatives to expand semiconductor capacity, biopharma ecosystems, and critical industrial corridors position India as a global competitive hub.

These moves signal to the world and to Indian innovators that the country is committed to building homegrown capabilities in technologies and industries of the future. They also inspire a new generation of engineers, researchers, and industrialists to lead India toward self-reliance, global competitiveness, and high-skilled employment.

I see the renewed push for domestic manufacturing and strategic value chains as a defining step towards a self-reliant and globally competitive India. This is not just policy; it is a call to action for Indians to contribute to a self-sustaining economic transformation.

Budget 2026 Live Updates: Rural economy and consumption show resilience

The agriculture sector, which sustains nearly half of India's population, has delivered a strong performance. Healthy cereal production and comfortable foodgrain stocks have supported rural incomes. Policy measures such as

income tax relief announced last year and GST rationalisation have also aided consumption and demand.

Budget 2026 Live Updates: Inflation cools as macro stability strengthens

Retail inflation has moderated sharply, slipping below the 2 percent mark, and is projected to stay within the Reserve Bank of India's comfort zone in the near future. The easing of price pressures has reinforced overall macroeconomic stability.

Budget 2026 Live Updates: India's growth outlook remains robust

According to the Survey, India is on track to end the current financial year with growth of about 7.3 percent. The country is expected to cross the \$4 trillion GDP milestone and surpass Japan to become the second-largest economy in Asia.

Link:(<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/union-budget-2026-live-news-updates-finance-minister-nirmala-sitharaman-budget-speech-key-announcements-liveblog-13802050.html>)