

## MODI TALKS TO TOP ECONOMISTS FOR BUDGET INPUTS

# Fundamental change in mindset can help achieve Viksit Bharat: PM

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Ahead of the presentation of the Budget for the next financial year (FY26), Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday interacted with a group of economists on the theme “Maintaining India’s growth momentum at a time of global uncertainty”.

Modi emphasised that Viksit Bharat can be achieved through a fundamental change in mindset, which is focused towards making India developed by 2047, the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) said in a statement.

The meeting, chaired by Modi, was attended by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran, and



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during a discussion with economists in New Delhi on Tuesday**

PHOTO: PTI

NITI Aayog officials.

“Participants shared their views on several significant issues, including navigating challenges posed by global economic uncertainties and geopolitical tensions, strategies to enhance employ-

ment, particularly among the youth, and create sustainable job opportunities across sectors, strategies to align education and training programmes with the evolving needs of the job market,” the PMO statement said.

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# GVA by unincorporated sector up 16.5% in Oct '23-Sep '24, says NSO report

Similarly, the number of workers employed in the sector stood at 120.6 million, up from 109.6 million during the corresponding period.

Speaking at the release of the survey results, Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran said this data showed the lagged effect of the growth spurt that started when the pandemic abated after the first quarter of 2021-22.

“Various government initiatives that supported micro, small, and medium enterprises during the pandemic allowed them to stabilise and once the economy began to grow, they were able to grow along their own steam as well, and that is what this survey reveals,” Nageswaran added.

However, Santosh Mehrotra, visiting professor, University of Bath, said the sec-

tor was yet to recover from the impact of successive policy shocks like demonetisation, goods and services tax (GST), and the pandemic lockdown. The rise in the number of establishments is primarily due to the increase in the share of own-account enterprises (OAEs) as compared to the share of hired-worker enterprises (HWEs), which employ at least one hired worker on a fairly regular basis.

“The distress in the economy is clearly visible with GDP (gross domestic product) growth flattening in Q2 and the latest annual Periodic Labour Force Survey data also showing that the share of people engaged in agriculture increased by around 2 million. As a result of this distress, people are setting up their own enterprises for survival, which is being wrongly con-

strued as entrepreneurship,” he added.

The fact sheet also showed gross value added (GVA) by the unincorporated sector rose by 16.5 per cent to ₹17.97 trillion in October 2023-September 2024 from ₹15.42 trillion in October 2022-September 2023.

Moreover, average emolument per hired worker increased 13 per cent to ₹1,41,000 in 2023-24 over 2022-23, signalling improvement in wage levels.

Also, the share of establishments using the internet has grown to 26.7 per cent in 2023-24 from 21.1 per cent in 2022-23.

“This substantial growth reflects a strong trend toward digital adoption among establishments, highlighting the increasing reliance on the internet for business operations,” said the NSO in a statement.