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It is not a populist, sensational Budget, which is one of its chief merits. It focuses

on financial discipline by pegging the fiscal deficit for the next three years at 3 per cent. Stating firmly that ours is a tax non-compliant society, it seeks to widen tax collection, while giving some relief to the lower end of the salaried classes. The Budget is growth-oriented as it focuses on the rural sector and infrastructure, which is bound to increase consumer spending and trigger economic activity. The reduction in tax for small-scale units is a welcome move, as this sector has been adversely affected by demonetisation. The Budget makes a symbolic but bold move to bring in more transparency to electoral funding. This can be the beginning of a much-required cleansing of the system that contributes to corruption and economic imbalances.