

'Budget must restore investor confidence in growth story'

PBD BUREAU

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AFTER returning from Chicago, Union Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Wednesday resumed his pre budget consultations and met a group of eminent economists to solicit their views on various vital economic issues. On their part the economists demanded the Government to come out with a budget which restores investors' sense of confidence in India's growth story.

Among the leading economists who attended the today's meeting included Dr. Surjit Bhalla from OXUS Research & Invests., Nitin Desai (TERI), Rajiv Kumar, FICCI, Dr. Sudipto Mundle, NIPFP, Bharat Ramaswamy, ISI, Delhi, Ajit Ranade, Aditya Birla Group, M Govind Rao, NIPFP, Prof. Rohini Somanathan, Delhi School of Economics and Prof Amar Yumnam from School of Social Sciences, Manipur.

The Finance Minister said that by the end of March, the head on inflation is likely to be between 6 and 7 per cent while the growth rate may be around 7 per cent plus. He assured the economists that the government will make all efforts to keep intact investors' confidence in India's growth story.

The economists suggested that Budget should be used as an instrument for restoring the confidence of the investors. They asked the Finance Minister to make this year Budget a Policy Budget rather than only a statement of account. Many economists suggested that the message of fiscal consolidation should also be sent through the Budget.