

**TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Sub: Highlights of Union Budget 2013-14**

Dear All,

This is to inform you all that Shri P.Chidambaram, Hon'ble Finance Minister has announced the Union Budget for the year 2013-14

The measures announced for Indian Gem & Jewellery Sector are as follows:

1. Classification of Preforms of Precious and Semi-Precious Stones in a separate Category with import duty of 2%
2. Hike in duty free limit of jewellery from an aggregate value of Rs 10,000 to Rs 50,000 for men and from Rs 20,000 to Rs 1, 00,000 for women under Baggage Rules (by an Indian passenger who has been residing in abroad for over one year)
3. Levy of 4% excise duty on silver manufactured from smelting zinc or lead
4. Levy of Commodities Transaction Tax (CTT) on non-agricultural commodities futures contracts at the rate of 0.01% of the price of the trade. Trading in commodity derivatives will not be considered as a 'speculative transaction' and CTT shall be allowed as deduction if the income from such transaction forms part of business income
5. Grant of Rs 1,000 crores for Skill Development Scheme. National Skill Development Corporation will set the curriculum and standards for training in different skills. Any institution or body may offer training courses. At the end of the training, the candidate will be required to take a test conducted by authorised certification bodies. Upon passing the test, the candidate will be given a certificate as well as a monetary reward of an average of `10,000 per candidate. Skill-trained youth will give an enormous boost to employability and productivity.

6. Inclusion of vocational courses offered by institutes affiliated to the State Council of Vocational Training and testing facilities in relation to agricultural and agricultural produce under the negative list of service tax
7. Hon'ble Finance Minister has assured his full support to the measures to be announced next month in the annual supplement of [FTP 2009-14](#) to boost exports of goods and services. Recommendations made by the Task Group for Diamond Sector expected to be announced by Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

Thanking you,

With best regards,

**SABYASACHI RAY**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**