

Press release - Global Procurement Summit 2026

No need to worry about payments because of fiscal prudence in budget: Expenditure Secretary

Government e-Marketplace signs MoU with AIMA for procurement capacity building and innovation

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New Delhi

Expenditure Secretary, Mr V Vaidyanathan has assured that the 2026-27 union budget has provided for enough liquidity in the system for government procurement despite fiscal prudence. The Secretary said that the bidders do not have to worry about problems in payments.

Addressing Global Procurement Summit organized by All India Management Association (AIMA) in partnership with Ministry of Finance, The World Bank, and Asian Development Bank, the Secretary said that the public finance management system has moved almost entirely online and all transactions are fast, transparent and trackable. "The focus is on predictability in government procurement," he said.

The Secretary promised simple and concise procurement documentation to make it easier for bidders, vendors and evaluators. The rigour would be focused on what is required, he said, so that one is not lost in the documentation. He invited suggestions for improving contract management in public procurement to reduce disputes and arbitrations.

Mr Mihir Kumar, CEO, Government e-Marketplace (GeM) announced an MoU with AIMA for management capacity building, research, and innovation in public procurement. He said that price and quality are key challenges in procurement and invited ideas for balancing equity and quality in government procurement.

Mr Kumar said that artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) technologies are being inducted into government procurement and a new AI-enabled GeM platform would be introduced next year.

World Bank's Country Procurement Lead for India, Mr Shankar Lal highlighted that the bank would mobilise \$10 billion each year for the next five years for Indian projects. He said that the World Bank would link its financing to sustainability, inclusion, green energy and local area development, as it is focusing on outcomes and not just products. He added that the World Bank is now more open to private development projects for financing.

On public procurement capacity building in India, Mr Lal referred to the World Bank's procurement education and training programmes that are offered through institutes, including AIMA, and he pointed out that in 2025 about 10,000 students were certified under various procurement courses.

Ms Arti Mehra, Deputy Country Director, Asian Development Bank (ADB) told the summit that in 2025 ADB lent to 16 projects in India, including those for renewable energy, skills, urban infrastructure, and healthcare. To promote emerging technologies and innovations in government projects, the bank is getting involved at an early stage, she said. She added that local labour requirement and sustainable procurement are now included in the financing criteria of the bank.

Opening the summit, AIMA Director General, Ms Rekha Sethi stressed that government's mega money procurement is a key change maker in an economy and it can enforce social, economic and environmental change better than any regulation.

The two-day Global Procurement Summit involves policy makers, public procurement officials, vendors, and consultants from India and overseas.