PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE MINISTER P. CHIDAMBARAM TO DISCUSS THE UNION BUDGET 2013-14 WITH THOUGHT LEADERS AND RESPOND TO CITIZENS' QUESTIONS ON THE BUDGET ON HIS FIRST Google+HANGOUT TOMORROW

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The Union Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram will respond to citizens' questions on the Union Budget 2013-14 tomorrow at 8:00 pm IST by joining the multiparty video conference on Google+ Hangout. This is for the First time that any Union Cabinet Minister is using this medium to interact with the citizens and to respond to their questions about the Union Budget. This is a powerful communications platform and is accessible across the world for internet users. Google+ Hangouts allow up to 10 people participating at a point of time. One can later share the hangout on YouTube or live stream it using Hangouts on Air.

The Finance Minister will be joined by a group of esteemed panelists on a Google+ Hangout. It includes among others Mr. Jahangir Aziz, Senior Asia Economist and India Chief Economist, JP Morgan, Shri Anand Mahindra, Chairman and Managing Director of Mahindra & Mahindra, Shri Amit Singhal, Senior Vice President, Google Inc. and Shri Manish Chokhani, MD & CEO, Axis Capital. The session will be moderated by senior journalist Shri Senthil Chengalvarayan.

Citizens will be able to watch the special budget Google+ Hangout live through the Google India +Page at google.com/+GoogleIndia or on the InConversationYouTube channel.

Before the Hangout, the citizens can submit their questions to the Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram either by uploading a video or commenting on the <u>YouTube channel</u>, or through the <u>Google India +Page</u> and tagging text or a video with the hashtag #asktheFM.
