

# India's Education Budget 2025–26: ₹1.05 Lakh Crore (~\$12.6 Billion) for the Future—But Is It Enough? By Suraj Khatri

*India's education budget boosts AI-driven learning, digital inclusion, and skill development—but does it address research funding and competitiveness?*

INDIA, February 2, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A Progressive Step Towards Education Reform

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the Union Budget 2025–26 has reinforced India's commitment to education by allocating ₹1.05 lakh crore (~\$12.6 billion). This budget aims to modernize learning spaces, expand digital education, improve skill development, and make education accessible for all.

With a focus on preparing India's youth for a dynamic future, these reforms align with the [National Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020](#) and position the country for sustained progress in the global knowledge economy.

## Key Highlights of India's Education Budget

### 1. Digital and AI-Powered Learning

- ₹500 crore for AI-driven education centers to revolutionize how students learn.
- The Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Scheme will digitize textbooks in regional languages, increasing accessibility.
- Establishment of 50,000 Atal Tinkering Labs to promote scientific innovation at the school level.

### 2. Strengthening Higher Education & Infrastructure

- Additional support for IITs and NITs to bolster research and innovation.
- 10,000 additional medical college seats to bridge the gap in healthcare education.
- Expansion of broadband access in all government secondary schools, ensuring digital inclusivity.

### 3. Vocational Training & Skill Development

- Establishing five National Centers of Excellence for Skilling, preparing students for a



Suraj Khatri, Senior Management / Project Director at Mindbase Education, sharing insights on India's Education Budget 2025–26.

technology-driven workforce.

- Aligning curriculum with 'Make in India, Make for the World' to enhance job readiness.
- #### 4. Expanding Multilingual & Inclusive Learning
- Developing learning resources in regional languages to promote inclusivity.
  - Financial support for students from economically weaker sections, bridging educational gaps.

Where India Needs to Improve

#### 1. Boosting Research & Development Funding

Although India is increasing higher education investments, R&D funding still remains lower compared to leading economies like the USA (1% of GDP) and Germany (0.8% of GDP).

Establishing a National Research Fund could propel India toward becoming a global leader in innovation.

#### 2. Enhancing Teacher Training & Retention

- While technology in education is expanding, teacher training and salary incentives need improvement.
- Countries like the USA and UK have financial aid programs for educators—India should explore similar models such as loan forgiveness for teachers to improve retention rates.

#### 3. Tackling Brain Drain & Retaining Talent

- The budget must encourage Indian students to remain in the country by offering scholarships, research incentives, and university-led startup incubation.
- Tax-free PhD programs and innovation grants could be game-changers for India's knowledge economy.

The Future: Making India a Global Education Hub

The education budget of 2025–26 is a major step in the right direction, but to compete with global education leaders, India must:

- Raise education spending to at least 5% of GDP.
- Develop a long-term National Education Investment Plan for steady progress.
- Expand international collaborations with leading universities worldwide.
- Strengthen industry-academia partnerships to create a job-ready workforce.

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's leadership, India is making strong strides toward a progressive and inclusive education system. However, bold policy changes and consistent investments will be key in shaping the future.

Final Thoughts: A Strong Foundation, But More to Achieve

The Indian government deserves recognition for this forward-thinking budget, which emphasizes digital learning, vocational training, and inclusivity. However, the journey toward a world-class education system requires further action and sustained investment.

□ India's education transformation has begun—let's keep the momentum going!

This article represents the personal insights of Suraj Khatri, Senior Management / Project Director at Mindbase Education. The views expressed are based on an independent analysis of India's education budget and do not reflect any official government or institutional stance.

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