

Headline: Education Budget 2025 Expectations

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IIM-IIT parity, focus on STAM, lower tax for low-income students: Union Budget 2025 expectations

Education Budget 2025 Expectations: Last year's budget allocated Rs 1.12 lakh crore to education, a 13% increase from the previous year. Experts this year say that additional investments are necessary to bridge skill gaps, expand digital learning and improve access to quality education.

Written by **Mukesh Mishra**
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Union Budget 2025-26 on Feb 1, what do academics expect (image designed by Anshinik Mishra/representative)

Budget 2025 Expectations for Education Sector: The Union Budget 2025-26, set to be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, carries high expectations from the education sector. Academics and industry leaders are urging the government to prioritise investments in STAM based (Science, Technology, Arts, Mathematics) research, micro credential courses, and enhanced financial support for management institutions.

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Calls for tax relief on educational expenses for low income students, increased funding for school infrastructure, and stronger backing for health management education further highlight key areas of focus.

Last year's budget allocated Rs 1.12 lakh crore to education, a 13 per cent increase from the previous year. However, experts argue that additional investments are necessary to bridge skill gaps, expand digital learning, and improve access to quality education.

Dr P R Sodani, president of IIMR University

Health management education is another critical focus area, according to Dr P R Sodani, president of **IIMR** University, Jaipur. Sodani has called for strategic investments in skill based learning, digital capabilities, and global partnerships to strengthen the sector. He stressed the need for greater collaboration between industry, academia, and start-ups to accelerate digital innovation and improve health outcomes. A digital health incentive plan could support the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, enhance data security, implement electronic health records, and upskill technical resources, Sodani said. Targeted investments in holistic health services would position India as a leader in high-quality health management education, he remarked.