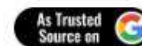


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Budget 2026 Expectations LIVE: What to expect on taxes, growth, and key sectors

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Written by [Anish Mondal](#) Updated: January 23, 2026 03:47 PM IST



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Budget 2026 Expectation | Education sector

Dr. Anjali Sane, Professor & Dean School of Economics and Commerce, MIT World Peace University, Pune said: “Education plays an important role in developing the capacity of human resources in any nation. It is rightly called a ‘merit good’ in economics, because it shapes the future and destiny of the nation. While developed countries spend over 10 per cent of GDP on education, India, as an emerging economy with a demographic dividend, allocates only around 4 to 5 per cent. Budget allocations show a focus on school education, reflecting NEP 2020 priorities, while higher education receives selective support.

With high GDP growth, rising digital divides, skill gaps among graduates, and the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047, the upcoming budget must increase allocations for education, bridge the digital divide, match learning with market-relevant skills, and ensure long-term human resource development. These steps are essential to strengthen India’s global identity and sustainable economic growth.”

Budget 2026–27: Education Sector Seeks Higher Funding And Digital Push



With the Union Budget 2026–27 set to be presented soon, leaders from higher education institutions, school leadership and industry bodies have urged the government to step up public spending on education, strengthen research and innovation ecosystems, bridge digital divides and align learning outcomes with evolving industry and workforce needs.

Experts stress that targeted investments in education will be critical to India's ambition of becoming a knowledge-driven, globally competitive economy. The calls come against the backdrop of the previous Union Budget's emphasis on capital expenditure, digital public infrastructure, skilling and innovation, even as overall education spending has continued to hover below the long-stated national target of 6 per cent of GDP.

Education leaders have also pointed to the gap between India's education spending and that of advanced economies, warning that underinvestment could undermine long-term human capital development. "While developed countries spend over 10 per cent of GDP on education, India, as an emerging economy with a demographic dividend, allocates only around 4 to 5 per cent. Budget allocations show a focus on school education, reflecting NEP 2020 priorities, while higher education receives selective support. With high GDP growth, rising digital divides, skill gaps among graduates, and the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047, the upcoming budget must increase allocations for education, bridge the digital divide, match learning with market-relevant skills, and ensure long-term human resource development," noted Anjali Sane, Professor and Dean, School of Economics and Commerce, Vishwanath Karad MIT World Peace University, Pune.