

'India can become a global education hub'

Boosting Study in India, NRF and sports development, Budget 2019 allocates Rs 94,854 crore to the education sector

Development of world-class higher education institutes to attract foreign students, major push to sports through a formal sports education board, a revamped National Education Policy (NEP) and focus on improving research and innovation outlined the budgetary

allocation for the education sector in the Union Budget 2019 presented by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman. India has the potential to become a global educational hub, said Sitharaman while announcing Rs 400 crore budget towards establishing higher education institutes at par with top-ranked global universities to attract foreign students and give a boost to 'Study in India' initiative launched by the MHRD last year. This is a three-fold increase from last year where Rs 128.9 crore was allocated towards establishing world-class institutes.

"We already have an operational 'Study in India' framework. The budgetary allocation from the centre will give it a major boost and make it one of the priority areas," says Dipitman Das, chairman, Educational Consultants India Limited (EDCIL), the nodal agency to implement 'Study in India' campaign.

The grants will help improve the outreach efforts in the 30 target countries in South Asia, SAARC, Middle East and Africa, MENA and CIS regions and attract more students.

"With the new budget, we

will increase our focus on the branding and outreach of the campaign and creating suitable infrastructure including helplines and call centres. Launch of the 'Study in India' app is also in the pipeline. Country-wise representatives in the target countries will also be appointed to expand the student pool," he says.

"For long, there was a need in our country to have coordinated funding of research relevant to our national priorities. It is a

welcome move that the Union Budget 2019 proposes to establish an integrated National Research Foundation (NRF) independent of different ministries. This will avoid duplication of efforts and will help the researchers gain better access to different state-of-the-art facilities created in different institutes and universities across the country," says M Jagadesh Kumar, vice chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

As suggested by the National Education Policy (NEP), the NRF will fund all the four broad areas of Sciences, Technology, Social Sciences, and Arts and Humanities. "This will enable researchers from across the research boundaries to work together in multidisciplinary areas. There is a greater need today for social scientists and technologists to work together for improving the quality of life of people with a focus on sustainable living," Kumar adds.

— With inputs from Shivangi Mishra and Rajlakshmi Ghosh



Nirmala Sitharaman

EDUCATION SECTOR OUTLAY

	2018-19	2019-20
Department of Higher Education	33512.11	38317.01
	5714.7	6409.95

(Figures in Rs crore)

Expenditure Budget 2019-20

LEGEND
LST
Others/

IIT Kanpur

The Institute's board

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With an aim to move technical education Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, is all



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