

Education Budget 2019: Experts comment on national research foundation to major start-up tax benefits

Union Budget 2019: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented her maiden budget speech on Friday. The Education Budget 2019 looked very impressive with special focus on research and skill development along with plans to set up a Higher Education Commission. Here are the pros and cons noted by education experts.



Dr. Bappaditya Mukhopadhyay, Professor, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurgaon

"Education and health are two other predominantly service sectors that India has a lot to develop, offer and to employ. While there is increased allocation, are they anywhere near sufficient? Our education spending is at 3.1% of GDP, less than half of where it should be because we have the potential to be the employee centre.

The emphasis on Robotics and AIML is welcome but given the current skilling, how far can we tap into such potentials? Surely any effort to prepare the young work force for

emerging technologies is a welcome move. What remains disappointing is perhaps giving up the idea on Make in India. Very little is on the agenda when one looks at logistics and warehousing- both these are employment generators.

Once again, investment in education seems to have got the raw deal -- mere high allocation for R&D and higher education will yield little if the education infrastructure isn't adequate. At this rate, ten years down the line, we will still produce a lot of graduates not ready with the required skills.

Finally, for ages now we have seen budget as an exercise of macroeconomic targets with micro economic interventions. We have added a few more this year with catchy terms. Can the government set aside a dedicated fund to do an objective assessment of how much of the declared intentions announced through various schemes have been actually met? Evidence based policy making is needed."

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