

<https://www.educationtimes.com/article/campus-beat-college-events/89276340/union-budget-2022-digital-university-one-class-one-tv-channel-pm-e-vidya-outreach-in-rural-areas-here-is-what-the-experts-have-to-say>

nology to enhance learning, assessment, and planning both for school and higher education.

Tristha Ramamurthy, Founder & Managing Director, Ekya Schools, and Provost, CMR University:

The state of education is often a healthy predictor of the country's overall development and well-being. Quality education holds the key to inclusive growth and education in India needs to be recognised as an equaliser especially in the context of the pandemic. This year's budget will bring a revolutionary change to the education sector as it can support the capacity building of teachers and school leaders across the country. Investing in teacher education through the training of teacher educators and implementation of robust institutions for teacher training and education will create a high-quality education system in the country. Education is also a crucial instrument that can bridge the socio-economic divide in our country. The establishment of a Digital University and over 200 channels covering multiple regional languages under the 'One class, one TV channel' programme are two very innovative and path-breaking initiatives that will enable students across the nation to access quality education through the hub and spoke model. The development of quality e-content to empower and equip teachers with digital tools for teaching and facilitating to achieve better learning outcomes is a welcome measure. Considering the challenges of the online learning arrangements, the government's decision to enhance digital learning with E -VIDYA will be a boost to the education sector.

Sanjay Gupta (vice-chancellor, World University of Design (WUD):

The main thing that makes us happy as a design university in the new budget is that it focuses on animation, gaming, visual effects, and comics and talks about promoting this sector. We recognized this need four years ago and implemented these courses in our university. It is a matter of delight that provision has been made in the new budget to promote these sectors by understanding their potential. The budget announcement has recognized the need for urban planning and urged AICTE to focus on it. It is a matter of happiness because the way urbanisation is increasing in the country, it is paramount to recognize the need of urban planning.

Sumeet Mehta, Co-founder and CEO, LEAD:

Overall, this has been a progressive budget as it accelerates the government's efforts towards inclusive and sustainable development. As an educator, I welcome the emphasis on creating digital and free-to-air channels of education. However, at the same time, the budget circumvents physical schooling. I hope that is not the case. While online learning was inevitable due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it would never be as effective as offline learning, which brings out the best in students in terms of learning outcome and performance. Online education can at best only play a supplementary role in education. I would have also loved to see a greater focus on improving the teaching and learning processes in our schools vis-a-vis infrastructure and tech-enabled curriculum. Going forward, I hope there will be policy changes in that direction.

Naman Jain, Education Expert and Director, Silverline Prestige School, Ghaziabad:

In the Union Budget, the government has taken a very progressive step towards building the futuristic education framework for our country. Significant steps have been taken to empower teachers with technology solutions for better education delivery. The decision to scale up “one class-one channel” initiative under PM e-VIDYA from 12 channels to 200 channels is also a landmark initiative to enable all states in providing supplementary education in regional languages and further push quality education in areas with lower internet penetration. Allocation of Rs 63,449.37 crore, an increase of Rs 9,000 crore over the current financial year for school education is a welcome move as this will provide the much-needed impetus to K12 education growth in these tough times. However, to ensure successful implementation of NEP and to make India the global education hub, the need of the hour is to accelerate fund allocations at jet speed and come closer to the expected spend of around 6% of the GDP on education.

Sunil Shukla, director general, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad:

The budget 2022-23 emphasizes on key sectors such as education, health, infrastructure and MSMEs (Micro Small & Medium Enterprises), thus focusing on growth and inclusive development. Announcements like a digital university for providing online education in multiple languages, digital ecosystem for skilling and livelihood—the DESH-Stack e portal that aims at empowering citizens to skill, reskill or upskill through online training, setting up of 750 virtual labs in science and mathematics, and 75 skilling e-labs for simulated learning environment showcases the intent of the government towards further augmentations and developments in the skilling ecosystem and the education domain. Startups have been encouraged through various measures - extending tax benefits for a year, earmarking 25 per cent of defence R&D budget for the industry – the vision has rightly focused on building an environ which fortifies innovation, enterprise, academia and inclusive welfare. Interlinking of Udyam, e-Shram, NCS and ASEEM portals, and the extension of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for one more year and expansion in its guaranteed cover is further intended to formalise the economy and enhance entrepreneurial opportunities.

Maithili Tambe, CEO, The Academy School, Maharashtra:

Two important points on education are worth highlighting in the Union Budget. First is the digital infrastructure: due to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, the whole education system had to shift online. Teaching every child was the biggest challenge any school could face. Through One Class, One Channel, it will become much easier to reach every child.

Second is the upgradation of Anganwadis: they are usually taken as daycare centres, but it is a base for any education system. Equal importance should be given to early childhood education as well. That said, the implementation of these measures should be effective, and time bound.

Dishan Kamdar, vice-chancellor, FLAME University:

The decision to establish a digital university is a disruptive and futuristic decision that will benefit many students even from the remotest part of the country by making world-class education accessible. This will surely give wings to the dreams of deserving students and meet the goal of providing high-quality education to all students across the country. The plan to increase the 'One Class One TV Channel' from 12 to 200 TV channels in all states in India will enable students to learn through radio and DTH channels thereby overcoming the problem of internet connectivity. The two decisions truly reflect the government’s aims to leverage technology advancements and use them as tools to meet the educational aspirations of many students in the country. They have set an example that is worthy of being emulated by others.”

Raj Singh, Vice Chancellor- JAIN (Deemed-to-be University):

Education and skill development sectors will be among the largest beneficiaries of these rails to tap the aspirations and ambitions of millions of career-focused citizens. The government's intention to set up a resilient education delivery mechanism for facilitating the delivery of quality education using digital platforms will unleash a host of opportunities for public-private collaboration. Add to that, the focus on democratising education and skill development with proactive investments into digital university, teacher training, digital inclusion, regional content, and DESH-stack will result in unveiling a new opportunity landscape comprising of a new generation of digitally savvy quality education seekers. This will not only enable EdTech's and blended educators to collaborate; but most importantly, collectively expand the pool of new-age education seekers while narrowing down the learning curve.

Varun Chopra, CEO, Eduvanz:

The unprecedented times during the past year led to online gateways becoming a channel to take brands, institutions, universities, products, and businesses to a wider audience faster than ever before. However, lack of resources left innumerable children at a loss. The introduction of digital universities and high-quality e-learning content platforms in multiple languages now is a good initiative by the government to make quality education accessible to all. Further, the introduction of Desh E-Portal is yet another great initiative to provide more skilling and upskilling opportunities to our youth, in turn helping them with better employment opportunities in the future. India is a young country having produced 40 unicorns so far, with a youth which has entrepreneurial aptitude in this digital economy. With startups budding more than ever before, announcing an extension for tax exemption to them for yet another year will help us in encouraging them further, giving them more liquidity to grow."

Sumesh Nair, co-founder & CEO of Board Infinity:

Digital university is a great move by the government. It increases access to education and increases gross enrolment ratio. The usual trend of flocking to cities/one specific location for all kinds of education needs to an extent could reverse with this mode. The challenges that need to be solved will be the quality of education that can be imparted. If partnerships can be built with the best practice of established universities, then this model can be implemented well.

Shashank Patidar, co-founder, WeSkill:

The temporary closure of schools has certainly impacted learning, especially for students in non-urban areas, resulting in loss of continuity in academics. The PM eVidya Scheme announced by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is an excellent initiative by the government. Besides, the expansion of the 'One Class One TV Channel' programme to 200 TV channels will allow state governments to provide students with high-quality education in their respective regional languages. We feel that upskilling the youth, who are future professionals, is the need of the hour, and we are happy with the initiatives taken by the government to facilitate the same. However, we would have also liked to see more steps from the government in terms of better implementation of the NEP (National Education Policy) with new directives in the academic year. Nonetheless, this year's Budget announcements will offer every student across India access to quality education, provided the measures are implemented effectively.

Akshay Chaturvedi Founder & CEO, Leverage Edu

The 2022 budget is focused on smart digital expenditures in not just education, but across sectors. A very forward-looking budget that will enable startups take lead in India's next phase of development. Introduction of the e-passport facility will decrease friction in the immigration process, and I look forward to Indians getting access to such world-class tech. Lastly, steps like

capping off long-term capital gains at 15% clearly position this as a document which heard and implemented feedback from all quarters, and that is amazing

Vingish Vijay, Founder & Vice President of 90+ My Tuition App:

We congratulate the finance minister for a growth-oriented budget. The budget reflects the need to overcome the learning loss induced by the pandemic. The idea to start a One Class One TV channel to bridge the learning loss induced by the pandemic was required and we are excited to support this wonderful initiative. The announcement to facilitate supplementary learning in regional language for classes 1 to 12 was long overdue and is coordinated with NEP 2020 to boost learning in languages other than Hindi and English. Government's idea to generate more employment in the startup ecosystem is need of the hour and the EdTech sector will help in accelerating this movement. We also welcome the establishment of AVGC Promotion Task force as edtech heavily relies on animation and visual effects and is a creator of opportunities for youth skilled in animation and visual effects.

Pankaj Bagri, Partner, Deloitte India:

Budget 2022 has introduced much needed policy level initiatives in the Education sector - 'one class-one TV Channel' expanded from 12 to 200 TV channels, high quality e-content in all the spoken languages via mobile, digital, etc, digital university on hub-spoke model, allowing foreign universities allowed in GIFT City to offer courses, etc. Budget has allowed World-class foreign universities / institutions in the GIFT City to offer courses in the field of FinTech, Financial Management, Engineering, etc. free from domestic regulations. Foreign universities will be keenly watching the developments in this space, especially the speed with which the Government can implement the said policy announcement.

Monica Malhotra Kandhari, MD, MBD group:

This is a welcome budget that has taken care of the much-needed initiatives for the education sector which has been reeling through a rough phase due to the pandemic-led disruption. The announcement of one TV channel' program of PM eVIDYA, which will be expanded from 12 to 200 TV channels will enable all states to provide supplementary education in regional languages for classes 1 to 12. Also, the proposed launch of the Digital DESH e-portal will immensely help in the skilling, upskilling & reskilling of our youth which is indispensable at this hour. The finance minister also announced 5 existing academic institutions for urban planning to be designated as center for excellence with an endowment fund of 250 cr, availability of high-quality E-content through various means, and revised syllabus for Agriculture University to accommodate the need for natural, zero-budget, and organic farming and modern-day agriculture. Overall, the budget has focused on the promotion and implementation of digital education, skilling and reskilling, training of teachers which will, in turn, helps in providing quality and world-class education to the students and will provide impetus to the education sector.

Nirmal Shah, co-founder of Countingwell:

We are glad to see the government's focus on building digital tools and quality content for students. Given that education was one of the worst hit sectors during the pandemic, development of a digital university and expansion of e-Vidya scheme, along with One Class One TV Channel, will benefit the students to access high quality education. From the EdTech industry perspective, it brings us into the mainstream, going beyond "had to have it because of Covid". The impact and benefit of EdTech to the education systems will gain greater visibility with schools and parents, and we expect that to give us great impetus.

Vineet Nayar, former Vice Chairman and CEO of HCL Technologies and Founder

Chairman Sampark Foundation

The Union Budget is certainly a document looking towards the future. The focus on the digital university builds on the existing thrust on the SWAYAM courses and creates a basis for tech-enabled learning. Offering digital learning in regional languages is also a step in improving foundational literacy which is the crux of the NIPUN framework. These will also help in improving learning outcomes and bringing more students to the education system. A renewed discussion on funding innovation in the classroom is needed to fulfil the vision defined.

Shantanu Rooj, CEO and Founder of TeamLease Edtech

The budget sounds promising and forward looking; the focus on mitigating the learning loss of the deprived learner is a good initiative. However, the government should have increased its allocation to primary education, especially boost the digital infrastructure in government schools and bridge some part of the digital divide. The impetus on digitalization of education is a refreshing one – introduction of virtual labs, e-content in vernacular languages and capacity building of teachers would have helped us make our education system resilient in the future. The concept of setting up a digital university is a good one – however, instead of the government trying to set up a university all by itself, it should look at offering licenses and regulations to build and run a digital university. The government playing the role of the policy maker, the regulator, the financing authority, and the service provider creates conflict of interest and hence may become sub-optimal. The government should also increase its allocation to universities and higher education institutions. It should offer a one-time grant to help build digital infrastructure – as it will help during any crisis and shall be helpful even after that! The idea of inviting foreign universities to set up their campuses in the GIFT City is a welcome step towards globalization of education; however, the government should now look at creating a system for the domestic universities to be able to compete globally.

Chocko Valliappa, Vice Chairman, Sona Group of Education Institutions, Salem:

The announcements on further strengthening the digital education initiatives of the government is welcome. Digital University will provide a new avenue for keeping abreast of technology. Opening of defence research to private sector and academia to an extent of 25% will open new pathways for research. Students from financially challenged families will not be able to benefit from the renewed thrust on digital education until they have access to smartphones and computer devices. The government needs to enhance/provide access to devices to students from BPL (below poverty line) families. These students need to be provided with access to a high-speed network through a nationwide network of Common Service Centres. The enhanced Anganwadis can become wi-fi hot spots. Not embedding skill education as a part of curriculum in line with the NEP is a miss in this budget.

Kamlesh Vyas, Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP:

The budget has a focus on digital and technology in education. The Bharatnet project for optical fibre network, 5G spectrum auction, the expansion of TV channels initiative under PM eVidya program and digital access to villages will help in improving and expanding education. The initiative to upgrade Anganwadis will help children's health and prepare them better for entering school. Setting up a digital university and using select it is for skill development are innovative ideas. The budget also includes allowing foreign universities to be set up in GIFT city in Gujarat and improving agriculture education.

Basil Ali - co-Founder & COO – Edumpus:

The Union Budget 2022 is a positive one with a key focus on bridging the gap induced by the pandemic through the right infrastructure for digital education. It is also a demonstration of strong commitment to a digital future. Initiatives like the Digital University and the Digital DESH-Stack skilling e-portal will strengthen the education ecosystem in the country and will provide students with better prospects. The excellent opportunity given to world class universities to offer finance, science and technology related courses in the Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) city brings the necessary global exposure to Indian students, building their Glo-cal outlook.

Chenraj Roychand, Founder Chairman, JAIN Group:

The pandemic has cost students almost two full years of formal education. It has also thrown up a high demand for supplementary teaching and building a resilient mechanism for the education sector. We are pleased with the Union Budget 2022-23's decision to increase the number of TV channels from 12 to 200, as part of the One Class one TV Channel, program of PM's eVIDYA. This was constituted under NEP (National Education Policy) that had endorsed a 6% of GDP to be directed towards education. We feel this is a good initiative by the Central Government to help students who cannot afford expensive phones and tablets. This initiative will also enable all states to provide excellent supplementary education in regional languages for Classes 1 to 12. We welcome the decision of the government to set up 750 Virtual labs in Science and Mathematics, as these two subjects are the core of any educational degree. We are delighted to see the emphasis on setting up a Taskforce to promote Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comic promotion, as these are a few booming career opportunities of the present and future.

Aakash Chaudhry, Managing Director, Aakash Educational Services Ltd:

The Union Budget FY2022-23 is growth oriented and has put the much-needed impetus on digital education boosting the penetration of learning where online education is still not accessible. To effectively bridge the learning gap created due to the pandemic, efforts such as setting up of the digital university, providing high-quality e-content, expansion of 'One class, one TV channel' under the PM e-Vidya scheme, equipping teachers with digital tools, creating virtual labs, promoting critical thinking will not only improve learning outcomes but will also provide students access to world-class universal education with a personalized learning experience at their doorsteps. By developing syllabus in different languages, focusing on skilling, reskilling, and upskilling youth, the Government has demonstrated its commitment towards breaking the glass ceiling and encouraging education in regional languages. Collaboration between public universities and institutions will create a network of hub-spoke models with competitive mechanisms building a resilient mechanism for education delivery. The budget aptly addresses last-mile delivery reach with a strong focus on empowering teachers through digitization and the necessity to train students in sync with global standards. The 25-year vision will build an open, digital, connected and inclusive India.

Jitin Chadha, Director of IIAD:

The Union Budget for 2022-23 reworks traditional concepts of what education has meant in the past. The emphasis this year has been on e-learning by proposing to set up a digital university founded on a hub and spoke model. This will imply that learning is not affected despite the challenges that the coming times may bring with it. It will also enable the higher education landscape to keep up with the advancements in technology while offering students quality education that is characterized by a greater focus on collaborative work better suited for today's globalised world. This year's budget is progressive in its outlook and vision and bodes well for

the future of both education and the youth of the country.

Silpi Sahoo, Chairperson, SAI International Education Group

As expected the government has well thought to reduce the digital learning gap between the urban and rural by introducing '1-Class-1-TV channel' covering multiple regional languages, which will not only counter the Learning losses but will bridge the learning gap. The PM's e-Vidya will be further expanded from 12 to 200 channels to facilitate supplementary learning. For the implementation of NEP 2020 great stress is implied on shifting the focus on Upskilling, therefore the launch of Digital DESH e-portal for skilling, upskilling and reskilling will be the key to newer dynamics. To develop the 21st century skills of critical thinking amongst students setting up of virtual labs and skilling e-labs will be valuable. To enable quality learning for each child quality e-content will be made through various means. Teachers will be trained to use better e-teaching outcomes and enhancement of learning experiences. Huge focus was laid on e-services in rural areas, it is proposed that all the villages will be laid with optical fibres by 2025, and villages will be at par with the urban areas. An increase in the overall financial allocation for the education sector for 2022-23 to Rs 1.04 lakh crore from Rs 93,224 crore (Budget estimate) in 2021-22 in view of Samagra Shiksha is certainly a welcome move.

Rishabh Khanna, Cognitive Scientist, Co-founder, Suraasa:

Accessibility to quality learning is a huge challenge for the country, especially in the digital mode of delivery. The Digital University and 'One Class One TV Channel' are very thought through ideas to ensure that no children are left behind due to language, resource, or digital barriers. Skilling and Upskilling have been the talk of the EdTech town for the longest time (for all the right reasons) and it is great to see the government working towards that too. The FM also talked about teachers being trained to be able to deliver quality learning outcomes to students. That is one of the most important components of the education system since a trained teacher has the potential to transform the lives of many children and create impact on the scale. I am excited to witness the implementation of proposed initiatives and how they impact education across the country.