



CESS SHIKSHANA MAHITHI

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EDU-UPDATES

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ABOUT CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL STUDIES (CESS)

Centre for Educational and Social Studies (CESS) was established in 2006 and is a Registered Society that has been working with Indian Education system from inception. CESS engaged in myriad activities in the domain of education for over a decade and positioned itself to meet the current challenges in the society keeping education as a focal point.

CESS has actively engaged in various research pursuits, policy advocacy and capacity building programmes and has successfully completed several projects in the area of Education. The Centre has strived to draw the attention of stakeholders, including State and Central Governments, on vital issues of education through projects, series of National and State level seminars, discussions, policy advocacy and publications. It is also offering unique internship and fellowship programmes for students, research scholars and teachers. CESS recently launched an online Indian Management Repository called '**Prabandhan**'.

CESS has MoUs with Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University (KSRDPRU), Gadag and Tumkur University, Tumkur to undertake research projects, capacity building programmes and designing new courses. The Management Research Centre of the CESS is recognized by Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), Belagavi.

CESS is committed to bringing about 'Social Transformation through and with Education' through Research, Policy Advocacy and Capacity Building in the fields of Education and India Studies. CESS has been contributing in the field of education from last 14 years and aims to become a catalytic force influencing the policy makers and to be a premier institution in the country.

"CESS Shikshana Mahithi" is Edu-updates from CESS which includes the latest news and updates on Education in India and Karnataka. Edu-updates will be released on a fortnightly basis and will keep you posted all the important announcements and information with respect to education.

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Highlights of Union Budget 2021-22: Education

The Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman ji announced the Union Budget for the financial year 2021-22 on February 01, 2021. The budget proposal rests on 6 pillars of which Reinigorating Human Capital and Innovation and R & D, which come under the ambit of Education. The budget has given a major push to the proposed NEP 2020 and has allocated budget for many upcoming projects that comes under the umbrella of NEP 2020. A total of amount Rs. 93,224 crore is allocated for the Ministry of Education. Here are the Highlights-

Reinigorating Human Capital

Expenditure Budget for Education



Highlights of Education Budget

School Education

1. 15,000 schools to be strengthened by implementing all NEP components. They shall act as exemplar schools in their regions for mentoring others
2. 100 new Sainik Schools to be set up in partnership with NGOs/private schools/states
3. Establishment of 750 Ekalavya Model Residential Schools in tribal areas

Higher Education

1. Legislation to be introduced to setup **Higher Education Commission of India** as an umbrella body with 4 separate vehicles for standard-setting, accreditation, regulation, and funding
2. Creation of **Formal Umbrella Structure** to cover all Govt. colleges, universities, research institutions in a city for greater synergy.
 - ✓ Glue grant to implement the same across 9 cities
3. **Central University to come up in Leh** for accessibility of higher education in Ladakh

Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe Welfare

1. **750 Eklavya model residential schools in tribal areas:**
 - Unit cost of each school to be increased to Rs. 38 crore
 - For hilly and difficult areas, to Rs. 48 crore
 - Focus on creation of robust infrastructure facilities for tribal students
2. **Revamped Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for welfare of SCs**
 - Rs. 35,219 crore enhanced Central Assistance for 6 years till 2025- 2026
 - 4 crore SC students to benefit

Skilling

1. Proposed amendment to **Apprenticeship Act** to enhance opportunities for youth
2. Rs. 3000 crore for realignment of existing **National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS)** towards post-education apprenticeship, training of graduates and diploma holders in Engineering
3. **Initiatives for partnership** with other countries in skilling to be taken forward, similar to partnership:
 - With **UAE** to benchmark skill qualifications, assessment, certification, and deployment of certified workforce
 - With **Japan** for a collaborative Training Inter Training Programme (TITP) to transfer of skills, technique and knowledge
 -

Innovation and R&D

1. Modalities of **National Research Foundation** announced in July 2019 –
 - Rs. 50,000 crore outlay over 5 years
 - To strengthen overall research ecosystem with focus on national-priority thrust areas
2. Rs. 1,500 crore for proposed scheme to promote **digital modes of payment**
3. **National Language Translation Mission (NTLM)** to make governance-and-policy related knowledge available in major Indian languages
4. PSLV-CS51 to be launched by **New Space India Limited (NSIL)** carrying Brazil's Amazonia Satellite and some Indian satellite
5. As part of the **Gaganyaan Mission** activities:
 - 4 Indian astronauts being trained on Generic Space Flight aspects, in Russia
 - First unmanned launch is slated for December 2021
 - Rs. 4,000 crore over five years for Deep Ocean Mission survey exploration and conservation of deep sea biodiversity

Initiatives on Education as part of NEP

- Standards will be developed for all school teachers in the form of National Professional Standards for Teachers- NPST.
- A unique indigenous toy-based learning – pedagogy for all levels of school education will be developed.
- A National Digital Educational Architecture (NDEAR) will be set up within the context of a Digital First Mindset where the Digital Architecture.
- For children with hearing impairments, the Government will work on standardization of Indian Sign language across the country, and develop National and State Curriculum materials for use by them.
- Retired and Senior Teachers will be used for individual mentoring of school teachers and educators through constant online/offline support on subjects, themes and pedagogy.

- *A holistic progress card is envisaged to provide students with valuable information on their strengths, areas of interest, needed areas of focus and thereby helping them in making optimal career choices.*
- *Online modules covering the entire gamut of adult education will be introduced.*
- *30 lakh elementary school teachers digitally, covering the whole gamut of education during the pandemic. More 56 lakh school teachers through the National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers for Holistic Advancement (NISTHA).*
- *CBSE Board Exam reforms in a phased manner to be effective from the 2022-23 academic session will be introduced.*
- *Exams will move away from rote-learning and students shall be tested on their conceptual clarity, analytical skills and application of knowledge to real life situations.*
- *A regulatory mechanism to permit dual degrees, joint degrees, twinning arrangements and other such mechanisms in the context of enhancing academic collaborations with foreign higher educational institutions*

Source: Union Budget, Ministry of Finance, GoI

Budget 2021: Reaction from the Education Sector

Varun Chopra, CEO & Co-Founder, Eduvanz:

“More than 40 mn students enroll for HE courses across India every year, the move to set up a HE commission and cluster will allow good private and public institutions in a city to collaborate and edge out the existing silos between the institutions and provide a better quality of education to students in India.”

P.C. Chhabra- Executive Director, Sanskriti University:

This is a realistic budget and the allocation of budget for health, education, and skill development are really good initiatives. We were expecting digitalization in education but increasing expenses of mobile and electronic products will lead to the problem in education and this is a step back in digital India. This budget will be a boost for healthcare and infrastructure and will strengthen NEP.

Mr. Som Sharma, Founder of Edu Brain Group:

The status of education is often a healthy predictor of the country’s overall development and well-being. The Budget 2021 as presented by the Finance Minister had various generic points such as the setup of Higher Education Commission responsible for the accreditation and regular funding of the Colleges and Universities and also proposed to amend apprenticeship law to enhance opportunities for youth is a great initiative taken by Govt. of India.

Ashish Jhalani, Managing Director, Square Panda India

Square Panda is very excited that inclusive development for aspirational India and reinvigorating human capital are two pillars on which budget 2021 rests. The two important announcements for us are that over 15,000 schools are to implement the National Education Policy and act as a model for the rest of the schools.

Prof (Dr.) Sanjiv Marwah, Director, JK Business School

“The budget presented by the honorable Finance Minister tried to address many facets of the educational sector. The overall allocation of Rs. 93224 Cr for the education sector is a welcoming announcement. The budget emphasized the recent trend of tinkering at the edges of the problems that confront the Indian Education System. Madam Finance Minister announced the strengthening of more than 15,000 schools, starting 750 Eklavya schools and 100 new Sainik schools which will have a great impact on the school education.

Ms. Surabhi Goel, CEO – Aditya Birla World Academy, Aditya Birla Education Academy

“The measures announced by the finance minister in today’s union budget 2021 focuses on two important aspects – one is the continuous upskilling of India’s youth and also providing education for all. We are in-line with the announcement as Aditya Birla Education Academy is at the forefront of creating various programs that help the educators of the country upskill themselves. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has set aside funds worth 3000 crores with an aim to create an opportunity for Millennials of India to upskill themselves.

Dr. Chandrima Sikdar, Associate Dean, School of Business Management, SVKM’s NMIMS Deemed-to-be University

“The announcements for the education sector in the Union Budget 2021 spell out a road map towards inclusive education in India. From setting up of a central university in Leh to setting up 750 Ekalavya Model residential schools in tribal areas to 100 new Sainik schools to revamping of a post-matric scheme to a proposal to amend the Apprenticeship Act, the announcements clearly indicate a concerted effort towards making education accessible, available and affordable to all and to the remotest and farthest of the places in the country.”

Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani, Provost – HSNC University:

“The modern outlook and approach in the budget outlook for the Education sector are opening-up floodgates to reinvigorate human capital on a serious note. The outlays drawn is paving the path for the advance of India on the global map via extensive initiatives and measures like Rashtriya Shiksha Mission, extended support continues for primary education and for tribal areas as well as underprivileged additionally encompassing focus on higher education inclusive of skill development that falls in tune with NEP 2020.

Mr. Rajiv Bansal, Director-Operations, Global Indian International School (GIIS), India

“Budget 2021-22 assumes huge importance in mitigating India’s economic crisis and disruption across various sectors brought on by COVID-19 pandemic, which is the need of the hour. This being the first Budget after the unveiling of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, we look forward to the steps to be taken in the education sector. The announcement of more than 15,000 schools to be qualitatively strengthened, with all components of National Education Policy, to emerge as exemplar schools in their regions, hand-holding and mentoring other schools, is certainly a welcome step.

Tarun Goel, Director of The Design Institute of India

The education budget comes as a ray of hope in these tough times that the entire nation has been facing due to the challenges imposed by Covid-19. The focus on empowering students of all regions and strata; by strengthening more than 15,000 schools (to emerge as model schools in their regions, hand-holding and mentoring other schools) and setting up of 100 new Sainik schools is a great step by the government.

DR. Suresh Mony, Professor Emeritus, SVKM’S NMIMS Bengaluru Campus

“Three proposals of the Finance Minister in the budget for 2020-21 for the Education sector are appealing, viz: (a) Strengthening of 15000+ schools (b) Setting up of the Higher Education Commission (c) Fund allocation for the National Research Fund(NRF). It is the quality of primary education that is really hurting human and economic development.

Announcements

Follow central reservation policy: UGC to Universities

February 01, 2021

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has instructed all higher education institutions in the State to strictly follow Centre's guidelines on reservation. The instruction from UGC came after some colleges and higher education institutions in the State were trying to follow State reservation for centrally sponsored programmes and courses.

Read more at: https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/2588194_Reservation_Policy.pdf

Constitution of Implementation Committee for the implementation of NEP 2020 by MoE

Under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Higher Education, MoE, it has been decided to constitute an Implementation Committee for implementation of NEP 2020.

Read more at: https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/nep2020.pdf

UGC Invites Institutes, Academics To Develop Online Courses For SWAYAM

February 11, 2021

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has invited "expression of interest" from higher education institutes and academics to develop Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) for the government's e-learning platform, SWAYAM.

Read more at: https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/7834270_Public_Notice_SWAYAM.pdf

ASEAN-INDIA Hackathon

February 01, 2021

The ASEAN-INDIA Hackathon is an initiative taken by Ministry of Education on the clarion call of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi. This unique hackathon offers opportunities for all the 10 ASEAN countries and India to forward their economic and cultural ties through collaboration in education, science and technology.

Read more at: <https://india-asean.mic.gov.in/>

India plans 'virtual universities' to drive up enrolment rates

February 07, 2021

the government has proposed the creation of "virtual universities" to drive up the gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher education from the current rate of around 26 per cent for those aged between 18 and 23.

The National Education Policy, adopted last year, specified a GER target of 50 per cent by 2035.

Read more at: <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/south-asia/india-plans-virtual-universities-to-drive-up-enrolment-rates>

Very few PhD students in top Indian institutes from SC, ST category

February 07, 2021

The representation of students belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Other Backwards Classes (OBC) categories in the PhD programmes of premier science institutions remains poor, according to data released by the ministry of education (MoE) in Rajya Sabha.

Read more at: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/mumbai-news/very-few-phd-students-in-top-indian-institutes-from-sc-st-category-data-101612721331846.html>

92% lose foundational ability in language due to Covid-19 school closures, 82% in maths: Study

February 11, 2021

Azim Premji University released its field study on 'Loss of Learning during the Pandemic' in Bangalore on Wednesday to highlight the issues. This loss of learning comprises both the loss of regular curricular learning that children would have acquired if schools remained open, as also students 'forgetting' abilities learnt in the previous class.

Read more at: <https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/latest-studies/story/92-lose-foundational-ability-in-language-due-to-covid-19-school-closures-82-in-maths-study-1768203-2021-02-11>

Class 9 and 11 examinations will be conducted in offline mode in CBSE schools

February 12, 2021

Schools across the country were closed for several months since March last year as part of restrictions put in place to curb the coronavirus disease crisis. All schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will conduct in-person annual examinations for classes 9 and 11 and reopen in phases.

Read more at: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/delhi-news/class-9-and-11-examinations-will-be-conducted-in-offline-mode-in-cbse-schools-101613069975902.html>

Education Ministry to train 56 lakh school teachers through NISHTHA this year

February 13, 2021

In a significant decision, the Union Ministry of Education is planning to train about 56 lakh school teachers from across the country in the current year 2021-22. The Education Ministry's decision is in line with the announcement made by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Union budget speech this year where she had mentioned that about 56 lakh school teachers will be trained from across the country.

Read more at: <https://www.financialexpress.com/education-2/education-ministry-to-train-56-lakh-school-teachers-through-nishtha-this-year/2194120/>

Student attendance on the rise in KVs across the Country

February 15, 2021

According to the data compiled on February 11, 2021 from all the KVs, an average of 42%

Kendriya Vidyalayas across the Country have resumed face-to-face teachings for various classes as per the guidelines issued by the MHA and State Governments. KVs started opening from the month of October in a phased manner.

Students of Class 9, 65%
Students of Class 10, 48%
Students of Class 11 and 67%
Students of Class 12 are physically attending classes all over the Country. These figures are dynamic and

trends indicate consistent increase every day.

Read more at: https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/KVs_release.pdf

Cambridge International is first education board to embrace NEP 2020

February 16, 2021

UK-based Cambridge International is the first education board to come up with a curriculum based on NEP 2020. It is introducing an early childhood curriculum from the current academic

In sync with NEP 2020 which says that Early Childhood Care and Education should be flexible and multifaceted, the Cambridge International curriculum includes six areas – communication, language and literacy, creative expression, mathematics, physical development, personal, social and emotional.

session for children in the age group of 3-6years in Indian schools.

Read more at: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/international-board-is-first-to-embrace-nep-uk-based-board-designs-course-for-3-6-yr-olds/articleshow/80956060.cms>

Ministry of Education to launch NEAT 2.0

February 16, 2021

The Ministry of Education, in association with the All India Council for Technical Education, has launched the National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT 2.0). During NEAT 2.0 launch 48 +EdTech Companies signed MoU with AICTE. These Edtech companies products numbering 79 had gone through four rounds of evaluation, to on board on NEAT Portal. More than 2500 evaluations were carried out by the experts to evaluate these products.

Read more at: <https://indiaeducationdiary.in/national-educational-alliance-for-technology-2-0-launched-on-basanth-panchami-aiming-to-reshape-online-learning-in-india/>

Undergraduate STEM Scholars Make up India's Untapped Scientific Workforce

February 16, 2021

The education ministry and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has roped in 48 edtech firms to boost online education for students and executives and offer tech solutions to institutions. The common platform will serve both the business-to-business and business-to-customer space in a varied field ranging from online courses to assessment, and from career support to coding, the regulator for professional courses said.

Read more at: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/govt-ropes-in-48-ed-tech-firms-to-offer-online-education-and-services-11613482660832.html>

NCTE makes TET compulsory for all school teachers to promote quality education

February 17, 2021

In line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the NCTE has decided to make TET and CTET mandatory for teachers at all levels of school education.

Read more at: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/ncte-makes-tet-compulsory-for-all-school-teachers-to-promote-quality-education/articleshow/81045772.cms>

UGC frames draft regulations for dual, twinning, joint degrees with foreign varsities

February 19, 2021

As per the draft guidelines, Indian higher education institutes in the top 100 in University category of National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) or institutions of eminence can collaborate with top 500 institutes in THE or QS World University ranking. This is also in line with the NEP 2020 which seeks more collaborations between institutes internationally.

Read more at: <https://indianexpress.com/article/education/ugc-frames-draft-regulations-for-dual-twinning-joint-degrees-with-foreign-varsities-ugc-ac-in-7195345/>

Niti Aayog lays roadmap for education

February 26, 2021

Delineating a roadmap for the National Education Policy, the Niti Aayog made the suggestions to states to improve education levels. Setting a four-hour play-based timetable in Anganwadis, and twinning them with nearby primary schools, identifying the three crore out-of-school children across the country by next year, and focusing on improving foundation literacy and numeracy – these are among the key Niti Aayog recommendations to states to improve education levels.

Read more at: <https://theprint.in/india/education/4-hr-playtime-identifying-3-crore-out-of-school-kids-niti-aayog-lays-roadmap-for-education/611891/>

Karnataka Education Department sets up Fee Dispute Redressal Committees

February 03, 2021

The department of public instruction has announced the grievance redressal committees for fee related issues in all educational districts. Parents who have issues with the schools on fee-related matters can approach the committee.

Read more at: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/karnataka-education-dept-sets-up-fee-dispute-redressal-committees/articleshow/80672327.cms>

Karnataka Council passes Bills to establish 4 private varsities amidst concerns over quality

February 03, 2021

The Karnataka Legislative Council passed four bills on establishing private universities. The Bills to establish The Atria University, Vidyashilp University, New Horizon University in Bengaluru, and Sri Jagadhguru Murugarajendra University in Chitradurga were passed in the council.

Read more at: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2021/feb/03/karnataka-council-passes-bills-to-establish-4-private-varsities-amidst-concerns-over-quality-2259211.html>

Govt. to set up temporary schools, continue Vidyagama

February 08, 2021

The State government will set up temporary schools near brick kilns and continue the Vidyagama scheme till regular schools start all classes, Primary and Secondary Education Minister S. Suresh Kumar said. Read more at:

<https://news.knowledia.com/IN/en/articles/govt-to-set-up-temporary-schools-continue-vidyagama-83893efb28eb2324076785c0fe77e4902eaf1ebd>

Karnataka schools to curtail summer holidays to make up for lost time: Minister

February 09, 2021

Karnataka Minister for Primary and Secondary Education Suresh Kumar has announced that the summer holidays will be curtailed in schools this year. As per department sources, with exams ending in June and the next academic year beginning at the start of July, there would be a trimming of summer holidays.

Read more at: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2021/feb/09/karnataka-schools-to-curtail-summer-holidays-to-make-up-for-lost-time-minister-2261749.html>

Medical students with fellowship opportunities in crosshairs over one year compulsory government service

February 10, 2021

Postgraduate medical students who have studied in private colleges whether in a government seat or private seat, are required to do one year of mandatory government service according to the requirement of the medical education department.

The medical education department has said that unless the course is recognised by the National Medical Commission (NMC), such an exemption cannot be provided, leaving students stuck in the

Read more at: <https://www.deccanherald.com/city/medical-students-with-fellowship-opportunities-in-crosshairs-over-one-year-compulsory-government-service-949646.html>

Child marriage: Education Department to conduct survey

February 11, 2021

Primary and Secondary Education Minister S Suresh Kumar has directed the officials to conduct a survey on child marriages and child labour cases reported during lockdown due to the prolonged closure of schools. The minister directed the officials to submit a report and start rehabilitation activities as per the norms.

Read more at: <https://www.deccanherald.com/state/top-karnataka-stories/child-marriage-education-department-to-conduct-survey-950215.html>

Karnataka to set up 2,500 smart classrooms for digital learning

February 19, 2021

As part of promoting digital learning, 2,500 classrooms of higher education in the state will be converted into smart classrooms in the next two months, informed Deputy Chief Minister Dr CN Ashwatha Narayana. The smart classrooms will be featured with high-speed internet, providing students with the state of the art tabs and adaptation of integrated learning management system (LMS), he said.

Read more at: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/education/karnataka-to-set-up-2-500-smart-classrooms-for-digital-learning-in-next-2-months-101613716508636.html>

New initiative helps improve attendance at north Karnataka Schools

February 21, 2021

Education officials have started a special programme to bring SSLC students back into classrooms in the classrooms of North Karnataka. Under the 'Marali Shaalege Ba' initiative, teachers visit households and explain the health-safety measures taken by schools to students and parents.

Read more at: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hubballi/new-initiative-helps-improve-attendance-at-north-karnataka-schools/articleshow/81133443.cms>

Graded autonomy to Board of Governors – IIT council forms 4 groups for NEP-related issues

February 22, 2021

From graded autonomy to empowered and accountable Board of Governors (BoG), the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Council chaired by Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' constituted four working groups to work on several issues related to implementation of the new National Education Policy (NEP).

Read more at: <https://theprint.in/india/education/graded-autonomy-to-board-of-governors-iit-council-forms-4-groups-for-nep-related-issues/609896/>

Higher education evaluation must focus on skills, outcomes and not just marks, says UGC

February 22, 2021

Higher education institutes in India should re-model their assessment system to make them aptitude-based, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has suggested in its book, 'Quality Mandate'.

The 'Quality Mandate' is a roadmap to improving higher education in India through various reforms, including in terms of improving quality of teachers, imparting life skills to students and changing the assessment pattern.

Read more at: <https://theprint.in/india/education/higher-education-evaluation-must-focus-on-skills-outcomes-and-not-just-marks-says-ugc/608743>
