Budget For Education And Skilling Fy2019-fy2026

Dhruv -   Date: 28 Jan 2026

Questions

1. Summarize Union Budget education and skilling policy trends FY2019-FY2026

Education and Skilling in Union Budget Speeches (FY2019-FY2026) - Consolidated Analysis

FISCAL YEAR	KEY EDUCATION INITIATIVES	KEY SKILLING INITIATIVES	BUDGET ALLOCATION
FY2019	RISE Initiative (₹1,00,000 crore over 4 years); Ekalavya Model Residential Schools ; DIKSHA portal; Holistic education framework	306 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras established ; ₹7,148 crore for textile sector	PMKVY 2.0: ₹1,171 crore
FY2020	Total Education: ₹99,300 crore ; EQUIP (₹1,413 crore); Degree-level online education ; Study in India programme	150 HEIs to start apprenticeship-embedded courses ; 10 million youth trained under PMKVY	Skill Development: ₹3,000 crore
FY2021	Higher Education: ₹38,350.65 crore ; PM e-VIDYA launched ; NRF: ₹50,000 crore over 5 years	NATS: ₹500 crore (increased from ₹175 crore) ; SANKALP programme; North-East Initiative: ₹360 crore	Samagra Shiksha: ₹31,050.16 crore
FY2022	Total Education: ₹104,277.72 crore ; Digital University announced ; 200 TV channels for PM eVIDYA ; 100 new Sainik Schools	DESH-Stack e-portal launched ; Drone Shakti Initiative; 5,000 Skill Hubs	Samagra Shiksha: ₹37,383.36 crore
FY2023	750 virtual labs and 75 skilling e-labs ; Vocational education reforms ; 120,614 ICT Labs sanctioned	DESH-Stack e-portal operationalized ; Integration of e-Shram with NCS (26,000+ beneficiaries)	Focus on practical, industry-oriented education

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FY2024	50,000 Atal Tinkering Labs over 5 years ; 3 AI Centres of Excellence ; 200 PM e-VIDYA channels launched	PMKVY 4.0 launched; 30 Skill India International Centres ; Skill India Digital platform launched	North-East: ₹360 crore for 2.5 lakh youth
FY2025	Total Education: ₹128,650 crore (6.22% increase) ; AI Centre for Education: ₹500 crore ; Private R&D: ₹20,000 crore	Skill India Programme: ₹8,800 crore till 2026 ; ITI Upgradation: ₹60,000 crore over 5 years ; 400+ new courses in AI, 5G, Cybersecurity	PM Research Fellowship: 10,000 fellowships
FY2026	Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Scheme ; IIT Expansion: ₹11,828.79 crore over 4 years ; MERITE Scheme: ₹4,200 crore	5 National Centres of Excellence for Skilling ; 31 new age/future skills courses in ITIs	Samagra Shiksha: ₹41,250 crore

Key Insights

Evolution of Education Policy Framework (FY2019-FY2026)

The Union Government's approach to education evolved significantly across eight fiscal years, transitioning from infrastructure creation to digital transformation and AI integration. The journey began with the holistic education framework in FY2019, emphasizing quality over quantity and technology as the biggest driver for improving education quality.

- **FY2019-FY2020:** Foundation building phase with RISE Initiative (₹1,00,000 crore over 4 years), establishment of digital platforms like DIKSHA, and introduction of EQUIP scheme (₹1,413 crore) for quality enhancement

- **FY2021-FY2022:** Pandemic response and digital acceleration with PM e-VIDYA covering 25 crore school-going children, National Research Foundation (₹50,000 crore over 5 years), and announcement of Digital University

- **FY2023-FY2024:** Implementation and operationalization phase with 200 PM e-VIDYA TV channels launched, 750 virtual labs and 75 skilling e-labs, and 50,000 Atal Tinkering Labs announced

- **FY2025-FY2026:** AI-driven transformation with Centre of Excellence in AI for Education (₹500 crore), Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Scheme, and MERITE Scheme (₹4,200 crore) for technical education

Skill Development: From PMKVY to Industry 4.0 Readiness

The skill development ecosystem underwent a fundamental transformation from traditional vocational training to future-ready, technology-intensive skilling aligned with Industry 4.0 requirements.

- **Scale Expansion:** From 10 million youth trained under PMKVY by FY2020 to 2.27 crore beneficiaries under three flagship schemes by FY2025
- **Infrastructure Growth:** From 306 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras in FY2019 to 14,844 PMKVY 4.0 Centres, 49,788 NAPS Establishments, and 14,612 ITIs by FY2026
- **Technology Integration:** Introduction of Skill India Digital platform in FY2024 as comprehensive Digital Public Infrastructure, followed by 400+ new courses in AI, 5G, Cybersecurity, Green Hydrogen, and Drone Technology in FY2025
- **International Competitiveness:** Establishment of 30 Skill India International Centres in FY2024 and 5 National Centres of Excellence with global partnerships in FY2026
- **Massive Investment:** ₹60,000 crore National ITI Upgradation Scheme over 5 years to modernize 1,000 ITIs and benefit 20 lakh youth

Budget Allocation Trends and Priorities

Education budget allocations showed consistent growth with strategic reallocation toward digital infrastructure and quality enhancement.

- **Total Education Budget:** Increased from ₹99,300 crore in FY2020 to ₹128,650 crore in FY2025 (6.22% increase)
- **Samagra Shiksha:** Grew from ₹31,050.16 crore in FY2021 to ₹41,250 crore in FY2026
- **Skill Development:** ₹3,000 crore in FY2020 expanded to ₹8,800 crore for Skill India Programme (2022-26) plus ₹60,000 crore for ITI Upgradation
- **Research and Innovation:** ₹50,000 crore for NRF over 5 years (FY2021) and ₹20,000 crore for private sector driven R&D (FY2025)

Digital Infrastructure and Technology Integration

The government's digital-first approach transformed education delivery and accessibility across urban and rural areas.

- **PM e-VIDYA Evolution:** From 12 TV channels in FY2021 to 200 channels launched in FY2024 covering all states and regional languages
- **Connectivity Expansion:** Broadband connectivity to all government secondary schools under BharatNet (FY2026)
- **ICT Infrastructure:** 120,614 ICT Labs and 82,120 Smart Classrooms sanctioned by FY2023
- **Digital Learning Platforms:** SWAYAM with 3 crore members, DIKSHA as national digital infrastructure, and Skill India Digital Hub launched in FY2024
- **AI Integration:** Centre of Excellence in AI for Education (₹500 crore) and SOAR Program for AI literacy from Class 6

Industry-Academia Collaboration and Employability Focus

The government systematically strengthened linkages between education, skilling, and employment through multiple mechanisms.

- **Apprenticeship Integration:** 150 HEIs to start apprenticeship-embedded courses by FY2020, expanded to 47 lakh youth to receive stipend support over 3 years under NAPS (FY2024)

- **NATS Enhancement:** Budget increased from ₹175 crore to ₹500 crore in FY2021 with ₹3,000 crore allocation over 5 years

- **Tech Company Partnerships:** MoUs with IBM, Microsoft, AWS, and Cisco for AI,

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