

TOI Budget Dialogues 2026 Report

The **TOI Budget Dialogues 2026**, titled "Unpacking the Budget & its Real Impact," was a comprehensive conclave hosted by *The Times of India*. The event focused on the national vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**, analyzing how the Union Budget 2026 influences infrastructure, manufacturing, and technology.

The Panelists

The dialogue featured a diverse group of technology leaders, economists, and policy analysts, including:

- **Mr. C.P. Gurnani:** Co-founder and Vice Chairman of AionOS and former CEO/MD of Tech Mahindra.
- **Mr. Sanjay Kathuria:** Content creator and policy commentator.
- **Ms. Rumi Majumdar:** Economist and thought leader.
- **Mr. Pankaj Dhawal:** Senior journalist and policy analyst, who moderated the key sessions.
- **Mrs. Singh:** Discussed AI applications in agriculture and grassroots technology.



Key Topics Discussed

- **AI and Digital Transformation:** The panel emphasized that India is becoming a global technology capital. Discussions covered the **India AI Mission**, which aims to set up 58 Centers of Excellence (COE) across the country, including tier-2 cities.
- **Taxation and Predictability:** A major theme was the need for a consistent tax regime. Panelists critiqued the frequent changes in tax slabs and discussed the prospective taxation of Sovereign Gold Bonds starting April 2026.
- **Manufacturing and MSMEs:** The dialogue explored how the budget supports electronics manufacturing and life sciences, using India's data-driven success in vaccine development as a blueprint for future "blockbuster" innovations.

Impact on Education and Research

The 2026 budget places a heavy emphasis on bridging the gap between academic research and industrial application:

- **Skilling and AI Literacy:** The budget supports large-scale skilling programs, such as "AI 101" for school students, to ensure the next generation is prepared for an AI-driven economy.
- **Research Infrastructure:** The establishment of **Centers of Excellence** across states is designed to decentralize research, moving high-tech development beyond major metros into smaller cities.
- **Research Sector Support:** Panelists highlighted that for India to remain a "technology capital," the budget focuses on fostering startups and MSMEs through data centers and Global Capability Centers (GCCs), which provide the backbone for advanced research in quantum computing and life sciences.

The event concluded with a call for "predictability" in policy to allow educational and research institutions to plan for long-term growth towards the 2047 goals.

Representation from the university



Dr. Renu Ghosh (Dean SVS)

Anjali (Phd scholar)

Bhawna (Phd scholar)

Garima Gupta (Phd scholar)

Kumar Kartikeya (Phd scholar)

Mayuri Bhatti (Phd scholar)

Ritika (Phd scholar)

Aastha (Bvoc RM- 4th year)

Harsh Mishra (Bvoc A &F- 4th year)

Lenus Paul (Bvoc RM- 4th year)

Sneha Singh (Bvoc ECCM- 4th year)