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Kurukshetra seeks to carry the message of Rural Development to all people. It serves as a forum for free, frank and serious discussion on the problems of Rural Development with special focus on Rural Uplift.

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Editorial

India, with an average age of 29 years, arguably has the youngest workforce when compared with other major economies of the world. This demographic dividend is expected to play an important role in India's march towards prosperity. But, it is no one's guess that this young population would become 'demographic dividend' only when they are equipped with requisite skills for 21st century. Without skills and jobs, this 'demographic dividend' will likely go waste, and may even give rise to many social tensions.

Indian Government is rightly seized of the opportunity and has given utmost importance to the skilling programmes. Two years ago, **Skill India Mission** was launched and it has made significant achievements since. However, the problem is that in India, there are over 70 schemes under various Ministries/Departments which share a similar objective. Added to this is the Skill Development Schemes of each State Government/UT. Now, the commonsense says that all these skilling initiatives must work in sync with each other to help India become the Skill Capital of the world. This was the idea behind creating a new central ministry, **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** in November, 2014. Since its inception, the Ministry has played a vital role in promoting the Skilling & Entrepreneurship ecosystem in the country.

Recognising the skilling needs of rural youth, the Government has launched several initiatives focused on rural youth such as – **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)**, **Deen Dayal Upadhyay – Gramin Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)**, **Ajeevika** etc. These schemes are trying to address the challenges that prevent India's rural poor youth from competing in the modern market, such as lack of formal education and marketable skills.

Besides rural youth, women's economic empowerment is one of the world's most promising areas of investment. Gender equality and women's empowerment are integral to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. Programmes like **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** and DDU-GKY, through SHG, connect rural women to the mainstream economy.

One of the biggest challenges that the Skill India Mission faces today, is to provide placements/jobs to a skilled candidate. Programmes like **Startup India** can surely help in addressing this problem. So, the Government is creating an enabling environment that encourages large scale growth of entrepreneurial activity, as the focus need to change from wage employment to self-employment and entrepreneurship. Today's youth has to become, in our PM **Shri Narendra Modi's words, 'Job creator rather than job seeker'**.

Second major challenge in Government's skilling efforts is that skilling/vocational training, in India, is not yet considered as a mainstream mode of education. General perception is such that people considers it as secondary education and doubt the capability of person undergoing vocational education. This mindset need to be changed through sustained campaign.

Then comes the issue of quality. Often, it has been seen that quality of the training is inconsistent because of the poor quality of trainers. Industry has also indicated a gap between the skills required and what is provided to them. To overcome this gap, **National skills Policy -2015**, has mandated that all courses under various schemes are to be in alignment with the **National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF)**.

Also, the increasing automation in industry is posing a big challenge to skilling and job creation both. So the course and content of our skill programmes need to be made future ready. Role of private sector, specialized NGOs and the training institutions such as ITIs would be very crucial in this regard. Thus we can say that each stakeholder- Government, ITIs, industry, has a role to play in making skilling as aspiration for Indian youth.

In the end, we must not forget that, this August, we completed 70 years of freedom and 75 years of the **Quit India Movement**. This movement was a turning point that changed the course of history in the subcontinent forever. Today, 75 years after the '**August Kranti**', let us collectively take a '**Sankalp**' (resolve) to make a **New India** and ensure its '**Siddhi**' (attainment) by 2022, when the nation completes 75 years of freedom.

SKILL INDIA: CHALLENGES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND THE WAY FORWARD

Dr. K P Krishnan, Dr. Divya Nambiar

New disruptive technologies are creating new forms of work and new forms of flexible employment. A key topic of debate in academic, industry and policy circles pertains to how automation and industrial transformation will impact work and skills in India. What kinds of skills will be needed for workplaces of the future? How can we make our youth resilient and adaptable to these changes? How can we make lifelong learning, upskilling and reskilling a key component of our skills ecosystem? The Ministry is engaging with a number of experts to create a solid evidence base to find answers to these questions.

Skills are a key driver of the modern economy. Vocational education and training is aimed at enhancing the employability of an individual, by facilitating the individual's transition into the labour market. Changing skill requirements, new technologies and new kinds of jobs have placed greater emphasis on skills training – which is increasingly becoming a process of lifelong learning.

A combination of factors has made skill development an important policy priority for India. It starts with demographics. India is at the cusp of reaping its demographic dividend. Its population pyramid is expected to “bulge” in the 15-59 age group over the next decade. By 2020, the average age of the Indian population will be 29 years, as against 40 years in USA, 46 years in Europe and 47 years in Japan. There is a narrow window to harness the potential of India's young population. However, India's training capacity is limited. Though, there is no unanimity on the exact numbers, it is estimated that about 50 lakh young people enter the workforce every year. Yet, the current capacity of India's Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), which still form the backbone of India's vocational training ecosystem, is only 25

lakhs per annum. Therefore, enhancing capacity and scale of skill training programmes, is an urgent policy priority for India.

On the demand side, skill gap studies commissioned by the National Skill Development Corporation suggest that 10.9 crore incremental human resources, will be required across 24 high growth sectors by 2022. Therefore, while there is a demand for skilled workers in industry, it is vital that training must be of high quality and relevant to industry requirements.

Closely linked to the issue of training quality is the issue of employability. One way to ensure employability of trained workers is by forging links with industry or through large scale apprenticeship programmes. However, the fact that in India, over 90% of the workforce is engaged in the unorganized sector, means that formal sector wage employment opportunities are limited, and placements are difficult to track. Hence, India's skills training programmes must not only equip youth with marketable skills to make them employable. It must also train youth to be self-employed or take up entrepreneurship.



While skills training is being actively promoted by the government and its partners in the private sector and industry, it is not an aspirational career choice amongst youth. It is perceived as a fall back option, rather than a mainstream career choice. Formal education still remains the top choice for young people. This bias is also seen amongst employers who pay higher salaries to entry level engineers, compared to experienced workers who have undergone vocational training. Therefore, along with issues relating to capacity, quality and employability – attitudinal factors about how skills training is perceived by both potential trainees and employers need to be addressed.

The complexity of these challenges, combined with several market failures which characterize India's vocational training ecosystem (such as information asymmetry; low skills equilibrium, low private sector investment in skills training and moral hazard), make a strong case for state intervention in this sector. However, the state skill training ecosystem was also highly fragmented. For example, in early 2014, over 20 central ministries operated a range of skill training programmes, with differing norms, standards and certification systems. There was an urgent need for policy coherence and robust programme implementation plan, to overcome these skills challenges.

With a view to resolve these diverse challenges, India's first Ministry for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), was established in November 2014. Importantly, the Ministry was given the responsibility for both skill training and entrepreneurship (which for the first time were portrayed as complementary activities). As a result, the Ministry mandate was to equip India's youth with the skills needed to access to multiple livelihood pathways from wage employment to self-employment. The Ministry was tasked primarily with ensuring coordination, coherence and role clarity within India's complex vocational training and skill training ecosystem. Therefore, MSDE emerged as the umbrella Ministry for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Key institutions, dealing with these topics, from other Ministries were shifted to MSDE. For example, the Directorate General of Training (DGT) which was the key vocational training division of Government of India, formerly under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, came under the ambit of MSDE in April 2015. The DGT oversees trainings done through a network of central training institutes and ITIs (which offer 1-2 year long training

courses). Other agencies such as the National Skill Development Corporation (which was created as a public private partnership to catalyse private sector involvement in the field of skills training), also became a key implementation arm of the Ministry. NSDC has played an important role in funding private training providers to provide short term skill training courses. NSDC also supports the Ministry in implementing and monitoring the Ministry's flagship skills training programme (Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana or PMKVY). Similarly, the National Skill Development Agency (which regulates training standards and works on quality assurance), also came under the Ministry.

Over the last two and a half years, MSDE has taken important steps forward to build a robust skills training ecosystem through a focused set of policy interventions.

Key policy instruments include:

- The National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship 2015, which outlines the overarching vision for Skill India.
- The National Skill Development Mission 2015, which lays down a framework for implementation of the Skill India programme.
- Common Norms, for skill training programmes.
- The Apprentices Act 1961, has been modified with a view to encourage industry to take on apprentices.

How did these policy interventions address the skills challenges outlined above? What has been achieved so far?

Addressing Skills Challenges:

MSDE's policy interventions have translated into concrete programmes of action which address four major skills challenges – namely: *scale, quality, employability and aspirations*. This section summarises some of the Ministry's key achievements in each of these areas.

Achieving Scale in Long-Term and Short Term Skilling Systems:

Overall, there has been significant capacity addition for long term trainings in ITIs between May 2014 - May 2017. For example, there has been a 24 per cent increase in the number of ITIs, from 10,750 in May 2014 to 13,353 in May 2017. The total number of seats in ITIs have increased by 44 per cent 19.82 lakh seats in May 2014 to 28.52

lakhs seats in May 2017. There has also been a 26 per cent increase in enrolments of students in ITIs, from 17.80 lakh in 2013-2014 to 22.4 lakh in 2016-2017.

Short-term fee based trainings through NSDC, have also scaled up. The number of training centres has increased by 85.9 per cent between May 2014 and May 2017. There has been a substantial (71 per cent) increase in the total number of candidates trained from 2013-2014 to 2016-2017. There has also been an improvement in placement rate, by 65 per cent for fee based courses and 12 per cent for PMKVY courses during the same period.

Enhancing Quality:

Several interventions have been introduced in both short term and long-term skills training systems to enhance the quality of training. This includes:

- **Grading:** A robust grading system (based on 43 grading parameters) has been introduced in ITIs, to differentiate between performing and non-performing ITIs. Grading parameters include a focus on training outcomes, quality of infrastructure, industry connect etc. A grading system has also been introduced for the first time, in the short-term skill training ecosystem. This will take place through the newly established Skill Management and Accreditation of Training Centres (SMART) Portal.
- **Strengthening of Accreditation and Affiliation norms:** Comprehensive ITI accreditation and affiliation norms have been created and released, for the first time.
- **Extensive Curriculum Reforms have been undertaken:** 63 curricula have been upgraded through active consultations with industry. 35 new Trades have been introduced, with a focus on emerging fields such as: Renewable Energy, Mechatronics, and Instrumentation, where there is likely to be an increased demand in the future. Similarly, in the short-term training ecosystem, model curriculum for 405 courses and content for 252 courses has been standardised.

Improving Employability (through Industry Connect):

Industry connect is vital at every stage of the skill training cycle, to ensure that young people who enroll in skill training programmes become and remain employable. Some of MSDE's initiatives in this area include:

- **Apprenticeship Reforms:** At the statutory level, comprehensive reforms have been introduced under Apprentices Act, 1961 (effective from 22nd December, 2014). Key reforms include:
 - Increasing the upper limit for apprenticeship to 10 per cent.
 - Introduction of optional trade pathway.
 - Extending the scope of apprenticeships to the service sector.
 - Rationalization of penalties for employers.
- **Launch of National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS):** This new scheme aims to catalyze apprenticeship. Key features of the scheme include:
 - Incentivizing employers to onboard apprentices;
 - Online and transparent system of operations;
 - Integration with other skill development programs;
 - Better communication and outreach strategy.

NAPS has catalyzed interest of both industry and trainees towards apprenticeship promotion.

Making Skills Training Aspirational Among Youth:

The Ministry is also working towards making skills training an aspirational career choice among young people, through two strategies. The first strategy focuses on addressing the cultural mindset, which makes skills training a default option, rather than an active choice amongst youth. This includes skills competitions, job melas, mobilization camps, awards etc. New training initiatives are also now aligned closely with the aspirations of youth. For example, the Ministry's India International Skills Centre programme, seeks to provide skills training at global standards to youth who aspire to work overseas. The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) initiative aims to create model, aspirational, state of the art skill training centres in every district of the country, opening up access to high quality training facilities to youth across the country.

The second strategy focuses on creating vertical and horizontal progression pathways, between formal and vocational education streams (through equivalence frameworks). This will connect the formal and vocational education streams, creating new career pathways for young people.

Formalising Entrepreneurship:

India's entrepreneurial spirit is well known and takes two key forms. First, there is a strand of

entrepreneurship, which is borne out of necessity and takes the form of frugal innovation. Often this kind of entrepreneurship is seen in the informal sector, which still comprises of 93 per cent of the economy. The second is entrepreneurship which emerges in high technology start-ups which draws on technological innovation to find solutions to key challenges. These start-ups are formally registered enterprises and are increasingly growing in clusters in Bangalore and Hyderabad.

It is absolutely vital that India moves from frugal innovation and 'jugaad' models of entrepreneurship to entrepreneurship forms which are formalised. The recent spate of regulatory reforms including: Aadhaar, demonetisation and the implementation of the Goods and Service Tax (GST) are attempts to transition India's economy from the informal to the formal sector, so that India's entrepreneurs, both large and small, can contribute to India's growth trajectory. Formalising entrepreneurship by providing active support to budding entrepreneurs in the informal sector and facilitating their transition to the organized sector, is a key focus area of MSDE's work in the area of entrepreneurship.

MSDE's entrepreneurship development programme, Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana, seeks to provide budding entrepreneurs, particularly those working in the informal sector, with entrepreneurship education and training, through a combination of factors including: easy access to credit, incubation support and mentorship to enable them to become a part of the formal economy. We aim to reach over 7 lakh students in 5 years through 3050 institutes of learning - including, schools, colleges, training institutes, through Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). This scheme will also provide financial and handholding support to empanelled institutes.

Way Forward: Preparing for Workplaces of the Future Industry demand is dynamic. Therefore, MSDE's focus is to ensure that young people are not only equipped with the skills for today's jobs, but also for jobs of the future. Industry – particularly the manufacturing sector is on the cusp of transformation, leading to a new industrial paradigm, known as industry 4.0. Industry 4.0 in our understanding is the intersection and application of the Internet of Things (IoT) to the secondary sector, i.e., manufacturing. Certain sectors in manufacturing (particularly the automotive sector) have traditionally been on the cutting edge of modernization, through process automation, use of methodologies like Six Sigma and efficiencies driven by supply chain management. Other sectors like textile manufacturing, SMEs, and new and emerging sectors like electronics, aviation, etc. are ripe for adoption of such technologies. New disruptive technologies are creating new forms of work and new forms of flexible employment. A key topic of debate in academic, industry and policy circles pertains to how automation and industrial transformation will impact work and skills in India. What kinds of skills will be needed for workplaces of the future? How can we make our youth resilient and adaptable to these changes? How can we make lifelong learning, upskilling and reskilling a key component of our skills ecosystem? The Ministry is engaging with a number of experts to create a solid evidence base to find answers to these questions.

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Indian Skill Development Service

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has set up Indian Skill Development Services (ISDS). The notification in this regard has been issued on 4th January 2017. This service has been created for the Training Directorate of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. With notification of this service the skill ecosystem is expected to get strengthened and modernised in line with the current scientific and industrial development in the country. The Indian Skill Development Service (ISDS) will have 263 all India posts. The cadre shall comprise of 3 posts at Senior Administrative Grade, 28 posts at Junior Administrative Grade, 120 posts at Senior Time Scale and 112 posts at Junior Time Scale. The Academy for training of the cadre will be National Institute of Skill Development

ISDS will be a Group 'A' service where induction will take place through Indian Engineering Service Examination conducted by UPSC. It is an attempt to attract young and talented administrators for Skill Development. The knowledge acquired by the engineers recruited will give new impetus to the initiative of the government to the skill development and also efficient and effective implementation of the schemes. Skill India Mission is expected to supply huge human resource not only in India, but also internationally. This is a step forward to meet the target of skilling 500 million people by 2022.

Prime Minister on Skill Development & Entrepreneurship

Address to nation on the occasion of Independence Day:

- With the changes in demand and technology, the nature of jobs in our country has been changing.
- The Government has launched several new initiatives in the employment related schemes and also in the manner in which the training is imparted for the development of human resource according to the needs of the 21st century.
- We have launched a massive program to provide collateral free loans to the youth. Our youth should become independent, he should get the employment, he should become the provider of employment.
- Over the past three years, '*Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana*' has led to millions and millions of youth becoming self-dependent. It's not just that, one youth is providing employment to one, two or three more people.
- In the education sector, we have taken an important step to grant the Universities freedom from restrictions to make them the world class.
- Over the last three years, we have set up 6 IITs, 7 new IIMs and 8 new IIITs and we have also done the groundwork for linking the education with job opportunities.

Address to the Young Entrepreneurs at "Champions of Change" initiative organised by NITI Aayog:

- Innovation is life. If there is no innovation, then it's stagnation and there is filth where there is the stagnation. Changes can be brought about through innovation alone.
- If somebody is doing the marketing of handicraft products, but has he taught the handicraft artisan to modify his work as per the global requirement with the help of new technology? But if he keeps training them, then we can say, those common people, poor people, those who work in the field of handicraft, in a way you can call it their vocational training, their skill training or technological training, be it understanding of the market, if you train them a bit then they give better results.
- Even if we inspire a Bamboo furniture maker to manufacture furniture as per the market requirement, as per the changed time and as per the comfort of the user then he will automatically get that opportunity.
- You must have seen that there is a different kind of start-up world for digital software but the other start-ups that have emerged, they have found the solutions for daily problems and they have targeted the rural base.
- Waste to wealth: You cannot imagine that how big this 'waste to wealth' sector is of Indian economy. There is technology, innovation, recycling in it, it has all the things and it is necessary for the country.
- Education: This is true that in the field of education, campus placements take place from IIMs. One crore, two crores or three crores, employers hire students by giving this much money. Can't we dream that the teachers should also get campus placement and they also fetch one crore, two crores, three crore or five crores.
- It means that if there is a great demand for something in our country then it is for the best teachers. We should develop these best teachers and the common man should feel that becoming a teacher is very respectable thing and he can make big contribution through this.
- Recently, I have dedicated 32 transponders to the education sector alone. And they can deliver education to you, to your homes free of charge for kids. It means technology can help us in providing quality education without dilution, without diversion to common man, to the poorest of the poor.

MSDE celebrates Second Anniversary of Skill India Mission

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) celebrated the second anniversary of Skill India Mission on the World Youth Skills day on 15th July, 2017. 100 GST training centres, 51 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras and 100 Yoga training centres were inaugurated on the occasion. Skill India Mission is the brainchild of Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. It was during his presence, MSDE had launched the SKILL INDIA Campaign on the occasion of the first ever World Youth Skills Day on 15th July 2015. The Union Ministers present as the Guests of Honour included Sushri Uma Bharati, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, and Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.



The Union Ministers, Sushri Uma Bharti, Shri J.P. Nadda, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy and other dignitaries at the 2nd Anniversary Celebrations of the Skill Indian Mission, on the occasion of the World Youth Skill Day, in New Delhi on July 15, 2017.

MoS, MSDE Shri Pratap Singh Rudy said, "Skill India is a hallmark mission for us and it has been a great two-year journey of Skill India. India has always been an artisan-based economy for the last 5000 years that sustained livelihoods. We have always had weavers, potters, metallurgy, farmers, gardeners etc. But with the British rule, the country learnt the art of rulers. We need to go back to our roots and find our natural skills that will make us more efficient in our work life. We all know that applied knowledge is the most relevant knowledge to gain." The event saw prominent Industry captains and key representatives of companies participate and more than 32000 companies pledged support to apprenticeship training for Skill India Mission under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS). MSDE also announced the launched of National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) in BFSI Sector and along with candidates receiving their apprenticeship letters at the gathering.

Applauding the steps taken by MSDE under Skill India Mission, Minister of Textiles and Information & Broadcasting, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani said, "It's a historic moment for us to witness the oath that the captains of the industry have taken. Of all the programs, under skill development, I think the most important one for us will be Recognition of Prior learning (RPL) has brought great recognition and respect to the people across and brought them back into the organised sector. We would like to partner MSDE in hiring practioners of GST from the skill centres for the benefit of our industry."

Minister for Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Drinking and Water Sanitation Shri Narendra Singh Tomar said, "Skill India is most crucial to the nation than any other national mission at this point in time specially when it comes to strengthening the rural areas in our country. MoRD is mandated to build 1 crore houses by 2019. This would not be possible without an efficient and skilled workforce. The Skills Ministry has revolutionized the rural sector and their commendable efforts are visible. Our rural workforce is being trained across villages with the support of the skill training machinery."

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) also announced a national training Programme to certify GST practitioners under its flagship scheme of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) to facilitate the country's transition to the new tax regime seamless and convenient. Total 100 GST training centres across the nation were launched along with the training curriculum. In line with the commitment of opening one Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) in each district, additional 51 PMKK were announced across India counting to 200 in total till date. MSDE also launched 100 yoga training centres. The certificates for short-term/ Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) were distributed to candidates trained under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). To keep up with the changing competitive world, new accreditation and affiliation guidelines for ITIs were released by the guests of honour. MSDE also launched Takshashila - a portal for trainers and assessors that would track their training life-cycle and would function as the central repository of information concerning the development of their quality benchmarks in the Indian skill eco-system.

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship: Key Achievements

- More than 1.17 crore people trained under MSDE programs.
- 26.5 lakhs candidates trained under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
- More than 4.82 lakh people were brought into the organised sector through the recognition of prior learning program under PMKVY which recognises existing skills and certifies youth (13000 Rubber Tappers, More than 250 Railway Porters and 1500 Employees of Rashtrapati Bhawan).
- More than 480 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras have been announced which would be model centres for skilling and would be in each district of the country for ease of skilling. 162 are already been established.
- More than 1381 new ITIs have been opened with more than 5 lakh seats and the entire ecosystem of ITIs have been reinvigorated and reenergised.
- More than 1 crore people trained under NSDC's short term skilling ecosystem since its inception.
- Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana aiming to promote young entrepreneurs and self sustainability targets to cover 14.5 lakhs over the next 5 years
- MSDE also launched Driver Training institutes ,50 more to be opened by end of 2017.
- Special schemes like Udaan in J&K and others in North East have brought avenues of growth and opportunities to youth in these focused regions.
- 4 new ATIs have been upgraded into India institute of skills modelled after ITE Singapore.
- MSDE focuses on bringing heavy quality focus in skills through Adhaar alignment, strengthened monitoring and better curriculum. It is also supported by world bank schemes like STRIVE and SANKALP
- MSDE has established convergence through common norms, National skills qualification framework and ISO certification of ITIs.
- Skill India also promotes Inclusion and diversity across all programs specially for disability.
- India has partnered with 11 countries in the skills agenda promoting global mobility.
- Skill support all national missions and partners with 18 out of 20 ministries.
- MSDE also has support from states on infrastructure and skill education in schools/universities.
- MSDE has successfully created Industry linkages through apprenticeship, CSR, partnerships in infrastructure and hiring. More than 6 lakh apprentices have been engaged under NAPS.
- MSDE partnered with MHRD to create bridge courses For academic equivalence of ITI students.
- Skill India through its technology applications brings in ease of managing systems in process.
- MSDE has conducted special skill development projects with Armed Forces (Navy, Army, AirForce), CRPF jawans etc.

NATIONAL POLICY ON SKILL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP-2015 : AN OVERVIEW

A. Srijja

The need for a National Skill Policy arises from the fact that India is home to almost one-fifth of world's youth population¹. The share of youth in the age group 15-34 years in India's total population was 34.8 per cent in 2011 which is projected to be 31.8 per cent in 2030, i.e. about 490 million². The onus therefore lies on the country to empower its youth to achieve its livelihood so that India is able to convert its demographic surplus into economic prosperity of the nation.

The National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015 is a renewed version of the earlier National Policy on Skill Development that was announced by the Ministry of Labour & Employment in 2009. The first National Skill Policy envisioned the launch of a National Skill Development Initiative with the clause that the policy would be subject to review after five years to align the policy framework with the changing trends in the labour market. The current policy in that sense has a broader framework in that it covers skill development of the youth for wage employment, entrepreneurship and also acknowledges Recognition of Prior Learning. The need for a National Skill Policy arises from the fact that India is home to almost one-fifth of world's youth population¹. The share of youth in the age group 15-34 years in India's total population was 34.8 per cent in 2011 which is projected to be 31.8 per cent in 2030, i.e. about 490 million². The onus therefore lies on the country to empower its youth to achieve its livelihood so that India is able to convert its demographic surplus into economic prosperity of the nation. The emphasis for skill development gets further enhanced with about 62 per cent of India's population in the working age group of 15-59 years. The National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015 has been framed to provide an umbrella framework to all skilling activities being carried out within the country and also align these to common standards so as to retain their relevance even in the international job market³.

Objective of the Policy:

In keeping with the challenge of skilling a mammoth labour force, the Policy aims at skilling with scale & speed while retaining the quality of skilling so that it is sustainable. The policy objectives include: (i) to make

vocational training aspirational among the youth (ii) to ensure the vertical and horizontal pathways to skilled workforce for further growth and provide for seamless integration of skill training with formal education. (iii) to improve employability of youth through skilling (iv) to increase the capacity and quality of training infrastructure and trainers (v) to address the manpower industry linkage by aligning supply of skilled workers with sectoral requirements of industry (vi) to establish an IT based information system for aggregating demand and supply of skilled workforce which can help in matching and connecting supply with demand (vii) to raise the standards in the skilling space to international levels.

Policy Strategy:

The policy framework on skill development outlines eleven major paradigms and enables to achieve the objectives of skilling as mentioned in the policy viz; aspiration and advocacy, capacity, quality, synergy, mobilization and engagement, promotion of skilling among women, global partnerships, outreach, ICT enablement, trainers and assessors and inclusivity.

For entrepreneurship to expand, the policy framework rightly mentions that there should be an enabling ecosystem of culture, finance, expertise, infrastructure, skills and business friendly regulation.



The policy framework identifies the following strategy to create an enabling environment for entrepreneurship viz, educate and equip potential and early stage entrepreneurs across India, connect entrepreneurs to peers; mentors and incubators, support entrepreneurs through Entrepreneurship Hubs (E-Hubs), catalyse a culture shift to encourage entrepreneurship, engage entrepreneurship among un-represented groups, promote entrepreneurship amongst women, improve ease of doing business, improve access to finance, foster social entrepreneurship and grassroots innovations.

The National Policy on Skill Development & Entrepreneurship proposes to bring about inclusivity by bridging the gender, social and sectoral divide by ensuring that the skilling needs of socially and disadvantaged and marginalized groups (like SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities, differently abled persons etc.) are appropriately taken care of. On the entrepreneurial front, the policy addresses to foster innovation-driven and social entrepreneurship to address the needs of the population at the bottom of the pyramid and broaden the base of entrepreneurial supply by meeting specific needs of both socially and geographically disadvantaged sections of the society. The Policy also advises setting up new ITIs in unserved blocks to expand the outreach of skilling programmes. To improve the quality as well as to bring about uniformity in the skill training delivered across the skill space, the policy advocates that all formal and vocational education including skill training will have to align themselves with the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) by December 2018. The adoption of NSQF facilitates multiple pathways to a prospective trainee/youth to move horizontally or vertically both within the vocational education & training and also among vocational education, vocational training, general education and technical education. The NSQF also facilitates Recognition of Prior Learning in the unorganized sector and facilitate the movement of unorganized sector workers into the formal sphere of vocational training or education for enhancement of their skills.

Policy in Implementation:

At present, there are more than 40 skill development schemes implemented by 22 different Central Ministries catering to basic and sector specific skill sets. In 2015-16, 104.16 lakh persons underwent skill training through these schemes⁴. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, a total of 30.67 lakh candidates were trained or were undergoing training as on 6th July 2017. A total of 2.9 lakh candidates have

received placement under PMKVY⁵. Skill training is spread across Central, State, civil society and the corporate sector. As per estimates the total need for skilling in the country was estimated to be around 40 crore for 2015-2022, of which 30 crore were to be covered under upskilling and reskilling and the remaining 10 crores requiring skill training were the fresh entrants to the labour market. To exclusively address the skilling needs of rural youth there is the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), the placement linked skill development programme which trained 1,62,586 rural youth during 2016-17, of which 84,900 were placed.

The Make in India programme launched by the Government in 2014 is integrated with the Skill India Mission to meet its requirement of skilled manpower especially in technology intensive sectors like automobiles & auto components, aviation, biotechnology, defence manufacturing, electrical machinery, electronic system design and manufacturing, railways, renewable energy, thermal power etc. This necessitates working out the skill requirements of the sectors covered under Make in India in terms of skilled, highly skilled and those that can be met through Recognition of Prior Learning. The programmes aimed at improving the skilling landscape such as the PMKVY, SANKALP⁶, STRIVE⁷, Craftsmen Training, Apprenticeship Training etc would also facilitate in creating an environment for skilled manpower to meet the demand emerging from the Make in India sectors.

To increase the skilling scale and speed, it is essential that the supply of skill training is closest to the skill catchment area extending upto remote parts of the country. To facilitate this, the policy identifies using existing infrastructure/spare space available in schools, institutions of higher learning, post offices, railway stations, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, shop floors etc all of which maybe utilised for delivering basic skill education and practical training during the off hours/days.

The policy also mentions of setting up Kaushal Vardhan Kendras at Panchayat level by the State Governments to impart skill training in local employment/livelihood opportunities for school drop-outs, adolescent girls, housewives and rural youth. Apart from this, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is also imparting skill training across the country including rural areas through Private Training Partners.

To improve the training capacity, new ITIs as well as Trainers' training institutes are being established. To improve the quality of training, ISO 29990 certification standards have been implemented.

New trades in concurrence with industry needs have been introduced. The courses under Craftsmen Training System have been aligned with NSQF. Dual Training system has been introduced. About 2,33,00 youth were awarded certificates from ITIs and 18000 plus graduated receiving job offers on Work Youth Skills Day in July 2016.

As regards NSQF compliance over 1661 qualifications from both the NSDC and ITI ecosystems have been aligned to NSQF during the last two years. The National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme launched in 2016 incentivises small entrepreneurs to engage apprentices, with the government reimbursing 25 per cent of the total cost of stipend paid by the employers subject to a maximum of Rs.1500 per month per apprentice as well as sharing of cost of basic training upto Rs.7500 per apprentice.

To promote entrepreneurship, there is Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana that offers entrepreneurship education and training in schools and colleges, innovations in schools and colleges are encouraged through the Atal Tinkering Labs and Atal Incubation Centres under the Atal Innovation Mission, the Start-up India facilitates ease of doing business and single window clearance for new start-up ventures, the Stand-up India, the Pradhan Mantri Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency or MUDRA and ASPIRE (Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industry and Entrepreneurship) promotes entrepreneurial talent among rural folks and socially disadvantaged groups. The credit needs of start-ups are addressed by the India Aspiration Fund that boosts the start-up fund-of-funds ecosystem.

Challenges in the Skill Sphere:

However despite these efforts, the skill ecosystem is faced with the following challenges: (i) the perception about skill development still remains as skills to be imbibed by school/college drop-outs or those pursuing blue-collar jobs (ii) while convergence of skill development schemes to Common Norms is achieved, issues still persist on convergence of generic skill programmes across Central Ministries (iii) the timeline for the implementation of the National Skill Qualification Framework is December 2018 but multiple certifying bodies still continue (iv) shortage, of trained/experienced trainers (v) mismatch exists between the aspirations of the skilled trainees and the requirement of the industry (vi) apprenticeship training yet to catch up in a big way with the industry especially the MSME units (vi) in rural areas where there is a shift towards non-farm employment, skill

training is more in the form of on-the-job-training (vii) in the fading handicrafts and handloom sectors the skills of rural weavers and artisans needs to be upgraded and their skills need to be certified under RPL for up-skilling (viii) skill training/education in entrepreneurship in rural areas is abysmal, lastly (ix) information dissemination on placement of skilled trainees across the skill ecosystem is lacking.

Way Forward:

The top down approach to skill development must be relooked at. The State Governments must be given the leverage to have their own State specific action plans that can be implemented through Central funds. With the advent of automation, robotics and cloud computing, job profiles keep changing frequently, hence re-skilling and up-skilling need to be given greater weightage in the overall skill programme as majority of the workforce is in the prime age group. NSQF compliance must be speeded up to facilitate the large proportion of the workforce in the unorganised sector to get Recognition of Prior Learning and upgrade their skills. Industry compliance in updating ITI curriculum, in upscaling technical knowhow for apprenticeship training, in making available the shop floor for apprentice training must be strengthened and extended to cover even the service sector apart from manufacturing. Entrepreneurship needs to be made aspirational over wage/salary employment through advocacy, market and credit linkage and ease of doing business.

Footnotes:

1. A Profile of Adolescent's and Youth in India, UNFPA India, 2014
2. Youth in India, 2017, MOSPI
3. National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015
4. Rajya Sabha Starred Question No.260 answered on 10.8.2017
5. ibid
6. Skill Acquisition & Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion –a World Bank assisted programme
7. Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement- a World Bank assisted programme that aims to improve the relevance and efficiency of vocational training provided through ITIs and apprenticeship programmes

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SKILLING FOR RURAL EMPLOYMENT

Dr. Dhurjati Mukherjee

Recently a task force, headed by NITI Aayog recommended widening the definition of formal sector workers by including all those covered under EPFO, ESIC, government and public sector employees, workers having coverage under private insurance or pension schemes or provident funds etc. The only thing that needs to be pointed out here that though such exercise may be necessary but, simultaneously, a plan has to be formulated whereby employment and entrepreneurship development could tackle the 80 million or so who would join the workforce in the next decade.

As is generally agreed by economists and planners, job creation is possibly the biggest challenge before the this government. However, it is agreed by most economists that in an age of digitization and automation, generating adequate employment is an extremely difficult proposition. The high growth of population and the entry of around 11 to 12 million people to the work force is unique to a very few countries and specially India and China. According to 'World Employment and Social Outlook for 2017' by the International Labour Organization, the number of unemployed people is expected to rise by one lakh in 2017 and another two lakhs in 2018. The number of jobless will increase from 17.7 million in 2016 to 18 million in 2018 even though the country's unemployment rate is expected to go down from 3.5 per cent to 3.4 per cent in 2017.

The trend of the economy is such that employment opportunities are fewer compared to the addition of the labour force in the country. The planning strategy evolved over the years has overlooked this aspect, as the core strategy was maximization of growth which, by and large,

benefitted the rich and upper middle income sections of urban society.

The government is well aware of the dimension of the problems and since assuming office has taken several steps in this regard. Recently a task force, headed by NITI Aayog recommended widening the definition of formal sector workers by including all those covered under EPFO, ESIC, government and public sector employees, workers having coverage under private insurance or pension schemes or provident funds etc. The only thing that needs to be pointed out here that though such exercise may be necessary but, simultaneously, a plan has to be formulated whereby employment and entrepreneurship development could tackle the 80 million or so who would join the workforce in the next decade.

Present Challenges:

There were 111 million cultivators and 75 million agricultural labourers in 1991, as per the Census. That's a total of 185 million people working on the land. But in Census 2011, there were 119 million cultivators and 144 million agricultural labourers that is, 263 million people working on land. Population increased by 43 per cent in 20 years but the number of landless agricultural labourers shot up by an astonishing 93 per cent.

The primary reason for this can be attributed to the fact that with the increasing army of underemployed finding no work, they are forced to crowd into agriculture or related rural work where opportunities are few. On the agricultural front, there are plenty of opportunities in setting up grain storage facilities through cold chains and advanced logistics for vegetables and



fruits. As a consequence, the wastage of grains, fruits and vegetables is one of the highest in the world. Massive investment in this area has the potential to create a huge number of new skilled and unskilled jobs. This would benefit women to a great extent and help the process of their empowerment.

Recent Efforts:

The Prime Minister has been trying hard to 'Make in India' his dream scheme a reality and this is expected to fructify in the coming years. The labour-intensive sectors like textiles, garments, jewellery, BPOs and handlooms have great potential. Most new units, as also the old ones, are implementing technologies that need less labour and work can be carried out through automation. This has steadily become a serious cause for concern as surplus labour has been increasing day by day.

Though, through the 'Digital India' project, the government plans to set up franchise BPOs in small towns to give the desired services to ordinary citizens, the process has just begun. It is expected that some employment may be created if and when these franchise BPOs are set up all over the country in the districts and sub-divisions.

There is a possibility of job creation in the realm of infrastructural development. The improvement, can be brought about specially in areas such as slum upgradation, sewerage and drainage and treatment of drinking water. A large section of those who have virtually no work in agriculture, but have some education, could move to non-farm areas. This would also increase their income and ensure better livelihood opportunities.

Meanwhile the small scale and micro sectors (MSME), which constitute 45 per cent of manufacturing, 42 per cent of exports and over 37 per cent of GDP, would have to be given all types of encouragement including technological support and financial assistance to boost up their production and ensure economies of scale. According to reports, only MSME can provide maximum jobs, maximum entrepreneurs and maximum products.

MSME entrepreneurs had the biggest problem in getting loans but things have been changing. Up to Rs one crore collateral free loans per unit were allowed earlier but this loan has now been increased to Rs 2 crore for a person without any third person guarantee and this is being paid through the Credit



Guarantee Trust Fund. The corpus for the Fund has also been increased by Rs 5000 crore, increasing it from Rs 2500 crore to Rs 7500 crore. To give a further boost to this sector, the government has made it mandatory for all public sector units to make 20 per cent purchases from small businesses.

There is a need for popularizing handlooms both for domestic and export purposes which the Prime Minister has correctly identified to be properly branded and marketed. Though efficiency level has to be improved with technological finesse, these products could steadily become the symbol of 'Brand India' with a little more effort at the Central level. PM himself could be the brand ambassador of these fabrics having modern designs and proper finish to increase acceptability, specially in the international market. This would go a long way in generating jobs as also in improving income levels of those involved in this not-so-healthy sector.

The Prime Minister's vision of 'Housing for All' by 2022' would be possible only through creation of jobs. The task is indeed quite challenging but the government has to garner all possible efforts in this direction by focussing attention on the rural sector, large parts of which are still undeveloped and where infrastructure development would go a long way in employment generation, directly or indirectly.

Skill Development:

The biggest benefits would come from the government's urge towards skills development. The fact that skill development through intensive training is necessary has been realized and imparting of such training both at basic and also advanced levels to a large section of the population has already started. The Skill India Mission is in the process of imparting all types of training geared towards skill development, and the IT and various other sectors

are expected to greatly benefit from this. Around 500 million people are proposed to be trained by the year 2022 in collaboration with business groups and civil society organizations.

It is noteworthy that a lot of women today are being absorbed in the IT and other related companies in various kind of jobs and women have been found to be more sincere and hard working. When women earn money their position and status in the family and society improves and also they add to family income

- Skill India is destined to become a great success in the coming years and widen the opportunities for women in a big way. The main features of this programme are enumerated below:
- Provide training, support and guidance for traditional occupations like carpenters, cobblers, welders, blacksmiths, masons, nurses, tailors, weavers etc.
- Emphasis on real estate, construction, transportation, textile, gem industry, jewellery designing, banking, etc where skill development is inadequate or nil.
- Training programmes on the lines of international level so that the youths of our country can not only meet the domestic demands, but also of other countries like the US, Japan, China, Germany, Russia and those in the West Asia.
- Create a hallmark called 'Rural India Skill', to standardize and certify the training process.
- Tailor-made, need-based programmes for specific age groups like language and communication skills, life and positive thinking skills, personality development skills, management skills, behavioural skills, including job and employability skills.
- Innovative course methodology which would include games, group discussions, brainstorming sessions, practical experiences, case studies etc.

Future Plans:

While India has the potential to emerge as the human resource capital of the world, skilling its large workforce and making it employable is a major challenge given the low degree of higher education attainment and vocational training. This is further compounded by the fact that the country has a work force which largely works in the informal sector. It is significant to mention here that though the share of workers in the unorganized sector declined from 86.3 per cent in 2004-05 to 82 per cent in 2011-12, the share of informal workers in the organized sector increased, leading to an overall proportion

of informal workers in total employment as high as 92 per cent.

Meanwhile in evolving an effective strategy to boost up employment generation, the MSME sector has to be the focus of attention and skills development would give a thrust to small entrepreneurs and motivate technically equipped youth to start their own venture. Added to this is the need to diversify products of Khadi and Village Industries and market them overseas with government active help and support. The present government has decided to take this up but unless aggressive marketing is organized, their revival and growth may not be possible. But the most important thing is to ensure that private investment has to be encouraged in all possible manner, specially in agriculture and allied sectors, small and micro sectors etc. to ensure job creation while public investment has to be substantially increased.

Finally, a long-term employment strategy whereby both the organized and the unorganized sector, particularly manufacturing grows more rapidly than in the past, has to be formulated and this is rightly being echoed by our political leaders as also economists and planners. All measures that have been taken need to be implemented effectively with political will. The traditional meaning of working somewhere, whether in an office or factory, has to be changed and the huge number of technically equipped youth should be motivated to set up their own units. Already, the start-ups show that there are huge prospects ahead and a little more encouragement and support from the government would bring out the desired results.

India will need to generate 250 million jobs between now and 2050, the year when the working age (15-60 years) population would peak, according to a new United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report 'Changing the Future: How Changing Demographics can Power Human Development'. The report warned that the country's demographic dividend could be at the cusp of a disaster unless enough jobs are created for new entrants.

However, the situation is destined to change as skills development and manufacturing revival of the micro, cottage and small sectors are expected to be a reality. The present initiatives may go a long way in tackling unemployment in a big way. However, serious efforts would be needed to make Skill India a success in the coming years.

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SKILLING INITIATIVES IN RURAL INDIA : AN ANALYSIS

Dr. Mahi Pal

Skilling manpower is very important in the development of the country. Considering the importance of skill various programmes have been initiated in the country. Adopting skill as a way of life of the people because without skill, one finds it difficult to sustain and survive in present context. To further fasten the venture of skilling India, proper convergence, adequate infrastructure with able faculty and spatial justice in terms of location of facilities may be focused in the strategy of empowering India through skilling.

India has an upper hand in the world in getting demographic advantage with regard to its working age population vis a vis the entire population as compared to developed countries in the world. This phenomenon puts India's economy in comparative advantage. The erstwhile Planning Commission has pointed out that the ageing economy phenomenon will internationally create a skilled manpower shortage of about 56.7 million by 2040. In such a situation, India has an advantage to become the world supplier of skilled manpower having about 28 per cent of the graduate talent pool among 28 of world's lowest -cost economies. This is an emerging area of giving employment to youth not only nationally, but also internationally. It would also fetch foreign exchange which in turn, boosts our economy. Ever since the present government assumed power, the Centre has been aware about this phenomenon. That is way the Government has been taking proactive efforts towards skilling Indian manpower to exploit its advantageous position. This article demonstrates the outcomes of the programmes being implemented by the Government of India for skilling India particularly Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushal Yojana (DDU-GKY), Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) & Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and suggest some ways to hasten the process of exploiting the demographic advantages which the India is having internationally.

Skill and Employment:

Labour Bureau (LB) Report for the year 2014 while reflecting on employment and unemployment situation commented that current size of India's formally skilled workforce is merely 2 per cent whereas in smaller countries like South Korea and Japan, the skilled workforce size is 96 per cent and 80 per cent, respectively. Recently, Report on Fifth Annual Employment–Unemployment Survey 2015-16 carried out by LB found that at national level, more than 58 per cent unemployed graduates

and more than 62 per cent of unemployed post-graduates opined non-availability of job matching education/skill and experiences as the main reason for their unemployment. The shortage of skilled manpower has been attributed to the lack of a formal vocational education framework, with wide variation in quality, high school dropout rates, inadequate skills training capacity, negative perception towards skilling, and lack of 'industry-ready' skills even in professional courses.

Above analysis shows that although various steps have been taken to meet out the skilled manpower in the country, the skilled manpower is grossly inadequate to meet out domestic and international demand of skilled manpower.

Efforts towards Skilling India:

Efforts have been made towards skilling manpower in the country from time to time. Some of the recent initiatives taken in this regard are the **Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)**, **Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP)**, and **National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF)**. An exclusive Department of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has been created under the Ministry of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, Youth Affairs and Sports to focus on quality skill development and innovations in the country. Skilling has been reprioritized to build the capacity of poor rural youth to address domestic and global skill requirements with the introduction of the DDU-GKY, which is a placement-linked skill



development scheme for poor rural youth. Under Rurban Mission, out of 14 components, two components namely skill development training linked with economic activities and digital literacy are for skilling youth in rural area. In case of skill development training linked with economic activities, 70 per cent of households are to be covered under Rurban Mission. The Government has been making concerted efforts for skilling India. Here, DDU-GKY, RSETI and PMKVY would be focused.

Present Status:

To adjudge the present status of the skilling India, outcomes of three schemes namely DDU-GKY, RSETI and PMKVY have been discussed :

DDU-GKY: The Aajeevika Skills which was a placement linked skill development scheme, has been restructured as DDU-GKY on 25th September 2014 with the sole purpose of refocusing and re-prioritizing the scheme to build the capacity and capability of rural poor youth to meet out global skill requirements of trained manpower.

Key Features :

- (i) Market-led, placement-linked training programme for rural youth undertaken in a PPP mode;
- (ii) Mandatory assured placement to 70 per cent of the trained candidates;
- (iii) Priority on rural youth from poor families in the age group of 15 to 35 years belonging to RSBY household, MGNREGA worker household if any person from the household has completed 15 days of work, Antyodaya Anna Yojana card household, BPL PDS card households, NRLM-SHG household, Households covered under auto inclusion parameters of SECC 2011;
- vi) Compulsory coverage of marginalized groups namely SC/ST-50 per cent, Minorities- 15 per cent, Women 33 per cent;
- v) Coverage for special areas to enable youth to get benefits of the Scheme through a special scheme named as Himayat for the youth of Jammu & Kashmir, Roshni for the rural youth of poor families in 27 most-affected Left-wing Extremist (LWE) districts across nine States;
- vi) Minimum Salary of Rs.6000/- per month after a three month training course;
- vii) Post-placement support to candidates undergone training;
- viii) Career progression support to training partners;

- ix) Skills projects are allocated to those Training Partners who can train and support overseas placement and captive placements;
- x) PM's "Make in India" campaign through Industry Internships supported in the form of joint partnerships with industry;
- xi) Central role to the states in the implementation of the programme;
- xii) Provision for two types of training in every course, i.e. a Generic Training on Soft Skills, English and Information Technology, and Trade Specific Skills. Such training can be structured for different duration, e.g for 3 months (576 hours), 6 months (1152 hours), 9 months (1578), 12 months (2304 hours) and courses beyond 12 months.

"Mentor India" Campaign launched by NITI Aayog

NITI Aayog will launch the Mentor India Campaign, a strategic nation building initiative to engage leaders who can guide and mentor students at more than 900 Atal Tinkering Labs, established across the country as a part of the Atal Innovation Mission. Atal Tinkering Labs are dedicated works spaces where students from Class 6th to Class 12th learn innovation skills and develop ideas that will go on to transform India. The labs are powered to acquaint students with state-of-the-art equipment such as 3D printers, robotics & electronics development tools, Internet of things & sensors etc.

Mentor India is aimed at maximizing the impact of Atal Tinkering Labs, possibly the biggest disruption in formal education globally. The idea is to engage leaders who will nurture and guide students. These labs are non-prescriptive by nature, and mentors are expected to be enablers rather than instructors. NITI Aayog is looking for leaders who can spend anywhere between one to two hours every week in one or more such labs to enable students experience, learn and practice future skills such as design and computational thinking.

NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission is among one of the flagship programs of the Government of India to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the country to set up the Atal Tinkering Labs across the country. The Mission has is in the process of setting up 900+ such labs across India and aims to have 2,000 such labs by end of 2017.

Progress till 2016-17:

- i) The progress is assessed in terms of how much targets of imparting skill have been achieved and how many trained youth have been placed on job. Out of stipulated targets of imparting skill, only 89 per cent has been achieved in the last five year indicating deficit of 11 per cent. If we see how many of trained youths have been placed, we found only 62 per cent have been placed whereas mandatory provision is at least 70 per cent. It also indicates deficit of 8 per cent. But if we see from overall perspective, it shows that about 40 per cent of youth which is a big number, have not been able to get some work to make his/her earning.
- ii) If we see year wise progress of number of youths skilled /trained and placed, it is found that during 2012-13, out of 217997 candidates trained 168502 (77.30 per cent) candidates have been placed. During , 2013-14, out of 201019 candidates trained, 137417(68 per cent) candidates got the placement. During 2014-15,out of 86120 candidates trained, 54196 (62 per cent) candidates have got he job. During 2015-16, 134744 (50 per cent) candidates have got placement, out of 270392 candidates trained. During 2016-17, out of 162586 candidates trained, 84900 (52 per cent) candidates have been placed.

Above progress shows that share of candidates who have been placed after getting training is going down and very less to the mandatory provision of 70 per cent placement from 2012-13 to 2014-15 and it stagnated around 50 per cent during 2015-16 and 2016-17, respectively

There are provisions of reservation for SCs, STs, women and Minorities in the guidelines of the Scheme. Data for these categories is available from 2004-05 to till 3^{1st} December 2016. Based on this period data, it is found that out of total SCs trained only 67 per cent have been placed, In case of STs , this percentage is 70 . Out of total women candidates trained, 72 per cent have been placed whereas in case of minorities, out of total youths trained merely 60 per cent have been placed. It suggests that placement issue has to be rectified particularly in case of SCs and Minorities where this percentage is less as compared to other categories.

- iii) As many as 675 DDU-GKY Training Centers are active and operational across the States. Among the states, highest are in Andhra Pradesh (96)

followed by Punjab(84) Karnataka (70) and Odisha(70).The lowest is (5) in Gujarat.

Rural Self-Employment Training Institutes:

There are **587** RSETIs across the country. Any unemployed youth in the age group of 18-45 years, having aptitude to take up self-employment or wage employment and having some basic knowledge in the related field can undergo training under RSETI. There are more than 334 different types of training programmes being run by RSETIs covering a wide variety of topics/ activities which include General Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP), Process EDP, Product EDP and Agriculture EDP. Training will be decided on basis of local requirement/demand. Development of Soft skill is an integral part of all the training programmes. Interestingly, Ministry of Rural Development has aligned 55 RSETI courses with Common Norms for Skill Development Schemes as notified by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. The details of progress in terms of candidates trained and settled under different modes from 2011 to 2017 is as follow.

As many as 2287020 have been trained during 2011 to 2017. Out of total trained, about 67 per cent have been settled . 26 per cent settled with bank finance, 33 per cent settled with self –finance and 7 per cent settled with wage employment. Here, grey area is that of the total trained about one-third have not been settled.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana:

It was launched in 15 July 2015 with the target to provide skilling to one crore people, with an outlay of Rs. 12,000 crore. This scheme has two components known as Centrally Sponsored Centrally Managed (CSCM) being implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Centrally Sponsored State Managed (CSSM) being implemented by State Skill Development Missions of the States/ UTs popularly known as State-Engagement Component.

Under the CSCM Component, 75 per cent of the total funds are provided to NSDC for imparting Fresh Short Term Training (STT) as well as Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) with the purpose to get better opportunities in terms of placement and self-employment. Industry relevant courses with high employment potential for prospective candidates are being run under the scheme by the Government. Under the Scheme, more than 31 lakhs candidates undergoing training and trained so far.

Future Prospects:

Various initiatives in terms of **Skill India, Stand Up India, Start Up India** have been taken since the present Government assumed the office at the centre. There are no two opinions about the importance of skill in the development of the country. However, future prospects of skilling India depend on effective convergence, employability and spatial justice of the courses run by various organisations.

Effective Convergence of different Programmes:

Convergence denotes that various aspects of each programme should be brought together in such a way that they have proper place so that they become an integral part of the whole. The each part of the programme would be dovetailed in such a way that resources are optimized for better outcomes. Further, there is also a need for an area based convergence which means converging different schemes in one particular location. The skills of those who are engaged in convergence mechanism should also be built up. Social capital has to be built up in the offices, organizations and institutions from top to bottom so that proper coordination and cooperation could be done to facilitate convergence.

Skill Development and assured Employability:

Domain knowledge of particular trade is necessary to the trainees so that they would be able to do work more effectively in future life after attending trainees. Competent faculty should be inducted in the institutions to impart training to trainees. Proper tracking of trainees who have been

imparted training should be kept to update data base. The District wise skill gap study for the State of Haryana by NSDC also revealed that the quality of skilled manpower in the districts is not at par with industry expectations.

Spatiality in Skilling India:

Spatiality in skilling India means training infrastructure in terms of good institutions and trainers/faculty which may be located in backward areas and among backward people where these things are most desired. This would ensure spatial justice in skilling India because it is revealed by the report referred above that students from marginalized groups of society both economically and socially have opted for vocational courses instead of higher education programmes on account of financial constraints.

Conclusion:

Skilling manpower is very important in the development of the country. Considering the importance of skill various programmes have been initiated in the country. Adopting skill as a way of life of the people because without skill, one finds it difficult to sustain and survive in present context. To further fasten the venture of skilling India, proper convergence, adequate infrastructure with able faculty and spatial justice in terms of location of facilities may be focused in the strategy of empowering India through skilling.

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SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters)

SAMPADA is an umbrella scheme and a comprehensive package to give a renewed thrust to the food processing sector in the country through ongoing schemes like Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, etc. and also new schemes like Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters, Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages, Creation / Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities. The objective of SAMPADA is to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease agri-waste. It is for the period 2016-20 coterminous with the 14th Finance Commission cycle.

The implementation of SAMPADA will result in creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet. It will not only provide a big boost to the growth of food processing sector in the country, but also help in providing better prices to farmers and is a big step towards doubling of farmers' income. It will create huge employment opportunities especially in the rural areas. It will also help in reducing wastage of agricultural produce, increasing the processing level, availability of safe and convenient processed foods at affordable price to consumers and enhancing the export of the processed foods.

SAMPADA with an allocation of Rs. 6,000 crore is expected to leverage investment of Rs. 31,400 crore, handling of 334 lakh MT agro-produce valuing Rs. 1,04,125 crore, benefit 20 lakh farmers and generate 5,30,500 direct/ indirect employment in the country by the year 2019-20.

REVAMPING THE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Swadesh Singh

Young people need to learn not just the skills required by new technologies, but also ways to interact with and adapt to technology. The Government of India is taking significant steps to respond to India's demographic opportunity and has adopted measures in the form of inclusive schemes to empower young people. We can realise the dream of PM to make India the skill capital of the world only if there is synergy among vocational institutions, industry and youth.

India has a national literacy average of 74.2 per cent, but a rough estimate suggests that only 2.5 per cent population has any vocational education. To ensure skill development and vocational training for our youth and to equip them for the job market, a new ministry was formed under the present government. Since then, many new initiatives have been taken by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. The ministry had come up with a new National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015 with the objective to meet the challenge of skilling at scale with speed and standard.

There are still many areas - rural, tribal, and North-East and sections of society like women, Scheduled Castes and Tribes - which need more attention. Central government is making all the efforts to empower all those who are more vulnerable through skill development programs but there are problems at the level execution, society and industry.

Rural Youth and Skill Development:

About 69 per cent of the country lives in villages. Agriculture is the largest employer but results only in 13 per cent share of the GDP. Several challenges prevent India's rural poor youth from competing in the modern market, such as lack of formal education and marketable skills. The government is making all efforts to engage, educate, employ and make rural youth employable. Government has started many schemes like **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushal Yojna** (DDU-GKY), **Skill India Mission** and **PM MUDRA Yojana** to ensure skill training, capital funds, connectivity and jobs for the country's rural youth.

Various Schemes:

The government has introduced many skills as per the geographic and demographic needs. The aim of DDU-GKY is to make rural poor youth economically independent. DDU-GKY is a placement-linked skill training program which, in partnership with private industry, is empowering rural youth

with skills and placing them in jobs. DDU-GKY has pioneered the concept of placement linkage, job retention and career progression, prescribing 75 per cent placements and a minimum wage of Rs 6,000 per month.

Union Government is also running **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana** (PMKVY) to impart skills to one crore youth in four years (2016-20). Mobilisation, monitoring and post-training placement of trainees is to be done through Rozgar Melas (placement camps) and Kaushal Shivirs (mobilisation camps). Apart from catering to domestic skill needs, PMKVY also focuses on skill training aligned with international standards for overseas employment, including in Gulf countries and Europe. Government has also launched schemes like Nai Manzil, ASPIRE and USTTAD for skill development of targeted groups.

Challenges in Skill Training:

India currently has two systems of vocational training: Long term Skilling (ITIs), Short term Skilling (various schemes like PMKVY, Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS), DDU-GKY) which offer programs of approx 300 hrs.

In 2014-15, more than 11,000 ITIs, both government and private, offered a combine capacity of about 17 lacs seats per annum, of which only



54 per cent or 9.3 lacs seats were occupied. This government has made efforts to rebrand ITIs so that it can achieve maximum registrations under various courses. Even the short term skilling courses were able to achieve 80 per cent target allocated to the schemes. The comparison of two different skilling system clarifies that ITI ecosystem needs to be overhauled.

There is also a need to add some brand and aspirational value to the ITIs and other skill development courses offered under different schemes. In India, even today, skill development is not considered as a mainstream mode of education. The perspective of general public is that of skill being a secondary education and people doubt the capability of person undergoing vocational education. Skill development is not among the priorities of our youth. Those who get training under different skill development programs are considered as less capable. Many organisations are running skill development programs because they get government funds and they lack quality in training delivery. There is still no ecosystem for skilling in India and requires much more support and involvement of both the government and private sector. Another important stakeholder, the industry, neither recognises the skills certificates issued post completion of short term courses, nor provides proper pay for their skills. This explains the reason for low rate of placements.

Challenges for ITIs:

The quality of the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the country has always been a cause of concern. There are several challenges that ITIs face but they cannot be understood or addressed unless one understands the ground reality. The ground reality has its direct relationship with the international competitiveness that companies aim at in the present era of globalization. They require a skilled and competent workforce that is attuned to the market requirements and is equipped with knowledge of right skills and advanced technologies. Unfortunately, ITIs in the country do not have that level of expertise or resources to train the youth. In countries like Finland and South Korea, vocational education is at par with the mainstream education and half of the student pool opts for vocational education because there are excellent facilities, up-to-date syllabi and advanced tech tools to support their training. Students passing out of such a system would naturally obtain good jobs as 'technicians of world standards'. Compared to this, India has yet to take its vocational education seriously. However, the fact remains that world of business badly needs skilled technicians and the irony of the situation is that the half of the sanctioned seats in ITIs across

India remain unutilized as the youth do not opt for education imparted in ITIs. Our ITIs should spend more on staff training and development, which is a significant area for any educational institution. Another major challenge is that of the availability of staff – shortage of staff can be bridged by laying more focus on recruiting more staff for the Industrial Training Institutes.

Revamping ITIs:

The current government has taken many initiatives to improve standards of ITIs and make them a quality institution. Government has decided that the students enrolled in Industrial Training Institutes clearing exams will now be given class 10th and 12th equivalent certificates and state-of-the-art facilities benchmarked with those provided in CBSE, ICSE schools. Around 23 lakh students are enrolled in 13,000 ITIs across the country at present. This move will also help students undertaking courses in ITIs to pursue regular courses in other schools and colleges. The Minister of Human Resource Development has permitted the Directorate General of Training to conduct examinations for students enrolled in ITIs for matriculation, secondary and higher secondary equivalence and give certificates to those successful.

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is also notifying the new norms for building, assets, facilities, training infrastructure and equipment for new ITIs. All new ITIs which are going to come up in the country have to be under a new format compatible with the CBSE, ICSE equivalent schools. This initiative would encourage youth to take training in ITIs in big numbers.

Online Skilling Programs:

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has also launched an online platform to impart skills with an aim to reach millions of skill seekers in the country. The web portal indiaskillsonline.com is a part of the government's **Skill India campaign**. This online platform will provide free online courses to aspirants registered for skill training schemes that can also be downloaded as mobile applications.

Apart from domain specific, qualification pack courses, the website will also offer courses on soft skills, languages, digital literacy, orientation to regional cultures as well as modules on entrepreneurship, many of which are hurdles faced by skilled workers when they try to get jobs.

The objectives of this portal are- Take anytime, anywhere skilling opportunities to the skill aspirants; Leverage technology to further the objective behind the Skill India Mission; Expand the reach and

effectiveness of the skilling initiative; and contribute towards assuring quality of the output of the skilling initiatives across the country.

Changing World Needs:

In a recently concluded summit, UN Secretary General's Youth Envoy Jayathma Wickramanayake said that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—17 global goals to end poverty, tackle climate change and reduce inequalities - include youth skills development with clear metrics under Goal 4 - a quality education. She further said that there is a dire need to harness demographic dividend and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is a massive opportunity for India and the region, but it could go under-realised if the proper investments are not made now.

The number of unemployed youth globally has remained high though the skills in demand have been rapidly changing. The World Economic Forum predicts that by 2020, more than one-third of skills that were considered important in 2015's workforce will be changed. Dramatic advances in technology and the emerging importance of areas like artificial intelligence and biotechnology mean that young people are being equipped with skills that will quickly become outdated.

Conclusion:

The concerns are changing with the changing time. As we deal with the present day challenges of skill development and capacity building, we come across projections that market demands

would change dramatically in the future. This raises concerns for the 12 million young Indians entering workforce each year. Young people need to learn not just the skills required by new technologies, but also ways to interact with and adapt to technology. The Government of India is taking significant steps to respond to India's demographic opportunity and has adopted measures in the form of inclusive schemes to empower young people. We can realise the dream of PM to make India the skill capital of the world only if there is synergy among vocational institutions, industry and youth.

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Pradhan Mantri YUVA Scheme

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (SDE) and Wadhvani Operating Foundation (WOF) signed two Agreements for jointly developing and implementing Entrepreneurship and Skill Development initiatives in the country with the Pradhan Mantri YUVA Scheme being the first joint effort in this regard.

Pradhan Mantri YUVA Scheme launched by the Ministry during November, 2016 aims at providing on line Entrepreneurship Education to about 15 lakh students across the country through 3050 Project Institutes consisting of Institutions of Higher Learning; Schools; ITIs and Entrepreneurship Development Centres, both Government and Private. The on-line Entrepreneurship Modules will be duly supplemented by the class room based experiential learning activities and practicums which will be facilitated by specially trained Faculty of the educational institutions. The Ministry would also provide financial assistance to these institutions up to Rs.450 crores.

The five-year Scheme is expected to witness setting up of more than 23,000 enterprises thus resulting into creation of more than 2.30 lakh direct and indirect jobs in the country. The Scheme also envisages delivery of specially developed Social Entrepreneurship Modules to interested students in Institutions of Higher Learning. The WOF, the Knowledge Partner is contributing, free of cost, Software, Content, faculty, field staff training and program consulting services under the Scheme.



GOODS AND SERVICES TAX



Queries relating to GST rates received from various sectors have been scrutinised and developed into short FAQs.

S. No.	Query	Reply	S. No.	Query	Reply																			
1.	What is the HSN code and GST rate for lac or shellac bangles?	Lac or shellac bangles are classifiable under heading 7117 and attract 3% GST.	18.	What is the GST rate for Portable and Mobile Toilets?	Prefabricated buildings, including portable and mobile toilets, fall under heading 9406 and attract 18% GST.																			
2.	What is the HSN code and GST rate for kulfli?	Kulfli is classifiable under heading 2105 and attracts 18% GST.	19.	What is the GST Compensation Cess rate on imported Coal?	Imported coal will attract GST compensation cess @ Rs.400 per tonne.																			
3.	What is the HSN code for Solar Panel Mounting Structure and its GST rate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structures of iron or steel fall under heading 7308 and structures of aluminium fall under heading 7610 and attract 18% GST. Solar Panel Mounting Structure, depending on the metal they are made of, will fall under 7308 or 7610 and attract 18% GST. 	20.	What is the HSN code and GST rates for Battery for mobile handsets?	Battery for mobile handsets falls under heading 8506 and attracts 28% GST.																			
4.	What is the HSN code for Idli Dosa Batter (Wet Flour) and its GST rate?	Idli Dosa Batter (Wet Flour) [as food mixes] falls under heading 2106 and attracts 18% GST.	21.	What is the HSN code and GST rate for tamarind?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tamarind [fresh] falls under 0810 and attract Nil GST. Tamarind [dry] falls under 0813 and attract 12% GST. 																			
5.	What is the HSN code for Maize Seeds and its GST rate?	Maize [of seed quality] fall under heading 1005 and attract Nil GST.	22.	What is the HSN code and GST rate for tamarind kernel?	Tamarind kernel falls under heading 1207 and attracts Nil GST.																			
6.	What is the HSN code for Saree and dhoti and its GST rate?	Sarees and dhoti are classifiable under different headings depending on their constituent and attract GST rate as under:	23.	What is the HSN code and GST rate for tamarind kernel powder?	Tamarind kernel powder falls under heading 1302, and attracts 18% GST.																			
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Constituent fibre</th> <th>Description</th> <th>HSN code</th> <th>GST Rate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Silk</td> <td>Woven fabrics of silk - sarees</td> <td>5007</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Cotton</td> <td>of not more than 200 gsm</td> <td>5208</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>of more than 200 gsm</td> <td>5209</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Manmade filaments yarn</td> <td>of any gsm</td> <td>5407 or 5408</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Constituent fibre	Description	HSN code	GST Rate	Silk	Woven fabrics of silk - sarees	5007	5%	Cotton	of not more than 200 gsm	5208	5%	of more than 200 gsm	5209	5%	Manmade filaments yarn	of any gsm	5407 or 5408	5%	24.	What is the GST rate on Hair Rubber Bands?	Hair rubber bands fall under heading 4016 and attract 28% GST.
Constituent fibre	Description	HSN code	GST Rate																					
Silk	Woven fabrics of silk - sarees	5007	5%																					
Cotton	of not more than 200 gsm	5208	5%																					
	of more than 200 gsm	5209	5%																					
Manmade filaments yarn	of any gsm	5407 or 5408	5%																					
7.	What is the HSN code and GST rate for Filters or Water Purifiers?	Filters or Water Purifiers fall under heading 8421 and attract 18% GST.	25.	What is HSN code and GST rate for Khari and hard Butters?	Khari and hard butters fall under heading 1905 and attract 18% GST.																			
8.	What is the HSN code for Organic Surface Active Agents and its GST rate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organic surface-active products or preparations or agents fall under heading 3401 or 3402. Soaps; organic surface active products and preparations for use and soaps, in form of bars, cakes, moulded pieces or shapes falling under heading 3401 [except 3401 30] attract 18% GST. Other organic surface active products and preparations falling under sub-heading 3401 30 and organic surface active agents and preparations falling under heading 3402 attract 28% GST. 	26.	What is the GST rate and HSN code of Khoya/Mawa?	Khoya / mawa being concentrated milk falls under 0402 and attracts 5% GST.																			
9.	What is the GST rate on Rakhi ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puja samagri, including kalava (raksha sutra) attracts Nil GST. Rakhi, which is in form of kalava [raksha sutra] will thus attract Nil GST. Any other rakhi would be classified as per its constituent materials and attract GST accordingly. 	27.	What will be the GST rate for printed paperboard mono carton/Dabbi of a pharmaceutical company and what will be the GST rate for a non-corrugated carton and corrugated carton?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cartons, boxes and cases of corrugated paper or paper board, fall under heading 4819 and attract 12% GST. Folding cartons, boxes and cases, of non-corrugated paper and paperboard, falling under heading 4819 attract 18% GST under the residual entry S. No. 453. 																			
10.	What is the GST rate on Nail Polish?	Nail Polish [whether in large quantities say 50 to 100 litres or in retail packs] falls under heading 3304 and attracts 28% GST.	28.	Tobacco leaves falling under heading 2401 attracts 5% GST on reverse charge basis in respect of supply by an agriculturist. What is the meaning of tobacco leaves?	For GST rate of 5%, tobacco leaves means leaves of tobacco as such or broken tobacco leaves or tobacco leaves stems.																			
11.	What is the GST rate and HSN code of Wet Dates?	Wet dates fall under heading 0804 and attract 12% GST.	29.	What is the HSN code and the GST rate for Isabgol seeds?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isabgol seeds fall under heading 1211. Fresh isabgol seeds attract Nil GST. Dried or frozen Isabgol seeds attract 5% GST. 																			
12.	What is the HSN code and GST rate for Pet Food?	Dog or cat foods fall under heading 2309 and attracts 18% GST under the residual entry S. No. 453.	30.	What is the HSN code and the GST rate for Isabgol husk?	Isabgol husk falls under 1211 and attracts 5% GST.																			
13.	What is the classification and GST rate for sale of Export Incentives Licences like MEIS, SEIS and IEIS?	MEIS etc. fall under heading 4907 and attract 12% GST.	31.	What is HSN code and GST rate of copra and dried coconut?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coconuts, fresh or dried, whether or not shelled or peeled fall under heading 0801 and attract Nil GST. As per the HSN Explanatory Notes, the heading excludes copra, the dried flesh of coconut used for the expression of coconut oil (1203). Copra falls under heading 1203 and attracts 5% GST. 																			
14.	What is the HSN Code and GST rate for a Fabric 1.2 MT cut for pant and 2.5 MT cut for a shirt?	Specified fabrics attract 5% GST, whether or not in form of cut pieces.	32.	Footwear having a retail sale price not exceeding Rs.500 per pair [provided that such retail sale price is indelibly marked or embossed on the footwear itself] attracts 5% GST. Does the retail sale price referred to above include the GST?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011, retail sale price [RSP] means the maximum price at which the commodity in packaged form may be sold to the consumer and is inclusive of all taxes. Thus, retail sale price declared on the package is inclusive of GST. GST for footwear will be 5% if the RSP does not exceed Rs. 500 per pair. The GST rate will be 18% if the RSP exceeds Rs. 500 per pair. GST, however, will be payable on the transaction value. 																			
15.	What is the classification of Hand Decorative Figurines and Hand Decorative Artefacts made of marble powder, stone and unsaturated resin?	Articles of marble [including those made of marble powder, stone and unsaturated resin] fall under heading 6802 and attract 28% GST.	33.	Readymade garments of sale value not exceeding Rs. 1000 per piece attract 5% GST. Readymade garments of sale value exceeding Rs. 1000 per piece attract 12% GST. How does a supplier determine what rate to charge on readymade garments?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sale value referred to in the notification refers to the transaction value and not the retail sale price of such readymade garments. That is, if a wholesaler supplies readymade garments for a transaction value of Rs.950 per piece to a retailer, the GST chargeable on such readymade garments will be 5%. However, if the retailer sells such readymade garments for Rs.1100 per piece, the GST chargeable on such readymade garment will be 12%. 																			
16.	What will be the GST rate for Arcaanut/ Betel nut?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fresh areca nut / betel nuts fall under heading 0802 and attract Nil GST. Dried areca nut / betel nuts fall under heading 0802 and attract 5% GST. 	34.	What is the GST rate on chocolate 'sandesh' Bengali misti?	Sandesh, whether or not containing chocolate, attract 5% GST.																			
17.	What is the HSN code and GST rates for Cotton Seed oil cake?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cotton seed oil cakes for use as aquatic feed including shrimp feed and prawn feed, poultry feed & cattle feed attract Nil GST. Cotton seed oil cakes for other uses attract 5% GST. 																						

Disclaimer : The replies given above are only for educational and guidance purposes and do not hold any legal validity.

For more details please see <http://www.cbec.gov.in>; www.cbec-gst.gov.in

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Central Board of Excise and Customs &
Commercial Taxes Departments of States/Union Territories

ROLE OF NGOs AND PRIVATE SECTOR IN SKILLING

Dr. Nandini Sahay

For about last three decades, the Government has been endeavouring at creation of self-employment by providing credit in subsidised form in programmes such as IRDP (Integrated Rural Development Programme), SJSRY (Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana), SGSY (Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana), NRLM (National Rural Livelihoods Mission) etc. MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) is also one of the programme which ensures employment of rural people for minimum 100 days. However, people residing in rural sector society are insufficiently equipped to absorb credit and to start their own enterprise, because of their lack of business skills, illiteracy, their inability to take risks and absence of motivation. Upgrading their skills and making them employable in the newly emerging industries and trades is the need of the hour.

The half a billion strong and growing labour force of our country is poised to play a decisive role in the global skilling ecosystem. According to Economic Survey,¹ though 63 per cent of the population is economically active (15-59 years), only two per cent of the country's total population makes up its skilled workforce. In the coming years, 11-13 million people will aspire for employment opportunities each year. Sadly, for this large number of people, the employability continues to be a major concern. Young population is a boon if they are properly employed, otherwise they may become a liability. For enjoying the fruits of demographic dividend, it is important to raise investment in human capital to promote the productivity of the population.

Mahatma Gandhi² had said, "India lives in its villages". Although the statement was made more than 70 years ago, it is still relevant because even today, the majority of the Indian population lives in its villages.



Rural India is the mainstay of our country. It enjoys a position of pre-eminence for national development, as three-fourth of Indian population lives in villages. Indian human resource is primarily based on rural occupations. Considering that 65 per cent of total population in India is under 35 years, the country enjoys immense potential in terms of labour power. Recognizing that training and development shapes empowerment of human resource, the Government has introduced innovative and productive ideas such as 'Skill India' and 'Make In India' for empowerment of economically and socially vulnerable groups like small and marginal farmers, agricultural labours, scheduled castes and tribes, bonded labours, rural artisans, rural women, etc., who merit participation in the mainstream of development process. Channelizing these initiatives to rural India will bring about remarkable development in overall economy of the nation.

Programmes of the Government:

For about last three decades, the Government has been endeavouring at creation of self-employment by providing credit in subsidised form in programmes such as IRDP (Integrated Rural Development Programme), SJSRY (Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana), SGSY (Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana), NRLM (National Rural Livelihoods Mission) etc. MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) is also one of the programme which ensures employment of rural people for minimum 100 days. However, people residing in rural sector society are insufficiently equipped to absorb credit and to start their own enterprise, because of their lack of business skills, illiteracy, their inability to take risks and absence of motivation. Upgrading their skills and making them employable in the newly emerging industries and trades is the need of the hour. Some government programmes relevant to skills are discussed below:

NRLM (National Rural Livelihood Mission) as DDU-GKY-(Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushal Yojana): This scheme gives training to unemployed youths under BPL category on various skills to facilitate their employment.

IRDP (Integrated Rural Development Programme): Its purpose is to enable selected families to rise above the poverty line in a given time-frame with the help of self-employment in different activities like agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, handicrafts, services and business activities.

TRYSEM (Training Rural Youths for Self-Employment): It was intended to provide technical skill to rural youth (between 18-35 years) to enable them to seek employment in fields of agriculture, industry, services and business activities.

NREP (National Rural Employment Programme): The aim is to create additional employment opportunities in the rural areas with the help of surplus food grains.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS): The aim is to enhance the livelihood security of people who are staying in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage-employment.

Government is supreme but its programmes have limitations and they alone cannot mobilise all the resources needed for skill upgradation of rural people. Stakeholders like private organisations, non-governmental organisations, corporate social responsibility, diaspora, self help group, social workers, informal community based organizations and the family members also contribute to skill development of the rural people. The government provides funds to strengthen grassroots NGOs and other agencies like Panchayati Raj institutions and cooperatives for rural development, for preparing project proposals, providing training, disseminating information through publications, conducting research, and making evaluation studies. It also provides financial support to grassroots NGOs.

The role of other stakeholders in skilling rural India is given below:

NGOs:

Non-Governmental Organisations are voluntary, autonomous, non-profit units set up to address various problems and disadvantages in the society. In the past, the NGOs have helped government's agenda of development. Five Year Plans attached due importance to the role of NGOs in the development

of rural sector. The NGOs are flexible in their response to local needs. NGOs have volunteered to work in less explored rural areas, where government agencies have limited access. Their achievements in encouraging participation, boosting up democratic institutions and enhancing access to skill development services have been tremendous. The government has formed different institutions to provide funds for NGOs like Cooperatives, Khadi and Village Industries Board, National Wasteland Development Board, Central Social Welfare Board, and CAPART (Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology). NGOs plan and implement skill developmental plans and help in mobilizing the local resources for implementation of the plans. For integrated development of the rural areas, they generate awareness and prepare training modules for vocational training to the candidates. They also equip them with skills which could form a bridge between education and employability. In this way, they join hands with the government in creating self-reliant and sustainable society in rural areas. NGOs work in association with the government's skill initiatives like PMKVY (Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna), NSDC (National Skill Development Corporation), and ESDM (Electronics System Design & Manufacturing). These organisations induct the youth to learning programmes in areas such as data science, business analytics, digital marketing, entrepreneurship, and project management as well as training in retail, telecom, electronics, and healthcare sectors. The role of NGOs in supplementing governmental effort is not questionable, still its involvement in the mainstream of skill development process is a subject matter of debate.

Corporate Social Responsibility:

Corporate Social Responsibility³ is also referred to as "corporate citizenship". It may imply incurring short-term costs that may not be financially beneficial to the company, but instead promote positive social and environmental change. They endeavour to mobilize, train, make people employable and create entrepreneurs in rural areas with the **objective to get the right job to the right person**. Under this, skills are created and individuals trained so that they get the right employment. Unaware of the available opportunities, most of the young people in the rural areas lack aspirations. Here, the CSR steps in to align their training program with the industry. It is a great tool for industries to make a potential impact. CSR has been able to reach many rural areas enabling the youngsters to get an opportunity

of skill development. Poor accessibility, problems of migration and need to mobilize the youth are some of the challenges faced by the CSR. It should be our efforts to kindle aspiration among the youth for acquiring a skill, as against a degree, because **skilling and the role it plays in people's life has now assumed a social dimension.**

Private Partners⁴:

Promotion of skill development by creating large, quality, for-profit vocational institutions is the gesture of the private people. Doubtless, they face inadequate response because the aspirants lack motivation to enrol in fee based programmes and the government's programmes are free. At times, the target group is reluctant to improve their livelihoods on the apprehension that it might reduce subsidies received by the household and the acquired skill may also have limited use in rural areas. Finding good quality trainers is not so easy. To overcome the problem of lack of good trainers, private partners have devised creation of mobile centres which are tech enabled, broadcasting from central locations. These private players provide support in setting up institutes for training of trainers to ensure quality across all training programs to train the rural youth. Later, they provide support to place them in different organisations.

Social Workers:

Social work⁵ is a profession to empower people to develop their skills and to use the available resources to resolve problems. Social workers are the agents of social change. They build capacity of rural folks by providing suitable skills and making the community sustain on its own. Rural India is the nerve centre of known traditional skills such as carpet weaving, leather industry, brassware, silk, glasswork, wooden carving, madhubani painting, embroidery etc. It is the ingenuity of the social workers to identify these skills and make suitable arrangements to extend trainings in these renowned works of art and craft. This improves livelihood of the people, which in turn ameliorates the economic status of the country. Many times, people in rural areas are not conversant about the newly introduced programmes of government. It is where the social workers make their presence felt by bridging the knowledge gap between government programmes and unemployed youth of the rural sector. With the help of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, social workers try to set up training institutes for the benefit of rural people and ensure quality across all training programs. Their objective is the enhancement of skills and training

relevant to the current industrial requirements. **Pradhan Mantri YUVA Scheme⁶** aims at providing on-line entrepreneurship education to students across the country with the help of institutions of higher learning, schools, ITIs and entrepreneurship development centres, both government and private. The on-line entrepreneurship modules will be duly supplemented by the class room based learning exercises, particularly those which can be facilitated by specially trained faculty of the educational institutions. Social workers can ensure enrolment of maximum number of beneficiaries under this scheme. To promote non-farm livelihoods, social workers set up skills & vocational centres in rural settings, where youth from the poor communities are trained on income generating and vocational courses like mobile repair, tailoring, makeup, handicrafts, paper utility box making, machine repair, amongst others. They also plan to develop skills courses on farm techniques to cater to the underprivileged rural youth. The cadre of trained farmers so formed get their helping hands in suitable placement. In rural areas, the social workers join hands with the SHGs to get bank's support. Their role includes monitoring and assisting in the proper implementation of government's social schemes in rural areas.

Self Help Groups:

A self-help group⁷ (SHG) is an informal association of people, usually composed of 10–20 local individuals with its base in villages. Pinning their hopes on empowering women to enable them to realise their full potential and powers in all spheres of life, the SHGs are hard worked⁸. Voluntary membership, participatory planning, education and training, resource mobilisation, self-management, empowering the members, building linkage, ensure monitoring and sustainability are some of the salient features of Self-Help Groups. Various training and development programmes have been implemented by the NGOs for the upliftment of women Self-Help Group members. Members of SHG group are provided with training programmes so that they are able to develop their skills. Initially, they are groomed in reading, writing and speaking followed by computer skills, marketing, communication, maintenance of documents etc.

SGSY (Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana) is an important programme of the government. Its objective is to eradicate poverty by providing income generating assets to rural people. This is done through bank credit and government subsidy. The SHGs are the major component of this scheme⁹.

Diaspora:

Diaspora is the movement of people away from their established homeland. UN report¹⁰ says that India now has the largest 'diaspora' in the world and plays a crucial role in rural development of India. In Punjab, a village helped by diaspora is home to a successful rural polytechnic. This institute gives technical, computer and vocational training to village students. These students are rural and unemployed. With the help of funds coming from diaspora, the objective of the government agencies gets fulfilled. This village is a perfect case study as to how all the stakeholders (non governmental agencies, diaspora, government) can join hand for the village empowerment. A sustained partnership between Indian government and its diaspora¹¹, in providing skill development to rural people, will empower the rural community and also add to the development of the country.

Various Institutes of Vocational Studies:

There are a number of vocational opportunities¹² which can change the direction of employment for men and women. The formal education system in India believes in creating learning opportunities

for those who have the resources to access it. The education system does not provide relevant programmes to women who are from lower economic status. Programmes for skilling women are restricted to tailoring, incense stick making, soap making etc. Some courses offered through the government-run Industrial Training Institutes are rarely accessed by women or girls. Some of the Vocational Training Institutes are providing the basic skill training in accounting, computer, Entrepreneurship, Communication, Marketing, Personality development, Leadership and Management skills for income generation and for competing in the open market for job or entrepreneurial venture.

PM's Focus on Skill Development :

Skill development has been given priority by our Prime Minister with the hope that Skill India Programme will provide huge human resources not only in India ,but also internationally. Government programmes are now planning to focus on improving the quality of the skill development training which is getting affected because of poor capacity of trainers. Different industries have indicated that there exists a wide disconnect between the demand and supply of skilled resources. To overcome these gaps, National

Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

Public procurement forms a very important part of Government activity and as a reform in Public Procurement, Government e-Marketplace (GeM) was launched with the aim to transform the way in which procurement of goods and services is done by the Government Ministries/Departments, PSUs, autonomous bodies etc.

GeM (<https://gem.gov.in/>) is a completely paperless, cashless and system driven e-market place that enables procurement of common use goods and services with minimal human interface.

Benefits of GeM to the Government, Sellers and the Indian industry and economy

- **Transparency:** Being an open platform, GeM offers no entry barriers to bonafide suppliers who wish to do business with the Government. At every step, SMS and e-Mail notifications are sent to both buyer, his/her head of organization, paying authorities as well as sellers.
- **Efficiency:** Direct purchase on GeM can be done in a matter of minutes and the entire process in online, end to end integrated and with online tools for assessing price reasonability
- **Secure and safe:** GeM is a completely secure platform and all the documents on GeM are e-Signed at various stages by the buyers and sellers. The antecedents of the suppliers are verified online and automatically through MCA21, Aadhar and PAN databases.
- **Potential to support Make in India:** On GeM, the filters for selecting goods which are Preferential Market Access (PMA) compliant and those manufactured by Small Scale Industries (SSI), enables the Government buyers to procure Make in India and SSI goods very easily.
- **Savings to the Government:** The transparency, efficiency and ease of use of the GeM portal has resulted in a substantial reduction in prices on GeM, in comparison to the tender, Rate Contract and direct purchase rates. The average prices on GeM are lower by atleast 15-20 per cent, and in some cases even upto 56 per cent.

Skills Policy 2015 has made it mandatory for all the courses to follow the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF). Apart from that, Training of Trainers program has been introduced so that quality is ensured in the delivery of vocational courses. To ensure that trained candidates get the right job at the right place, trained candidates should be given orientation course. These steps forward would help in meeting the target of skilling 500 million people by 2022.

In India, there are women in families who have inherited traditional skills like making khesh, dari, fulkari from their previous generation and they further extend these traditional skills to the new generation of the family. These skills are dying because they are not cost effective and hence, cannot survive in the competitive market. Since these products are produced at local level, it lacks marketing. If these skills can be linked with the livelihood option then with proper training, packaging and marketing, it can survive and provide these people financial independence in addition to meeting the target of skilling 500 million people by 2022 envisaged by our Prime Minister.

Footnote

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85.77 lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs) having deposits of over Rs. 16,114 crore cover more than 10 crore rural households: NABARD

As per information compiled by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), as on 31st March 2017, 85.77 lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs) have saving deposits of over Rs. 16,114 crore with banks. It is estimated that these SHGs cover more than 10 crore rural households. As reported by NABARD, approximately 70 per cent of the total savings of the groups are used for internal lending of the groups and 30 per cent deposited with the Banks i.e. more than double the amount deposited with banks are used for internal lending of groups.

During the last three years, Rs. 94,934 crore has been disbursed as loans to Women SHGs at applicable interest rates. Women SHGs in 250 Category-I districts under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) are provided loans at 7 per cent interest per annum with interest incentive of 3 per cent payable on prompt repayment reducing the effective interest to 4 per cent per annum.

SCIENCE & TECH FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Manish Mohan Gore

It is evident that science, technology and innovation (STI) have emerged as the major drivers of national development. As India aspires for faster, sustainable and inclusive growth, the Indian STI base with advantage of a large demographic dividend and the huge youth talent pool will need to play a vital role in achieving the national goals. One of the key objectives of STI Policy-2013 is to enhance skill for application of science, technology and innovation among the youth from all social strata.

Despite the emergence of a much-hyped urban India, the progress shown by its rural hinterlands in all manifestations of their socio-economic life is still a measure of real progress indeed. The upliftment in the standards of life & living conditions of rural population are essential. In order to improve the rural livelihood and living conditions, five things are required: agriculture, education, scientific temper, innovation, entrepreneurship and skill development. Of course, agriculture is the basic requirement of rural India but without education, no human race can think and do in a right manner. Hence, to give emphasis on educating rural citizens is also essential for their all-round development. In today's world of ICT along with numerous environmental challenges, role of right education is the key to know how and handle the surrounding phenomenon. Logical approach makes a person rational. Theoretically, this tendency is called scientific temper. This temperament is very much required in the present society marked by enormous anomalies. A scientifically tempered person takes rational and informed decisions in daily life. Innovation, entrepreneurship and skill development are inter-connected to each other. Developed countries are the best examples that have used a great deal of human brain to exercise science and technology for the skill development and entrepreneurship to achieve their country's development in an innovative manner.

India with a vast cum vibrant youth population has all the capacity to enrich itself and enlighten other parts of the globe. There are several past remarkable milestones

from art, culture, science and engineering sectors. Through the growth of rural India aligned with the rational use of energy and natural resources, a sustainable development can be realised. For this, there is an urgent need of inculcating skills among Indian children and youth. Government of India is working in this direction. Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) spread all over the country have been proved as the agents of change to revolutionize Indian youth to improve their skills. Government of India is offering training courses for school drop-outs through a network of more than 5000 ITIs. The duration of the training varies from trade to trade and time period ranges from 6 months to 3 years. Around 0.75 million training seats are available at the ITIs throughout the country. To empower the women through skilling their talents, over 46,000 seats are exclusively created for the women. Reservation provision for SC/STs, Disabled, OBCs, quotas for Ex-servicemen, etc. has also been created. In addition to these, at least 25 per cent of all existing institutions of higher education would also offer add-on career oriented courses with specialized skills at an appropriate National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) level within the next five years.



Along with making youth skilled through ITIs, Advanced Training Institutes (ATIs) and polytechnics, there is also a dire need for upgrading all existing skill imparting institutions and add new ones. Focus on employability and placements of trainees will also be shifted along with the skill training. State Governments would be encouraged to set up Skill Development and Training Centres (SDTC) at Panchayat level with the help of Self-Help Groups (SHG) and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) for mobilizing and imparting skills pertaining to local employment/livelihood opportunities to school drop-outs, adolescent girls, housewives and rural youth and encourage the innovative approaches that will be adopted to raise the capacity of the system extensively over a limited period. Trainers must guide and do the appropriate intervention of science, technology and innovation during their skill training classes.

Scenario of Rural India:

India has a big population in her villages and majority of the population is youth. According to Census 2011, total number of villages in our country is 6,40,867. Rural and urban populations are 83.3 and 37.7 crores respectively. The slowing down of the overall growth rate of Indian population is due to the sharp decline in the growth rate in rural areas, while the growth rate in urban areas remains almost the same.

Growth Rate of India's Population (in per cent)

	1991-2001	2001-2011	Difference
India	21.5	17.6	- 3.9
Rural	18.1	12.2	- 5.9
Urban	31.5	31.8	+ 0.3

(Source: Census of India 2011)

Today, every fifth person in our country is an adolescent (10-19 years) and every third - a young person (10-24 years). World Population Prospects of the United Nations (2013) finds 229 million youth population in India followed by China (242.2 million). This youth population of our country is the key to progress in all walks of life. Investing in this segment of population is the best way to leverage the nation's competitive advantage. The youth need to be equipped with the education, rationality and skill, for the very development of the society and country.

Youth Population (in million)

Country	Population (in million)	Youth Population (in million)	Population of Youths (per cent)
China	1358.8	242.2	17.8
India	1205.6	229.0	19.0
USA	312.2	43.9	14.1
Indonesia	240.6	40.5	16.8
Brazil	195.2	33.6	17.2
Pakistan	173.1	37.2	21.5

(Source: World Population Prospects – The 2012 Revision, UN 2013)

2011 Census of India also indicates a remarkable increase in literacy rate among rural population. The improvement in literacy rate in rural areas is twofold that in urban areas. The literacy gap between rural-urban demography was 21.2 per cent in 2001 Census, has come down to 16.1 per cent in 2011 Census. In both rural and urban areas, improvement in female literacy is more than males. This is a good sign. The gender gap in literacy has come down from 24.6 in 2001 to 19.8 in rural areas and from 13.4 in 2001 to 9.8 in 2011 in urban areas.

Literacy Rate of India (in per cent)

	2001	2011	Difference
Males			
India	75.3	82.1	+6.8
Rural	70.7	78.6	+7.9
Urban	86.3	89.7	+3.4
Females			
India	53.7	65.5	+11.8
Rural	46.1	58.8	+12.7
Urban	72.9	79.9	+7.0

(Source: Census of India 2011)

Census data shows that the pace of increase in female literacy rate is perceptibly higher in rural areas. It has increased from 46.1 per cent in 2001 to 58.8 per cent in 2011. These data reflects that rural population and especially youth and female are more inclined towards education. On the other hand, as per the report by the Ministry of Labour and Employment of India, unemployment among rural youth in our country is highest today

since 1993-94. This report depicts that about 5 per cent rural youth aged between 15-29 years remained unemployed in 2011-12 as compared to 3.5 per cent in 1993-94. India is the nation with the youngest population by 2020. At this crucial juncture, lack of skill and opportunities is widening the gap. Here in this scenario, skill development with innovative approach has the potential to bridge this gap. Government is also trying hard to motivate this rural population towards the process of development. For this, a number of schemes have been initiated. **Deen dayal Upadhyay Gram Kaushal Yojana (DDU-GKY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas yojana (PMKVY)** are a few of such schemes. Ministry of Labour and Employment, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, **National Skill Development Agency** and **Ministry of Rural Development** are playing a crucial role for skill development among rural youth.

Our country has all potential of skills and technical expertise. We have a rich heritage of technical achievements also. Renowned historian Prof. A.L. Basham has said about ancient and medieval India's skill base in his famous book *The Wonder that was India* (page 220-221), "At all times the work of the Indian craftsman, however primitive and simple his tools, has been admired for its delicacy and skill, and the technical achievement of ancient India was far from negligible. Her spinners and weavers could produce semi-transparent silks and muslins of extreme thinness, which are clearly depicted in sculpture and which were much in demand in the Roman Empire. The metallurgical skill of ancient India is further attested by the fact that Iron Pillar of Mehrauli (Delhi), though it has weathered the torrential rains of over 1,500 monsoons, shows no sign of rusting. This is not due to the fact that the Indians had discovered some form of stainless steel alloy, for the columns is of iron almost chemically pure. This is as another memorial to India's technical skill."

Today's India is attaining new heights in scientific and technological advancements. Linkages between rural youth and S&T based entrepreneurship will create new history. This is high time to mobilise rural youth to become entrepreneurs who will shape a new India tomorrow.

Skilling and Rationality:

With the interventions of education, science, skill development, innovation and entrepreneurship, a robust rural India is expected. But on the other hand, still today rural population is badly influenced by a number of superstitions and irrational things. These are like speed-breakers to the development of rural India. As we know, superstition is the child of ignorance and mother of misery. Miracles are illogical as well as impossible. Ignorance is the soil in which belief and miracles grow. In simple words, we can say that the person who fears to reason or do the daily life things without logic, is a slave superstition. Reason is the light of the mind. The root causes behind the development of superstitions are lack of education and logical thinking in our society. Superstition also contradicts to modern science. The Article 51 A (h) of our Constitution depicts "to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform" as a fundamental duty for every Indian citizen.

To make the youth rational, parents, teachers, scientists, science communicators and organisations can be the agents to create scientific awareness in the society. Parents play the significant role through personal guidance and real life examples. In schools, teachers should encourage healthy discussions in the classroom on logical thinking and its process. Government can also intervene to incorporate the component of scientific temper in the curricula.

About 85,000 candidates placed after skill training in DDU-GKY IN 2016-17

Deendayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) is a placement linked skill development programme for the rural poor youth implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development. The training under this scheme enables a youth to seek wage employment. During the Financial Year 2016-17, a total of 1,62,586 candidates have been skilled and 84,900 placed. Another component is skill development through Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETI) which enables a trainee to seek self-employment with bank credit. A total of 4,45,106 candidates have been trained and 3,63,111 settled in the Financial Year 2016-17.

Mass media can also contribute to a large extent in the attitudinal changes and scientific awareness creation among the public. Media must be more responsible towards the societies rather than their TRP. Nowadays social media is very vibrant among all sections of the society. This media is also used in rural areas. In simple words, we can say that a rational mind is more conducive to skill development.

Apart from special TV and radio programmes, workshops and trainings based on the need and prospects of the skill training and development will also be very effective in rural areas. Doordarshan and All India Radio, National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC), National Institute of Science and Information Resource (NISCAIR), Vigyan Prasar (VP) and National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) are specifically working as the extended arms of the government to create scientific awareness and rationality.

In July 2016, Vigyan Prasar (An Autonomous Institute under the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India) has developed a multimedia DVD on women friendly improved farm tools for skill development and drudgery reduction. This DVD contains 37 video clips of improved tools and equipments to be used in by women in agriculture). Vigyan Prasar has been connected with a significant number of women farmers to understand their specific information and capacity building needs to overcome drudgery related challenges in farming. In order to use skills, such farming tools were finally developed. This multimedia DVD serves the specific purpose of improving preparedness of stakeholders to use alternative tools and suitably adapt practices and as a forerunner to training and capacity building.

STI and Entrepreneurship:

India is the first country to adopt a National Science Policy (The Scientific Policy Resolution-1958). After this, India went through two more milestones at policy level – Science and Technology Policy 2003 and Science, Technology and Innovation Policy 2013. In 21st century, our country put emphasis on innovation along with S&T. It is evident that science, technology and innovation (STI) have emerged as the major drivers of national development. As India aspires for faster, sustainable and inclusive growth, the Indian STI base with advantage of a large demographic

dividend and the huge youth talent pool will need to play a vital role in achieving the national goals. One of the key objectives of STI Policy-2013 is to enhance skill for application of science, technology and innovation among the youth from all social strata.

Skilling through Innovation:

Innovation plays crucial role in addressing and solving the pressing challenges of energy and environment, food and nutrition, water and sanitation, health care, skill building and unemployment. Innovation in skill and potential development among rural youth is very significant. This can help solve problems and improve their lives. However, technological applications are largely restricted to urban areas. Rural areas have not reaped enough benefits from them. In such situations, innovative approaches in skill development will prove to be instrumental.

The Government of India has given emphasis on skill development and entrepreneurship especially among rural youth. Skill development has become a key policy issue and more importantly, the National Skill Development Mission (NSDM) taking on the ambitious target of skilling and upskilling 500 million people by 2022 in our country.

The other side of the coin shows a dismal picture. Scientific and technological advancements lead to unemployment. With the advent of increasing automation in industries, the risk of job losses both in manufacturing and service sectors is also increasing. With the aid of innovative approach and rational mindset, a balance between technological advancements and skill development can be established. This will motivate the rural as well as urban population to contribute in national development. In this process, being a key stakeholder, women must also be encouraged to develop her skills. In this way, they will not only add to the family income and improve their standard of living, but participate in fulfilling the national goals. If we as a nation succeed to train our skilled workforce as per industry aspirations, Prime Minister's dream to *Make in India* would soon become a reality.

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3rd National Handloom Day celebrated across the country

The 3rd National Handloom Day was celebrated in Guwahati on 6th August 2017. The Chief Guest and Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal thanked the Prime Minister for choosing Guwahati as the venue for the main event of 3rd National Handloom Day. The prime objective of holding National Handloom Day in Guwahati was to empower women and girls, as more than 50 per cent of total weaver population of India resides in North Eastern Region, having women in majority. The Government of India is taking various initiatives for the welfare of handloom weavers, like **Hathkargha Samvardhan Sahayata Scheme**, under which the Government of India assists the weaver by bearing 90 per cent of the cost of new looms, **MUDRA scheme**, under which loans ranging from Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 10 lakh can be availed by the weavers, with no requirement for any security whatsoever.

The Ministry of Textiles has also entered into MoU with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) whereby children of weavers shall be able to avail school and university education, with 75 per cent of fees being borne by the Government of India.

An MoU was signed between Ministry of Textiles and Common Service Centres, under which weavers will be able to avail a wide array of Government services under one roof - from Weavers' Service Centres (WSCs). The WSCs will henceforth, serve as a one-stop centre for weavers, providing various services, including banking, passport, insurance, PAN card, voter ID and AADHAAR. Weavers will also be able to pay their electricity bills and undertake online courses at WSCs. There are 28 WSCs under the Office of Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, functioning in various parts of the country. Weavers visit these WSCs frequently, in order to avail technical assistance in relation to their profession.

Another MoU was signed between Ministry of Textiles and designers. Under the MoU, reputed textile designers will work closely with handloom weavers, passing on design assistance and knowledge. This is expected to improve the market potential of the handloom products and improve the earnings of weavers.



The Union Minister for Textiles and Information & Broadcasting, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani visiting a handloom exhibition in Guwahati in Assam, organised ahead of National Handloom Day on August 7.

SKILL & ENTREPRENEURSHIP: EMPOWERING RURAL WOMEN

"...empowerment can accelerate development. From whichever direction the issue is looked into, it provides justification for giving economic empowerment to women".

Amartya Sen

Utsav Kumar Singh, Digvijay Singh

Women have the capability to accelerate the economic growth of the country, if their participation in the workforce is increased. Census (2011) data has revealed that there has been a continuing fall in labor force participation rate of women from 33.3 per cent to 26.5 per cent in rural areas. Mainstreaming gender roles by skilling women in non-traditional roles and increasing gender sensitivity in the workplace will have a catalytic effect on productivity and be a smart economic decision.

The Women in India lives in common milieu, she owns nothing, not even herself. Without any income or possession of property, they are more marginalized and oppressed than any other sections. This year on the occasion of International Women's Day, the same concern was reflected in the speech of former President. He said, "Government is equally concerned at the rising rate of violent crimes against women. It is inexcusable that women in India do not feel as secure and safe as they should. A greater emphasis on early sensitization of children and youth in schools and institutions of higher learning would help inculcate due respect for the female gender. This should be taken up through appropriate measures in our rural and urban populations and through well-conceived and coherent Government programs". Further, he focussed on the full government commitment to ensure the participation of women in democracy and development. On the same occasion, Prime Minister also appreciated indomitable spirit, determination and dedication of *Nari Shakti* (Women Power). PM further stated that the progress of civilization is "incomplete without the empowerment of women" and the issue is no longer women development but "women-led development." In a verdict, Supreme Court said "It is now realized that real empowerment would be achieved by women, which would lead to their well-being facilitating enjoyment of rights guaranteed to

them, only if there is an economic empowerment of women as well. Public employment... would naturally lead to empowerment of women, which is the need of the hour". Empowered women can make a strong contribution to the economic well-being of the family and communities, thus contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Majority of our population lives in the rural areas (71.2 per cent). The challenges for women living in rural India are more severe as compared to their urban counterparts. In rural societies, gender discrimination reduces economic opportunities for girls and young women. Deprivation and bias, cultural norms force many girls from poor families into early marriage and childbearing, where they are extremely vulnerable to HIV, sexual violence and physical exploitation. The burden of domestic tasks



Table 1: Number of females (per 1000 females of age 5 years and above usually engaged in domestic duties in the usual principal status) who carried out specified activities

	Specified Activities	Rural			Urban		
		With SS Works	Without SS Works	All	With SS Works	Without SS Works	All
1	Maintenance of kitchen garden, etc.	239	232	233	95	77	78
2	Work in hh. poultry, dairy, etc.	378	183	215	141	19	24
3	Free collection of fish, etc.	221	182	188	51	16	18
4	Free collection of fire wood, etc	580	407	435	175	48	53
5	Husking of paddy (own produce)	71	51	54	12	2	3
6	Grinding food grain (own produce)	45	41	41	9	5	3
7	Preparation of gur (own produce)	0	2	2	0	0	0
8	Preservation of meat (own produce)	6	8	7	0	1	1
9	Making basket, etc. (own produce)	22	16	17	8	2	2
10	Husking of paddy (acquired)	26	41	39	15	14	14
11	Grinding foodgrain (acquired)	44	47	46	30	23	23
12	Preparation of gur (acquired)	17	28	27	10	10	10
13	Preservation of meat etc. (acquired)	25	34	32	16	13	13
14	Making basket, etc. (acquired)	23	34	32	16	14	14
15	Preparing cowdung cakes	558	379	409	204	40	46
16	Sewing, tailoring, etc	280	272	273	378	229	235
17	Free tutoring of own/ others' children	51	72	68	123	120	120
18	Bringing water from outside hh. premises	402	287	306	191	92	96
19	Bringing water from outside village						
	a) distance up to 1 km	6	6	2			
	b) distance 2-5 km.	3	2	2			
	c) distance 6 km & above	0	0	0			
	d) all	9	9	9			

(Source: NSS Report No. 559: Participation of Women in Specified Activities along with Domestic Duties)

– such as caring for siblings or the elderly, tending to livestock and collecting water and firewood – also restricts girls' access to educational, social and economic opportunities. Poverty compels many young women to seek employment in the informal sector, where they find themselves limited to low-skilled jobs with minimal income potential, long hours and unequal power relations that often lead to exploitation. Opportunities for women in rural areas are limited in rural areas, due to restricted mobility and access to education.

The NSSO 68th Round Report (Table 1) reflects the huge gap between the participation of women in care economy, situation is worse in rural areas. It shows that during 2011-12, an estimated 57 per cent of the rural women of age 5 years and above engaged in domestic duties pursued any activity

under specified activities while the corresponding figure for Urban India is only 13 percent.

For lack of education or specific skill, for most of the rural women, manual work is still the



easily available work. As depicted in Table 2, the women above the age 15 years who had any skill/experience to undertake the desired work was the highest for the work 'dairy' (74 per cent).

Table 2: Proportion of women having Skill/Experience to Accept Specified Work

Type of work acceptable	Rural	Urban
Dairy	735	645
Poultry	529	557
Other animal husbandry	655	711
Food processing	543	514
Spinning	546	612
Manufacturing in wood and cane product	483	239
Tailoring	465	574
Leather goods manufacturing	400	433
Others	358	449
All	536	544

(Source: NSSO 68th round)

A number of policy initiatives have been taken in this regard. The main focus of the government is to transform the manual labour into skill based workforce. This article discusses the various programs related to the women empowerment in rural India like Skill Development, MUDRA Bank, STEP, DDU-GKY, Stand-Up India and DAY-NRLM.

Skill Development :

Women have the capability to accelerate the economic growth of the country, if their participation in the workforce is increased. Census (2011) data has revealed that there has been a continuing fall in labor force participation rate of women from 33.3 per cent to 26.5 per cent in rural areas. Mainstreaming gender roles by skilling women in non-traditional roles and increasing gender sensitivity in the workplace will have a catalytic effect on productivity and be a smart economic decision.

The National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship 2015 focused on improving the productivity of the economy through participation of women in the labour force. The aims and objective of this mission is to ensure skill development of women by creating more seats in the vocational training institutions. In order to bridge the gender gap, the policy identifies the need for special delivery

mechanisms such as mobile training units, flexible afternoon batches along with local needs based training. The policy also deals with issues of safe and gender sensitive training environment, employment of women trainers, equity in remuneration, and complaint redressal mechanism. Skilled women get an internet or mobile based platform to keep regular touch with the employers.

Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Vikas Yojana (DDU-GKY):

The DDU-GKY focuses on providing high quality skill training opportunities through Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) to rural poor youth, though there is a special focus on women. **Ministry of Rural Development** administered the DDU-GKY which is the skill training and placement program carried out as part of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission. The programme provides funding support for placement linked skilling projects ranging from INR 25,696 per person to over INR 1 lakh. The scheme has special focus on women by reserving 1/3rd of the seats for women; migration support centers are set up to monitor the needs of the vulnerable

Trade Related Entrepreneurship Development Assistance Scheme (TREAD) women entrepreneurship programme

Trade Related Entrepreneurship Development Assistance Scheme (TREAD) envisages economic empowerment of women. There is a provision of Govt of India Grant upto 30 per cent of Loan/credit sanctioned subject to maximum ceiling of 30 Lakhs to NGOs as appraised by Lending Institutes/Banks for undertaking capacity building activities such as Training, counselling, Participation in exhibitions, establishment of new SHGs etc and other components as approved by Bank/Steering Committee.

The focus of the scheme is to promote self-employment and income generation activities for women mostly from SHG groups in non-farm sector. The non-farming activities usually taken up by women include Tailoring, Handicrafts, Embroidery, Toy making, Readymade garments, Candle making, Agarbatti making, paper cup and plate making, Masala powder making, Saree weaving, Coir mat making, Pickles making, Readymade garments, basketry and brooms making, Jute bag making etc.

Figure 1: Lending to new entrepreneurs by type of institutions

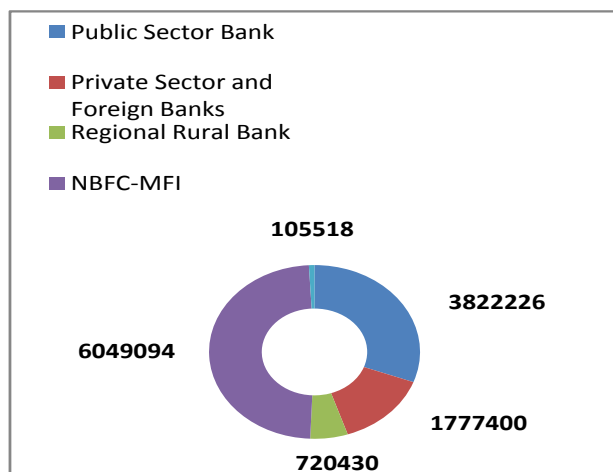
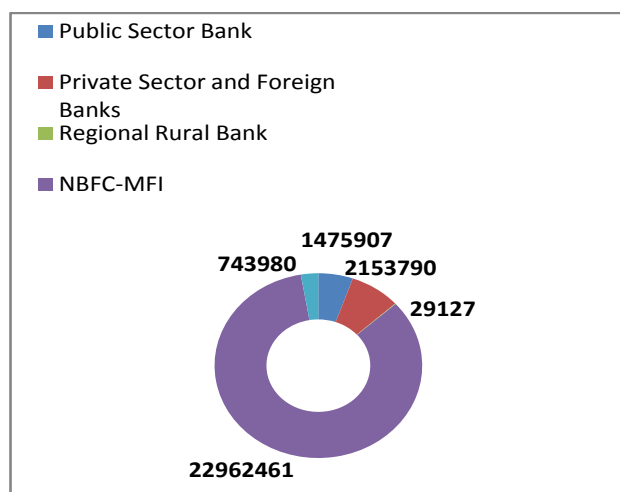


Figure 2: Lending to women entrepreneurs by type of institutions



(Source: MUDRA Annual Report 2015-16 (Available on <http://www.mudra.org.in>))

population, specially women. Special attention is focused on establishing training centers with focus on women trainers in line with the National Policy of Skill Development.

Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)

The STEP program is a Central Sector Scheme of Ministry of Women and Child Development under which, training is provided to poor and marginalized women in traditional trades to improve employability. The scheme is intended to benefit women who are in the age group 16 and above. Under the programme, grants-in-aid are provided by the central government to societies, voluntary

organizations, and cooperatives providing skills in sectors ranging from agriculture to hospitality.

Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY):

The MUDRA loan has the objective of ‘funding the unfunded’ that has twin purposes of seeding new enterprises and expanding existing units, with special focus on providing financial support to women entrepreneurs, for both financial inclusion and empowerment. Out of a total of 3.49 crore enterprises supported under PMMY during 2015–16, nearly 36 per cent (1.25 crore accounts) were for first time borrowers (new entrepreneurs) (Figure 1), a whopping 79 per cent (2.76 crore women) were funded under PMMY (Figure 2). Almost 99 per cent of the PMMY loans extended by MFIs were for women borrowers, which contributed significantly for the share of women borrowers under this program.

Stand Up India:

‘Stand Up India’ scheme has special provisions for women. In this scheme, each bank branch will provide loans of up to Rs 1 crore to at least two such projects per bank branch on an average, one for each category of entrepreneur (SC/ST and Women), in case of firm 51 per cent of shareholding and controlling stake held either by SC/ST or women entrepreneurs to ensure financial availability to set up big industries and turn into big entrepreneurs. The portal of Stand Up India, assist the beneficiaries with the information through the network of 17000 Help Centres across India and collect the information of more than 1.25 lakh bank branches. The Union Cabinet had approved the refinance window of Rs 10,000 crore that Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will disburse for the Stand-Up India scheme.

Currently at national level, this scheme provides subsidy to Mahila Coir Yojana run by MSME, Govt. of India. It is the first women oriented self employment scheme being implemented by the Coir Board for the empowerment of rural women artisans in the coir sector. The scheme imparts skills among the artisans through the training programs in collaboration with co-operatives, NGOs and other recognized training institutions.

National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM):

NRLM is, perhaps, the largest poverty reduction initiative, the largest program for women, in the

world with its goal of reaching nearly 70 million rural households. NRLM provides platform to mobilize the poor households (women) in to Self Help Groups of the poor that provide them with voice, space and resources. These platforms 'of the poor' and 'for the poor' would partner with local self-governments, public service providers, banks, private sector and other mainstream institutions to facilitate delivery of social and economic services to the poor. While agriculture is a critical source of food and income for the rural poor, it alone cannot raise most families out of poverty, so the SHG members are trained to manage their institutions, linking up with markets, managing their existing livelihoods, enhancing their credit absorption capacity and credit worthiness etc.

NRLM fund is managed by the Government of India and the World Bank. As per the World Bank Project Report (No. P104164, 8th August 2017), the project has already achieved the targets related to social mobilization, institution building and mobilization of community savings. Currently, the project is being implemented in 571 blocks from 161 districts, across all thirteen participating states. The program is intensively working with more than 7.5 million households, mobilized into 6.5 Lakh SHGs. These SHGs have been federated into 41000 Village Organization (VO) of which 4.08 Lakh SHGs are part of these VO network.

Conclusion:

Women's economic empowerment is one of the world's most promising areas of investment, biggest

emerging markets, talent pools and demographic dividends to be tapped. Indeed, gender equality and women's empowerment are integral to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015. Government of India through its various programs for Skill Development is providing skill to the youth like PMMY allocating loans to start new entrepreneurship, DDU-GKY imparting skill by reserving seats in vocational training institutions, Stand-Up India to transform job seekers to job creators especially women and SC/ST and NRLM providing a platform to mobilize women in SHGs to raise their voice and uplift their family from poverty. This will enable them to access new job opportunities in the services sector, connecting the hitherto lagging rural regions to the mainstream economy, and help India to capitalize on its demographic dividend. It will also assist India's growing private sector enterprises to tap into a ready pool of trained labour, assisting them in hiring and placement, especially given the shortage of appropriate skills in India's labour market. These programs connect rural women to the mainstream economy where they claim their stake in global economy and became the engine of economic growth.

(Utsav Kumar Singh is ICSSR Doctoral Fellow at University of Delhi. Digvijay Singh is Assistant Professor of Political Science, Vivekanand College, University of Delhi. Email: singh.utsav@gmail.com)

Record Foodgrains Production of Major Crops in the Year 2016-17

The 4th Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2016-17 have been released by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare on 16th August, 2017. As a result of very good rainfall during monsoon 2016 and various policy initiatives taken by the Government, the country has witnessed record foodgrain production in the current year.

As per 4th Advance Estimates, the estimated production of major crops during 2016-17 is as under:

- Total Foodgrains production is estimated at record 275.68 million tonnes
- Rice is estimated at record 110.15 million tonnes
- Wheat is also estimated at record 98.38 million tonnes
- Coarse Cereals estimated at a record level of 44.19 million tonnes
- Pulses is estimated at record 22.95 million tonnes
- Oilseeds production is estimated at 32.10 million tonnes
- Cotton is estimated at 33.09 million bales
- Sugarcane is estimated at 306.72 million tonnes

Freedom from Open Defecation Week (9th to 14th August, 2017)

Swachh Survekshan Gramin-2017

Swachh Bharat Mission, India's largest ever cleanliness drive launched on 2nd October 2014 by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Mission - To achieve the vision of a clean India by 2nd October 2019.

Key Milestones – Since the launch of SBM (G):

- Toilets Constructed – **4.56 Crore**.
- ODF Declared - **220578** Villages and **98632** GP'S have been declared Open Defecation Free since the launch of SBM-G.



The Union Minister for Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Drinking Water & Sanitation and Urban Development, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar addressing a press conference after launching the Swachh Sarvekshan (Gramin)- 2017, in New Delhi on August 08, 2017.

Survey Objectives :

“Swachh Survekshan Gramin – 2017”, A detailed survey covering 1.4 lakh households across 4626 villages in India, was conducted to assess the rural sanitation coverage on the following parameters:

- Access to toilet.
- Usage of toilet .
- Presence of Litter and Stagnant Waste Water.

Survey Statistics:

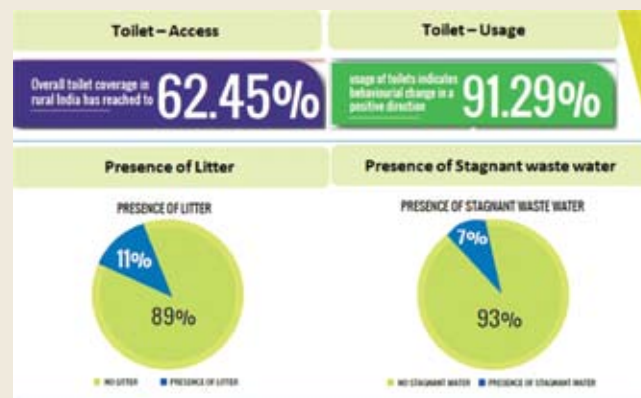
- States and UT's covered – 32.
- District Covered – 696 .

Methodology : Primary Sample Unit – Village

- Allocation of 4626 villages among the States and Union Territories following **Probability Proportional to Size (PPS)** sampling technique.
- **Simple Random Sampling Without Replacement (SRSWR)** methodology was followed for selection of villages.
- The selection of households to be surveyed, within a village, was done via random sampling.

Survey Execution : Survey Planning

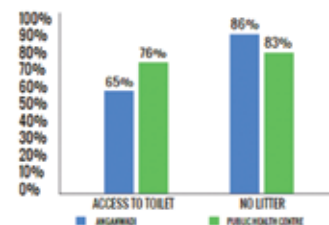
- Time of assessment – May & June 2017 (8 weeks).



The findings of Direct Observation component of the study

• 4289 Anganwadis were visited and it was found that 65% of Anganwadis had access to toilet and 86% of Anganwadis had litter free surrounding.

• 1670 Public Health Centres (PHC) were visited and it was found 76% of PHCs had access to toilet and 83% of PHCs had litter free sur-



- Team of 300 assessors was deployed on ground.
- 40 member control room.
- Real time data collection using mobile based application, All household and toilets were geo-tagged, satellite view used to ensure sampling distribution.

Quality Monitoring and Evaluation: 3 levels of Quality Checks:

- **Assessors Training** - Classroom and Field training program at multiple locations.
- **War Room** - 24X7 War room to monitor on-ground coordination and quality checks.
- **Quick Response Team** – A dedicated Quick Response Team was set up to conduct surprise inspections to check quality and consistency.

30 Swachhta Raths Flagged Off

30 Swachhta Raths were flagged off jointly by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Yogi Adityanath, Sushri Uma Bharti and Shri Tomar. The Raths are mobile vans equipped with LED panels for screening Swachhta Films and also a Nukkad Natak Team for community engagement in villages. The Raths would tour the entire state and create mass awareness and would help in triggering behaviour change among the community members. 300 Raths in several states will tour thousands of villages to disseminate the message of swachhta.



S No	State	Raths	Districts covered	Remarks
1	Bihar	46	13	
2	Jharkhand	119	24	All districts
3	Chhattisgarh	108	27	2 at State level for a month period
4	Maharashtra	2	2	Final data awaited
5	Tamil Nadu	1	1	Final data awaited
6	Jammu & Kashmir	2	5 (Kashmir) & 2 (Jammu)	2 Raths have been launched at Directorate level. Data from districts are awaited.
7	Punjab	1	5	Final data awaited
8	Total	279		

Ganga Gram

Ganga Gram is a joint initiative of MDWS and MoWR. The Gram Pradhans of these villages were administered oath for achieving the goal of Adarsh Ganga Gram. The Ganga Gram initiative would focus on better cleanliness and infrastructure facilities like Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM), rejuvenation of ponds and water sources, water conservation projects, organic farming, crematorium and overall convergence with other government departments and projects.

Ganga Gram-An Overview:

- ❖ 24 Model “Ganga Grams” to be developed in 5 states as suggested by States & MoWR.
- ❖ 3 villages in Uttarakhand, 10 in Uttar Pradesh, 4 in Bihar, 5 in Jharkhand and 2 villages in West Bengal have been identified.
- ❖ States/ Ministries to allocate resources at district and state levels for the implementation and monitoring.
- ❖ MDWS and NMCG will coordinate the entire pilot project.

Features of Ganga Grams (NMCG Guidelines):

- ❖ ODF Villages with 100% coverage of Individual Household Latrines.
- ❖ Proper disposal of waste water through drainage system.
- ❖ Proper disposal of solid waste.
- ❖ Water conservation activities including rain water harvesting/ground water recharge/ maintaining of wells and ponds .
- ❖ Encourage mediational plants and organic farming cultivation.

Features of Ganga Grams (NMCG Guidelines +):

- ❖ Construction of crematorium with modern techniques.
- ❖ Renovation of village ponds.
- ❖ Promotion of Sprinkler irrigation.
- ❖ Promotion of Tourism.
- ❖ Coordination between various central and state government sponsored schemes and their implementation on priority in Ganga Grams.

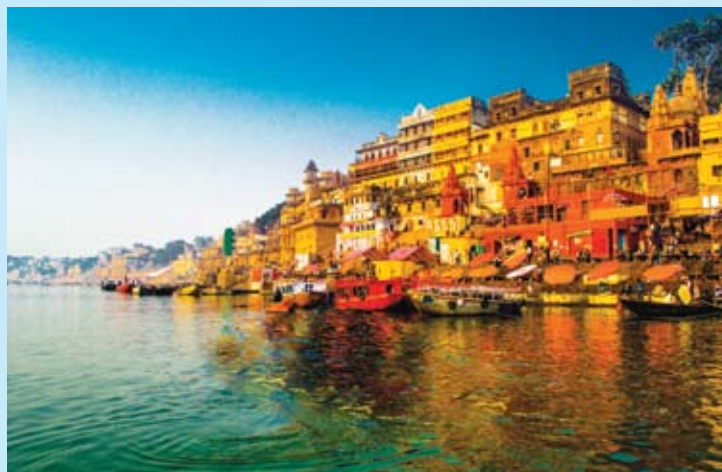
Way to Ganga bank ODF:

Challenges :

- ❖ Huge number and geographical spread.
- ❖ Non-availability of Sand in states.
- ❖ Floods in Ganga Plains.
- ❖ Assembly Elections in UP.
- ❖ Issues of Diyara Villages.
- ❖ Administrative Issues such as change in Departments in Bihar.
- ❖ Non-availability of funds.

Interventions:

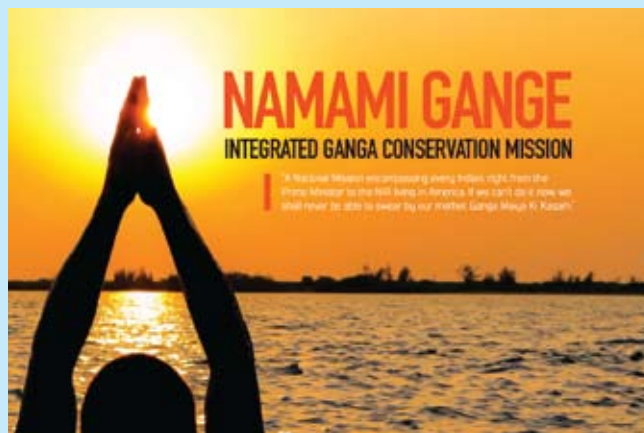
- ❖ Special orientation programme for Collectors.
- ❖ and virtual classrooms for CLTS and behaviour change.



- ❖ Ganga Gram Panchayats Convention in Allahabad on 20 August 2016.
- ❖ SBM-G Machinery and Funds pressed into service.
- ❖ Constant guidance from PM, Minister WR & GR, Minister DWS.
- ❖ Regular Reviews from PMO, Cabinet Secretary.
- ❖ Rigorous Follow up by Secretary MDWS, Nodal Officers and Team.
- ❖ Constant interaction with States at all level.

Strategy for Implementation at Village level:

- ❖ Situational Analysis.
- ❖ Baseline Data.
- ❖ Qualitative Data to collected from community participatory exercise.
- ❖ Community Consultation and capacity building.
- ❖ Community level institution building for execution, monitoring and evaluation.
- ❖ Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR).
- ❖ Preparation of phase wise action plan for implementation.
- ❖ Community endorsement of DPR and action plan in Gram Sabha.
- ❖ Execution of action plan.



Strategy for Implementation at State/Ministry Level:

- ❖ State/district level orientation cum consultation.
- ❖ Appointment of nodal officers.
- ❖ Coordination with various departments at all three levels.
- ❖ Funds to be provided by the NMCG/ Other line Ministries.
- ❖ Time Line and task sharing.

Upcoming Steps:

- ❖ Preliminary Consultation with States/Districts today by MDWS (VC).
- ❖ Launch of Ganga Grams project on 12th August 2017 at Allahabad.
- ❖ Ministry/ State level consultations for task allocation.
- ❖ Appropriate models of SLWM would be explored and implemented.
- ❖ Joint team from MDWS and NMCG would monitor the work.

Uttar Pradesh to be Fully Open Defecation Free by 2018

All 4480 villages on the bank of River Ganga in 52 districts and 5 states (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand & West Bengal) were declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) under Namami Gange initiative at the Ganga Gram Sammelan held at Naini, Allahabad by Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister for Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Under Ganga Gram initiative, 24 Namami Gange villages have been identified in the 1st phase (Uttarakhand – 3, Uttar Pradesh – 10, Bihar – 4, Jharkhand – 5, and West Bengal – 2) to make them Adarsh Ganga Grams. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Yogi Adityanath reiterated his commitment to make the entire Uttar Pradesh state ODF by December 2018 and stressed that SBM is among the top priority programs in the state.



GOOD NEWS FOR HOME BUYERS

Reduced tax liability on homes under GST



The CBEC and States have received many complaints that in view of the works contract service tax rate under GST at 12% in respect of under construction flats, complex etc, the people who have booked flats and made part payment before 1st July, 2017, are being asked to bear higher tax incidence for payments made after 1st July, 2017. This is against the GST law, as explained below.

- Construction of flats, complex, buildings have a lower incidence of GST as compared to a plethora of Central and State Indirect Taxes suffered by them under the earlier regime.
- Central Excise duty was earlier payable on most construction material @12.5%. It was higher in case of cement. In addition, VAT was also payable on construction material @12.5% to 14.5% in most of the States. In addition, construction material also earlier suffered Entry Tax levied by the States. Input Tax Credit of the above taxes was not allowed for payment of Service Tax. Credit of these taxes was also not available for payment of VAT on construction of flats etc. under composition scheme. Thus, there was cascading of input taxes on constructed flats etc.
- As a result, incidence of Central Excise duty, VAT, Entry Tax, etc. on construction material was earlier being borne by the builders, which they passed on to the customers as part of the price charged from them. This was not visible to the customer as it formed a part of the cost of the flat.
- The earlier headline rate of service tax on construction of flats, residences, offices etc. was 4.5%. Over and above this, VAT @1% under composition scheme was also charged. The buyer only looked at the headline rate of 5.5%. In other Cities/States, where VAT was being levied under the composition scheme @2% or above, the headline rate visible to the customer was above 6.5%. What the customer did not see is the embedded taxes on account of cascading and sticking of input taxes in the cost of the flat etc.
- The situation has changed under GST. Under GST, full input credit is available for offsetting the headline rate of 12%. As a result, the input taxes embedded in the flat will not (& should not) form a part of the cost of the flat. The input credits should take care of the headline rate of 12% and it is for this reason that refund of overflow of input tax credits to the builder has been disallowed.
- The builders are expected to pass on the benefits of lower tax burden under the GST regime to the buyers of property by way of reduced prices/ installments. It is, therefore, advised to all builders /construction companies that in the flats under construction, they should not ask customers to pay higher amount of installments inclusive of all taxes to be received after imposition of GST.
- Despite this clarity on law position, if any builder resorts to such practice, the same can be deemed to be profiteering under section 171 of GST law.

dayp 15502/13/0144/1718



Tweet us at @askGST_GoI for any GST related query
www.cbec.gov.in, www.cbec-gst.gov.in



Central Board of Excise and Customs &
Commercial Taxes Departments of States/Union Territories

GST - A Good & Simple Tax

Swachh Sankalp Se Swachh Siddhi

The Hon'ble Prime Minister in his “Mann Ki Baat” on 30th July 2017 spoke about a Sankalp to make “Filth – Quit India”. On August 9, 2017. He also issued a clarion call to the nation during his speech on the floor of the Lok Sabha to embrace the “Sankalp se Siddhi” movement, and appealed to all citizens to play their role towards achieving a New India by 2022.

Short Film Competition: To help implement the his vision, Swachh Sankalp se Swachh Siddhi, Short Film Competition is being organized as another major step in making Swachhta a Jan Aandolan. Individuals are requested to make 2 to 3 minute films on the theme of Swachhta and show how they can contribute to the Swachh Bharat Mission.

The Topic for the Film is ‘My Contribution towards Making India Clean’ The short film

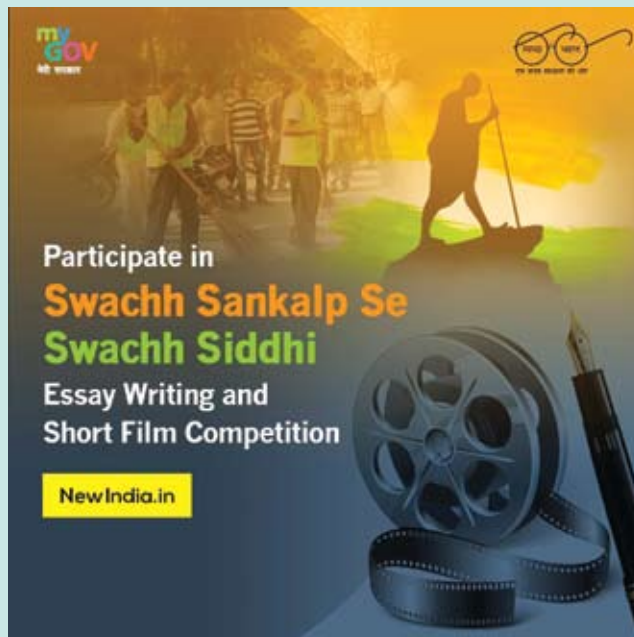
could be made in any of the following languages - it is mandatory to use the hashtag along with the languages in which the essay has been written: **#assamese, #bengali, #bodo, #dogri, #english, #gujarati, #hindi, #kannada, #kashmiri, #konkani, #maithili, #malayalam, #manipuri, #marathi, #nepali, #oriya, #punjabi, #sanskrit, #santhali, #sindhi, #tamil, #telugu and #urdu.** In case of a silent film please use **#silent.**

Individuals can uploaded their short film on www.youtube.com and the link to the same must be shared on www.mygov.in. The awards will be provided under the two categories of Age : **0-18 years #below18 and, 18 and above #above18.** Three winners from each category will be awarded at the National Level. and also at the State and District levels. The last date of submission is **8th September, 2017** midnight.

Essay Competition: To help implement the Honourable Prime Minister’s vision, Swachh Sankalp se Swachh Siddhi, Essay Competition is being organized as another major step in making Swachhta a Jan Aandolan. Individuals are invited to write essays of not more than 250 words on the theme of Swachhta and describe how they can personally contribute to the Swachh Bharat Mission.

The Topic for the Essay is ‘What can I do for a Clean India?’ The essay can be written in any of the following languages - it is mandatory to use the hashtag along with the languages in which the essay has been written: **#assamese, #bengali, #bodo, #dogri, #english, #gujarati, #hindi, #kannada, #kashmiri, #konkani, #maithili, #malayalam, #manipuri, #marathi, #nepali, #oriya, #punjabi, #sanskrit, #santhali, #sindhi, #tamil, #telugu and #urdu.**

It is mandatory to mention state of domicile with a hashtag (#): **#Andamanand NicobarIslands, #Andhra Pradesh, #Arunachal Pradesh, #Assam, #Bihar, #Chandigarh, #Chhattisgarh, #Dadraand Nagar Haveli, #Damanand Diu, #Delhi, #Goa, #Gujarat, #Haryana, #Himachal Pradesh, #Jammuand Kashmir, #Jharkhand, #Karnataka, #Kerala, #Lakshadweep, #Madhya Pradesh, #Maharashtra, #Manipur, #Meghalaya, #Mizoram, #Nagaland, #Odisha, #Puducherry, #Punjab, #Rajasthan, #Sikkim, #Tamil Nadu, #Telangana, #Tripura, #Uttar Pradesh, #Uttarakhand, #West Bengal.**



Three winners will be awarded at the national level. Awards will also be given at the State and District levels. Senior citizens (above 60 years) and differently abled are encouraged to apply using the hashtags **#senior** and **#differentlyabled**, respectively, and will be given special recognition at the national awards. The Last date of submission is **8th September, 2017, midnight**.

Painting Competition: A Painting Competition is also being organized as another major step in making Swachhta a Jan Aandolan. **The Topic for the Painting Competition is "Clean India of my dreams"**. This competition is only for Class 1 to 5 Schools students. The National Swachh Bharat Awards shall be presented on 2nd October, 2017. The exercise needs to be completed by 8th September 2017.

Swachhathon 1.0: Swachhathon 1.0 – Swachhata Hackathon is an attempt to crowd source solutions for some of the pressing problems faced by the country in Sanitation and Hygiene. MoDWS has invited students from schools and colleges, professionals, organizations, startups and others to come up with exciting, innovative, novel and viable solutions in the following categories–

- a) Monitoring usage of toilets
- b) Behaviour Change
- c) Toilet technology
- d) Operation and maintenance of school toilets
- e) Technological solutions for safe disposal of menstrual waste
- f) Early decomposition of fecal matter

The hackathon is an open for all (including international entries). Entries can be submitted by individuals/ group of individuals/organizations including start-ups. A team can consist of maximum 10 participants. Participation is open for all age groups. For Round I, the Portal has opened for registration from August 2, 2017 and the last date of Submission is August 25, 2017. For **Round-2**, Demonstrations will start on September 7, 2017. The Grand finale will take place on September 8, 2017.

Design a Logo for New India, representing the movement "Sankalp Se Siddhi"

Taking forward PM Narendra Modi's clarion call of "Sankalp Se Siddhi", citizens are invited to create a logo for "New India" which symbolizes the aspirations and spirit of this movement from 2017 to 2022, which will involve all Indians.



The logo should represent the Sankalp in 2017 to set the foundation of building a New India by 2022. The logo will be used by Government, as well as citizens, to denote their united efforts for building a New India. Hence, the selected logo will be among the most visible symbols used in India in the coming five years.

Last Date for submitting entries is Sep. 23, 2017. **For details visit www.mygov.in**

PM's 'Mann ki Baat' on 30 July, 2017 : Excerpts

On Rains and Disasters:

- My dear countrymen, Namaskar. We human beings have a natural inclination to be enchanted by the delights of the rainy season. Animals, birds, flora – nature in its entirety, is filled with the joys of the season. Mother Nature gives us life and nurtures us, but at times, natural catastrophes such as floods and earthquakes wreak havoc on a massive scale.
- Recently, in certain parts of India, particularly, Assam, North-East, Gujarat, Rajasthan and some areas of Bengal, have had to bear the brunt of natural disasters, caused by excessive rains Relief efforts have been undertaken on an extensive scale.
- Our farmer brethren have to bear a lot of losses because of the damage to their crops and fields. Therefore, we have formulated a scheme for the insurance companies, especially crop insurance companies, to make them more proactive, to ensure quick settlements of claims for farmers.



On GST:

- I feel very happy and satisfied when a poor person writes to say how because of GST, prices of various items essential for him have come down, and commodities have become cheaper.
- GST is a fine example of the collective strength of the people of India. This is a historic achievement.

On 75 years of Quit India Movement:

- My dear countrymen, the month of August is the month of Revolution ...the reason is, the Non-Cooperation Movement was launched on the 1st of August 1920; the Quit India Movement, which is also known as 'August Kranti' began on the 9th of August 1942; and on 15th August 1947, India became independent.
- This year, we are going to observe the 75th Anniversary of the Quit India Movement. But very few people know the fact that the slogan, 'Quit India' was coined by Dr. Yusuf Meher Ali.
- The heroes of our freedom struggle with their single-minded devotion did a '*Tapasya*', endured hardships, made great sacrifices and even laid down their lives; what greater inspiration could there be!
- Millions of Indians responded to Mahatma Gandhi's clarion call and the mantra of 'Do or Die'; they flung themselves into the struggle. 1857 to 1942 – the yearning for freedom had reached the grassroots, had reached everybody. And 1942 to 1947 – these decisive five years became integral for the masses to successfully attain through resolve, freedom for the country. These five years were indeed decisive.
- We became free in 1947. This is 2017..... The way, the years from 1942 to 1947 were the decisive years for attainment through resolve. I can see that 2017 to 2022 presents itself as a new time segment of five years for attainment through resolve. We should celebrate 15th August 2017 as the **Sankalp Parva** or the Day of Resolve, and in 2022 marking 75 years of freedom, we will certainly transform that resolve into '**Siddhi**' or attainment.
- We must make 2017 our Year of Resolve. In this month of August, we have to come together and resolve: **Filth** - Quit India; **Poverty** – Quit India; **Corruption** – Quit India; **Terrorism** – Quit India; **Casteism** – Quit India; **Communalism** – Quit India! Let us come together and make this a Festival of Resolve.
- Come let's launch a mega campaign Sankalp se Siddhi – Attainment through Resolve, from the 9th of this August. Every Indian, social organisations, Local Self-Government Institutions, schools, colleges, various organizations - all should take one resolve or the other for a New India.

On Festivals:

- India's economy has in itself an element of social economics. And each of our festivals are directly linked with the financial conditions of the poorest of the poor. When we light a 'diya', an earthen lamp on Deepawali, it is not merely a festival of lights, a festival that illuminates the entire house; it is directly connected with those poor families who make small 'dijas' or earthen lamps.

1942 AND 2017: AN ANALOGY

Manikant Singh

India is supposed to reinvent itself through the revival of the moment of 'do or die'. But all depends on the extent to which words shall translate into action. Apart from that, we should also be cautious about the fact that the process of reinvention should move in the right direction otherwise it can go very wrong. History repeats itself but not always in the way we choose. At least, it should not repeat itself accordingly Marxian premonition – 'first as a tragedy than as a farce.' That is the way to build a New India.

Hegel once remarked somewhere that all great world-historical facts and personages appear, so to speak twice.

There are certain defining moments that are recorded in the history of a community and nation as a great landmark. If we give a cursory look on world history, we confront such defining moments at several occasions. There was such a moment when American president Woodro Wilson came to Europe with a package of peace to transform Europe for ending all wars. Just 20 years later another President, Franklin De Roosevelt challenged the world economic depression, cutting it through the sharp edge of 'New Deal policy'. Thus, capitalism was snatched out of its death bed. Just seven years after, even Roosevelt created this defining moment once again when he compelled hardliner British PM Churchill to sign the Atlantic charter which proved to be a death knell to the colonial empire. Likewise, launching of Sputnik (Space shuttle) in space was that defining moment which has been recorded as 'Sputnik moment' in the history of Russia.

So was the period between 1942 and 1947 in Indian history, as during this period, our country was undergoing a fast-track transformation to manifest, its 'tryst with destiny'. As a

visionary, our Prime Minister has caught sight of this defining moment with genuine nostalgia. It is very natural for any nation to seek inspiration and vitality from history. Earlier, the other world leaders, traumatized by subprime loan crisis, were searching to manifest the same 'Roosevelt moment' to save capitalism from the throes of death. Similarly, in Russia, Vladimir Putin is restlessly working to manifest the same 'Sputnik moment' to enable truncated Russia (after the disintegration of Soviet Union) to establish parity with west again. Even India is finding itself in the same situation of nostalgia.

The half-a-decade between 1942- 47 was a turning point in the process of nation building. Following paragraphs define the nature of the nation building.



First, the national movement under the leadership of the Mahatma Gandhi aggressively reflected the **'Do or Die' spirit**. In fact, right from its time of inception, Indian National Congress adopted various methods and different strategies, from submitting petition and memorials to Gandhian mass movement, to organising protest against the colonial government. But at every occasion, it was ready to make peace with the government, even if some little concessions were conceded by the government. Probably, the Congress had been working with the perception that freedom could be attained beat by beat. But in 1942, while the situation was totally at odds, Gandhi Ji started a fight to finish with the famous slogan 'do or die'. It removed the Gordian Knot in the way of Indian independence and made it the national priority. Rest is history.

When PM equated the year 2017 with that of 1942 in his famous radio-talk **'Man Ki Baat'**, his contention was that since the last 70 years, economic and social justice have been earmarked as important national objectives and from time to time, various steps have been taken in this context; but the visible results are classical examples of too little and too late. So, he has come to the conclusion that only an extreme course of action will bring tangible results. That's why India needs to revive its 'do or die' spirit to remove the **chronic problems of poverty, casteism, communalism, terrorism etc.**

Secondly, if the year 1942 activated India for political freedom, the year 2017 can prove an entry point for economic and social freedom without which freedom is meant only for the selected few. **PM states that- '1942 to 1947 were decisive years that led to India's freedom. Similarly, 2017 -22 are crucial too. In 2017, let us resolve to free the country from social evils like poverty, terrorism, casteism and communalism. Let us all pledge that by 2022 when we celebrate 75 years of independence, we will take the nation to greater heights of success.'** He further says that **let us launch a mega campaign 'Sankalp se Siddhi'- Attainment through resolve from 9th of this August.** The slogan in 1942 was 'do or die', but now **it is to resolve, to come together and work towards making of a New India'.**

In this way, although overtly, the period between 1942-47 and that between 2017-22 is

compared as the charter of political freedom and that of socio-economic freedom. But, if we make in depth exploration, we will come to realize that the similarities between two periods are multidimensional in nature. The period between 1942-47 was marked by formidable challenges and new promises.

As India was approaching independence, new challenges of nation-building were staring the country in the face. It was bleeding profusely as a part of its body was chopped off due to partition and it was inundated with innumerable refugees lying on its riot-torn body. Then the issue of national and official language, that of linguistic states, the question of minorities, empowerment of women, food crisis, all appeared one by one. All these challenges had to be overcome along with the dawn of independence. In other words, only after qualifying these challenges, India could attain true independence and enjoy the fruits of liberation. At this critical juncture, Indian leadership rose to the occasion and took quick and farsighted decisions, even Indian people had shown unparalleled enthusiasm. Through a proper mix of political sagacity and farsightedness, the linguistic issue was resolved. Up to next decade, it also accepted the proposal of linguistic states. Furthermore, minorities and women were given constitutional protection. Above all, a constitutional society was converted into a national society through participation in the first democratic elections.

Once British PM, Churchill had stated that after getting independence, India would not be able to maintain its unity and integrity. To achieve that, India will require the support of British bureaucracy and German army. Likewise, some other western countries were also observant towards India's experiment in nation-building, hoping for the failure of its democratic process. But its activism and preparation between 1942-47 enabled India to overcome these challenges.

The same complex condition in contemporary India is pitted against. Like partition, religious fundamentalism, terrorism and left wing extremism (Naxalism) keeps Indian society torn apart. Linguistic chauvinism has once again created apprehension among non-Hindi speaking people. Casteism has vitiated political climate of India, threatening the democracy. Women once again need protection as their wider exposure to public life, driven by

economic liberalization has made them more vulnerable to physical and sexual assault. Apart from that, the economic liberalization created plenty of wealth for a selected few but majority of the people was deprived of its fruits.

In his famous radio talk 'Man ki Baat', PM gave a hint towards this reality. He realized that, as happened in the case of national movement, through the usual course nation can't meet the challenges it faces within stipulated time. So, only through unusual course correction, the goal can be achieved. **That's why the spirit of 1942 with the slogan Quit India had been invoked.**

But there is another side of the picture. The period between 1942-47 and 2017-22 have a similar positive vibration also. During that period, Indian economy had undergone structural changes. The Second World War had weakened the grip of colonial control on Indian economy and there was the rise of indigenous capitalism, and that was ready to play an important role in the Indian economy. Above all, to a greater extent, there was a consensus about the future development in India. In Bombay Plan of 1944, eight top industrialists of India had shown disliking towards a laissez faire state and hoped for the Indian government to play a significant role in the economy.

We find an analogy in this case also. During 2017, Indian economy has shown resilience and

vibrancy. There is progress on GST and insolvency laws. Investors seem to be interested in Indian economy. India's tough stand on corruption and its resilience on reforms have assured the foreign financiers. Likewise, schemes like 'Make in India', 'Digital India' etc are not simply ready to give boost to the economy, but also channelize the youth force.

PM gives a hint towards the phenomenon that **Sankalp (resolve)** which was taken by Indians on 9th August 1942 resulted in the **Siddhi** of 1947 (independence); likewise on 9th August, 2017 **Sankalp** taken by Indians would result in the **siddhi (realization) of 2022** (economic and social freedom).

In this way, India is supposed to reinvent itself through the revival of the moment of 'do or die'. But all depends on the extent to which words shall translate into action. Apart from that, we should also be cautious about the fact that the process of reinvention should move in the right direction otherwise it can go very wrong. History repeats itself but not always in the way we choose. At least, it should not repeat itself accordingly Marxian premonition – 'first as a tragedy than as a farce.' That is the way to build a **New India**.

(The author is Director, THE STUDY, an Institute for mentoring the Civil Services aspirants, New Delhi. Email: mk.singh@live.com)

A Portal where you can take Pledge to Build a New India

Hon'ble Prime Minister, in his latest Mann ki Baat address on 30th July, 2017 had talked about **Sankalp se Siddhi** (attainment through resolve). Comparing the nation's spirit in 1942, he said that people of India resolved to free the nation in 1942 (Quit India Movement) and they attained their goal five year later in 1947. Similarly, PM called upon the Indians to resolve to free



India from Filth, Poverty, Corruption, Terrorism, Casteism and Communalism. He said that in 2017 (75th anniversary of Quit India), all the citizens should take a pledge for making a new India and attain it in next five year by 2022 (on 75th anniversary of independence). To make this 'Sankalp se Siddhi' a mass movement, a portal has been created. Any citizen can go to that portal and take the pledge to build a New India. **Please visit the portal www.newindia.in**

FROM QUIT INDIA TO NEW INDIA

J P Pandey

A clear paradigm shift has come with the launch of the initiatives Make in India, Digital India, Start-up India and others. As a result, India is now standing at the threshold of a major transformation, bringing new opportunities to its 128 crore people. It can provide India with an opportunity to emerge as a global leader and to prove that there can be reconciliation between the economic development and the state of the environment.

On the momentous occasion of 75th anniversary of Quit India Movement, our Prime Minister has called upon to take the resolution of making a New India in next five years, by 2022. India emerged as an independent nation due to the historical Quit India movement, but the country is still reeling under number of problems and the concept of freedom is yet to reach the last citizen. A common citizen expects a lot of changes to get rid of poverty, illiteracy, lack of infrastructure, maladies of caste and class distinction, religious fanaticism, corruption, terrorism and instability. Channelising the young potential into nation building process can transform India into a new India.

Historical Perspective:

Quit India resolution was adopted on July 14, 1942 at Wardha. Resolution made it clear that the immediate ending of British rule was an urgent necessity. The continuation of British rule was degrading and enfeebling India and was making her progressively less capable of defending herself and of contributing to the cause of world freedom.

The Quit India speech was made by Mahatma Gandhi on 8th August 1942. He called for determined, but passive resistance, which signified the certitude that Gandhi foresaw for the movement, is best described by his call for "Do or Die". Speaking at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Bombay, since renamed as August Kranti Maidan, Gandhiji told that occasions like the present did not occur in everybody's life but rarely in anybody's life. The power, when it comes, will belong to

the people of India. In the democracy which I have envisaged, a democracy established by non-violence, there will be equal freedom for all.

If we analyse the perils of those days, it was the time of growing dissatisfaction amongst Indians as India was made to participate in the world war without its consent. In the context of widespread dissatisfaction that prevailed over the rejection of the demands, Quit India Movement was launched. Movement attracted mass participation from all corners and finally resulted in the freedom of our great nation.

India since Independence:

India has made great strides since independence. An independent India was bequeathed a shattered economy, widespread illiteracy and shocking poverty. Literacy rate was a paltry 12.2 per cent which increased to 74.04 per cent in 2011. Elementary education was made a fundamental right for children in the age group of 6 to 14 years by passing



the 86th amendment of the Constitution in 2002. A decrease in death rates is considered one of the major achievements that came in India's way in this sector. While life expectancy was around 37 years in 1951, it almost doubled to 65 years by 2011. Infant mortality has also declined with death rate coming down to half of what it was during the 50s. Similar decline was noticed in maternal mortality rate also.

After a long-drawn struggle, India has finally been declared a polio-free country. Malnutrition in children under five years of age had come down to 44 per cent in 2006 from 67 per cent in 1979. The Indian road network has become one of the largest in the world with the total road length increasing from 0.399 million km in 1951 to 5.47 million km as of March 2015. India has emerged as the third largest producer of electricity in the world. It has increased its electricity generation capacity from 1,362 MW in 1947 to 330.15 GW as on 31 July 2017.

From net importer of food grains and dependence upon international food aid upto mid-1960s, we are now the largest producers of fresh fruits, milk, pulses, oil seeds and sunflower seeds, second largest producers of wheat, rice, sugarcane, potato, tea, cotton etc in the world. Independent India has taken confident strides on its path to scientific development. India takes pride in its space, nuclear and missile programmes.

A major development in the nation's services sector has been the tele services and Information Technology. Indians have learnt lessons from history very well and focused their energy in developing strong deterrent in the form of their armed forces. Today, India is one of the four largest military powers in the world.

Present Scenario:

In spite of progress in all sectors, still there is a lot of scope for improvement. Country's performance in the six decades has been abysmal. The country is taking its own sweet time to catch up with the developed world. All efforts are frustrated by lopsided strategies and inept implementation of policies.

Population of our country has risen from 36.1 crore in 1951 to 128 crore in 2017. Road traversing from developing to developed nation is still to be covered. As the quit India movement yielded results due to mass participation of all citizens, **Prime Minister's call from Sankalp se Siddhi is the re-incarnation of Quit India.** This has to be a new

movement with mass participation, strong political will power, decisive leadership and resolute action.

Action for New India:

Most commonly, the criterias for evaluating the degree of economic development are gross domestic product, gross national product, the per capita income, level of industrialisation, amount of widespread infrastructure and general standard of living. A nation's strength is built on some fundamental aspects- Economic stability, Agricultural development, Industrial development, capacity to defend itself from internal and external detractors, improvement of human development index, deep rooting of democratic values, scientific temperament and modern approach.

To build the "new India" through, the "reform to transform" approach is the need of the hour. Be it trade or cultural spheres, strength should be derived from the skills & talents of all people of India. The age and advent of smart solutions, smart cities, smart technologies, smart infrastructure, smart transportation, etc., exhibit India's new outlook on development. A clear paradigm shift has come with the launch of the initiatives Make in India, Digital India, Start-up India and others. As a result, India is now standing at the threshold of a major transformation, bringing new opportunities to its 128 crore people. It can provide India with an opportunity to emerge as a global leader and to prove that there can be reconciliation between the economic development and the state of the environment.

Free India had arisen after Quit India movement. Strength of India's common people is enormous. During five years time it should be properly channelised to make India as per the dreams of its **Yuva Shakti, a new India that fulfils aspirations of its Nari Shakti** and a new India giving opportunities to the poor. Reposing faith in the power of the commons will enable our middle class to shine. The strength of the poor and the aspirations of the middle class will take India to new heights.

If we want peace and well-being of our nation, we should not deepen the chasm within and around ourselves. We need to shed this mentality where we mistake agitation for leadership. Bandhs and Rasta Roko are used to bring an occupying force to its knees. The foreign invasion is gone and it is our own nation now. Stopping the country is one kind of talent. Making the country go is another kind of talent. It is the duty of every citizen to ensure that India is a

properly functioning democracy. An elected leader is just a citizen on employment. A nation is not its land and buildings but it is its people. If we as a nation have to rise and be empowered, the foremost thing is to empower the people. Empowerment does not mean just amassing material wealth or technology; it is entirely an inner process.

India has to emerge as a global manufacturing hub, by encouraging both multinational as well as domestic companies to manufacture their products within the country. Initiatives should be aimed to raise the contribution of the manufacturing sector to 25 per cent of the GDP by the year 2022 from its current 16 per cent. Make in India has introduced multiple new initiatives, promoting foreign direct investment, implementing intellectual property rights and developing the manufacturing sector. Four pillars of 'Make in India' initiatives - **New Processes, New Infrastructure, New Sectors, New Mindset** have to be implemented in true spirit. We should make our products which have 'zero defect' and 'zero effect' so that the manufacturing does not have an adverse effect on our environment. We should not only fulfill our domestic demands, but also fill the markets of the world with our quality products.

There is a strong correlation between a high Human Development Index score and a prosperous economy. HDI takes into account how income is turned into education and health opportunities and therefore, into higher levels of human development and quality of life for all. Efforts should be made to ensure quality education and health services to all the citizens. Basic infrastructure - power, water, sanitation, information and communication technologies and roads are mandatory to put the economic progress on the path of development. In 1942, the need of the hour was to free India from colonialism. Today, 75 years later the issues are different. **New India needs to be free from poverty, dirt, corruption, terrorism, casteism, and communalism as quoted by our PM.**

When we introspect the things at micro level, two factors are important to lead this New India movement – **Mindset of citizens and Administratives machineries**. Mindset of citizens need a paradigm shift. Everyone likes cleanliness but in ensuring it, even the literate and aware citizens also do not hesitate to litter the things at public places. For corruption, everyone wants to be called honest but for getting smaller benefits, many of us fall prey to it. Everyone wants others to change and thinks that he will change at the last. There is an urgent and immediate need to change this mindset. There should be zero tolerance for corruption.

Administrative machineries, what is commonly called system, should be placed in perfect way without any scope for loopholes. For example by mindset, we litter the dirt in public places but as we go to some shopping mall or airport, same fellows do not litter because there is so much cleanliness around. So, the government has bigger responsibility to put in place the system in true spirit. We should move from the VIP culture to common culture, from the mindset of "Chalta hai" to "has to be done", from law breaking citizen to law abiding citizen. This mantra is to be followed in New India movement and to be practised by one and all. Quality education and scientific temperament will be the hallmarks of this movement like Satya, Ahinsa and By cott during Quit India movement. Instead of fighting for the petty issues of caste and religion, "nation first approach" should be inculcated amongst all.

Now India stands for development. When we mark 75 years of freedom in 2022, every individual, irrespective of one's responsibility or influence, has to stand up and make it happen. Five years time is sufficient, with the mass participation and decisive leadership, we will be able to make new India.

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Kurukshetra

FORTHCOMING ISSUE

October 2017

: Irrigation and Water Conservation

Sankalp Se Sidhhi : Attainment Through Resolve

SANKALP SE SIDHDI : RESOLVE TO BUILD A NEW INDIA

Sunil Kumar

We must pledge and resolve together today in 2017 to demolish these devils by 2022 the way our forefathers threw away the British rule. In 1942, we fought against a foreign Government but today, we have to fight along with the Government to defeat these evils and Make a New India. Once we could achieve independence from a foreign rule then why can't we free ourselves from all these monsters which are more in our psyche than outside. Remember, together we can. It is possible. Let us do it. let us pledge for it.

The spark of freedom that erupted in 1857 spread like a wild fire and engulfed the whole country. By 1942, it had reached its zenith with the Quit India movement. Every Indian pledged to 'Do or Die' and resolved to root out the foreign rule at any cost. The British were forced to bow down and grant us the freedom within five years of that resolution, and at the dawn of August 15, 1947, the sub-continent tasted the nectar of freedom.

But freedom comes with the responsibility. Responsibility to carry forward the dreams of our forefathers and freedom fighters who kissed the gallows to gift us a **free and fair** India. Today we have crossed 70 years of independence and celebrating the diamond jubilee of 'Quit India movement' (1942). This is time to reflect. We need to sit and contemplate how close (or far) we are, think and

figure out what role we, as individuals, have in this collective endeavour of nation building.

Our Prime Minister, while addressing the nation on 15th August, from ramparts of the Red Fort, called upon the citizens to come forward and '**resolve to build a New India**'. Drawing analogy with Quit India movement, he said that every Indian should make a resolve for building a new India by 2022. These **five years from 2017 to 2022** should be as decisive as were the five years of freedom struggle from 1942 to 1947. So, let us come and take a '**Sankalp**' (resolve) to attain (**Siddhi**) following goals by 2022.

1. **Corruption:** India has been ranked 79th among 176 countries in the Corruption Perception Index-2016 released by the transparency international. Even without this index, every Indian is well aware of the fact that the bribes are the norms of the

SANKALP SE SIDHDI
NEW INDIA MOVEMENT (2017-2022)

NEW INDIA PLEDGE

Let us together pledge for a New India. In 1942, our freedom fighters had taken a pledge of 'Quit India' and in 1947, India achieved independence. Come, let us together pledge for building a New India by 2022.

Let us together pledge towards a **Clean India**.
Let us together pledge towards a **Poverty-free India**.
Let us together pledge towards a **Corruption-free India**.
Let us together pledge towards a **Terrorism-free India**.
Let us together pledge towards a **Communalism-free India**.
Let us together pledge towards a **Castelism-free India**.

tell us your idea of a New India and much more on <http://newindia.as>

day in many government offices. This corruption not only stymies the nation's progress, but also deprives the most deprived of their basic entitlements. The government is taking a number of steps to uproot this 'institutionalised' form of corruption. Demonetisation was one such bold move against the black money. Similarly, this Government is leveraging the technology to bring in more transparency in the system. Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) through JAM trinity (Jan-Dhan, Aadhar, Mobile) are plugging the leakages in welfare schemes benefiting the millions of poor. Several legislative reforms have also been undertaken such as – Goods and Services Tax, Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act etc. These steps would certainly bring in more transparency in the system. As citizens, let us come forward and contribute our bit in this fight against corruption and help fulfill the dreams our freedom fighters dreamt of.

2. **Casteism:** The most inhuman thing, if any, has happened in the society is the hatred among the humans. How despicable is it that one human hates fellow human just because of his/her caste. Well aware of the fact how big a barrier casteism was to the national integration, our freedom fighters always worked against this evil. They emphasized that all humans are born equal and free. They are interdependent for their worldly needs. If one produces grains in his fields then another is making his plough. If one is guarding the borders then the other is making his shoes. If one is king then another is stitching his gown or crown. If one is invoking the gods then another is cleaning his toilets. In the wheel of life, all are equal and important.

But sadly in our society, especially in rural areas, prejudices and biases continue till day. The unequal social hierarchy makes some born superior whereas others face lifelong humiliation for no fault of theirs. It's very easy to debate on this but very difficult to experience it. Mahatma Gandhi had waged a lifelong battle against untouchability. It was made a crime by our constitution. Despite that, it continues to be practiced even today. Even today, we find different wells for different castes in many villages. Newspapers keep printing the stories of mid day meals cooked by dalits not being eaten by children in schools. Now when the whole world is shrinking into a global village with new technologies, we can't remain mute

spectators. We must unite and come together to root out this evil of casteism to make a caste free society where there will not be any hatred; where everyone will respect each other; where everyone will be free to choose any profession; where the profession will not be a birth right but a matter of choice. That will be the free and fair India our forefathers had dreamt of. That would be an equal India and hence, a united and more powerful India.

3. **Poverty:** Even after 70 years of freedom, ratio of the poor and malnourished remains disproportionately high. According to World Bank, India accounted for the largest number of people living below international poverty line in 2013. Also, surveys show that ratio of stunted children in India is close to 40 per cent. These statistics are a blot on our country's image internationally. It is very painful to see a family struggling for three meals and dying of malnutrition. What is one striving for? The most basic needs i.e. *Roti* (bread), *Kapda* (cloth), and *Makan* (shelter), isn't it? While the governments are making efforts on all these fronts, we all as citizens also have to share some responsibility. Shouldn't our conscience ask us why anyone in the country sleeps hungry? If each one of us takes the moral responsibility of educating & helping at least one person, then poverty can be eradicated within five years.
4. **Filth:** If we see around us, we find everywhere filth of plastic, polythene, blocked sewerage lines, open defecation, improper waste disposal and what not. India is becoming a big dustbin. It's because 90 per cent of Indians think that cleanliness is someone else's job. This attitude gets started at home when only person responsible for cleaning is mother, and outside home, it is some sweeper's job to clean, not yours. Government is promoting cleanliness in a big way through '**Swachh Bharat Mission**'. But, even after having toilets constructed at homes, increasing their usage is a challenge now. One major factor for this is that cleaning of toilets in India is associated with some particular castes. This attitude needs to change. We find even educated people with all the posh life style throwing used bottles and packets out of their cars. There can not better tribute than an open defecation free India to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary in 2019. But for that,

each and everyone of us will have to take the responsibility for making a clean India.

5. **Terrorism:** India is third largest terror target after Iraq and Afghanistan. Out of 11,072 terror attacks in 2016 worldwide, India bore the brunt of 927. Terrorism in India has many forms such as ethno-nationalist terrorism, religious terrorism, left wing terrorism and Norco terrorism. Though 'Unity in Diversity' is India's strength but many unresolved political, territorial, religious and cultural issues create strife and tension in the peace loving and coexisting masses. This situation is exacerbated by cross border support to terror activities from some neighbouring countries. Security agencies are fighting this menace effectively but citizen participation is a must for defeating terrorism completely. Alert citizens can help by informing police about suspicious objects and persons. Further, every citizen has a role to play in building an inclusive society. A society, where no community or individual feels discriminated or sidelined; no one feels deprived of his just rights. In such a just and fair society, evil designs of our cross-border enemies are bound to fail.
6. **Communalism:** Ours is a secular country; but most diverse at the same time. Diverse in languages, religions, costumes, customs and ethnicity. In spite of a tolerant nature of our society, this diversity at times creates pulls and pressures on our social fabric often resulting in communal violence. This feeling of communalism, no doubt, is a great danger for the future of our nation. Solution to this problem lies in promoting the true spirit of '**Unity in Diversity**'. Everyone should understand that this is not one person's country but a country of billion people. They all have equal rights over it. Fight for freedom was fought by people from all communities and all regions. Now, after 75 years of the August Kranti, let's come together and **pledge for a 'Communalism free India'**.
7. **Equal Opportunities for Women:** Indian constitution grants equal rights for men and women. But in reality, woman is second rated. There are innumerable cases of domestic violence registered in police stations everyday, while many go unreported. Newspapers are full of news related to eve teasing, rapes and murders. Females are silent sufferers in the

male dominating society with patriarchal attitudes. Gender discrimination in boy and girl is apparent from the very beginning. A society or country can progress and prosper when it's half the populace is discriminated and violated. Government has launched several initiatives for women empowerment such as '**Beti Bachao – Beti Padhao**' which focus on bringing attitudinal changes among masses. It's our duty to contribute in this endeavour and make India a safer and better place for the women.

Other Issues:

Drug Abuse: India, right now, is a youthful nation. Youth is considered synonymous with energy and change. But if the same youth is losing life and health fast as drug abuse is increasing drastically. Families are ruined, parents are crying, crimes are on rise, health is spoiled and students are dropping out of schools. Community participation is paramount to solve this crisis. All aware persons must come forward for this cause and save the youth from falling in prey to this.

Pollution: Traditional Indian life has always had a close relation with nature. But, with rising living standards, lifestyle has changed. This has caused and is causing environmental degradation. Nothing can better illustrate this than NGT's recent order banning certain types of polythene bags. Today, all the major rivers and major cities are polluted. Along with Government efforts, active support from citizen is a must for protecting the environment. So let's pledge to make India pollution free as well.

Conclusion: The above discussed half a dozen devils along with *chalta hai, kuchh nahi hoga* (nothing would happen), it's not my job, and the feudal-mentality is still ruling our psyche and society. We must **pledge and resolve together today in 2017 to demolish these devils by 2022** the way our forefathers threw away the British rule. In 1942, we fought against a foreign Government but today, we have to fight along with the Government to defeat these evils and **Make a New India**. Once we could achieve independence from a foreign rule then why can't we free ourselves from all these monsters which are more in our psyche than outside. Remember, **together we can**. It is possible. Let us do it..... let us pledge for it.

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