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YOJANA

JUNE 2017

A DEVELOPMENT MONTHLY

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Empowering Youth

Indian Youth: Emerging Power

A.K. Dubey

Job Creation: Challenges & Way Forward

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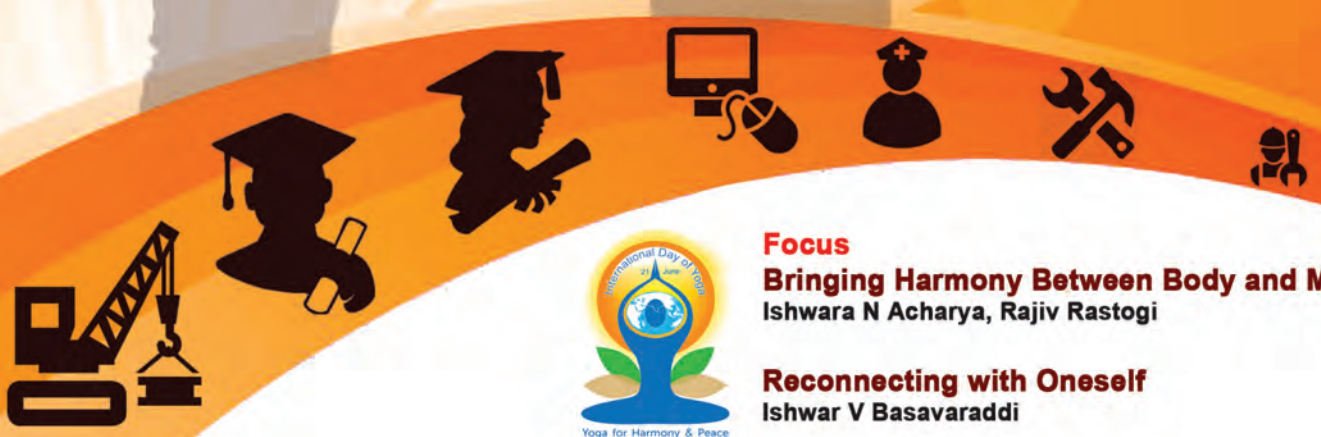
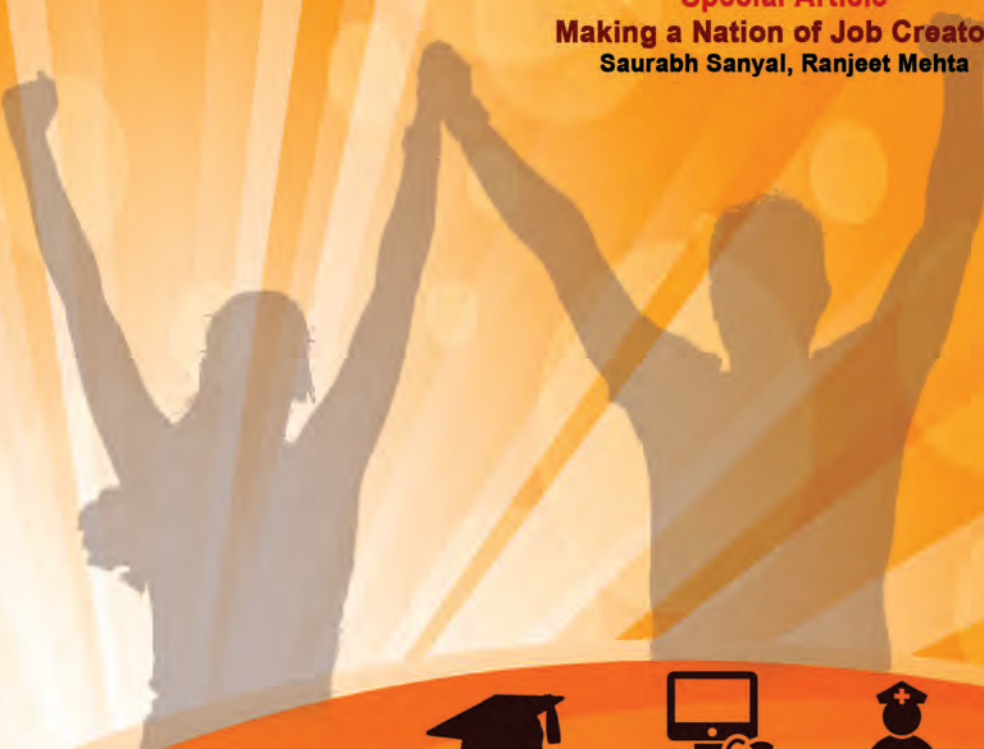
Youth: A Change Agent

Sunita Sanghi

Special Article

Making a Nation of Job Creators

Saurabh Sanyal, Ranjeet Mehta



Focus

Bringing Harmony Between Body and Mind
Ishwara N Acharya, Rajiv Rastogi

Reconnecting with Oneself
Ishwar V Basavaraddi

UDAN - Giving Regional Connectivity A Big Boost

The Regional Connectivity Scheme for civil aviation - UDAN was launched by the Prime Minister on April 27, 2017, by flagging off the first UDAN flight on the Shimla- Delhi sector from Shimla airport. Under this scheme, flights have been launched from Shimla, Nanded and Kadapa airports. The Prime Minister simultaneously also flagged off the inaugural UDAN flights on Kadapa – Hyderabad and Nanded-Hyderabad sectors.

UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) is the scheme of the Ministry of Civil Aviation to make air travel accessible to

citizens in the Tier -2 and Tier 3 cities. The UDAN Scheme is a key component of the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) which was released by the Ministry of Civil Aviation on June 15, 2016. The scheme is expected to spur economic growth in the hinterland, end the monopoly of the elite air services, and make air travel affordable to young professionals, small businessmen and students belonging to the vast middle class living in these small cities and towns. The UDAN Scheme was developed through extensive consideration of various issues and consultations with stakeholders. This is a first-of-its-kind scheme globally to stimulate regional connectivity through a market-based mechanism.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI), the implementing agency, have issued Letter of Awards for 27 proposals received under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN. Key features of the proposals awarded by AAI include:

- 27 currently served airports, 12 currently underserved airports and 31 currently unserved airports (for a total of 70 airports) will be connected.
- There is a good geographical spread in the proposals. 24 airports in the west, 17 in the north, 11 in the south, 12 in the east and 6 in the north-eastern regions of the country are proposed to be connected.
- 16 awarded proposals are for single routes (connecting two cities) and 11 are for networks (connecting three or more cities). Six proposals have been bid with zero viability gap funding (VGF) reflecting the fact that there is potential latent demand.
- 27 proposals will require a VGF of around Rs. 200 crores and will provide around 6.5 lakh RCS seats.

The airfare for a one hour journey of appx. 500 km on a fixed wing aircraft or for a 30 minute journey on a helicopter would be capped at Rs. 2,500, with proportionate pricing for routes of different stage lengths and flight duration. The selected airline operator would have to provide 50 per cent of the flight capacity (subject to a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 40) as RCS (Regional Connectivity Scheme) Seats for operations through fixed wing aircraft and a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 13 RCS Seats on the RCS Flights for operations through helicopters. They would be given a three years exclusivity of operations. To reduce the cost of operations of airlines on flying such routes, a financial stimulus in the form of concessions from Central and State government, airport operators and the Viability Gap Funding to the interested airlines would be provided to kick-off operations from such airports, so that the passenger fares are kept affordable. State Government will provide a certain share of VGF (20 per cent for States other than North-East States where the ratio will be 10 per cent of VGF determined).





June 2017

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Since 1956 A DEVELOPMENT MONTHLY

*Let noble thoughts come to us from all sides
Rig Veda*

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Chief Editor's Desk

Youth: Hope for future

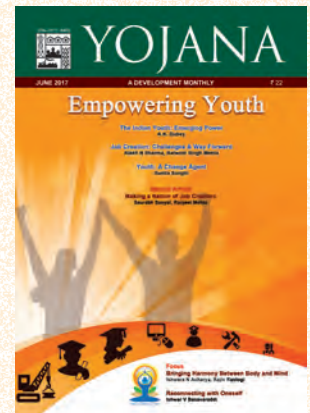
The Youth of a Nation are the trustees of posterity. While most of the developed world is moving towards a nation of ageing population, India is poised to be the youngest country in the world by 2020. This young force, which also constitutes nearly 40 per cent of the total population of India, is the most vibrant and dynamic segment and also the country's most valuable human resource. India's demographic dividend has become the talk of economists and policy planners the world over. As the future of the nation, youth have a tremendous role to play in nation building. Their creative potential coupled with their enthusiasm, energy and versatility can work wonders for any country.

As engineers, doctors, lawyers, bankers, entrepreneurs, sports persons, youth have the potential to lead the nation in all sectors. The need is to empower them with correct guidance and resources to grow and contribute to development. A conducive home environment where the child can grow healthy and get a good education is the first step in this direction. Right to Education Act 2009 has been one of the defining moments to ensure this. Sarva Shiksha Abhyan, e-pathshala, UDAAN etc are key programmes of government to provide quality education at all levels. Hilly, far flung and remote areas of the country where accessibility to good education is a problem, distance education plays an important part. The value of distance education in reaching learning to our young people is now being recognised. Technology is being used to provide better access to education through several programmes like GIAN, SWAYAM and National Digital Library.

This educated youth however needs to be equipped with necessary skill sets for specific jobs. A routine school/college education may not ensure jobs for the young people, especially in today's competitive and highly technological world. The need is for appropriate and adequate skill development and training which can convert this force into the largest source of technically skilled manpower. The Skill India Mission launched by the government is one of the initiatives which goes a long way in assisting youth to upgrade their skills according to the demands of the employment market. The Mission aims to skill over 40 crore people by 2022 and enhance their employability by training them in skill sets of their choice. There are also distance education courses which teach skill development under the programme.

At the end of the day, empowering youth is all about gainful employment. A nation of young people without employment can be a drag on the economy and threat to the society. The recent thrust of the government therefore has been to encourage start ups through Start up India and Stand up India programmes. MUDRA, SETU, AIM (Atal Innovation Mission) are some of the programmes proposed to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Youth are the pillars of nation building. It is in their hands lies the power to change destiny. Any country that strives to change it's destiny, must have ways and means to tap the energy and ambitions of this wonderful resource. Franklin Roosevelt had once said, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."



ECONOMICS AT ITS BEST

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2015 CSE RESULTS			
Madhvi Mishra	IAS	2015	62 nd Rank
Smriti Mishra	IRS	2015	435 th Rank
Nupur Panna	IAS	2015	764 th Rank

2014 AND BEFORE CSE RESULTS			
Gaurav Agrawal	IAS	2014	1 st Rank
Ashima Jain	IAS	2007	7 th Rank
Neeraj Kumar	IAS	2011	11 th Rank
Debasweta Banik	IAS	2014	14 th Rank
Chinmayee Gopal	IAS	2014	16 th Rank
Tarvi Hooda	IAS	2014	33 rd Rank
Surabhi Malik	IAS	2011	51 st Rank
Nitin Singhania	IAS	2011	51 st Rank
Rajan Vishal	IAS	2007	60 th Rank
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Shaveta Dhankhad	IPS	2006	109 th Rank
Narender	IPS	2007	155 th Rank
Neeju Gupta	IRS	2008	221 st Rank
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Nandesh Shukla	IRS	2006	238 th Rank
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IES Rankers

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Alok Kr. Yadav	-	JRF
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Aswathy Nair	-	NET
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UGC JRF JUNE 2015

Kajod Meena	-	JRF
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UGC JRF BEFORE JUNE 2015

Kanika Dua	-	JRF
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Nupur	-	JRF
Harsh	-	NET
Kajod Meena	-	NET
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Indian Youth : Emerging Power

A K Dubey



In order to meaningfully avail of this demographic dividend, it is essential that the youth are put in a circle of generating beneficial output and constructive inputs. Youth, as a potential power to help India on the global scale has to be backed by a substantial policy orientation and support

The term ‘Youth’ as defined by the UNESCO – is “best understood as a period of transition from the dependence on childhood to adulthood’s independence and awareness of our independence as members of a community. Youth is a more fluid category than a fixed age group”.

As per the Annual Report of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (Department of Youth Affairs), 2016-17, the youth make up to be the most enthusiastic segment for any institution for governance. Due to their vibrant and dynamic approach, ‘India’ comes across as a young nation with nearly 65 per cent of its population falling under the rough age bracket of “under 35”, thus making it a largely young nation. The Annual Report estimates that by the year 2020, India would have a median age of 28 years as compared to the 38 years of other South Asian nations and China. The Indian population under the age group of 15-29, comprises 27.5 of the total population, giving India a favorable demographic profile.

In order to meaningfully avail of this demographic dividend, it is essential that the youth are put in a circle of generating beneficial output and constructive inputs. Youth, as a potential power to help India on the global scale has to be backed by a substantial policy orientation and

support. The youth are not a ready laboratory to test the finished by-products of the state apparatus. Rather, they are the variables that should be utilized for creating new opportunities based on the skills of contemporary relevance.

As Michael Greene in his work titled ‘Youth as active agents of social change’ puts, “The ever expanding and influential movement of positive youth development, it is a focus on the strengths and interests rather than redemption as a means to address deficits and a shift from problem focused approach to problem solving approach”.

With an array of social, political or civil movements, the youth have been at the centre of activities. From the LGBTQ movement to the ‘equal right for women’ and from environmental concerns to humans rights – the youth have been at the centre of activities encompassing multifarious arenas in public life and often act as a workable pressure group. In order to have their expansive interest and concerns manifested, the new media tools have been both continuously and extensively exploited so that Media/social media puts forward, debates and circulates the popular opinion. The new media tools not only help in the formation of idea, these also help in collaboration

The author is Secretary, Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India. He has worked in various capacities in Government of Kerala and Government of India. He has been writing on various issues in professional journals such as Indian Journal of Public Administration, Indian Journal of Social Work, Journal of Rural Development, Kurukshetra and subject specific volumes.

and communication of an idea and eventually help in validating it with mass acceptance. The reason why youth should be at the core of economic/socially meaningful actions is its innate ability to adapt to the ever-changing societal dynamics.

The youth can act ideally as a bridge between two generations. It is an age cohort that, if explained properly, can understand the need of flexibility in order to smoothen its own growth and development. Ideological rigidities and mindless aping of the western culture – these extremes would not have any positive impact on the nation in the long run. The youth today understands that, absoluteness or autonomy alone will not offer solutions to all the problems. It has to be done in accordance with a close intertwining of units that would culminate into a working whole. Youth are basically the catalyst of new social thinking, economic development and political activity.

The youth today are in a position that they can receive the best of experience and the test of spirit, mixing it in proportion for meaningful purpose especially against the background with the plurality of practice of exclusion within the Indian democratic paradigm.

The thing that hammers the wall of a rigid social system is the spirit of logic and argument and exploration, as used by the youth. The young today are no longer so rigid in matters of inter-dining and inter-community marriage. They are questioning the derogatory and insensitive approach to fellow humans without basing them on the lines of caste, class, race or gender. Though this is not on a large scale, still small steps have been firmly taken in the right direction.

One of the most crucial factors that help youth in finding roots is the use of, and emphasis on technology. Government's efforts to advocate digitalization with associated moves and concepts like cashless economy and digital India – technology is



emerging as an effective option in all efforts to address the issues of the economy. Technology as we know and interact within our day to day lives is a positive means of advancements. Technology has helped mankind achieve seemingly impossible feats and we look at conquering new milestones each day. Technology has also been used for the betterment of lives – more so in the developing nations.

The digital environment in India has empowered the youth to stand up to the world in a more consolidated manner. It leads to faster communication, quicker learning and also links two geographically distant places on a common platform. It acts as a collection of likeminded ideas and then works out on possible solutions and results. At the touch of a button, we can share ideas, consult, collaborate and articulate the thoughts and action. Technology is more than what meets the eye. A student can have a highway of study materials and apply for institutions that have specialized study centres. Technology has enabled equal opportunities; at least in matters of accessibility and it is again to the credit of youth that they have been in the forefront of learning and adaptation of new technological options.

The biggest achievement of the youth and technology co-option can be said to be risk taking spirit and

the rise of start-ups. With more and more targeted and specific skill honing initiatives, the start-ups have broken the hegemonic nature of the handful of elite to initiate enterprises and provide services. The sheer grit of youth, coupled with technology has made entrepreneurship universally accessible.

The government, through its specialized Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sports has constantly looked and re-looked at development and advancement aspects for the substantial and beneficial growth of the Indian youth. It, alongside regular reviews, has also been coming out with new initiatives/programmes and workshops on issues concerning the youth for regular training and lifestyle/ leadership skills.

According to the Annual Report 2016-17, “The National Youth Policy, 2014 reiterates the commitment of the entire nation to the all round development of youth of India so that they can realize their full potential and contribute productively to the nation building process.

“The National Youth Policy 2014 proposes a holistic vision for the youth of India, which is to empower youth of the country to achieve their full potential and through them enable India to find its rightful place in the community of nations”.

The objectives and priority areas under National Youth Policy 2014 are-

- (i) Creating a productive workforce that can make a sustainable contribution to India's economic development.

The priority areas for this are

- Education
 - Entrepreneurship
 - Employment and skill development
- (ii) Develop a strong, healthy generation equipped to take on future generations. To be operated through
 - Health – healthy lifestyle
 - Sports
 - (iii) Instil social values and promote community service to build rational ownership – operative tools are
 - Promotion of social values
 - Community engagements
 - (iv) Facilitate participation and civic engagements at all centres of governance to be operated through
 - participation in politics and governance
 - youth engagement
 - (v) Support youth at risk and create equitable opportunities for all disadvantaged and marginalized youth. The priority areas being Inclusion and Social Justice.

The current government has undertaken multifarious programmes that invite participation and facilitate an overall holistic development of the youth. For example, the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan has been mandated for developing and engaging youth in nation building activities. The National Service Scheme (NSS) develops the morale and humanistic personality through voluntary social service.

There also exists the 'National Programmes for Youth and Adolescent Development'. It is also accompanied by National youth festivals and awards to facilitate and encourage the young.



As per 2011 census, approximately 41 per cent of the Indian population is below the age of 20 years. This age bar is the most crucial in the aspect of personality development – for it rests heavily on right guidance, orientation and directions. The young today have sadly been subjected to the ill-effects of fast growing urban sutures and are drawn to crimes even to maintain a living. A major reason for this negative outlook is the disparity between availability and accessibility. While, there may be programmes and initiatives undertaken by the government – the method or means to avail of them has not been easy. Dominant hurdles in accessing these facilities are the 'financial constraints' or the 'social structure'. Also, prominent reason for the unawareness of youth crisis, and mechanism to counter it – has been in the failure of the concern being accommodated at a wider academic panel. The academia has not been fully sensitive and welcoming to the 'on growing crisis of youth identity', it's capable potential and worthy contribution that can be put to plural benefits with a mere inclusion of the inter-disciplinary approach in imparting education. There is an urgent need to recognize, accept and appreciate the working of a young mind. This recognition has to be substantially different from the strict and rigid mindset of expectations from the youth. Rather, the concern is to bring out variables that are considered important for the youth by

means of dialogue and other initiatives. Apart from the widely acclaimed and practiced NSS and there exist more specialized programmes under NYKS that seek to solve problems with multiple solutions.

As per the Ministry Annual Report-2016-17, for the successful working of the National Youth Policy, 2014, alongside the priority areas of its operation, there also is a list of suggested interventions. Significantly enriching them include -

- Building system capacity and quality in education.
- Targeting youth outreach and awareness –building link across systems and stakeholders in employment and skill development.
- Meeting customized programmes in entrepreneurship.
- Improving service delivery in the health sector.

The RYSK now aims to provide a more holistic and overall development as it now operates in an interdisciplinary approach rather than a compartmentalized one.

Some of the important initiatives of the government are mentioned below-

1. **Skill up gradation Training program (SUTP):** It aims to develop vocational training

skill with the help of trained masters to help generate extra income and boost self confidence.

This programme also aims to recognize the local need and thus imparts vocational training.

2. **Promotion of Folk Art, Culture and Yuva Kriti :** With the generation x obsessed about the west – this programme comes as the much needed task master to provide opportunity to the rural youth to showcase and promote their culture and talent.
3. **Mahatma Gandhi Yuva Swachta Abhiyaan and Shramdaan Karyakram** to alert and engage the youth in contributing to the cleanliness drive and water conservation.

Following the disparity across the nation and inadequate participation, few inclusive programmes have highlighted the government's good intention and emphasis on social inclusion and inclusive growth policy. Important among them are:

(4) **Life Skill Training for adolescents (Empowerment for Adolescents):**

This is an important and major initiative for it highlights the psychological derailment of the youth, and training youth in a manner that enables them to cope with the pressure and make healthy life choices. This scheme also aims to sensitize and make aware the adolescent about reproductive sexual health, the issues and concerns. It aims to draw a consensus by pooling their potential for problem solving.

Bridging the geographical and

social barriers-Two programmes can be highlighted.

(i) **Tribal Youth Exchange Programme (TYEP):** The aim is to pick up potential youth from the left wing extremism affected tribal belt and tour them to other parts of the nation. It enables them to develop and nationalize their mind set without the influence of a dominant local ideology. TYEP also provides an opportunity where learning by experience may be put into practice in respective tribal home towns whose youth have seen the magic of development; infrastructural growth and skill development.

(ii) **The North-East Youth Exchange Programme:** Under the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan in a joint effort with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs, aims at a collaboration of North Eastern Youth with the Youth of Maharashtra to develop an understanding of socio-economic development and ethos of culturally diverse lifestyle.

In the first of its kind, a milestone achievement Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu saw the establishment of "An Institute of National Importance" developed under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

By the virtue of enactment Act 2012- The Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development was established. It aims to establish itself as "a globally recognized and acclaimed centre of academic excellence in the field of Youth Development"

It offers various academic programmes mainly post graduate degrees

in M.Sc. In Counseling psychology, M.A. in Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, M.A Gender studies and M.A. in development policy and practice etc. it also makes available the facility of pursuing doctoral degree, pertaining to the subject concerning the youth in an interdisciplinary manner.

With the idea to provide an economically feasible, socially trusted and easily available accommodation- the government has stationed various Youth Hostels centered across cities located at historically and culturally rich places, among city centres and tourist destinations- equipped with full power and water supply, it aims to provide a living experience of the nationwide diverse culture and interaction by providing an accessible accommodation.

The government through its various means has tried its best to bring out the potential and capability of each individual youth, that not only helps in personality development but foster an emerging national global dominant voice. The transforming youth shall be the torch bearers of a much sensitized, conscious and harmonious world.

To conclude on the importance of the youth and its indomitable spirit- Swami Vivekanand's words shall shine bright and true – **"Arise! Awake! And Stop not until the goal is achieved"**.

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PM on Youth

Excerpts from Mann ki Baat

- ❖ Summer vacations feel good inspite of scorching heat. But as a friend, I want to suggest you certain tips about how to utilize your vacation... Try to experience something that you have neither heard before , nor seen, nor thought of and yet there is a curiosity in your mind. You must try new places, new experiences and new skills. ..I will urge you to try to experience and satiate your curiosity on any subject during this vacation. Try a new experiment. The experiment must be positive and a little out of your comfort zone.
- ❖ Friends, dreams of making it big in life is a good thing, it is good to have some purpose in life, and you must achieve your goals. But also self-evaluate whether the human element within yourself is getting frustrated, are we not moving away from our human qualities.
- ❖ Can't a little emphasis be given on this aspect in Skill development? Get away from technology, and try to spend some time with yourself. Learn a musical instrument or learn a few sentences of a new language... This is a country full of diversity and if you look, then there can be someone who can teach us something new just around the corner. If you don't know how to swim, then learn swimming, try doing some drawing, even if you do not end up making the best drawing, try to practice putting hand to the paper! ... all these new experiments, these skills are such that they will bring you joy and will remove you from the limitations of life to which you're tied down.
- ❖ Do something out of the box, my Friends. This is the only time to make something of your life. And if you think that after appearing in all exams, at a new threshold of your career you will learn some new skill, then you won't get a chance.... Try to know about things about which you have no prior knowledge, it will definitely benefit you. Your inner human potential will awaken and this will provide a great opportunity for development.
- ❖ The new generation is more or less freeing itself from the shackles of cash. It does not need cash. It has begun adopting digital currency. I know you do it, but have you ever wondered that you can earn using this very scheme? It is a scheme of the Government of India. You must be downloading the BHIM App and using it. But do refer it to others; make others join you in that..... You'll become a sentinel of New India. The joy of a vacation coupled with income ! Refer and earn.

Performance of Key Infrastructure Sectors Reviewed

Progress of key infrastructure sectors including petroleum and natural gas, power, renewable energy and housing was reviewed recently by the Prime Minister. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana has benefited 1.98 crore BPL households so far. The contribution of gas to the primary energy mix has risen to 8 per cent. 81 cities are being covered under City Gas Distribution networks.

The rural electrification programme is proceeding swiftly, with over 13,000 villages electrified out of a total of 18,452, and is on track for completion within the targeted 1000 days. Over 22 lakh rural BPL households were electrified in 2016-17, and over 40 crore LED bulbs were distributed in the same period. The total inter-regional transmission capacity has been significantly enhanced, with 41 GigaWatts transmission capacity being added from May 2014 to April 2017. The total renewable generation capacity has crossed 57 GigaWatts, with an increase of 24.5 per cent being registered in the last fiscal year. The capacity addition in solar energy in FY17 was the highest-ever, at 81per cent. Solar and wind tariffs have now achieved grid parity, with rates well below 4 rupees per Kilowatt-Hour. Under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana. IT and space-based applications are being extensively used to monitor progress of the scheme. Over 32 lakh houses have been completed in rural areas in FY17.

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Job Creation: Challenges & Way Forward

*Alakh N Sharma
Balwant Singh Mehta*



The government initiatives are in desired direction. However, much more needs to be done. Employment creation needs to be part of macro and other economic policies. Indian economy has not created enough jobs and to accelerate the process of job creation, different ministries need to include job creation in all their programmes and policies

India has the world's largest youth population comprising around one-fifth of the total world youth population. Indian youth can contribute to higher economic growth if properly absorbed in the labour market. More than half (60.3 per cent) of India's population falls within the 'working' age category of 15-59 years and about a quarter (27.5 per cent) in the 'youth' category of 15-29 years (Census of India, 2011). The youth population in India has grown at a higher rate annually (2 per cent) compared to overall rate of growth of population (1.6 per cent) between 2001 and 2011. India, as a result, adds around 10 million young people to the labour market every year. Thus, the country is experiencing a youth bulge which is much more pronounced in the northern and eastern backward states of the country. However, the number of jobs created each year is inadequate to absorb this growing population of youth in the labour market. The Indian government has introduced a number of employment generation schemes to address this problem, such as, Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Swaranajayanti Gram Swarozgar

Yojna (SGSY), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojna (SJSRY), 'Make in India' and 'Skill India'. This short paper delineates the dimensions of the challenge of youth employment in the country and provides an overview of the measures being undertaken by the government. The data used in this paper are sourced from the fifth annual employment survey undertaken by the Labour Bureau of the Government of India, 2015-16. While, generally youth population comprises persons aged 15-29 years, in this paper we consider persons in the age group of 18-29 years. This is because only a small number of persons belonging to the age group of 15-17 years report themselves in the labour market. The challenge of employment thus largely concerns the youth aged 18-29 years.

Worker Participation Rate

Worker Participation Rate (WPR) denotes the proportion of workers/employed persons to total population. In 2015-16, WPR for the youth was 39.2 as against WPR of 57.3 for the older age group of 30 years and above (Table 1). This is expected as a significant proportion of persons belonging to 18-29 years also attend educational institutions. It can also

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be seen from Table 1 that WPR in rural areas is much higher than in urban areas. Further, WPR is around 3.5 times higher for young males compared to young females aged 18-29 years.

Around two-fifth of the workers aged 18-29 years were self-employed, as against around half for the workers above age of 30 years (Table 2). It can also be inferred from Table 2 that more and more youth are joining the labour market as regular and casual wage workers. This trend is visible in both rural and urban areas.

Industrial Distribution

The industrial distribution of workers shows that the majority of persons in the age category of 18-29 years were employed in agriculture and allied activities (38.1 per cent) followed by trade, hotel and restaurant (19.4 per cent), construction (15.1 per cent), manufacturing (13.1 per cent) and other services. A comparison with the older age group of 30 years and above shows that younger people are joining

non-agricultural sectors such as construction, manufacturing and trade and related activities in greater numbers. This shift from agriculture is largely due to the fact that agriculture is not able to absorb more labour and because it does not offer remunerative jobs for the young entrants in the labour market who have better educational achievements.

Unemployment Rate

Unemployment rate is the proportion of persons who were available for work but did not get work and are still seeking work. The unemployment rate for the youth belonging aged 18-29 years during 2015-16 was 13.2 per cent (Table 3), which was more than 8 times the unemployment rate of workers aged 30+ years (1.6 per cent). The unemployment rate for young females in the youth category was 20.0 per cent which is almost double



that of young males (11.3 per cent). Unemployment is higher in urban than in rural areas and for females compared to males. The unemployment rate among young females in urban areas is alarmingly high at 28 per cent (for young males it was 11.5 per cent). It is also important to note that although only a small proportion of young people belonging to age group of 15-17 years seek employment, the incidence of unemployment for this age group is as high as that of persons aged 18-29 years. The situation is similar for rural and urban areas as well as males and females.

Table 1 Work Participation Rate (UPS) by Age Group, 2015-16

Sector	15-17 years			18-29 years			30+ years		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
Rural	11.1	4.3	8.0	63.1	19.1	42.3	89.0	29.8	60.1
Urban	4.0	1.4	2.8	48.6	11.8	30.7	82.6	16.7	50.4
Total	9.3	3.6	6.7	59.3	17.1	39.2	87.1	26.0	57.3

Source: Labour Bureau, Report on Youth Employment and Unemployment Scenario, Vol II, 2015-16, Government of India

Note: UPS – Usual Principal Status; M-Male, F-Female, P-Persons.

Table 2 Activity Wise distribution of workers (UPS) by different age groups, 2015-16

	15-17 Years			18-29 Years			30 Years & above		
	R	U	R+U	R	U	R+U	R	U	R+U
Self Employed	40.8	30.9	39.7	40.5	33.3	39.0	51.2	43.4	49.2
Wage/ Salaried employee	5.1	18.9	6.5	14.1	37.6	19.0	10.5	33.8	16.5
Contract Worker	3.6	7.7	4.0	4.6	8.4	5.4	2.4	4.9	3.0
Casual Worker	50.6	42.6	49.7	40.8	20.7	36.6	35.9	17.9	31.0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Labour Bureau, Report on Youth Employment and Unemployment Scenario, Vol II, 2015-16, Government of India

Note: R-Rural, U-Urban

Table 3 Activity wise distribution of workers (UPS) by different age groups, 2015-16

Industry	15-17 Years	18-29 Years	30+ Years
Agriculture & allied	53.4	38.1	47.2
Mining & Quarrying	1.9	0.9	1.1
Manufacturing	14.5	13.2	9.6
Electricity, gas and Water Supply	0.2	0.6	0.6
Construction	14.8	15.1	10.0
Trade, Hotels and Restaurants	12.2	19.4	17.5
Transport, Storage and Communication	1.1	3.7	3.9
Financial, insurance, real estate and business services	1.4	8.3	9.2
Community, social and personal services	0.6	0.7	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Report on Youth Employment and Unemployment Scenario, Vol II, 2015-16

Unemployment among educated youth is becoming increasingly more acute as the level of unemployment among youth rises with increase in the level of education (Table 4). Unemployment is 23 per cent among youth having a certificate course at undergraduate level or having diploma at graduate level, which increases to around 35 per cent for those who complete their graduate degree and above. It is also important to note that educated young females have significantly higher unemployment

levels as compared to their male counterparts.

More than one-third of educated females aged 18-29 years, having completed certificate course or diploma degrees at undergraduate and graduate levels are unemployed. The situation is acute for young women who are graduate and above – the unemployment rate in this category is around 48 per cent. This means that the Indian labour market is not only creating inadequate jobs, but

that discrimination prevails against females in recruitment and hiring practices in the labour market. An additional reason can be that jobs suitable for women are not being created or there is a lack of suitable infrastructure facilities, such as, transport, crèche facilities etc which could facilitate women's access to jobs. As a whole, it is clear that India has not been able to create enough jobs for its young people. The challenge in case of urban young females is particularly high.

Table 4 Unemployment Rate (UPS) by Age Group, 2015-16

Sector	15-17 years			18-29 years			30+ years		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
Rural	18.4	22.8	19.5	11.2	17.9	12.7	0.9	3.7	1.6
Urban	22.1	21.4	22.0	11.5	27.9	15.1	0.7	5.3	1.5
Total	18.8	22.7	19.8	11.3	20.0	13.2	0.9	4.0	1.6

Source: Labour Bureau, Report on Youth Employment and Unemployment Scenario, Vol II, 2015-16, Government of India

Table 5 Unemployment Rate by Education level and Age Group (UPS), 2015-16

Education	18-29 years			30+ years		
	M	F	P	M	F	P
Not Literate	4.0	6.2	4.9	0.6	3.0	2.2
Below Primary	4.8	5.8	5.1	0.6	1.9	1.6
Primary	5.5	8.0	6.2	0.6	2.3	1.0
Middle/Secondary/Higher	9.2	17.1	10.4	0.7	4.8	1.6
Certificate course at under-graduate level	21.3	31.3	23.5	0.6	11.2	2.4
Diploma at Graduate level	20.9	33.1	23.0	1.0	7.6	1.4
Graduate & above	29.7	47.7	34.8	2.3	13.5	6.2
All	11.3	20.0	13.2	0.9	4.0	1.6

Source: Labour Bureau, Report on Youth Employment and Unemployment Scenario, Vol II, 2015-16, Government of India

Recent Government Initiatives

The government had earlier introduced several self employment schemes to promote employment for youth but the results have not been very satisfactory. Hence, several new schemes in recent years have been launched to encourage entrepreneurship among the youth, such as, 'Startup India' with Mudra (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency), 'Stand-up India', 'Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana', 'Ease of Doing Business', 'Startup Village Entrepreneurship Programme' etc. A brief account of these schemes is given below.

Startup India and Stand-up India

The government has initiated 'The Start-up India' and 'Stand-up India' in January, 2016 to encourage entrepreneurship by providing assistance such as tax benefits and a mega start-up fund of Rs 10,000 crores. The government has also taken various measures to improve the ease of doing business by building an enabling environment for Stand-ups by initiating a liberal approach in registration, legal formalities, regulatory control, tax concession, etc. India had about 4,700 Stand-ups by December, 2016. However, these schemes have not been able to provide the desired results as over 200 Stand-ups initiated have closed down within a year. Although it is argued that this is a natural progression and not more than 20 per cent of the Stand-ups survive a highly competitive market (India start-up outlook report, 2017), there is a need to pay more attention to the attribution rate. The 'Stand-up India' scheme was also launched in January, 2016 aimed to promote entrepreneurship among marginalized groups such as scheduled castes (SCs), scheduled tribes (STs), and women. As on December, 2016, the total number of loans sanctioned under Stand Up India Scheme were 15341 including 2055 women, 2568 SCs, and 718 STs (Ministry of Finance, GoI, 2017).

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)

The government also launched the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

(PMMY) in April, 2015, to provide access to institutional finance to micro/small business units. Under the PMMY three kinds of loans can be sanctioned which signify the stage of growth/development and funding needs of the unit – Shishu (Rs 50,000), Kishor (Rs 50,000 to Rs 5,00,000), and Tarun, (Rs 5,00,000 to Rs 10,00,000). The total amount of loans disbursed under the PMMY programme crossed Rs. 1.25 trillion as of March 2016. Out of 32.7 million borrowers, 30.3 million borrowers were in the Shishu category.

Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)

In order to promote entrepreneurship in rural areas, the government is planning to launch the "Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme" (SVEP). The objective of the SVEP is to energize and streamline economic growth by providing necessary thrust from the grass roots, *i.e.* villages, towards creation of sustainable self employment opportunities. SVEP is expected to support creation and strengthening of about 1.82 lakh village enterprises in 125 blocks across 24 States in four years *i.e.* 2015-19. This is expected to create employment for about 3.78 lakh persons. This program can do much to enhance entrepreneurial opportunities for the growing number of rural youth if implemented properly.

Conclusion

India is going through a phase of demographic transition due to which the proportion of youth in the total population is increasing. An increasing number of youth require good education and a steady creation of suitable jobs. As the analysis above shows, the challenge is indeed huge, particularly for the educated youth. It is unfortunate that while on the one hand India has one of the lowest participation rate for women in the world, on the other, the unemployment rates among the young women who are joining the labour force are extremely high. The government initiatives are in the desired direction. However, much more

needs to be done. Employment creation needs to be part of macro and other economic policies. Indian economy has not created enough jobs and to accelerate the process of job creation, different ministries need to include job creation in all their programmes and policies. It also needs to be mentioned that a large part of central and eastern India has not been able to experience growth and employment creation as in western and southern India. Such regional inequality needs to be corrected so that local youth are able to get employment in the regions itself. Further, there is need for suitable policies and programmes so that more and more women get employment. The country needs to move fast so that it realizes the demographic dividend. If it fails, the demographic dividend will turn into a demographic disaster.

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Making a Nation of Job Creators

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Once an enterprise is established, the process of industrialization is set in motion. All these activities foster entrepreneurship and create demand for various types of units and will in turn, lead to overall development of an area due to increase in demand and setting up of more and more units

India needs 10 million jobs a year and global data shows that it is start-ups, not large enterprises that create net new jobs in any country. Start ups are also the centers of innovation and are a great way to enhance employment creation in the economy. The Prime Minister formally launched the “Start-up India” initiative on January 16, 2016 from Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. This initiative aims at fostering entrepreneurship and promoting innovation by creating an ecosystem that is conducive for growth of Start-ups. The objective is that India must become a nation of job creators instead of being a nation of job seekers. The Startup India by Prime Minister has already brought lots of positivity among the entrepreneurs in India. Industry is elated by the fact that India has the third largest number of start-ups globally. Fostering a fruitful culture of innovation in the country is a long and important journey. This initiative will go a significant way in reiterating Government of India’s commitment to making India the hub of innovation, design and Start-ups.

A start-up is a young company that is just beginning to develop. Start-ups are usually small and initially financed and operated by a handful of founders or one individual. These companies

offer a product or service that is not currently being offered elsewhere in the market, or that the founders believe is being offered in an inferior manner. In the early stages, start-up companies’ expenses tend to exceed their revenues as they work on developing, testing and marketing their idea. As such, they often require financing. Startups may be funded by traditional small business loans from banks or credit unions, by government sponsored small business administration loans from local banks, or by grants from nonprofit organizations and state governments.

Start-ups are essentially of two kinds. One that starts something ground up, something that no one has thought about and is often ground breaking. This type of start-up is difficult to create but once created often sees unprecedented growth. The second kind of start-ups are primarily the ones who do not want to reinvent the wheel. They are akin to adding old wine in a new bottle to create something new and innovative.

Entrepreneurship and start-ups are only a recent phenomenon in the country. Doing a start-up is tough and every country sees more failures than success. More often than not an entrepreneur needs to be prepared

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to face failures and unprecedented hardship. Entrepreneurship thrives on celebrations and a society that fails to appreciate business failures stifles innovation and creativity even before it can start. A start-up failing has to be OK as failures often teach an entrepreneur, what to do and what not to do.

As a start-up, you may have co-founders, but you may not necessarily possess the business acumen to succeed. Having a brilliant idea is different from making that idea a business success. For a start-up, it is very important to have mentors who have been through a similar process of starting or have business experience. A great mentor is often what separates success from failure by providing valuable inputs. However, there is no formal mechanism to mentor start-ups in the country. Every mentoring that happens is on an ad-hoc basis. A start-up that has raised funds can count the investors for some form of mentoring, but honest, unbiased, good business mentors are far and few in between. For start-ups finding a good mentor is often an uphill task.

Addressing Funding Challenges

Most of the first generation entrepreneurs across the country are applauding the government's efforts to recognize their business ventures under the banner of Start-Up India, but for most challenges of funding, patents and creation of intellectual property remain. Similarly, the long process of registration of patents and lack of incentives for research and development is another bone

of contention, which, according to many is a reason why many start-ups prefer to be domiciled abroad. According to government data, as many as 2,46,495 pendency in patent applications and 5,32,682 trademark applications were pending as on November 1, 2015.

Around 90 per cent of funding for start-ups, at present, comes from foreign venture capitals and domestic financiers could change the nature of innovation as well. A recent study by Grant Thornton revealed that in 2015 more than 600 such companies got funding, with over \$2 billion deployed by PE and VC funds.

According to a recent study, over 94 per cent of new businesses fail during first year of operation. Lack of funding turns to be one of the common reasons. Money is the bloodline of any business. The long painstaking yet exciting journey from the idea to revenue generating business needs a fuel named capital. That's why, at almost every stage of the business, entrepreneurs find themselves asking – How do I finance my start-up? There are various funding mechanisms available in the market for start-ups.

Here are few funding options for start-ups that will help them to raise capital for their business.

1. Pradhan Mantri Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Limited (MUDRA)-started with an initial corpus of Rs. 20,000 crore to extend benefits to around 10 lakhs SMEs. You can submit your business plan and once approved, the loan gets sanctioned. You get a MUDRA Card, which is like a credit card, which can be used to purchase raw materials, other expenses etc. Shishu, Kishor and Tarun are three categories of loans available under the promising scheme.

2. Bootstrapping or self funding- Self-funding, also known as bootstrapping, is an effective way of start-up financing, especially when you are just starting your business. First-time entrepreneurs often have trouble getting funding without first showing some traction and a plan for potential success.
3. Crowd funding- Crowd funding is like taking a loan, pre-order, contribution or investments from more than one person at the same time. In this a start-up will put up a detailed description of his business on a crowd funding platform. He will mention the goals of his business, plans for making a profit, how much funding he needs and for what reasons, etc. and then consumers can read about the business and give money if they like the idea. Those giving money will make online pledges with the promise of pre-buying the product or giving a donation. Anyone can contribute money towards helping a business that they really believe in. Some of the popular crowd funding sites in India are Indiegogo, wishberry, ketto, fundlined etc.
4. Angel Investment - Angel investors are individuals with surplus cash and a keen interest to invest in upcoming start-ups. They also work in groups of networks to collectively screen the proposals before investing. They can also offer mentoring or advice alongside capital. Angel investors have helped to start-up many prominent companies, including Google, Yahoo and Alibaba. This alternative form of investing generally occurs in a company's early stages of growth, with investors expecting an upto 30 per cent equity. They prefer to take more risks in investment for higher returns.
5. Venture Capital - Venture capitals are professionally managed funds who invest in companies that have huge potential. They usually invest in a business against equity and exit when there is an IPO

or an acquisition. VCs provide expertise, mentorship and act as a litmus test of where the organisation is going, evaluating the business from the sustainability and scalability point of view.

6. **Business Incubators & Accelerators-** Early stage businesses can consider Incubator and Accelerator programs as a funding option. Found in almost every major city, these programs assist hundreds of start-up businesses every year. Incubators are like a parent to a child, who nurture the business providing shelter tools and training and network to a business. Accelerators are almost or less the same thing, but an incubator helps/assists/nurtures a business to walk, while accelerator helps to run/take a giant leap.
7. **Microfinance Providers or NBFCs-** Microfinance is basically access of financial services to those who would not have access to conventional banking services. It is increasingly becoming popular for those whose requirements are limited and credit ratings not favoured by the bank. Similarly, NBFCs or Non Banking Financial Corporations are corporations that provide Banking services without meeting legal requirement/definition of a bank.

Government Initiatives

Start-Up Action Plan has a 19-point agenda including incentives such as self certification for complying with labour and environment regulations, a panel of facilitators to help file patent and intellectual property applications, tax exemptions for seed funding, capital gains and three year holiday on income tax as well as a Rs 10,000 crore financing support through a fund of funds for four years.

Start-up India's 19-Point Action Plan

1. Self-certification Compliance
2. Single Point of Contact via Start-up India Hub
3. Simplifying Processes with Mobile App and Portal

(for registration, filing compliances and obtaining information)

4. Legal Support, Fast Tracking and 80 per cent reduction in patent registration fee
5. Relaxed Norms of Public Procurement
6. Easier & Faster Exit
7. Funding Support via a Fund of Funds corpus of INR 10,000 crore
8. Credit Guarantee Funding
9. Tax Exemption on Capital gains
10. 3-Year Income Tax Exemption
11. Tax Exemption on Investments above Fair Market Value (FMV)
12. Annual Start-up Fests (national and international)
13. Launch of World-class Innovation Hubs under Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)
14. Set up of country-wide Incubator Network
15. Innovation Centres to augment Incubation and R&D
16. Research Parks to propel innovation
17. Promote Entrepreneurship in Biotechnology
18. Innovation Focused Programs for Students
19. Annual Incubator Grand Challenge

1. Self Certification

The start-ups will adopt self-certification to reduce the regulatory liabilities. The self-certification will apply to laws including payment of gratuity, labour contract, provident fund management, water and air pollution acts.

2. Start-up India Hub

An all-India hub will be created as a single contact point for start-up foundations in India, which will help the entrepreneurs to exchange knowledge and access financial aid.



3. Register through app

An online portal, in the shape of a mobile application, is being launched to help start-up founders to easily register.

4. Patent Protection

A fast-track system for patent examination at lower costs is being conceptualised by the central government. The system will promote awareness and adoption of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) by the start-up foundations.

5. Rs 10,000 crore Fund

The government will develop a fund with an initial corpus of Rs 2,500 crore and a total corpus of Rs 10,000 crore over four years, to support upcoming start-up enterprises. The Life Insurance Corporation of India will play a major role in developing this corpus. A committee of private professionals selected from the start-up industry will manage the fund.

6. National Credit Guarantee Trust Company

A National Credit Guarantee Trust Company (NCGTC) is being conceptualised with a budget of Rs 500 crore per year for the next four years to support the flow of funds to start-ups.

7. No Capital Gains Tax

At present, investments by venture capital funds are exempt from the Capital Gains Tax. The same policy is being implemented on primary-level investments in start-ups.

8. No Income Tax for Three Years

Start-ups would not pay Income Tax for three years. This policy would revolutionise the pace with which start-ups would grow in the future.

9. Tax exemption for Investments of Higher Value

In case of an investment of higher value than the market price, it will be exempt from paying tax.

10. Building Entrepreneurs

Innovation-related study plans for students in over 5 lakh schools. Besides, there will also be an annual incubator grand challenge to develop world class incubators.

11. Atal Innovation Mission

The Atal Innovation Mission will be launched to boost innovation and encourage talented youths.

12. Setting up Incubators

A private-public partnership model is being considered for 35 new incubators and 31 innovation centres at national institutes.

13. Research Parks

The government plans to set up seven new research parks, including six in the Indian Institute of Technology campuses and one in the Indian Institute of Science campus, with an investment of Rs 100 crore each.

14. Entrepreneurship in Biotechnology

The government will further establish five new biotech clusters, 50 new bio incubators, 150 technology transfer offices and 20 bio-connect offices in the country.

15. Dedicated Programmes in Schools

The government will introduce

innovation-related programmes for students in over 5 lakh schools.

16. Legal Support

A panel of facilitators will provide legal support and assistance in submitting patent applications and other official documents.

17. Rebate

A rebate amount of 80 percent of the total value will be provided to the entrepreneurs on filing patent applications.

18. Easy Rules

Norms of public procurement and rules of trading have been simplified for the start-ups.

19. Faster Exit

If a start-up fails, the government will also assist the entrepreneurs to find suitable solutions for their problems. If they fail again, the government will provide an easy way out.

Indian startups saw \$3.5 billion angel and venture capital invested across over 815 deals between Q1-Q3 2016, representing a major decrease in the total deal value from the same period last year. According to YourStory Research, between January and September 2015, \$7.3 billion was invested across 639 deals. This year, while the number of deals has increased by 27 percent, the deal value and ticket size have decreased. To put it in perspective, 2014 had just 300 VC and angel deals in the entire year.

It can be concluded that Start-up companies are the most dynamic economic organizations on the market, since they provide additional dynamics and competitiveness to any economic system. They act as catalytic agent for change, which results in chain reaction. Once an enterprise is established, the process of industrialization is set in motion. All these activities foster entrepreneurship and create demand for various types of units and will in turn, lead to overall development of an area due to increase in demand and setting up of more and more units. Indigenous start ups will not only make the lives of the people easier through their affordable and convenient services but will also act as a major booster for the development and the progress of the Indian economy. We believe that Start-up India is about creating prosperity in India. Many enterprising young people who dream of starting their own business lack the resources. As a result, their ideas, talent and capabilities remain untapped – and the country loses out on wealth creation, economic growth and employment. *Start-up India* is helping boost entrepreneurship and economic development – by ensuring that people who have the potential to innovate and start their own business are encouraged – with proactive support and incentives at multiple levels. □

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Micro and Small Enterprise Facilitation Council (MSEFC) Portal and MyMSME Mobile App

Two important initiatives of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Ministry of MSME), viz. Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council (MSEFC) portal and MyMSME Mobile App were launched by the Union Minister for Urban Development, Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation and Information & Broadcasting

The Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council (MSEFC) portal on <http://msefc.msme.gov.in>, is expected to facilitate implementation of the delayed payment provisions of the MSMED Act 2006 and also assist in monitoring of delayed payment cases for micro and small enterprises online. It would also help officers of the Ministry of MSME as well as the State Government concerned in monitoring the progress of cases both at the State and National levels. Most of the States have already uploaded the information regarding delayed payment cases on MSEFC portal. As on 31.03.2017, 3690 cases involving an amount of Rs.1660 crore are being considered by various MSEFCs. In fact, the online portal would be of great help to start-ups since delayed payment is probably the single biggest problem for start-ups.

The MyMSME mobile app on <http://my.msme.gov.in>, provides information on all schemes implemented by the Ministry of MSME at one place. With the help of MyMSME mobile app Ministry of MSME would be providing one single window to MSMEs to access information on all schemes implemented by the Ministry and as well as apply for any of them. And MSMEs can also lodge grievances pertaining to Ministry of MSME through this app.

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Youth: A Change Agent

Sunita Sanghi



Various initiatives and programmes together with best practices in the skill development space can be scaled up and replicated across states to achieve the desired objective of making youth the change agent

Skillling is building a better India. If we have to move India towards development then skill development should be our mission”-Prime Minister on August 15, 2014.

India is at the cusp of demographic transition wherein 65 per cent of the population is in the working age 15-59. This offers a unique opportunity to become the skill capital of the world to meet the skilled manpower requirements of ageing economies by appropriate skilling in consonance with the standards accepted across countries.

As per the National Youth Policy, 2014 all young persons in the age group 15-29 years constitutes youth population which is a diverse group with varying needs, aspirations and requirements. The youths as per 2011 Census comprises of 28 per cent of the population contributing about 34 per cent of India's Gross National Income (GNI). The contribution of youth to the GDP can be increased by increasing their labour force participation and their productivity.¹ The need of the hour is to empower youth to achieve their full potential and to enable India to be the leader in supply of skilled labour force.

The demographic advantage that India enjoys is not uniformly distributed across the country. There is a clear divide between peninsular

India comprising of West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and the hinterland states viz viz. Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar. While the peninsular states show a pattern closer to China and Korea, with sharp rises and declines in the working age population, the hinterland states remain relatively young and dynamic, characterized by a rising working age population for some time, plateauing out towards the middle of the century.² Demographically therefore, there are two India's, with implications for policy responses viz. a soon-to begin-ageing India (peninsular India) where the elderly and their needs will require greater attention; and a young India (Hinterland States) where providing education, skills, and employment opportunities must be the focus.

However, mobilizing the youth for vocational education/ skill development is difficult in these States due to lack of willingness to migrate, inability to pay for training, lack of employers endorsements, low literacy level, lack of awareness, among others. The question of empowering the youth necessitates a glance into the youth participation in the labour market.

Youth and Labour market

The labour market indicators viz. labour force participation rates

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(employed or seeking work), workers population ratio and unemployment rate as given in Table 1 provides an important insight into the labour market conditions for youth in India.

It is evident from the Table 1 that there has been a decline in labour force participation rate for all age groups irrespective of gender and spatial distinction. However, the decline has been very sharp for the rural females which could be attributed to the absence of job opportunities in the rural areas or due to social/religious customs. The decline in the younger male age groups both in rural and urban areas is suggestive of youth's participation in education to enhance their skills before

entering the labour market. The trend in the work force participation rate for youth of different cohort groups in 15-29 age group are also similar to Labour Force Participation.

As regards the unemployment rate it varied between 6.1 per cent to 15.6 per cent across different age cohorts for all categories. The urban females(15-29) experienced the highest unemployment 15.6 per cent which may possibly be due to family support to females. In different youth age groups, the unemployment rate is high among the entry age group 15-19 across all categories and tends to decline as age advances but remains higher than the national average.

There is high level of youth unemployment especially among the educated youth hindering the reaping of the demographic advantage. As per the EUS 2011-12 data, the high unemployment rate among the educated youth is suggestive of increase in the job aspirations and mismatch between jobs and aspiration. It emerges from Table 2 that the unemployment rate is high not only among formal educated but also among the vocationally qualified that is diploma and certificate holders.

What emerges from the above analysis is a paradoxical situation where on the one hand youth are seeking jobs and industry is seeking skilled manpower but neither youth are

Table 1. Labour Force Participation Rate, Worker Population Ratio and Unemployment Rate among Youth of Different age Cohorts according to Usual Status

Age Group	Rural Male					
	1999-2000			2011-12		
	LFPR	WPR	UR	LFPR	WPR	UR
15-19	532	503	6.5	333	303	11.4
20-24	889	844	6.2	788	742	6.9
25-29	975	950	3.2	963	942	2.8
15-29	-	741	5.1	-	616	6.1
All	540	531	-	553	543	-
Rural Female						
15-19	314	304	3.1	164	156	8.0
20-24	425	409	4.9	297	278	9.9
25-29	498	491	2.4	369	357	5.8
15-29	-	400	3.7	-	258	7.8
All	302	299	-	253	248	-
Urban Male						
15-19	366	314	15.4	256	223	14.4
20-24	755	658	13.9	664	594	11.6
25-29	951	883	7.5	951	906	5.3
15-29	-	593	11.5	-	558	8.9
All	542	518	-	563	546	-
Urban Female						
15-19	121	105	15.5	89	78	15.3
20-24	191	155	25.8	197	160	21.9
25-29	214	194	15.8	253	231	10.8
15-29	-	149	19.9	-	157	15.6
All	147	139	-	155	147	-

Source: Various rounds of NSSO Employment and Unemployment Surveys

Notes: 1. Labour force participation rate (LFPR) is defined as the number of persons/person-days in the labour force (which includes both the employed and unemployed) per 1000 persons /person-days.2.Worker Population Ratio (WPR) is defined as the number of persons/person-days employed per 1000 persons/person-days.3.Unemployment Rate (UR) is defined as the number of persons/person-days unemployed per 1000 persons/person-days in the labour force.

getting jobs nor Industry manpower. This skill mismatch makes youth unemployable which could be due to either demand for a particular type of skill exceeding the supply of people with that skill at equilibrium rates of wages or the level of qualification or the field of qualification is different from that required to perform the job adequately; or there is mismatch between educational qualification and potential to get absorbed in appropriate jobs; or skill has become obsolete due to technological improvement.

Young job seekers make up about 49 per cent of the total unemployed in India with 93 per cent of the available work provided by the informal sector, a significant part of well-educated youth in India are either unemployed, under employed, seeking employment or between jobs or coping with insecure work arrangement. As per the latest India skill report 2017 about 40 per cent of the educated youth are employable. The challenge is to address the problem of working poor, insecurity at the work place, lack of market linked skills, information asymmetry, poor perception about skill development. What emanates from above is need to (i) match supply to current demand for skills (ii) help workers and enterprises adjust to change; and (iii) building and sustaining competencies for future labour market needs. The question is how to strategise improvement in employability.

Initiatives for Employability

To harness the demographic advantage and making youth employable, National Skill Development Mission together with new National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship was launched in 2015. The mission is focusing on creating a pipeline of skilled people; upskilling and reskilling to align supply for demand; advocating National Skill Qualification Framework to facilitate certification according to common and global standards; connecting and matching supply and demand and catalyzing the entrepreneurship. The various initiatives/ programmes focus on synergy across ministries, mobilisation and engagement, global partnerships, outreach and advocacy, use of ICT, training of trainers and taking measures for improving access and outreach of programmes by various disadvantaged groups.

There is a big push for vocational education both in terms of capacity and quality improvement by reorienting the vocationalisation of school education from class 9 onwards and involving the industry in course curriculum, practical training and facilitating teachers training; reforming and reorienting Industrial Training institutes in terms of industry driven relevant curricula, flexi MOUs with industrial partners, greater use of technology in delivery and better industry connect through sector skill

councils; Focus on apprenticeship training with dedicated web portal and flexibility to hire apprentices; New institutions in terms of multi skilling institutes in PPP mode for better industry connect and addressing the skill requirement of changing world of work. Skill universities are being envisaged to develop a large pool of qualified instructors, conduct research in curricula and pedagogy in vocational education and provide oversight over skill institutions.

The various initiatives by 20 central ministries including Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship can be broadly categorised as general programmes, region specific and sector specific programmes for enhancing the employability of the youth. There are more 13000 than institutes, about 4000 polytechnics and more than 20000 vocational training providers catering to different skill needs. They are facilitating individuals to realise their full potential through a process of lifelong learning wherein the competencies are accumulated through instruments such as credible certification, credit accumulation and transfer. Given that large proportion of work force is employed in informal sector with limited skills and are required to be assessed for certification, the recognition of prior learning under PMKVY is an important step for inclusion of such workers through skill upgradation and reskilling. The

Table-2 Unemployment Rate at usual status (adjusted) as per Education level for 2011-12

General Education Level	Unemployment Rate (15-29 years)			
	Rural		Urban	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Not literate	2.3	0.8	2.5	1.6
Literate & up to Primary	3.2	0.6	4.8	4.3
Middle school	4.2	4.6	5.1	5.8
Secondary	4.6	8.6	5.5	15.1
Higher Secondary	6.5	13.8	12.0	14.6
Diploma/certificate	15.9	30.0	12.5	17.3
Graduate & above	19.1	29.6	16.3	23.4
All	5.0	4.8	8.1	13.1

PMKVY is providing second chance to high school drop outs to enter the labour market with employable skills. However, this requires strong advocacy to promote paradigm shift in the labour market to make skill training aspirational.

The National Skill Development Agency is taking forward the systemic interventions viz. National Skill Qualification Framework which facilitates both horizontal and vertical mobility and makes skill aspirational; Common Norms for various Central government driven programmes for uniformity in cost, duration and curriculum; Labour Market Information System to address the information asymmetry for different stakeholders; monitoring the progress of skilling in the country etc. The National Skill Development Corporation is catalysing the private sector efforts for ramping up the infrastructure as also the actual delivery of training to be able to achieve the targets set in the policy, 2015. The Sector Skill Councils, industry led bodies, are facilitating linkage of training with demand through development of course curriculum helping in assessment and certification. Government has launched skill loan initiative with the objective of facilitating poor students attending skill development programmes.

Although necessary policy and programmatic interventions have been undertaken but much more needs to be done to leverage the youth power through appropriate skilling for economic development. The key elements of strategy for leveraging the youth power are discussed.

Leveraging Youth Power:

Mapping Aspiration of the Youth

Mapping aspirations is key for sustainable skill development to facilitate access to decent employment opportunities for socio economic inclusion. The analysis of available data(EUS,2011-12) for training indicates preference for certain trades in the rural and urban areas viz. 22.3



percent males received/were receiving formal vocational training in ‘driving and motor mechanic work’ while among urban males 26.3 percent were in ‘computer trades’. Similarly among rural females, 32.2 percent were receiving training in ‘textile related work’ and among urban females computer trade was most sought after with 30.4 per cent. When one super imposes this data on the skill gap reports by NSDC, the mismatch emerges between requirement and output from training institutes. The high employment generating sectors as per the National Skill Development Corporation reports may face challenges of attracting skilled manpower. The Aspiration Matrix based on NSDC Skill Gap Reports in Annex 1 supports this and highlights the need for mapping aspiration for effective demand supply match. The aspiration matrix shows that, in most states, there is greater demand in sectors such as construction, transportation and logistics, agriculture and allied activities including food processing, but the demand for these occupations is low in most states.

Therefore, mapping aspiration is critical for demand supply match and fulfilling economy requirement. It is felt that recognition and awards for excellence in skill would motivate and

encourage youth for skill training. The awareness about dignity of labour from young age would help in changing the perception about the blue-collared jobs. Different mechanisms can be used for popularizing the skill programmes and creation of aspirations. This would facilitate mobilisation.

Mobilisation Key for Scaling

As per the National Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Policy 2015, India needs to skill 110 million and reskill/upskill 290 million by 2022. This mammoth task requires mobilising students and youth across regions for skilling. The success of a skill training programme depends on how best we are able to mobilise. In the current scenario, the mobilisation of a candidate is left to the training provider. The poor mobilisation is due to lack of information about vocational courses and labour market outcomes; affordability of vocational courses; unwillingness to migrate; outdated curriculum etc. The need of the hour is a specific strategy to mobilise the prospective trainees. The Skill Sakhi Model of Maharashtra Government wherein young women from the community are trained to mobilise women for skill development programme is a novel way of creating

Aspiration Matrix

Demographically Advantageous States	Demand for Manpower in Sectors	Youth Aspirations		
		High	Average	Low
Uttar Pradesh	building, construction and real estate', 'organised retail,' and 'banking, financial services and insurance'	IT / ITES, organized retail and Media & Entertainment	BFSI, healthcare, hospitality and food processing	Building and construction, transportation, agriculture and allied, textile, other manufacturing, pharmaceuticals
Delhi	retail, construction, transportation, domestic help, IT & ITES, hospitality, healthcare, education and banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI)	Retail, IT & BPO, Education, Auto & Auto Parts, Public Administration, Electrical Equipment, Textile & Apparel, Electronics & Hardware	Construction, transportation, hospitality, BFSI, auto maintenance, healthcare, media & entertainment, metallic products, non-metallic products, printing & publishing, food processing, chemical & pharmaceuticals.	Domestic help, security personnel, wholesale trade, wood & furniture, real estate services.
Jharkhand	building and construction, tourism hospitality and travel, trade, food processing, real estate services, banking and finance, engineering products and transportation and logistics	food processing, banking and finance, engineering products, textiles and garments, automobile, health care, education & skill development and IT-ITES.	Tourism, hospitality travel and trade, Real Estate & Business Services, media & communication, electricity, gas and water supply	building and construction, mining, handloom & handicrafts, organized retail, leather & leather goods, chemical & pharmaceuticals.
Madhya Pradesh	Construction, Retail, Agriculture & allied activities, Textile, Transportation and logistics, Mineral processing	IT-ITES, Healthcare, Education and skill development, Auto and Auto components, Media and entertainment	Hospitality Banking and financial Services, Textile Transportation and logistics Mineral processing	Construction, Retail, Agriculture & allied activities, Textile, Transportation and logistics, Mineral processing
Rajasthan	Electrician, Computer Based Accountancy & IT, Mobile Repairing, Wiring & Repairing (domestic), Automobiles mechanic, Courier Delivery, Sales & marketing, Gems & Jewellery, Handicrafts & Handloom	Electrician	Handicrafts & Handloom	Mobile Repairing, Computer Based Accountancy & IT, Wiring & Repairing (domestic), Courier Delivery, Sales & marketing, Gems & Jewelry
West Bengal	Construction, retail, agriculture & allied, MSME, jute-textile, agro-food processing	IT / ITES, healthcare, Banking and financial Services, repairing & maintenance, engineering-auto, education & training, gems & jewelry	tourism, travel & hospitality, transportation & logistics, communication, rubber & plastics, electronics & hardware.	Construction, retail, agriculture & allied, MSME, jute-textile, agro-food processing
Maharashtra	IT / ITES, organized retail, construction, agriculture & allied, chemicals & pharmaceuticals, gems & jewelry	IT / ITES, organized retail, tourism, travel & hospitality, food processing, auto & auto components	Media & entertainment, BFSI, transportation & logistics, healthcare, education & skill development, textile & clothing	building and construction, other manufacturing, agriculture & allied, chemicals & pharmaceuticals, gems & jewellery
Tamil Nadu	Construction, retail and travel, hospitality & tourism and travel, BFSI, automobile	Automobile, IT / ITES, tourism, travel & hospitality, Retail, BFSI, Electronics Hardware, Education	Textiles, Media & entertainment, transport, logistics, healthcare, real estate.	Leather, construction, Food processing, gems & jewellery, chemicals & pharmaceuticals, furniture, agriculture, handlooms & handicrafts.

Source: NSDC Skill Gap Reports 2012, data compiled by Dr Sakshi Khurana, YP, NITI AAYOG

local change makers and involving the community for taking ahead the agenda of skill development. Local bodies functionaries can be change makers and help in creating database of youth to be supported either with wage/self-employable skill training with proper advocacy and outreach. The database can be uploaded on the SSDM portal with linkage to Aadhar card, Voter ID, Bank account. The functionaries can be assigned additional duty of door to door campaign, parents, counselling and listing of unemployed youth for skilling.

A National Awareness Campaign including contact programs with schools, colleges and other educational institutions and role models to highlight labour market outcomes will attract a large number of trainees to various sectors.

Addressing Diversity

The Indian Labour Market shows sectoral, gender and spatial diversity. Labour market has a preponderance of informal employment (93 per cent) with just about 8 per cent working in the formal sector. The training requirement of both sectors varies. The poor division of labour in the informal sector points to lack of skill specialisation and on the job learning hampering productivity. The sector has poor education and skill levels of workers.³ The National Apprenticeship Programme needs to be used for better skilled manpower.

Women constitute about 48 per cent of the total population but their participation in the labour force is just about 22 per cent. The Prime Minister had said “If the capacity of women is built and they are linked with the development process, then the development of any country gets speed up exponentially”. The need of the hour is to focus on skilling / reskilling women to make them ready to join the labour market. The specific policy intervention for increasing women participation requires providing adequate logistic support, special focus on both skilling/reskilling and readiness on the part of employers to

employ them and provide them with opportunities to return as part of the working population. There is also need to break the gender stereotyping for women participation and encouraging women to participate in activities and skills which are different from routine. In this regard, the initiative by Government of Haryana for building capacities of women in occupations in the steel sector with the help of Jindal Steels is worth replicating.

Not only there are sectoral and gender variations but there are infrastructure gaps in the North and North Eastern region vis a vis Southern and Western region. While the Southern and the Western regions account for 67 per cent of private and governments ITIs catering to 51 per cent of population with 60 per cent of seating capacity, the North and East zones accounts for only 33 per cent of ITIs catering to 49 per cent percent of population with 40 per cent of seating capacity.⁴ Not only this, there are significant state wise variations within each zone. It is necessary to focus on infrastructure creation in these regions and wherever possible leveraging the facilities created in the Western and Southern regions for reskilling and upskilling of those who are migrating from these regions to other areas where employment opportunities exist. This may also call for migration support centres both in the source and the destination states. The efficiencies of private sector needs to be leveraged either in terms of Corporate Social Responsibility or direct participation in infrastructure development, on the job training, apprenticeship training, training of trainers, curriculum revision for creating a future job ready workforce.

Second Chance: Reskilling/Up Skilling of Prior Learning

A large proportion of youth drops out before they complete secondary education. As per the 12th Plan (2012-17) 47 per cent of students drop out before they complete secondary education. As a result when they enter the labour market, they have very low level of skills and they work at low

wages. There is need to provide them an opportunity of improving their skill levels through reskilling and upskilling. There are a large number of programmes both at the state and central level for enhancing employability but there is need for clear distinction among programmes for skilling, reskilling and upskilling to achieve the desired targets as specified in the national policy. The challenge is to identify such workers. There is need for creating the Skill Gap Analysis, developing content for skill development and on-the-ground hands-on training delivery. There is need for rigorous evaluation to have a fuller understanding of the skills training most likely to work for optimum utilisation of funds translation of training to better outcomes in terms of jobs, wages, improved quality of life and productivity.

There is also a need for recognition of prior learning specially for those who have joined the labour market early and have experience but no certificate and also those who have skills passed on from generation to generation, mainly the artisans and handicraft workers. The RPL has the potential to improve employability, mobility, lifelong learning, social inclusion and self-esteem. In India, there is need to ramp up especially when 298.25 million workers are to be reskilled/upskilled and RPL, Ministry of Skill Development National Policy focuses on this and efforts are on to scale up but the challenge lies in identification for RPL. There is no one RPL model that is suitable for all qualifications and all situations; in particular, different sectors give rise to different models. For RPL to be locally effective, there must be policy learning and not policy borrowing. Success of RPL, among other things, depends on awareness about RPL, effective vocational guidance and counselling services, integrating it with policy, legal and regulatory frameworks for education and training systems; active participation of all stakeholders; effective institutional framework for RPL; matching of occupational standards and qualification standards (the matching should at least take

place at part level, if not that of a full qualification; effective and efficient assessment tools and methodologies appropriate to the context of target groups; cost-sharing and a sustainable, equitable funding mechanism for RPL; providing skills upgrading opportunities to RPL candidates etc.⁵

School to Work Transition Surveys (SWTS)

Improving the quantity and quality of labour market information for youth (15-29 years) is necessary. The labour force survey provides information on employment, unemployment and out of labour force and also allows to generate indicators like length of unemployment, status in employment, employment by sector. However, it does not provide information on job satisfaction, ease or difficulty of the school-to-work transition. The SWTS would provide timely and relevant labour market information for strategizing design and implementation of national employment programmes which encompass the specific employment challenges of young women and men. These would help in identifying vulnerable groups so that policymakers can take informed decisions that target the right population. These surveys would facilitate the National Career Service helping youth's transition to more satisfactory and secure jobs. These would also facilitate measures to address various diversities in the labour market and governments might focus on establishing incentives for enterprises to provide training for employees, targeting especially those who would not normally receive it.⁶ This would facilitate in addressing the future job challenges emerging due to Industrial revolution.

To conclude, the rapid economic changes and future job scenario offers both a challenge and opportunity to youth to enhance their employability for a better life. The enhanced employability would ensure job security and career progression thereby empowering youth to contribute to economic growth and be benefited out of the growth as well. Various initiatives and programmes together with best practices in the skill development space

can be scaled up and replicated across states to achieve the desired objective of making youth the change agent.

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(E-mail: sunitasanghi1960@gmail.com)

Sagarmala-DDUGKY Convergence for Skill Development in Coastal Districts

For skills development of youth in coastal areas, the Ministry of Shipping signed an MoU with the Ministry of Rural Development in New Delhi recently. The MoU is for convergence of the Ministry's prestigious project Sagarmala and Ministry of Rural Development's flagship programme Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU GKY).

This MoU is expected to meet the exact skill needs of industries in the port and maritime sector and provide the coastal communities right skills for better opportunities emanating from the large scale impact of Sagarmala projects. With skill development there will be close involvement of the coastal communities in Sagarmala and will make them contributors in the economic development and will ensure inclusive growth of the coastal districts of the country.

The Coastal Communities are key stakeholders in the Sagarmala Programme and their skill development and livelihood is an important objective of the program. A budget of Rs.100 Cr. has been allocated under Sagarmala for coastal community development activities Along with the Skill gap studies, District Action Plans have been made in consultation with the State Governments and districts concerned. Specific training needs have been identified for more than 60000 trainees in the next phase through more than 100+ skill projects.



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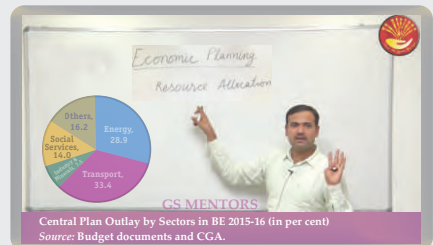
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DO YOU KNOW?

ANGEL FUNDING

Angel funding or investments are typically the earliest equity investments made in start-up companies. Angel investors invest in small *start-ups* or *entrepreneurs* and they usually invest in the entrepreneur starting the business rather than on the viability of the business. They help start-ups take their first step and do not bother about the possible profit they may get from the business.



The term ‘angel’ has been taken from *theatre*, where it was used to describe wealthy individuals who provided money for theatrical productions that would otherwise have had to shut down. Angel investors are almost always wealthy individuals and commonly band together in investor networks. Often these networks are based on regional, industry, or academic affiliation. In recent years, India has emerged as one of the top three countries globally in terms of the number of start-ups founded and the Indian start-up landscape seems to be very vibrant. According to India Venture Capital and a private equity report prepared by the Indian Institute of Technology in Madras (IIT-M), the total venture investment in start-ups during the period 2005-15 is estimated at ₹1117 billion (using 2015 as the base year). Actual investment could be much higher since details of investment amount are not available for many of the deals. The average annual growth rate in investment flow during the period 2005-15 is about 42 percent. Between the years 2005-15, more than 10,000 start-ups have received funding. The average annual growth in the number of start-ups that have been funded for the period 2005-15 has been 16 percent. In most sectors, there has been an equivalent Indian start-up to that of a foreign start-up. While many foreign start-ups have also started operations in India, the presence of an Indian start-up meant that the Indian consumer need not have to wait till the foreign company started operations in India. Current ‘best practices’ suggest that angels might do better setting their sights even higher, looking for companies that will have at least the potential to provide a 20 to 30 times return over a five- to seven-year holding period. After taking into account the need to cover failed investments and the multi-year holding time for even the successful ones, however, the actual effective internal rate of return for a typical successful portfolio of angel investments is, in reality, typically as ‘low’ as 20–30 per cent. While the investor’s need for high rates of return on any given investment can thus make angel financing an expensive source of funds, cheaper sources of capital, such as bank financing, are usually not available for most early-stage ventures. Indian Angels Network is the country’s oldest network of angel investors, which started in 2006. Last year, it signed 18 term sheets and completed 11 deals in a broad range of companies from food tech start-up Mukunda to an online marketplace for co-operative and community-based producers GoCoop. Some of the other angel groups include Mumbai Angels, Harvard Angels, Chennai Angels and India Quotient.

Young entrepreneurs can be optimistic about raising financing from angel investors, as highly publicised success stories are encouraging more angel investors to commit capital to start-ups.

FUNDING SC ENTREPRENEURS

The scheme of Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes was launched in 2014-15 with unique feature of higher level of loans from Rs.50 lakhs to Rs.15 crores for SC entrepreneurs. Till date loans amounting to Rs.236.66 crores to 65 Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs has been sanctioned in different areas including Solar Energy, Water treatment plants, Food processing and Beverages, Hotel etc. In nine projects, beneficiaries have started repayment and the Scheme is also having multiplying effect on other SC entrepreneurs.

So far as the Skill Development is concerned, training is undertaken by all State Governments under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and by National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) and National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC). Over 1.5 lakh beneficiaries have benefitted from 2014-15 to 2016-17 and 48.42 per cent got wage/self-employment.

Under Entrepreneurship, over 17 lakh people have benefitted from subsidy given for loans taken for economic activities in the last three years under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan. Over 8.12 lakh beneficiaries have been given loans by the Corporations for entrepreneurship in the last three years

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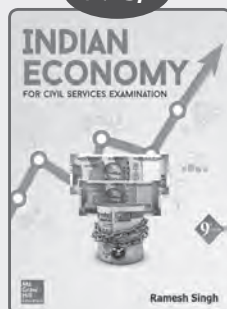


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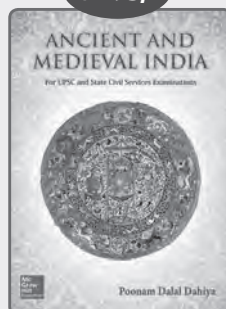
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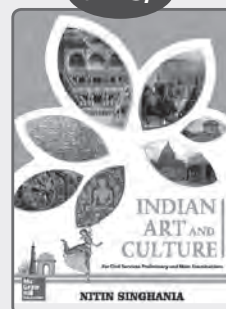
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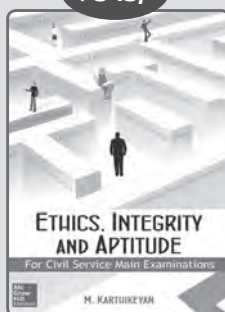
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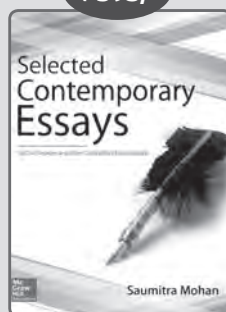
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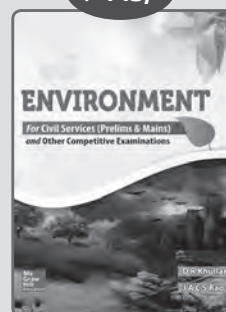
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Flag Bearers of Indian Culture

*Sheetal Sharma
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...over the decades, Indian expatriate communities glorified the wisdom, culture and values of Indian land and civilization across the globe. ...They helped build an alternative and strong image of India different from the earlier image of being the land of snake charmers. Thus, India benefitted both culturally and economically from its expatriate community

Since time immemorial Indian youths have played the role of flag bearers of Indian wisdom, civilization and culture across the world. When the world was still engrossed with claiming the religious and racial superiority of their respective tenets, a young Indian monk Swami Vivekananda lectured them on the significance of religious tolerance way back in 1893 at the World Religious Parliament held at Chicago. Mahatma Gandhi, then a young barrister travelled to South Africa and for the first time experimented with his ideas of truth and non-violence which later became an invincible tool of peace and harmony in the world. He is believed to be the first “Pravasi Bhartiya” of India who endowed the world with something that could be cherished throughout the human civilization. The tradition of spreading Indian ideas and values across the globe dates back to 2nd century CE when the young son and daughter of Mauryan emperor Ashoka went to Sri Lanka (Ceylon) and established Buddhism in South Asia. The legacies of such spirited youths are still being carried ahead by millions of young talented Indians who have today, made their presence felt in almost each and every corner of the globe.

Indian Diaspora: A Youth Brigade

The United Nations international migration report 2015 observes that the median age of all international migrants

is just 39 years. Since India has the youngest demographics in the world, Indian emigrants travelling far and wide are the youngest immigrants. India has a strong 25 million diaspora spread throughout the world. According to a survey conducted by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in 2015, India’s diaspora population is the largest in the world. Though, global presence of Indian diaspora has a specific geographical orientation, it has recognizable presence even in some of the smallest and the newest countries of the world like South Sudan, where the population counts less than 100. The United States of America alone has approximately 3.2 million Indians holding various kinds of visas and citizenships. Other than the United States, Gulf countries are the next most favored destination of Indian emigrants and together they receive around 7 million Indian expatriates. Present expanse of Indian diaspora across the world has an inherent colonial legacy, so, a brief review of the factors shaping today’s diasporic diversity seems imminent. Since India’s relations with the outside world in the colonial era were largely shaped by the British interests, Indian diaspora has a substantial presence in such countries of the world which were colonized by the Imperial British government. Thus, sizeable presence of Indian diaspora in Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, West Indies and East African

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countries is not surprising. Young energetic students and revolutionaries like Savarkar, Madam Bhikaji Kama, Madanlal Dhingra are some of the prominent names associated with India House in London. London became one of the nerve centers of Indian youth. Madam Kama later settled in Paris where she broadened the ambit of Indian presence. Similarly, a bunch of young revolutionaries founded Ghadr movement in the United States of America and Canada, thus developing these countries also as prominent centers of contact and regular exchange.

However, the most remarkable phase of Indian emigration started after the era of decolonization. Opening of quality institutes of higher education like IITs in India gave an impetus to the young talented technical graduates to grab opportunities in developed countries of West Europe and North America. Some of them permanently settled in countries like the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Globalization: The Pull Factor Behind High Immigration

The later phase of liberalization in India saw the generation of huge off shore opportunity for young talented Indians. Rising production and labour cost in developed countries persuaded them to search for cheap alternatives and both Indian land and labour came in handy for their needs. Giant American technical companies hired cheap but equally talented Indian technocrats at half the price of American technocrats. It benefitted the American companies by reducing their costs and increasing the profit. On the other hand, it provided respectful employment to the jobless young Indian technical graduates. It was thus a win-win situation for both the countries.

Silicon Valley: A Tale of Successful Indian Entrepreneurs

In 1960, there were only 12000 Indian immigrants in the United States of America, most of them

either unskilled workers or low skilled uneducated farmers. However, positive changes in the US immigration act 1990, induced large influx of highly skilled, young and educated Indians into the USA. From 1980-2013, the population of skilled Indians increased from 206,000 to 2.04 million, roughly doubling every decade. Today, Indian citizens are the top recipients of temporary high-skilled worker H-1B visas, accounting for 70 percent of the 316,000 H-1B petitions approved by US citizenship and Immigration Services in fiscal year 2014. Close to 103,000 Indian-born students were enrolled in US educational institutions in the 2013-14 school year. According to the annual report of US census bureau, the median age of Indian expatriates in the US was 39 years and 83 per cent of all the Indians present in US were engaged with one or the other kind of knowledge based industries. Only 11 per cent of the total immigrants were ages 65 and over.

Indian immigrants had the highest level of education even surpassing the educational standards of native Americans. In 2015, 82 per cent of Indian immigrants (ages 25 and over) had a bachelor’s degree or higher, compared to 30 per cent of native-born adults.

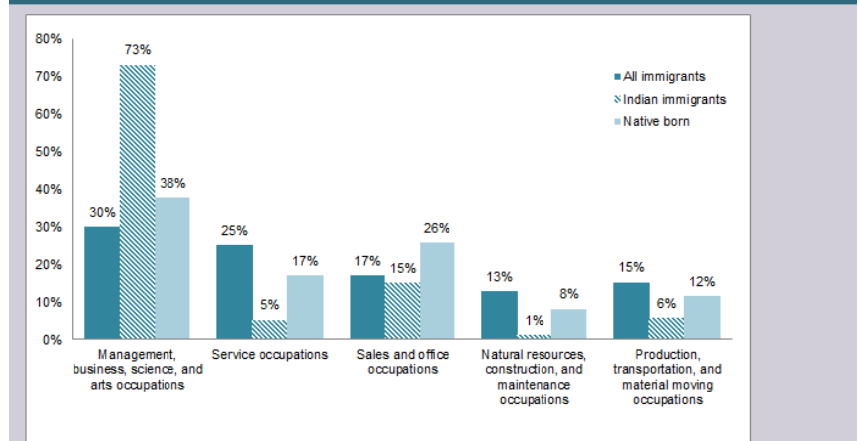
Silicon Valley in the United States

of America, which is the largest global hub of software technologies and startups has over the years acquired an Indian face. Some of the giant software companies located in Silicon Valley like Google, Microsoft, AMD, Adobe etc have Indian CEOs. Other big companies and startup firms like Facebook, Motorola, Reckitt Benckiser, Master card etc have Indian managers handling key global business affairs. Unparalleled talent and fortitude of Indian engineers have won them accolades all over the US.

Ox-Bridge and London: Evergreen Indian Fantasies

Indian ties with the United Kingdom have always been unprecedented. The UK has around 2 million British-Indian citizens who immigrated and settled in Britain in different phases. Majority of this population is young and dynamic and third generation immigrants, who are entrepreneurs, businessmen, technocrats, managers and doctors of the highest repute. Young Indians have so well assimilated with the British politico-social culture that they contest elections and participate actively in the entire political process of the country. A record number of 10 Indian origin candidates won parliamentary elections in the UK in 2015, most of them young. Priti

Employed Workers in the Civilian Labor Force (ages 16 and older) by Occupation and Origin, 2013



tabulation of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2013 ACS.

Source:- Report US Census Bureau 2013.

Patel, (45 years) of Conservative Party became the first British-Indian woman to be made minister in the Cameroon government.

Gulf Countries and Malaysia

Contemporary diasporic flows from India are mainly of two kinds. The first type consists of highly skilled professionals, workers and students engaged in white collar jobs, who usually emigrate to countries like the USA, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. However, the other major class of emigrants is that of semi-skilled and unskilled workers who have shown massive emigrating tendencies to the Gulf Countries and Malaysia. The median age of these emigrants is even lesser than the median age of those migrating to Europe or North America. Mass emigration to these countries started after the oil boom in West Asian Countries. The population of Indian Diaspora in Gulf countries is almost 6 million. More than 90 per cent of this expatriate class consists of Non Resident Indians (NRIs). Unlike the USA, UK or Canada, Gulf Countries rarely provide permanent work visas to Indian emigrants. Since, the work mainly consists of construction or manual works from blue collar areas, the effective working capacity reduces after a certain age, and hence, ageing population is least desired in such countries. Though some real estate entrepreneurs from India have made their fortunes in countries like Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar but largely Indian entrepreneurs don't have rosy opportunities in these countries. Kerala has the highest number of residents serving in Gulf countries. Young Kerala girls have successfully taken up the jobs of nurses and midwives in super speciality hospitals in Gulf countries. The large Indian expatriate class in these countries has popularized Indian culture and Bollywood films in Gulf countries.

Brain Drain or Cultural Ambassadors?

India receives approximately



\$70 billion as remittances from its expatriate community living in various parts of the world. This is the highest amount received by any country. The magnanimity of its value could be understood from the fact that, the remittances received by Kerala alone from its Gulf immigrants is 36.3 per cent of Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) of Kerala. However, over the decades, Indian expatriate communities glorified the wisdom, culture and values of Indian land and civilization across the globe. They not only won accolades for themselves by being the sharpest brains of their fields but also raised the popular perception about young Indian talents. They helped build an alternative and strong image of India different from the earlier image of being the land of snake charmers. Thus, India benefitted both culturally and economically from its expatriate community.

However, the departure abroad of a large number of well-trained Indians naturally has led to concerns about "Brain Drain" in India. In 2010, India ranked first in sending around 60,000 young trained doctors to other countries. India supplies most trained foreign doctors to English speaking Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. Such massive emigration of health professionals has had a negative impact on India, especially in rural areas where the dearth of doctors is

already so high. Expatriation rate of Indian doctors is around 10 per cent while the same rate in China is just 1 per cent. Ninety percent of the professionals trained in genetic engineering and biotechnology migrate to the USA after the completion of their studies leaving Indian laboratories and R & D centers devoid of quality researchers.

Demographic Dividend to Diasporic Dividend

While most of the Asian, European and North-American countries are aging fast, India is set to become the youngest country of the world by 2025 with the median age of its population being 26 years. Twenty percent of the entire working population of the world would rest in India by 2020. India already has the largest population of diaspora in the world. Thus, India will have the onus to reap twin benefits from its demographic dividend domestically and diasporic dividend internationally. Young Indian Diaspora spread across all the major countries of world is the biggest tool of Indian soft power. India not only benefits from the high remittances sent by them but also from the research and development work undertaken by the Indian diaspora abroad. However, the present situation demands dedicated efforts by the Indian government to channelize escalated research and development initiatives taken by Indian diaspora back home. China once had the



over 150 countries can now visit and stay at a new home in New Delhi known as Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra. They can here search their roots, obtain investment advice, book domestic travel, attend events in a huge auditorium and hold business meetings.

5) Vajra-Visiting Adjunct Joint Research Faculty

This scheme is envisioned to contribute to the nation's growth in science and technology.

6) Know India Programme (KIP)

The objective of this program is to help familiarize Indian Diaspora youth, in the age group of 18-26 years with Indian land and their ancestors and share their views, expectations and experiences and to bond closely with contemporary India.

The call for "Brain Gain" and Make in India has found considerable resonance with the young Indian diasporic community settled across the world. They are planning to return back and invest in India their mental, physical and economic expertise. There was near 100 per cent international placement offers for young graduates of IIT Mumbai and Delhi in 2000. The offers are significant even today but the emigration of students from premier colleges has come down heavily.

Conclusion

Young Indian diaspora is of immense significance to India. Of late, conservative governments in countries like the USA, UK and Australia have announced to curtail the work visas to highly skilled Indians. As Indians were the biggest beneficiaries of such visas in all these countries, any such move would not only impact their career opportunities but also the stay and residence of Indian expatriates. Saudi Arabia also introduced Nitaqat scheme which protects its domestic

work spaces from outsiders. In other countries like Yemen, Sudan, Kenya or Iraq, Indians very often get stranded in war like situations. Though the Indian government has shown exceptional professionalism and ability in evacuating its stranded citizens still it needs to frame a dedicated evacuation policy to protect its young working population from any extremities. Complex GAAR procedures prevent many willing expatriate Indian investors to invest in Indian startups, so, these rules need to be properly codified and simplified. Young population is an asset domestically as well as internationally, so, to train them according to the specific needs of the countries more dedicated schemes like Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana needs to be floated.

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largest diaspora across the globe but successful Chinese entrepreneurs later returned back and provided necessary impetus to the indigenous startups and R & D ventures. However, this trend has largely been absent with Indian diaspora. Some of the programmes dedicated for "Brain Gain" are:-

1) Pravasi Bhartiya Divas

An annual meeting held every year to celebrate the achievements of Indian diaspora and felicitate them for their efforts for establishing links between India and their countries of residence. Of late, Pravasi Bhartiya Divas has been used as a podium to showcase the growth and development stories of India to boost the confidence of Indian expatriates to invest in India.

2) Merger of PIO and OCI cards

The merger of both these cards has been done with the intention to facilitate hassle free entry of persons of Indian origin into India and ensure their long-term residency without having the necessity to visit police station every now and then.

3) Youth Pravasi Bhartiya Divas

Recognizing the importance of young Indian diaspora and the need to connect them to the growth story of India, the government inaugurated this scheme to connect with the youth, the new generation of pravasis growing up all over the world.

4) Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra

The Indian Diaspora living in



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The political leaders in their active public life are concerned mostly with Social Work focusing on policies related to betterment of the masses. They require trained/skilled manpower to assist them in this endeavor in the following areas- Political Analyst, Political Strategist, Election Consultants, Constituency Managers, Public Relation officer, Social Media analyst, Brand consultants etc.

All these positions require good analytical, research, managerial, leadership & communication skills along with good decision making power. Many professionals work for government and make excellent money, enjoy security in their positions. Think tanks and private firms also provide job opportunities, although the pay in such cases can vary, depending on the grants received and the group's political affiliations. These professionals represent the country in international forums, indulging in debates of grave importance, having meetings with international leaders, passing of bills in parliament etc. They assist to resolve the internal problems and issues as well as we need to make good relation with the other nation.

As professionals work for a corporate organization to enhance its brand equity, a healthy balance sheet and a good customer feedback, politicians are striving hard for their respective political parties and constituency. MIT School of Government, Pune established in 2005, is the only institute in the country to provide experiential learning and training to the young, dynamic leaders of India to take up challenging positions and leadership roles in the democratic fabric of the nation.

YE-652/2017



Bringing Harmony Between Body and Mind

*Ishwara N Acharya
Rajiv Rastogi*



Yoga has been accepted now as non-invasive mode of treatment in the management of non-communicable diseases. These diseases can be prevented by positive lifestyle modifications in daily life

Yoga is popular worldwide now. It has crossed the boundaries of region, religion, caste, creed and nationality. It is well known worldwide because of its unique and specific role in promotion of health, prevention of illness and its therapeutic role in the management of various lifestyle related disorders in an effective manner. Yoga is also a spiritual discipline, which focuses on bringing perfect harmony between body and mind.

The present era is known for technological advancement which made our life comfortable. However, incorrect lifestyle, environmental conditions, pollution, modern work culture etc. have made the life difficult. It has created problems on all the dimensions of life i.e. physical, mental, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual. Yoga tries to provide a right direction in all walks of life. The uniqueness of Yoga is that it can get along with any other systems of health care. This facilitates the practitioners of other systems of medicine, including conventional medicine to prescribe Yogic therapies to the patients.

During his speech at 69th United Nations General Assembly on September 27, 2014 The Prime Minister said, “*Yoga is an invaluable gift of our ancient tradition. It embodies unity of mind and body; thought and action;*

restraint and fulfilment; harmony between man and nature; a holistic approach to health and well being. Yoga is not about exercise but to discover the sense of oneness with ourselves, the world and nature. By changing our lifestyle and creating consciousness, it can help us deal with climate change. Let us work towards adopting an International Yoga Day.”

The Prime Minister also stressed the need of popularising Yoga globally keeping in view of the fact that Yoga is well accepted and the utility of Yoga can be used in a better way.

Later on, the UN declared June 21 as the ‘International Day of Yoga’ with the support of around 177 countries. Now, the whole world is celebrating ‘International Day of Yoga’ with full enthusiasm and zeal. In India the Ministry of AYUSH has been entrusted the task of celebration of the International Day of Yoga with the active support of other Ministries in an appropriate manner. This year we are celebrating the 3rd ‘International Day of Yoga’.

What is Yoga?

Yoga is a spiritual science originated in India by ancient Indian sages. Yoga is a system of holistic living with its deep roots in the tradition and culture of India. It has been developed thousands of years back by the *Rishis* and *Munis*.

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Rajiv Rastogi is Assistant Director (Naturopathy) in CCRYN.

Yogic literature has been found in almost all the ancient scriptures. Rich sources of Yoga have also been found in Medieval, Modern and Contemporary literature. *Yogasutras* of Patanjali (400 BC) is believed to be the first systematic text which has been commented upon by several commentators. Patanjali gave the eight fold path of Yoga popularly known as *Ashtanga Yoga*. This *Ashtanga Yoga* takes care of all the aspects of a person.

Yoga is also a drugless system of healing, health care and healthy living. It has its own concepts and principles regarding health and disease. Its main emphasis is on holistic approach to health which covers physical, mental, moral, social, emotional and spiritual aspects of life. Various simple and easy to follow healthy living practices are advised for good health as well as for prevention of disease which can also be integrated in the daily routine as may be required. Moreover, these can also be practiced with other systems as add on therapy.

Now yogic practices are widely used by the researchers and practitioners for meeting the changing health care needs of mankind. Yoga has attracted global attention now. The awareness about yogic practices is increasing among people from different walks of life, not only for preservation and promotion of health, but also for the management of various diseases. Many yoga gurus and medical professionals have been promoting yogic lifestyle intervention programmes for the prevention and management of stress induced and other psychosomatic disorders.

Yogic practices lead to promotion of health, prevention of disease, effective management of psychosomatic disorders as well as better understanding of higher level of consciousness. The system of yoga has holistic approach and believes in treating the person as a whole.

The popular practices of yoga include *Kriyas* (purificatory procedures), *Surya Namaskara*, *Asanas* (physical postures), *Pranayama* (breathing



practices), relaxation techniques, *Bandha & Mudra*, Meditation etc.

Surya Namaskara:

Surya Namaskara (Salutation to Sun) is a very useful and popular mode of yogic exercise. It consists of a series of 12 body postures, which are performed early in the morning facing the rising sun. It energizes the entire neuro-glandular and neuromuscular system of the body. Its regular practice ensures a balanced supply of oxygenated blood and perfect harmony to all the systems of the body, thus invigorating the entire psychosomatic system of the human constitution.

Asanas (Body postures):

These are special patterns of postures that stabilize the mind and body through static stretching. The aim of *asanas* is to establish and improve the general muscle tone. The basic principle governing the performance of body postures is psycho-neurophysical and not only physical. *Asanas* should be performed effortlessly and maintained for a period of time comfortably.

Pranayama:

Pranayama practices bring control over the respiratory impulses, which form one of the channels of the flow of autonomic nerve impulses. Holding of the breath for a prolonged period

of time comfortably is an essential technique of yogic respiration. The main purpose of this respiration is to gain control over the autonomic nervous system and through its influence, the mental function is also controlled and regulated. It is useful in higher yogic practices like meditation.

Dhyana (Meditation):

Continuous and uninterrupted flow of mind in the same direction wherever the mind is fixed is meditation. The basic principle of meditation is to develop internal awareness. This practice involves control of mental functions which start from the initial withdrawal of the senses from external objects to the complete oblivion of the external environment. It is a process of absorption in which the individual tries to turn attention to experience. By regular practice of meditation, one acquires the power to concentrate deeply resulting in manifold benefits such as increased physical energy, mental efficiency, creativity, calmness, memory, intellect, psychic power and intuitiveness.

What is Health?

There are many definitions of health, but the most quoted modern definition of health was created during a preamble to the constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO)

as adopted by the International Health Conference, New York, which came into force on April 7, 1948. It says:

'Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.'

Yoga and the Youth:

Yoga is considered as a science of and art of healthy living. It is for everyone who wants to be healthy and likes to stay away from illness. Actually, Yoga is a way of developing inner skills and level of confidence besides other benefits. It can be said as a complete modification in lifestyle.

Yoga is a necessity for the youth population now. Youth are facing lot of challenges in their life whether related to studies or related to employment. Yoga can, of course, transform them into a real Yogi dealing efficiently with day to day challenges. Yoga develops the personality in all its aspects i.e. physical, mental, social, moral, emotional and spiritual at the same time and ultimately converts a person into a different personality. It affects the entire systems, improves concentration and patience, and makes the practitioner calm and quiet which is most essential in day to day life.

India is a large country with more than 125 crore population and the development of the country mostly depends upon its health. If the health of the country is poor its progress may become slow because a lot of energy and resources are to be invested to manage the proper health. But if the health of the country i.e. youth is good and robust, the country can run to a long distance without feeling of tiredness. So the health of youth is of utmost importance.

Yoga is essentially a spiritual science, besides a science of healthy living. It has potential for both prevention of diseases and promotion of health. The holistic approach of yoga brings harmony in all walks of life and also influences our daily living. Its



regular practice brings positive changes in the behavioural pattern and attitude and helps in improving the interpersonal relationship of the practitioner at home and society. Therapeutic benefits of yoga have also been revealed by many scientific researches carried out across the globe. Today, yoga has become popular because of its strengths in prevention and management of many lifestyle related disorders including physiological and psychosomatic disorders.

Yoga and Research:

Clinical studies have demonstrated the therapeutic potentials of yoga in the management of various psychosomatic and lifestyle related disorders in an effective manner. Yoga has been accepted now as non-invasive mode of treatment in the management of non-communicable diseases. These diseases can be prevented by positive lifestyle modifications in daily life. Yogic practices like *Shatkarma*, *Asanas*, *Surya namaskara*, *Pranayama*, *Dhyana* with some Naturopathy practices like fasting therapy, diet therapy, mud therapy, hydrotherapy, massage therapy, air therapy etc. ensure a disease free, healthy and happy life.

High blood pressure, Heart problems, Diabetes, Stress, Anxiety, Insomnia etc. are some of the common problems of youth population now days. The studies in this regard have shown the beneficial effects of yoga in reducing the coronary risk factors in CAD. Manchanda et al, 2000 have shown that yoga lifestyle intervention programme is possible to be carried out in patients with advanced coronary

artery disease with high degree of compliance. It has favorable effects on angina, body weight, lipid levels, exercise stress testing with retardation of progression of coronary obstruction in comparison to controls. Yoga lifestyle appears to stabilize the atherosclerotic plaque thus decreasing the need for coronary bypass surgery or angioplasty procedures. Hence, yoga lifestyle is a feasible and cost effective intervention in patients with advanced coronary artery disease.

Hence, non-communicable diseases i.e. Coronary Artery Disease, Hypertension and others can be very well prevented and managed effectively by incorporating the principles of Yoga as a lifestyle programme in daily life.

Food has also an important role in the health of youth. Acharya and Rastogi (2016) in the paper 'Yoga: Balancing Healthy & Stress Free Life' emphasized that the dietary habits are not healthy. Preserved foods, fast food, junk food, high calorie diet as well as smoking, alcohol, drugs and lack of proper rest and exercise have made us impatient resulting in the development of various psychosomatic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, arthritis, back pain etc. The number of mental illnesses is increasing day by day due to these reasons. It is found that a large number of people are suffering from depression, schizophrenia and disorders related to use of alcohol and drugs. Yoga as a non invasive mode of treatment treats the body and mind effectively with its different practices like *asanas*, *pranayama*, *shatkarmas*, *surya namaskara*, and meditation.

It can be, therefore, concluded that yoga is the right medium for youth to avoid their health problems and be a part of the nation's growth process. Yoga promotes positive health and develops positive attitude. The yogic practices are the right way to make the body and mind perfectly healthy and harmonious. □

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J&K WINDOW

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One year and more than one lakh patients benefited from the treatment at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital located in Kakryal near Katra in Jammu & Kashmir which was inaugurated by the Prime Minister. With high quality of care and affordable cost, the hospital has touched the lives of more than one lakh people of Jammu & Kashmir apart from a large number of pilgrims who availed of healthcare services during their Yatra to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

The hospital has Centres of excellence in cancer and cardiac care apart from other key specialities, which include liver and gastroenterology, Nephrology-management of kidney disease, urology, orthopaedics, paediatrics to name a few.

As part of its neighbourhood initiatives, the hospital conducted many health screening camps in Jammu, Reasi, Sunderbani, Doda, Poonch, Rajauri and Akhnoor with a primary mission of providing exceptional acute and preventive medical care, making a difference in the lives of people living in J&K region and neighboring districts. It also offers free ambulance service, mobile mammography screening and regular health awareness programs.

GIRLS FROM JAMMU & KASHMIR VISIT DELHI AND BENGALURU AS PART OF ARMY'S OUT REACH PROGRAMME

As part of the Indian Army's ongoing outreach programme to foster the spirit of National Integration across the entire swathe of the country, a tour of 16 Girls from the remote town of Gingle, Uri Tehsil in Srinagar District of Jammu & Kashmir was organised from 02 to 11 May 17. National Integration Tours are educational and motivational tours for school children, youth and local populace of J&K and North Eastern States, with an aim to provide an insight into the rich heritage of the country, various development and industry initiatives that are afoot exposing them to varied career options while providing an opportunity to interact with renowned personalities.

During the course of the tour, the children visited various cultural and historical places in Bengaluru and Delhi.



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YE-656/2017



Reconnecting with Oneself

Ishwar V Basavaraddi



Yoga helps one to reconnect with oneself. It can help to uncover why and how one's illness may have started, and can work with the body to start the recovery period from the ground up. The Yogic practices helps to see how they may be reacting to the world around them, and may help them learn to respond in a different perspective to life challenges.

Youth empowerment is a process where children and young people are encouraged to take charge of their lives. They do this by addressing their situation and then act to improve their access to resources and transform their consciousness through their beliefs, values, and attitudes. Youth empowerment aims to improve quality of life through participation in youth empowerment programs.

Youth empowerment is different from youth development because development is centred on developing individuals, whereas Empowerment refers to the measures which help to increase the degree of autonomy and self-determination in youth and in communities to enable them to represent their interests in a responsible and self-determined way, acting on their own authority.

The theory of youth empowerment can be broken down even further into three components: individual empowerment, organizational empowerment, and community empowerment.

1. Individual Empowerment: Youth or adults developing skills to exert control and improve competence, as well as developing critical awareness to effectively

collaborate for the betterment of organizations and communities¹.

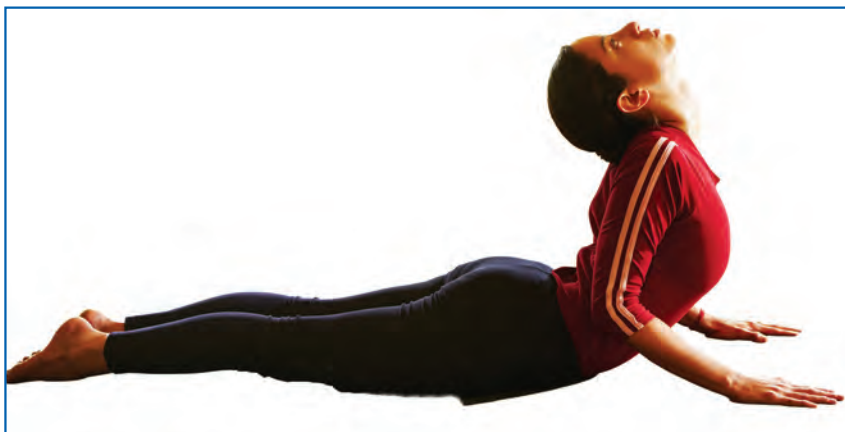
2. Organizational Empowerment: Entities that provide, and benefit from, the opportunity for youth or adults to acquire the skills needed to gain control over their lives, provide alternatives to service provision, as well as entities that develop and influence policy decisions².

3. Community Empowerment: Efforts to improve the community, respond to threats to quality of life, and provide for citizen participation at the local, state, and national level³.

Common Health Issues affecting Youth:

Available evidence shows and indicates that young people are prone to a number of health impacting conditions due to personal choices, environmental influences and lifestyle changes including both communicable and non-communicable disorders and injuries. The problems faced by youth are not only social and economical but also psychological. Bound by relationships and painful loneliness, they get tempted by drugs and alcohol. The other major issues are- peer pressure, family liabilities, and workload. Due to shortage/lack of proper counselling/care the youngsters tend to end their life.

The author is Director, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India.



The common problems faced by youth are as follows:

- Overweight and Obesity
- Stress
- Anxiety & Depression
- Interpersonal violence among youth
- Suicide tendencies
- Tobacco use
- Alcohol and Drug Addiction
- Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

Yoga for Youth Empowerment:

Asana and Pranayama especially acts on physical and mental health. They improve body strength, eliminate the toxins from body, relax body and mind, reduce stress and establish balance between sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous system and thus prevent different NCDs. Hence, Asana & Pranayama help to,

- Relieve Stress and Anxiety,
- Boost positive Energy and Mood
- Help normalize Blood Pressure
- Speed up a Sluggish Digestion by massaging surrounding muscles
- Increase feelings of calm & wellbeing.
- It can reverse the Stress Response, thereby providing a shield against the effects of Chronic Stress.
- Slows down Heart Rate and breathing, normalizes blood pressure.
- Oxygen can be used more efficiently.

- Adrenal glands produce less Cortisol.
- Improve Immune Function.

Yoga for Stress:

Stress induces imbalance of the Autonomic Nervous System with decreased activity of the parasympathetic and increased activity of the Sympathetic Nervous System. Stress is experienced when there is a mismatch between a perceived demand and one's ability to cope with that demand; it includes one's emotional and mental response to the outside situation. When one is continually stressed, whether that stress is real or perceived, his or her nervous system can be shifted towards the state of sympathetic overdrive. At this point, the actual activity of the sympathetic nervous system decreases with a decline in the release of epinephrine, but corticosteroid release continues to be activated at above-normal levels. In such a case, the individual may no longer even recognize that they are in a stressful state.

Yoga brings the Autonomic Nervous System into healthy balance by stimulating the Parasympathetic Nervous System. The Sympathetic Nervous System, or our "Emergency Response System," is activated when our body or mind feels threatened or perceives being stressed, whether that be a "positive" or a "negative" stress. This "flight or fight" response results in vasoconstriction, causing decreased blood flow to the extremities and the digestive system in order to prepare one for survival.

It is also found that Yoga benefits physical and mental health via down-regulation of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis (HPA) and the Sympathetic Nervous System. Deep relaxation and calming down of the mind through Yoga leads to effective reduction in blood pressure, pulse rate, and respiratory rate by decreasing the level of cortisol and acetylcholine which typically increases during the body's response to stress. As a result, it reduces psychological conflicts, suppressions, and hypersensitivities, which are recognized as the triggering factors for psychosomatic problems. It is also found that increased melatonin level, psychological and cardio respiratory profiles are improved due to Yoga practices.

Yoga for Addiction:

Yoga is the important therapeutic element in treating addiction to integrate the whole person (body mind and spirit), strengthen the physical body, relaxes the mind, increases both body and spiritual awareness, release tension and promotes proper breathing techniques, increases posture awareness, improves coping skills, and encourages determination and concentration. The mindfulness practices, where the various physical work helps to bring the awareness of the youngsters into the present moment, also help to encourage a greater awareness of feelings present in the body-mind continuum. Certain postures such as back bends which open up the front of the body can help the person become aware of emotions which tend to be experienced in the solar plexus area⁴.

Yoga for Obesity:

Yoga is based on balanced diet with proper practice asans and breathing techniques. Sometimes the obese people have trouble with joint pain. Yoga can help by improving the body alignment to reduce strain, stress on joints by allowing the frame to bear more of the body weight. It improves strength and flexibility. Yoga helps to feel better, by improving both physical fitness and elevating mood. Regular yogic



practices has different effects on obese person, which is permanent in nature when compares to other techniques for weight reduction. *Surya namaskara* is most important for the treatment of obesity. *Surya namaskara* is a complete asan because this practice has a unique influence on the endocrine and nervous system, helping to correct metabolic imbalances that causes the obesity. The pranayama recommended for obesity are *Bhastrika*, *Kapalabhati* and *Suryabhedana*, which are performed along with balancing practices which helps stimulate and maintaining the balance in the metabolism.

Youth and NCD's:

Youth is the time of life when one is young, but most importantly it means the time between childhood and adulthood. It is also defined as "the appearance, freshness, vigor, spirit, etc., characteristic of one who is young".

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) includes several conditions that are linked with behaviour and lifestyle related in nature. In India, particularly young people, are passing through a nutritional changeover and are expected to witness higher prevalence of adult non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, stress, diabetes and chronic lung diseases.

Yoga for NCD's

Nowadays, lifestyle is the major

causative factor in NCDs, including tobacco use, sedentary lifestyle, lack of regular exercise, unhealthy diets and chronic psychosocial stress. Chronic inflammation and stress are the common factors in many of the NCDs, and an area where yoga has been found to be extremely beneficial. Recent research studies have shown that practicing yogic and mindfulness-based practices can positively impact the body in many ways, including helping to regulate blood glucose levels and keeping the cardiovascular system healthy. Yoga also shows important psychological benefits, as the practice of yoga can help to increase alertness.

Yoga helps one to reconnect with oneself. It can help to uncover why and how one's illness may have started, and can work with the body to start the recovery period from the ground up. The Yogic practices helps to see how they may be reacting to the world around them, and may help them learn to respond in a different perspective to life is challenges. Slowing down, calming our minds and connecting with our inner selves help to bring the person into the present moment. This can ultimately help to relieve one from the pressures and stressors of the busy world and helps to preventing the NCD's.

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3. Ibid., Meredith Minkler, "Improving Health through Community Organization," *Health Behavior and Health Education: Theory, Research, and Education*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 1990.
4. The solar plexus is located in the stomach area. In Yoga physiology there are seven chakras or energy centers in the body. These are thought to equate to levels of consciousness and our emotional capacities. □

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Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) Introduced

"The Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) in the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) of the country was introduced recently.

PCV protects children against severe forms of pneumococcal diseases, such as pneumonia and meningitis. Currently, the vaccine is being rolled out to approximately 21 lakh children in Himachal Pradesh and parts of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in the first phase. This will be followed by introduction in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan next year, and eventually be expanded to others parts of country in a phased manner.

Pneumonia kills more children under five years of age in India than any other infectious disease. The pentavalent vaccine which was scaled up in all states under the UIP by 2015 protects against *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) pneumonia. Now, the introduction of PCV in the UIP will reduce child deaths from pneumococcal pneumonia. It will also reduce the number of children being hospitalized for pneumonia, and therefore reduce the economic burden on the families and the health cost burden on the country.

Pneumococcal disease is the leading cause of vaccine-preventable deaths in children under five years of age globally and in India. India accounts for nearly 20 per cent of global pneumonia deaths in this age group. In 2010, pneumococcal pneumonia accounted for approximately 16 per cent of all severe pneumonia cases and 30 per cent of pneumonia related deaths in children under- five years of age in India. Introducing PCV, therefore, will substantially reduce disease burden in the country.

Distance and Online Entrepreneurship Education in India

Amit Kumar Dwivedi



In a fast paced corporate environment, people in jobs are feeling a constant need to upgrade their skills. Therefore, there is also a need to invest in entrepreneurship education and training using Open and Distance Learning platform. If India has to capitalize on the prospective dream of reaping the fruits of demographic dividend in the upcoming decades, we ought to endow our efforts and attention into leveraging the entrepreneurial energies of the youth

According to All India Council for Technical Education, “Distance Learning is a field of education that focuses on the pedagogy, technology and instructional systems design that aims to deliver education to students who are not physically on site”. Distance Education “is a process to create and provide access to learning when the source of information and the learners are separated by time and distance, or both.” It defines this process as creating an educational experience of ‘equal qualitative value’ to the learners (All India Council for Technical Education, 2014). Though it is aspired to have an Open and Distance Learning system at par with the conventional ones, the reality is that it is always considered second best. A blended approach in Distance Education came into practice to bridge the gap between this aspiration and the reality. In a blended approach, Information and Communication tools and Open Educational Resources are best utilized along with personal contact sessions and counseling to the learners. Such a modus operandi enables learning by oneself through self-instructional materials yet retaining the feature of active faculty-student interaction for guidance and motivation.

Serving diverse sections of the population, most of whom do not have access to formal education, the Open and Distance Learning system (ODL, hereafter) in India has emerged as a convenient, flexible and

viable alternative. Last six decades of distance education experience and development gives new hopes to face the challenges of providing quality education to the masses. Information and Communication Technology has blurred classroom boundaries both spatially and temporally (Kulandaisamy, 2011). The number of ODL institutes who have leveraged the technology-enabled instructional platforms is rising in the country.

Growth of Distance and Online Education in India:

Open and Distance Learning as it is addressed today aims to universalize education by leveraging the potential of available educational technology with Information and Communication Technology. Virtual and Online education refers to courses conducted using internet platforms and tools. These virtual learning environments have the potential to reach the masses and provide them with access to quality contents, pedagogy and learning support to wider sections of the public and therefore considered a significant part of Open and Distance Learning.

Entrepreneurship Education in India:

According to Adult Population Survey (APS), 58 per cent of Indian adults consider entrepreneurship as a desirable career choice. Only 6.6 per cent are involved in some kind of entrepreneurial activities. A factor

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driven economy like India faces the risk of discontinuance in business due to reasons such as risk of failure, lack of financial access etc (Shukla, Tanuka, Bharti, & Dwivedi, 2016). Perceived capabilities and opportunities are low among the youth population especially women (slightly more than 40 per cent). National Experts Survey lists lack of entrepreneurial training and education as one of the constraining factors for limited entrepreneurial growth in the country (Shukla, et al. 2016). These studies emphasize the increasing need for effective entrepreneurial education that caters to the needs of the potential student entrepreneurs and equip them with the necessary skills to emerge as business leaders.

When the proportion of working people in the total population, namely the youth population of a country is high, then a proper utilization of the available human resources leads to demographic dividend and results in holistic development of the country. This requires expansion and development of entrepreneurship education.

Entrepreneurship education has received special attention from the central government and some of the reputed educational institutes as they have realized the role of young entrepreneurs in a globalized economy such as ours.

Distance and Online Entrepreneurship Courses:

Distance and online education has been growing with the help of public and private entities. An internet survey found that management courses are on the top in terms of enrollments in Distance and Online courses. Further, if we search for distance and online programmes on Entrepreneurship it



is discouraging. Very few institutions have been found who are involved in some kind of entrepreneurship programmes through distance and online mode. One could only find the following mentioned 5 programmes.

1. **EDII (Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad):** Open and Distance Learning Programme in Entrepreneurship (OLPE)
2. **Symbiosis University, Pune:** Certificate Program in Entrepreneurship Development (CPED)
3. **IGNOU:** Certificate in Entrepreneurship (CIE)
4. **Welingkar Institute, Mumbai:** Diploma in Entrepreneurship Management (DEM)
5. **West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (Kolkata):** Diploma in Entrepreneurship Administration and Business Laws

Situation in Vogue:

Seeing the scope of entrepreneurship education in the country, the distance learning mode of education is yet to achieve recognition. Institutions offering

distance learning entrepreneurship programmes need to build the rigor in terms of curriculum and structure to deliver a result oriented programme. Though there is scope for improvement in delivery and design, here are some prime issues that are to be analyzed and addressed to strengthen the distance mode of entrepreneurship education:

Commercialization vs Quality Education: It is observed that some of the universities, both private and public, have taken distance education as a means for earning money, which is very unfortunate. We could see distance education courses being started for commercial reasons without caring for proper standards, both in providing print material as well as other facilities vis-à-vis TV, radio, et al. This creates a problem. Students are deprived from availing standard education. Not all universities should be allowed to conduct specialized courses such as entrepreneurship without proper facilities and trained faculties who could manage them. Also, there are universities that are basically not meant for such type of courses especially 'Entrepreneurship'. These universities were set-up with a certain purpose and target but they began offering distance education courses merely for making money.

Table 1: Enrollments in Distance/Open Learning Educational Programmes

State	Year	Total - Male	Total - Female	Total
All India	2012-2013	14178978	11582708	25761686
All India	2011-2012	12179248	9681868	21861116

Source: Open Government Data (OGD) Platform India (www.data.gov.in)

Some of these institutions do not have trained teachers/staff to look after the online programmes, their curriculum and the course material. Distance and online programme centers are generally located in already established colleges. But the facilities of live teleconferencing / video conferencing/ online chatting/ MODDLE based discussions are still absent.

Distance Education: Scope The scope for distance education remains untapped. Given the apathy that governments show towards higher education reforms in most under-developed countries, Human Resources Development remains a distant dream. In India private institutions are collaborated with to provide free courses as well (eg. Swayam). With higher education in private hands, full time academic programmes are getting costlier than ever before. Therefore, compared to joining a full time educational programme students can join a distance and online programme in a university at a much cheaper rate. Thanks to technological development, quality education is now not only accessible for students right at home but is welcomed with open hands. Any successful distance education programme depends on the 'consistent and integrated efforts' of all the stakeholders such as students, faculties, facilitators, support staff and the institute (Madhukar, 2002).

Competencies Required:

"It requires a comprehensive range of skills including an understanding of the learner, a deep understanding of the software..., deeper knowledge about the contemporary instructional design principles, and aesthetic design of the multimedia interface (Ramaiah, 2001, p. 162)."

Thach and Murphy investigated around 103 distance education professionals from United States and Canada to identify the key skills and competencies required to conduct ODL courses. The result showed the following necessary skills: 1) Interpersonal communication 2) Planning, Collaboration and

Teamwork 3) English proficiency and writing skills 4) Administrative support services 5) Feedback skills 6) Basic knowledge and understanding of distance education and technology (Thach & Murphy, 1995).

Entrepreneurship is a specialized course that aims to equip the students with skills on optimum utilization of resources, finance and enterprise management, marketing, administration and management etc. There are challenges to teach the students these skills through Open and Distance Learning. It requires the acumen of a distance education professional and subject knowledge in entrepreneurship and management.

Needs & Opportunities:

Distance Education in entrepreneurship gets little response in India. The universities/ institutions running distance education in entrepreneurship need to ensure quality in higher distance education. Following are some of the needs and opportunities for quality distance entrepreneurship education in India (National Institute of Business Studies, 2014):

- **Population:** Formal educational models cannot stand up to the expectations of the rising middle-class aspirations. An innovative and wide-reaching educational arena such as MOOCs is essential to educate the population. Transformation of unskilled and semi-skilled labor to skilled labor; and shift from informal sector to organized sectors of dignified employment are possible only through cost-effective entrepreneurship education.
- **Flexibility:** Though governed by its own norms, ODL accommodates the learners and provides them with flexibility to learn and grow amongst the community of learners. To quote Ramaiah, *'Mass education is made possible through Information and Communication Technology. Distance Learning via Internet allows people in business to*

upgrade their skills and adapt to the changing contours of business enterprises in the globalized world. (Ramaiah, 2001, p. 159)'

- **Educating the Youth:** With 28 per cent of its population being young, India cannot afford to ignore its unemployment issues. Sanghi and Srija (February 2014) observe in their article 'Youth unemployment in India' that, *'lack of decent employment opportunities forces youth to take up self-employment and low paid contractual jobs with deplorable conditions.'* There is a wide felt need amongst the current generation of youngsters especially women to educate and train themselves for better employment opportunities.
- **Rising Need for Trained Personnel:** Indian industries suffer from staffing issues. Unfortunately, a large portion of our graduates are unemployable and lack basic skills. Open and Distance Education in Entrepreneurship could groom these individuals into innovative and successful entrepreneurs.
- **Spatial and Temporal Limitations:** Not every student can afford to enroll in a regular course from a formal university. This could be because one could not bear the cost of the course; or one cannot afford the time and leisure available to commit to a conventional programme. Time and space availability between students and teachers can be asynchronous. Open and Distance Learning Models in entrepreneurship training can break these barriers. Working individuals can learn and finish their course through ODL without affecting their jobs as these courses are self-paced and provide enough freedom to cope with.
- **Improved Qualification and Scope for Promotion:** Distance Education Platforms especially for courses like Entrepreneurship and Management provides for additional skills and knowledge to the existing working

population. This way, not only does it supplement their career with additional qualifications but enhances their productivity and increases their chance for promotion in their existing occupation.

- **Education after Retirement:** An important highlight of Distance education courses in Entrepreneurship is that it empowers the retiring population to invest their savings or engage in entrepreneurial ventures thereby help them secure their life after retirement.
- **Micro-entrepreneurship:** A study conducted by Chandraiah of Dr B R Ambedkar Open University found out that over 90 per cent of the Self Help Group (SHG) women involved in small enterprises don't find the support services and training given by The Society for Eliminating Rural Poverty (established by Govt. of Andhra Pradesh) useful. Hence a certificate programme in micro-entrepreneurship was formulated to guide these small-scale literate women entrepreneurs who utilize microfinance services offered by banks to manage their business (Chandraiah, 2013).
- **Formalization of the Informal Sector:** Srija and Shirke, who analyzed the informal labor market in India recommend '*enabling an environment*' that would lead to formal culture in the informal sectors of employment assisting transformation gradually. A decent course in entrepreneurship for small scale traders would ensure both the budding entrepreneurs and the existing ones to work and grow in the healthier business environments as compared to deplorable conditions.

Blended Approach-Online Learning Programme in Entrepreneurship:

Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad in collaboration with Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Germany aims to create

and train new entrepreneurs in large-scale primarily to address the unemployment issues in the country. In order to fulfill the learning needs of the individuals spread across different geographical regions, the programme took the ODL route. Through a blended approach, the online programme is supplemented with two contact sessions for skill development and Knowledge building and counseling by experts and EDII faculties. Web based software is set up for distribution of resources, assessments and progress monitoring amongst students. The course aims to aggregate the benefits of virtual open learning platforms with tangible institution based resources and facilities through a blended approach (Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad, 2016). For dual mode institutes like EDII, Edge and Loegering points out that, Distance Education would lead to *increased clientele base, improved service for students and more efficient use of existing facilities* (Edge & Loegering, 2000) and facilitate inter-collegiate resource pool and collaboration within a university.

Road Ahead:

- a. **Employment-oriented:** All human development reports have made it very clear that any type of education is an investment. This holds particularly true for countries of South Asia, including India, where enrollment in higher education is still low and insignificant. Not even ten percent students from the age-group that should be availing higher education do that. Also through observation we could say that most students who come out of these institutes end up being unemployed. So, there is a problem in the way education is being imparted and the uneven relationship between one's professional/ career aspirations (Job, Entrepreneurship, Self-employment) and his or her education. Hence, the need is felt seriously for entrepreneurship/

self-employment/vocational education that ensures some degree of employment opportunities available by establishing a meaningful relationship between education and employment.

- b. **Virtual vs Real:** Striking a fine balance between impersonal virtual learning and personal contact is essential. A study on online management studies through distance mode revealed that students preferred 'personal contact with the faculties' for subject matter queries alongside virtual classroom experience (Goyal, 2014).
- c. **Credibility and Authenticity:** Gaining credibility amongst the potential employers and authenticity among students are necessary since Open and Distance Learning has inherent challenges to face. Since entrepreneurship education through ODL is considered only as a convenient substitute to regular entrepreneurship courses, the credibility of such training among the potential employers takes a toll. Institutes offering entrepreneurial training through ODL must ensure quality on par with the conventional courses through rich and reliable course content, fair assessment, effective communication and execution of course objectives and strong student support services. Sustainability and quality in entrepreneurial training through distance learning mode could be assured only through fostering constant reflection and feedback amongst all the stakeholders viz., students, faculties and academic support staff involved in the course.

Conclusion:

In a fast paced corporate environment, people in jobs are feeling a constant need to upgrade their skills. Therefore, there is also a need to invest in entrepreneurship education and training using Open and Distance

Learning platform. If India has to capitalize on the prospective dream of reaping the fruits of demographic dividend in the upcoming decades, we ought to endow our efforts and attention into leveraging the entrepreneurial energies of the youth. The potential of distance education programmes in entrepreneurship for providing educational and employment opportunities is enormous and can only prove to be successful if institutions offering these courses maintain and ensure quality of the highest order at every aspect and component of the course such as curriculum design, pedagogy, learning materials and other support services.

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NORTH EAST DIARY

KRISHI KARMAN AWARD

The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has selected Tripura for the Krishi Karman Award 2015-16 for commendable increase in food grain production in small category states. Tripura gets this national award for the second time. The north-eastern state first received the award in 2009-10 fiscal.

NIELIT CENTRE

The fifth northeast centre of the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) at Radha Kishore Nagar near Agartala, the state capital of Tripura was opened recently. This was the 37th NIELIT centre in the country. On this occasion, Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology said that the government has taken firm steps to raise the rate of digital literacy to a large extent and to stop import of electronics and IT-related kits and devices by 2019. The government is also considering setting up one NIELIT centre in each district of the country to educate and train youth in electronics, IT services and related jobs. Each NIELIT centre comprises several training labs, including for medical electronics repair, mobile and telephone repair, software development, for hardware repair and maintenance, and classrooms and residential complexes. The government has also taken steps and plans to connect all gram panchayats in the country through high-speed internet.

RECENT INITIATIVES IN THE NORTH-EAST

- Naga Peace Accord
- Promotion of Organic Agriculture
- Developing North Eastern States as Organic Capitals
- Sikkim becomes the First fully organic state in the country. Conversion of 75,000 hectares of agricultural land into sustainable cultivation.
- Mizoram on India's railway map, first broad gauge freight train enters state on March 21st 2016.
- Tripura on India's broad gauge railway map, Tripura Sundari Express flagged on 31st July 2016.
- Meghalaya on the Indian Railways map. PM flags off the first passenger train from Mendipathar in

Meghalaya to Dudhnoi in Assam on 30th Nov. 2014

- "IshanUdaya special scholarship for NE Students for general and professional degree courses, including medical and paramedical courses- from Academic Session 2014-15
- "IshanVikas" to provide exposure visits for talented students from the NE region for internship in IITs, NITs, NIFTs
- Six new Agriculture Colleges to be set up in North East to make it the Organic Capital of India
- Setting up of 1st National Sports University in Manipur

AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA FLAGS OFF AMBULANCE SERVICE IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

The Airports Authority of India has provided an ambulance service with Advanced Life Support Systems (ALS) for Longding District of Arunachal Pradesh under its CSR Initiatives. The ALS ambulance is expected to bring a big relief to patients in remote areas and will be a great support to the Primary Health Centre facility in the Longding District of Arunachal Pradesh.

AAI had, in the past, provided similar ambulance facilities to the Primary Health Centre at Pakyong, Sikkim, and also to Dr. Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University, Lucknow and Primary Health Centre at Udaipur, Rajasthan.



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The second largest populous nation of world, India, had a staggering 600 million people i.e., more than 50 per cent of its population below the age of 25, till the latest count, and it is a matter of another couple of years that the nation will become the youngest in the world having more than three fourth of its population under 25 years of age. This goldmine fraction of our population, responsible for 34 per cent of India's Gross National Income, will definitely be going to demand for the right educational infrastructure, development of appropriate skills and adequate opportunities to get jobs or become entrepreneurs for their personal, societal and country's growth.

The demographic dividend is never a burden on any nation but a window of opportunity. Such differential population spurts, called demographic dividends, have boosted the economic growth in many East Asian countries, like Republic of Korea, in the recent past and will prove the same for ours too, only if these are strengthened and empowered. Empowerment is necessarily a process of inculcating values to equip the learner lead a life that is satisfying to the individual while being in accordance with the cherished values and ideals of the society. Youth empowerment, especially in Indian scenario, is imperative not only

for national but also for personal development which can be pursued by promoting youth rights, youth activism and their active role in making community decision.

The key to youth empowerment is to educate them and make them employable. We cannot talk about sustainable development, for any nation, without the active role of its youth-persons with active hands and heads. Lack of opportunities is just like making them to sit on the margin of society, waiting on the train track for a train that may never come.

Pillars of Youth's Empowerment:

The sustainable empowerment of the youngsters of India can primarily be stabilized on following four pillars:

- Education
- Skills and employment
- Radical temperamental change
- Government's policies and initiatives

The vision of "**Transforming India**" can only be fulfilled by the motto of Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) - "**Education for All, Quality Education**" and that can really reshape our developing nation only if our education system has appropriate flavour of the basic attributes of any education system, i.e.

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Access, Equity and quality followed by talent and skill promotion.

In the current scenario the Enrolment Rate (GER) in Higher Education (HE) in India is much lower (22 per cent) than world's average (28 per cent) and also in comparison to other developed nations like China (28 per cent), Brazil (36 per cent), UK (59 per cent), and in another couple of years (2020), when the country's youth population with less than 25 years of age will be the highest in world, we aim to enhance our GER to only 30 per cent which is possible only by at least doubling the number of existing institutions providing tertiary education to make HE accessible. The gap is really haunting to make dream come true. So much so, despite of the mushrooming of private engineering institutions and universities, the density of the scientists and engineers in India is one of the lowest in the world. The goal of "Quality Education" can only be achieved by run-way of "Education for All".

India being secular and democratic gets fragmented on various issues of caste, gender, topography, age etc. which hinders the equal access of available education resources to the citizens and does not let the system bear its desired fruits. These pot holes need to be patched up before we talk of quality education. The inequity is also from the other side, when the subject choices are made by the students in HE. The most sort after subjects remain - arts and humanities (approximately 35-40 per cent) followed by commerce and management (approximately 20-25 per cent) and last priority is given to basic and applied sciences (approximately 19-21 per cent & 15-16 per cent respectively). Probed reasons for the inequity in student preferences are quite surprising and definitely eye opener for the government and all policy makers at the helm of the affairs. The prioritization of subjects is based on the curricula flexibility, scope of skill enhancement- be it soft or hard, intra and inter-campus easy movement of students, applicability in the world of work and over and above employability.

The nation's economic growth, today, is primarily based on its service sector (66.1 per cent) which demands soft skills of the highest order and the upcoming contribution of technology sector (9.2 per cent) demanding both soft & hard skills where the youth of the day are not fully equipped to satisfy their employers. It is hard to digest that only less than one third of Indian engineering graduates and about 5 per cent of students from basic sciences and other streams are found employable. This makes the two esteemed streams of our education, losing their sheen.

After the two major quantitative issues of access and equity, third is of qualitative aspect of education. To en-cash the situation of prevalence of low quality education standards of our country, the developed countries have been proved to be opportunistic by not only draining Indian economy but brains too. Year by year, number of Indian students going abroad in search of quality education is increasing. This can easily be redone by certain amendments in the existing system of education. Little more innovation and creativity is needed to restructure the oldest and biggest education system as per the state-of-the-art.

The existing education system of India runs a hurdle race with numberless barriers like:

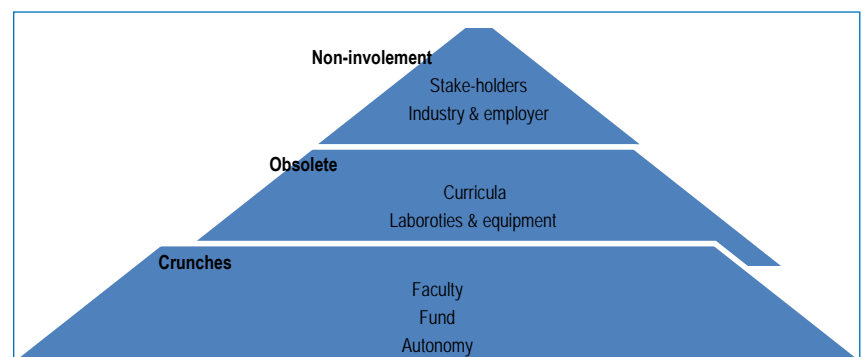
Crunches

- Lack of quality and motivated teachers and mentors- being non promising, less paid and least recognised profession in the country.

- Faculty crunch or adhocism- most of the even top institutions of the nation have empty chairs of regular heads, seasoned faculty and experienced researchers with 1/3rd faculty positions being unfilled.
- Paucity of funds especially in state institutions- the biggest lacuna, as more number of students are being enrolled in state institutions having higher number of seats than federal institutions in toto.
- Least prioritised budgeting from nation's GDP (3.3 per cent) make the biggest education system of the world, hollow vessels sound more.
- Interfering and overpowering political and bureaucratic setup.
- Inability of senior academicians and researchers to implement their visions of ages.

Obsolescence

- Out dated and rigid curriculum, non-uniformity in curricula, inability of conventional teaching pedagogy to hold back tech-savvy youth of today's, minimization of laboratory based education especially in basic sciences make education totally black and white and the youth lose their inherent interest in perusing such system ahead. This is one of the main reasons of rapid decline in the GER in HE in basic sciences.
- Shelled approach- designed curricula make youth of today literate but not educated with holistic development. Lack of interdisciplinary approach



of imparting education makes them unable to implement their knowledge in practical field.

- Ill-equipped institutions of HE except federal funded institutions.

Non-Involvement

- Lack of participation of employ & employer- designing curriculum has been centuries old practice done by either senior academicians or some time bureaucrats who are not the takers of the products of education system. Neither the industry nor laboratories nor commerce and business and nor even the stakeholders are consulted in its design. That leads to more unemployable educated youth which might become burden than asset to the nation.
- Despite of all the upheavals, our youth from Science and Technology, Arts and Humanities are progressing. The top institutions like IITs, AIIMS, IISER, IMTECH, IISc, IIMs etc. are not holding rank in world's top institutions list because of their faculties but of their students. Since 2002-2016 the nation's out-put of scientific publications have almost increased five times. We are establishing indigenous technologies with strong foothold in many fields like Space Communication, IT sector, Research and Innovation, Pharmaceuticals and Diagnostics etc. where basic sciences' fundamentals are playing a pivotal role. The government is playing an active role in reframing the ossified system to empower the youth with best possible policies, reforms, initiatives, schemes, missions to provide in-house and out-door quality education to fortify the youth sitting at each and every corner of the diverse nation. The various initiatives are based on three prime factors of access, equity and quality. The majority of these are equally benefitting the students of basic sciences and

humanities- a major component of Higher Education ecosystem in the country.

Expansion of education for youth is being undertaken by the government at every level by establishing new institutions like IITs, IIMs, IIITs, IISERs, AIIMS, Central Universities, colleges etc. along with Institutional capacity building initiatives.

Global Initiative of Academic Networks(GIAN) aimed at tapping the pool of scientists and entrepreneurs, internationally to encourage their engagement with the institutes of Higher Education to augment the country's existing academic resources to elevate India's scientific and technological capacity to global excellence.

Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) India – with an aim to direct research in the premier institutions into areas of social relevance.

Uchchtar Aavishkar Yojana (UAY)-launched to promote industry specific need based research so as to keep up the competitiveness of Indian industry in the global market.

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) - for ranking the higher education institutions annually based on an objective and verifiable criteria for promoting quality.

Establishment of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) -for creating capital assets in order to give a big push for building up robust higher education institutions

National Academic Depository (NAD) - for maintaining academic awards in a digital depository enabling online access and retrieval, eliminate fraudulent practices such as forging of certificates and mark-sheets and facilitate validation.

SWAYAM PRABHA – a project for telecasting high quality educational programmes through 32 DTH channels on 24x7 basis.

SWAYAM- an indigenous IT platform for hosting the Massive

Open Online Courses (MOOCs) for providing best quality education covering all subjects and courses to the students even in the remotest corner of the country.

National Digital Library – for building a National asset for providing access to the knowledge repository in terms of books, e-learning material, encyclopaedia, journals, monographs, reviews, research work, articles etc. for the benefit of learners/professionals/scholars and other interested people.

Campus Connect- Wi-Fi enabled campus by providing 1- GBPS Connectivity to universities and 10-MBPS connectivity to colleges.

All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)- covering all HE institutions in the country for making informed policy decisions and research.

National Initiative for Design Innovation – to ensure maximum reach of design education and practices by free sharing of courseware through internet

Post-Doctoral Fellowships - in Sciences and Humanities for grooming young researchers for launching an academic/research career to acquire new skills, broaden horizon and transiting in cross disciplinary areas.

UGC-BSR Faculty Fellowship programme - for strengthening Basic Science Research in Universities to provide opportunity for continuance of research contributions by talented science and technology teachers who are nearing superannuation.

Scheme for Strengthening Science Based Higher Education and research in Universities and colleges-with an objective to promote excellence in research in higher education by supporting research programmes

The Skill India- an excellent initiative of the Prime Minister to provide appropriate skills primarily to unemployed youth, marginalised women and rural communities to explore employment opportunities

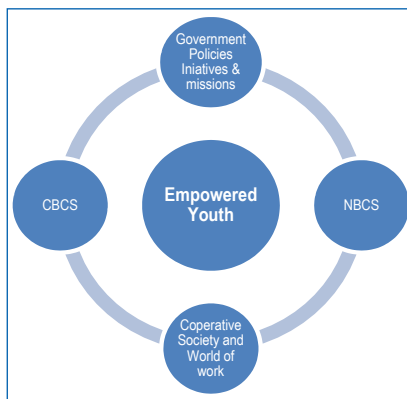
and sustainable livelihood options for raising their life standards.

Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)- though education is State's responsibility but to promote the quality standards of state's education system, federal funding under RUSA is given to the states to promote performance based education. It works on the "Carrot and Stick Policy".

Choice Based Credit System (CBCS)- An excellent approach to redesign curriculum which is going to be student centric, giving them ample opportunity for interdisciplinary academics along with multi-directional movement within state, nation and world's education system. The system will also help in removing the stigmas of evaluation and hurdles of employability.

So it seems, to empower the youth, the education system, especially of arts and humanities and basic sciences, needs calculative reforms. Within the limited resources of a developing country, a proper amalgamation of existing systems and policies can prove wonders. The four sided positive approach; student centric education systems (CBCS), employers need based curricula (NBCS), extended

Quadrat Approach Model (QAM) for Empowerment of Indian Youth



helping hand of government through its policies and missions and recognition and acceptance of such trained and talented youth by the society and world of work can empower youth and nation both. With best of our wisdom, we conclude by making a quadrat approach model for empowerment of the Indian youth.

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Portal and Mobile App of RUSA

The Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), under the aegis of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, has launched its own portal and mobile app recently. The portal is a one-stop for States' Higher Education Plans, decision of the States' Higher Education Councils and details of the resources under this scheme. Also, the gallery is a rich repository of the projects initiated under RUSA. Seventeen RUSA projects were also be launched digitally. They include a cluster university in Jammu and Kashmir, micro ATM facility at the RUSA centre for intelligent systems in Pune University, solar power facility in Shree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, Kerala; language laboratories in Ghatsila College, Jharkhand, among others. The Fund and Reform Tracker for this centrally sponsored scheme was also launched. The mobile application will ensure that all projects under RUSA are tracked 24x7.

States and UTs have responded very well to this scheme; 29 States and 6 UTs are participating in RUSA. Over 2000 State Universities and Colleges have been supported so far. The National GER prior to the launch of RUSA was 20.8 (2012), with Male GER at 22.1 and Female GER at 19.4. RUSA assistance has been critical in witnessing a growth in the GER. A substantial increase in the National GER has been recorded at 24.5, with male GER at 25.4 and female GER at 23.5 in 2015-16 (Source: AISHE 2015-16).

RUSA is the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of the Department of Higher Education, MHRD which aims to provide strategic central funding to State Higher Education Departments and Institutions and achieve the broad objectives of access, equity and excellence. The State Higher Education Departments and Institutions undertake certain governance, academic and administrative reforms as a pre-requisite to be entitled for RUSA grants. The implementation of RUSA in its right earnest began after May 2014.

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Bringing Youth to the Mainstream

Ravi Pokharna



Government has launched scores of initiatives in the field of education and skill development for the benefit of the youth belonging to the LWE regions. On the one hand, government has expedited the implementation of already available existing schemes in these regions on priority, on the other hand several innovative measures and interventions have been introduced to meet the specific needs

Fifty years ago, on the fateful day of May 18th, 1967, Siliguri Kishan Sabha in West Bengal declared their support to few individuals of village Naxalbari who had suggested adopting armed struggle to redistribute land to the landless. The Naxalite movement, as it is now referred to, over the years spread itself geographically to other states of the country and continued surpassing itself in cruelty and violence with each armed act.

The youth belonging to such insurgent areas understandably live under vulnerable situations. Realising this, Government of India lays special focus on planning and execution of development schemes in such areas. Other than the Left Wing Extremism of CPI(M) majorly affecting 34 districts, insurgency is also affecting few regions of North East India as well as Jammu and Kashmir. The article further elaborates on the government schemes being implemented for youth in the three described insurgent areas.

Government schemes for youth in the CPI (Maoist) insurgency affected 'Red Corridor'

Though the gravity of the Naxal problem was realised by the government long back but it was only in 2009 that a Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Division was created as a part of the Home

Ministry to effectively address the Left Wing Extremist insurgency in a holistic manner. The division was also made responsible for coordinating with various departments of state and central government on the development activities and initiatives in these areas. Subsequently over last few years, a more integrated, decisive and firm strategy of tackling the problem has evolved. As per the new Integrated Action Plan, government plans to bring adivasis into the mainstream and at the same time strictly deal with the violence. Government has decided on achieving "short-term goals" in the fight against left-wing extremism. Following a district-wise approach of development has also been replaced now by adopting block level development planning. It is also planned to setup development hubs in each of the worst affected districts. As per the plan of boosting development in naxal affected areas, the Prime Minister visited Dantewada considered to be the Maoist hotbed. While inaugurating developmental projects worth Rs 24,000 crore he said 'Only plough on the shoulders and not guns can bring development. And this will bring everyone to the mainstream of the country. There is no future for violence. The future is only of peaceful means.'. Keeping with this statement the government has initiated a number of measures for the youth residing in

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Left Wing Extremist areas.

Government has launched scores of initiatives in the field of education and skill development for the benefit of the youth belonging to the LWE regions. On the one hand, government has expedited the implementation of already available existing schemes in these regions on priority, on the other hand several innovative measures and interventions have been introduced to meet the specific needs. Since uneducated and unemployed youth are considered soft targets by insurgents to recruit and join the cadre, Government has worked out an integrated plan to educate the youth of the region. Under **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan, residential schooling facility** is being provided to all children. For girl child **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas** provide affordable and quality elementary education. Secondary education is ensured through **Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)**. A number of **KVs and Navodaya schools** are also being opened up.

Ministry of Skill Development is training 160 youth in each of 34 LWE affected districts under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana. State Governments are also playing vital role in creating positive environment and opportunities for the youth. Chhattisgarh government has created Livelihood colleges in these regions. Additionally the **government is preparing students for competitive exams through its institute 'Prayas'**. Bastar region whose all five districts fall in the LWE category sent 27 students to IITs in the year 2016. Under the scheme "Skill Development in 34 Districts Affected by Left Wing Extremism", Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is working on operating one ITI and Two Skill Development centres in each of the 34 districts of the nine states.

The Police of Jharkhand has initiated a very unique initiative for the children of LWE affected region Palamu of the state. This initiative

called '**Taare Zameen Par**', has **cops collecting amenities like books, notebooks, clothes, bags, shoes etc.** from residents of Daltonganj, the headquarters of the Palamu district. The police then re-distributes those among local children who come from under privileged backgrounds.

The central and state governments duly understand that education followed by skill training leading to an employment and livelihood opportunity could only discourage youth of these regions to keep away from being a part of this violent movement. The plan thus seem to be getting implemented in its right earnestness.

Govt schemes for the youth affected by North-east Insurgency

North eastern India is the most geo-strategic landscape for India. Unfortunately this region has been plagued by insurgency, instability and social unrest since India's independence, as in this backdrop, the government has introduced a number of initiatives specially for the youth of insurgent areas of North East. Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region is coordinating central government departments initiatives for the north east. The Skill Development Ministry has planned State Skill Development Mission for few of the north eastern states. The mission is working to train youth with the help of government ITIs and private agencies. Additionally, State Livelihood Mission as well as NULM schemes are also being deployed to skill the youth.

The areas of training identified are as follows: -

- Hospitality - (Cuisines, Food & Beverage, Pastry & Baking)
- Tourism – Tour operators, hotels, home stay, taxis to places of attraction etc.
- Nursing, Para medics.
- Wellness and beauty
- Fashion designing and garments, handloom weaving.

- Essential technicians –Electrician, Plumbing, repair of ACs, Fridge, Mobile repair etc.
- Automobile – fitter, turner, mechanics, welding.
- Soft skills for employability in any sector
- Retail merchandising
- Aviation – Cabin Crew, Air Hostess, ground crew etc.

Additionally, Department of North East region along with North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd is also setting up a VC fund worth Rs 100 cr to promote startups in the North-Eastern states. Early and growth stage start-ups in the field of IT, ITES, Food Processing, Healthcare, Tourism, Retail, Aggregation of services would get boost due the the fund.

Many educational reforms through SSA and RUSA have also been introduced

DONER ministry is also offering **subsidy incentives in NER for industrial and other units generating employment**. To implement the same, DONER's assistance to North Eastern Development Finance Corporation (NEDFI) will have a component of higher interest subsidy for such units which give more employment.

Govt schemes for the youth affected by Terrorist organisations and insurgent groups of Jammu and Kashmir

The roots of the three decade old insurgency in J & K dates back to India's independence. Currently Government of India and the state government have been working together to skill youth and create livelihood opportunities for them.

Few of the popular measures are enlisted here :-

UDAAN - The Special Industry Initiative (SII) for J&K is funded by Ministry of Home Affairs and implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). It

aims to provide corporate exposure to the youth as well as provide corporate India with the talent available in the state. The schemes has received overwhelming response and is making a considerable impact on ground.

Sadbhavna - Another very successful initiative is Sadbhavna which is run by the Army. Under Sadbhavna Army runs several important programmes for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. **Army Goodwill Schools** which is an education initiative works to provide middle and high school level education to over one lakh students. Presently, over 14,000 students are undergoing schooling in various army run schools in the state and over 1,000 children from the state are studying in institutions outside the state through scholarship programmes facilitated by the Army.

Army also runs **National Integration Tour under Sadbhavna** where students get to visit other states of the country and get a first hand view

of the culture of their fellow citizens. They came back motivated to become productive citizens of the country and actively leverage the growth trajectory for personal development. So far more than 5000 people have benefited out of the 200 tours conducted under this scheme.

Army also runs vocational training centres and women empowerment centres spread across the state to provide practical skills to interested and deserving candidates. Sourced through Army's own budget, people friendly projects are executed year after year to ameliorate the conditions of people living in far flung regions of the State.

Another important and highly beneficial initiative run in Jammu and Kashmir is by Army only. Army in association with its training partner Centre for Social Responsibility and Learning (CSRL) and Petronet LNG runs **Kashmir Super 40 initiative for coaching Jammu and Kashmir**

youth for engineering entrance exams. Infact this year Super 40 broke all previous records when 26 boys and two girls from the state cracked the IIT-JEE Mains exam 2017. Achieving a success rate of 78 per cent is the result of army's Kashmir Super 40 being at par with the best IIT coaching centres in the country.

Himayat - Run under Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India's Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushal Yojana the scheme endeavours to train 1.24 lac local youth of Jammu and Kashmir in job intensive vocational courses.

Thus, the central government and the state government have come together to empower the youth of insurgency affected areas so as to motivate them to contribute to the growth of their area and thus the country at large. □

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GST—The Game Changer

D S Malik



...introduction of GST would instantly spur economic growth and can potentially lead to additional GDP growth in the range of 1 per cent to 2 per cent

The genesis of the introduction of Goods and Services tax (GST) in the country was laid down in the historic Budget Speech of 28th February 2006, wherein the then Finance Minister laid down 1st April, 2010 as the date for the introduction of GST in the country. Thereafter, there has been a constant endeavor for the introduction of the GST in the country whose culmination has been the introduction of the Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill in December, 2014.

Why GST ?

A common refrain in the popular discussions is what is the need for the introduction of GST? To answer that question, it is important to understand the present indirect tax structure in our country. Presently, the Central Government levies tax on manufacture (Central Excise duty), provision of services (Service Tax), interstate sale of goods (CST levied by the Centre but collected and appropriated by the States) and the State Governments levy tax on retail sales (VAT), entry of goods in the State (Entry Tax), Luxury Tax, Purchase Tax, etc. It is clearly visible that there are multiplicities of taxes which are being levied on the same supply chain.

There is cascading of taxes, as taxes levied by the Central Government are not available as setoff against the taxes

being levied by the State governments. Even certain taxes levied by State Governments are not allowed as set off for payment of other taxes being levied by them. Further, a variety of VAT laws in the country with disparate tax rates and dissimilar tax practices, divides the country into separate economic spheres. Creation of tariff and non-tariff barriers such as Octroi, entry Tax, Check posts etc. hinder the free flow of trade throughout the country. Besides that, the large number of taxes creates high compliance cost for the taxpayers in the form of number of returns, payments etc.

What is GST ?

All the indirect taxes mentioned earlier are proposed to be subsumed in a single tax called the Goods and Services Tax (GST) which will be levied on supply of goods or services or both at each stage of supply chain starting from manufacture or import and till the last retail level. So basically any tax that is presently being levied by the Central or State Government on the supply of goods or services is going to be converged into GST.

GST is proposed to be a dual levy where the Central Government will levy and collect Central GST (CGST) and the State will levy and collect State GST (SGST) on intra-state supply of goods or services. The Centre will also levy and collect Integrated GST

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(IGST) on inter-state supply of goods or services. Thus GST is a unifier that is going to integrate various taxes being levied by the Centre and the State at present and provide a platform for forging an economic union of the country.

This tax reform will lead to creation of a single national market, common tax base and common tax laws for the Centre and States. GST is an example of how federal system of Government as laid down in our Constitution can actually be implemented in reality on ground in our country.

Another very significant feature of GST will be that input tax credit will be available at every stage of supply for the tax paid at the earlier stage of supply. This feature would mitigate cascading or double taxation in a major way. This tax reform will be supported by extensive use of Information Technology [through Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN)], which will lead to greater transparency in tax burden, accountability of the tax administrations of the Centre and the States and also improve compliance levels at reduced cost of compliance for taxpayers. Studies indicate that introduction of GST would instantly spur economic growth and can potentially lead to additional GDP growth in the range of 1 per cent to 2 per cent.

Advantages of GST:

Advantages for the Government:

- Will help to create a unified common national market for India, giving a boost to foreign investment and “Make in India” campaign;
- Will mitigate cascading of taxes as Input Tax Credit will be available across goods and services at every stage of supply;
- Harmonization of laws, procedures and rates of tax between Centre and States and across States;
- Improved environment for compliance as all returns are to be filed online, input credits to be verified online, encouraging more

paper trail of transactions at each level of supply chain;

- Similar uniform SGST and IGST rates will reduce the incentive for evasion by eliminating rate arbitrage between neighbouring States and that between intra and inter-state sales;
- Common procedures for registration of taxpayers, refund of taxes, uniform formats of tax return, common tax base, common system of classification of goods and services will lend greater certainty to the taxation system;
- Greater use of IT will reduce human interface between the taxpayer and the tax administration, which will go a long way in reducing corruption;
- It will boost export and manufacturing activity, generate more employment and thus increase GDP with gainful employment leading to substantive economic growth;
- Ultimately it will help in poverty eradication by generating more employment and more financial resources.

Advantages to Trade and Industry:

- Simpler tax regime with fewer exemptions;
- Increased ease of doing business;
- Reduction in multiplicity of taxes that are at present governing our indirect tax system leading to simplification and uniformity;
- Elimination of double taxation on certain sectors like works contract, software, hospitality sector;
- Will mitigate cascading of taxes as Input Tax Credit will be available across goods and services at every stage of supply;
- Reduction in compliance costs - No multiple record keeping for a variety of taxes - so lesser investment of resources and manpower in maintaining records;
- More efficient neutralization of taxes especially for exports thereby making our products more competitive in the international



market and give boost to Indian Exports;

- Simplified and automated procedures for various processes such as registration, returns, refunds, tax payments, etc;
- Average tax burden on supply of goods or services is expected to come down which would lead to more consumption, which in turn means more production thereby helping in the growth of the industries manufacturing in India.

Advantages to Consumers:

- Final price of goods is expected to be transparent due to seamless flow of input tax credit between the manufacturer, retailer and service supplier;
- Reduction in prices of commodities and goods in long run due to reduction in cascading impact of taxation;
- Relatively large segment of small retailers will be either exempted from tax or will suffer very low tax rates under a compounding scheme - purchases from such entities will cost less for the consumers;
- Poverty eradication by generating more employment and more financial resources.

Advantages to States:

- Expansion of the tax base as they will be able to tax the entire supply chain from manufacturing to retail;
- Power to tax services, which was hitherto with the Central Government only, will boost revenue and give States access to the fastest growing sector of the economy;

- GST being destination based consumption tax will favour consuming States;
- Improve the overall investment climate in the country which will naturally benefit the development in the States;
- Largely uniform SGST and IGST rates will reduce the incentive for evasion by eliminating rate arbitrage between neighbouring States and that between intra and inter-state sales;
- Improved Compliance levels of the tax payers will contribute greatly in improving the revenue collection of the States.

Current Status :

- In order to implement this historic Indirect Tax reform, Constitutional (122nd Amendment) Bill (CAB for short) was introduced in the Parliament and passed by Rajya Sabha on 03rd August, 2016 and Lok Sabha on 08th August, 2016.
- The CAB was passed by more than 15 states and thereafter Hon'ble President gave assent to "The Constitution (One Hundred And First Amendment) Act, 2016" on 8th of September, 2016. Since then the GST Council and been notified bringing into existence the Constitutional body to decide issues relating to GST.
- On September 16, 2016, the Government of India issued notifications bringing into effect all the sections of CAB setting firmly into motion the rolling-out of GST. This notification sets-out an outer limit of time of one year, that is till 15-9-2017 for bringing into effect GST.

GST Council Meetings :

The highest decision making body under CAB, the GST Council has met thirteen times since its constitution and some important decisions taken in the different GST Council Meetings are:-

- Rules for conduct of business in GST Council;
- Timetable for implementation of GST;

- The threshold limit for exemption from levy of GST would be Rs. 20 lakhs for the States except for the Special Category States, as enumerated in Article 279A of the Constitution, for which it will be Rs 10 Lakhs);
- The threshold for availing the Composition scheme would be Rs. 50 lakhs. Service providers and some others would be kept out of the Composition Scheme;
- To compensate States for 5 years for loss of revenue due to implementation of GST, the base year for the revenue of the State would be 2015-16 and a fixed growth rate of 14 per cent will be applied to it;
- Approval of the Draft GST Rules on registration, payment, return, refund and invoice, debit/credit Notes with the understanding that minor changes may be permitted with the approval of the Chairperson, if required, based on suitable suggestions from the stakeholders or from the Law Department;
- All entities exempted from payment of indirect tax under any existing tax incentive scheme would pay tax in the GST regime and the decision to continue with any incentive scheme shall be with the concerned State or Central government. In case, the State or Central Government decides to continue with any existing exemption/incentive scheme; it will be administered by way of a reimbursement mechanism.
- Adoption of four slabs tax rate structure of 5 per cent, 12 per cent, 18 per cent and 28 per cent. In addition, there would be a category of exempt goods and further a cess would be levied on certain goods such as luxury cars, aerated drinks, pan masala and tobacco products, over and above the rate of 28 per cent for payment of compensation to the states.
- The Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Bill 2017, Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) Bill 2017, Union Territories

(without legislature) Goods and Services Tax (UTs GST) Bill 2017 and Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Bill 2017 have been passed by the Lok Sabha on 29th March, 2017 and by the Rajya Sabha on 06th April, 2017. The following draft GST rules have been approved by the GST Council on 31st March, 2017 and have been now placed in the public domain:

- Registration Rules
 - Return Rules
 - Invoice Rules
 - Payment Rules
 - Refund Rules
 - Input Tax Credit Rules
 - Valuation (Determination of the Value of Supply of Goods and Services) Rules
 - Transitional Rules
 - Composition Rules
- The implementation of GST has the following challenges:
- Challenging time frame of rolling-out GST by July 1, 2017;
 - Passage of draft laws by the State Legislatures;
 - Infrastructure and Technology up-gradation of tax system particularly of the States;
 - Up-gradation of IT systems of trade and industry;

Now the main thrust would be to create a nation-wide awareness among the stakeholders and public at large to remove their doubts/confusion and misgivings, if any, about the GST and its likely impact on businesses, prices especially of essential commodities and employment opportunities etc. Small businessmen and traders have to be fully briefed about the GST and related Legislations along with the procedure to file their tax returns on line and how to claim input tax credit wherever applicable among others. The Government is now fully committed and hopeful to roll-out this major Indirect Tax reform with effect from July 1, 2017. □

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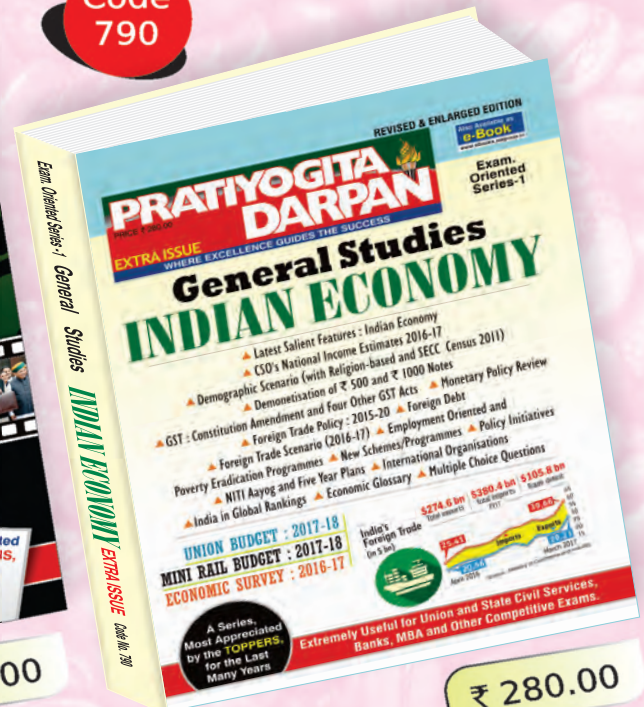
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