

ECONOMY

PRE-CONTEXT

SKILL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 6.

News: "Talent shortage – global challenge, India's opportunity."

India needs to create 80 lakh new jobs in the non-farm sector annually until 2030 to meet the demands of the rising workforce— **Economic Survey 2023-24.**

Status of Skills

- **Indian youth aged 15-29 years:** Only 21% of them had received vocational/technical training through formal and informal sources — **PLFS 2022-23.**
- **India's graduates:** Only 51% of them are employable — **Chief Economic Advisor of India 2024.**
- **Indian engineers:** only 1.5% of them possess the skills for new-age jobs.
- **MSME workforce:** 60% of them lacks the new-age digital skills.
- These facts raise concerns regarding the reach, quality, and industry relevance of existing skilling programmes.

PM Internship Scheme:

- **Pilot project,** the first batch of 1.25 lakh interns will begin internship with **voluntarily participating companies** (top 500 companies of India) on December 2.
- Centre launched an **online portal**, which operationalises the PM Internship Scheme, **part of a five-scheme package** designed to spur **job creation and impart skills to 4 crore youth over five years.**
- Implemented by **Ministry of Corporate Affairs.**
- **Criteria:**
 - Indian citizen of aged between **21-24 years.**
 - **Employment criteria:** not employed full time.
 - **Education criteria:**
 - Not enrolled in full time education.
 - Diploma from a polytechnic institute.
 - Certificate from Industrial Training Institute (ITI).
 - Bachelor degree.
 - No member of family is earning more than **Rs.8 Lakh per annum** and no member has a Govt. job.
 - Holding higher degrees like any masters **not eligible.**
 - Graduates from reputable institutions like IITs, IIITs etc **not eligible.**

SAMARTH Udyog Bharat 4.0:

- Smart Advanced Manufacturing and Rapid Transformation Hub (**SAMARTH**).
- Initiative of **Ministry of Heavy Industry & Public Enterprises.**
- Aims to create an ecosystem for propagating **Industry 4.0 technologies** in Indian manufacturing by 2025.

SWAYAM Platform:

- A platform that hosts all courses taught in classrooms from **Class 9 to post-graduation**, accessible anytime, anywhere.
- Hosts **more than 4,000 courses.**
- Universities/colleges **approving credit transfer can use the marks/certificate** obtained in these courses for the same.
- SWAYAM platform is developed by **Ministry of Education and NPTEL.**
 - Since its inception, **over 4 crore participants** have enrolled in the platform.

- **93% of successful course completions** in the platform were under the **engineering and physical sciences stream.**
- As of June 2024, **8 lakh candidates** were enrolled in SIDH's 752 online courses.

Skill India Mission

About Skill India Mission:

- **National Policy for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship** in 2015, introduced the Skill India Mission, **comprising skilling schemes of all Ministries/Departments.**
- **Umbrella scheme**, where more than **20 Central Ministries/Departments** are implementing Skill Development Schemes to enhance skill levels of millions of people across India.
- **50 crore persons** have been trained since 2015—**PIB June 2024.**
- **Key Implementing Mechanisms and Programs of Skill India:**
 - **Schemes under Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSDE):** PMKVY, JSS, NAPS, CTS.
 - **Skill Development Schemes under Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD):** DDU-GKY, RSETI.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 2015:

- To provide skills to 50 crore people by 2022 through institutionalised training. As of now, under PMKVY (1.0 to 3.0) total ~13 crore persons are trained—**PIB June 2024.**
- Implemented by National Skill Development Corporation.
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- Implemented by MoSDE.
- **Two components of PMKVY:**
 - **Short-Term Training (STT):**
 - **Eligibility:** 15-45 years.
 - STT is expected to **benefit candidates of Indian nationality who are either school/college dropouts or unemployed.**
 - Training is provided according to the National Skill Qualification Framework (**NSQF**).
 - This component is **implemented by** both Central and State govts.
 - STT has provision for both first time learners and reskilling existing workforce.
 - **Higher skills based courses are fee based** but under PMKVY 3.0, weaker and marginalised sections are supported.
 - STT is implemented in **accredited and affiliated training centres across the country** and placement assistance is provided by training providers.
 - Candidates are placed in job roles after approval of National Council for Vocational Education and Training (**NCVET**).
 - **PM-Kaushal Kendra:** shall act as nodal centres at district for providing self-employment support model training centres in every district.
 - **Recognition Prior Learning Scheme (RPL):**
 - **Eligibility:** 18-45 years, **prior experience in job** for which they want RPL certification.
 - It mainly **focuses on individuals engaged in unregulated sectors.**
 - Enable youth to take on industry relevant skill certifications which help them secure better livelihood.



- **No fee is charged** and certified candidate receives Rs.500.
- Both **Central and State govts implement** the scheme.
- MSDE is supported by **State Skill Development Missions and District Skill Committee** in implementation.
- It is implemented under **SANKALP programme**.
- **Placement/self employment is done in three months**, and monitoring is done by training providers.

Jan Sikhshan Sansthan (JSS):

- Aims to provide **vocational skills to non-literate, persons with rudimentary level of education** upto 8th and dropouts upto 12th standard in age group 15-45 years.
- **Prior focus on** women, SC, ST, OBC, minorities.
- **Implemented by MoSDE.**

National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS):

- **Promoting apprenticeship training and financial support to industries** undertaking apprenticeship program under the **Apprenticeship Act 1961**.
- **Implemented by MoSDE.**

Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS):

- Provides **longterm training** through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) to youth across the country.
- **Implemented by MoSDE.**

• **National Skill Qualification Framework:** for common set of rules in every area of skill development:

• **The National Council of Vocational Education and Training (NCVET):**

- Has been established as the **regulator** in the field of skill development.
- It **sets standards** in accordance with National Skill Qualification Framework (**NSQF**).

Skill Development Schemes under Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)

- **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY):**
 - **India has 5.5 crore rural youth** between age group of 15-35 years who are under BPL.
 - **DDU-GKY is a placement linked skill training initiative.**
 - **Aims at rural poor** youth 15-35 years of age.
 - Enable the candidate to find a job that pays minimum **salary of Rs. 6,000/- per month.**
 - **No registration or training fee.**
 - Certificate accreditation authority is National Council for Vocational Education and Training (**NCVET**).
- **Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI):**
 - Established in each district of the country.
 - Aims to impart training and upskilling of rural youth towards **entrepreneurship development.**
 - RSETIs are **managed by banks** with active co-operation from both Central and State govts.

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News: "Makhana will take over the world of superfoods in future."

About Makhana/Fox nut:

- Makhana is the seed of the water lilly plant and it is a superfood and a store-house of nutrition.
- India is the major producer and Bihar is leading producer of Makhana.
- **Growing conditions:**
 - It thrives in stagnant water bodies.
 - Requires a warm, humid climate.
- **Promotion of Makhana:**
 - Mithila Makhana has received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
 - It's part of the "One District One Product" (ODOP) scheme.
 - Announced the formation of Makhana Board in Bihar.

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News: "Necessary infusion."

Currency Swap Agreement:

- **Example:**
 - **Under the mechanism**, RBI enters into an agreement with a swap partner, **exchanging INR for USD.**
 - With the US dollars in hand, the RBI can provide dollar liquidity to banks and financial institutions facing short-term USD shortages.
 - **Repayment: after specified period RBI reverses the transaction.** It repays the USD it borrowed, and in return, it gets back the equivalent INR at the pre-agreed exchange rate.

Benefits:

- **Market Stability:** reducing volatility in the INR exchange rate.
- **Crisis Management:** They are an important tool during periods of financial stress or uncertainty, ensuring that banks have access to foreign currency when needed.
- **Cost Efficiency:** By securing liquidity through a swap, the RBI can often provide funding at more favourable terms compared to other short-term financing options.

Note: India's forex reserves as of January 2025 were '625 billion USD'.

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Thank you!