

# FUTURE READY

**RAJIV PRATAP RUDY, minister of state skill development and entrepreneurship (independent charge) and parliamentary affairs, on his plans to skill the youth of India**

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**What is your focus — to train the existing workforce or create a new trained workforce?**

Our approach for skill development in the country currently is multi-fold. It is imperative to skill fresh talent and upgrade and re-skill the existing workforce to the level of standards identified by industries. The National Skill Mission clearly defines our mandate to provide skill development to 40.2 crore people by the end of 2022. The ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship (MSDE) has also identified that there are large numbers of people who are skilled in a particular area but do not have a formal recognition. To address this issue, we have launched the Recognition of Prior Learning Programme, which aims to assess and certify people for their existing skills.

**Are there enough jobs in the country to accommodate the new skilled workforce?**

Certainly. We need a job ready workforce for national missions like the Make in India, Digital India, Smart Cities, etc. We also need a workforce that is acquainted with novel technology so we are not dependent on resources from international markets. We need to upgrade the skills of our workforce to match the needs of the technical expertise that we need.

We have mapped our standards with the standards of the UK and Aus-

tralia. We will soon be signing a MoU with the United Arab Emirates on mutual recognition of the skill standards in the respective countries.

**What kind of jobs does the Skill India campaign focus on?**

Our focus is spread as per the geographical requirements across the country. This ensures that professionals get jobs that interest them and there is less need for migration. Similarly, we have studied the markets and the requirements of industries. Accordingly, our Sector Skill Councils identify sectoral needs. We have developed 1,661 qualification packs from which the youth can identify courses and get skilled.

Skill India initiatives focus on the priority sectors of the Make in India campaign which includes strategic manufacturing, automotive, constructions, infrastructure, food processing, textiles, tourism, wellness, etc.

We are also supporting the Digital India and Smart Cities campaigns by training the required workforce. By 2020, the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF), will become compulsory for a government job and will integrate vocational education, skill training, general education, technical education and the job market.

**Which industry do you foresee a growth in?**

According to a CII-KPMG report, India is the fastest growing services



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economy. The country has contributed 61% to the GDP. The IT-BPM industry, one of the largest employers in India with 3.7 million people, is also poised for a major growth and will touch \$143 billion during the

ongoing fiscal year. The other sectors that will enjoy growth are healthcare and tourism. Technology, innovation and creativity are rapidly redefining the global economy with digitalisation collapsing distances and transcending borders.

We are also focusing on the manufacturing sector, an industry that presently contributes 10-12% to India's GDP. If India envisions a double digit growth in the future, we ought to enhance the contribution of the manufacturing sector.

**The HRD ministry recently agreed to make the two-year diploma courses at ITIs equivalent to a class XII certificate. When will this be implemented?**

We are working with the MHRD to provide for a pathway for horizontal migration from skill development to general education. Some countries have provided for convergence among different education systems. One can reach the university level from post-secondary through junior colleges/centralised institutes, polytechnics or institutes of technical education (ITEs). We are working on a similar recognition to our courses in the ITIs. We had a meeting with AICTE in this regard as well, and are hopeful for some encouraging developments in the near future.

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