

Skill Matters

April 2022





From the Editor's Desk

April marks the beginning of a new financial year, and with this thought, we foray into fresh initiatives that have the potential to impact people at the grassroots level. The month also paves the way to relook and rethink the existing programs, how to optimize their outcomes and shape the future of skill development in India. Through Skill Matters, we endeavour to highlight the programs that National Skill Development Corporation leads and implements with result-oriented strategy.

The stories are picked based on their relevance or an event and are written and edited with utmost care to inform and inspire the readers. Through this newsletter, the intent is to share success stories, feature pieces, human-interest articles and overarching trends, highlighting NSDC and its various stakeholders' efforts towards skilling, covering events and updates on the key programs and achievements. In this edition, we also have the stories around the initiatives of Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) whose support has been pivotal to the development of the country's skilling ecosystem.

This issue covers:

- Skill Loans
- India's first Skill India International Centre
- WorldSkills 2022 – Mission Shanghai
- Apprenticeship Mela
- NSDC and Relevel by Unacademy's Partnership
- 'Dastak'- For Kashmiri Women
- A CSR initiative for budding women entrepreneurs
- Upskilling rubber growers in Tripura



NSDC INITIATIVES

Skill Loans – Financial assistance for aspiring skill seekers

India has a rich demographic dividend with 62% of the working population and 54% of the total below the age of 25 years. To tap this massive potential, focus on skilling the working population becomes imperative and critical. There is an impending need to enhance the skills of the workforce, improving their employability and contributing to the economic growth of the country.

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has been working towards developing a skilling ecosystem by imparting skill-based trainings to the youth through its training partners.

Skill Loan is a new initiative through which NSDC, supported by participating lending institutions, plans to increase the penetration of financial assistance to deserving students for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

Under the initiative, loans will be offered to students at subsidized rates, thus, supporting them to take certificate/ diploma/ degree and other courses to enhance their employability.

Guidelines of Skill Loans

- As per the Skill Loan Program, member banks of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and other banks provide skill loan, which is covered by the guaranteed scheme of Government of India.
- NSDC has partnered with financial institutions including Non-banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Micro-finance Institutions (MFIs), which are registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), to disburse loans at attractive rates to the deserving students for pursuing desired course.
- Students eligible for availing loan under the program would have secured admission in a course run by Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), Polytechnics, in a school affiliated to central or state education boards, in a college affiliated to recognised university, through training partners associated with NSDC/ Sector Skill Councils/ State Skill Missions/ State Skill Corporations, preferably leading to a certificate/ diploma/ degree issued by such organisation as per the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF).
- Training partners participating in the Skill Loan scheme should have a proven track record of minimum three years and placements of 75% and above.

Key Features of Skill Loans

Course

- Any course that is approved by NSDC and provides employment opportunities is eligible under this program. The course will be mutually agreed upon and approved by the participating NBFC, MFI, Financial Institution (FI) and Training Partners (TPs).

Applicant

- Applicant: Students enrolling for the course
- Co-applicant: Parent/guardian

Loan amount

- INR 10,000 to INR 3,00,000 (up to INR 5,00,000 for courses offering international placements)



Loan coverage

- Course fee along with expenses towards assessment, examination, study material, among others
- Residential courses, inclusion of hostel fee

Course duration

- More than three months

Repayment tenure

- Loans up to INR 1 lakh - up to three years
- Loans between INR 1 lakh and INR 2 lakh - up to five years
- Loans above INR 2 lakh - up to seven years

Rate of interest

- FIs/ Small Finance Banks (SFBs): To adhere to the original notification for Skill Loan Guarantee Scheme
- NBFCs: Proposed to be not more than 14.00% p.a.
- MFIs: At least 2% below the maximum rate prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) that participating MFIs can charge from eligible borrowers

Collateral

- None (unsecured loan)

Moratorium

- As decided by NBFC/ MFI/ FI

Documents required

- Eligible courses offered by eligible training partners, based on pre-defined criteria

Proof of income

- Salary slips/ bank statement/ income tax returns in case of parents (co-applicant)
- Income as assessed by the NBFC/ MFI/ FI





India's first Skill India International Centre inaugurated in Bhubaneswar



L-R: Shri Subroto Bagchi, Chairman, Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA); Hon'ble Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan; Shri Ranjan Kumar Mohapatra, Chairman, SDI, Bhubaneswar, and Director (HR), Indian Oil Corp Ltd, at the launch event in Bhubaneswar

With an aim to train Indian youth as per global standards and enhance overseas employment opportunities for them, the country's first Skill India International Centre will be set up at Skill Development Institute (SDI), Bhubaneswar. The centre was launched by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of Education.

The centre will be established under the collaboration of SDI, Bhubaneswar and NSDC International (NSDCI), a subsidiary of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), that drives the Skill India International Mission of making India the 'Skill Capital of the World'.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was exchanged between Ved Mani Tiwari, Chief Operating Officer & Officiating CEO, NSDC and Sanjay Srivastava, CEO, SDI Bhubaneswar, in the presence of Hon'ble Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Shri Subroto Bagchi, Chairman, Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA), Shri Ranjan Kumar Mohapatra, Chairman, SDI, Bhubaneswar, and Director (HR), Indian Oil Corp Ltd.



Signatories of NSDC and SDI Bhubaneswar at the MoU signing ceremony

Under this collaboration, Skill India International Centre will be setup for high-quality training of Indian youth, especially those aspirants from Odisha aiming to work overseas. The centre will host training facilities to provide skills as per the demand of international employers in countries such as United Arab Emirates (UAE), Canada, Australia, and Gulf Corporation Council (GCC) nations. The Skill India International Centre will also have a wide network of partnering organisations and overseas recruiters to facilitate supply of skilled and certified workforce in other countries. These partnering organisations will work with NSDC and SDI to aggregate demand from overseas markets. The centre will have services such as mobilisation, counselling, skill training, pre-departure orientation, foreign language training, placement and immigration, and post-placement support.

Additionally, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between NSDCI and OSDA to promote international workforce mobility for skilled and certified workers from Odisha to other countries. NSDCI will help aggregate demand from different countries and enable capacity building of the state, while OSDA will support awareness, training and funding of the candidates who aspire to work overseas.

For this purpose, the MoU was exchanged between Ved Mani Tiwari, Director, NSDCI and Tariq Chauhan, Chairman, EFS Facilities Group to collaboratively explore possibilities of establishing skilling hubs in India and globally to promote mobility of trained, skilled and certified Indian workforce overseas. EFS Facilities Group is an integrated facilities management service, operation and maintenance solution provider across the MENASA (Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia) region. EFS has a decade of Middle East facilities management experience with the operational capability to deliver bespoke solutions throughout the region and in local markets.



Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of Education addressing at the inauguration of Skill India International Centre in Bhubaneswar

The representatives of various UAE companies were present at the event. MoUs were also signed with EASA Saleh Al Gurg, a multidivisional business conglomerate in UAE; Khansaheb – one of the leading construction companies in UAE; Reliant HR Consultancy – a well established manpower sourcing company; and ESPA – a service provider in plumbing in UAE.



Apprenticeship Mela – A participatory movement to drive national missions

Giving a boost to the Government's Skill India Mission, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Education, Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship, digitally launched National Apprenticeship Mela in more than 700 locations in the country.

Over 4,000 organisations from 30+ industries including power, retail, telecommunications, IT/ITeS, electronics, automotive, among others, participated in the event.

Individuals with a 5-12 grade pass certificate, skill training certificate, ITI (Industrial Training Institute) diploma, or graduate degree were eligible to participate in the Apprenticeship Mela. The primary objective of this programme was to encourage placement of around one lakh apprentices and to assist employers in identifying and developing their potential through training and practical skill sets.

In addition, the young and aspiring workforce was given a choice of 500+ trades including welder, electrician, housekeeper, beautician, mechanic, among others. They were given on-the-spot apprenticeship offers with monthly stipends as per Government standards.



WorldSkills – Preparation for Shanghai 2022 in full swing

The successful conclusion of IndiaSkills 2021 National Competition, conducted in 54 skills, in January this year has been followed by preparations for the ultimate mission of WorldSkills Shanghai 2022. Of more than 500 participants in the National Competition, 192 were awarded gold, silver, and bronze medals. The winners of the national competition are undergoing training in state-of-the-art facilities on par with international standards and the best of the lot will represent India at WorldSkills, the gold standard for skill competitions that brings together participants from more than 65 countries.

National Skill Development Corporation, under the guidance of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, and with the support of Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) and training partners, experts, trainers, and jury leads India's participation at WorldSkills biennially. The competition is not only a unique platform to provide exposure to contenders and experts from around the world but facilitates robust career growth with dynamic and sustainable opportunities from industries.

The training for WorldSkills encompasses advanced learning about technique and finesse of a skill under the expertise of industry and institutional partners. Trainees get practical exposure to various aspects of a skill and learn to perform with utmost focus and strength.

The key industry and institutional partners supporting the training are Maruti Suzuki Ltd., Toyota India, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., BMW, Blossam Kochchar College of Creative Arts and Design, Nettur Technical Training Foundation, Government Tool Room and Training Centre (GTTC), Gedee Technical Training Institute (GTTI), Central Tool Room & Training Centre (CTTC), Lincoln Electric, Saint Gobain, Pearl Academy, among others.



Trainees of joinery, brick laying and jewellery designing honing their skills and preparing for WorldSkills Shanghai 2022



NSDC enters strategic partnership with Relevel by Unacademy to provide employment opportunities to youth

As India works towards becoming a global hub of skilled workforce, it is imperative that the country's skill development ecosystem enables the youth to connect to the right job opportunities. To serve this objective, NSDC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Relevel, an Unacademy Group company and India's leading platform for jobs and skill development, to provide a structured path to millions of young people to secure gainful employment in top companies and upskill on emerging job roles.

The MoU aims to have 20 lakh youth take Relevel Tests and upskill as per industry requirements. For aspirants who clear the threshold marks of the Tests, Relevel will support them with placement opportunities at India's top companies on market-oriented salary levels.

The MoU also lays the groundwork to help Indian youth find jobs abroad, in countries such as United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations. More than five lakh youth are expected to take Relevel Tests for international placements in the next five years. The platform will also offer short-term bridge courses, aligned to destination country job roles, to enable direct placements in international markets, besides personalized placement solutions and culture training sessions to help candidates prepare for employability tests, and interviews that will boost their future career paths.



Prakash Kumar Co-founder, Relevel by Unacademy (Left) with Ved Mani Tiwari, Chief Operating Officer & Officiating CEO, National Skill Development Corporation at the MoU signing



NSDC will implement YUVA 2.0

The Delhi Police and NSDC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for YUVA 2.0 at Adarsh Auditorium of PHQ in the presence of chief guest Shri Anil Baijal, Former Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Delhi. The YUVA 2.0 scheme aims to provide vocational training to around 10,000 candidates across 67 police stations with active participation of corporate houses. The scheme falls under the Ministry of Skill Development's programme Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP), supported by the World Bank.

Former Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Delhi recalled how the idea behind YUVA, when he recommended the then Commissioner of Police (CP), Delhi to integrate those who were on the verge of breaking line with the mainstream through skill development and employment opportunities. The objective of the scheme is crime prevention. The chief guest lauded the efforts of Delhi Police for successful implementation of the YUVA scheme and wished YUVA 2.0 to be pursued more vigorously with commitment and support. Complementing the youth who got employed, the Hon'ble LG, Delhi exhorted them to constantly work on developing their skills and become job givers in the future.

On the occasion, CP, Delhi Shri Rakesh Asthana said the YUVA program is meant to provide employment-oriented skills to first-time criminals, victims of crimes and to those who have propensity to commit crime. "The scheme not only mirrors humane and compassionate face of Delhi Police, but serves the prime objective of policing that is prevention of crime. Around 10,000 youth are proposed to be trained with new technical and digital courses during the scheme of YUVA 2.0", the CP said. He added that the successful job getters were advised and encouraged to keep enhancing their skills and gain necessary expertise to help them further their careers in future. He reiterated the importance of community participation to have effective and efficient policing.

Running of the YUVA scheme in police premises is a unique example in the country for strengthening community policing and YUVA 2.0 is a true manifestation of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' with focus on providing entrepreneurship training apart from skill training for job opportunities to the candidates enrolled in the scheme. YUVA 2.0 provisions funding from alternative sources, primarily through CSR and other multilateral institutions.

YUVA — a flagship community policing initiative of Delhi Police — was launched in 2017 in association with NSDC. A total of 12,795 applicants have been trained in more than 20 skills under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), of which 7,631 have received employment, enabling them to lead a respectable life and positively impacting their families and society at large.



Glimpses of the event



FROM SECTOR SKILL COUNCILS

‘Dastak’- A skill development initiative to empower Kashmiri women

Apparel Made Ups and Home Furnishing Sector Skill Council (AMHSSC) and Collective Good Foundation (CGF), a not-for-profit organisation that runs various projects to help communities take step towards a more equitable future through women empowerment, in association with their technical training partners, Fashion Futures Consultants Pvt. Ltd., launched project ‘Dastak’ with an aim to financially empower marginalized women of Kashmir and create livelihood opportunities.

The project intends providing training to over 200 women in Srinagar, making them self-sustainable and financially independent. These women will be trained in two vocational skills—hand embroidery and self-employed tailor.

The project aims giving holistic training, comprising various modules on soft skills, digital literacy, technical skills and domain skills pertaining to stitching and Kashmiri embroidery.

The participants, who were completely unskilled, were taught the craft of Kashmiri hand embroidery and stitching. The group practices embroideries such as crewel and sozni and make products—garments, cushion covers, curtains, handbags, and more. The first batch of students has already received a set of order of making embroidered curtains and bags, beginning their journey towards financial independence.

Dastak, with its true meaning ‘a knock to reach out to every household’, is an endeavour to narrow the social gaps and empower the underprivileged through skilling and livelihoods.



Mobilisation and step-by-step learning by Kashmiri women in classrooms under project ‘Dastak’



A project to upskill rubber growers in Tripura

To maximize the potential of Tripura’s quality rubber production, Rubber, Chemical & Petrochemical Skill Development Council (RCPSDC) in association with the Tripura OBC Cooperative Development Corporation Ltd., Government of Tripura has undertaken a project of skill training in rubber tapping and processing along with the creation of necessary infrastructure to improve the livelihood of rubber growers from the said community.

Around 100 rubber workers, including 21% women, are being trained under the project that focuses on the introduction of rain guarding, skilled tapping and scientific latex processing. The trainees are being introduced to skills required to produce quality rubber. They are also being trained in rain guarding and skillful tapping.



Practical training of rubber tapping being conducted in Tripura



Sharpening skills of prison inmates under 'Udne Do' initiative

Textile Sector Skill Council and Maharashtra State Skill Development Society (MSSDS) came together to help prison inmates, working in the powerloom department of the Nagpur Central Jail, train under the 'Udne Do' initiative as part of the MSDE's SANKALP program.

The two-day recognition of prior learning (RPL) program was organised at the Nagpur Central Jail with an objective to upgrade the inmates' technical skills of weaving, entrepreneurship development, digital literacy, and understanding of the MUDRA loan to equip them for better livelihood opportunities and starting own business units once they complete their term in prison.

The initiative was started with 20 weavers who learned about machine operations, defects in fabrics produced on machinery, among others. Understanding the primary operations of the loom will improve the weaving quality. The inmates also learned about digital literacy, safety, and health hygiene.

Bombay Textile Research Association (BITRA), a reputed body for textile industry and research, trained the prisoners with its experts honing the skills of prison inmates during the program.



Prison inmates being trained at the Nagpur Central Jail under the 'Udne Do' project

B&WSSC's CSR program for budding women entrepreneurs

Beauty & Wellness Sector Skill Council (B&WSSC) launched a free certificate course in entrepreneurial skills for budding women entrepreneurs. Led under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of B&WSSC, the course aims to train 4,000 women across India.

Under the course, training has been conducted in a hybrid format of online and offline modules to include the established & well-known motivational and domain experts from around the globe. To name a few, Rahul Grover, Head of Security Solutions Architect, DXC Technology, UK trained the women on cyber security, Deepti Dange from Persona Stars, Canada on image consulting, Himanshu Shekhar as leadership consultant & transformation coach from Pune and Srividya, a TEDx Speaker.

This entrepreneurial skills training for budding women entrepreneurs will enable them with knowledge and resources required to make business decisions by identifying and evaluating opportunities efficiently. The outcomes are:

- Improved understanding of financial and digital aspects
- Enhanced confidence and entrepreneurial & management skills
- Increased familiarity with social media and its uses
- Leadership skills, start a business and to deal with exigencies



Aspiring women being trained in entrepreneurial skills under B&WSSC's CSR initiative

Building a future-ready workforce with automotive industry partners

The automotive industry is one of the highest contributors to India's economy, accounting for more than 7% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). The industry employs millions of people, which makes it one of the largest job creators in the manufacturing segment of the country.

As the industry is constantly evolving with new technological advancements, the need for a skilled workforce is being felt on the ground. India's automotive sector seeks to become self-reliant and needs a future-ready workforce that will become a potent resource in achieving this vision.

Automotive Skill Development Council (ASDC), India's marque automotive training center, has been collaborating with industry partners to create a multi-skilled workforce that will be at the forefront of making India's auto industry sustainable and self-reliant.

With the vision of an 'employment ready' young India, ASDC and Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, have joined hands for 'Project Jeevika' to train two-wheeler market technicians across the country on BS-VI technology.

Under this program, ASDC will deliver a variety of learning modules and certifications in skilling. The project also aims to enhance the capacity and capabilities of ASDC for the education of the said technicians to make them industry relevant.



A #DigitalAdda to brainstorm ways to reskill, upskill in emerging technologies

National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), under FutureSkills Prime, has been organising #DigitalAdda round table discussions on various topics to strengthen industry-academia connect. It recently held a dialogue on 'Internal Talent Market place - Upskilling for Career Progression' to explore ways to reskill/ upskill with the right skills and use them in relevant projects. It also facilitated discussions on how organizations are finding ways to reskill/ upskill their employees.

FutureSkills Prime is a skilling ecosystem focused on emerging technologies, powered by a partnership between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, NASSCOM, and the IT industry. It aims fueling India to become a global hub of talent in emerging technologies.

As India takes steps towards becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2025-26, 65 million jobs are expected to emerge in the field of digital technology and 45 million people are required to upskill to fill these new-age job roles. It is imperative that focused discussions around reskilling and upskilling are undertaken by key stakeholders in the ecosystem to achieve the set goals.

To know more about FutureSkills Prime, click [here](#)

