



**Skill India**  
कोशल भारत - कुशल भारत



# SKILL MINING

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## SKILL COUNCIL FOR MINING SECTOR (Promoted by Federation of Indian Mineral Industries)

An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Company

FIMI HOUSE, B-311, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-1, New Delhi - 110020

Tel: +91-11-26814596 ; Fax: +97-11-26814593



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## SP Institute of Workforce Development Pvt Ltd (SPIWD)

### India Office

- Lower Ground Floor & Third Floor  
G-5, Sector 3 Noida UP India 201301
- +91-120-4130336, +91-8130-294-298
- assessment@pareekshn.com

### USA Office

- 2003 Scenic Drive, Ewing New Jersey,  
USA 08628
- +1-201-877-1310
- assessment@pareekshn.com

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Our President accepting the "Best Training Partner 2018-2019" Award



A K Maharaj our accepting the "Best Trainer 2018-2019" Award



**SKILL COUNCIL for  
MINING SECTOR**  
Honing India's Mining Skill



Corporate Office :

1-87A, Sewak Park, Dwarka More,  
New Delhi - 110059

Reg. Office:

JKSB 1st Floor Sashi Asha Complex  
Rajeev Nagar Road No 1 Patna 800 024  
Tel: 0612 255 0700

Website :- [www.Jksbngo.Org](http://www.Jksbngo.Org)

E-mail : [info@jksbngo.org](mailto:info@jksbngo.org)

## ***CONTENTS***

<b><i>TITLES</i></b>	<b><i>PAGES</i></b>
Mining & Exploration	1
Allied Industry	2
General	2
Gleanings From Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship	5
SCMS in Action	6
Special Feature	14

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## MINING & EXPLORATION

### Indian metal mills hike costs by Rs 750- Rs 1000 per tonne as demand improves

Debates over the form of the financial restoration underway have just about exhausted the alphabet. But the steadily rising costs of metal – maybe an extra correct gauge of mixture demand than any educational evaluation – level to a V-shaped rebound. That helps clarify the second value enhance by Indian metal mills in three weeks – costs have been raised by round Rs 750- Rs 1,000 per tonne this time. As per trade sources, JSW Steel and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (AMNS) raised costs by Rs 750 per tonne, whereas JSPL has hiked by round Rs 1,000 per tonne efficient November 18. SAIL has hiked costs by Rs 1,250 per tonne and Tata Steel may also seemingly be elevating costs.

In the start of the month, prime steelmakers introduced a value hike of hot-rolled coils (HRC) and cold-rolled coils (CRC) by INR 1,000-1,500/tonne on the again of higher auto demand. “During March and April, Indian manufacturers priced their products reasonably lower to clear inventory and focussed on exports. Now the pent-up demand is pushing prices,” stated Saurabh Bhatnagar, National Leader, Metals & Mining, EY India.

Festive season has boosted the auto sector, which consumes high-grade metal. Demand has gone up fairly properly in infrastructure segments like roads, ports and railways too. As per analysts and trade sources, JSW Steel is providing HRC at Rs 44,750 – 45,000/t and CRC at Rs 54,150/t. AMNS India is providing CRC costs Rs 54,000/t and JSPL is providing at round Rs 45,000 per tonne. “The recovery in the auto and white goods segments globally is likely to sustain the steel price hike in the near term,” Amit Dixit, analysis analyst, Edelweiss Institutional Equities, stated in a report.

Steelmakers are additionally witnessing a scarcity in iron ore which is aiding to the steep value hikes. State-owned iron ore producer NMDC has hiked costs of lump ore for the second time this month by Rs 400 per tonne and that of fines by round Rs 300 per tonne. “Iron ore is also one of the reasons for the steel price hikes. There has been no investment in the iron ore mining segment in India to improve efficiency for a long time. The supply gap is still persistent in iron ore, which is leading to a push in prices,” EY’s Bhatnagar stated.

“Everyone will be affected due to iron ore price hikes. This will also lead to an increase in the steel prices going ahead,” stated JSPL’s managing director, V.R. Sharma, in an interplay. “Iron ore integrated players is likely to benefit more and NMDC has more headroom to rise prices further”, stated Edelweiss’ Dixit.

Steelmakers earnings ought to enhance additional as costs of the opposite vital uncooked materials, coking coal, have remained secure. “The turnaround for domestic companies could not be starker. From the lowest Ebitda over the past several quarters in Q1FY21, we expect Q3FY21 to be dreamlike,” stated Dixit in a report.

“We expect Tata Steel and SAIL to benefit the most due to iron ore integration in India operations. On the regional front, we are positive on price hike and inventory reduction in China, indicating a pickup in demand,” the report stated. Industries reminiscent of makers of engineering and electrical items should negotiate greater enter prices. “A recent sharp rise in steel prices has dealt a crippling impact on the country’s engineering exports, which are facing the most challenging global markets,” stated Engineering Export Promotion Council India Chairman Mahesh Desai.

**(Thedailypodium.com, Mumbai – 19 November, 2020)**

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## ALLIED INDUSTRY

### Iron ore, steel prices up on Chinese demand

Domestic demand is yet to reach pre-lockdown levels but steel prices have jumped 7% in last one month. Increase in steel prices is one of the indicators of infrastructure and realty growth. This time, however, the rates are riding high on export demand, with China playing an important role. Traders say for most of the lockdown period Indian steel mills survived on Chinese demand, which continues to hold steady. Any reduction in Chinese buying is likely to bring down steel prices too.

China has been buying huge quantity of iron ore, which is the basic raw material for making steel. Hectic Chinese buying has led to prices of iron ore rising by over 20% in little over a month in India. This, in turn, has left an impact on steel prices too, say traders. Traders told TOI the rates of iron ore range from Rs4,500 to 6,000 a tonne, while steel products range from Rs35,000 to Rs40,000 a tonne. If iron ore prices are up by more than 20%, steel rates have increased by 7%.

Dipen Agrawal, president of Chamber of Associations of Maharashtra Industry and Trade (CAMIT), said the current rates of various types of steel products like TMT bars, structural steel and flat products is in the range of Rs35,000 to Rs40,000 a tonne. This is an increase of over Rs2,000 in a month.

Not only is China buying heavily, it has also stopped the dumping of end products in India, leading to further supply crunch. An increase of 5% to 7% is substantial for steel prices, he said. Sohan Srivastava of Mahavir Steel Company, an industrial supplier, said prices of hot rolled steel have touched Rs42,000 to 44,000 a tonne. This month there has been a hike Rs2,000 to 4,000. There was a similar hike in the previous month. Lately, apart from iron ore, China has also started purchasing semi-finished iron ore hot rolled steel from India as it finds it cheaper here.

Nikunj Turakhia, president of Steel Users Association of India (SUFI), said, “Iron ore futures, which usually are in the range of \$70 to \$80, are ruling at \$115 for January contracts. There is a major export demand in India. China made hectic purchases from April to June. Now, Chinese buying has come down to 20%. India continues to be a major exporter to Vietnam, apart from Europe,” he said.

China is an important factor in this trade so any let down in buying by it can have an impact on rates, he said. Turakhia suggested that India should also open up its markets by making imports easier. At present, there is an anti-dumping duty and quality restrictions on the commodity. Rajesh Sarda, vice-president of Vidarbha Steel Chamber, said China, which was earlier buying from Brazil, diverted its purchases to India in the post-Covid period, leading to increase in iron ore prices. There has been a slight improvement in domestic demand too. However, the government must intervene and curb exports from India. The current rate of iron ore is beyond the means of steel producers.

**(Minerals & Metals Review Weekly, Mumbai – 2 November, 2020)**

## GENERAL

### Aluminium is the real steel; downstream aluminium can facilitate the way for an Atmanirbhar Bharat

The Indian downstream aluminium industry has aligned itself to support the government’s push for Atmanirbhar Bharat. It comes from the vision of being a country that is independent and self-reliant when it

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comes to manufacturing aluminium products to meet its requirements. The right focus on reducing our heavy dependency on imports, and well-thought government vision and industry strength, can together write the story of atmanirbharta (self-reliance) in aluminium for India.

The per capita aluminium consumption of India (at 2.5 kg) is significantly lower than the global average consumption of 11 kg. With a progressive infrastructure push, there is a massive possibility for an upsurge in aluminium consumption in our country from the current level of 4 million tonnes. But the sufficient downstream capacity of aluminium available within India has not stopped us from importing aluminium downstream products like extrusions, rolled products, foils and other items from China and nearby countries. The rising imports of downstream aluminium products need to be restricted to promote domestic production. The import duty on downstream aluminium products in India is only 7.5%, which is not sufficient against the huge incentives given for exports by China. Many Southeast Asian nations that enjoy free trade agreements (FTAs) with India also continue the unabated dumping of downstream aluminium.

For example, the aluminium foil industry. After the imposition of anti-dumping duty on Chinese aluminium foils, the industry has seen resurgence. With existing mills running at full capacity and a whole host of new projects commissioned since the time of the duty imposition, the country has seen a significant amount of investment, talent building and market-building efforts that will yield huge dividend for the economy. Earlier, the foil industry was choked between high input costs of primary aluminium and cheap imports from China.

At 4.1 million tonnes per annum primary capacity and a downstream processing capacity of 3.9 million tonnes, the Indian aluminium industry has a ready platform to scale up to support the growth trajectory of India. The country obviously needs aluminium products to meet the various end-user requirements in many industries within the manufacturing sector. The growth of the downstream aluminium industry is dependent on two key points - independent recognition (distinct from primary aluminium) and support derived in the form of government policy. The government must consider the demands of the industry and protect the downstream segment by doing away with import duty on primary aluminium. This will make it affordable and help increase domestic consumption of domestically-produced aluminium. Paying a global premium for India-produced aluminium has to stop. Removing import tariffs on primary aluminium and increasing import duties on downstream aluminium could be a practical solution to this issue, which will incentivise value-addition to aluminium within India. Immediate attention to this can safeguard lakhs of livelihoods associated with this industry.

The sheer range of application in aerospace, defence, high-speed rail and many infrastructure areas makes downstream aluminium industry very important. According to a NITI Aayog report, India's downstream segment comprises of more than 150 companies (both large and midsized) and a bigger base of smaller and unorganised players that strongly needs an export policy for the downstream aluminium segment. In the global market, Indian MSMEs can be competitive only when downstream aluminium is offered a differential status in India, giving it price-parity through focused government policies. The downstream aluminium segment has all along been a visible symbol of progress. Having extensive forward- and backward-linkages to the economy, policy reforms can reduce its import dependency and help make it contribute towards an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

**(The Financial Express, New Delhi – 12 November, 2020)**

### **Skills quotient: The key to accelerate skill development**

The humungous reverse migration of workers during the Covid-19 lockdown has presented an unprecedented challenge for states, demographic dividend notwithstanding. With Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Jharkhand expecting the number of returnee migrant workers to

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run into millions, the preparedness of their home states to provide local employment is being put to test. The answer to the question of gainful local employment does not lie in market-based opportunities alone, as there are massive regional inequalities where regions with higher population growth have the dubious distinction of being underdeveloped, too.

In the wake of this challenge, the governments of many of these states have announced elaborate arrangements. Registering returnees and their skill levels and collating job opportunities in projects funded by the central or state governments are some of the measures announced. Although the process is still under way, it is becoming clear that an exercise of this nature calls for strong ground-level institutions with serious capacities of planning and implementation. The situation brings back old-fashioned decentralisation, centre-stage.

It is evident that building adequate capacities at the grass-roots levels for identifying employment opportunities early and anticipating skill requirements at the level of districts is critical for an outcome-focused skills training system. But how it has to be done and why has this not been done till date are the questions that require careful examination from the skill development ecosystem, its trajectory of expansion, and the extent of decentralisation of its planning and operations.

India has 487 million workers, and over a million join the labour force every month. However, at the same time, about two-thirds of employers in India report that they struggle to find workers with the right skills. India ranks 78th on a list of 122 countries as per the Human Capital Development report of the World Economic Forum. With at least 20 government departments running skill development programmes in recent years, India should be doing better than that.

The outcome of skill development, unlike education, varies with employers and society. The return on investment in skill development depends on trainees' easy access to training, apprenticeship opportunities and a smooth transition to the world of work. Therefore, the skill training ecosystem must take an integrated view of existing and potential demand, trainees, training providers and employers. Considering the demographic, economic, cultural and resource diversity of our country, putting such an ecosystem in place would continue to be an in-progress project for a long time.

Decentralised skill programme formulation and implementation would systematically capture demand, which, in turn, would result in supply rearranging itself to meet this demand. The organisation and management of training infrastructure, with attendant issues of labour welfare and security—which, thanks to the Covid-19 crisis, figures prominently on state governments' agenda now—will ensure better alignment of demand and supply locally.

Effective decentralisation presupposes utilising existing institutions to greater effect. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is responsible for national skills training policy and management, and is aided by many institutions. The State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs) were launched in nearly all states to manage their skill development. Most states have also created designated district committees (generally called DSCs, but known by different appellations across states) to manage skill development. Thus, decentralised planning in skills is a concept already implicit in the skill development ecosystem of India. It is, however, noteworthy that the MSDE does not always have its exactly matching counterpart at the state or district levels, and so one would not normally find a district skills officer in the way from amongst 15-20 members of a DSC.

DSCs are composed of district-level government officials of various departments. Besides, a DSC can also co-opt local chambers of commerce and industry, civil society organisations, etc. DSCs are expected to deliberate upon and plan for access to viable skill training and employment for district human resources based on economic profile, market conditions and institutional infrastructure.



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DSCs are expected to, inter alia, reduce the supply-demand mismatch, facilitate inclusion for all marginalised sections of the society, manage labour migration issues, and provide for robust monitoring. While this is a sound concept, in reality, where exactly do DSCs stand today vis-à-vis the achievement of all the above?

In many cases, DSCs have not been able to arrive at action plans to achieve their objectives. They lack leadership as well as financial resources. Most do not have a working secretariat. Their positioning and role at the district level is yet to be clearly spelled out. Their efficacy is subject to the personal engagement of individuals. In many cases, a district skill development plan (DSDP) has been produced by many a DSC, but their real contribution or even participation in the process has been illusory.

Should DSCs, then, be the starting point of this decentralisation? Yes, simply because they offer a ready-made platform from which all skill development planning and implementation could be given direction and focus. Governments need to strengthen DSCs by providing adequate financing. Professionals and subject-matter experts must be engaged for economic potential mapping and aligning skills to opportunities. A robust working linkage is needed between state skill missions (SSDM) and DSCs, so that opportunities and capacity at the national and state levels can be factored into the DSDPs.

In conclusion, but perhaps in what is really the beginning, decentralisation has to be logically extended beyond DSCs to gram panchayats. A robust DSC underpinned by gram panchayats, active in skill planning and implementation, would not only help handle the current challenges of rural distress and sustained livelihood, but also improve qualitative growth of the labour market.

**(The Financial Express, New Delhi – 30 November, 2020)**

## **GLEANINGS FROM**

### **MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

#### **MSDE to train 3 lakh migrant workers under Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan**

MSDE is rolling out the programme across these districts for skill training within 125 days. The training has already started in certain parts of the identified districts and will gradually expand to other parts in the course of the month. The initiative aims to empower migrant workers and the rural population in the post-COVID era through demand-driven skilling and orientation.

Stressing upon the need to promote skilling and entrepreneurship for rural development, Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship said, “rural development through skill empowerment is a fundamental element of Skill India mission as 70% of the total workforce comes from rural India. The vision of making rural workforce attuned with the changing needs of the industry requires seamless synergies between various partners in the skilling ecosystem. We need to realign ourselves and complement each other on the pressing need for creation of industry-relevant jobs at regional levels to offset the aftereffects of workforce migration. We are committed to focus on local demand-driven skill development programmes to create better and sustainable livelihood opportunities for the migrant skilled workers whose collective strength forms the backbone of our economy.”

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), under the aegis of MSDE is executing the training programme through existing Training Providers and Project Implementing Agencies operating under PMKVY 2016-20 or state schemes. 1.5 lakh migrant workers are being trained under Short Term Training

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(STT) programme, and another 1.5 lakh migrant workers are slated to be certified under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) scheme.

Demand aggregation for local jobs in these districts as well as the mobilization of returnee migrants for the purpose of training is being done by the district administrations. The Skill Ministry is directing its efforts to organize skill training for various job roles as per local industry demand, as recommended by the district administrations.

**(National Skills Network, New Delhi – 16 November, 2020)**

## SCMS IN ACTION

### Global Mining Summit and International Mining Machinery Exhibition-2020

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organised the Global Mining Summit (GMS) -a biennial flagship initiative of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organised concurrently with the International Mining Machinery Exhibition (IMME). The 15<sup>th</sup> edition of GMS & IMME is kicked off on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 and will conclude by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 through virtual platform.

The theme for this year's Global Mining Summit 2020 is "Revitalizing Natural Resources to Achieve 5 Trillion economy". The focus area of summit is exploration, ease of doing business, technology, policy frameworks and emerging opportunities for foreign investors in the Indian mining sector as also strategies to achieve high growth in mining, role of financial institutions, environmental and safety issues. Major players from the mining, coal, iron ore and other mineral sectors globally, and within India, are being benefitted through this forum for exchange of views & ideas and to explore business partnerships.

At the same time, 'IMME 2020' will showcase latest technologies for the sector and provide an ideal platform for collaborations, technology transfer and networking opportunities with key international players in the sector. The exhibition has started witnessing participation of over 100 companies -country pavilions from Germany, UK, Poland and Czech Republic among others. Australia and Germany are the Partner and Focus Countries, respectively, in IMME and GMS 2020.

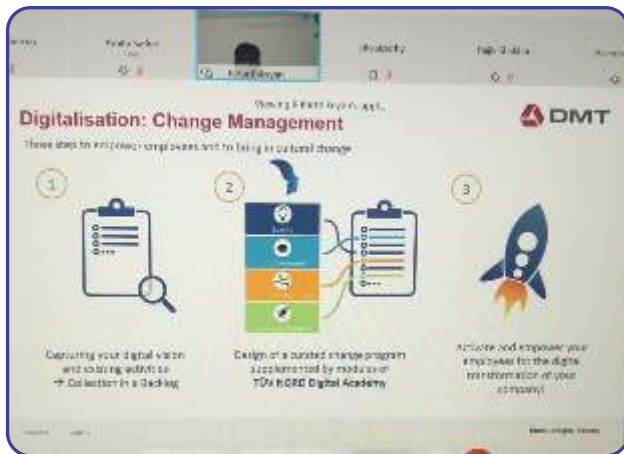
Over the years, GMS and IMME has evolved into a forum for government policy makers, industry, consultants, academia, equipment and technology providers to converge and deliberate on issues of concerns and to brainstorm on the ways of combating challenges faced by the sector. This cross-pollination of ideas leads to the creation of shared action agenda for growth.

Mr. Sanjay Sharma, CEO- Skill Council for Mining Sector, joined as a Panelist for the session "The next generation of mining: Upskill workforce and creating an agile culture" at the Global Mining Summit on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020, via Virtual Platform. The session focused on:

- Skills needed for the future workforce
- Current challenges in upskilling
- Women empowerment
- Upskilling the workforce to adapt new technologies

The session was chaired by Mr. P K Satpathy, Director (Production), NMDC & Chairman SCMS. The other panelists in the session were Dr. Mohan Yellishetty, Associate Professor- Monash University; Professor

Rajeev Shekhar, Director- IIT(ISM); Mr. R Karthikeyan- Principal Consultant, DMT; Mr. Vyacheslav Olegovich Zyrin- Director, National Association of Mining Engineers. This session was well attended and appreciated by articipants and CII.



Glimpses of Exhibition

**NLCIL-RPL Training Programme**

NLC India Limited (NLC) (formerly Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited) is a 'Navratna' government of India company in the fossil fuel mining sector in India and thermal power generation. It annually produces about 30 million tonnes of Lignite from opencast mines at Neyveli in the state of Tamil Nadu in southern India and at Barsingsar in Bikaner district of Rajasthan state. The lignite is used at pithead thermal power stations of 3640 MW installed capacity to produce electricity. Its joint venture has a 1000 MW thermal power station using coal. Lately, it has diversified into renewable energy production and installed 1404 MW solar power plant to produce electricity from photovoltaic (PV) cells and 51 MW electricity from windmills.

Having a very progressive senior Management, NLC believes in conducting regular training programmes to upgrade the skills of its workforce. After conducting an initial pilot in RPL Training 2019 in collaboration

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with the Skill Council for Mining Sector, NLC has now rolled out 6 batches of upskilling training in 6 critical job roles viz.,

- a) Mine Welder
- b) Bull Dozer Operator
- c) Mine Electrician
- d) Belt Conveyor Maintenance
- e) Assistant Support Open Cast Mines
- f) Special Vehicle Driver

Each training was conducted for a period of 6 days at Neyveli Lignite corporation India Ltd. at their Learning and Development Center (L&DC).

The courses are attended by 30 existing employees of NLC. The course was inaugurated on 23rd November 2020 by –

- Sri Babu Thomas Kelachandra, Deputy General Manager L&DC
- Sri Tapas Kumar Goswami Additional Deputy General Manager Skill Development, L&DC
- Sri K. Pandian Additional Chief Manager Skill Development, L&DC, NLC India Limited, Neyveli

The courses were conducted in line with the National Occupational Standards and thus far have been appreciated by all participating trainees. The training is being conducted by Indian Institute of Skill Development Pvt. Ltd. Gurgaon and SCMS is the Project Manager. The Trainers are people with extensive mining experience in both India and overseas.

The participants have given positive feedback on the training and recommendation is made to cover all the employees. The 5 days training is followed by assessment conducted by an accredited agency.



**Glimpses of Training from NLCIL**

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### **Virtual Meeting with Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research**

Shri Sanjay Sharma, CEO, SCMS had a virtual meeting with Dr Pradeep Singh, Director, CIMFR Dhanbad and GB member-SCMS on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2020. He has been kind to offer their premises at Dhanbad to be notified as Center of Excellence, design curriculum related to coal, blaster, survey etc. The campus is huge enough with GH to accommodate 100 persons. It was advised to visit the campus and decide way forward.

### **Setting up Centre of Excellence**

Virtual meeting with Kevin Masterson, General Manager, MyneSight Pvt Ltd. Australia on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2020. Discussed possibilities for collaboration, setting up CoE, employment in Australia to persons with SCMS certification and re certification by Australian Govt.

### **Webinar on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**

On 6<sup>th</sup> Novemeber, 2020, Shri Sanjay Sharma, CEO, SCMS attended webinar on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) For Higher Vocational Education & Training through Skill Credit Bank” as a member of steering Committee-Shri Vishwakarma Skill University Haryana (India's 1st Govt. Skill University)

### **Virtual interaction for skilling initiatives**

Shri Sanjay Sharma, CEO, SCMS along with other team members of SCMS-Bikram attended virtual interaction with Mike (TEXAS-USA) and Badri (UAE) on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2020 for collaboration with SCMS for various skilling initiatives and entering MOU.

### **Virtual Skills Exhibition**

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), [erstwhile Department for International Development (DFID)] in association with Department of International Trade (DIT) organised a Virtual Skills Exhibition (VSE) on 25<sup>th</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020, bringing together UK and India TVET stakeholders.

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FCDO is a ministerial department of the Government of United Kingdom which brings together the best of Britain's international effort and has several programmes in partnership with the Indian government and private sector to improve prosperity and livelihood of poor people.

Virtual skills exhibition (VSE), is an initiative organised under FCDO's 'Skills for Jobs Programme.' This programme provides technical assistance to improve access and quality of skills training in India in collaboration with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, GOI. The support offered through the programme includes policy strengthening, institutional capacity building and bringing UK learnings through piloting innovative training programmes across the priority sectors.

The exhibition aims to provide an opportunity for Indian and UK's skilling institutions to network and explore partnership opportunities with one another to respond to the skills gap created due to COVID 19 and other areas in vocational education effectively

The Virtual Skills Exhibition (VSE) will have representation from the UK organisations accredited internationally who will be the Virtual exhibitors on the digital platform.

### **Key Highlights of the Event**

- Virtual set up with a high-end technology platform giving it an on-site event like experience including features to conduct one to one meeting and participate in real-time conferences.
- Networking opportunities with UK organisations of global repute to understand innovative business models and technology driven initiatives.
- Access to case studies implemented globally during Covid-19, pertaining to business adaptability, and driving growth through effective digital transformation of businesses.
- Live Demonstrations and Interactions with UK partners enabling identification of new avenues of growth and improved service delivery.
- Platform to forge partnerships aligned to the growth strategy of your firm.

### **Potential Opportunities for Collaboration**

Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated the need for skilling institutions to adapt their business models to the new requirements and seek new verticals of growth to sustain and thrive. Some of the potential collaborations could be in the areas of:

- Digital transformation of service portfolios.
- Internationally benchmarked Curriculum and Content development solutions
- Accreditation and Certification services
- Capacity development of trainers and assessor to international standards.
- Employer engagement and apprenticeships-based services
- Policy development and technical assistance services
- Technology and knowledge transfer, including in training and assessment.

Entire team of Skill Council for Mining Sector also participated in the Virtual Skills Exhibition.

## Glimpses of UK - India Virtual Skills Exhibition



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## Constitution Day Celebration

As 26<sup>th</sup> November, every year, is marked as Samvidhan Divas, also known as Constitution Day. It's the day to honour and celebrate our Constitution and all the guiding principles of our great nation and its democratic essence. To celebrate this important occasion, the preamble of the constitution was read by the team of Skill Council for Mining Sector.



## NCL-SCMS MINING SKILL CENTER

### SCMS-NCL Mining Skill Centre:

SCMS signed an MOU with Northern Coalfield Limited a Mini Ratna Company on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 to train 480 local youths in the job roles of Mine Electrician, Mine Welder, Mechanic Fitter and Data Entry Operator. SCMS allocated this responsibility to its two training partners namely Mosaic Networks and Indian Institute of Skill Development.

The SCMS-NCL Mining Skill Center, at CETI campus of NCL, Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh was inaugurated by Shri P.K. Sinha, Chairman & Managing Director, Northern Coalfields Limited on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.

Applications were invited for the above four trades through online mode. The ground team did massive mobilisation in over 70 villages and wards. The modes of spreading awareness scaled from releasing advertisements in local and national newspapers to door-to-door awareness. The result was a whopping 39397 online application that were received (against 480 available seats) of which 3578 were female candidates. Support was rendered at various levels from Village Panchayats, Ward Councils and, above all, the CSR team of NCL.





This project targets to provide skill development training to 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> passed students for 5 to 6 months followed by 6 months to 1-year apprenticeship. The ultimate aim is to ensure qualitative training and facilitation of placements or make them self employable.



**Glimpses of Counselling procedures- keeping strict note of COVID-19 guidelines.**

Post counselling of the eligible candidates as per the project preferences, the training for Data Entry Operator and Mine Electrician has started for the first phase from 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Counselling for remaining 2 trades is undergoing and training for these batches may also resume by the last week of December itself.



### **Classroom trainings adhering to COVID-19 guidelines issued by MHA**

Facial recognition Attendance System, CCTV camera monitoring, education through smart classrooms, regular Mine visits etc. are the key specialities of the project.

## **SPECIAL FEATURE**

### **Drones for Mining: Use Cases, Benefits and Trends**

Mining is an incredibly dangerous industry, which helps explain its ready adoption of UAS technology in recent years, particularly across the regions of Australasia and Africa, according to GlobalData's survey of more than 200 mine sites. Combined with photogrammetry software for surveying and mapping, drones are able to deliver advanced, comprehensive, and real-time data.

Beyond vastly improving the safety of mining operations, drones can be used to collect data more efficiently and accurately, and according to Global Data's survey, replacing manned aircraft with a drone and drone pilot for can save around 90% of the cost per hour. Other benefits include:

- Surveys are easily repeatable
- Improves worker and site-safety management
- Reduces variance in stockpile volume calculations
- Reduces the need for costly manned aircraft and highly skilled personnel
- Unlimited aerial data that can be collected allows engineers to focus on analysis and interpretation

Use cases for drone technology in mining operations include:

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## **Mining surveys**

A UAV equipped with a downward-facing RGB camera takes images of an open-pit mine or quarry from different points. Photogrammetry software uses these images to create geo-referenced 3D maps, contour lines, digital terrain models, or digital surface models of the site.

Aerial photogrammetry is the making of measurements and mapping 3D coordinates through images containing geospatial information. Photogrammetry can create topographic maps with the three-dimensional shape and features of a mining site, and can also produce digital terrain models, and planimetric feature maps. This means highly realistic 3D models that can be used for virtual walkthroughs and information to assess visual changes to a site over time. Additional maps and images that this software can create include orthophotos, point clouds, and 3D textured mesh.

## **Stockpile Management**

Typically, large piles of aggregate matter form a cone shape, which is difficult to estimate the volume of on the ground, so manned aircraft traditionally fly over these piles to take painstaking measurements. Drones using cutting edge software can now identify measurements, make calculations, and generate aerial terrain models with little effort and without highly trained staff. Frequent calculations are now cost-effective and help minimize waste.

## **Quarry management and operation planning**

The aerial drone images can also be used to produce an accurate site model, allowing site operations to be more efficiently and safely designed and managed by better assessing the volume of material to be extracted or moved, and by optimizing haul roads to cut fuel costs and ensure they meet legal standards.

## **Drilling and blasting**

Surveys can create 3D reconstructions and surface models for areas to be blasted or drilled. After blasting, thermal imaging and photometry are used to make sure there have been no potentially hazardous shifts in material. Comparisons between surveys taken before and after blasting allow more accurate calculations of volumes to improve planning for future blasts and cut the cost of explosives, time on site, and drilling.

## **Tailings dams**

Tailings dams are earthen embankment dams which store potentially hazardous chemical byproducts of the mining process. Drones are able to provide constant surveillance of tailings dams to ensure their integrity and prevent any environmentally damaging spillage or runoff.

## **Security**

Continuously flying drones are able to secure perimeters and protect equipment, detecting unusual activity and alerting personnel. The aerial perspective is also valuable when coordinating emergency response efforts that may be needed, by safely navigating response vehicles through the mining site.

## **Underground and abandoned mines**

Underground mines are one of the most dangerous aspects of the mining industry and therefore have numerous applications for drones to improve safety, including surface roughness mapping, stability analysis, ventilation modeling, and hazardous gas and leakage detection. However, the same reasons they

are dangerous to humans make them difficult to operate drones in, such as confined space, reduced visibility, dust, and obstacles that obstruct wireless signal propagation, making their use limited for now.

There are tens of thousands of abandoned mines in the United States alone, and drones can perform monitoring of them for flooding, gas emissions and buildup, and other potential hazardous conditions more efficiently and safely than traditional measures.

(Unmannedsystemtechnology.com – 9 November, 2020)



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