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SKILLING IN MINING

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SKILL COUNCIL FOR MINING SECTOR

(Promoted by Federation of Indian Mineral Industries)

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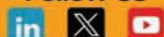


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Interactive Workshop on Establishment of Skill Development Centers (SDCs) in critical mineral sector

Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI) with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP under the aegis of the Ministry of Mines organized a workshop in hybrid mode on establishment of Skill Development Centre in critical mineral sector on 30th May, 2025 at FIMI House, New Delhi. This Workshop was conducted as part of the Study assigned to FIMI by Ministry of Mines. The objective of the study is to develop a robust framework and guidelines for the effective establishment and functioning of SDCs. The purpose of organizing this workshop is to bring together all stakeholders from across the entire critical mineral value chain including exploration, mining, beneficiation and processing, as well as recycling and reuse to gather valuable insights on operating models, funding mechanisms, curriculum requirements, and emerging job trends in critical mineral sector.

Shri Shakil Alam, Economic Adviser to the Government of India, Ministry of Mines, addressed the participants and highlighted the importance of this on-going study. Mr. Amit Naik, Director, Deloitte, provided the context for the study. Ms. Nupur Badhwar, Manager, Deloitte, along with her team, engaged in meaningful discussions with stakeholders to gather their inputs, which will play a vital role in shaping the blueprint for establishment of SDCs in critical mineral sector. Shri Pramod Tyagi, Secretary General, FIMI delivered the Vote of Thanks. The workshop was well attended by more than 50 participants, both in-person and online. Attendees included representatives from educational institutions such as IIT-ISM, various IITs, CSIR-NML, recycling companies as well as representatives from Critical Mineral Association and the mining industry.



Shri Shakil Alam, Economic Advisor, Ministry of Mines delivering the Welcome Address



Presentation by Deloitte on Establishment of SDCs

MOU with District Mineral Foundation Trust, Keonjhar

Skill Council for Mining Sector (SCMS) signed an MOU with District Mineral Foundation Trust, Keonjhar (Odisha) on 31st May 2025 for a “Short term Training” project covering 720 local candidates/PAPs and RPL/Upskilling/Reskilling for 500 local candidates. The MOU was signed by Shri Kumar Nagabhusan O.A.S. (S), CDO-cum-Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad and CEO, DMF, Keonjhar, Odisha and Shri Navneet Kumar, COO & Officiating CEO-SCMS. The training (Residential) shall be followed by NSQF

aligned certification imparted in non-operator & Operator job roles including hands on training on the equipment. The training duration of the job roles will range from 450 to 560 hours and SCMS will facilitate placement of certified candidates in gainful employment. The training will be free of charge for the candidates including lodging & boarding, safety kits, medical fitness test, insurance Simulator/VR training, etc.

This project aims to empower the PAPs to earn livelihood in the mining sector and also create a pool of skilled mining workforce in the district which will help the current and upcoming mining companies in the district.



MOU signing between SCMS & DMFT, Keonjhar

MOU with District Mineral Foundation Trust, Jajpur

SCMS signed another MOU with District Mineral Foundation Trust, Jajpur (Odisha) on 31st May 2025 for a “Short Term Training” project covering 360 local candidates/PAPs, along with a pilot Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)/Upskilling program targeting 500 existing workers from the district. The MOU was signed by Ms. P. Anvesha Reddy (IAS), Collector and Mining Trustee, DMF Jajpur, Odisha and Shri Navneet Kumar, COO & Officiating CEO-SCMS. The training shall be followed by NSQF aligned certification imparted in non-operator & Operator job roles including hands on training on the equipment. The training duration of the job roles will range from 450 to 560 hours and SCMS will facilitate placement of certified candidates under Short Term Training program in gainful employment. The training will be free of charge for the candidates including lodging & boarding, safety kits, medical fitness test, insurance, simulator/VR training, etc. This is Phase-2 of the project, commencing on successful completion of Phase-1 in 2023.



MOU signing between SCMS & DMFT, Jajpur

Skill Council for Mining Sector Initiates Skill Gap Study (2025-30) for the Indian mining sector in collaboration with Ministry of Mines

Ministry of Mines and Skill Council for Mining Sector have jointly initiated the Skill Gap Study for the Indian mining sector for the period 2025-30 and develop a Skill Plan for mining sector based on the findings of the study. A Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) was formed comprising of representatives from Ministry of Mines, Federation of Indian Mineral Industries, Skill Council for Mining Sector and few mining organizations for finalizing the RFP and identifying a competent agency. The suggestion on scope of the study received from the members and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship were incorporated in the RFP document.

The RFP notice was published in The Economic Times newspaper (Pan India Circulation) on 5th of February 2025 and was uploaded on SCMS & Ministry of Mines websites. After due-diligence in the RFP process, Deloitte Touché Tohmatsu India LLP was declared as the final successful bidder and the contract for the work was awarded. Post preliminary preparations the field survey activity shall start from the month of August 2025.

This study shall cover all sub-sectors of mining including Prospecting & Exploration, Mineral Extraction of Fuel, Metallic/Non-metallic, Critical/Strategic, Atomic, Minor & Deep Sea Minerals, Processing & Beneficiation and Coal washeries, Associated Services with Environment, Health & Safety, Engineering and Allied services, Ancillary activities supporting mining transportation and storage, Urban Mining etc.

Inputs from major stakeholders like Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Steel, Ministry of Labour and Employment, major Govt. departments like IBM, GSI, DGMS, DMGs, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), major industries and industry associations in coal, metal, cement, minor minerals, major educational and research institutes like CSIR-CIMFR, IIT-ISM Dhanbad, IIT-Kharagpur, NIRM, etc. shall be taken.

Alignments/reference with various National Missions/Policies related to mining and missions/policies that may affect employment in mining (like National Green Hydrogen Mission, India Semi-Conductor Mission, AI Mission, Solar Mission, etc.) shall be taken into account while compiling and forecasting the results.

47th Meeting of the Governing Board of Skill Council for Mining Sector

The 47th meeting of the Governing Board of Skill Council for Mining Sector (SCMS) was held on 3rd June, 2025 at FIMI House, New Delhi which was chaired by Shri. Pankaj Kumar Satija, Executive In-Charge, Ferro Alloys and Minerals Division, Tata Steel Ltd. & Chairman-SCMS.

Chairman-SCMS introduced and welcomed the new members in the Governing Board of SCMS, Shri B.L. Gurjar, Controller of Mines, Indian Bureau of Mines, GoI and Shri O.P. Mishra, Executive Director-Community Development, Coal India Limited.

The Governing Board meeting concluded successfully with some suggestions from the members.



47th GB meeting in progress

MINING & EXPLORATION

India's underground coal mining gets major boost with new incentives: Ministry of Coal

In a decisive step towards revitalizing India's coal sector, the Ministry of Coal has introduced a series of transformative policy measures aimed at promoting underground coal mining, the government said in a statement on 24th April, 2025. These bold reforms address the traditional challenges of high capital

investment and longer gestation periods, reaffirming the government's resolve to modernize the coal ecosystem while aligning with the broader vision of sustainable development, the statement said.

To accelerate the growth/ Operationalisation of underground coal mining, the Ministry of Coal has introduced a robust package of incentives: Reduction in Floor Revenue Share: The floor percentage of revenue share for underground coal mines has been reduced from 4 percent to 2 percent. This targeted reduction offers substantial fiscal relief and enhances the financial viability of underground projects.

Waiver of Upfront Payment: The mandatory upfront payment requirement for underground mining ventures has been completely waived off. This measure removes a significant financial barrier, encouraging broader participation from the private sector and facilitating faster project implementation.

These incentives are further complemented by an existing 50 percent rebate on performance security for underground coal blocks, collectively lowering the entry threshold and facilitating smoother project implementation. The ministry's reform-oriented approach underscores its commitment to fostering a future-ready, investment-friendly, and innovation-driven coal sector. By incentivising underground mining, the government is not only catalysing economic growth but also driving the industry toward greater efficiency, safety, and employment generation, it stated.

Underground coal mining is inherently more environment-friendly, as it causes significantly less surface disruption compared to opencast operations. These policy measures are expected to encourage the adoption of advanced technologies-such as continuous miners, longwall systems, remote sensing tools, and AI-based safety mechanisms-which will boost productivity while ensuring ecological balance, the ministry said.

These forward-leaning reforms mark a strategic shift toward cleaner and more sustainable coal extraction practices. They are poised to unlock the vast untapped potential of underground mining in India, fostering innovation, reducing carbon emissions, and contributing meaningfully to the nation's energy security and Atmanirbhar Bharat objectives, it said. With this visionary roadmap, the Ministry of Coal is not only reshaping the future of coal mining but also reaffirming its role as a catalyst in India's journey toward self-reliant and environmentally responsible industrial growth, it added.

(ETEnergyworld.com, New Delhi – 24 April, 2025)

India's coal production increases 3.63% to 81.57 MT in April

India's overall coal production increased 3.63 percent to 81.57 million tonnes (MT) in April 2025, up from 78.71 MT during the corresponding period in the previous year. "India's coal production and dispatch witnessed steady growth in April 2025, compared to the same period last year," the coal ministry said in a statement on 1st May, 2025.

Captive mining contribution surges

Output from captive and other non-Coal India Ltd (CIL) mines reached 14.51 MT (provisional) in April 2025, marking a 26.6 per cent increase over the 11.46 MT recorded in April last year. "This surge highlights the growing contribution of captive mining to India's overall coal output," the ministry statement noted. Coal dispatches during the period under review grew marginally to 86.64 MT (provisional), compared with 85.11 MT in the corresponding month last year.

Stock levels at multi-year highs

As on April 30, 2025, coal companies held stocks totaling 125.76 MT, up from 102.41 MT a year earlier. CIL alone reported holding stock of 105 MT at the end of FY25, a 22.1 per cent increase from the 86.60 MT stock at the end of the fiscal year ended March 2024. "This surge reflects an impressive annual growth rate of 22.8% underscoring the robust performance and efficiency of the coal sector," the ministry said.

Surge in self-reliance

The Government is also focused on in house coal production and aims to cut imports, the ministry said, adding that it remains committed to achieving sustainable growth, improving coal availability, and reducing dependence on imports. Last month, the ministry said that commercial mines spearheaded the surge in coal production, with production in March 2025 climbing 67.32 percent and dispatches rising 76.71 percent year-on-year-underscoring the impact of aggressive capacity additions and auction-driven mine development.

On April 4, the ministry had announced that coal imports had fallen 8.4 percent to 183.42 MT during April–December 2024, down from 200.19 MT in the same period of FY 2023-24, reflecting stronger domestic output and stock build-up.

(Business Standard, New Delhi – 1 May, 2025)

Rajasthan govt. aims over ₹12,950cr in mining revenue for FY26

Rajasthan's mines & geology department has set a target to collect over ₹12,950 crore revenues in the current financial year (FY26). To meet the goal, the state plans to generate about ₹1,000 crore in revenue each month, department's Principal Secretary T Ravikant said. Rajasthan is one of the leading mineral producers in the country, with 22 major minerals and 36 minor minerals. It is also the sole producer of lead, zinc, wollastonite, selenite, calcite, and gypsum.

To further support the revenue target, the mines department has released the action plan with a focus on improving managerial efficiency, Ravikant said. Key initiatives include plotting and preparing minor and mineral blocks for their time-bound auctions, resolving pending court cases, accelerating the recovery of dues, and bringing auctioned blocks and plots into operation immediately. Recovery of outstanding mining lease instalments to also be prioritised.

In FY25, the department was the leading revenue contributor to the state, collecting over ₹9,228 crore – a growth rate of 23.65 percent. The department has asked officials to prepare monthly action plans for investment, employment, and revenue collection. These action plans will be reviewed monthly at the state level, Ravikant said. Any kind of negligence in revenue collection will not be tolerated, he said.

Additionally, immediate auction of seized minerals has been ordered. This, Ravikant said, would send a message of the government's strictness against illegal activities. There will be no possibility of the seized minerals being wasted or reduced, and revenue would be obtained.

(Business Standard, Jaipur – 9 May, 2025)

India's mining and construction equipment sector to reach \$45 billion by 2030: Report

India's mining and construction equipment (MCE) sector, currently valued at \$16 billion, is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 19% to reach \$45 billion by 2030, according to a joint report released by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Kearney. India has become the fastest-growing MCE market among the top six global economies, surpassing the United States, Germany, and Japan. The Indian MCE sector has recorded a 12% CAGR over the past five years.

Globally, the mining and construction sector is valued at \$18 trillion and contributes 16% to global GDP. In India, the sector contributes 22% to GDP and supports over 70 million jobs. The report notes that India ranks second only to China in its contribution to global mining and construction activities.

The projected growth of the MCE sector is expected to add more than \$100 billion to India's economy by FY30, including the creation of 20 million jobs through upstream and downstream industrial growth, increased tax revenues, and employment generation. The CII-Kearney report recommends several policy and structural interventions to realise the Vision 2030 target. These include institutionalizing governance through a single nodal agency, introducing a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme specific to the MCE sector, and accelerating MCE exports via Free Trade Agreements (FTAs).

The report also calls for mutual recognition of Indian certification standards, promotion of automation and technology adoption, rationalisation of taxes and import duties, and the creation of National R&D consortia and startup accelerators. Additional recommendations include providing green incentives, supporting clean-tech research and development, and revising underground mining and beneficiation regulations to unlock India's mineral potential.
(ETEnergyworld.com, New Delhi – 26 May, 2025)

ALLIED INDUSTRY

Modi urges steel industry to ramp up iron ore mining, cut imports, and build 'steel-strong India'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 24th April, 2025 called the industry to "speed up" iron ore mining at unused greenfield mines to increase steel production in the country. The steel industry has to come together, and build a "resilient, revolutionary and steel-strong India", Modi said. Speaking at the India Steel 2025 event virtually, PM Modi also asked the industry players to strengthen global partnerships and secure supply chains, noting that raw material is a challenge for the industry and the country is still dependent on imports. He said the country also needs to explore alternatives like coal gasification and better utilisation of its reserves to reduce coal imports. The industry has to be future ready, and adopt new processes, new grades and new scale, the Prime Minister said.
(The Economic Times, New Delhi – 24 April, 2025)

GENERAL

Cabinet approves National Scheme for ITI Upgradation and Setting up of 5 National CoE for Skilling

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the National Scheme for Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Upgradation and the Setting up of five (5) National Centres of Excellence for Skilling as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. National Scheme for Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Upgradation and Setting up of five National Centres of Excellence (NCOE) for Skilling will be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme as per announcement, made under Budget 2024-25 and Budget 2025-26 with outlay of Rs.60,000 crore (Central Share: Rs.30,000 crore, State Share: Rs.20,000 crore and Industry Share: Rs.10,000 crore), with co-financing to the extent of 50% of Central share by the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, equally.

The scheme will focus on upgradation of 1,000 Government ITIs in hub and spoke arrangement with industry aligned revamped trades (courses) and Capacity Augmentation of five (5) National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs), including setting up of five National Centres of Excellence for Skilling in these institutes.

The Scheme aims to

- position existing ITIs as government-owned, industry-managed aspirational institutes of skills, in collaboration with State Governments and industry.
- skill 20 lakh youth over a 5-year period through courses that address the human capital needs of industries.
- focus on ensuring alignment between local workforce supply and industry demand, thereby facilitating industries, including MSMEs, in accessing employment-ready workers.

The financial assistance provided under various schemes in the past was suboptimal to meet the full upgradation needs of ITIs, particularly in addressing growing investment requirements for infrastructure upkeep, capacity expansion, and the introduction of capital-intensive, new-age trades. To overcome this, a need-based investment provision has been kept under the proposed scheme, allowing flexibility in fund allocation based on the specific infrastructure, capacity, and trade-related requirements of each institution. For the first time, the scheme seeks to establish deep industry connect in planning and management of ITI upgradation on a sustained basis. The scheme will adopt an industry-led Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) model for an outcome-driven implementation strategy, making it distinct from previous efforts to improve the ITI ecosystem.

Under the scheme, infrastructure upgradation for improved Training of Trainers (ToT) facilities will be undertaken in five National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs), namely Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kanpur, and Ludhiana. Additionally, pre-service and in-service training will be provided to 50,000 trainers. By addressing long-standing challenges in infrastructure, course relevance, employability, and the perception of vocational training, the scheme aims to position ITIs at the forefront to cater to skilled manpower requirement, aligned to the nation's journey to becoming a global manufacturing and innovation powerhouse. It will create a pipeline of skilled workers aligned with industry demand, thereby addressing skill shortages in high-growth sectors such as electronics, automotive, and renewable energy. In sum, the proposed scheme aligns with the Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat, with skilling as a key enabler to meet both current and future industry needs.

(Skill Reporter, New Delhi – 8 May, 2025)

The Directorate General of Training (DGT) and Shell India jointly launch the Green Skills-focused EV training program to empower youth

The Directorate General of Training (DGT), under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), in collaboration with Shell India, has launched a Green Skills and Electric Vehicles (EV) training program aimed at equipping students and faculty with future-ready capabilities in green energy and e-mobility. This initiative will be implemented by Edunet Foundation, training partner of Shell, across select Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) in Delhi-NCR, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka on 12th June 2025.

Under the DGT–Shell India collaboration, green skill training will be delivered through a structured multi-tier model across select NSTIs and ITIs. In the first phase, the program includes a 240-hour advanced EV Technician course at 4 NSTIs, a 90-hour job-oriented EV skills course at 12 ITIs equipped with Shell-supported labs, and a 50-hour foundational green skills module at additional ITIs without physical labs. The curriculum, jointly developed by Shell, Edunet Foundation, and DGT, covers EV systems, diagnostics,

battery technology, digital tools, and safety protocols. The initiative also includes Training of Trainers (ToT) for over 250 instructors, certification co-branded by Shell and DGT, and structured placement support to enhance industry readiness.

A key highlight of the initiative is the establishment of specialized EV skill labs within select ITIs and NSTIs. These labs are designed to offer hands-on training and expert-led sessions aligned with industry standards. Beyond lab-based learning, the program also provides placement support and co-branded certifications to successful participants, enhancing their employability in the green energy and EV sectors.

The Government of India has been actively advancing Green Energy and Electric Vehicle (EV) adoption in line with its net-zero ambitions. Flagship initiatives like the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme have played a pivotal role in accelerating EV uptake, enhancing infrastructure, and offering targeted incentives. Complementing these national efforts, states like Delhi, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu have introduced their own EV policies to fast-track the transition to electric mobility, foster local ecosystems, and generate green jobs. These developments underscore the growing demand for a skilled workforce in the green energy and EV sectors.

As the apex national body for vocational training, DGT will play a crucial role in this initiative by mobilizing students and trainers and supporting the institutional ecosystem to ensure alignment with national education and skill development standards.

Speaking on the importance of this initiative, Minister of State (Independent Charge), MSDE and Minister of State for Education, Shri Jayant Chaudhary said, “Our collaboration with Shell India reflects the government’s deeper commitment to aligning skilling with sustainability. Green energy, electric mobility, and the broader climate transition are not just environmental imperatives—they represent a generational opportunity for India to lead through innovation, talent, and enterprise. This initiative is part of our larger vision to create a workforce that is not only job-ready, but climate-ready. We are equipping young Indians with the skills to shape-and not just participate in-the global green economy.”

Director General, Directorate General of Training (DGT), MSDE, Smt. Trishaljit Sethi, stated, “This partnership with Shell India is a focused step in bringing cutting-edge training infrastructure and industry-relevant curriculum into our ITIs and NSTIs. By integrating Electric Vehicle technologies into vocational training, we are ensuring that our students gain hands-on experience aligned with real-world demand. With joint certification, trainer upskilling, and placement support built into the program, this initiative will significantly strengthen the employability of our youth in the green mobility sector.”

Speaking on the partnership, Chairperson, Shell Group of Companies in India & Senior Vice President, Shell Lubricants, Asia-Pacific, Mansi Madan Tripathy said, “At Shell, we aim to support local communities by enabling future employment opportunities. Equipping youth with green energy skills is an important step towards building a lower-carbon future. Through our collaboration with DGT and Edunet Foundation, we are providing students with practical and future-ready expertise in green energy and electric mobility. This initiative empowers young people to thrive in an evolving energy landscape and contribute towards India’s net-zero ambitions”.

This collaboration between DGT and Shell India is a robust move in preparing India’s youth for careers in the future green economy. By offering a comprehensive curriculum, specialized labs, and industry support, the initiative will equip students with hands-on skills and certifications, enhancing their employability and positioning them to lead in a sustainable, innovation-driven future.

(Press Information Bureau, New Delhi – 13 June, 2025)

Prime Minister Modi calls for human-centric AI approach, cooperation on critical minerals

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 18th June called for close cooperation on minerals in the age of AI, saying that no country should use them for its own interests. He also said that the intensive energy demands of AI can only be met through renewable sources. “Ensuring affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy is a top priority for India. To achieve this, we are focusing on solar energy and small modular reactors. We are also developing smart grids, energy storage systems, and green energy corridors to connect renewable energy production with demand centers,” he said.

He said: “We must adopt a human-centric approach. Everyone recognises the potential of AI. However, the real challenge is ensuring that AI tools enhance human dignity and empowerment.” “First, we must work towards governance at an international level that addresses concerns related to AI while promoting innovation. Second, in the age of AI, close cooperation in the areas of critical minerals and technology is extremely important. We must focus on securing and strengthening the resilience of their supply chains. We must also ensure that no country uses them solely for its own interests or as a weapon,” he said.

(The Indian Express, New Delhi – 19 June, 2025)

Rajasthan brings new rules to develop the mining-affected areas

A majority of Rajasthan’s earmarked funds for mining-affected areas will be used for works like drinking water distribution, environmental protection and health facilities, said a senior civil servant. The District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) will use 70 percent of funds in “high-priority areas”, said T Ravikant, principal secretary of mines and petroleum department. The rest of the amount will be used for development works in other places in mining areas.

For DMFT, 30 percent of royalty amount is collected from old mines of major minerals and 10 percent each from auctioned major mineral mines and minor mineral mines. The state government has issued a notification on new DMFT rules that will enable better use of funds for mining-affected areas, said Ravikant. Public welfare works will be done within a 25 km radius of a mining-affected area, according to the new rules.

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, who holds the mining portfolio, aims to develop mining by simplifying approvals for investments. “The Chief Minister believes that the amount collected in the DMFT fund from a mining area should be used in the overall development of the residents of the same area,” Ravikant said.

Ravikant said that the new rules state 70 percent of DMFT funds in high priority areas can be used for drinking water distribution and purification, environmental protection, health facilities, education, child development, skill development of youth and other purposes. As much as 30 percent of the amount can be used for other priority works, especially infrastructural development, including road, bridge, rail projects and irrigation projects, energy and watershed-related works.

Ravikant said that in districts where Rs 50 crore or more amount is collected in mining royalties, project management units will be formed for management, technical assistance and planning. As much as 10 percent of the amount received in the fund will be kept as an endowment fund.

(Business Standard, New Delhi – 19 June, 2025)

India moves to benchmark iron ore prices to global index for greater transparency

India has proposed benchmarking the price of domestically produced iron ore to S&P Global Platts, or other such global publication gauges. Currently, the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) announces the average sale price (ASP) of iron ore in the country based on self-declarations by mining companies. This is then used to calculate royalty and District Mineral Fund (DMF) disbursements payable to states.

Moving away from the self-declaration regime, a Mines Ministry notification said the IBM shall compute the daily price of Iron Ore (60 to below 62 percent Fe grade) Fines in Indian Rupees based on prices published daily by S&P Global Platts or other reputed publications for iron ore (of the same grade).

Self-declared prices by mining companies led to the possibility of understating revenues which also meant a lesser royalty payable to the states. The proposal brings transparency in iron ore pricing, limiting room for mining companies to declare lower prices for higher grades. It also brings uniformity in iron ore prices, as earlier prices would vary across states. States use prices declared by these companies to calculate their revenue, as the law stipulates that mining entities pay 15 percent of the iron ore sale revenue as royalty to the states. Further, 2 percent of the royalty is paid as DMF, used to fund development activities in mining-affected areas.

(ETEnergyworld.com, New Delhi – 20 June, 2025)

Need investment, skilling drive to boost jobs: Study

While estimating the possibility of employing up to 35 crore workers in manufacturing and services by 2030, a new study has recommended a massive skilling drive and a focus on investments to ensure that there is gainful employment in the economy.

In a paper, "Pathways to Jobs," presented by a team of economists from NCAER led by economist Farzana Afridi, it was estimated that since 2017-18, the country's workforce increased by around nine crore, but around six crore jobs were added. A bulk of the projected jobs - around 28 crore - are expected to come in the services sector. It, however, argued that higher investment in labour-intensive manufacturing and services can lead to a doubling of employment in the economy as there would be inter-sectoral linkages.

It noted that the proportion of the labour force engaged in agriculture has declined, while the manufacturing sector's contribution has remained stagnant. What has added to the complication for policymakers is the trend of declining labour intensity of production. In addition, there is an insufficient supply of skilled workers, an issue which the economists said needed to be addressed urgently.

While there were changes since 2017-18 with faster growth in high-skill employment, there is a greater concentration of these workers in the services space. "There was a decline in the share of untrained workers over time. In 2018, 92% of workers had no training, which fell to 65% by 2024. However, the majority of workers remain untrained. As of 2024, only 4% of workers received formal training," the paper said.

The economists made a case for students to be offered a choice to go for academic or vocational education, with training expected to result in additional job creation. At the macro level, the policy recommendations included higher expenditure, along with lower taxes, incentives to spur investment, and easier labour regulations.

(The Times of India, New Delhi – 27 June, 2025)

Cabinet Approves Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme to support employment generation, enhance employability and social security across all sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector.

Under the Scheme, while the first-time employees will get one month's wage (up to Rs 15,000/-), the employers will be given incentives for a period to two years for generating additional employment, with extended benefits for another two years for the manufacturing sector.

The ELI Scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2024-25 as part of PM's package of five schemes to facilitate employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 Crore youth with a total budget outlay of Rs 2 Lakh Crore. With an outlay of Rs 99,446 Crore, the ELI Scheme aims to incentivize the creation of more than 3.5 Crore jobs in the country, over a period of 2 years.

Out of these, 1.92 Crore beneficiaries will be first timers, entering the workforce. The benefits of the Scheme would be applicable to jobs created between 01st August 2025 and 31st July, 2027.

The Scheme consists of two parts with Part A focused on first timers and Part B focused on employers:

Part A: Incentive to First Time Employees:

Targeting first-time employees registered with EPFO, this Part will offer one-month EPF wage up to Rs 15,000 in two installments. Employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh will be eligible. The 1st installment will be payable after 6 months of service and the 2nd installment will be payable after 12 months of service and completion of a financial literacy programme by the employee.

To encourage the habit of saving, a portion of the incentive will be kept in a savings instrument of deposit account for a fixed period and can be withdrawn by the employee at a later date.

The Part A will benefit around 1.92 crore first time employees.

Part B: Support to Employers:

This part will cover generation of additional employment in all sectors, with a special focus on the manufacturing sector. The employers will get incentives in respect of employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh. The Government will incentivize employers, up to Rs 3000 per month, for two years, for each additional employee with sustained employment for at least six months.

For the manufacturing sector, incentives will be extended to the 3rd and 4th years as well. Establishments, which are registered with EPFO, will be required to hire at least two additional employees (for employers with less than 50 employees) or five additional employees (for employers with 50 or more employees), on a sustained basis for at least six months.

The incentive structure will be as under:

EPF Wage Slabs of Additional Employee	Benefit to the Employer (per additional employment per month)
Up to Rs 10,000*	Upto Rs 1,000
More than Rs 10,000 and up to Rs 20,000	Rs 2,000
More than Rs 20,000 (upto salary of Rs 1 Lakh/month)	Rs 3,000

**Employees with EPF wages up to Rs. 10,000 will get a proportional incentive.*

This part is expected to incentivize employers for the creation of additional employment of nearly 2.60 crore persons.

Incentive Payment Mechanism:

All payments to the First Time Employees under Part A of the Scheme will be made through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) mode using Aadhar Bridge Payment System (ABPS). Payments to the Employers under Part B will be made directly into their PAN-linked Accounts.

With ELI Scheme, the government intends to catalyse job creation in all sectors, particularly in manufacturing sector, besides incentivizing youth joining the workforce for the first time. An important outcome of the Scheme will also be formalization of the country's workforce by extending social security coverage for crores of young men and women.

(Press Information Bureau, New Delhi – 1 July, 2025)

GLEANINGS FROM

MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

MSDE Partners with World Economic Forum to Launch India Skills Accelerator

In a significant move towards accelerating India's skilling goal, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), in collaboration with the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s, deliberated on the "India Skills Accelerator" initiative during a high-level roundtable at Kaushal Bhawan, New Delhi. The India Skills Accelerator will function as a national public-private collaboration platform designed to enable cross-sectoral efforts in unlocking innovative ideas and driving systemic progress on complex challenges that demand a multi-stakeholder approach. At its core, the Accelerator aims to catalyze change across three critical levels:

- by improving awareness and shifting mindsets around future skills needs,
- increasing collaboration and knowledge sharing among stakeholders, and
- committing to upgrade institutional structures and policy frameworks to support a more adaptive and responsive skilling ecosystem.

As India navigates rapid technological and economic change, skill gaps – cited by 65% of organisations as a major barrier – threaten to slow progress. The Accelerator aims to close these gaps through inclusive upskilling and reskilling, mobilizing investment in lifelong learning, and fostering government-industry collaboration. By enabling agile career transitions, promoting scalable training, and aligning education with industry need – especially in high-growth sectors like AI, robotics, and energy – the initiative will empower India's youth and drive future-ready workforce development.

The initiative's governance structure includes key stakeholders from public and private sectors, led and co-chaired by Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education and co-chaired by Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, Hon'ble Minister of State for Education and Development of North-Eastern Region. It will also have two private co-chairs – Ms. Shobana Kamineni, Executive Chairperson of Apollo HealthCo; and Mr. Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman and Managing Director of Bajaj Finserv.

In his opening remarks, Hon'ble Minister Shri Jayant Chaudhary underscored the need for collective ambition and structural reform in skilling to meet the aspirations of a young, dynamic nation. He emphasized that India's demographic potential can only be realized if skilling systems remain agile, inclusive, and closely aligned with global opportunities and national priorities. "India today stands at the confluence of three powerful forces - demographic advantage, digital transformation, and a deep developmental commitment. With the world's largest youth population and a vibrant skilling ecosystem, we are uniquely positioned to become the Skill Capital of the World," Shri Chaudhary said. He noted that the Accelerator is not just a platform for dialogue, but a catalyst for systemic transformation, anchored in shared accountability, innovation, and targeted solutions. "This is a chance to engage in candid assessments and meaningful dialogue – anchored in data and focused on results" The Minister further highlighted the importance of sectoral focus, mapping our current standing through surveys and evidence, and prioritizing emerging areas such as GCCs, advanced manufacturing, and the formalization of the informal workforce.

Co-chair and Hon'ble Minister, Dr. Sukanta Majumdar articulated India's strategic opportunity to position itself as the global epicenter of next-generation talent. He underscored the need to embed competitiveness in India's skills architecture particularly in fields like artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and cloud computing so that India is not only skilling for its domestic economy but for the world. The Accelerator, he added, will play a critical role in translating this global ambition into measurable outcomes. "Through the National Education Policy, we have initiated transformative changes-promoting flexibility, vocational pathways, and digital skilling. Our federal model of implementation, involving both Centre and States, can serve as a valuable learning for global platforms like the WEF as well," he said.

Saadia Zahidi, Managing Director, World Economic Forum (WEF), said, "In the face of rapid technological and labour market changes, India's launch of the Skills Accelerator reflects a strong commitment to equipping its workforce with the skills needed for the future. By strengthening alignment across the skills ecosystem, this initiative will help close critical skills gaps, support the growth of India's digital and innovation-driven economy, and enable more people to thrive in a rapidly evolving world of work. We are pleased to support this important step and look forward to the impact it will deliver at scale."

During the roundtable, the experts underscored the significance of a comprehensive analysis of India's skilling ecosystem and identifying a set of 10 to 12 high-impact priorities with clear and measurable outcomes. They also emphasized establish dedicated working groups to guide implementation and ensure progress is tracked through WEF's Global Learning Network – enabling peer learning and global benchmarking. Equally emphasized was the importance of thematic working groups, drawing on the expertise of diverse stakeholders, to translate strategy into coordinated action. The participants also deliberated on aligning the newly launched initiative with insights from the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs 2025 report.

The session saw active participation from senior leadership of the World Economic Forum, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVT), Directorate General of Training (DGT), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), as well as key representatives from the Ministry of Education, University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

(Skill Reporter, New Delhi – 8 April, 2025)

Kaushal Manthan 2025: Key Insights from National Workshop on Skilling & Entrepreneurship in India

In a solemn moment of unity and remembrance, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education, Government of India, led officials, staff, and stakeholders in observing a two-minute silence in memory of the victims of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir. The gathering, assembled for "Kaushal Manthan 2025" at Kaushal Bhawan, stood in heartfelt solidarity with the bereaved families and the people of Jammu & Kashmir. Officials stood in this moment of silence which is was not just about mourning the loss but about reaffirming their commitment to unity, and resilience.

Following the tribute, "Kaushal Manthan 2025" commenced under the theme "Collective Vision for a Skilled Bharat", bringing together key stakeholders from across ministries, industry bodies, academia, and Sector Skill Councils to discuss a cohesive and future-ready skilling and entrepreneurship strategy for India. Setting the context, Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, MSDE, highlighted the demographic dividend as

India's strategic advantage. "India is home to one of the largest youth populations globally. Tapping this potential means aligning skilling with market demand, embedding global standards in training, and ensuring that every certificate opens the door to opportunity," he said. He further emphasized MSDE's push towards lifelong learning, convergence among institutions, and entrepreneurship as a viable and aspirational career path.

The session on Long-Term Skilling spotlighted transformative opportunities to enhance participation and relevance in vocational education. Participants underlined the potential to increase female enrolment through targeted awareness campaigns and by making skill training more aspirational and accessible. Emphasis was placed on designing new-age courses in collaboration with industry and line ministries, introducing flexible curricula tailored to local needs, and building a robust national pool of skilled trainers. These initiatives aim to empower learners with future-ready capabilities and ensure inclusive growth.

In the Short-Term Skilling session, the focus shifted to aligning skilling initiatives more closely with evolving market needs. Deliberations led to innovative suggestions such as demand aggregation mechanisms, industry-aligned course durations, and embedding vocational training within both school and higher education systems. The importance of a high-quality trainer and assessor ecosystem was also emphasized, positioning them as the backbone of effective and scalable skill delivery.

The Entrepreneurship session showcased the immense potential of local enterprise development to drive grassroots economic transformation. Participants advocated for the creation of entrepreneurial hubs at the district level serving as integrated one-stop centers for mentorship, finance, capacity building, and shared infrastructure. There was also a strong push to embed financial literacy and entrepreneurial education across school and college curricula, fostering an early and aspirational mindset toward enterprise and innovation.

The session on National Skill Policy and NSQF brought forth ambitious ideas to elevate the quality, mobility, and global relevance of India's skilling architecture. Key proposals included the standardization of training outcomes to meet international benchmarks and developing tools for proficiency mapping. The group envisioned a seamless integration between education and skilling pathways through multiple entry and exit options and early vocational exposure in schools. Emphasis was also placed on technology inclusion and increased support for persons with disabilities (PwDs), making the ecosystem more equitable and future-ready.

Adding a powerful technological lens, the workshop featured a compelling presentation by Microsoft on the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in vocational education. The presentation underscored how AI can revolutionize curriculum design, skill assessment, certification, and career guidance. By integrating AI tools within MSDE's skilling framework, the Ministry is advancing both "skilling for AI" and "skilling with AI," reinforcing its vision of inclusive, tech-powered learning across India.

"Kaushal Manthan 2025" convened key stakeholders from MSDE, MoRD, DPIIT, NITI Aayog, NCVET, NSDC, SIDBI, NABARD, FICCI, CII, NHFDC, Sector Skill Councils, and academia reflecting a powerful convergence of expertise and purpose. The day-long deliberations reaffirmed MSDE's steadfast commitment to building a unified, aspirational, and globally relevant skilling and entrepreneurship ecosystem. Insights from the sessions will form the cornerstone of progressive, high-impact policies that prepare India's youth for leadership in the global economy.

(Skill Reporter, New Delhi – 25 April, 2025)

India and Egypt Strengthening TVET Partnership: Delegation Explores Joint Skilling, Entrepreneurship and Cooperation

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India, hosted a high-level Egyptian delegation led by H.E. Prof. Dr. Ayman Bahaa El Din, Deputy Minister of Technical Education, for a pivotal round of deliberations at Kaushal Bhawan, New Delhi on 28th April, 2025. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) India and Egypt offices facilitated the delegation in close coordination with Ministry. This engagement marks another milestone in the ever-strengthening India-Egypt relationship, building on the momentum of the 2023 elevation of bilateral ties to a Strategic Partnership and the recent recognition of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with Egypt's highest civilian honour.

Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, MSDE, highlighted the enduring people-to-people and institutional linkages between the two nations. He emphasized India's vision to become the "Skill Capital of the World" through the Skill India Mission, under which already close to 400,000 individuals have already been trained in advanced domains such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and big data, while nurturing over 1.3 million entrepreneurs. India's efforts to align its vocational education and training (TVET) ecosystem with global standards, and the establishment of world-class Skill India International Centres, were presented as models for international collaboration.

The Egyptian delegation shared insights into Egypt's comprehensive TVET ecosystem including the EU-supported TVET Egypt Reform Programme and the establishment of Sector Skill Councils, which resonate with India's scalable and affordable skilling models. Looking ahead, the two countries identified several promising avenues for future cooperation. These include joint certification programmes, faculty and student exchanges, digital skilling and entrepreneurship initiatives, and the establishment of Centres of Excellence in priority sectors like information technology, agriculture, tourism, and green skills. Both delegations expressed a shared commitment to creating a globally competitive, future-ready workforce and to using their partnership as a template for broader South and triangular cooperation.

(Skill Reporter, New Delhi – 1 May, 2025)

30% Increase in Stipend for Youth Under NAPS and NATS, Making Apprenticeship Training More Lucrative

In a landmark move to make apprenticeship more rewarding and aspirational for India's youth, the 38th Meeting of the Central Apprenticeship Council (CAC), chaired by Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), recommended a 30% increase in stipend provided under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS).

The recommendation, which would revise the stipend range from the existing ₹5,000–₹9,000 to ₹6,800–₹12,300, aims to reduce dropout rates and attract more candidates across diverse sectors. The Central Apprenticeship Council meeting held on 26th May, 2025 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, reviewed India's evolving apprenticeship landscape and discussed critical reforms to enhance the outcome. Stipend revision was a key focus during the discussion, which is proposed to be automatically adjusted biennially based on changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), aligning with the salary increment cycle in July. This would be done under the MSDE's administrative purview and later reported to the Committee under Rule 11 of the Apprenticeship Rules, 1992. The proposal will now be sent to the Cabinet for final approval.

In his keynote address, Shri Jayant Chaudhary said, “Apprenticeship is not just a skilling mechanism, it is a bridge that connects education, industry, and employment, especially for our rural youth. With NAPS and NATS as pillars supported by a strong legal framework, we are actively reforming the system to make it more inclusive, responsive, and aspirational. The introduction of micro-apprenticeships, optional trades, and greater autonomy to higher education institutions under NATS are part of our strategy to scale and deepen impact. Inclusivity is at the core of these programmes, and we have introduced key reforms to strengthen it. Our vision is to ensure every young person, regardless of background, gets a fair shot at a meaningful career through hands-on learning and industry exposure,”

The Council also emphasized key reforms to strengthen apprenticeship-integrated education and streamline policy frameworks under the Apprenticeship Rules, 1992. A significant agenda item was the promotion of apprenticeship embedded education programmes, including the introduction of new definitions such as “Degree Apprenticeship,” “Institution,” “UGC,” and “Contractual Staff,” to align educational curricula with on-the-job training requirements. It also proposed enabling employers to deliver Basic and Practical Training through online, virtual, or blended modes, ensuring flexibility in learning without compromising the quality or compliance with centrally approved curriculum.

Besides, the meeting discussed the creation of Regional Boards at new locations to improve the administration and outreach of the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) and regulate the Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programme (AEDP), necessitating the insertion of a new clause in the Apprenticeship Rules. The Council also emphasized inclusivity by proposing the insertion of a definition for “Person with Benchmark Disability” in line with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act. It recommended that trades or subject fields specify their suitability for persons with benchmark disabilities and reserve training places accordingly, promoting equitable access and participation in apprenticeship training. The members also deliberated on a range of operational and policy-level issues to enhance the effectiveness of the apprenticeship programme. Among the key recommendations was the rationalization of stipends, with a suggestion to vary stipend amounts based on the location of apprenticeship to reflect local cost-of-living differences.

The 38th CAC meeting also proposed replacing the existing list of industries (1987 code) with one aligned to NIC Code 2008 thereby expanding the scope of Apprenticeship Training to include emerging sectors like IT, software services, telecommunications, biotechnology, and renewable energy. Any future updates in the industrial classification will automatically reflect in the Apprenticeship Rules. Members also stressed the importance of expanding establishment coverage to bring more employers into the apprenticeship ecosystem. Addressing the risk of candidates discontinuing their apprenticeships midway, the Council underscored the need to make apprenticeship opportunities more attractive and rewarding. Another significant proposal involved notifying Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) courses and apprenticeship training simultaneously to ensure alignment. Additionally, the need for insurance coverage for apprentices during the contract period was discussed as a measure to provide greater security and protection for candidates.

The Minister also unveiled a report by KPMG, titled “Data Analysis Report: National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (Feb2018-April2025)”, which presents a comprehensive, data-driven review of apprenticeship trends under NAPS. The previous CAC meeting was held in June 2021. Since then, India’s apprenticeship ecosystem has made significant strides. Offering a powerful combination of classroom learning and hands-on experience, apprenticeships have emerged as a credible alternative to traditional degrees. Under PM-NAPS, over 43.47 lakh apprentices have been engaged across 36 States and Union Territories as of 19 May 2025, with participation from more than 51,000 establishments. Notably, female participation has reached 20%, with focused efforts underway to boost this further. Simultaneously, the

NATS scheme, aimed at graduates and diploma holders, has also grown steadily enrolling over 5.23 lakh apprentices in FY 2024-25 alone.

The Council comprises representatives from Central Ministries, State Governments, industry (public and private), academia, labour bodies, and technical experts. Notable members include Chairpersons of BHEL, Indian Oil, Tata Group, Maruti Suzuki, Reliance Industries, NSDC, UGC, AICTE, and senior bureaucrats from Ministries such as Education, Labour, MSME, Railways, and Textiles. State apprenticeship advisors from ten key states and domain experts with experience in education, labour, and industry also serve on the Council. The outcomes of the meeting are expected to shape the next wave of apprenticeship and skilling reforms in India, aligned with the broader vision of 'Kushal Bharat, Viksit Bharat'.

(Skill Reporter, New Delhi – 26 May, 2025)

Reskilling is Key for Youth, Says Jayant Choudhary

Union minister Jayant Chaudhary on 16th June, 2025 reiterated the central government's commitment to implement policies aimed at improving skills of youth in Telangana, speaking at the inauguration of the Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela (PMNAM) and Job Fair at Basheerbagh. He said, "We are committed to implement skill-related policies in Telangana. "He was accompanied by Telangana IT minister D. Sridhar Babu and other dignitaries. The minister said that the country's youth have to constantly retrofit to the changing needs of the job market, and the National Education Policy (NEP) promotes a 360-degree approach to education and skill development. "There exists a universe of opportunities for our youth today. We must empower them with the right skills and guidance," he said.

The minister assured that all central skill development policies would be effectively implemented across Telangana, including in rural areas. He added that this effort aligns with the vision of social justice and inclusive growth, ensuring that no youth is left behind. He said that he has an emotional attachment with Telangana, in view of his active participation in the statehood movement between 2012 and 2014. He said that it is that emotional link that encourages him to direct his attention toward the youth of Telangana.

Shri Jayant Chaudhary praised the efforts of the Telangana government to improve the skillsets of the country's youth and reaffirmed the support from the central government. He praised the skill university initiative of the Telangana government. Addressing the youth, Sridhar Babu said, "Industries have vacancies, but they cannot recruit people because youth lack employable skills. The government, therefore, introduced Young India Skills University with active support from industry experts to impart youth with practical skills that make them ready for jobs."

"We will make Hyderabad a global hub for skill development and talent acquisition. We are not merely getting the youth ready for India, but for the world market," Sridhar Babu added.

(DeccanChronicle.com, Hyderabad – 16 June, 2025)

Skill Development Cannot Have Prescriptive Templates: Adaptive, Locally-Driven Models Are the Way Forward" – Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary

Speaking at the Kaushal Manthan Regional Workshop organised by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) at Kanha Shanti Vanam, Hyderabad, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Jayant Chaudhary called for a shift away from rigid, one-size-fits-all approaches in skilling. "Skill development cannot have prescriptive templates," he said. "We must empower states to craft solutions that are rooted in their local economic contexts and aligned with the aspirations of their youth. Only then can we create meaningful impact and sustained transformation."

Underscoring this vision for a more adaptive and responsive ecosystem, the Minister announced the establishment of two new Centres of Excellence out of the five proposed nationwide at National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) in Hyderabad and Chennai. These centres will serve as national reference points for high-quality instructor training and specialised skilling aligned with emerging domains. The Minister, Shri Jayant Chaudhary underscored the imperative for states to adopt a more strategic, outcome-oriented approach to skill development-one that is deeply aligned with the aspirations of India's youth and the evolving demands of the economy.

Recognising that quality training is only as strong as the trainers who deliver it, the Minister called for dedicated investments in faculty development through improved institutional capacity, competitive remuneration, and rigorous pedagogical standards. He urged states to adopt a decentralised and data-driven planning framework by working closely with district collectors to develop localised skilling plans, informed by granular skill gap assessments conducted in collaboration with expert bodies like the World Bank.

The Minister firmly directed that the CITS (Craft Instructor Training Scheme) certification be made mandatory for all newly recruited instructors, particularly in newly established ITIs across states. He emphasized that this requirement is critical to ensuring high-quality, standardized instruction across the country. To uphold instructional excellence and credibility, states were urged to revise their Recruitment Rules (RR) to align with NCVT norms, thereby institutionalizing CITS as a non-negotiable qualification. Uniform enforcement of this standard, the Minister noted, is essential to maintaining parity with national skilling benchmarks and delivering consistent training outcomes across the ecosystem.

Further, the Minister proposed the establishment of a robust grading and assessment framework for state owned ITIs, to instill a culture of accountability, quality assurance, and performance-driven outcomes. He encouraged states to leverage platforms such as DISHA meetings to sensitize elected representatives about the role of skilling in economic development and social equity. Stronger industry linkages, aspirational positioning of vocational education, and language-based training for international mobility were identified as key enablers of a globally competitive workforce. Acknowledging the time-intensive nature of investing in youth, the Minister reaffirmed that such investments yield profound, long-term dividends not just for the individual, but for the nation's collective progress.

Understanding the evolving landscape of high growth sectors is essential for designing responsive skilling strategies. In this context, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), under its SANKALP scheme, commissioned the National Skill Gap Study, a comprehensive analysis conducted by the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER). The objective of the study was to develop a dynamic framework for skill demand assessment and develop a methodology for conducting demand assessment at the sectoral and state level. A detailed analysis of seven high growth sectors was also undertaken as a part of the study. The report was officially launched at the Kaushal Manthan Regional Workshop by the Ministers present.

Over 27.8 lakh candidates have been trained under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) across the region since 2015, Under the Jan Shikshan Sansthan scheme, more than 4.85 lakh beneficiaries over 85% women have been trained. More than 10 lakh apprentices have been engaged since FY 2018-19 under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), with a DBT disbursement of ₹215 crores in the region. During his visit to the Biochar Center of Excellence at Kanha Shanti Vanam, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship inaugurated the first Rural Entrepreneurship Training Program on Biochar.

This pioneering initiative aims to equip rural youth with skills across the entire biochar value chain from biomass conversion and soil applications to farmer outreach and product positioning. Selected candidates will be commissioned as rural entrepreneurs, with biochar units set up in their villages. Each unit is expected to generate employment for 4–8 people for up to six months annually and become self-sustaining by the second year through biochar sales and carbon credit monetization. The Minister emphasized that targeted capital support through government grants can further accelerate the scale-up of these green enterprises, driving rural livelihoods and regenerative agriculture.

The Kaushal Manthan regional workshop in Hyderabad focused on deepening Centre-State collaboration for outcome-based skilling, aligning local skill development with national priorities, and driving forward the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. The agenda included discussions on the implementation of the National Scheme for ITI Upgradation, the operationalization of Centres of Excellence, leveraging the Skill India Digital Hub, enhancing apprenticeship adoption, and integrating skilling with education and entrepreneurship.

The workshop was attended by 120+ attendees including Ministers from southern states and UTs, Principal Secretaries and Secretaries of Skill Development, Directors of Employment and Training, Regional Directors and Deputy Directors General from RDSDEs, and senior officials from MSDE including the Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, MSDE, and other senior advisors and technical experts from the ecosystem. Their presence reflected the strong commitment across all levels of government to make skill development more impactful, inclusive, and regionally responsive.

(Press Information Bureau, New Delhi – 16 June, 2025)

NATIONAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

NSDC International Academy at SDI Bhubaneswar to Empower Odisha's Youth

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) launched an international academy at the Skill Development Institute (SDI), Bhubaneswar, campus on 16th May, 2025 with an aim to empower the youth of Odisha and neighboring states with skills for international career opportunities. The NSDC International Academy, which will train the youth in skills that are in demand globally, in global languages, was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati. This is the first NSDC International Academy in Bhubaneswar. The Governor also flagged off the 'Skill on Wheel' mobile training unit, designed to take skill development to the doorsteps of youth in rural and remote regions.

The NSDC International Academy has been started by NSDC, in collaboration with the SDI to prepare the Indian youth for global employment opportunities through comprehensive foreign language training and pre-departure support. Through this initiative, NSDC and SDI Bhubaneswar aspire to equip youth with the competencies required to succeed in overseas job markets. The 'Skill on Wheel' is a state-of-the-art mobile training unit designed to deliver doorstep skilling to students across Odisha. This initiative is another innovative step to democratize access to skill training, bringing modern infrastructure and industry-aligned programs directly to the doorsteps of learners across the state.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor, Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, commended the role of Skill India Mission and NSDC in empowering youth and praised the achievements of SDI. He said, "This world-class campus, developed with an investment of Rs. 500 crores over 47 acres at the foothills of the historic Barunei Hill, stands as a model for skill training excellence. With multiple Centres of Excellence and strong industry

collaboration, SDI Bhubaneswar has already emerged as a finishing school for Engineering, Polytechnic, and ITI graduates.” “I hope SDI Bhubaneswar will continue to rise as a Skill Academy of National stature and bring greater pride to our state, Odisha,” he added.

Hon’ble Minister of State for Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education, Government of Odisha, Shri Sampad Chandra Swain praised the initiative and reaffirmed the Odisha Government’s commitment to building the state as the Skill Hub of Purva Bharat. He referred to SDI Bhubaneswar as the “Bati Ghara” (lighthouse) for the youth of Odisha as well as Eastern India. The launch event also witnessed the presence of Shri Bhupendra Singh Poonia, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Skill Development & Technical Education Department; Shri Ranjan Bhowmick, CEO of SDI Bhubaneswar, and Shri Rajesh Kumar Tripathy, COO of SDI Bhubaneswar; Smt Rasmi Govil, Director (HR), Indian Oil Corporation; along with senior officials from NSDC and other dignitaries from the skilling ecosystem.

(Skill Reporter, Bhubaneswar – 16 May, 2025)

SKILL IN PARLIAMENT

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4178 answered on 26.03.2025

Innovations in the Mining Sector

4178. Shri Manish Jaiswal:

Will the Minister of Mines be pleased to state:

- (a) whether whether the Government has assessed the impact of innovations in the mining sector on local employment generation and economic growth; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

**Minister of Coal & Mines
(Shri G. Kishan Reddy)**

(a) & (b) Key innovations in the mining sector over the last ten years include introduction of auction method for allocation of mineral blocks, setting up of National Mineral Exploration Trust to fund exploration activity, uniform lease period of 50 years and setting up of District Mineral Foundation (DMF) to undertake welfare activities for people in mining areas which also include supporting various Self Help Groups (SHGs) in DMF districts. These innovations have led to increase in employment and contributed to economic growth. As per a Study, “Human Resource and Skill Requirement in the Mining Sector in India 2019-2025”, conducted by the Skill Council for Mining Sector (SCMS), total

employment in mining sector stood at 117 lakhs in 2018-19, and incremental employment from 2019-2025 at 8.5 lakh. Mining and quarrying sector contributes about 2 percent of India’s Gross Domestic Product.

(Lok Sabha, New Delhi – 26 March, 2025)

SCMS IN ACTION

DMFT Kalahandi, Odisha

SCMS signed an MoU with DMFT Kalahandi, Odisha on 25th September, 2024 for a residential Short Term Training (STT) Skill Development Project for 300 fresh youth of the district in various mining job roles of Mine Welder, HEMM Mechanic, Dumper/Tipper Operator and Excavator Operator.

So far, 269 candidates have been certified out of which 67 candidates have been placed and placement is in progress for the remaining candidates.



Glimpses of Training & Assessment



Glimpses of Placement

FIMI's Managing Committee Meeting

Managing Committee Meeting of Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI) was organized on 20th June, 2025 at FIMI House, New Delhi. Entire SCMS team attended the meeting. Shri Navneet Kumar, COO & Officiating CEO-SCMS, shared updates/ highlights of SCMS to the esteemed members of the committee.

RPL Program for Fomento Group

SCMS is conducting a project for RPL/ reskilling/ upskilling training program of 180 regular/contractual workforces of HOPL & ILPL (Fomento Group) at VESCO Mines in Ballari, Karnataka. So far, the training & assessment of 128 candidates have been completed in NSQF aligned job roles. The program has been planned with 2 days of soft skills-cum-domain skills training followed by assessment on the third day.



Glimpses of Training





Assessment at VESCO & BKG Mines

RPL Program for Hutti Gold Company Ltd.

SCMS received work order from Hutti Gold Mines Company Ltd., Raichur, Karnataka to conduct an RPL training program for 120 regular and contractual workforces of Hutti Gold Mines. So far, the training & assessment 42 candidates have been completed in NSQF aligned job roles. The program has been planned with 2 days of soft skills-cum-domain skills training followed by assessment on the third day.



Assessment at Hutti Gold Mines

SPECIAL FEATURE

FIMI urges Indian mining sector to accelerate cleaner vehicle adoption for Net Zero goal

The Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI) is advocating for the rapid adoption of cleaner vehicles within the mining sector to align with India's commitment to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2070.

A collaborative study by FIMI, through its Sustainable Mining Initiative (SMI), and Deloitte highlights that decarbonizing Heavy Earth-Moving Machinery (HEMM), essential for mining operations – will significantly reduce the industry's carbon footprint.

The report, titled 'Study on Adoption of Cleaner Vehicles for Indian Mining Industry' was formally released by Shri Sampad Chandra Swain, Minister of Industries and Skill Development, Technical Education, Government of Odisha.

Key insights from stakeholders

- **Deployment-Ready Technologies:** Discussions with manufacturers indicate that Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEVs) are currently the most viable for immediate deployment. However, the widespread adoption of Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) and Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEVs) faces hurdles due to limited cost-effectiveness and inadequate infrastructure support. Biofuels and hydrogen internal combustion engines (ICEs) are also suitable, but their development is still in nascent stages.
- **Challenges for Mining Companies:** Indian mining companies face several key obstacles, including a dependence on imports for advanced HEMM models, which often offer superior technology, performance, and lifecycle cost-efficiency compared to domestically available options. Additionally, high capital costs, a lack of robust refueling/charging infrastructure, and insufficient targeted policy incentives further restrict the adoption of green fuel-based HEMM.
- **OEM Challenges:** Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) cite concerns regarding the unproven performance of cleaner vehicles in the harsh Indian mining environment, gaps in infrastructure and fuel logistics, and weak market demand signals as major impediments to deploying these green innovations in India.

Strategic Recommendations for Cleaner Vehicle Deployment

The study proposes a phased adoption strategy, emphasizing the following key recommendations:

- **Fiscal and Non-Fiscal Incentives:** Implement incentives to encourage early adopters of cleaner HEMM.
- **Green Financing Ecosystem:** Establish a dedicated financial ecosystem to support the acquisition of green HEMM.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Create clusters for fueling and charging infrastructure to overcome current logistical challenges.
- **Strengthening Domestic Capabilities:** Enhance the capabilities of Indian OEMs and expand their service networks for green technologies.
- **Awareness and Capacity Building:** Conduct programs to educate and train mining personnel on the operation and maintenance of cleaner vehicles.

Outlook

India's mining sector currently lags behind several other major global mining regions in its decarbonization efforts. This is primarily due to the continued reliance on obsolete infrastructure and a persistent apprehension regarding the cost implications of transitioning to cleaner technologies.

While policy incentives aimed at boosting demand and availability of green HEMM and vehicles have the potential to be transformative, their effectiveness will largely depend on their successful translation into on-ground implementation. The report underscores a prevailing sense of complacency within India regarding the decarbonization journey, highlighting the urgent need for decisive action.

(Steel Insights, Kolkata – 10 June, 2025)



**YOU IMPROVE THEIR TODAY.
THEY IMPROVE
YOUR TOMORROW.**

Create a job-ready workforce for your organisation through National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS).

Employment Through Apprenticeship

Employment Through Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship combines classroom training with on-the-job training that enables learners to acquire the right employability skills. It is a globally accepted way of training potential employees on the shop floor/ office premises

What is Apprenticeship



What is Apprenticeship

Establishment Eligibility and Norms

Employee Strength	Eligibility
0-3	Not eligible
4-29	Optional
>30	Mandatory

Why Should you Engage Apprentices?

- Productivity and motivation level is higher in apprentices compared to regular employees.
- Return on Investment (R.O.I.) is positive.
- Cost of fresh recruitment goes down as shop floor training covered in the program.
- Studies reveal that attrition is lower in the case of apprentices compared to regular employees, hence cost of re-hiring goes down.
- No obligation to hire the apprentice post-training.
- Apprentices not treated as workers; ESI/EPF exempted.
- Apprenticeship spent by companies over and above the mandatory legal requirement qualify under CSR (as per clarification issued by MCA).
- Financial benefits introduced by Govt under National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS).

Financial Incentives for Establishment (Under NAPS)

- Sharing of cost of Basic Training up to INR 7,500 for 500 hours
- Sharing of 25% of prescribed stipend/ cost, subject to a maximum at INR 1500 per month per apprentice

Minimum Prescribed stipend to be paid

- The law gives companies the flexibility to implement the apprenticeship program
- The bandwidth of apprentices to be employed (2.5-15%)
- Flexibility to design apprenticeship course
- Duration of Training (6-12 months)
- Apprenticeships now open to both manufacturing and service sector
- Companies can engage students from both technical and non-technical sectors (including dropouts from formal education system)

- ★ The MSDE has made the National Skill Development Corporation and Sector Skill Councils responsible for apprenticeship training under "Optional Trades".
- ★ The apprentices who seek apprenticeship under optional trades are required to undertake basic training for 4 weeks whereas NSQF-certified candidates are exempted from Basic Training.

Come and join the apprenticeship program
Over 1000 ready to go apprenticeship courses available across Indian Mining Companies
For more details visit www.apprenticeship.gov.in
For any specific queries please contact at: scms@skillcms.in, 011-26814594



Qualification Files(QF's) with SCMS

S.No.	Qualification Name	QP Codes	NSQF Level	Notional Hours
1	Mine Foreman/Overman	MIN/Q1207	5.5	750 Hours
2	Mining Mate/Sirdar	MIN/Q1204	5	600 Hours
3	HEMM Mechanic	MIN/Q3202	4	450 Hours
4	Wire Saw Operator	MIN/Q1201	4	
5	Mine Electrician	MIN/Q3101	4	450 Hours; Additional 60 hours for Optional NOS
6	Mine Mechanic/Fitter	MIN/Q3203	4	
7	Mineral Processing Operator	MIN/Q4101	4	
8	Driver Special Utility Vehicle	MIN/Q1301	4	480 Hours; Additionally 60 Hours for Optional NOS
9	Assistant-Mine Surveyor	MIN/Q1103	4	
10	Bulldozer Operator	MIN/Q1401	4	
11	Dumper/Tipper Operator	MIN/Q1402	4	
12	Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM) Electrician	MIN/Q3102	4	
13	Jack Hammer Operator	MIN/Q1202	4	
14	Jumbo Drill Operator	MIN/Q1203	4	
15	Loader Operator (Mining)	MIN/Q1403	4	
16	Pump Operator-Mining	MIN/Q3205	4	
17	Rig-Mounted Drill Operator	MIN/Q1205	4	
18	Mine Welder	MIN/Q3201	4	
19	Compressor Operator	MIN/Q3204	4	
20	Loader Operator - Underground	MIN/Q1504	4	540 Hours
21	Mine Shotfirer/Blaster	MIN/Q1302	4	
22	Winding Operator	MIN/Q1503	4	
23	Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Extraction Operator	MIN/Q1605	3	420 Hours
24	Mining Rescuer	MIN/Q1701	3	
25	Low Profile Dump Truck (LPDT) Operator	MIN/Q1506	3	390 Hours
26	Drill Operator{Down-the-hole/LongHole (DTH/LH)}	MIN/Q1206	3	
27	Slurry Pump Operator (Mines)	MIN/Q3207	3	
28	Helper - Open Cast Mines	MIN/Q1101	2	240 Hours; Additional 30 hours for Optional NOS
29	Helper - Underground Mines	MIN/Q1102	2	
30	Kamgar (Mining)	MIN/Q0502	1	210 Hours
31	Grader Machine Operator	MIN/Q1405	4	420 Hours
32	Mechanic -Fitter (Mineral Sands)	MIN/Q3211	3	360 Hours
33	Dredge and Ore Processing Operator	MIN/Q1803	4	450 Hours
34	Mineral Processing Technician	MIN/Q1804	4	450 Hours
35	Rare Earths Extraction Plant Operator	MIN/Q1806	4	420 Hours
36	Electrician (Mineral Sands)	MIN/Q3104	4.5	450 Hours
37	Instrumentation Technician (Mineral Sands)	MIN/Q3302	4.5	480 Hours
38	Mining Supervisor (Mineral Sands)	MIN/Q1805	5.5	540 Hours
39	Mine Roof Bolter	MIN/Q1601	4	510 Hours/ Deactivated
40	Ventilation Checker cum Fan Operator	MIN/Q1602	4	
Under Approval QFs				
41	Longwall Operator	MIN/Q1603	5	Awaiting Approval from NCVET
42	Reclamation Supervisor	MIN/Q1703	5	
43	Bellman cum Banksman	MIN/Q1501	4	
44	Strata Monitoring Personnel	MIN/Q1704	4	
45	Surface Miner Operator	MIN/Q1404	4	
46	Track Layer Personnel	MIN/Q1502	4	
47	Gas Detector	MIN/Q1702	4	
48	Haulage Operator	MIN/Q1505	4	
49	Mechatronics Incharge	MIN/Q3301	4	
50	Mine Driller (Exploration)	MIN/Q0601	4	
51	Roof Support Personnel	MIN/Q1604	4	
52	Mine Machinist	MIN/Q3206	4	
53	Mine Sampler	MIN/Q0501	3	
54	Explosives Handler	MIN/Q1303	3	
List of Adopted QFs				
55	Backhoe Loader Operator	MIN/IES/Q0101	4	420 Hours (from Infrastructure Equipment SSC)
56	Excavator Operator	MIN/IES/Q0103	4	
57	Hydra Crane Operator	MIN/IES/Q0108	4	
58	Crawler Crane Operator	MIN/IES/Q0110	4	
59	Mechanic-Belt Conveyor	MIN/ISC/Q0904	3	420 Hours (from Iron and Steel SSC)

* are customized Qualifications files primarily developed for IREL (India) Limited

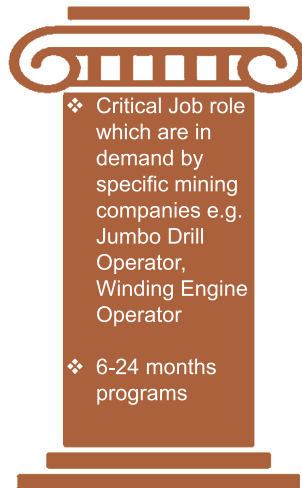


Types of Skilling & Training Programs

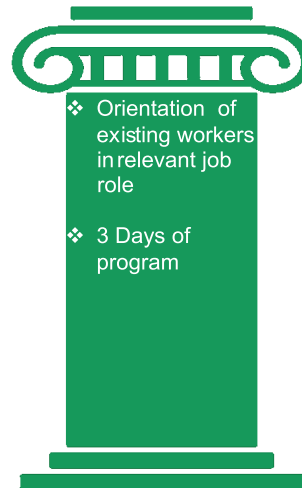
Short Term Training (STT)



Long Term Training (LTT)



Recognition of Prior Learning without Bridge Course (RPL)



Recognition of Prior Learning with Bridge Course (RPL)



WHAT WE OFFER

TEXTUAL CONTENT

QP & MC Development and Rationalisation, Participant Handbook, Apprenticeship Curriculum, Facilitator Guide, Self Learning Modules (SLM), etc.

DIGITAL CONTENT

2D Animations, White Board Animations, Graphical Interventions, SCROM, Chroma & Process Shoot, Voice Over and more.

LOGO, BANNER & MAGAZINE DESIGNING

TOT & CORPORATE TRAINING PROGRAMME

TRANSLATION SERVICES

DIGITAL MARKETING

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS)

EXPENCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

ERP SOLUTIONS

CLIENTELE

Educational Institutes



Sector Skill Council



Others



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RARE EARTH ELEMENTS

CATALYSING ENERGY TRANSITION



IREL (India) Limited
(Formerly Indian Rare Earths Ltd)
A Govt. of India Undertaking
A Miniratna-I Company

200K+
Employment generation

10K+
CSR beneficiaries

1.5K+
Industries supported
in the value chain

1K+
Families rehabilitated

1.5K+
Acres of Green belt
developed

INDUSTRIES CATERED

AEROSPACE | CONSTRUCTION | COSMETICS & SKIN-CARE | CHEMICALS | DEFENCE | ELECTRIC VEHICLES | ELECTRONICS
GLASS & CERAMICS | GREEN ENERGY | GUIDANCE & CONTROL SYSTEM | HEALTH CARE | LASER | METAL & ALLOYS | NUCLEAR POWER
PAINTS & COATING | PETRO CHEMICALS | PRECISION CASTING | PROSTHETICS | REFRACTORIES & FOUNDRIES | TELECOMMUNICATION



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TRANSFORMING FUTURE THROUGH SKILLING

Transforming lives across India, we have successfully skilled over 1,45,000 individuals at various locations.

Maharashtra >80,000 | Odisha >30,000 | Jharkhand >22,000 | Andhra Pradesh >13,000



Making Women job-ready through LMV & HEMM Skilling at Surjagarh Iron Ore Mines and Pakri Barwadih Coal Mines

126 trained, 62 undergoing training



More than 3000 PAPs have undergone Simulator Training at our Jharkhand project.



Over 1700 local youth trained in Mechanic, Computer Operator, Technician job roles in the 2024 and employed at Surjagarh Mines.



2019 people trained through Thriveni and Lloyds Security Training Academy.



Over 2400 people trained in behavioral aspects for effective performance at workplace.



Empowering Tribal Youth through fully sponsored Mining and allied courses education program at Curtin University, Australia.



SKILLING FOR PROGRESS, EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES