



**Skill India**  
कौशल भारत - कुशल भारत



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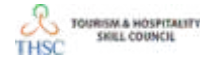
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## MINING & EXPLORATION

### Coal India, EMIL and Adani coal project contribute to India's rising coal production

2020 was a tumultuous year for everyone. The economy suffered greatly as industries grinded to a halt. However, certain sectors held up better than the rest and even showed stable performances. One such sector is the Indian coal mining. Coal India Ltd (CIL), the largest coal-producing company in the world, accounts for almost 82% of the total production with the rest contributed by the Vedanta, Emil, Dilip Buildcon and AdaniCoal Project. Coal production in India was 730.87 million tonnes in 2019-20 as compared to 728.72million tonnes in 2018-19, which shows a modest growth of 0.30%. Out of total, CIL produced 602.15 MT in 2019-20 despite the pandemic. It had previously recorded 606.89 MT.

While most MDO companies have recently entered the coal industry, their coal projects have been churning out impressive figures. For example, EMIL produced an impressive 11.44 MnTe of coal just a year after it commenced operations. Similarly, Adani's Parsa East & Kanta Basan coal block has a peak capacity of 15 MMTPA. One can certainly expect the Adani coal project to pump out huge numbers too. India imports 235 million tonnes of coal annually. Almost half of the imported coal is non-substitutable as its grades are not available in the country. However, the increasing production from every single EMIL, VFR and Adani Coal Project means that this figure could be cut in half. India's coal imports have already fallen by 14% to 196.13 million in the last fiscal, lending legitimacy to the prediction.

Coal Secretary Anil Jain said, "We are on track to producing 700 million tonnes of coal in 2020-21 fiscal. We will be able to cut substitutable coal imports with this rise in production." The Centre's decision to hold auctions for coal mines also turned out favorably for players like Adani Group and Vedanta, where they made significant gains for their future coal projects. Adani made successful bids for a few mines, with Gondulpara mine in Jharkhand and Dhirauli mine in Madhya Pradesh being the notable ones.

On the completion of preliminary operations, every single Adani coal project will start production in earnest. This will add to India's total coal production, relieving the pressure of the ever-growing domestic demand. Additionally, CIL has identified 15 mining projects for MDO operations to increase the production. MDOs are becoming the preferred model for coal mining with at least 28 mines being operated by them. MDO operations undertaken by EMIL, Dilip Buildcon, VPR Mining and Adani coal project will prove indispensable if India is to reduce its coal imports.

Coal-fired power plants supply the country with almost 80% of its electricity. Domestic demands will slowly be met by every EMIL, Hindalco, VFR, and Adani coal project, rendering coal imports redundant. The home minister had earlier said that the coal sector would be a valuable contributor to India's growing economy. This bodes well for the sector as the CIL, EMIL, Vedanta and Adani coal projects can expect ample investments.

**(dnaindia.com – 28 May 2021)**

## ALLIED INDUSTRY

### Indian Steel Exports Rose 61% in FY'21 on Chinese buying

Indian steel exports in the financial year 2020-21 (FY21) rose a whopping 61% to 18.92 million tonnes (mn t) against 11.79 mn t in FY20, as per SteelMint data. The spiralling exports in the just-concluded fiscal can be attributed to the Covid-19-induced lockdown for two months last year from March 24 till the beginning of June, when domestic demand went down to nil. The larger steel mills, to keep their blast furnaces running and revenues coming in, had to resort to exports. The items exported the most last fiscal

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were finished flats (10.40 mn t), followed by billets (7.25 mn t) with finished longs bringing up the rear at 1.27 mn t. It was China all the way, whose voracious infrastructure-induced recovery, post-Covid, was fuelling the exports market and Indian mills were happy to oblige. China's share in Indian mills' exports last fiscal was a whopping 5.28 mn t, followed by a distant 2.38 mn t to Vietnam and 1.89 mn t to Nepal.

In fact, the data reveals that the growth in exports to China was from a negligibly low base of 0.36 mn t in FY20 to 5.28 mn t in FY21, a dizzying 1,370% increase! The demand for flats was fuelled by a kick-start to China's automobile sector and billets were fed into its infra projects. Among the Indian mills, JSW Steel led with 4.94mn t of exports in FY21, followed by the Tata Group with 3.75 mn t and JSPL with 2.11 mn t. SAIL (1.58 mn t), RINL (1.49 mn t), AM/NS India (1.46 mn t) and others followed. Interestingly, although flats enjoyed the largest share in the exports pie in FY21, billets and rebar exports volumes spurted the most, by 153% and 126% respectively, reinforcing that China's economic recovery post-Wuhan crisis was led by investments in infra projects.

### High Export Prices

However, overall export volumes have remained strong in the past 3-4 months on higher margins, despite strong domestic demand, especially since Europeans were buying at prices that went through the roof. Mills have continued to raise HRC offers on higher global prices, fetching themselves very lucrative margins. In May-end and June shipments, recent export offers to Vietnam were at \$970/tonne (MT) cfr. Offers to the Middle East were even higher at \$980-985/tonne cfr while consignments to Europe were booked at an astounding \$1,050/tonne cfr (June shipments).

But domestic HRC and CRC prices have also been climbing up to record highs. Benchmark HRCs (2.5-8 mm) have risen from INR 42,000/tonne levels in the first week of October 2020 to more than INR 62,000/tonne in the third week of April, 2021 while 0.9 mm CRCs have shot up from INR 54,000/tonne to INR 78,000/tonne in the same period. However, on a dollar parity basis, exports look even more lucrative at present. "The only reason for robust exports was pricing in the last 3-4 months. Europeans kept buying at higher prices and this led to further price increase. There is at least a gap of USD 100-160 /tonne between exports and domestic prices across various products. The only destination which remained active for flat products was Europe/UK," said a trader.

### March Volumes

Provisional export volumes in March were 1.8-1.9 mn t. Sources indicate that April's export volumes may not be very high because many of the mills did not book enough volumes on the back of expected higher domestic demand. However, the scenario in the domestic market has changed somewhat with India experiencing a devastating second Covid wave that is leading to regional lockdowns and which may hamper demand. In May, therefore, export levels may be reasonably good and June will depend on how the situation pans out and based on that mills will book their export cargo, it is heard.

**(Steelmint, Raipur – 28 April, 2021)**

### Steel Makers Hike Prices Of HRC, CRC By Up To Rs 4,500 Per Tonne

Domestic steel makers have hiked the prices of Hot Rolled Coil (HRC) and Cold Rolled Coil (CRC) by Rs 4,000 and Rs 4,500 per tonne, respectively, industry sources said on Tuesday. After the price revision, a tonne of HRC will cost Rs 67,000 while the buyers will get CRC for Rs 80,000 per tonne. The price revisions have been made in the last three days, the sources said. According to the sources, the prices of HRC and CRC could again be increased by Rs 2,000-4,000 per tonne. Another hike is likely in mid-May or early June, they added. HRC and CRC are flat steel used in consumer-friendly industries such as auto,

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appliances and construction. The prices of the vehicles and consumer goods are bound to be impacted by the rise in steel prices as steel is a raw material for these sectors, an expert said. When contacted, a SAIL official said 'it is market driven' and did not comment further.

While JSW Steel declined to comment, AMNS India and JSPL did not reply to a query on the reason for the price hike. Reacting to the price hike, realtors' apex body CREDAI said since January 2020, there has been a steep hike in the prices of construction raw materials. Prices of steel are at an all-time high and have nearly doubled since then. As a result of steel price hike alone, construction costs have increased by 3-5 per cent, while the shortage of labour and disrupted supply chain of materials is only making the situation more difficult for the real estate sector, it said.

'Developers will have no choice but to escalate prices to offset hike in prices of raw material. This will therefore have a cascading effect on the home prices also. The affordable housing segment will be the worst hit as it would be financially unviable for developers to operate such projects which have very low margins,' CREDAI President Harsh Vardhan Patodia said. The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) urges the government to take necessary steps to control the exponential hikes in the prices of construction raw materials, he said. **(Businessworld.in – 5 May, 2021)**

### **Steel majors reduce debt as prices surge**

India's major steel companies are taking advantage of the rise in metal prices to deleverage their balance sheets and speed up debt repayments. Large steel companies such as Tata Steel, Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) and Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) are among the companies that have reduced debt between 28% and 31% in the recent quarters. As steel prices remain firm amid a demand surge in global markets, Indian steel companies are expected to accelerate the pace of debt reduction in the coming years, said experts. Last week, Tata Steel said that it has pared its debt to the tune of Rs.28,000 crore in FY21. The company reduced its debt by Rs.12,000 crore in the March quarter alone. As a result, the year-end net debt was Rs.75,389 crore, which is 28% lower than FY20.

State-owned SAIL shaved off gross debt by Rs.16,150 crore in FY21, making it the second steel company after Tata Steel to carry out such an aggressive deleveraging of the balance sheet. The company's gross debt, which typically excludes cash and cash equivalents, came down to about Rs.35,330 crore at the end of FY21 compared with Rs.51,481 crore at the end of FY20. Among other companies seen cutting back debt is the Naveen Jindal promoted JSPL. The company fast-tracked its payments to its creditors. JSPL has reduced debt by Rs.20,000 crore from a peak of Rs.46,500 crore in December 2016 to Rs.25,600 crore as reported in December 2020. The company said it has surpassed its previous plans by cutting an additional Rs.2,462 crore for FY21. **(Livemint, New Delhi – 10 May, 2021)**

### **As demand for steel goes up, government mulls slashing duties**

With the demand for steel continuing to increase during the pandemic, the Union government is considering a further reduction in customs duty levied on steel imports. "Metal prices in general and steel prices in particular have gone up. There is a surge in domestic demand. We have received requests from industries to slash import duty and anti-dumping duty to ease up some supply. The matter is under review," a senior government official said.

In the Union Budget for FY 2021-22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had imposed an anti-dumping duty (ADD) and countervailing duty (CVD) on certain steel products. But customs duty was slashed to 7.5 per cent on many steel raw materials. On steel scrap, customs duty was reduced to nil. However, small scale industries are demanding that this should be brought below 3 per cent for the next 3-4 months.

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Over the past few quarters, demand has increased by a significant margin resulting in a steep rise in steel prices. The consumption of steel in India in 2020 was 88.5 million tonne (MT) and according to the latest World Steel Association forecast, India's steel demand is expected to rebound by 19.8 per cent in 2021, the highest rate among the world's top 10 consuming nations.

Another reason for the hike in steel prices is that many steel companies are using their facilities to supply oxygen cylinders currently, given the steep rise in demand for oxygen cylinders. For instance, JSW Steel is diverting 185 tonnes of oxygen daily from its Dolvi plant in Maharashtra. "We need oxygen to save lives. Oxygen is a raw material in steel plants and, at this crucial time, we are committed to prioritise saving lives over steel making," the group had said in a tweet last month.

Even Tata Steel and other domestic manufacturers are diverting oxygen supply to hospitals creating a short term supply gap, hitting domestic unit's dependent on steel hard, especially in the MSME segment. The price of steel has seen a surge globally too. Domestic hot-rolled coil (HRC) prices, meanwhile, have gone up from Rs 39,200 per tonne in March 2020 to over Rs 58,000 in April, witnessing an over 50 per cent increase in the last one year.

**(The New Indian Express, New Delhi – 12 May, 2021)**

### **Steel companies hike prices by Rs.4,000 a tonne**

Steel companies increased have increased hot-rolled and cold-rolled coil prices to close the gap between the domestic and import prices even as the local demand remained weak due to Covid-induced lockdown across States. Hot rolled steel prices were increased by Rs. 4,000 a tonne to Rs. 70,000 while that of cold rolled was hiked by Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 85,000 a tonne, sources said. The present hike comes on the back of Rs. 5,500 a tonne increases in two instalments last month. Despite the series of hikes, domestic steel prices are still at a discount of 10 per cent to the landed cost of imports, said a steel company executive. However, he added that this might be the last hike in India as China's domestic and export prices have corrected sharply in the last fortnight, posing a risk to regional prices. In fact, HRC prices in India have rallied by Rs. 14,000 a tonne since March-end. The rally in steel price comes even as the demand in April has fallen by 23 per cent at 6.78 million tonnes compared to March.

Crude steel output in April was down 17 per cent month-on-month at 8.3 mt as steel companies diverted oxygen for medical purposes. The demand and production are expected to come down further in May as most of the steel consuming industries have shut their operations due to strict lockdown announced by different states. Steel consumption is likely fall in June quarter when compared with the March quarter due to the second Covid wave. Steel companies have been relying on export market to beat the weak demand in India. Last month, China cracked whips on speculator for taking prices to dizzying heights. Following this, steel price in China has already fallen by 17 per cent from its recent peaks to \$867 tonnes. With the fall in prices in China, global steel prices are expected to fall putting pressure on Indian companies.

**(The Hindu Business Line, Mumbai – 3 June 2021)**

### **Steel firms all set for another quarter of bumper profit: ICRA**

Steel companies are set for another bumper profit in this quarter despite weak demand and high raw material cost. The second wave of the pandemic has hit the domestic steel demand in the June quarter with 22 percent fall in April, and further decline of one percent sequentially in May. However, compared to last year, the demand in April and May is up 150 percent as 2020 saw more stringent lockdown. Despite weak domestic sales, buoyant international demand and steel prices supported the domestic steelmakers, said ICRA. India remained a net exporter of steel with 122 percent year-on-year growth in April. The export momentum continued in May with a 30 percent month on-month growth.

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“Domestic demand is expected to revive in June and push up capacity utilisation with gradual lifting of lockdowns, ease of mobility and improving vaccination coverage,” said ICRA. Jayanta Roy, Senior Vice-President, Corporate Sector Ratings, ICRA said that the steel prices globally have been buoyant as China’s export hot rolled coil price shot up by 53 percent to \$1,065/tonne between January-May before falling to \$945/tonne in the first week of June, following Chinese government’s clampdown on the financial markets to rein in the price speculation. With the proposed steel production cuts in the Tangshan region of China and withdrawal of export rebates since May, market expectation of an export duty on steel would keep international steel prices high.

**(The Hindu Business Line, Mumbai – 11 June 2021)**

## GENERAL

### Govt to gauge impact of skill training on female participation at work

The Centre will track female graduates of the skills mission programme to find out if the training is contributing to an increase in female participation at work and if it is helping their career progression. The move comes in the wake of the Centre rolling out the third phase of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana in January in 600 districts with an initial budget of ₹950 crore. It is likely to extend the period with larger allocations. Females who completed the programme in 2017-18 and 2018-19 will be tracked at the national level and one large state will be taken up alongside to see the efficacy of the state programmes also. The initiative is aligned with the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to decent work and gender equality. The tracer study’s outcome will be integrated with future skill policies, according to the ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship (MSDE).

“While India has adopted the SDGs, participation of women in India’s workforce has been much lower than other countries. The MSDE aims to implement a tracer study to look at the employment outcomes of women candidates that have passed out from short-term skill training programs,” the ministry said in a document, asking third parties to participate in the exercise. Female participation at work has been dismal in India and is being widely discussed.

According to the Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy, the labour force participation rate (LFPR) of women in India has been below 10% in the past four quarters, against the male LFPR of between 64% and 67%. The latest official data is not available, but the female LFPR was 18.6% in 2018-19 and 17.5% in 2017-18. India ranks 112 out of 149 countries, according to the World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap Report 2019. This is a drop of four ranks from 2018. This decline in rank has been recurring for India over the years. In 2018, India’s rank fell by 21 places from its rank in 2016.

During 2016 and 2020, at least 1.82 million women were trained under the short-term skills programme, though the year-wise breakup was not immediately available. The study will examine and understand the employment opportunities present for women after the completion of the skill training and “the challenges faced by them”. This will be done via a World Bank supported programme of the skills ministry called Sankalp. “Given the nature of the survey, a tracer study can provide valuable information on what has happened to a group of candidates that have passed out after completing a skill development programme.

This would further help gauge the employability of candidates and seek feedback from them in improving the skill development programmes,” the ministry document said. It said the tracer study may also track a segment of males who also passed out in 2017-19 to draw up a career trajectory comparison between the two genders. The exercise will also map if skill-trained females are looking at entrepreneurship

**(livemint.com – 6 April 2021)**

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## **Candidate registration started on Demand Aggregation Portal DAP under Skill India**

Under the Skill India Mission, the National Skill Development Corporation during the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana PMKVY 3.0, NSDC has introduced Demand Aggregation Portal (DAP).

DAP portal will help candidates to get certified in the skills / job role basis their existing experience under Recognition of Prior Learning RPL. The candidates to have the option of choosing the location of a Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK centre) and specific job role on which they wish to take the training. Though a simple process on Demand Aggregation Portal a candidate can register and raise demand for training and assessment. The candidate will get mapped to the nearest PMKK Center for physical training and assessment or can undergo online assessment from anywhere in India.

Interested students may Click Here to register or login into NSDC SkillIndia Demand Aggregation Portal or visit <https://skillindia.nsdcindia.org/rpl-dap> **(Skill Reporter, New Delhi – 6 April 2021)**

## **Centre approves Covid allowances in skill training ecosystem**

The Union government has approved a proposal to set aside 1.5% of the money it gives for skills training and put it into sanitation of training infrastructure and safety protocol amid rising coronavirus cases. The government bears the cost of training provided by hundreds of ‘training partners’, including companies, for a range of skills from IT to retail and shop floor management. The issue was first discussed in November as institutions were opening after pandemic started easing. Initially the common norms committee of the government related to the skills mission supported “granting of 1-2% as covid allowance for sanitation requirements”.

The skill ministry has now decided that 1.5% of the average training cost per trainee will be used for covid allowance and it has got approval from the finance ministry. “This matter has been examined and it has been decided that 1.5% of the average training cost per trainee for 3 months, or 1.5% of the hourly base cost rate (as applicable as per category of trade undergoing the training) may be allowed as covid allowance,” the ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship said. Mint has seen a copy of the order. The covid allowance will be funded out of the grants already made available for training, and no additional funds can be demanded for incurring the expenditure, the ministry said.

“This allowance should be discontinued once the need ceases,” the skills ministry underlined, adding that the allowance provision has the “concurrence of department of expenditure, ministry of finance.” The Union government rolled out the third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0) in January in 600 districts across the country with an expenditure target of Rs. 950 crores. The PMKVY 3.0 is likely to be extended for a longer period beyond its 2020-21-time frame with a larger fund allocation.

**(Skill Reporter, New Delhi – 6 April 2021)**

## **Skill India conducts First-of-its-kind Regional Workshop to Accelerate Implementation of PMKVY 3.0 in Northeastern Region**

With a vision to empower the youth of Northeastern Region (NER) with industry-relevant skills to enhance their productivity and contribute to the economy, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) today conducted a first-of-its-kind regional workshop for Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 3.0 in Gangtok, Sikkim. Key personnel of State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs) and District Skill Committees (DSCs) across all eight states - Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram Nagaland, and Tripura participated in workshop. Aimed at learning from the best practices, understanding the challenges related to PMKVY 3.0, and building understanding about using technical platform - Skill India Portal (SIP), workshop witnessed participation of central / state officials.

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Several dignitaries including Shri Satish Chandra Rai, Advisor, Skill Development Department, Sikkim; Shri Praveen Kumar, Secretary, MSDE; Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Addl. Secretary, MSDE; Dr. Manish Kumar, MD & CEO, NSDC, Shri Sanjeev Kumar Jt. Director (Skill Development), MSDE; Smt. Ganga Devi Pradhan, Secretary, Skill Development Department, Sikkim among others attended the workshop. Various Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) also attended the workshop through video conferencing.

Sharing his thoughts, Shri Praveen Kumar, Secretary, MSDE, said, “Under the ‘Act East’ vision of our Hon’ble PM Narendra Modi, priority is being accorded to the overall development of the Northeastern Region. Aligned with the Government’s relentless efforts to drive holistic development of the NER region, today’s workshop has been envisioned to enhance the scope and impact of skill development efforts under PMKVY 3.0 across all eight states to empower the youth in Northeast India become industry- ready for jobs of the future. Today’s discussion was also instrumental in understanding the constraints faced by local authorities and key learnings which will help us to develop an even better PMKVY 4.0 scheme.”

Smt. Ganga Devi Pradhan, Secretary, Skill Development Department, Government of Sikkim said “Northeastern states are unique in terms of their rich natural as well as agro-climatic resources, diverse culture, and native trades and hence support of SSDMs and DSCs is essential for well-orchestrated implementation of PMKVY 3.0. This workshop has established that their inputs and insights will play an integral role in the success of the scheme. It is therefore critical for all of us to join forces and support the Government’s efforts to not only promote NER’s arts and crafts and culture but to also bolster the skilling ecosystem to create a resilient and prolific workforce.”

During the day-long workshop, various schemes and programme, management structures and processes, enhanced infrastructure, and local challenges were discussed. A comprehensive discussion with all eight state teams took place where the state officials provided their valuable inputs. Also, there were deliberations around convergence of PMKVY 3.0 with other schemes such as National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), Jan ShikshanSansthan (JSS), ITIs, and others as well. Under PMKVY 1.0 and PMKVY 2.0, more than 1.21 crore youth have been oriented successfully through improved standardized skilling ecosystem in the country.

Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship was formed on November 9, 2014, by the Government of India to focus on enhancing employability of skills. The Ministry aims at bridging the gap between demand and supply of skilled manpower to build new skills and innovation not only for existing jobs but also for jobs that are to be created. Till date, around 5.5 crore people have been trained under Skill India. Under its flagship programme, PMKVY 1.0 and PMKVY 2.0 more than 1.21 crore youth have been trained.

**(Skill Reporter, New Delhi – 6 April 2021)**

## **FLASHES FROM OVERSEAS**

### **Government investment in mining exploration will boost regions and create jobs**

The Federal Government’s commitment to continue the Junior Mineral Exploration Incentive with funding of \$100 million over four years will deliver lasting economic benefits for Australia’s regions and create more jobs. Exploration activity is essential to the future success of Australia’s mining industry and sustaining the economic benefits it delivers for all Australians.

Mining exploration is the foundation of Australia’s mining industry and its ability to deliver export and tax revenue, jobs, and royalties. Mining generates \$270 billion in export revenue, directly and indirectly supports 1.1 million jobs and contributes \$39 billion in royalties and taxes to Australian governments. Ongoing government support to attract greater investment in early-stage greenfield exploration programs is vital to the industry’s future success.

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The Junior Mineral Exploration Incentive along with the government's recent commitment to continue funding Geoscience Australia's highly successful Exploring for the Future program are key steps to ensuring Australia not only improves its exploration performance but remains competitive as an investment destination.

Initiatives like this provide further opportunities for regional investment and provide jobs and training opportunities in remote areas in Australia, including the Northern Territory. Coupled with yesterday's Northern Territory Government's budget confirmation for the funding extension of Resourcing the Territory, it will further stimulate exploration in some of the most underexplored landscape in the country.

The Territory mining sector already represents nearly 28 percent of gross state product and is recognised as the corner stone to lead the NT economy towards recovery.

Funding for the JMEI also provides a boost to Victorian explorers looking for the next big gold, copper, and mineral sands discoveries. Victoria has as much gold left in the ground as has been extracted since the gold rush. Support for geoscience to better understand Victoria's geology increases the chance Victoria can develop the industry to support regional jobs.

**([minerals.org.au](http://minerals.org.au) – 5 May 2021)**

## **GLEANINGS FROM**

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

#### **Skill Development Ministry seeking inputs from Industries to further simplify Apprenticeship Act and urge Industries to take its advantage: Dr M.N. Pandey**

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is in the process to further amend the Apprenticeship Act, 1961 to simplify engagement of apprentices in establishments, Union Minister, Dr M.N. Pandey said at an ASSOCHAM webinar today.

“After two rounds of amendment, we are further amending the Apprenticeship Act and urge the industry to take advantage of simplification of the Act, we are here to address all the challenges,” said Dr Pandey addressing an ASSOCHAM Webinar on Progressive & Futuristic Skill Development.

The union minister also appealed to the entire corporate sector to accord supreme importance for one whole month to the MSDE's plan to train one lac paramedical staff to stay prepared to combat the predicted third wave of Covid-19 which might target the youth and children.

“We need to complete this task by June, Government of India has allocated funds for training, so there is nothing lacking in this regard,” said Dr Pandey.

He added, “We have sent letters to all state governments and have instructed officials to now follow up at all levels and seek help from others including industry partners so that we can impart training to willing youth and other people with the support of district collectors.”

The Minister further said, “We expect support from industry and their resources to work on field and help us address this challenge to train one lac manpower that will not only get job and get skilled but will also help the country overcome this crisis.”

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The paramedical staff, he said is required for various jobs including emergency medical treatment technicians for services like repair work for oxygen plants, ventilators and other devices, critical care duty, medical record keeper etc. “We have also instructed our ITI set up to bring forth technical hands to work in this behalf.”

He also said that India needs to provide right direction to its youth manpower to leverage demographic dividend. “We need to outline job opportunities in sectors like pharma, FMCG, healthcare, e-commerce, logistics and upskill our young populace which comprises about 60 per cent of our total population then nothing can stop India from becoming skill capital of the world.”

The Minister also urged everyone to participate in making India self-reliant, as skilled manpower is a critical factor in this regard.

Sharing his perspective, ASSOCHAM secretary general, Mr Deepak Sood said, “The need of the hour is to recapture the demographic dividend that has been much extolled, by developing and implementing measures and initiatives swiftly and effectively. To become a centre of skill sets, India needs to harbour a large pool of skilled talents.”

In his address, Mr Maninder Singh, chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Skill Development emphasised that public private partnership (PPP) can help bring major shift in skilling, reskilling and upskilling programmes in tandem with the government initiatives as in a globalised world it is in our collective interest to skill more and more people and empower them for a better future.

Amid others who addressed the ASSOCHAM webinar included – Dr Niraj Kumar Pawan, IAS, chairman, Rajasthan Skill & Livelihoods Development Corporation; Mr Girish Kundan Jha, Founder CEO, Skills Asstra Techcon LLP, and Mr Deepak Pareek, Managing Partner, HnyB Tech Incubations Pvt. Ltd.

[indiaeducationdiary.com](http://indiaeducationdiary.com) – 21 May 2021

### **Apprentices Act may soon see some big amendments this monsoon, Ministry looks to widen the scope of apprenticeships**

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is likely to move a bill in the monsoon session to widen the scope of the definition of establishments under the Apprenticeship Act. Cabinet clearance on the proposed changes in the Apprenticeship Act will allow educational and other training institutes to hire apprentices, a top government official said.

MSDE estimates show that India should have around 2 million apprentices’ enrollments every year (assuming the minimum 2.5% of the strength of establishments employing 30 or more employees) whereas only 250,000 apprentices being trained at present, based on establishments listed in the Sixth Economic Census (2013-14). A multi-fold gap is there in the actual verses calculated one.

Currently, apprentices are allowed largely in the manufacturing sector. The definition of establishment needs to be changed to include any place where trade or commerce or industrial activity takes place, including educational and training institutions.

“Work is being fast-tracked to finalize changes to the Apprentices Act to make it more holistic and aspirational to enable more youth to take up an apprenticeship,” the official said.

India’s current apprenticeship scheme allows 2.5-15% of organizations’ total workforce to be apprentices. It is mandatory for firms with 30 or more employees to hire apprentices. Under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme, the company pays 75% of the cost of stipend for each apprentice and the government contributes 25%,

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The official said the amendment proposed seeks to enlarge the scope of apprenticeship and the availability of apprenticeship facilities at a larger scale. Other changes being proposed include allowing virtual learning mode for apprenticeship training, wherever needed, besides significantly enhancing the ease of doing business for employers. A new system of compliance and shift from the current practice of self-governance is also being proposed. **(Skill Reporter, New Delhi – 24 June 2021)**

## SCMS IN ACTION

### MOU with BOSCH

A MOU has been signed between “BOSCH Limited and “Skill Council for Mining Sector’ on dated 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021. The chief scope is to cater to overseas clients for recruitment of skilled workforce in mining. The demand will be submitted by BOSCH and SCMS will source/ provide certified candidates on mutually agreed terms & conditions and remuneration to SCMS. On behalf of BOSCH, Dr. O.P. Goel, Senior General Manager signed the MOU.

### Visit to “World Skill Centre”

On 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2021, Mr. Sanjay Sharma, CEO- SCMS visited India’s first “World Skill Centre” established under the Odisha Skill Development Project assisted by the Asian Development Bank with ITE Education Services (ITEES), Singapore as a knowledge partner. It is being set up at a budget of nearly Rs.1342.2 Crores. It would run long-term manufacturing and services programs as a Finishing School for the best among the ITI and Polytechnic students as well as serve as a centre for capacity building for ITI and Polytechnic teachers.

The World Skill Centre is ready to roll out the first set of courses in areas like Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, Mechanical and Electrical Services, Vertical Transportation, Precision Engineering, Mechatronics, and Electrical Technology along with a few other courses in the services sectors like Hair Fashion and Design and Beauty and Wellness. The World Skill Center is going to be the nodal agency for preparing Odisha’s youth for the World Skills Competition. The other key role for WSC will be to act as Centre for Industry Partnership and landing point for industries in Odisha for their employment needs. Bikram also accompanied during the visit.





Glimpses of visit to World Skill Centre

### Visit to “Skill Development Institute (SDI)” Bhubaneswar”

8<sup>th</sup> April, Mr. Sanjay Sharma, CEO- SCMS visited Skill Development Institute (SDI) Bhubaneswar which is a not-for-profit philanthropic initiative of Oil PSUs under the aegis of Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Govt of India, established for Developing Skills, Employability & entrepreneurship of youth of Odisha and other parts of Eastern Region of the country.

The foundation stone was laid by President of India is coming up as a Multi-Skilling Academy of International standards in 46.172 Acres at Jatni Tehsil of Khurda, aiming to Train 50000 youths in next few years over several Skill Trades to cater to the needs of Industry. **Interacted with Mr. Rajesh Kumar Tripathy- COO and Mr. Nihar Ranjan Das, CM (L&D).** Bikram also accompanied during the visit.

### NSDC Workshop on Assessment Blueprint

As an initiative towards strengthening assessment process, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) organized an online workshop on '**Assessment Blueprint**' to capacitate SSC personnel dealing with assessments which was held on 7-8th April, 2021.

The workshop was facilitated by Dr Sandhya Chintala, Executive Director, IT-ITeS SSC NASSCOM, who has been instrumental in developing the Assessment Guide. The online workshop was hosted over 2 days spanning 7 hours. The objective of the workshop was to:

- To orient to SSCs with a detailed understanding of the Assessment Blueprint
- To demonstrate the step-by-step process of creating an Assessment Blueprint
- To demonstrate how items (questions) are mapped to Assessment Blueprint

Two members of SCMS Mr. Apoorv Aishwarya, Manager-Content Development, SCMS and Ms. Silky Sharma, Head-Assessment & Certification, SCMS participated in the workshop.

### **MOU with District Mineral Foundation Trust-Angul**

Mr. Sanjay Sharma, CEO-SCMS signed an MOU with Sri Siddharth Shankar Swain, Collector & Chairperson-cum-Managing Trustee, District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT), Angul (Odisha) on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021 for conducting residential skill development training programs for the local youths in the mining sector so as to enhance their employability skills and certify as per the National Skill Qualification Framework guidelines. During signing of ceremony Bikram (SCMS) and other officials from District Mineral foundation were also present. In continuation to this SCMS has finalized the Training Partner and training is likely to commence from July covering around 150 local candidates in the trades of Mine Electrical, Mne Welder and Dumper/tripper operator.



**Sri. Sanjay Sharma, CEO-SCMS signing an MOU with Sri Siddharth Shankar Swain, Collector & Chairperson-cum-Managing Trustee, DMFT,**

### **Virtual meeting with Madhya Pradesh State Skill Development & Employment Generation Board (MPSSDEGB)**

MPSSDEGB organized a virtual meeting with NSDC and SSCs on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2021. Mr. Sanjay Sharma, CEO-SCMS attended meeting with NSDC & other SSCs to explore employment opportunities for youth of Madhya Pradesh. Meeting was chaired by Mr. Mukesh Chand Gupta, Secretary, Department of Technical Education, Skill Development & Employment, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, Vivek Pratap Singh Chauhan, SEO, NSDC, Ms. Priya Mishra.

### **IREL-Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

IREL has organised its 10<sup>th</sup> webinar on the occasion of their Platinum Jubilee Celebrations on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Upon invitation from Sri Deependra Singh, CMD -IREL India Ltd, Mr. Sanjay Sharma, CEO- SCMS

convened a session on “Skill Development Initiatives by SCMS & its benefits for PSU’s”. All directors and Sr. executives participated in the session.



**Mr. Sanjay Sharma, CEO-SCMS, delivering a session on skilling**

### **Australia-India mining skills partnership forum**

On 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021, Mr. Sanjay Sharma, CEO- SCMS was privileged to participate as one of the panelists during “Australia-India Mining Skills Partnership Forum” convened by Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) and hosted by Indian Chamber of Commerce. The other eminent panelists were Mr. V K Arora, Chief mentor, KCT Coal Sales, Mr M C Thomas- Co-Chairman, ICC National Expert Committee on Minerals & Metals ,Mr Tim White-Trade & Investment Commissioner, South Asia, Austrade, Mr. Steven Boxall- General Manager- Resources Centre of Excellence, Ms Usha Singh, Director-HR, MOIL, Ms. Janine Herzig-Director (& former President), AusIMM, Director at Base Resources / Convenor of MetPlant Conference Series, Mr. N K Nanda, Former Director-Technical, NMDC Ltd (and also Ex-Chairman SCMS), Prof. Edward Buckingham-Director of Engagement, Monash Business School.

### **Jharkhand Mining Summit**

Mr. Sanjay Sharma, CEO- SCMS attended the Virtual Jharkhand Summit on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 organized by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi. The meeting was convened by Punit Chaudhry, Joint secretary. Other key speakers were Mr Nagaraju-Secretary, Naveen Jindal, Anil Kumar Chaudhary former Chairman, SAIL, Dr. Yogesh Shrivastava, Ravi Gupta, Saurabh Sanyal, P Multani, PM Prasad, Swapnil Gupta-PwC.

### **30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Board of Skill Council for Mining Sector**

The 30<sup>th</sup> Governing Board meeting of Skill Council for Mining Sector was convened on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 through virtual mode. The meeting was Chaired by Shri P K Satpathy, Director (Production)- NMDC Ltd and Chairman SCMS. During opening remarks, the chairman highlighted achievements of SCMS despite

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many constraints due to pandemic. The chairman further shared the progress of skilling project of 480 candidates at Northern Coalfield, Singrauli wherein SCMS has covered 54% of scheduled training hours in respect of Mine Electrician, Mine Welder and HEMM mechanic and 82% in respect of Data Entry Operator.

After the opening remarks, Sanjay Sharma, CEO-SCMS convened the meeting as per the agenda.

### **RPL Impact Study**

RPL was introduced for the first time under PMKVY scheme at the national level. The need to measure the impact of the program by an Independent third-party is crucial to assess the value addition to the target beneficiaries before and after enrolment in the RPL Program. In addition to measuring the projects specific outcomes, the study will also help in understanding the relevance and impact of RPL on a particular sector. In this regard, NSDC carried out a Third-Party Impact Assessment for the RPL Projects under PMKVY 2.0. This is tentatively a three-month activity and is expected to be completed by July 2021.

The online meeting was conducted by Athena Infonomics Pvt. Ltd with Skill Council for Mining Sector on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Entire team SCMS led by CEO Mr. Sanjay Sharma, attended the session.

### **Stakeholders Consultation Webinar on Amendments in Apprentices Act-1961**

Mr Sanjay Sharma, CEO-SCMS attended “Stakeholders Consultation Webinar on Amendments in Apprentices Act-1961 on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021. This webinar was hosted by UNDP and CII in partnership with Directorate of Skill Development (DSD) & Madhya Pradesh State Skill Development & Employment Generation Board (MPSSDEGB), Government of Madhya Pradesh with an aim to brief the changes and get stakeholder suggestions for the proposed concept note by the MSDE, Government of India. The key dignitaries on dais included Mr Amit Kumar, Team Leader, Inclusive Growth, UNDP. Ms Shanmuga Priya, IAS, CEO, MPSSDEGB, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Mr Jitendra Singh Raje, IAS, Director & State Apprenticeship Adviser, Directorate of Skill Development, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Mr N K Ranganath, Member, CII National Committee on Skill Development and Livelihood & Former Managing Director, Grundfos Pumps India Pvt. Ltd. and Mr Harsh Singh, Sr Advisor, UNDP.

The other participants in the webinar were representing Industries Associations, Industries / Employers – Service and Manufacturing sector, ITI’s, Polytechnics, colleges, NAPS service providers, Skill training providers, and relevant Government departments.

### **Review by COO-NSDC**

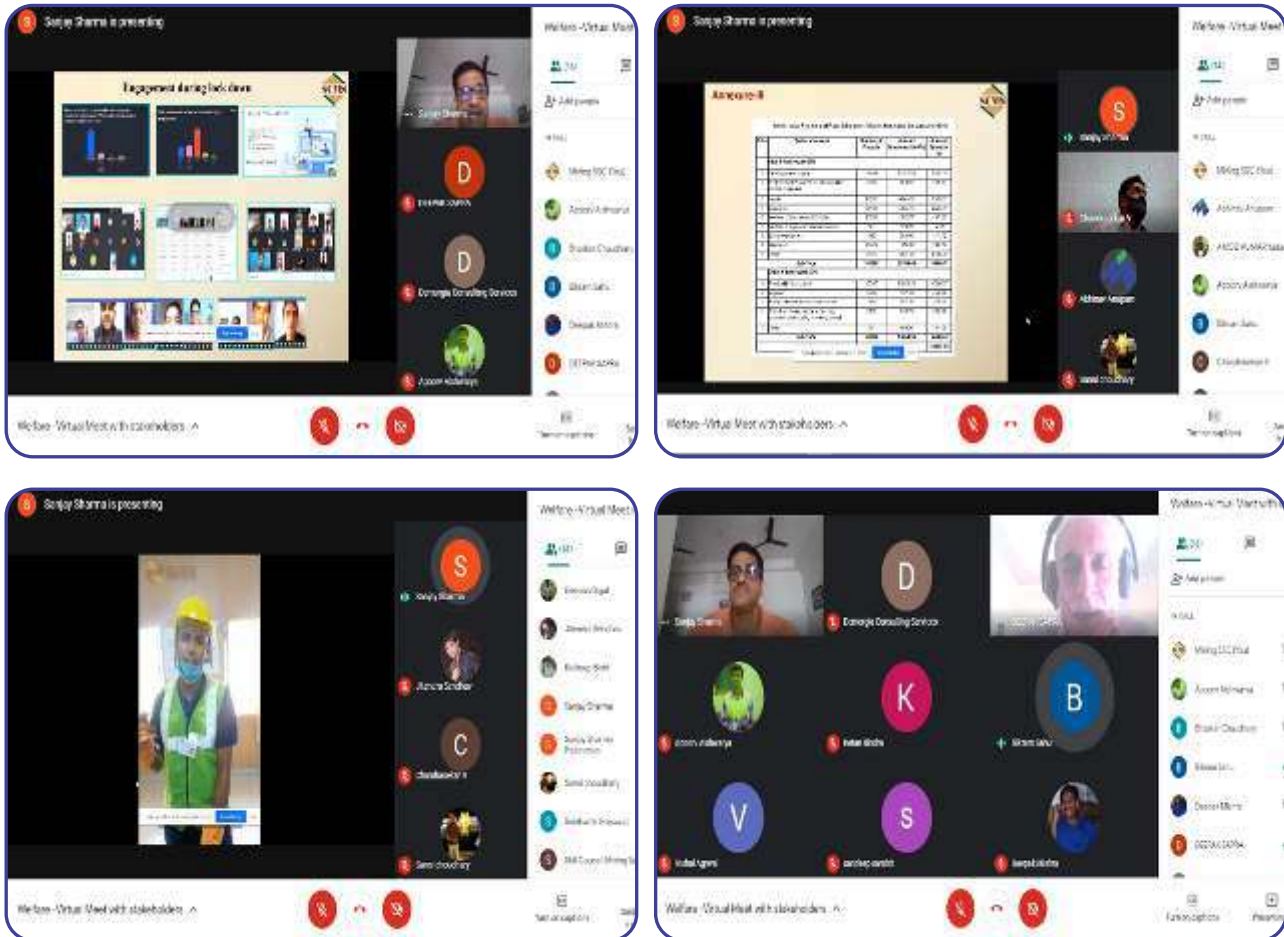
An introductory cum review meeting was convened by Mr. Ved Mani Tiwari, Chief Operating Officer, NSDC with CEOs of all Sector Skill Councils on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Mr. Sanjay Sharma, CEO-SCMS attended the review and shared an update and activities of mining council and submitted feedback on a survey to be launched by NSDC to know the pulse of various stake holders.

## Virtual Meet with stakeholders

A Virtual- “Welfare meet” with Stakeholders was organized by Skill Council for Mining Sector on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Sanjay Sharma, CEO-SCMS. This meeting was to connect all training partners and assessment bodies with CEO-SCMS and other team members of SCMS with following agenda: -

- To know the welfare of partners and their own staff members.
- How they were handling current situation and assignments.
- An update on outstanding payment from SCMS.
- An update from SCMS on, in pipeline / upcoming assignments.
- Any clarification and support required from SCMS.
- Any other points, concerns, feedback, and suggestions.

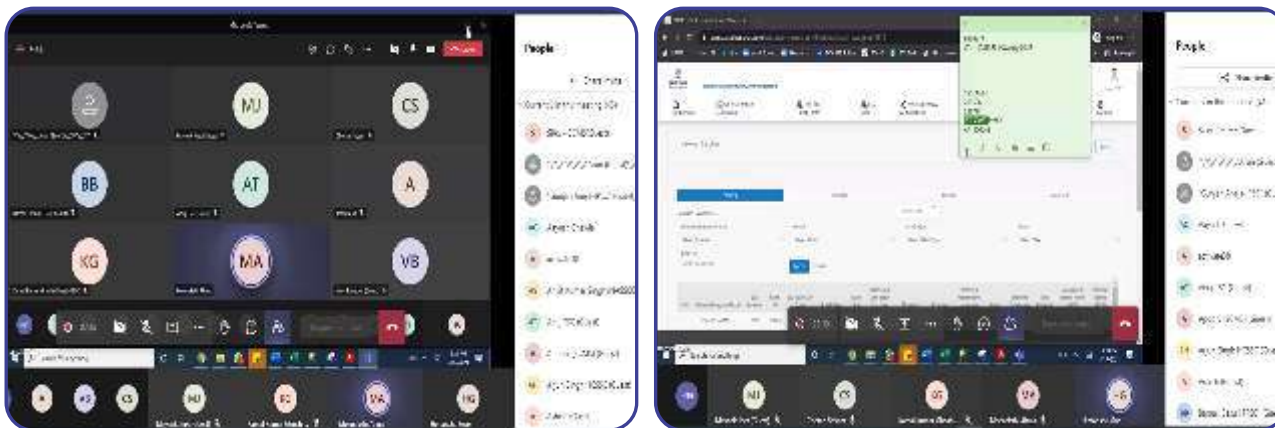
The meeting was attended by various Training Partners and Assessment Agencies, which was highly appreciated by all of them.



**Presentation by Mr. Sanjay Sharma, CEO-SCMS during meeting with TP/AB**

## Workshop on Neutral Centre

A walk-through session of the new Neutral Centre functionality developed on Skill India Portal (SIP) was scheduled by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2021. Skill Council for Mining Sector along with other SSC members participated in the workshop to understand the functionality on SIP. Also, the user manuals have been updated on the Skill India Portal for all the stakeholders which can be accessed through the link mentioned below. (Refer user manual PMKVY 3.0 CAC under the heading PMKVY) <https://skillindia.nsdcindia.org/user-Manuals>



## Glimpses of Workshop

### “Chai pe Charcha”

On International tea day, an informal session was conducted by Mr. Sanjay Sharma, CEO-SCMS exclusively for team SCMS on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2021. During this engagement session no official discussions and reviews were held rather each team member was encouraged to share about welfare of their family members, their passion and what they look forward in their professional journey. Members enjoyed sipping choice of their drinks; tea/coffee, tender coconut water, juice during this “gup shup session”. Team members felt happy to have such surprising, inspiring, and connecting session.



## SCMS team members during “Chai pe Charcha”

### Interactive session with Chairperson of NCVET

On 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 Mr. Sanjay Sharma, CEO along with entire SCMS team members attended an introductory meeting with NCVET officials, chaired by Dr. Nirmaljeet Singh Kalsi (IAS)-Chairperson and other dignitaries; Dr. Neena Ahuja-executive member, Col Santosh, Sushil & Sarika attended. Mr Sanjay presented activities of SCMS, ongoing skilling assignment and challenges. It was a wonderful interaction where Chairperson gave fresh perspective and many suggestions to accelerate the skilling initiatives looking to tremendous growth in mining sector.

### Webinar on “Leveraging IOT and AI in Mining Sector”

Mr Sanjay Sharma -CEO along with his team member Bikram, Navneet and Apoorv attended webinar on “Leveraging IOT and AI in Mining Sector” organized by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 where Mr. M. Nagaraju, IAS Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Government of India was the Chief guest. Other key speakers were Dr Ravi Prakash, Senior Principal and Head of AI/ML and Engineering Data Analytics COE-Infosys Limited, Mr Anil K. Chaudhary, Chairman, Minerals & Metals Committee, PHDCCI, Prof Alok Porwal, Professor and Head, CSRE, IIT Bombay, Mr Naveen Jindal, Co-Chairman, Minerals & Metals Committee, PHDCCI, Mr Sudip Chaudhuri, Head - Mining Practice, Wipro Limited, Mr Alok K. Verma, Director - Mining Business, Hexagon Mining and Dr. Siddhartha Agarwal, Assistant Professor, IIT ISM Dhanbad.



Webinar on “Leveraging IOT and AI in Mining Sector”

### Meeting with Trainers on standardization of Question bank

SCMS has always been pioneer in taking up new initiatives that give extra mileage to the skilling activities under the umbrella of SCMS. In line with same SCMS realized that in the existing processes, assessments currently being done under various affiliated Assessment Agencies, need improvement majorly on account of uniformity and standardization. To improve upon this, SCMS has initiated the process of development of an online portal (TAP) which shall generate question papers for all assessment batches from its pre-loaded question bank and as per the assessment criteria defined in QPs or Assessment Blueprints. SCMS is currently in the process of creating question banks for all 46 job roles.

To prepare this bank, SCMS invited participation of all esteemed members of SCMS Experts Group (Master Trainers & Master Assessors). In this regard a kickoff meeting was organised by SCMS in virtual mode on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 with all the experts to ensure clear understanding of the tasks at all levels. Mr. Sanjay Sharma, CEO-SCMS briefed the Master Resources that they are required to validate questions currently available in existing question bank (available with SCMS) and add more questions as per the quantity required for each job role.



SCMS has received some of the question banks from few of the experts and is in the process of evaluating same. Post finalization the data will be uploaded on SCMS TAP portal. The task is still in progress and estimated to be completed by the end of July 2021.

### NCL-SCMS Mining Skill Centre

The skilling program at Northern Coalfields Ltd covering +500 local candidates is approaching to its closer now. During lock down various engagement activities were carried out in the online mode directly by SCMS and also with the help of Training Partners. Online revision classes continued throughout the lockdown period along with daily online assessments and quizzes. In total 129 online assessments were conducted from 18<sup>th</sup> May to 25<sup>th</sup> June'21. A brief of the online assessment report is given below:

NCL SCMS MINING SKILL CENTER					
Online Assessments Report					
Job Role	Total Registered	Total Assessments Done	Total Attendance Average	Total Average Results	MEDIAN
MINE WELDER	134	32	107	78.67	91.33
MINE ELECTRICIAN	142	37	118	75.56	82.5
DATA ENTRY OP	133	30	121	83.39	90.68
HEMM MECH.	131	30	95	72.04	73.96
<b>Total</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>110.25</b>	<b>77.415</b>	<b>84.62</b>

Offline classes were resumed from 21<sup>st</sup> June'21. SCMS also organized a dip survey to assess the knowledge and confidence level of the trainees through certified assessors after the lockdown and remedial actions taken as suggested.



Various online surveys were also conducted for the trainees to understand their mindset, their awareness regarding the Covid safety guidelines, preparedness for final assessment and apprenticeship and SCMS got very encouraging and supporting responses. The training is almost completed, and the final assessments are also lined up by end of July 2021.

### **Meeting with Indian Society for Training & Development**

Mr Sanjay Sharma, CEO-SCMS along with his team had an introductory meeting with Sourav Basu, Assistant Director, Indian Society for Training & Development on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 followed by detailed awareness session for ISTD'ians on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 for enrolment of Assessors for the Mining. Now depending on interest, ISTD shall decide if few well established chapters would like to become independent training partner and other assessment agencies? Or ISTD as a one & common entity will take lead for either of the verticals.

### **Workshop on PWD framework**

A workshop was organized by NSDC on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 for the PWD framework. The purpose of the workshop was to spread awareness about the scenario of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) in India. It was hosted by Standards Team of NSDC. The speaker enlightened the audience about the proportion of population who are PWD. He also emphasized on the incorporating provisions in QPs for the inclusiveness of PWD, in various sectors. Mr. Apoorv Aishwarya, Manager-Content Development, SCMS participated in the workshop.

### **Digital launch of 'Customised Crash Course Program**

'Customised Crash Course Program for COVID Warriors under PMKVY 3.0' launched on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 by Ministry of Skill development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India together with NSDC (aims to train 1 lakh candidates in selected 6 job roles (identified by Academic Council of Healthcare SSC, chaired by Dr. Devi Shetty). The Program was Inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister simultaneously in

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Training Centers across the country. Other key participants /speakers were Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey, Shri RK Singh, Dr. Harsh Wardhan, Dr Naresh Tehran, Mr AM Naik, Mr Praveen Kumar. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Mr Puri. Team SCMS attended the inauguration.

### Virtual Meeting with NSDC

A virtual meeting has been scheduled by NSDC on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2021 to discuss key analysis on Aadhar enabled Assessor App exceptional handling for PMKVY. The workshop was facilitated by PMKVY Assessment Team. The discussion broadly covered the following aspects: brief introduction on Aadhar enabled Assessor App, batches applied through Aadhar enabled assessor app exceptional handling & its key reasons, SSC wise Analysis & Key Advisory for SSC

Ms. Silky Sharma, Head-Assessment & Certification, SCMS attended the meeting along with the participants of other SSCs.



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- Healthcare Sector Skill Council (HSSC) for PAN India assessments
- Power Sector Skill Council (PSSC) for PAN India assessments
- Retailers Association's Skill Council of India (RASCI) for PAN India assessments
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