

Indian Youth is the key agent for socio-economic development and technological innovation. Their collective energies and vision is the engine of growth of our nation. It is the collective responsibility of private sector, public sector and civil society to provide adequate opportunities and programmes for all sections of youth to give them equal access to education, skill development and entrepreneurship opportunities...

Unleashing Youth Power for Development

Jatinder Singh

Youth are the most dynamic segment of the population for any nation. Development and empowerment of this segment creates opportunities of growth for any country. Right type of education, skills and entrepreneurship opportunities to them can trigger overall socio-economic growth for a country. India is the youngest nation of the world; developing youth to unleash their full potential will only make India the global economic powerhouse. In our country, there is immense diversity in this youngest population- geographically, demographically and socially that poses multiple challenges for their inclusive development. Informed youth are able to grab opportunities and can pursue their ambitions while youth from marginalized segment

like Adivasis, PwD (persons with disability) and from rural areas can remain bereft of the much required timely information and opportunities resulting in unemployment and underemployment.

Reforms in education, skill development and entrepreneurship through various Central/State Government schemes have given access to education and employment to large number of youth from disadvantaged communities. Access to internet, media and information makes them dignified and self-reliant. New wave of entrepreneurship is the harbinger for meeting the aspirations of the youth and if inculcated right from the school can make more job providers than job seekers. Private sector through Corporate Social Responsibility provisions has started multiple projects for educating and

skilling youth particularly from the downtrodden communities.

Digital inclusion is a fountainhead for social and livelihood inclusion. Infusion of emerging IT and IT-enabled services in different programs of youth has mainstreamed many youth, who, in the past, were devoid of appropriate and timely information and hence opportunities. Emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), 3D printing, automation, robotics, etc. are changing the skilling landscape. These specific skills are in high demand, missions like-Skill India, Digital India and Startup India are making a strong pitch to Indian youth and they are making best use of these programs. Indian youth have demonstrated out of box thinking, innovations and disruptive technologies; Indian startups are the new world order that

The author is Director, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi.



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As per the 2011 Census, in India, 2.21 per cent of India's population has some form of disability; this accounts for 2.7 crore people. Youth with disabilities face social, economic and civic challenges. They have had to battle against biased assumptions, harmful stereotypes and irrational fears.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) give a direction for inclusion agenda for persons with disabilities. SDG 4 resolves in guaranteeing equal and accessible education by building inclusive learning environments and providing the needed assistance for persons with disabilities. SDG 8 highlights the promoting of inclusive economic growth, full and productive employment allowing persons with disabilities to fully access the job market. The 2030 agenda for sustainable development specially mentions 'Persons with disabilities' 11 times. India is geared towards realizing the SDGs within the time frame.

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economy and digital interfaces have started showing results. Many PwDs are now serving as mentors and role models in their communities. Use of assistive technologies, internet, social media and other technological innovations are creating opportunities for youth with disabilities to become part of the mainstream education, skill development and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 of the Post-2015 Development Agenda calls to "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture". Target 2a devotes specific attention

to "Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries". As per 2001 census, there are 84 million scheduled tribes in India constituting 8.2 per cent of the country's population.

Currently, tribal development is the main agenda of governance as special attention is given to channelize major schemes and sources of funds for the development of tribal youth and improve their livelihood. A special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme is 100 per cent grant which is utilized for economic development of Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP), Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Modified Area Development Approach (MADA), Clusters, Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and dispersed tribal population. There is also an institutional support for development and marketing of tribal products under central sector scheme. The objective of this scheme is to give support to tribals for production, product development, preservation of traditional heritage and support to both forest and agricultural produce of tribal people. National Scheduled



HARNESSING YUVA SHAKTI



Over **1 crore** youth being trained through Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana

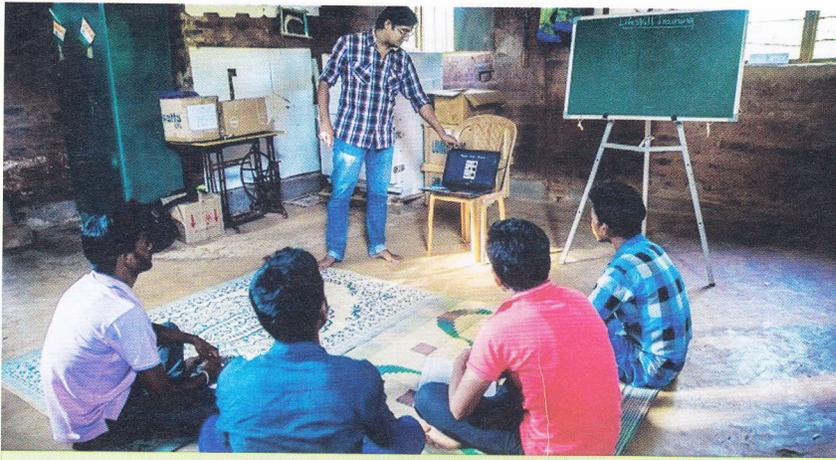


Self employment schemes like **MUDRA, Start-up India** and **Stand-up India** being implemented



India has become world's **second largest** start-up hub





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Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) has identified important economic activities to the Scheduled Tribes for generating self-employment to raise their income level. It also helps the tribal youth to upgrade their skills and processes through institutional and on the job training. It also gives pre-matric scholarships to ST students who are studying in Classes 9th and 10th if their parental income from all sources is less than Rs.2 lakhs per annum. In addition, it also gives post matric scholarships to ST students from Class 11th and above to students who are studying in any recognized institutions

for which qualification is Class 10th or above, if their parental income from all sources is less than Rs.2.50 lakhs per annum. NSTFDC also provides national overseas scholarships for ST students for studying abroad to pursue post graduation, Ph.D and post doctoral study abroad. There is also a scheme of Strengthening Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts for promotion of education among tribal girls in the identified low literacy districts to plug the gap in literacy levels between the general female population and tribal women. Vocational Training in Tribal Areas is one of the important schemes to

develop the skills of the ST youth for different natures of employment as well as for self-employment. All these efforts empower tribal youth and break the cycle of poverty.

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Technology has a potential to change the world and improve people's lives. It can be exploited for youth development with the incredible spirit of a youth-led enterprise and initiatives. The private sector, public sector and civil society have to work in tandem in empowering youth. Inclusive growth and sustainable development are the keywords that will harness our demographic dividend. □

(E-mail: jatinder@phdcci.in)

Parallel Taxi Track Operation by all Women Crew

In a first for the IAF, the "OTTERS" squadron of Western Air Command has undertaken Parallel Taxi Track (PTT) Operations with a full women crew in the Dornier 228 aircraft. The pilots, Sqn Ldr Kamaljeet Kaur and her co-pilot Sqn Ldr Rakhi Bhandari carried out successful parallel taxi track landing and take-off operations at Sirsa. This achievement highlights the theme of Aero India 2019 to highlight the Achievements of Women in Aviation Sector.

Parallel Taxi Track Operations are carried out to enable unhindered operations even when the runway is not available due to enemy action or any other reasons.

PTT Operations is a challenging task as the crew is required to land and take off from the taxi track, which is considerably smaller in width than the runway, with proximity to obstructions as compared to the main runway.

