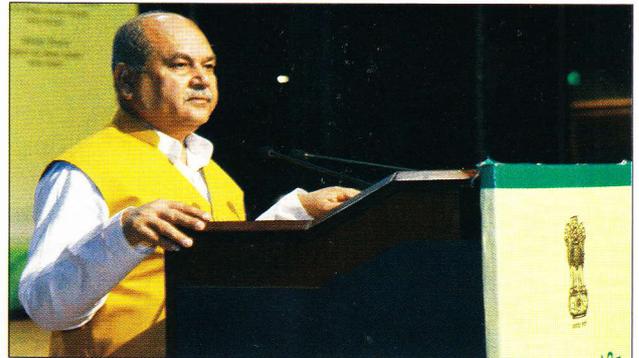


# Nation Marching from Enterprise to Self-reliance

Narendra Singh Tomar

There is no doubt that skill and knowledge are the driving force of socio-economic development for any nation. If skilled youth are available in the country, there will be no shortage of human labour resources for industries, and they will boost productivity. Presently, in our country, the working people in the age group of 15 to 59 years are more than the dependent population. The average of the working population is steadily increasing. There is no doubt that with demographic dividend favoring India and greater emphasis on skill development and entrepreneurship, we will become the largest resource base of skilled workers in various fields in the entire world in the next two to three decades. There will be an unprecedented increase in world-class demand for skilled workers in our country.

**W**elfare of nation with skill is the mantra given by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Based on positive efforts being made with the world's largest young population, labour force, and abundant resources, we can say that India is poised to become the world's skill capital. Even after seven decades of independence, there was a lack of appropriate grassroots and practical strategy to meet the nation's needs for entrepreneurship and skill development. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the present government framed the National Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Policy in 2015. It laid the foundation for major changes in this direction. Today nation is taking rapid strides towards self-reliance, with start-ups, entrepreneurship, and skill development playing a crucial role. Although the Prime Minister announced the launch of Self-reliant India during the Coronavirus pandemic crisis, its foundation-laying started six and a quarter years ago, which was visible from time to time in the policies, programmes, and campaigns of the central government. In this context, it is encouraging to note that India has a large working population of young people and the workforce, which shows that the demographic dividend is in India's favour. Presently, in our country, the working people in the age group of 15 to 59 years are more than the dependent population. The average of the working population is steadily increasing. The Economic Survey 2018-19 also points out that India's demographic dividend will be at its peak around the year 2041 when the share of working people in the age group of 20 to 59 is expected to reach 59 percent of the total population. If the demographic dividend favours a country, then the country's economy gets a boost, the growth rate picks up, and per capita income also increases. Under the Prime Minister's leadership,



*The Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar speaking at an event.*

the government has taken several measures to reap the benefits of demographic dividend. The focus of these measures is on the skill development of the country's working population. The government has set up the National Skill Development Corporation to provide skill-related training to 500 million individuals by 2022. It is promoting the private sector in skill training programs besides providing funds for them. There is no doubt that with demographic dividend favouring India and greater emphasis on skill development and entrepreneurship, we will become the largest resource base of skilled workers in various fields in the entire world in the next two to three decades. There will be an unprecedented increase in world-class demand for skilled workers in our country.

There is no doubt that skill and knowledge are the driving force of socio-economic development for any nation. If skilled youth are available in the country, there will be no shortage of human labour resources for industries, and they will boost productivity. Several important initiatives are being taken by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to bridge the gap between demand and supply of skilled workers. Pradhan

Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) has proved to be a milestone in this direction. Through this scheme, the youth are provided with short-term training in industry-relevant skills. According to the local market's requirement, vocational training is also imparted to illiterate, neo-literates and school dropout youths through 233 public education institutes operating in the country. About 34.14 lakh youth have been trained through short term training conducted under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). Out of this, 28.36 lakh youth have got employment. Similarly, under the Recognition of Prior Learning program, the skills of 33.20 lakh youth have been certified, out of which around 27.36 lakh youth have got jobs.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has, from the beginning, a perceptive outlook on start-ups. On the occasion of the launch of the 'Startup India Campaign,' he said that he wanted India's youth to be the job creators rather than the job seekers. If a start-up employs only five persons, it will also be a great service to the nation. The Prime Minister launched the Start up India campaign in 2016 to promote start-ups in the country. Due to our policy of encouraging start-ups and protecting them in infancy, start-ups in the country have started rapidly in the past years, and they have also created new dimensions of success. To promote start-ups, the government, in 2019, has changed its definition. According to it, now a start-up will be treated as a start-up for ten years after its establishment and continue to get benefits. According to data from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, 26804 start-ups were registered in the country as of 31 December 2019. More than 3 lakh 6 thousand youth have got employment in them. There are more than 24 thousand 8 hundred registered start-ups who have employed 12 people on average. To provide financial assistance to start-ups, the government has created a 'Fund of Funds for Start-ups' with a corpus of Rs. 10,000-crore in the Small Industries Development Bank of India. Small Industries

Development Bank of India has committed over Rs. 3123 crore in 47 SEBI Registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) till 22 December 2019. A general fund of Rs. 25,728 crore has been raised through these funds.

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has also launched an AatmaNirbhar Skilled Employee-Employer Mapping (ASEEM) portal under the 'Self-reliant India Campaign' (AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan). This portal provides real-time data of skilled workforce based on demand and supply.

Digital skills will certainly play an important role in the post-COVID-19 era. In such a situation, the Directorate General of Training, Ministry of Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship started long-term training related to the latest technology. The Directorate General of Training has launched a free digital learning platform (Skills Build Reignite) in June 2020 through a MoU with IBM. In the time of Artificial Intelligence and Cloud Computing, the National Skill Development Institute is also offering

# TransformingIndia  
# AatmaNirbharBharat



## More Livelihood Opportunities with PM Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan



-  **32 Crore Mandays**  
created & ₹31,500 crore spent
-  **21,595 Work**  
related to solid and liquid waste management undertaken
-  **2,123 Gram Panchayat**  
provided internet connectivity
-  **62,824 Candidates**  
provided skill training through Krishi Vigyan Kendras

Structures created under the Scheme:

 <b>1,32,146</b> water conservation structures	 <b>4.12 lakh</b> rural houses	 <b>35,529</b> cattle shed
 <b>25,689</b> form ponds	 <b>16,253</b> Community Sanitary Complex	 <b>7,340</b> works taken up through District Mineral Funds

all-round training of digital skills. In the field of entrepreneurship and skills, Indian genre like yoga has also been added. So far, more than 98 thousand people have been trained to get employment as yoga instructors.

The Pradhan Mantri Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan (PMYUA) is under implementation by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to promote young entrepreneurs. Through this, training, mentoring and other support for setting up enterprises is provided to young entrepreneurs. It is being implemented on a pilot basis in select districts of 10 states and two union territories. This campaign was launched keeping in mind the trainees and alumni of ITIs, Polytechnic Colleges, Prime Minister Skill Development Centres and Public Educational Institutions to utilise their technical training in setting up the enterprise. The National Entrepreneurship Award (NEA) has also been instituted in 2016 to promote entrepreneurship. The award aims to encourage the spirit of entrepreneurship and inspire the youth. The award is given to honour young first-generation entrepreneurs and ecosystem builders who create a constructive environment for entrepreneurship and women entrepreneurs.

The government has also taken several measures to encourage women entrepreneurs to begin start-ups. Together with GIZ, a German institution, the government has launched a pilot project for the economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs and women start-ups. It is being

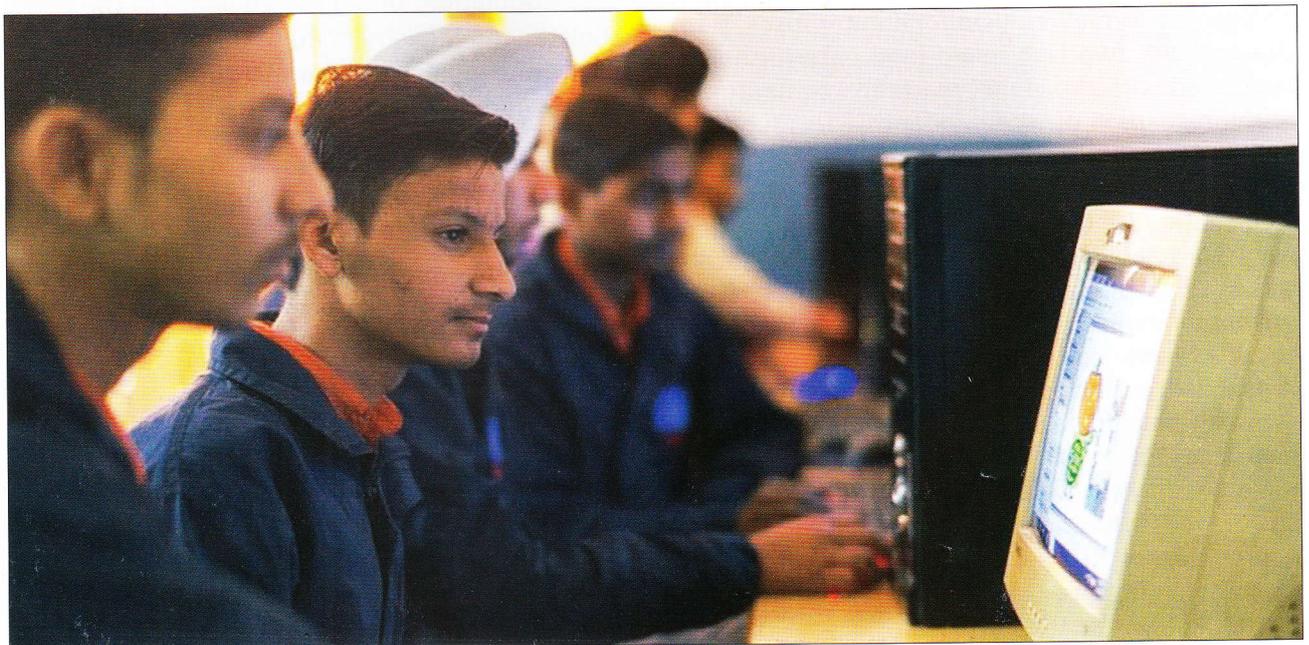
implemented in Rajasthan and Telangana and the north-eastern states-Assam, Meghalaya, and Manipur. The government has been providing loan facilities to entrepreneurs for setting up and promoting business through various schemes. It also includes the Stand Up India scheme along with the Mudra scheme.

Agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry, have immense potentials of entrepreneurship and start-ups. Recently, under the Prime Minister's leadership, the government has passed three laws related to agricultural reforms in Parliament. With these agrarian reforms, farmers have access to many facilities and the freedom to sell their products to anyone, anywhere. They have also paved the way for

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Recently, under the Prime Minister's leadership, the government has passed three laws related to agricultural reforms in Parliament. With these agrarian reforms, farmers have access to many facilities and the freedom to sell their products to anyone, anywhere. They have also paved the way for setting up new start-ups and enterprises in the field of agriculture. Freedom to sell agri-produce anywhere besides the mandis, e-platforms for agricultural marketing will provide opportunities to young entrepreneurs to thrive in agriculture sector. The warehousing, cold storage, and processing units are set to expand in the private sector due to abolishing the storage limit of produce like cereals, potatoes, and onions through the Essential Commodities Amendment Act. It will open up new dimensions of entrepreneurship-development in this field.

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Under 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan,' the Prime Minister has made the provision of an agricultural infrastructure fund with a corpus of Rs. 1 lakh crore, which aims to transform the condition and direction of this field. Infrastructure facilities such as warehouses, cold storages, and food processing units will be set up in rural areas with this fund. Till now, private investment in agriculture is either very low or not balanced. Agricultural enterprises of private investors are located in urban areas instead of villages due to which farmers and rural youth are deprived of their full benefits. The agricultural infrastructure fund will certainly put an end to this imbalance. It has created a huge opportunity for entrepreneurship development in the agriculture sector. In the coming years, it will produce satisfying results.

Due to self-reliance in agricultural production and improved agriculture in India, new opportunities are also being created in the food processing industry. The Prime Minister has made a provision of Rs.10 thousand crores in the 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' to formalize micro food enterprises. With this amount, two lakh micro-food enterprises are supported with the global reach and commitment to the resolution of 'Vocal for Local.' This fund will benefit entrepreneurs who want to make their enterprises conform to the standards of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India or they want to establish their own brands. Along with the existing food entrepreneurs, farmer producer organisations, self-help groups and cooperative societies have also been assisted in this scheme. In the field of food processing, our strategy is to establish cluster based enterprises. For instance, industries related to mangoes in Uttar Pradesh, tomatoes in Karnataka, chilies in Andhra Pradesh and oranges in Maharashtra need to be established. A provision of Rs. 500 crore has been made for Operation Greens under the 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' package to help in cold storage,

transportation and processing of vegetables like potato, onion, and tomato.

In the area of organic agriculture, there is immense potential for start-ups and entrepreneurship. Given the increasing demand for organic products worldwide, youngsters can make a career in this field through start-ups. The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) has assisted in the cultivation of medicinal plants in an area of 2.25 lakh hectares to promote herbal and medicinal plants' cultivation under the 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' Package. In the next two years, herbal farming will cover 10 lakh hectares with an outlay of Rs. 4000 crore. It will result in an income of Rs.5000crore to the farmers. The National Medicinal Plants Board will develop a corridor in an area of 800 hectares on the Ganga banks for cultivating medicinal plants. It is also a golden opportunity for setting up own enterprises. In the same way, there is a lot of potential in areas such as bee-keeping and floriculture.

Urban areas have been ahead of rural areas in terms of entrepreneurship development and start-ups. It is mainly because of the related mechanisms being strong in urban areas, easy availability of financial assistance and better awareness among the youth. Despite this, our efforts have continued in this direction. More and more people are engaged in self-employment through entrepreneurship and skills in rural areas having a large population. Under the guidance of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Rural Development, along with other ministries and institutions, has taken several initiatives in this direction.

Deendayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) has taken path-breaking steps in this area. In the last six years, 10.51 lakh youth have received training in the country from DDU-GKY, while 6.65 lakh trained youth have got the employment. Till only a generation ago, the youth considered government jobs as the only permanent employment option. But this mindset has changed with a campaign like DDU-GKY. Now the courage to transform the future on the strength of their skill is noticed in the youth. Under Deendayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, the Ministry of Rural Development released about Rs.1215 crore for skill development and training in rural areas in 2018-19

and more than Rs.1418 crores were spent on it in 2019-20.

Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) was launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Rural Development under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM). It can be called an effective effort to empower women entrepreneurs in the villages and develop entrepreneurship spirit. Eliminating poverty from villages is the goal of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. In this direction, the scheme has yielded significant results.

Setting up of Entrepreneurship and start-ups in rural areas has been confronting three major problems. The people living in rural areas are not financially strong, initial protection and guidance are not available to start-ups and lack appropriate resources and environment for developing skills. It is a matter of immense satisfaction that these problems and issues are being resolved through SVEP. The Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) has made significant progress over the years. It has so far provided business support services and necessary capital raising in 153 blocks across 23 states.

This scheme has also yielded excellent results in social inclusion. According to a mid-term review of SVEP conducted by the Quality Council of India in September 2019, 82 percent of this scheme's entrepreneurs belong to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes. I would also like to clarify here that the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Program functions as the foundation pillar of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM). Under this program, 75 percent of the enterprises are owned and managed by women. The study has also revealed that about 57 percent of entrepreneurs' total family income is obtained through SVEP enterprises.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Prime Minister had given a far-sighted call to turn crisis into opportunity. Inspired by this clarion call, the neo-entrepreneurs and self-help groups of our rural areas have worked in line with 'Vocal for Local' by mass production/manufacturing of goods used in dealing with the infection. Women's self-help groups have also played an important role in rural areas during the COVID-19 crisis. In rural areas, DAY-NRLM women self-help groups not only played a significant role in checking infection by producing masks, sanitisers and hand wash etc.,

but these women entrepreneurs also proved their entrepreneurial skills by earning extra income. Over 3 lakh 18 thousand SHG women members in the country produced about 23.07 crore face masks, 1.02 lakh litres of hand wash and more than 4.79 lakh litres of sanitisers in 29 states. Thus, they contributed to the trade of these items estimated at Rs. 903 crore. It was also the time when the big industries of the country were shut down. Still, these women managed to bear the expenses of the families with their enterprise and not let the shortage of these essential items occur in the country.

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Rural Development, and its Rural Self-Employment and Training Institutes (RSETI) conduct a wide range of skill development training programmes in the villages. Under this, there is also a provision for providing bank loans to trainees acquiring skills to set up their enterprises. Through this scheme, commendable efforts have been made in self-employment and entrepreneurship for rural youth. The programme is being conducted by 23 lead banks in 566 districts of 33 states/UTs through 585 rural self-employment training institutes.

Entrepreneurship, skill and start-up are at the core of the resolve of 'self-reliance' under the 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'. It is true, this is not a time to seek government job, but to provide others employment by setting up one's own enterprise. The government has opened the door to help entrepreneurship in every field. In such a situation, I appeal to the younger generation of the country, especially the youth of rural areas, that you have an unlimited source of energy. The future of the nation is in your hands. The greatest responsibility of the country's prosperity, welfare, and dignity rests with you. All that is needed is a strong will, commitment, and determination. I call upon all of you to pledge yourself to step forward with full zeal, become active participants in the government's skill development and training programmes, and take advantage of the government's facilities to setup a start-up of your interest. Become self-reliant as a skilled entrepreneur, provide employment to others and contribute more and more to open avenues of opportunities for the nation's prosperity with your skills and entrepreneurship.

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