

“We will work in partnership with Ministry of Education to make PM’s vision of education, higher education, skilling, reskilling & upskilling for our youth, a success”: Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Union Minister of State, MSDE



Delhi, 3 August 2021: On the first anniversary of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, marking a vital shift in India’s education system, a webinar on the theme—**Skills, Entrepreneurship Development and Employability: Challenges & Opportunities**, was held today by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). **Hon’ble Minister of State, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, MSDE** in his keynote address stated, “We are celebrating one year of NEP 2020, five years of Skill Development and 75 years of Independence. Just as we celebrate 75 years of Independence, we, especially the children of today also look forward to India@2047 - 25 years into the future. Based on PM Narendra Modi’s vision, NEP is hugely transformational and by curricular integration of vocational training- creates two very viable and attractive career runways for students of today and future. As school education imparts knowledge- higher education and Skilling provide two runways into careers, micro-entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship, prosperity and allow children many flexible life and career choices.”

He further added, “Skill ministry has responded to PM’s call to build on its current strengths and build and innovate further. We will work closely and in partnership with Ministry of Education to make PM’s vision of education, higher education, skilling, reskilling and upskilling for our youth a success. As our generations gift to the youth of the country as India celebrates 75 years of independence.”

The discussion focused on the alignment of NEP 2020 with the skill and entrepreneurship initiatives of MSDE with an aim to make vocational education aspirational. MSDE seeks to

provide skill training to facilitate employability of youth and equip them to take up market driven employment options. Towards this, the ministry is implementing various schemes and programmes for creating a necessary ecosystem for skill development and entrepreneurship promotion through short-term and long-term skill trainings.

Shri Ravi Mital, Secretary, MSDE, in his welcome address expressed, “The implementation of National Education Policy 2020 is crucial in integrating vocational and formal education. And the policy has already proven to be very useful in its first year of completion, providing us a roadmap to introduce steady reforms. As we move forward with this vision document, it is my belief that more fundamental reforms will take place in our education system.”

Skill development and entrepreneurial policies have been developed within the context of India’s unique demographic profile and nature of workforce. India is home to the second largest population in the world, with over 50% of India’s population below the age of 25. As per available data, by 2030, the country will have the world’s youngest and largest workforce, exceeding one billion. With almost 80% of the workforce informally employed, it is important to improve employment opportunities through targeted skilling and employment generation initiatives.

The occasion was also graced by the presence of notable speakers including Mr. Raj Nehru, Vice Chancellor, Vishwakarma Skill Development University, Government of Haryana; Dr. Nirmaljeet Singh Kalsi, Chairperson, NCVET; Shri Manoj Ahuja, Chairman, CBSE; Ms. Jahnabi Phookan, involved in Entrepreneurship Advocacy in Northeast and Ms. Anuradha Vemuri, Joint Secretary, MSDE.