

SPEECH OF 'BLE GOVERNOR DURING THE SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME “A JOURNEY TOWARDS SKILL INDIA”

I feel privileged and honoured to be a part of this journey towards 'Skill India'. The occasion affords us the opportunity to reflect collectively on the current youth employment situation, the progress that we have made in implementing practical programmes, strategies and policies to empower the youth of this State and how to participate more meaningfully in the economic development of the country.

It is pertinent to observe that ability to access global opportunities of exchange depends on how well-equipped educationally; professionally and skill-wise the workers are to take advantage of new opportunities.

Every person possesses a unique skill. The requirement is to develop a mechanism to identify that skill. Skill building could also be seen as an instrument to empower the individual and improve their social acceptance.

I would like to stress on the need of two basic qualities to propel the Skill India Movement forward. Firstly, it is the inner drive and initiative in one's mind and heart.

The Juhu Beach of Mumbai is one of the most famous and most visited Indian beaches. It is one of the most desired locations for most of the film shootings. Juhu Beach borders a posh locality where most celebrities stay and therefore, it is quite common to find famous celebrities jogging along the sands of this popular beach of Mumbai. Tourists visit this beach because of its peaceful atmosphere and its

scenic beauty. Juhu Beach is also famous for its local delicacies and street food. On this beach one would come across a very efficient man who does the work of shoe polishing. He is a very dedicated person who is very meticulous and efficient. He is well known for this work and this person earns a good income from his shoe polishing work. This can be seen by the Mercedes Benz car by which he comes to his work place.

In Connaught Place in New Delhi, one usually comes across a shopkeeper selling betel nut. He sells different varieties of *paan* for Rs. 10 or 20. This shopkeeper earns a good income with this work of selling *paan* and educates his son and daughter in professional colleges.

In Manipur, the farmers are quite hard working and efficient. Their hard work in the field of sericulture pays them well and they can make profit of around Rs. 1 lakh. They are very efficient in producing variety of silk products.

The farmers of Jowai are also hard working and are able to reap good harvest each time. They always make good profit and are able to sustain their families well by cultivating rice, vegetables, fruits and flowers. They also rear goats, sheeps, hen, pigs and fish.

In Senapati district in Manipur, a lady who is into the business of floriculture also earns a good fortune out of the flowers. According to her, she is able to get a net profit of Rs. 1 lakh.

The second important factor is the adoption of the “dignity of labour attitude”. Dignity of Labour means that all occupation, whether involving intellect or physical labour, deserves equal respect and dignity. No job should be considered superior or inferior. Every job that is dutifully done with honesty and sincerity deserves appreciation.

Every person has the right to choose the profession of his choice. A person should never be discriminated on the basis of his occupation. There is an enormous need for capable electricians, plumbers, masons, tailors and drivers in every place.

All great men used to do various kinds of manual labour. Mahatma Gandhi preferred to do all his personal works on his own. He always respected and treated everyone equally. He had the same respect in his eyes for a manual labour as well as for the most educated person.

The vision of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji's "Skill India" and "Make in India" are laudable. This can happen only if we equip our young people with skills that are required to meet the demands of our rapidly growing economy.

Given the energy, enthusiasm and innovativeness, young people of our country have the potential to contribute immensely to the socio-economic development of our nation. They should be placed at the forefront of building the economy of the country. This is a high-priority agenda item for us.

It is the collective responsibility of Government, the Private Sector and our Development Partners to design and implement practical programmes to generate decent employment, reduce poverty among the youth and economically empower them to play a more meaningful role in the development and upliftment of their communities and the nation at large.

The industry players have a special preference for North Eastern youth for services such as retail, hospitality, healthcare, etc. The State also has its unique skill set in the traditional sectors of handloom, bamboo products, dry flowers, healthcare, etc. The region has a wealth of human and natural resources that can contribute to the

overall social, economic, cultural and technological development of our country.

More than 1000 youth of the State have been placed in reputed organizations such as international Airports, Hotel Park Hyaat, ITC Grand Chola, Asian Bakery, Le Meridian, Jupiter Hospital, Radisson, Oberoi Hotels, JW Marriott, etc. in various sectors in different parts of the country like Hyderabad, Pune, Mumbai, Kolkata, Jaipur, Kanpur, Lucknow, Mousoorie, Guwahati, New Delhi and . Employment and Employability Delivery Systems in the State of Meghalaya are being improved.

The Employment Exchange web portal “Konnnect Kam” is launched by the Chief minister for online registration. Every job-seeker in the far end of the State can avail the opportunity by registering themselves with Employment Exchanges through online registration. The new module “Skilled Hands”, launched today will provide a common platform between citizens with skills in the unorganized sector and potential employers.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Career Service () Portal – www.ncs.gov.in to be implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment which is another welcome step which will provide more focus on career counselling and guidance for our youth. The Portal provides a nation-wide online platform for jobseekers and employers for job matching in a dynamic, efficient and responsive manner.

Finally, I would like call to the youth to arise, awake and achieve. Be ready to take risks in your life as this risk will only bring in success. My best wishes are with you. Win and lead the world. Salvation of India depends on the strength of India and the strength of India depends upon the strength of every citizen of India.

Young brothers and sisters, I urge you all to be strong and brave.

You have to face every situation boldly. The government and we people are always there to help you. But it depends greatly on your part to take the first step.

Our Government has made investment in education and skill building a corner stone of our development process. Now, it is time for each one of you to contribute to this national effort which is leading to a broad road map for productive skill development of the youth in the State.
