

Introduction

2.1 The Youth represent the most dynamic and vibrant segment of the population. India has the largest youth population in the world. As per the Report of Technical Group on Population Projections, constituted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, youth in the age group of 15-29 years comprise 27.2% of the population for year 2021 which is expected to decrease to 22.7 by 2036 but still huge in absolute numbers of 345 million.

2.2 This large number, in the light of its impact on work participation and dependency ratios, has been called a window of opportunity in terms of growth and development of our country, an opportunity which would need to be seized before the window closes. This poses its own challenges with reference to inclusive growth and the need to bridge divides. The requirements for this will transcend sectoral programmes, and would require a variety of interventions and programmes aimed at addressing the youth in a multi-dimensional manner.

2.3 In order to capture this demographic dividend, it is essential that the economy has the ability to support the increase in the labour force and the youth have the appropriate education, skills, health awareness and other enablers to productively contribute to the economy. The Government of India makes significant investment on programmes for the youth, through its various Ministries/ Departments. In addition, the State Governments and a number of other stakeholders are also working to support youth development and to enable productive youth participation.

2.4 The Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India is nodal agency for framing the policies/programmes and rules/regulations for the welfare of youths. In order to optimally tap constructive and creative energies of the youth, the Department of Youth Affairs pursues the twin objectives of personality - building and nation-building, that is, developing the personality of youth and involving them in various nation-building activities. The Department has also recognized "Adolescents" as an important segment of the Youth. Most of the issues concerning the Youth are the functions of other Ministries/Departments, like Education, Employment & Training, Health and Family Welfare etc. The role of the Department of Youth Affairs is to act as a facilitator and catalytic agent.

2.5 Realising the fact that, the growth of the economy isn't possible without the active involvement of youth of the country who form more than a quarter of the entire population, government has framed policies and is implementing various schemes to make the best of this available opportunity. These initiatives of the government are briefly described in the forthcoming sections of this chapter.

Youth Policy Initiatives

2.6 There was no national youth policy in India till 1987. However, youth has always been the concern of the Government of India. Various youth development programmes undertaken by the Union Government after Independence, like National Cadet Corps (NCC), National Service Scheme (NSS), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and the schemes for financial assistance to NGOs engaged in youth development bear ample testimony to this fact.

2.7 With the adoption of International Year of Youth in 1985, a separate Department of Youth Affairs and Sports was created in Government of India. This Department took initiative to formulate a National Youth Policy. After wide ranging consultations with all the concerned agencies including the voluntary organizations, a Draft National Youth Policy was formulated and discussed in the conference of State Ministers in-charge of Youth Affairs and Sports in June, 1987 and also by the National Advisory Committee. A comprehensive National Youth Policy was first evolved and laid on the Table of both houses of Parliament in November- December, 1988 and adopted by the Government.

2.8 The main features of the policy were that the Youth have a right as well as an obligation to participate actively in shaping the destiny of the Nation. It emphasized the need to create increasing opportunities for them to develop their personalities and their functional capability and thus make them economically productive and socially useful.

2.9 A Committee for National Youth Programmes (CONYP) was also set up as per the guidelines of National Youth Policy with the Prime Minister as its Chairperson which led to the formation of a National level committee constituted by the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports for preparation of the National Perspective Plan for the Youth, 1996-2020 with the following terms of references:

- (i) To examine the constitutional, legal, social and administrative provision that have a bearing on the status of youth, their education, development, employment, leisure time and recreations.
- (ii) To consider the youth scenario in the country and recommend development measures for mainstreaming the youth and making them functionally efficient, economically productive and socially integrated.
- (iii) To recommend steps and measures for the development and empowerment of youth in the areas of health, education, training, employment and participations; and
- (iv) To prepare a National Perspective Plan for the Youth Till 2020 AD with an appropriate strategy of implementation.

2.10 The committee identified various areas of concern for youth which inter-alia include:

- i) Youth in Academic Institutions,
- ii) Out of School/Non-Student Rural Youth,
- iii) Out of School/Non -Student Urban Youth and Youth in Slum Areas,
- iv) Training, Employment, Vocational Guidance and Career Counseling,
- v) Youth-Culture and Creative,
- vi) Sports, Adventure and Recreation for Youth,
- vii) Youth and Adolescence,
- viii) Youth Health including Drug Abuse, Alcohol and HIV/ AIDs,
- ix) Youth-Sanitation and Environment,
- x) Youth with Special Needs
- xi) Youth and Gender Justice
- xii) Youth, Media and Communication
- xiii) Youth in Urban Areas
- xiv) Youth and Population
- xv) Youth in the North East

National Youth Policy, 2003

2.11 The National Youth Policy, 2003 replaced the erstwhile National Youth Policy 1988. The policy reiterates the commitment of the entire nation to the composite and all-round development of youth. The thrust of the Policy enters on “Youth Empowerment” in different spheres of national life. This Policy defined youth as persons in the age group of 13 to 35 years. The policy aims to ensure the effective pursuit of youth development programmes which promote personality development and qualities of citizenship and enhanced commitment to community service, social justice, self-reliance, national integration and humanism, an exclusive of the entire universe as enshrined in our ancient scriptures. The objectives of the National Youth Policy, 2003 were

- i)** To instill in the youth, at large, an abiding awareness of, and adherence to, the secular principles and values enshrined in the Constitution of India, with unswerving commitment to Patriotism, National Security, National Integration, Non-violence and Social Justice;
- ii)** To develop qualities of Citizenship and dedication to Community Service amongst all sections of the youth;
- iii)** To promote awareness, amongst the youth, in the fields of Indian history and heritage, arts and culture;

- iv) To provide the youth with proper educational and training opportunities and to facilitate access to information in respect of employment opportunities and to other services, including entrepreneurial guidance and financial credit;
- v) To facilitate access, for all sections of the youth, to health information and services and to promote a social environment which strongly inhibits the use of drugs and other forms of substance abuse, wards off disease (like HIV/AIDS), ensures measures for de-addiction and mainstreaming of the affected persons and enhances the availability of sports and recreational facilities as constructive outlets for the abundant energy of the youth; and
- vi) To promote a major participatory role for the youth in the protection and preservation of nature, including natural resources, to channelize their abundant energies in community service so as to improve the environment and foster a scientific, inquisitive reasoning and rational attitude in the younger generation and to encourage the youth to undertake such travel excursions as would better acquaint them with cultural harmony, amidst diversity, in India, and overseas.

National Youth Policy, 2014

2.12 The National Youth Policy, 2014 (NYP-2014) reiterates the commitment of the entire nation to all-round development of the youth of India, so that they can realize their full potential and contribute productively to the nation-building process. The National Youth Policy, 2014 (NYP-2014) was launched in February, 2014, replacing the erstwhile National Youth Policy, 2003. NYP-2014 has been finalized after extensive consultations with all the stakeholders. The Policy defines 'youth' as persons in the age-group of 15-29 years.

2.13 The NYP-2014 proposes a holistic 'vision' for the youth of India, which is "*To empower youth of the country to achieve their full potential, and through them enable India to find its rightful place in the community of nations*". In order to realize this Vision, the NYP-2014 identifies 5 clearly defined 'Objectives' which need to be pursued and the 'Priority Areas' under each of the Objectives. The objectives and priority areas identified under the NYP-2014 are summarized below. The NYP-2014 also recommends policy interventions under each of the 11 identified Priority Areas.

NYP-2014: Objectives and Priority Areas

Objectives	Priority Areas
Create a productive workforce that can make a sustainable contribution to India's economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education• Employment and skill development• Entrepreneurship
Develop a strong and healthy generation equipped to take on future challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health and healthy lifestyle• Sports
Instil social values and promote community service to build national ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promotion of social values• Community engagement
Facilitate participation and civic engagement at all levels of governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participation in politics & governance• Youth engagement
Support youth at risk and create equitable opportunity for all dis advantaged and marginalized youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inclusion• Social justice

Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

"Today, the world and India need a skilled workforce. If we have to promote the development of our country then our mission has to be 'skill development' and 'Skilled India'. Millions and millions of Indian youth should acquire the skills which could contribute towards making India a modern country. I also want to create a pool of young people who are able to create jobs and the ones who are not capable of creating jobs and do not have the opportunities, they must be in a position to face their counterparts in any corner of the world while keeping their heads high by virtue of their hard work and their dexterity of hands and win the hearts of people around the world through their skills. We want to go for the capacity building of such young people. My brothers and sisters, having taken a resolve to enhance the skill development at a highly rapid pace, I want to accomplish this."

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi

2.14 Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is an integral part of the government policy on "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas" and its commitment to overall human resource development to take advantage of the demographic profile of our country's population in the coming years. Developing a comprehensive and holistic policy document is an integral part of the process. Given the vast paradigm shift in the skilling and entrepreneurship ecosystem in the country and

the experience gained through implementation of various skill development programmes, a need was felt to revisit the existing policy i.e., National Policy on Skill Development (NPSD), 2009 to align the policy framework with the emerging trends in the national and international milieu.

2.15 The Government framed the National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in 2015. The primary objective of this policy is to meet the challenge of skilling at scale with speed, standard (quality) and sustainability. It aims to provide an umbrella framework to all skilling activities being carried out within the country, to align them to common standards and link the skilling with demand centres. In addition to laying down the objectives and expected outcomes, the effort will also be to identify the various institutional frameworks which can act as the vehicle to reach the expected outcomes. The national policy will also provide clarity and coherence on how skill development efforts across the country can be aligned within the existing institutional arrangements. This policy will link skills development to improved employability and productivity.

2.16 Skills development is the shared responsibility of the key stakeholders viz. Government, the entire spectrum of corporate sector, community-based organizations, those outstanding, highly qualified and dedicated individuals who have been working in the skilling and entrepreneurship space for many years, industry and trade organizations and other stakeholders. The policy links skills development to improved employability and productivity in paving the way forward for inclusive growth in the country. The skill strategy is complemented by specific efforts to promote entrepreneurship in order to create ample opportunities for the skilled workforce.

2.17 The core objective of the Policy is to empower the individual, by enabling her/him to realize their full potential through a process of lifelong learning where competencies are accumulated via instruments such as credible certifications, credit accumulation and transfer, etc. As individuals grow, the society and nation also benefit from their productivity and growth. The policy framework has been developed to accomplish the vision of Skill India by adhering to the objectives. The framework outlines eleven major paradigms and enablers (Aspiration and Advocacy, Capacity, Quality, Synergy, Mobilization and Engagement, Global Partnerships, Outreach, ICT Enablement, Trainers and Assessors, Inclusivity and Promotion of skilling among women) to achieve these objectives of skilling India.

Government Schemes / Programmes for Youth in India

2.18 Till 2015-16, the Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports was implementing 10 schemes/programmes for the welfare of youths. However, all the Scheme implemented by the Department has been restructured into 3 Schemes with

effect from 1st April 2016 for better synergy and more effective utilization of resources. The details of mergers of schemes are given in the Table-1.

Table-1: Details of Restructured Schemes, 2016-17

Name of Schemes (Before Restructuring)	Name of Schemes (After Restructuring)
Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)	Merged into a new 'umbrella' Scheme called " Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK) ".
National Youth Corps (NYC)	
National Programme for Youth & Adolescent Development (NPYAD)	
International Cooperation	
Youth Hostels (YH)	
Assistance to Scouting & Guiding Organizations	
National Discipline Scheme (NDS)	
National Young Leaders Programme (NYLP)	
National Service Scheme (NSS)	National Service Scheme (NSS)
Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)	Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)

Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK)

2.19 The umbrella scheme 'Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK)' will now act as the flagship programme of the Department for empowerment of the youth to enable them to realize their potential and in the process, to contribute to the nation-building process. The details of schemes under the umbrella scheme 'Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK)' are given below:

- i. Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)**, launched in 1972, is one of the largest youth organizations in the world. NYKS has presence in 623 Districts through Nehru Yuva Kendras (NYKs). The objective of the programme is to develop the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation-building activities. The areas of focus of the NYKS activities include literacy and education, health and family welfare, sanitation and cleanliness, environment conservation, awareness on social issues, women empowerment, rural development, skill development and self-employment, entrepreneurship development, civic education, disaster relief and rehabilitation, etc. The youth

associated with Nehru Yuva Kendras are not only socially aware and motivated, but are also inclined towards social development work through voluntary efforts. Programs and activities of NYKS are implemented with participation and active involvement of district NYKS affiliated Youth Clubs (there were 1.79 Lakh Youth Clubs with Membership of 35.06 Lakh youth across the country as of 2020-21), National Youth Volunteers and various Development Departments, Agencies, elected local bodies and other stakeholders at District and State level.

ii. The scheme of **National Youth Corps** was launched during 2010-11 and the same is being implemented through NYKS. The objective of the scheme is to setup a group of disciplined and dedicated youth who have the inclination and spirit to engage in the task of nation building, to facilitate the realization of inclusive growth (both social and economic), to act as points for dissemination of information, basic knowledge in the community, to act as group modulators and peer group educators and to act as role models for the younger cohort especially towards enhancement of public ethics, probity and dignity of labour. Under the scheme, youth in the age group 18-29 years are engaged as volunteers to serve upto maximum 2 years in nation-building activities at block level. A total of 12,245 volunteers in 706 districts have been deployed against the target of 13,206 during 2020-21.

iii. **National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development (NPYAD) Scheme** is a component of the Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK) under which financial assistance is provided to Government/ non-Government organizations for taking up activities for youth and adolescent development. The assistance under NPYAD is provided under 5 major components, namely,

- a) Youth Leadership and Personality Development Training;
- b) Promotion of National Integration (National Integration Camps, Inter-State Youth Exchange Programmes, Youth Festivals, multi-cultural activities, etc.)
- c) Promotion of Adventure; Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards
- d) Development and Empowerment of Adolescents (Life Skills Education, Counselling, Career Guidance, etc.)
- e) Technical and Resource Development (Research and Studies on Youth issues, Documentation, Seminars/ Workshops)

The Scheme beneficiaries are Youth in the age group of 15-29 years and Adolescents in the age group of 10-19 years.

iv. **National Young Leaders Programme (NYLP)** was launched in December, 2014, with a view to develop leadership qualities among the youth. The schemes aim at developing leadership qualities among the youth to enable them to realize their full potential and in the process, to contribute to the nation-building process. The Programme aims at motivating the youth to strive for excellence in their respective fields and to bring them to the forefront of the development process. It seeks to

harness the immense youth energy for national-building. The youth in the age-group of 15-29 years are the beneficiaries of the scheme.

- v. **Youth Hostels (YH)** are built to promote youth travel and to enable the young people to experience the rich cultural heritage of the country. The construction of the Youth Hostels is a joint venture of the Central and State Governments. While the Central Government bears the cost of construction, the State Governments provide fully developed land free-of-cost, with water supply, electricity connection and approach roads. Youth Hostels are located in areas of historical and cultural value, in educational centres, in tourist destinations, etc. Youth Hostels provide good accommodation for the youth at reasonable rates. A total of 84 Youth Hostels have been constructed across the country.
- vi. The Scheme of **Assistance to Scouting and Guiding Organizations** was launched in the early 1980's, to promote the Scouts and Guides movement in the country. This is an international movement aimed at building character, confidence, idealism and spirit of patriotism and service among young boys and girls. The activities, inter alia, include programmes related to adult literacy, environment conservation, community service, health awareness and promotion of hygiene and sanitation.
- vii. The Department endeavours to create an international perspective among youth in collaboration with other countries and international agencies/ organizations on various youth issues. The Department also collaborates with UN Agencies like United Nations Volunteers (UNV)/ United National Development Fund (UNDP) and the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) on various youth related issues. The Department has initiated collaboration with The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) since July, 2020 for imparting skill training & for providing gainful employment to the youth.

National Service Scheme (NSS)

2.20 National Service Scheme (NSS) was introduced in 1969 with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service. 'Education through Service' is the purpose of the NSS. The ideological orientation of the NSS is inspired by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. Very appropriately, the motto of NSS is "NOT ME, BUT YOU". An NSS volunteer places the 'community' before 'self'. NSS aims at developing the following qualities/ competencies among the volunteers:

- i. To understand the community in which the NSS volunteers work and to understand themselves in relation to their community;
- ii. To identify the needs and problems of the community and involve themselves in problem-solving exercise;
- iii. To develop among themselves a sense of social and civic responsibility;

- iv. To utilize their knowledge in finding practical solutions to individual and community problems;
- v. To gain skills in mobilizing community participation;
- vi. To acquire leadership qualities and democratic values;
- vii. To develop capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters; and
- viii. To practice national integration and social harmony.

NSS attempts to establish meaningful linkages between 'Campus and Community', 'College and Village' and 'Knowledge and Action'. NSS, was launched in 1969 in 37 Universities involving about 40,000 volunteers which has as of 2020-21 spread over 479 Universities and 51 +2 Councils/ Directorates, covering 17,676 Colleges/ Technical Institutions and 12,087 Senior Secondary Schools. Since inception, over 7 crores students have benefited from NSS.

Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)

2.21 Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, is an 'Institute of National Importance' under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, by virtue of enactment of RGNIYD Act, 2012. The RGNIYD has been conferred the status of 'Deemed to be University' under 'De-novo' category in 2008, by the Ministry of Education. RGNIYD functions as a vital resource centre with its multi-faceted functions of offering academic programmes at Post Graduate level encompassing various dimensions of youth development, engaging in seminal research in the vital areas of youth development and conducting Training/ Capacity Building Programmes in the area of youth development, besides the extension and outreach initiatives across the country. The Institute functions as a think-tank of the Ministry and premier organization of youth-related activities in the country. As the apex institute at the national level, it works in close cooperation with the NSS, NYKS and other youth organizations in the country. It has a wide network with various organizations working for the welfare and development of young people and also serves as a mentor.

2.22 To examine the current status of progress among the youth of India that can provide an opportunity to foster youth development through the realization of their needs and capabilities, RGNIYD has brought out the India Youth Development Index - YDI 2010 followed by 2017. The aim of YDI is to capture the multidimensional properties that indicate progress in youth development at the sub-national level i.e., state level. The Index offers state-wise comparison of the factors that affect young people aged 15 to 29 years, across six key domains: Education, Health, Work, Political Participation, Civic Participation and Social Inclusion. It is a composite index of 19 indicators that reflect the socio-economic and political status of youth besides their health and well-being. The first five Domains i.e., Education, Health, Work, Political Participation and Civic Participation

were in line with “Commonwealth's Global Youth Development Index”. The last domain i.e., Social Inclusion was felt necessary for a country like India to incorporate its structure in the index and was thus included. Indicators and weights are modified based on the availability of data at sub-national level and the importance of the indicators in explaining Youth Development.

Skill Development of Youth

2.23 The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector has emerged as a highly vibrant and dynamic sector of the Indian economy over the last five decades. It contributes significantly in the economic and social development of the country by fostering entrepreneurship and generating large employment opportunities at comparatively lower capital cost, next only to agriculture. MSMEs are complementary to large industries as ancillary units and this sector contributes significantly in the inclusive industrial development of the country. The MSMEs are widening their domain across sectors of the economy, producing diverse range of products and services to meet demands of domestic as well as global markets. The Ministry of MSME runs various schemes aimed at financial assistance, technology assistance and upgradation, infrastructure development, skill development and training, enhancing competitiveness and market assistance of MSMEs.

2.24 The Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) was launched by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) during the year 2008 - 09 (September, 2008), by merging the erstwhile Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) implemented by District Industries Centers. The scheme aims to generate employment opportunities in rural as well as urban areas of the country through setting up of new self-employment ventures/projects/micro enterprises. Besides, the scheme also seeks to provide continuous and sustainable employment to all segments of traditional and prospective artisans and rural / urban unemployed youth in the country, so as to help arrest migration of rural youth to urban areas. The scheme also focuses to increase the wage-earning capacity of artisans and contribute to increase in the growth rate of rural and urban employment. The Scheme is implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), as the nodal agency at the National level. At the State level, the Scheme is implemented through State KVIC Directorates, State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) and District Industries Centres (DICs), Coir Board (for coir units) and banks. Any individual above 18 years of age can apply under the scheme.

2.25 Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programmes (ESDP): Entrepreneurship development is the process of improving the skills and knowledge of entrepreneurs, enhancing the capacity to develop, manage and organize a business venture while keeping in mind the risks associated with it. The O/o DC-MSME under “Development

of MSMEs” vertical has launched the “Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP)”. The objective of the programme is to motivate young persons (Men and Women) representing different sections of the society. The ultimate objective is to promote new enterprises, build capacity of existing MSMEs and inculcate entrepreneurial culture in the country. This scheme (ESDP) is implemented across the length and breadth of the country.

The Activities/programme under the ESDP Scheme includes the following modules:

- i. One day Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP)
- ii. Six weeks’ Entrepreneurship-cum-Skill Development Programme(E-SDP)
- iii. One-Week Advance E-SDP (New component has been added during the 15th FC)
- iv. One-week duration Management Development Programme (MDP) and
- v. Advance MDP (New component has been added during the 15th FC.

2.26 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY): The scheme launched on 15 July, 2015, on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day, is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE). PMKVY is implemented by National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC) under the guidance of MSDE. The scheme was designed as a skill certification and reward scheme with an aim to enable and mobilize a large number of Indian youths to take up skill training and become employable for sustainable livelihood. Under the scheme, monetary reward was provided to successfully trained candidates. Under this Scheme, Training and Assessment fees are completely paid by the Government. Owing to its successful first year of implementation, the Union Cabinet has approved the PMKVY 2.0 for another four years (2016-2020) to impart short term skilling to 10 million youth of the country under Short Term Training (STT) courses and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). As on 31.12.2020, 45.45 lakh candidates have been trained under STT and 60.44 lakh candidates have been oriented under RPL. PMKVY 3.0 is a new and modified version of PMKVY 2.0 (2016-20) to train 8.00 lakh people pan India during the year 2020-21. The scheme shall encourage and promote skill development throughout the country under short term skilling space. The new scheme shall be upgraded based on learning from the previous schemes with the basic premise of creating a skilled and certified Indian workforce, who not only contribute towards the growth of India but also drive India to become the global skill capital.

2.27 Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojna (DDU-GKY): The scheme is a part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) implemented by Ministry of Rural Development, tasked with the dual objectives of adding diversity to the incomes of rural poor families and cater to the career aspirations of rural youth. The is uniquely focused on rural youth between the ages of 15 and 35 years from poor families. As a part of the

Skill India campaign, it plays an instrumental role in supporting the social and economic programs of the government like the Make In India, Digital India, Smart Cities and Start-Up India, Stand-Up India campaigns. DDU-GKY is present in 28 States and UTs, across 689 districts, impacting youth from over 7,426 blocks.

2.28 Craftsmen Training through Industrial Training Institute (ITI): The scheme was initiated by the Directorate General of Employment & Training (DGE&T) in 1950 by establishing about 50 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). It aims to provide craftsman training to youth (age greater than 14 years) to ensure supply of semi-skilled workers. Presently, training courses under Craftsmen Training Scheme are being offered through a network of 15,154 ITIs (Govt. 3262 + Private 11892) located all over the country with total seating capacity 26.58 lakhs (in the trades of 1 year and 2-year durations) on National Council of Training in Vocational Trades-Management Information System (NCTVT-MIS) portal with an objective to provide skilled work force to the industry in 137 National Skill Qualifications Framework (NSQF) compliant trades. The educational qualification varies from class VIII pass to Class XII pass depending upon the trades and the duration of training varies from six months to three years. 30% seats are reserved for women candidates.

2.29 On the Job Training - Apprenticeship Training through Industry: The apprenticeship training scheme of DGE&T is imparted under the Apprentices Act, 1961. The scheme focuses on school - dropouts and ITI graduates with an aim to provide skilled workers for the industry. The educational qualification ranges from class VIII pass to Class XII pass depending upon the trades and the duration of training varies from six months to four years. It issues National Apprenticeship Certification to successful trainees. However, there has not been any significant improvement in respect of seat location as well as utilization of this Act. The scheme suffers from some issues such as “low participation of workers and employers, low rates of stipend, strict regulatory requirements for employers including penalties for non-compliance, less coverage of trades in the services sector and lack of progression into higher qualifications” (Skill Development in India 2015, pp - 7). As a result, the act has been amended in December 2014 to make it more attractive for both industry and youth. Directorate General of Training (DGT) through Regional Directorates of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (RDSDE) and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is implementing and monitoring the Act in respect of designated trade and optional trades respectively, for the Central Government Departments & Undertakings and Establishments which is operating business or trades from different locations situated in four or more States. Apprentice must possess minimum of 14 years age, educational and physical qualifications as prescribed for the trade and other requirements of the Apprentices Act,

1961. For trades in hazardous areas, the minimum age is 18 years. The Apprenticeship Training consists of Basic Training and On-the-Job-Training (OJT)/Practical Training at workplace in the industry and also they are eligible to receive monthly stipend depending the qualifications. Under the scheme, the central government subsidises small firms for half the stipend paid to apprentices, or on-the-job trainees, during the first two years of training.

2.30 National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS): The main objective of the scheme is to promote apprenticeship training and to increase the engagement of apprentices by establishments. Components of the Scheme: The scheme has two components namely (i) Sharing of 25% of prescribed stipend subject to a maximum of Rs. 1500/- per month per apprentice with the employers. The stipend support would not be given during the basic training period for fresher apprentices, and (ii) Sharing of basic training cost in respect of apprentices who come directly to apprenticeship training without any formal trade training, limited to 20% of the yearly target under NAPS. Government share in basic training cost is limited to Rs.7500/- for a maximum of 500 hours (calculated @ Rs 15 per hour). The Regional Directorates of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (RDESE) under the control of Directorate General of Training (DGT) are the implementing agencies in their regions in respect of all “Designated Trades” under the Act for all establishments falling under the Central Government jurisdiction. National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and CEOs of the Sector Skill Councils under the control of NSDC are the implementing agencies in their sectors in respect of “Optional Trades” for the establishment under the Central Government jurisdiction. The respective State Governments are the appropriate authorities in respect of any establishments other than those falling under the Central Govt. jurisdiction. Till December,2020 around 10.7 lakh youth have availed/undergoing apprenticeship training under NAPS. Presently more than 2.2 lakh apprentices are engaged in various companies and more than 16 lakh youth have registered themselves on the apprenticeship portal to be engaged by various companies as apprentices. As on December,2020, around 97,000 companies have registered on the portal to engage apprentices under NAPS.

2.31 Startup India: The Government launched the ‘Startup India’ program on 16th January 2016 with the objective of supporting entrepreneurs, building a robust startup ecosystem, and transforming India into a country of job creators instead of job seekers. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry acts as the nodal Department for coordinating the efforts of all central government departments and state governments in carrying this plan forward. It comprised of 19 action items spanning across three key areas of ‘simplification and handholding’, ‘funding support and incentives’, and ‘industry academia partnerships

and incubation'. The definition of startups was modified vide notification G.S.R. 127 (E) dated 19th February 2020 issued by DPIIT. An entity is now considered as a Startup up to ten years from the date of its incorporation/ registration, with an annual turnover not exceeding INR100 crore for any of the financial years since incorporation/ registration. As on 2.12.2021, 59,593 startups across the country have been recognized by DPIIT, spread across 633 districts in India, across all 36 states and Union Territories. More than 6.4 lakh jobs have been reported by more than 57,000 startups with an average number of 11 employees per startup. 46% of the recognized startups have at least one-woman director. Now, 30 states and UTs have a dedicated startup policy.

2.32 Make in India Programme: The Make in India initiative was launched on 25th September 2014 to create a conducive environment for investments. It is aimed at fostering innovation, building world class infrastructure, and making India a hub for manufacturing, design, and innovation. It was one of the first 'Vocal for Local' initiatives that showcased India's manufacturing prowess to the world. Since its launch, Make in India has made significant achievements and is now focusing on 27 sectors under Make in India 2.0. DPIIT is coordinating Action Plans for the manufacturing sectors, while the Department of Commerce is the nodal for the service sectors. Efforts are on to boost the growth of the sub-sectors in a holistic and coordinated manner. Ministry of Commerce has identified 24 sub- sectors, in which India can truly become self-reliant by strengthening its domestic manufacturing, which will translate into more employability, greater potential for exports and a sound manufacturing domestic base within the country to meet its own demand. These 24 sub- sectors are Air Conditioners, Electronics, Textiles, Furniture, Leather and Footwear, Fisheries, Agri Produce (Potato & Mango), Ready to Eat, Agro Chemicals, Auto Components, Aluminium, Steel, Set top Boxes, EV Components and Integrated Circuits, Ethanol, Ceramics & Glass, Robotics, Drones, Televisions, Closed Circuit Cameras, Toys, Medical Devices, Sporting Goods & Gym Equipment and Bicycles & E-cycles.

Ensuring Healthy Youth

2.33 Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK): In order to ensure holistic development of adolescent population, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) in 2014. The program expands the scope of adolescent health programming in India - besides sexual and reproductive health, it includes in its ambit nutrition, injuries and violence (including gender-based violence), non-communicable diseases, mental health and substance misuse. It is a paradigm shift from clinic-based services to promotion and prevention and reaching adolescents in their own environment, such as in schools, families and communities. The various interventions under RKSK can be broadly grouped as follows:

i. Community and School based interventions: The details are given below:

- **Peer Education Programme:** Peer Educators (PEs) form groups of 15-20 boys and girls -in the community and conduct weekly one to two-hour participatory sessions on adolescent health. The PEs can be selected from the community or from the schools. Significant progress has been made in implementation of Peer Education Programme. Adolescent Health & Wellness Day (AHD) is a quarterly village /community level activity being conducted to create awareness about adolescent health issues and about the available services among adolescent care givers and influencers.
- **Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation Programme (WIFSP):** WIFS entails provision of weekly supervised IFA tablets to in-school boys and girls and out-of-school girls for prevention of iron and folic acid deficiency anaemia, and biannual albendazole tablets for helminthic control. The programme is being implemented across the country in both rural and urban areas, covering government and government aided schools and Anganwadi centres. It is implemented through convergence with key stakeholder ministries- the Ministry of Women and Child Development and Department and the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The programme aims to cover a total of 11.3 crore beneficiaries including 9.8 crore in-school and 1.5 crore out-of-school beneficiaries.
- **Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene among Adolescent Girls:** The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing the Scheme for **Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene** among adolescent girls in the age group of 10-19 years since 2011, with specific reference to ensuring health for adolescent girls. The major objectives of the scheme are:
 - i. To increase awareness among adolescent girls on Menstrual Hygiene
 - ii. To increase access to and use of high-quality sanitary napkins to adolescent girls
 - iii. To ensure safe disposal of sanitary napkins in an environmentally friendly manner.

The distribution platforms for the sanitary napkins are both the community and schools as per selection of the State/UT. Community awareness is done through mass media activities. Menstrual Hygiene Scheme covered adolescent girls in 21 States under NHM.

- ii. **Facility Based Interventions:** The **Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics (AFHCs)** is implemented through establishment of Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics (AFHCs) at various levels of health system. These act as the first level of contact of primary health care services with adolescents. Total 7134 Adolescent Friendly

Health Clinics (AFHCs) have been established in the country to provide Adolescent Friendly Health Services till March 2022.

2.34 Ayushman Bharat School Health & Wellness Programme: In a close partnership between the Ministries of Health & family Welfare and Ministry of Education, the School Health & Wellness Programme (launched in Feb 2020) is being implemented in government and government aided schools in districts (including the aspirational districts) of the country in the first phase of the implementation. Two teachers, preferably one male and one female, in every school, designated as “Health and Wellness Ambassadors” shall be trained to transact health promotion and disease prevention information on 11 thematic areas in the form of interesting joyful activities for one hour every week. States have trained 2.15 Lakh Health and Wellness Ambassadors (HWAs) and about 1.12 Lakh principals have also been oriented under the Programme up to March 2022. HWA sessions are gradually starting in the States with reopening of schools.

Quality Education to Youth

2.35 National Education Policy (NEP), 2020: The National Education Policy 2020 is the first education policy of the 21st century and aims to address the growing developmental imperatives of our country. The Policy proposes the revision and revamping of all aspects of the education structure, including its regulation and governance, to create a new system that is aligned with the aspirational goals of 21st century education, including Sustainable Development Goal 4, while building upon India’s traditions and value systems. The National Education Policy lays particular emphasis on the development of the creative potential of each individual. It is based on the principle that education must develop not only cognitive capacities - both the ‘foundational capacities’ of literacy and numeracy and ‘higher-order’ cognitive capacities, such as critical thinking and problem solving - but also social, ethical, and emotional capacities and dispositions. The purpose of the education system is to develop good human beings capable of rational thought and action, possessing compassion and empathy, courage and resilience, scientific temper and creative imagination, with sound ethical moorings and values. It aims at producing engaged, productive, and contributing citizens for building an equitable, inclusive, and plural society as envisaged by our Constitution. Some salient features of NEP 2020 which address the youth are:

- i. Ensuring Universal Access at All Levels of schooling from pre-primary school to Grade 12;
- ii. Exposure of vocational education in school and higher education system;
- iii. Increasing GER in higher education to 50%;
- iv. Establishment of Academic Bank of Credit;
- v. Setting up of Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs);
- vi. Setting up of National Research Foundation (NRF);

- vii. Single overarching umbrella body for promotion of higher education sector including teacher education and excluding medical and legal education- the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI)-with independent bodies for standard setting- the General Education Council; funding-Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC); accreditation- National Accreditation Council (NAC); and regulation- National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC);
- viii. Expansion of open and distance learning to increase GER.
- ix. Professional Education will be an integral part of the higher education system. Stand- alone technical universities, health science universities, legal and agricultural universities, or institutions in these or other fields, will aim to become multi- disciplinary institutions.
- x. Teacher Education - 4-year integrated stage-specific, subject- specific Bachelor of Education
- xi. Achieving 100% youth and adult literacy.

2.36 National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS): The Central Sector Scheme 'National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme' was launched in May, 2008 with the objective to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections @ Rs. 6000/- per annum (Rs. 500/- per month) per student to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue the study at secondary stage. The rate of scholarship has been enhanced from Rs. 6000/- to Rs. 12000/- per year with effect from 1st April, 2017. The students whose parental income from all sources is not more than Rs.1,50,000/- per annum are eligible to avail the scholarship. The scheme envisages award of 1,00,000 scholarships every year to the selected students of Class IX and their continuation/renewal in classes X to XII for study in a State Government, Government-aided and Local body schools under the scheme. Students of NVS, KVS and residential schools are not entitled for the scholarships. There is quota of scholarships for different States/UTs. There is reservation as per State Government norms. The selection of students for award of scholarships under the scheme is made through an examination conducted by the State Governments and the list of eligible students is provided by the respective State Government/UTs. 100% funds are provided by the Central Government for the Scheme. As on 2.12.2020, 1.76 lakhs on-line applications of 2020-21 (fresh + renewal) received against the target of 2.05 lakhs under National Scholarship Portal (NSP). Further, 0.54 lakhs off-line proposals upto 2017-18 have been received from State and UT Governments against the Target of 1 lakh.

2.37 Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students: Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for pursuing higher studies to eligible

meritorious students. Students who are in top 20th percentile of successful candidates in class XII and having family income of up to Rs. 6 lakhs per annum, which has been increased up to Rs. 8 lakh per annum, are eligible to apply. 82,000 fresh scholarships are provided every year (41000 for boys and 41000 for girls) and have been divided amongst the State Education Boards based on the State's population in the age group of 18-25 years. The rate of scholarship is Rs. 10,000/- per annum for the first three years and Rs. 20,000/- per annum for the fourth and fifth year. The scheme is covered under the DBT w.e.f. 1.1.2013 wherein the scholarship is disbursed directly into the bank account of beneficiaries. The scheme has on-boarded the National Scholarship portal (www.scholarships.gov.in) with effect from 1.8.2015. The eligible students from the Academic Year 2015 onwards are required to apply online for fresh and renewal scholarship through the portal. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the portal was opened late in the month of August, 2020 and was progressively extended up to 30.11.2020, 31.12.2020 and finally to 20.01.2021. Accordingly, the verification dates by Institute/Board has also been extended. During 2020 (1.1.2020 to 31.12.2020), financial assistance had been released for disbursement of scholarship of 1,10,281 (fresh and renewal).

2.38 National Academic Depository (NAD): The Government of India is committed towards bringing administrative and academic reform through the use of technology for delivery of efficient services to all stakeholders. Education engages with almost every citizen of the country and the Government is keen to create quality infrastructure that will facilitate delivery of services to citizens and will also facilitate academic institutions in performing their core functions. A step in this direction is the initiative of digital depository of academic awards known as National Academic Depository (NAD). The NAD has been launched by Hon'ble President of India on 9th July, 2017. NAD is an online store house of academic awards (degrees, diplomas, certificates, mark sheets etc.) lodged by the academic institutions / boards / eligibility assessment bodies in a digital format. NAD is on 24X7 online mode for making available academic awards and help in validating their authenticity, their safe storage and easy retrieval. The University Grants Commission (UGC) is the authorized implementing body of National Academic Depository (NAD). Users of NAD are:

- Students and other academic award holders
- Academic Institutions/Boards/Eligibility assessment bodies
- Verification seeking entities i.e. banks, employer companies (domestic & overseas),
Government entities, academic institutions/boards/eligibility assessment bodies (domestic and overseas) etc.