

## **Youth needs additional skills to become industry-ready and employable, says Nirmala Sitharaman**

*FICCI CEOs4Skills, a premium forum of top CEOs, launched by the Minister of State, Nirmala Sitharaman, to lead the movement of skill development*

**NEW DELHI, 10 September 2015:** Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, today launched the CEOs4Skills, a premium forum of top CEOs who will lead the Prime Minister's vision on Skills Development. The forum aims to establish thought leadership in developing a strategic direction in the skill building landscape; play key role in bringing together training, skill building and job creation with a common purpose; bridging the demand supply gap in developing a robust economy and play a lead role in social transformation.

While addressing the eighth edition of 'Global Skills Summit' on the theme '**Skill India-Build India**', organized by FICCI in association with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India and National Skill Development Corporation, Ms. Sitharaman said that there is a need for greater participation of industry in driving ahead the movement of 'Skill India'. She added that there was a need for providing youth of India with additional skills in every sector to make them employable.

Referring to the cohesive ecosystem of Silicon Valley, Ms. Sitharaman said that many Indian brains were being nurtured at the Silicon Valley and they were acquiring skills and employing it effectively at work. Hence, India too needs an ecosystem where talent and skills can be nurtured. She added that the Indian government understands the need for skill development and has initiated many schemes. It also created the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, which is working with various sector skill councils to bridge the gap between the skill demand of employers and skill development of the workforce.

On the occasion, Ms. Sitharaman felicitated the participants of World Skill Competition at Sao Paulo.

**Dr. Jyotsna Suri, President, FICCI**, said that it is critical that government facilitates expansion of quality training infrastructure in the country to meet the increasing demand of skilled workforce. Employers have cited lack of trained manpower as one of the major concerns for their growth aspirations. Hence, she added that 'Make in India' would boost manufacturing in India and create more jobs, while 'Skill India' would provide a job-ready human workforce to ramp up productivity and aid economic growth.

Dr. Suri said that the 'Start up, Stand up India' initiative aims to boost entrepreneurship by promoting bank financing incentives for increase in job creation which is essential to provide jobs for 402 million by 2022. She added that a greater integration of the 'State Skill Missions' that would drive the Skill agenda in the states, 'Skill India' Mission and 'Make in India' is essential with the active participation of all stakeholders.

**Dr. Kamal Haasan, Chairman, Media & Entertainment, Sector Skill Council,** said that to address the challenge of non-availability of skilled workers in the media and entertainment industry, the Sector Skill Council is working with unions across the country to run certification programs. The first massive certification program in the media and entertainment sector would be held in November 2015. This would be a three-day program.

Dr. Haasan said that the initiative would enable creation of a sustainable ecosystem, accomplishing the long term goal of producing quality skilled workforce at various occupational levels in the sector. He urged other industries to participate in the program to establish inter-industry relationship as media and entertainment industry was a versatile sector.

**Mr. Mohan Das Pai, Chairman, Manipal Global Education Services Pvt Ltd,** said that instead of incentivizing capital, there was a need to incentivize job creation and labour. This would help in encouraging entrepreneurship, which would result in creating jobs for the emerging workforce of 24 million people. He added that better apprenticeship programs were needed and also to encourage skilling, workforce should be offered 20 per cent higher wage if they possess certification from NSDC. Also, for the success of 'Make in India' it was imperative to focus on labour intensive industries to absorb the emerging workforce.

Mr. Pai said that there was a need for rapid urbanization and India needs to move its workforce from agrarian sector to industry. Also, India would be labour surplus market in future and there would be nations that would need labour from India to meet their requirements.

**Mr. Andreas Schleicher, Director of the Directorate for Education and Skills, OECD,** said that skills change lives and drive economies. India needs to develop relevant skills, activate skills supply and put the skills to effective use. He added that employers should be involved in designing curricula and delivering education programs besides preparing teachers well with industry experience to impart right skills to the students. Also, it was crucial to maximize use of workplace training and effective link between learning and work should be created. Besides, continuing learning should be encouraged.

**Mr. RCM Reddy, Chairman, FICCI Skill Development Forum, MD & CEO, IL&FS Education and Skills,** said that industry needs to take a lead in skilling India and it was vital that industry supplements the government in realizing the true potential of the national schemes and initiatives such as 'Skill India' and 'Make in India'. He added that there was a need to examine various PPP models to arrive at a model which could encourage entrepreneurship, leading to creation of jobs. It was in the interest of the country to converge skill and entrepreneurship, said Dr. Reddy.

In his concluding remarks, **Mr. Sanjeev Duggal, Co-Chair, FICCI SDF; CEO & Director, Centum Learning,** said that skills is a horizontal industry and added that skill development could lead to improving quality of life of people. However, the drop in demand for routine cognitive is a sign of danger as Indian education was largely focused on it, which meant that 57% of educated persons still remained unemployable due to lack of skills. He added that India being a diverse

country, there was a need to map skills from state to state as there was a large disparity among skilled workforce of different states.

Also, present on the dais were **Mr. T Muralidharan, Co-Chair, FICCI SDF; Mr. Dilip Chenoy, MD & CEO, National Skill Development Corporation; Dr. A Didar Singh, Secretary General, FICCI** and **Ms. Shobha Mishra Ghosh, Senior Director, FICCI.**

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