



SKILL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES 2026 PRELIMS

The Union Government of India's skill development initiatives for **2025-2026** are primarily consolidated under the **Skill India Programme (SIP)**, which has been restructured with an outlay of ₹8,800 crore to run through 2026.

1. Skill India Programme (SIP)

The **Skill India Programme (SIP)**, restructured in early 2025, is a **Central Sector Scheme** that serves as an **umbrella framework** for the nation's key skilling initiatives. As of **May 2026**, it continues to operate under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** with a heavy focus on "new-age" digital skills like AI and robotics.

Core Identity & Administration

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- **Implementing Agency:** **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**.
- **Scheme Type:** **Central Sector Scheme** (100% funded by the Union Government).
- **Nature:** It is an **Umbrella Scheme** that integrates formerly standalone flagship programs.

Aims and Objectives

The primary aim is to bridge the gap between industry demand and the available workforce's skill sets.

- **Employability:** Provide market-relevant vocational training to over 40 crore youth.
- **Productivity:** Enhance the competitiveness of Indian businesses through a skilled workforce.
- **Inclusion:** Ensure access for marginalized groups, rural youth, and women through targeted outreach.
- **Global Mobility:** Prepare Indians for the global manpower market.

Key Features (As of 2026)

The program was restructured in 2025 to consolidate three major pillars into one composite scheme:

1. **PMKVY 4.0:** Focuses on short-term training in Industry 4.0 fields (AI, Mechatronics, Drones).
2. **PM-NAPS:** The National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme, which provides stipends directly to apprentices via **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**.
3. **Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS):** Provides vocational training to non-literates and school dropouts in rural areas.
4. **Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH):** A digital public infrastructure that integrates training, assessment, and QR-coded certifications.

Funding Mechanism

- **Total Outlay:** ₹8,800 crore approved for the period 2022-23 to 2025-26.
- **Cost-Sharing:** Being a **Central Sector Scheme**, the Central Government bears the full cost of training and assessment fees.
- **International Support:** Programs like SANKALP receive additional assistance from the World Bank.

2026 Status Update

As of May 2026, the SIP has entered its final year of the current funding cycle (ending March 2026).



Budget 2026 Impetus: The education and skilling sector saw a total allocation of ₹1.39 lakh crore in the 2026–27 Union Budget, an 8.27% increase.

- **AI Integration:** MSDE has fully rolled out the **National Programme on Artificial Intelligence (NPAI)** skilling framework.
- **Outcome Focus:** A shift from mere "training numbers" to verifiable placement through the **Skill India Digital Hub**.

Criticisms and Challenges

- **Low Placement Rates:** Critics point to a persistent gap between the number of people trained and those successfully finding long-term employment.
- **Quality Standards:** Concerns remain regarding the quality of training provided by various private partners under the NSDC.
- **Industry Mismatch:** Despite the "demand-driven" goal, some industry leaders argue that current certifications still do not meet specific real-world operational needs.
- **Target Shortfalls:** Implementing the program in phases has led to shortfalls in meeting original cumulative training targets.

2. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (PMKVY 4.0):

As of 2026, **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (PMKVY 4.0)** is the primary active phase of India's flagship skilling initiative, specifically restructured to be more **candidate-centric and industry-led**.

Core Identity & Administration

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- **Implementing Agency:** National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Central Sector Scheme**. Unlike previous versions, PMKVY 4.0 does not have a state-managed component (CSSM); it is implemented directly by the Central Government across all 36 States/UTs.
- **Flagship vs. Umbrella:** PMKVY is the **flagship scheme** of the MSDE and now operates under the **umbrella scheme** of the "Skill India Programme" (SIP).

Aims and Objectives

- **Employability:** To enhance youth employability by providing industry-relevant skill training.
- **Standardization:** To align skilling with the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF).
- **New-Age Skills:** To bridge the gap in emerging sectors like **AI, Robotics, 5G, and Green Jobs**.
- **Flexibility:** To move from target-driven to demand-driven models that empower candidates to choose their own career paths.

Funding Mechanism

- **Direct Funding:** The scheme is fully funded by the Central Government, covering all training and assessment fees.
- **Restructured Outlay:** For the 2022–2026 period, it is part of the broader **Skill India Programme** budget.



- **DBT Integration:** Stipends and incentives (where applicable, such as for special groups) are increasingly processed via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Key Features (PMKVY 4.0)

- **Industry 4.0 Focus:** Courses include **web 3.0, AR/VR, drones, and semiconductor** technologies.
- **On-the-Job Training (OJT):** Mandatory integration of OJT to ensure practical, real-world experience.
- **Digital Ecosystem:** Uses the [Skill India Digital Hub \(SIDH\)](#) for seamless registration and tracking.
- **Decentralized Planning:** Training is based on proposals from implementing entities rather than fixed central targets.
- **Inclusive Access:** Special provisions (conveyance and boarding) for women, PwD, and candidates from Aspirational or Tribal districts.

Achievements (Updated 2026)

- **Total Reach:** Since 2015, over **1.64 crore candidates** have been trained/oriented across 35+ sectors.
- **PMKVY 4.0 Specific:** As of early 2026, **27.08 lakh candidates** have been trained in this current phase alone.
- **Employer Satisfaction:** An October 2025 NITI Aayog evaluation found that **94% of surveyed employers** are willing to hire PMKVY-trained candidates.
- **Skill Hubs:** Over **7,000 Skill Hubs** have been established in schools, ITIs, and higher education institutes.

Criticism and Challenges

- **Drop-out Rates:** As of 2024–2025, the candidate drop-out rate was approximately **13.84%**.
- **Integrity Issues:** Reports of irregularities, such as **fake training centres**, "ghost" attendance, and fund misuse, have led to the blacklisting of nearly 180 training partners.
- **Placement Concerns:** While PMKVY 4.0 focuses on diverse career paths, previous versions were criticized for a **low placement rate** (approx. 43% for short-term training till phase 3.0).
- **Data Gaps:** Criticisms regarding incomplete records for millions of trainers and trainees have been raised in legislative and audit discussions.

3. National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS):

The **National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)** is a flagship initiative of the Government of India designed to catalyze apprenticeship training by providing financial incentives to establishments.

Aims and Objectives

The primary aim of NAPS is to bridge the gap between academic theory and practical industrial skills.

- **Promote Apprenticeship:** Increase the intake of apprentices across various sectors, especially in MSMEs.
- **Enhance Employability:** Equip youth with hands-on, industry-specific experience.
- **Financial Support:** Encourage employers by sharing the financial burden of stipends.
- **Skill Alignment:** Coordinate training with industry requirements to fill workforce gaps.

Funding and Administration

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).



- **Implementing Agency:** National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and the Directorate General of Training (DGT).
- **Funding Mechanism:** The government provides a **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** of 25% of the prescribed stipend (capped at **₹1,500 per apprentice per month**) directly to the apprentice's bank account.
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Central Sector Scheme** (100% funded by the Union Government).
- **Status:** It is a **flagship scheme** and a key sub-component under the "**Skill India Programme**" umbrella.

Update as of 2026

As of early 2026, the scheme has transitioned into its second phase, **NAPS-2**.

- **Interim Extension:** NAPS-2 has been extended until **30 September 2026**, or until the proposed **PM-NAPS 3.0** receives final approval.
- **Stipend Reform:** The Central Apprenticeship Council recently recommended a **36% increase** in stipends (potentially raising the range from ₹5,000–9,000 to approximately **₹6,800–12,300**) to adjust for inflation.
- **Digital Integration:** The [Apprenticeship India Portal](#) now includes **APAAR ID** (Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry) integration for streamlined tracking.

Achievements and Criticisms

Achievements:

- **Scale:** Over **51.30 lakh apprentices** have been engaged since 2016.
- **Annual Growth:** In 2024-25, approximately **9.85 lakh** apprentices were engaged, with a target of **13 lakh** set for the 2025-26 fiscal year.
- **Direct Benefit:** The shift to **DBT** has reduced administrative delays for employers and ensured timely payments to apprentices.

Criticisms/Challenges:

- **Low Stipends:** Despite proposed hikes, the current ₹1,500 government contribution is often viewed as too low to sustain living costs in urban industrial hubs.
- **Informal Sector Gap:** While NAPS-2 targets the informal economy, small artisans and traditional clusters still face difficulties navigating the digital portal requirements.
- **Regional Disparity:** Heavy concentration of apprentices in industrialized states, leaving "aspirational districts" and the North-East Region with lower participation rates

4. Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS)

As of **May 2026**, Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) remains a **Central Sector Scheme** fully funded by the Government of India. It is one of the three **flagship programs** under the umbrella of the consolidated '**Skill India Programme**', following its restructuring in February 2025.

Core Framework & Administration

- **Ministry:** Under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** since July 2018 (previously under the Ministry of Education).



- **Implementing Agency:** Implemented through **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)** or registered societies that act as JSS units at the district level.
- **Funding Mechanism: 100% Central Government grant.** New JSS units receive a one-time non-recurring grant of **₹20 lakhs** and an annual recurring grant-in-aid of **₹50 lakhs** for operations.
- **Target Group:** Specifically non-literates, neo-literates, school dropouts (up to Class 12), and individuals from socio-economically backward sections in the **15–45 age group**.

Aims, Objectives & Features

- **Aims:** To increase household income by promoting self or wage employment through "doorstep" vocational training.
- **Objectives:** To enhance technical knowledge of the disadvantaged, raising their efficiency and productive ability while promoting national values.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Doorstep Training:** Operates through 30–35 sub-centres per district to reach unreached rural and tribal areas.
 - **NSQF Alignment:** Courses are aligned with the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) to ensure standardized certification.
 - **Digital Integration:** The entire training lifecycle—enrolment to certification—is managed via the **Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH)** portal using Aadhaar-based e-KYC.
 - **Livelihood Cells:** Every JSS has a dedicated cell to facilitate credit linkages, SHG formation, and market integration for graduates.

Achievements (as of 2026)

- **Training Scale:** Over **34.14 lakh beneficiaries** have been trained since the scheme's transfer to MSDE in 2018 (up to December 31, 2025).
- **Women's Empowerment:** Women constitute approximately **83% to 85%** of the total trained population.
- **Employment Outcomes:** A 2025 third-party evaluation by AJNIFM reported that **82% of beneficiaries** were gainfully engaged within six months of training, and 90% utilized their skills for income generation.
- **Inter-Ministry Collaboration:** JSS is now a mentoring agency for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) under the **PM JANMAN** scheme and a training centre for artisans under **PM Vishwakarma**.

Criticisms & Challenges

- **Budgetary Constraints:** Third-party reports in early 2026 highlighted that the scheme requires a **higher budget** and infrastructure upgrades at training centres to keep pace with demand.
- **Coverage Gaps:** While 294 JSSs are functional across 26 States and 7 UTs, calls remain to expand the scheme to every district in India.
- **Educational Barriers:** Despite focusing on non-literates, data shows that over 50% of beneficiaries have already completed Class 10, leading to suggestions that the scheme should further refine its focus on the most marginalized "non-literate" segments



5. PM-SETU (Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs):

PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs) is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** launched on October 4, 2025, to modernise 1,000 Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) over a five-year period.

Core Identity & Administration

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- **Implementing Agency:** The **Directorate General of Training (DGT)**, in collaboration with State/UT governments and industry partners.
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)** and serves as a **flagship initiative** under the Skill India mission.

Aims and Objectives

The primary goal is to transform ITIs from government-driven centers into **industry-led** institutions.

- **Modernization:** Revamping 1,000 Government ITIs with smart classrooms and modern labs.
- **Employability:** Bridging the gap between vocational training and evolving industry needs.
- **Trainer Development:** Enhancing the capacity of [National Skill Training Institutes \(NSTIs\)](#) to train instructors in new-age technologies.

Funding Mechanism

The scheme has a total outlay of **₹60,000 crore** distributed as follows:

- **Central Share:** ₹30,000 crore (50% co-financed by the [World Bank](#) and [Asian Development Bank](#)).
- **State Share:** ₹20,000 crore.
- **Industry Share:** ₹10,000 crore.

Key Features

- **Hub-and-Spoke Model:** 200 "Hub" ITIs (advanced facilities/incubation centers) support 800 "Spoke" ITIs.
- **Industry-Led Governance:** Each ITI cluster is managed by a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** where Anchor Industry Partners hold a **51% stake**.
- **Centres of Excellence:** Strengthening 5 NSTIs (Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kanpur, and Ludhiana) as global hubs for advanced skilling.
- **Vocational Skill Labs:** Establishment of 1,200 labs in schools (Navodaya and Eklavya) to start skilling early.

Updates and Achievements (as of 2026)

- **Status:** The scheme is in its **preparatory and phased rollout stage**.
- **Participation:** 33 States/UTs have identified ITI clusters; 31 have formed State Steering Committees.
- **Industry Engagement:** Over 50 companies (including those from automotive, electronics, and energy sectors) are participating as partners.
- **Curriculum:** The DGT has introduced **31 new-age courses** aligned with Industry 4.0 (AI/ML, Green Hydrogen, Drone Tech).

Criticism



- **Job Placement Concerns:** Critics from sources like [The Hindu](#) highlight that historically, ITI placement rates have been low (below 1% in some phases), raising doubts about the scheme's ability to deliver actual jobs.
- **Trainer Skill Gap:** A persistent gap in trainer expertise and pedagogical adaptability remains a major hurdle for successful implementation.
- **Focus on Startups:** The scheme has been criticised for being an upgradation-only model that does not provide direct support for early-stage entrepreneurs or startups

6. Samarth 2.0:

Samarth 2.0 is an upgraded skilling initiative announced in the **Union Budget 2026–27** to modernise India's textile skill ecosystem. It evolves from the original Samarth scheme (Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector - SCBTS) and focuses on deeper collaboration between industry and academic institutions to ensure a future-ready workforce.

Key Details of Samarth 2.0 (as of 2026)

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Textiles.
- **Implementing Agencies:** A combination of **Textile Industry/Associations, State/Central Government Agencies,** and sectoral organisations like the Central Silk Board and Development Commissioner (Handicrafts/Handloom).
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Central Sector Scheme** (100% funded by the Union Government) and serves as a **Flagship** initiative under the Ministry's broader "Umbrella" skilling framework.
- **Funding Mechanism:** Funded primarily through the Ministry of Textiles' budget (e.g., the original scheme had a ₹1,300 crore outlay, later extended with ₹495 crore for 2024–2026).

Aims and Objectives

- **Modernisation:** Upgrade the textile skilling ecosystem through **industry-academic partnerships**.
- **Employment:** Provide demand-driven, placement-oriented training to bridge the gap of an estimated **15 million worker shortage** in the sector.
- **Inclusivity:** Target marginalized groups, including women, SC/ST, and those in **115 Aspirational Districts**.
- **Traditional Support:** Enhance skills in handloom, handicrafts, silk, and jute sectors to provide sustainable livelihoods.

Salient Features

- **Advanced Monitoring:** Uses **Aadhaar-enabled Biometric Attendance Systems (AEBAS)**, CCTV recording of training sessions, and a mobile-based MIS.
- **Certification:** All training is aligned with the **National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF)**.
- **Placement Guarantee:** Mandatory placement of at least **70% of trainees** in the organised sector (90% for upskilling) with post-placement tracking for 6 months.
- **Training of Trainers (ToT):** Focuses on certifying trainers to maintain quality standards.

Current Status & Achievements (as of May 2026)

- **Beneficiaries:** As of March 2026, approximately **5.95 lakh people** have been trained, with over **4.64 lakh** successfully gaining employment.



- **Women Empowerment:** Roughly **88% of the beneficiaries** are women, significantly boosting gender-inclusive development in the manufacturing sector.
- **Infrastructure:** Over **4,430 active training centres** are operational across India as of early 2026.

Criticism and Challenges

- **Exclusion of Core Segments:** The scheme specifically excludes **spinning and weaving** in the organised sector, which are massive parts of the textile value chain.
- **Industry Mismatch:** Despite the "demand-driven" label, some industry experts cite a continuing gap between classroom training and the specific technical needs of modern high-tech garmenting units.
- **Retention Issues:** While initial placement rates are high, long-term retention of workers in low-wage entry-level textile jobs remains a challenge for the ministry

7. AVGC Content Creator Labs:

The **AVGC Content Creator Labs (CCLs)** is a strategic initiative announced in the [Union Budget 2026-27](#) aimed at transforming India into a global content creation hub by nurturing grassroots talent in the "Orange Economy".

Core Framework (As of 2026)

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB).
- **Implementing Agency:** [Indian Institute of Creative Technologies \(IICT\), Mumbai](#), which serves as the National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for AVGC-XR.
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Central Sector Scheme** titled "*Talent Development in Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) Sector*".
- **Scheme Status:** It acts as a **Flagship initiative** under the broader umbrella of developing India's **Orange Economy**.
- **Funding Mechanism:** A first-time allocation of **₹250 Crore** was made in the 2026-27 budget for talent development in this sector.

Aims, Objectives & Features

- **Targets:** Establish labs in **15,000 secondary schools** (classes 9-12) and **500 colleges** nationwide.
- **Objectives:**
 - Bridge the gap between academic instruction and industry needs.
 - Build a pipeline of **2 million skilled professionals** projected to be needed by 2030.
 - Promote the "Create in India, Create for the World" vision.
- **Key Features:**
 - Hands-on training in animation design, video editing, game development, and VFX.
 - Integration with the [National Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020](#) for vocational skilling.
 - Interactive spaces equipped with professional digital tools and creative technology.

Current Status & Achievements (May 2026)

- **Pilot Launch:** The IICT Mumbai satellite campus began operations in July 2025 at the NFDC campus.
- **Curriculum:** 18 industry-driven courses have already been introduced.



- **Training Reach:** 136 students enrolled and 15 participants have completed the "Train-the-Trainer" programme as of early 2026.
- **Rollout:** Phased rollout modalities and technology stack identification are currently underway through stakeholder consultations.

Criticisms & Challenges

- **Digital Divide:** Concerns exist that without a balanced rollout, urban elite private schools may monopolize benefits over rural government schools.
- **Quality Maintenance:** Experts highlight that constant industry linkage will be required to prevent the labs from becoming obsolete.
- **Original IP Generation:** Critics argue the labs must focus on creating original Intellectual Property (IP) rather than just providing service-based training to ensure long-term global employability

8. Divyang Kaushal Yojana:

The **Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana (DKY)** is a specialized skill-development initiative announced in the **Union Budget 2026-27** to empower Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) with industry-relevant training for modern economic sectors.

Core Identity & Administration

- **Ministry:** [Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment](#) (MoSJE), Government of India.
- **Implementing Agency:** [Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities](#) (DEPwD).
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Central Sector Scheme**, meaning it is 100% funded and implemented directly by the Central Government.
- **Classification:** It acts as a **flagship initiative** specifically focused on the "skilling-to-livelihood" pipeline for Divyangjan within the broader disability welfare framework.

Aims and Objectives

- **Dignified Livelihood:** To ensure PwDs transition from dependency to self-reliance through gainful employment or entrepreneurship.
- **Targeted Training:** Provide group-specific, customized vocational training that accounts for different types of disabilities.
- **Modern Sector Integration:** Align PwD skill sets with high-growth, technology-driven industries.

Key Features & Funding

- **Financial Allocation:** A dedicated budget of **₹200 crore** was earmarked for the fiscal year 2026-27.
- **Priority Sectors:** Focuses on Information Technology (IT), **Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC)**, Hospitality, and Food & Beverage services.
- **Job Roles:** Targets **task-oriented and process-driven** roles that are inherently suitable for various physical and cognitive abilities.
- **Digital Integration:** Integrated with the **PM-DAKSH Portal**, allowing for transparent registration and monitoring.



Status & Achievements (as of 2026)

- **Target Population:** The scheme aims to train approximately **20,000 Persons with Disabilities** over a five-year period.
- **Infrastructure:** Complemented by the **Divyang Sahara Yojana**, which provides AI-enabled assistive devices through the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) to enhance the mobility and training readiness of beneficiaries.
- **Partnerships:** Early implementation has seen MoUs with private sector giants like Amazon and Godrej Properties to facilitate direct placements.

Criticisms & Challenges

- **Limited Scale:** Critics argue that the target of 20,000 beneficiaries is small compared to the millions of PwDs in India who require vocational support.
- **Urban-Centric Bias:** The focus on high-tech sectors like AVGC and IT may predominantly benefit urban Divyangjan, potentially leaving rural populations with fewer accessible options.
- **Implementation Gaps:** Concerns remain regarding the readiness of training partners to provide truly "customized" environments for all 21 categories of disabilities recognized under the RPwD Act 2016.

9. National Centres of Excellence for Skilling:

The **National Centres of Excellence (NCoE) for Skilling** were approved in May 2025 as part of the **PM-SETU** (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs) scheme to modernize India's vocational training ecosystem.

Overview as of 2026

- **Ministry:** [Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship \(MSDE\)](#).
- **Implementing Agency:** Directorate General of Training (DGT) in collaboration with [Lead Industry Partners](#) through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs).
- **Scheme Type:** **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**.
- **Classification:** It is a **flagship scheme** component under the broader [PM-SETU](#) umbrella.

Aims & Objectives

- **Advanced Training:** Provide globally benchmarked training in emerging sectors like [AI](#), Robotics, and [Advanced Manufacturing](#).
- **Trainer Development:** Act as hubs for the **Training of Trainers (ToT)**, aiming to train **50,000 instructors**.
- **Global Benchmarking:** Partner with international institutions to design [curricula](#) and certification frameworks.
- **Industry Integration:** Transform ITIs from government-run to [industry-managed](#) aspirational institutes.

Funding Mechanism

The total outlay is **₹60,000 crore** over five years (FY 2025-26 to FY 2029-30):

- **Central Share:** ₹30,000 crore (50% of this is co-financed by the Asian Development Bank and World Bank).
- **State Share:** ₹20,000 crore.



- **Industry Share:** ₹10,000 crore.

Key Features & 2026 Locations

Five NCoEs have been established at existing [National Skill Training Institutes \(NSTIs\)](#):

1. **Kanpur:** Aeronautics & Defence (in partnership with [France](#)).
2. **Chennai:** Advanced Manufacturing (in partnership with Singapore).
3. **Bhubaneswar:** Focus on new-age industrial trades.
4. **Hyderabad:** Advanced electronics and technical skills.
5. **Ludhiana:** Specialized manufacturing and textiles.

Achievements (as of 2026)

- **Global Partnerships:** Signed MoUs with France and Singapore for high-tech curricula.
- **Infrastructure:** Commenced the upgradation of **1,000 ITIs** using a hub-and-spoke model.
- **Early Implementation:** Launched 15 pilot clusters and inaugurated [1,200 vocational labs](#) in schools to feed into the NCoE ecosystem.

Criticisms

- **Private Sector Dependency:** Critics argue the SPV model places too much reliance on industry interest, which may be uneven across states.
- **Funding Gaps:** Historically, suboptimal financial assistance has hindered ITI upkeep; there are concerns about the sustainability of the ₹10,000 crore industry contribution.
- **Execution Delays:** Initial rollout faced challenges in identifying [Anchor Industry Partners](#) for all planned locations

10. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY):

The **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)**, launched on September 25, 2014, is a **centrally sponsored scheme** under the **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** that functions as a sub-scheme of the **National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.

Aims and Objectives

- **Skill Transformation:** To convert rural youth into a skilled, employable workforce.
- **Employment Focus:** To provide placement-linked training for formal wage employment.
- **Empowerment:** To provide sustainable livelihoods to rural poor families.

Core Features & Implementation

- **Implementing Agency:** Executed via a 3-tier structure: MoRD (National), State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLM), and private/public Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs).
- **Target Group & Inclusion:** Focuses on youth aged 15-35 (up to 45 for women/PwD/vulnerable groups), with mandatory quotas: 50% for SC/ST, 15% for Minorities, 33% for Women.
- **Mandatory Placement:** PIAs are required to place at least 70% of trained candidates.
- **Technology:** Uses the Kaushal Panjee app for registration and tracking.

National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj +3



Funding Mechanism

- **General States:** 60% Centre / 40% State.
- **NE/Himalayan States:** 90% Centre / 10% State.
- **UTs:** 100% Central funding.

2026 Update: DDU-GKY 2.0

Effective April 1, 2025, the updated framework features:

- **Increased Job Stability:** Mandatory placement period extended from 3 to 6 months.
- **Upskilling:** Introduced for candidates employed for over 12 months.
- **Innovation:** 5% of the budget is dedicated to innovative projects.

Key Performance & Criticisms

- **Achievements (as of early 2026):** Over 17.92 lakh candidates trained and 11.64 lakh placed across 28 states/UTs.
- **Criticisms/Challenges:** High dropout rates after initial placement, regional disparities in implementation, and the need to improve market alignment of training.

11. Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY):

The **Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY)** is a skill development initiative designed to enhance the employability of Indian youth seeking overseas jobs. As of **May 2026**, the scheme remains a critical component of India's goal to become the "Skill Capital of the World," specifically focusing on safe and informed migration.

Core Details (As of 2026)

- **Ministry:** Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in partnership with the **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**.
- **Implementing Agency:** **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**.
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Central Sector Scheme** (100% funded by the Union Government).
- **Classification:** It is an **umbrella scheme** under the broader **Skill India Mission** (often linked as a specialized component within the [Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana \(PMKVY\)](#) framework).

Aims and Objectives

- **International Standards:** Training and certification of the Indian workforce in line with global standards to facilitate overseas employment.
- **Pre-Departure Orientation:** Equipping potential emigrants with soft skills, cultural orientation, and knowledge of the destination country's laws and workplace norms.
- **Preventing Exploitation:** Ensuring workers are not exploited by foreign employers due to lack of skills or legal awareness.
- **Safe Migration:** Promoting "Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration" through Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT).

Key Features



- **PDOT Program:** A mandatory or highly encouraged 8-hour to 1-month training session covering culture, basic language, and "dos and don'ts" of the destination.
- **Sector Focus:** Primarily targets high-demand sectors like healthcare, construction, tourism, and domestic work.
- **International Skill Centres:** Operationalized through **India International Skill Centres (IISC)** to provide technical "top-up" training.
- **Digital Integration:** Trainees are integrated into the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) for verified digital certificates and job matching.

Achievements (Updated 2026)

- **Training Reach:** As of **November 2025**, over **1.68 lakh (168,914) emigrants** have undergone PDOT since 2018.
- **Recent Momentum:** Between April 2024 and November 2025 alone, **37,746 candidates** were certified.
- **Global Presence:** Information kits have been developed for **30 priority countries**, streamlining the migration process.
- **Employer Confidence:** Recent evaluations show high employer satisfaction with PKVY-trained candidates, particularly in technical and soft skill proficiency.

Criticisms

- **Irregularities:** A **CAG report** published in early 2026 highlighted "massive irregularities" in the broader skilling framework (PMKVY/PKVY) during the 2015–2022 period, citing fund mismanagement.
- **Limited Technical Depth:** Critics argue the short-term nature (2–4 weeks) of some courses provides only surface-level knowledge, which may not suffice for high-end technical jobs abroad.
- **Language Barriers:** Despite language training, some emigrants still struggle with fluency, leading to workplace friction in non-English speaking destinations.

12. PM Vishwakarma:

PM Vishwakarma is a comprehensive **Central Sector Scheme** launched on 17 September 2023 to provide holistic support to traditional artisans and craftspeople. As of **2026**, it remains a major initiative aimed at integrating 18 traditional trades into the formal economy.

Core Details

- **Aims & Objectives:** To recognize artisans as "Vishwakarmas," provide skill upgradation, supply modern toolkits, and offer easy access to collateral-free credit to enhance productivity and market reach.
- **Nodal Ministry:** [Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises \(MSME\)](#).
- **Implementing Agencies:** Conjointly implemented by the Ministry of MSME, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), and the Department of Financial Services (DFS).
- **Scheme Type:** **Central Sector Scheme** (100% funded by the Government of India). It is a **flagship initiative** focused on the unorganized artisan sector.
- **Funding Mechanism:** Total financial outlay of **₹13,000 crore** for five years (FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28).

Key Features

- **Recognition:** PM Vishwakarma Certificate and ID card.



- **Skill Training:** 5-7 days of basic training and 15+ days of advanced training with a **₹500 daily stipend**.
- **Toolkit Incentive:** Grant of up to **₹15,000** via e-vouchers.
- **Credit Support:** Collateral-free loans up to **₹3 lakh** in two tranches (₹1 lakh and ₹2 lakh) at a concessional **5% interest rate**.
- **Digital Incentives:** ₹1 per digital transaction (up to 100 transactions monthly) to encourage digital adoption.

Status & Achievements (as of 2026)

- **Beneficiary Reach:** By late 2025/early 2026, the scheme approached its target of **30 lakh families**. Over 3 million artisans registered, with nearly **2.6 million** completing skill verification.
- **Financial Impact:** More than **4.7 lakh loans** approved by late 2025, with a total value exceeding **₹41,000 crore** (including both tranches).
- **Marketing Events:** Successful organization of events like **PM Vishwakarma Haat 2026** at Dilli Haat to provide direct market linkage to over 100 artisans.

Criticisms & Challenges

- **Eligibility Constraints:** Restricted to only **one member per family**, which can exclude multi-generational artisan households.
- **Exclusions:** Government employees and their family members are ineligible, which some argue affects diverse rural households where one member might have a minor government job.
- **Technological Barriers:** Reliance on digital registration via **Common Service Centres (CSCs)** can be a hurdle for artisans in remote areas with poor connectivity.
- **Credit Access Hurdles:** Despite being collateral-free, the requirement for a "Standard Account" in credit reports can be a barrier for the highly unorganized or previously defaulted borrowers

13. Revised Model Skill Loan Scheme:

The **Revised Model Skill Loan Scheme**, revamped in July 2024 and active through 2026, is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** designed to provide collateral-free institutional credit for skill development.

Aims and Objectives

- **Remove Financial Barriers:** Facilitate access to high-end, advanced skill courses that often have high fees.
- **Workforce Readiness:** Empower youth to become a "future-ready" workforce by acquiring in-demand industrial skills.
- **Scale Reach:** Aimed at benefiting approximately **25,000 students annually**.

Core Features (Updated for 2026)

- **Increased Loan Limit:** The maximum loan amount has been raised significantly from ₹1.5 lakh to **₹7.5 lakh**.
- **No Collateral:** Loans are provided without requiring any security or third-party guarantee from the borrower.
- **Broadened Course Access:** Now includes both **NSQF-aligned** courses and non-NSQF courses onboarded on the **Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH)**.
- **Flexible Repayment:** Repayment periods range from **3 to 7 years** depending on the loan amount, with a moratorium during the course duration.



- **Interest Rate:** Typically the base rate (MCLR) plus an add-on of up to **1.5%**.

Governance & Implementation

- **Ministry:** [Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship \(MSDE\)](#).
- **Implementing Agencies:** Member banks of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**, Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs), and Small Finance Banks.
- **Funding Mechanism:** Supported by the **Credit Guarantee Fund for Skill Development (CGFSD)**, which provides a guarantee against default for up to **75%** of the loan amount. This fund is administered by the National Credit Guarantee Trust Company (NCGTC).
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** and acts as the 4th scheme under the **Prime Minister's Package for Skilling**.

Achievements and Performance (As of 2026)

- **Credit Growth:** Between 2015 and March 2024, roughly ₹115.75 crore was extended to 10,077 borrowers; however, the 2024 revision is expected to accelerate this significantly with the higher ₹7.5 lakh cap.
- **Institutional Expansion:** Inclusion of NBFCs and MFIs has significantly broadened the points of access for rural and low-income youth.

Criticism

- **Historically Low Uptake:** Prior to the 2024 revision, the scheme suffered from very low utilization because the ₹1.5 lakh limit was insufficient for high-cost technical courses.
- **Claim Caps:** New guidelines for 2026-27 have **reduced the cap on claim payouts** from the guarantee fund to 15% (down from 20%), which may make some private lenders more cautious about disbursement

14. Internship Scheme:

he **Prime Minister's Internship Scheme (PMIS)**, launched in late 2024 and significantly updated in 2026, is a **central sector scheme** aimed at bridging the gap between academic learning and industry requirements for Indian youth.

Core Details (As of May 2026)

- **Ministry:** [Ministry of Corporate Affairs \(MCA\)](#).
- **Implementing Agency:** MCA, via a centralised online portal.
- **Scheme Type:** **Central Sector Scheme** (100% funded by the Central Government).
- **Category:** It is a **Flagship Scheme**, part of the Prime Minister's comprehensive package for employment and skilling.

Aims and Objectives

The primary goal is to provide **1 crore (10 million) internship opportunities** over five years in India's **top 500 companies**.

- **Employability:** To enhance youth employability through practical exposure to real-life business environments.
- **Skill Bridge:** To align youth skills with current industry standards and reduce unemployment.



- **Inclusive Growth:** To reach candidates across various educational levels (Class 10th to Postgraduates).

Key Features & Funding Mechanism

Feature	Details
Eligibility	Youth aged 18–25 (revised from 21-24), minimum Class 10 qualification, not in full-time employment.
Internship Duration	Traditionally 12 months , though recent 2026 updates introduced shorter versions (6–9 months) for specific roles.
Financial Assistance	Total monthly stipend of ₹9,000 (updated in 2026 from the original ₹5,000).
Funding Split	₹8,500 provided by the Government via DBT; ₹500 provided by the Company from CSR funds.
Incidental Support	A one-time grant of ₹6,000 for joining/incidental expenses.
Insurance	Coverage under <i>PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana</i> and <i>PM Suraksha Bima Yojana</i> .

Achievements (2024–2026)

- **Scale of Reach:** Over **6.2 lakh applications** received in the first round alone.
- **Sector Diversification:** Internships are now active across **21+ sectors**, including IT, banking, manufacturing, and healthcare.
- **Corporate Participation:** Collaboration with over **500 top-tier companies** like TCS, Reliance, and Coca-Cola.
- **Portal Modernisation:** Launch of the **PMIS 3.0 portal** in 2026 with a user-friendly app and AI translation tools.

Criticisms & Challenges

- **High Attrition:** Over **7,290 candidates exited** the scheme before completion by March 2026, citing low financial incentives and location mismatches.
- **Low Conversion:** In early rounds, only **95 interns** received full-time job offers, raising questions about its effectiveness as a direct employment pathway.
- **Budget Underutilisation:** As of late 2025, only **~4% of the allocated budget** was spent due to operational bottlenecks.
- **Mismatch of Roles:** Critics point to a "credibility gap" where internship roles do not always align with candidate qualifications.



15. SANKALP:

SANKALP (Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion) is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** launched in **January 2018** under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**. It is designed to operationalise the **National Skill Development Mission (NSDM)** by strengthening institutional mechanisms for vocational training.

Core Details (As of 2026)

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- **Implementing Agency:** MSDE, with support from the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** and state-level **Skill Development Missions**.
- **Scheme Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- **Category:** It is an **outcome-focused** support program that functions alongside the **STRIVE** scheme to enhance the overall skilling ecosystem.
- **Funding Mechanism:** Total outlay of **₹4,455 crore**.
 - **World Bank Loan:** ₹3,300 crore (\$250 million).
 - **Government/State Contribution:** The remaining amount is supplemented by state leverage and industry contributions.
 - **Disbursement:** Funds are released based on the achievement of **Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs)**.

Aims and Objectives

SANKALP aims to improve short-term skill training both qualitatively and quantitatively through:

- **Institutional Strengthening:** Building capacity at National, State, and District levels.
- **Quality Assurance:** Aligning training with the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) and standardising assessment and certification.
- **Inclusion:** Increasing access for marginalised groups, including women, SC/ST, and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).
- **Market Connectivity:** Ensuring training is industry-led and demand-driven.

Key Features

- **Decentralised Planning:** Empowering **District Skill Committees (DSCs)** to prepare District Skill Development Plans (DSDPs).
- **Skill India Portal:** A digital platform to capture and converge skilling data nationwide.
- **Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF):** A fellowship program to support district-level skill management.
- **Result-Oriented:** Performance is measured against a Results Framework rather than just inputs.

Achievements (Updated 2026)

- **District Empowerment:** Over **225 districts** have participated in DSDP awards, fostering bottom-up planning.
- **MGNF Implementation:** Successfully deployed fellows across hundreds of districts to bridge the gap between policy and local execution.
- **Inclusion Metrics:** Significant focus on aspirational districts, with dedicated grants for skilling underserved populations.



- **Verification:** Achievement of several DLIs verified by the **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Indore**, the scheme's Independent Verification Agency.

Criticism and Challenges

As of early **2026**, the **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** of Parliament has raised several concerns based on **CAG reports**:

- **Underutilisation of Funds:** Only about **44% of the allocated funds** were utilised between 2017 and 2024, leaving large portions of World Bank assistance unspent.
- **Implementation Delays:** The project faced significant delays; originally set to end in 2023, it required multiple extensions to March 2024 and beyond.
- **Weak Monitoring:** PAC flagged "lackadaisical" implementation and weak central monitoring, leading to a lack of accountability.
- **Planning Gaps:** Weak financial planning and low absorption capacity at the state level hindered the scheme's reach.

16. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY):

The **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)** is a flagship [placement-linked skill training program](#) designed specifically for rural poor youth in India.

Key Details at a Glance (Update 2026)

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).
- **Status:** It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)**.
- **Scheme Category:** It is a **flagship** initiative and a specialized sub-scheme under the **National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**, which acts as the **umbrella scheme** for rural poverty reduction.
- **Implementing Agencies:**
 - **National Level:** MoRD and [National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj \(NIRD&PR\)](#).
 - **State Level:** State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLM).
 - **Project Level:** Private or public sector **Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs)**.

Aims and Objectives

- **Income Diversification:** To add diversity to the incomes of rural poor families.
- **Wage Employment:** To transform rural youth (aged 15–35; up to 45 for women/vulnerable groups) into a globally relevant workforce through wage employment in the formal sector.
- **Economic Independence:** To bridge the gap between formal education and market-relevant skills.

Funding Mechanism

Funding is shared between the Centre and States in a fixed ratio:

- **General States:** 60:40.
- **North-Eastern & Himalayan States:** 90:10.
- **Union Territories:** 100% funded by the Centre.



Core Features

- **Zero-Cost Training:** Training, boarding, and lodging are provided free of cost to the candidates.
- **Mandatory Social Inclusion:** Reservations of 50% for SC/STs, 15% for minorities, and 33% for women.
- **Guaranteed Placement:** PIAs must ensure a **minimum of 70% placement** for trained candidates.
- **Global Standards:** Includes training in IT, English, and soft skills aligned with the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF).
- **Post-Placement Support:** Tracking and financial support for 12 months post-employment.

Achievements (as of 2026)

- **Training & Placement:** Approximately **16.90 lakh candidates trained** and over **10.97 lakh candidates placed** in jobs since inception.
- **DDU-GKY 2.0:** Recent updates include increasing the mandatory placement period to 6 months and introducing skill loans.
- **Infrastructure:** Extensive network of over 2,381 training centers across 27 states and 3 UTs.

Criticisms and Challenges

- **Retention Rates:** High dropout rates post-placement due to migration challenges and low initial wages.
- **Quality Disparities:** Variability in training quality among different private PIAs.
- **Data Lag:** Migration of legacy data to the **Kaushal Bharat** portal has sometimes led to deviations in real-time reporting.
- **Regional Skew:** Some states struggle with low enrollment and limited local job opportunities compared to others

17. Samarth 2.0:

Samarth 2.0 is an upgraded skilling initiative launched as part of the [Union Budget 2026-27](#) to modernise India's textile skill ecosystem through deeper collaboration between industry and academic institutions.

Core Details (As of 2026)

- **Ministry:** [Ministry of Textiles](#), Government of India.
- **Implementing Agencies:** A multi-layered approach including:
 - The Textile Industry and industry associations.
 - State Government agencies and [Sectoral Organizations](#) (e.g., Central Silk Board, DC Handlooms).
 - Reputed NGOs, Societies, and Startups with placement tie-ups.
- **Scheme Type:** It is a **Central Sector Scheme** (100% funded by the Union Government) and serves as a **Flagship** initiative for capacity building in the textiles sector.

Aims & Objectives

- **Industry Readiness:** Ensure a continuous supply of skilled manpower aligned with modern technological needs.
- **Livelihood Generation:** Provide sustainable wage or self-employment to all sections of society across the country.



- **Modernisation:** Upgrade the textile skill ecosystem by bridging the gap between industry requirements and academic training.
- **Inclusive Growth:** Target marginalized groups, including women, SC/ST, and [aspirational districts](#).

Key Features & Updates

- **Industry-Academic Collaboration:** Unlike the original version, Samarth 2.0 emphasizes deeper integration with educational institutions to create "industry-ready" graduates.
- **Technology-Driven Monitoring:** Uses **Aadhar-enabled biometric attendance**, CCTV recording of training sessions, and a mobile app-based Management Information System (MIS).
- **NSQF Compliance:** All courses (over 120 available) are aligned with the [National Skills Qualifications Framework \(NSQF\)](#).
- **Placement Mandate:** Requires a minimum of **70% placement** for entry-level training and **90% for upskilling** programmes, with a 6-month retention period.

Funding & Budget

- **Mechanism:** Funded as per common norms set by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- **2026 Update:** The government extended the previous phase with a budget of **₹495 Crore** to train 3 lakh persons through 2026, which now transitions into the broader Samarth 2.0 framework announced in the [2026 Budget](#).

Achievements (As of March 2026)

- **Training Volume:** Over **5.95 lakh beneficiaries** trained between 2020 and 2026.
- **Employment:** A total of **4.64 lakh beneficiaries**, including artisans and weavers, secured employment post-training.
- **Infrastructure:** Approximately **4,430 active training centres** are operational across India as of March 2026.

Criticism & Challenges

- **Coverage Gaps:** The scheme excludes the **Spinning and Weaving** segments of the organized sector, which some industry experts argue limits its impact on the full value chain.
- **Regional Disparities:** Critics have noted variations in training quality and placement rates across different states.
- **Industry Alignment:** Despite 2.0 improvements, there remain concerns regarding the pace at which training curricula adapt to rapidly changing global textile technologies

18. Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Schemes:

The **Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme**, approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2025, is a major initiative under the **Prime Minister's Jobs and Skills Package**. Its primary goal is to boost formal employment by providing direct financial incentives to both first-time employees and their employers.



1. Core Details

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- **Implementing Agency:** [Employees' Provident Fund Organisation \(EPFO\)](#).
- **Scheme Type:** **Central Sector Scheme** (100% funded by the Union Government).
- **Nature:** It is a **flagship scheme** part of a broader ₹2 lakh crore "Prime Minister's Package for Employment and Skilling".
- **Total Outlay:** Approximately **₹99,446 crore**.
- **Implementation Period:** August 1, 2025, to July 31, 2027.

2. Aims and Objectives

- **Job Creation:** Target to create over **3.5 crore jobs** in two years.
- **Workforce Formalization:** Bringing informal workers into the formal sector with social security coverage through EPFO.
- **Manufacturing Boost:** Specifically incentivising labor-intensive manufacturing sectors.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Promoting saving habits and financial literacy among the youth.

3. Key Features

The scheme is structured into two main parts:

- **Part A (First-Time Employees):**
 - Targets 1.92 crore first-time EPFO-registered employees earning up to **₹1 lakh/month**.
 - Provides a **one-month wage incentive** (up to ₹15,000) paid in two installments (after 6 and 12 months).
 - Mandates a financial literacy program for the second installment.
- **Part B (Employer Incentives):**
 - Employers get up to **₹3,000/month** for two years for each additional employee hired (salary ≤ ₹1 lakh).
 - **Manufacturing Bonus:** In the manufacturing sector, these incentives are extended for up to **4 years**.
 - Hiring thresholds: Firms <50 employees must add 2 new hires; firms ≥50 must add at least 5.

4. Funding and Disbursal Mechanism

- **Funding:** Centrally funded through budgetary allocations.
- **Disbursal:**
 - **Employees:** Via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) through the Aadhaar Bridge Payment System.
 - **Employers:** Directly into their PAN-linked bank accounts.

5. Status as of 2026: Achievements and Criticism

As the scheme reached its mid-way point in 2026, the following trends were observed:

Achievements

Increased Formalization: Significant spike in first-time EPFO registrations.

Criticisms

Corporate Subsidy: Critics argue it "transfers public funds to corporates" without ensuring long-term job security.



Manufacturing Growth: Extended incentives led to higher hiring in labor-intensive segments.

Neglect of Informal Sector: Focuses only on the 10% formal workforce, ignoring the 90% informal market.

Social Security: Millions of young workers now have pension and insurance through EPFO.

Potential for Underpayment: Concerns that firms might hire more workers at lower wages just to hit incentive caps.

19. Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH):

The **Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH)** is India's national **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** for skilling, education, employment, and entrepreneurship. Launched on September 13, 2023, it serves as a unified portal that eliminates data silos by integrating various existing schemes into one mobile-first platform.

Core Identity & Administration

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- **Implementing Agency:** [National Skill Development Corporation \(NSDC\)](#) and NSDC International.
- **Scheme Type:** It acts as the digital backbone for the **Skill India Programme (SIP)**, which is a **Central Sector Scheme**.
- **Status:** It is an **Umbrella Platform** (or "platform of platforms") that integrates multiple flagship initiatives like PMKVY, NAPS, and Jan Shikshan Sansthan.

Aims and Objectives

- **Unified Access:** Provide a one-stop solution for skilling, certification, and employment opportunities.
- **Portability:** Issue [digitally verifiable and portable credentials](#) (certificates) that are tamper-proof.
- **Lifelong Learning:** Support individuals through all career stages, from initial training to upskilling and reskilling.
- **Inclusive Growth:** Democratize skill development by making it accessible to anyone with a smartphone, regardless of location.

Key Features & Updates (as of 2026)

- **Aadhaar-linked e-KYC:** Mandatory for secure, duplicate-free registration.
- **Skill India Assistant (SIA):** An AI-powered WhatsApp chatbot (leveraging LLaMA) for personalized course recommendations and job discovery.
- **Job Exchange:** A unified page fetching vacancies from the **National Career Service (NCS)** and **JobX (NSDC)**.
- **Multilingual Support:** Integration with **Bhashini** allows the platform to operate in **22 regional languages**.
- **Financial Layer:** Integrated with **UPI** and **PFMS** for seamless stipend and incentive disbursements.

Funding Mechanism

Funding is primarily derived from the MSDE budget. For **FY 2026–27**, the MSDE received its highest-ever allocation of **₹9,885.80 crore**, with a significant portion dedicated to the Skill India Programme and ITI upgrades.



Achievements (2026 Data)

- **Onboarding Scale:** Over **1.5 crore candidates**, 7,000+ training providers, and 68,000+ employers registered.
- **Course Repository:** Hosts 2,900+ courses, including 779 under PMKVY and 1,477 from Digital Learning Partners.
- **Integration:** Successful convergence with **e-Shram** (for unorganized workers), **DigiLocker** (for certificates), and the **Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)**.

Criticism

- **Digital Divide:** Despite being mobile-first, roughly the bottom 30% of the population still lacks reliable smartphone or high-speed data access.
- **Quality Variance:** The rapid scale-up to 7,000 training providers has led to inconsistent training quality across different regions.
- **Placement Lag:** While certification is high, historical placement rates hover around 50%, highlighting a gap between academic certification and actual job readiness.
- **Industry Sync:** Employers often report that the curriculum catalogue lags behind fast-moving sectors like AI and semiconductor engineering.

SEVAKAR IAS