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## Union Budget-2023 : A Milestone in Employment Generation for Indian Youths

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### ABSTRACT

*The Budget seems to give more push to employability readiness in youths. The government has recognised the importance of a technology-driven and skill-enhanced economy. It provides a strong impetus for growth and job creation. Direct Benefit Transfer under a pan-India National Apprenticeship Scheme, which will impact 47 lakh youths, seems promising. **Setting up 100 Labs in engineering institutions will help graduates be ready to build applications on India's 5G stack.** The government has taken a series of proactive steps for the education sector. While the education sector is supported by the National Education Policy (NEP), **the PradhanMantriKaushalVikasYojana 4.0 will further catalyse growth through upskilling the workforce.** Additionally, with the focus on skilling and reskilling, edu-tech players will get more opportunities to form industry alliances to bolster the sector and provide the right tools to learn. **The initiatives like 'Unified Skill India Digital Platform' and 'Make AI in India' will promote India's startups and the entrepreneurial spirit and encourage youth to boost their knowledge through various skilling and reskilling programmes.** Furthermore, by proposing 30 Skill India International centres across various states, surely, this year's budget clearly emphasises the importance of closing the skill gap in youth across India."Bolstered by these initiatives, India has the potential to create a technology-driven and knowledge-based society in the coming future.*

**Keywords :** Union Budget-2023, Employment Generation, Indian Youths, New Education Policy -2020, PradhanMantriKaushalVikasYojana 4.0, Unified Skill India Digital Platform, Time-bound Development, Knowledge-Based Society etc.

**Introduction :** The importance of education is slowly taking centre stage in the Indian Government's financial blueprint. The Budget 2023-24 budget saw a significant increase in



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spending in the education sector, hitting a new milestone. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the Ministry of Education would receive 112898.97 crores, the highest-ever allocation for this sector. The year-on-year increase in spending on education is vital for India's aspirations, but what's more striking is the government's focus on vocational education with special emphasis on skill enhancement among Indian youths.

**Lack of Skill among Indian Youths:** Skills are far more critical than degrees in the evolving 21st century. Unfortunately, the Indian youth struggles with industry skills, which in turn, hamper employment. According to the Global Business Coalition for Education (GBC-Education), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Education Commission, over 50% of Indian youngsters will not have employable skills by 2030 if the current problems persist. Several factors, including the conventional education system, act as a barrier for the youth, preventing them from acquiring the necessary skills. The Indian Government is aware of these issues and has formulated measures to help the youth gain essential skills. The education budget 2023 takes another in this direction.

**Priorities in Union Budget-2023:** Like every budget, India's 2023 Budget listed a set of priorities. There are seven, with the government hoping that they serve as 'Saptarishis' and guide the country through the AmritKaal. The priorities include the following:

- Inclusive Development
- Reaching the Last Mile
- Investment and Infrastructure
- Unleashing Potential
- Green Growth
- Youth Power
- Financial Sector



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Youth power, inclusive development, and unleashing potential are priorities focused on increasing skill development. The budget laid down the exact ways in which these priorities will be addressed and lead to skill development.

**Key Initiatives by Government of India for Employment Generation:** Here are some Key Initiatives / schemes by Government of India to generate Employment for youth empowerment :

**The PradhanMantriKaushalVikasYojana (PMKVY)4.0** :The PradhanMantriKaushalVikasYojana (PMKVY), implemented by the National Skill Development Corporation, is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

The scheme aims to give industry-relevant skill training to youngsters in India and improve their prospects for a better livelihood. The scheme focuses on on-job training, industry partnership and aligning courses with industry needs. PMKVY 4.0 also provides new-age courses such as coding, artificial intelligence, robotics, mechatronics, IoT, 3D printing, drone, and other soft skills. Individuals with prior experience are also assessed and certified under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), increasing the scheme's reach.

In the education budget 2023, NirmalaSitharaman highlighted that the government would leverage the potential of PradhanMantriKaushalVikasYojana (PMKVY) 4.0 to create jobs. 30 Skill India international centres would be set up to ensure young Indians get their desired jobs and the industry needs are met.

Industry experts are crediting the government for creating the PM KaushalVikasYojana 4.0 and similar schemes to help the youth become employable. Such schemes can help the youth get the right set of language and soft skills along with tech exposure. It can help them meet the growing industry demands and help India Inc. flourish.

**Unified Skill India Digital Platform** : The Union Government's Budget 2023 is largely a budget for vocational education. Smt.Sitharaman informed that the digital ecosystem for



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skilling will be further expanded with the launch of a unified Skill India Digital platform. Elaborating on the platform, she said it would

- Enable demand-based formal skilling;
- Link with employers including MSMEs;
- Facilitate access to entrepreneurship schemes;

The focus is on bridging the skill gap that has troubled the youth and the industry for a long time. Finance Minister announced the launch of a unified Skill India Digital Platform. The platform will focus on formal skilling, provide access to entrepreneurship schemes, and help people find jobs in various industries, including MSMEs. The Skill India Digital Platform will also prepare the youth for international jobs leveraging the 30 Skill Indian international centres.

**National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS):** Apprenticeship is a potent model to improve skill development in youths. It is an on-the-job training program where mentors or supervisors train apprentices for a specific skill with the aim of turning them into employees. Countries like Germany and the United Kingdom (UK) have used apprenticeships successfully. Over 4% of the workforce in Germany and 1.7% in the UK are engaged in apprenticeships, while it is just 0.1% in India.

The lack of competitive pay is usually why youngsters in India avoid working as apprentices. Through the education budget 2023, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is hoping to change that. She announced that the government would implement Direct Benefit Transfer under a pan-India National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme in the coming fiscal. The program will offer stipend support to over 47 lakh youth in three years. It'll help promote the program and ensure youngsters stay motivated throughout their apprenticeship.

**National Education Policy 2020 :** The Indian Government's National Education Policy 2020 could be a long-term game-changer. It is a comprehensive framework aiming to transform the country's somewhat conventional education system. Through the policy, the government



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wants to promote a holistic and integrated approach to education, moving away from the one-dimensional traditional system. Emphasis on developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills is the centrepiece of the National Education Policy 2020.

To empower our youth and help the ‘AmritPedhi’ realize their dreams, the government has formulated the National Education Policy, focused on skilling, adopted economic policies that facilitate job creation at scale, and have supported business opportunities, said Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs SmtNirmalaSitharaman while presenting the Union budget 2023-2024 in Parliament here today.

In her budget for vocational education, Finance Minister Sitharaman reiterated the National Education Policy 2020’s role in skill development. The government has aimed the Ministry of Education sufficiently to leverage the policy properly and the total ₹ 1.12 lakh crore given to the Ministry of Education, the Department of Higher Education would receive ₹ 44,094 crores, with the Department of School Education getting ₹ 68,804 crores.

**National Digital Library:** National Digital Library can help kids and youngsters gain additional knowledge. Reading can solve most things, including skill development. The government hopes to inculcate a culture of reading among youngsters through the National Digital Library. Books across geographies, languages, genres and levels will be provided, helping the future of India prepare itself for tomorrow.

**Promotion of Vocational Education in Union Budget-2023 :** The Government of India (GOI) has rightly recognised the role of skill development in India’s rise to a global giant. Promoting vocational education through initiatives like the PradhanMantriKaushalVikasYojana (PMKVY) 4.0 and Skill India Digital Platform can solve the skill gap in the youth. It can prepare them for the industry and increase efficiency in India Inc.



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- **Mission Karmayogi:** . Under Mission Karmayogi, Centre, States and Union Territories are making and implementing capacity-building plans for civil servants. The government has also launched an integrated online training platform, iGOTKarmayogi, to provide continuous learning opportunities for lakhs of government employees to upgrade their skills and facilitate people-centric approach. For enhancing ease of doing business, more than 39,000 compliances have been reduced and more than 3,400 legal provisions have been decriminalized. This budget proposes a series of measures to unleash the potential of our economy.
  - **Centres of Excellence for Artificial intelligence:** For realizing the vision of “Make AI in India and Make AI work for India”, three centres of excellence for Artificial Intelligence will be set-up in top educational institutions. Leading industry players will partner in conducting interdisciplinary research, develop cutting-edge applications and scalable problem solutions in the areas of agriculture, health, and sustainable cities. This will galvanize an effective AI ecosystem and nurture quality human resources in the field.
  - **National Data Governance Policy:** To unleash innovation and research by start-ups and academia, a National Data Governance Policy will be brought out. This will enable access to anonymized data.
  - **One Stop Solution for Identity and Address Updating:** A one stop solution for reconciliation and updating of identity and address of individuals maintained by various government agencies, regulators and regulated entities will be established using DigiLocker service and Aadhaar as foundational identity.
  - **Common Business Identifier:** For the business establishments required to have a Permanent Account Number (PAN), the PAN will be used as the common identifier for all digital systems of specified government agencies. This will bring ease of doing business; and it will be facilitated through a legal mandate.

**Initiates by the Ministry of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship :**



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- The fourth version of the national short-term skills training programme (called the PradhanMantriKaushalVikasYojana) will be launched within the next three years. It will include on-job training and industry partnerships and cover new age courses like coding, AI, robotics, mechatronics, IOT, 3D printing, drones and soft skills.
  - Additional 30 Skill India International Centres will be set up across different states to skill youth for international opportunities.
  - A unified Skill India Digital platform will be established for enabling demand-based formal skilling, linking with employers including MSMEs and facilitating access to entrepreneurship schemes.
  - In the existing National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme, direct benefit transfer will be provided as stipend to 47 lakh youth in three years.

**Empowerment of Youths :** To empower our youth and help the ‘AmritPeedhi’ realize their dreams, the government has formulated the National Education Policy, focused on skilling, adopted economic policies that facilitate job creation at scale, and have supported business opportunities.

**Conclusion :** The government is emphasising on job creation and training or uplifting the education standard. In the union budget, Economic agenda for our vision focuses on facilitating opportunities for citizens, providing strong impetus to growth and job creation and strengthening macroeconomic stability. The push for digital upskilling and entrepreneurship enhancement will encourage an entrepreneurial culture and increase India’s visibility internationally. While there’s a focus on bridging the industry-academia gap, the budget could’ve done more on infusing some much-needed innovation in how education is imparted in our country. A total of 100 labs will be set up in engineering institutions with various authorities, regulators, banks and other businesses for developing applications using 5G services. The budget for self-directed online/offline training programs will enhance job seekers’ soft and digital skills, thereby improving their employment prospects. PM KaushalVikaasYoajna 4.0 launch is a positive move to skill the Indian youth in new age courses for industry 4.0 such as robotics, coding, drones, and other soft skills. The budget



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focuses on improving education quality, strengthening teacher competencies, developing robust infrastructure, promoting skill development, and increasing access to affordable internet services. Prior initiatives like Career Skills and SamagraShiksha's online teacher training, focus on research and innovation, e-learning and student financial aid are expected to enhance India's education system and bridge the gap between education and industry, producing a globally competent workforce. Education moves forward with industry partnerships, data governance policies, and a technology-focused approach with a special emphasis on AI applications.

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