

06 July 2018

Hegde launches 'Skillathon' to boost Skill India initiative

'Universities should take up the task of adding wings to students' dream'

DHARWAD: Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Ananthkumar Hegde called upon the youths to identify their interest and strive to develop the skills in the field of their interest to lead a successful and contented life.

Speaking at a function held to launch 'Skillathon' programme under the Skill India initiative of the Central government at Srujana auditorium in Karnatak College here on Thursday, he said the Union Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, realising the need for development of skill has set up a separate ministry to enable young entrepreneurs and skilled professionals access opportunities at the most local level. 'Skillathon' is to boost Skill India initiative, he said.

Hegde said, in many cases, the youths aimlessly obtain education and degrees and later take up some profession in which they do not have interest. This tendency does not make their life happy because despite all material comforts, they will not be satisfied with the way they are living.

"It is necessary to listen to your inner voice and go according to it. You are born to win and each step you take in your life should be towards success. This will be possible only when two platforms— Technical and Cognitive— work in tandem.



Union MoS for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Ananthkumar Hegde lights the lamp to inaugurate second edition of 'Skillathon' at Srujana Ranga Mandir in KCD campus on Thursday. Dr C F Mulimani, Skill India advisor SV Venkatesh, KU V-C Pramod Gai, Dr Rajeshwari Maheshwariaiah are also seen. DH PHOTO

The Universities should provide such platforms. They should set up dream chambers and the government will chip in to provide all necessary help," the minister said.

Skills are important to become employable and the present academic curriculum does not provide education that makes a student employable. It results in large scale unemployment. The Skill India initiative is to prepare the youths to meet the demands of the industry so that both the human resource and the industry prosper, Hegde explained.

'Skillathon'
'Skillathon' programme aims at skilling a pool of population

and expanding the scope of job opportunities. The programme will facilitate development of skills, including in areas of new-generation technology like artificial intelligence, automation, robotics and block chain technology.

In its second phase, the Skillathon initiative aims to bridge the gap between mentors and last-mile candidates by driving awareness about importance of skill development as a means for transforming lives, especially in rural areas and places with limited access to information. Over 500 institutions and more than three lakh job-seekers are expected to benefit from this concept, he added.

"Inspired entrepreneurship

and skilling riding on the wings of innovation will elevate the Indian economy and create more jobs. The programme is also a testimony of the government's avowed intent of spreading awareness among youth, even in the farthest corners of the country," he said.

The Skillathon programme rides on an innovative concept of raising awareness in States by travelling across it and touching multiple districts before culminating in the capital city. The first phase of Skillathon was started on December, 2017 and went on till February, 2018. Last year, it had benefited over three lakhs youth from 370 colleges, covering 129 taluks in Karnataka. The programme also offers coun-

selling on skilling and jobs and connects aspirants to the Skill Mission. Through its agencies, MSDE offers career guidance and information about opportunities available under various Skill India initiatives, the minister said.

3I Summits

The programme helps training centres in towns connect with Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) and job providers through HR centres. A call centre has also been set up for job-seekers, corporates, institutions and startups.

Through Skillathons, the Ministry organises 3I Summits—Industry, Institute and Investor— to facilitate job providers to connect with the talent pool in their vicinity, involving institutions. The target is to create a 3I club in each district to connect industry and institutions.

Presiding over the function, Karnatak University vice-chancellor Pramod Gai said, the University had set up skill development training centre and sought financial assistance from the Centre to develop it further.

Principal of Karnatak Arts College Rajeshwari Maheshwariaiah welcomed the gathering. Principal of Karnataka Science College Channu Mulimani proposed a vote of thanks.

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