



# Prime Minister facilitates All India ITI toppers at Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh, launches PM-SETU and inaugurates 1,200 Vocational Skill Labs; A Landmark in India's Youth Empowerment Journey

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At a grand ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan today Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi presided over the Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh, felicitating 46 All India Toppers from Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across the country. This marked the 4th edition of the National Skill Convocation, a unique initiative that was first conceptualized under the inspiration of the Prime Minister to make skill development aspirational.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister also launched PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs) — a landmark ₹60,000 crore centrally sponsored scheme to transform 1,000 Government ITIs across India into modern, industry-aligned training institutions.

PM-SETU will follow a hub-and-spoke model, with 200 hub ITIs linked to 800 spoke ITIs. Each hub will be equipped with advanced infrastructure, innovation and incubation centres, production units, training of trainer facilities, and placement services, while the spokes will extend access and outreach. The scheme will:

- Introduce new, demand-driven courses and revamp existing ones in collaboration with industry;
- Set up Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) with credible Anchor Industry Partners to manage clusters and ensure outcome-based training;
- Create pathways for long-term diplomas, short-term courses, and executive programs;
- Strengthen 5 National Skill Training Institutes in - Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Chennai (Tamilnadu), Hyderabad (Telangana), Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Ludhiana (Punjab), as Centres of Excellence with global partnerships.

Under the first phase of PM-SETU, 15 hub-and-spoke ITI clusters have been identified across the country, spanning diverse regions and industrial ecosystems. These include Sonapat (Haryana), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Bijnor and Meerut (Uttar Pradesh), Haridwar (Uttarakhand), Ujjain

(Madhya Pradesh), Bengaluru Urban (Karnataka), Bharatpur (Rajasthan), Darbhanga and Patna (Bihar), Hoshiarpur (Punjab), Hyderabad (Telangana), Sambalpur (Odisha), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), and Guwahati (Assam)

Each cluster will serve as a centre of excellence in skills, equipped with advanced infrastructure, modern trades, and industry-led training, creating model ecosystems that can be replicated nationwide.

Adding a transformative step for school education, the Prime Minister also virtually inaugurated 1,200 Vocational Skill Labs set up in 400 Navodaya Vidyalayas and 200 Eklavya Model Residential Schools across 34 States and UTs.

These labs are designed to expose school-going children, including those from rural and tribal areas, to hands-on training in 12 high-demand sectors such as Information Technology, Automotive, Agriculture, Electronics, Logistics, BFSI and Tourism. Each lab is equipped with modern machinery, digital tools and simulation-based learning modules. In line with NEP 2020 and the CBSE curriculum, 1,200 vocational teachers have been trained to deliver industry-relevant learning, building an early pipeline of future-ready talent. This initiative will ensure that skilling starts at the school level, empowering students to explore multiple career pathways early in life.

In his address, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi underscored the central role of Industrial Training Institutes in shaping India's skilled workforce. He said, *"ITIs are not only premier institutions of industrial education, they are also the workshops of an Atmanirbhar Bharat."*

He noted that these institutes are nurturing millions of young Indians with practical knowledge and employable skills, turning them into confident contributors to the nation's economy. The Prime Minister emphasised that as India marches towards becoming a skill-based economy, ITIs will remain the bedrock of this transformation, equipping youth with the tools to thrive in a rapidly evolving global market.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, said: *"Today, Prime Minister has given a clear message to India's youth — focus on your skills, pursue quality education and keep moving forward with confidence. Eleven years ago, when he created a dedicated Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, he laid the strong foundation for a Viksit Bharat. With initiatives like Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh, PM-SETU and the Skill Labs, we are carrying forward that vision to empower every young Indian to become self-reliant, capable and globally competitive."*

These announcements reaffirm the Government's commitment to transforming India into a skill-based economy, preparing youth for opportunities in India and across the world, and accelerating the journey towards Viksit Bharat @2047.











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