

KASE CHRONICLE

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TOWARDS A UNIFIED SKILLING ECOSYSTEM : KERALA HOSTS SECRETARY, MSDE

Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence was honoured to host Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India, during his recent official visit to Kerala. The Secretary was accompanied by Shri Manish Gupta, Deputy Director, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). The visit marked a significant step towards exploring the Kerala model of skilling and its alignment with

national skilling priorities. The discussions, held in the presence of Dr. K Vasuki IAS , Secretary, Labour & Skills, Government of Kerala, Shri Sufiyan Ahmed IAS, Managing Director, KASE; Shri Anoop Ambika, CEO, Kerala StartUp Mission, Shri Vinod Velayudhan, COO, KASE, and other senior officials, focused on shaping

a skill ecosystem that is innovative, data-driven, and rooted deeply in addressing local aspirations while tapping into global opportunities.

On behalf of KASE, Shri Vinod T V presented Kerala's Skill Convergence Model—a comprehensive framework designed to address the challenges of the current skilling landscape.

The presentation covered key aspects including the skilling capacity across districts, strategies to enhance the supply side through platforms like Thozhil Sabhas and Job Stations, the identification of target beneficiaries across sectors, and the institutional mechanisms required for effective implementation. The session also highlighted the importance of familiarizing and operationalizing the State Skill Development Plan (SSDP) and District Skill Development Plans (DSDP) as pivotal



tools to drive unified, impactful action towards a connected and future-ready ecosystem. As part of the visit, the team also engaged with institutions like the Kerala Startup Mission, Digital University Kerala, Toonz Animation Studio, Government Industrial Training Institute, Chackai and Govt ITI for Women Kazhakuttom.



These interactions showcased Kerala's integrated approach to skill development and innovation. The Secretary emphasized the need for sharper impact metrics, ranging from startup sustainability and scale-up timelines to the identification of support and intervention gaps, as India moves ahead with PMKVY 4.0.

Kerala's convergence approach reflects a collective vision to build a skill development ecosystem where government, academia, and industry collaborate to co-create a future that makes skilling more relevant, responsive, and aspirational.

KASE AT ENTE KERALAM: CELEBRATING SKILLS & INNOVATION



Experience Kerala skilling model at the 'Ente Keralam' exhibition and marketing fair, currently underway at Nagampadam, Kottayam as part of the State Government's 4th anniversary celebrations. Inaugurated by Shri. V.N. Vasavan, the Hon'ble Minister of Cooperation, Ports and Devasoms, the exhibition showcases Kerala's remarkable achievements under the State

Government, recognized nationally. The exhibition, featuring Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence and numerous other stalls, continues until April 30th at the Nagampadam ground. We were pleased to have Kottayam Sub Collector Shri. Ranjith D IAS visited us.

STEPPING UP FOR SKILLS : KASE'S STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS IN NEW DELHI



On April 2nd and 3rd, 2025, officials from the Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence, Shri. Anoop R (Manager, Skill Development), Shri. Anoop P (Manager, Skill Convergence), Smt. Lekshmi Priya (Assistant Manager, Centrally Sponsored Schemes), and Ms. Nandana M (State Skill Coordinator) held a series of high-level meetings at Kaushal Bhawan and key Ministries in New Delhi.

These engagements further KASE's mission to strengthen Kerala's skill ecosystem through strategic partnerships, scalable skill delivery, mechanisms, and a future-ready approach to workforce development.

Ministry Of Minority Affairs (MoMA)

The KASE team met with senior officials — Shri. Sravan Kumar Jatavath IAS (Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs) and Shri. Jagdish Kumar (Joint Director- Skill Development Schemes, Ministry of Minority Affairs), to discuss the implementation of the PM VIKAS scheme in Kerala, focusing on minorities and artisan communities. The discussions marked a promising beginning for collaborations and state-level rollout of PM VIKAS.

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

A day-long, in-depth consultation with NSDC domain experts focused on the implementation of PMKVY 4.0 via the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH). Key operational areas such as Training Centre affiliation, candidate registration, assessment and

certification, monitoring & evaluation, and trainer capacity-building were discussed in detail. The team also raised potential implementation challenges and sought strategic inputs from the experts to ensure effective rollout of PMKVY 4.0 effectively across Kerala.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

The team engaged with Dr. Sathyanarayanan Subramanian (Additional Director/Scientist 'E') and Shri. Cijo P Joseph (Deputy Director/Scientist 'C') on expanding skilling opportunities in the Electronics and Advanced Technology sectors. These discussions align Kerala's skilling goals with India's larger digital transformation agenda.

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)

The officials from MSDE presented their roadmap for PMKVY 4.0 implementation and shared their expectations about the State. KASE, in turn, highlighted potential implementation challenges and adopted a proactive approach to ensure impactful execution at the state level.



Through these focused engagements, KASE once again reinforces its role as the State Skill Development Mission and as State Skill Secretariat in transforming Kerala into a skill-powered economy. With strong institutional networks, domain expertise, and a commitment to inclusive growth, KASE continues to advance innovation, resilience, and opportunity across the skilling landscape. Kerala is stepping up its presence in the national skill ecosystem and KASE is proud to lead the way.

MSDE AND WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM LAUNCH INDIA SKILLS ACCELERATOR

In a landmark move to advance India's skilling agenda, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has partnered with the World Economic Forum (WEF) to launch the India Skills Accelerator, a national public-private collaboration platform aimed at catalyzing systemic reform in the country's skilling ecosystem.

Unveiled during a high-level roundtable at Kaushal Bhawan, New Delhi, the initiative focuses on three core areas:

- Raising awareness and shifting mindsets about future skill needs,
- Enhancing collaboration and knowledge sharing among stakeholders,
- Strengthening institutional frameworks and policies to support lifelong learning.

With 65% of organizations identifying skill gaps as a major challenge, the Accelerator aims to bridge these gaps through inclusive upskilling, investment in future-ready education, and agile industry-government collaboration. Priority sectors include AI, robotics, cybersecurity, energy, advanced manufacturing, and Global Capability Centers (GCCs).

The initiative is co-chaired by Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, Minister of State for Education and Development of the North-Eastern Region, along with private sector leaders Ms. Shobana Kamineni (Apollo HealthCo) and Shri Sanjiv Bajaj (Bajaj Finserv).

**SKILL
DEVELOPMENT
INDIA**





NEW ACADEMIC BLOCK AT GOVT. ITI MALAMPUZHA INAUGURATED

As part of the Government's vision to upgrade Industrial Training Institutes across the state, the infrastructure of Government ITI, Malampuzha has now been elevated to international standards.

The newly constructed Academic Block at Govt. ITI Malampuzha was officially inaugurated on April 22nd (Tuesday) at 12 noon by Hon'ble Speaker Shri. A.N Shamseer. Shri. V. Sivankutty, Hon'ble Minister for Labour and Skills, addressed the gathering virtually, highlighting the government's strong commitment to transforming vocational education in Kerala.

Shri. Prabhakaran, MLA, Malampuzha; Smt. Binumol K, President, Palakkad District Panchayat; and other dignitaries and representatives, graced the occasion. The project report was presented during the event by Shri. S.S. Namboodiri, Project Director, KASE.

The initiative is a milestone towards enhancing the skilling ecosystem of Kerala. With modern infrastructure and industry-relevant facilities, ITI Malampuzha is set to become a model of excellence in vocational training.

SKILLS IN DEMAND: THE 2030 OUTLOOK

The future of work is evolving, and so are the skills. Analytical Thinking, AI & Big Data, Creative Thinking, Technological Literacy, Leadership, Resilience, and more are among the top core skills projected to define the future of work.

Here's how employers are viewing them:

- **Core Skills** – Essential and increasingly important in the future
- **Emerging Skills** – Expected to see significant growth by 2030
- **Steady Skills** – Relevant, but not projected to grow rapidly
- **Out of Focus Skills** – Considered less essential, with limited future demand

Emerging Skills

- Networks and Cyber Security
- Environmental Stewardship
- Design and User Experience

Core Skills

- Resilience, Flexibility and Agility (Self-Efficacy)
- Creative Thinking (Cognitive Skills)
- Leadership and Social Influence (Working with Others)
- AI and Big data (Technology Skills)
- Technological Literacy (Technological Skills)
- Curiosity and Life-long Learning (Self-Efficacy)
- Analytical Thinking (Cognitive Skills)



Steady Skills

- Service Orientation and Customer Service
- Empathy and Active Listening
- Resource Management and Operations
- Dependability and Attention to Detail

Out of Focus Skills

- Manual Dexterity, Endurance and Precision
- Reading, Writing and Mathematics
- Sensory-Processing Abilities
- Global Citizenship

Source: Future of Jobs Report 2025,
World Economic Forum



SKILL TERM

Jacquard : A system of weaving that utilizes a highly versatile pattern mechanism to permit the production of large, intricate designs and (at Bally Ribbon Mills) shapes. The weave controls the action of one warp yarn for the passage of one pick. Each card perforation machine may carry a large number of cards, depending upon the design, because there is a separate card for each pick in the pattern.



Sector- Textile Industry

SKILL THOUGHT

"If you're not learning, you're falling behind. Somebody else is getting better while you're staying the same."

Pete Carroll



ARTICLE

TECHNICAL TEXTILES: INDIA'S EMERGING SUNRISE SECTOR

India's textile story is as old as its civilization. What began with simple handlooms in village homes has grown into a robust, multi-layered industry that forms the backbone of the country's manufacturing sector. It is

the second-largest industry contributing to India's economic growth and the largest employment generator in the nation, employing millions across both rural and urban areas.



A LEGACY WOVEN IN TIME

India's textile journey has significantly evolved. The invention of the handloom enabled manual weaving of threads into fabrics. With the Industrial Revolution, India witnessed the influx of power looms and mechanized spinning technologies. These developments shifted textile production from homes to mills, disrupting age-old traditions and affecting rural livelihoods. However, they also marked the beginning of mass-scale production and increased accessibility to fabrics. The early 20th century brought in a new era with the introduction of synthetic fibers like polyester and nylon. These fibers offered durability and

versatility, whereas machines such as jacquard looms and circular knitting machines allowed for more intricate patterns and large-scale manufacturing. In the late 20th century, technologies such as digital printing, automated cutting, and robotic sewing revolutionized production by enhancing speed, precision, and customization, all while reducing material waste. Entering the 21st century, the rise of technical textiles marked a significant leap forward. These high-performance fabrics can respond to environmental stimuli such as temperature, moisture, or pressure. Their applications span from wearable health monitors to smart active wear, transforming industries like healthcare,



defense, and sports. Yet, despite these sweeping technological advancements, India's Khadi and handloom sectors have remained resilient, undergoing a quiet revival. In many regions, these traditional forms coexist with organized textile mills, catering to both domestic and international markets.

Scope of Technical Textiles

Technical textiles, high-performance fabrics engineered for specific functions, are rapidly emerging as a key driver of India's industrial growth. They strengthen infrastructure, improve public safety, and spur innovation across the following sectors:

- Agrotech (agro-textiles)
- Meditech (medical textiles)
- Buildtech (construction textiles)
- Mobitech (textiles used in transport; automotive and aerospace)
- Clothtech (clothing textiles)
- Oekotech (ecological protection textile)
- Geotech (geotextiles)
- Packtech (packaging textiles)
- Homotech (domestic textiles)
- Protech (protective textiles)
- Indutech (industrial textiles)

Their advanced, largely automated production processes are generating a spectrum of new, high-skill occupations that aligns with the aspirations of India's emerging workforce.

India's technical textiles industry, valued at USD

is expanding fastest and demand continues to surge. To sustain and accelerate this growth, the Government has identified technical textiles as a priority sector. Key initiatives include the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) that aims to train 50,000 professionals across twelve sub-sectors.

CHALLENGES: DEPENDENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

In spite of the heightened policy attention and growing demands, the technical-textile sector still faces significant hurdles, including a high dependency on imported high-performance fibres, specialized coatings, and precision looms. This import reliance drives up production costs, discouraging greater investment and slowing domestic manufacturing growth.

Adding to the complexity is the sustainability challenge. Conventional technical textiles largely use petro-based materials like polyester, nylon, and polypropylene, non-biodegradable substances that contribute to micro plastic pollution, particularly in disposable non-woven products.



WAY FORWARD

These concerns call for a dual focus on building self-reliance in raw materials and machinery, while accelerating the shift towards eco-friendly alternatives. By coupling strong policy support with targeted skill trainings and a commitment to sustainability, the State Skill Development Mission is transforming current constraints into opportunities, weaving a new narrative that binds innovation with opportunity.



Department of Labour and Skills
Government of Kerala



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Skill Development Mission of Government of Kerala

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