

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1570
ANSWERED ON 09.02.2026

INDIA'S POSITION IN QS WORLD FUTURE SKILLS INDEX

1570 SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India ranks 25th in the QS World Future Skills Index 2025 and second in the "Future of Work" category, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether West Bengal shows strong growth by ranking high in employability (4th in 2022) and being recognised as a "Front Runner" in the SDG Index 2023-24, with 91.38 per cent numerical skills and the highest number of internship seekers in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the strategic initiatives undertaken by the Government to strengthen States according to their rankings and to enhance the female workforce therein?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a): The QS World Future Skills Index 2025 is designed to assess how prepared countries are to tackle the shifting demands of the global workforce, particularly in the context of digital transformation, AI, sustainability, and the broader economic changes impacting jobs. The Index uses four indicators to measure a country's preparedness to thrive in an increasingly skills-driven global economy: -

Future of Work: The Future of Work indicator measures the readiness of a country's job market to recruit for the most in-demand skills of the future. India scored 99.1, Ranking just behind the US in second place, India is one of the leading nations in contributing to the future of work.

Skills Fit: Skills Fit measures how well a country's education systems align with employer demands. India scored 59.1.

Academic Readiness: Academic Readiness measures how well a country is positioned to deliver the skills necessary for future industries. India scored 89.9.

Economic Transformation: The Economic Transformation indicator measures how ready a country's economy is to leverage the next wave of skills-led industrial growth. India scored 58.3.

(b): West Bengal scored 70 out of 100 in the composite Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Score in SDG India Index 2023-24, an 08 (Eight) point increase from 62 in SDG India Index 2020-21. It moved from "Performer" to 'Front Runner' category. The state secured the 17th rank out of 28 states in SDG India Index 2023-24, retaining its rank from the SDG India Index 2020-21. Currently, the SDG India Index 2023-24 does not have any indicators that capture numerical

skills or the number of individuals seeking internships. Four editions of the SDG India Index have been released so far. The latest edition is available at [https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2024-07/SDG India Index 2023-24.pdf](https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2024-07/SDG_India_Index_2023-24.pdf)

(c): The Government of India has taken proactive steps to improve the employability of the youth of the nation, including women, through skill development. Under the Skill India Mission (SIM), the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) delivers skill, re-skill and up-skill training through an extensive network of skill development centres under various schemes, viz. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS) through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), to all the sections of the society across the country, including women. SIM aims at enabling the youth of India to get future-ready and equipped with industry-relevant skills.

Further, to encourage participation of rural women in skill development programs, special provisions have been made for meeting expenditure on conveyance and boarding & lodging as well as enhanced post placement support. PMKVY 4.0 prioritizes and provides special focus to projects that emphasize women as primary beneficiaries. Special Projects under PMKVY are designed to align with local skill demands, creating opportunities for rural women to participate and benefit from skill development schemes. This inclusive approach ensures significant representation and benefit for women in skill training programs across the country. Under NAPS, the introduction of trades in the services sector (Optional Trade) has led to a significant improvement in women's participation in apprenticeship. Under JSS Scheme, focus is being given to women and other vulnerable sections. Women constitute more than 80% of beneficiaries under JSS. Also, there are 19 National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) and more than 300 ITIs exclusively for women.

MSDE in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, has launched a joint initiative named NAVYA – Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls. NAVYA is a pilot initiative aimed at equipping adolescent girls aged 16-18 years with a minimum qualification of class 10, with vocational training mainly in non-traditional job roles.
