

Skills In-Sight

Volume: 34

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Prologue:

Skills In-sight: This is an initiative of Furniture and Fittings Skill Council (FFSC) to provide insights into the skill ecosystem in short bytes and keep stakeholders updated. The weekly update will share the significant activities and initiatives which the council has initiated in the week.

In Volume-34 of the Skills In-Sight, we feature the following:

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- Puzzling developments enhance creativity in Colombia

FFSC's Achievements

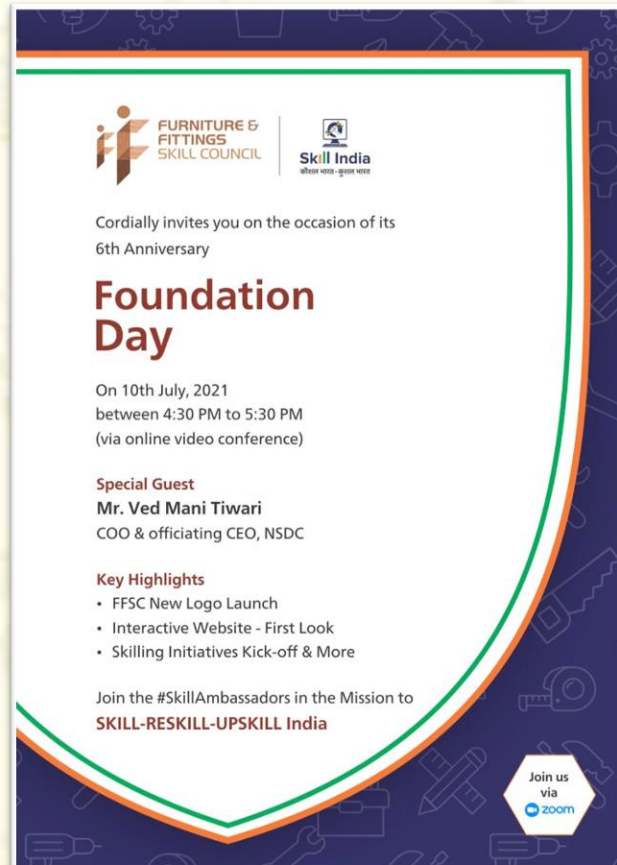


News from Skill Ecosystem

6th Foundation Day Celebration of FFSC

FFSC will be completing six years of operations on 10th July 2021.

We celebrate the occasion as our 6th Foundation Day to recognize what's been achieved, explore what lies ahead and witness the launch of our new initiatives to empower us for future opportunities.



Over the past six years, FFSC has created a First of its kind skilling ecosystem for the Furniture and Allied Industry with the support of more than 70+ stakeholders, including industry partners, academia, associations, and engagement partners. Twenty-two job roles aligned to the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) created a benchmark of the Industry's quality workforce and drove the skilling initiatives. FFSC training programs have impacted more than 2 lakh candidates across pan-India. A pool of 180 + certified trainers and assessors along with 50 + training centers across the country and a collection of #SkillAmbassadors has helped FFSC achieve this milestone.

The occasion will be graced by the presence of our Special Guest, Mr. Ved Mani Tiwari, COO & officiating CEO, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

To join the session, [Click Here](#)

Engagements

Why upskilling SMB entrepreneurs is necessary for MSMEs digital transformation

In this technology-driven world, skills will be more important than capital, networks, or anything else. Skills will be the deciding factor for the success of individuals, organisations, and consequently, our country.

So, why do we talk so much about digital but so little about skills? Let's not forget that skills will be a prerequisite to wade through the digital landscape. When it comes to SMBs, skilling and upskilling could be the means to both growth and remaining relevant, as well as avoiding the onslaught from big tech.

Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) have been the most affected sector during the COVID-19 pandemic, facing various issues related to cash flows, debt servicing, etc. In the new normal of plummeting demand and customers moving online, upskilling could enable SMBs to turn the dynamic environment in their favour.

Training for SMB entrepreneurs

The edtech sector has revolutionised the paradigm of business training for small entrepreneurs in India, emerging as the dominant force in the upskilling of the workforce in the MSME sector.



Edtech companies play an increasingly significant role in helping SMBs bridge the digital gap through online courses across data sciences, cloud solutions, digital marketing, and more. These startups deliver customized training programmes designed to cater to learners' skill requirements and learning goals.

Additionally, online training platforms bring the best practices of leading institutions across the globe to deliver non-traditional skills, including problem-solving and complex decision making.

Source: For more details, [Click Here](#)

Training and Assessments

IIT-Ropar starts a program in A.I., data science

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar, has joined hands with the Punjab Skill Development Mission (PSDM) to impart classes on artificial intelligence (A.I.) and data science through a certificate course.



IIT Ropar collaborates with 'Punjab skill development mission' for job-oriented course

Online education is the in-thing today in these Corona pandemic times as schools and higher educational institutes remained shut, but these institutions adopted online mode promptly over widely followed classroom-led delivery model earlier.

Closure of educational institutes led to an overarching dropout rate among students in Punjab. UNESCO recently released a projection report covering 180 countries, estimating that 24 million children may not return to education in 2022 due to the pandemic. With schools shut for nearly six months, children, especially in rural areas, are helping their parents execute MNREGA schemes.

Owing to the lockdown, schools and higher education institutions faced challenges in moving their operating model to online overnight, as most of them followed a classroom-led delivery model. This resulted in an overarching dropout rate among students in Punjab and India as a whole.

The course is designed to cater to the demand and need of data scientists and A.I. workforce in near future.

Training Projects

NSKFDC Workshops for Safai Karmacharis begins for F.Y. 2021-22

National Safai Karmacharis and Finance Development Corporation (NSKFDC), functioning under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), is organizing half-day workshops on "Prevention of hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks" during the year 2021-22 in various municipalities through Furniture & Fittings Skill Council.

The program aims to participants aware of the elimination of manual scavenging and the safety of the workers engaging in the cleaning of septic tanks and sewers to prevent the death of such workers while performing the job. In these workshops, officers, engineers, sanitary inspectors, contractors, and the safai karmacharis attend the workshops.



Six workshops have been completed in different municipalities of Gujarat till now. In 2020-21, 60 workshops were conducted by FFSC.

HR & Career Management

Apprenticeship law needs more reforms

India's skilling ecosystem has seen some policy impetus over the last decade, but persistent sclerosis has ensured little to write home about in some areas. Meanwhile, economies like Bangladesh and Vietnam (let alone skilling-leaders like Germany, Russia, etc.) have deepened efforts meaningfully, not just in industries like textiles and garments where they already present a significant challenge to India but also in more tech-forward sectors.

The ministry of skill development had released a concept note in April, in which it had outlined several reform proposals. Key among these are changing the definition of 'establishment' to include educational institutions, recognition of apprenticeship through the virtual/online mode, allowing part-time apprenticeship, enhanced role for the third-party aggregators (TPAs), easing of penalties and ending apprenticeship contract approval in favour of contract 'intimation' to authorities.



The benefits of some of these proposed steps are apparent. Expanding 'establishment' would give apprentices more opportunities, even as higher education institutions hone their ability to orient courses towards job-market demands. This will also likely serve as a nudge towards the 'sandwich courses' model that most European nations follow. Apprenticeship in the virtual mode will mean youth in remote locations can access opportunities, especially in the services sector; the pandemic has made it clear that any job that can be moved to the digital/virtual mode would likely be transferred.

The part-time apprenticeship will allow students to pursue regular academic courses while undergoing job training. Enhanced role for TPAs, as the ministry note observes, will offer industry an easier route to compliance with the Act's provisions by removing the burden of procedural work; however, there is a need to avoid the middle-man trap, where TPAs merely serve as compliance vehicles without the oversight of responsibilities.

The proposal to have a stipend-free apprenticeship will be a big boost for industry participation, but apprentices' interests also need to be guarded as well. More so in the backdrop of the move to increase the share of apprentices in a firm's workforce, including for small businesses.

Source: For more details, [Click Here](#)

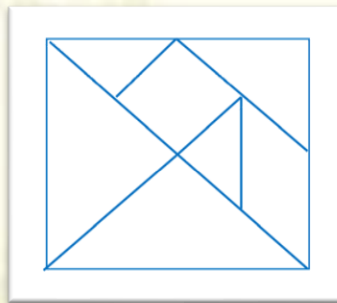
WorldSkills Competition

Puzzling developments enhance creativity in Colombia

While technical abilities take centre stage at WorldSkills Competitions, it is obvious after watching a WorldSkills Champion at work, that problem solving and adapting are equally important.

Technical Delegate for WorldSkills Colombia, Hellman Yesid Rusinque Gamboa, believes that solving puzzles is the best way to develop these soft skills in young minds.

It is also the case, Yesid believes, that young people spend too much time glued to social media or spending hours watching YouTube videos - what he thinks is "unfortunately many times, fruitless or useless activities."



But rather than trying to stop them, Yesid hopes to divert them to his own YouTube channel, Let's Do Puzzles!, developed with the support of SENA, Colombia's National Learning Service.

The aim of the videos on the channel, which is in Spanish with English subtitles, is "to highlight the importance of puzzles, to stimulate people, mainly kids, to play with puzzles again, to invite them to train the brain every day. "The channel was developed during the pandemic, which, Yesid says, has shown just how important developing creativity and problem-solving has become in a fast-changing world.

Developing problem-solving skills, he says, should begin at a young age and in the family environment, and playing with puzzles is a good way to do this. For example, he offers the tangram, usually a rectangle or square made up of seven two-dimensional polygons, called tans.

The shapes can be put together - without overlapping - to create multiple patterns resembling everything from a house to a teapot or even a man with an umbrella.

His goal is to grow the channel to an international audience, "stimulating the viewers to give themselves a gift by solving puzzles every day."

Source: For more details, [Click Here](#)

With inputs from the Engagement, Standards, Training & Assessment, Projects, and Career Management Teams in FFSC.

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For queries and suggestions/feedback about the '**Skills In-Sight**' please write to us at info@ffsc.in