

# 'Need to make labour force flexible, resilient'

## Should Embrace Tech: NITI Aayog CEO Kant

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**Jobs creation is seen to be weak. What is the plan and which are the sectors which will create jobs?**

The existing labour quarterly survey excludes 98.6% of Indian enterprises. It excludes enterprises having less than 10 hands with power and less than 20 hands without power. Government has focused on infrastructure creation, building of houses in rural areas, ensured substantial flow of credit to micro-enterprises through the Mudra Scheme and given impetus to self-help groups. Indirect evidence on creation of jobs through EPF, ESIC & NPS data tells a different story. McKinsey Study highlights that increased government spending, use of independent work and entrepreneurship have boosted gainful employment for 20-26 million people. The major challenge is not jobs but improving earnings in low paid jobs.

The nature of jobs is also changing. We need to embrace technology. The sharing, connected and electric vehi-

cles revolution is here. Ola has created 850,000 jobs, Uber another 450,000. These jobs are not counted in our labour statistics. We will have to make our labour force extremely flexible, resilient and adaptive. In future there will be higher skilled and higher paid jobs. We will have to upgrade



our skills. While we move towards manufacturing 4.0 in some of our states we need to focus on labour intensive areas like garments and textiles, food processing, footwear and leather, gems and Jewellery and Tourism in other States. Every State must focus on its core-competency sector.

**Your wish list for the upcoming Budget?**

We should continue to focus on being an easy simple, predictable and consistent destination for rules, regulations and taxation. Second, we should focus on human capital by laying emphasis on education, health, nutrition and agriculture sector. Third, we must do manufacturing to size and scale and focus on exports. Without penetrating global markets it will be diffi-

cult to grow for a long periods of time. Fourth, to give a huge emphasis to gender parity. Women contribute only 20% of India's GDP. This must go up substantially. Fortunately, greater emphasis is being laid on gender parity. We also need to stabilize GST and push for quicker resolution under Insolvency Code. Finally, we must be able to rekindle the spirit of enterprise & investment in private sector and MSME's. In the long run they are the main engine of growth and wealth creation.

**Would you like the government to push for strategic disinvestment in a scale that it has not done so far?**

The government has pushed for strategic disinvestment. Thirty four of the companies that have been recommended have actually been approved by the cabinet. So, the political will to enhance India's productive efficiencies is very much there. The challenge is to do it in a transparent and competitive manner because you are selling public assets and therefore the DIPAM is going about it in a very systematic, professional manner.