India’s excellence in different artistic and culinary skill sets is described in our ancient and contemporary literature and it will not be an exaggeration to say that it is still ingrained in the soil of remotest part of the country. Further, after globalization India has also developed its niche particularly in IT related skill sets like web designing, graphic design technology, IT software solutions for business, mobile robotics etc. To make India the “Skill Capital” of the world, it is essentially required to showcase the country’s excellence in different skill sets across the globe. To realize this dream and to encourage Indian youth across the country, a scheme namely “India Skills and World Skills Competitions” is proposed with the following objectives:

a) To create a transparent and organized system for preparing India’s talented youth for World Skills Competitions;
b) Access of knowledge and awareness for India Skills and World Skills competitions to the remotest part of the country;
c) To revive India’s local/domestic skill sets like pottery, chikankari, embroidery, painting and many others;
d) To encourage Indian youth for harnessing their skills;
e) To make skill aspirational and rewarding which can create a sense of proud and achievement in Indian youth;
f) To decentralize the process of skill development by involving States in the process;
g) To provide financial support to the States on the basis of Scheme/project implementation plans;
h) To create adequate infrastructure and capacity for organizing such competitions;
i) and to showcase India’s skill sets to the world in a more systematic and organized manner.

2. Proposed Plan

The key objective of the scheme is to have a structured approach for preparing youth of the country for World Skills competition which are held once every two years in one of the World Skill International (WSI) member countries. These competitions provide both a benchmark for high performance and an objective way to assess vocational excellence. Objective is to promote world class standards in over 50 skills under six skill strands:

- Construction and Building Technology
- Transportation and Logistics
- Manufacturing and Engineering Technology
- Information and Communication Technology
- Creative Arts and Fashion
- Social and Personal Services.

More than 1000 contestants below the age of 23, compete over a span of four days working on test projects (16-22 hours) which are based on contemporary industry standards and infrastructure. The competition is equivalent of Olympic Games for skills amongst youth across the world. The next World Skills competition is to be held in Abu Dhabi in October 2017 and subsequently in 2019 in Kazan, Russia.

The competition flow for India Skills competitions will be as under

This scheme will delegate the task of identifying skill sets and conducting district and State level skill competitions while the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India will assign the task of conducting regional and National level competitions to NSDC. The GOI will also provide technical and financial assistance to States/UTs for conducting these competitions. The scheme envisages funding to the States/UTs on the basis of proposed implementation plan. That plan will be examined by the Ministry and accordingly funding will be given to States as grants.

Modalities along with frequency of holding District and State level Skill competitions will be decided by concerned States/UTs in consultation with GOI. Regional level and National level Skill Competition (known as India Skills) will be held every alternate year. The participants of India Skills will emerge from winners of State Level and subsequently Regional Level competitions. The winners of India Skills will, through a
process of selection, represent India at WorldSkills and other international competitions. It will deepen and widen the talent pool which will lead to better performance in national and international skill competitions.

3. **Role of States/UTs**

To create an enabling environment and to develop capacity for organizing skills competitions which can match to the international standards, active involvement of State/UT Governments is essentially required. The role of State/UT Governments will be as under:

a) To identify trades of interest from the master list of WorldSkills. (At present, there are 51 skills for which World Skills Competitions are scheduled to be held in 2017, list of these skills sets are given at F/’A’);

b) To chalk out a detailed plan or strategy for organizing district level and State level skill competitions as per national norms/standards;

c) To create awareness on skill competitions for maximizing youth participation and to attract best talent;

d) To promote industry network for effective mobilization and conduct of competitions in the State;

e) To invite applications through State level Newspaper and other media for selection of experts based on the national guidelines;

f) To ensure minimum 30% participation of women in the skills competitions;

g) To conduct skill competitions for differently abled youth and create a friendly and conducive environment for them too;

h) To make skill competitions a platform for advocacy for skill education;

4. **Role of NSDC**

The scheme is conceptualized by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India. The role of MSDE will be mainly related to policy design and overall supervision. However, the scheme will be implemented through NSDC. The roles and responsibilities of NSDC are proposed as under:

a) To establish norms/standards for conducting India skills competitions in-line with World Skills Competitions;

b) To finalize guidelines for selection process of experts and competitors;

c) To ensure equal opportunity to all and ensure at least 30% women participation in skills competitions;

d) To promote participation of differently abled youth of the country;

e) To invite applications through National level Newspaper and other media for selection of experts;

f) To encourage industry for imparting training and providing other assistance to States/UTs in this exercise;
g) To organize regional and National India Skills competitions in coordination with States/UTs and other stakeholders;

h) To prepare team India for successful participation in World Skills Competitions including training, administrative requirements and other activities;

5. Strategy for implementation:

- A collaborative approach led by State government and NSDC for creation / identification of
  a. Structure - State and district level Executive Committee for Skill Competitions
  b. Partnerships - industry, associations, academic and technical institutes, Training Partners, PMKK, IISC etc.
  c. Advocacy
  d. Training infrastructure
  e. Training resources which include rules, competition modules, trainers, assessors, equipment and consumables, test description etc.
  f. The involvement of industry through CSR is envisaged in the scheme as industry needs to come forward for high end international training alongwith venue for the participants.

- Modular approach - Capacity to organize and hold competitions will be created at an Institution level (academic - schools, colleges, universities, technical institutes, industry etc.); District and / State level. Autonomy and flexibility while maintaining uniformity of basic tenets / rules.

- Convergence approach - Convergence is to be promoted through alignment of all skill competitions at unit, district, region, state levels and creation of vertical and horizontal linkages. Adherence to an overarching competition and management structure and framework including monitoring and supervision.

- Calendar of competitions - Regional and National Skill Competitions will be held every alternate year. MSDE will publish a calendar for Regional and National Competitions which will be in sync with selections and training for WorldSkills Competitions held every alternate year. District and State level competitions are to be held in alignment with proposed dates of Regional and National competitions.

6. Proposed Committees for the scheme

6.1 National Governing Council - A national governing council headed by Minister, Skill Development may be constituted to provide overall direction, guidance and review
of the Skill competitions at all levels. The council will meet once in year to review the progress on the scheme. The constitution of the council is proposed as under:

- Minister, SDE - Chairman
- Secretary, MSDE - Vice Chairman
- Joint Secretary (India Skills/World Skills)
- 3-4 Representative of States
- CEO, NSDC
- 3-4 Industry and academic representatives
- 2-3 Domain / WorldSkills India experts

6.2 National level executive Committee - To supervise the implementation of the scheme, to provide directions to NSDC, and to assist the Governing council in overall review of the scheme, a National level Executive Committee may be constituted. The constitution of the Committee is proposed as under:

- Joint Secretary (India Skills/World Skills) - Chairperson
- Representatives of DGT
- Representative of NSDA
- CEO, NSDC
- Director (India Skills/World Skills)
- Head India Skills & World Skills - NSDC

The roles and responsibilities of the National Executive Committee will be as under:

- Overall Policy design for effective implementation of the scheme;
- Developing National guidelines for implementation of the scheme;
- Assessment of State implementation plan for providing funds;
- Preparation of action plan and calendar of competitions inline with WorldSkills competitions;
- Overall management and performance review of the scheme;
- Ensure at least 5% of total expenditure in increasing awareness and advocacy;
- Ensure smooth coordination between States/UTs and NSDC
- to provide sign offs to the initiatives under the scheme
- Any other activity assigned by Governing Council

6.3 State level Executive Committee - Policy design, providing direction, implementation and oversight of Skill Competitions at district and State level may be managed through an Executive Committee. The composition of the executive committee is proposed as under:

- Secretary State Skill Development - Chairperson
- JS Skill development / Technical education of the State
- State Skill Mission Director
Industry and academic representatives
Representatives of DGT, MSME, associations, training partners
Domain / India skills experts

Roles and responsibilities of the State Executive Committee

- Policy design including identification of state specific skill sets;
- Monitoring adherence of National guidelines;
- Preparation of implementation plan for seeking funding from GOI;
- Preparation of action plan and calendar of competitions inline with regional level, national level and Worldskills competitions;
- Overall management and performance review;
- Ensure at least 5% of total expenditure in increasing awareness and advocacy;
- Selection of experts and identification and onboarding of partners;
- Capacity building for the competitors;
- Coordination with MSDE

7. Financial Support

Funding assistance to encourage and support State governments to manage, organize and hold competitions at State and District level will be provided by MSDE on the basis on State implementation plans. States will derive an action plan and accordingly seek funds from the GOI. The assessment of State implementation plans will be done by MSDE under the direction of National Executive Committee and accordingly funds will be assigned to States/UTs. Funding assistance will be based on level of utilization and rationale of proposed action plans. Overall review of the expenditure and performance under the scheme will be reviewed by the Governing Council. In the FY 2017-18, Rs. 20 crore has been allocated for this scheme, out of which Rs. 5 crore are kept for the States/UTs.