

Publisher note

Demographic dividend!

What we see at the desk, while referring budget is demographic dividend. In the huge presentation by the FM for 1060 million people in the budget and then feedback experts comments, industry's expectations and fulfillment and various notices of comparison & criticism... the announcement to develop skill, mission-stayed unheard by us! "India is poised to reap 'demographic dividend' FM P. Chidambaram said: "The 'dividend' call prove illusory if the workforce does not acquirer the skills to support a knowledge & technology driven economy."

Right now, Merchandise exports grew strangely at 21.8% during April-December 2007-08, yet by the end of the FY May fall short of the target of us\$ 160bn! And therefore, we must pay more attention to 'value-addition' that trend skills to support tools!

Since, our industry is known for value addition and always that encourage skill-n-tech to stay fit in the hyper competition of the world, this is the time to launch a world class skill development programme in mission mode. 'That will address the challenge of imparting the skills required by a growing economy.' Say Mr. FM

Without being a sector specific, the FM talks about 'Skill Development Mission.' Also proposed to go on establishing a non-profit organizing on PPP (Public Private Partnership) in the context of our Gem-n-Jewellery Industry, right with the artisans to jewellery designers and craftsmen's and more skill could be considered to accommodate under the mission of Rs.15000. The FM begins with Rs.1000cr. as Government equity to carry such mission.

How, the council as related associations of the brade could tap this 'Skill Development Mission' for the GJ Industry and their required skill!