

Message to the conference SKILL2017,
a conference designed towards
“Leveraging Digital India for Rural Empowerment.”



Internet always had a promise to empower disadvantaged. However, the promise has not been realised so far partly due to non-availability of high bit-rate connectivity and non-availability of access devices, affordable in rural areas. With the emergence of 4G, with costs of data-connectivity tumbling down and wide availability and affordability of smart-phones, the infrastructure issues appear to things of the past. It is time that all efforts are made to ensure Internet does full its promise of empowering Rural India, especially the

low-income people. I hope the conference takes the steps in that direction. Wishing it the very best.

Ashok Jhunjhunwala

Professor IIT Madras