



भारत के उपराष्ट्रपति  
VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA  
MESSAGE

I am happy to know that SKILLS2017: Leveraging Digital India for rural empowerment, the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Life Skills and Livelihood Skills International Conference has been held in Hyderabad on 16 - 17 November 2017.

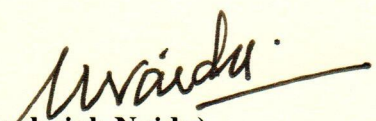
As Prime Minister Modi articulates, Digital India Mission is an enterprise for India's transformation on a scale that is, perhaps, unmatched in human history. The future of the country's economy is heavily dependent on the success of the Digital India campaign. Technology if used right will be one of the most effective drivers of the much needed "inclusive growth" in India.

The challenges are many and may seem daunting, but it is not an impossible to achieve. Undoubtedly, there is a massive digital divide in the country based on income, education, residence and use of ICT which are correlated with economies, political and cultural power.

I am pleased to note that the main objective of the conference is to identify and debate the opportunities and challenges associated with leveraging Digital India especially in the key strategic areas such as: infrastructure provisioning; financial inclusion; agriculture; education and healthcare for accelerating rural incomes and sustainable rural economies.

I hope the diverse group of stakeholders gathering at SKILLS2017 Conference will have purposeful deliberations on the best means to identify the challenges and create the disruptive and innovative solutions necessary to leverage Digital India for rural empowerment.

My good wishes to the conference attendees on this occasion and my compliments to the organizers for their efforts to make the vision of 'Digitally empowered India' a reality.

  
(M. Venkaiah Naidu)

New Delhi  
24<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.