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## MESSAGE

It is a pleasure to know that SKILLS2017 International Conference with the theme 'Leveraging Digital India for Rural Empowerment', focused on the Digital India mission to digitally empower the country and help transform rural agricultural economies on 16-17 November 2017 at Hyderabad.

Digital India Programme symbolizes the Government of India's vision for connecting and empowering nearly one-fifth of world population by leveraging technology for quality education, health care, farming, financial inclusion and empowering citizens.

Digital India Mission has created immense opportunities to be harvested with greater possibility and ease of reaching the hitherto underserved or excluded portions of the society such as women, rural population and other marginalized communities.

What we need now are interventions across sectors for India to bridge the persisting 'digital divide' besides the concern for 'digital exclusion' of people living in rural areas. Now it's time to deliver to make India 'digitally empowered'.

I wish SKILLS2017 all the success and hope the deliberations will propose supportive digital solutions to enabling change to ensure empowerment inclusive growth in an expanding information economy.

  
(K. VIJAYANAND)

Principal Secretary, ITE&C Department