
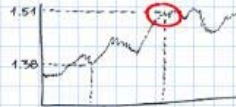


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Last Updated at 2:07 PM

WorldSkills CEO calls India to hold skill competitions



India must follow the example of countries like Russia and China by holding competitions, starting at school level, to realise its rich demographic dividend. WorldSkills International CEO David Hoey said today.

WorldSkills International, which promotes skill development globally, believes that the youth population is a challenge as well as an opportunity.

Cont

India should "early have a united, non-bureaucratic, non-political strategy that commits to skill development," he told PTI in an interview here, on the sidelines of the WorldSkills Competition.

Speaking about best practices followed globally, Hoey said: "Certainly our observations are that where there is a strong partnership between industry, education and government, each one taking responsibility for their role in the country's economic development, it (skilling) seems to work better".

Hoey said that to promote skilling in a big way, India has to commit fully to the skills competition process, where Russia, China and many other countries have a defined, clear strategy.

"What India should do, is what Russia, China and other countries are doing. In every school across the country they have a competition locally, then at the regional level, then within the state and then nationally.

"So you've got more people going in the skills trades and technology, those who graduate are of a higher quality and whether they work for the government or the companies, your products are better and they have lower cost," he said.

Twenty-eight young competitors from India are demonstrating their prowess in trades like jewellery design, beauty therapy, mobile robotics, automobile technology and cooking at the WorldSkills Competition here, vying for medals.

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17 OCTOBER 2017 Last Updated at 2:07 PM

'CCEA to soon take call on commercial coal mining methodology'



New Delhi, Oct 17 The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) will soon take a call on methodology for allocation of coal blocks for commercial mining, a top official has said.

The comments come amid some of the power producers facing low coal stocks at their plants.

"The CCEA note (on methodology of commercial coal mining) is ready. I think in the next one week or 10 days it should come in the Cabinet," Coal Secretary Susheel Kumar told PTL.

A discussion paper on the modalities for allocation of coal mines through auction route was earlier placed in the public domain for seeking comments of stakeholders.

"We have already received comments of stakeholders," Kumar asserted.

The government, he said, plans to put under the hammer around 5-6 coal blocks for commercial mining by private players.

"Five to six mines will be auctioned under commercial mining," the Secretary said.



Coal Minister Piyush Goyal had said earlier this year that enabling provisions have been made in the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 for allocation of coal mines by way of auction and allotment for the sale of coal.

Commercial mines are allotted without specifying the end use and allow private entities to sell the fuel to buyers across sectors such as power, cement and steel.

India is in the process of throwing open commercial coal mining to private firms for the first time in four decades, with the aim of shifting the world's third-biggest coal importer towards energy self-sufficiency.

The government had earlier said that opening up of commercial coal mining to private companies will bring in competition in the coal sector and will reduce power tariff.

The government had said it wants to convey to potential investors that sustainable and efficient mining, not revenue maximisation, is the idea behind commercial coal auction.



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