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### MESSAGE

I am delighted to learn that the Sikkim Legislative Assembly has enacted the Board of Open Schooling & Skill Education, Sikkim Act 2020.

The Board of Open Schooling & Skill Education (BOSSE), Sikkim is a Public Private Partnership Initiative of the Regional Education Development Council, New Delhi and the Government of Sikkim. The BOSSE will cater to the varied academic needs of the divergent disadvantaged groups of students up to pre degree level including Secondary, Senior Secondary and Skills and Vocational education. The initiative is laudable as it is in accord with the National Education Policy 2020 which lays great focus on imparting quality and affordable education so that our students are able to meet the aspirational needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Various structural and policy changes envisaged in the NEP aim at scaling up the provision and quality of vocational education. Some of these include the development of a National Curriculum Framework (NCF) and a National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF), strengthening school education boards for carrying out assessments of vocational courses, setting up of Skill Labs in schools in a hub and spoke model, emphasizing the professional development of vocational teachers through common National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) and offering of vocational courses through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode, among others. Government has accorded the highest priority to skill development so that the young people become employable and successful entrepreneurs. The thrust of Government policies is not only skill up and educate our youth but also to make them job providing entrepreneurs, the robust engine of our growth story. I am of the considered view that practical utility of academic knowledge is quite necessary and institutions must give priority to skill development. I am optimistic that the BOSSE would concentrate on the concept of 'Skill India' and 'Start-Up India'.

I am glad the BOSSE is launching a 'Prospectus' on this occasion. I am sure it would be immensely educative and beneficial to the children of disadvantaged groups. I congratulate the Board of Open Schooling & Skill Education, Sikkim, the Secretary, the faculty and the office bearers and wish them every success in their laudable endeavours.

(Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank')



सबको शिक्षा, अच्छी शिक्षा