



per cent of Indian graduates are employable, and a mere 15 per cent of engineering graduates are considered industry-ready. Since all the stakeholders have already taken cognisance of this immense challenge, we can expect to see a united effort on their part to create a functionally literate and skilled India. My hope is that Prof. Prahalad's vision of 200 million college graduates and 500 million trained skilled workers will be more than surpassed 25 years hence.

We can expect to see an increased level of contribution from India to the global workforce and entrepreneurial community in the next two-and-a-half decades. Already, over 25 million people of Indian origin (around 2.5 per cent of our population) are living outside India. Twenty-five years from now,

trajectory as described above, undergoing massive reform, and through this change, achieving global-levels of quality, we can even expect young learners from across the world to want to study in India. To expect an I-SAT, or I-MAT to replace the currently popular SAT, GRE or GMAT formats 25 years down the line is surely not beyond the realms of imagination.

A time may come when international students would vie for admission to leading Indian universities, favouring our educational platter, to even the currently coveted Ivy League schools of learning.

This indeed can come to pass, provided we collaborate with our global peers, not just in the area of education but also in other fields, and learn from

India's demographic dividend... will enable it to plug the global workforce demand-supply gap.



this figure can grow to 150 million, or 10 per cent of our population. India's drive for expansion, excellence and equity in education will have matured by then. The Right to Education bill will ensure that every child gets the minimum level of school education, which, along with the gross enrolment ratio, increase from the current level of 12.4 per cent to 35 per cent by 2022 and then to 55 per cent in the following decade, will create the requisite scale. Thus, our demographic dividend at that point of time will not only be based on our excess "pair of hands" but will also arise out of our fertile, educated minds, innovative brains and "skilled pair of hands".

With education in India getting on to the growth

the world. An important prerequisite to that will be: India emerges as a key investment destination. Already, international majors across industries are keenly eyeing our mammoth domestic market opportunity and are establishing their presence in India to reap the benefits of this untapped opportunity. India's domestic market, a sleeping giant that is beginning to awaken, will, going forward, continue to be a huge draw for global industry leaders, who will look to partner with India and participate in our great growth saga.

Therefore, while at one end we will remain on the path of globalisation, on the other, we need to open our doors to greater economic activity on home shores and stake our claim to being the high



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potential turf where everyone wants to be!

Innovation and diversity are intrinsic parts of the Indian DNA. We often talk of "Jugaad" as the way of finding a workaround to any problem. We can refine this concept to become structured innovation in the form of research for contribution to the bodies of knowledge. Diversity is used to create different entitlement levels. We can use this as a strength to adapt and, thus, become a seamless part of the global culture. Add to that the latest strand of technology, which every school child will get exposed to, and we have a very powerful mix of competencies.

There are already indications that the next revolution in the field of Intellectual Property in at least three areas will come from India. These are information and communication technology, biotechnology and environmental technology. Interestingly, these innovations will target the underprivileged and marginalized. As the father of India's telecom revolution, and renowned global entrepreneur, Dr Sam Pitroda said that the innovations of the past century benefited the rich; the innovations of the next 25 years have to transform the lives of the poor.

The 35-dollar Tablet PC, Sakshat, developed by an Indian company, is far cheaper than anything available around the world, and is a great example of this trend towards inclusion. Around 10 million units will be rolled out in the first batch and used in the education segment. Clearly, this innovation

will address the bottom of the pyramid, spurring inclusion and balanced development. Over the next couple of decades, India, particularly corporate India, can help other emerging nations understand how innovation can transform the lives of the masses through better education, health-care, energy and transportation.

In the last 10 years, we have seen the mushrooming of new businesses, new models of delivery and the development of new technologies. These will also become the platforms for greater inventiveness, which will position us as a source of innovation for the world.

By making innovation our winning mantra, we can flower in arts, literature and sciences. Extrapolating from Prof. Prahalad's vision, we should aim to produce 25 Nobel Laureates from India in the next 25 years.

The two-and-a-half decades that will follow will be critical for India. This will be a period when the country comes into its own, develops world-class infrastructure, builds an abundant pool of job-ready talent, catalyses entrepreneurship and then claims its rightful place among the world leaders.

What we now need to do is remain steadfast in this resolve, put our undivided attention to its execution, and enable the Indian juggernaut to roll its way to the top in the next 25 years. In short, from dreams and debates to decisive actions.