

Ashutosh Pratap Singh

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Summary: 21+ years of holistic field, practice & public policy experience in Technical Vocational Education & Training (TVET)/skill development for India's domestic skill system & international migration of skilled Indians for global labour market shortages.

At NSDC International, I led international research, technical advisory and government relations for international mobility. In the past, I have contributed to the writing of the Sharda Prasad Committee Report on Skill Reforms constituted by the Government of India. At the Ministry of Shipping, I helped build new institutions and handled infrastructure-led skills & job creation in coastal districts. Over the years, I have built my skills ecosystem understanding from the groundwork- at a private sector training company and an industry-led Sector Skills Council working at CXO level at both places. Earlier, I worked with JPAL's Evidence Action to scale the 2019 Economics Nobel Prize winner- Deworming program in India, founded a social enterprise and worked for a parliamentarian managing his constituency. I started my career with the Tata Group.

WORK EXPERIENCE

(Total of 21+ yrs)

General Manager, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) International Ltd., Delhi, India

Apr 23- Aug 26

Ecosystem creation for International Mobility of skilled Indians by reducing time and cost and enhancing ethical, transparent recruiting.

- Provide technical inputs, participate in negotiations and implement international migration agreements & bilateral skills MoUs.
- Technical, financial conceptualisation and operationalisation of Budget 23 announcement to set up 30 Skill India International Centres (SIICs)
- Build an ecosystem for languages, certifications, and resolving regulatory & financial barriers by incorporating best global migration practices.
- Formulate G2G & B2B MoUs; notes for Prime Minister's Office, Hon'ble Minister, NSDC management, international summits BRICS, G20 etc.
- Anchor international component of World Bank funded SANKALP project & prepare vision documents, proposals, implementation plans etc.
- Stakeholder management- Ministries (Skills, External Affairs), state governments, embassies, recruitment agencies and diverse partners
- Initiated Skills Diplomacy and Technical Advisory Nepal and for African countries- Kenya, Ethiopia, South Africa, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, etc.
- Setup research unit to solve information asymmetry for migrant, migrant families, employers, policymakers, etc.
- Introduced a 3-stage orientation for migrants- Pre employment, pre-departure, and post-arrival- instead of only pre-departure training.
- Wrote these country-specific information kits for Indians migrating abroad for 31 countries: East Asia and Pacific (6), Middle East (8), Europe & Central Asia(16) and Africa(1).
- Piloted country-specific information trainings and dossiers for workers going to Israel, Mauritius, Germany, Finland, Iraq, Slovakia & Japan

Independent Consultant, Bangalore/Delhi, India

Apr 21-Mar 23

- Built our 'learn by doing' school - Sweet Home School at Dharwad which is run by our family foundation.
- Field study & report on 'Improving Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in India' with Commonwealth agency (CEMCA) & 4 sector councils.
- Completed manuscript for a skills policy book - 'Creating Jobs: Realising India's Youth, Skills, and Jobs potential' now under final editing.
- Refreshed my software skills and, as Chief Innovation Officer (remote), Empower Pragati Pvt. Ltd., implemented innovative open source- ERP for streamlined market-linked resource management.
- Led development of mobile-based Software as a Service (SaaS) for women microentrepreneurs at beauty salons

Senior Consultant, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India, Delhi

Mar 17-Mar 21

Sagarmala-Port Led Prosperity- New Institution building, innovation & research, and infrastructure-led skill development & job creation.

- Accountable for a portfolio of 3 critical (Union budget/PMO monitored) projects with self-sustainable business models: Conceptualisation, operationalisation, oversight, and accountability for Centre of Excellence in Maritime and Shipbuilding (CEMS), Visakhapatnam and Mumbai to train 10000+ students., National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways, and Coasts (NTCPWC) at IIT Madras, Centre for Inland and Coastal Maritime Technology (CICMT) at IIT Kharagpur, National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, foundation stone laid by Hon'ble P.M in March 2019, and initiated setup of Multi-skill development Centres at Indian public ports in PPP mode.
- Trained 10,000 students/year in 21 coastal districts in convergence with the rural Ministry (MoRD) after conducting district-level skill gap studies.
- Drafted Sagartat Samridhhi Yojana(now merged into the National Infrastructure Pipeline(NIP)) in consultation with 77 coastal districts. Also drafted the Ministry's startup policy.
- Affected > 23,000 workers & created systems for 100% skilled labour force at the world's largest ship recycling yard in Alang, Gujarat
- Preparation of notes for government scheme approvals (EFC/SFC/CEE), notes for cabinet approval, public procurement (RFQ/RFP), project reports/speeches/parliament queries/budget inputs, etc.

Contributor, Sharda Prasad Committee, MSDE, Govt. of India, New Delhi Sept 16-Jan 17

Rationalization and Optimization of the Sector Skills Councils and recommendations to make India the Skills Capital of the World

- Research & analysis of data, review of international practices using accumulated ground experience to write papers/draft chapters.
- Key contributor & backroom work for preparation of the Report of the Committee for Review of Sector Skill Councils Volume- I, II & III.
- Data driven roadmap for clarity of institution roles and reorganization of sector skill bodies using international accepted codes.

Head Partnerships & Operations (interim CEO), Instrumentation & Automation Sector Skill Council, Delhi Dec 15- Aug 16

Bring together Industry, Training partners & assessing bodies to meet Industry demands and youths' aspirations.

- 1st hire, started operations, created National Standards along with managing Chairman's office and Governing council.
- Garnered Industry support, affiliated training and assessing partners, and laid down processes for a skilled workforce.

Chief Operating Officer, Empower Pragati Pvt. Ltd (early NSDC investee partner), Delhi, India Sep 14-Dec 15.

Managed strategy and operations across 15 states, 600+ centers, 25,000+ students, 100+ employers, 10+ sectors in training youth for jobs

- Oversee P&L, manage asset light operations excellence & skill development life cycle from curriculum to post placement. A UNDP case study
- Implement public & market-based skills programs in services sectors with self-operated, partners & school centers.

Program Manager, Evidence Action (Abdul Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) India), Delhi, India Dec 12-Aug 14.

Scale up research of Harvard/MIT professors (awarded Economics Nobel 2019) to reduce absenteeism in schools & improve children's health

- Designed & implemented supply chain of drugs from WHO, South Africa for de-worming & Iron tablets program, reached >4.5 mn children.
- Implemented first time Indian state-wide pilots in Delhi, seeding creation of Indradhanush program of the Ministry of Health, Govt in coordination with Education, Health, Women & Child Development Departments & MCDs in Delhi.
- Lead indoor & outdoor campaigns, set processes, hiring, data analytics for the program, advocacy, and report preparation.
- Randomized sampling, independent monitoring, teacher's training, and emergency response systems with 0% medical side effects.

Kurukshetra Parliamentary Coordinator, O/o Hon'ble M.P Shri. Naveen Jindal, New Delhi, India Jul 11-Sep 12.

Led strategic initiatives for the overall development of the Kurukshetra Parliamentary Constituency (Haryana)

- CEO of OP Jindal Sansthan managing programs for youth, women, health, education, and infrastructure.
- Created win-win for elected leaders and oversaw overall initiatives in the constituency (Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Yamunanagar & Shahbad)
- Implemented women & youth entrepreneurship programs such as LEAD and utilizing SHG pool for market-linked ventures.
- Construction of 20000+ rural toilets; constituency was amongst the top in most ODF villages (now Swachh Bharat Abhiyan).
- Piloted and launched telemedicine-based container Public Health center with Hewlett Packard. One of the first such rural implementations.

Fellow & Entrepreneur in Residence, Sandbox Startups, Deshpande Foundation, Hubli, Karnataka, India Jul 07- Apr 10.

Strategy, process and technology consulting for SME, startups (for-profit and nonprofit)

- Moved to create a sustainable model for solving the Beggar's problem. Failed. Had to abandon due to no economic/policy progress.
- 1st cohort of Deshpande Fellows and co-created the setup of the Deshpande Foundation (Deshpande & Murthy family giving back efforts)
- Founded social enterprise on technology adoption for SME/nonprofit, could not scale. Creating Connect IT program with NASSCOM.

Software engineer, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Israel & India Oct 04- Jun 07.

Software design, coding and testing for clients in India, US & Israel

- Created solutions in Health (Amisys), Telecom (Polaris Wireless), Pharma Retail (Consumer Value Stores) & Hi Tech-Storage (EMC).
- Taught graduate engineers in initial learning programs; suggested creation of independent business units: recognition by CTO.

EDUCATION

Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad, India Apr 10-May 11.

Post Graduate Program in Management, Strategy and Finance

Exchange Student (Public Policy) at The Fletcher School and cross-registered for courses at Harvard Kennedy School, Boston

Madan Mohan Malaviya Engineering College (estd. 1962), Uttar Pradesh, India Jun 00-Jun 04.

Bachelor of Technology, Computer Science Engineering

SCHOLARSHIPS & ELECTED LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

- Narotam Sekhsaria Scholar 2010 (11/10000) Indian Students for higher studies globally | Ratan Tata Travel Grant for US studies.

- ISB Young Leader 2011 for outstanding leadership| ISB Admission Scholarship (5.3% of class).
- Elected President, NET IMPACT at ISB Led the first chapter in Asia with 373 members & a 24-member core team.
- Elected President of student body SANKET, M.M.M Engineering College.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Excellent in Hindi (native), English; Moderate in Nepali & German and Beginner in French

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

- *Report of the Committee for Rationalization & Optimization of the functioning of the Sector Skill Councils December 2016, constituted By Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government Of India, New Delhi*
i. [Sharda Prasad Committee on Skill India Reforms](#)-Vol 1
ii. [Sharda Prasad Committee on Skill India Reforms](#)-Vol 2
iii. [Sharda Prasad Committee on Skill India Reforms](#)-Vol 3
- Mehrotra Santosh, Ashutosh Pratap. (2018). [TVET Financing and Employer's Ownership in Skills Training for an Emerging Workforce](#). In: McGrath, S., Mulder, M., Papier, J., Stuart, R. (eds) Handbook of Vocational Education and Training. **Springer**, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-49789-1_44-1
- Pratap Ashutosh, Mishra Saurabh. "[Improving Recognition of Prior Learning in India: Learnings from Field Study](#)"

Book Manuscript

- *Creating Jobs: Realizing India's Youth, Skills, and Jobs potential'* - under developmental editing

Publications

Research on International Mobility

31 Country specific information kits for Pre-employment| Pre-departure | Post arrival Information kit for Indians Migrating to

- **East Asia and Pacific (6):** Taiwan, Singapore, Japan, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand
- **Middle east and North Africa (8):** Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait), Israel, Jordan
- **Europe & Central Asia (15):** Germany, Denmark, Greece, Portugal, Austria, Finland, France, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Russia, Armenia
- **Africa (1):** Mauritius

Sectoral Handbooks

- Healthcare Sector: International opportunities for Indian Jobseekers
- International certifications -Vol 1 and Vol 2
- Language ecosystem in India -a practitioner's handbook covering 14 foreign languages.

Migrant and Migrant Family workbooks

- Family orientation kit for Indian migrant workers
- Pocket workbook for Indian migrants

Internal country and sector studies

- Frequently asked questions (FAQ) for priority sectors
- Frequently asked questions (FAQs) for priority countries

External Skill reports reviewed and finalised, made by consulting companies

- Visa regime for skilled Indians
- [Skill gap report of 21 coastal districts](#)
- Global Labour market study for 16 countries- Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, Romania, Singapore, Sweden, UK, USA; and Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE (GCC): (submitted to Government for public release)