1. **Introduction:**

The State Government constituted the Karnataka Skill Development Authority under the Department of Skill Development Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, Government of Karnataka to establish quality standards in skills training, prepare curriculum, course, content and credit frameworks for skills training, prepare guidelines for training trainers, prepare standards for skill training and to improve the standards of the skill programmes in the State, design and to develop labour market information systems and data systems based on global standards and best practices, to work as a think-tank forum for research inputs relating to skills development and to take up other activities in order to ensure overall improvement in Skills Training and furthering the employment opportunities to the youths of Karnataka.

The Karnataka Skill Development Authority, amidst the ongoing Covid19 pandemic, has carried out the following activities during the month of September, 2020 to improve the skill development initiatives in the State of Karnataka.

2. **Meetings and discussions held with the Government Departments, Industries and other organisations.**

During the month of September, 2020, due to Covid-19 situation all over the Country, most of the activities of the Authority had to be carried out through online. Among other routines, the following main activities are carried out:

2.1. **Upgradation of government ITIs with the private participation.**

The Chairman, KSDA in early days of her assuming office visualized/realised that many Government ITIs which are running in their own buildings are functioning with old technology/syllabus and thus are not of catering to the present demands of employment in various sectors and that there is need, not only to upgrade them but to introduce digital technology in order to train the students in keeping with the
present requirements of employment in various sectors. The Chairman, KSDA visualized the need to bring in the reputed private partner to play a major role in upgradation of Government ITIs and zeroed on to M/s Tata Technologies Limited as the appropriate partner. The Chairman, KSDA held a meeting as early as on 10th February followed by a detailed meeting along with the power point presentation on 4th March with Tata Technologies Limited and there after several rounds of discussions. The Karnataka Skill Development Corporation, the Ambedkar Development Corporation and Peenya Industries’ Association were also involved in the discussion/meetings. Based on the outcome of the meetings, suitable recommendations have been made for upgradation of Government ITI. It is happy to note that the efforts of KSDA have yielded fruitful results. The Government of Karnataka approved the Recommendations of KSDA and accorded approval for upgradation of 150 government ITIs at a cost of Rs. 4636 crores with the private partnership of M/s Tata Technologies Limited.

2.2. The Meeting organised by the UNDP regarding Udyoga Sahayavani with the main focus on women entrepreneurs and their problems:

On 8th September, 2020, the Chairman, Karnataka Skill Development Authority has participated in the online meeting organised by the UNDP on Udyoga Sahayavani for Women Entrepreneurs. The problems being faced all over the State by the Women Entrepreneurs, regarding rehabilitation of the some of the genuine sick units, providing manpower and extending market support were discussed in the meeting. It was decided to hold a Seminar for Women Entrepreneurs in the month of December. It was decided to discuss in the seminar each of their problems, particularly with reference to individual entrepreneurs, if any, are greatly affected by the Covid-19 as far as the aspects of their employment and finances are concerned.

2.3. The online inaugural function of the Foreign Investors’ Council:

On 12th September, 2020, the Chairman, Karnataka Skill Development Authority has attended the inaugural function of the Foreign Investors’ Council online. Due to present hostile situation, many of the foreign companies, particularly in the manufacturing sector working in China are intending to come out of China and are looking India as their most favourable destination. The Government of Karnataka has been relentlessly working to provide all basic necessities, in order to attract them. Therefore, the Chairman, Karnataka Skill Development Authority felt that the Department of Skill Development Entrepreneurship and Livelihood should make all out efforts to assure them of the required manpower.
2.4. **Zoom meeting taken by the Chairman, Karnataka Skill Development Authority with the Bidari Artisans in Bidar District:**

On 16th September, 2020, the Chairman, Karnataka Skill Development Authority took a meeting to discuss the problems being faced by the Bidari Artisans due to ongoing pandemic all over the Country. It was brought to the notice of the Chairman, KSDA by the Bidari Artisans office bearers that due to pandemic, there has been a drastic reduction in tourism, difficulties in logistic support, etc., and the marketing of their product has almost come to a standstill. After hearing the various grievances of the Artisans of Bidar, the Chairman, KSDA assured them that all their grievances will be separately taken up in a meeting to be held on 24th September, 2020.

2.5. **Meeting with the UNDP on providing the digital marketing to Women Entrepreneurs:**

On 18th September 2020, the Chairman, KSDA had a meeting with the UNDP on providing the digital marketing to Women Entrepreneurs. The UNDP has come forward to help the Women Entrepreneurs to provide digital marketing of their products. It has been decided that the UNDP would provide necessary assistance in having a tie up with the experienced persons/companies who are running website and the women entrepreneurs will come up with their products. It has been felt that when once marketing is improved, more number of people can be employed.

2.6. **Discussion with the Managing Director, KSDC, with respect to the article published in Times of India regarding Indians being stranded in Saudhi Arabia:**

On 19.9.2020 the KSDA Chairman had a discussion with the Managing Director, Karnataka Skill Development Corporation with respect to the article published in the Times of India regarding the Indians being stranded in Saudhi Arabia. As a result of the discussion and with the help of IMCK and Protector of Immigrant (POE) necessary arrangements were made for the safe evacuation of the 35 Kaannadiagas who were...
migrants and unemployed. KSDC/KSDA will support these migrants in getting employed.

2.7. Online Meeting with National Task Force Committee for Yuvwaah program by UNICEF:

On 22.9.2020 the Chairman, KSDA participated in the online meeting for Yuvwaah program by UNICEF. The objectives of the Yuvwaah Program are to support young people by providing online and offline classes to establish entrepreneurial mindset in them, upskilling them on 21st century skills, life skills, digital skills, support them through self-learning, for their productive lives and the future of work and so on.

2.8. Following up meeting with the officers on the problems being faced by the Bidari Artisans of Bidar District:

On 24th September, 2020, the Chairman, KSDA took a follow up meeting in which the Director MSME, Deputy Commissioner Bidar, Mr. Patel, Consultant of Government of India, Capt Kaustav Nath Engagement Officer of NSDC and Representatives of Bidari Artisans’ Association participated in the meeting. The subject relating to various problems being faced by the Artisans was discussed in detail with the officers present in the meeting. After detailed discussion, the Chairman, KSDA suggested the following integrated approach for the welfare of the artisans:

a) The Deputy Commissioner, Bidar should identify suitable land for the establishment of a Artisans Cluster park to be purchased, as Govt of India has already approved the project for Infrastructure development.

b) To write to the Minority Welfare Department and Labour Department to include Artisans as beneficiaries under the various welfare schemes of the Departments;

c) To make suitable provision in the next year’s budget for the establishment of the Artisans’ Cluster Park if not already done by the Minorities Welfare Dept;

d) To evolve a short-term curriculum for the training of Artisans with the help of the recognized technical institutions;

e) To provide a formal training to Artisans in order to recognize them as skilled persons by issuing a certificate under NSDC;

f) To write to the Managing Director, Karnataka Handicrafts Development Corporation to exhibit the products of Bidari Artisans in the Cauvery Emporium and to provide marketing
support;

g) The Artisans Association expressed its concern about certain health issues and in particular eye sight. At the request of the Chairman, KSDA, Shankara Eye Foundation have agreed to conduct a free eye camp for the benefit of Bidari Artisans. Therefore it was decided to write to Artisans Association & Deputy Commissioner Bidar to be in touch with the Shankara Eye Foundation and organise a free eye camp for its members. KSDA to write formally thanking the foundation & coordinate conducting the eye camp.

2.9. **Staff meeting by the Chairman, KSDA:**

On 25th September, 2020, the Chairman, KSDA took the staff meeting with the officers/officials of the KSDA. The Chairman, KSDA was briefed the interior works of the new office of the Authority. In view of the increasing number of +ive Covid cases in the building, the presence of limited staff was briefed to the Chairman. The Chairman instructed the Manager to draw up a duty chart as who are all work from home and those from office on the weekdays. The Chairman, instructed that the chart should indicate the address, contact number and email address of all officials of the KSDA. Chairman also directed the website to be updated & to link with KSDC site.

2.10. **Meeting with the Officers of KIADB regarding allotment of sites in the women’s park:**

On 29th September, the Chairman, KSDA took a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer, Financial Advisor, General Manager and the Executive Engineers of Bangalore, Dharwad, Bellary, Mysore and Gulbarga of KIADB. The subject was discussed at length. The Chairman, KSDA requested the KIADB to consider the following:

a) To reduce the allotment price in Harohalli Women’s Park & all other parks based on earlier decisions.

b) To speed up the allotment work;

c) To examine waiving off the interest for delayed payment in Kalburgi women’s park.

d) To get the grants from the Government of India for establishment of skill & training centre & infrastructure so that the cost of allotment of plots can be reduced.

e) To consider getting funds available in GoI. To create basic infrastructure like buildings, etc. so that these built spaces can be straight away allotted to tiny and mini enterprises who are not in need of allotted lands.
2.11. **Meeting with the UNDP on providing the digital marketing to MSMEs, Artisans and Weavers:**

On 29th September 2020, the Chairman, KSDA had a preliminary meeting with the UNDP on providing the digital marketing to MSMEs, Artisans and Weavers. The UNDP has come forward to help the MSMEs, Artisans and Weavers to provide digital marketing of their products. It has been decided that the UNDP would work out the modalities and come up with a specific proposal in the next meeting.