

Press Note

Maharashtra gets its first residential Skills & Open University

The Government of Maharashtra has enacted Maharashtra's first residential Skill Development University called Symbiosis Skills & Open University.

Under the leadership of President and Founder, Symbiosis Padma Bhushan Dr. S B. Mujumdar & Dr. Swati Mujumdar, Principal Director, Symbiosis Open Education Society, the first -of- its kind Skill Development University has been established in Maharashtra.

With an investment of over Rs. 200 crores, Symbiosis has created a state- of- art infrastructure spread over 15 acres of land, off the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, at Kiwale, Pune. Academic buildings, hostels for boys & girls, Centre of Excellence, specialised training labs and workshops, School of Interdisciplinary Sciences and Community College are a hallmark of this University. The University has imported specialised skill training machinery and simulators to impart hands-on practical training to its students.

Skill development is an important driver for industrial and economic growth of India. To crystallise the 'Make in India' mission of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and to provide opportunities of gainful employment to our youth, Symbiosis Skill and Open University has been established. Usually, it is seen that students are discouraged from pursuing skill based courses due to lack of social acceptability and vertical mobility of such courses. On the other hand, industries are in the need of skilled manpower and industry ready professionals.

To bridge this gap, University will offer Certificates, Diplomas and Degree programs in high growth sectors such as Automobile, Construction, Mechatronics, Ports & Terminal Management, Retail, Public Policy, Architecture, Beauty and Wellness etc. with multi entry exit and credit banking options. The objective of the University is to create '*industry ready*' youth who can be gainfully employed upon completion of their courses. The University will offer programs from academic year 2017.

University has partnered with industry for joint curricula development, skill training, on the job training, joint applied research projects etc. Centres of Excellence, skill training labs, workshops are being set up to impart skill and practical training.

The Open and Distance Learning (ODL) programs will complement the skill based courses. These ODL programs are aimed at '*Reaching the Unreached*' and providing educational opportunities to students from all strata of society and to those located in remote corners. The ODL programs will enable continuing education and lifelong learning with the facility to study from anywhere at any time.

The University will also have a Community College and a Vocational & Employment Guidance Cell which will offer career guidance and livelihood oriented short term courses to local farmers, women and school drop outs.