



BUDGET 2025
POLITICS OF NIRMALA'S LARGESSE

UNTOLD STORIES
POPE AND HIS INDIAN ELEPHANT

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THE NEW CARS
COMPANIES ROLL OUT
ELECTRIC BEAUTIES

AMITAV GHOSH
I WRITE ABOUT SAD
THINGS, BUT I AM NOT
A DEPRESSED MAN

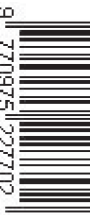
THE WEEK

FEBRUARY 16, 2025

MAN WHO RECRUITED 9/11 ATTACKERS

**EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW**

THE WEEK speaks to
Mohammed Haydar Zammar,
key member of Al Qaeda
and Islamic State,
in a Syrian prison



SKILLS FIRST APPROACH at B20 Summit in Brazil



DR. MANJULA POOJA SHROFF
MD & CEO, Kalorex Group

The year 2024-25 has been an exciting one for great learning opportunities as well as business networking. Being invited to the COP28 Dubai, the United Nations ACUNS Tokyo, the ECOSOC New York, DIE Australia, I also had the privilege to attend the B-20 Summit in São Paulo, Brazil in October as well as the World Economic Forum 2025, Davos - Switzerland. I would like to express my views on the B20 Summit, which I believe is impactful for educational strategies and policy making towards a country's growth and development. B-20, also known as Business 20, was established in 2010 as a forum for businesses, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and civil society to discuss policy recommendations for economic

growth and development. The G-20 dialogue forum is a global community, comprising 760 members from 39 countries, making it a crucial platform for addressing major global economic issues and B-20 represents the voice of the business community in influencing those decisions.

7 Task Groups

This year, as Brazil had the honour of presidency, the B-20 deliberations were organized and sub-divided into 7 major task groups:

- Trade & Development
- Education & Employment
- Finance & Infrastructure
- Integrity & Compliance
- Energy Transmission & Climate
- Sustainable Food Systems & Agriculture
- Women Diversity & Inclusion in Business Action Council

As an Educationist and edupreneur, my primary focus was on the Education & Employment task force. This further focused on preparing a resilient and productive workforce for the future of work to ensure a diverse, inclusive, and adaptable workforce while promoting innovation and sustainable growth.

B-20 & G-20's Aligned Goals

The most prominent feature was the clear synergy between the B-20 and G-20 agendas. There was a 50-75% alignment between the B-20 recommendations and G-20 priorities:

- To enhance the relevance and quality of basic (K-12 education) and vocational education and training (VET) to develop skills for the future workforce—50% aligned with the G-20 Education wing.
- To encourage reskilling and upskilling, specifically in digital proficiency and sustainability—75% aligned with the G-20 Employment wing.

Two significant recommendations from the B-20 Brazil that resonated impactfully and deeply were:

- **Accelerating a Fair Net Zero Transaction:** This involves upskilling and reskilling across various industries to meet the demands of green-driven transitions and fostering innovation in green technologies.

- **Enhancing Human Capital:** This involves promoting the relevance and quality of basic, VET, and professional education while encouraging various strengthening programs for educators and workforce development.

India's Path to A Skilled Future

India is a diverse country that faces persistent skill gaps. Many industries struggle to find adequately trained workers with technical and vocational expertise. Adopting a 'Skill-First Approach' in education could serve as a game changer.

This would involve aligning the skill-based subjects in K-12 with Vocational Education and Training programs. Such alignment may help reduce skill mismatches, enhance employability, and improve global competitiveness. Skill India Mission and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana are some of the several government initiatives that aim to bridge this gap. However, significant improvements are required in the areas of

- **Curriculum Revamp:** To integrate skill-based subjects across K-12 education.
- **Apprenticeship Programs:** To introduce vocational training opportunities at the high school level.
- **Upskilling Educators:** To provide training to educators to meet the demands of a skills-oriented curriculum.
- **Skill-Based Assessments:** To incorporate skills into examinations to align education with industry needs.

The focus has to shift toward equipping learners with relevant, employment-ready skills from an early age. Embedding digital literacy, sustainability, and industry-specific skills into the school curriculum can ensure the students are prepared for future demands.

The Skill-First Approach is not only about addressing unemployment but also about preparing the future workforce that is capable of driving innovation and adapting to an ever-evolving global economy.

To conclude, India's goal is to bridge the skill gap to position itself as a leader in global competitiveness. By aligning education with skill development priorities, we can create a workforce that meets the challenges of the future.