

ANNUAL CONCLAVE 2026



**Skilled
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BUILDING INDIA'S AUTOMOTIVE FUTURE



EVENT REPORT



**31ST
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**Taj Palace,
Chanakypuri,
New Delhi,**



ASDC Conclave Focuses on Future-Ready Skills as Auto Sector Shifts to EVs, Industry 4.0

New Delhi, August 31, 2026: Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC) hosted its 15th Annual Conclave 2026 at Taj Palace, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, bringing together more than 500 representatives from government, industry, academia and the automotive sector to deliberate on the skills required to support India's evolving automotive industry.

Held on the theme "Skilled Hands, Strong Nation: Building India's Automotive Future," the conclave was inaugurated by **Shri H. D. Kumaraswamy**, Union Minister of Heavy Industries, who underlined the importance of preparing India's workforce for emerging technologies. The session also brought together **Prof. (Dr.) Ashok Kumar Gaba**, Executive Member – National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVT), **Dr. Hanif Qureshi (IPS)** – Additional Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries, and **Mr. Pavan Kumar**, Senior Vice President & Head – Sales, Customer Care & CX, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., Automotive Division, as Guests of Honour. Keynote address delivered by **Mr. Mohan Reddy**, General Manager, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

Addressing the gathering, **Shri H. D. Kumaraswamy, Union Minister of Heavy Industries, Government of India**, said, "India's automotive sector is a powerful engine of growth, creating opportunities across engineering, electronics, components, logistics, software, services and employment. As India expands its manufacturing capabilities and global value-chain presence, developing a skilled workforce that meets global standards of quality, productivity, safety and innovation is critical.

He highlighted that the shift to electric mobility is creating new opportunities while increasing demand for skilled professionals in battery technology, high-voltage systems, power electronics and advanced diagnostics. Strengthening the link between education, skilling and employment must therefore remain a national priority. Through the Skill India Mission, the Government is committed to building a future-ready, automotive workforce and positioning India as a global hub for skilled talent, contributing to the vision of **Viksit Bharat @2047**."

Speaking at the conclave, **Vinkesh Gulati, Chairperson, Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC)**, said, "India's automotive industry is at an important inflection point, with electric mobility, advanced manufacturing, AI and Industry 4.0 rapidly reshaping not only vehicles and factories, but also the skills required across the automotive value chain. Our focus at ASDC is to ensure that skilling evolves at the same pace as technology. The real measure of our

success is not just the number of people trained, but how effectively those skills translate into employability, productivity and meaningful career opportunities."

Mr Gulati also presented ASDC's Performance Report for 2025-26, highlighting the Council's expanding initiatives across industry partnerships, women's participation, academia-industry collaboration, emerging technologies and employment-linked skilling.

He added, "As India aspires to become a global automotive and mobility hub, our competitive advantage cannot come from manufacturing scale alone. It must also come from the quality of our talent. **Future-ready vehicles will need a future-ready workforce, and India has the opportunity to become not only a global manufacturing hub, but also a global talent hub for the automotive industry.**"

On the occasion, **Prabhu Nagraj**, Vice-Chairperson, ASDC, **Rama Shankar Pandey**, Treasurer, ASDC and **Prasanna Pahade**, CEO, ASDC addressed the gathering.

A key highlight of the conclave was the emphasis on strengthening partnerships between the skilling ecosystem and industry. MOU exchanges were undertaken with Kia Motors India Private Limited; Kukje Business Solution Private Limited and Rossik East Europe SRL; Shell India; and Lucas India Service Limited. The conclave further marked important milestones in ASDC's skilling and employment journey through the launch of its Annual Report 2025-26, the flag-off of candidates proceeding to Romania and a convocation ceremony.

The conclave featured two high-level industry panels addressing critical challenges across the automotive skills and employment ecosystem. The first panel, "The Last Mile Workforce: Building a Pipeline of Technicians and Entrepreneurs," examined the need to create a robust pipeline of skilled technicians and entrepreneurs capable of supporting the industry's expanding requirements. The second panel, "From Training to Employment: Strengthening the Skill-to-Industry Pipeline," focused on strengthening the connection between training and actual employment opportunities, with discussions around industry requirements, job readiness and the need for greater alignment across the skill-to-employment value chain.

The conclave brought together government officials, automotive CEOs, manufacturers, component companies and academic institutions, reinforcing the need for closer collaboration between industry and the skilling ecosystem to build a workforce capable of supporting India's ambitions as a global automotive and manufacturing hub.

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Kumaraswamy urges India's auto industry to create more job opportunities for youth

NEW DELHI (Aug 31) Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Monday urged India's automobile industry to play its part in job creation saying the challenge of providing employment to even educated graduates is a "ground reality".

Creating employment opportunities for the country's youth is critical to achieving the Viskit Bharat 2047 goal stated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Let us work together for an automotive workforce ready for the next generation of mobility and contribute to the larger vision of a Viskit Bharat 2047," Kumaraswamy said while addressing the Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC) Annual Conclave 2026 here.

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"Let us work together for an automotive workforce ready for the next generation of mobility and contribute to the larger vision of a Viskit Bharat 2047," Kumaraswamy said while addressing the Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC) Annual Conclave 2026 here.

The minister noted that the challenge faced by the younger generation in the country regarding the employment is a "ground reality".

"If we look into it, it is very difficult to get an employment, even educated graduates. I am regularly seeing youngsters who are approaching me every day. My personal request to all our automobile industry friends -- please look after the employment issue," Kumaraswamy said.

The minister for heavy industries and steel underlined the need for skilling, upskilling, and employment generation for India's younger generation a central priority as the country moves towards Viskit Bharat 2047, stressing that skilled workforce must be prepared not only to meet domestic requirements but also the growing needs of industries across the world.

Kumaraswamy made a fervent appeal to the automobile industry, especially manufacturers, to generate employment opportunities for the youth.

He observed that India's automotive sector is entering a new era of transformation, driven by electric mobility, autonomous driving, and digitalization.

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Kumaraswamy urges India's auto industry to create more job opportunities for youth

Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy called on automakers to address the "ground reality" of job scarcity, even among graduates, at the ASDC Conclave 2026.

Kumaraswamy highlighted the sector's shift towards EVs, automation and advanced technologies, urging industry to build a skilled and agile workforce to drive growth.

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Kumaraswamy Calls on Automakers to Address Youth Jobs Crisis

Union minister's appeal comes as ASDC flags a widening skills gap and 80% of employers struggling to find trained staff.

By Anurag Chaturvedi | 31 Aug 2026 | 319 Views

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy urged automobile manufacturers and dealership owners to help address India's youth employment crisis. Speaking at the Automotive Skills Development Council's annual conclave in Delhi on Monday, he said:

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Industry - 2 Min Read

Auto sector's shift to EVs, Industry 4.0 creates demand for future-ready workforce: ASDC

ASDC's Performance Report for 2025-26 highlighted its initiatives around industry partnerships, women's participation, academia-industry collaboration, emerging technologies and employment-linked skilling.

The council has also developed seven EV skill labs across India and internationally including facilities in Chennai, Hyderabad and South Africa.

New Delhi: The Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC) at its 15th Annual Conclave 2026 highlighted the need to align India's automotive workforce with the sector's shift towards electric mobility, advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence and Industry 4.0.

Held in New Delhi under the theme "Skilled Hands, Strong Nation: Building India's Automotive Future," the exclusive brought together more than 500 representative from the automotive sector to discuss the challenges and opportunities ahead.

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Vehicle Cybersecurity Emerging as Key Automotive Skill Requirement: ASDC

ASDC calls for investment in centres of excellence and training infrastructure as AI, ADAS, autonomous technologies and connected vehicles reshape workforce needs.

By Mukul Yudhveer Singh and Shahkar Abidi | 31 Aug 2026 | 571 Views

Vehicle cybersecurity is emerging as an important new skill requirement as vehicles become increasingly connected and software-defined.

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