Realizing the need to boost vocational education on a larger scale, the UGC propose to establish as many as 100 ‘Deen Dayal Upadhyay Centres for Knowledge Acquisition and Upgradation of Skilled Human Abilities and Livelihood (KAUSHAL)’ during the XII Plan period. The Commission approved guidelines for establishment of such Centres on 22 September, 2014. These Centers would take-up the vocational education to new levels and offer courses beyond B.Voc. degree also. These Centers would also embed and follow the guiding principles of QPs, and NOSs under NSQF for their programmes and would not focus on skilling alone but also develop entrepreneurship traits. The Centers may endeavour to maintain a pyramidal structure of student enrolment with respect to Diploma, Advanced Diploma, B.Voc. and further studies at PG and Research level. These Centers will also coordinate between the country’s higher education system and Industry to work as Centres of excellence for skill development in specialized areas.
Who can apply:

- All Universities and Colleges, recognized under section 2(f) and 12(B) of UGC Act and eligible to receive General Development Assistance from UGC can apply under the scheme.

- Unaided / self-financed institutions will also be eligible to apply under the scheme without UGC assistance.

- Universities / colleges offering B.Voc degree and courses under Community Colleges scheme can also apply.

Salient Features of the Scheme:

- 100 such Centres are proposed to be established during 12th Plan in universities/colleges recognised under section 2(f) and 12 (B) and eligible to receive General Development Assistance from UGC.

- Existing institutions running Community Colleges and B.Voc. degree programmes are also eligible to apply under the scheme.

- KAUSHAL Centers will run courses from certificate to PG degree and research level in the field of skill development and vocational education.

- They will also network with other KAUSHAL Centers and Universities and Colleges imparting Vocational Education under the scheme of Community Colleges and B.Voc. degree programme.

- Financial Assistance with a ceiling of Rs. 5 crore per Centre during 12th Plan period with following components.
  - Staff: 1 Professor, 2 Associate Professor, 4 Assistant Professors and one MTS to be appointed on contract basis for the 12th Plan period.
  - Operative Cost: A grant of Rs. 1.00 crore will be provided to meet the operational expenditure under the scheme during 12th Plan period.
  - Rs. 2.00 crore for developing infrastructure, procuring equipment and renovation of building. This shall not cover any new construction.

- The KAUSHAL Centers will also embed and follow the guiding principles of QPs and NOSs under NSQF for their programmes as in the schemes of community colleges and B.Voc degree programmes.

- Guidelines also provide for setting up of National Resource Centre for KAUSHAL (NRCK) with a financial assistance of Rs. 25 crore during 12th Plan period.
National Resource Centre for KAUSHAL proposed to be established as -
UGC-Inter University Centre on Skill Development

Given the scale and associated social, economic and political impact of skill development programmes, these will be supported by a national level resource centre i.e. National Resource Center for KAUSHAL (NRCK) proposed to be established as UGC Inter University Centre on Skill Development. NRCK-IUC on Skill Development shall be a facilitative mechanism to support KAUSHAL Centers and ensure success of this initiative.

- **Funding:** NRCK - IUC on Skill Development would have a funding of Rs. 25 crores for the XII plan period.

- **Staffing:** NRCK - IUC on Skill Development shall be headed by a Director, Curriculum and Content Development officers, Training Officer, Statistical Officer, Industry Collaboration officer, Program Managers and associated staff. All the staff shall be on contractual basis for the duration of the programme. The preference shall be given to experts in respective areas from industry and academia.
• **Functions:** The primary areas of contribution of NRCK / IUC (Skill Development) shall be as follows:

  i) **Leadership Training:**
  
  Building leadership capacity in KAUSHAL Centers through creation and delivery of Leadership Training Programs for Directors and faculty members, including orientation in various related areas.

  ii) **Faculty Training:**
  
  Building faculty capacity on use and delivery of learning and training content that leverages technology and alignment of pedagogy, systems and processes with industry and academia needs.

  iii) **Leveraging Technology for Quality and Scale:**
  
  Enabling widespread adoption and leveraging technology such as the massive online training platforms that maintain quality and relevance and are integrated with classroom and workshop training.

  iv) **Program and Curriculum Design:**
  
  Designing and developing model industry-linked curriculum and content, aligned with the QPs / NOSs for various job roles, which could be adapted by KAUSHAL Centers.

  v) **Research Support:**
  
  Identifying potential thrust areas for research which could be conducted through KAUSHAL Centers.

  vi) **Industry Connect:**
  
  Building industry-connects with large national level employers and industry associations to support KAUSHAL Centers.

  vii) **Foreign Collaboration:**
  
  Building international collaborative networks with similar academic higher education institutions involved in skill development and industries for mutual benefit.

  viii) **Information Support:**
  
  Tracking, maintaining and dissemination of data, statistics and information in areas like manpower demand-supply equation, future trends, industry requirements etc. It will also look at skilling people to meet the global employment needs. In addition, an online database regarding various facets of KAUSHAL Centers, tracking learners in KAUSHAL and CC/B.Voc. institutions during the study and thereafter.

  ix) **Scale and Sustain:**
  
  Developing strategies for scaling and sustaining KAUSHAL Centers.

  x) **Monitoring and Evaluation** of the KAUSHAL Centers.

  xi) **Policy Inputs:**
  
  Providing policy inputs to the Government/UGC.