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# 'Rural youth must get access to edu'

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There is a need to emphasize on infrastructure development, give impetus to a wide spectrum of education, improve



the quality and smartness of services, particularly internet connectivity and

power, manufacturing, industry, healthcare and agricultural productivity, for Odisha's inclusive development.

Today Odisha, and Bhubaneswar in particular, are emerging as the hubs of education with the presence of an IIT, AIIMS, NIT, NLU, NISER, SOA University. However, there is a need to improve the quality of education in the bulk of institutions. Providing access to quality education to the rural youth would significantly improve the human and intellectual capi-



SCHOOLS HAVE TO BREAK CLASS BARRIERS

tal of the state.

Reliable and uninterrupted power supply and cyber connectivity are essential pre-requisites of a smarter Odisha. Though the state boasts of surplus power generation, interruptions owing to glitches need to be reduced. Bhubaneswar was without power for more than two weeks ow-

ing to the snapping of transmission lines during Cyclone Fani.

Our state is witnessing a good infrastructure growth, but there is a need to expedite decentralization. There are serious concerns on the quality front like incurring maintenance cost, serious damages in cyclones, forcing attri-

bution to natural calamity account, and thus causing phenomenal national loss. We need to urgently bring in revolutionary improvements in construction practices and impart skill training to masons/technicians.

Despite the great advantage of mineral riches, the state may not see prosperity until the establishment of value-adding metal industry. Putting up the right policy framework, including single-window mechanisms for the same, and serious efforts in attracting entrepreneurs can help. Institutions like ours are trying to encourage students to take to entrepreneurship.

The state is doing well on the skill development front now and such efforts should continue. We need to do a lot in the healthcare sector. Making agriculture profitable, productive and decentralization of development is essential for inclusivity.

(The writer is the director of IIT Bhubaneswar)