

THE STATESMAN

# 198 skill centres for Punjab youth

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SRINAGAR, 24 JUNE

The youth living in rural parts of Punjab will now be able to learn skills of customer care executives, hair stylists, training associates and beauty therapists as the Punjab government has come up with 198 skill development centres to train them.

The Punjab government has added these centres to provide two lakh jobs under a programme lined up with Punjab Skill Development Mission (PSDM) in next five years. A budget of Rs 39.20 Crore has been spent on the construction of these centres by the Punjab Housing and Urban Development Department.

As per the information, 13 skill development centres have been constructed by Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA), 52 by the Amritsar Development Authority (ADA) 35 by Greater Ludhiana Area Development Authority (GLADA), 46 by Bathinda Development Authority and so on.

Each centre has been completed at a cost of Rs 19.80 lakh.

These centres have been constructed within the premises of government elementary schools, senior secondary schools and high schools in rural areas of the state and the land has been provided as a subsidy or free of cost.

Additional Chief Secre-

tary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Vini Mahajan, told The Statesman that the centres will be helping to generate self employment and improve the economic status of the rural poor. "All these centres are self contained units. Water supply to the centres has been managed from the village water supply system.

Electricity connections have been secured from the existing buildings by increasing load. Construction work of all 198 centres has been completed by 31 May in a phased manner," she said.

The primary objective of Skill Development Mission is to enable youth to take up industry-relevant

skill training that will improve their theoretical and practical knowledge and help them in securing a better livelihood.

According to the programme, each of the skill development centre would be offering two different courses for improving skill of rural poor to make them self sustainable.

Training partners have been empanelled by the government to conduct training of various courses like customer care, hair stylist, handset repair, sewing machine operator, training associates, general duty associates, steward, courier delivery, data entry operator, store promoter, beauty therapist to name a few.

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THE TRIBUNE

## 198 skill development centres set up

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 24

Fulfilling a pre-poll promise of the Congress, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Punjab, has built 198 skill development centres under the Punjab Skill Development Mission (PSDM).

These centres, constructed on the premises of government schools in villages at a cost of Rs 39.2 crore, aim at generating self-employment and improving economic status of the rural poor.

"All these centres are self-contained units," said Vini Mahajan, Additional Chief Secretary, Housing and Urban Development, here today. She said the primary objective of the PSDM was to enable youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood. The government aims to train over 2 lakh youths in the state.

Each centre will offer two courses. The government has empanelled training partners to conduct training.

