

# Skill India with ₹8,800cr outlay, new rly zone get Cabinet nod

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Cabinet on Friday approved the Rs 8,800 crore Skill India Programme till 2025-26 with focus on industry-aligned training of manpower across the country. It also gave ex-post facto approval for creation of South Coast Railway zone, fulfilling Centre's assurance as per Andhra Reorganisation Act.

Briefing mediapersons about the Cabinet decisions, I&B minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the revamped skill programme will now include three components — Rs 6,000 crore PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (PMKVY 4.0), Rs 1,942 crore PM National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PM-NAPS), and Rs 858 crore Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) scheme.

An official release said

that the approval underscores govt's commitment to building a skilled, future-ready workforce by integrating demand-driven, technology-enabled, and industry-aligned training across the country.

"These initiatives aim to provide structured skill development, on-the-job training, and community-based learning, ensuring that both urban and rural populations, including marginalised communities, have access to high-quality vocational education," it said.

Vaishnaw said PM-NAPS will cover the service sector in addition to manufacturing. Govt said the scheme encourages apprenticeship opportunities in prevailing manufacturing including emerging fields such as AI, robotics, blockchain, green energy, and Industry 4.0 technologies.