

State signs MoU with Jawed Habib for training unemployed youth

The state government Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with celebrity hairstylist Jawed Habib for training unemployed youth in the trade of hairstyling. The MoU, which is part of the government's flagship Skill India initiative, targets to create 30,000 jobs in the next three years.

The plan is to train the youth as skilled and semi-skilled barbers, hairstylists and hair therapists. As per the MoU, unemployed youth will be enrolled for specialised training in batches at Habib's salons in seven cities including Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Nashik and Aurangabad for three-and-a-half months in batches.

While the government would pay Habib's firm Rs 120 per day for each person, Deepak Kapoor, Principal Secretary, Skill Development, claimed, "The amount would be released only after 75 per cent of those trained are absorbed in jobs or starts their own hairstyling units." A committee comprising representatives from the department would also supervise the training, he added.

An initial batch of 30 students will start training under Habib from September 5 onwards. The target is to train 10,000 youth each year. Besides unemployed youth, the programme will also see practicing barbers being offered training to upgrade skills. The units employing them would, however, have to brand Habib's role in training their barbers.

At the end of the course, the students will get a government certificate. Habib, who has more than 500 outlets, is in the process of expanding his own operations, and he has assured the government that many of the newly trained youth would be absorbed in his salon.