

Kevadiya to get skill devt centre

Taas News Network

Gandhinagar/Vadodra: Foreign affairs minister Dr S Jaishankar on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for the Rs 15 crore Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Centre for Empowerment and Livelihoods (SVPCEL) in Narmada district.

The centre to be made jointly by Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd (SSNL) and GMR Varalakshmi Foundation will have state-of-the-art infrastructure including accommodation for 100 youths. It will provide skilled staff for the Statue of Unity (SoU) that has now become a popular tourist site.

SSNL officials said that the centre will cause integrated development of Kevadia besides augmenting socio-economic uplift of this predominant tribal region. "It will run several free skill courses aligned to the National Skills Qualification Framework focusing mainly on demand of tourism and hospitality requirements in Kevadia," the officials said.

Separate entrepreneurship modules and career counselling as well as coaching for job aspirants will be also be done at the centre that will train about 600 youth, farmers and self help group members annually through its various ca-



Minister Jaishankar at the ground-breaking ceremony in Kevadia on Tuesday

capacity building programmes.

"More than 3,000 people are getting direct benefits of employment as tourist guides, sales counter boys and girls, office assistants, security guards, drivers, animal keepers, lift operators, cooks, waiters and helpers. Having a skill development centre will help empower the local youth," SSNL said.

SSNL MD Rajiv Gupta said, "Targeting at training 500 to 600 youth, farmers, SHGs etc. every year through its various capacity building programmes, this centre will prove to be a boon for empowering the local youth and women by their skill development and by providing them employment opportunities."