

## DHARMENDRA PRADHAN'S ADDITIONAL TASK

# 'We'll Bring Scale, Speed to Skilling'

Priority will be to create an ecosystem of jobs, says new skills development minister

Our Bureau

**New Delhi:** The government will expedite its initiatives under the Skill India Mission as it looks to create employment avenues for one million youth who join the country's workforce every month, the new skills development minister Dharmendra Pradhan has told ET.

"Every month, one million youth come in the job market. Our effort will be to coordinate with the state governments and other agencies to create an ecosystem of skilling for them," said Pradhan, after taking over as the minister for skill development and entrepreneurship on Monday. He said his priority will be to create an ecosystem of jobs.

The Centre is under pressure for not being able to create enough jobs in the country for a predominantly young population. Industry estimates suggest that India created 3.65 million jobs a year between 2011-12 and 2015-16.

Though skill training in the country has improved in recent years, the absence of job linkages is only aggravating the problem of unemployment, something which the government can no longer afford with the next general elections due in 2019.

According to official data, the National Skill Development Corporation trained 557,000 people in 2016-17 under the flagship Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, but managed to place only



## THE NUMBERS GAME



**Pradhan, who is also the oil minister, said real-time data will be used to map sectors for job opportunities**

63,000 in jobs. That's a success rate of less than 12%, against a requirement of 70%.

After assuming office in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi created the new ministry to coordinate all skill development efforts across the country, to remove the disconnect between demand and supply of skilled manpower.

Pradhan said his job will be to skill youth on a large-scale with speed. "We will increase the pace and take forward the work already done (under his predecessor Rajiv Pratap Rudy)," he said.

Pradhan, who was also elevated as cabinet minister for petroleum and natural gas in the reshuffle on Sunday, said real-time data will be used to map sectors for employment opportunities.