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Switzerland to skill young Indian talent



Skill development minister Rajiv Pratap Rudy signing MoU with the Swiss confederation secretary Ambrogio.

By **Education Mail Bureau**

WITH THE global demand for skilled workers growing rapidly, India and Switzerland has signed an agreement to establish cooperation in the fields of skill development and vocational and professional education and training.

"The agreement institutionalises cooperation between the two countries in these areas and aims to promote Swiss vocational and professional education and training internationally," a statement issued by the Swiss government stated.

The MoU in this regard was signed between Rajiv Pratap Rudy, minister for skill development and entrepreneurship and Mauro Dell Ambrogio, state secretary, Education Research and Innovation of Swiss Confederation in Switzerland recently.

"The Swiss vocational education and training system is much respected and regarded as a desirable entry point to a successful career for a majority of the youth in Switzerland. It is one of the best models we can learn from," said Rudy after signing the MoU. "We intend to bring the same respect and skill sets into the Indian market so that we too produce some of the best working cohorts," Rudy added.

A beginning in this direction has already been made with the setting up of a Vocational Educational Training

centre in Bengaluru under the Swiss VET Initiative in India (SVTII).

The SVTII is modelled on the Swiss system of vocational education and training methodology of imparting skill training to students at a young age with the support of the industry, including major players like the elevator maker Schindler. Schindler, which has vocational education programmes in its plants, train about 300 apprentices at its headquarters in Ebikon and other branches.

A key feature of the scheme is that it adapts its programmes, courseware and delivery to suit the needs of industries in India and other parts of the world, factoring in local education and training system as well

Courses to suit Indian work need

as socio economic conditions. Apart from SFIVET, the initiative is supported by agencies like State Secretariat for Education and Research (SERI) and the industry bodies.

A joint working group has also been constituted with representation from both the countries and its first ever meeting held to work together towards mutual recognition of qualifications, assessments and certification systems.