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'Benefit from apprenticeship programme'

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COIMBATORE

Industries across sectors should make use of the new apprenticeship framework and skill their workforce, said Surajit Roy, senior head of the apprenticeship division, National Skill Development Corporation, here recently.

The Confederation of Indian Industry, Coimbatore Zone, organised NSDC - GIZ - CII Roadshow Apprenticeship Connect Workshop on "Strengthening Skills Ecosystem through Industry & Stakeholders".

This is part of the road show to be held in 25 cities across the country.

Mr. Roy said at the inaugural of the workshop that less than 1% of the country's workforce was under apprenticeship.

The new apprenticeship framework was industry-driven and gave thrust to self-regulation.

Industries just had to enter information on the respective portals.

The role played by sector skill councils and industry associations were important to skill the workforce.

There were 261 designated trades for apprenticeship programme.

Apart from these, optional trades can also train their apprentice workers. Any industry with more than 40 employees should have apprentice workers.

The training programme can be from six months to 24 months.

The job for skilling and the period can be decided by the industry.

The training would involve classroom sessions and shopfloor experience. Micro and small-scale industries that had one or two apprentice workers may not be able to conduct classroom sessions.

They can come together and have joint programmes. Financial support was available to pay stipend to the candidates, he said.

According to C.R. Swaminathan, former chairman of CII - Southern Region, Coimbatore is an MSME cluster and the initiative will benefit the industries here. The country has a young population.

They need to be suitable for job opportunities and aware of the opportunities.

M. Ramesh, chairman of CII - Coimbatore Zone, said skilling was a common need of all industries.