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## Punjab inks MOU with UK to promote Skill Development

• Punjab setting up International Skill Training Centres to provide quality skill training for overseas employment: Channi

Chandigarh, June 29:

The Punjab Government and UK today signed a MoU to promote internationally valid skill development among the youth of Punjab. On behalf of UK Government Mr. Andrew Ayre, British Deputy High Commissioner Chandigarh and on behalf of Punjab Government Mr. G. Vajralingam, Additional Chief Secretary, Technical Education & Industrial Training, Government of Punjab signed the MoU in the presence of Mr. Charanjit Singh Channi, Technical Education Minister Punjab and Dr. Sandeep Singh Kaura, Adviser, Punjab Skill Development Mission, Punjab.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Charanjit Singh Channi said that Punjab Government is setting up International Skill Training Centres in Punjab for providing quality skill training to Punjabi youth for overseas employment. The Technical Education Minister said that British Deputy High Commission Chandigarh has assured a facilitative role in building linkages between the department, Punjab Skill Development Mission & UK skill providers."

Mr. Channi further said that Punjab Government has been working on a plan to establish Technical Education & Skill Development College in UK where Punjabi Students would be educated & trained by the well qualified UK trainers and teachers. He said that initial talks are going on with UK embassy in this regard and Punjab Technical Education Department has received positive response from UK representatives.

The Minister said that the Technical Education has been signing MOU with foreign Universities and colleges to stop the exploitation of our youth in the hands of private agents. He said that Punjab Technical Education Department has been setting up tie-ups with foreign institutes which will further give our students a chance to study abroad. 'Students of four year course would study two years in Punjab and two years abroad,' added Channi.

The British Deputy High Commissioner Chandigarh Andrew Ayre said that this was the first of its kind MoU signed with the Punjab Government in the field of Skill Development. He further said that this was a first step towards building a stronger partnership with the newly formed government, reflecting the importance of Punjab and the strength of the British offer to India.

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