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Tourism ministry plans World Medical Tourism Conference

To promote tourism, the Ministry of Tourism plans to hold a World Medical Tourism Conference in the near future.

"The department is mulling a programme to organise World Medical Tourism Conference," Additional Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Girish Shankar today said while addressing International Conference on Skilling India for Health-Wellness and Medical Tourism here.

During a presentation to create skilled manpower, Dilip Chenoy, CEO and MD, National Skills Development Council (NSDC) said "By 2020, out of the projected population of 1.40 billion, there will be 500 million people that shall remain without employability skills if necessary steps are not taken.

"The task of skilling this population is daunting and private organisations need to be involved for which Sector Skill Councils have been formed."

Manish Patwardhan, president, Confederation for Wellness, Medical Tourism and SPA said, "Spa Salons are important segments of wellness industry and needs to be recognised."

He also emphasised the need of an agency to benchmark the skills required in the industry, adding that it needs to be licenced to bring the segment to a creditable and respectable level.

The conference was also attended by various representatives of health and wellness industry from Sweden, USA, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Singapore.

The conference jointly organised by NIMA and the Confederation of Health, Wellness and Medical Tourism focused on the lack of skilled manpower and infrastructure as some of the challenges faced by the Health and Wellness Industry to promote medical tourism.