

Voltas inaugurates Center of Excellence to equip youth with employability

Mumbai, November 23rd, 2016: Voltas, India's market leader in air conditioners and the engineering services provider of the Tata Group, today announced the inauguration of the Voltas Center of Excellence at its Thane facility, in collaboration with Tata Strive, to organise vocational training programmes for the youth in India.

As part of its CSR program, VOLTAS has refurbished a training facility at their Thane plant. This Centre is a partnership project with Tata Strive. The intention of the initiative is to reach out to the economically weaker and socially disadvantaged youth and empower them through acquisition of skills relevant to industry, leading to employment, entrepreneurship or community enterprise.

The Centre offers 4 training programmes designed by the Subject Matter Experts. Each training program is of 14 weeks and places an emphasis on theoretical plus hands on training. The courses being offered are as under:

- 1) Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (Installation, repair and maintenance)
- 2) AC and Refrigeration (Central AC) basic
- 3) AC and Refrigeration (Central AC) Advance
- 4) Finishing School (incl. soft skills, workplace ethics and values)

In terms of infrastructure, the Center has 3 spacious classrooms with a capacity of 30 students each, a state of the art technical laboratory, an IT lab, and a cafeteria which provides nutritious breakfast for students. The centre has a capacity of training about 270 youth per annum. It has recently rolled out its first batch and the second batch will be rolled out soon.

One of the key advantages of Voltas training facility at Thane is that it is very well located and the center is accessible easily by bus and local train. This would benefit in attracting many deserving youth from communities in and around Thane.

Besides Thane, Voltas currently has 17 such centers spread across locations such as Jamshedpur, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Rajam (Vizag), Coimbatore, Bhilai, Indore, Delhi, Bangalore, Pantnagar (Uttarakhand) and Aligarh to name a few. The Company is also coming up with two new centers at Chennai and Chhindwara in the near future. All the programs focus on building employability and instilling an entrepreneurial spirit among the trainees.

What differentiates these centers from others is their ability to provide a holistic experience that includes not only the practical training but also the soft skills training covering comprehensive programs on workplace ethics, values, nutrition, etc. More importantly, these centers serve to help the weaker sections of the society, which in turn, raise the country's human development index. This works in synergy with the TATA Group's vision of achieving sustainable profitable growth on a larger canvas.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by the CSR Committee of the Voltas Board of Directors - Mr. Noel N Tata, (Chairman - Tata Trent), Mr. Bahram Vakil (Founding Partner at AZB & Partners) and Mr. Sanjay Johri - Managing Director, along with other senior managers of Voltas and Tata Strive.

Commenting on the inauguration Mr. Sanjay Johri, Managing Director, Voltas Limited, said, "Equipping youngsters with skills that can help them find and retain jobs is a very high priority in our country. The Tata Group, including Voltas, are creating a chain of training centers across India. We believe that this is in line with the philosophy of our Founder, Jamsetji Tata, that contributing to the economic and social development of the nation is the larger purpose of the Tata Group."

About Voltas Limited: Voltas is a premier air conditioning and engineering solutions provider. Founded in India in 1954, Voltas offers smart engineering solutions for a wide spectrum of industries in areas such as heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), refrigeration, electro-mechanical projects, textile machinery, mining and construction equipment, water management & treatment, cold chain solutions, building management systems, and indoor air quality. Voltas Ltd. is one of the top 10 companies within the Tata Group.

About Tata Strive: Tata Strive is a skill development wing of Tata Community Initiative Trust. The organization aims at building skills and capabilities of the underprivileged youth from across the country. Voltas has partnered with Tata Strive for the Refrigeration and Air-conditioning related courses which are currently being run in Thane, Mohali, Jamshedpur, Aligarh.

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