

Free skill development centre to be set up for underprivileged youths

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

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A FREE-OF-COST Skill Development Centre will be set up in Pune to enable young and underprivileged citizens to acquire job skills and find jobs. The centre will annually upgrade the skills of 200 candidates in the age group of 18 to 30 years, with assured employment at the end of a 70-day training programme.

PMC's Urban Community Development (UCD) department is providing basic infrastructure for the centre in the PMT building, near Swargate. PMC, along with the other two partners, will also issue joint certification to the candidates who successfully complete the training programme. The centre will start functioning

from the third week of January, and will train young people from the underprivileged sections of society in the age group of 18 to 30 years. No fees will be charged for the training.

Thermax Limited and Zensar Technologies are joining hands with Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) and SGBS Unnati Foundation, an NGO which has done similar work in Bangalore and Delhi to set up this centre.

"The centre is one of the initiatives from Pune to help achieve the ambitious target set by the National Skill Mission. We are happy that corporates like Thermax and Zensar are extending their CSR activities to take up this project for the benefit of the youth of Pune," said Mahesh Pathak, PMC Commissioner.

Unnati Foundation has designed the programme and will take care of a selection of the candidates, their training and final placement. Through the centre, Unnati will train young candidates for administrative assistance, hospitality and retail sectors that have a growing requirement of employable people. Besides vocational skills, they will be trained in life skills, communication, spoken English and basic computer usage.

Zensar and Thermax will fund the centre programme, monitor its effectiveness through quarterly reviews and along with PMC will issue certificate to successful candidates. The first batch is starting in the third week of January 2014, potential candidates in the age group of 18 to 30 from underprivileged sections are urged to apply.

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