



Press Release

Thermax and Zensar to launch Skill Development Centre in Pune in partnership with PMC and Unnati Foundation

Pune, January 16, 2014

Thermax Limited and Zensar Technologies are joining hands to set up a vocational Skill Development Centre in Pune to enable young and underprivileged citizens acquire skills and find jobs. This Centre is in partnership with Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) and SGBS Unnati Foundation, an NGO which has done similar work in Bangalore and Delhi. 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.

Says Mahesh Pathak, PMC Commissioner, "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."

PMC's Urban Community Development (UCD) department is providing basic infrastructure for the Centre in PMT building, near Swargate. PMC, along with the other two partners, will also issue joint certification to the candidates successfully completing the training programme. The Centre will start functioning from the third week of January 2014, and will train young people from the underprivileged section in the age group of 18 – 30 years. No fees will be charged for the training.

Unnati Foundation has designed the programme and will take care of selection of the candidates, their training and final placement. Through the Centre, Unnati will train young candidates in Pune 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. The programme also focuses on inculcating personal and community values in the participants. "Our program goes beyond employment generation. Its aim is social transformation – a generation goes above the poverty line in 70 days, forever," says Ramesh Swamy, Co-Founder and Trustee of Unnati Foundation.

Zensar and Thermax will fund the Centre programme, monitor its effectiveness through quarterly reviews and along with PMC will issue certificate to successful candidates. Anu Aga, Director, Thermax and Ganesh Natarajan, Vice Chairman and CEO of Zensar

are convinced that industry has to lead from the front to train and create the necessary manpower essential to support the country when it accelerates its growth push.

Highlights of the Skill Development Centre:

- The Centre will start functioning from the 3rd week of January 2014
- The programme duration will be 70 days
- Five batches per year per vocation with maximum 30 candidates per batch will be trained
- A minimum of 200 candidates will be trained in the first year
- Candidates, after successful completion of the training will be placed in reputed organisations
- When fully utilised the Centre can train 300 candidates
- The programme, targeted at below- poverty- line or underprivileged sections of society, will not charge a training fee.

The Bangalore based Unnati Foundation is working with the objective to train and employ ‘One Million Youth’ by 2020, who are either unskilled or from the underprivileged section, through the ‘Unnati Model’. It has been working in this field since 2003 and provided 100% placement to all the youth trained by them, with salaries from Rs.6000/- to Rs.12000/- per month.

With the first batch starting from the 3rd week of January 2014, potential candidates in the age group 18 to 30 from underprivileged sections are urged to apply. References can be sent to Milind Nagare (e-mail: **milindnagare60@gmail.com**) or else the candidate can visit the Centre for information/ registration OR contact the centre on **020-65000611** between 9AM to 5PM.
