

Press Release

The Indian Chamber of Commerce and Tata STRIVE sign 5 year MoU to collaborate in Skill Development and Training

Kolkata, 12th July, 2016: The **Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) & Tata STRIVE** today entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate in the areas of skill development and livelihood generation. The objective is to jointly enhance the quality of skill training being provided in the country particularly in the East and North-East regions, and provide the youth with both employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. Ten states have been identified which include Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram and Sikkim. The agreement will also consider interventions, both at the institutional as well as non-institutional level to impart skill training to unskilled/semi-skilled youth.

Ms. Anita Rajan, Chief Operating Officer, Tata STRIVE and Vice President, Tata Sustainability Group said, "It has been estimated that by 2022 India will have 500 million people between the ages of 15 and 59, an age bracket for the working age population. Human resources of that magnitude has the capacity to contribute generously to the economic growth of the nation, giving India a chance to reap the benefits of what is known as the demographic dividend. The time is ripe to aggressively pursue skilling and this MoU is a conscious effort to identify, train and nurture that workforce which will drive India's growth in the coming years. I believe that working together with ICC we can contribute in great measure."

Mr Shiv Siddhant Kaul, President, ICC expressed his pleasure for partnering with Tata Strive in skill development initiative. He said that India is a diversified economy with huge working population. Indian demography is such that it can be a dividend. However, finding appropriate people for the job is important. ICC has larger strength in Northeast and Eastern India and therefore ICC can act as a facilitator in these regions for skill development. Service sector should be the main focus area as this sector constitutes the larger part of the economy. Service sector is also very critical for growth and therefore, skill development in this sector can make a lot of differences. The signing of MoU between ICC and Tata Strive is the first step towards the goal of making the difference.

Tata STRIVE will be responsible for implementation of training programmes either through a local training partner or through its own execution arm. ICC will be the facilitator, and will help identify the skilled manpower requirement of various organizations operating in the Eastern and North-Eastern parts of the country, identify locations and infrastructure for conducting training programmes and explore funding options from government and non-government sources. In the long term, the two organisations aim to map opportunities in core sectors like steel, mining, power, coal & infrastructure and create the necessary curriculum with the help of core sector companies active in the Eastern region. In addition, they will aim to explore opportunities in sunrise sectors that are critical for the development of the North Eastern corridor. Under this collaboration, developing an 'ICC-Tata STRIVE Skill Development Centre' skills training facility in the North East is also being considered.

Tata STRIVE is the group wide CSR skilling programme of the Tata group. It focuses upon the needs of high demand sectors such as banking, hospitality, automobiles, refrigeration & air conditioning, retail, electrical etc. The mission of Tata STRIVE is to develop capacity to train youth for employment, entrepreneurship and community enterprise. Tata STRIVE aims to reach out to a large number of youth with its training programmes which are of high quality. The focus of the training is equally on technical and non-technical skills. Its unique

youth development modules prepare youth to face the challenges of the workplace and be able to manage themselves with confidence. Tata STRIVE has a special training program called Empowerment Coaching for all its trainers to ensure 'standardized high quality' delivery of training. Tata STRIVE has worked with domain leaders to create content, invested in processes that match individuals with their interests, created a technology platform that manages the entire skilling value chain from registration to placement of a student.

ICC is the only Chamber from India to win the first prize in World Chambers Competition in Quebec, Canada. ICC has long been working pro-actively towards creating a conducive and sustainable business environment through policy advocacy and focused initiatives. ICC's North-East initiative has gained a new momentum and dynamism over the last few years, and the Chamber has been hugely successful in spreading awareness about the great economic potential of the North-East at national and international levels. ICC also has a very strong focus upon economic research and policy issues and hence regularly conducts various macro-economic surveys and studies, both at national and state levels. In an attempt to further reach out to the grass root level and to align with the Mission to Skill India by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, ICC is set for a national level movement for creating skilled human capital and utilizing them as productive resources in industry.

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