

## **IHCL inaugurates a hospitality skill centre in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat**

IHCL has inaugurated its 32nd skill training centre in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat, in close proximity to the renowned Statue of Unity. The centre was officially launched by Dr. S. Jaishankar, the Minister of External Affairs for the Government of India.

Puneet Chhatwal, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of IHCL, expressed, "The Government of Gujarat has taken significant strides in infrastructure development, unlocking the tourism potential of the region. With the landscape ripe for skilled individuals to enter the industry, the skill centre inaugurated by Dr. S. Jaishankar will offer hospitality training to the youth in the state. This initiative will leverage the untapped talent and bridge the employability gap in the sector for times to come."

The multi-level skill centre in Ekta Nagar operates in partnership with Tata STRIVE and VFS Global. It will provide courses in food and beverage service and front office, along with on-the-job training, and has the capacity to cater to 120 students annually. Upon completion of the courses, learners will receive assistance for employment in the sector.

Zubin Karkaria, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of VFS Global, commented, "VFS Global's commitment to education and skill development in India is demonstrated through the successful operation of the VFS Global Academy in Mumbai, Lucknow, and Deoghar. Our approach fosters a culture of learning and development within the communities it serves. We are extremely pleased to add Ekta Nagar hospitality skill centre in partnership with IHCL, India's leading hospitality company."

As the custodian of Indian hospitality, IHCL continues to invest in building industry-relevant talent pools with the aim of developing and supporting deserving youth and their families while contributing to the overall growth of the industry.

Aligned with its ESG+ framework of Paathya, IHCL partners and operates 32 skill centers across 10 states and 15 cities in India and is committed to training 100,000 youth by 2030.