**360 students to graduate in hospitality skills under Diageo India’s ‘Learning for Life’ programme**

* Orion Educational Society has collaborated with Diageo India to train over 1000 students over a period of 3 years
* Over 300 hours of skills-based training imparted to the candidates, focusing specifically on the hospitality sector, covering areas such as Front Office Administration and Food & Beverage training.
* The programme is aligned to Championing inclusion & diversity a key pillar under Diageo’s Society 2030: Spirit of Progress, ESG action plan

**July 15, 2023:** On World Youth Skills Day, the convocation ceremony for the first batch of students skilled in hospitality sector under Diageo India’s Learning for Life programme in collaboration with Orion Educational Society was held in the presence of Shri Digambar Kamat, former Chief Minister of Goa and Member of Legislative Assembly, Goa along with Mr Rajib Singha, AVP – Operations, Orion Educational Society. The employability-linked skills training programme was launched last year in association with the Skill Development Mission of Government of Goa to train 1000 local youth over the next three years.

The programme comprises of over 300 hours of skills-based training provided by Academia and Industry professionals for employment/self-employment roles in the hospitality, tourism and allied industries. The comprehensive course offers training on Front Office Administration and Food and Beverage services along with interpersonal skills and digital literacy to the participants. This Industry/Government approved certification equips young individuals with the necessary knowledge and expertise sought by employers in the industry. Thereby, increasing their chances of securing employment opportunities in the hospitality sector. The process for onboarding the next batch of 300 candidates under the ‘Learning for Life’ programme has been initiated.

**Mr Niladri Banerjee, Secretary, Orion Educational Society** said "Our partnership with Diageo India focuses on empowering youth in the hospitality sector through industry-approved curriculum and certification, we pave their path to employment and fuel their journey towards a promising career in hospitality."

**Jagbir Singh Sidhu, Corporate Relations Director, Diageo India** said, “We are pleased to partner with Orion Educational Society as part of our Learning for Life programme, and are delighted by the successful placement of the students from the first batch. This initiative is aligned to our Society 2030: Spirit of Progress plan and we will continue our efforts to make a positive impact on society by enhancing employability and improving livelihoods through our skilling initiatives.”

Diageo India has a long-standing relationship with Goa and last year the company set up its innovation hub, The Good Craft Co., in Ponda Goa. In addition, the company continues to drive positive water stewardship and is leveraging 100% renewable energy for distillation to accelerate to a low-carbon world.

**About Orion**

Orion Educational Society, NSDC partnered, was founded with the vision of fostering inclusive development by improving the living standards and income of vulnerable sections of society. Registered under 12A, 80G, FCRA, we have become a leading skill delivery center in India, implementing large-scale skilling initiatives using effective training methodologies and interactive course modules. Our focus is to empower youth to pursue viable livelihood options in more than 20 sectors such as Hospitality, Tourism, IT/ITES, Electronics, Healthcare, etc. Through skill development, we aim to achieve a significant impact and align with the strategic imperative of CSR agendas.

We believe in creating a scalable and sustainable model that can be replicated in the future. By providing skills to over 560,000 aspiring youth till date, predominantly from rural and semi-urban areas, we have opened doors to employment and self-employment opportunities across 21 sectors, thereby contributing to their overall development and economic growth. We believe that by empowering youth with skills and connecting them with corporate partners, we can drive positive change and create a momentum for impactful skill development initiatives.

You can visit us at <https://orionedusociety.org/> for more information.

**About Diageo India**

Diageo India is among the country’s leading beverage alcohol company and a subsidiary of global leader Diageo Plc. The company manufactures, sells and distributes an outstanding portfolio of premium brands such as Johnnie Walker, Black Dog, Black & White, VAT 69, Antiquity, Signature, The Singleton, Royal Challenge, McDowell’s No1, Smirnoff, Ketel One, Tanqueray, Captain Morgan and Godawan, an artisanal single malt whisky from India. Headquartered in Bengaluru, our wide footprint is supported by a committed team of over 3000 employees, 37 manufacturing facilities across states and union territories in India, a strong distribution network and a state-of-the-art Technical Centre. Incorporated in India as United Spirits Limited (USL), the company is listed on both the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) in India.

For more information about Diageo India, our people, our brands, and our performance, visit us at [**www.diageoindia.com**](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http%3A/www.diageoindia.com__;!!OK3MsjU!yfR_1PPnQQcVUjpNZKUSTFyrFSMHfB-vspSRUGI5FxHBC1exrhkKV_0QJjJCRm__r81nyafuopEuTeRLlPR-2E69j-4IGzRo$). Visit Diageo’s global responsible drinking resource, [**http://www.DRINKiQ.com**](http://www.drinkiq.com/), for information, initiatives, and ways to share best practices.

Celebrating life, every day, everywhere.

**Contacts:**

**Poulami Banerjee, Orion Education Society-** poulami@orionedusociety.org