



Rane Pioneer of Change Award presented to V-Excel for enabling self-sustained life for individuals with special needs



Chennai, India, November 7, 2018

Rane Foundation, the CSR arm of Rane Group today presented Rane Pioneer of Change Award to V-Excel Educational Trust (V-Excel). Started in 2001, V-Excel provides lifespan services for persons with special needs. V-Excel run a wide range of programs such as special schools, specialized therapies, remedial intervention, vocational training, teacher training, etc. With Chennai as the hub, it has 10 centres in 2 states and touched lives of 65,000 children since inception.

The Rane Pioneer of Change award was instituted as part of Shri L L Narayan (LLN) memorial initiatives during LLN's centenary function held on 6th October 2017. The award was instituted by Rane Foundation to identify and bring into limelight the grass-root level organizations and individuals from Tamil Nadu, who have excelled as social change leaders in the field of Education – Capacity Building & Skill Development, Public Health and Community Development. The award comprises of a medallion and Rs. 10 Lakhs cash prize.

The inaugural edition witnessed participation from 78 NGOs and individual social change makers across Tamil Nadu. Based on the inputs provided by the knowledge partner IFMR LEAD and the selection committee meticulously scanned and identified the winner based on multiple parameters.

Commenting on the occasion, **Mr. L Lakshman, Managing Trustee, Rane Foundation and Chairman Emeritus, Rane Holdings Ltd.** said "Today as we take the first step forward in this initiative, our heart is filled with immense joy of having helped numerous lives through various initiatives under the foundation. Though the broad mandate for Rane Pioneer of Change award was to look at broad themes of Education – Capacity Building & Skill Development, Public Health and Community Development, we looked at uniqueness of content and delivery as additional requirements. V-Excel has remarkable vision and constructed unique programme called Tiffin Times to enable individual with special needs to lead a self-sustained life. We wish them the best to scale and touch more lives."

Tiffin Times has been conceived as a concept to build capacity to empower and mainstream 100 individuals with special needs. These special young adults will be trained as 'master chefs' with busy-hands, house-keepers and hospitality experts. V-Excel will thus make a pioneering attempt to train young adults with special needs on 'hospitality on wheels' in the fast-food service sector and is poised to expand the project. Further, this project is open for students enrolled in other schools.

"We are honoured to be recognized by Rane Foundation with Rane Pioneer of Change award. We are encouraged by this award and this gives us an additional momentum to our mission of supporting the individuals with special needs. The positive outcomes of creating self-sustained life for individuals with special needs and recognition from a large corporate like Rane is encouraging. We thank the trustees of Rane Foundation and the members of selection committee for the award." says **Dr. Prakash Natarajan, Managing Trustee, V-Excel Educational Trust** on accepting the award

Commenting on the occasion, **Mr. L Ganesh, Trustee, Rane Foundation and Chairman, Rane Group** said, "I take immense pleasure in congratulating the winner of the inaugural edition of Rane Pioneer of Change Award. It is indeed a humbling experience to understand the significant initiatives undertaken by V-Excel and its impact on the society. Through this award, we hope to provide a stepping stone for many such organizations/individuals serving the society. We will be launching the next edition of Rane Pioneer of Change award soon."

About Rane Foundation

Rane Foundation, a public charitable trust founded in the year 1967, is the lead for implementing Rane Group's corporate social responsibility initiatives. Rane Foundation's initiatives are focused on education, healthcare, environment and community development. Please visit – www.ranefoundation.org.

About Rane Group

Headquartered in Chennai, India, Rane Group is engaged primarily in manufacturing auto components for well over five decades. Rane Group is a preferred supplier to major OEMs in India and abroad. Through its group companies, it manufactures Steering and Suspension systems, Friction materials, Valve train components, Occupant safety systems, Die-casting products and provides Connected mobility solutions. Its products serve a variety of industry

segments including Passenger Vehicles, Commercial Vehicles, Farm Tractors, Two-wheelers, Three-wheelers, Railways and stationery Engines.

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