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**Redefining Luxury
With VT**

Focus on Accessibility

Ensuring Trained Manpower for VT

by R.V. Joshi

India's elevator market is expected to experience a compound annual growth rate of more than 8% in the next three-four years due to increasing urbanization, rising construction of high-rise buildings, a growing real estate sector and infrastructure improvements in major cities. The government's focus on building high-class infrastructure, coupled with government initiatives such as "Smart Cities," are also expected to drive demand for elevators. Further, the Government of India is also focusing on airport and railway-station modernization, and this is also projected to drive the VT market, which is good news for manufacturers.

To meet the consequential increase in demand for trained lift technicians, Mumbai-based Lalji Mehrotra Technical Institute (LMTI) started its Lift and Escalator Mechanic course in academic year 2017-2018. This course is offered by the Maharashtra State Board of Vocational Education.

LMTI had encouragement and cooperation from both the elevator and electrical industries from the beginning. Their active participation in the course through various activities, like delivering guest lecturers for the students, organizing field and factory visits and conducting campus drives, highlighted the need for such a course.

Some of the students have been hired by leading elevator companies.

This positive industry response, as well as in forums like the lift and escalator division of the Indian Electrical & Electronics Manufacturers' Association, only highlighted the need for such a course. Based on industry needs, LMTI decided to start a two-year, full-fledged ITI course for lift and escalator mechanics, making it the first institute in Maharashtra to do so. Upon getting government affiliation in mid-2019, LMTI started this course in academic year 2019-2020. Going forward, LMTI expects to meet the industry demand of trained manpower through this newly introduced course.

R.V. Joshi is head of the lift and escalator department, LMTI.



Hands-on training for students at the KONE site



Trainees onsite at Johnson Lifts

Pradeep Aggarwal, cofounder and chairman, Signature Global, and chairman, National Council on Real Estate, Housing and Urban Development of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India, observed the latest announcements will help the government achieve its objective of "Housing for All by 2022." Government efforts to boost affordable housing also include an

additional deduction of up to INR150,000 (US\$2,115) for interest paid on home loans taken through March 31, 2020, for the purchase of a home valued at up to INR4.5 million (US\$63,483). This promises to increase affordable-home sales in tier-II and -III cities, he underlined.

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