

Microsoft aims to train 1m girls

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MICROSOFT India launched the Women in Tech initiative on Wednesday aimed at bringing in more women into the Indian IT industry. The initiative is an extension of the software giant's global diversity thrust.

Along with partners, Microsoft will train and mentor one million girls and women in the next 12 months. These will include school students, young women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) colleges, IT professionals and entrepreneurs. NIIT is the primary learning partner for Microsoft and it has initiated customised offers at discounted rates for women.

As part of the plan, Microsoft would reach out to 1.5 lakh girls across 1,000 high schools during the next year. Moreover, the company will engage with

All for her

■ There are 616 million women in India, close to half being in the below-25 age bracket

■ Nasscom has a Girls in Technology (GIT) scheme to encourage entrepreneurship

■ Google has an initiative to improve women's awareness about online usage

7.5 lakh women in STEM courses in the next 12 months. While over 2.5 lakh IT professionals will be trained, about 2,500 entrepreneurs and aspiring candidates will be mentored during the year. Further, Microsoft Ventures will mentor 30 women entrepreneurs and help them connect with the broader start-up ecosystem, in order to accelerate their business.