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Eastern Zone TRPS Convocation held in Guwahati

GUARDIAN NEWS BUREAU

GUWAHATI, MARCH 25: At the convocation ceremony of the Tax Return Preparers (TRPs), with Skill augmentation for filing of TDS and ITR forms held in the city on Tuesday, Member, Revenue, Central Board of Direct Taxes, Mrs. Saroj Bala along with Mr. Kalyan Chand, Director General of Income Tax (Admin) and Mr. Vipul Rastogi, Head – Enterprise Solutions (India), NIIT felicitated the students and certified them as 'Tax Return Preparers'.

TRPS is an initiative by the Department of Income Tax to increase awareness of tax laws by enhancing community participation, with NIIT being mandated to train the certified Tax Return Preparers (TRPs) across the country. The success of this drive can be gauged from the fact that over 40,000 Income Tax Returns were filed last year by TRPs.

Addressing the students, Mrs. Bala said "We are committed towards simplifying the Tax filing procedures for the benefit of the Tax payers. We are pleased to extend the scope this year by providing skill augmentation on TDS & IT Forms through NIIT, whose expertise in training delivery will empower the TRPs to bring the convenience of Tax filing to the doorsteps of the Tax payers."

"The TRPs underwent a rigorous training programme by NIIT, on Income Tax filing procedures and are now certified by the Department of Income Tax as qualified Tax Return Preparers", added Mr. Kalyan Chand. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Rastogi said, "The Tax return preparers from the East Zone are now ready to address the Tax filing needs of the region. Through skill augmentation, they can also provide Tax filing as-

sistance to MSMEs (Micro Small Medium Enterprise) who do not have means to hire professional Tax consultants to file their taxes." The additional skills imparted to the current batch, will not only increase the scope but will also bring the convenience of Tax filing to the doorsteps of the Tax payers. The objective of the TRP scheme is to increase avenues for employability for unemployed and partially employed graduates, reduce cost of compliance for small taxpayers, increase assesee base; increase awareness of tax laws and community participation.

Training on Service Tax, which follows shortly, will further increase the scope and reach. The convocation was widely attended by the TRPs from the East Zone and will move on to West and South zone to finally culminate into a grand finale at the North zone.