



## Adding value to mathematics

Chennai Corporation and NIIT has set up a math lab at school

LALITHASAI

Children of Chennai High School, V.P. Koil Street, Mylapore, can avail a new facility now. Chennai Corporation, in co-ordination with NIIT, has set up a math lab at the school. This initiative aims at making the subject simpler to the students. The novel concept was inaugurated by Saldai Duraisamy, Mayor, Chennai Corporation. The state-of-the-art 'N Guru Math Lab', as it is called, enables children to explore mathematical concepts using the Geometer's Sketchpad. This exploration tool has been structured on NCERT guidelines and spans the mathematical curriculum from Class I to XII. According to Nalina Kumari, Headmistress, "Many of our students find it difficult to understand the abstract concepts of mathematics. With this novel software, maths has been made simple and easy. They have also turned it into an



**FUN QUOTIENT TO THE SUBJECT:** Maths Lab inaugurated at Chennai high School. PHOTO: K.V. SRINIVASAN

enjoyable learning experience for our school students." The software has been incorporated in four to five computers at the school. Arranged neatly in a large room, each computer enables about five to six students to learn the concepts at one go. From the next academic year, students will have a weekly math lab period. Teachers have also been trained by NIIT personnel to handle the software.

Hemant Sethi, president, School Learning Solutions and HiWEL, NIIT Ltd., remarked, "NIIT is committed to make education more impactful, interactive and fun-filled for teachers and students alike. 'NIIT NGuru Math Lab' is yet another initiative by us to make the present curriculum simpler and interesting, thereby bringing back the joy of learning mathematics. We are delighted to launch 'NIIT NGuru Math

Lab' in Chennai High School, Chennai, which will help young children comprehend the subject better."

With this software, students will be able to plot graphs, understand properties of line, circle, quadrilaterals, etc.

They will be able to draw triangles, hexagons and other shapes and learn about the various angles in them, decide whether it is an acute, obtuse or equilateral triangle, etc. With the touch of an icon, they can have in-depth understanding about an annual bisector, perpendicular, circumcentre, to name a few. "Teachers will also find it easy to explain the same to the students," said the headmistress.

In addition to providing greater scope for individual participation in the process of learning and becoming autonomous learners, the Math Lab also enables the teacher to demonstrate, explain and reinforce abstract mathematical ideas by using concrete objects, models, charts, graphs, pictures, posters, etc. Speaking on the revolutionary teaching learning solutions from NIIT NGuru, NIIT MindChampion Viswanathan Anand said, "With a vision to create 'schools of tomorrow', NIIT has designed complete education and technology solutions to engage

students, teachers and parents alike in the whole process of learning. This pioneering initiative by NIIT will help the young generation script many success stories in their life ahead. Math Lab has been specially designed to add a fun quotient to the subject that is usually feared by students."

World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand is the face of the new NIIT NGuru campaign that aims to create awareness about these revolutionary solutions. NIIT NGuru has impacted more than 10 million children across 17,000 schools in India. It has adeptly leveraged technology and encompassed all possible components to meet the present and the future needs of schools.

The school has also been provided a large number of manipulatives to understand the subject with ease. "One of the easiest or popular ways to help them understand the concepts is the use of manipulatives and this is exactly what NIIT has done for us", said the HM.

What are these manipulatives? They are small plastic objects which come in different shapes (blocks, rods and tangrams) and are used to explain and understand concepts such as addition, subtraction, fractions, algebra and so on.

The Hindu, Chennai, April 1, 2012

## IFBI looks for exclusive tieups with more banks

S SHYAMALA

Chennai

THE Institute for Finance, Banking and Insurance (IFBI), a joint venture between NIIT and ICICI Bank, is looking for exclusive tieups with banks to train prospective employees.

IFBI launched the post-graduate diploma in banking operations (PGDBO) over five years ago with ICICI. Intake to the programme is through an admission test followed by an interview. Selected candidates would be provided with provisional appointment letters and after completion of the six-month programme would join ICICI at the officer level.

S Venkatesh, president, NIIT IFBI, told *Financial Chronicle*, "The programme aims to build a pool of modern banking professionals who are assured of placement during enrolment. We train candidates in four dimensions — domain, application, technology and cus-

### Biz of training

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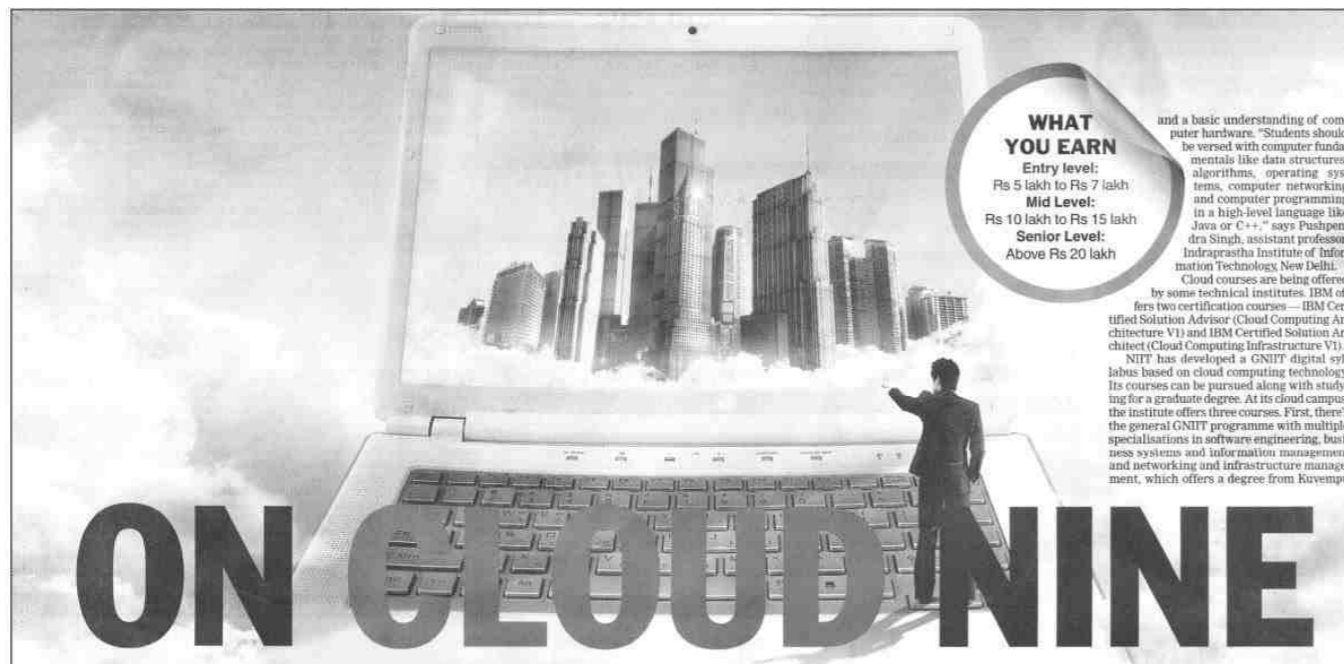
Last month, the institute launched a similar programme for Axis Bank with curriculum made specifically for it. It is keen to partner with more banks for such partnerships, Venkatesh added. "We are confident of our prospects because of the huge demand for trained banking professionals. From our internal estimates, banks

need over a million new employees over the next five years. The problem with banks, especially the older ones, is that they would tell you 50,000 are retiring this year but have no clue how many they would need to recruit. This is mainly due to the rapid growth rate. Banking is not what it used to be over 10 years ago. Banks never had sales forces then. Now we need new-age professionals who are not only employees but also brand ambassadors," he said.

Apart from the exclusive tie-ups, IFBI has also trained close to 50,000 existing bank employees, mostly in the public sector. It has partnerships with 12 PSU banks for the same. It also offers preparatory courses for PSU bank examinations. Growing need for newer skills sets is helping the institute to expand its portfolio, he added.

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The Financial Chronicle, New Delhi, April 3, 2012



Cloud computing is touted as the technology of the future and is expected to create 14 million jobs by 2015. **Avijit Chatterjee** and **Varuna Verma** give you the lowdown

Cloud computing technology works like an electric bulb. The bulb is the only point of contact between the ultimate user and the entire power supply system — you don't need to bother about transformers and power grids. Similarly, in cloud computing, the computer is reduced to a simple screen that connects to the Internet — all the computing power, storage and software reside in the network, without the user knowing where they are and who owns them. In other words, cloud computing is a technology that uses remote servers or a "cloud" to store and maintain data.

The number of people who are unaware of cloud computing is shrinking fast, as it's being touted as the technology of the future. "Cloud computing is the next phase of the Internet expansion," says Sudhir Dixit, director, HPI Labs India, a research lab for Hewlett-Packard, the information technology (IT) conglomerate. "All computational resources — be it hardware, software, applications or stored data — will be delivered to the end user via a network instead of a local computer," he explains.

With new technology comes new job opportunities. Dixit finds there is a growing interest in this field among students. "People with skills in operations engineering, management information systems, business development, accounting and finance have new work opportunities waiting for them," he says.

S. Sadagopan, director, Indian Institute of Information Technology Bangalore, explains what cloud computing is, devoid of the jargon. "It is a way of distributing computing resources — like processors, memory, storage and software — in a managed environment which is away from the user."

For the ultimate user of the computer, cloud computing will translate into saving

time and money, says the professor, adding that this is the main reason organisations are increasingly opting for this technology. "As organisations opt for the cloud, naturally, many software assignments and jobs will move to cloud computing — in the same way as technologies like the personal computer, local area network (LAN) and web programming evolved in the last decades," explains Sadagopan.

Cloud computing will also help create learner organisations, believes Vivek Menon, assistant professor (information systems), Amrita University, Kerala. "With the cloud, companies don't need to buy or maintain IT equip-

Prateek Chatterjee, associate vice president, NIIT Limited, the computer education company, believes a majority of cloud-related jobs will be generated in three industries — communications and media, banking and discrete manufacturing. "Cloud computing will drive the growth of the education sector by empowering students to learn on their own terms, at their own pace, wherever and whenever they want," he says. Explaining the cloud-education link, Chatterjee says cloud computing will make it possible to take high quality education to every corner of the country. Students will enjoy higher mobility as they can



### WHAT YOU BECOME

- Cloud architect
- Cloud business applications engineer
- Cloud computing analyst
- Storage engineer
- Cloud computing consultant

ment or software licences. This way, they save on the cost of hiring personnel and infrastructure," adds Menon. Also, since cloud computing works on a pay-as-you-use basis, it reduces costs and increases adaptability. "Cloud allows companies to scale up or down the quantum of services, depending on demand," he explains.

That is probably why the technology world is so upbeat about the future of cloud computing. A recent survey commissioned by Microsoft and conducted by the International Data Corporation forecasts that some 14 million new cloud jobs will be created across the world by 2015. Half of these will be based in India and China, adds the study

easily access educational services using a notebook or a mobile device that connects them to its cloud campus network. Further, interactive features like 24x7 lab and e-library access, instant tech updates, interaction with faculty and peers and access to online video streams will help in delivering educational content to students at their doorstep. Thus the learning process will not be limited to textbooks but enhanced through interactive learning. As such, students across the country will be able to follow the same curriculum, he adds.

More and more companies are climbing the cloud bandwagon. Globally, Amazon, Google, Microsoft, IBM, Yahoo, Salesforce and

### WHAT YOU EARN

- Entry level: Rs 5 lakh to Rs 7 lakh
- Mid Level: Rs 10 lakh to Rs 15 lakh
- Senior Level: Above Rs 20 lakh

and a basic understanding of computer hardware. "Students should be versed with computer fundamentals like data structures, algorithms, operating systems, computer networking and computer programming in a high-level language like Java or C++," says Pushpendra Singh, assistant professor, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, New Delhi. "Cloud courses are being offered by some technical institutes. IBM offers two certification courses — IBM Certified Solution Advisor (Cloud Computing Architecture V1) and IBM Certified Solution Architect (Cloud Computing Infrastructure V1). NIIT has developed a GNIT digital syllabus based on cloud computing technology. Its courses can be pursued along with studying for a graduate degree. At its cloud campus, the institute offers three courses. First, there's the general GNIT programme with multiple specialisations in software engineering, business systems and information management and networking and infrastructure management, which offers a degree from Ravenna

University, Karnataka. Students can enrol for the programme after completing Class XII.

The USP of the NIIT cloud programmes, according to Chatterjee, is that they are completely digitalised. "Students will be provided with fully-loaded notebooks and a data card. This will enable them to carry the curriculum anywhere and not be physically present at a study centre," he explains.

Aptech, the computer education company, offers two modules on cloud computing. The first — introduction to cloud computing — teaches them to access cloud services and develop applications. The second module — application development and deployment with cloud computing — teaches students to develop applications, deploy them in cloud and access them. "Anyone with a basic knowledge of computers and the Internet can enrol for the first module. Students with programming skills in NET or J2EE are eligible for the second module," says Aptech's Paliwal.

With the demand for cloud computing professionals predicted to rise, this new technology could be the silver lining in the global, recession-hit technology job market.

Besides technology, cloud computing will also generate jobs for law graduates, believes RK Snyamsundar, professor, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai. "As cloud computing gains momentum, it will throw up issues of cyber laws about data storage. This will bring law specialists into the picture," he explains.

Though an engineering background is not mandatory to study cloud computing, students should have a knowledge of computer programming

## NIIT launches 'NGuru Math Lab'

NIIT today installed the modern 'NGuru Math Lab', at Chennai High School, Mylapore, in Chennai. It aims at making the vital subject of mathematics simpler, easier and fun to learn for school students. 'NIIT NGuru Math Lab' is a concept that enables school students to learn and explore mathematical concepts and verify mathematical facts and theorems using tools such as the Geometer's Sketchpad. Hemant Sethi, President, School Learning Solutions and HiWEL, NIIT Ltd, said: "NIIT NGuru Math Lab is yet another initiative by us to make the present curriculum simpler and interesting, thereby bringing back the joy of learning Mathematics. We are now delighted to launch 'NIIT NGuru Math Lab' in Chennai High School, that will help young children comprehend the subject better." NIIT's franchise model today has about 1,000 education centres spreading across over 40 countries. This has greatly enhanced its visibility across the world and has helped shape the media perception of the company as a leading global talent development organisation.

The Franchising World, National, April 2012

The Telegraph, Kolkata, April 5, 2012



### **Axis Bank & NIIT IFBI launch PGDRB**

AXIS Bank and NIIT Institute of Finance, Banking and Insurance Training Limited (IFBI) have announced the launch of Post-graduate Diploma in Retail Banking (PGDRB).

The PGDRB is an exclusive career programme designed for Axis Bank. A first of its kind, the four month programme aims to build a pool of modern banking professionals for Axis Bank, informs a press release issued here.

IFBI has designed a comprehensive programme that builds competencies on four dimensions like domain, application, technology and customer-service needed by new-age banking professionals.

For further details candidates may contact (Phone: 0712-3042034/35, 8007460094).

**Hitavada, Nagpur**  
*April 16, 2012*

### news briefs

#### **BTech admissions begin at NIIT University**

NIIT University invites applications for BTech programmes in computer science and engineering, biotechnology and electronics and communications engineering. The applicant should: have scored an aggregate of 60% marks or equivalent in Class 12 from any board in India or its equivalent from any other country. If the applicant has an aggregate score of 60% to 70% in Class 10 and Class 12 board examination respectively, then the applicant should have appeared for AIEEE and should submit the AIEEE rank/ SAT scores/ IIT-JEE rank. Shortlisted candidates have to go through a personal counseling interaction designed to assess the candidate's English communication skills, interests and hobbies, degree of self-awareness and out of the box thinking and reason for the choice of stream. For details visit [www.niituniversity.in](http://www.niituniversity.in)

**Hindustan Times, Jaipur**  
*April 11, 2012*

### **NIIT University seminar on 'Careers in Engineering'**

Chandigarh: NIIT University) aims to create a distinctive platform for engineering aspirants by organising a seminar on 'Careers in Engineering' in Chandigarh. Enthusiastic students will get an opportunity to interact with Prof Sanjay Gupta, a leading academician, on various issues pertaining to careers in engineering.

During the seminar, Prof Gupta will guide students on the different fields of engineering, help them choose the right field based on their interest and aptitude, and enlighten them on the plethora of career opportunities available to engineering graduates. He will also address the industry and career related questions and concerns of the aspiring engineers and their parents during the Q&A session.

NIIT University plans to organize a series of seminars on 'Careers in Engineering' across locations in India, to help students who are at the threshold of making career-related decisions.

The first of the series will be organised in Chandigarh to help aspiring students' carve a successful career in engineering.

NU is committed to imparting knowledge in technologies of the future and offers four years, full-time B.Tech programmes in Bio Technology, Computer Science and Engineering, and Electronics and Communication Engineering.

**Financial World, Chandigarh, April 21, 2012**



SPOTLIGHT



# NIIT UNIVERSITY: A NEW ALTERNATIVE FOR ENGINEERS OF TOMORROW

**N**ested in the foothills of Aravali, in Neemrana, Rajasthan, NIIT University (NU) is truly the university of the future.

Just off NCR, the picturesque 100-acre fully residential green campus of NU is equipped with state-of-the-art technology-enabled teaching methodology that is backed by a strong research-focused curriculum.

Set up in 2009 with the vision of being the leading centre of innovation and learning in emerging areas of knowledge society, the university is dedicated to building great careers and ensuring exceptional job opportunities to its students. The emblem

of NU depicts a mobius ring that symbolizes eternity and seamlessness. Similarly, the knowledge that NU imparts is the foundation for multifaceted careers, endless in their potential.

NU draws from the legacy of NIIT, which has been a leading education provider for 30 years. The knowledge and experience of managing an education process that NIIT has built and more importantly the research in understanding best ways to learn have been distilled in this not-for-profit university.

#### Enriching B.Tech programme

NU is committed to imparting knowledge in technologies of the

future and offers B.Tech in three streams:

1. Biotechnology (BT)
2. Computer Science and Engineering (CSE)
3. Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE)

The B.Tech programme at NU uses the university's core principles of providing industry-linked, technology-based, research-driven and seamless education as a foundation of its programme design. Through a transformational process involving courses, R&D project, industry practice and other co-curricular

components, the programme seeks to create exceptional leaders trained to operate in tomorrow's complex technology-oriented business environment. The B.Tech programme at NU demands and encourages the students to explore and connect with the multiple dimensions of today's business environment.

The 4-year programme comprises 8 semesters. The courses are categorized into:

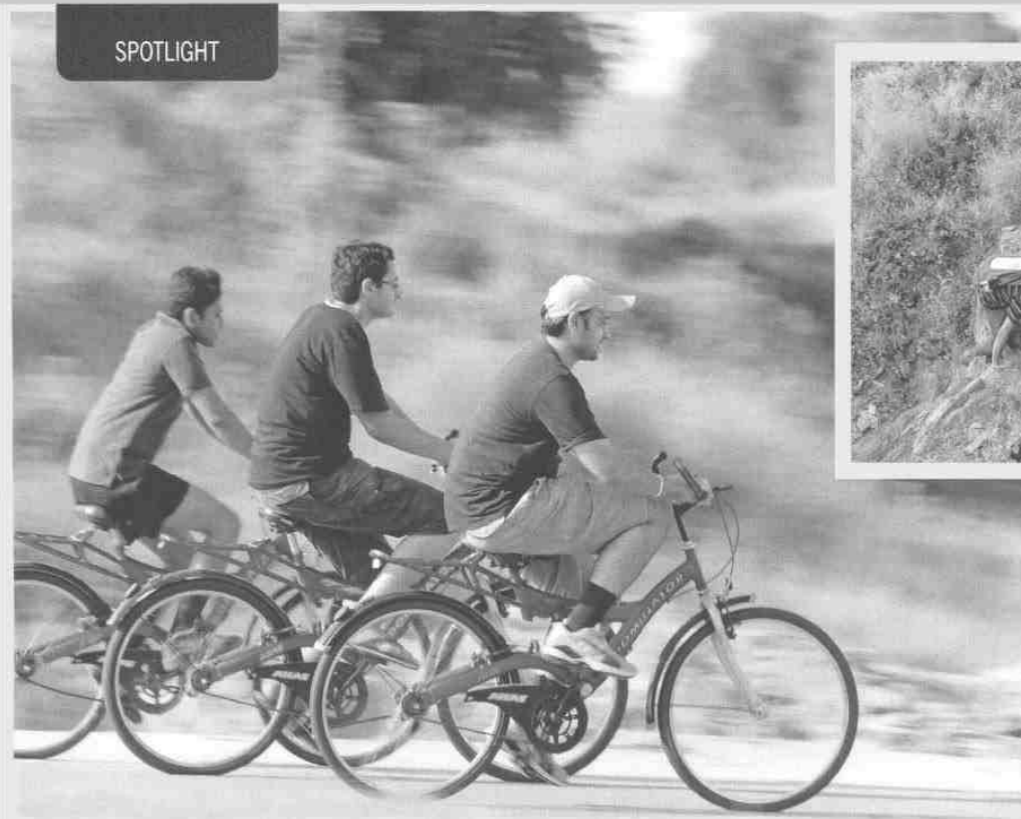
The first four semesters are devoted to theoretical and hands-on laboratory training of core and Mathematics & Sciences courses. This is followed by advanced courses spread over the next three semesters. Students undergo the industry practice (IP) working on real-life projects in the eighth semester leading to the completion of the programme. Thus, the B.Tech programme is the sum total of education measures undertaken to develop holistic responsible individuals for life-long learning. The overwhelming emphasis, therefore, is to ensure that all students 'learn to learn'.

#### Industry practice (IP)

IP conducted onsite in the organization provides students with an opportunity to gain experience working in interdisciplinary teams on real-life. The duration of IP is six months (i.e. One semester). During IP, students are guided by a dedicated faculty mentor and a mentor from the organization. Besides technical



SPOTLIGHT



THE NU vehicle campus sensitizes the students to reduce their carbon footprints

skills, this semester helps build strong professional skills including planning, problem-solving, time management, written and verbal communication, cost management, team-work, meeting deadlines, initiative, confidence to complete a task, integrity and customer communication. The four core principles of NU

The four core principles, industry linked, technology based, research driven, and seamless, define every aspect and activity at the university.

**Industry-linked:** To ensure that curriculum always stays relevant and current and aligned to what recruiters need in terms of skill sets, the faculty from industry interacts closely with students on a regular basis. The incubation centre at NU takes up R&D projects that can find commercial application, with easy patenting, licensing and technology transfer.

**Technology-based:** whether it is the admission process, (where interviews are conducted over video conferencing), teaching-learning pedagogies, or campus greening initiatives, NU harnesses the state-of-the-art technology to bring several benefits to all its stakeholders, especially students. Learners are equipped with the latest notebooks and can access extensive computing facilities across the campus. And, satellite-based learning technology enables NU to be the receiving center of

knowledge from experts across the globe.

**Research-driven:** NU is focused on exciting the curiosity of students and evoking in them a desire for exploration. At NU, students are encouraged to think beyond the obvious and look at new ways of resolving old problems. Students, irrespective of discipline, are given hands-on experience applying research methodology to a variety of problems. NU addresses the need for research-based approach by setting aside 25 acres out of 100 for incubators. This enables the faculty and the students to work within the same campus and build a bridge with traditionally segregated worlds of study and work.

**Seamless:** NU students have occupational, spatial and temporal freedom. What this means is that students majoring in say educational technology, have the option of enrolling for an elective in unrelated subjects—entrepreneurship, managerial economics, bio-informatics or history.

**The greenest campus**  
India Today Education Summit 2012 recognized NU as the greenest campus. The green, sustainable campus, created to encourage closeness with nature, helps students remain empathetic to the landscape, and aware of important resources such as water. Various initiatives have undertaken at NU to ensure greenness, including the use of drip irrigation (to plant over 10,000 trees), air tunnels (that minimize the carbon footprint



ARAVALIS PROVIDE a great opportunity for NU students to trek daily and experience the nature



VARIOUS SPORTS facilities contribute to the holistic development of students

of NU), rain water harvesting and water recycling (to preserve natural resources), and the pedestrian spine (to minimize fossil fuel consumption). NU is also working with the local people to contain illegal mining of rocks in the Aravalis and control soil erosion.

**Unique scholar search programme**  
In an interview, Mr. P. Rajendran, co-founder, NIIT university and chief operating officer, NIIT limited aptly summarized the intent and objective of the NU scholar search programme. He said, "the multiple entrance tests for admission into stellar institutes sometimes creates undue pressure on students and hampers their learning and performance in school. Hence, NU now initiates a student-centric admission process that relieves students of this strain, by facilitating induction of meritorious students in our cutting edge B.Tech programmes on the basis of their performance in school."

The university recognizes a student's achievement in school and therefore does not take an additional entrance test for those students who have secured more than 70% in class XII.

COURSES OFFERED

- BTech
- Biotechnology (BT)
- Computer science and engineering (CSE)
- Electronics and communication engineering (ECE)
- MBA
- MBA (finance & banking)
- MTech
- Educational technology (ET)
- Embedded solutions & convergence (ESC)
- Computing & communications and bioinformatics (CCB)
- Geographic information systems (GIS)
- Phd programmes



THE MOBIUS ring that symbolizes seamlessness at NU



However, students who have secured less than 70% in class XII need to submit their IIT/JEE, AIEEE or SAT rank/scores or appear for the NU entrance test (NUET).

Further, this year, students can avail scholarships of up to 100%, along with a monthly assistantship, based on a combination of their class X and class XII scores. NU scholar search programme, combined with early admission mode, not only reduces the admission anxiety for the student, but also encourages her/him to perform even better in the class XII exams.

The admission to the B.Tech programme is based on class X and XII marks and Personal Counseling Interaction (PCI).

For academic session 2012-2016, the last date for application is June 15, 2012.

Students can apply online or via paper forms available at NU Admissions Office and NU Admission Facilitation Centers.

The details are available on the university website [www.NIITuniversity.in](http://www.NIITuniversity.in).

Interested students and parents can also call the toll free Number 1800-103-5050.

Notified by the Government of Rajasthan u/a 5 of 2010 and covered u/s 2(f) of UGC Act

Campus: NIIT University, NH-8, Delhi-Jaipur Highway, Neemrana.

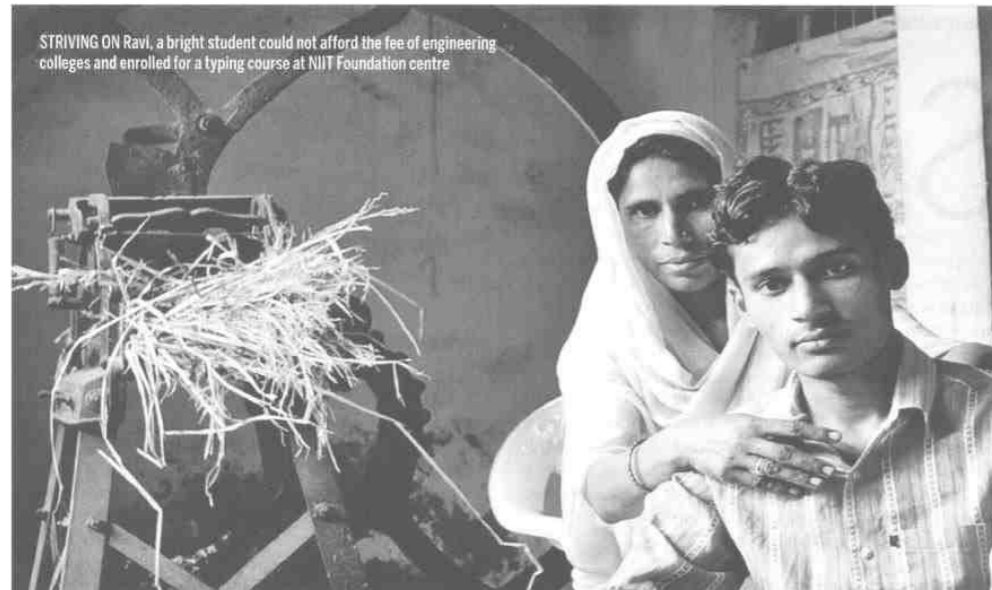
Admissions Office: NIIT House, 85, Sector 32, Institutional Area, Gurgaon 122 001.

For details visit [www.NIITuniversity.in](http://www.NIITuniversity.in) or dial toll free: 1800 103 5050



HOPE

NIIT FOUNDATION



STRIVING ON Ravi, a bright student could not afford the fee of engineering colleges and enrolled for a typing course at NIIT Foundation centre

INSTITUTIONS

# Where there's a will there's a way

Boosting low self-esteem may be the key to improving job prospects of many a talented youth in urban slums and rural areas...

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“Now, I can meet new people confidently, face any interview and talk professionally”

by Merrill Diniz

It took much courage for 17-year-old Ravi Mehta to set foot inside the NIIT Foundation Centre to know about courses offered, in hometown Dasna (Ghaziabad). Despite clearing the UPTech entrance exam he could not afford the fee for engineering colleges or polytechnics. Life was a hand-to-mouth existence for his father, a manual labourer supporting a family of five. A bright student all through school, Ravi finally joined a typing class. During his initial days at the centre Ravi was affected by a very common problem – lack of confidence. He could not bring himself to make eye contact, and shuddered at the prospect of speaking up in front of teachers and classmates. But such fears are now a thing of the past. Ravi got a job with KFC through the centre and wants to be a manager some day.

### Building confidence

As in Ravi's case, confidence is the toughest hurdle for many a youth from urban slums and rural areas, shares Sapna Moudgil, Implementation Head of NIIT Foundation (NF). “The job

HOPE

NIIT FOUNDATION

### FAST FACTS

NAME: NIIT Foundation  
SET UP IN: 2005; gained momentum in 2007  
DOMAIN: Train youth in urban slums and rural areas in English, IT, employability courses  
BENEFICIARIES: 30000 youth impacted over four years; 85% eligible candidates placed in entry-levels jobs in retail, BPO, Data Entry, Teaching and IT; earn between Rs 5,000 – 18,000 pm  
INFRASTRUCTURE: 65 operational centres - 21 Career Devl. Centres & 75 with Partner NGOs  
INVESTMENT: Capital Expenses 2.4 Cr; Recurring Expenses: 3.5 Cr a year



GETTING JOB-READY Students in a class at their local Career Development Centre (above); Implementation Head Sapna with the first batch at a centre (below)

“It takes much effort to convince the youth that they are capable of working in a corporate set-up”

SAPNA MOUDGIL,  
Implementation Head, NIIT Foundation

INSTITUTIONS

per se is not difficult, and NIIT has many industry linkages to facilitate placements,” says Sapna.

### Career orientation

“We want them to enjoy learning by making it interactive,” says Sapna. Being asked to speak on a topic in front of the whole class is a common practice. Knowing English is not a must, but understanding it gives an edge. Target-based assignments are also geared towards preparing them for the professional world. Conducting surveys is a popular assignment where they need to seek out information from strangers. “On Day 1 they return saying people are rude. On Day 2 they make some progress. By Day 3, they have tears in their eyes as results start happening,” says Sapna. The importance of grooming and healthcare are also emphasised upon.

### Money matters

The 4-6 month courses cost between Rs. 500-1000 a month. “We encourage them to pay something even if it's Rs. 50; we find that charity does not instil responsibility and pride,” says Sapna. Corporate sponsorships and scholarships are available, more so to encourage girls.

### Roping in corporates

Coca Cola sponsored the Dasna centre. Jindal Stainless Steel set up centres at Jajpur, Orissa and Hisar, Haryana. “Typically, locations are where corporates have factories and manufacturing units, and they would like to impact those communities. We help them set up and run the centres,” shares Sapna.



### Teachers-cum-counsellors

At least 50 percent have a corporate background. “They have attended good schools, are intellectually sound, and are committed to making a social change,” shares Sapna. The remaining are freshers, all of whom undergo a training certification before they can teach. Visiting slums, knocking on doors to counsel students, especially girls and their parents is a part of the territory. “Some teachers are uncomfortable doing it. We help them overcome this challenge,” she adds.

### Convincing girls

Mahajabin, sixth daughter of a tailor in Tughlakabad, is the first girl in her family to work. A Class 12 pass-out, she did not understand a word of English but wanted to do a retail course. Also, she had no money to pay. Her persistence prompted the centre to sponsor her training. She joined without informing her family and all hell broke loose when they discovered where she was vanishing to for two-three hours a day! They feared how girls were treated in the outside world and asked her to discontinue the course. The centre intervened and convinced her family to allow Mahajabin to finish her course. Finally, she secured a job and inspired her two younger sisters to study more and seek employment. Interestingly, she still visits the centre for tuitions to help crack her distance mode graduation exams, alongside work. ■

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EW SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

## NIIT Nguru school solutions

**N**IIT Nguru started as an ICT program to spread computer literacy among school students from all segments of the society. As a part of the movement to bridge the digital divide, NIIT has undertaken projects that involve taking computers and computer-based learning to the remotest parts of the country.

NIIT Nguru now offers a holistic suite of innovatively designed ICT enabled teaching-learning solutions for schools across India and other countries such as Bhutan and South Africa. It aims to transform the whole education experience. NIIT Nguru covers government and private schools across country, thereby making learning a enjoyable experience for over 10 million students in 17,000 schools.

The solutions include:

- **Interactive Classrooms:** Technology enabled classroom solution to transform the teaching-learning experience in classrooms
- **Math Lab:** State-of-art mathematics laboratory for schools powered by technology tools to help kids visualize math through activity-based learning
- **Mobile Science Lab:** Technology enabled science learning system which simplifies science, enables students to conduct experiments outside laboratory and relate science with day to day life
- **IT Wizard:** It is a comprehensive IT education solution to enable students to be better equipped to handle the IT revolution. It also helps students grasp basal subjects like mathematics, science, English and social sciences, etc through technology.
- **Quick School:** Integrated and comprehensive Education Resource Planning software which automates functions such as fees, report card generation, payroll, admissions, inventory management, transportation etc.

We spoke to a section of our esteemed clients who constitute the best schools across the country about the impact of technology in education and how NIIT Nguru solutions are helping them in making the school ecosystem more effective. Here's what they said:



**Ms. Reena of Ryan International, Chembur, Mumbai** talks about her school's delightful experience with **NIIT Nguru's Math Lab**. Earlier students from classes III-V were using the Math Lab, but after observing the tremendous student response and engagement levels, the school has decided to allow students of classes I and II into the lab too. "The hands-on learning model of NIIT's Math Lab not only helps students understand maths better but also gives them a sense of achievement as they do experiments for themselves and derive their own understanding based on observation," says Ms. Reena, who adds that in some instances parents have come back saying their kids do not want to miss school on a particular day because they'd have to miss the Math Lab period! There cannot be a better testimonial for the NIIT Nguru solution which is based on the vision of bringing joy into learning.

**Springdales School, Amritsar**, has been using NIIT Nguru's **Math Lab** as well as **IT Wizard Next** for years. School principal **Rajiv Sharma** believes these NIIT solutions have added a lot of value to the whole teaching learning process. For example, the teaching of maths in the traditional way poses certain challenges as it is not

sufficiently hands on and the more traditional aids allow limited visualisation. NIIT's Math Lab overcomes these challenges by providing software, multimedia aids and manipulatives that allows students to test hypotheses for themselves and visualise things that weren't possible with traditional aids. This helps in making concepts clearer and simpler to grasp. Now students not only find maths interesting but also have better clarity which has improved the overall performance. Teachers are comfortable using the solution and now it has become an integral part of our teaching learning process. **IT Wizard Next** is a futuristic IT education solution from NIIT and it is more up to date and holistic in nature than the traditional IT curriculum being taught in the school. It has improved student engagement through interesting content and projects.

**DPS, Bangalore** also uses NIIT's **Math Lab**. The principal, **Mitra Bandopadhyay**, talks about how today learning has to be simulated with experience. It is no longer confined to imagination of effects rather it has extended to touch, feel and interact on the outcomes. NIIT's Math Lab is based on the principle of learning by doing and has had positive impact on

EducationWorld, March 2012

EW SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

### Math Lab



**M**ath Lab is a one-of-its-kind product that transforms every school it touches. A brainchild of NIIT Ltd and USA-based Key Curriculum Press Inc, a leading provider of software for mathematics education, Math Lab is completely structured on NCERT guidelines. It enables teachers to demonstrate, explain and reinforce abstract mathematical ideas using Geometric Sketchpad Software, multimedia content, manipulative, charts, graphs, posters, and measuring instruments.

Math Lab comes with an exhaustive list of 487 activities mapped to the NCERT curriculum. The multimedia software is supported by a set of complimentary teacher manuals, videos, charts, teacher training and supplementation support. Math Lab comes in 30, 45 and 60 seater variants.

### Mobile Science Lab



**N**IIT in association with Fourier Systems brings a first-of-its-kind mobile computerised Science Laboratory which makes science teaching-learning hands-on in a technology-enabled learning environment. It comes with data logging device Nova and a suite of readymade probes called sensors that can be easily connected to it thereby reducing the time for setting up the apparatus for experiments.

This complete science learning system offers wide coverage of subjects such as physics, chemistry, biology and environmental sciences. Based on NCF guidelines

EducationWorld, March 2012

and NCERT curriculum, students can conduct more than 150 experiments in physics, chemistry, biology and environmental sciences.

### Quick School

**Q**uick School is an integrated and comprehensive Education Resource Planning software developed for schools to manage information spanning all functional requirements such as fees collection, report card generation, payroll, admissions, inventory management, transportation, etc. It also facilitates schools to generate CCE report cards as per CBSE guidelines. It addresses the needs of all stakeholders within the education realm —



students, teachers, principals, school management and parents. The product empowers schools to strengthen their services to students and parents, thus enhancing their competitive advantage many fold. Quick School is flexible and configurable to suit individual school needs.

### IT Wizard Next

**IT Wizard Next** is a solution that integrates the IT curriculum with the school curriculum. It enhances the learning capabilities of students with innovative methods and educational software. The solution is designed for students from classes I-XII. It comes with 60 ISDR (Information Search and Digital Representation) projects where students do activities and projects suggested in NCERT textbooks with the help of applications covered in the IT curriculum. It gives them an opportunity for practical application of the IT skills they have learnt through the IT curriculum.

### Interactive classrooms

**Interactive Classrooms** is a complete technology enabled classroom solution that revolutionizes the teaching and learning of subjects such as mathematics, science, social sciences and English. It is specifically designed to implement the NCF 2005 guidelines where the focus is on in-depth understanding of concepts and their practical applications.




**NEW SPOTLIGHT FEATURE**

students. Mrs. Bandopadhyay says that it gives learners encouragement to work on formulae and understand math concepts. It has erased the fear of maths and students now look forward to the Math Lab class. Above average students take particular interest in challenging problems, average students have improved their critical reasoning skills and below average students have definitely improved on their math concepts. Today teachers are confident using the Math lab. This was mainly because of the orientation program for teachers conducted by NIIT. Teachers have accepted the solution and now have dedicatedly starting using it.

**DPS Bahadurgarh** has been using NIIT Nguru's **Quick School** solution and the principal, **Dr. (Mrs.) Zeenat Khader** emphasises how its comprehensive modules such as fees, student, staff, transport, recruitment, examination and discipline have helped in automating important processes of the school.

**Dr Arun Prakash**, principal of **Sai International School**, Bhubaneswar, believes NIIT Nguru's **Quick School** has simplified the administrative functions of the school. Especially the CCE (continuous and comprehensive evaluation) report card tool has helped teachers immensely making it a lot easier for them to implement the CCE directives. Further Quick School has enabled greater interaction and effective communication between parents and the school. It has helped integrate the whole school ecosystem, connecting students, teachers and parents. Features such as internal mail system, SMS alert in case of non-attendance of students etc keeps parents in loop. Being a residential school, the hostel module of Quick School is also widely used by the school. Dr. Prakash explains how having everything at the same place, in an organised manner has helped all stakeholders of the school.

**Air Force School** has been using NIIT's **IT Wizard Next**, a complete IT curriculum, since the past two years. It caters to students from classes I-X, and has been so effective that the

school is keen on extending it even for the nursery kids. **Mrs. Vasu, the Principal of Air Force School**, Delhi believes that the new age student should be well versed with computers and comfortable with technology. Computer and IT education is a must in today's world and it should be inculcated from an early age judiciously. Mrs. Vasu says NIIT has implemented the solution flawlessly and the faculty provided have ensured optimal usage of the solution. "It's wonderful to see the impact IT Wizard Next has made, she says, even younger students are now adept at making presentations and

especially in science, with the engaging and interactive content of Interactive Classroom. The content is complemented by videos, 2d animation, 3D models depending on the context which help students to visualize abstract topics. Teachers are also comfortable using the solution and consider it to be a powerful teaching tool, aiding the traditional chalk and talk techniques. The NIIT support staff not only helps sort out technical issues but is a qualified teacher himself who takes care of the academic issues as well.

**Ms. Sunita Sen, Principal of Ballygunge Shiksha Sadan, Kolkata**



are very comfortable handling computers. The CCE directives also talk about effective use of technology tools in presentation of ideas, and IT Wizard Next keeps our students up to date with these skills. Parents have also been happy with the school and the NIIT solutions and I'd definitely recommend it to other schools," says Mrs. Vasu.

**Vidya Pratishthan** group of schools has been using NIIT Nguru's **Interactive Classrooms** for the past one year. The principal of Vidya Pratishthan's New English Medium School-Baramati **Mrs. Jyoti Jagtap** advocates Interactive Classrooms for the visible impact it has had on increasing engagement levels and performance of her students. Students find it a lot easier to grasp topics,

considers technology to be an important aid in education but believes it should be used judiciously and not completely replace traditional teaching pedagogies. When used judiciously it can work wonders as in case of NIIT Nguru's **Math Lab** which has made maths interesting for students of the school. Ms Sen says that one can clearly observe the confidence of students after using Maths Lab. They've started loving and enjoying maths, the hands-on learning enabled by the NIIT solution helps them visualise and better understand abstract mathematical concepts. The school has also been successfully running NIIT Nguru's **IT Wizard** solution and has asked for the solution to be extended to the kindergarten classes as well.

EducationWorld, March 2012

Education World, March 2012

## Nasscom Sticks to Growth Forecast

Says mixed results, guidance no deterrance

**OUR BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI

Software industry grouping Nasscom will not budge from its export growth forecast for the next few months, its new chairman said after a mixed bag of results and management commentary from India's top IT services providers for the January-March quarter.

N Chandrasekaran, who is also the chief executive officer of India's largest software exporter Tata Consultancy Services, said it is "not prudent" to change the forecast based on one quarter's performance.

"For this year we are sticking to the forecast of 11-14%. October will be the time that we will come up for a review," he said.

Chandrasekaran, whose company's sales account for about one-tenth of the industry's revenue of \$100 billion (Rs 5.2 lakh crore), took over as chairman of the National Association of Software and Services Companies from NIIT's Rajendra Pawar.

The concerns about expansion in exports became pronounced after Infosys, India's second largest software company whose forecasts are watched keenly as pointers for the industry, said it expects

to grow by only 8-10% in the financial year to March 2013. Wipro has said it does not expect any growth in the second quarter but is optimistic about the rest of the year.

Chandrasekaran refused to get drawn into commenting about revenue projections of individual companies.

TCS, does not provide growth forecasts, has been more upbeat in its commentary than Infosys, as has HCL Technologies. But Chandrasekaran has been quoted as saying that TCS hopes to beat the Nasscom forecast of 11%-14% in revenues by this year end.

Chandrasekaran, who started his career at TCS in 1987, said that while the business model of Indian IT companies is still relevant, there are some fundamental changes underway in the industry.

"We are seeing a shift from outcome-based to a cloud based and more predictable fee-based business models. Just because Indian IT companies have an attractive business model, it might not work. It has to time well with change in customer mindset."

Problems with visa denials and other regulatory measures will continue as long as there is high unemployment in markets that software firms address, he said.

The Economic Times, Pune, May 1, 2012



## Job fair attracts youth

NIIT, the global leader in talent development organised a job fair recently. Eight companies including DQ, Top 20 participated in this job fair. Companies like Muthoot Fincorp, Iyogi, Tech Mahindra, NIIT HO, etc. came with around 300 openings. Approximately 450 students participated from different colleges of Faridabad like DAV Centenary College, Aggarwal College, IMT, Echelon, BSAITM, etc. Around 30 students got selected on the same day. Students were very happy and excited and are looking forward to job fairs like this in future also.

(Ed Support)



Dainik Jagran City Plus, Faridabad, May 5, 2012

## NIIT Tech Net Up

**Bangalore:** NIIT Technologies Ltd's consolidated revenue for the year grew 27.9 % over the previous year to ₹1576.5 crore and 2.4% (₹443.5 crore) during the quarter. Net profit improved by 8.2 % to ₹197.2 crore. Its operating profit improved by 11.6 % to ₹268.4 crores. "Twenty eight per cent growth during the year came on the back of new large engagements and expansion within our top accounts", Arvind Thakur, CEO, NIIT Technologies said. The top 5 accounts which contributed 30% of total revenue grew by 39% during the year and international geographies grew by 48% over previous year. Travel and transportation showed maximum traction with growth of 66%, BFSI grew by 28% and manufacturing by 13%. ENS

Indian Express, Chennai  
May 5, 2012



## alerts admission



IMAGE: ABHIMANYU SINHA

### ENGINEERING

#### Institute of Technology and Management, Gurgaon

BTech

**Eligibility:** Minimum 60% in aggregate marks at the Class 12 level and 60% marks each in physics, maths and English. Also, should have appeared in AIEEE-2012. Selection is based on AIEEE-2012 marks and aggregate marks

of physics, maths, English and chemistry at Class 12 level with 75% and 25% weightage respectively  
**How to apply:** Visit [www.itmindia.edu](http://www.itmindia.edu) for more details  
**Last date to apply:** June 25, 2012

#### Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Dwarka

BArch

**Eligibility:** Candidates should have passed Class 12 from the Central Board of Secondary Education, or possess an equivalent qualification, from a recognised board, with a minimum aggregate of 50% marks with mathematics as a compulsory subject. Or s/he should have a 10+3 year diploma in architecture recognised by the central/state governments. In addition to the above requirements, the interested candidates should have passed the National Aptitude Test of Architecture conducted by the Council of Architecture. Indraprastha university offers reservation to Delhi students  
**How to apply:** Visit [www.ipu.ac.in](http://www.ipu.ac.in)  
**Last date to apply:** Between June 4, 2012 and July 2, 2012

### MANAGEMENT

#### NIIT University, Neemrana

MBA in strategy and leadership

**Eligibility:** The applicant should fill the

MBA@NU application form; Must be a graduate from a recognised and reputed Board/University in India or abroad; Appeared for the NIIT University Management Aptitude Test. Candidates who have appeared for the CAT/MAT/XAT/GMAT/AIT and who have valid scores are exempted from appearing from the NUMAT but must enclose a photocopy of their score transcript along with their application; Applicants with work experience are preferred  
**How to apply:** Visit <http://www.niituniversity.in> for more details  
**Last date to apply:** May 31, 2012

#### Stephens Institute of Management

Accelerated development programme

**Eligibility:** The critical qualifications are professional maturity, solid managerial experience, and a strong desire to succeed. The focus is on the attendee's readiness for the upcoming career stage, not on age or previous degrees.  
**How to apply:** The brochures/application forms are available online at <http://www.ssime.in/>  
**Last date to apply:** May 9, 2012

Hindustan Times, New Delhi, May 9, 2012



**Scaling up focus:** The Chairman of NIIT, Mr Rajendra S. Pawar (right), with the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Vijay K. Thadani, during a press conference to announce the company's financial results in the Capital on Wednesday. — Ramesh Sharma

## NIIT to invest Rs 120 cr this fiscal

### Posts 31% rise in Q4 net profit

#### Our Bureau

New Delhi, May 9

Global talent development firm NIIT Ltd on Wednesday said it will invest Rs 120 crore this financial year (2012-13).

This will be used for setting up new campuses for cloud computing, skill development and Yuva Jyoti. The company invested Rs 153 crore during last financial year.

"We continue to scale up our focus on four platforms - cloud campus, vocational skills training, managed training services and solutions for schools - to drive next phase of growth," Mr Vijay Thadani, Chief Executive Officer, NIIT Ltd, said here.

On the outlook in the global scenario, Mr Rajendra S Pawar, Chairman, said that the company is seeing good traction in Europe as it has a small business there.

"We have not faced any impact there. In India, we have seen acceptance to new ideas

like cloud computing and our objective is to engage youths through new innovations and ideas," he added. The company reported net profit of Rs 26.1 crore for fourth quarter ended March 31, 2012, up 31 per cent from Rs 19.9 crore in the corresponding period last year.

The company's net revenue stood at Rs 257 crore during the January-March quarter that grew by 17 per cent against Rs 220 crore in same period in 2011.

However, in view of divestment in Element K in September 2011, NIIT has excluded financials of Element K and one-time pass through revenue in this quarter.

NIIT divested its stake in Element K for cash consideration of \$110 million during the year and, therefore, total net debt in balance sheet was reduced by Rs 295.5 crore.

Mr Thadani said

that the Individual Learning Solutions recorded net revenue of Rs 252.2 crore, up 14 per cent year-on-year (YoY) during the fourth quarter. Enrolments grew by eight per cent YoY and short-term diploma programmes registered a growth of 11 per cent during the year.

#### ANNUAL RESULTS

On annual basis, NIIT's net profit stood at Rs 110.2 crore during 2012 fiscal against Rs 92.2 crore in 2011. Net revenue was at Rs 1,260.3 crore against Rs 1,248 crore in 2011.

NIIT Ltd's share price in Bombay Stock Exchange stood at Rs 42.55, down by 5.34 per cent from its previous close.

[ronendrasingh.s@thehindu.co.in](mailto:ronendrasingh.s@thehindu.co.in)

Hindu Business Line, New Delhi, May 10, 2012



## Proyecta buy has exceeded expectations: NIIT Tech

**IT's Official**

**Abhishek Law**  
Kolkata, May 11

Mr Rajendra S Pawar is the Chairman and co-founder of the NIIT Group, which has two businesses - NIIT Technologies Ltd, the software and services arm and NIIT Ltd, the leading Global Talent Development Corporation. Set up in 1981, NIIT pioneered the computer education market in India, creating a completely new industry segment.

In second quarter of FY 2011-12, NIIT Technology had acquired Madrid-based software company Proyecta.

In an interview on the sidelines of Nasscom's (National Association of Software and Service Companies) Tech-Unique 1.0, the former chairman of organisation talks about NIIT's projects, Proyecta's integration and the overall climate in the IT

industry.

**Has the integration of Proyecta with NIIT Tech been completed?**

The integration is done and has come out better than expected. It has been a good acquisition for us.

**Are you going to focus on the Latin American markets with the acquisitions?**

We had said earlier that we will give Proyecta a year of integration and then we will start looking at the other (Latin American) markets. We have to give it a couple of quarters to settle before we look at these markets.

**What is the update of NIIT's "playground kiosks" project in Bhutan?**

We have completed around two years of the project. Fifty-odd kiosks have been set up so far in the first phase of the project. We will be setting up around 130 such kiosks eventually and these will be there in another year.

**Going by the present market conditions, how do you see currency fluctuations impacting results?**

In the last two quarters, the (currency) fluctuations have been unpredictable. So when



**On the export growth front, there is no evidence of slowdown. But we cannot say things will grow fast. The uncertainty is continuing.**

**Mr Rajendra S Pawar, Chairman and co-founder of the NIIT Group**

you are looking at company results, we should segregate the impacts of currency fluctuations that can cloud the analysis.

**In the current global**

**scenario, what are the challenges for the IT industry in the country?**

The US is getting into a positive zone. It continues to be a big market for Indian

companies. And Indian companies continue to create value there. Euro Zone is good news, bad news and good news. It goes up and down. But the biggest economies there are at least doing okay. But that, we have to keep watching.

The acquisition processes are going on. These are good times to acquire for Indian companies. So when you acquire you create local jobs or save local jobs.

**So does the Nasscom have plans of changing its export growth forecast for FY 2012-13 from the projected 11 per cent to 14 per cent?**

We have no reason to currently revise it. We are holding on to that. If you look at the mix of results then you will see things are on track.

But yes, everyday some unnerving news is happening in some part of the world.

This quarter results, however, do not give us a reason to be concerned. Although there is no evidence of a slowdown, we can not say that things will grow very fast. So the uncertainty continues.

*abhishek.l  
@thehindu.co.in*

Hindu Business Line, New Delhi, May 12, 2012

## Biotechnology

# ELIXIR OF LIFE

A lucrative career in biotechnology can be achieved through academic excellence and specialised research

By Deepshikha Punj

In 1978, with a seed capital of just ₹10,000, the then 25 year-old Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw started a biotechnology company in the garage of her rented house in Bangalore. What most people do not know is that in that since then, the Indian biotechnology industry has become one of the fastest growing sectors and contributes to nearly three-fifth of the total revenue at ₹9,500 crore.

Development in this sector has resulted in an augmented demand of trained professionals. The profession offers job opportunities not only in the field of biology, but also subjects like mathematics, physics, chemistry and engineering. Rajiv Shorey, president, NIIT University explains, "Since biotechnological engineering or bio-Bio-engineers are high in demand in the pharmaceutical and manufacturing sectors

engineering is the application of concepts and methods of molecular biology to solve problems in life sciences, using engineering's analytical and synthetic methodologies, the course creates manpower that is trained in the latest techniques and devices for biological research, including the

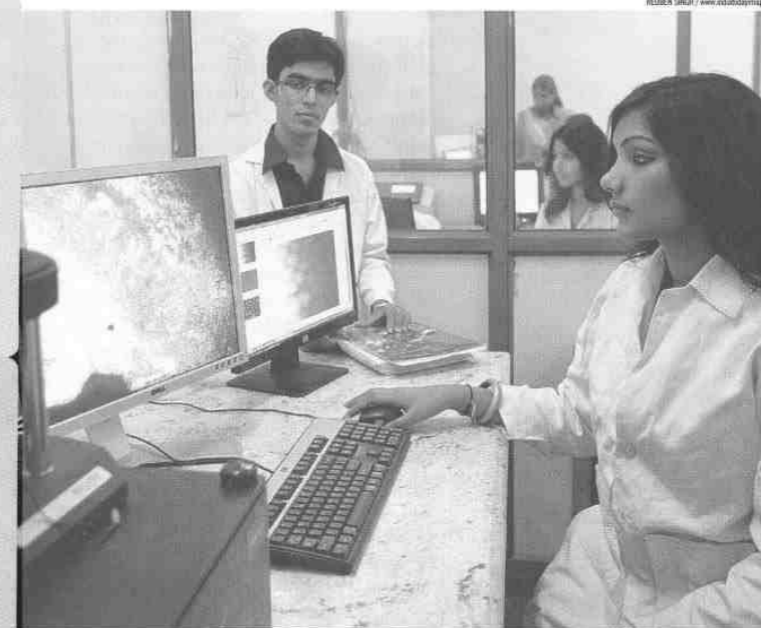
### institutes

School of Life Sciences, University of Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh  
[www.uohyd.ac.in](http://www.uohyd.ac.in)

Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Trivandrum, Kerala  
[www.rgcb.res.in](http://www.rgcb.res.in)

### starting salary

₹ 3 lakh-₹6 lakh per year



pharmaceutical industry."

All those who want to peruse bio-engineering must understand that this field is at a nascent stage and promises huge potential as there is no other area where integration of physical and biological sciences is visible. Naresh Grover, director, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Manav Rachna International University, Faridabad, says "If we look closely at the emerging trends in the industry within and outside the country, biotechnology sector is fast growing in manufacturing field today. Be it manufacturing of and enhancing production of effective and safer drugs, diagnostic kits, affordable vaccines, designer foods, probiotics, biosensors, biochips, agro-biochemical, industrial enzymes, transgenic crops, bio-similar or introduction of cleaner bioprocess, all clearly spells the potential of biotechnology is increasing day by day in local as well as international platforms."

Biotechnology courses vary in duration and courses are offered at the undergraduate as well as post graduate level. The different types of degrees a student can earn in this field include a bachelor in biotechnology which is of three years, a bachelor of engineering or technology in biotechnology which is of four years duration. They can also pursue a master in biotechnology for two years, a master of technology in biotechnology for two years or a master of philosophy for one year. Graduates can also opt for an MBA in biotechnology for two years or a PhD in the same. "During post graduation, students can specialise in subjects such as agri-biotechnology, pharmaceutical biotechnology, environmental biotechnology, fermentation technology, industrial biotechnology, biochemical engineering, tissue engineering and plant biotechnology," says Grover.

Remuneration, of course, very much depends upon academic qualification and experience. In the corporate sector, freshers may get anything between ₹70,000 and ₹85,000 per month. Those working in research institutes can earn between ₹60,000 per month.

India Today, National, May 14, 2012



## New GNIIT program enriched with industry inputs

Chennai, May 19: NIIT Limited, leading Global Talent Development Corporation and Asia's largest IT trainer, today launched 'The Turning Point' campaign that unveils a transformational GNIIT program based on an all-new cloud-centric curriculum, enriched with insights from the IT industry.

The new GNIIT program maximizes career opportunities by offering programs that lead to exit profiles in diverse fields of IT like - Cloud Applications Developer, Enterprise Application Developer, Business Intelligence Solutions Developer, Server Administrator and Network Administrator.

G. Raghavan, Chief Executive, Career Building Solutions, NIIT said, "Over the years GNIIT has been the turning point in the lives of youth seeking challenging career options in the global IT industry. With a view to further improve the program and make students ready to take up challenging assignments in the ever-evolving IT sector, we are in constant dialogue with industry leaders. This has enabled us to offer a program that is completely aligned to the manpower needs of the IT industry."

The new GNIIT syllabus is now based on a Cloud & Collaborative Learning Model. This pioneering initiative takes learning beyond the traditional student-teacher relationship and addresses the needs of today's generation's lifestyle and their learning

style. It helps seamlessly blend the instructor-led classroom-based learning, virtual classrooms and online learning using Cloud services being off-ered through NIIT Cloud Campus™ - India's First Cloud Campus ecosystem. The new

GNIIT program prepares students, enrolled in a college, for a successful entry into the professional IT world by making them job-ready, the day they graduate. The program gives students the benefit of a dual qualification, as this program can be pur-

sued along with graduation. GNIIT is a Credit based Curriculum, designed to offer flexibility to students in learning. In other words, the students will have the flexibility to choose courses as per their interest and career goals.

Trinity Mirror, Chennai, May 19, 2012

### Admissions Executive programme NIIT Imperia

In association with IIM-C, it has launched a six-month executive programme in corporate regulations: legal and business implications for working professionals. The course will be offered across 31 NIIT centres in 20 Indian cities. Admissions are open for graduates of any discipline. Course commences in July. Admission will be based on a Program Aptitude Test. Course fee is ₹1.2 lakh.

**Apply by: May 31**

**Details:** [www.niitimperia.com/  
executive-program-in-  
corporate-regulations](http://www.niitimperia.com/executive-program-in-corporate-regulations)

Indian Express, Chennai  
May 14, 2012

## NIIT Tech eyes buyouts amid slump in West

**SMALL STEPS** The company is looking to buy IT firms abroad that serve travel, insurance and banking clients

Manu P Toms

[manu.toms@hindustantimes.com](mailto:manu.toms@hindustantimes.com)

**MUMBAI:** Having seen 28% growth in top line at ₹1,576 crore for 2011-12, the software services company NIIT Technologies looks to acquire small IT firms in Europe and North America to enhance its off-shore business.

Arvind Thakur, CEO, NIIT Technologies told *Hindustan Times* that the company is looking to buy IT firms abroad that serve travel and insurance clients. NIIT had acquired a Spanish IT firm Proyecta Sistemas in August last year.

The company had also acquired Germany-based SofTec and UK-based Room Solutions. The company has ₹290 crore cash surplus and will arrange debt, if required, to fund its



**We had grown 28% last year and 35% in the year before that. This year too we will grow faster than the industry.**

ARVIND THAKUR,  
CEO, NIIT Technologies

future acquisitions.

"We had grown 28% last year and 35% in the year before that. This year too we will grow faster than the industry," said Thakur.

He said that while travel and banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) sectors remain main revenue streams, the company sees a steady rise in business from governments, particularly in the Asian region.

"In FY11, e-governance busi-

ness contributed just 4% of the total revenue. It jumped to 7% last year and this year it will contribute 10%," he said.

NIIT bets on its various IT integration and automation packages for police forces and e-procurement. About hiring Thakur said, "Every quarter we keep adding 250-300 people. Last year we hired 1,300 people. This year it could be more or less the same."

Hindustan Times, New Delhi, May 15, 2012



## GNIT CURRICULUM REVISED

The NIIT Limited launched *The Turning Point* campaign that unveils a transformational GNIT programme based on an all-new cloud-centric curriculum, enriched with insights from the IT industry.

The latest campaign by NIIT which is, at present, celebrating 30 years of innovation in the field of IT education and training features

NIIT alumni whose lives have changed significantly after successful completion of the industry-endorsed GNIT programme.

The new syllabus is a perfect blend of core IT skills, professional skills and cloud technology.

It ensures that the students' IT knowledge and skills are mapped to the industry requirements and

role competencies for better job opportunities.

The new GNIT programme maximises career opportunities by offering programmes that lead to exit profiles in diverse fields of IT like cloud applications developer, enterprise application developer, business intelligence solutions developer, server administrator and network administrator.

Pioneer, New Delhi, May 23, 2012

## No country for easy skill development

DEVJYOT GHOSHAL  
New Delhi, 25 May

The simple fact about skill development is that it isn't an easy business. Not only is it a challenge to get prospective candidates into skill building institutes, industry is yet to be convinced of the benefits of inducting skilled workers at higher wages, but across the board. Yet, there is a consensus that getting the various stakeholders together to create an ecosystem is essential.

For the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), the ₹2,500-crore public-private-partnership tasked with imparting skills to 150 million people by 2022, this is the difficult reality it needs to contend with.

"There is no structured data available in India, unlike other countries. No names or addresses, although there are so many projects happening like Aadhaar and other schemes.

There are lot of supply-side people, but who are they and where are they? So, it becomes a mammoth task to target them, and to even reach that person becomes very difficult," says Sanjay Bahl, president of NIIT's Skill Building Solutions business that aims to train seven million people in 10 years under its partnership with NSDC.

Bahl is going for the massive, young population, who complete their Standard X and XII exams but subsequently drop out of the formal, mainstream education system. "Your typical gross enrolment ratio says 87 per cent of the people fall out after (class) X and XII. So, there is a huge population (waiting to be tapped)," he explains.

On the back of NIIT's established brand and delivery systems, Bahl hopes to target low-to-mid income families to drive its skills business. But for a number of NSDC's other partners, who neither have the size, scale or brand name of NIIT, it is going to be an uphill battle to get students into classrooms.

"The challenge in India is that the behaviour of paying yourself to get trained is very low. Here, the tendency of the urban educated is to pay for higher education. Parents will sell their home to send a child to an IIT (Indian Institute of Technology). That is the perception about higher education. To monetise vocational skills from an individual is very tough," says Sanjeev Duggal, chief executive officer (CEO) and director of Centum Learning, one of NSDC's biggest partners.

In the rural market, Duggal explains, the paucity of money means that vocational skill development is very low down in the order of priority.

Firms, therefore, need to work very deeply with the government and the industry. "If you're not a large player and you don't have a history, then large corporates aren't going to work with you and large dependence on government projects isn't going to come to you," he adds.

Then, there is the issue of convincing a seemingly reluctant industry to partner in the skill building mission, to convert the need for a skilled workforce into significant demand that can be harnessed.

"This is again a challenge," says R C M Reddy, managing director and CEO of IL&FS Education and Technology Services. "Since we don't have a focus on skilling, the value proposition to hire a skilled worker is limited. And, this is a problem with small as well as large corporates."

Adds Duggal of Centum Learning: "The industry has demand but it hasn't reached a point where the individual will line up and pay to get skills developed. The industry is open, it realises that it needs good, trained people, but how much it is willing to spend on that is still unclear."

Apart from India Inc's lack of enthusiasm, another challenge is that the sector skill councils haven't made much headway in fulfilling their core functions such as creating catalogues of skill types, developing sector skill development plans, maintaining skill inventories and drafting skill competency standards and qualifications.

Sector skill councils are autonomous organisations comprising experts from industry and the academia, charged with workforce development of particular industry sectors. Nonetheless, Dilip Chenoy, CEO and managing director of NSDC, remains optimistic. "The thing is that sector skill councils the world over only work when the industry actually comes together. The different parts of the skilling chain—school, college, polytechnic or the ITI level—were talking to different entities at different points of time. So, now we have to align everything and get together. It is a new process," he says.

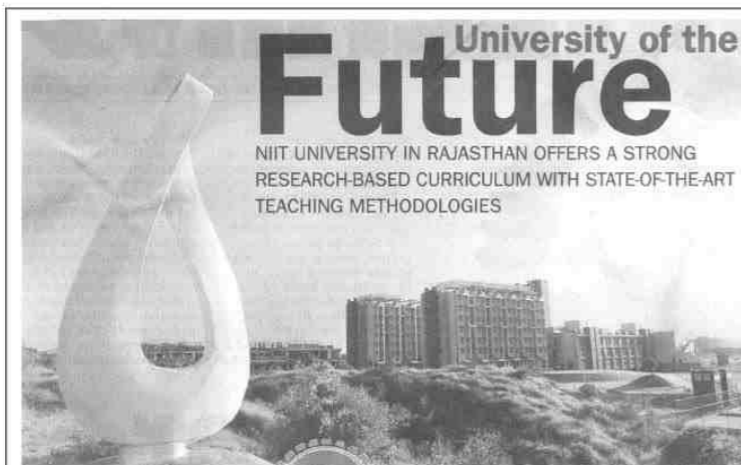
With India's skill development mission facing significant challenges, clearly there is much to be done, other than the government spending serious money on the fledgling sector.

Chenoy knows as much. "The problem is sitting down with people, taking them through numbers and telling them that it works. It's a huge challenge. It is not simple."

(Concluded)



SKILL DEVELOPMENT  
PART III



## University of the Future

NIIT UNIVERSITY IN RAJASTHAN OFFERS A STRONG RESEARCH-BASED CURRICULUM WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART TEACHING METHODOLOGIES

**N**estled in the foothills of Aravali, in Neemrana, Rajasthan, NIIT University (NU) is truly the University of the Future. Just off NCR, the picturesque 100-acre fully residential Green campus of NU is equipped with state-of-the-art technology-enabled teaching methodology that is backed by a strong research-focused curriculum.

Set up with the vision of being the leading centre of innovation and learning in emerging areas of a

QUICK

NESTLED IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE ARAVALI, NIIT UNIVERSITY OFFERS FUTURISTIC B.TECH PROGRAMS IN AN ENVIRONMENT CLOSE TO NATURE

explore and connect with multiple dimensions of today's business environment.

The research-driven NU B.Tech program offers courses like Problem Solving, Design of Experiments, Research Methodology and Scientific Method. NU B.Tech students are involved in various research projects on future technologies such as Handwritten digit Recognition, Experimental WiFi Campus Network, Measurement of EAT parameters using a Sensor Network.

According to Dr. Rajeev Shorey, President, NIIT University, "NU is committed to provide exceptional career opportunities to its students and prepare them to take on challenging roles in today's knowledge economy."

NU recognises the importance of a well-executed internship for a bright and rewarding career. NU ensures that its students are placed in highly reputed organisations as summer interns. NU B.Tech students get the opportunity to work in leading organizations such as Bell-Labs Research, IISc Bangalore, Juniper Networks, HCL, AT & T, Singapore Management University, Microsoft Research, among others.

NU offers a student-centric admission process that facilitates early admission of meritorious students in its cutting-edge B.Tech programmes on the basis of their performance in 10th and 12th standard examinations. The unique NU scholar search program offers upto 100% waiver of university and hostel fees.

Knowledge Society, the University is dedicated to building great careers and ensuring exceptional job opportunities to its students.

NU draws from the legacy of NIIT, which has been a leading education provider for 30 years. The knowledge and experience of managing an education process that NIIT has built and more importantly the research in understanding best ways to learn have been distilled in this not-for-profit university.

The green campus of NU encourages closeness with nature, and undertakes initiatives such as use of Drip Irrigation, Air tunnels to provide natural cooling, rain water harvesting, water recycling, containing illegal mining of rocks in the Aravalis and control soil erosion, to create a sustainable environment.

#### ENRICHING B.TECH PROGRAM

NU is committed to imparting a cutting-edge curriculum, through its futuristic B.Tech programs in: Biotechnology, Computer Science and Engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering.

The B.Tech programme at NU uses the university's core principles of providing industry-linked, technology-based, research-driven and seamless education as a foundation of its programme design. Through a transformational process involving

courses, R&D project, industry practice and other co-curricular components, the program seeks to create exceptional leaders trained to operate in tomorrow's complex technology-oriented business environment. The B.Tech programme demands and encourages students to



#### ADMISSION DETAILS

Admission to the B.Tech program is based on class X and XII marks and Personal Counseling Interaction (PCI).

For academic session 2012-2016, the last date for application in List 1 is May 31, 2012.

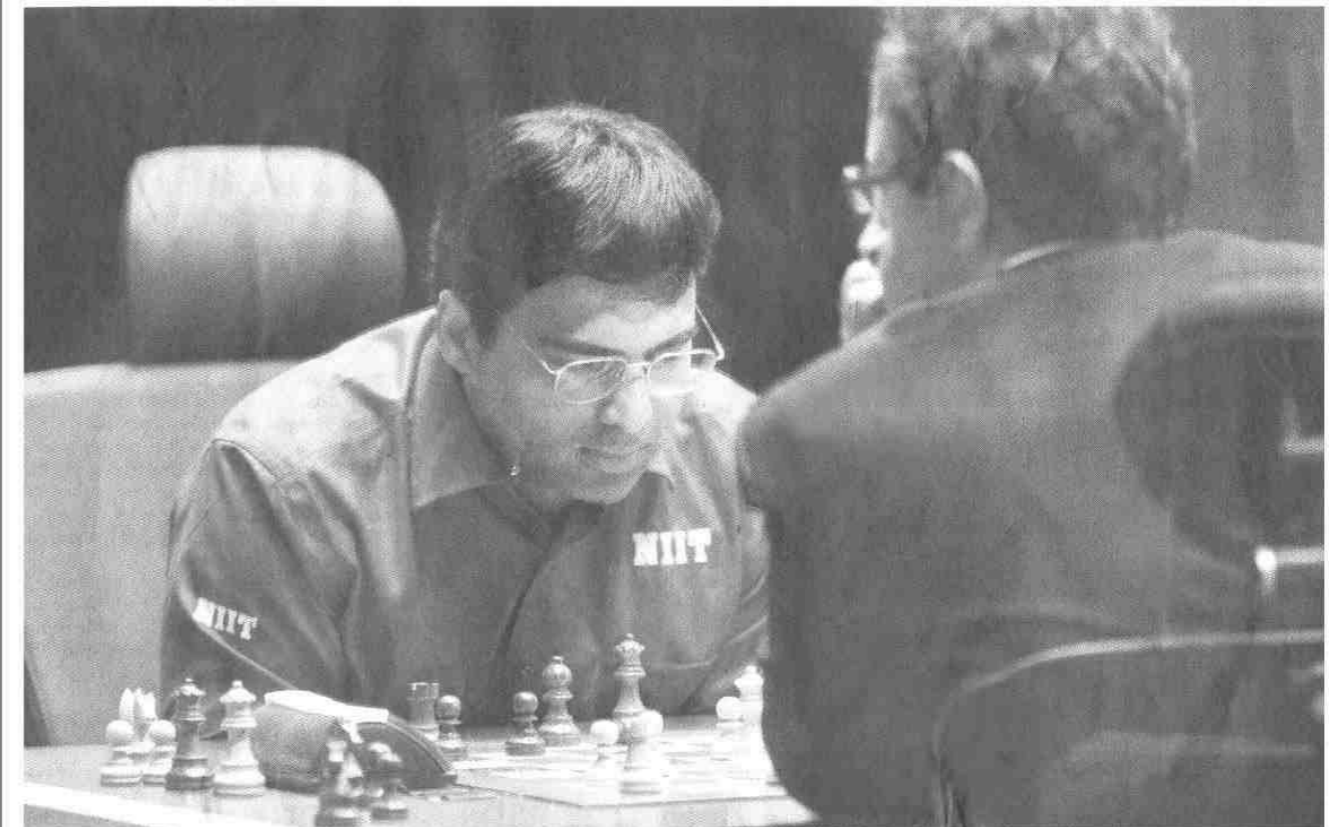
NU is notified by the Government of Rajasthan u/a 5 of 2010 and covered u/s 2(f) of UGC Act

Campus: NIIT University, NH-8, Delhi-Jaipur Highway, Neemrana. Admissions Office: NIIT House, 85, Sector 32, Institutional Area, Gurgaon 122 001.

For details visit [www.niituniversity.in](http://www.niituniversity.in) or dial toll free: 1800 103 5050

The Times of India, New Delhi, May 28, 2012

## Retains world chess crown



**Winning move:** Indian Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand retained the World Chess Championships title, his fifth crown and fourth in a row, after beating Israel's Boris Gelfand in a tie-breaker match at Moscow's Tretyakovskiy State Gallery, Russia, on Wednesday. — AP

Hindu Business Line, New Delhi, May 31, 2012



**More than 72% of the Indian population live in rural areas. Only 5.63% of the population has access to telephone and less than one percent to a computer. Hemant Sethi, president, School Learning Solutions & HiWEL, NIIT Limited, does a reality check**

# CONNECTING SCHOOLS

**I**n the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a period being described as the knowledge era, education is undergoing a paradigm shift. Nowhere is this change more marked or visible than in India, a country with a deep and enduring heritage of learning, which is now quickly embracing technology to make education more meaningful and accessible to the far reaches of its rural population.

The fact is that education is still limited in its footprint and coverage, with millions, especially at the bottom of the pyramid, remaining beyond the magic circle of learning. Relevant education, that focuses on the early development of employability skills needs to reach the hinterland, especially far-flung areas, so that eventually, social and economic growth is inclusive, and brings into the mainstream the underprivileged. For this to happen, technology needs to assume an even wider, more holistic role, where it touches citizens across the country.

India has around six lakh villages with more than 72% of the Indian population living in rural areas, earning its livelihood from agriculture. Most of the villages are lacking proper ICT infrastructure, only 5.63% of the population has access to telephone and less than one percent to a

PC. The rural tele-density is also very low as compared to the urban areas. A wide rural-urban disparity exists, which has created an acute chasm in a variety of social and economic activities, including education.

This is one of the important reasons why India is increasingly harnessing the power of ICT to transform the learning landscape. From

new-age technologies, the existing idea of classroom teaching and education is getting dismantled. Technology is increasingly helping to meet the needs of all stakeholders in India's rural learning eco-system — students, teachers and institutions.

Apart from technology enabling reach, a quiet revolution in the realm of educational content is

## STUDENT VOICE

### Feel of a book

I would prefer a 'real' book over an eBook. Books give you the feel, the experience. A set of printed papers, bound together, can transport you to a magical world. eBooks are more or less like real books, just on a screen. Its not that I don't enjoy eBooks, but I prefer to hold a

book. Besides, there is the issue of accessibility. If eBooks were easily accessible, they would be used more often as they are virtual and would require less maintenance. But, in a country like India, everyone does not have smartphones or tablets. Though tougher to maintain, paper books are more easily available. The future could be eBooks, but not a replacement for 'real' books.

— **Kartik Rajan**  
Class IX, Mother's International

high-tech classrooms that are gaining popularity across the country's government schools, to 'self-paced' education delivered through the cloud (an emerging IT-delivery model), technology has come to play a key role in making available learning on an 'anytime, anywhere' basis. Knowledge is now being delivered to the 'doorsteps of students,' including those in the deep, remote interiors of the country, where schools, and the vital resource — teachers — are conspicuous by their absence.

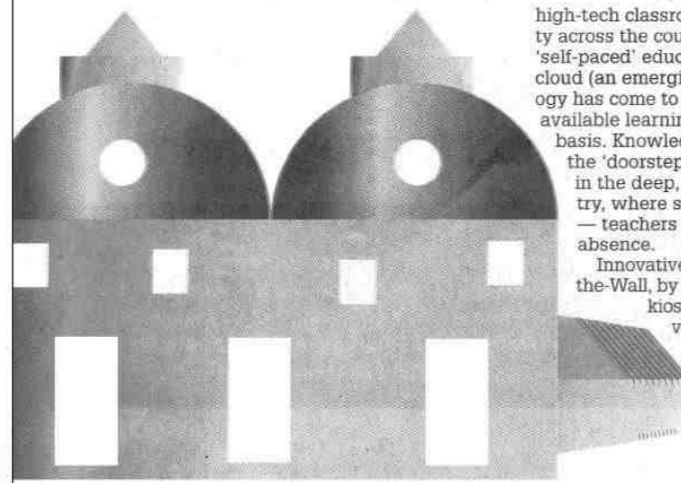
Innovative solutions such as the 'Hole-in-the-Wall, by NIIT — that use information kiosks in semi-urban segments and villages to provide learners online access — have proved that it is possible for children and adults to browse the Net and 'self-learn' without the intervention of instructors. Through such 'minimally invasive learning' and other

also greatly altering the learning experience of students. A vast library of digital content, developed by some of the pioneers in the domain of learning, is now available to schools and colleges across India. This content, which encompasses the use of animation, videos and other technology tools, is making subject matter more interesting for children. They are able to visualise abstract concepts, resulting in more effective learning.

Take the instance of the Khan Academy, a portal that delivers online learning thorough videos, for free. Learners can watch over 3100 videos, from Khan Academy's extensive library, on everything from arithmetic to physics, finance and history, and hundreds of skills to practice. Such remote tutoring using YouTube video tutorials, is being used by learners in different parts of the country, especially those in areas with few schools.



**Technology has come to play a key role in making learning available on an 'anytime, anywhere' basis**







## KapilSibal Minister of Communications & Information Technology Government of India



Whenever we talk about Tech Indians, it is hard to leave out the one's with power. Especially people like KapilSibal who is the current Minister of Communications and Information Technology. Among the many great ideas that he has set forward, one has been 'One Laptop Per Child' (OLPC). This gave rise to the Akash Tablet Project, which are currently the cheapest Tablet in the world. Over the years, he has held several important positions in the Government of India and the Society, such as: Additional Solicitor General of India (December 1989 – 1990); Member, Board of Management, Indira Gandhi National Open University (1993); President, Supreme Court Bar Association (1995–96, 1997–98 and 2001–2002); Member, Rajya Sabha (July 1998); Member, Executive Council, Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies (July, 2001); Member, Business Advisory Committee (August, 2001); Member, Committee on Home Affairs (January, 2002); Co-chairman, Indo-US Parliamentary Forum (2002); Member, Board of International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (2002); Member, Programme Board of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Indian AIDS initiative (2003); Member, Working Group on Arbitrary Detention set up by the Human Rights Commission, Geneva.

### CONTROVERSY'S CHILD

KapilSibal has come under harsh criticism from the students of several IIT's who call his move of abolishing IIT-Joint Entrance Examination and introducing 40% weightage for Class 12 marks and the proposal for a Common Engineering Entrance Exam as a move which was uncalled for. After the HRD Ministry confirmed the news of abolishing IIT-JEE.

## Sabeer Bhatia Co-Founder | Hotmail.com



The enthusiastic and chirpy Sabeer Bhatia has been a tech czar from India who rose to international fame right after Microsoft showed interest in buying out his baby – Hotmail. At the time Hotmail was one of the few email services company around the world and there was hardly any competition in front of Sabeer. Into the 21st century, Hotmail remains the world's largest e-mail provider with over 369 million registered users. As President and CEO, he guided Hotmail's rapid rise to industry leadership and its eventual acquisition by Microsoft in 1998. Bhatia worked at Microsoft for a little over a year after the Hotmail acquisition and in April 1999, he left Microsoft to start another venture, Arzooinc, an e-commerce firm.

### WHAT'S NEXT

Bhatia started a free messaging service called JaxtrSMS. He said that JaxtrSMS, would do "to SMS what Hotmail did for e-mail". Claiming it to be a disruptive technology, he says that the operators will lose revenue on the reduction in number of SMS's on their network but will benefit from the data plan that the user has to buy.

## Rajendra S Pawar Chairman | NIIT



The Padma Bhushan recipient is the Chairman and co-founder of NIIT. He is a distinguished alumnus of Scindia School, Gwalior and Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. Rajendra S. Pawar is considered a great visionary and developer of human resource potential. He has played active role in instituting Quality processes and Crosby's Complete Quality Management System in NIIT. He is interested in foreseeing the trends and crucial directions in the deployment of IT for quantum change in organisation effectiveness. He is a member of the National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development. He heads the Quality Committees of various Industry bodies, including the South African President's International Advisory Council (PIAC) on Information Society. By pioneering NIIT's innovative franchising model, he enabled the company to unleash a wave of entrepreneurship across the globe, providing young people with the opportunity to create viable businesses centered on IT learning. Pawar led NIIT's foray into the software and services market, creating NIIT Technologies, a global IT Solutions organization. Assessed at SEI-CMMi Level 5, NIIT Technologies serves clients across North America, Europe, Asia and Australia. Pawar is a member of Prime Minister's National Council on Skill Development, a council chaired by the Prime Minister of India. He is a member of the Planning Commission's Task Force on Skill Development and has also served on the Prime Minister's National Task force, which aimed at making India an IT Superpower by 2008. He is also helping the Government of South Africa develop a growth strategy for its ICT industry.

### WORKING ON

He is also helping the Government of South Africa develop a growth strategy for its ICT industry.

Celebrating 100th Anniversary

# Big Data to create a new boom in job mkt

Mini Joseph Tejaswi | TNN

## TALENT CRUNCH AHEAD

**Bangalore:** The Big Data industry will require a whole new army of data workers globally. India will require a minimum of 100,000 data scientists in the next couple of years, in addition to scores of data managers and data analysts, to support the fast emerging big data space. As per a McKinsey study, the US alone would face a deficit of 192,000 data scientists against its requirement of 490,000 such talent by year 2018.

The demand has arisen because global enterprises today use only 5% of the data they create and store. The ability to access, analyze and use humongous volumes of data through big data technology opens up newer business avenues and revenue streams for enterprises, more so for customer-facing businesses and governments.

But the issue is, data scientists are not an easy talent to get. They are a difficult combination of mathematicians, statisticians, analysts and technologists. Though India doesn't have enough of this talent at the moment, tech firms like EMC, Oracle, IBM, etc under their academic alliance programmes are already working or planning to work with universities in India and overseas to help introduce full-length electives or crash courses on various facets of Big Data.

Training outfits like NIIT, Aptech,



etc. too are exploring the space, in consultation with domain experts. Many training outfits are currently in the process of understanding the industry to decide on what kind of courses should be designed to churn out an army of specialized skilled talent to feed the Big Data industry.

EMC is already working with many campuses in the US including Stanford University to impart training on data science and big data analytics. This course is aimed at business and data analysts looking to add big data analytics skills; managers of business intelligence, analytics, or big data groups; database professionals looking to enrich their analytic skills or college graduates considering data science as a career field.

Shalendra Ravi, senior director (emerging markets) EMC India says,

India will require a minimum of 100,000 data scientists in the next couple of years in addition to scores of data managers and data analysts

The demand has arisen because global enterprises today use only 5% of the data they create and store

The US alone faces a deficit of 192,000 data scientists against its requirement of 490,000 by year 2018, a McKinsey study says

ly now. We already teach our students of BSIM track of GNIT, data warehousing and business intelligence."

Kailash Attal, Global Head (services & solutions) UST Global says, "Big Data is going to be the next gold rush. Ready talent is impossible, even faculty has to be developed in India and abroad. To start with, business intelligence analysts and data analysts can be upskilled and trained on math, statistics and new technologies through crash courses to make them sort of fit for Big Data space."

Pawan S. Kumar, executive director, PwC says, the next 12 months will lay the foundation for Big Data play in India. Every one is looking at how to monetise from the data pile they are sitting on for years. But the early adopters of Big Data technology will be retail, consumer products companies, banks, insurance firms, telecom service providers and governments. "So, a scramble for talent is expected in the market," he adds.

According to Andreas Weigend, head of Social Data Lab at Stanford University, making sense of big data is a combination of organizations having the tools, skills and more importantly, the mindset to see data as the new 'oil' fueling a company. Unfortunately, the technology has evolved faster than the workforce skills to make sense of it and organizations across sectors must adapt to this new reality or perish, he adds.

The Times of India, Bangalore, June 2, 2012



## Viswanathan Anand's 'turning point'

Swetha Kannan  
Chennai, June 3

Barely a day after landing in his hometown, world chess champion Viswanathan Anand had brand endorsement duties waiting for him.

As the long-standing brand ambassador of NIIT, Anand spent over two hours on Sunday afternoon at the launch of Turning Point, NIIT's scholarship programme.

There was little trace of jet lag as Anand eagerly reminisced the "turning point" moments that helped him beat Boris Gelfand to defend the World Chess Championship in Moscow.

### CANDID MOMENTS

He also candidly fielded questions from the media, including a few uncomfortable ones.

Asked if sponsors were queuing up to sign him, Anand shyly said there was nothing at the moment to talk about.

The chess wizard has in the past endorsed brands such as Horlicks, AMD and Parle Milk Shakti.

Should chess have an IPL-like tournament where stars from around the world play together?

Anand said it could be looked into but there are no such ideas at the moment.

What about former peer Garry Kasparov's reported dig at Anand that he has lost motivation? Anand laughed it off saying, "He's been trying to make me retire for a long time. Perhaps he misses all the attention; maybe he should play again."

### 'NO PLANS TO RETIRE'

There are no plans to retire, emphasised the 42-year-old Anand, who has won the World Chess Championship for the fifth time. "But numbers are irrelevant. I still enjoy playing chess and there is no check-list."

### SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCED

NIIT marked Anand's victory by announcing a scholarship of 100 per cent fee waiver for two of its programmes (GNIIT and Finance Banking & Insurance courses).

Anand, who has been associated with NIIT since 1999, gave away the first of the 10 scholarships.

NIIT runs the MindChampions' Academy to promote chess talent in schools across the country.



**The champion speaks:** World Chess Champion and Brand Ambassador for NIIT, Viswanathan Anand, and the CEO of NIIT, Mr Vijay Thadani, at the launch of 'Turning Point' NIIT scholarships in Chennai on Sunday. - Bijoy Ghosh

The Hindu Business Line, New Delhi, June 4, 2012

■ As India cheers for Anand, DC looks at the people who got him there

## THE MAKING OF A CHAMPION



S. SUJATHA | DC  
CHENNAI, JUNE 3

Behind every successful man there is a woman. In the case of world chess champion Viswanathan Anand there are two women. Before he got married, it was his mother Ms Susheela, who initiated him into chess and travelled with him to tournaments. Now, it is his wife Aruna, who takes care of his needs and lets him focus on beating the world.



Anand's pillars of support, his mother Mrs Susheela Viswanathan (top) and his wife Aruna Anand. — DC

Also, it is not that easy for a daughter-in-law to earn the praise of her husband's mother. Aruna is different. Ms Susheela Viswanathan was generous when she told *Deccan Chronicle* that Aruna deserves all credit for Anand's success. "I will give 100 per cent if not 120 per cent credit to Aruna for Anand's success," she had said in an interview.

Aruna is not only the most important person in Anand's life, but she is also his Man Friday. She acts as a buffer to him from the worldly issues. "When we got married in 1996, Aruna knew nothing about chess. But she has been a huge

**Aruna has been a huge support to me. She takes the load off my back and allows me to concentrate only on chess**

— Viswanathan Anand  
World chess champion

support to me. She takes all load off my back and allows me to concentrate only on chess," said Anand.

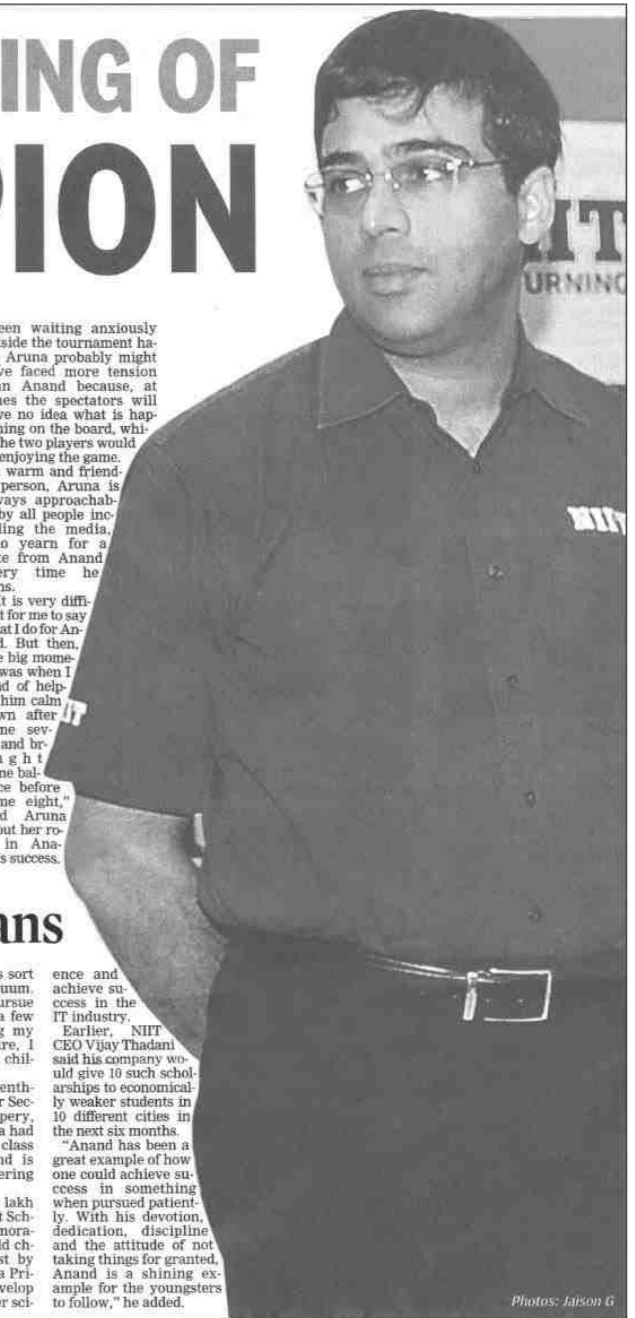
"She knows what to say and what not to say to me. She is a huge help," he said, adding that her moral support was enormous after he lost the seventh game against Gelfand at the world championship recently in Moscow.

Known for her extraordinary communication skills, Aruna has been managing Anand's career for the last 16 years. Before every world championship match, she takes the responsibility of checking the venue and hotels for Anand and his team.

Seen waiting anxiously outside the tournament halls, Aruna probably might have faced more tension than Anand because, at times the spectators will have no idea what is happening on the board, while the two players would be enjoying the game.

A warm and friendly person, Aruna is always approachable by all people including the media, who yearn for a byte from Anand every time he wins.

"It is very difficult for me to say what I do for Anand. But then, one big moment was when I kind of helped him calm down after game seven and brought a little balance before game eight," said Aruna about her role in Anand's success.



Photos: Jason G

## World chess master inspires fans

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, JUNE 3

Seventeen-year-old Shanmugha Priya of Chindrapet was amazed to meet world chess champion Viswanathan Anand at a function organised to award her a scholarship to pursue a one-year specialised computer course by NIIT in the city on Sunday.

While proximity to a world-class cricket stadium in the city might have made her a die-hard fan of Chennai Super Kings (CSK) captain M.S. Dhoni, the young girl was taken aback by Anand's achievements.

"I was very nervous but happy to meet Viswanath-



Viswanathan Anand presents Turning Point Scholarship to Shanmugha Priya at a function in Chennai on Sunday. EO Vijay Thadani (extreme left) and Aruna Anand (extreme right) are also seen.

an Anand," said Ms Shanmugha Priya, the second daughter of Mr Ravikum-

ar, a retail paint shop owner. "CSK's loss upset me,

but Anand's win has sort of filled in the vacuum. Though, I did not pursue chess after playing a few tournaments during my schooldays, in future, I will surely teach my children," she added.

A student of Seventh-day Adventist Higher Secondary School, Vepery, Ms Shanmugha Priya had scored 90 per cent in class 12 examinations and is waiting for engineering counselling.

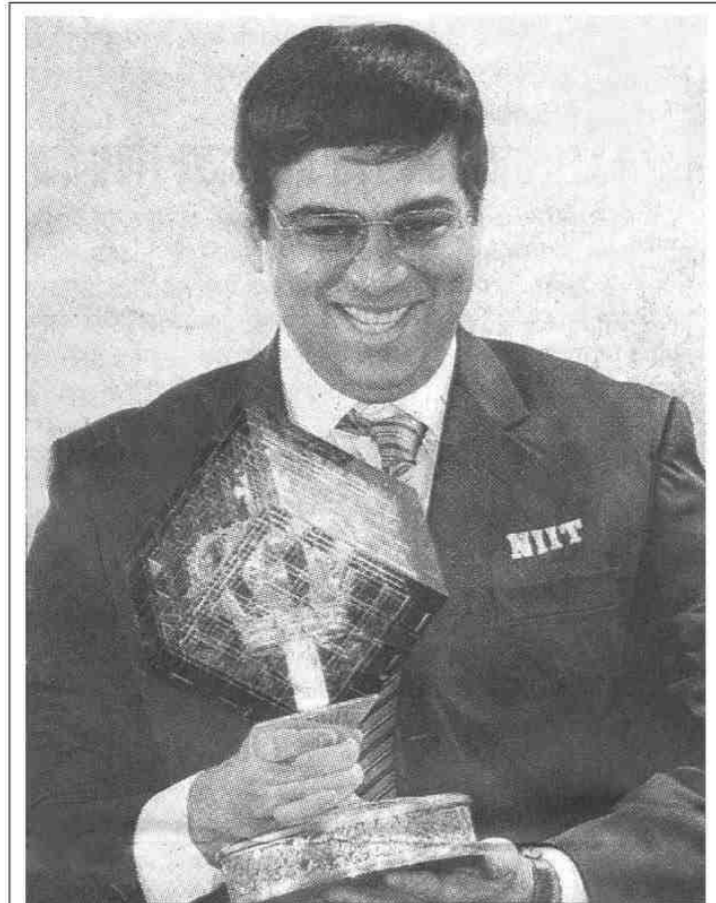
Awarded the ₹1.5 lakh worth 'Turning Point Scholarship' to commemorate Anand's fifth world championship conquest by NIIT, Ms Shanmugha Priya said she will develop her skills in computer sci-

ence and achieve success in the IT industry.

Earlier, NIIT CEO Vijay Thadani said his company would give 10 such scholarships to economically weaker students in 10 different cities in the next six months.

"Anand has been a great example of how one could achieve success in something when pursued patiently. With his devotion, dedication, discipline and the attitude of not taking things for granted, Anand is a shining example for the youngsters to follow," he added.

Deccan Chronicle, Chennai, June 4, 2012



ट्राफी के साथ पोज देता विश्वनाथन आनंद व रूसी राष्ट्रपति से हाथ मिलाता भारत का विश्वनाथन आनंद।



Punjab Kesari, Chandigarh, June 1, 2012

पांच बार के विश्व शतरंज चैम्पियन ने कहा, फिलहाल मेरी संन्यास लेने की कोई योजना नहीं

## अभी और खेलने व जीतने को बेताब हूं : आनंद

चेन्नई | एजेडियां

पिछले पांच साल से शतरंज के निर्विवाद विश्व चैम्पियन विश्वनाथन आनंद का संन्यास का इरादा नहीं है और इस भारतीय दिग्गज ने कहा कि पांचवें विश्व खिलाब के दौरान बोरिस गेलफांड को हराने के बाद उनका मनोबल बढ़ा हुआ है।

अपने प्रयोगक एनआईआईटी द्वारा रविवार को यहां आयोजित सम्मान समारोह में आनंद ने कहा, निश्चित तौर पर संन्यास पर कोई विचार नहीं किया है। बल्कि इसके ठीक उल्टे हैं। पांचवें विश्व खिलाब जीतने से मेरा मनोबल काफी बढ़ा है। जब मैं लुप्त उठा रहा हूं तब तक मुझे संन्यास का कोई कारण नजर नहीं आता।

आनंद ने कुछ दिन पहले विश्व चैम्पियनशिप मैच में इजरायल के बोरिस गेलफांड को हराकर अपने खिलाब की सफलतापूर्वक रक्षा की थी। उन्होंने कहा, मैं अभी अपने खेल का लुप्त उठा रहा हूं, मैंने हाल में अपने खिलाब की सफलतापूर्वक रक्षा की है। मास्को में जीतना भावनात्मक रूप से काफी मायने रखता है। यह सिर्फ रिकॉर्ड की बात नहीं है। यह सिर्फ इतनी सी बात है कि आपको हारना नापसंद और जीतना पसंद है। मैं और अधिक शतरंज खेलने और टूर्नामेंट जीतने के लिए बेताब हूं।

रूस के राष्ट्रपति व्लादिमीर पुतिन ने मास्को में आनंद को जीत के बाद चाय पर उनकी मेजबानी की थी। आनंद ने जब पुतिन को बताया था कि रूसी सांस्कृतिक केंद्र में टूर्नामेंट करने से उन्हें मदद मिलती तो राष्ट्रपति ने कहा था अच्छा तो हमने खुद ही अपनी परेशानी बढ़ा दी।

आनंद ने कहा, हम हंसते क्योंकि मुझे लगता है कि यह पवित्र परिहास के लिए थी। बैठक लगभग आधे घंटे चली। उन्हें



विश्व शतरंज चैम्पियन विश्वनाथन आनंद रविवार को चेन्नई में एक कार्यक्रम के दौरान अपनी पत्नी अरुणा (दाएं) और एक छात्र के साथ। • व. ट.

शतरंज के बारे में काफी जानकारी है। उन्होंने बताया कि रूसी संस्कृति में शतरंज कितना अहम है। आनंद ने तैयारी और मैच के दौरान टर्निंग प्वाइंट पर भी विस्तार से बताया। उन्होंने बताया, मेरी टूर्नामेंट 15 जनवरी से 15 अप्रैल तक चली। इस बार तैयारी काफी कड़ी थी। पिछले साल मैं टूर्नामेंट में व्यस्त था।

इस दिग्गज भारतीय खिलाड़ी ने कहा, हमने कड़ी मेहनत की और कुछ रणनीति तैयार की। मैंने काले और सफेद मोहरों के साथ कई प्रणालियां तैयार की। आपको हमेशा कुछ नए के साथ शुरुआत करनी

होती है। मैं गेलफांड को 1989 से जानता हूं और हमेशा सोचता था कि वह काफी पुराने और अनुशासित शतरंज खिलाड़ी है। उन्होंने कहा, वह ऐसा खिलाड़ी है जिससे खेल को अच्छी समझ है। वह ऐसा खिलाड़ी है जो सोवियत युनिवर्सिटी शतरंज की सर्वश्रेष्ठ परंपराओं को संजोकर रखे हुए है। मुझे पता था कि वह सर्वश्रेष्ठ तैयारी के साथ आएगा और उसने ऐसा किया।

आनंद ने कहा कि गेलफांड को हराया आसान नहीं है और उन्होंने भी कुछ नई चालें तैयार की थीं। आनंद ने मैच के दौरान आए टर्निंग प्वाइंट के बारे में बताया

हुए कहा, ऐसे अपेक्षाकृत बड़े मैचों में एक या दो टर्निंग प्वाइंट ही होते हैं। इनके आने पर उन्हें शांतिल करने से ही सफलता और विफलता का फैसला होता है।

उन्होंने कहा, सातवें दौर में हम एक क्षेत्र में थोड़ा लड़खड़ा गए थे जिसकी हमने अन्य की तरह विस्तृत तैयारी नहीं की थी। वह मैच का सबसे मुश्किल समय था, मैं सोचा भी नहीं। वह काफी परेशान करने वाला था। उन्होंने कहा, उस समय मैं खुद से नहीं कह पाया कि यह टर्निंग प्वाइंट है। लेकिन आउटवी बान्जी में मैंने मुख्य क्षेत्रों में काफी काम किया।

### शतरंज छोड़ने का खेद है कास्पारोव को

चेन्नई। विश्व चैम्पियन विश्वनाथन आनंद ने मेरी कास्पारोव को कतरा जवाब देते हुए रविवार को यहां कहा कि इस महान रूसी खिलाड़ी को उनके खिलाफ की गई टिप्पणी केवल एक ऐसे खिलाड़ी को कूट है जो अब लोगों का ध्यान नहीं खींच पाता और जिसे अपने संन्यास पर खेद है। मास्को में आनंद और बोरिस गेलफांड के बीच विश्व चैम्पियनशिप मुकाबले के दौरान कास्पारोव ने कहा कि भारतीय स्टार खिलाड़ी में प्रेरणा की कमी है। हाल में उनके खेल में गिरावट आई है।

आनंद ने हालांकि अपने खिलाब का सफलतापूर्वक बचाव किया जो कास्पारोव जैसे उनके आलोचकों के लिए कष्ट जवाब था। आनंद ने पांचवें बार विश्व खिलाब जीतने के बाद देश में अपने पहले संबाददाता सम्मेलन में कहा, हमसे उसकी टिप्पणी के बारे में पूछा गया था। यह ऐसा व्यक्ति है जिससे शतरंज छोड़ने का खेद है। शतरंज के कारण लोगों का ध्यान उन पर रहता था और अब उन्हें उसकी कमी खल रही है। वह वहां खिलाड़ी के रूप में होना चाहता है। मैं समझता हूं कि उन्हें फिर से खेलना शुरू कर देना चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा, कास्पारोव ने 2005 में संन्यास ले लिया था। 2011 से ही उनकी कोशिश रही है कि मैं भी संन्यास ले लूं। आनंद ने विश्व चैम्पियनशिप के दौरान गेलफांड के खिलाफ जब छठी बान्जी ड्रॉ खेली थी तब कास्पारोव ने भारतीय खिलाड़ी को आड़े हाथों लिया था।



## No plans to retire now, says Anand

BS REPORTER  
Chennai, 3 June

Indian grandmaster and world chess champion Viswanathan Anand, who's back in his home town Chennai after defending his fifth world title, said that he had no plans to retire and would look forward to the next competitions.

"There is no plan of retiring right now. In fact, having just won the championship has boosted my morale and I am looking forward to the next

series," Anand told reporters after presenting the first of NIIT Limited's 10 Turning Point Scholarships of 100 per cent fee waiver to a student in Chennai.

On repeated questions on his thoughts on retirement, Anand said that he was looking forward to the contest in Romania by the end of this month and that there was no reason to retire as long as he enjoyed the game.

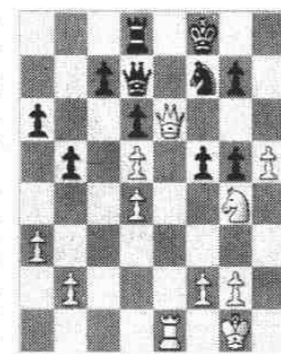
Replying to a query on what his next aim would be after this recent win at the World Chess Championship, he said, "Winning in

Moscow meant a lot, emotionally. I don't think about a competition by its number. Every title game is different and all you want is to defend that particular match. There is no checklist."

Boris Gelfand, his opponent in the recently-held world championship, was competitive with his own set of novelty methods. "This was one of the biggest tests for me so far, and I can now relax and enjoy," he said.

Speaking on the Tamil Nadu government's decision to make chess a must for school children in the age group of between seven and 17 years, Anand said that it was a positive move and will encourage more students to learn and excel in the game.

"Chess has huge educational benefits in terms of increasing concentration and thinking. It also helps in all ways of life, not only in education," he said, while thanking the state chief minister J



**"Winning in Moscow meant a lot, emotionally. I don't think about a competition by its number. Every title game is different and all you want is to defend that particular match. There is no checklist"**

Jayalalithaa for rewarding him. The chief minister has announced a reward of Rs 2 crore to Anand, after he won the world championship title for the fifth time.

Business Standard, Chennai, June 4, 2012

### > NIIT UNIVERSITY

NIIT University invites application for the four-year full-time B.Tech programmes in computer science & engineering, bio technology and electronics and communications engineering at the NIIT University, NH-8, Delhi-Jaipur Highway, Neemrana

■ **YOU NEED:** Candidates must have scored an aggregate of 60% marks or equivalent in class X from any board in India or its equivalent from any other country. They should have appeared for class XII board examination with physics, chemistry and

maths (PCM) as subjects for CSE and EC streams in 2012, 2011 or 2010, have a minimum score of 60% in class XII board exam. If the applicant has an aggregate score of 60%-70% in class X and class XII board examination respectively, then the applicant should have appeared for AIEEE and should submit the AIEEE rank / SAT scores / IIT JEE rank. Candidates applying in the BT programme, who have an aggregate score of 60%-70% in class X and class XII, and have not given AIEEE / SAT / IIT JEE can appear for the NUET examination. If the applicant has scored an aggregate of 70% or more in class X and class XII board examination respectively, s/he will be considered for admission based on her / his class XII scores and would not be required to submit any competitive entrance examination like IIT JEE / AIEEE / SAT etc. Shortlisted candidates have to go through a personal counselling interaction designed to assess the candidate's English communication skills, interest and hobbies, degree of self-awareness and out of the box thinking and reason for the choice of stream. This will be followed by interaction with parents of shortlisted candidates.

■ **FORM:** Students can buy the admission application form online by paying Rs 1,350 or from NU admission office or notified centres by paying Rs 1,350 in cash or by crossed demand draft in favour of NIIT University, payable at New Delhi. Candidates must submit the completed admission application form along with an attested copy of class X and class XII (if available at the time of application) marksheets and if applicable, the ranking / score in AIEEE / JEE / SAT / NUET in any one of the following ways:

**Online on the NU website:** [www.niituniversity.in](http://www.niituniversity.in). Attach a scanned copy of the marksheets, by post or in person at the NU Admission Office at NIIT House, 85, Sector 32, Institutional Area, Gurgaon, 122001, to a duly authorised representative in person, details of which are available on the NU website.

■ **DEADLINE:** June 15 for the submission of applications  
■ **NOTIFIED:** Email

### > AIR FORCE VOCATIONAL COLLEGE, DELHI

Applications are invited for the following courses — early childhood care and education, 'O' level computer, 'A' level computer, secretarial practice, early childhood care and education (NIOS), cutting, tailoring and dress making, travel, tourism and ticketing management, secretarial practice and office procedures, dress designing, textile designing and beauty culture among other courses

■ **YOU NEED:** For details, visit [www.airforcevocationalcollege.com](http://www.airforcevocationalcollege.com).

■ **FORM:** Log on to [www.airforcevocationalcollege.com](http://www.airforcevocationalcollege.com)

■ **NOTIFIED:** Hindustan Times, May 28

For more, log on to [www.myeducationtimes.com/alerts](http://www.myeducationtimes.com/alerts)





### Executive programme at NIIT Imperia

NIIT Imperia with centres all over India is introducing an executive programme in corporate regulations - legal and business implications. This six-month course has been designed for working professionals with a minimum one-year of experience. Candidates working in the areas of joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions and in MNCs can opt for this programme. The fee is ₹1.22 lakh. The last date to apply is June 6. Details at [www.niitimperia.com/executive-program-in-corporate-regulations](http://www.niitimperia.com/executive-program-in-corporate-regulations) ■

Indian Express, Chennai, June 4, 2012

### A scholarship to celebrate win

World chess champion and NIIT MindChampion Viswanathan Anand recently presented the NIIT Turning Point Scholarship to Shanmugha Priya from Chennai for its flagship GNIIT program at a function organised by NIIT in the city. The scholarship has been instituted by NIIT to commemorate Viswanathan Anand's win at this year's world chess championship. This initiative aims to give an opportunity to 10 meritorious poor candidates. Shanmugha Priya will be given 100 per cent fee waiver under this scheme ■

Events

Indian Express, Chennai, June 11, 2012



# Nasscom sticks to 14% growth for IT in FY13

Says fundamentals strong, firms to clock revenues worth \$114b

SRIRAM SHANKAR

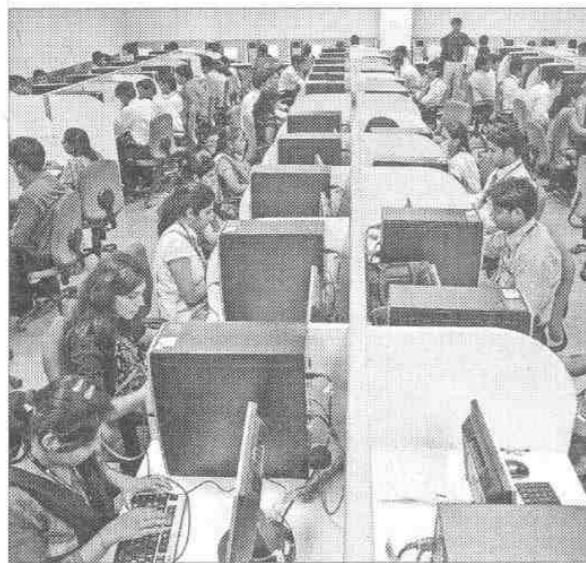
New Delhi

RETAINING 11-14 per cent growth projections for FY13, information technology industry body, National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom) on Thursday said forecasts might be revised in four months in case global economic turmoil worsens and IT companies report subdued results.

Nasscom president, Som Mittal, said the growth estimates that hitherto were conservative in February 2012 have suddenly turned "optimistic" given the global financial turmoil. He insisted, "Fundamentals of the industry were strong".

As per these estimates, the IT companies were to clock revenues worth \$111 - 114 billion in 2012-13.

Global economic uncertainty has caused clients in US and Europe that together account for more than 80 per cent of the business of Indian IT firms, to squeeze their budgets affecting the revenue of major players like Infosys and Wipro. In April



**OPTIMISTIC VIEW:** Mid-sized IT firms like NIIT Technologies and MindTree have benefited, clocking 20 per cent growth

2012, Infosys forecast below-expected growth for this fiscal. Similarly, Wipro also issued muted guidance. Large deals are now being broken up into smaller sizes owing to economic uncertainty. Mid-size IT firms like NIIT Technologies and MindTree have benefited, clocking 20 per cent growth.

On state of R&D in India, Mittal said there was "no

R&D expenditure for figuring out the next wave in technology". He added there was a lot of expenditure on platforms, that is, taking an existing piece of technology and innovating on it. He added that government labs carried out the R&D while it was lacking among corporates in India. "There was, as yet, no good way of connecting industry

and government labs" to bring these technologies to market, Mittal pointed out.

Mittal said the current debate on moving to tier-2 cities hit the "social infrastructure" roadblock. The lack of social infrastructure such as schools and places of recreation made it "difficult for middle managers and others with families" to make the move. Commenting on business process outsourcing (BPO) companies taking their operations abroad, Mittal said "customers demanded it". With Indian ITeS companies taking on more "mission critical" work, clients demanded operations be "de-risked".

Previously, IT firms "de-risked" by shifting operations between cities. With clients willing to bear the extra cost, de-risking today happens across nations. Sri Lanka, Philippines and Vietnam were promising destinations for these operations. Mittal maintained they were not threats to the Indian IT industry, which "would continue to grow".

sriramshankar  
@mydigitalfc.com

Financial Chronicle, New Delhi, June 15, 2012

## NIIT Tech appoints Jyoti Srivastava as Head of UK operations

New Delhi, June 13

NIIT Technologies Ltd on Wednesday appointed Mr Jyoti Srivastava, as Senior Vice-President and Head of UK Operations. Mr Srivastava was Vice-President at Tata Consultancy Services. He has an experience of 22 years in the information technology industry. "He will strengthen the UK activities of the company and work closely with business units in the geography," Mr Sunil Surya, President, Europe, NIIT Technologies, said in a company statement. This appointment is in line with the company's focus to strengthen its European footprint, he added. — Our Bureau

Hindu Business Line, New Delhi, June 14, 2012



NIIT LTD

## McDonald's of Education

Through a robust franchising network, NIIT Ltd has reaped huge success and earned the title of "McDonald's of Education" by igniting the fire of entrepreneurship across the country.

To help the nascent IT industry overcome its human resource challenges, NIIT forayed into franchising in the year 1986 to deliver high-quality, cutting-edge, standardised technology learning by partnering with franchisees. In the last 30 years, it has steered and led the training segment, shaped it, mentored it and enabled it to cross India's borders into a global realm. Today, the brand has grown to be amongst world's leading talent development



< www.franchiseindia.com >

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companies, offering learning solutions to individuals, enterprises and institutions across 40 countries with 350 education centres. NIIT's training solutions in IT, Business Process Outsourcing, Banking, Finance and Insurance, Executive Management Education, and Communication and Professional Life Skills, touch five million learners every year.

### Business development

Amitabh Lahiri, Chief Business Officer, Career Building Solutions (IT), NIIT Ltd, says: "In the next five years, we hope to increase our centres by 30 per cent, both at the national and international level. We will, however, be focusing on tier II and III cities, where we can set up our centres in 100-150 locations."

**BRAND'S SUCCESS  
MANTRA:** NIIT Ltd is known for building skilled manpower pool for global industry requirements.



### Franchise facts

**Sector:** Education & training  
**Investment:** Rs 25-30 lakh  
**Area:** 2,000-3,000 sq.ft  
**Expected break even:** One year  
**Franchise units:** 1,000  
**Expansion plans:** tier II & III cities

Franchise World, National, June 2012

## Cloud computing moves skyward

There's been a lot of buzz about cloud computing lately, with many companies venturing into this domain to provide cloud-based services. Most companies have also started moving some of their IT operations on to the Cloud. The term 'cloud computing' refers to the action of performing computer tasks using services delivered entirely over the Internet. Cloud computing is a technology that uses the Internet and central remote servers to maintain data and applications. Cloud computing allows consumers and businesses to use applications without installation and access their personal files at any computer. This has been rendered as a more efficient usage of centralised storage, memory, processes and bandwidth. The name was inspired by the cloud symbol that's often used to represent the Internet in flowcharts and diagrams.



**STEP FORWARD** Cloud computing uses the Internet and central remote servers to maintain data and application.

### Types of cloud computing

The 'Software-as-a-Service' (SaaS) model has already proved to be a good value proposition for enterprises. It simply outsources the application requirement to a third party to manage and provide the client with that service. And SaaS is just a pre-cursor to cloud computing. Other cloud computing services include virtual server storage such as Amazon Web Services, and software and product development tools such as Google Apps.

### Cloud computing services

Web-based email services like Gmail and Hotmail deliver a cloud computing service which allows users to access their mail "in the cloud" from any computer with Internet connectivity, regardless of what kind of hardware is being used by that particular computer.

The e-mails are hosted on Google's and Microsoft's servers, rather than being stored locally on the client's computer.

Over the last few years, there has been tremendous growth in cloud computing, as witnessed by the many popular web apps used today including Skype, Google Voice, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Picasa, YouTube, Flickr, BitTorrent and Mint.

Even traditional desktop softwares such as Microsoft Office have moved in part to the web, starting with its Office 2010 Web Apps series.

### Skills for cloud architects

It is still early days for cloud computing and people are yet to fully understand the concept. As it is constantly evolving, there isn't a formal curriculum for this subject.

standing of business goals and commercial acumen will help one stand out from the crowd.

### Certificate courses

Aptech and NIIT provide a few certification courses in cloud computing. The NIIT Edgeengineers programme trains students to work on Windows Azure—the cloud computing platform of Microsoft. IBM, a pioneer in cloud certification courses and training, has introduced a series of cloud certification courses along with 3Tera and VMware that are aimed to train cloud architects and cloud computing professionals for the near future.

Rackspace, Amazon (EC2) and Microsoft Windows Azure have released training kits and education tools on cloud computing.

### Certifications

- Information Security Certifications
- Cisco Certifications
- Microsoft Certifications

Cloud Computing involves two types of organisations. The supply side includes Microsoft and Amazon that offer IT services on the cloud platform. The demand side comprises companies that consume the services. For the supply side, a.k.a the service providers, there will be several opportunities created in different areas.

**Software developers:** In an IT product development company, applications that would adhere to cloud architecture are created on a daily basis. As these applications are made available to end users as services that are accessible through browsers, software development of SOAP, AJAX, web services would be required to develop the applications for the cloud platform.

**Infrastructure engineers:** Professionals who are into IT infrastructure creation and management like networking professionals, virtualisation and security experts, can render their skills to enterprises who are setting up their own cloud computing framework.

There is a big push for cloud computing services by several big companies. Amazon.com has been at the forefront of the cloud computing movement. Google and Microsoft have also been very publicly working on cloud computing offerings.

Other companies to watch for in this field are Yahoo, IBM, Intel, HP and SAP. Several large universities have also been busy with large-scale cloud computing research projects.

**ON THE RISE** Now is the time to make the most of cloud computing, advises Sandhya Prakash

A good understanding and expertise in virtualisation, the ability to consolidate server and storage infrastructure, designing complex infrastructure environments, the ability to handle much higher scales of data, can be summed up as some of the skills that would be required in this domain.

Some employers will expect potential employees to have exposure to working with the above-mentioned technologies in one of the big cloud computing companies such as Amazon, Google, Microsoft. Other requirements may include:

- A Bachelor's degree in engineering, computer science or a related field
- Network and Security Architecture experience
- Experience in cloud migration, data centre migration or server consolidation project
- Knowledge of Java, web services, SOAP and Ajax

Combining these with strategic under-

Deccan Herald, New Delhi, June 19, 2012



### NIIT launches 'The Turning Point'

NIIT Limited, a leading global talent development corporation and Asia's largest IT trainer, on Monday, launched 'The Turning Point' campaign that unveils a transformational GNIIT programme based on an all-new cloud-centric curriculum, enriched with insights from the IT industry. The latest campaign by NIIT, features NIIT alumni whose lives have changed significantly after successful completion of the industry-endorsed GNIIT programme. The new GNIIT programme maximises career opportunities by offering programmes that lead to exit profiles in diverse fields of IT like - Cloud Applications Developer, Enterprise Application Developer, Business Intelligence Solutions Developer, Server Administrator and Network Administrator. NIIT Limited also partners with Credila Financial Services Private Limited, a subsidiary of HDFC Limited, to offer education loans to students interested in enrolling for the programmes. (Agencies)

Hitavada, Nagpur, June 19, 2012



### Life after marks – NIIT to the rescue

HT Education Correspondent

Today students are under immense pressure to score marks in order to make it to the impossible college cut-off lists. Many students are distressed and disheartened with their exam results and treat it as a significant failure. A great sense of humiliation and expression of self-defeat can come from failing an important test or exam. When helping someone through this crisis, it's important to deal with the situation without resorting to criticism, rebuke, or making the person feel inadequate or confirming their sense of being a failure. In order to do so NIIT has planned a special Facebook initiative called Life After Marks. This is an initiative which believes that failure improves the taste the victory. The main objective of this page is to help students deal with the many mixed emotions that they go through after the board exams.

This Facebook page is a place for students to vent their emotions and to understand that academic performance should not be their only barometer of personal success. The page also provides guidance on how they can work towards academic and career success. This initiative is to encourage the students to look to the positive side and to embrace practicing persistence. If it seems that the unsuccessful candidate lacks the motivation or the determination to continue trying, overcome this by focusing on their previous

successes in exams, tests, and other challenges, and the strategies they used in those situations this initiative will help students feel positive and motivated.

This Facebook page is actively populated with rich content (text/image/video), relevant Facebook apps to encourage and help the students rise above their setback.

For any further information please follow:  
<http://www.facebook.com/LifeAfterMarks>

Hindustan Times  
New Delhi  
June 20, 2012





## 5 more schools to get hi-tech math labs

Project to cost over Rs. 6 lakh

Staff Reporter

**CHENNAI:** Five more high schools run by Chennai Corporation will get math labs soon. A resolution in this regard was passed on Tuesday at the Corporation Council Meeting. In March this year, a math lab was introduced at Chennai High School on V.P. Koil Street, on a pilot basis. Students at the school seem to have taken a liking to it already. Corporation-run schools in Kodungaiyur, Sharma Nagar, Kilpauk, Nammalwarpet, and S.N. Chetty Street are among those set to get the math labs. These NIIT-supported labs will come up at cost of Rs. 6.06 lakh, with each lab costing Rs. 1,21,330.

"The first topic we dealt with was triangles, and since it was an interactive session, we learnt a lot," said K. Lavanya, a class VIII student of Chennai High School on V.P. Koil Street. The primary aid in the math lab is the software developed by NIIT N-Guru which has activities designed for each chapter. Two periods are allotted each week for practice in the math lab and it is used by students from

classes VI-X, said Nalina Kumari, headmistress of the school.

The math lab at the school has one computer in the centre of the room which is connected to a large projector, and is used by the teacher to conduct classes. Students can work in groups of three or four at the other four terminals, said Ms. Nalina. Language, however, seems to be a hurdle. While Tamil is the medium of instruction for the students, the software is in English. "The teachers do a demo, and the students follow. Since they have been trained adequately, it has not been a problem so far," said Ms. Nalina.

The lab also has manipulatives which come in different shapes, and can be used as learning aids to understand concepts in algebra and mensuration among other topics.

In 2010, math labs were opened at the Chennai Higher Secondary School, Tiruvotiyur, and Chennai Girls Higher Secondary School in Saidapet. "The labs set up in these schools were based on hand tools unlike the new one which is predominantly software-based," an official said.

## Info-tech majors target small businesses for cloud services

S. Ronendra Singh  
New Delhi, June 25

Be it software companies such as NIIT Technologies and SAP India or hardware players such as Dell India, info-tech majors are focusing on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to offer cloud computing services.

Though the market is still nascent, companies have started providing cloud service to SMEs, and some have dedicated business units (BUS) for it.

"NIIT Tech has cloud as a separate BU to cater to SMEs through the cloud computing delivery model. We are currently targeting the BFSI and manufacturing segments of the SME segment," Mr Arvind Mehrotra, President, Asia-Pacific, NIIT Technologies, said.

He said this is in line with the company's strategy of fo-

### NEXT BIG WAVE

NIIT is currently targeting the BFSI and manufacturing segments of SMEs

SAP India offers integrated suites - Business ByDesign and Business One OnDemand solutions - for emerging business

Currently, the cloud computing market in India is estimated at around \$400 million



cusing on specific industry segments through the Software as a Service (SaaS) offering.

Cloud has been a focus area for more than two years. "It will become a significant contributor to our revenue-share. Cloud computing is part of non-linear revenue-share

which currently stands at 25 per cent," Mr Mehrotra said.

According to the company's estimation on cost saving, customers can save up to 40 per cent over a three-year period, he said. Similarly, SAP India is also one of the largest providers of cloud and offers integrated suites called Business

ByDesign and Business One OnDemand solutions for the small and emerging businesses.

"Cloud is the next big wave in technology and one of the key pillars of growth for SAP India in 2012. We would redefine the cloud market beyond SaaS and platform-as-a-service (PaaS) by adding new areas," Mr Neeraj Athalye, Head, Cloud Business, SAP India, said.

### NEW AREAS

He said new areas would include collaboration services engaging both people-centric applications and business network solutions; information services for business intelligence in the cloud and data services; and mobile services for mobile device management in the cloud. SAP India has

over 3,580 customers in the SME segment that include a chunk of customers adopting SAP cloud solutions, he added.

According to a recent study by independent research firm Zinnov, the cloud computing market in India currently is estimated at around \$400 million. It is expected to reach \$4.5 billion by 2015.

The total Indian SME market is expected to be \$30 billion and around one-third of it is growth customers, Mr Sameer Garde, President and Managing Director, Dell India, said. "Our focus is aggressive virtualisation, helping customers with private cloud deployments and customers who are going to public cloud by integrating their applications to data bases," he said.

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Hindu Business Line, New Delhi, June 26, 2012



June 2012 ₹50 For a lead in the vocational world

# Skills Ahead

A CL EDUCATE INITIATIVE

## Yuva Jyoti

NIIT's initiative to skill the youth for service sector

What's new	Event	In focus
India-EU skills project; truce between MoLE, MHRD	Ideas on incubation, financing and report writing at Entrepreneur India 2012	Role of plastics in agriculture; major changes in auto industry

### Lead Story ▶▶

## Four months of transformation

After bringing about a revolution in IT education a quarter of a century ago, NIIT is now entering new service areas in partnership with NSDC. Meha Mathur reports

**T**WENTY-three-year-old Yudhishtir from Haryana is struggling to say a few words about himself in English. As he jerks his body while he assembles some vocabulary and says "I am become very big man of India", you can imagine the sneers this school dropout would get from his big city counterparts. And to think that he can get a job in the service sector! Yet, six weeks into a training programme in his home town, the same youngster, now quite unrecognisable in his well-groomed hair, sits composedly in his chair and fluently answers questions about his family and education. Such is the transformational impact that a well-thought out training programme can have on the

vast youth segment, which is crying out for opportunities. A majority of it is in small towns, *gasbahs* and villages, and yet, exposed as it is to new urban lifestyle thanks to television, is eager for its due in the development pie.

Among the corporates which have realised the need to train this youth segment, not only as a philanthropic activity but also out of the understanding that a well-educated youth segment is beneficial to the economy as a whole, is NIIT. Launched in 1981, NIIT made its mark as IT education company, and helped launch thousands of careers in the very first decade. In fact, it became such a movement that scores of youngsters joined NIIT more as a herd mentality. From there, it fanned itself into other areas, like business process outsourcing, banking, finance and insurance, executive management education, and communication and professional life skills.

Now, as it partners NSDC, it has entered into new domain altogether. As NSDC partner, NIIT Yuva Jyoti will train 70 lakh youth from 1,500 centres in 1,000 cities/towns in the next 10 years. And the training will be in nine service sectors — retail, IT/ITeS, BFSI, education & training services, media & entertainment, healthcare, telecom, hospitality and the informal sector.

Is NIIT replicating the



Ready for the next orbit: Sanjay Bahl, President, NIIT Yuva Jyoti



### Lead Story

template it had developed for its IT education? Are the core strengths of NIIT coming in handy for training in sectors which are new to it? And will it make use of the infrastructure that it has already built up across the country in the last 30 years?

#### NEW TERRITORY

Sanjay Bahl, President, Yuva Jyoti says that NIIT will first focus on North India. "We have seven operational centres as of today. This year we plan to set up 50 centres. We will focus on Haryana, UP, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Rajasthan, and slum areas of Delhi. Of course, the Government of Bihar is getting active, so we might be tempted to enter there too, and so too in MP and Odisha." The effort will be to cater to smaller towns and villages, because the youth in these areas are getting interested in service sector. While centres in smaller locations will become spoke centres, the centres in bigger locations will become placement hubs. "Eighty to eighty five per cent people want jobs near home, at the most 40 to 50 km away," Bahl informs.

In each location they enter, the infrastructure will be completely new. "The design has to be unique. We are teaching skills for the service sector. It will be experiential learning, and we will have a skill lab." For example, in retail, they will actually have showroom set up where students will be trained.

Bahl informs that the training programmes that NIIT has already conducted in fields like BPO and banking, and the pilots it has done through NIIT Foundation in Chhindwara, has given them the confidence to train in other service sector fields too. "What we did in IT, we need to do in other sectors too."

Drawing from its IT experience, NIIT realises the importance of industry connect and understanding their skill requirement. The industry is constantly kept in loop regarding curriculum development. Thus, for example, in hospitality McDonald, Devyani Foods, KFC, Café Coffee Day and Barista have been roped in. In retail, Vishal Megamart and Capsons have been roped in.

**An important facility is recording provision on the mobile, so that he can record his voice and home and come up for assessment next day. This is because students hesitate to speak up in front of others.**

A big question is that at some stage the Sector Skills Councils will be formed and at that stage the courses will have to be aligned to the standards these councils set. Bahl says that the councils will take time to be formed, and in any way, the councils will be taking inputs from the same set of companies as the current training providers are taking, hence there will not be a marked difference.

#### PRIOR IT LESSONS

A big advantage that accrues to NIIT on account of its IT competency is that it will be able to leverage that in its pedagogy, making training cost-effective. "A typical challenge is that of providing 1,000 competent trainers in different locations. However, through satellite and internet connectivity, we can have industry expert sessions in all locations at the same time, beamed across the country with the help of technology. Earlier the experts used to come to our office to deliver lecture, but now, through web, they are delivering the lecture from their own offices."



Possibilities of vertical mobility: The growth that NIIT facilitates from certificate programme to professional certificate programme

### Lead Story

This does not mean that no expertise will be available at the centres. Right from the stage a candidate walks in, student connect is important at each stage. There will be counselling to guide him about appropriate career. Each student will get a Nokia mobile with seven to eight applications, including dictionary. He can mark his attendance through blue tooth. An important facility is recording provision on the mobile, so that he can record his voice and home and come up for assessment next day. This is because students hesitate to speak up in front of others.

Communication skills, including English, life skills and computer form an essential course of each of these service sector courses, as these careers entail consumer interface. Until students clear these foundation modules, they will not advance to the next level of career module.

For trade-specific skills, industry experts will be invited to skill labs and will converse with students. Students will get to work in simulated job environment. For example, they will get to interact with customers as part of training. Industry visits are also built in into the course.

Assessment will be done on weekly and monthly basis, and videolog of each student will be posted on website, so that employer companies can do the first level of screening of candidates on website itself. Bahl informs that assessment system has been devised based on interaction with the industry. And to remove any bias, a candidate gets assessed by a three-person team. If the score is less than 70 per cent, a candidate has to take remedial classes, and if it is less than 60 per cent, he has to repeat. He admits that while commitment level of a candidate may be high, the background that these students come from often acts as a hindrance.

The first batch in basic course started in December 2011. While the basic course is of four-month duration (192 hours), there are advanced courses in trades like mobile repair and accountancy, which are of six-month duration. And a candidate can come back to Yuva Jyoti for professional course after gaining some work experience (see chart).

The course fee for a basic course is in the range of ₹5,000 to 8,000, and for advanced course, ₹14,000. There is provision for bank loan in collaboration with the Central Bank of India, and scholarship for BPL candi-



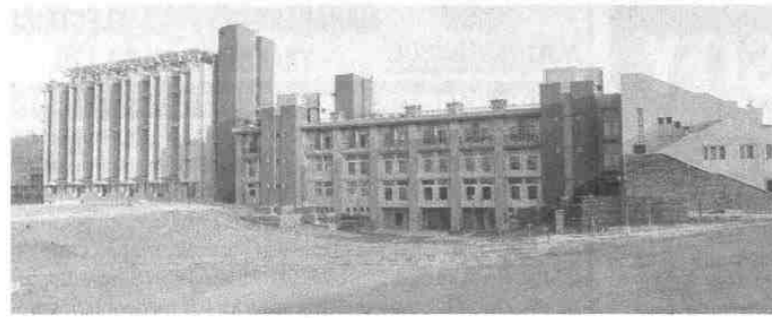
Getting groomed to take on the world: A classroom of NYJ for certificate programme under NSDC partnership

dates, SC/ST candidates, and girl child in Haryana (given the abysmal sex ratio in that state).

#### THE UNIQUE CHALLENGES

Bahl realises that in such a huge operation, quality consistency and low cost delivery are equally important. While NIIT Yuva Jyoti draws on the rich experience of NIIT and follows the core processes that NIIT has been following, a major challenge that it is facing is that the target audience is new. These are dropouts from small locations, not graduates. These are not to be found in any one location like school or college, but have to be traced. The teams actually have to do door-to-door knocking and road shows.

Service sector, even though aspirational, also faces the problem of social acceptance. Parents are still reluctant to let their son do these new kinds of jobs. Thus parent counselling is equally important, which NIIT is doing. Students have found to hesitate McDonald because they feel they will have to wash utensils, and have been pleasantly surprised during McDonald visit that the process is automated; girl students are reluctant to leave home in trousers and had to be convinced that they can change at the work place itself. Bahl, however, is hopeful that once a few students get placed, the social acceptance will come. As it is, he narrates the incident of a proud parent telling the Yuva Jyoti team, "No matter where my son gets a job, you have transformed my son." That transformation, we have seen in 23-year-old Yudhishtir too.



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## The GIS industry is set for robust growth, offering promising job opportunities for today's youth

### ARE YOU READY?

The GIS (Geographic Information Systems) industry, hitherto a niche segment, is all set to explode, creating huge opportunities for both - companies providing GIS solutions, and youth and working professionals aspiring to build careers in this emerging, exciting and upcoming industry. You too can accelerate your growth in this multi-billion dollar industry, one for which the 12th five year plan proposes to spend Rs. 6,000 crores.

GIS involves use of spatial data (such as satellite images, aerial photographs, census data, customer/consumer data and sensor-based data), hardware and software, for capturing, managing, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information.

Key corporates, including ESRI India, TCS, Mahindra Satyam, Infotech Enterprises, Rolta and RMSI, have been working on this field, leading to an exponential rise in the demand for GIS professionals.

The demand for geospatial experts is expected to become wider, owing to the roll out of Government of India's National GIS initiative, a state-of-the-art information system, which promises to transform governance, aid planning and make life easier for the common man.

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For academic session 2012-14, the last date for application is July 05, 2012. For details, log on [www.niituniversity.in](http://www.niituniversity.in) or call the toll free number 1800-3002-5454.

The Times of India, New Delhi, June 27, 2012

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