



# The Indian Express

NEW DELHI

JANUARY 13, 2009

## 'Golden' diplomat basks in *Slumdog* glory

SHU BHAJIT ROY

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

THERE'S a strong South Block connection to *Slumdog Millionaire* - which won four Golden Globe Awards including one for music director A R Rahman — and that's Vikas Swarup. The movie is based on Swarup's first novel, *Q and A*, and he is currently India's Deputy High Commissioner to South Africa.

Swarup, a South Block mandarin who served as director in former External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh's office, has also been director, heading the Pakistan desk, as well as the Nepal and Bhutan desks, in the past. A career diplomat since 1986, he has served in the US, the UK, Turkey and Ethiopia.

Swarup was the buzz in the corri-

dors of South Block on Monday. So much so that even Foreign Secretary Shiv Shanker Menon wanted to speak to him, as did most of his batchmates, colleagues and friends in the diplomatic community.

Speaking to *Newsline* from London, an ecstatic Swarup, on being asked about his thoughts on the film bagging the prestigious award, said: "I don't think anybody expected this (winning the Golden Globe). It was a very low-budget film, by Indian actors, shot on Indian locations, and based on a book written by an Indian. For a film like this to challenge world cinema is truly amazing."

Swarup said there is a lot of interest in Bollywood about making the movie in Hindi. "My wife got calls from some Bollywood directors who want to make the Hindi version." He couldn't give names, as

Film Four (UK), which has the rights, hasn't yet decided on giving it up.

What inspired him to write the book? Swarup was candid: "I was inspired by the hole-in-the-wall project, where a computer with an internet connection was put in a Delhi slum. When the slum was revisited after a month, the children of that slum had learnt how to use the worldwide web."

"That got me fascinated and I realised that there's an innate ability in everyone to do something extraordinary, provided they are given an opportunity. How else do you explain children with no education at all being able to learn to use the Internet. This shows knowledge is not just the preserve of the elite," Swarup said, while talking about the project, in which NIIT chief scien-



Swarup's second novel *Six Suspects* hit the stands last July

tist Dr Sugata Mitra had carved a 'hole in the wall' that separated the NIIT premises from the adjoining slum in Kalkaji in 1999. Through this 'hole', a freely accessible computer was put out for use and with

no prior experience, the children learnt to use the computer on their own.

"Moreover, the 'Who wants to be a Millionaire' quiz format was a huge global success, with Amitabh Bachchan hosting *Kaun Banega Crorepati* in India on prime time television, when streets used to be deserted in India. All these developments made write my first novel," Swarup said.

So, what's next? "First, I will have to return several calls, the first one from the Foreign Secretary, since I have been busy giving interviews since the morning. And then I will be busy with my work as Deputy High Commissioner." His office in Pretoria is managed by one Mr Parmar, who told *Newsline* that his boss had received more than 100 calls today, and the phones were still ringing.

# The Indian Express

MUMBAI

JANUARY 15, 2009

## ■ Tips from the master



World champion Viswanathan Anand at Chess Master 2008 in Pune — Arul Horizon

**The Times of India**  
**PUNE**  
**JANUARY 14, 2009**

# Never quit school: Anand

Mandar Deshpande

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Pune:** In 1987 V. Anand became the first Grand Master (GM) of chess in Asia. Today there are 18 GMs in India alone. Indeed, chess is attracting more and more young blood and attaining a GM title before turning 16 isn't extraordinary anymore.

Amidst this rosy picture are many players in India who are a rung below GM level. Some jobless and some who have chosen soft academic options vulnerable to the future unknown — if a GM title, job and sponsorship don't materialise.

Anand, though quells such fears. "The scene is not that bad. The system is stable with many players having jobs," said the 39-year-old World champion Anand at Nehru memorial hall on Tuesday. He was speaking after the award ceremony of NIIT MindChampions Academy.

"In any sport, there is a cut off between when you make it and when you don't," said Anand. "When you decide on a career, apart from the game you have to ask yourself whether you like the lifestyle. It's a personal decision. I would advise

people to keep their options open till they are 20 or so. And never quit school (for chess)."

**On sports ministry's decision to allow only Indian passport holders to represent the country...**

"It's amazing how many phone calls I have got asking if I can play for India now. In fact, I have never held a Spanish passport so I don't know how people think that. What the Indian government has decided is a common enough rule. I have seen it in quite a few countries. If the govt is going to announce such a rule, probably it should be announced a year in advance so people who want to make a choice have time on hand."

**On whether chess will lose out to the might of other sports at Olympics...**

"The Olympics have already got pretty unmanageable. And there are many other sports on the sidelines (waiting for inclusion in Olympics). And then Ivanchuk has.... (referring to doping controversy at the chess Olympiad) ... there are other issues as well. It will be good if chess gets into the



V. Anand hands over West Zone winner award to Bhakti Juikar of Mumbai at Nehru memorial hall on Tuesday. Anand (right) was also felicitated by Pune District Chess Association in traditional style. He said later: "I would advise people to keep their career options open till they are 20 years or so"

Games. But then, even if it is included, it will happen only after seven-eight years. So, it's a long way off."

**On whether it's easier for communist countries to produce sporting champions**

"I don't know many communist countries anymore! But clearly, Russia and China do something very special. Still, it's not a communist/capitalist thing. It simply boils down to facilities... whether sporting culture is there and children are encouraged."

**On whether the gap between world No. 1 and No. 10 is reduced because of Kasparov's retirement**

"It was happening anyway. Kasparov's peak was in 2002. Since then he wasn't dominating quite

the same way... a great player no doubt... but this new wave of Karjakin, Carlsen and others was starting to come in. I don't think it was entirely connected to Kasparov's retirement."

**On life at the top**

"In 2001 when I had this bad patch, I lost around 50 points and I went from world No. 2 to world No. 3. Last September, I lost 16 points and went from No. 1 to No. 6. It just goes to show the intense fight at the top. People may change places but the trend is dominant and the gap has got thinner."

**On the inflation of Elo rating**

"I'm personally worried about the inflation of the rupee! On a serious note, this inflation in rating is quite normal. Probably, Elo 2850 today is



of the same strength as 2750 twenty years back."

**On whom would he prefer in the World championship final. Topalov or Kamsky...**

"I always end up getting the other guy. I prefer not to comment."

**'Reaching numbers is gratifying'**

During the function which lasted for more than two hours, Anand also played simul chess against six players from the academy. "Board No. 2 (Om Sabnis) and No. 4 (Bhakti Juikar) had excellent positions. I have noticed that over the last few years the level is going up consistently," said Anand.

Anand said his venture is going places and has reached remote areas in Assam, Chattisgarh and Tripura. "Chess belongs to schools. We have to go to those parts of India where chess doesn't have strong roots. These numbers — 2.5 million students and 6,000 schools — are gratifying," he said. "Everyone wants to leave a legacy. In my case that legacy would be this academy."

World No. 2 Anand would attend more such functions in Guwahati, Jaipur and Delhi before going back to Europe and prepare for Lianres Super GM event.

## Assam Tribune GUWAHATI JANUARY 16, 2009

### Anand fetes NIIT chess contest winners

GUWAHATI, Jan 15: World Chess Champion and NIIT Mind-Champion Viswanathan Anand yesterday felicitated Tonsen Mongwang, a student of Joypore HS School, Dibrugarh and Aditya Chakraborty, a student from Delhi Public School, Kolkata, who won the East Zone finals of the NIIT MindChampions Academy - Chess Master, 2008.

Chief guest Gautam Baruah, Director IIT, Guwahati, along with guest of honour, MK Yadava, MD, Amtron, joined World Chess Champion and NIIT MindChampion Viswanathan Anand and N Ramadurai, General Manager, NIIT Ltd, to give away prizes to the winners of East Zone.

The East Zone-level contest

witnessed participation by nearly 19,015 students from over 802 government and private schools spread across seven States.

Gautam Baruah in his speech recognised the commendable performance of the young Mind-Champions in the game of chess and encouraged them to continue to exhibit the same zeal and brilliance. MK Yadava said that the budding talent needs to be mentored and guided and that NIIT MindChampions Academy is offering aspiring young chess players a perfect platform to learn and grow.

At the Zonal finals conducted, 10 NIIT Mind Champions (State level winners) from schools vied for the coveted slot for compet-

ing in the finals. The winners from the East Zone got an opportunity to play simultaneous chess with the World Chess Champion, Viswanathan Anand.

Felicitating the winners of East Zone, Viswanathan Anand said, "It is a proud feeling to see these young children actively take part in Chess Master 2008. I congratulate both the winners for winning the NIIT MCA East Zone final championship and wish them a bright future ahead."

"I am confident that the excellence and determination that these young children have displayed will help them perform well in academics as well. It is heartening to see that NIIT MindChampions Academy has reached huge number of chil-

dren across the country to initiate there the game of Chess," he added.

Winners of the East Zone finals of NIIT MindChampions Academy Chess Master 2008 will represent the zone at the national finals. The National winner will be awarded by the World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand at a mega event for national finals in New Delhi on January 17, 2009.

The NIIT MCA has provided a platform to young players like Karthikeyan Murali, who was sponsored by the academy for the all-India chess finals at Ahmedabad in August, '08 and other competitions to improve his FIDE rating, a press release said.



*World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand playing with the winners of NIIT's Chess Master, 2008, East Zone during a felicitation function in Guwahati on Wednesday. – UB Photos*

**Mail Today**  
NEW DELHI  
JANUARY 18, 2009

World champion claims he 'opted out' of Corus

# No cash crunch in chess, says Anand

QAMAR SIBTAIN

By **Shweta Thampan**  
in New Delhi

**WORLD** champion Viswanathan Anand on Saturday quashed rumours of an economic crisis affecting chess. He said he was not playing the Corus tournament this year, by choice.

Anand and Vaseelin Topalov are missing the prestigious tournament that started on Saturday in Wijk Aan Zee, Amsterdam, and there were rumours that they were not invited to the tournament because of a cash crunch.

"I had decided long back to give Corus a miss as it was too close to the World Championships in Bonne. Also, I have played in 10 of the 11 editions of the event and I am a bit tired now. I will definitely play next year," Anand said.

Resultantly, K Sasikiran, D Harika and Abhijeet Gupta will make their debut in the tournament. "I hope it is a breakthrough event for the players, since it was for me," Anand said.

Sasikiran starts as top seed in Group B, while Abhijeet and Harika will play in Group C.

The world champion once again emphasised the need for the All India Chess Federation (AICF) to do a lot more for the game in India, though he remained politically correct.

"I think they should make sure they organise more top level tournaments to give Indian players a chance of getting Grandmaster norms," he said.

Anand felt the AICF had not taken advantage of his becoming the world champion. "I think this is the time when the Federation can work on popularising chess in the country," he said.

Interestingly, Anand had talked about getting top level tournaments to India after his win at the World Championship



Viswanathan Anand plays with young fans at a promotional meet in New Delhi on Saturday

in Mexico in 2007, but not much has been done since then. Asked if he was satisfied with the progress, Anand steered away from controversy by saying, "It's the Federation's job, not mine. So I don't know the specific details of how many tournaments should be held or what should be done."

Anand also did not divulge the details of the new format of the World Championship that FIDE is contemplating.

"I don't think the current cycle of events should be broken. The FIDE, along with

players, is thinking of introducing a new system of electing a world champion. But that will take time," the 39-year-old said.

The Grandmaster will be back in Europe next week to train for the Linares tournament starting February 18 in the Spanish city of Linares.

"It's a strong event and one of my favourites. It will be my first event this year, and I want to do well," he said.

Anand said he was in favour of chess becoming an Olympic sport and was hopeful it will

happen soon. "Many countries now recognise chess as a sport and that is a big step towards its inclusion in the Olympics," he said.

With several young players doing well, the depth of Indian chess has been talked about much recently. But Anand feels India is still quite behind Russia as a chess-playing nation.

Anand said he still has an unfulfilled dream. "I always dreamt of leaving a legacy of chess behind. I am still working on that," he said.

*shweta.thampan@mailtoday.in*

# The Indian Express

NEW DELHI

JANUARY 18, 2009

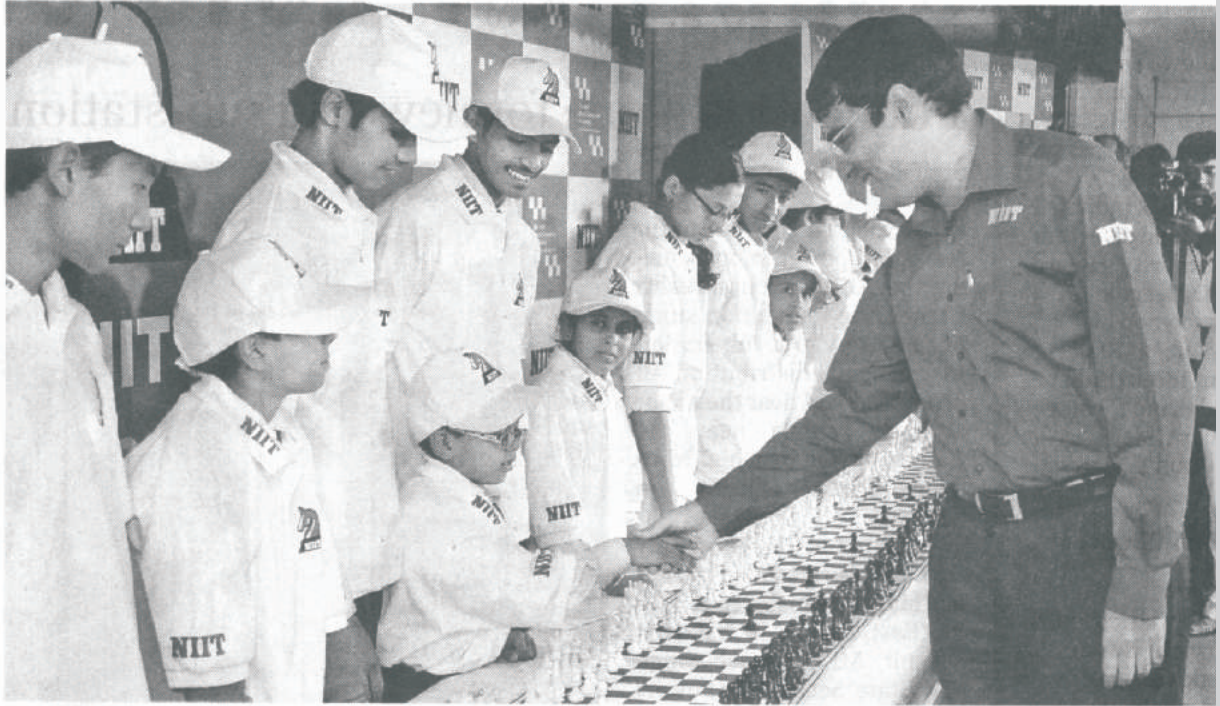


## **That's how you do it**

Chess Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand plays with more than a dozen schoolchildren at the NIIT Mind Champions Academy-Chess Master, 2008 Award ceremony, held at the Delhi Public School, R K Puram, on Saturday. *Photo by Tashi Tobgyal*

**The Hindu**  
**NEW DELHI**  
**JANUARY 18, 2009**

*A date with the Grandmaster*



**"HELLO, SIR":** World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand enjoying a session of simultaneous games with children who won the NIIT Mind Champions' Academy -- Chess Master 2008 in Delhi on Saturday. PHOTO: S. SUBRAMANIAM (SEE ALSO PAGE 15)

**Indian Express**  
**CHENNAI**  
**JANUARY 13, 2009**

*Anand felicitates young champions*

Express News Service  
 Chennai, January 12

WORLD chess champion Viswanathan Anand felicitated the winners of the South Zone NIIT Mind Champions Academy—Chess Masters competition final at the Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School on Monday. The winners will represent South Zone in the national finals slated for January 17 in New Delhi.

While S Goutham of Karnataka and C Spandana of Andhra Pradesh topped the zone, Andhra Pradesh's Srinivas Varma came runner-up in the championship vied by 4,280 students from 794 government

and private schools from four states.

The topper from each state then tussled for the zonal championship.

Congratulating the young champions, Anand said: "It is a proud feeling to see these youngsters actively take part in the championship. I am confident that this will help them in their academics as well.

"Also, it is heartening to see that the NIIT Mind Champions Academy has reached a huge number of children across the country to initiate them to chess. This is a good sign for the game's development in the country and hopefully India will become all the more powerful in chess," he said.



World champion Viswanathan Anand plays with young champions in Chennai on Monday

**DNA**  
**JAIPUR**  
**JANUARY 17, 2009**

# Chess helps solve problems: Vishy

**Syed Intishab Ali.** Jaipur

The chess grandmaster who seldom failed to checkmate his adversaries, Viswanathan Anand on Friday defended himself against accusations of acquiring a Spanish citizenship. "How can people think I'm Spanish? I have an Indian passport," said Anand, showing his passport when asked why he spends more time in Spain than in his home country.

The three-time world champion, who was in Jaipur to encourage the young minds to take up chess, felicitated the winners of the north zone finals of the NIIT Mind Champions Academy-Chess Master 2008 at the Step By Step School.

Talking to *DNA*, Anand said now he has taken up the job to churn out more professional chess players from India. "People talk about chess as a spectators' game. But chess, like any other game, is difficult to follow when you don't know the rules. Even if the children learn the rules, they would become good spectators. That will definitely benefit the game."

Elaborating more on attracting people towards the



Viswanathan Anand in Jaipur on Friday —Santosh Sharma.DNA

mind game, he said, "Like Twenty20 cricket, chess has a shorter version of rapid and bullet chess. "We have made chess slightly shorter. Rapid chess has a time limit of one hour,

which is more interesting for the spectators than the conventional chess of seven hours."

The world champion has not only inspired former Indian

**TURN TO P6**

## Chess helps solve...

skipper Saurav Ganguly, but has become a role model of the Pink City students. In an interactive session with students, Anand said, "Chess helps in developing critical thinking and solving problems." When asked about Ganguly's comment that "Anand is a role model for team India", he said, "I feel honoured. It is a great compliment and it cannot get better coming from a cricketer like Ganguly." The master of the chessboard doesn't confine himself to the game. Though he wishes that chess would become as popular as cricket in India, he expressed his concern about three-time Olympian Limba Ram who has been forced to take shelter in a garage. "I have heard about him. It's sad that sports icons like him are facing such problems in the country." Anand expressed his concern over the financial condition of players in India, other than the cricketers, who are living in an absolute state of penury.



## Sentinel

### GUWAHATI

### JANUARY 16, 2009

# 'Anand, a role model for Team India'

**KOLKATA, Jan 15:** Viswanathan Anand has not only inspired youngsters and chess players of the country, but the three-time world chess champion has been a role model for the Indian cricket team members also, former India captain Sourav Ganguly said today.

At a felicitation of the 'Big Three' of cricket, chess and shooting, which was attended by Ganguly, Anand and coun-

try's first individual Olympic gold-medalist Abhinav Bindra, the ace southpaw said, "Anand is a genuine role model for everyone... I have been following him for years; it's not just me, he has inspired all members of the Indian cricket team." Admiring Anand's character which symbolises grit and determination, Ganguly said, "It's really remarkable for him. It's not just about

getting there (at the top), it's also about handling and sustaining it there... He has done it very well. There's a lot to learn from him. I am really honoured to be with him today." "It is not just about efforts, it is also about the thought process and work ethics... He handles pressure remarkably well. The way he handles a situation is commendable."

"One can learn a lot from him. I hope he comes here again in future that will inspire the present generation." Ganguly also spoke about his retirement and said he felt it wise before he was being pushed out. "It's a tough decision... But it's important to strike a balance between going out and being pushed out... I thought the time had come for me to retire. (PTI)



*World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand inaugurating the NIIT's Chess Master 2008 East Zone winners felicitation programme at Pragjyoti ITA Centre for Performing Art in Guwahati on Wednesday. (Sentinel)*

**The Asian Age**  
NEW DELHI  
JANUARY 16, 2009

# Chess' popularity on the rise: Anand

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

**Jan. 15:** Winning the world championship title thrice is a feat that very few sporting icons of India have achieved so far. Viswanathan Anand certainly belongs to that rare group whose mastery in the game of chess has held the tri-colour high in the sports fraternity.

The world champion is optimistic of the future of Indian chess even after he calls it a day, though he shies away those who blame cricket for hogging all the limelight, thereby pushing other games further backwards.

"The situation in chess is much better today compared to what it was 20 years ago. Sponsorship today is quite encouraging. The only thing is carrying out your work step by step. Another significant aspect is grooming the interested kids from various academies. Once these are done in a process, I'm sure the popularity will go up further," Anand said on the sidelines of a felicitation ceremony organised by NIIT.

"Back in 1987, we had only one grandmaster. Now, there are 18. Even last year, we had five gold-medallists from our country. Besides, we have players like Surya Shekhar (Ganguly), Sasikiran, Parimarjan Negi who



**Sourav Ganguly (left) and Viswanathan Anand during a felicitation ceremony in Kolkata on Thursday.**

— Debajyoti Sarkar

are consistently rising above their game. Surya Shekhar particularly is highly impressive. I've been working with him since 2002-03. I was keen on having him with me in Bonn."

Anand didn't forget to focus on the role that should be played by parent body All India Chess Federation, who he thinks should concentrate on organising more international tournaments. "There are certain things which they are handling well. But there's always scope for doing a little more since the number of tourna-

ments have gone up by far nowadays.

"What they should focus on now is spreading the game throughout the country and organising more international tournaments," Anand emphasised.

Dedication, passion and enjoyment are the three components that lead to the path of success, Anand feels. "It's all about doing something you enjoy and love the most. The rest, off course, depends on practice. And yes, on the eve of a match, practice hours may last from three to 10 hours."

**Maha Media**  
 NEW DELHI  
 JANUARY 18, 2009



**Jansatta**  
 NEW DELHI  
 JANUARY 16, 2009



# The Hindu Business Line

NEW DELHI

JANUARY 21, 2009

## pull NIIT net down 60%

Our Bureau

New Delhi, Jan. 20

NIIT Ltd has reported a 60-per cent drop in its net profit for the quarter ended December 2008, to Rs 5.5 crore on the back of new business launch, higher depreciation due to new projects and forex losses incurred by an associate firm.

For the third quarter (October-December), the profit stood at Rs 5.5 crore as compared to Rs 13.9 crore in the year-ago period.

"The launch of NIIT Uniqua, the joint venture between NIIT and Genpact and increased depreciation due to new school projects impacted the profit for the quarter," said CEO, Mr Vijay Thadani.

NIIT has expanded its presence to over 7,800 schools, an increase of 3,000 schools compared to the same quarter last year. The profit after tax also took a hit as NIIT Technologies, an associate of NIIT Ltd (in which NIIT Ltd holds 25 per cent stake), had reported a forex loss.

The net revenue rose 17 per cent to Rs 278.9 crore for the quarter, against Rs 238.8 crore a year ago, on higher volumes and growth across segments such as Individual Learning Solutions, School Learning Solutions and Corporate Solutions.

ILS- IT recorded 20 per cent growth in net revenue year on year and 23 per cent growth in enrolments. In Chi-



**Net revenue up:** Mr Vijay K. Thadani (right), CEO, NIIT, and Mr. Rajendra S Pawar, Chairman, at a press conference in the Capital on Tuesday.- Ramesh Sharma

na, NIIT recorded 71 per cent growth in revenue over the same period last year.

The SLS recorded a growth of 74 per cent in net revenue; while the CLS a growth 7 per cent in net revenue.

With fresh order intake during the quarter at \$31.8 million, CLS closed the quarter with a pending order book of \$81.13 million, up 24 per cent on the same period previous year.

## Economic Times

KOLKATA

JANUARY 21, 2009

## NIIT Q3 consolidated net slips 60% to Rs 5.5 cr

Our Bureau  
NEW DELHI

TRAINING firm NIIT Ltd reported a 60% drop in consolidated net profit for the quarter ended December 2008 at Rs 5.5 crore.

The company attributed the decline to increased depreciation, investments in a new joint venture and lower profits from an associate firm. Consolidated net revenues grew 17% to Rs 278.9 crore.

The October-December quarter was the first quarter for NIIT Uniqua, a JV with BPO firm Genpact. During the quarter, NIIT Ltd invested Rs 6 crore in setting up new centres and hiring staff for the JV.

Also, NIIT Technologies, in

which NIIT Ltd holds a 25% stake, recently reported a 52% decline in net profit for the quarter ended December 2008.

"Q3 is an off-season quarter and there were events, challenges and volatility that we have seen before," NIIT CEO Vijay K Thadani said.

Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) was flat for the quarter at Rs 22.9 crore.

The JV with Genpact, which is aimed at making people ready for the BPO industry, also signed up eight BPO firms as placement partners, including WNS, Wipro BPO, 24/7 Customer and HCL BPO.

Individual learning solutions business, which contributes

51% to NIIT's system-wide revenues — earned by NIIT and its franchisee and alliance partners together — recorded a 23% growth in enrolments.

Mr Thadani said short-term courses are becoming more popular among students in the current economic environment.

NIIT had earlier launched programmes with duration ranging from 99 to 200 days.

Corporate learning solutions business, which accounts for 36% of system-wide revenues, recorded a 7% growth in net revenue. The business received fresh orders worth \$31.8 million (about Rs 155 crore), leading to a total pending order book of \$81.3 million or about Rs 398 crore.

## The Hindu NEW DELHI JANUARY 21, 2009

### 74 hearing-impaired students felicitated

Staff Reporter

**NOIDA:** The Noida Deaf Society held its Convocation at Indira Gandhi Kala Kendra auditorium here over the weekend. As many as 74 hearing-impaired students were felicitated for completing their vocational information technology courses.

These specialised programmes have been accredited

by The NIIT Institute (TNI). The course comprises training in MS Office along with a first-of-its-kind DTP graphic and web-based design programme for the hearing-impaired.

#### 'Disability only in mind'

The event was attended by hearing-impaired students, their families, a TNI team and volunteer staff from NIIT

Ltd.

Speaking on the occasion, TNI Project Director M. P. Kapoor said: "Today the deaf youth have demonstrated that the disability is only in the mind, and one who is willing to apply his mind can lead a completely normal life. TNI's engagement in this effort for the last two years has been very satisfying. We will continue to work towards

building more programmes for hearing-impaired students."

Prof. Kapoor awarded the certificates to graduating students.

TNI has been closely associated with the Noida Deaf Society in creating and delivering these programmes to these special students.

These courses were conducted by deaf instructors.

## The Hindu Business Line NEW DELHI JANUARY 28, 2009

### ONLINE COURSE

### *Keeping e-learning in ship-shape*

**Adith Charlie**

*Mumbai, Jan. 27*

Twenty-five-year-old Tuhin Deb is a marine officer who spends more than six months of the year on the high seas, criss-crossing the globe. But this does not deter him from pursuing his academic interests.

Thanks to the concept of e-learning, he has enrolled for a course in business administration which he will pursue from the deck of his ship!

"We cater to several students who take classes from on-board ships where they are employed. However, since they cannot attend the online classes due to difference in time schedules or connectivity problems,

we archive those sessions and make it available to them at a time of their choice," said Mr Shailesh Mehta, Founder & Chief Executive Officer of Gurukul Online Learning Solutions (GOLS).

GOLS is currently exploring opportunities to tie up with shipping majors in the country to jointly develop and implement marine courses for employees who wish to further their careers on the high seas.

Similarly, another e-learning firm 24x7 Learning has enabled employees on rigs of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to access online courses related to a range of oil & gas related subjects in their free time, said

Mr Karthik KS, Chief Executive Officer, 24x7 Learning.

The company has achieved this through its partnership with the oil major in August 2008, as part of which it built, implemented and managed an e-learning academy for ONGC.

In spite of the unfavourable macro economic environment, the e-learning space has not been as badly impacted as some of the other sectors. "Even though decision making has been impacted, the across-the-board move to trim costs is actually helping this industry," said Mr Ashish Basu, President, New Business Incubation, NIIT Ltd.

**Daily Excelsior**  
**JAMMU**  
**JANUARY 11, 2009**

**NIIT conducting NITAT  
-09 on Jan 18**

*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Jan 10: NIIT, a global talent development corporation, has announced the 5th National IT Aptitude Test (NITAT) which would be conducted simultaneously in over 180 cities across the nation, on Sunday, January 18 including at NIIT centres in Jammu.

Flagging off NITAT 2009, nationally, G Raghvan, president Individual Learning Solution said, "We will be conducting the NITAT for the 5th year in a row this year. Besides being endorsed by NASSCOM and the world chess champion Vishwanathan Anand, the NITAT has the benefit of partic-

ipation by technology majors like Sun Microsystems, Microsoft, CISCO etc."

The students desirous of checking their aptitude for IT can appear for NITAT 2009 by registering on-line or by visiting their nearest NIIT centre.

The test evaluates detailed aptitude on key parameters and designed as an objective type test of reasoning, comprehension, data interpretation skills and behavioural traits.

The meritorious students will get special recognitions nationally and the 1000 performers will be awarded a letter of recognition from Vishwanathan Anand.

# Mail Today NEW DELHI JANUARY 25, 2009

A MAIL TODAY promotional feature



If you want to pick up the pace along the path of your current career, enroll yourself in any of the top institutes for executive MBA, suggests **KAUSAR F FIRDAUSI**

As you rise in an organisation, each higher step on your career ladder requires you to have qualifications and skills that commensurate to the role you are assigned. But without a formal business management qualification you will feel somewhat uncomfortable. Even despite performing better, your rise in the company hierarchy may not be as fast as those with formal management degrees. Since it's not possible for many to leave their job and do a fulltime MBA course, Executive MBA or EMBA is precisely constructive for them. "The Executive MBA programme is the perfect recipe for me as I wish to gain access to top-notch management education," feels Samreen Alim, an EMBA student. This particular management programme enables the executives, business professionals and managers of various organisations to enhance their career in a shorter time period than that of a fulltime course. The level of knowledge and experience that the students bring into this programme makes it different from the other MBA programmes.

We all know that there is a huge demand of talented people in the corporate sector these days. The executive MBA attempts to fulfill the demands of the corporate for continued training and development of its executive workforce. Business strategies and leadership skills are main focus in this mode of MBA.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

Candidates willing to pursue this course

## Top executive management institutes in Delhi-NCR

**NIIT Imperia**

● **Course & duration:** Senior Management Programme – IIM Calcutta, 1 year

● **Eligibility:** Graduate with 10 years work experience

**Fees:** Rs. 1, 94,000/-

● **Course & duration:** PG Certificate Programme in Management – IIM Indore, 1 year

● **Eligibility:** Graduate with 3 years work experience

**Fees:** Rs. 1, 65,000/-

● **Course & duration:** PG Certificate Programme in

International Business – IIFT

New Delhi, 6 months

● **Eligibility:** Graduate with 3 years work experience

**Fees:** 83,500/-

● **Selection process:** Written test (online) and profile analysis (For more course options log on to [www.niitimperias.com](http://www.niitimperias.com))

**MDI**

● **Course name & duration:** Executive Management Programme (EMP), 3 years

● **Eligibility:** Graduation with aggregate of 50% and 3 years work experience

**Fees:** 3,88, 000/-

● **Selection process:** Written test and interview

**IIM L – Noida Campus**

● **Course name & duration:** PG Programme in Business Management for Working Managers (WMP), 3 years

● **Eligibility:** Graduate (50%) and 3 years of post-degree managerial experience

**Fees:** 4, 15,000/-

● **Selection process:** Written test, GD and interview

**IIFT**

● **Course name & duration:**

MBA (International Business), 3 years

● **Eligibility:** Graduate with 3 years work experience (Company sponsorship or No Objection Certificate)

**Fees:** 85, 000/-

● **Course name & duration:** Executive Masters in International Business, 18 months

● **Eligibility:** Graduate with 5 years managerial experience or PG degree with 3 years managerial experience

**Fees:** 1, 00, 000/-

should at least be a graduate with a minimum work experience of 3 - 5 years or more than that. Selection process may vary from college to college. While many institutes conduct written tests and interviews, admission in some institutes may depend on the GMAT scores.

**INSTITUTES IN INDIA**

There are excellent management institutions in India where you can get executive management education par excellence. These top management schools in India draw students as well as practicing managers. NIIT Imperia, a path-breaking partnership with India's finest B-Schools – the IIMs at Ahmedabad, Calcutta and Indore – marries the immense domain knowledge and faculty base of the IIMs and NIIT's immense capabilities, strengths and experience in delivering education with predictable quality. "To do post graduation from IIM and NIIT being a facilitator in that, I thought this is the best course available which I can go for it and it was working out," shares Dr. Saktharam, an MBBS into drug discovery on

research. No wonder then that NIIT Imperia's specialised programmes have drawn a huge response from both IT and non-IT companies. It has already managed to enroll over 3000 professionals across top industries. While almost one-third of Imperia students are from premier IT firms, others are from the financial, manufacturing and the services sectors. NIIT Imperia offers long-term executive management programmes, specialised management development programmes and customised programmes to meet the needs of corporate organisations.

These programmes are offered across 19 cities and classes are conducted after office hours and on weekends. So the professionals can pursue the programmes without leaving their jobs or relocating to other cities. "This course offered by NIIT has given me the option to pursue it from a far away location and still become part of a world class organisation which is IIM Ahmedabad," says Ryan Fernando, a working executive.

Other top management institutes in India offering executive management programmes

include Symbiosis Institute of Management, ICFAI, IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Calcutta, IIM Indore, XLRI Jamshedpur, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) and India School of Business Hyderabad.

**INSTITUTES IN DELHI-NCR**

Best institutes to choose from Delhi-NCR, other than NIIT Imperia, include MDI, IIM Lucknow – Noida campus – and IIFT. MDI (Management Development Institute), located at Gurgaon, is one of the premier management institutes in India which conducts an executive management programme. The IIM Lucknow has broken new grounds in being the first IIM to start an additional campus in the country. The Noida Campus is being developed as a centre of excellence in the area of executive management education.

Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) has established itself as one of the best B schools today. It also offers Executive Masters in International Business (EMIB) at New Delhi.

– [kausar.firdausi@mailtoday.in](mailto:kausar.firdausi@mailtoday.in)

# The Financial Express

MUMBAI

JANUARY 19, 2009

## Gearing up for BPO work

**W**HEN the BPO industry took off about 10 years ago and offered jobs to graduates, many young people treated it as a stopgap career opportunity, working with them for a few months or years and then moving on to more aspirational careers.

This has changed as noted in the words of PG Raghuraman, lead executive for Accenture's Delivery Centres for BPO in India: "Having seen this industry mature over the past eight to 10 years, today there is a focus given to the BPO sector and it is not just seen as an alternate opportunity but as a first option for young people."

Recognising this change in mindset, both Accenture and Genpact decided to give back to the industry in the form of training & education alliances with Indira Gandhi National Open University (Ignou) and NIIT respectively. These alliances will aid all young people interested in BPO as a career and not just those

BPO employees.

The Genpact-NIIT programme has a slightly different format and runs for about three months. NIIT brings an IT-training platform & distribution and Genpact provides the subject matter expertise and the context of the environment as it stands today. Says Anju Talwar, senior vice-president & business leader at Genpact, "The training in the form of a bridge course will focus on voice, soft skills, professional skills, business etiquette, and also build IT awareness in MS Office and so forth.

The three main areas are soft skills, finance & accounting and voice communications. Students can also choose a mix in courses and combine areas such as communication and finance & accounting. To enrol for the Genpact endorsed course called NIIT Uniqua, one has to be a graduate and it is available to students in smaller cities. In addition to BPO technology services, functional and sec-



pursuing careers with Accenture's and Genpact's BPOs.

The Ignou tie-up offers students a six-month diploma through a central university under the ministry of human resource development, government of India. Either 12th graders or college graduates can avail this option. The programme is expected to be especially popular in Tier 2, 3, and 4 cities. This programme will be available in approximately 44 centres spread over 27 cities with 90 faculty members especially trained to roll out the programme. The first batch is scheduled to start in February 2009. The idea is to make these young people readily employable at BPOs. The course will use classroom learning, self learning and eLearning tools, paying attention to both process and industry specialisation.

According to Accenture, the vision is to grow this programme to encompass technology, management and leadership training for

toral classes in supply chain, and insurance & banking will also be offered. As of December 2008, 12 centres offering the NIIT Uniqua are up and running across Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities. The plan for the next 2 to 3 years is to offer this programme in 250 NIIT centres. Currently 30 batches are being run and the first batch graduates by the end of January.

Talwar adds, "The alliance with NIIT will help prepare a critical mass of people for a BPO career. Our experience found that out of all the non-engineering graduates we interview, only 10-15% were hireable for our needs. Hopefully this bridge course will increase that number significantly. Our employees are deeply involved in that they oversee the training and ensure quality control." Interested and admitted students will need to pay about Rs 20,000 to attend this course. The next phase of the roll-out will be to offer the course in the Philippines and China at NIIT centres.



**Amar Ujala**  
NEWS  
JANUARY 11, 2009

## एनआईआईटी की प्रतियोगी परीक्षा 18 को होगी

पालमपुर (कांगड़ा)। एनआईआईटी पालमपुर के निदेशक सुनील नागपाल ने कहा कि संस्थान 18 जनवरी को एक प्रतियोगी परीक्षा करवा रहा है। उन्होंने बताया कि वर्ष 2004 से देश के 200 शहरों में ऐसी परीक्षा का आयोजन करवाया जा रहा है।

इसमें स्पेशल मेरिट में रहे 1000 छात्रों को विश्वनाथ आनंद की ओर से विशेष प्रमाण पत्र दिए जाते हैं। वहीं प्रथम 30 प्रतिशत छात्रों की लिस्ट तैयार कर उन्हें मेरिट सूची में डाल कर देश के प्रमुख संस्थानों को भेजा जाता है, ताकि युवा भविष्य में अपने कैरियर की शुरुआत कर सकें।

उन्होंने बताया कि अब संस्थान में 90 दिनों का प्रोजेक्टर कोर्स भी शुरू किया गया है। इस प्रतियोगी परीक्षा में भाग लेने वाले इच्छुक छात्र पालमपुर एनआईआईटी संस्थान में अपना नाम दर्ज करवा सकते हैं। इस मौके पर उनके साथ धीरज ठाकुर भी उपस्थित रहे। इस तरह की परीक्षा से प्रतिभागियों में ज्ञान बढ़ता है और भविष्य में मंजिल हासिल करने के लिए यही ज्ञान काम आता है।

**Divya Himachal**  
NEW DELHI  
JANUARY 11, 2009

## पालमपुर में सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी परीक्षा 16 को

इच्छुक युवाओं को  
आनलाइन रजिस्टर  
होने की सुविधा

*नगर संवाददाता*

पालमपुर — विश्व भर में आर्थिक मंदी की लहर के बावजूद सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी उद्योग 20 प्रतिशत प्रगति दिखा रहा है। इसका सीधा मतलब है कि इस क्षेत्र में रोजगार की आपार संभावनाएं हैं। यह बात एनआईआईटी के निदेशक सुनील नागपाल ने पालमपुर में पत्रकारों को संबोधित करते हुए कही। उन्होंने कहा कि भारत में सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी का व्यय 17 से 24 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ने की उम्मीद है, जो इस क्षेत्र में रोजगार की मांग में वृद्धि करेगा। श्री नागपाल ने कहा कि इसी उद्देश्य से एनआईआईटी देश के 200 शहरों में सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी पर नेशनल सांइटिफिक इंस्टीच्यूट टेस्ट का आयोजन 18 जनवरी को किया जा रहा है। इसमें पालमपुर शहर का नाम भी शामिल है। उन्होंने कहा कि जो छात्र एक सुनहरा भविष्य बनाने का स्वप्न संजोए हुए हैं, वे एनआईआईटी सेंटर में सीधा संपर्क साध सकते हैं। एनआईआईटी डॉट कॉम में आनलाइन रजिस्टर हो सकते हैं। निदेशक ने कहा कि 18 जनवरी को आयोजित होने वाली इस परीक्षा में प्रथम 30 प्रतिशत छात्रों की मेरिट लिस्ट बनाई जाएगी। पालमपुर सेंटर के केंद्र प्रमुख धीरज ठाकुर ने बताया कि परीक्षा देने वाले सभी छात्रों को विशेष प्लेसमेंट फेयर में बुलाया जाएगा, जो कि भारत के प्रमुख शहरों में आयोजित होंगे।

**NIIT**

Produced by NIIT Limited, Corporate Communications and Marketing Services Organisation  
85, Sector 32 Institutional, Gurgaon 122 001 Ph: +91 (124) 4293000 Fax: +91 (124) 4293333