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27 MARCH 2009

Career development centre at Jahangirpuri

NIIT and Navjyoti India Foundation set up NIIT Yuva Star, a career development centre, at Jahangirpuri to provide relevant skills to unemployed youths for making them eligible for jobs in various sectors like retail, automobile sales, telecommunications, hospitality and healthcare among others. Dr Kiran Bedi, General Secretary of Navjyoti India Foundation and Rajendra S Pawar, Chairman, NIIT Ltd, inaugurated the centre at Jahangirpuri on March 26.

Punjab Kesari
NEW DELHI
27 MARCH 2009



नई दिल्ली में नवज्योति फाउंडेशन प्रमुख किरण बेदी व एनआईआईटी प्रमुख राजेन्द्र पवार के साथ एनआईआईटी युवा स्टार सेंटर का उद्घाटन करते हुए। (छाया : यूएनआई)

Business Standard

HYDERABAD

27 MARCH 2009

NIIT bags Rs 21.4-crore order

NIIT said it has bagged a 5-year contract worth Rs 21.4 crore from the Rajasthan government for introducing computer-aided learning in 1,672 government upper primary schools in the state. The company has entered into a contract with the Rajasthan Council of Elementary Education (RCEE) to introduce computer aided learning in 1,672 government upper primary schools in 22 districts.

Times of India

NEW DELHI

30 MARCH 2009

CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

To bridge the education-employability gap and create a talent pool in urban slums, NIIT recently announced the setting-up of NIIT Yuva Star, a career development centre (CDC) at Jahangirpuri, New Delhi, in association with Navjyoti India Foundation (NIF), an NGO.

The centre will serve as a vocational training centre, providing employability skills to youth in the age group 17-25 years. Rajendra S Pawar, chairman, NIIT says, "We are trying to equip the unemployed youth with relevant skills to make them employable for various sectors. We plan to set-up 20 such centres that are replicable, self-sustainable and scalable."

This is the second such centre to be established after their flagship centre at Tughlakabad Village in New Delhi.

The students are provided with internship and placements.

Kiran Bedi, general secretary, NIF, says: "There is no dearth of talent, but a lack of opportunities. Hence, we are trying to provide a platform where we can address their needs. Also, we take pride in the fact that we are enabling children from even below poverty line (BPL) families to directly join the IT sector and wish to replicate the model elsewhere too."

Mail Today NEW DELHI 22 MARCH 2009

An evening out with IT revolutionaries

By **Arnab Banerjee**

IT was a grand turnout at the India International Centre Annexe on Friday evening. The occasion was the launch of Dinesh C Sharma's book *THE LONG REVOLUTION — The Birth and Growth of India's IT Industry*, published by HarperCollins Publishers India. With the chairman of the National Knowledge Commission Sam Pitroda releasing the book, there were many Information Technology junkies expectantly looking for any buzz they could benefit from, especially in the midst of the recession.

The chief guest's name was enough to draw the Who's Who of the IT industry, including the CSIR chief Samir Brahmachari, scientist Ranjit Nair, former BSNL official S D Saxena, former VSNL CMD B K Singal, among others, to the launch. Several illustrious panelists took part in a discussion on the future

of the Indian IT industry. NIIT chief Rajendra S Pawar and IT Evangelist Saurabh Srivastava spoke extensively on India's future challenges.

Pitroda spoke on corruption and emphasised that it can be curbed. Obviously, the Satyam fiasco came up, which Srivastava wrote off as "only a one-off incident".

Talking about the book, Sharma said, "The IT revolution has its myths and hype, claims and counter claims and this book is an attempt to set the record straight".

The book also managed to get Pawar nostalgic about the '80s and '90s when he was trying to establish NIIT.

Dinesh C. Sharma is a science editor with *Mail Today*. He has reported on science, technology and environment for the national and international media since 1984, and has contributed to the *Lancet* and online editions of the *New York Times* and *Business Week*.

KASIF



(From left) Sam Pitroda, Rajendra Pawar & Saurabh Srivastava

The Meghalaya Gardian

GUWAHATI

26 MARCH 2009

Eastern Zone TRPS Convocation held in Guwahati

GUARDIAN NEWS BUREAU

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

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

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

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

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

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

State Times
DELHI
MARCH 17, 2009

NIIT school chess

Kolkata: Global Talent Development Corporation, NIIT is holding a National Chess competition for school students to showcase their talent in the game of Chess entitled “Vish Come True’. Through this competition, NIIT aims at promoting Chess in around 1500 schools covering over 2,00,000 students. Students participating in the competition can register by logging on to www.niitcom/vct.com. These students will have a choice to select any of the 5 given dates- March 08, March 15, March 22, April 05 or April 12 to come to NIIT centre and play the game. The competition will be held in NIIT centres, covering over 300 locations all over India.

BS REPORTER

The Sentinel City
GUWAHATI
25 MARCH 2009



Saroj Bala Member Revenue, Central Board of Direct Taxes addressing during the Convocation Ceremony of Tax Returns Preparers (TRPs) organized by Income Tax Department, Department of Revenue, Minister of Finance, Government of India, at a city hotel on Tuesday. (Sentinel)

State Times

DELHI

MARCH 16, 2009

NIIT's CDC Yuva Star set up in Delhi

NIIT, global talent development corporation, has announced setting up of NIIT Yuva Star, a career development centre (CDC), in New Delhi in association with an NGO Navjyoti India Foundation. The centre will serve as a vocational training centre providing employability skills to youth in the 17-25 year age group. The relevant skills will be in various industry sectors like retail, automobile sales, telecommunications, hospitality and healthcare. Students will be provided internship and placements to help them find employment in the corporate sector.

BS Reporter

The Economic Times

New Delhi

MARCH 16, 2009

NIIT bags Rajasthan contract

NEW DELHI: NIIT on Tuesday said it has bagged Rs 21.4-crore contract from the Rajasthan Council of Elementary Education to set up computer labs in 1,672 government upper primary schools in 22 districts of the state. Under the five-year agreement, NIIT will install over 5,016 computers, benefitting over 8.36 lakh students.

Times of India

NEW DELHI

30 MARCH 2009

SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY

NIIT has entered into a contract with the Rajasthan Council of Elementary Education (RCEE) to introduce computer-aided learning in 1,672 government upper primary schools in 22 districts of Rajasthan within the framework of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA). The value of the contract is Rs 214 million. The five-year agreement involves setting up 1,672 fully-furnished modern computer labs with over 5016 computers, which will benefit 33,340 teachers and 8,36,130 students. NIIT had previously bagged the single largest turnkey IT education contract in the school segment in India from the state government of Andhra Pradesh.

State Times
DELHI
MARCH 16, 2009

'Formal school training can't be replaced'

Abhishek Gupta, head of Hiwel, explains the concept of minimally intrusive pedagogy that inspired Vikas Swarup to write Q&A, translated on celluloid as Slumdog Millionaire. Farah H Chitalwala reports. Excerpts:

What is minimally intrusive (MI) pedagogy?

It is a pedagogic approach that allows children to explore and discover on their own. No teachers or guides are present in the learning process. MI pedagogy can be used to teach children about computers and gadgets like we do at Hiwel. For instance, Hiwel builds kiosks with computers in slum and rural areas and allows children to use them without any supervision. In this way the children learn to operate the computer.

Can it replace formal school training?

No, the formal system cannot be replaced. MI



Abhishek Gupta

pedagogy can only complement regular teaching in classrooms. In areas where MI kiosks have been set up, the performance of students in maths and science in schools has improved. Attendance in schools has gone up. MI pedagogy increases children's learning and stimulates their curiosity, their performance under the formal system also improves.

Why has it proved to be a success in educating under privileged children?

Children have a natural affinity towards gadgets. Hence they are drawn to the kiosk that houses the computer. Further, as the computer is a contraption that they have only heard of and not seen, their curiosity increases. Moreover, as ac-

cess to the computer is free and on their own turf, their comfort level in the learning process is optimised. Hence this approach is a success with underprivileged children. It may not work with children from the higher strata of society, who have already been exposed to computers and other gadgets and have an access to them at home.

What has been the reach of Hiwel's MI kiosks?

Five hundred kiosks are present in backward areas of Delhi, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir. Six are in Raigad district of Maharashtra. Kiosks have also been set up in eight countries in Africa, while 2.5 lakh children have benefited worldwide. About Rs20 crore has been spent on this. Support comes from NIIT Ltd, Azim Premji Foundation, Dell Foundation, NECERT, various state governments, departments of education and ministries of social welfare.