



NIIT

Produced by NIIT Limited, Corporate Communications and Marketing Services Organisation
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GREAT PLACE TO WORK
People matters
Leading People Building Organizations

THE **500** BEST COMPANIES TO WORK FOR INDIA 2011

#23
NIIT

Every Person Builds NIIT

“We decided from day one that there are no employees in our company. We do not call anybody an employee, but call everybody a NIITian”

- P. Rajendran, Co-Founder & Chief Operating Officer, NIIT

NIIT's growth is derived from the growth of each member in the company. The company takes on itself the duty to foster careers by creating opportunities that demand learning, thinking and innovation from each NIITian. Being a service organization, every person at NIIT needs to have people skills for effective business interaction. Therefore, they aim to create a place where people learn how to interact with people. "NIIT is People" is not only part of NIIT's vision document, but is also the voice of the employees, expressed through their comments. Pride in the company business, reaching out to the community, a good working environment, approachable and caring management, supportive colleagues, learning platforms, and perks & benefits are some initiatives to keep NIITians happy and engaged.

HR has been integral to their business from the very beginning of its formation. The founding team themselves have, at some point in time, led the HR function themselves. They saw the need to invest on education, corporate training, software development, and consulting to prepare the company to take the next big leap by involving everybody in the company. Their culture enforces the belief that every single individual is important to build the organization every day, which is also reflected in the employee's i-card which reads "Jasneet (employee name), I am building an NIIT".

Being a global talent development organization, NIIT stands for integrity, stability and people-orientation, which is a great platform to attract quality talent. NIIT provides a unique environment, where 'I' can learn, 'I' can think and most importantly, where 'I' can innovate, and for this, NIIT creates a working environment that is extremely conducive for helping employees learn, think and innovate.

Since its inception, NIIT has had an annual day where each year concentrates on a particular theme. Last year's focus was 'NIITians first' and many innovative schemes, policies and practices were created around the theme. Even the NIIT people practices were revised keeping in mind the 'NIITian first' focus.

Everyone associated with NIIT is called a NIITian; the terminology 'employee' is banned in the organization to take away people being deduced to mere numbers. NIITians are made to feel at home, with various in-campus comfort provisions. 'I-connect' is a buddy and mentoring program



where all new joinees are assigned a buddy on the second day of joining, on the online 'I-connect' system. The objective of the 'buddy program' is to make the new joinee feel comfortable and provide all operationally necessary information. On completion of one month, every new joinee is assigned a mentor on the 'I-connect' system.

What makes NIIT a great workplace is that there is tremendous amount of passion, which is backed by an extensive amount of process orientation. The spirit of their culture makes NIIT a unique workplace. They believe that NIIT is a culmination of much folklore, which is exemplified in the many activities that strive to nurture the NIIT family. While everything cannot be printed, pasted, submitted, tabled and accrued, it is these stories that carry forward the emotive part of the organization, creating a differential experience for all. ■

NIIT Ltd.

Learning solutions for individuals, corporates, government, colleges and schools

2011 Rank: **#23**

Previous Ranking: **-**

India HQ: **GURGAON**

Founded in India (year): **1981**

Employee Strength: **4,434**

Gender Ratio (F to M): **1:1.53**

Other Ranking: **#1 (EDUCATION & TRAINING)**



**Indian Express
Chennai, July 25, 2011**

NIIT's service to IT education commended

NIIT was commended for their service to IT education at the World Education Awards 2011 held on July 14 in New Delhi. NIIT's unique skills development project in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, was recognised as the 'Best Vocational and Skills Initiative of the Year' in the government initiatives segment. NIIT NGuru's Mobile Science Lab, an innovative learning solution which integrates IT-led science lab with classrooms, received the Best Innovation in Science Education of the Year award. NIIT Imperia, Center for Advanced Learning, was recognised for providing the Best Training to Working Professionals ■

**The Times of India
New Delhi, July 25, 2011**

VOCATIONAL AWARD

NIIT's unique skills-development project in KwaZulu Natal (KZN), Republic of South Africa, was recognised as the 'Best Vocational and Skills Initiative of the Year' in the government initiatives segment. NIIT NGuru's Mobile Science Lab, which integrates IT-led science lab with

classrooms, received the 'Best Innovation in Science Education of the Year' award. NIIT Imperia, Centre for Advanced Learning, was recognised for providing the 'Best Training to Working Professionals'. NIIT collaborated with the provincial government of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), South Africa, to empower the youth by launching an ICT skill-development project in the region and set up centres of excellence in the region, using global education delivery model with best practices as case studies.

**DNA
Mumbai, July 06, 2011**

NIIT partners IBM

NIIT said it will partner with IBM to offer experiential learning to its students. As part of the collaboration, NIIT will train and enable the students at its centres, providing them with the required skills training and mentoring throughout the project duration, NIIT said in a statement. IBM experts will evaluate the completed projects and provide certificates to successful students, it added.

**Financial Express
Pune, July 11, 2011**

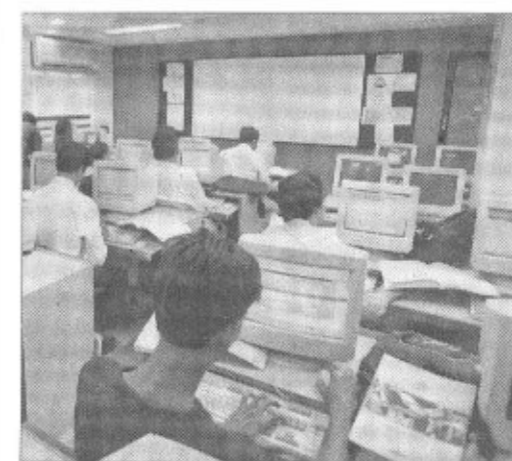
NIIT collaborates with IBM for career education projects

NIIT, the leading Global Talent Development Corporation and Asia's largest IT trainer, has collaborated with IBM a global technology and innovation company, to offer experiential learning to early professionals ready to join the IT industry. NIIT and IBM have collaborated to provide students with projects based

on real-world requirements faced by organisations and are designed by IBM experts with vast experience in enterprise software development. The students will develop these projects based on the methodology as practised by the industry today. As part of this collaboration, NIIT will train and enable the students at its centers, providing them with the required skills training and mentoring throughout the project duration. IBM experts will evaluate the completed projects and provide certificates to successful students.



**Financial Chronicle
New Delhi, July 06, 2011**



NIIT inks pact with IBM

NIIT has partnered with IBM to offer experiential learning to its students. NIIT will train and provide them with the required skills training and mentoring by IBM throughout the project duration.

**Afternoon Despatch and Courier
Mumbai, July 06, 2011**

NIIT LAUNCHES CAREERS@CAMPUS PROGRAMS

NIIT Limited, a Global Talent Development Corporation and IT trainer, has announced the launch of its innovative Careers@Campus programs at Sri Ramakrishna Engineering College (SREC) and Sri Ramakrishna Institute of Technology (SRIT), Coimbatore. For students pursuing diplomas NIIT will offer placement assistance upon completing the program. All students of Employability Enhancement Programmes will be offered Placement Assistance, wherein they will give interviews via participation in Campus interviews, job fairs etc. Students will also undergo training in critical soft skills like Communication skills, Personal development, Presentation skills etc. For more information visit www.niit.com

**The Statesman
New Delhi, July 06, 2011**

**NIIT and IBM
join hands**

statesman news service

NEW DELHI, 5 JULY: NIIT has joined hands with IBM, a global technology and innovation company, to offer experiential learning to early professionals ready to join the IT industry.

NIIT and IBM have collaborated to provide students with projects based on real world requirements faced by organisations and are designed by IBM experts with vast experience in enterprise software development. The students will develop these projects based on the methodology as practiced by the industry today. As part of this collaboration, NIIT will train and enable the students at its centres, providing them with the required skills training and mentoring throughout the project duration. IBM experts will evaluate the completed projects and provide certificates to successful students.

"We are pleased to strengthen our partnership with IBM through project offerings. Projects are crucial in providing real world experiential learning to young professionals to make them day one industry ready."



Assam Tribune
Guwahati, July 30, 2011

Buzzing around

Simanta / Mridumoloy

Cloud campus

NIIT Limited recently launched its new-age GNIIT programme that can be pursued anytime, anywhere, by leveraging the unique cloud learning methodology. The pioneering NIIT Cloud Campus empowers the student to learn on their own terms, at their own pace, whenever and wherever they want it. Students enjoy higher mobility as they can easily access educational services using a notebook that connects them to NIIT's Cloud Campus network. The new syllabus is based on a revolutionary educational paradigm called collaborative learning which takes students beyond the traditional classroom-based student-teacher relationship.



Launching the programme in Guwahati the other day, NIIT career building solutions vice president Surojit Biswas explained how the students would be benefited from the methodology and what cloud computing is all about, adding that the industry-endorsed syllabus helps students develop a strong conceptual foundation, along with technical skills to meet the core requirements of the job demands in IT and IT-related domains. For further details aspirants can log on to www.niit.com

Hindustan Times
New Delhi, July 20, 2011

India's first Cloud Campus at your door

It is time to leverage the new age student with latest technologies. NIIT has launched a new-age GNIIT programme that can be pursued anywhere anytime, by leveraging the unique cloud learning methodology. The pioneering NIIT Cloud Campus™ empowers the student to learn on his own terms, at his own pace, wherever and whenever he wants it. Students enjoy higher mobility as they can easily access educational services using a netbook that connects them to NIIT's Cloud Campus™ network using the power of Cloud Computing.

The new GNIIT syllabus is based on a revolutionary educational paradigm called collaborative learning. The GNIIT programme gives a jump-start to students' careers. NIIT students have started their careers in leading organisations like TCS, Wipro, IBM etc.

Lokmat Times
Nagpur, July 08, 2011

announced the launch of new-age GNIIT programme that can be pursued anywhere anytime by leveraging unique cloud learning methodology.

The pioneering NIIT Cloud Campus empowers the student to learn on his own terms, at his own pace wherever and whenever he wants it.

Students enjoy higher mobility as they can easily access educational services using Notebook that connects them to NIIT's Cloud Campus network. These services will be managed centrally using the power of Cloud Computing. The syllabus is based on revo-

lutionary educational paradigm called collaborative learning which takes students beyond traditional classroom and student-teacher relationship.

It is industry endorsed advanced curriculum. G Raghavan, chief executive, Career Building Solutions remarked, the new age programme will help create a pool of trained professionals for today's globalised knowledge economy.

For details one can contact NIIT, 3rd floor Mangalam Arcade, North Bazar Road, Dharampath, Nagpur or Sadar, Nandanvan centre.

NIIT offers India's first Cloud Campus

NIIT Ltd, leading global talent development corporation and one of Asia's biggest IT trainers,



Hindu Business Line
New Delhi, July 01, 2011

Tata Power launches 'Project Sujaan'

Our Bureau

Ahmedabad June 30

In its endeavour to empower the future generations through value-added computer-aided literacy, Coastal Gujarat Power Ltd (CGPL), a subsidiary of Tata Power Ltd (TPL), today announced the launch of a development initiative in Gujarat, 'Project Sujaan', at Mundra in Kutch district.

The project is being implemented by CGPL through an agreement with the Hole-in-the-Wall Education Ltd (Hiwell), a joint venture of NIIT Ltd and the International Finance Corporation (part of the World Bank Group) to set up, operate and monitor the evaluation of the learning stations for a period of three years, the company said here.

In order to create an effective base for community development and the education backbone, an assessment of the community around the Mundra power project was undertaken. The course curriculum has been formulated keeping in view the need for computer education among the school children, prevailing level of computer literacy among the masses and its usage in their regular life.

The project, as part of CSR activity, was launched recently during the Gujarat Government-sponsored Kanya Kelavani Program aimed at enrolling children in the formal education system. Learning kiosks have been set up in three schools in as many selected villages in Kutch district, said Mr. Alok

Kanagat, Executive Director, CGPL.

Under the project, a total of five learning stations will be set up in four schools for innovations in hardware/software technology and cognitive design. The community will be mobilized through interaction, and local leadership from the schools and community will be selected.

The teachers and students will undergo orientation program to familiarise them with computer usage and troubleshooting. The children will be monitored and evaluated on their achievement levels in computer literacy, English, mathematics and social sciences, besides their life skills.

CGPL, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) formed for set-

ting up and operating the 4,000 megawatt Ultra Mega Power project (UMPP), based on super-critical technology at Mundra, had signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with seven procurers (distribution licensees) from five states, i.e. Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Rajasthan and Punjab for the sale of contracted capacity. The first unit of Mundra Power Project, India's first UMPP, is close to commissioning.

Tata Power is India's largest private sector power utility with an installed generation capacity of about 3,120 MW and a presence in all the segments of the power sector, from generation-to-trading. It has also acquired 30% stake in coal companies at Indonesia.

Indian Express
Chennai, July 04, 2011

NIIT IFBI launches preparatory courses

The Institute for Finance, Banking and Insurance (IFBI), a joint initiative of NIIT (National Institute of Information Technology) and ICICI Bank, India's largest private sector bank, today launched first-of-its-kind preparatory courses for PSU banks probationary officers (PO) and clerical recruitment exams. These preparatory courses aim to train students to meet the challenges of testing and thus succeed in public sector bank recruitment exams. IFBI offers a range of programmes for various categories of BFSI aspirants and professionals. For queries, contact 9176634530 ■



Hindustan Times
New Delhi, July 10, 2011

THE BIG STORY

HINDUSTAN TIMES - C-FORE SURVEY

Blurring parents for pressuring their Indian teens look towards the transition from school to college with nervousness, says an IIT C-fore survey of 1,200 students in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Bangalore.

Q How did you cope with the heavy loads of your class 12 decisions?

Sought career/course counselling	35
Sought medical help	5
Sought teachers' help	30
Took parents' advice	33
Did what friends did	14
Did nothing	7

Q Which set of people are causing the maximum stress?

Parents and relatives	50
Teachers & friends	12
Others	18
No one	9

Q What makes the stress worse?

Inappropriate guidance	31
Multiple entrance exams	28
Having admission cut-offs	28
The career prospects beyond	15
Nothing	6

Q How many competitive exams will you appear for? Have you appeared for other than the class 12 Board examinations?

None	1
One	3
Two	11
3-5	50
5-10	30
More than 10 (Specify)	1

Q How many disciplines (eg. Pure sciences, medicine, engineering, architecture, law) are you applying for? did you apply for?

One	20
Two	48
Three	30
More than three	5

Q Which stream do you want to take up? did you want to take up?

Not sure	6
Arts & social sciences	11
Science	25
Engineering	36
Medicine	22
Commerce	2
Law	6
Others	4

Q Which stream would your parents prefer you get into?

Whatever they like	10
Arts & social sciences	5
Science	14
Engineering	29
Medicine	13
Law	4
Others	3

Q Which stream is the toughest to get into?

Arts & social sciences	3
Science	18
One	28
Medicine	62
Commerce	4
Law	5
Others	3

Q Are you going abroad for studies? a better option?

Yes	46
No	54

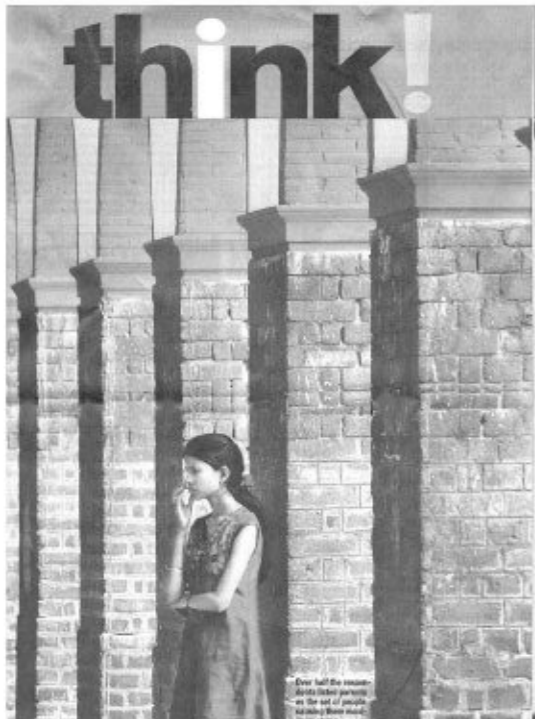
Q Of those who say yes to Q1, why is going abroad a better option?

Indian colleges are lower in standards	7
Indian colleges don't offer the flexibility of shifting streams, or of inter-disciplinary studies	28
Indian colleges are tougher to get into	34
Better prospects abroad	21
I want to settle abroad	18

Q Which change would most help reduce the stress?

More good colleges	50
Flexibility of shifting streams or specialising in streams later	12
Single entrance exam (nation across streams and institutions)	16
Other	2

METHODOLOGY: Research Agency C-fore conducted the survey at four cities - Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Bangalore - between June 27 and 30. A statistically selected sample of 1,200 students was interviewed using a stratified sampling method. The survey has a margin of error of 7% at 95% confidence level.



THE 13th YEAR ANXIETY

HARD LESSONS Few seats and rigid syllabi are making students anxious about going to college - and this year's impossibly high cut-offs haven't helped. A ground report

Delhi The 13th year of school is a time when students are faced with the most difficult decisions of their lives. They are choosing between different streams, different colleges, and different careers. The pressure is on, and the stakes are high. For many students, the 13th year is a time of intense anxiety and stress. They are worried about their future, about their parents' expectations, and about the competition for limited seats in the best colleges. The 13th year is a time when students are faced with the most difficult decisions of their lives. They are choosing between different streams, different colleges, and different careers. The pressure is on, and the stakes are high. For many students, the 13th year is a time of intense anxiety and stress. They are worried about their future, about their parents' expectations, and about the competition for limited seats in the best colleges.

Cashing in on angst GOLD DIGGERS From counsellors, to coaching classes and private universities - students are turning to industries preying on uncertainty and insecurity. The 13th year is a time when students are faced with the most difficult decisions of their lives. They are choosing between different streams, different colleges, and different careers. The pressure is on, and the stakes are high. For many students, the 13th year is a time of intense anxiety and stress. They are worried about their future, about their parents' expectations, and about the competition for limited seats in the best colleges.

REFORMS IN HIGHER EDUCATION: CHANGES THAT COULD TRANSFORM INDIAN CAMPUSES WHAT'S AROUND THE CORNER: Expansion in medical higher education... National standards for a National Medical Education Quality Assurance Framework... Single institutions... Checking standards... WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE: Quality enhancement... Parent counselling...



Hindu Business Line
Mumbai, July 05, 2011

Anand checkmates 44, all at one go

K. V. Kurmanath
Hyderabad, July 4

As he braces to take on 44 players sitting at a U-shaped table, Vishwanathan Anand takes a sip of water. For him, playing chess is as casual as drinking water. Quite the unassuming person, the chess wizard shakes hand with each of the 44 players before he makes the first move. As he walks past, he quickly scans the board, makes his next move and on and on.



Vishwanathan Anand playing with students at the launch of New Age GNIIT- India's First Cloud Campus, in Hyderabad. - K Ramesh Babu

It was a pleasure to watch him play. As pleasant as watching Sachin Tendulkar bat or listening to Hariprasad Chaurasia's flute. As his fans and kin of the players watch him with bated breath, Anand defeated all of them. Some of them even resigned after a few rounds. As ever, Vishwanathan Anand is untouched. The World No. 2 says he wants the tribe grow enormously in the country. "I would like to take the MindChampions Academy to more schools to draw more and more children to chess. Chess gives

children confidence in life and studies have found that the mind game helps them academically too," he points out. The academy he started in association with NIIT covers 6,000 government schools. He has a word of advice for children and those who want to become professional players. "It is important to be physically fit. I generally be-

gin preparations one month before a tournament starts. I usually take the first and last weeks off and undergo rigorous training the remaining two weeks. It also involves physical exercises. You know, international matches get on to your nerves. You need to be physically fit to take the pressure off you while playing crucial matches," he points out.



Dataquest
National, July 31, 2011

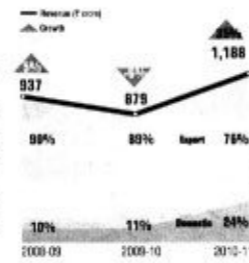
THE DQ 200



NIIT Technologies

RANK 55
Growth was back even as the thrust for NIIT Technologies was on non-linear businesses around managed services, IP asset (platform) based solutions, and cloud computing. As part of its IP based play strategy, it forayed into healthcare IT by acquiring an electronic health record platform for targeting healthcare providers. The most impressive growth was in the domestic market the 'Intranet Prahari' project for BSF, few APDRP projects and e-procurements for all plants at the Ordnance Factory Board.

● **CEO:** Arvind Thakur ● **Start-up Year:** 2004 ● **Products & Services:** Application development and management, package implementation, managed services, platform based services, business process outsourcing, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), cloud computing ● **Address:** B1/H9, MCIA, Mathura Road, New Delhi 110 044 ● **Employees:** 5,806 ● **Tel:** 011 4057 0700/701 ● **Fax:** 011 4057 0933 ● **Website:** www.niit-tech.com

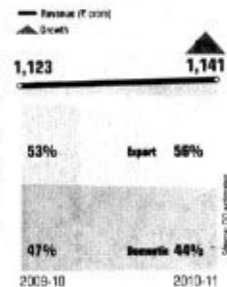


■ **Chairman RS Pawar and director Surender Singh, conferred Padma Bhushan**
■ **Completed 15 years of trust based partnership with SEI, US and British Airways UK**

NIIT Limited

RANK 56
The focus was on diversification ranging from virtualization and digital learning to introducing a GNIIT cloud campus. Corporate learning solutions bagged 5 new clients for multi-year projects including Philips and banks like UBI, Corporation Bank, and Canara Bank. On the government front, NIIT conducted a 2-day IT training workshop for MLAs of Chattisgarh Assembly and associated with Gujarat government and Chess Federation resulting in a world record on December 24, 2010 when 20,480 players played chess simultaneously.

● **CEO:** Vijay Thadani ● **Start-up Year:** 1981 ● **Products & Services:** Knowledge Solutions & IT training ● **Address:** 85, Sector 32 Institutional Area, Gurgaon 122 001 ● **Employees:** 4,157 ● **Tel:** 0124 429 3000 ● **Fax:** 0124 429 3333 ● **Website:** www.niit.com



■ **School learning grew 76%**
■ **NIIT tied up with IGNOU and Zend, launched PHP certification program**

Financial Chronicle
New Delhi, July 13, 2011

Training gets tech edge at all levels

S SHYAMALA
Chennai

BLUE-BLOODED MBA students are not the only ones flaunting laptops anymore. Skills training, and to an extent education as a whole, is slowly moving out of the chalk-and-talk/pen-and-paper teaching models.

Educational institutions, banks, private enterprises and training institutes are now enabling their students with hand-held devices and laptops to impart education.

Hyderabad-based Talent Sprint is running a pilot project in Bihar for a major public-sector bank to train its employees through mobile handsets pre-loaded with content. The hand-held devices are licensed from IIT Hyderabad, which



Wind of change

- Use of hand-held devices enables learning anytime, anywhere
- Skills training is slowly moving out of regular teaching models
- Candidates are looking for training in specific technologies and skills

has developed the sets along with Talent Sprint.

"We are talking to at least five banks including the ones in the public sector to enable their high-performance leadership programmes. Use of hand-held devices enables learning anytime, anywhere," said Santanu Paul, CEO and MD of Talent Sprint.

Recently, NIIT announced the country's first "cloud campus" introduced in its three-year GNIIT course. A vital step in the direction is a complete digital transformation of its training delivery model, said G Raghavan, chief executive of career building solutions, NIIT.

"Student preferences are

changing; they are much more evolved in terms of technology. Candidates are highly informed, very particular and looking for training in specific technologies and skills. We had to re-vamp our delivery model to match up to student expectations," he added.

"Learning material is completely digitised and available for anytime access. We are consolidating our IT infrastructure, virtualising assets and putting content on the cloud to transform our delivery model. The company is also embedding VSAT-based delivery across its centres and is setting up online portals to expand reach and increase efficiency," Raghavan added.

shyamalaseetharaman
@mydigitalfc.com

Financial Times
Noida, August 04, 2011

New Age SmartClasses Storm NCR

Digital classroom in schools is changing the ways in which education is delivered, making learning enjoyable and filling up gaps in our education system, says **Bhuvnesh Talwar**

The Indian classroom, our temple of education, has always been a room packed with students but devoid of the joy of learning. The future holds better as prominent schools in the national capital region take a step forward with the help of technology, introducing digital classrooms that promise to make learning an enjoyable experience. "Smartclass programme propagating digital media solutions in learning amongst school student or K-12 education system is revolutionary as it allows students to come out of the routine ways," says Sangeeta Saxena, director, Chiranjivi Bhaati School, Gurgaon, where the Smartclass programme has been running throughout class 1 to 12 for over five years now. "Digital literacy undoubtedly is easier, faster and smarter way of educating."

Smart classrooms are meant to support and build on traditional education methods. The teachers are empowered through the innovative tools to teach more effectively and efficiently, while students get resources to understand complex concepts in simple terms or manner and improve performance. With this, the central idea or objective to make classroom learning purely interactive i.e. a two-way process and enjoyable is achieved. India's education sector currently offers an estimated \$45 billion market, with a potential 16 percent five-year compound annual growth rate. This spans the kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12) segment (\$23 billion), private professional colleges (\$9 billion) and tutoring (\$5 billion), vocational training (\$1.4 billion), test preparation (\$1.7 billion), and preschools (\$1 billion).

NIIT, one of the most prominent education solutions provider is satisfied with the way school-level education is progressing in India. "School education market is growing and new schools are being established at a growth rate of 12 percent every year. With over 2000 schools across Delhi-NCR, this market has been growing at a very rapid pace in terms of adopting technology based education solutions," says Hemant Sethi, president, School Learning Solutions, NIIT. Adding to the upbeat mood, Mr. Rohit Pandey, CEO, Classtecher Learning Systems, Gurgaon based education solutions provider says, "The focus of parents on providing quality school education to children coupled with the progressive mind-set of school managements in the Delhi NCR schools, has made this market

seen a boom in the school education solutions space." Father Cavalho, principal, Panther Agnel School in Noida says, "The basic problem with literacy in India lack of skilled teachers and delivery of education. For a real change to happen, digital media learning will play a vital role and is proving to be a concrete way to meet the inefficiencies of the system." Meenakshi Zorabi of Ramayya School in Noida explains: "It gives the teacher the flexibility of bringing a Mobile Science Lab right into the classrooms which helps in making learning of science subjects much more interesting and hands-on. Some key practical like Titration, Pendulum, Focal Length, Mirrors and others can be demonstrated live via digital media in the classroom itself and then student can practice in the labs."

Principal of AirForce school, Ghaziabad, Sadhna too is going bo about the new system. "Digital education is the way forward for our children education and CGE is a boost for it or should I say that they both complement each other. CGE currently is operational in all private schools, Kendriya Vidyalas and government schools of the tier 1 & 2 cities," she says. Apart from the core educational solutions companies, there have been some major IT firms like HCL, TCS and others who have also entered this market. Dell has been in collaboration with a few schools to enhance education learning and is also running literacy programs for underprivileged children under their ICT program. Rekha Kaul, consultant, Dell Coordinator says, "We believe that Digital Learning solutions is a concept of transformation of delivery of education. We run Dell Youth connect programs in two phases- SciMa digital enhancement for smartclasses and special ICT classes for the underprivileged children to impart basic education and awareness issues."

Anand Kamran, VP & business head, BCL Business Learning says that their group has been in the education sector for quite sometime and so getting into multimedia content building, the new buzz in the sector is logical way forward. The sector is growing robustly at 12-14 percent every year and with less than 5 percent schools being technically driven there is immense potential to explore," he says. However, some people in the education sector have been cautious about digital media approach. "Digital media empowering education and learning in India sounds good but one needs to be very careful in rightly understanding the usability, efficiency and effectiveness of the medium particularly in case of a sensitive sector like education," says Rita Kapoor, director, Delhi Public School, Ghazabad.





Franchise Plus
National, July-August, 2011



Anuradha S Boxwala
Senior Vice President,
NIIT Ltd

Bridging The Digital Divide

The franchise model is turning out to be the vehicle of inclusive growth in IT education, bringing standardised technology to the hinterland

The franchise model of IT learning has emerged as a very successful model for imparting technological training in India and spreading computer knowledge throughout the country. National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT) was the first organisation in India, and possibly in the world, to deliver high-quality, cutting-edge, standardised technology learning through a robust franchisee network. NIIT's vast base of franchisee partners is spread across the country, including the schools; in the hinterland and even across the borders.

In conceiving the breakthrough franchisee model, NIIT reached out to the youth of India, particularly those residing in the tier-II and tier-III townships of the country, thereby drawing them into the mainstream. By enabling these youngsters to gain employability skills, NIIT and its business partners helped millions build careers within the information and communication technologies (ICT) sector. NIIT also ignited the fire of entrepreneurship in the country, helping first-time-businessmen,



especially in the smaller towns of the country, to create wealth through IT training. Today NIIT's network is over 900 centres strong, spanning more than 40 countries worldwide. NIIT's franchisees are enabling countries such as China, Malaysia, South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Sri Lanka and Vietnam to build their manpower capacity and catalyse development.

IT franchising is significant due to its inclusive nature as it equips and em-

powers young Indians across the country for employment, touching ordinary lives by taking all sections of citizens across the digital divide. Thousands of individuals go to NIIT centres nearest to them, on a day-to-day basis, to gain hands-on exposure and knowledge of IT and acquire skills that make them industry-ready. People with disabilities are also being reached by these franchisee centres, and armed with computer learning they gain entry into the professional world.

IT franchising, pioneered by NIIT, is helping a wide spectrum of Indians to participate in the knowledge society. At the same time, it is enabling the country to march on the path of growth that is robust, quick and above all, inclusive. ☐

IT franchising is significant due to its inclusive nature as it equips and empowers young Indians across the country for employment, touching ordinary lives



The Telegraph
Kolkata, August 11, 2011

GET HARDWIRED FOR SUCCESS

HARDWARE AND NETWORKING •

While the number of jobs in software is shrinking fast, those in hardware and networking are growing rapidly, finds Avijit Chatterjee



Avijit Chatterjee, a fourth-year BTech computer science student of Bhubaneswar Engineering College, took his parents by surprise when he opted for a hardware and networking course at a private institute. A bright student all his life, he was expected to go into software and find his way to fame and fortune.

Until recently hardly anyone wanted to be in hardware and networking as the money wasn't that good and the avenues for success were few. But with the global software industry in the doldrums because of the economic uncertainty in the US and Europe, the future looks bright for those in hardware and networking.

Also, with most companies moving towards cloud computing, which involves shared access to a pool of computing resources such as servers, storage, applications and services, the demand for professionals to set up, run and maintain these devices has shot up.

"The recent advancement in technology requires a thorough knowledge of hardware and networking. As the work mechanism of cloud computing is dependent on the Internet, knowledge of networking has become necessary for a computer engineer," points out Kumar. Coners Anuj Kachar, chief operating officer, Aptech, the IT training provider. "Hardware and networking will

drive the IT sector in the near future. The demand for hardware and networking experts has shot up considerably, thanks to the increase in computer-based activities, requiring maintenance and repair of computers on a 24x7 basis."

"With the world moving towards ubiquitous access, borderless networks, the demand for network engineers and network administrators will rise," says N.S. Ramesh Murthy, director, director of distance education, Siksha Manjari University.

According to the National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom), around 3.75 lakh hardware and networking professionals will be required in India by 2013.

So what is hardware and networking all about? Hardware is the combination of different physical components of a computer. Networking involves linking a group of two or more computer systems for the purpose of sharing information and data. Professionals associated with the discipline of maintaining and installing computer hardware and the development of computer networks are known as hardware and network engineers.

Basically, a hardware profes-

WHAT YOU EARN
• ENTRY LEVEL: Rs 8,000 to Rs 12,000
• MID LEVEL: Rs 20,000 to Rs 40,000
• SENIOR LEVEL: Above Rs 50,000

sional has to keep computers up and running. The work involves routine troubleshooting and fixing hardware components such as printers, the processor as well as peripherals such as monitors.

A diploma in hardware and networking is sufficient to enter the profession and the eligibility is a pass in Class X or XII. "Here, more than academic performance, it is aptitude that matters," says Anuradha S. Boxwala, senior vice-president, global sales and marketing, career building solutions, NIIT Ltd. What is required is the ability to think on one's feet and come up with a solution. Of course, after gaining some experience one can upgrade one's skills by seeking certifications such as Cisco, Certified Network Associate (CCNA), CCNP, MCSE, MCITP. "Such certifications would hold good in the long run," points out Kachar.

One can also go in for higher education. A diploma holder in hardware and networking can seek admission to a BTech course

through lateral entry. He or she can go for degree courses such as bachelor of computer applications (BCA), bachelor of computer science (BCS) and bachelor of information technology (BITE IT).

"It would be better if a person pursues a degree course after completing a diploma. This will offer him or her a lot more career choices," says Shradha Talwar, chief executive officer, Indiacan, a joint venture between Educomp, India's largest educational company and Pearson, the largest education service provider in the world.

Career prospects in hardware and networking are quite good. The sector is expected to create the most jobs in the near future. "One can find employment in hardware companies, BPO companies, telecom companies, public sector undertakings, financial institutions as well as schools and colleges, among others. Besides, one can start a hardware assembling firm or run a consultancy to develop hardware according to the requirements of clients. Teaching in technical institutions is also an option," says Subhanika Bhattacharya, divisional head, east, IIT, the vocational training firm. Generally, a hardware engineer begins as a field service technician or a help desk customer service engineer and grows up to become a security specialist or an IT infrastructure leader. There are various areas where one can work such as communications, security database development, networks and administration, desktop support and help desk, hardware engineering, system administration and internet.

"The growth prospects for hardware and network engineers in terms of technical knowledge and escalation to higher positions are among the fastest in the technology industries," says Siddharth Bhowmik, head marketing and communication, Jetking Informatics Ltd, which offers training in hardware and networking.

Apart from traditional roles as system administrators and support engineers, hardware and network personnel can work in offshore support, which entails

working in India and this sector offers huge scope to technically skilled English speaking professionals," says Bhattacharya. Another area where hardware engineers can work is in remote infrastructure management. This refers to remotely managing IT infrastructure such as workstations, servers, network, storage and IT security devices. "By outsourcing hardware and network services, companies can reduce operational costs," says Bhattacharya.

All said and done, hardware and networking can be considered a "safe option" as it provides job security. "An economic downturn does not have much impact on this sector because companies will always need people to keep their computers running smoothly," says Talwar. Agrees Kumar: "Though easy in the software industry faced an employment during the downturn, hardly anyone from the hardware and networking sector lost their jobs."

So, just brush up on your technical skills and gear up for an exciting career. You could be the Mr Fixit or Ms Fixit the industry looking for.

managing and running the network operations of companies across the globe. "Because of the high overhead costs, many IT companies in North America and Europe have started outsourcing services such as network support, business server support and mon-

WHERE YOU STUDY

- NIIT (www.niit.com)
- APTECH (www.aptecheducation.com)
- INDIACAN (www.indiacan.com)
- IJIT (www.ijit.net)
- JETKING (www.jetkinginfotraining.com)

The Times of India, New Delhi, August 22, 2011



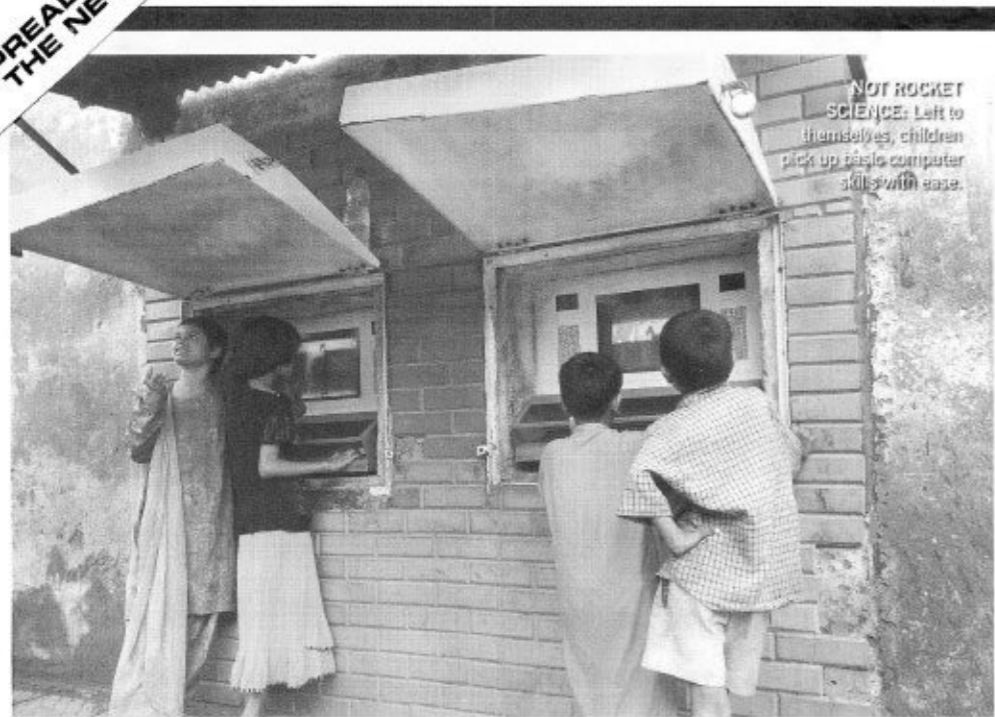
BETTER EMPLOYABILITY

NIIT Foundation launched the 'NIIT Yuvastar Career Development Centre' in Delhi. It will serve as a vocational training centre in the Civil Lines area, providing English, computer and employability skills to under-served youth in the age group of 15-25 years.



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SPREADING
THE NET



NOT ROCKET SCIENCE: Left to themselves, children pick up basic computer skills with ease.

HULDEEP CHAUDHARI

One Click At A Time

NIIT's hole-in-the-wall initiative is helping bridge the digital divide between rich and poor kids.

ALLAN LASRADO

IN 1999, SUGATA MITRA, NIIT's Chief Scientist at the time, shook the world with a simple experiment. He drilled a hole in his office in Kalkaji, New Delhi, and stuck a computer into it. The office was next to a slum and he wanted to observe what would happen. In no time, he found scores of curious children flocking to the PC. Over the next few days, he saw that, left to themselves, the children were perfectly capable of picking up basic computer skills. The results were the same when he repeated the experiment elsewhere,

including several rural locations.

Since then, the groundbreaking research has won many awards and received saturation coverage in the media. Mitra has moved on from NIIT but the company has continued the good work through a separate business unit called Hole in the Wall Education (HiWEL), a fully owned subsidiary of NIIT. The progress has been slow but it has been steady.

The original hole in the wall is no longer in existence, nor is the slum. But a government school nearby has installed two PCs on its compound wall. There, the

HIWEL

STARTED
2001

REVENUE
₹3 crore

EMPLOYEES
Under 50

SOCIAL IMPACT
Imparts basic computing skills to children from underprivileged backgrounds.



SPREADING
THE NET

sight is the same as at other hole-in-the-wall sites in India and abroad. Children mill around the "learning stations" and take turns using them. "I like the games most," says Raju, one of the children. So do the others. The content, which includes game-based learning and videos, has been developed by HiWEL, NIIT, TCS, National Geographic and others. "We have three verticals," explains Sanjay Gupta, Head, HiWEL. They are schools (mostly government schools), CSR (initiatives of companies/ foundations/ NGOs) and foreign projects (Ministry of External Affairs). On the school front, HiWEL has deployed learning stations under various development initiatives, particularly Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Under CSR, organisations such as ACC, ICICI Group and Hindalco have sponsored them in rural areas. As for the MEA, it has roped in HiWEL to deploy learning stations in Africa (eight countries), Cambodia and Bhutan. In all, a little over 50 have been deployed so far. More will follow, with Bhutan alone set to have 131 by the end of this fiscal year.

JUST AS SMART

Mitra's experiment proved without a doubt that children benefited from exploratory and collaborative learning. This "minimally invasive education", as it is called, gives children unrestricted and unsupervised access to a computer. Curiosity pushes the kids to explore, discover and share their learning with each other. "The environment is a learning environment," explains Dr Ritu Dangwal, a psychologist who works with HiWEL. "They will do whatever it takes to find out."

Dr Dangwal cites an experiment that HiWEL carried out in Kalikuppam village, Tamil Nadu. A group of 10 to 14 year olds who knew only Tamil was asked to find out about biotechnology, initially with a hole-in-the-wall PC and later with a facilitator who knew nothing about the subject.

"We then compared their outcomes with those of children from a top private school in Delhi," she recalls. It turned out that when the children relied only on the learning station, they achieved test scores of around 30%—statistically significant, considering they had zero prior knowl-

edge. When they had the assistance of the mediator, who had barely covered five chapters, their scores jumped to nearly 57%. The Delhi school students scored 70%. They had expert help, knew English, had internet access and their teachers had covered the entire syllabus. Also, they were 11th graders.

HiWEL is now looking to get the children to generate content as well. This led to an initiative called Content Co-Creation by Children in 2010. A pilot project was tried out with the school near HiWEL's Kalkaji office "At first, we thought nothing would come of it," says Meera S Dutta, Senior Project Manager in an NIIT research division. "But the kids proved adept at creating and using email IDs, Google gadgets and so on."

Minimally invasive education gives children unrestricted access to a computer and pushes them to share their learning with each other.

Next, the children were asked to document something important about the local culture. "They decided to cover the Budh Bazaar—weekly bazaar—in the area," she says. Armed with a camera and a set of questions, they interviewed traders.

Later, they sat down and captured it all on a computer, complete with photos. They even used Google's language tool to translate what they had written into English. While not perfect, the language is easily comprehensible to any English reader.

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

In the early days, a few of the learning stations were damaged due to heavy usage. "This sparked off a series of innovations by our team," explains Gupta. After some trial and error the company came

up with a durable solution. It protected the PCs with steel and polymer panels that could withstand vandalism as well as extreme climatic conditions. The keyboard is housed in a panel that not only deters theft but also discourages adults from using it. The touch-button mouse is a hardy piece of work with six buttons for left and right clicks as well as up/down/sideways movement.

It didn't end there. A simple switch initiates the start-up and shutdown processes, eliminating the need for a PC-literate caretaker. During power outages an automated power system shuts the machine and turns it on when needed. In addition, HiWEL has also developed a software that automatically shuts inactive windows and ensures the machine doesn't hang. Also, remote monitoring software enables the Kalkaji office to monitor usage at every learning station across the world.

NIIT still bankrolls all of HiWEL's costs. The subsidiary's annual turnover is in the region of ₹3 crore, with expenditure exceeding that by around 10%. "We hope to break even this year," says Gupta. The costs are largely incurred on monitoring and evaluation, research and development, and the salaries of the small team. Every learning station is paid for by the school, corporation or concerned government that sponsors it. Vendors who supply the PCs maintain them.

The price of a learning station is around ₹1.6 lakh (plus taxes). Going forward, the biggest challenge before HiWEL will be to bring down this steep price. "Our top priority will be to innovate and drive costs down," says Gupta, explaining the company's plans.

It's been a long, hard road, one that's taken the HiWEL team to remote parts of the India and the world. "Everywhere we go, whether it is in militancy-ridden areas of Kashmir or Naxal-infested Dantewada, we are welcomed," says Nitin Sharma, a project manager at HiWEL.

As Suhotra Banerjee, Head, Relations, puts it: "We are helping to bridge the digital divide between the children of haves and have-nots. That is a reward in itself."

Email us at business@outlookindia.com or SMS OLB-feedback at 575758 ■



The Week
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60 BUSINESS

Learning curve

Technology helps education take a giant leap

By Kumar Anshuman



ANSHUL SONAK

Company: Core Projects
Product: Virtual classroom; 3D augmented reality

It is biology period for class seven in Modern School, Barakhamba Road, Delhi. There is no blackboard in the classroom, but there is a projector and a white screen. Yes, it is not one of those conventional chalk-and-talk classrooms, and you realise that when the teacher enters the classroom and straightaway fires up the laptop on her table. She keys in her user ID and password and there comes the details of the chapter on the board. The topic is, what happens to the food we eat? An animated human body appears on the board and starts showing how the food goes through different systems and how it is digested.

Sam Pitroda, adviser to the Prime Minister on public information infrastructure and innovations, told THE WEEK a few months ago that, after telecom, the next revolution would be in education. "Ten to 15 years from now these schools and colleges won't exist," he said. "Students won't come to school or college for learning. Instead they will open their computer at home and attend a virtual

classroom." India, in fact, has already taken a step towards an education revolution, and Pitroda, who is working on establishing a national knowledge network linking all the universities in the country, must have noticed some of the action taking place in the sector. Many products and solutions are transforming teaching and learning.

Core Projects, an education solutions provider, for instance, has a 3D augmented reality lab in Navi Mumbai, which was created in collaboration with Center of Higher Learning, NASA. The lab can create simulations to make students experience what they have to learn. For example, to make them understand earthquake, the simulation will create the actual feeling of earthquake. "This is a big leap," said Anshul Sonak, president, Core Projects. "The growth of a country will depend on how you teach your coming generation, and augmented reality is the next big change." The company is working on taking this solution to classroom."

Technology took the driving seat in every aspect of human life in the past decade. This change, however, had not been that evident in the education sector. "The methods of teach-

NAVIN THANGIAH

Company: Pengala
Product: Web-based study materials



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ing and learning are the same age-old chalk and talk," said Abhinav Dhar, director, K-12 business operations, Educomp, an education solutions provider. "Disconnect between what the child does outside and inside classroom is clearly visible."

Educomp, which used to make computer labs in schools, developed Smart Class, a solution which allows classroom study to go paperless. The online access system allows every student to log in for their homework assignments and other projects. Even parents can log into the system to see how a child is doing. The solution tracks the number of visits by a child to a particular topic, which helps in determining his areas of interest.

NIIT, a pioneer in computer education, has an education solution called NGuru (earlier eGuru), which has features similar to Smart Class. "The work has become much easier now," said Neeta Rastogi, principal, Sadhu Vaswani International School for Girls, Delhi, who has installed NGuru in her school.

More importantly, students love it. "They are fresh and new to this and they adopt it faster than an adult," said Abraham Tharakan, head (design & delivery), School Learning Solutions, NIIT. "Learning was a task but it is

becoming fun with technology."

Students of higher classes are also getting a taste of the new technology. Pengala, an education solutions provider, is helping coaching institutes like Aakash Institute and Brilliant Tutorials in creating web-based study materials. "Platform is not very important," said Navin Thangiah, CEO, Pengala. "If the content is there it can be made available on any platform, be it the internet or capsule or DVD."

But what about the old-school teachers who have mastered the subject by teaching and learning for years? "Initially, they were not very keen on adding technology," said Gautam Sarkar, head of department of computer, Modern School. "But soon they realised that it will add to their expertise."

So is it going to be the end of schools as an institution, as Pitroda predicted? Not many people think so. "A child doesn't come to school only for classroom learning," said Rastogi. "He comes to school to become a civilised person, which happens only under the guidance of teachers and interaction with classmates, spending time here, doing teamwork."

Those behind this change in education are both motivated to bring in



ABRAHAM THARAKAN

Company: NIIT
Product: NGuru classroom solution

a difference and eyeing the big opportunity in the sector. Given below are some of them who act as change agents in this transformation.

ABHINAV DHAR
DIRECTOR, K-12 BUSINESS OPERATIONS, EDUCOMP

When he started with fixing computer labs in schools ten years ago, they were big things. "Schools used to highlight it in their prospectus," said Dhar. In 2002, he developed Smart Class, a complete classroom education solution. Today, 7,500 schools use it. "Ten to fifteen schools sign every day," he said.

Smart Class enables teachers to use digital resources such as graphics, animation, 3D images and video clips in teaching. The solution also allows the student and parents to log into the network from home. Dhar got the idea while teaching his own kids. He loved drawing pictures and sketches to make his kids understand the subject. "I thought if we do it like virtual reality and package it for students, it will be much easier for them to study," he said.

Dhar predicts that in future no student will carry school bags. There will be a hand-held device, which will solve all the needs and methods of teaching.




ABRAHAM THARAKAN
HEAD (DESIGN & DELIVERY),
SCHOOL LEARNING SOLUTIONS, NIIT

Tharakan started with teaching computer in the early days of NIIT. Over the years he worked with different division in the firm. "The one common thing I found everywhere is the disconnect between what we learn in schools and what we apply to work," he said. This was the seed for the development of NGuru, a classroom education solution.

"There are a lot of people involved in the development of a solution like this," said Tharakan. "Right from teachers, software programmers to animation experts, it requires a collaborative effort." Today, 1,000 schools across the country use his solution. But Tharakan said technology could not replace teachers. "Technology just helps in increasing the geographical boundaries of the classroom and take it home," he said.

PRABIND SINGH
CEO, IBERRY SOLUTIONS

Prabind Singh turned iBerry Solutions, a company he started with



PRABIND SINGH
 Company: iBerry Solutions
 Products: EdBook, EdBoard

a seed capital of Rs 6 crore, into a Rs 100-crore entity in three years. He was working for an IT company before that and tried new methods there to make its IT infrastructure better. This encouraged him to develop something on his own.

"Every second person was doing something on the IT industry or the web site," said Prabind. "I wanted to do something different which will not get older with time." This 'something different' turned out to be a notebook for students which he named EdBook. EdBook looks like a netbook, but is programmed for academic purpose and has e-learning content through embedded software. Later he launched EdBoard, a plasma board with touchscreen facility and inbuilt speaker, for classrooms. He is planning to introduce a tablet EdBook by the end of the year.

NAVIN THANGIAH
CEO, PENGALA

An avid biker, Thangiah met Pradeep Singh, founder of Aditi Technologies, on a cycling trip. Back from the US, Singh was thinking of doing something in the education field. They had a long discussion, and Thangiah soon resigned from his job and joined as CEO of Pengala last September.

Their idea was to enable delivery of education through technology. "We translated this into mission statement—change the way India learns," said Thangiah. The next big question was the content and the level of education. They decided to cater to the higher classes and coaching institutes, and joined hands with institutes like Brilliant Tutorials and Aakash Institute. "They are experts in their content and we provided a new platform for them as well as students to access the content anywhere by logging into the system." Thangiah plans to expand it to all levels of education with more interactive solutions.

ANSHUL SONAK
PRESIDENT, CORE PROJECTS

An alumnus of the Institute of Rural Management, Anand, Sonak has a



ABHINAV DHAR
 Company: Educomp
 Product: Smart Class

flair for education and social development. This flair took him to NIIT, where he worked on education projects. "That was technology in education 1.0 era where these companies were providing computers to school," he said. After that he handled education portfolio for Intel in the technology in education 2.0 era—as he calls it—where companies started using technology as a complementary tool in the education system.

In February Sonak joined Core Projects and started taking technology in education forward. He calls it technology in education 3.0, where the concept of virtual classroom is gaining ground. His team is working on taking Core Cave, the 3D augmented reality, to classroom through virtual reality model in a box. "It is sad for the parents and students that they don't get admission in colleges of their choice despite scoring more than 90 per cent," he said. "We are emphasising on a system of psychometric system of measuring students' capabilities in order to be fair." The work has already started and he is confident that the rules of the game will change forever. ■


The Times of India
Ahmedabad, August 01, 2011

SPEAK

ROHIT GUPTA

Student of second year MBA, NIIT University



CHINA DIARY

Completing one year at NIIT University, Rohit Gupta, a second year MBA student who went to China as part of an immersion programme, shares his experience

I received an email from NIIT University for admission in MBA, after I had applied to it a year ago. Then, I was still preparing for my last semester of Bachelor's in Business Administration (BBA). At that time, I wasn't sure of taking an admission in this university since it had just started and also because money was at stake. But somewhere, I felt that I could trust my instincts, which turned out to be a big encouragement for me to apply to the university.

In my first year of MBA, I discovered my true strength. Throughout my course, I stood first in my class. I studied marketing, organisational behaviour, quantitative techniques, product and operation management, among other subjects.

I learnt a lot through the mentorship programme we have. Under this programme, we are allowed to choose our own mentor who is from the industry. I have two mentors. As per the programme, students meet their mentors who guide them by giving industry insights and talk to them about future career options.

In our third trimester, we had an option of taking up the immersion programme, which I did. As part of this programme, we went to China for 22 days. Initially, I wasn't excited about the trip but everything changed as soon as I landed in China. During our trip, we went to four places—Beijing, Nanjing, Wuxi and Shanghai. The trip gave me a good exposure along with an overview of the country—its culture and business models that are followed. I also went for industry visits.

In course of my four days at Beijing, we met the Indian ambassador and asked many questions related to economy and business. I also got an opportunity to visit

the office of Microsoft here.

Our next stop was Nanjing. We spent eight days here at the Nanjing University of Finance and Economics. We attended a seminar on market environment and development of enterprises in China, which gave me an insight into the Chinese economy and its culture and also how the markets work. We visited the office of Jishan Lighting Technology Co Ltd.

The food was a bit of a problem but we managed. I think people in India have a perception that the Chinese are not very friendly, but whenever I wanted to find out something, any random person on the streets of China was eager to help.

After Nanjing, we went to the industrial hub of China, Wuxi as part of our industrial visit. We went to a few companies like Suntech, whose growth and infrastructure left me astonished.

After visiting three places in China, our final destination was Shanghai. We had guest lectures lined up. We also met the chairman of Infosys, China branch, at the Infosys office in Shanghai. Other offices we visited here included Evalveserve and NIIT, China.

On our last day in China, my group had to make a presentation on 'The influence of Chinese society, culture and tradition on business practices and employee behaviour in China today.' We were applauded after our presentation and it felt good.

Now that I am back in India, I have to submit a report on 'How Chinese consumers have become more pragmatic and demanding over the years.' I am still working on it. As to my future plans, I want to specialise in marketing and I want to put into practice whatever I learnt in China.

- As told to Aaditi Isaac



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June 27, 2011



INDIA'S TOP PROFESSIONAL COLLEGES CORPORATES IN EDUCATION

Students at NIIT University's 'green campus' in the Aravallis

The Satchel Fits The Bottomline

India Inc is investing in higher education in a big way. And profit isn't the only motive.

by Lola Nayar

IT'S a step up from setting up those fancy baccalaureate high schools. Over the past few years, the big boys of corporate India—Mahindra, Jindal, Jaiprakash, Adani—have entered the field of higher education. Wipro, HCL and GMR are among those set to commence academic sessions this year (even as their campuses are under construction). Yet others, like Reliance and HCC, are waiting for clearances—besides acquiring land—before they embark on setting up universities and colleges on the mega scale.

While the idea of corporate India investing in higher education is far from new (BITS Pilani was set up in the 1960s by the Birlas), times have changed. So has the scale and ambition. For instance, infrastructure and professional groups are now

in the fray, with some like GMR, HCC and Marg Swarnabhoomi even forging foreign collaborations. Globally, academicians are noticing. "During recent trips to India, I was greatly heartened to see that many of the business houses are determined to create educational institutions built around the importance of the



INDIA'S TOP PROFESSIONAL COLLEGES CORPORATES IN EDUCATION

liberal arts," says Prof Homi K. Bhabha, director, Humanities Center, Harvard.

But ask corporate India and they play it down. "It's not as if there is a rush, but some of the leading corporate are setting up universities which are certainly not run-of-the-mill," says Shobha Mishra Ghosh, director, FICCI. The caution is understandable: it takes time to set up a university, given the long procedures of getting permissions and recognition. Acquisition of land is an issue too. But given the demand-supply gap, the overall environment is benign.

In particular, what's helping is enabling legislations in states like Haryana, Rajasthan, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, etc which will provide greater autonomy in the operation of the university, including designing of courses. Thus, from creating faculty cadre, governance skill-sets, keen focus on research and innovation to infrastructure development, a new breed of universities is

evolving. What does the trend hold for the higher education sector? More importantly, what does it mean for the industry and companies hunting for the right mix of talent and employable skills in graduates and post-graduates?

A joint study by NASSCOM and McKinsey in 2005 had estimated that only 25 per cent of engineering graduates were found employable by MNCs. Pointing to more recent studies, Rajendra S. Pawar, founder of NIIT University (NU), says, "The employability of engineering students in India for IT products is as low as 4 per cent and for IT services it's 18 per cent. At NIIT University, we wanted to establish a new model in higher education which would provide industry-linked, holistic education to its students, making them global professionals."

In terms of infrastructure, these universities and colleges are better than most of their government-run counterparts. But as far as faculty is concerned, most of them don't necessarily score, feels Shalini S. Sharma of the CII. That is because they have not understood that

swanky infrastructure is not enough (though it does help while charging higher fees). It is to be seen how many among the new universities will deliver on the faculty front as that is what helps some like BITS Pilani, Manipal University and Symbiosis stand apart.

Some among the new entrants come with a strong philanthropic and educational base and are looking to make a socio-economic difference. Saurav Adhikari, president (corporate strategy), HCL, and senior advisor, Shiv Nadar Foundation, reveals that their Greater Noida-



SANJAY RAWAT

Construction work on at HCL's Shiv Nadar University in Greater Noida near Delhi

based university will select meritorious children with limited means "to nurture leadership rather than just fill job vacancies". The objective is to make the students 'change leaders' in their hometown/community. Set to begin operations with the launch of a school of engineering this academic year, the university will roll out other branches, including in business, humanities, natural sciences and social sciences, in coming years.

The Azim Premji University in Bangalore too has a broad vision to create social-change leaders through education. As Dileep Ranjekar, CEO, Azim Premji Foundation, puts it, "This is the only university in the world focusing entirely on education and development domains." Set to commence operation in the coming session, the university with a 350-strong faculty will offer post graduation courses in education, development and teachers' education besides providing support to 12 state institutes and 50 district institutes for learning and development. It will also operate 100 demonstration schools.

Calorx Teachers' University in Gujarat, set up by Delhi Public School founder Manjula Pooja Shroff, is another institute focusing on education research and development (it's tied up with the University of Georgia) to create a cadre of quality teachers. Similarly, graduating from industrial training through its associate company Centum Learning, telecom major Bharti is giving management courses via tie-ups with other varsities.

Unhappy with the technology exposure and lack of practical experience imparted to students in most of the medical insti-

"OURS WILL BE A NEW MODEL, PROVIDING INDUSTRY-LINKED, HOLISTIC EDUCATION TO MAKE STUDENTS GLOBAL PROFESSIONALS."



Rajendra S. Pawar
NIIT



INDIA'S TOP PROFESSIONAL COLLEGES CORPORATES IN EDUCATION

UP AND COMING...



WIPRO Azim Premji University: Set to begin operations with a 350-strong faculty. To offer post-graduate courses in education, development and teachers' education.

NIIT NIIT University: Set up in 2009 in Neemrana, it offers programmes from bachelors to doctoral courses in engineering and management.

APJEEVA Apeejay Stya University: Started in 2010 from a sprawling complex on Sohna road near Gurgaon in Haryana. Focus on academics with major research thrust.

HCL Shiv Nadar University: Aiming to create change leaders by nurturing meritorious students from economically weak backgrounds.

ADANI Adani Institute of Infra Management: This Ahmedabad-based institute offers post-graduate courses for upgrading management skills.

RELIANCE Reliance: Plans multi-disciplinary university in Maharashtra with initial investment of Rs 500 cr. Also on the cards: engineering college and polytechnic institute in Gujarat.

tutes, Max Healthcare is also planning to set up a university—in a tie-up with Harvard Medical School—to offer a range of courses to improve hospital, emergency and first-level care. "In the absence of trained personnel, we are already training emergency medical technicians and paramedical staff," reveals executive director Dr Dilpreet Brar.

CONSTRAINED by the task of improving and promoting school education—an estimated 80 per cent of the government budgetary support goes for it—there's hardly enough funds to support colleges/university

programmes. This has resulted in private sector already catering to roughly 50 per cent of the student population at the higher education level. Needless to say, quality remains a casualty in most private institutes.

Given the legal entry barriers, most companies are launching their higher education ventures through trusts or not-for-profit arms, which means ploughing back the returns. Education experts, however, stress that everyone is not going the Wipro way (Azim Premji has pledged Rs 10,000 crore to fund the foundation activities). That means the institutes have to be self-sustaining after the first infusion of capital. Experts point out that, unfortunately, the model for most has been to generate resources more through student fees, unlike in the West, where this has a much lower share.

Admitting that cynicism arises out of the excessive profit orientation of the corporate sector, Ranjekar states, "The reality is that no educational institution (other than those running professional courses) in the world can be operated on a profitable basis relying only on student fees. Even Harvard Business School has an endowment of close to \$32 billion." There are expectations that the passage

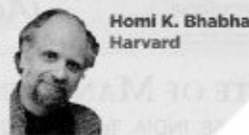
of some of the pending higher education sector legislations (Foreign Educational Institute Regulation, Prohibition of Unfair Practices, National Accreditation Regulation Authority, Educational Tribunals Bill) will cleanse the system and allow "corporates to enter in a clean way".

Blaming the legislative framework for the two-decade-long gestation in their plans to set up a university, Aditya Berlia, pro-chancellor of Apeejay Stya University, is happy that the Haryana government statute in 2010 finally paved way for them to start operations with considerable academic and operational freedom. "This is a university, not a high school...which means you choose the subjects that interest you. There are no boundaries between different fields," underlines Berlia.

Innovation and research, an area in which India has been lagging, is the key mantra then of many new players. There is eagerness among many, including Reliance, to be part of the government's plans to promote innovation universities. Expectations that the government may expand the scheme (to set up 14 innovation institutes in the 12th Plan (2012-17) focusing on different areas of R&D) to include the private sector has led to some announcing high-end universities. At the recently held AGM, Mukesh Ambani announced plans to set up a world-class multi-disciplinary university in Maharashtra under the umbrella of the Reliance Foundation, with an initial planned contribution of Rs 500 crore from RIL.

Another slowly emerging trend is of corporate universities—like those started globally by GE, Goldman Sachs, P&G and Coca-Cola among others. "The concept is at a very nascent stage. At L&T, we are trying to create enabling factors to match industry demands," reveals M.S. Krishnamoorthy, executive senior vice-president. The infrastructure major is firming up plans to scale up its training unit at Lonavala "to converge into a corporate university at a later date". The list of corporates waiting in the wings is long. One just hopes the brand conscious among them will deliver on quality too. ■

"I AM GLAD THAT MANY CORPORATE HOUSES WANT TO CREATE SCHOOLS BUILT AROUND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LIBERAL ARTS."



Homi K. Bhabha
Harvard



The Hindu
Coimbatore, July 05, 2011

Students try their best moves against Anand

Rayan Rozario

COIMBATORE: A game with the world champion always brings great joy and contentment. Fourteen students landed with such a rare opportunity while clashing with world chess champion Viswanathan Anand at the Sri Ramakrishna Engineering College (SREC) here on Monday.

The students, barring a couple of them, were from SREC and Sri Ramakrishna Institute of Technology. Most of them had represented the game at various levels. But locking horns with Anand had always been their dream. So when the opportunity came their way they doubled their efforts in working out fresh strategies to upset the calculations of the world champion. But, expectedly, Anand brushed aside all those challenges with consummate ease.

Anand proved he is the king when it comes to playing rapid chess by knocking out his young opponents one by one. The huge crowd that had gathered at the auditorium enjoyed the flashy moves of the great master.

"It was just fun to play with them. I tried to win every game. I found some of them to be very strong. They also play at a very high level," said Anand.

"It was also nice to play in



DREAM COME TRUE: World Chess Champion and Brand Ambassador of NIIT Viswanathan Anand plays chess with students at Sri Ramakrishna Engineering College in the city on Monday. - PHOTO: M. PERIASAMY

front of a strong audience that cheered my moves. It was exciting and I must admit that I enjoyed playing an hour of chess," he added.

"I am playing with Anand for the first time. I was feeling nervous but I enjoyed as well," said B. Preethi, a class six student of Bharathi MHSS.

Tamil Nadu's fast rising youngster and international star V.S. Rathavel, a class five student of Stanes AIHSS, came out with some dicey moves to trap the experi-

enced world star. But Anand quietly returned the favour.

He also had words of advice for the student community. "When a player wants to improve how does he go about? He travels distances to meet people and keeps upgrading his skills. But it's a different story now. Everything is online. And, you need to switch seamlessly to learn different things."

Later, he spoke about his plans of defending his world title with Belarus born Israeli chess Grand Master Boris

Gelfand. "It's happening only next year. So, it's too early to plan anything. The venue is to be decided and there are other things as well. Everything is expected to be finalised by this month end," said Anand.

He said a three-month intensive training is sufficient to defend the crown.

"I have played with Boris before. I think the last time we clashed was in 1989. We have not played much, but we are kind of close friends. But once the clash begins it will be tricky."



The Hindu
Coimbatore, July 05, 2011

NIIT launches first in-campus programme to offer global professional life skills

Staff Reporter

COIMBATORE: NIIT Limited launched South India's first NIIT Careers@Campus, an in-campus programme for higher education institutions, here on Monday.

Unveiled in association with the SNR Sons Charitable Trust, the programme will be offered to 4,500 students studying in the institutions of the Trust - Sri Ramakrishna Engineering College (SREC) and Sri Ramakrishna Institute of Technology (SRIT).

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) to this effect was signed by C. Soundararaj, Managing Trustee of the Trust, and G. Raghavan, Chief Executive, Career Building Solutions, NIIT Limited, in the presence of world chess champion and NIIT Brand Ambassador Viswanathan Anand.

The MoU will entail 'providing global professional life skills to students in the classrooms using technology to enhance their employability.'

Addressing media persons after the exchange of the MoU, Mr. Raghavan said the employability enhancing programmes are designed to be delivered to undergraduate students in the campuses itself.

Elaborating the new format of NIIT, he added: "Expert faculty will deliver lectures and other content from the studios situated in various places in India. This will be telecast via satellite to the 51 classrooms in SREC and 26 in SRIT. These will be



VIRTUAL CLASSROOMS: C. Soundararaj (second from left), managing trustee of SNR Sons Charitable Trust and G. Raghavan (second from right), Chief Executive of Career Building Solutions, NIIT Limited, exchanging documents of an MoU at Sri Ramakrishna Engineering College in Coimbatore on Monday. World chess champion and brand ambassador of NIIT Viswanathan Anand (right), is in the picture. - PHOTO: M. PERIASAMY

made centres of excellence by converting them into synchronous learning technology classrooms."

Experts would deal with technology courses, hands-on practical laboratory content, and soft skills, to encompass the global professional life skills. Programmes would be staggered over six semesters out of the total eight and would initially be for 300 hours. The content and duration would, however, remain flexible, according to Mr. Raghavan.

Students would be as-

essed at the end of each semester. On course completion, students would receive a certificate.

While it was looking at more such partnerships in other parts of the State and country, NIIT would be selective in choice as it would be based on the quality of institutions.

Mr. Soundararaj said students of both the colleges would get an opportunity to be exposed to an enriched academic content and at the same time get equipped with the latest modern technolo-

gies in learning through VSAT. Mr. Viswanathan Anand said that the synchronous technology learning classrooms would aim to make education an enriching experience. Satellite-enabled teaching and learning would give the students the advantage of gaining knowledge from various places.

R. Vijayakumhar, Joint Managing Trustee, R. Joseph Xavier, principal of SRIT, R. Radhakrishnan, Principal of SREC, and A. Ebenezer Jeyakumar, Director (Academics), were present.



The Times of India
Coimbatore, July 05, 2011

Master awes students with his moves

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Coimbatore: While people watched in awe, world chess champion and grandmaster Viswanathan Anand maneuvered from one chess table to another with the same ease with which he moves his pawns. His opponents, who assembled at Sri Ramakrishna Engineering College auditorium on Monday, however, found the going tougher as they pondered over their moves.

It was a dream come true for 14 students who participated in the match against the grandmaster.

For V S Rathnavel and Prithi B, studying in their class five and six respectively, it was a game they would remember forever.

"I had always dreamt about playing against him," said Rathnavel, a student of Stanes Higher Secondary School. Rathnavel has represented India at the last edition of the Asian Youth Chess Competition held at Beijing (China) and is set to participate at the upcoming edi-



GENIUS AT PLAY: Viswanathan Anand playing chess with students at the Sree Ramakrishna Group of Educational Institutions in Coimbatore on Monday

tion to be held in Philippines.

"I was a bit nervous to start with but it turned out to be an exciting experience. It was amazing to note how fast he was making his moves," he added.

"Though I could play only 23 moves I learned how to play certain moves," said Prithi B, a student of Bharathi Ma-

tricolation School.

Though it was mostly easy going for Anand, there were a few who puzzled the champion a bit.

"For a while, the game was going pretty well. He paused near my table for a few seconds longer than usual. One small mistake and the game was over for me," said Sachin Raj, a student of Sri Ramakrishna Engineering College.

After the game Anand said that all the students made some impressive moves. He urged everyone to utilize the existing technology to improve their skills.

A brand ambassador of NIIT, Anand was in the city in connection with the signing of a memorandum of understanding between NIIT and Sri Ramakrishna Group of Educational Institutions. He launched the NIIT careers at the campus, a programme that aims to enhance employability prospects of undergraduate students.

tolcoimbatore@timesgroup.com



Dina Malar
Coimbatore, July 06, 2011

அறிவுத் தேடல் வாழ்க்கையை வளப்படுத்தும்

துடியலூர், ஜூலை 6 -
"அறிவுத்தேடல் வாழ்க்கையை வளப்படுத்தும்," என 'செஸ்' சாம்பியன் விஸ்வநாதன் ஆனந்த் பேசினார்.

துடியலூர் அருகே வட்டமலை பாளையத்தில் உள்ள ராமகிருஷ்ண இன்ஜினியரிங் கல்லூரி மற்றும் என்.ஐ.ஐ.டி., நிறுவனத்தின் இடையே 'கேரியர் கேம்பஸ்' என்ற தலைப்பில் புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தம் கையெழுத்தானது. இத்திட்டத்தின் படி, ராமகிருஷ்ண இன்ஜினியரிங் கல்லூரி வளாகத்தில் மாணவ, மாணவியருக்கு பணி வாய்ப்பு மேம்பாட்டு திட்ட பயிற்சி அளிக்கப்படும். இதில், தலைமை பண்பு, தகவல் தொடர்பு திறன், நேர்முகத் தேர்வுகளை எதிர் கொள்வது உள்ளிட்ட பல்வேறு பயிற்சிகள் அளிக்கப்பட உள்ளன.

இத்திட்டத்தை செஸ் சாம்பியன் விஸ்வநாதன் ஆனந்த் துவக்கி வைத்து பேசுகையில், "கல்வி அல்லது விளையாட்டு எதுவாக இருந்தாலும் அதில் புதிய, புதிய விஷயங்களை தினமும் கற்றுக் கொள்ள வேண்டும். அதற்கான முயற்சியில் தினமும் ஈடுபட வேண்டும்."

"இன்றைய சூழ்நிலையில் அனுபவம் வாய்ந்த நபர்களுடன் எனிடில் தொடர்பு கொள்ள வசதி

'செஸ்' சாம்பியன் விஸ்வநாதன் ஆனந்த் பேசுக



துடியலூர் வட்டமலைபாளையத்தில் உள்ள ராமகிருஷ்ண இன்ஜினியரிங் கல்லூரியில் நடந்த செஸ் போட்டியை சர்வதேச செஸ் சாம்பியன் விஸ்வநாதன் ஆனந்த் பார்வையிட்டார்.

உள்ளது. இன்றைய மாணவர்கள் இதை நன்கு பயன்படுத்திக் கொள்ள வேண்டும்," என்றார்.

இந்நிகழ்ச்சியில், ராமகிருஷ்ண இன்ஜினியரிங் கல்லூரி நிர்வாக இயக்குனர் சவுந்திரராஜன், இணை

நிர்வாக இயக்குனர் விஜயகுமார், கல்லூரி முதல்வர் ராதாகிருஷ்ணன், ஜோசப் சேவியர், என்.ஐ.ஐ.டி., நிறுவன தலைமை நிர்வாகி ராகவன் உள்ளிட்டோர் பங்கேற்றனர்.



Kongu Nadu
Coimbatore, July 06, 2011



பயிற்சி திட்டம் அறிமுக விழாவில் கலந்து கொண்டவர்களை படத்தில் காணலாம்.

என்.ஐ.ஐ.டி. வழங்கும் பணி வாய்ப்பு மேம்பாட்டுத் திறன் பயிற்சி திட்டம்

கோவை : சர்வதேச அளவில் கம்ப்யூட்டர் பயிற்சி நிறுவனமாக விளங்கும் என்.ஐ.ஐ.டி. நிறுவனம், இள நிலைப் பட்டம் படிக்கும் மாணவர்களுக்கு அவர்களின் கல்லூரி வளாகத் திலேயே வேலை வாய்ப்பு பணி மேம்பாட்டுத் திறன் பயிற்சிகளை வழங்கி வருகிறது.

என்.ஐ.ஐ.டி. கேரியர்ஸ் மற்றும் கேம்பஸ் என்றழைக்கப்படும் இந்த திட்டம் கோவை ராமகிருஷ்ணா என்ஜினியரிங் கல்லூரி மற்றும் ராமகிருஷ்ணா இன்ஸ்டிடியூட் ஆகிய கல்லூரிகளில் அறிமுகப்படுத்தப்பட்டது.

உலக செஸ் விளையாட்டு சாம்பியன் விஸ்வநாதன் ஆனந்த் இந்த திட்டத்தைத் தொடங்கி வைத்தார்.

திட்ட அறிமுக விழாவில், எஸ்.என். ஆர். அறக்கட்டளையின் நிர்வாக அறங்காவலர்கள் சவுந்திர

ராஜன், விஜயகுமார், கல்வியியல் இயக்குனர் எபனேசர் ஜெயக்குமார், ராமகிருஷ்ணா என்ஜினியரிங் கல்லூரி முதல்வர் ராதாகிருஷ்ணன், ராமகிருஷ்ணா இன்ஸ்டிடியூட் முதல்வர் ஜோசப் சேவியர், என்.ஐ.ஐ.டி. நிறுவனத்தின் வாழ்க்கைத் தொழில் கட்டமைப்புத் தீர்வுகள் பிரிவின் தலைமை நிர்வாகி ராகவன் ஆகியோர் கலந்து கொண்டனர். இந்த திட்டம் குறித்து என்.ஐ.ஐ.டி. நிர்வாகி ராகவன் கூறுகையில், "தொழில்துறை தேவைப்பாடுகளை மனதில் கொண்டு உருவாக்கப்பட்டுள்ள இந்த பணி வாய்ப்பு மேம்பாட்டுத் திட்டங்கள் பாடக் கல்வி மற்றும் தொழில்துறை தேவைப்பாடு ஆகியவைகளுக்கு இடையில் உள்ள இடைவெளியை குறைப்பதை நோக்கமாகக் கொண்டு உருவாக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது" என்றார்.



Dinamani
Coimbatore, July 05, 2011

100-வது சதம்: லண்டனில் சச்சின் தீவிர பயிற்சி

லண்டன், ஜூலை 4: இந்திய அணியின் நட்சத்திர வீரர் சச்சின் டெண்டுல்கர் லண்டனில் தீவிர பயிற்சியில் ஈடுபட்டுள்ளார்.

இந்தியா - இங்கிலாந்து இடையிலான கிரிக்கெட் தொடர் ஜூலை 21-ல் தொடங்குகிறது. இதில் தனது 100-வது சதத்தை பதிவு செய்யும் முனைப்புடன் சச்சின் பயிற்சி செய்து வருகிறார். சச்சின் டெஸ்ட் போட்டியில் 51 சதங்களையும், ஒருநாள் போட்டியில் 48 சதங்களையும் விளாசியுள்ளார். எனவே அடுத்து அவர் அடிப்பது 100-வது சதுராக அமையும். இச்சாதனையை இங்கிலாந்து அணிக்கு எதிரான முதல் டெஸ்ட் போட்டியிலேயே படைக்க வேண்டும் என்பது ரசிகர்களின் எதிர்பார்ப்பாகவும் உள்ளது. முதல் டெஸ்ட் லண்டன் லார்ட்ஸ் மைதானத்தில் ஜூலை 21-ல் தொடங்குகிறது. இப்போது மனைவி அஞ்சலி, மகன் அர்ஜூன், மகள் சாரா ஆகியோருடன் சச்சின் லண்டனில் தங்கியுள்ளார். அங்குள்ள மார்லேபோன் கிரிக்கெட் கிளப் மைதானத்தில், தனது மகனுக்கு போட்டி பயிற்சி அளித்து வருகிறார். லார்ட்ஸ் மைதானம் அருகே உள்ள தனக்கு சொந்தமான வீட்டில் தங்கி இருக்கும் அவர், கடந்த சில நாட்களாக தீவிரமாக பயிற்சியில் ஈடுபட்டுள்ளார்.

முன்னதாக கடந்த வாரத்தில் லண்டனில் நடைபெற்ற விவரிடன் டெர்னிஸ் போட்டியையும் சச்சின் நேரில் சென்று பார்த்தார். அப்போது ரோஜர் பெரரை அவர் சந்தித்துப் பேசினார் என்பது நினைவுகூரத்தக்கது. இந்திய அணி இங்கிலாந்து எதிராக 4 டெஸ்ட் 1 இருபது ஓவர்கள் போட்டி 5 ஒருநாள் போட்டியில் விளையாடவுள்ளது.

இளைய தலைமுறைக்கு ஊக்கம்...



கோவை பூநீ ராமகிருஷ்ணா பொறியியல் கல்லூரியில் திங்கள்கிழமை நடைபெற்ற ஒரு நிகழ்ச்சிக்கு வருகை தந்த உலக செஸ் சாம்பியன் விஸ்வநாதன் ஆனந்த், சிறப்பு நிகழ்ச்சியாக ஒரே நேரத்தில் 16 மாணவ மாணவிகளுடன் செஸ் விளையாடினார்.



Hindustan Times
Patna, July 09, 2011

Vishy launches NIIT Nguru

CHESSBOARD TALENT The company initiates mind game activity in 400 schools in state

Anil Kumar
anil.kumar@hindustantimes.com

PATNA: Deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi on Friday advised youngsters to take up playing chess, in addition to outdoor games, as it helped in improving analytical skills and sharpness of mind.

Speaking as the chief guest at a function, organised to award the national winners of NIIT Mind Champions Academy—Chess Master 2011, Modi said, "It is a commonly held belief, that those who are good in physics and maths are also good in the game of chess, while those who are good in physics, chemistry and maths are good at computers. The reason behind it being, that both require analytical skills and sharpness of mind."

The game of chess, besides being interesting and absorbing, does not demand big space or money.

"It is within the reach of all," Modi said, while thanking NIIT for their pioneering effort in promoting the game in the backwaters of Bihar. He also



Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand with the winners of NIIT Mind Champions Academy—Chess Master 2011, in Patna on Friday.

welcomed world chess champion Viswanathan Anand and thanked him for sparing his time to inspire youngsters of Bihar.

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solutions to 9 million students in 14,000 public and private schools in the country, he added. "We are happy to announce the launch of NIIT Nguru at the hands of NIIT Mind Champion Viswanathan Anand in Bihar, which is a focus state for us," Sethi said adding, "Unlike our competitors, it will cater to the entire education needs of all stakeholders—students, teachers, schools and parents." To expand our reach, we will also reach out to private schools in tier 3 and tier 4 cities and select states for tying up with government schools, he said.

Modi and Anand, the special guest, handed over the prize to the national champion Mahasweta Kumar of Assam and Mukul Kumar, the runners up, a student of GD International School, Muzaffarpur.

But the award ceremony could not have been complete without an exchange of "moves" between the deputy-CM and the World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand on the glass chessboard.

Grandmaster's special date with students of DAV School



The enthusiastic DAV students and guests click special moments with chess whiz Viswanathan Anand, in Patna on Friday.



AP DUBE / HT PHOTOS

PATNA: He came, he inaugurated and he conquered. The world chess champion had a special date with boys and girls of DAV BSEB on Friday.

Anand unveiled a Nguru interactive, state-of-art classroom at the school. "The programme launched by NIIT will help classroom study environment become

more interactive and enjoyable for both students and teachers alike. And at the same time it will ease the burden on children," said Anand, while talking about

the new programme at the school. Nguru is a technology enabled classroom solution that revolutionises teaching and learning.

Principal Ramanuj Prasad expressed his happiness over the new launch by NIIT that aims at making study a fun-filled experience.



Hindustan Times
Patna, July 09, 2011



Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand (L) with NIIT national chess champions and deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi in Patna on Friday.
» RELATED REPORTS, P3 AP DUBE / HT PHOTO

Bihar has changed, but needs to invest in children: Anand

Dipti Raman
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PATNA: The world chess champion is "happy to be back in Bihar after two long years".

Though he feels Bihar has changed for the better, he wants "the state to invest more in children".

In Patna to award the winners of the NIIT Nguru mind champions on Friday, Viswanathan Anand, the champion sportsperson of India who has put the country in the big league of individual world sports, said, "The state also needs to plan big for infrastructure for development and sustain the momentum by investing in children."

He was quick to add, "It really feels great to be back to witness the change."

Asked whether he was satisfied with the status of chess as a sport in the country, Anand said the game, of late, had started receiving the attention and recognition it deserved.

"The situation now is much better and I am happy with the

The situation now is much better and I am happy with the number of children taking up chess as a sport and career

VISWANATHAN ANAND

number of children taking up chess as a sport and career," he said. He commended the role of NIIT in helping discover young chess talent by developing in them love for the game at an early age.

Taking the question of cricket overshadowing chess and other sports, he said he was fully dedicated to chess and searching for and giving chance to new talents for the future of the game.

Talking about his preparations for the 2012 World Chess Championships, the grandmaster said once the time and venue were fixed, he would totally focus on preparations. "In the meantime, I'll be playing three-four rapid chess tournaments," said Anand.



Lokmat Times
Nagpur, July 08, 2011

5 lakh take part in NIIT's national chess tourney

LOKMAT NEWS SERVICE

NAGPUR

July 7: With the aim of popularising the game of chess among youths, well known computer education institute NIIT has set up the Mind Champion Academy in collaboration with world chess champion Vishwanathan Anand.

The Academy is now eight-year-old and recently its national-level annual championship witnessed a participation of whopping five lakh students from across the country.

This was disclosed by NIIT general manager Debdash Banerjee during a courtesy visit to Lokmat Bhavan, along with Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand on Thursday. They were welcomed by chairman of Lokmat Media Limited and MP Vijay Darda.

Banerjee said that the Academy today has more than a million students from different Indian schools and have formed more than 11,000 Chess



Debdash Banerjee

clubs across the nation in the past eight years. "It has become a movement of sorts for us," he asserted adding that around 90 per cent of the members of the Academy are from rural areas.

"There are many organisations promoting Chess but reaching out to talent in rural areas was our priority," explained divisional manager (Teachers train-

ing) Jaya Chakraborty, who accompanied Banerjee. She also informed about a recent tie-up between the NIIT and the IGNOU for the first of its kind certification programme in proficiency in the game of Chess.

Speaking about other educational endeavours of NIIT, Banerjee informed that having made its presence felt in 44 countries over three decades, the institute wanted to do something unique in the field of education. "The thought of making learning more easy through computer applications germinated and became their next mission. Using ICT as a tool, they started working with the State government to introduce computer technology as a teaching aid, he said.

He also revealed that around 1,500 private schools across India have also joined hands with the NIIT in computerising teaching methods.



Lokmat Times
Nagpur, July 08, 2011

Enjoy chess, Anand to kids



World chess champion Vishwanathan Anand playing chess simultaneously with the students of School of Scholars during his one-day visit to the city on Thursday.

LOKMAT NEWS SERVICE

NAGPUR

July 7: "One can achieve the success in any game including chess if he enjoys it. The students have an opportunity to make their career in chess", said World chess champion Vishwanathan Anand.

He was in the city to attend the function organised by NIIT at School of Scholars, Wanadongri on Thursday.

Anand who visited the city to popularise the game said he taught the importance of the game to the students of North India. The game is already popular in South India, Maharashtra and West Bengal and he is trying to popularise it in North East area.

While stressing an importance of chess to the students, he said the game of chess helps to enhance the concentration level and ultimately it helps in study also.

Anand further revealed that he is targeting to meet as many as 11,000 students this year to attract them towards chess.

About his successor, Anand said, "I know the media as well as chess lovers are worried about the successor after my retirement, I am not in a hurry to call it a day. There are lot of talented chess players in India and I have great expectations from Koneru Humpy and Dronawali Harika in future".

About All India Chess Federations proposal to hold World championship in Chennai, Anand said he will be very happy to play in Chennai and it will be a huge boost to the chess in India. You will get lot of support while playing in own country but at the same time the challenge will be tough and I wouldn't say all will be favourable for me".

About his own performance, Anand said for last three to four years his performance is good and he would like to maintain consistency in future also.

Anand further said, "As compared to other games, cricket is very popular game in India. I am also aware about the fact that chess will not get that status in one night. It requires a movement to popularise the game in India".

Anand also criticised those people who compare him with master blaster Sachin Tendulkar. "It is very wrong to make such comparison. He plays cricket and I chess".

When asked about his memorable match, Anand said last year's match with Toplov was a hard fought and difficult battle for him. Earlier Anand was offered a red-carpet welcome by the SOS authorities and students. The day also proved to be special for the AISSE-2011 school topper who got the privilege of being felicitated at the hands of the Grand Master. In the interactive session with the students of School of Scholars, Mr Viswanathan stressed on the fact that chess and studies have a unique connection and it is seen that those who play chess also perform well in academics as chess is a brain game.

Vice-chancellor of Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences Dr Vedprakash Mishra was the chief guest on the occasion. Director of the school Mamta Dutta, principal Kavita Nagarajan, director Abha Meghe, Deshpande, Rekha Nair, Mrs Kothe and others were also present on the occasion.



The Times of India
Patna, July 09, 2011

Chess stimulates mind, builds focus, says Anand

GM Opens State-Of-The-Art Interactive Classroom

Alok K N Mishra | TNN

Patna: World Chess champion Viswanathan Anand on Friday asked Bihar students to play chess since the game develops memory.

"It helps students develop sharp recognition capabilities and to remember lengthy variations with abilities to implement them," Anand told TOI on the sidelines of a function at DAV Public School, BSEB, here.

"During the game you are focused on only one main goal — to checkmate the opponent and become the victor; thus, it improves your concentration levels too. Improved concentration helps students learn more and perform well academically," the Indian chess Grandmaster, Anand, said.

He was in the city to inaugurate a state-of-the-art interactive classroom on DAV BSEB campus here. The 50-seat interactive classroom, designed as per the National Curriculum Framework-2005, has large projectors and high-tech audio systems to provide a holistic learning experience to students.

Launched by NIIT Limited, working on talent development, interactive classroom enhances teaching and learning through elements of interactivity, automation, customization, web-link library, and teaching learning plan.

Asked what lags chess talent in Bihar, Anand said: "There is a lack of interest in playing chess among youths. The situation will improve only when people take interest in the game and start playing chess."



World chess champion Viswanathan Anand meets students after opening the interactive classroom at DAV Public School in Patna on Friday; (below) Anand plays chess with school students



Though he refrained from providing a specific answer to whether he planned to groom chess talent at the national level through coaching or otherwise, Anand called upon youths to play chess: "Chess induces holistic mental development. It develops logical thinking, promotes imagination and creativity, and teaches independence as you are forced to make important but decisive decisions yourself."

About Bihar's turnaround, Anand, who last came to Bihar in December 2006, said the state had witnessed remarkable and vi-

brant development in the recent years.

"Now the leadership should be focused on ensuring that the growth momentum is maintained. It is only through improving education further that the momentum could be sustained. Involvement of students in chess will make education exciting and propel the state's development," Anand said.

Later, he played chess simultaneously with 10 youngsters from various parts of the country, including four from Bihar, at a separate function held here at Rabin-dra Bhavan.



The Telegraph
Patna, July 08, 2011

ANAND FELICITATES WINNERS OF CHESS TOURNAMENT

**First
move tips
from
master**

OUR CORRESPONDENT

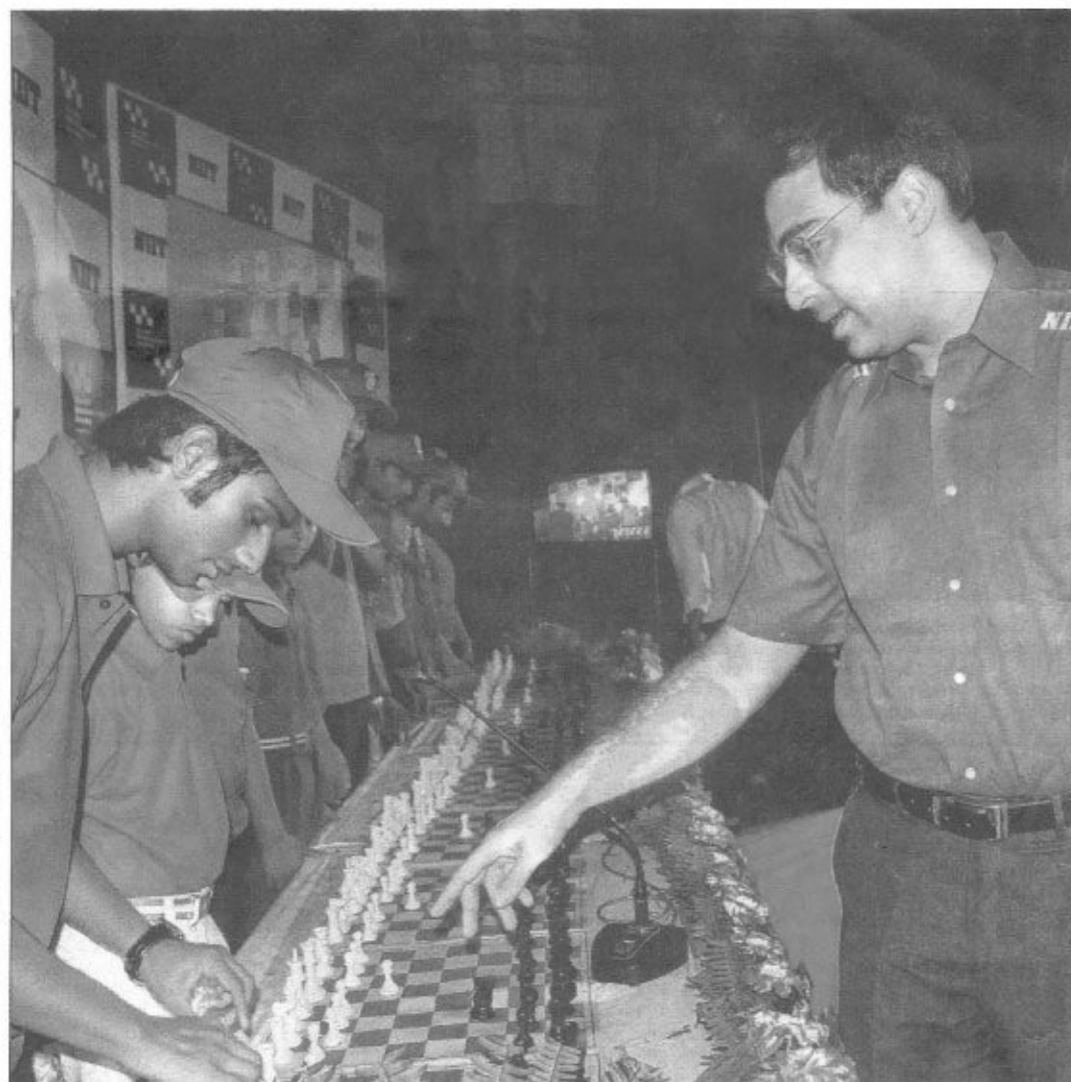
Patna, July 8: Mahasweta Kumar, a Class IX student of Mangaldai Town GHS School, Assam, knows a little more about chess than how to move a bishop across a chessboard. But the national champion of NIIT MindChampions' Academy National School Finals, 2011, was overwhelmed when she met Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand.

Anand today felicitated Mahasweta and nine other young chess players at a function at Rabindra Bhavan. He also played the game with the school students.

"Most of the children continued with the struggle even after the game was over. They played with spirit. They should continue to play the game," said Anand.

As advice to the young players, he said: "The first move is very important in a game of chess. If you make a wrong move, you may be forced to make a number of unnecessary moves."

The students who were felicitated included Mahasweta, national runners-up Mukul Kumar, Class X of GD Mother International School, Muzaffarpur, west zone winner Dudani Devarshi, Class IX student of Arbuda Sanskar Vidyalaya, Ahmedabad, and north-zone winner Tarang Mittal, a Class XII student of Chhabil Dass Public School, Ghaziabad.



Vishwanathan Anand plays chess with a school student at Rabindra Bhavan in Patna on Friday. Picture by Jai Prakash

Mahasweta said: "It is great to be here. National-level recognition is a great thing for young players like us." She was also the national-level winner of The Telegraph

School Under-12 Chess Tournament, 2008.

Anand said: "The NIIT MindChampions' Academy was started in 2002. The academy now has over a million stu-

dents with over 11,000 clubs across the country. Children who play chess often notice an improvement in their academic and non-academic skills. It is also a lot of fun."

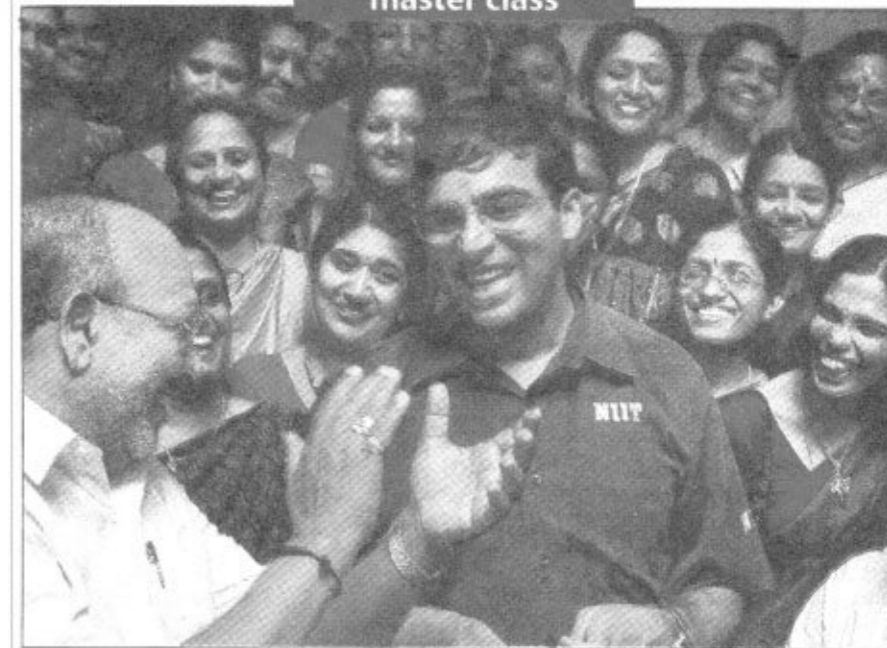
He also inaugurated NIIT NGURU state-of-the-art interactive session at DAV, BSEB.

Deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi was present at the programme.



Deccan Chronicle
Trivandrum, July 07, 2011

master class



Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand during a visit to Saraswathi Vidyalaya in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. See page 14 — DC

Sentinel
Guwahati, July 07, 2011

**Anand pleased with
children taking to chess**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, July 6: World chess champion and NIIT Mind-Champion Viswanathan Anand on Wednesday expressed happiness that young minds are taking to the game.

"It is heartening to note that

young children are taking up chess enthusiastically and mastering the strategies of the game." Anand said while felicitating the south zone finalists of NIIT MindChampions Academy (MCA) at a function here.

Recent studies suggest there

is a strong correlation between chess and academic excellence and MCA Clubs have positively influenced the students by enabling them to experience holistic learning during the school hours, a company official said.

IAN S



The Times of India
Pune, July 08, 2011

'WOULD BE NICE IF I CAN PLAY WORLDS IN INDIA'

Chess King V Anand Looking Forward For 'Home Support' In His Title Match With Boris Gelfand

THIS NEWS NETWORK

Nagpur: It's not impossible to achieve everything by being simple and humble. World chess champion in all formats V Anand - is the prime example of this. Anand doesn't shy away from the reality that cricket is easily the most popular sport but chess has also given the role models to the country. On his visit to TOI office, Anand talked about various aspects of the game, World Championship, competitors, his future and different issues like doping.

Excerpts:

What are your views on the doping scandal?

They are yet to investigate the whole incident. It's not clear whether they did it intentionally or the banned substances were present in the food supplements. I feel sorry for the athletes but at the same time doping cannot be condoned. It's a real pity. World's your opinion about World Championship challenger Boris Gelfand?

We have been playing against each other since our junior days. There is hardly any age difference between us. He is just one and half years older than me. I don't know

whether this is right advertisement for World championship because my challenger is not younger than me. I have to prepare well because earlier he had beaten me. Although on most occasions I got the better of him, I cannot take him lightly.

Neutral followers are wondering if you can dish out an entertaining match. For, recent history is of draws...

Yes, it is true that we have played numerous draws recently. It is normal for chess followers to think that the forthcoming World championship will produce plenty of draws. We will try to be different but it all depends on match situations. Sometimes, it is better to play safe. I am not in favour of playing entertaining chess. I prefer to play correct and copybook chess. Will world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen's absence rub sheen off the WCC?

I wouldn't say that. There are three-four top players who will be competing there. One person's absence shouldn't make too much of a difference. There is enough depth in world chess at present. At the same time, I feel it would have been good to have Carlsen.

Which is your preferred World Championship format? In 2006 I decided to stop worrying



about the format. The moment you start thinking about format you allow it affect you. At present many people around the world think that match format is the best format for world championships so I prefer it too. There is talk of Chennai bidding for the WCC... I'm not sure if guys in Chennai



are actually interested in bidding for it so I don't want to put the bomb under them right now. But yeah it will nice for once to play World Championship in my own country. The support, though it not very vocal in terms of chess, is very important. Plus if the WCC happens in India it will be a big boost for the chess in the country.

Who are the players you take inspiration from?

There are two players - Mikhail Tal and Bobby Fischer whom I grew up admiring. Tal was very accessible and still chess players around the world respect him. I met him in Brussels. Fischer fascinated me because there was an

enigma about him. I was lucky to have met him once and was surprised by his knowledge of India. In fact he asked me where I can get some 'amritsujan'.

Apart from chess any other player you admired?

I liked John McEnroe a lot when I was growing up. I never shoot like him though I liked that guy a lot. India have not unearthed a player of Elo 2700 after Sastikiran touched that mark for some time. What India need to do to have 3-4 players in 2700 bracket. Who is the most special Indian talent today who can reach that level?

I think Sastikiran has done remarkably well in the last few years. But at the same time, youngsters like P Harikrishna, Parimarjan Negi and Abhijeet Gupta have also been doing well recently. It is not easy to touch 2700 but given the talent they have, I am sure they will reach there very soon. Hari is the most talented of the lot.

Ganguly, Hari, Suri and now Negi... what do they need to attain that quantum leap to be among the elite players?

All of them have done well in the last few years. In fact, Sastikiran to No. 18 but he didn't have a great

last year. Hari is also very talented and so are Ganguly and Negi. However, they need to do well consistently. One or two bad tournaments and you have to start all over again to achieve the same level.

Vidarbha has only two International Masters - Anup Deshmukh and Swapnil Bhonsale. What do you think the region should do to increase the number of IMs and even produce GM one day?

The popularity of chess has to increase for the better results. There should be good exposure for the talented youngsters so that they could get to play with different types of players. The importance of good coaches in player's development is vital. I am sure, things will improve here and Vidarbha will also contribute quality players.

More and more ex-players from different sports are now coming into administration. What are your plans whenever you quit the game?

First of all, I am not an ex-player (laughs). On a serious note, I am enjoying the game and haven't thought about it. Administration is something I don't enjoy but you never know... may be in future I may rethink.

DNA, Mumbai, July 8, 2011

SHORT STORIES



World champion Viswanathan Anand playing simultaneous chess with children in Nagpur on Thursday -PTI

► World jr chess in Chennai

The World junior chess championship will be held at Chennai from August 1 to 16. The World Chess Federation (FIDE) has appointed R Anantharaman as the chief arbiter of the tournament, in which 190 players from 43 countries are likely to participate.



Lokmat Times
Nagpur, July 08, 2011

Mother taught me chess: Anand

LOKMAT NEWS SERVICE

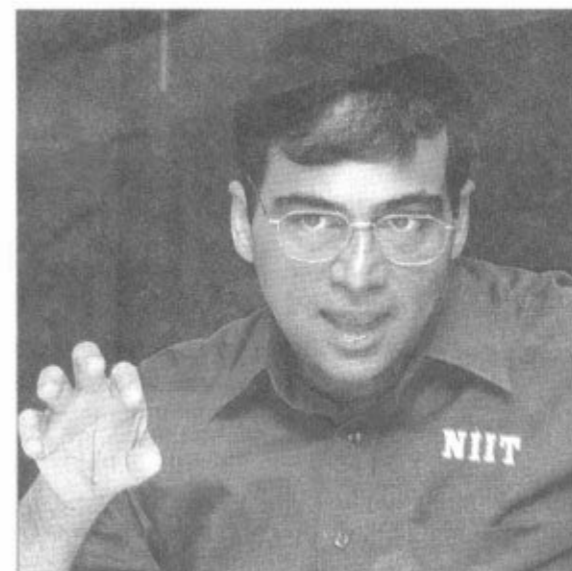
NAGPUR

July 7: It is rightly said that behind every successful man there is a woman and world chess champion Vishwanathan Anand is no exception to this.

It was none other than his mother who played an important role in shaping his career, revealed Anand himself while interacting with the editorial staff of Lokmat Media Limited during a courtesy visit to Lokmat Bhavan here on Thursday.

The Chairman of Lokmat Media Limited and Rajya Sabha member Vijay Darda, director (operations) of Lokmat Media Limited Ashok Jain, general manager (Nagpur) Nilesh Singh and general manager of NIIT Debdash Banerjee were present on the occasion.

Anand said he started to play chess when he was just six-year-old and his mother taught him how to play. "In fact, my mother used to do a lot for my chess. My mother and her family members used to



World chess champion Vishwanathan Anand making a point while interacting with the editorial staff of Lokmat Media Limited during a courtesy visit to Lokmat Bhavan on Thursday. (Another photo and report on Page-19)

play some chess. She used to play with her younger brother. Thus, she had some background in the chess using which she taught me playing chess."

Anand, who became the undisputed World Champion in 2007 and then successfully defended

his title in the World Chess Championship 2010 against Veselin Topalov, said he exactly does not know about the origin of chess as there are different theories about it. "I don't know when and where exactly the chess originated or was invented. You

can't say when it was invented as there are different theories about it. It has some references in Chanakya Niti and mythological epic Ramayana also. It could have been invented a few hundred years BC."

Anand said the Indian version of the chess continued for a long time. But then in 1492, the rules were changed in Spain and since then all follow that version.

Anand Viswanathan, who is always (and wrongly!) referred to as Viswanathan Anand, said stamina plays an important role in chess. For, if one is tired, he or she cannot play properly and tends to commit mistakes. Therefore, the chess players should work on stamina. Anand also said yoga and pranayam can be useful to improve the concentration level in chess. "I also do a little bit of yoga," he informed.

Asked whether analytical mind is essential to pay chess, Anand, who is also called 'Vishy', said apart



Nai Dunia
New Delhi, July 08, 2011



बच्चों के बीच चैंपियन

नागपुर : विश्व शतरंज चैंपियन विश्वनाथन आनंद ने यहां एक स्कूल के विद्यार्थियों के खिलाफ एकसाथ बाजी खेली।



Hindustan
Patna, July 09, 2011



मास्टर की चाल

शतरंज के विश्व चैंपियन विश्वनाथन आनंद ने शुक्रवार को राजधानी के रवींद्र भवन में एक कार्यक्रम में हिस्सा लिया। इस दौरान उन्होंने एक साथ दस बच्चों के साथ शतरंज भी खेली। • फोटो: रघुवीर सिंह (खबर पंज-06 पर)

शह-मात के खेल में आनंद ने जीता बच्चों का दिल

पटना | खेल संवाददाता

पूरे माहौल में जैसे शह और मात का खेल चल रहा था। रवींद्र भवन में विश्व चैंपियन विश्वनाथन आनंद से मिलने के लिए लोग उतावले थे। कोई उनकी एक झलक पाने के लिए बेचैन था तो कोई उनसे हाथ मिलाने के लिए। कोई उनका ऑटोग्राफ लेना चाह रहा था तो कोई उन्हें बस छू लेना चाह रहा था। मोटे चश्मे के पीछे झांकती आनंद की बड़ी-बड़ी आंखें इस खेल का पूरा मजा ले रही थीं।

बच्चों के लिए तो जैसे रवींद्र भवन की यह शाम खास थी। मद्रिग-मद्रिग स्वर लहरियों के बीच एक साथ 10 बच्चों से शतरंज खेलते ग्रेडमास्टर विश्वनाथन आनंद। दर्शकों का कौतूहल देखने लायक था। आखिर कार काले मोहरों से खेलते हुए आनंद ने बाजी जीत ली। फिर सभी बच्चों को उनके मात के कारण बताए और जीत

पुरस्कार वितरण समारोह

- एक साथ 10 बच्चों से विश्वनाथन आनंद ने खेली बाजी, रवींद्र भवन में बच्चों को दिए कई टिप्स
- शतरंज के साथ सभी इंडोर व आउटडोर गेम्स को राज्य सरकार कर रही प्रोत्साहित : मोदी

के लिए कई जरूरी टिप्स भी दिए।

वे एक निजी संस्थान द्वारा आयोजित शतरंज प्रतियोगिता के पुरस्कार वितरण समारोह में पधारे थे। इस मौके पर आनंद ने कहा कि मैंने सबसे पहले अपनी मां से शतरंज खेलना सीखा। इससे माईड डेवलप होता है। जो लोग भी तरक्की करना चाहते हैं, उन्हें चेस खेलना सीख लेना चाहिए। मौके पर मौजूद अभिभावकों से कहा कि अपने बच्चों में चेस खेलने की आदत डालें, क्योंकि हिन्दुस्तान के



ऐसे चलें चाल : विश्वनाथन आनंद ने कुछ यां सुशील कुमार मोदी को दिए टिप्स।

विकास की असली राह चेस ही है। बिहार में चेस को आगे बढ़ाने और यहां के प्रतिभावान खिलाड़ियों को मुकाम दिलाने की हर मुमकिन कोशिश करने की बात भी कही। साथ ही कहा कि दोबारा बिहार आना भरे लिए गौरव

का विषय है। फिलहाल बिहार देश का सबसे तेजी से विकास के पथ पर अग्रसर राज्य है।

कार्यक्रम के मुख्य अतिथि उपमुख्यमंत्री सुशील कुमार मोदी ने कहा कि शतरंज के साथ सभी इंडोर व

आउटडोर गेम को राज्य सरकार प्रोत्साहित कर रही है।

विश्वनाथन आनंद का स्वागत करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि शतरंज खेलने से दिमाग मजबूत होता है। खासतौर मैथ, फीजिक्स व कम्प्यूटर के प्रयोग में ज्यादा एकाग्रता आती है। संस्थान के शतरंज चैंपियनशिप में असम की महाश्वेता कुमार विजेता और मुजफ्फरपुर के मुकुल उपविजेता बने। इस मौके पर आईएस पलका साहनी, विजय प्रकाश, अरविंद कुमार सिन्हा, डीएवी के प्राचार्य डा. रामनूज प्रसाद आदि उपस्थित थे। उधर डीएवी बीएसइबी में विश्वनाथन आनंद ने आर्किवो बिजुअल फेंकल्टी का उद्घाटन किया। आनंद ने कहा कि बिहार में प्रतिभा की कमी नहीं है, जरूरत है उसे निखारने की। शतरंज के खिलाड़ियों को बेहतर मुकाम दिलाने के लिए अपने स्तर से मदद की बात भी कही।



Dainik Jagaran
Patna, July 09, 2011

आनंद संग खेलकर आनंदित हुए चेस प्लेयर्स

मोदी ने कहा

◆ माइंड चेस एकेडमी से चेस को मिलेगा बढ़ावा

खेल संवाददाता, पटना : बिहार के अलावा विभिन्न राज्यों से आए शह-मात के बाजीगरों के लिए शुक्रवार का दिन खास था। एनआइआईटी माइंड चेस एकेडमी के इंटर जोनल टूर्नामेंट के विजेता व उपविजेताओं को विश्वनाथन आनंद के साथ खेलने का सौभाग्य प्राप्त हुआ। स्थानीय रवीन्द्र भवन में आयोजित समारोह में आनंद ने चारों जोन के दस खिलाड़ियों में से कुछ को मात दी तो समय अभाव के कारण कुछ को बचने का मौका मिल गया।

मुख्य अतिथि के तौर पर पधारे सूबे के उपमुख्यमंत्री सुशील कुमार मोदी ने बिहार में शतरंज को बढ़ावा देने के लिए आनंद का शुक्रिया अदा किया। उन्होंने कहा कि एनआइआईटी की ओर से माइंड चेस एकेडमी की स्थापना से सूबे में शतरंज खेल को बढ़ावा मिलेगा। उन्होंने युवाओं को आउटडोर के साथ चेस जैसे इंडोर खेलों में भी बढ़चढ़कर भाग लेने का आह्वान किया। इंटर जोनल चैंपियनशिप में ईस्ट जोन की ओर से उपविजेता बने



चारों जोन के विजेता और अन्य के साथ शतरंज के ग्रैंडमास्टर सह विश्व चैंपियन विश्वनाथन आनंद।

जामराम

मुजफ्फरपुर के मुकुल कुमार की खुशी का ठिकाना नहीं था। 2007 में कोलकाता में रनर हुए मुजफ्फरपुर जिला चैंपियनशिप के अंडर-15 में विजेता रहे मुकुल ने कहा कि मैं भाग्यशाली हूँ कि मुझे 2009 के बाद दूसरी बार आनंद के साथ खेलने का मौका मिला। इसके लिए मैं अपने अभिभावकों को धन्यवाद देता हूँ। जीडी मंदर स्कूल में वर्ग छह का छात्र मुकुल का लक्ष्य आइआईटी के साथ चेस में सूबे का नाम रोशन करना है। ईस्ट जोन से असम

की महाशेता कुमार ने विजेता बनने का गौरव हासिल किया। इसके अलावा नार्थ जोन से गाजियाबाद के करण मित्तल, अहमदाबाद के दुर्गदी देवमी धनश्याम भाई, वेस्ट जोन से अमरावती के आशुतोष डी. भवानकर, मुंबई से अर्शिल सइद, दक्षिण क्षेत्र से शिवशंकर रामाराव, दानापुर से सौरव कुमार ने विजेता और उपविजेता का खिताब जीता। सभी को आनंद ने मोमेंटो प्रदान किया। इसके पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री सुशील कुमार मोदी ने आनंद को मोमेंटो

प्रदान किया। मौके पर मौजूद डीएवी के प्राचार्य डॉ. रामानुज प्रसाद ने कहा कि अगर ऑल बिहार चेस एसोसिएशन मदद करे तो मैं अपने स्कूल में छुट्टी के बाद चेस क्लास शुरू करूंगा। आनंद ने डीएवी पब्लिक स्कूल, विद्युत बोर्ड कॉलोनी में भी बच्चों को प्रोत्साहित किया। मौके पर चेस एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष विजय प्रकाश, सचिव अरविंद कुमार सिन्हा, एनआइआईटी के अध्यक्ष हेमंत शेट्टी समेत तमाम लोग मौजूद थे।



Dainik Jagaran
Patna, July 09, 2011

चैंपियन की पहल : बिहार शतरंज को बढ़ावा देने में मदद करूंगा

तेजी से बढ़ रहा चेस में बिहार : विश्वनाथन

अरुण सिंह, पटना

शतरंज के ग्रैंडमास्टर विश्वनाथन आनंद को बिहार से ख्यास लगाव है। शुक्रवार को आनंद ने जामराम से विशेष बातचीत में कहा कि इस राज्य में शिक्षा के साथ चेस खेल में भी तेजी से विकास हो रहा है। मैं 2008 में रहा आया था, उस समय और अब काफी बदलाव देख रहा हूँ। यहां एनआइआईटी के माइंड चेस एकेडमी के कई सेंटर खुले हैं। ऑल बिहार चेस एसोसिएशन ने मौजूद एक स्टैडियम में चेस सेंटर खोला है। बर्निस कोरी, टिबेटो बरुआ जैसे चेस के टिगलर यहां आ रहे हैं। नेशनल टूर्नामेंट भी हो रहा है। ऑल बिहार चेस एसोसिएशन और यहां के बच्चों को किसी भी तरह की मदद करने में मुझे खुशी होगी। मुझे उम्मीद है कि जल्द ही यहां से कोई ग्रैंडमास्टर निकलेगा। जेलनल टूर्नामेंट में ईस्ट



उपमुख्यमंत्री सुशील कुमार मोदी के साथ शतरंज खेलते विश्व चैंपियन आनंद

जामराम

जोन से रनर हुए मुजफ्फरपुर के मुकुल कुमार आनंद ने कहा कि चेस कई तरह की को बधाई देते हुए एनआइआईटी के बांड गणनाओं को सुलझा सकता है। इसके लिए

हौसला

- शिखर से उतर कर विद्युत नही शैडमास्टर
- चेस के जादूगर ने स्वीकार की चुनौती, आनंद ने कहा-फिर पहुंचेंगे चोटी पर

व्यक्तियों स्तर से पहल करने की जरूरत है। अभिभावकों और राज्य सरकार को भी आगे आना होगा। मैं मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार से शतरंज को बढ़ावा देने के प्रयासों पर शीघ्र ही बात करूंगा।

बं के करण बना चेस प्लेयर : आनंद ने कहा कि मैं भाग्यशाली हूँ कि मेरी मां चेस खेलती थी, जिन्होंने मुझे शतरंज में शीघ्र पेश 21 पर

तेजी से बढ़ रहा चेस में बिहार : विश्वनाथन

की प्रारंभिक शिक्षा दी। मेरा मनना है कि सात वर्ष की उम्र से बच्चों को शतरंज की ट्रेनिंग मिलनी चाहिए, जो नहीं मिलती है। मैं चाहूँ कि बिहार के सभी स्कूलों में कम्प्यूटर से चेस की शिक्षा की व्यवस्था हो।

टीक नहीं चल रहा दिन : विश्वनाथन आनंद के लिए वर्तमान समय ठीक नहीं चल रहा है। नार्थ के मैगस क्लर्कसन ने दो दिन पूर्व उन्हें शिखर से उतार नंबर वन का ताज झटक लिया है, जबकि इंडिया के बोरिस गेलफंड ने उनके विश्व खिताब को चैलेंज दिया है। हालांकि ग्रैंड मास्टर इससे विचलित नहीं हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि बोरिस में इस तरह के दौर से मैं पहले भी गुजर चुका हूँ। मैं फोसान नहीं हूँ। मुझे पर किसी तरह का दबाव नहीं है। मैंने दोनों की चुनौती स्वीकार कर ली है। (एनआइआईटी, नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इन्फार्मेशन एंड टेक्नोलॉजी) के कार्यक्रम में पहुंचे आनंद ने कहा कि सितंबर से दिसंबर के बीच मारको और लंदन में क्लर्कसन से भिड़त होगी। निरवदिद वह होनाहार कुछ खिलाड़ी हैं, लेकिन मैं बंबर बन का ताज हासिल करने की पूरी कोशिश करूँगा। जहाँ तक स्पताल है बोरिस गेलफंड का, तो उनसे मैं पहले भी बिड़ चुका हूँ। उन्होंने जो चैलेंज किया है, वह मुकाबला अगले वर्ष होगा। मुझे विश्वास है कि मैं अपने विश्व खिताब को बचाने में कामयाब रहूँगा। एअरलैण्ड (ऑल इंडिया चेस फेडरेशन) की नयी बॉडी बनने पर पूछे गए सवाल के जवाब में आनंद ने कहा कि इससे भारतीय शतरंज को फायदा होगा। नयी बॉडी चेन्नई में विश्व युनिवर्स शतरंज प्रतियोगिता आयोजित कर रही है। शीघ्र ही श्रीनिवास को भी वर्ल्ड चैंपियनशिप भारत में होगी। शीघ्र में फंस रहे भारतीय एथलीटों के बारे में आनंद ने बताया कि यह दुःख है। जांच हो रही है। दोषी का पता चल जाएगा। सचिन को भारत रत्न देने के बारे में जब आनंद से पूछा तो गयी, तो उन्होंने कहा कि मैं केवल चेस के लिए जीता हूँ। मैं तो चेस समेत तमाम खेलों के खिलाड़ियों को बढ़ावा दूँगा कि इन्कॉप करे न कि अपने ऊपर दबाव पाले और कोई काम करे।



Hindu Business Line
New Delhi, July 23, 2011

NIIT net profit flat in Q1

Earmarks more for depreciation, investments across platforms

Our Bureau

New Delhi, July 22

IT training company NIIT Ltd has posted a 1 per cent rise in consolidated net profit, at Rs 13.1 crore, for the first quarter ended June 2011. The growth in net profit was dented by higher depreciation as well as "investments made in delivery-readiness across platforms".

The net revenue was up 16 per cent at Rs 321.2 crore in the first quarter — a period that NIIT said was marked by implementation of new strategies for future growth, including Cloud Campus. But for the adverse impact of exchange rates, the revenue growth could have been higher by 100-150 basis points, the company said.

The EBITDA (Earnings be-



Scorecard: Mr Rajendra S. Pawar, Chairman, NIIT, with Mr Vijay K. Thadani, Chief Executive Officer, addressing a press conference in the Capital on Friday. — Kamal Narang

fore Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation) rose 7 per cent to Rs 30.7 crore, compared to Rs 28.7 crore in the same period previous fiscal. "We had earlier said that our

Q1 will be subdued...The second quarter will have a smaller impact, not as much. Over the year, we will see growth in profit," Mr Vijay K. Thadani, CEO, NIIT Ltd, said at a conference.

HIRING ON AN UPTREND

NIIT does not give annual or quarterly guidance. It, however, said that IT industry hiring is showing a positive trend, with companies demonstrating a strong appetite for recruitment. "The placements are up 28 per cent year-on-year, and we should take advantage of that," Mr Thadani said.

The banking sector, too, is showing a positive hiring momentum and this will contribute to demand during this fiscal, he said. NIIT, in alliance

with ICICI Bank, offers programs in banking, financial services and insurance.

Individual Learning Solutions (IT) recorded net revenue of Rs 118 crore, up 16 per cent year-on-year.

This was supported by an 11 per cent increase in global enrolments, with career enrolments growing at 16 per cent. Corporate Learning Solutions recorded a net revenue of Rs 163 crore, up 18 per cent year-on-year.

"In corporate learning solution, the idea is to stabilise the execution of \$110 million of managed training services contracts that we had signed at the end of last year. The growth will come from stabilising that execution," he said.

moumita@thehindu.co.in



The Economic Times
New Delhi, July 23, 2011

NIIT Sales Up 16%, Net Profit 1%

OUR BUREAU
NEW DELHI

India's largest IT training and education company NIIT on Friday posted a 16% increase in its revenues to ₹321 crore, on the back of rising attrition in India's IT companies and demand for talent in India's \$70 billion IT-BPO industry.

Net profit for the company however grew only 1%. "We have invested in software platforms to make a cloud campus, which will

enable online learning. In future quarters, the growth in net profit will be much more," said Vijay K Thadani, CEO at NIIT.

About 49% of NIIT's revenues came from India, while the rest came from markets such as US, China and Europe.

NIIT shares dipped 3.8% on the BSE to ₹55 post announcement on Friday.

The company earned ₹469 crore as its system wide revenues. Deducting franchisee payments, the company earned net revenue

Co to exit business of IT training in government schools, due to delay in payments by many states

NIIT will move away from the large business of IT training in government schools, due to delay in payments by many states. NIIT's ₹200 crore is still pending with many state governments. "Delays of more than six

months to one year, create a problem for us. Despite being a large business opportunity, we will de-emphasise from government school business from now," Mr Thadani added.

The company's corporate learning solutions business recorded sales of about ₹163 crore, up 18% from last year. Individual learning business earned ₹117.8 crore, up 16%.

Placements for NIIT graduates increased 28% from last year, Mr Thadani said.

Business Standard
New Delhi, July 23, 2011

NIIT net profit up 0.76% at ₹321.2 crore

Information technology training services firm NIIT Ltd reported a growth of 0.76 per cent in consolidated net profit at ₹321.2 crore for the quarter ended June 30. The company had registered a net profit of ₹13 crore in the same period of the previous year, NIIT Ltd said in a statement on Friday. Revenues rose to ₹321.2 crore during the quarter compared to ₹278 crore in the corresponding year-ago period. However, on a standalone basis, the company posted a net loss of ₹10 crore as against a profit of ₹97 lakh in the same quarter of the previous year.

BS REPORTER



Financial Chronicle
New Delhi, August 17, 2011

NIIT Tech buys Spanish IT firm

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai

IT COMPANY NIIT Technologies has acquired Spanish software services firm Proyecta Sistemas de Informacion for \$7 million.

"We will end up paying 70 per cent of the revenue (for acquisition) which is \$7 million," Arvind Thakur, CEO, NIIT Technologies, said.

He said the company had revenue of \$10 million in last financial year and has Ebidta of 10 per cent.

"From Tuesday, we will start consolidating revenue of Proyecta with NIIT Technologies," Thakur added.

The acquisition enables NIIT Technologies to enhance its European footprint with Proyecta's experience in travel and financial services segments.

"The company sharply focuses in two segments, travel and financial services. Its 68 per cent revenue came from travel vertical. This is going to add to our expertise and at same time give us local presence in Europe," Thakur said. He said countries in the Europe mainland are very unique in nature and local presence is required for good experience of customers.

NIIT Technologies' Europe, West Asia and Africa (EMEA) operations contribute 35 per cent to its global revenues.

Headquartered in Madrid, Proyecta, with over 100 consultants that industry players in business intelligence, web and mobility applications.

NIIT Technologies' Europe, West Asia and Africa (EMEA) operations contribute 35 per cent to its global revenues.

Hindu Business Line
New Delhi, August 17, 2011

NIIT Tech buys Spanish firm for \$7 m

New Delhi, Aug. 16

IT company NIIT Technologies today acquired Spanish software services firm Proyecta Sistemas de Informacion SA for \$7 million. "We will end up paying 70 per cent of the revenue (for acquisition) which is \$7 million," Mr Arvind Thakur, CEO, NIIT Technologies, said. He said the company had revenue of \$10 million in



Mr Arvind Thakur

last financial year and has EBIDTA (Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation) of 10 per cent. "From today, we will start consolidating revenue of Proyecta with NIIT Technologies," he added. The acquisition enables NIIT Technologies to enhance its European footprint with Proyecta's experience in travel and financial services segments. "The company

sharply focuses in two segments, travel and financial services. Its 68 per cent revenue came from travel vertical. This is going to add to our expertise and at same time give us local presence in Europe," Mr Thakur said. Headquartered in Madrid, Proyecta, with over 100 consultants that industry players in business intelligence, Web and mobility applications. — PTI



Hindu Business Line
Hyderabad, July 24, 2011

NIIT Technologies

Delivering on deals

With strong client additions, robust business-mix and improvements in key operating metrics, the company has demonstrated significant growth.

BUY



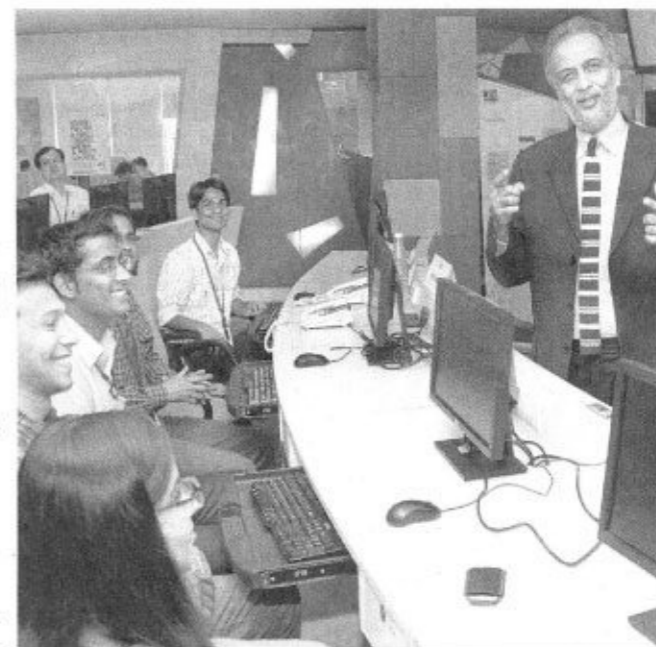
K. Venkatasubramanian

In an environment where top-Tier IT companies garner the bulk of business arising from increase in client IT budgets, a select set of mid-cap IT services players have still managed to hold their ground.

NIIT Technologies falls in this category. With strong client additions, robust business-mix and improvements in key operating metrics, the company has not only been resilient, but also demonstrated growth.

Investors with a two-year horizon can, thus, consider buying the shares of the company. At Rs 222, the share trades at 8 times its likely FY-12 earnings, which is lower than the valuations enjoyed by players such as Hexaware Technologies and Infotech Enterprises.

In FY-11, NIIT Tech witnessed a 34.9 per cent increase in revenues over the previous fiscal to Rs 1,232.2 crore, while net profits expanded by 44.2 per cent to Rs 182.2 crore. These growth rates have been higher than even frontline players and, most certainly, among the best in the mid-Tier IT services space. Even in the recent June quarter, the company recorded a 12.8 increase in revenues over the same period in FY-11 to Rs



Mr Arvind Thakur, CEO...Moving up the value chain.

328.8 crore, though net profits were up only marginally due to increase in wage costs and a higher tax incidence.

LUCRATIVE CLIENT ADDS

NIIT Tech has been steadily increasing the size of the deals it works on. Over the last three-four quarters, the number of multi-million dollar clients has increased from 33 to 48. Its top 10 clients have ramped up revenue contribution, indicating the company's sound client-mining capabilities. The company is all set to complete a Rs 228-crore project with the Border Security Force as it reaches the final stages of commissioning. Much of the revenues from the deal have already been received. Given the strategic nature of the BSF project that was executed, the company would look to win more projects from the segment as Defence organisations seek to increase technology spends as a part of modernisation.

The company had a strong order-book of \$200 million as of June, which

WHY BUY

- Climbing value chain by executing transformational projects
- Robust deal pipeline
- Key verticals and segments well placed

is about three-fourths of its FY-11 revenues, to be executed over the next 12 months. What is even more desirable is the quality of revenues that the company has managed to garner in terms of superior service delivery requirements. For instance, Eurostar, an operator of speed trains in Europe, has awarded a multi-year, multi-million pounds contract to the company. This involves delivering remote infrastructure services as well as application development and maintenance.

There is also a multi-lingual support for several European countries, making it a deal of wide scope. A part of this deal are to be executed before the London Olympics in 2012. Another deal won

from a large media company — Morris Communications — to be executed via a joint-venture, would potentially generate revenues of \$85 million over five years. This deal involving end-to-end IT and BPO services signals a significant climb up the value chain for the company.

Although it would entail taking some of the client's personnel on board, the company would be able to take a significant portion of work offshore to optimise costs. In addition, it would then be able to up-sell or cross-sell services to other clients.

HEALTHY BUSINESS-MIX

For NIIT Tech, 27 per cent of revenues come from IP-led initiatives. This means that revenue growth would be de-linked from headcount expansion and would improve margins. At around 19 per cent, the company has a fairly robust operating margin.

This could climb over the next couple of years as the company seeks to achieve around 35 percent 'non-linear' revenues. In terms of geographic-mix, the US and the Europe and Middle-Eastern Area (EMEA) contribute 37 per cent of revenues each, while India accounts for 11 per cent. Asia Pacific region is the other key geography.

Even though the developed economies are grappling with slow-paced growth, it has not affected the company's prospects as it has been witnessing high double-digit revenue growth from the American and EMEA regions. The blend of developed and emerging economies makes for a sound geographic-mix. In terms of verticals too, there is a healthy blend with BFSI (42 per cent of revenues), transportation (35 per cent) and manufacturing, government and others accounting for the rest.

Pricing has been stable for the company even as new contracts flow in with marginal hikes. Attrition, at 15.8 per cent, is steadily coming down over the past few quarters. But any further wage hike to stem employee turnover may affect margins significantly.

Also, higher outflow as a result of removal of Software Technology Parks of India tax benefits would mean that margin expansion would be slow in the next few quarters.



The Economic Times
New Delhi, July 12, 2011

NIIT Bags \$40-Million Eurostar Rail's IT Contract

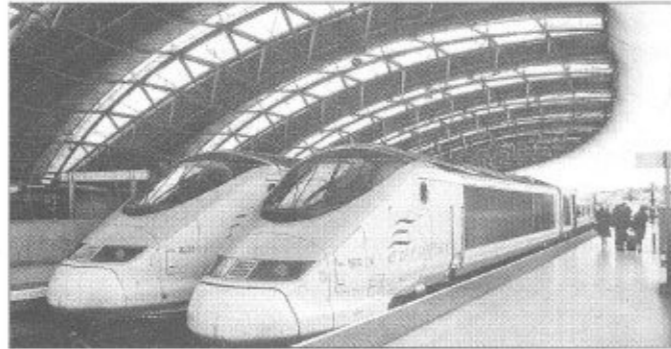
OUR BUREAU
NEW DELHI

Rail Travel to London for the Olympics 2012 will now be managed from India. Eurostar, the rail network which connects London to Paris and Brussels, on Monday awarded contract to manage its IT infrastructure to India's mid-cap IT firm NIIT Technologies for an estimated \$35-\$40 million.

The official partner for rail for Olympics, Eurostar, earlier used to work with Mumbai's Patni Computers since 2004. Former Patni EVP Deepak Khosla had moved to NIIT Technologies, as its global sales head, and insiders say more such Patni clients may be in the pipeline for NIIT Technologies.

Industry sources said another European client is expected to sign a contract worth \$50 million with NIIT Technologies this month.

NIIT's strength in the travel space also helped it secure the deal. About 30 airlines, including British Airways, Cathay Pacific, Emirates, and rail networks, such as German Rail, count NIIT



Tech as its IT vendor. NIIT shares on the Bombay Stock Exchange were up by 1.2% to ₹184, post announcement of the deal.

"We want to remain focused on the travel, financial services and insurance space. We want to be the best and yet big enough, unlike other who are big but not best," NIIT Technologies CEO Arvind Thakur told ET. "We bagged this deal after beating almost 35 global IT players who had put in a bid," he added.

NIIT will manage IT backbone for Eurostar, which operates a fleet of 28 trains between UK and continental Europe, via the un-

dersea Eurotunnel for a period of five years. IT infrastructure behind the ticketing platform will also be managed by NIIT, which will help Eurostar gear up for the large influx during the Olympics 2012.

NIIT's Khosla was unavailable for comment.

Eurostar CIO Christophe Lemaire said: "Global businesses continue to face challenges to reduce cost and drive efficiencies. We are looking forward to benefiting from NIIT Technologies' extensive experience and comprehensive portfolio of managed services."

Business Standard
Kolkata, July 20, 2011

NIIT Tech net profit increases marginally

Information technology company NIIT Technologies on Tuesday posted a marginal 0.8 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to ₹41.2 crore for the quarter ended June 30. The company had reported a net profit of ₹40.8 crore last financial year. Total revenues of the company were up 12.8 per cent at ₹328.8 crore, compared to ₹291.4 crore for the same quarter of FY11. In this quarter, the company made a net addition of 459 employees, taking its total headcount to 6,265.

BS REPORTER



Business Standard
New Delhi, July 12, 2011

NIIT bags multi-million Eurostar contract

BS REPORTER
Mumbai, 11 July

DELHI-BASED NIIT Technologies has signed a five-year, multi-million pound contract with Eurostar, the high-speed rail passenger service between Britain and mainland Europe, to provide it infrastructure management services for core business applications.

The financial details were not disclosed. The global tender by Eurostar was contested by 35 information technology companies, including some from India.

"Our domain focus on verticals like travel and transport and a non-linear business model seems to be working for us to win such a large transformational deal. Other than the vertical focus, we have also seen a

good momentum in our managed services business," said Arvind Thakur, CEO of NIIT.

Managed services' contribution to its overall revenue is 13-14 per cent and Thakur feels these would grow 35-40 per cent over the next few years. NIIT has a niche focus in insurance, travel, manufacturing and retail. Travel contributes to 32 per cent of its revenue.

The Economic Times
Chandigarh, August 17, 2011

NIIT Tech Acquires Spanish Firm

Proyecta Sistemas de Info sold for undisclosed amount

OUR BUREAU
NEW DELHI

IT firm NIIT Technologies on Tuesday said it has acquired Madrid-based software services firm Proyecta Sistemas de Informacion for an undisclosed amount. The acquisition enables NIIT Technologies to enhance its European footprint with Proyecta's successful experience in servicing industry leaders in the travel and financial services segments, NIIT said in a statement.

The move also strengthens NIIT's front-end capabilities for larger European engagements and provides a gateway to traditional Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America, it added.

NIIT Technologies' Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) operations contribute 35% to its global revenues. "We welcome Proyecta to NIIT Technologies as we strengthen our travel and financial services offerings in the region," NIIT Technologies president (Europe) Sunil Surya said.

NIIT Tech shares jumped 2.5% to ₹196 in a falling market on the Bombay Stock Exchange post deal announcement. Proyecta will add about 12 new customers to NIIT Technologies. It will become a 100% owned subsidiary of NIIT Technologies, UK.

Proyecta, with over 100 consultants, has strong relationships with leading industry players in business intelligence, web and mobility applications. "NIIT Technologies comprehensive offerings would enable us to provide our customers with a wider and deeper range of services," Proyecta founder and director Francisco Izuzquiza said.

The Economic Times
New Delhi, July 20, 2011

NIIT Tech Q1 Net Increases Marginally to ₹41.2 crore



NEW DELHI IT company NIIT Technologies on Tuesday posted a marginal 0.8% increase in consolidated net profit to ₹41.2 crore for the

quarter ended June 30, 2011. The company had reported a net profit of ₹40.8 crore for Q1 (April-June) of the 2010-11 financial year. Total revenues of the company for Q1 of the ongoing financial year were up by 12.8% at ₹328.8 crore, compared to ₹291.4 crore for the same quarter of FY11. In Q1, FY'12, the company made a net addition of 459 employees, taking its total headcount to 6,265. NIIT Technologies said the net addition of employees in the quarter is the highest that the company has ever made in any quarter.

The Economic Times
Kolkata, July 20, 2011

NIIT Tech Q1 Net Up to ₹41 Crore

PTI
NEW DELHI

IT firm NIIT Technologies on Tuesday reported a marginal 0.8% increase in consolidated net profit to ₹41.2 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, 2011, on account of higher tax outgo. The company had reported a net profit of ₹40.8 crore for Q1 (April-June) of the 2010-11 financial year.

"In Q1 FY'11, we had a tax rate of 14.5% on PBT (profit before tax), while for Q4 FY'11, it was 11.5%. This quarter, we had a tax rate of 26.5% on PBT, which resulted in the marginal increase in net profits," NIIT Technologies CEO Arvind Thakur told reporters here. "The STPI scheme has ended and we now need to look at SEZs to reduce the tax burden," he said, adding that during the quarter, NIIT commissioned a new SEZ campus in Greater Noida.

The campus can house 3,000 people and plans are to enhance this capacity to over 12,000 people in the coming years, Thakur said. STPI offered tax exemption to export-oriented units on profits under Section 10A and Section 10B of the Income Tax Act. The scheme came to an end in March this year.



Dataquest
July 15, 2011

CIO Role

COVER STORY

Transformed

The onus is on the wannabe CIOs to get ready by skilling themselves with what matters today in businesses

The language has changed from computing to customer, from bytes to business, from Pentium to profits. The transformation of the classical CIO is complete. Those who look will see!

Imagine making an online booking for a domestic flight for a Monday morning. One will notice that the difference in fare between the lowest price option and

the highest could be as high as 100%, depending on the time of the day of flight and the airline. Fare structures are changing in real-time, owing to information systems being used by different airlines that are rapidly computing the sale of tickets, and based on the analysis of demand and supply and consumer preferences, altering the fare prices in tandem.

Think of another scenario. Say for getting trained in Microsoft's .Net technology, one will be searching online for a suitable program and a training organization. It

“WITH TECHNOLOGY PLAYING SUCH A STRATEGIC ROLE IN BUSINESSES, THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER HAS STEPPED OUT OF THESE CABINS AND BECOME PART OF MAINSTREAM BUSINESS, WITH AN EVENTUAL SPOT IN THE BOARDROOMS”



CIO Role

COVER STORY

is quite likely that 11.5 mn results will be displayed in less than 0.21 secs. But more importantly, another half a dozen or more ads will be served on the right half of the page. Ads of not anything but specifically for the course searched for. One will have the same experience whether one Googled for a hair product or an iPhone. Clearly, the result of an intelligent back-end information management system that has enabled creation of an advertising real-estate on the cyber space—something that did not exist before and something that would not have been possible if the CIO hadn't participated in the business side of this application.

In both these examples, while consumers technology is offering a choice to organizations, it is offering a chance to maximize profitability by balancing demand, supply, and a razor sharp relevance.

With technology playing such a strategic role in businesses, the chief information officer has stepped out of these cabins and become part of mainstream business, with an eventual spot in the boardrooms.

For the CIO, it's no longer about deciding which hardware and software to purchase, but rather about business priorities. Today's techies are sharing the platform with business managers and talking about business applications that help organizations catalyze their growth, process, and profits agenda.

In their new avatar, CIOs are playing a role that can be viewed in the following 4 pieces:

■ **Enabling Products and Services:** They are helping organizations to harness the power of Information Technology (IT) to introduce innovations and improve their products and services. They are enabling technology that gives rise to products that would have otherwise been not possible more so in services.

■ **Transforming Customer Experience:** They are enabling organizations

to transform the customer experience. Whether it is online, or offline products and services, they are making available information and decision making algorithms to customers and customer-facing executives. They are acquainting them with the painpoints and recurring queries and issues of customers, so that they can help in problem resolution and create customer delight with speed and agility. Remember that 'the faster you serve, the more you sell'.

■ **Business GPS:** CIOs are the providers of dashboards that navigate through the vital statistics, major business parameters of organizations in an increasingly complex world. They do this by capturing, analyzing and extracting zillions of data points, through well-defined analytics. Can one imagine a Vodafone or Airtel today, deciding on promotional and pricing strategies, without having deep, meaningful insights on consumer behavior and preferences?

■ **Strategic Investments:** CIOs no longer have to focus on investing in hardware boxes. Rather, their new agenda is to invest in technologies that can address business priorities, not just for now but on an ongoing basis. And with increasing options on how one actually buy 'availability' rather than 'boxes', the CIOs' jobs just became more complex and their role and the CFO's role just got blurred. Now throw in 'cloud options' and 'SaaS' (Software as a Service), it will be realized that the CIO's job is soon becoming unrecognizable from the same of yester-year.

While the role has become complex, CIOs have become center-stage and business-critical. They are very much part of a 'Business Strategy' of an organization—at least the ones that want to win.

The onus now is on the wannabe CIOs to get ready by skilling themselves with what matters today in businesses, over and above all the mumbo jumbo on technology. They have no choice but learn anyway. ■

“THE ONUS NOW IS ON THE WANNABE CIOs TO GET READY BY SKILLING THEMSELVES WITH WHAT MATTERS TODAY IN BUSINESSES, OVER AND ABOVE ALL THE MUMBO JUMBO ON TECHNOLOGY. THEY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT LEARN ANYWAY”

G RAGHAVAN
The author is the chief executive,
career building solutions, NIIT
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NIIT to offer management education to Guj colleges

Chitra Unnithan | TNN

Ahmedabad: Information technology (IT) trainer NIIT Ltd plans to introduce advanced e-learning and learning management techniques to colleges in Gujarat. The certificate course, specifically designed for working professionals, will be modelled on NIIT's current offering to Indian Institute of Management (IIM) students.

Rajendra Pawar, Chairman, NIIT, said, We are talking to colleges in Gujarat to introduce synchronous learning technology. The concept of the course will be on the lines of what NIIT Imperia offers to the IIMs. NIIT Imperia was launched in September 2006 through tie ups with IIM Ahmedabad, Calcutta and Indore.

In July, NIIT launched its first cloud campus in Hyderabad. The cloud campus network enables students to access educational services using a netbook or a mobile device that connects them to NIIT's cloud campus network.

NIIT, which plans to grow on the cloud platform, will double its cloud computing based centres to 100 in the next one year from the current 50 centres. NIIT has invested Rs 50 crore to set up infrastructure for the concept.

We plan to focus on interactive content and cloud will help bring a profound change in this direction. Cloud computing is a cost-effective model, which has made it possible to take high quality education to the far reaches of the country, said Ashwin Agrawal, Regional Manager, NIIT Ltd.

At present, NIIT offers 25% of IT learning in its own community through cloud and plans to take it to 75% in the next 18 months. We have been working on this innovation since a few years. Once we are confident of its success in the community, we plan to take it outside to other institutes, said Pawar, who took a feedback on the concept from students of Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar during his visit on Thursday.

The cloud computing market in India is expected to touch Rs 2,434 crore in 2014 on the back of a compounded annual growth rate of 53% over five years.

<http://lite.epaper.timesofindia.com/getpage.aspx?pageid=19&pagesize=&edid=&edlabel=TOIA&mydateHid=12-08-2011&pubname=&edname=&publabel=TOI>

<http://www.youtube.com/niitcareers>

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Profile

Name:	NIIT
Channel Views:	5,748
Total Upload Views:	564,112
Age:	30
Joined:	Apr 7, 2010
Latest Activity:	2 weeks ago
Subscribers:	148
Website:	http://www.nit.com

NIIT is a leading Global Talent Development Corporation, building skilled professionals for global industry requirements.

NIIT which was set up in 1981 to help the nascent Information Technology (IT) industry overcome its human resource challenges, has today grown to be amongst world's leading talent development companies offering learning solutions across 40 countries. NIIT offers a wide range of IT Learning programmes for IT career aspirants including the industry-endorsed IT training program - GNIT, Integrated programs for Engineers called NIIT Edgenet and Networking and Infrastructure Management programmes called NIIT GlobalNete.

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Im Kharon Loteria and I've been a part of NIIT Philippines from 2003- 2005 . I took up Professional Diploma in Information and Technology. However when I finished the whole course by 2005 and about to have a copy of diploma and or the certification, to my surprise NIIT Philippines already closed and I don't know if I just wasted my money for studying in NIIT Philippines. I just wanted to know is there any chances that I can have at least the Certification that I took the course Professional Diploma in Information Technology cause I badly need it due to employment purposes and its just that I don't want my money to be put on waste at the same time. Thanks a lot and hoping that you can help me with my problem.

Respectfully,
Kharon Loteria