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NIIT IN THE NEWS

...help students secure early admission to B. Tech programmes at NIIT on the basis of their performance in Class X and Class XII examinations. For admission to the B.Tech programme, students...

...Dr Mitra will get \$...

...the NIIT University has introduced the NU Scholar Search Programme to help students secure early admission to B. Tech programmes at NIIT on the basis of their performance in Class X and Class XII examinations. For admission to the B.Tech programme, students...

...producing NIIT-IT Wizard...

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Nasscom, NIIT ink pact to train one lakh students in next 3 years

Our Bureau

New Delhi, Jan 4

The Nasscom Sector Skills Council (SSC) on Friday signed a memorandum of understanding with NIIT to train one lakh students over the next three years for business/ knowledge process outsourcing and legal process outsourcing jobs.

The joint initiative has introduced two courses – Foundation Skills in IT (FSIT) for engineering graduates and Global Business Foundation Skills (GBFS) for graduates of all streams and aims to train 30,000 students in the first year.

The courses have been designed and developed by the IT-ITeS SSC of Nasscom and the

achievement levels are certified through the Nasscom Assessment of Competence -Technology.

Companies such as Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, Wipro, HCL Technologies, Accenture, Genpact, IBM, Dell, Cognizant, Convergys and Microsoft are part of the Nasscom Skills Council.

"The Indian IT-business process management industry has been working round-the-clock to build a favourable environment in preparing this talent pool and making them industry-ready. This initiative is a step forward in the same direction and aimed to scale the quality capacity of our graduates," Som



Joint initiative: NIIT Chairman Rajendra Singh Pawar with Nasscom President Som Mittal at a press conference in New Delhi on Friday. — PTI

Mittal, President, Nasscom, said. Both the programmes are of duration of 120 hours each and cover topics ranging from technology to soft skills and professional skills and project man-

agement. Most of the topics covered are applicable to multiple industries and although all students are eligible to take part in the programme, it is best suited for engineering students studying in third year and final year, he said.

"NIIT's training expertise together with Nasscom's industry insights will empower college students across India," Rajendra Singh Pawar, Chairman, NIIT, said. The company will soon announce on the fee structures of both the programmes.

NIIT's shares closed at Rs 30.75 on the BSE on Friday, up 1.15 per cent from the previous close.

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Hindu Business Line, New Delhi, January 5, 2013

NIIT, Nasscom to train 1 lakh students

SRIRAM SHANKAR

New Delhi

IT-BPO industry body Nasscom and NIIT have teamed up to train over one lakh graduates across streams to enhance their employability skills.

As per a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the two organisations, two training programmes christened as "Foundation Skills in IT (FSIT)" and "Global Business Foundation Skills (GBFS)"

would be launched. While FSIT will develop foundation skills of engineering graduates in IT, GBFS would cover all streams and meet requirements of business / knowledge process outsourcing (BPO/KPO) and legal process outsourcing (LPO) industries.

Though pricing has not been decided, Nasscom president Som Mittal estimated that the courses would be priced at between Rs 6,000 and Rs 10,000. He said, "Nasscom has designed the courses and we have left pricing to NIIT and

their partnerships with various engineering colleges." C Murugan, chief business officer at NIIT said that pricing details were being worked out.

The courses have been designed by Nasscom's IT-ITeS sector skill council (SSC) and will be delivered by NIIT through its partnerships with various engineering colleges across India. Murugan said NIIT was targeting 200 engineering colleges and train 30,000 students in the first year.

sriramshankar@mydigitalfc.com

Financial Chronicle, New Delhi, January 7, 2013

Nasscom, NIIT ink MoU to train 1 lakh students

The Nasscom Sector Skills Council (SSC), on Friday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU), for three years, with talent development organisation NIIT to offer enhanced training programs to students through its training campuses all across the country.

The strategic alliance will offer first-of-its-kind training programs that have been designed, developed and en-

dorsed by the industry through two initiatives- FSIT (Foundation Skills in IT) - for engineering graduates and Global Business Foundation Skills (GBFS) - for graduates in all streams.

The collaboration between Nasscom's IT-ITeS Sector Skills Council (SSC) and NIIT aims to train over 1 lakh students over three years, starting with 30,000 students in the first year.

Deccan Herald, Bangalore, New Delhi, January 5, 2013

NIIT in pact with Nasscom to train one lakh students over 3 yrs

NEW DELHI: IT firm NIIT said it has partnered with industry body Nasscom to train over one lakh students in three years. The training programmes will be offered through two initiatives - Foundation Skills in IT (FSIT) for engineering graduates and Global Business Foundation Skills (GBFS) for graduates for all streams.

"Nasscom Sector Skills Council (SSC) today signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU), for three years, with NIIT to offer enhanced training programmes to students through its training campuses all

across the country," NIIT said in a statement.

The training programme has been designed by Nasscom's IT-ITeS SSC and the achievement levels are certified through the NAC-Tech assessments, it added.

"The collaboration between NASSCOM's SSC and NIIT aims to train over 1 lakh students over three years, starting with 30,000 students in the first year", the statement said.

NAC-Tech (Nasscom assessment for competence in technology) is the test used by several IT companies

in the country for engineering graduates they hire.

"NIIT's training expertise together with Nasscom's industry insights will empower college students across India," NIIT Chairman Rajendra Pawar said.

The programmes are of a duration of 120 hours each and cover topics ranging from technology to soft skills and professional skills and project management.

"This initiative...is aimed to scale quality capacity of our graduates," Nasscom President Som Mittal said. PTI

Pioneer, Lucknow, January 15, 2013



THE SOCIAL MEDIA ATM

By Nidhi Mittal Bansal

THE INTERNET has today provided individuals and businesses with a powerful tool to create an online marketplace. Online marketing is one of the fastest growing industries in the world with e-commerce taking precedence over offline shopping experience, especially in India where we have the third largest online consumer base after China and the U.S. India is seeing an average annual rise of 22 per cent in the number of internet subscribers with a strong base of around 137 million internet users at present.

And who out of this sprawling number doesn't use the social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter which have 70 million and 36 million users respectively? Cashing in on these growing numbers are the online marketers, via social media marketing. "The Internet has made it convenient for consumers to communicate with the corporate world. It has broken barriers between the two allowing a more liberal form of feedback," says Abhishek Goyal, CEO, Fashion&You.com.

Business organisations have discovered social media as the new platform to promote their products and services. It has become essential for even offline businesses to have an online marketing team to keep a track of all social media platforms. "People frequent these websites and by maintaining active accounts on these channels, you can make sure that the updates relating to new products are more likely to be noticed by the public," says Anupama Beri, HR Head, Snapdeal.

Social media has evolved from being just a tool used to stay in touch with friends to a massive marketing platform, capable of delivering ultra-targeted ads to people across the world. Social media marketing generates web traffic, increases conversions and sales, and aids in branding and market research. The growth in this industry has created several different career choices.

From being a social media marketing manager to reputation manager (one who keeps negative information on the internet at bay), from copy writer to link builder, job profiles are interesting. According to the HR firm Ma Foi, the industry will see more than 10,000 new jobs opening up this new year. Other careers that people can choose from are digital marketing, social media management, web design, search engine optimisation (SEO), digital copywriting and blogging.

Brands are increasingly employing Facebook and Twitter to ensure customer stickiness in a world of fickle loyalties, opening up new career avenues for social media marketing students

FB SUCCESS STORIES

Top five Facebook pages in India with number of fans. These are the best examples of social media marketing

- Dove: 75 lakh
- Tata DoCoMo: 73.8 lakh
- MTV Roadies: 4.27 lakh
- Kingfisher: 3.75 lakh
- Fastrack: 3.7 lakh



BECOME AN ACE SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETEEER

Your first step is to find the right course. Here are five options that you could choose from:

NIIT Imperia
Advanced Programme in Social Media Marketing certified by Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)
<http://www.niitimperiacom/program-in-social-media-marketing>
Duration: 10 weeks (classes at designated NIIT centres)
Fee: ₹35,000

EduKart
Online digital marketing course certified by Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)
<http://www.edukart.com/courses/digital-marketing>
Duration: 30 hours over six months (online classes)
Fee: ₹3,699

WSM Education
Social / Digital Media Marketing
<http://wsmeducation.in/social-media-marketing/>
Duration: Six months (online classes). Fee: ₹3,499

Web Marketing Academy
Digital Media Marketing
<http://www.webmarketingacademy.in/courses/web-marketing-management/>
Duration: Around six months (classes at designated centres) Fee: ₹35,000

9.9 School of Convergence
Post Graduate Diploma in Digital Media Communication
<http://www.schoolofconvergence.com/dmc-curriculum.html/>
Duration: One year
Fee: ₹2.15 lakh

25%

Percentage growth in the number of internet users in the country over last one year

59%

Internet users in India who access the world wide web through their mobile phones

2L

The number of people in India who use the internet every day for their personal use

But, now the awareness is growing and institutes like NIIT are coming up with specific programmes to train professionals in online marketing. With the launch of its new Advanced Programme in Social Media Marketing, certified by the Internet and Mobile Association of India, NIIT Imperia aims at training professionals with a blend of instructor-led classes with case studies and assignments. Interestingly, the educational qualification and the skills required for this field are elementary — a graduate with strong communication and analytical skills is eligible.

For students considering a job in the digital media industry, there are many post-graduate courses available to choose from. "Our aim is to provide students the opportunity to enhance their skills in this field on a global level," says Aman Kapoor founder, WSM Education, which provides potential students with

the option of studying the subjects as online certificate courses. "The remuneration that can be expected in this field starts from ₹15,000 and can go up to ₹2,00,000 per month", he adds.

With the whole web world open to the professionals today, the job opportunities too are widespread. Online marketing, with the popularity of social media gaining momentum, is definitely a lucrative and creative career to look up to.

Mail Today, New Delhi, January 2, 2013

एनआइआइटी एक लाख छात्रों को देगी प्रशिक्षण



नई दिल्ली में करार के बाद दस्तावेजों की अदला-बदली करते एनआइआइटी के चेयरमैन राजेंद्र पवार और नैस्कॉम के प्रेसीडेंट सोम मित्तल (दायां)।

नई दिल्ली, प्रेड्र : आइटी कंपनी एनआइआइटी अगले तीन साल में एक लाख छात्रों को प्रशिक्षण देगी। इसके लिए उसने आइटी उद्योग के संगठन नैस्कॉम के साथ गठजोड़ किया है। इस प्रशिक्षण

कार्यक्रम के तहत इंजीनियरिंग स्नातकों को फाउंडेशन स्किल्स इन आइटी (एफएसआइटी) और अन्य सभी स्नातकों के लिए ग्लोबल बिजनेस फाउंडेशन स्किल्स (जीबीएफएस)

पाठ्यक्रम का संचालन किया जाएगा। एनआइआइटी ने एक बयान में कहा कि कंपनी ने नैस्कॉम सेक्टर स्किल्स काउंसिल (एसएससी) के साथ एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। इसके तहत तीन साल तक छात्रों के लिए प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम संचालित किए जाएंगे। यह प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम नैस्कॉम की आइटी-आइटीईएस

नैस्कॉम से एफएसआइटी व जीबीएफएस पाठ्यक्रम के लिए किया करार

एसएससी द्वारा तैयार किया जा रहा है। इस प्रशिक्षण के लिए विभिन्न स्तरों पर सर्टिफिकेट एनएसी-टेक मूल्यांकन के जरिये दिए जाएंगे। इस पाठ्यक्रम के तहत पहले साल 30,000 छात्रों को प्रशिक्षण दिया जाएगा। इंजीनियरिंग स्नातकों को नौकरी देते समय कई आइटी कंपनियां एनएसी-टेक (नैस्कॉम असेसमेंट फॉर कंपीटेंश इन टेक्नोलॉजी) टेस्ट लेती हैं।

एनआइआइटी के चेयरमैन राजेंद्र पवार ने कहा कि नैस्कॉम के निर्देशन में एनआइआइटी के प्रशिक्षण से देश भर के कॉलेज छात्रों को लाभ मिलेगा। नैस्कॉम के प्रेसीडेंट सोम मित्तल ने कहा कि इस प्रशिक्षण का उद्देश्य स्नातकों की शैक्षणिक गुणवत्ता बढ़ाना है।

Dainik Jagran, New Delhi, January 5, 2013



Graduate skill enhancement programme

The NASSCOM Sector Skills Council (SSC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), for 3 years, with the talent development organization - NIIT, to offer enhanced training programs to students through its training campuses across the country. This alliance will offer first-of-its-kind training programs through two initiatives - FSIT (Foundation Skills in IT) - for engineering graduates, and Global Business Foundation Skills (GBFS) - for graduates of all streams.

While FSIT aims to develop foundation skills in IT, GBFS has been specifically designed to meet the needs of the BPO/KPO/LPO industry. NIIT will leverage its on-campus delivery model by designing it to enhance the overall employability of graduates.

The training program has been designed by IT-ITeS Sector Skills Council NASSCOM and the achievement levels are certified through the NAC and NAC-Tech assessments. The collaboration between NASSCOM's IT-ITeS Sector Skills Council (SSC) and NIIT aims to train over 1 lakh students over 3 years, starting with 30,000 students in the first year.

The programs - FSIT and GBFS, are of a duration of 120 hours each and cover topics like soft skills, professional skills, and project management. Most of the topics covered are applicable to multiple industries and although all students are eligible to take part in the program, it is best suited for engineering students studying in third and final year.

Deccan Herald, Bangalore
January 10, 2013

NIIT Job Fair from today

NIIT, a well-known IT trainer, is organising a 2-day job fair from January 18 at Mehbub Degree College in Hyderabad, with an aim to make best talent available to the industry across various verticals.

The fair will give an opportunity to final year students and fresh graduates from all streams to access career options available in various leading organisations under one roof, a press note released here on Thursday said. According to the release, the students will also get an opportunity to evaluate if their existing skill sets match up to the industry requirements. More than 3,000 candidates are expected to participate in the fair, the release added.

Hans India, Hyderabad
January 18, 2013



NIIT University scholar search

NIIT University has announced the NU Scholar Search Program. The program will help students secure early admission in the cutting edge NIIT University B Tech programs on the basis of their performance in 10th and 12th standard examinations and a student and parent interaction process with the University.

For admission to the BTech programs, students appearing in Class XII boards in March/April 2013 and those who have taken their Class XII Board examination not earlier than March-April 2011 can apply to the University. Students with an aggregate of 60% and above in Class X can apply under Early Admission (EAD) mode. NU supports the Early Admission candidates for their Class XII exams through the Study Smart initiative. Last date to submit application under Early Admission phase is January 31, 2013.

Meritorious students who have scored 80% or more marks in Class X exams combined with good performance in Class XII exams, are eligible for scholarships under the NU Scholar Search program ranging up to 100% of the University and Hostel fees, along with a monthly assistantship.

Deccan Herald, Bangalore
January 3, 2013

Scholar Search

The NIIT University has introduced the NU Scholar Search Programme to help students secure early admission to B. Tech programmes at NIIT on the basis of their performance in Class X and Class XII examinations. For admission to the B.Tech programme, students appearing in Class XII boards in March/April 2013 and those who have taken their Class XII board examination not earlier than March-April 2011 can apply. Students with an aggregate of 60 per cent and above in Class X can apply under the Early Admission (EAD) mode. The NU supports Early Admission candidates for their Class XII exams through the Study Smart initiative. Last date to submit application under Early Admission phase is January 31, 2013.

Hindu, Bangalore
January 7, 2013



NEWS BOARD

Skill development initiative

The NASSCOM Sector Skills Council (SSC), has signed an MoU for three years, with talent development organisation NIIT to offer enhanced training programmes to students through its training campuses all across the country. The strategic alliance will offer first-of-its-kind training programmes that have been designed, developed and endorsed by the industry through two initiatives — FSIT (Foundation Skills in IT) — for engineering graduates and Global Business Foundation Skills (GBFS) — for graduates of all streams.

While FSIT aims to develop foundation skills in IT, GBFS has been specifically

designed to meet the needs of the BPO/KPO and the LPO industry. NIIT will leverage its on-campus delivery model — NIIT Careers@Campus, designed to enhance employability skill sets of engineering graduates in particular and the overall employability of all graduates in general.

The training program has been designed by IT-ITeS Sector Skills Council NASSCOM and the achievement levels are certified through the NAC and NAC-Tech assessments. The collaboration between NASSCOM's IT-ITeS Sector Skills Council (SSC) and NIIT aims to train over 1 lakh students over three

years, starting with 30,000 students in the first year.

The programmes are of a duration of 120 hours each and cover topics ranging from on technology to soft skills and professional skills and project management. Most of the topics covered are applicable to multiple industries and although all students are eligible to take part in the programme, it is best suited for engineering students studying in third year and final year. The industry has invested substantially in the design and development of these programmes and these will be continuously updated to keep it current and relevant.

Tribune, New Delhi, January 16, 2013

NIIT job fair begins today

Hyderabad, Jan. 17

NIIT is organising a two-day job fair starting Friday at the Mahbub College in Secunderabad. More than 15 leading IT and non-IT companies including IBM India, Apollo Health Street, Bajaj Capital, Muthoot Finance, Genpact, Macro Fix, Inteq Solutions, TBSS, Netenrich, MAGMA, Knoah Solutions, Wipro BPO, among others, will participate in the fair. The idea is to make best talent available to the industry across various verticals. The fair will give an opportunity to final year students and fresh graduates from all streams to access career options available in various organisations under one roof. The students will also get an opportunity to evaluate if their existing skill sets match up to the industry requirements, according to a press release. The job fair will adopt an integrated approach in addressing the employment and employability issues by making jobs available to the candidates according to potential and educational qualification. — Our Bureau

Hindu Business Line, Hyderabad, January 18, 2013



NIIT net profit at ₹50 lakh in third quarter

NEW DELHI: IT training firm NIIT Ltd on Friday posted net profit of ₹50 lakh for the third quarter ended December 31, 2012.

In the corresponding quarter last year, it had reported net loss of ₹16.9 crore on a continuing business basis, which excludes financials of its earlier unit Element K.

In October 2011, the company had sold its US-based subsidiary, Element K Corporation, to SkillSoft Corporation for \$110 million in an all-cash deal.

The company's revenues in the October-December quarter stood at ₹232.7 crore.

The company said revenues in the same quarter a year ago were ₹239 crore on a continuing business basis.

"This is traditionally a weak quarter for us as schools and corporates have holidays and colleges have their mid-term exams," NIIT Chief Executive Officer Vijay K Thadani said here.

During the quarter, Career Building Solutions (CBS) recorded net revenues of ₹103.4 crore.

"There was a dip in hiring by the IT companies, which also affected the sentiments. Going ahead, as the economy picks up and IT industry sees more demand, hiring should



A growth of 33% in fresh career enrolments for banking programs reflects the opportunities the sector"

RAJENDRA S PAWAR
Chairperson, NIIT

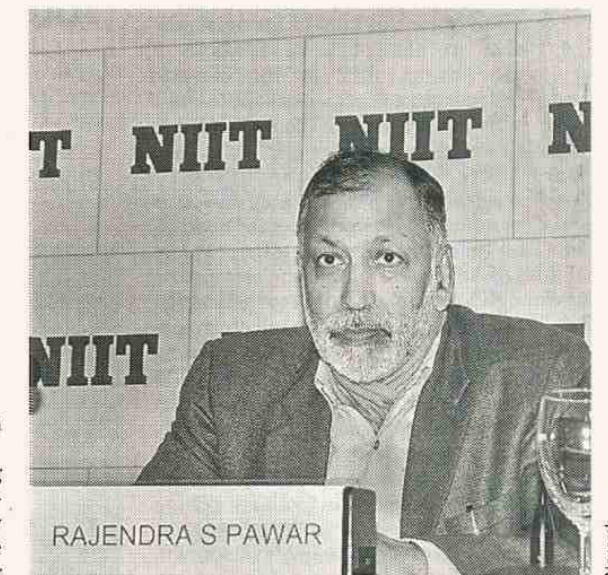
also go up," NIIT Chairperson Rajendra S Pawar said.

Despite a challenging quarter, NIIT graduates' acceptance by the industry continued to be favourable with 8,879 students getting placed during the third quarter, he added.

Pawar said that besides IT training, NIIT is focusing on offering courses in banking and other sectors to diversify its interest and has added new courses in applied finance management and digital marketing.

Corporate Learning Solutions (CLS) recorded net revenues of ₹79.2 crore, up 14 per cent year-on-year on a continuing business basis, led by six Managed Training Services (MTS) orders.

"MTS continued to gain acceptance during the quarter



by growing at 18 per cent. It now contributes 70 per cent top our CLS business which now has a revenue visibility of \$134 million (about ₹723 crore)," Thadani added.

School Learning Solutions (SLS) posted net revenue of ₹49.8 crore during the quarter, up 35 per cent year-on-year. On growth opportunities, Pawar said: "A growth of 33 per cent in fresh career enrolments for banking programs reflects the opportunities in the Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI)

segment." During the quarter, NIIT also strengthened its IT Training offerings by signing an agreement with software sector body NASSCOM to offer industry-aligned training to over one lakh students in the next three years, he added. —PTI



Financial World, New Delhi, January 19, 2013



NIIT Tech's net declines 12% to ₹56 cr in Dec qtr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi

IT SERVICES company NIIT Technologies on Monday reported a 12.5 per cent drop in its net profit to Rs 56 crore for the quarter ended December 31, 2012 due to softness in the BFSI segment.

The company had reported a net profit of Rs 64 crore in the corresponding quarter last year.

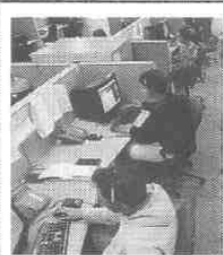
Consolidated revenue of the company was, however, up 18.8 per cent to Rs 514 crore for Q3 of FY 13 as compared to Rs 433 in the same period last year.

"There was softness in the BFSI (banking, financial services and insurance) segment due to overall economic uncertainties with a major catastrophe like hurricane Sandy causing losses among reinsurers," NIIT Technologies, CEO, Arvind Thakur said.

Business in the US contributed to 37 per cent of revenues, Europe, West Asia and Africa (EMEA) improved to 40 per cent of the total revenue share, while the revenue share from Asia-Pacific (APAC) and India remained at 23 per cent, he added.

"Revenues grew 4.4 per cent sequentially in constant currencies during the quarter reflecting the sustained growth momentum of the firm," Thakur said.

He added \$83 million of fresh orders was secured during the quarter which included a \$10 million renewal in travel and transport, leading to \$242 million of order book executable over



Less income

■ Revenues grew 4.4 per cent sequentially in constant currencies during the quarter

■ The firm had reported a net profit of Rs 64 crore in the corresponding quarter last year

■ It added 265 net employees during the quarter taking the total headcount to 7,882

the next 12 months.

It added four new clients, which included two from manufacturing and one each in travel and transportation and government.

"Despite the uncertain environment the company has been securing fresh orders at a steady rate throughout the year," NIIT Technologies, chairman, Rajendra S Pawar said.

Thakur said that though clients are yet to fix their IT budgets but initial discussions with them indicate that technology spends would remain flat and may be even up.

The company added 265 net employees during the quarter taking the total headcount to 7,882 at the end of the period.

NIIT TECH/BSE Rs 277.35 ▲
NSE Rs 277.80 ▲

Financial Chronicle, Hyderabad, January 16, 2013



NIIT Tech Q3 Net Falls 12.5% to ₹56 cr

Economic uncertainties, impact of Hurricane Sandy weigh on IT services company

PTI
NEW DELHI

IT services company NIIT Technologies, on Tuesday, reported a 12.5% drop in its net profit to ₹56 crore for the quarter ended December 31, 2012 due to softness in the Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) segment. The company had reported a net profit of ₹64 crore in the corresponding quarter last year.

Consolidated revenue of the company was, however, up 18.8% to ₹514 crore for the third quarter of FY13, compared with ₹433 in the same period last year. "There was softness in the BFSI segment due to overall economic uncertainties with a major catastrophe like Hurricane Sandy causing losses among reinsurers," said NIIT Technologies CEO Arvind Thakur.

Business in the US contributed to 37% of revenues, while

Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) region improved to 40% of the total revenue share, while the revenue share from Asia-Pacific (APAC) and India remained at 23%, he added.

"Revenues grew 4.4% sequentially in constant currencies in the quarter reflecting the sustained growth momentum of the company," said Thakur. He added that \$83 million of fresh orders were secured during the quarter which included a \$10-million renewal in travel and transport, leading to \$242 million of order book executable over the next 12 months. The company added four new clients which included two from manufacturing and one each in travel and transportation and government.

"Despite the uncertain environment, the company has been securing fresh orders at a steady rate throughout the year," said NIIT Technologies chairman Rajendra S Pawar. The company added 265 employees in the quarter taking the total headcount to 7,882 at the end of the period.

Economic Times, Pune, January 16, 2013



Rajendra S Pawar
Chairman
NIIT Technologies

Despite the uncertain environment, the company has been securing fresh orders at a steady rate throughout the year. Initial discussions with clients indicate that technology spends would remain flat and may be even up

Financial Chronicle, Hyderabad, January 16, 2013



बैंकिंग सेक्टर में है बेहतर कैरिअर

व्यभिचय संवाददाता/जयपुर

इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ फाइनेंस, बैंकिंग एण्ड इश्योरेंस, जो कि भारत में बैंकिंग प्रशिक्षण दिलाने वाला सबसे बड़ा इंस्टीट्यूट है, ने



भारत के तेजी से उभरते बैंकिंग क्षेत्र में अपनी पहचान बनाने की आकांक्षा रखने वाले जयपुर के युवाओं के लिए कैरिअर मेले का आयोजन किया। सेमिनार में प्रतिभागियों को बैंकिंग सेक्टर में नई संभावनाओं, विविध भूमिकाओं तथा कैरिअर मार्गों के बारे में उद्योग के विशेषज्ञों

से बात करने का मौका मिला। इस सेमिनार में ग्रेजुएट और अंडरग्रेजुएट छात्रों को बैंकिंग सेक्टर में जागरूक कैरिअर विकल्प चुनने में मदद के लिए उनकी निजी काउंसिलिंग अग्रणी बैंकों से कराई गई। इस कैरिअर काउंसिलिंग सेशन में फाइनेल वर्ष के उत्साही छात्रों, नए ग्रेजुएटों और उनके अभिभावकों ने भाग लिया। विक्रान्त जेठी, रीजनल हेड, रिटेल एंड बिजनेस बैंकिंग, आईसीआईसीआई बैंक, तथा बिमल जैन, प्रेसिडेंट एनआईआईटी ने छात्रों को बैंकिंग में सफल कैरिअर की पूर्व आवश्यकताओं, तथा इस सेक्टर में फ्रेशर्स के लिए उपलब्ध विविध नौकरियों के बारे में जानकारी दी। देश में विभिन्न सार्वजनिक बैंकों में अनुमानित 85,000 जगहें खाली हैं और सरकार इन्हें इसी वित्तीय वर्ष में भरना चाहती है। विश्लेषकों का नजरिया है कि नई बैंकें खुलने के साथ भारत में कम से कम 50,000 लोगों को नौकरियां मिल सकेंगी।

Dainik Navjyoti, Jaipur, January 30, 2013

एनआईआईटी ने बैंकिंग में कैरिअर गाइडेंस सेशन का आयोजन किया

जयपुर, 29 जनवरी। एनआईआईटी इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ फाइनेंस, बैंकिंग एंड इश्योरेंस जो कि भारत में बैंकिंग प्रशिक्षण दिलाने वाला सबसे बड़ा इंस्टीट्यूट है, ने भारत के तेजी से उभरते बैंकिंग क्षेत्र में अपनी पहचान बनाने की आकांक्षा रखने वाले युवाओं के लिए जयपुर में एक कैरिअर मेले का आयोजन किया। सेमिनार में प्रतिभागियों को बैंकिंग सेक्टर में नई संभावनाओं, विविध भूमिकाओं तथा कैरिअर मार्गों के बारे में उद्योग के विशेषज्ञों से बात करने का मौका मिला। इस सेमिनार में ग्रेजुएट और अंडरग्रेजुएट छात्रों को बैंकिंग सेक्टर में जागरूक कैरिअर विकल्प चुनने में मदद के लिए उनकी निजी काउंसिलिंग अग्रणी बैंकों से कराई गई। इस कैरिअर काउंसिलिंग सेशन में फाइनेल वर्ष के उत्साही छात्रों, नए ग्रेजुएटों और उनके



अभिभावकों ने भाग लिया। प्रोफेशनल बैंकों की ओर से व्यावहारिक सुझावों ने छात्रों को उच्च प्रतिस्पर्धी बैंकिंग उद्योग में कैरिअर की शुरुआत करने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण मार्गदर्शन प्रदान किया। विक्रान्त जेठी, रीजनल हेड, रिटेल एंड बिजनेस बैंकिंग, आईसीआईसीआई बैंक, तथा बिमल जैन, प्रेसिडेंट

एनआईआईटी ने छात्रों को बैंकिंग में सफल कैरिअर की पूर्व आवश्यकताओं, तथा इस सेक्टर में फ्रेशर्स के लिए उपलब्ध विविध नौकरियों के बारे में जानकारी दी। चूंकि भारत, वित्तीय-सम्मिश्रण की उपलब्धि प्राप्त करने के लिए अधिक संख्या में बैंकें खोलने की अपनी बहुप्रतीक्षित प्रतिबद्धता पूरी करने की ओर अग्रसर है, इसलिए बैंकिंग सेक्टर में नौकरियां बढ़ने वाली हैं। पूरे देश में विभिन्न सार्वजनिक बैंकों में अनुमानित 85,000 जगहें खाली हैं और सरकार इन्हें इसी वित्तीय वर्ष में भरना चाहती है। विश्लेषकों का नजरिया है कि नई बैंकें खुलने के साथ भारत में कम से कम 50,000 लोगों को नौकरियां मिल सकेंगी।

Dainik Bhor, Jaipur, January 31, 2013



CHILDREN & YOUTH

Chess improves academic excellence

Studies have established that there is a strong correlation between the game of chess and academic excellence. It has been proved conclusively that chess improves concentration and diligence, thus building concentration levels and helping students perform better academically.

In the schools, chess often serves as a bridge, bringing together children of different ages, races and genders in an activity they can all enjoy. Chess helps build individual friendships and also school spirit when children compete together as teams against other schools. Chess also teaches children about sportsmanship - how to win graciously and not give up when encountering defeat. For children with adjustment issues, there are many examples where chess has led to increased motivation, improved behavior, better self-image, and even improved attendance. Chess provides a positive social outlet, a wholesome recreational activity that can be easily learned and enjoyed at any age.

- Concentration • Pattern Recognition • Good Sportsmanship
- Critical Thinking • Analysis • Creativity • Problem Solving
- Synthesis • Competition • Strategic Planning • Evaluation



NIIT Limited, leading Global Talent Development Corporation and Asia's largest IT trainer, has announced the launch of NIIT MindChampions' Academy at National High School for Boys, and National High School for Girls in Kolkata. A joint initiative by NIIT and Grand Master Viswanathan Anand, MindChampions' Academy aims to popularize chess in schools across India. Since its inception MCA has touched 1.5 million children in over 16,600 schools in India. ■ BE Bureau

Business Economics, National, January 31, 2013



Hidden talent: Six-year-old Mrigank Bhatnagar, from Father Agnel school, Noida, takes chess as seriously as any other subject

SHEKHAR GHOSH/www.indiatodayimages.com

CHESS IN SCHOOLS
Right Move

Vishwanathan Anand loves to play chess. He would, he is world champion. But he also loves to see schoolchildren play chess, especially because he believes it helps sharpen their learning skills. He has translated this belief into action, by partnering with information technology education company NIIT, of which he is the brand ambassador, to create a programme

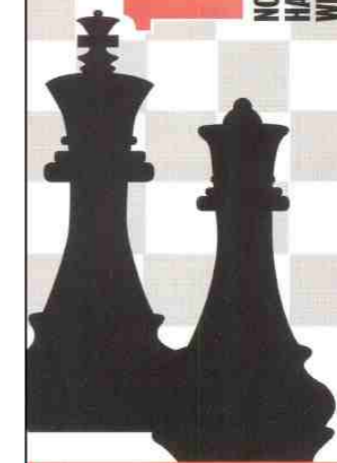
called NIIT MindChampions' Academy. The academy promotes chess among students in the seven to 17 age group through the schools in which NIIT provides computer-aided education. "A movement like this will push students to play chess and lead a healthy school life," says Anand, on the phone from Chennai.

It all started in early 2001, at a party NIIT threw to celebrate Anand's first world champion-

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1.5 MILLION
NO. OF STUDENTS NIIT MINDCHAMPIONS' ACADEMY HAS TOUCHED ACROSS MORE THAN 16,000 SCHOOLS WITH ITS CHESS LEARNING PROGRAMME



ship title. At the party was World Chess Federation (FIDE) President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, who was then also the President of a tiny Buddhist enclave called the Republic of Kalmykia, in Russia's south-west. Its capital Elista is called the world's chess capital.

That evening, the chess-obsessed Ilyumzhinov – he was his country's champion at 14 – described to Rajendra Pawar, NIIT's Chairman, how making chess compulsory in schools in Kalmykia had improved academic performance and also brought down the crime rate amongst students there.

An impressed Pawar later talked to Anand about it. Within a year, Anand and NIIT had together created the MindChampions' Academy module as a value-added feature – free of cost in government schools, and on payment in private schools.

NIIT provides a kit to each such school, including computer-based chess tutorials and chess-playing software. The kit also has a process manual on how to form chess clubs. Schoolteachers are trained in the game, and are responsible for running the clubs. Special classes are slotted during school hours in which students play chess. For instance, Noida-based Father Agnel School has seven such clubs, each with 30 to 40 students, from the sixth to the 12th grade.

NIIT says the MindChampions' Academy has so far touched 1.5 million children in over 16,600 schools. It also cites a 2010 study it conducted – across 24 schools and 11,000 students – that found students learn better in school hours if they play chess in a classroom environment. According to the study, the students' end of year (academic) scores had considerably improved in subjects such as maths and science.

One such student is Bappi Deb, a Class



12 student of Teliamura Higher Secondary School in West Tripura. Deb's aggregate marks were 79 per cent in Class 11, much better than the 65 per cent he scored in Class 10. There is, of course, no scientific evidence on how much of this could have been influenced by chess.

Taking the school learning forward, NIIT organises tournaments through the year, at school, district, zonal and national levels. "At one of the zonal tournaments in Hyderabad, I met tribal boys who had come to play chess," says Anand, who spends a week each year attending the zonal competitions and the finals. He also plays the game with some kids at these events – a rare opportunity for the little masters.

NIIT's Pawar says the opportunity is huge: "More than 400 million students are currently part of the school system. There's so much hidden talent that we need to explore."

However, chess suffers as students go into higher classes. "I was an active player until about Class 8," says Sagar Mukherjee, a Class 11 student at Father Agnel. "Although my interest has not waned, I am unable to devote the same amount of time nowadays." Concur Jaydeep Sharma, a FIDE-certified chess instructor: "Students are under pressure (from parents) to perform well in academics."

The little ones, of course, are not subject to such constraints yet. Mrigank Bhatnagar, a six-year-old student of Class I at Father Agnel, likes to play chess during his 'games period'. "I take chess as seriously as any other subject," he says. His best performance? When he defeated his 12-year-old brother in just 12 moves.

Whether chess has improved Bhatnagar's, and thousands of other students', cognitive skills or not is a moot question. But the very effort to bring chess to the grassroots level is laudable, and offers hope for the future. ♦

MANU KAUSHIK



Holistic Solution for School Learning

NIIT has provided computer-based learning to over 16,000 government and private schools across the country cumulatively impacting lives of more than 10 million kids



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Chairman & Co-Founder,
NIIT Group

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NIIT Limited, a leading Global Talent Development Corporation and Asia's premier IT trainer, offers learning and knowledge solutions across 38 countries. Leading IT journal Dataquest has conferred upon NIIT the 'Top IT Training Company' award successively for the past 19 years, since the inception of this category. NIIT has provided computer-based learning to over 16,000 government and private schools across the country cumulatively impacting lives of more than 10 million kids. NIIT Nguru is a holistic School Learning Solution that comprises of Interactive Classrooms (an end to end Teaching Learning solution for classrooms that uses elements of interactivity, automation and web links library); Math lab (State-of-the-art Mathematics Laboratory for schools which comes with Geometer's Sketchpad Software, Multiple Teaching and Learning Aids like Technology Applications, Videos, Manipulative, Measuring Instruments and Theme Based Ambience); IT Wizard (equips the students with core computer knowledge and IT skills); Quick School (an Education Resource Planning solution for school management) and Mobile Science Lab (the first of its kind portable computerised Science Laboratory which enables students to correlate scientific concepts taught in the class to real life). NIIT has been ranked among the 'Top 10 India's Best Companies to Work for- 2012' by Great Place to Work Institute and 'Top 25 Best Employers in India- 2011' by Aon Hewitt.

Product and Services

- **Interactive Classroom:** Revolutionizing Classroom Learning and Teaching through Interactive Classroom
- **Math Lab:** Welcome to the world of Math Lab. A 'one-of-its-kind' product that transforms every school it touches. Math Lab is the state of the art mathematics laboratory for schools.
- **Mobile Science Lab:** The Ideal way to enjoy science with An Innovative Science Learning system for the digital age.
- **IT Wizard:** A comprehensive program designed to equip and empower children growing up in the digital age.
- **Quick School:** Addresses the need of all key stakeholders within the education realm- Student, teachers, Principal, school Management and Parents.

The Product empowers school to strength the services towards students and parents, thus enhancing their competitive advantage many fold.

Target Vertical(s)

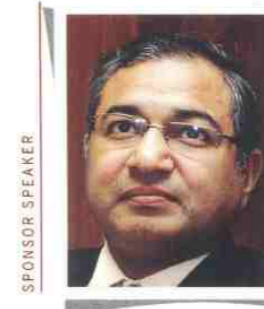
Private and Government schools

Achievements

Recently NIIT Nguru has launched Interactive Classrooms @ Home, the first 'cloud campus solution' which has moved learning out of the school and into home. Completely mapped to the school syllabus and daily lessons, ICR@Home allows students to access lessons, notes, take practice tests, submit assignments and collaborate with peers, all while sitting at home.



DAY 2 SESSION 5



SPONSOR SPEAKER

Vivek Agarwal, Founder and CEO, Liquid, outlined the prominent role that education technology plays in creating learning environments that are industry-linked and future-driven



Asheet Makhija
Country Manager, SWG
Service, ISA-IBM India



Rajeev Shorey
President, NIIT University



Ajit Rangnekar
Dean, Indian School of Business

Academia and Industry Bridging the gap between the two

The aspect of industry-academia interaction, and the complex questions surrounding it as to the extent of interaction and the modalities, were addressed in two sessions—a talk by Dr BN Jain, Vice Chancellor, BITS Pilani, followed by a panel discussion between industry and academia experts.

Professor Jain brought us up to speed on some innovations made in the BITS Pilani curriculum to train students to be industry-ready. Having said that, he added that the role of institutions such as his was not to cater to specific job profiles in specific sectors but to produce engineers who will find innovative solutions to problems. Responding to common industry perceptions such as 'graduates are ill-prepared for the jobs they are required to perform, and have only theoretical knowledge' Prof. Jain said that such companies need to reassess their expecta-

tions of the graduates they are hiring. Echoing the same sentiment in the panel discussion that followed, Ajit Rangnekar, Dean of ISB, said that while industry-academia interaction is important, it must not be done at the cost of academic integrity.

Rajeev Shorey, President NIIT University and also an industry veteran, reiterated the benefits that industry and academia could obtain by imbibing best practices. He said, "The whole academic community works in silos. If you don't work in teams, there is only so much you can do." Mapping out the stakeholders in the collaboration, Rangnekar said, "The industry, the institute, the faculty and the students—each group wants the interaction to happen for their benefit." Both Rajeev Shorey and Asheet Makhija underscored the prominent role that education technology plays in creating learning environments that are industry-linked and future-driven.

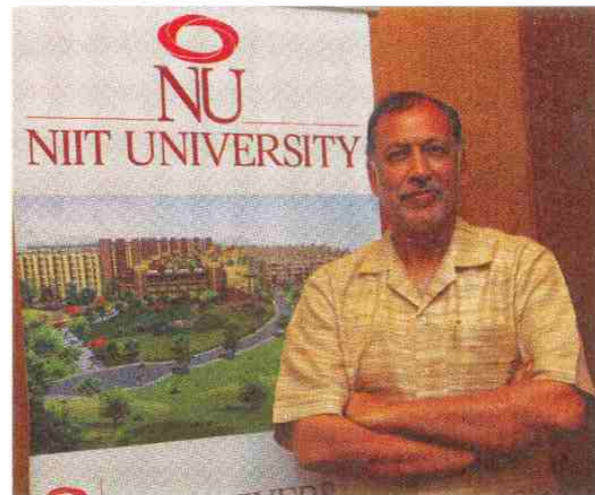


NIIT University: Dedicated to building Great Careers

Set up with the vision of being the leading center of innovation and learning in emerging areas of the Knowledge Society, the not-for-profit NIIT University is dedicated to building great careers and ensuring exceptional job opportunities to all its students. It has been developed as an institute of excellence to provide exceptional education based on the four core principles that make learning industry-linked, technology-based, research-driven and seamless.

Nestled in the foothills of the Aravali hills in Neemrana, Rajasthan, the picturesque 100-acre fully residential green campus of NIIT University is equipped with state-of-the-art technology-enabled teaching methodology that's backed by a strong research-focused curriculum for facilitating a continuous process of learning and development. The Campus provides students a wide array of sports activities like volleyball, basketball, tennis, a golf/putting range and gymnastics.

The University offers BTech Programs in Computer Science, Electronic and Communication Engineering and Biotechnology; MTech Programs in Educational Technology, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and PhD programs in all the above disciplines. The University also offers an



MBA Program (NU-MBA) The University has also launched an industry-linked program in MBA (Banking & Finance) in collaboration with ICICI Bank.

For further information please visit www.niituniversity.in

Business World, National, November 05, 2012

NIIT to conduct IT Aptitude Test

NIIT, will hold the 9th NIIT National IT Aptitude Test (NITAT) on February 17, 2013 to enable students and graduates to ascertain their aptitude for the IT industry. NITAT will be simultaneously conducted by NIIT, in over 200 cities nationwide.

NITAT has been designed as a 100-minute objective test assessing functional skills, like Reasoning, Comprehension, Data Interpretation and behavioural traits, such as, Result Orientation and Teamwork of the test takers. Students can register online by logging on to www.niit.com/NITAT or by visiting the nearest NIIT centre. The last date to apply for NITAT is February 16, 2013

*The Tribune, Chandigarh
February 6, 2013*

IT Aptitude Test

NIIT has announced an IT Aptitude Test — the 9th NIIT National IT Aptitude Test (NITAT) to be held on February 17, 2013. This test will enable students and graduates to ascertain their aptitude for the IT industry. Students can learn more about the benefits of appearing in the 9th NITAT and register online by logging on to www.niit.com/NITAT or by visiting the nearest NIIT centre.

NITAT has been designed as a 100-minute objective test assessing functional skills like reasoning, comprehension, data interpretation, and behavioural traits such as result orientation and teamwork of the test takers. The assessment will be of particular benefit to graduating students in determining their aptitude for IT careers, as well as the domain in the IT sector that they should take up. Participants will also get personalised IT career consultation from experts, scholarships on NIIT's industry-aligned programs, and an invitation to NIIT's Job Fair and Technology Seminars.

*Deccan Herald, Bangalore
February 14, 2013*



NIIT to conduct IT Aptitude Test on Feb 17

KT NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, Feb 6: NIIT, leading Global Talent Development Corporation and Asia's largest IT trainer, today announced the country's leading IT Aptitude Test—the 9th NIIT National IT Aptitude Test (NITAT) — to enable students and graduates to ascertain their aptitude for the IT industry. NITAT will be simultaneously conducted by NIIT, in over 200 cities nationwide, on February 17.

Flagging off the 9th NITAT in Jammu, R.K.Sharma, Chairman Cum Managing Director, Jammu NIIT said, "With employ ability of graduates becoming a concern for

the industry, National IT Aptitude Test is beneficial for both students seeking to identify their aptitude and the industry which is on lookout for the right talent. He further added that Graduate students from any discipline and Engineering & IT students to take this aptitude test to know their aptitude for IT Employment."

Top 1000 candidates will also be awarded a congratulatory letter signed by World Chess Champion and NIIT Mind Champion Viswanathan Anand. Students can learn more about the benefits of appearing in the 9th NITAT and register online by logging on to www.niit.com/NITAT or by visiting

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Kashmir Times, Jammu, February 07, 2013



TRPs must help reduce compliance cost: Govt

NEW DELHI: Certified professionals who help people file tax returns should constantly update their knowledge and help taxpayers reduce the cost of compliance, Minister of State for Finance SS Palanimanickam on Wednesday said.

"The scope of work for TRPs (Tax Return Preparers) has increased tremendously but the underlying objective remains the same, i.e. to provide quality services to the taxpayers at a very low cost and to increase awareness amongst them," Palanimanickam said here.

The primary objective of the TRP Scheme (TRPS) is to bring the convenience of tax filing to the doorsteps of taxpayers across the country. This not only helps boost the taxpayer base but also increases the employability of graduates.

"It has been observed that small taxpayers end

up spending more on filing taxes. This is an attempt to reduce their cost of compliance," said P Rajendran, Chief Operating Officer of NIIT.

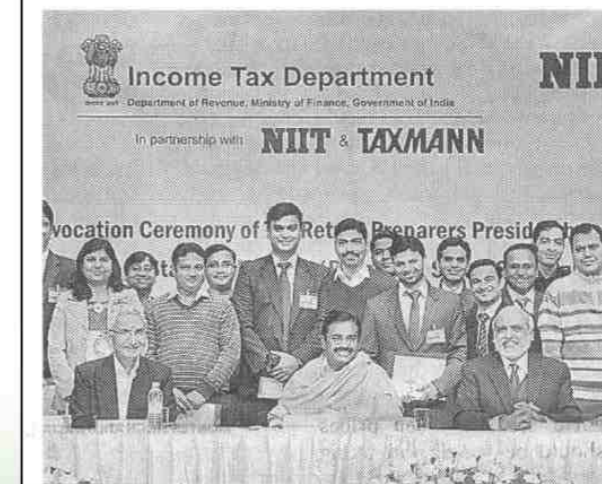
The entire training expense is borne by the government, he added. TRPs were trained by NIIT which awarded certificates to them on successfully clearing the exam.

TRPS training is provided only to graduates in economics, commerce, maths, statistics, management, science and law. TRPs are certified to file returns of individual and HUF income tax assessees as well as file tax deducted at source (TDS) and service tax returns of small and medium enterprises.

Launched by the Directorate of Income Tax in 2006, TRPS is aimed at raising the level of awareness and compliance amongst taxpayers.

The objectives include providing an employment avenue for unemployed or partially employed graduates and reduce the cost of compliance for small taxpayers, leading to an increased assessee base for the government. —PTI

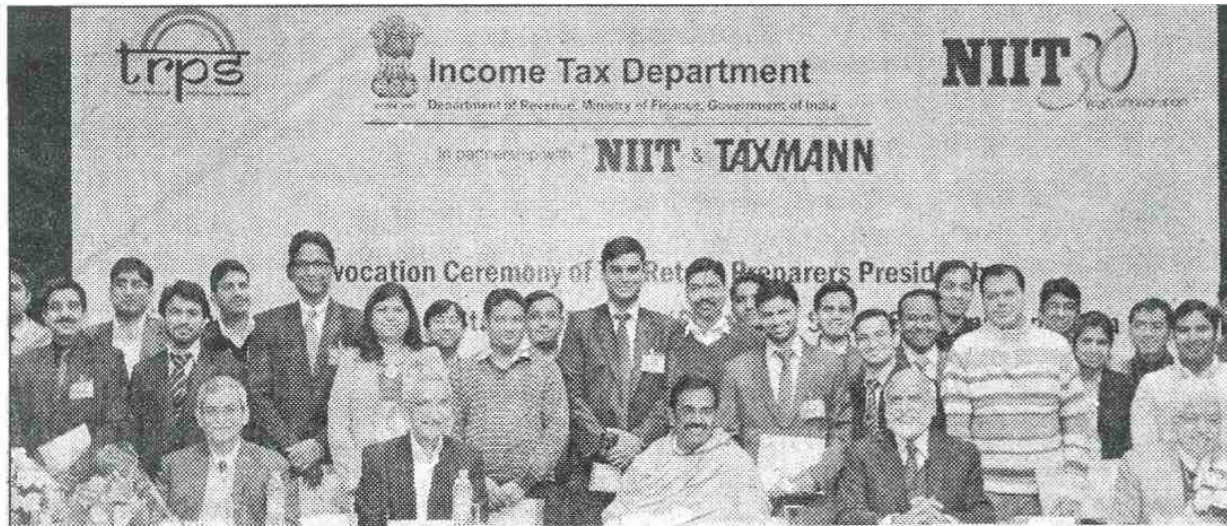
TRPs are trained by NIIT which awards certificates on clearing exam



Financial World, New Delhi, February 07, 2013



TRPs must help reduce cost for taxpayers: Govt



MoS for Finance (Revenue), SS Palanimanickam at Convocation Ceremony of TRP Batch II, in New Delhi —PTI photo

PBD BUREAU/PTI
NEW DELHI, FEB 6

CERTIFIED professionals who help people file tax returns should constantly update their knowledge and help taxpayers reduce the cost of compliance, Minister of State for Finance SS Palanimanickam today said.

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Political and Business Daily, New Delhi, February 07, 2013



TRPs must help reduce cost for taxpayers, says FinMin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi

CERTIFIED professionals who help people file tax returns should constantly update their knowledge and help taxpayers reduce the cost of compliance, minister of state for finance S S Palanimanickam on Wednesday said.

The scope of work for TRPs (tax return preparers) has increased tremendously but the underlying objective remains the same, that is, to provide quality services to the taxpayers at a very low cost and to increase awareness amongst them, Palanimanickam said here.

The primary objective of the TRP scheme (TRPS) is to bring the convenience of tax filing to the doorsteps of taxpayers across the country. This not only helps boost the taxpayer base but only increases the employability of graduates.

"It has been observed that small taxpayers end up spending more on filing taxes. This is an attempt to reduce their cost of compliance," said P Rajendran, chief operating officer of NIIT.

Financial Chronicle, New Delhi
February 07, 2013

Esri India launches cloud-based GIS platform

Our Bureau
Mumbai, Feb. 14

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) solutions provider Esri India (NIIT-GIS India) on Thursday launched a cloud-based GIS platform called ArcGIS Online (AGOL).

NIIT-GIS India is a joint venture between NIIT Technologies and Esri of US.

The company said there are lots of opportunities for GIS as many of the industries and Government departments are accepting, especially in disaster management, infrastructure, business management and location analytics helping individuals from improved citizen services.

"GIS technology is moving from traditional use as a specialised problem solving tool to the core of enterprise applications," Arvind Thakur, Chairman, NIIT-GIS said.

ArcGIS Online is a new cloud-based mapping system which transforms the way geographical information is managed and used, he said.

Globally, AGOL has been used in solving many significant challenges such as organising and providing open access to global environmental information, more effective and co-ordinated responses to large-scale natural disasters, and enabling more efficient operations for global business enterprises, Dean Angelides, Corporate Director, International Operations at Esri said.

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The Hindu Business Line, New Delhi
February 15, 2013



Banks will pip software sector as top job creator

T.E. Raja Simhan
Chennai, Feb. 6

A decade ago, Ananth, a commerce graduate, took a diploma in computer science from NIIT to enter the IT industry. He then moved to the US to work for an American company.

Today, it's a different scenario. Mahesh, an engineering graduate, is working hard to get through a banking recruitment examination for the post of "specialist officer." Mahesh feels his job will be more secure in a bank than in a software company.

This reversal in trend of an engineering graduate looking at a bank, and not a software company, for a job is an indication of what lies ahead. The banking sector will create more jobs than the IT industry.

Nationalised banks will add 5-7 lakh people in the next five years, which means the sector needs to add about



Growing opportunities: Banks, especially in the public sector, will create more jobs as a bulk of their lower and middle level employees will retire in the next five years. — Mohammed Yousuf

1.25 lakh people every year. Going by the current trend, the IT sector will struggle to add one lakh, said Santanu Paul, CEO and Managing Director, TalentSprint, a skill development training company.

India has 6.40 lakh villages but only 32,000 bank branches. Less than 20 per cent of the Indian population has a bank account. The govern-

ment in its financial inclusion drive will increasingly use banks and 'business correspondents' to reach out to the rural population. Also banks, especially in the public sector, will create more jobs as a bulk of their lower and middle level employees will retire in the next five years, said E. Balaji, CEO, Randstad India, an HR firm.

The banking sector will

soon match the IT industry in salary. A specialist officer in a bank is today paid Rs 3.6 lakh a year, which is more than the Rs 3 lakh paid to an engineering graduate on campus recruitment by most companies, said Balaji. In the next five years, the banking sector will change dramatically.

Sunil Goel, Managing Director, GlobalHunt, an executive search firm, said that formalising banking transactions and making it mandatory in the villages with a low population and integration of transaction with all the banks will create the demand for people across the functions, including core /technology/mobile/Internet banking.

Availability of technology and mobile telecom networks are giving a boost and accessibility to the banking industry, he said.

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Hindu Business Line, New Delhi, February 07, 2013

NIIT Technologies eyes outcome-based revenues

Venkatesh Ganesh
Mumbai, Feb. 15

Mid-sized firm NIIT Technologies is eyeing revenue growth from software platforms and Intellectual Property (IP) areas. Further, the company is looking at business from outcome-based pricing, instead of the traditional Time and Materials (T&M) based-revenue.

In T&M, a company generates revenue directly in line with headcount addition. "At present, about 22 per cent of our revenues come from our new business model and this will increase in this fiscal," Arvind Thakur, CEO, NIIT Technologies, told *Business Line* on the sidelines of the



Arvind Thakur, CEO, NIIT Technologies.

Nasscom Summit. The company, which clocked around \$300 million in revenues last fiscal, gets around 78 per cent

of its business from non-IP and platform service lines. This is hugely due to increasing commoditisation in traditional software development and companies such as NIIT and TCS are trying to bag deals with this kind of differentiation, according to analysts.

Also, technologies such as cloud computing and social media are changing the way outsourcing clients are engaging with outsourcing vendors.

"Everything from managed services to cloud computing-related services are all moving towards outcomes based-revenues," added Thakur. The company is undertaking these

initiatives due to some stagnation in some of its business areas. Its order books has remained stagnant at around \$240-250 million for the past five quarters, according to an Emkay Global Financial Services report.

NET PROFIT

In the third quarter of fiscal 2013, net profit dropped 12.5 per cent to Rs. 56 crore due to currency volatility. However, Thakur is optimistic that the company will grow at 11-14 per cent, which is Nasscom's estimates for the sector this fiscal.

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The Hindu Business Line, New Delhi, February 16, 2013



कमिटमेंट कर ली तो फिर ये...

एक्सपो सेंटर के कार्यक्रम में हंसाते गुदगुदाते रहे सलमान खान

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नोएडा। एनआईआईटी के सीओओ की तरफ इशारा करते हुए सिने स्टार सलमान खान ने यह कहा कि 'इन्होंने कमिटमेंट कर ली तो कर ली, फिर ये अपने-आप की भी नहीं मानते' इस डायलॉग पर लोगों ने खूब तालियां व सीटियां बजाईं। दोपहर 12:30 बजे सलमान ने नोएडा के सेक्टर-62 स्थित एक्सपो सेंटर में अपना रंग जमाया। मजाकिया लहजे व अपनी फिल्मों के डायलॉग से उन्होंने लोगों को खूब गुदगुदाया।

सलमान अपने एनजीओ वींग ह्यूमन, कोका कोला और एनआईआईटी के गठित संयुक्त कार्यक्रम के तहत करियर डेवलपमेंट सेंटर की लॉन्चिंग के कार्यक्रम में बोल रहे थे। इस अवसर पर उन्होंने इस संयुक्त अभियान का लोगो भी जारी किया।

कार्यक्रम में मंच पर आते ही सलमान ने स्वयं ही संचालक शम्मी नारंग का साथ देना शुरू कर दिया। इस संयुक्त कार्यक्रम के तहत ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में बच्चों को कंप्यूटर



कार्यक्रम में बोलते सलमान खान, टी. कृष्णकुमार व अन्य।

शिक्षा और रोजगार देने के कार्यक्रम को आगे बढ़ाया जाएगा। एनआईआईटी और एनजीओ ग्राम नियोजन केंद्र द्वारा ड्रासना में एक केंद्र खोला गया है। कार्यक्रम में ड्रासना केंद्र से पास बच्चों में से प्रीती, सोनू, अमित, रेशमा, फराज समेत कुछ बच्चों को सलमान द्वारा प्रमाण पत्र दिया गया। कार्यक्रम के दौरान टी कृष्णकुमार सीईओ हिंदुस्तान कोका कोला बेवरेजस, पी राजेंद्रन सीओओ एनआईआईटी, प्रोफेसर केके मुखर्जी ज्ञान नियोजन केंद्र आदि मौजूद रहे।

अधिकारी भी पहुंचे फोटो खिंचवाने

सलमान खान से मिलने के लिए कॉलेज छात्रों और अन्य लोगों के बीच जिले के बड़े अधिकारी भी मिलने के लिए पहुंचे। कार्यक्रम में जिलाधिकारी स्वयं अपनी पत्नी के साथ सलमान के साथ फोटो खिंचाने में लगे रहे। वहीं, पुलिस के भी कई अधिकारी और अनेक लोग सलमान की एक झलक पाने को पहुंचे।

खूबसूरत टीचर से पढ़ने का था अरमान

एनआईआईटी संस्था की एक टीचर को मंच के सामने बैठा देख सलमान इशारा करके बोले कि इतनी खूबसूरत टीचर अगर हो तो मैं भी यहां दाखिला जरूर लूंगा। उन्होंने कहा कि हम जब स्कूल में थे तो ऐसी खूबसूरत टीचर नहीं थीं।

चार सौ में सिर्फ एक को ही नौकरी

एनआईआईटी द्वारा चलाए जा रहे केंद्र में पढ़ रहे 400 विद्यार्थियों के पास होने पर आयोजित कार्यक्रम में सलमान ने जब पूछा कि कितनों को नौकरी मिली तो सिर्फ एक विद्यार्थी ने हाथ खड़ा किया। इस पर सलमान बोले कि चार सौ बच्चों में एक ही बच्चे को ही नौकरी। इसके बाद धीरे से तीन चार बच्चों ने और हाथ उठाया। हर राज्य में एनआईआईटी के केंद्र खोलने की बात पर उन्होंने पूछा कि यह कब तक खुलेंगे।

Amar Ujala, Noida, February 16, 2013



नोएडा : एक समारोह के दौरान हिंदुस्तान कोका-कोला पेय लि. के सी.ई.ओ. पी. कृष्ण कुमार तथा एन.आई.आई.टी. के एम.डी. राजिन्द्रन के साथ बॉलीवुड अभिनेता सलमान खान।

Punjab Kesari, Amritsar, February 16, 2013

हिंदुस्तान कोका-कोला ने किया गठजोड़

नोएडा, 15 फरवरी (एजेंसी) : हिंदुस्तान कोका कोला बेवरेजस ने अभिनेता सलमान खान के बीइंग ह्यूमन फाउंडेशन के साथ गठजोड़ किया है। इसके तहत ग्रामीण युवाओं के सशक्तिकरण के लिए कंपनी करिअर विकास केंद्रों की संख्या बढ़ाएगी। कंपनी के पास अभी एक करिअर विकास केंद्र (सी.डी.सी.) है। कंपनी कोका कोला की सबसे बड़ी 'बोटलिंग' सहयोगी है। हिंदुस्तान कोका कोला बिरेजिस (एच.सी.सी.बी.पी.एल.) के मुख्य परिचालन अधिकारी टी. कृष्ण कुमार ने कहा कि हमें विश्वास है कि बीइंग ह्यूमन के साथ गठजोड़ से योजना को आगे बढ़ाने में मदद मिलेगी। हम इस पहल को आगे बढ़ाना चाहते हैं।



नोएडा: सलमान खान (मध्य) हिंदुस्तान कोका कोला बिरेजिस के सी.ई.ओ. टी. कृष्ण कुमार व एम.डी. राजिन्द्रन बात करते हुए।

एच.सी.सी.बी.पी.एल. ने नित में पहला सी.डी.सी. स्थापित किया। फाउंडेशन तथा गैर-सरकारी संगठन कृष्णकुमार ने कहा कि सी.डी.सी. का मकसद शिक्षित, बेरोजगार युवाओं को 2011 में गाजियाबाद जिले के ड्रासना गुणवत्तापूर्ण प्रशिक्षण देना है।

Dainik Savera, Amritsar, February 16, 2013



Rural impact

BOLLYWOOD hottie Salman Khan, with CEO of Hindustan Coca Cola beverages T Krishan Kumar and Rajendran, MD of NIIT in Noida announced a tie-up between Being Human, Coca Cola and NIIT last week for an initiative to empower and educate youth in rural areas.

Screen, Mumbai, February 22, 2013



Salman Khan at a function to empower rural and educated youth. His Being Human Foundation is behind this initiative.

Partnership

Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt Ltd (HCCBPL) announced their partnership with Salman Khan's Being Human Foundation, to scale up Career Development Centre (CDC), an initiative to empower rural and educated youth. The initiative, in association with NIIT Foundation and NGO Gram Niyojan Kendra, established its pilot centre near the HCCBPL bottling plant at Dasna and is now set to extend its reach to the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Odisha.

Hindustan Times, Noida Live, February 22, 2013



SEERAT TOOR GREWAL

Digital marketing as a career option has significantly left behind other fields in terms of rate of progress and potential. The field has shown unparalleled dependence of marketing plans and efforts of companies across industries. Companies can no longer afford to ignore and lose out on the online aspect of marketing as the stakes are very high and every dawn is witnessing an increase in the number of companies going digital. The increase in the number of techniques to gather and analyse data has spelt a boom in this area. More and more companies are now placing all decisions and budgets on data trends thus generated.

The field is thus loaded with opportunities. As a digital marketer, you can be involved in various roles depending upon your expertise and interest the major ones being:

- Content marketing
- SEO marketing
- Email marketing
- Blogging
- Article marketing
- Data analyst
- Web and graphic designing
- Social media experts
- Web hosting
- Online reputation management
- Digital hospitality
- Paid search marketing
- Mobile Marketing

Not every genre can be your forte, though you can choose to multi-task and can be a consultant or

end-solution expert. Each of the roles mentioned above calls for expertise and a specific skill-set to be developed. Some of these are technical in nature and require a proper training before being picked up.

Creativity is the buzzword which underlies all these aspects and anybody who can think out of the box and has a sharp foresight to come up with unique formulas and structure them into puissant and well-integrated marketing campaigns, can gain immensely from this.

Skills and certificates

Though digital marketing is defining new horizons and scaling greater heights, it is firmly grounded in our traditional marketing approaches. Thus anybody who has done an MBA in marketing makes a strong contender for this field. The choice of role will purely depend on personal inclinations and the 'creativity quotient', one is naturally endowed with. There are some who are internet freaks and in spite of no formal degree in software can scoop-out the most technical information or analyse

data with ease. There are some who have a natural flair for designing and just need some short training to channelise and refine their talents whereas others have strong writing skills which need to be enhanced to suit the marketing campaign strategy.

There are short training courses available at both national and international levels. These stretch up to 6-12 months. These train students in various aspects of digital marketing. Many companies impart the same viz. NIIT, Edukart, under the aegis of IAMA-Internet



Digital gains

CAREER COMPASS: DIGITAL MARKETING

and Mobile Association of India, International Digital Marketing Institute etc.

The courses are:

- Advanced Programme in Digital Brand Management
- Advanced Programme in Digital Marketing
- GutsGo Online Marketing Programme
- Search Engine Marketing Course
- Advanced Online Advertising Programme
- Advanced Programme in Social Media Marketing

Challenges

Like any other career, digital marketing is no hot-ginger tea in cold weather and is full of challenges for the firms as well as individuals. The very pace at which internet users and marketers are growing presents a tough call to the professionals as it comes along with more and more usage and preference patterns waiting to be tapped. Thus, the phenomenal amount of data generated and its analysis is the foremost challenge the businesses encounter. The proliferation of tools to go about the digital-way serves another daunting task of where to start from.

There are various consultancies that have sprung up to answer those questions for businesses.

For start ups and new entrepreneurs who don't have a large budget to hire big names getting the right talent who can dish-out a perfect digital strategy for them is the biggest challenge.

Tribune, New Delhi, February 19, 2013



PGPIT under SLT

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 15: NIIT Jammu today launched NIIT's state-of-the art Synchronous Learning Technology (SLT), a unique learning methodology that enhances student's experience by combining the best features of conventional class-



Dignitaries launching Synchronous Learning Technology at NIIT Jammu.

room education coupled with advanced e-learning and learning management techniques under cloud campus.

Speaking on the occasion, Territory Head of NIIT Limited, Syed Hassan Akhatar, congratulated the team of NIIT Jammu for taking this great initiative. Briefing the advantage of technique, he said the Cloud campus empowers a 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 Net-book that connects them to NIIT's Cloud campus network.

With this launch, NIIT Jammu will now be offering some advanced programs like Java, .NET and Post Graduate Programme in IT (PGPIT), which have been designed with inputs from NIIT's academic and IT partners, ensuring that students' IT skills are mapped to the requirements of the industry, said Director, NIIT JAMMU, Rahul Sharma.

Briefing about the eligibility for the course, he said that a graduate less than or equal to 27 years of age at the time of admission with more than 60% marks in class XII is eligible to apply for the course.

The 48-weeks PGPIT is a professional programme for graduates, combining an industry endorsed syllabus with NIIT's quality training, he said adding further, the six month paid internship during the program will help students get hands on industry experience, as well as the opportunity to recover part of their fees while completing the programme.

Daily Excelsior, Jammu, February 16, 2013

CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt Ltd (HCCB-PL) recently announced their partnership with actor Salman Khan's Being Human foundation, to scale up Career Development Centre (CDC), an initiative to empower rural, educated and underserved youth.

The initiative, in association with NIIT foundation and NGO Gram Niyojan Kendra, established its pilot

centre near the HCCBPL bottling plant at Dasna and is now set to extend its reach to States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Odisha.

Speaking at the event, T Krishna kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt Ltd said: "The Career Development Centre is a part of the Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverage's growth

agenda. The vision is to bring quality training within easy reach of the educated, unemployed and under-served youth to enhance their employability potential and bring them into the employment mainstream. Over the past two years, the first CDC near Dasna has witnessed success by opening opportunities for over 200 youth with employers across industry.

Pioneer, Chandigarh, February 20, 2013

BANKING ENTRANCE TEST

NIIT Institute of Finance, Banking & Insurance Training Ltd. (IFBI) - India's largest banking training institute, recently announced the third National Banking Entrance Test (NBET) for their PG programmes from February 15 to 28, 2013.

Successful candidates will be eligible for direct admission into the industry

linked diploma programmes — PG Diploma in Banking Operations (PGDBO) and bank vantage Career programmes. Top 2,600 candidates in the merit list will be offered pre-course placement offers from leading private sector banks in India.

Graduates and post-graduates with 50 per cent or above marks in graduation, Class XII and Class X

are eligible to apply for the test. Candidates should be born on or after July 1, 1988 to be eligible for applying for the test.

The applicants can either visit IFBI centre or can apply online by submitting application form at <http://www.ifbi.com/nbet.aspx>. Candidates who qualify in NBET would need to appear for a personal interview.

Pioneer, Chandigarh, February 20, 2013

NITAT sees record participation

The National IT Aptitude Test (NITAT), conducted by the National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT), has seen record participation this year, with 152,000 IT aspirants applying for the test's ninth edition in 2013.

All NITAT test takers will receive an assessment score card and personalised career counselling. NIIT will award a range of benefits to the toppers, including a special recognition certificate to the top 30 per cent candidates on the

merit list to encourage them to pursue a career in IT. Additionally, high performers will also get a skill-up subsidy on NIIT programmes for acquiring technical skills, to make them day-one industry-ready.

NITAT is held annually to enable students ascertain their aptitude for the IT industry. The list of national and zonal top 25 students of NITAT 2013 is available online on www.niit.com/NITAT.

B S REPORTER

The Business Standard, New Delhi, March 07, 2013



CITY ANCHOR TED AWARD FOR FORMER CHIEF SCIENTIST AT NIIT DR SUGATA MITRA, WHOSE IDEA HELPED CHILDREN LEARN

In South Delhi slum, a Hole in the Wall is window to world

DIPANKAR GHOSE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

IT STARTED as a project meant to test the learning ability of children using computers — unsupervised.

On January 26, 1999, in collaboration with the Delhi government, a team led by Dr Sugata Mitra, then Chief Scientist at NIIT, carved open a section of a wall adjoining the NIIT campus, and placed a computer there. This was used by children, without supervision, from the adjacent slum — quite literally, "A Hole in the Wall", was born.

The next year, a similar set of computers was installed in Dakshinpur in South Delhi.

The success of the project has been such that it has become the inspiration for an internationally acclaimed movie, and 14 years after the project took off, Dr Mitra has been awarded \$1 million grant by non-profit organisation TED, to take his innovation forward.

While the computers at Kalkaji have been shut due to construction work, those at Dakshinpur are functioning.

Purnendu Hota, from Hole in the Wall Education Systems, said, "The concept behind the project was to see if children, who were, new to computers, could work on the Internet without supervision. Within a month, the children at the Kalkaji slum were experts at it. The computers were carved

into the walls at both places, where the children could use it for free. Through our studies, we saw that without any formal education, children had begun to grasp the complexities of scientific and mathematical concepts."

In the 14 years that have passed since, "Hole in the Wall" concept has spread to Kerala and Maharashtra. "In Delhi itself, these computers have been set up in Lajpat Nagar and Alipur.

There are two of these systems in juvenile care centres as well. A local representative opens the boxes containing these computers at 9am and shuts them at 5pm. "When a child hits a button, he or she is asked his or her age. Based on that, there are educational



Dr Mitra will get \$1 mn grant to take innovation forward

games on mathematics, geography, and other subjects. There are information storing devices on these computers, which look at the patterns of usage," Hota said.

Residents of Dakshinpur said that they have trouble pulling their children away from these computers. "Our children often tell us they learn more on them

than at school. They even seem to do better at examinations now," said Rakesh Panwar, owner of a grocery store next to a row of four Hole In the Wall computers.

The project was also the inspiration behind the novel *Q and A* by Vikas Swarup, an IFS officer. This novel led to the Oscar-winning *Slumdog Millionaire*.

Swarup said, "I was inspired by hole-in-the-wall project, where a computer with an Internet connection was put in a Delhi slum. When the slum was revisited after a month, the children of that slum had learnt how to use the Internet. I realised that there's an innate ability in everyone to do something extraordinary, provided they are given an opportunity."

The Indian Express, New Delhi, February 28, 2013

Hearing-impaired conquering new frontiers

102 students belonging to Noida Deaf Society receive graduating certificates in Information Technology courses

Madhur Tankha

NEW DELHI: For 102 hearing-impaired students, February 23 will always remain etched in their mind.

On this day, the students belonging to the Noida Deaf Society were encouraged with words of praise by heads of different institutions and received graduating certificates in Information Technology courses at a function at Shri Ram Centre for Performing Arts here.

Even though odds were heavily stacked against them in life, they managed to overcome their handicap with patience and perseverance.

Narrating his story of struggle through sign language, Rajesh R., who hails from Kerala, said since his father was jobless there was tremendous pressure on him to get sustainable employment. "I came to know that an institute for deaf students was running near the Capital. So I confided in my mother about my desire to study in Noida. On seeing the urban landscape of Delhi, I was completely taken aback. With great difficulty, I managed to locate Noida."

After passing out from NDS in a subject he desperately wanted to master, Rajesh has finally landed up with a job in a bank. "Studying IT with deaf students was an exhilarating experience. I



BREAKING BARRIERS: Noida Deaf Society students in action during its annual felicitation ceremony in the Capital on Saturday. - PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

am now able to support my family."

After felicitating students, NIIT Chairman R. S. Pawar regretted that educational institutions give emphasis solely to academics but not on making students sensitive towards the environment around them.

"Students' brains are being sharpened but their hearts are not being developed. They need to develop feel-

ings. This was the thought which entered my mind while I was wondering how Niranjani (choreographer) managed to get the right rhythm from hearing impaired students today. We need to carry forward this movement."

Sharing her experience of working with hearing impaired employees, Axis Bank vice-president Binita Basu said she decided to take up

the challenge of training five hearing impaired boys at her office. "I was surprised at their grasping power and concentration level. Since they cannot hear or listen a word, they do not get distracted. They cleared the HR programme, the written exam and interview. We recruited three of them."

Ms. Basu said the hearing impaired people have the advantage of communicating

even when they are separated by a distance where words cannot be heard. And as employees, they can become a part of crisis management as well as being the centre of attraction during lighter moments.

American India Foundation CEO M. A. Ravi Kumar said before Mahatma Gandhi died he had put Indians to a litmus test while they were contemplating what their

next step should be.

"One troubled soul asked what his next step should be. Gandhi replied he must do something useful for the poor and the needy."

Describing hearing-impaired students as special, Mr. Kumar said they need to be ambitious.

"While watching the short film today I realised that you need to dream big. You will face difficulties in your new jobs but you will also find mentors. You need to speak to mentors on a regular basis. It is possible that you become chief executive officers of companies and help others come up in life."

Pointing out that she learnt sign language as she wanted to work in the field of education with the hearing-impaired, NDS founder Ruma Roka said the challenge before her was to create a curriculum which would provide them livelihood opportunities.

Narrating the success story of one of her students, Ms. Roka said one Ankur had to travel every day for five hours to reach his institute and go back to his home in Muzaffarnagar. "To attend his graphic design class, he used to wake up at 4-30 a.m. and catch the 5 a.m. bus. The class was four hours long. He has trained in cartography and is now leading an independent life in Gurgaon."

The Hindu, New Delhi, February 24, 2013

Banyan International School introducing NIIT-IT Wizard

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 22: Banyan International School is introducing NIIT-IT Wizard, an integrated computer course curriculum from class 1st to XIIth aimed at making students adapt with the usage of information technology.

The Curriculum will enable the students of class 1st to send an email and students of class 10th to do programming in Java.

The School Management said that the objective is not only to enable students to be conversant with latest technology but also empower the child with worldwide accreditation of NIIT certification, adding that the children would get exposure to real life situations of the outside world and will be familiar with tools like CAT (Computer Aided Teaching), CBT (Computer

based tutorials) & IS & DR projects.

The management further said that it would help in developing the creativity of the children and make them aware of the current changes via expert and trained faculty from NIIT itself.

It further claimed that the programme will give the child self-confidence and enhance his planning and execution skills, logical and analytical thinking capabilities and bring out his latent talent and leadership qualities to the fore.

Meanwhile, the resource persons from NIIT conducted a workshop in the school for parents wherein the benefits of the NIIT-IT wizard programme were highlighted for students of class XIth who are desirous of later pursuing Information Technology.

Daily Excelsior, Jammu, February 23, 2013

National Banking Entrance Test

NIIT Institute of Finance, Banking & Insurance Training Limited has announced the 3rd National Banking Entrance Test (NBET) for its postgraduate programmes from February 15 to 28.

Successful candidates will be eligible for direct admission to the industry-linked diploma programmes — Post Graduate Diploma in Banking Operations (PGDBO) and Bank Vantage Career programmes. Top 2,600

candidates in the merit list will be offered pre-course placement offers from leading private sector banks in India.

Graduates/Post graduates with 50 per cent or above marks in graduation, Class XII & Class X, and final year graduate students, are eligible to apply for the test.

They can either visit the IFBI centre or can apply online at <http://www.ifbi.com/nbet.aspx>

The Hindu, Chennai, February 25, 2013



APTITUDE TEST
National IT Aptitude Test (NITAT), conducted by NIIT, had over 152,000 IT aspirants applying for the NI-

TAT 2013. Test takers will receive an assessment score-card and career counselling. NITAT toppers will receive a range of benefits.

The Times of India, New Delhi, March 11, 2013



From left: Raj S Dhanar, dean, Faculty of Management Studies, Delhi University; DK Bandyopadhyay, vice chancellor, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University; Usha Albuquerque, author and founder director, Careers Smart; Suneel Galgotia, chancellor, Galgotias University; and Rajeev Shorey, founder president and adviser, NIIT University, at the conclave

“We wrote to 100 industrial houses, but no one replied”

Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University vice chancellor laments the lack of response from industry to jointly develop curricula

HTCampus.com Correspondent

Eminent educationists and experts from major institutes in the country got together at the HT Campus Conclave on Excellence in Education held in the Capital last week.

One of the major issues discussed at the event was how the private education sector has performed till now and what it needs to do. The keynote address was delivered



UGC chairman Ved Prakash urged private institutes to focus on educating the youth and not on profits

by Ved Prakash, chairman, University Grants Commission, who reflected upon the contribution of private players in higher education.

“Currently, private education has a share of 45% in higher education. We need to ask ourselves whether we are able to achieve excellence in research and innovation. We need universities which focus on multi-disciplinarity and provide an outstanding learning and living environment. It’s the responsibility of institutions to direct the students to the right sectors and disciplines. There is also a need to revisit curricula and invest more in classroom processes. The three core challenges that we need to address are equity, excellence and access.”

Other speakers at the event were DK Bandyopadhyay,

vice chancellor, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University; Raj S Dhanar, dean, Faculty of Management Studies, Delhi University; Rajeev Shorey, founder president and adviser, NIIT University; and Suneel Galgotia, chancellor, Galgotias University.

The debate was moderated by Usha Albuquerque, author and founder director, Careers Smart. The panellists stressed upon the need for a stronger industry-academia link, which will help the students channelise their academic knowledge into skills required at the workplace. Bandyopadhyay lamented the lack of response from the industry to jointly develop curricula. “We wrote to 100 industrial houses, but no one replied.” He also said that it was hard to get corporates on board the university’s academic council.

Shorey, on the other hand, spoke about his university’s USP, which is research-based. “We have tried to ful-

fill our aim of being an industry-linked university by getting the best minds from companies such as IBM, Microsoft and General Motors. We also aim to be a research-based university.”

Suggesting the best ways to provide quality education to students, Dhanar said, “The idea should be to get the elite into higher education. These should be students who are gifted and talented. At present, the problem is that we are exposing each and every student to higher education, which is resulting in unemployment because students are unable to identify their potential and end up taking up jobs or joining disciplines for which they are not suited.”

The discussion was followed by a felicitation ceremony wherein Excellence Awards were presented to private institutions in and around Delhi NCR in categories such as engineering, management and mass communication.

And the award goes to...



Engineering: ITM University



Innovation in collaborative learning: Institute of Management Technology, Ghaziabad



Management: International Management Institute, New Delhi



Management: Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management, New Delhi



Engineering: JSS Academy of Technical Education



Innovation in industry integration: Amity University, Manesar campus



Animation: Birla Institute of Technology Extension Centre, Noida



Fashion technology: Pearl Academy of Fashion



Innovation in technology: Delhi School of Business



Management: Birla Institute of Management Technology



Management: Institute of Management Technology, Ghaziabad



Mass communication: Apeeji Institute of Mass Communication



Engineering: Galgotias College of Engineering & Technology, Galgotias University



EDUCATION

Teachers, Leave Them Kids Alone

Children learn best when they're given the chance to rely on their own resources, **Sugata Mitra**, winner of the TED 2013 prize, tells **AKSHAI JAIN**

A PORTLY frizzy-haired man enters a classroom full of 10-year-old children. "I'm going to give you a question which I have not thought about yet," he says with a wide smile. The children look bewildered. "It's a question to which I would not have the answer," he continues, "you're going to find the answer."

"Where did language come from?"
With that he retreats into a corner. Groups of children begin trawling the Internet in search of answers. They consult feverishly with each other, venturing to other groups to find out what they're doing. Occasionally, a child moves from one group to another.

The man steps forward a little later to ask the children what they've found.

"Language comes from the evolution of humankind and how the body is shaped," ventures a member of one of the groups. "But," adds another, "they would not have tried to produce sounds if they hadn't been trying to express their feelings."

"We've observed this happening in classrooms across the world," whispers

Sugata Mitra, professor of educational technology at Newcastle University, UK.

These are concepts that are far beyond their age, yet the children have arrived at them on their own. "Is this a good way to learn?" Mitra asks them. "Yes," say the children in unison.

It's a validation of what this 61-year-old professor, winner of the \$1 million TED 2013 Prize, has been saying for the last 13 years. Learning in children, he believes, is something that happens almost naturally, a 'self-organising system'. The lower the adult intervention, the more children are likely to learn.

Mitra is an anachronism in an age that emphasises academic certification and extreme specialisation. He's part polymath, part dissenter, and perhaps, part visionary.

While studying solid state physics at IIT Delhi in the late 1970s, he discovered that the structure of organic molecules has a greater role in determining their function than their constituent atoms. He then moved on to study energy storage systems, resulting in a new design for zinc-chloride batteries.

This segued into an interest in the way electricity

flows through biological systems, which led to a paper that speculated on why human sense organs are located where they are.

Sometime in the '80s, he'd also developed an interest in computer networking. "I just drifted into it," he says, "At that time the only people who could create computer programmes were theoretical physicists."

In 1990, he joined NIIT, where he started work on creating curricula, inventing learning devices and researching new methods of teaching computer programming, which was fast becoming a subject of choice for students around the country.

That was where, one day in 1999, he decided to try an experiment. Computers had entered big schools in every city, and were changing the way children were taught. Would they be of any use to poorer children who had either no access to education or went to schools where the teachers were disinterested and the infrastructure poor, he wondered.

Abutting the wall of his office compound was a slum, the kids of which, even in the off chance that they did go to school, had certainly never

used a computer. Mitra bludgeoned a hole in it, into which he stuck a computer. A separate smaller hole housed a track pad. On the computer was an array of educational games and software.

The slum children were quick to explore. Groups of them gathered around this new machine that functioned in a language that none of them knew. It did not take them long, Mitra discovered, to learn to operate it. They fiddled, taught each other and exchanged ideas. In the matter of a few weeks, they'd figured out how the games worked, and more tantalisingly, had even picked up a smattering of English.

Could this be a solution for schools in rural India where there were few good teachers?

To answer this, Mitra set himself an "impossible task". He would take this "hole in the wall", as his experiment had come to be known, to a group of 12-year-old Tamil-speaking children. Would they, having been left alone with some software on basic biology (a subject they had not studied) in English (a language they did not know) pass a standard test?

They did.



SOCIAL EXPERIMENT



And with a little help from an adult, who played the part of a doting granny who may not understand a subject but nevertheless encourages and praises her grandchild's efforts, they did even better. In fact, they did as well as children in rich, urban schools.

Mitra took these experiments to other parts of the world – Italy, Cambodia, Latin America. Everywhere, he got the same results.

IT CONFIRMED a suspicion that had been growing on him – that our current methods of education were indoctrinating and outmoded, a remnant of an "age of empires" during which they

served to produce uniformity. That age had passed. What we needed now was a new paradigm of 'minimally invasive education', where children would be left to "rub shoulders" with each other and an Internet-connected computer. With this, they would 'teach' themselves.

The first experimental steps towards this have already been taken in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, where these 'self-organised learning environments' have been set up. The goal in this case is for the children to teach themselves English. The grannies here are a group of 200 moderators, most of them actual British grannies,

© Virtually smart Mitra with the children in front of one of the 'hole-in-the-wall' centres, at Madangir colony, New Delhi

The children, as Mitra found out, learnt to operate the computer, and picked up bits of English on their own

who over Skype, work with the children.

This, spread across subjects, is Mitra's vision of what he refers to as the 'school in the cloud'. He plans to use the TED prize money to set up such a facility in India within the next two years.

Mitra is, however, emphatic that this is a work in progress. Many more experiments need to be done, and in its initial form, the 'school in the cloud' will augment the current educational system rather than replace it.

One of the biggest problems with his system, he confesses, is measuring the results in the children. The only yardsticks he has are exams that originate in the same system of 'rote' learning that he is so critical of.

Nor is it clear how these individual experiments will scale up to a whole un-systemic 'system'.

But that they will, he seems sure.

At every TED talk he's given, Mitra has, with childlike enthusiasm, quoted a line from a conversation he had with Arthur C Clarke, where the science fiction writer told him, "If a teacher can be replaced with a machine, he should be." Students, it seems, are their own best teachers.

akshai@tehelka.com

Tehelka, National, March 2013



UNIVERSITY SPECIAL
FUTURE LEADERS

SELECT UNIVERSITIES WITH
IMMENSE POTENTIAL



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Neemrana

- Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham
- Amity University
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- Amity University
- Amity University



NIIT UNIVERSITY has the right ingredients like a beautiful campus to provide a superior learning experience

ARE THEY THE NEXT HARVARD IN WAITING?

A perceptible shift is seen in the way the young breed of edupreneurs look at the universities they have inherited. Is it for the better? Careers360 explores....

B Mahesh Sarma

Close your eyes and think of great universities of the world, Harvard, Cambridge, Yale, Stanford, MIT, UC, LSE are some of the names that will immediately come to your mind. And all of them are in the private sector.

For a moment close your eyes and think about great universities in India. IITs, JNU, Delhi University, AIIMS, National Law School University, Bangalore and others come to your mind. All

of them are in the public sector. Quiz Dr. Venkat Rangan, VC of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham on this dichotomy, put comes the reply. "Think about India 25 years back. The top 10 companies were in the public sector. Think about 2012 and 7 out of 10 are in the private sector".

Will the story repeat in the education domain? The numbers as on date are fuzzy. While some private players like Amity, Amrita and Jamia Hamdard have been front runners, their publication record leaves a lot to be desired. And unlike the public sector companies, the public sector universities, at least in the top order show no signs of slowing

down. So what would it take the private institutions to crack the code?

Can great universities be made on purpose?

Great universities are not created ab initio asserts UGC Chairman Dr Ved Prakash in a detailed interview elsewhere in this issue. World over great universities have evolved over time, may be centuries with periods of peaks and troughs. The old grandees like Oxford and Cambridge have nearly 8-10 centuries behind them. Even the new kids like Stanford and MIT are a century and half young.

However, examples of ab initio, like

Hong Kong University of Science & Technology comes to mind immediately. Set up in 1991 with substantial funding, the university raced to excellence within a short period of ten years. National University of Singapore and TSinghua are other names, though both are of older vintage.

Prof. VV Krishna, Senior Academic at Jawaharlal Nehru University is much more emphatic. "India needs at least 10 such universities in the coming decades and they can be created at 1/3rd of the global cost," he asserts. Concur Prof. Venkat Rangan. "I would argue that India needs about 20 such universities

to be set up across the country and they can be set up at a cost of say 20,000 crore rupees." It is eminently doable, he says. The question is will the new breed of private universities, that have the critical mass, make the transition?

What does it take to be a great university?

A high concentration of talented academics and students, significant budgets and strategic vision and leadership, is what is needed according to Jamil Salmi, who wrote the report on world class universities, published recently by the World Bank. Add to that regulatory regime, research partnership and

culture says Atul Chauhan, President of Amity Group of Institutions.

Talented Academics

Every Vice Chancellor we spoke to was unanimous on this count. And most of them agreed the best still go to public universities. But none of them are giving up. Atul Chauhan has a Scout Programme wherein a team is in place to scout young faculty members, who have completed their PhDs abroad. He is cagey about the numbers achieved though. Manipal University follows a different route. They have announced 20 chair professorships wherein exceptionally good professors are brought



UNIVERSITY SPECIAL

FUTURE LEADERS

“**DR. SUNDAR KUNDA**
VICE-CHANCELLOR
SHIV NADAR UNIVERSITY



What we intend to achieve may not be realised in my lifetime. So the objective is to put in place the right DNA that will serve the university and its students.

“**DR. RAJEEV SHOREY**
ADVISOR
NIIT UNIVERSITY



We believe in excellence. Numbers and metrics are important. But what is essential is to instil the hunger to excel in all the people we recruit.

“**ATUL CHAUHAN**
PRESIDENT
AMITY UNIVERSITY



University-level sports and bonding that it generates in a Harvard or Oxford is yet to take root in India. But we will make it happen.

“**SEKAR VISHWANATHAN**
VICE-PRESIDENT
VIT UNIVERSITY



We need to be aware that even if you offer a scholarship to a student, he or she may not have the money to travel to collect the scholarship.

“**DR. RANJAN PAI**
CEO
MANIPAL EDUCATION



What we have in India are excellent teaching institutions. The shift to being research intensive is a slow and very long drawn process.

“**DR. P. VENKAT RAO**
VICE-CHANCELLOR
AMRUTA UNIVERSITY



More than just the patents and papers, to us university research must be able to solve real-life problems and bring smiles to people's faces.

in and given a free hand to set up their research programmes and raise the academic profile of the university. Dr. Ranjan Pai, CEO, Manipal Group, cites the recruitment of Dr. Sundar Sarukkai, a renowned academician to initiate and develop the humanities programme of MAHE. Cost definitely is a factor. But quite a few players blame the ecosystem as well.

Azim Premji University (APU) has a different take. Flush with funds, the institution recruits exceptionally qualified young academics. It is one of the few universities in the private sector where the entire academic team has tertiary qualifications, that too from top universities. Their goal too is lofty. Anurag Behar, the Vice Chancellor of APU says, “The University comes as a national resource, to address the country's problem of having singular lack of experts in school education.” At NIIT University, the single biggest challenge has been to maintain quality.

“Our endeavour is to continue attracting outstanding faculty members (both regular and visiting) from all over the globe,” asserts Dr. Rajiv Shorey, Founding President and Advisor NIIT, another private university.

Dr. Nikhil Sinha, Vice Chancellor, Shiv Nadar University is clear about it. He is investing in young faculty members and is willing to wait until they grow up and produce results. Yes, the Associate Professor level positions are the most challenging to him.

Exceptional students

This is the second big challenge. “Each year at Manipal we want to see if the average quality of our intake is better than last year's,” asserts Dr. Pai. Amity University has a scholarship programme wherein any candidate with 90% and above in 10+2 from CBSE Board becomes eligible for a full scholarship. Nearly 2% of the whole student body is on full scholarship. If we

take their advertisements at face value, about 350 students out of 35,000 would be top scorers in their school board. But this is not enough to create a critical mass. VIT University, Vellore has an Ignite Scholarship. But Sekar Vishwanathan, Vice President, VIT cautions, “We once announced a rural outreach programme where we offered 100% fee waiver to each student who topped the 10+2 exams in all districts of Tamil Nadu. When called for counselling few turned up. Later we found that half of them did not even have money to travel to Vellore to avail of the scholarship.”

All of them are commendable initiatives, but considering the fact that most of the private universities charge fees which is 4 to 22 times higher than corresponding public sector player, the costs really are prohibitive. So, good students would always prefer to go to a highly subsidised public sector university. A foreign language BA programme at Amity would cost about Rs. 1 lakh

per annum excluding other costs while a student at School of Languages, JNU, New Delhi would study at just Rs. 240 per annum.

Unless private universities find a way to subsidise education, unless the government moves out of its Brahmanic mindset of not touching private players, the scenario might not change. And that takes us to funding.

Significant budgets

As on date, the only university that appears to be able to breach the barrier is Azim Premji University. With its parent foundation sitting with an endowment in excess of USD 4 billion, it is the only institution comparable to the best in the West in terms of resource availability.

Barring APU, NIIT, and Shiv Nadar University, which are backed by big corporates, most of the other top tier private universities are primarily

educational empires. And they bank on student tuitions to fund themselves to a large extent. Both Atul Chauhan as well as Dr. Pai are candid in admitting this and also acknowledging that this has to change.

Two sources are cited by them. Competitive state funding is one source and endowments are another. If both the centre and state governments create a transparent mechanism for research funding, and open it to public and private then the dependency on student fee will come down. Industry funding is another source, all agree, which needs to be tapped much more. All of them cite partnerships with industry as a sign of bigger things to come. Some of them do get funds from DST, DAE etc. But what they lament is the absence of a system.

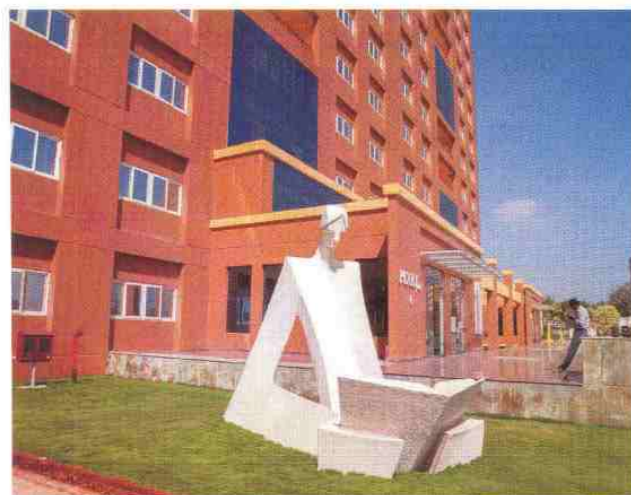
Alumni - the next generation

Almost all private university players we spoke to agreed on the need for alumni

endowments. Atul Chauhan made an interesting observation about the role of sports which is creating an intra-university bonding and pride when it comes to other competitors. A la the famous quote in Da Vinci Code “In which year did a Harvard sculler last outrow an Oxfordman at Henley?”

The fierce pride that competitive sports generates in a US university and the everlasting bonds it creates with the alma mater goes a long way when it comes to alumni funding. Sunil Bharti Mittal, another educationist, has a different take on the same. He contented, most rich Indians in the last generation had seen acute poverty and shortage. The young entrepreneurs of the current generation have seen none. So, as the sense of contentment rises so does the propensity to give back.

But either way it must rise, so that the universities are able to reach a level wherein, as Dr. Philip Altbach says, the



AZIM PREJI University that offers Master's in Education, and Development Studies is planning to have 4000 students in 5 years

and private universities explicitly caution about founders taking on academic titles like that of Pro chancellors and Chancellors.

However, theoretically any individual could join politics, become the Governor of a state and be legally anointed as Chancellor. The UGC will keep mum.

And one President was very candid. "We put in our hard earned money. I need to be able to give the university the shape I have envisaged. As long as the academic processes are safe, there would be little to argue against such a sentiment. The question is who would ensure that? Who would ensure accountability? Quality? Value for money? The World Bank has a ready-made answer - Governance.

Governance is the word

The policy regime is right now murky. A new thinking that privileges output, that makes admissions uniform, need-blind and easy is not only important but essential. A system that rewards quality and promotes excellence is a must. A system that values the contribution of good players and punishes the bad apples severely, is essential. A system that moves beyond territorial boundaries and treat India as one unit is a must. If all that happens (that's our wish), at least some of these private universities would definitely grow up to be great institutions in the coming decade.

They need to do it. Indian School of Business, Hyderabad has shown the way partially. Set up with a visionary board, good academics, global outlook and, of course, significant budgets, it has emerged as a top B-School.

We need to repeat that in the university realm. We can only wish to paraphrase the words of Guru Dev:

*"Into that heaven of freedom,
my Father, let my country awake"*

tutions account for no more than 40% of the operating budget of a university.

Vision and Leadership

Vision is something none of the private players lack. One president did challenge this writer and commented that his faculty would be able to publish much more than IISc Bangalore in the coming decade. Some are slightly more modest. Dr. Pai, conceded that it is a long drawn battle and victories are slow to come by. "We have the dual challenge of development and expansion," he said. But across the board the desire to be known as an excellent school does exist. The route, of course, is as different as chalk and cheese.

A major bone of contention is the ideal balance between trustees and academic officers. The opinions are thick and fast and very strongly worded. One president mockingly said, "Unlike him (a competitors name), I don't have a dummy piece as my Vice Chancellor."

But like the old debate about owners and managers in business, the right path is quite grey and (maybe) yet to be identified. The US model, at least in the last century privileged academic independence. The benevolent founder gave the money and barring an occasional

admission for a relative, left the field clear for a group of academics to run the university with a free hand.

The Indian model right now is at another extreme. Many private universities are led by very strong founders. In fact, the UGC norms for deemed



We think of education as something that is for the holistic development of individuals and for constructing a democratic equitable nation



THE INDIAN EXPRESS

In South Delhi slum, a Hole in the Wall is window to world

Dipankar Ghose Posted online: Thu Feb 28 2013, 02:31 hrs

New Delhi : It started as a project meant to test the learning ability of children using computers — unsupervised.

On January 26, 1999, in collaboration with the Delhi government, a team led by Dr Sugata Mitra, then Chief Scientist at NIIT, carved open a section of a wall adjoining the NIIT campus, and placed a computer there. This was used by children, without supervision, from the adjacent slum — quite literally, "A Hole in the Wall", was born.

The next year, a similar set of computers was installed in Dakshinpuri in South Delhi.

The success of the project has been such that it has become the inspiration for an internationally acclaimed movie, and 14 years after the project took off, Dr Mitra has been awarded \$1 million grant by non-profit organisation TED, to take his innovation forward.

While the computers at Kalkaji have been shut due to construction work, those at Dakshinpuri are functioning.

Purnendu Hota, from Hole in the Wall Education Systems, said, "The concept behind the project was to see if children, who were new to computers, could work on the Internet without supervision. Within a month, the children at the Kalkaji slum were experts at it. The computers were carved into the walls at both places, where the children could use it for free. Through our studies, we saw that without any formal education, children had begun to grasp the complexities of scientific and mathematical concepts."

In the 14 years that have passed since, "Hole in the Wall" concept has spread to Kerala and Maharashtra. "In Delhi itself, these computers have been set up in Lajpat Nagar and Alipur.

There are two of these systems in juvenile care centres as well. A local representative opens the boxes containing these computers at 9am and shuts them at 5pm.

"When a child hits a button, he or she is asked his or her age. Based on that, there are educational games on mathematics, geography, and other subjects. There are information storing devices on these computers, which look at the patterns of usage," Hota said.

Residents of Dakshinpuri said that they have trouble pulling their children away from these computers. "Our children often tell us they learn more on them than at school. They even seem to do better at examinations now," said Rakesh Panwar, owner of a grocery store next to a row of four Hole In the Wall computers.

The project was also the inspiration behind the novel Q and A by Vikas Swarup, an IFS officer. This novel led to the Oscar-winning Slumdog Millionaire.

Swarup said, "I was inspired by hole-in-the-wall project, where a computer with an Internet connection was put in a Delhi slum. When the slum was revisited after a month, the children of that slum had learnt how to use the Internet. I realised that there's an innate ability in everyone to do something extraordinary, provided they are given an opportunity."

<http://www.indianexpress.com/story-print/1080891/>



The Glory of Self-Learning, Discovered by Children in India

by Tala Dowlatshahi • February 6, 2013 • Asia, Education •

Imagine a new world of innovative, inexpensive and successful learning, where dusty streets in rural towns in developing countries are lined with self-powered computer kiosks and children from poor neighborhoods have the same ability to work with new technology as children in richer areas do.

An Indian student in front of a Hole in the Wall education kiosk. The battery-powered computers are set up in playgrounds and neighborhoods to encourage children to use them without adult supervision.

That dynamic is the goal of new education policies put forth by the United Nations and others in the field. An examination of global education systems and ways to improve learning has topped the UN's agenda in recent years as schooling becomes more central to reducing poverty. The aim now is to tailor education to the needs of the individual through self-organizing online systems and to move from traditional learning to ways of harnessing the power of children to teach themselves and one another.

Dr. Sugata Mitra, an Indian, has led several such revolutionary initiatives, which he believes can change how we approach teaching. His country is saddled with untold problems that inhibit free learning and open thinking for the young. Of the one billion people or so who live in India, more than half are illiterate. Millions subsist on less than \$1 a day.

A scholar of computer science, Dr. Mitra had been playing with the idea of unsupervised learning and interactive technology for years. He began his Hole in the Wall experiments in children's learning more than a decade ago in the slums of New Delhi. The project is sponsored by the National Institute of Information Technology in India, where Dr. Mitra is a chief scientist, and the World Bank's International Finance Corporation.

The trial studies encouraged children to use battery-operated computer kiosks set up in playgrounds and on neighborhood roads to spark their interest in self-teaching. The project gave children freedom to play with the technology, using educational software.

Children from across India, including rural villages, were quickly drawn to the kiosks. Dr. Mitra, who is also a professor of educational technology at Newcastle University in Britain, explained that first the children were not sure they were allowed to touch the computers, but after a short while, they overcame their timidity and quickly learned to play the educational games.

Dr. Mitra has won many prizes, including a social innovation award from the Institute for Social Inventions in Britain (now part of Global Ideas Bank). Vikas Swarup, who wrote the novel "Q & A," which was made into the Academy Award winning film "Slumdog Millionaire," said he was inspired to write his novel partly by the resourcefulness of the Indian children whom he observed interacting with the Hole in the Wall computers.

In an interview via Skype, Dr. Mitra told me his group started as a single project for disadvantaged Indian children, but his minimally invasive education techniques, as he calls them, have worked so well he now has kiosks in Africa, Asia, Australia and Latin America. Several UN agencies, including Unesco and the UN Development Program, have worked with Dr. Mitra's team to promote these online tools.

Dr. Mitra thinks that his success in expanding the use of the kiosks to countries outside India is based on the assumption that all children can educate themselves regardless of their class or cultural background, as long as they can do so in a familiar, pressure-free environment.

"What it showed is that children can teach themselves to use the Internet even if they have never seen or used a computer before," Dr. Mitra said. But, he added, they have to be in groups and they have to be unsupervised.

Dr. Sugata Mitra, the mastermind behind the educational kiosks, now located around the world.

Dr. Mitra acknowledged that such strategies go against widely shared beliefs about what makes a good education. He pointed out, however, that teachers in many poor communities often work long hours with little or no access to resources, and his project seeks to ease some of their burdens and to supplement their efforts.

One of his students, considered to be a top beneficiary of the project, is 19-year-old Rubina, who apparently does not have a last name. She comes from a family of eight and her father runs a small vegetable shop. The project was first set up when she was 8 years old, near her house on the outskirts of New Delhi. On the first day, Rubina was encouraged to come out and take a look at the learning station.

"I was very intrigued by the computer and using it for the first time," she said in an interview. "Most of the material was mathematical and science videos. I was the first to learn to use it even though I was a girl."

Rubina did not have access to a classroom computer until ninth grade, but because she spent so much time at the learning kiosk, she had an advantage over most of the students in her class. She said her teacher was at first surprised by how much she knew and how quickly she learned new concepts.

"I found I could work alone without a teacher," Rubina said. "But it did not take away from teachers and having respect for teachers at school. But from what I learned, I wanted to become a teacher and to focus on computer teaching to show others what I learned at the station."

"Even now, at 19, I am unable to pull myself away from the learning station. I see the biggest problem in India is the public schools, and those schools are not good. Most of those students get low-paying jobs and a poor education. They live in poverty. They don't get a chance to talk about college or a better life. But my parents are so proud of me."

She said she was the first to learn the station and to teach the other children. "Once that happened, the local news started to pay attention to me and my parents started to notice me too. They started talking about how smart I was and that I should go to college. This never would have happened without the learning station."



Dr. Mitra's latest initiative, "the granny cloud," a project sponsored by Newcastle University, involves working with 200 retired teachers, mostly women, in Britain who are beamed into classrooms throughout India via Skype to guide the independent learning process. "You can have electronic mediation for free and it is a great win-win situation," he said.

Despite his critics, Dr. Mitra contended that he did not necessarily want to do away with teachers in the classroom. "As long as the current education system remains, we will need teachers. However, do we need teachers to stand in front of the classroom to deliver a lecture for half an hour? Couldn't the child get the same information from Google in five to 10 minutes?"

He has also been criticized for his ideas on the future of higher-learning institutions. "What will happen to the universities? Well, I think the undergraduate programs need to be looked at very carefully first, because they are under the biggest threat," he said.

"The great big classrooms and the huge halls, they will not be needed for too much longer," he added. "I don't know what will happen to them. Could it be that in 2022, you would pay 10 dollars to enter the main building of MIT [Massachusetts Institute of Technology] to see an exhibition of the history of education? Would they all become museums? Sounds funny, but it has happened before. And it will happen again, I think."

Indian children at the kiosk, where they self-learn as a group.

Although Svein Ostveit, the head of the executive committee education sector at Unesco, shares Dr. Mitra's enthusiasm for child-centered education, he does not think that universities are destined for extinction.

"Quite similar announcements have come before," Ostveit said in an interview. "Learners of all ages need facilitators' guidance. Sure, there should be a shift away from top-down traditional auditorium teaching, but there will have to be some sort of guidance. Most children need guidance. Many teachers could move behind cameras and computers, but I personally do not think teachers will not be necessary."

Their role and function and how they perform their job will change, he added.

Unesco has been working in other developing regions to support national education plans with a child-centered learning approach. "Technology has obviously for a long time been very important, especially in the last 10 years or so," Ostveit said. Unesco, he noted, is active in supporting mobile learning, teacher training and community learning centers set up with computer kiosks through its International Institute for Education Planning, with both the latest technology and computers, depending on electricity and Internet availability, including solar paneling.

As to whether culture can influence how well children adapt to the kiosk concept, Ostveit said, "A good learning-centered education would encourage teamwork and children to work together. Perhaps some cultures are centered on a collective approach but both have certain advantages. It is not as if anyone wants to see children sitting in isolation. It's a fine balance."

<http://passblue.com/2013/02/06/the-glory-of-self-learning-discovered-by-children-in-india/>

THE TIMES OF INDIA | US & Canada News

NRI education pioneer, Dr Sugata Mitra, wins \$ 1 million TED Prize

Chidanand Rajghatta, TNN Feb 27, 2013, 07:31AM IST

LONG BEACH, California: Sometimes, a hole-in-the-wall is all you need to get a deep insight into education and -- attain worldwide recognition.

When Prof. Sugata Mitra installed a computer in a slum in Kalkaji, Delhi, in 1999 in what came to be known as a "hole-in-the-wall" experiment, it led to a fundamental reappraisal on his part of the formal education system. Surreptitious monitoring of what followed showed the power of what he would later call "Minimally Invasive Education."



(VISIONARY: Sugata Mitra)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/nri/us-canada-news/NRI-education-pioneer-Dr-Sugata-Mitra-wins-1-million-TED-Prize/articleshow/18705008.cms>



Indian Universities: Who's the next Harvard in waiting?

A perceptible shift is seen in the way the young breed of edupreneurs look at the universities they have inherited. Is it for the better? Careers360 explores...

by B Mahesh Sarma

CLOSE your eyes and think of great universities of the world, Harvard, Cambridge, Yale, Stanford, MIT, UC, LSE are some of the names that will immediately come to your mind. And all of them are in the private sector.

For a moment close your eyes and think about great universities in India. IITs, JNU, Delhi University, AIIMS, National Law School University, Bangalore and others come to your mind. All of them are in the public sector. Quiz Dr. Venkat Rangan, VC of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham on this dichotomy, pat comes the reply. "Think about India 25 years back. The top 10 companies were in the public sector. Think about 2012 and 7 out of 10 are in the private sector".

Will the story repeat in the education domain? The numbers as on date are fuzzy. While some private players like Amity, Amrita and Jamia Hamdard have been front runners, their publication record leaves a lot to be desired. And unlike the public sector companies, the public sector universities, at least in the top order show no signs of slowing down. So what would it take the private institutions to crack the code?

Can great universities be made on purpose?

Great universities are not created ab initio asserts UGC Chairman Dr Ved Prakash in a detailed interview. World over great universities have evolved over time, may be centuries with periods of peaks and troughs. The old grandees like Oxford and Cambridge have nearly 8-10 centuries behind them. Even the new kids like Stanford and MIT are a century and half young. However, examples of ab initio, like Hong Kong University of Science & Technology comes to mind immediately. Set up in 1991 with substantial funding, the university raced to excellence within a short period of ten years. National University of Singapore and TSinghua are other names, though both are of older vintage.

Prof. VV Krishna, Senior Academic at Jawaharlal Nehru University is much more emphatic. "India needs at least 10 such universities in the coming decades and they can be created at 1/3rd of the global cost," he asserts. Concur Prof. Venkat Rangan, "I would argue that India needs about 20 such universities to be set up across the country and they can be set up at a cost of say 20,000 crore rupees." It is eminently doable, he says. The question is will the new breed of private universities, that have the critical mass, make the transition?

Select Universities with Immense Potential

- Azim Premji University, Bangalore
- NIIT University, Neemrana
- Shiv Nadar University, Greater Noida
- Manipal University, Manipal
- Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore
- VIT University, Vellore
- Amity University, Noida
- Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune
- SASTRA University, Thanjavur
- SRM University, Chennai

What does it take to be a great university?

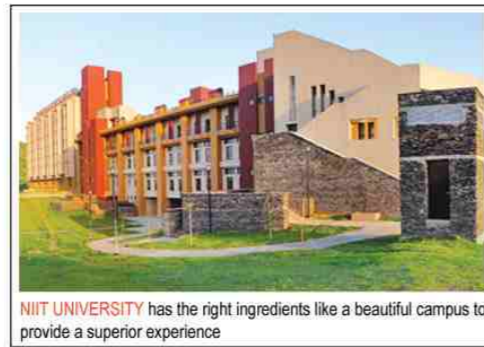
A high concentration of talented academics and students, significant budgets and strategic vision and leadership, is what is needed according to Jamil Salmi, who wrote the report on world class universities, published recently by the World Bank. Add to that regulatory regime, research partnership and culture says Atul Chauhan, President of Amity Group of Institutions.

Talented Academics

Every Vice Chancellor we spoke to was unanimous on this count. And most of them agreed the best still go to public universities. But none of them are giving up. Atul Chauhan has a Scout Programme wherein a team is in place to scout young faculty members, who have completed their PhDs abroad. He is cagey about the numbers achieved though. Manipal University follows a different route. They have announced 20 chair professorships wherein exceptionally good professors are brought in and given a free hand to set up their research programmes and raise the academic profile of the university. Dr. Ranjan Pai, CEO, Manipal Group, cites the recruitment of Dr. Sundar Sarukkai, a renowned academician to initiate and develop the humanities programme of MAHE. Cost definitely is a factor. But quite a few players blame the ecosystem as well.

Azim Premji University (APU) has a different take. Flush with funds, the institution recruits exceptionally qualified young academics. It is one of the few universities in the private sector where the entire academic team has tertiary qualifications, that too from top universities. Their goal too is lofty. Anurag Behar, the Vice Chancellor of APU says, "The University comes as a national resource, to address the country's problem of having singular lack of experts in school education."

At NIIT University, the single biggest challenge has been to maintain quality. "Our endeavour is to continue attracting outstanding faculty members (both regular and visiting) from all over the globe," asserts Dr. Rajiv Shorey, Founding President and Advisor NIIT, another private university.



Dr. Nikhil Sinha, Vice Chancellor, Shiv Nadar University is clear about it. He is investing in young faculty members and is willing to wait until they grow up and produce results. Yes, the Associate Professor level positions are the most challenging to him.

Exceptional students

This is the second big challenge. "Each year at Manipal we want to see if the average quality of our intake is better than last year's," asserts Dr. Pai. Amity University has a scholarship programme wherein any candidate with 90% and above in 10+2 from CBSE Board becomes eligible for a full scholarship. Nearly 2% of the whole student body is on full scholarship. If we take their advertisements at face value, about 350 students out of 35,000 would be top scorers in their school board. But this is not enough to create a critical mass. VIT University, Vellore has an Ignite Scholarship. But Sekar Vishwanathan, Vice President, VIT cautions, "We once announced a rural outreach programme where we offered 100% fee waiver to each student who topped the 10+2 exams in all districts of Tamil Nadu. When called for counselling few turned up. Later we found that half of them did not even have money to travel to Vellore to avail of the scholarship."

All of them are commendable initiatives, but considering the fact that most of the private universities charge fees which is 4 to 22 times higher than corresponding public sector player, the costs really are prohibitive. So, good students would always prefer to go to a highly subsidised public sector university. A foreign language BA programme at Amity would cost about Rs. 1 lakh per annum excluding other costs while a student at School of Languages, JNU, New Delhi would study at just Rs. 240 per annum.

Unless private universities find a way to subsidise education, unless the government moves out of its Brahmanic mindset of not touching private players, the scenario might not change. And that takes us to funding.

Dr. Nikhil Sinha

Vice Chancellor,
Shiv Nadar University

What we intend to achieve may not be realised in my lifetime. So the objective is to put in place the right DNA that will serve the university and its students.



Dr. Rajeev Shorey

Advisor
NIIT University

We believe in excellence. Numbers and metrics are important. But what is essential is to instil the hunger to excel in all the people we recruit.



Atul Chauhan

President,
Amity University

University-level sports and bonding that it generates in a Harvard or Oxford is yet to take root in India. But we will make it happen.



Sekar Viswanathan

Vice-President
VIT University

We need to be aware that even if you offer a scholarship to a student, he or she may not have the money to travel to collect the scholarship.



DR Ranjan Pai

CEO
Manipal Education

What we have in India are excellent teaching institutions. The shift to being research intensive is a slow and very long drawn process.



Dr P Venkat Rangan

Vice Chancellor
Amrita University

More than just the patents and papers, to us university research must be able to solve real-life problems and bring smiles to people's faces.





Significant budgets

As on date, the only university that appears to be able to breach the barrier is Azim Premji University. With its parent foundation sitting with an endowment in excess of USD 4 billion, it is the only institution comparable to the best in the West in terms of resource availability.

Barring APU, NIIT, and Shiv Nadar Univeristy, which are backed by big corporates, most of the other top tier private universities are primarily educational empires. And they bank on student tuitions to fund themselves to a large extent. Both Atul Chauhan as well as Dr. Pai are candid in admitting this and also acknowledging that this has to change.

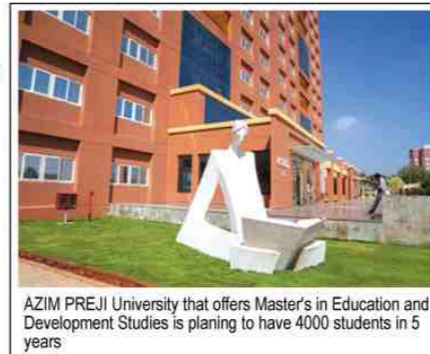
Two sources are cited by them. Competitive state funding is one source and endowments are another. If both the centre and state governments create a transparent mechanism for research funding, and open it to public and private then the dependency on student fee will come down. Industry funding is another source, all agree, which needs to be tapped much more. All of them cite partnerships with industry as a sign of bigger things to come. Some of them do get funds from DST, DAE etc. But what they lament is the absence of a system.

Alumni - the next generation

Almost all private university players we spoke to agreed on the need for alumni endowments. Atul Chauhan made an interesting observation about the role of sports which is creating an intra-university bonding and pride when it comes to other competitors. A la the famous quote in Da Vinci Code "In which year did a Harvard sculler last outrow an Oxfordman at Henley?"

The fierce pride that competitive sports generates in a US university and the everlasting bonds it creates with the alma mater goes a long way when it comes to alumni funding. Sunil Bharti Mittal, another educationist, has a different take on the same. He contented, most rich Indians in the last generation had seen acute poverty and shortage. The young entrepreneurs of the current generation have seen none. So, as the sense of contentment rises so does the propensity to give back.

But either way it must rise, so that the universities are able to reach a level wherein, as Dr. Philip Altbach says, the tuitions account for no more than 40% of the operating budget of a university.



Vision and Leadership

Vision is something none of the private players lack. One president did challenge this writer and commented that his faculty would be able to publish much more than IISc Bangalore in the coming decade. Some are slightly more modest. Dr. Pai, conceded that it is a long drawn battle and victories are slow to come by. "We have the dual challenge of development and expansion," he said. But across the board the desire to be known as an excellent school does exist. The route, of course, is as different as chalk and cheese.

A major bone of contention is the ideal balance between trustees and academic officers. The opinions are thick and fast and very strongly worded. One president mockingly said, "Unlike him (a competitors name), I don't have a dummy piece as my Vice Chancellor."

But like the old debate about owners and managers in business, the right path is quite grey and (maybe) yet to be identified. The US model, at least in the last century privileged academic independence. The benevolent founder gave the money and barring an occasional admission for a relative, left the field clear for a group of academics to run the university with a free hand.

The Indian model right now is at another extreme. Many private universities are led by very strong founders. In fact, the UGC norms for deemed and private universities explicitly caution about founders taking on academic titles like that of Pro chancellors and Chancellors.

However, theoretically any individual could join politics, become the Governor of a state and be legally anointed as Chancellor. The UGC will keep mum.

And one President was very candid. "We put in our hard earned money. I need to be able to give the university the shape I have envisaged. As long as the academic processes are safe, there would be little to argue against such a sentiment. The question is who would ensure that? Who would ensure accountability? Quality? Value for money? The World Bank has a ready made answer - Governance.

Governance is the word

The policy regime is right now murky. A new thinking that privileges output, that makes admissions uniform, need-blind and easy is not only important but essential. A system that rewards quality and promotes excellence is a must. A system that values the contribution of good players and punishes the bad apples severely, is essential. A system that moves beyond territorial boundaries and treat India as one unit is a must. If all that happens (that's our wish), at least some of these private universities would definitely grow up to be great institutions in the coming decade.

They need to do it. Indian School of Business, Hyderabad has shown the way partially. Set up with a visionary board, good academics, global outlook and, of course, significant budgets, it has emerged as a top B-School.

We need to repeat that in the university realm. We can only wish to paraphrase the words of Guru Dev: "Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake"

<http://www.careers360.com/news/9712-future-leaders>



THE HINDU

NIIT's IT aptitude test

TODAY'S PAPER » FEATURES » EDUCATION PLUS March 11, 2013

National IT Aptitude Test (NITAT), conducted by NIIT, witnessed record participation this year with over 1,52,000 IT aspirants applying.

Vijay Kumar Rajpuria from Sikar, emerged as the first rank holder in the ninth NITAT, with Kruparaj C. S., from Mahboobnagar and Nishant Sahu, from Gwalior, securing the second and third ranks respectively.

All NITAT test takers will receive an assessment score card and personalised career counselling. NIIT will award a range of benefits to NITAT toppers, including special recognition certificate to the top 30 per cent merit list candidates to encourage their pursuit of a career in IT. Top 1,000 candidates will also be awarded a congratulatory letter signed by World Chess Champion and NIIT MindChampion Viswanathan Anand. Additionally, high performers will also get skill-up subsidy on NIIT programmes for acquiring technical skills to make them day-one industry ready.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-educationplus/niits-it-aptitude-test/article4495373.ece>

THE HINDU

Good response for NIIT's aptitude test

TODAY'S PAPER » FEATURES » DOWN TOWN March 10, 201

Over 1,52,000 candidates from more than 300 cities appeared for National IT Aptitude Test 2013 (NITAT), conducted by NIIT.

Vijay Kumar Rajpuria from Sikar emerged as the first rank holder in the examination with Kruparaj C S from Mahboobnagar and Nishant Sahu from Gwalior securing the second and third ranks respectively.

The candidates will receive an assessment score card and personalized career counselling.

Top 1,000 candidates will also be awarded a congratulatory letter signed by World Chess Champion and NIIT MindChampion Viswanathan Anand. High performers will also get skill-up subsidy on NIIT programmes.

Traits

Commenting on the NITAT 2013 results, Mr. Amitabh Lahiri, president, Individual Learning Solutions, NIIT Ltd. said, "NIIT National IT Aptitude Test assesses the functional abilities and behavioural traits that are very crucial to gain a foothold in the IT industry.

The huge success of ninth NITAT reinforces positive sentiments of students about the IT-BPM sector in India, which is on a steady growth path backed by new business models, emerging technologies and markets."

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-downtown/good-response-for-niits-aptitude-test/article4493338.ece>



NDTV

TED winner's 'Hole in the Wall' idea opens up new world for slum kids

Published On: March 10, 2013 | Duration: 7 min, 48 sec



A 'Hole in the Wall', literally, has helped scientist and Educationist Dr Sugata Mitra win \$1 million international prize, from TED, a global Technology, Entertainment and Design conference held twice each year. Mr Mitra started with the simple concept in 1999. He used computers from NIIT, a computer learning centre where he used to work, and put them up with Internet connections on the walls of a slum in Delhi. He observed children as they tired their hands on these machines, and learn using the Internet and get basic knowledge of various subjects like science and mathematics.

<http://www.ndtv.com/video/player/india-decides-9/ted-winner-s-hole-in-the-wall-idea-opens-up-new-world-for-slum-kids/268078>



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