

The Hindustan Times
Lucknow
August 10, 2008

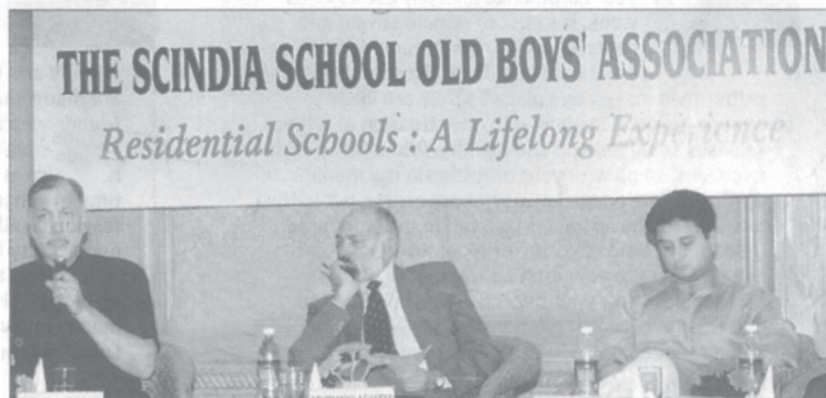
Stay in residential school taught me politics: Scindia

HT Correspondent
Lucknow/Kanpur, August 9

UNION MINISTER of State for Communication and Information Technology Jyotiraditya Scindia told people how his life in A residential school had a bearing on his life in politics. He said, "It taught a fish like me to swim in shark-infested politics. Residential schools, apart from good learning, groom you to cope with life's situations."

An alumnus of Doon School, Dehradun, Scindia was a panelist on a discussion on 'Residential Schools: A Lifelong Experience' organised by Scindia School Old Boys' Association (SOBA) in Lucknow on Saturday. The young minister came to the event as president of the Board of Governors of the Scindia School, Gwalior. The gathering had alumni of Scindia School and Doon School who came at the event from across the country and abroad as well. There were teachers, current students and their parents too. He said that the most important thing about residential schools is that it is an environment away from home.

When a child enters it, he finds himself at sea and has to find his bearings, he added. The alumni of 'Scindia' and 'Doon' during the discussion teased each other claiming their respective alma mater to be better than the other. And at one point Jyotiraditya Scindia laughed with most of the others at the



AZAM HUSAIN/HT

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia (extreme right), along with members of the Scindia School Old Boys' Association during a discussion at Hotel Taj Residency In Lucknow on Saturday.

event when a Doon alumnus, Arun Kapoor, Director of Vasant Valley School said, "You will find Scindians in all walks of life...Just today Mr Natwar Singh joined the BSP." Dr Rajendra S Pawar, Chairman of NIIT said life in residential schools made a person both gregarious and thinker. A few hours before the event, Scindia inaugurated the Mobile Media Gateway at Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) headquarters.

Scindia said his ministry had launched Operation Arrow under which post offices in rural areas would be modernised in two phases and the first phase would be inaugurated soon.

He said global consultant McKinsey

& Co had been hired to suggest revamp measures while Ogilvy & Mather would do the advertisement part. Scindia said the Central Government was not in a hurry to sell stakes of the BSNL. "For the Central Government, welfare of BSNL employees is a priority. We will consider all pros and cons of the step and then take any decision," he said. Scindia hails from neighbouring Madhya Pradesh, represents Guna constituency of the state in Parliament. Elections are due in the state later this year. "I have toured the state extensively. I am sure the Congress will defeat the ruling BJP to form a new government in Madhya Pradesh," he said.

Indian Express
Mumbai
August 29, 2008



Communications minister A Raja (third from left) with BSNL CMD Kuldeep Goyal (fourth from left); NIIT Chairman R S Pawar (far right); Tata Teleservices, MD, Anil Sardana (second from right); vice-president of Intel Corporation Navin Shenoy (second from left) and Intel Asia's MD R Sivakumar (far left) during the launch of an industry-wide movement, 'Connected Indians' for connecting a billion Indians, in New Delhi on Thursday. The industry and government came together for this event where various stakeholders pledged their support to an initiative to connect a billion Indians. PTI

Laboratory to make maths music

PTI
KOLKATA

SCHOOLS are setting up mathematics laboratories to help students overcome their phobia of the subject and make it more interesting.

The laboratory is a novel, which enables students to learn and explore mathematical concepts and verify facts and theorems using tools such as the Geometers Sketchpad.

The CBSE has directed that 20% of the marks will be allocated to each student from

Lab Assessments to be added to final marks, NIIT School Learning Solutions president L Balasubramanian said.

"The demand for the math lab is such that many non-CBSE board schools like Ballygunge Shiksha Sadan in Kolkata, which is affiliated to the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education, have set up math labs in their schools," Balasubramanian said.

The lab also enables teachers to demonstrate, explain and reinforce abstract mathematical ideas by using concrete objects and models.



Free Press
New Delhi
August 20, 2008

Teach India

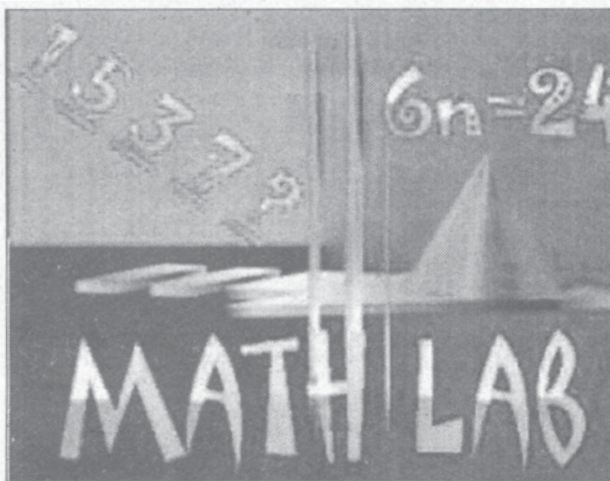
Here comes maths lab to remove fear of mathematics

KOLKATA

TO help students overcome their maths phobia and make it more interesting, many schools, affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education, have set up mathematics laboratory.

The mathematics laboratory is a novel concept, which enables school students to learn and explore mathematical concepts and verify mathematical facts and theorems using tools such as the Geometers Sketchpad. The CBSE has directed that 20 per cent of the marks will be allocated to each student from Lab Assessments to be added to final marks, L Balasubramanian, president of School Learning Solutions of NIIT, said.

Balasubramanian told PTI over phone from Chennai,



where he is based, that the NIIT had set up its branded eGuru Math Lab model in many schools. He explains that NIIT's Maths Lab offers multiple teaching and learning aids comprising technology applications, videos, manipulative, measuring

instruments, tables and charts, to schools based on the three pillars of imagination, investigation and interaction, the NIIT's School Learning Solution said.

It costs Rs eight lakh to set up a 32-seater maths lab and Rs 12 lakh to set up a 60-

seater lab. It provides greater scope for individual participation in the process of learning and becoming autonomous learners.

The Maths Lab would also help students to verify the alternate segment Theorem by paper cutting, pasting and folding, to make a right circular cylinder of given height and circumference of base, to give a suggestive demonstration of the formula for the volume of a right circular cone and also to give a suggestive demonstration of the formula for the surface area of a sphere in terms of its radius. It also helps students to get familiar with the idea of probability of an event through a double colour card experiment, to make a clinometer and use it to measure the height of an object, Sinha said. PTI

NDMC to tie up with NIIT

For outsourcing the computer teaching faculty in its schools

Manisha Jha

NEW DELHI: To tackle the long pending issue of high attrition rate of contractual computer education teachers in New Delhi Municipal Council schools, the civic body has decided to enter into a tie-up with NIIT for outsourcing the computer teaching faculty in its schools. In addition, the civic body has also decided to outsource computer hardware procurement and maintenance to NIIT.

According to the civic body, outsourcing the recruitment of teachers would aid in maintaining regularity and continuity of the computer teaching faculty and also help improve academic results and

• **High attrition rate among contractual computer education teachers in NDMC schools**

• **Outsourcing would aid in maintaining regularity and continuity of computer teaching faculty**

ensure smooth running of teachers training programmes in schools.

Four year contract

As per the NDMC, this contract would be for four years and include the outsourcing of nine post-graduate teachers and 29 trained graduate teachers in 29 schools to NIIT.

The contract which would cost the civic body Rs.3.5 crore and would also include

outsourcing of computer hardware to NIIT in nine schools.

An NDMC official said: "We handed over the letter of award to NIIT last week and though there is time in inking of the memorandum of understanding we expect that the contract's operationalisation would begin this week."

Elaborating on the idea behind the tie-up, the NDMC official said: "The main rationale of entering into this tie-

up was to put an end to the discontinuity faced in providing computer education to school children. The teachers recruited through the contractual system of appointment would leave for better job opportunities in three to six months resulting in repetition of the long drawn selection procedure again."

New computer labs

"Moreover though eight new computer labs had been provided in our various schools, they had to remain closed as they were no computer teachers. The Intel training programmes started for teachers also had to be discontinued for the same reason," he added.

Deccan Herald
Bangalore
August 6, 2008

e-Guru launched

BANGALORE, DHNS: The students of BGS International Residential School became e-enabled with the launch of e-Guru, a specially devised computer education technique introduced by NIIT.

Launching the e-Guru in the school Bala Gangadharanath swamiji said the technique will help students compete with the fast changing world. But he reminded students not to overlook the cultural ethos of the country in the race to become modern.

Addressing the students Secretary of the Medical Education Department M K Shankarlinge Gowda said, the physical Guru is supplemented by the Electronic Guru now. "The methodology of teaching has changed. Earlier, students were taught on the blackboards, then came the projectors and now the electronic devices. This third generation spectrum is making these tools more popular," said the senior bureaucrat of the Karnataka government. Students and teachers of the school gave a demonstration on the newly introduced e-Guru teaching methodology.

Salesian Schools athletic meet tomorrow with NIIT sponsorship

Chennai, Aug. 29: The Platinum Jubilee Inter-Salesian Schools Athletic Meet is going to take place tomorrow at St. Bede's Grounds, Santhome. St. Mary's Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School, is organising this meet and NIIT is the sponsors.

Addressing the press, Fr. Paulraj Maniam, Principal, St. Mary's AIHS School, said over one thousand students from thirty five schools spread over the length and breadth of the province will be participating

in it. Enhancing the physical and emotional development of our students is part of our celebrations. Don Bosco gave priority to athletics, sports and games because we believe that this is where the character of a student is formed.

We are also planned to conduct Inter Salesian Schools Cricket match at St. Bedes in Jan. 2009, Inter Salesian Schools Basket Ball match at Don Bosco Tirupattur in Nov., Volley Ball match at Don Bosco Perambur and Dominic

Savio, Tirupattur on Aug. 20, Hockey match at Don Bosco, Katpadi in Nov., Football match at Don Bosco Jolarpet from Oct.13 to 15 and Inter Salesian Schools Culturals at Don Bosco, Egmore on Oct. 24 and 25.

Fr. Devaprakasam Joseph, the Rector and Correspondent of St. Mary's AIHS School, said the Chennai Province of the Salesians of Don Bosco has completed seventy five years of hard and honest service of educating and uplifting the poor and downtrodden youth of South India.

The Salesians of Don Bosco facilitate the students not only to excel academically but also to develop their personality and discover their inner strength and manifest it in several forms. The talents lying within each student is identified and developed. Successful medical practitioners, engineers, efficient lawyers, politicians, world renowned sports persons, business magnates, and top executives have emerged from our institutions.

Former Director General of Police A.X. Alexander will inaugurate the Athle Meet.

In the closing ceremony, Chennai Municipal Commissioner Rajesh Lakhoni will participate as chief guest. Corporation Deputy Commissioner Anu George, Stanislaus Swamikannu, Joe Andrew, Sagayaraj, Lionel Hugget will also participating.

NIIT opens Community Learning Centre in Delhi

Our Bureau

New Delhi, Aug 29

In its bid to bridge the education-employability gap and harness the latent talent pool in urban slums, The NIIT Institute (TNI) - a not-for-profit society by NIIT promoters - has set up of the first-of-its-kind 'Community Learning Centre' in Delhi.

The Delhi Chief Minister, Ms Sheila Dikshit, inaugurated the first NIIT Community Learning Centre (CLC), set up in association with NGO ABHAS, at the Tughlakabad village here today.

The NIIT CLC would provide relevant skills to the unemployed youth in urban slums for making them employable in sectors such as retail, automobile sales, telecommunications, hospitality, and healthcare amongst others.

"Initiatives like these will go a long way in enabling their integration into the mainstream and thus contribute to an overall growth of the society," Ms Dikshit said.

CLC would provide the youth with model educational, training and employment ser-



Ms Sheila Dikshit

▶ *"Initiatives like these will go a long way in enabling youths in urban slums integration into the mainstream and thus contribute to an overall growth of the society."*

vices, thus leading to career-progressive jobs. This would be accomplished through NIIT's partnership with the industry, business, labour, education and workforce development boards, the government, the communities and the NGOs.

COURSE DURATION

The NIIT CLC would offer training programmes of three months to one year duration for 10th and 12th pass students, residing in urban slums and semi-rural areas. NIIT plans to set up 20 CLCs in the next three years, in close proximity to slums.

Commenting on the initiative, Mr Rajendra S Pawar, Chairman of NIIT, said, "The CLC is another NIIT initiative to create employment for the youth in urban slums."

NIIT CLC would offer training programmes in the areas of basic English communication; grooming & etiquette; basic computer and operating system skills; knowledge of industry sector; and industry specific skills such as customer handling in retail. NIIT would work closely with the industry to customise training programmes according to the job requirements.

IFBI bags order to train 8000 nationalised bank employees

Kolkata, Aug 31 (PTI) The Institute of Finance, Banking and Insurance (IFBI), the country's leading talent development institution in the finance, banking and insurance sector, has bagged orders to train 8000 employees of two nationalised banks.

"Last year we trained around 5000 employees of nationalised banks. This year we have bagged orders to train some 8000 employees of two nationalised banks across 14 locations in India," Smarajit Dey, President Strategic Initiatives of NIIT told PTI.

"It is an indication of the increasing emphasis being laid by nationalised banks on training and upskilling of their employees, in the lights of stiff competition arising from private banks," he said.

Of the two nationalised banks whose employees were to be trained one is a Kolkata-based bank and the other a Bangalore-based one.

There were three kinds of training -- IT and software technology training programme, induction training and specialised skilled enhancement programme on Banking and Finance.

Nationalised banks were accelerating use of IT technology and computers in all branches for core banking, Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and money transfer. Since their training institutes were not able to cope with the huge demand for training their own people "they are sending them to us for training on using computers and IT technology in banking," Dey said.

It is basically a practioner programme and gives stress on financial software training, he added.

"Private sector banks send their new recruits to us for induction or entry level-training programme," Dey said. The programme focussed on basics of banking, fundamentals of finance programme and retail banking programme in banks.

He claimed that IFBI was the leader in training entry level people and employees of banks, insurance companies and financial sector organisations.

Last year IFBI trained over 10 per cent of the entry-level employees in the banking sector, making it the leading talent development institution for the sector.

The specialised skilled enhancement programme for finance and insurance company employees consists of rural banking, micro finance, SME banking, US banking and financial planning products and services, he said.

Dey said IFBI was set up by NIIT, with equity participation from ICICI Bank to address the rising manpower crisis in the Banking, Financial Sector and Insurance (BFSI) sectors. It offers post graduate diploma programmes in insurance banking and financial planning and conducts training for employees of large organisations in the sector.

IFBI was Infosys Value partner for offering training in Core Banking Solution - the only training company to have this status, he claimed.

All offerings from IFBI were application oriented incorporating modern requirements with programme contents constatly updated.

All the programmes were industry recognised and IFBI graduates were most sought after professionals by the industry, Dey said.

The current economic scenario has opened larger opportunities for professionals with domain knowledge with customer interfacing skills oriented towards nurturing relationships for more business, the president of Strategic Initiatives of NIIT said.

A 'double edged professional' was the buzz word in industry who could perform multi tasking of sales/customer servicing and in-depth understanding of domain (Financial Services, Insurance and Banking), Dey said.

IFBI has already partnered with six leading banks and provided customized hiring and training solutions. Over 6,000 banking professionals have been trained by IFBI since October 2006.

IFBI's training programs have been developed by an experienced content development team drawn from the Industry.

The programmes have been distilled from real-life experiences of practicing finance professionals who were now a part of the content-development team, he said.

Dey disclosed that in future, IFBI would offer similar entry-level and skill-upgradation programs for the Insurance sector, and re-skilling programmes for other financial services.

In all cases, the attitudes and personality-traits developed would reflect the defining characteristics of IFBI. PTI rg PC RGD

NIIT Imperia set to open eight centres this year

Aparna Ramalingam | TNN

Chennai: NIIT Imperia, a business unit of NIIT Ltd, is planning to open eight new centres this year. The IT trainer is now focusing on management training for working professionals through NIIT Imperia. "There is a huge demand for professionals in emerging sectors like retail, telecom and BFSI (banking, finance, services and insurance). While many people are technically qualified, they may lack other skills like communication, collaboration and teamwork and cannot be absorbed in the workplace immediately," says Udai Singh, executive vice president and head, NIIT Imperia.

For instance, take the country's engineering pool. India produces around 4 lakh engineers every year. Of this, 70,000 go abroad for higher studies. Only 40% of the remaining students are able to make a smooth transition from the campus to the company.

The remaining graduates require additional training before they can be employed, says Singh. NIIT is trying to bridge the gap by offering programmes in general management and functional management, and those focusing on the retail industry.

The portfolio includes 20 programmes and about 20% of students in any given class are sponsored by companies. NIIT sees this figure increasing to 35% within the next 18

months. Imperia is planning to invest around Rs four crore for the new centres which would largely be funded through internal accruals.

IFBI (Institute of Finance, Banking & Insurance), is another NIIT venture with equity participation from ICICI Bank. This organisation provides short-term courses for people eyeing jobs in and financial services.

"There is demand for sales officers, front line executives and assistant managers by banks. There is a dearth of qualified people in insurance we are trying to address the talent requirements of these sectors through our courses."

NIIT ventured into finance and management training (FMT) almost two years back. The net revenue of the FMT business comprising NIIT Imperia and IFBI stood at Rs 31 crore last year. NIIT also recently joined hands with process major Genpact to launch NIIT Institute of Process Excellence.

This joint venture will address the skill requirements of BPO and KPO (knowledge process outsourcing) companies by offering training programmes. The Indian BPO industry which has historically focused on voice-based processes is moving towards business processing functions. According to Nasscom, the Indian BPO industry is expected to generate an additional 1.4 million jobs by 2010.

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Executive Education

NIIT Imperia to offer five new programmes with IIMs

MBAUniverse.com Bureau
Aug 01, 2008



NIIT Imperia, which focuses on offering management progr working executives, has announced its new programme caler September 2008 admission cycle.

NIIT Imperia to offer five new programmes with IIMs

NIIT Imperia, which focuses on offering management programmes for workin announced its new programme calendar for the September 2008 admiss programmes will be offered in conjunction with leading management insti Institute of Management, Calcutta (IIM-C), Indian Institute of Management, and Indian Institute of Management, Indore (IIM-I). The programmes w spectrum of areas like general management, family buinss managem management.

NIIT Imperia will offer two programmes with IIM-C. While the one-year Sen Programme will be open to working executive with more than 10 years of wo the one-year Executive Programme in Applied Finance is open for executive work experience. The Senior Management Programme has been designed executives with quantitative tools and qualitative perspective so that they ca decisions, says NIIT Imperia. The program is divided into two modules– Module and the Advanced Module. The Introductory Module focuses on functional skills of management. The Advanced Module shifts focus to si decision-making, leadership styles, and managing business globally. Th application to this programme is August 6, 2008. The finance programme is a cutting edge knowledge in finance. The Program is designed to provide techniques and nuances in finance expected of a successful professional sector, banks, and financial institutions. The last date for applying to this prog 22, 2008.

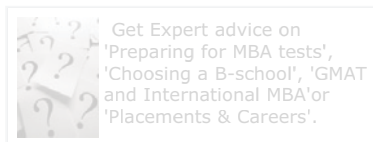
With IIM-Indore, NIIT Imperia is offering two programmes: one-year Post Gr Programme in Management and Post Graduate Certificate Programme in Business and Entrepreneurship. The Post Graduate Certificate Programme requires an eligibility of three-years of work experience, and the last date of programme is August 6, 2008. For the family management programme, last August 22, 2008. NIIT Imperia says the objective of this program is to inculc general management approach for entrepreneurs and family owned businesse

NIIT Imperia is also offering the Executive General Management Programme for working executives with six years of work experience. The program is middle level executives to strengthen the area of their current specializ developing a comprehensive view of other functions of management, sa Executives can apply till August 22, 2008.

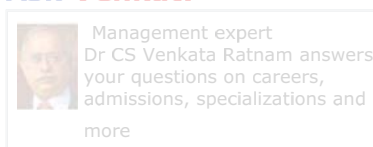
Established in year 2006, NIIT Imperia (www.niitimperia.com) offers manag for working professionals in association with IIMs and other leading manage In the last 18 months more than 2500 professionals have studied at NIIT Imp are held in 19 Imperia centers across the country. Participants can cont classes are conducted in the evenings on weekdays and on weekends.



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IT partnership to boost Vietnamese training



US-based Sun Microsystems and information technology (IT) institute NIIT Vietnam announced a partnership Friday.

Gan Boon San, president of Sun Microsystems' South Asia (L) and Vijay Thadani, NIIT President and CEO, at the partnership announcement Friday in Ho Chi Minh City.

The partnership would enable thousands of Vietnamese students and IT professionals to gain skills and access to the latest Sun technologies, such as Java and Solaris.

Students of NIIT's IT training in Vietnam and the Asia Pacific region will receive extensive instruction on two programming languages, Java and Solaris, and this course of teaching will be integrated into NIIT's IT career program.

NIIT will also introduce short-term programs for students and professionals who want to improve their skills in these technologies.

Vijay Thadani, chief executive officer of NIIT, which is a global technology training and software solutions company, said Vietnam is one of the most important emerging IT markets in Asia.

"Sun's Java and Solaris are among the fastest growing technologies adopted worldwide today," Thadani said at the partnership launching.

"This collaboration will help students and IT professionals in Vietnam and the Asia Pacific region integrate into the global IT workforce."

Gan Boon San, president of Sun Microsystems' South Asia, said so far about 13,000 individuals have registered using Sun's software and systems solutions in Vietnam – which include the Solaris Operating System, Java technologies, Sun Fire systems and Sun StorageTek.

"Partnering with NIIT in Vietnam reinforces Sun's commitment to this fast-growing economy following the establishment of Sun's Vietnam branch in February this year," he said.

Established in 2003, NIIT Vietnam has trained more than 6,000 Vietnamese students and professionals and operates 28 training centers in 14 cities and provinces nationwide.

Reported by Huong Le

The Saigon Times Daily
Vietnam
August 29, 2008

NIIT, Sun Microsystems jointly train IT in Vietnam



NIIT president G. Raghavan (L) briefs HCMC vice chairman Nguyen Thanh Tai on the Indian institute's plan to join forces with Sun Microsystems Inc. to provide information technology training in Vietnam.

During the courtesy call yesterday, Raghavan told Tai that the Indian international institute of IT will sign with Sun Microsystems an important training contract today at the Sheraton Hotel. Answering the *Daily* after the meeting, Raghavan stressed that the contract would authorize NIIT to use Sun Microsystems' materials and technologies in training, not only in Vietnam but also worldwide. Starting operation in Vietnam seven years ago, NIIT has associated with local enterprises and training centers to establish 29 IT institutes. According to Ded Choudhury, regional head of the city-based NIIT Antilles NV representative office, more than 20,000 Vietnamese have graduated from NIIT's training courses within the last seven years.

Photo: Kinh Luan

Bye, old classrooms; Hi, tech!

Twice a week Sandeep Kalra attends senior management classes comprising classes conducted by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Calcutta. He interrupts his professor whenever he has a query, shares his notes with fellow students and actively participates in group discussions.

So what's new?
Merely this — the 31-year-old Bharti Resources Ltd group manager is based in Delhi, his instructor sits in Calcutta and his classmates are scattered all over India. Kalra is part of a revolution that is just about being born — the virtual education boom. If you can't go to a school, the school will come to you. If you can't join private tuition, the best of faculty will be available to you at the click of a button.

Education service providers are now ensuring that the classroom is available through several channels — your television set, the Internet or a centre in a remote location which links you to a prestigious institute. You no longer need a brick and mortar structure with a sprawling campus to acquire knowledge — new-age facilitators are out there to bridge the physical boundary between an educator and a student.

Last month, Greycells 18 Media, a joint venture between TV18 and education service company Educomp, formally launched Topper TV, a 24-hour channel for senior school students. The channel has on its board faculty from the Indian Institutes of Management and foreign universities.

"We want to provide students with a platform to revise, share notes and resolve queries sitting at home," says Sunil Khanna, co-founder of the Noida-based Topper TV. The channel is currently available via Direct-to-Home or DTH (Tata Sky or Dish TV) television services for a yearly subscription of Rs 1,000 and has already got 40,000 students registered on

Education companies are making sure that the classroom is now available through several channels — the television set and the Internet. And students love it, says **Smitha Verma**



Clearly, companies have zeroed in on virtual education and regard it as a potential goldmine. According to brokerage firm CLSA Asia Pacific Markets, the e-learning market size in India is estimated to be worth Rs 105 crore and is projected to grow to Rs 1,092 crore in the next four years.

Innovative ways of teaching, clearly, will gain increasing student attention. "Because of Topper TV's exam special episodes, I scored 99 per cent in maths in my Class X exams," says Delhi student Karanjeet Singh.

Just how big the business is poised to become is reflected in the surging turnovers of education companies. Educomp Solutions, one of the biggest in the private education industry, reported a turnover of Rs 286 crore last year. This year, it projects a turnover of Rs 580 crore. "The informal way of learning is bound to grow at least by 10 times in the next three to four years," says Rohit Kumar, president, Educomp.

NIIT Imperia too added 16 new centres last year and is rapidly expanding in smaller towns such as Jamshedpur, Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar and Nagpur.

To be sure, the ed-

ucation business wasn't always this exciting. When state-run Doordarshan made its foray into education in 2000, the concept was still new, and the format was ho hum. Zee Network's educational channel, Zed TV, met with lukewarm response too and shut shop within two years of its

launch in 2000. A lot has changed since then. According to research by Topper TV, parents, teachers and students feel the need for an educational channel that can break the monotony of classrooms. Technology has also come to the aid of education companies. For instance, Career Launcher uses technology that enables tutors to record a student's progress.

So several online learning portals have moved into the virtual classrooms business, among them *Extramarks.com*, *classroomteachers.com* and *Educomp*. And Doordarshan now runs four educational channels. "We touch 8.5 million homes through web casting and DTH," says V.K. Arora, director, electronic media, Indira Gandhi National Open University, which uploads the educational content for the state-owned broadcaster.

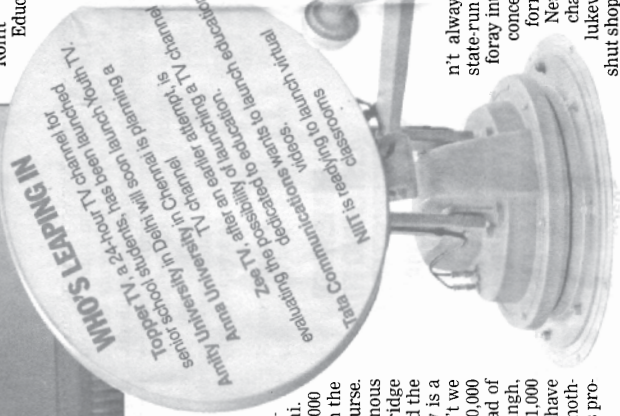
For all the hoopla, it will be a while before e-learning takes off. "The sector is still evolving as the physical presence of a teacher in a classroom is of great significance to a student," says Anirudh Phadke, general manager (e-learning), Career Launcher India. "Technology can never replace teachers, just as Internet news portals have not replaced newspapers."

Still, virtual learning offers a less threatening environment to shy students. All that they have to do is click on an icon and ask their questions.

Amidst all this, one thing's clear — the classroom could take a backseat, though it won't be out. "We have to keep pace with changes in learning and teaching. Things which we cannot otherwise easily demonstrate in class can be done on a virtual platform," says Vibha Kumar, a science teacher at Queen's Mary School, Delhi.

A popular advertisement on television sums it up. It shows a tutor giving English lessons to village kids through a mobile phone. As the ad-line goes: "What an idea, Stri!"

Picture: Subhendu Chaki
Model: Sanjana





TIMES ASCENT

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It has been very rightly said that, if the beginning of a new voyage in our lives is good, all goes well after that. The adage, 'the first impression is the last impression' still rings true in many organisations, which go an extra mile when they have new employees on board. If a new hire gets inducted into the organisation in a proper manner, he/she feels more connected to the organisation and eventually, loyalty and long-term association follows. Hence, having an all-encompassing, interesting and informative induction programme as a part of the organisational policy, is highly imperative.

WELCOME ABOARD

For the first time in India and the Asia-Pacific Region, Marriott International unveiled an exclusive induction programme, 'Voyage' for all its new recruits, for its properties in India,



with the senior management of Marriott International, at large. The induction programme also brought together employees who have been with the organisation for sometime, to share their growth and experience at Marriott, which helped the new hires get a deeper insight into the organisation. The fun activities at the programme included a football match between the management and new employees and some interesting team-building activities. In one of the team building activities, all groups were given certain ingredients and instructions to prepare a salad and a cake. The idea behind this activity was to see how teams work together and interestingly, they all came up with their own versions of the salad and the cake! In another one, all groups were asked to prepare a theme hotel of their own and sell it. The teams got quite innovative at this and came up with interesting themes of environmental-friendly hotels and hotels on space. 'Voyage' is a 24 month programme for people who are talented, ambitious, self-motivated and are going to be our future leaders,' informs Nayna Paragiani, Director of HR, JW Marriott, Mumbai.

A WARM WELCOME

AFTER JOINING A NEW ORGANISATION, MANY OF US FIND OURSELVES THROWN INTO A NEW ENVIRONMENT, WITH A LOT OF APPREHENSIONS. THIS IS WHERE INDUCTION TRAINING CAN HELP FAMILIARISE US WITH THE ORGANISATION'S PHILOSOPHY, ALONG WITH KEY BUSINESS PROCESSES AND OUR WORK RESPONSIBILITIES. YASMIN TAJ TALKS TO ORGANISATIONS THAT HAVE FORMULATED UNIQUE INDUCTION PROGRAMMES FOR THEIR NEW RECRUITS

Malaysia, Maldives and Pakistan, across functions like sales, marketing, finance, communications, etc. The two-day event was held in Goa, wherein 70 fresh recruits from across hotel management and other institutes were brought together and introduced to the 'unique' Marriott culture, practices and properties.

'Marriott is growing extensively and hence it has become all the more important for us, to have the best talent on board and make sure they understand how vital they are to the organisation. That is why 'Voyage', our induction and graduate programme was a very important initiative, for all of us,' says Gurmeet Singh, Area Director- HR, Marriott International (India, Pakistan, Malaysia and Maldives). The event kicked off with an icebreaker interaction session where all the new hires were divided into groups. Interestingly, each new recruit was given a chat with an animal picture on it and as they entered the ballroom, they had to make the sound of that particular animal to find his/her group. Along with having lectures and presentations by area heads and general managers from all the brands and properties under the Marriott bandwagon, there was ample fun activities for the Voyage participants to unwind. The programme also gave new recruits an opportunity to interact



BONDING WITH THE BEST

An induction programme with the same objective but one that takes a different route, MIT effectively utilises technology to enable new members of the MIT family to get acquainted with the organisation. 'Being a technology driven company, we have managed to create a unique induction programme that addresses new hires located at different locations, simultaneously,' informs Asem Taluqdar, Senior VP & Head-Human Resources, MIT. It starts with a four-day face-to-face exhaustive induction programme at MIT SEED (School for Employee Education and Development) located at New Delhi. During this session, new hires at MIT are taken through the company's vision, growth over the last 27 years, business verticals, products and services, systems and processes, etc., by the senior management of the company. 'Last year, MIT created a breakthrough in the way induction is done, when it conducted a NIT Induction Programme (NP) session through its innovative 'Synchronous Learning Technology' platform, which is otherwise used by the country's premier B-schools such as the IIMs to offer executive management programmes to working professionals, across over 20 locations in the country. During this first-of-its-kind induction session, 114 new MITians from 8 Indian cities, attended their 1st-day of NP on the Synchronous Learning platform of the MIT Imperia,' states Taluqdar.

The MIT's e-induction or e-NP programme is a comprehensive, user-friendly, web-based training solution that offers basic information about the company that new hires need to know on the first day of their work. The idea is to send a standard, consistent message for all new hires irrespective of their business vertical and location. Another unique aspect of MIT's induction programme is called 'Immersion', which is specially designed for inducting senior members into the MIT leadership team. 'During this full-day session, the new members get into a conference room with a group of MITians, who they will be working with closely, in the organisation. It is a good get-to-know, ice-breaking session for both-the new employee and the current employees,' says Taluqdar.

THE TIE THAT BINDS

A thorough induction process ensures that new managers get a good understanding of the organisation not only in terms of products and processes but also, much more importantly, its unique culture and Reckitt Benckiser also believes in the same ideology. 'We value the importance of building and nurturing talent from within. The Management Trainee (MT) programme, for example, aims at developing future leaders for Reckitt Benckiser India and its global operations,' informs Chander Mohan Sethi, Chairman and Managing Director, Reckitt Benckiser (India) Ltd.

The 'Indian Management Trainee Program' is a core programme of the company and gets ample visibility amongst the Reckitt Benckiser global too management as well. 'Our management training approach is about creating a programme where people are supported to unleash their potential, early in their careers. It's a piece and a programme where you can make things happen, not just learn about how others make things happen,' states Sethi. The Management Trainee induction is a one-year intensive, cross-functional programme. For example, the programme for a sales and marketing trainee starts with a week long induction at the corporate head office in Gurgaon, with introductions by the management committee. This is followed by presentations by various HODs (Head of Departments) who give the trainees an overview of the various functions. Post that, the trainees head off to the market, to understand Reckitt Benckiser products. These visits let them interface with products and consumers in real-life setting. They are put through a series of stints in sales that provide them exposure to diverse elements,' explains Sethi.

An effective induction programme today is more than merely introducing new employees to their roles and co-workers. And several organisations that understand that are leaning no stone unturned in ensuring that their new family members get a warm welcome.

गणित का डर दूर करने के लिए प्रयोगशाला

कोलकाता, 19 अगस्त (प.स.): विद्यार्थियों के दिलो-दिमाग से गणित विषय के भय को दूर करने के लिए यहां एक गणित प्रयोगशाला स्थापित की जा रही है। इससे विषय को रोचक बनाने में मदद मिलेगी। प्रयोगशाला की स्थापना इस दिशा में एक अभिनव प्रयास है। इससे विद्यार्थियों में गणित की अवधारणाओं को समझने में सहायता मिलेगी और वे विषय से जुड़े विभिन्न तथ्यों को जान सकेंगे। एन.आई.आई.टी. स्थित स्कूल लर्निंग सोल्यूशंस के अध्यक्ष एल. बालसुब्रमण्यम ने कहा कि सी.बी. एस.ई. ने निर्देशित किया है कि विद्यार्थियों को 20 फीसदी अंक प्रयोगशाला मूल्यांकन के आधार पर प्रदान किए जाएं। यह अंक अंतिम कोलकाता स्थित बोस संस्थान के सेवानिवृत्त प्राध्यापक एन.के. सिन्हा ने कहा कि इस तरह की प्रयोगशालाओं से विद्यार्थियों को गणित की अवधारणाओं को समझने और उन्हें आपस में संबद्ध करने में मदद मिलेगी। इससे विद्यार्थियों में गणित के प्रति रुचि जाग्रत होगी और उनका आत्मबल बढ़ेगा। सिन्हा ने कहा कि इन प्रयोगशालाओं से विद्यार्थियों को आपस में विषय को समझने और विचार विमर्श करने में सहायता मिलेगी।

► 20 फीसदी अंक प्रयोगशाला मूल्यांकन के आधार पर होंगे

प्रयोगशाला की लागत 8 लाख रुपए है जबकि 60 विद्यार्थियों की क्षमता वाली प्रयोगशाला की स्थापना पर 12 लाख रुपए खर्च होंगे।

कक्षा 3 से 7 तक के लिए गणित प्रयोगशाला मूल्यांकन: इसके साथ ही सी.बी.एस.ई. ने प्रारंभिक स्तर से गणित में बच्चों की अभिरुचि बढ़ाने, इसे सहभागितापूर्ण बनाने और आत्म अनुभव एवं आसपास की वस्तुओं के जरिए गणित प्रयोगशाला मूल्यांकन के बारे में विभिन्न सिद्धांतों के बारे में विभाजित कर बाए बाजू, दाए बाजू, लम्बाई एवं दिशाओं का बोध करने, कमरे में दरवाजों और खिड़कियों की संख्या और लम्बाई के बारे में स्वयं जानकारी एकत्र करने जैसे कार्यों को शामिल किया है।

ने कक्षा 3 से कक्षा 7 तक के छात्रों के लिए गणित प्रयोग गतिविधियां पेश की हैं जिसका उद्देश्य स्कूलों के पुस्तकीय ज्ञान को जीवन के अनुभवों से जोड़ना तथा मशीन की तरह ज्ञान देने की हतोत्साहित करना है।

उन्होंने कहा कि बच्चे अपने अनुभवों से अधिक ज्ञान हासिल करते हैं। सी.बी.एस.ई. ने इसी को ध्यान में रखते हुए स्कूलों में छोटे बच्चों के लिए कागज पर बिन्दुओं के जरिए आकृति बनाकर दियासलाई, कंचे, माचिस की तीली, छोटे-छोटे कंकड़, गोंद, ज्योमेट्री बाक्स, कैची आदि की प्रयोग विधियां जारी की हैं जिसके माध्यम से विभिन्न ज्यामितीय आकृतियों और सिद्धांतों के बारे में स्पष्ट समझ बनाई जा सके। सी.बी.एस.ई. ने कक्षा 3 के लिए गणित प्रयोगशाला गतिविधियों में कागज पर झोंपड़ी, फूल, जोकर आदि बनाने, स्पष्ट गतिविधियों के तहत कक्षा को कई दलों में विभाजित कर बाए बाजू, दाए बाजू, लम्बाई एवं दिशाओं का बोध करने, कमरे में दरवाजों और खिड़कियों की संख्या और लम्बाई के बारे में स्वयं जानकारी एकत्र करने जैसे कार्यों को शामिल किया है।

विद्यार्थियों के दिलोदिमाग से गणित विषय के भय को दूर करने के लिए यहां एक गणित प्रयोगशाला स्थापित की जा रही है। इससे विषय को रोचक बनाने में मदद मिलेगी। प्रयोगशाला की स्थापना इस दिशा में एक अभिनव प्रयास है। इससे विद्यार्थियों में गणित की अवधारणाओं को समझने में सहायता मिलेगी और वे विषय से जुड़े विभिन्न तथ्यों को जान सकेंगे। एन.आई.आई.टी. स्थित स्कूल लर्निंग सोल्यूशंस के अध्यक्ष एल. बालसुब्रमण्यम ने कहा कि सी.बी.एस.ई. ने निर्देशित किया है कि विद्यार्थियों को 20 फीसदी अंक प्रयोगशाला मूल्यांकन के आधार पर प्रदान किए जाएं। यह अंक अंतिम अंकसूची में जोड़े जाएंगे। बालसुब्रमण्यम ने कहा कि इस तरह की गणित प्रयोगशाला की मांग गैर सीबीएसई बोर्ड स्कूल जैसे कोलकाता स्थित बल्लीचुंगे शिक्षा सदन जो पश्चिम बंगाल बोर्ड ऑफ

● विषय को रोचक बनाने में मिलेगी मदद

इससे शिक्षकों को भी आसानी होगी। प्रयोगशाला में शिक्षक विद्यार्थियों को ठोस वस्तुओं प्रतिरूपों चांद, ग्राफिक्स, पोस्टर और तस्वीरों के जरिए गणित की अवधारणाओं से अवगत करायेंगे। 32 विद्यार्थियों के इस्तेमाल वाली प्रयोगशाला की लागत आठ लाख रुपए है जबकि साठ विद्यार्थियों की क्षमता वाली प्रयोगशाला की स्थापना पर 12 लाख रुपए खर्च होंगे।

गणित का डर दूर करने के लिए बनी प्रयोगशाला

एजेंसी

कोलकाता, 19 अगस्त

सेकेंडरी एजुकेशन से मान्यता प्राप्त है की ओर से भी है। वे भी चाहते हैं कि उनके स्कूलों में भी गणित प्रयोगशाला स्थापित की जाए। कोलकाता स्थित बोस संस्थान के सेवानिवृत्त प्राध्यापक एन के सिन्हा ने कहा कि इस तरह की प्रयोगशालाओं से विद्यार्थियों को गणित की अवधारणाओं को समझने और उन्हें आपस में संबद्ध करने में मदद मिलेगी। इससे विद्यार्थियों में गणित के प्रति रुचि जाग्रत होगी और उनका आत्मबल बढ़ेगा। सिन्हा ने कहा कि इन प्रयोगशालाओं से विद्यार्थियों को आपस में विषय को समझने और विचार विमर्श करने में सहायता मिलेगी।

‘कनेक्टेड इंडियंस’ बनाएगा एक अरब को 2012 तक नेटिजन

इंटेल्, एनआईआईटी, टाटा, बीएसएनएल और रिलायंस ने मिलाए हाथ, सहमति पत्र पर दस्तखत

अमित त्यागी

नई दिल्ली

इंटरनेट के माध्यम से देश की अधिकतर आबादी को जोड़कर लोगों की आर्थिक स्थिति में सुधार लाया जा सकता है। मान लें कि बिहार के एक लाल मिर्च उत्पादक को अगर जयपुर, दिल्ली, अहमदाबाद और पुणे की मंडियों में इसका भाव एक साथ पता चल जाए, तो वह अपने उत्पाद को उस बाजार में बेचकर अधिकतम कीमत वसूल सकता है। इसके लिए उसके पास इंटरनेट, मोबाइल और संचार के अन्य साधनों का होना जरूरी है। सरकार के साथ कदम मिलाकर कंप्यूटर हाइवयर निर्माता इंटेल्, एनआईआईटी, बीएसएनएल, टाटा एवं रिलायंस कम्यूनिकेशन ने एक सहमति पत्र पर दस्तखत किए हैं जिसके तहत देश भर में इंटरनेट के प्रसार और सस्ते कंप्यूटर उपलब्ध कराने की दिशा में काम किया जाएगा।

इंटेल् ने इस दिशा में कदम आगे बढ़ाते हुए

‘कनेक्टेड इंडियंस’ नामक अभियान की शुरुआत की है। इस अभियान के तहत सभी कंपनियां अपनी तरफ से योगदान देंगी जिससे भारत के एक अरब लोगों को संचार सुविधा से जोड़ा जा सके। इस अभियान के पहले चरण में इंटेल् ने ऐटम नाम से एक प्रोसेसर लॉन्च किया है। इंटेल् के सेल्स एवं मार्केटिंग एमडी (दक्षिण एशिया) आर शिवकुमार ने कहा, ‘इंटेल् ने महसूस किया है कि इंटरनेट के माध्यम से हमारे देश और लोगों का भविष्य सुनहरा बनाया जा सकता है। इस समय यह जरूरत भी महसूस की जा रही है कि औद्योगिक संगठन और सरकार इस जिम्मेदारी का निर्वाह करने में अपनी भूमिका निभाएं।’

इंटेल् के इस प्रयास पर केंद्रीय संचार एवं आईटी मंत्री ए राजा ने बताया कि इस साल मई में कुआलालंपुर में आईटी पर बलर्ड कांग्रेस में उन्होंने इस बात के महत्व को रेखांकित किया था। राजा ने कहा,

‘पचास करोड़ भारतीय इंटरनेट से जुड़ चुके हैं और उसकी असीमित सुविधाओं का लाभ उठा रहे हैं। 2012 तक एक अरब आबादी को इंटरनेट से जोड़ने का लक्ष्य है और उसके बाद देश की आर्थिक स्थिति में जोरदार तेजी दर्ज की जाएगी।’ राजा ने कहा कि उनका मंत्रालय इंटरनेट सुविधा बढ़ाने के हर प्रयास पर सकारात्मक कार्रवाई कर रहा है और वाई फाई एवं 3जी सेवा इसी क्षेत्र में शुरू की जाने वाली सुविधाएं हैं।

अगले कुछ महीनों में इंटेल् 5,000 रुपए के कंप्यूटर लॉन्च करने की योजना बना रहा है जिससे अधिक से अधिक लोग इसे खरीद सकें और ‘कनेक्टेड इंडियंस’ अभियान को गति मिल सके। ये कंप्यूटर नेटवर्क्स और नेटटॉप्स नाम से उपलब्ध होंगे। नेटवर्क्स एक कॉम्पैक्ट मोबाइल डिवाइस है जिसे बच्चे, पहली बार कंप्यूटर इस्तेमाल करने वाले और अतिरिक्त पर्सनल कंप्यूटर की जरूरत महसूस करने वाले लोग इस्तेमाल कर सकेंगे।

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