NIIT

NIIT in the News

September 2008
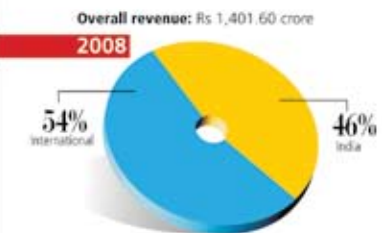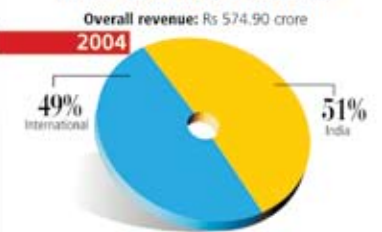
plus of 47 million in India in the working age group of 15-59.

"We wanted to prepare this 47 million for the opportunity. We also realised that India had become a story of multi-sector growth. But, earlier, when industry leaders told us they needed an NIIT in their sector, we used to say we were too busy. During the time of global discontinuity in IT, we decided to build models for other sectors," says Pawar.

With that, the mission of NIIT, which was to build IT talent in developing countries during the first 20 years, changed to global talent development. As the company entered new areas, its net revenue more than doubled from Rs 450.7 crore in 2005-06 to Rs 1006.8 crore in 2007-08. In the same period, its profit after tax rose from Rs 40.1 crore to Rs 75.6 crore. The stock market has taken note. NIIT's market capitalisation is a long way off the dizzy heights it had once scaled — it is doubtful that any technology company will ever regain the levels of 1999-2000. However, the combined

GLOBAL GAINS
NIIT'S REVENUE BREAK-UP

Overall revenue: Rs 574.90 crore

2004

49% International   51% India

Overall revenue: Rs 1,401.60 crore

2008

54% International   46% India

THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN INTERNATIONAL REVENUE CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO INORGANIC GROWTH — ACQUISITIONS IN THE US, FOR INSTANCE, OF COGNITIVE ARTS AND ELEMENT K

P Rajendran (left), COO, Rajendra S Pawar, chairman and co-founder, and Vijay K Thadani (right), co-founder and CEO

Vijay K Thadani did not know it then; it's only in retrospect that he sees January 4, 2000, as a great day. That was when the stock price of NIIT, the education company he started with his hostel mate from IIT Delhi, Rajendra S Pawar, touched Rs 3,844 a share, translating into a market capitalisation of Rs 14,837.84 crore.

Those were the heady days of the technology boom, when untold millions chased the latest college-dropout-turned-garage-entrepreneur in the hope of funding the next Hewlett-Packard. As would happen with a boom funded by such money — Pawar, the NIIT chairman, calls it "dumb money" — it soon gave way to the mother of all meltdowns. Nearly 40 per cent of the crowded IT education market vanished. As the sector continued to flounder, NIIT's market capitalisation plummeted to Rs 332 crore on September 21, 2001.

Pawar, who insists on a clean desk before he starts work, took the team to the drawing board and drew up a plan to do what he knew NIIT should have done years earlier but could not because of the frenetic 30-40 per cent growth of the 1980s and 1990s.

He inferred that the company had two core competencies. The first was to create learning material ("we do it better than most people in the world"), and the second education process management. These had been built over the first 20 years of NIIT's existence and had helped the company ride the first steep part of the 'S' curve, which, Pawar insists, is the course of all corporations that last 100 years or more.

Around that time, Pawar was involved in a study involving the demographic dividend (a concept that considers India's large population an asset). The study projected a shortage of 40 million skilled professionals in the developed world and a sur-

the second COMING

NIIT is no longer only about IT education. In the last two years, it has entered uncharted territories to take a second shot at greatness, just as it has given millions a second chance to build a career

Suveen K Sinha

(2)

market capitalisation of NIIT and its software arm, NIIT Technologies, which was spun off as a separate company in August 2004, has clawed its way back to Rs 2,126.35 crore as of a week ago.

"The key focus for NIIT is pedagogy. Instead of building expertise in content, it is building expertise in learning systems and methodologies. Instead of saying, 'we will train people to programme', it is going a step down and saying, 'how can people learn what they want to learn'. This is the right path," says the IT sector analyst with a Mumbai-based research house who does not want to be named because he is not formally tracking NIIT.

Moving up

Senthil Pandi Chinnasamy passed out of Erode Sengunthar Engineering College, Erode, last year, only to realise that there were no jobs for him in spite of his four-year degree in electronics communication. In the summer of last year, he enrolled into a six-month course of NIIT, during which he worked on two projects. "After finishing, I had five-six job offers," says Chinnasamy, currently working with 3i Infotech in Chennai.

NIIT Edgeineers, the course that altered the course of Chinnasamy's career, has also changed the perception of NIIT. Launched in April 2006, it is targeted at engineering graduates. Some, like Chinnasamy, join right after graduating; some others join for mid-career re-skilling. The company says as many as 100,000 engineers join in a year.

That is starkly different from how NIIT was perceived earlier: a place for those who could not hope to get into top-flight engineering colleges. Two IT services companies, one top-rung and the other middle-rung, told *the strategist* that they did not hire from NIIT.

Thadani disagrees, and points out that as many as 490 NIIT students found jobs with the top five IT companies in the country between April and August this year. He also points out another facet. "A good 25 per cent of IT professionals in the country have studied at NIIT at some point or the other. They may not join a top IT company immediately, but maybe on their second or third jobs."

Smarajit Dey, who left BITS Pilani's faculty to join NIIT in 1990, is more philosophical. He patiently provides the social context. "Education must benefit in such a way that the students, whatever they were before, become more capable and perhaps get the economic benefit of that. Some people will get 90 per cent in class, and some 50. To believe that I will have one programme to accommodate all is simplification. Those who can get into a premier engineering college, will. For some, their capabilities are at a point that NIIT becomes the best option."

In the 1970s, you were either in the top half a per cent of the population, which joined the top engineering colleges, or you were cast away and told to get into general education without the promise of employment. "NIIT gave a second chance at a technology career to those people who the conventional education system, restricted in terms of numbers, had declared unfit. If you see NIIT in this context, you will realise its social context," says Dey.

Dey, as president in charge of new initiatives, widened the context on the lines of the plan drawn up during the days of the trough. "If you look at the organisation, it has shown the tenacity to handle a situation which many organisations gave up as lost. We regrouped and fought back," says Thadani.

Uncharted territories

This tenacity, among other things, impressed ICICI Bank enough to become NIIT's partner in setting up the Institute of Finance, Banking and Insurance, or IFBI. When K Ramkumar, the group human resources head of the bank, called Pawar one afternoon in November 2006, they had met just once, fleetingly, at a cricket match. The bank was facing a problem of manpower supply and NIIT was looking to diversify. In February 2007, they met, and the IFBI brand was launched two months later. "How many people would have moved like that? It was a wonderful experience, trusting, not contractual," says Ramkumar.

ICICI Bank, which holds about 19 per cent equity in the venture, prepared the curriculum and promised to absorb everyone who passed out of the institute in the first year. That is down to 60 per cent as other banks like HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra, Vijaya, and so on, have come forward to recruit.

> ## "IF YOU LOOK AT THE ORGANISATION, IT HAS SHOWN THE TENACITY TO HANDLE A SITUATION WHICH MANY ORGANISATIONS GAVE UP AS LOST. WE REGROUPED AND FOUGHT BACK"
>
> ### VIJAY K THADANI
> Co-founder and CEO, NIIT Ltd

"A fresher takes 9-12 months to become functionally independent. In that period, the customer experience suffers. These kids coming out of IFBI are not productive on the first day, but certainly after the first month," says Ramkumar.

In the year and a half since inception, IFBI has placed 7,500 people in the financial services industry. "The same person is walking through our door, but does not have the aptitude to be an IT professional. Instead of saying, 'sorry, we can't do anything', we asked ourselves, 'how do we skill ourselves to impart new skills'. Walk into any ICICI Bank and it will have an NIIT-trained personnel," says Thadani.

On the same lines, Genpact, a leader in business process outsourcing, joined hands with NIIT to announce the Institute of Process Excellence to address the increasing demand for skilled workers in the sector. The new company, announced in June this year, will initially offer training programmes in areas such as business processes, language skills and business communication, and intends to add additional offerings in other areas including finance and accounting, banking, insurance and supply chain.

A third initiative, NIIT Imperia, has taken the company into the relatively rarefied group of institutes imparting executive management education, which is meant for those already working. Launched in September 2006 in association with the Indian Institutes of Management at Ahmedabad, Kolkata and Indore, Imperia has gone on to forge partnerships with IIM Lucknow, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and IMT Ghaziabad.

Generally, executives are wary of such progammes because they require them to leave their jobs, forgo the salary for the duration of the course, relocate, and renounce family commitments. Imperia demands none of these. It uses synchronous learning technology, which sets up remote classrooms connected to a central studio, typically located inside one of the partner institutes. Classes are conducted by faculty members teaching from the studio connected to students distributed over several centres. Each student can interact with every other.

Just like the brick and mortar model, this classroom is faculty-led and faculty-controlled. A student can raise his hand by clicking on an icon to seek the teacher's permission to speak. To replicate the action of a teacher calling a student to the blackboard to illustrate something, the Imperia teacher can hand over the control to a student. "The challenge is to replicate everything done in a class and yet do away with the geographical limitations. The fundamental difference is in the ability to use the best of faculty and institutes irrespective of your location and at timings convenient to you," says Dey.

However, new teaching content is one part of the new mission of global talent development. To address the other part — global — NIIT has spread out. Having recently gone into Africa, the company for the first time disclosed the revenue from the continent last quarter, which turned out to be a sizeable 7 per cent of the total. Two acquisitions, one of Cognitive Arts and the other of Element K, met its need for a footprint in the US.

"Element K has the second-largest training library in the world... The margin is set to improve as NIIT turns around the operations of Element K, and as it leverages on Element K's content library to beyond US. We expect margins to double in the next three years from 6 per cent to 12 per cent," said a recent Macquarie Research report.

The new NIIT, believes Pawar, is ready to start its climb on the second steep part of the 'S' curve. "I have to keep repeating 'global talent development' for a few years before everybody gets it," says Pawar. And then perhaps the chaps who influence market capitalisation also will. ♟

India's largest IT Scholarship Test

'18th Bhavishya Jyoti Scholarship' announced

NEW DELHI, Sep 12: dia's largest IT Scholarship programme 18th Bhavisrvja jyoti Scholarship Test will be conducted on Sunday, September 21, 2008 by leading Global Talent Development Corporation, NUT, across over 400 education centres in the country.

The 18-year old annual scholarship programme rewards fee waivers to meritorious students and graduates desirous of building successful careers in diverse industries that require Information Technology skills. NUT plans to offer scholarship to 20,000 students in the country, this year, based on their performance in the competitive written lest, personal interview and Class XII score.

With the theme of 'Prepare to Win', this year's programme will offer Merit based fee waiver of up to Rs. 40,000 on NIT's IT training programs. A special feature of this year's Bhavishya Jyoti Scholarship is that NUT will also offer 100 percent scholarships to up to 500 graduate-applicants, based on merit. Tins is NIITs gesture to enhance employ ability of meritorious graduates and make them job ready to meet the industry' needs.

Additionally, for Graduates who have job-offer letters from IT companies and are on wait list, NIIT will offer enhanced scholarship to enable them to enrol for relevant it programs and enhance their IT skills.

Announcing the launch, of Scholarship Test, G. Raghavan, President-Individual Learning Business, NIIT said, "Bhavishya Jyoti Scholarship Test has become India's largest IT Scholarship Test with over 300,000 students benefiting from it in the last 17 years. This is NIIT's effort to, recognise and encourage meritorious students from varied economic backgrounds, and enable the global IT industry' find skilled talent pool".

As per NASSCOM,., there is an estimated demand for 850,000 skilled professionals in the IT services domain, by 2010.

Students who have completed their Class XIIth or equivalent, those currently pursuing graduation and/or completed graduation in any stream, and Polytechnic diploma holders are eligible for NIIT Bhavishya Jyoti Scholarships, The scholarship will be offered on a wide range of NIIT programs including NIIT, NIIT Engineers and NIIT Globalnet.

The Bhavishya Jyoti Scholarship was launched by NUT in 1991 to enable financially challenged meritorious students to pursue a career in computer? and add to the nation's trained manpower base.

NIIT SCHOLARSHIP TEST ON SEPT 21

India's largest IT Scholarship Program - the 18th Bhavishya Jyoti Scholarship Test - will be conducted on September 21 by NIIT across over 400 education centres in the country.

The scholarship program rewards fee waivers to meritorious students and graduates desirous of building successful careers in diverse industries that require Information Technology skills.

NIIT plans to offer scholarship to 20,000 students in the country, this year, based on their performance in the competitive written test, personal interview and Class XIIth score.

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A special feature of this year's Bhavishya Jyoti Scholarship is that NIIT will also offer 100 percent scholarships to up to 500 graduate-applicants, based on merit. Additionally, for graduates who have job-offer letters from IT companies and are on wait list, NIIT will offer enhanced scholarship to enable them to enrol for relevant programs and enhance their IT skills.

Over 300,000 students have benefited from the scholarship in the last 17 years. Students who have completed their Class XIIth or equivalent, those currently pursuing graduation and or completed graduation in any stream, and Polytechnic diploma holders are eligible for NIIT Bhavishya Jyoti Scholarships. The application forms for the test are available at NIIT education centres across the country.

Students can also log on to www.niiteducation.com/bjs and register for the examination. The last date for receipt of application is September 20.

- ANI

एनआईआईटी भविष्य ज्योति छात्रवृति परीक्षा 21 को

40,000 रुपए तंक की फीस माफी की मिलेगी सहूलियत

दिव्य हिमाचल ब्यूरो

, हमीरपुर — एशिया के अग्रवल टेक्नोलाजी प्रशिक्षण तथा ग्लोबल टेलेंट डिवेलपमेंट कारपोरेशन एनआईआईटी द्वारा देशभर के 400 शिक्षा केंद्रों पर (रविवार) 21 सितंबर को 18वीं वार्षिक भविष्य ज्योति छात्रवृति (बीजेएम) परीक्षा आयोजित की जाएगी। यह जानकारी देते हुए एनआईआईटी हमीरपुर संस्थान के प्रबंध निदेशक राजेश शर्मा ने बताया कि पिछले 18 वर्षों से जारी यह वार्षिक छात्रवृति कार्यक्रम उन मेधावी छात्रों और स्नातकों के लिए फीस माफी की सुविधा प्रदान करता है, जो आईटी दक्षताओं की मांग रखने वाले अलग-अलग उद्योगों में कैरियर संवारने की आकांक्षा मन में संजोए होते हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि एनआईआईटी ने इस साल देश के 20,000 छात्रों को लिखित प्रतियोगी परीक्षा, जिसमें निजी

साक्षात्कार व 12वीं में उनके अंकों के आधार पर स्कॉलरशिप देने की योजना बनाई है। उन्होंने बताया कि इस वर्ष प्रीपेयर टू विन थीम पर आधारित यह पेशकश एनआईआईटी के आईटी ट्रेनिंग पाठ्यक्रमों के लिए छात्रों को उनकी योग्यता के आधार पर 40,000 रुपए तक की फीस माफी की सहूलियत दिलाएगी। इसके साथ इस वर्ष की भविष्य ज्योति स्कॉलरशिप में एनआईआईटी करीब 500 स्नातक आवेदकों के लिए सौ छात्रवृति की पेशकश कर रहा है।

Netas turn employment facilitators

Politicians Help Youth In Their Constituencies Get Training, Jobs

Shreya Biswas
NEW DELHI

IN A shift from the usual vote-grabbing practices, politicians are looking deeper into their constituencies. Some enterprising political leaders are taking a lead not just in helping the youth in their constituency become employable but also in getting them employed.

Be it Union commerce minister Kamal Nath setting up a development and learning centre (DLC) for students in Chhindwara, Union finance minister P Chidambaram's son Karti Chidambaram organising a job mela in the FM's constituency Sivaganga or Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena's retail training programme for youth, they all depict a shift from the beaten path. Whatever be the trigger, it

augurs well for the youth in these regions as companies are coming forward to lend a helping hand.

Sample this: Last year, DLC was launched at Chhindwara in collaboration with NIIT. The

commerce minister Kamal Nath not only convinced top IT companies to be a part of it but also helped them get land and buildings. Today, there are over 20 companies that have a presence in the region including Intel, NIIT Technologies, Cisco, TCS, IBM, Infosys, Dell, Suzlon and HCL. The first batch of 60 students have already graduated while another 320 are studying there.

The DLC provides intensive professional training programmes, which include an English preparatory school for the students, along with IT training modules. "I am happy to see industry come forward for nurturing the inherent talent base in rural India," says a visibly excited Nath. "NIIT's model DLC in Chhindwara will go a long way in inducting our youth into the mainstream industry."

NIIT to host 'Bhavishya Jyoti' scholarship test

NEW DELHI, DHNS: NIIT announced on Thursday India's largest IT Scholarship Program- '18th Bhavishya Jyoti Scholarship Test' will be conducted on Sunday, September 21, 2008, across over 400 education centres in the country. The 18-year old Annual Scholarship program rewards fee waivers to meritorious students, said the company in a release.

NIIT plans to offer scholarship to 20,000 students in the country, this year, based on their performance in the competitive written test, personal interview and Class XIIth score.

NNIT scholarship teston Sept 21

Kolkata: India's largest IT Scholarship Program—'18th Bhavishya Jyoti Scholarship Test' will be conducted on Sunday, September 21, 2008 by NIIT across over 400 education centres in the country. The 18-year old Annual Scholarship program rewards fee waivers to meritorious students and graduates desirous of building successful careers in diverse industries that require Information Technology skills. NIIT plans to offer scholarship to 20,000 students in the country, this year, based on their performance in the competitive written test, personal interview and Class XIIth score. With the theme of 'Prepare to Win', this year's program will offer Merit based fee waiver of up to Rs. 40,000 on NIIT's IT training programs. A special feature of this year's Bhavishya Jyoti Scholarship is that NIIT will also offer full scholarships to up to 500 graduate-applicants, based on merit. Graduates who have job-offer letters from IT companies and are on wait list will get enhanced scholarship to enable them to enroll for relevant programs and enhance their IT skills, said G Raghavan, President-Individual Learning Business, of NIIT. NASSCOM had indicated an estimated demand for 850,000 skilled professionals in the IT services domain, by 2010. The application forms for the test are available at NIIT education centers across the country. Students can also log on to www.niiteducation.com/bjs and register for the examination. The last date for receipt of application is September 20, 2008.   BS REPORTER

NIIT'S Bhavishya Jyoti Scholarships

NIIT is conducting 18th Bhavishya Jyoti Scholarship Test on September 21st across the country, offering 20,000 scholarships based on the student's performance in written test, personal interview and marks in Intermediate. The aid plan includes 100 per cent scholarships to up to 500 candidates and merit based fee waiver of up to Rs. 40,000 on the institute's IT training programmes. NIIT has separate package for the graduates who have job-offer letters from IT companies and are on wait list. They can avail an enhanced scholarship to enrol for relevant programs. Students who have completed their Intermediate, graduates and polytechnic diploma holders are eligible for the scholarships.

The application forms for the test are available at NIIT education centres or students can register their names at "www.niiteducation.com/bjs". The last date for registration is September 20. For more details, students may call the toll free numbers – 18001806448 of BSNL and 18001026448 of Airtel.

K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY
in Hyderabad

NIIT scholarship test on Sept 21

Kolkata, Sept 4

NIIT today said test for its IT scholarship programme, the Bhavishya Jyoti Scholarship, will be held on September 21. With the theme of 'Prepare to Win', this year's program would offer merit-based fee waiver of up to Rs 40,000 on NIIT's IT training programme, said Mr G. Raghavan, President Individual Learning Business of NIIT, in a release. Moreover, this year, NIIT would also offer 100 per cent scholarships to up to 500 graduate-applicants, based on merit, under the programme. "Bhavishya Jyoti Scholarship Test has become India's largest IT Scholarship Test with over 300,000 students benefiting from it in the last 17 years," the release said. **– PTI**

आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि
20 सितम्बर, 2008

परीक्षा की तिथि
21 सितम्बर, 2008

18वीं भविष्य ज्योति स्कॉलरशिप

आर्थिक तंगी बाधा नहीं बनेगी आईटी प्रोफेशनल बनने में

आईटी क्षेत्र में रोजगार के भरपूर अवसरों के कारण इस क्षेत्र में छात्रों की रुचि अच्छी-खासी होती है, लेकिन आर्थिक पिछड़ेपन की वजह से कई मेधावी छात्र महंगे कोर्स में दाखिला नहीं ले पाते। इसी समस्या को दूर करने के लिए आईटी क्षेत्र के अग्रणी संस्थान एनआईआईटी (NIIT) के द्वारा भारत में भविष्य ज्योति स्कॉलरशिप की शुरुआत 1991 में की गई थी।

इस स्कॉलरशिप का उद्देश्य आर्थिक रूप से पिछड़े, परंतु मेधावी उम्मीदवार को बढ़ावा देना है, ताकि वह कम्प्यूटर के क्षेत्र में करियर बना कर देश की ट्रेन्ड मैन पावर को बढ़ा सकें। स्कॉलरशिप के लिए उम्मीदवार को टैस्ट देना होता है। इस वर्ष 18वीं भविष्य ज्योति स्कॉलरशिप टैस्ट, पूरे भारत में फैले 400 केन्द्रों पर 21 सितम्बर को आयोजित किया जाएगा।

शैक्षिक योग्यता

एनआईआईटी की भविष्य ज्योति स्कॉलरशिप प्राप्त करने एवं टैस्ट में शामिल होने के लिए उम्मीदवार को 10+2 या उसके समकक्ष योग्यता प्राप्त होना जरूरी है। जो छात्र ग्रेजुएट हैं या ग्रेजुएशन कर रहे हैं अथवा पॉलिटेक्निक ग्रेजुएट हैं, वे भी इस टैस्ट में शामिल होकर स्कॉलरशिप का लाभ उठा सकते हैं।

स्कॉलरशिप

स्कॉलरशिप, एनआईआईटी के विभिन्न प्रोग्राम्स जैसे एनआईआईटी, एनआईआईटी इंजीनियरिंग एवं एनआईआईटी ग्लोबल नेट प्लस इत्यादि कोर्स के लिए प्रदान की जाएगी। 18 वर्ष पुराना यह वार्षिक स्कॉलरशिप प्रोग्राम, मेधावी छात्रों को एक सफल करियर बनाने में मदद करता है। इस वर्ष एनआईआईटी यह स्कॉलरशिप देश के कुल 20 हजार छात्रों को प्रदान करने का प्लान कर रहा है।

प्रक्रिया

इस स्कॉलरशिप के लिए टैस्ट का आयोजन देश के विभिन्न सेन्टरों पर किया जाएगा। लिखित परीक्षा के बाद व्यक्तिगत साक्षात्कार लिया जाएगा। स्कॉलरशिप के लिए 12वीं में प्राप्त स्कोर को भी तवज्जो दी जाएगी। इस प्रकार लिखित परीक्षा, व्यक्तिगत साक्षात्कार एवं 12वीं में प्राप्त स्कोर के आधार पर यह स्कॉलरशिप छात्रों को प्रदान की जाएगी।

स्कॉलरशिप की राशि

'प्रिपेयर टू विन' थीम के साथ इस वर्ष एनआईआईटी के आई-टी ट्रेनिंग प्रोग्राम के लिए मेरिट के आधार पर 40 हजार की छूट छात्रों को प्रदान की जाएगी। इस वर्ष के भविष्य ज्योति स्कॉलरशिप प्रोग्राम की मुख्य विशेषता यह है कि मेरिट के आधार पर, एनआईआईटी 500 ग्रेजुएट छात्रों को 100% स्कॉलरशिप उपलब्ध कराएगा। इस प्रकार एनआईआईटी का उद्देश्य इंडस्ट्री की जरूरतों के अनुसार मेधावी छात्रों को तैयार करना है।

इसके अलावा जिन ग्रेजुएट्स को आई-टी कम्पनियों से जॉब-ऑफर लेटर मिल चुका है, लेकिन अभी वेटिंग लिस्ट में हैं, उनके लिए एक एनहांस्ड स्कॉलरशिप प्रदान की जाएगी। इस प्रोग्राम में शामिल होकर उम्मीदवार अपनी आई-टी स्किल को बढ़ा सकते हैं।

एनआईआईटी के इंडिविजुअल लर्निंग बिजनेस के प्रेजिडेंट जी. राधवन ने इस स्कॉलरशिप टैस्ट के लॉन्च पर कहा कि भविष्य ज्योति स्कॉलरशिप भारत की सबसे बड़ी आई-टी स्कॉलरशिप है, जिससे पिछले 17 वर्षों में तीन लाख छात्र लाभान्वित हो चुके हैं। यह कार्य एनआईआईटी के द्वारा ही सम्भव हुआ है कि प्रतिभाशाली छात्रों, जो कि विभिन्न आर्थिक पृष्ठभूमि से आते हैं, को बढ़ावा दिया जाए, ताकि वे कुशल टेलेन्ट पूल का हिस्सा बन सकें।

नेसकॉम के एक आकलन के अनुसार, 2010 तक आई-टी सर्विस के क्षेत्र में 8 लाख 50 हजार कुशल प्रोफेशनल की जरूरत होगी।

आवेदन प्रक्रिया

स्कॉलरशिप टैस्ट का आवेदन-पत्र देश के विभिन्न हिस्सों में फैले एनआईआईटी सेन्टर्स से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। छात्र www.niited-ucation.com/bjs पर लॉगऑन कर रजिस्ट्रेशन करा सकते हैं। इसके लिए आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि 20 सितम्बर, 2008 है।

अशोक कुमार सिंह

एनआईआईटी खोलेगी 20 सीएलसी

नई दिल्ली: एनआईआईटी के प्रमोटरों द्वारा शुरू किए गए एनआईआईटी इंस्टिट्यूट (टीएनआई) की देश भर में 20 सामुदायिक शिक्षण केंद्र (सीएलसी) खोलने की योजना है जिसके अंतर्गत शहरी झुग्गियों में बेरोजगार युवाओं को प्रशिक्षित किया जाएगा। दिल्ली में स्थापित किए गए ऐसे पहले सीएलसी में तीन महीने से एक साल तक चलने वाले प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम चलाए जाएंगे जिसमें शहरी झुग्गियों और अर्ध-ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के दसवीं और बारहवीं पास बेरोजगार युवाओं को प्रशिक्षित किया जाएगा। जिन क्षेत्रों में कुशलता का प्रशिक्षण दिया जाएगा, उनमें रीटेल, ऑटोमोबाइल बिक्री, टेलिकॉम, आतिथ्य क्षेत्र और स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं शामिल हैं। एनआईआईटी के ये केंद्र बुनियादी अंग्रेजी में प्रशिक्षण देने के अलावा लोकाचार, बुनियादी कंप्यूटर दक्षता, औद्योगिक क्षेत्र के ज्ञान और उद्योगों पर केंद्रित विशिष्ट दक्षताओं आदि का प्रशिक्षण देंगे।

एनआईआईटी ने खोला तुगलकाबाद में कम्युनिटी लर्निंग सेंटर

आभास नामक एनजीओ के सहयोग से खोले गए इस केंद्र का मुख्यमंत्री शीला दीक्षित ने उद्घाटन किया।

भास्कर न्यूज. नई दिल्ली

शहर की झुग्गी बस्तियों में गुजर बसर करने वाले और स्कूल ड्रॉपआउट को कंप्यूटर प्रशिक्षण देने के लिए एनआईआईटी नामक संस्था ने तुगलकाबाद गांव में कम्युनिटी लर्निंग सेंटर खोला है।

आभास नामक एनजीओ के सहयोग से खोले गए इस केंद्र का मुख्यमंत्री शीला दीक्षित ने उद्घाटन किया। इन केंद्रों में बेरोजगार युवकों को आज के उद्योग क्षेत्रों जैसे रिटेल, ऑटोमोबाइल, सेल्स, टेलीकम्युनिकेशन, हॉस्पिटैलिटी, हेल्थकेयर क्षेत्र की जरूरतों के हिसाब से प्रशिक्षण दिलाकर उनके लिए रोजगार के अवसरों को बढ़ाया जाएगा। मुख्यमंत्री ने इस मौके पर कहा कि इस तरह की पहल ही इन वर्गों को समाज की मुख्यधारा में शामिल कर समाज के विकास में योगदान करती है। एनआईआईटी का यह केंद्र इन छात्रों को बेसिक इंग्लिश कम्युनिकेशन, ग्रूमिंग व एटीकेट, बेसिक कंप्यूटर एंड ऑपरेटिंग सिस्टम स्किल, उद्योग क्षेत्र की जानकारी व उद्योग विशेष के हिसाब से कौशलों जैसे रिटेल में कस्टमर हैंडलिंग आदि की ट्रेनिंग देगा। एनआईआईटी ने इस मौके पर एलान किया कि अगले तीन साल में झुग्गी बस्तियों के आसपास ऐसे करीब 20 और केंद्र स्थापित करेगा।

TNI to set up 20 centres for unemployed youth

NEW DELHI: The NIIT Institute (TNI), a not-for-profit society by NIIT promoters, plans to set up 20 community learning centres (CLCs) in the country to train unemployed youth in urban slums. The CLCs, the first one of which has come up in Delhi, would offer training programs lasting three months to one year to Xth and XIIth pass students in urban slums and semi-rural areas. Skills training would be provided for sectors such as retail, automobile sales, telecom, hospitality, and healthcare.

CLC Centre

Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit inaugurated the first NIIT Community Learning Centre (CLC), set up in association with the NGO Abhas, at the Tughlakabad village last week.

The NIIT CLC will provide relevant skills to the unemployed youth in urban slums for making them employable for jobs in various industry sectors such as retail, automobile sales, telecommunication, hospitality, healthcare, etc.

Netas lend youth a hand for skill development, jobs

SALAM

Shreya Biswas
NEW DELHI

IN A shift from the usual vote-grabbing practices, some enterprising political leaders are taking the lead not just in helping the youth in their constituencies become employable but also in getting them employed.

Be it Union commerce minister Kamal Nath setting up a development and learning centre (DLC) for students in Chhindwara, Union finance minister P Chidambaram's son Karti Chidambaram organising a job mela in the FM's constituency, Sivaganga, or Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena's retail training programme for the youth, they all depict a change from the beaten path. Whatever be the trigger, it augurs well for the youth in these regions as companies are coming forward to lend a helping hand.

Sample this: Last year, DLC was launched at Chhindwara in collaboration with NIIT. The commerce minister not only convinced top IT companies to be a part of it but also helped them get land and buildings. Today, there are over 20 companies that have a presence in the region including Intel, NIIT Technologies, Cisco, TCS, IBM, Infosys, Dell, Suzlon and HCL. The first batch of 60 students have already graduated while another 320 are studying there.

> **NIIT's model DLC in Chhindwara will go a long way in inducting our youth into the mainstream industry**
>
> **KAMAL NATH**
> MINISTER, COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

Striking the right chord

THE DLC provides intensive professional training programmes, which include an English preparatory school for the students, along with IT training modules. "I am happy to see industry come forward for nurturing the inherent talent base in rural India," says a visibly excited Nath. "NIIT's model DLC in Chhindwara will go a long way in inducting our youth into the mainstream industry."

Similarly, finance minister Chidambaram's constituency, Sivaganga, has seen an initiative to connect village youth with potential employers. Early this year, son Karti Chidambaram, also an All-India Congress Committee (AICC) member, invited TeamLease, a temporary employment firm, to his father's constituency in Tamil Nadu to organise a job fair for the educated unemployed. The fair, Job Mela, initially helped recruit around 500 people. Subsequently, more such fairs were held at Sivaganga.

In Maharashtra, the Maharashtra Navanirman Sena, often in the news for the wrong reasons, struck the right chord recently. Sniffing an opportunity in the retail sector, the party, led by Raj Thackeray, has launched a drive to train unemployed youth through his Navnirman Academy of Retail Industries a few months ago. The party which fights for rights of 'Marathi Manush' has welcomed youngsters who have been residents of the state for over 15 years.

Initiatives such as these, feel many, will help prepare India for the future. NIIT chairman Rajendra Pawar estimates that by 2020 India will have a surplus working population of about 46 million while, developed countries will have a shortfall of 56 million because of their ageing population. "These jobs however, will only come to India if the workforce is educated and skilled," he says. "So, though there is a massive opportunity at the macro level, at the industry level there is an acute shortage. Chhindwara sets the tone in this regard."

Such initiatives demonstrate the ability to attract potential employers and corporates. In the case of Chhindwara for instance, Cisco and Intel set up labs within the DLC. Cisco announced a state-of-the-art networking learning facility in May this year. The lab has been designed to showcase advanced collaborative technologies such as Cisco TelePresence. It's a pilot project in a larger collaborative initiative by Cisco, the government and industry players for rural transformation, using technology as an enabler. As part of a pilot project to enable Chhindwara's transformation to a connected model district and promote entrepreneurship among the youth there, Cisco actively mentored a group of students at the DLC at Chhindwara over the last six months. It also plans to fund some students' business ideas.

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EDUCATION

Zulekha College of Education inaugurated

ZULEKHA College of Education (ZED) was inaugurated on August 29 by Dr G S Parasher, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Rashtra Sant Tukdoji Maharaj, Nagpur University.

In his speech he emphasised the need for girl's education in the changing scenario.

He congratulated Dr Zulekha Daud for bringing up the B.ED College in Shanti Nagar (eastern part of Nagpur), which is not even having a single graduation college.

Dr Iqbal Daud, Amir Vali, Secretary of the Zulekha College of Education Vocational Training General and Central Shikshan Sanstha and Dr Nirmal Singh were prominently present on the occasion, informs a press release.

NIIT celebrates Teacher's Day with great enthusiasm

NIIT the pioneer in computer education celebrated Teachers Day in Maharashtra Government schools in a unique way.

NIIT launched 'I-Teach' programme in 458 government schools across Maharashtra where NIIT is implementing ICT@School project. I-teach event turned students into teachers role where students of all these schools conducted Information Technology/computer classes for their teachers, students taught technology as a subject to their teachers and tried to explain the importance of Computers in Education.

Teachers were very glad and proud to experience such moment, they really appreciated the efforts and confidence level of these students and felt that such activities will definitely help students to develop their global skills, the press release said.

NIIT is implementing Maharashtra ICT@ school project across 500 schools in Maharashtra as an effort of building Computer Literate Maharashtra, stated a press release issued here.

NIIT's super brand award

NIIT has been adjudged as a Business Superbrand 2008 from amongst consumer brands across categories. The prestigious award was received by P. Rajendran, Chief Operating Officer, NIIT. They were also honoured with a Digital Opportunity Award at World Congress on IT held in Kuala Lumpur. The award was given for its pathbreaking Hole-in-the-Wall Education Initiative. Also at the recently concluded 2008 International Business Awards, NIIT won an International Stevie Award for the Most Innovative Company in Asia (Subcontinent, Australia and New Zealand). UNESCO also presented NIIT with a Commendation Certificate for its innovative science station.

SUPER SECOND

At a recently concluded award ceremony held in the capital, NIIT has been adjudged as Business Superbrand 2008 by the Superbrands Council, from amongst consumer brands across categories. This is the second time NIIT has been accorded the super brand status. The superbrand status is internationally known as the 'Oscars in the world of branding.' NIIT will be listed in Superbrands India's very second edition of the book *Superbrands,* a chronicle of India's strongest brands. P Rajendran, chief operating officer, NIIT, received the award.

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Wired classrooms could be the next big thing

PRADIPTA MUKHERJEE
Kolkata

Today's classrooms are increasingly available through several channels — the TV set, internet, or a centre in a remote location which links to a prestigious institute — thanks to companies looking at long-term investments to turn education into a profitable, high-growth business.

Tata Communications is looking to cash in on the online tuition space and plans to build an online platform for individual teachers. Mukul Sood, head, content business, Tata Communications, says: "We currently provide training for corporate clients and Tata Group institutes. We plan to tap individual teachers for providing online tuitions, especially for competitive exams, as this is a huge market in India."

The company intends to introduce an IT platform wherein, for every 2-hour class, the teacher would be required to pay approximately Rs 1,500. "The teacher has to use Tata Communication's broadband connection and teach online

as many students as he would want to. Tata could do the student fee collection too on behalf of the teacher," adds Sood.

According to a CLSA Asia Pacific Markets report, the e-learning market is projected to grow to around Rs 1,100 crore by 2012 from 145 crore currently. Besides, online modules cost one-tenth that of a regular course.

The worldwide market for online tutoring is estimated to be in the region of Rs 46,800 crore. India now earns around Rs 60 crore per year from online tutoring or 10 per cent of the total market share, notes the CLSA report.

Everonn Systems India, a Chennai-based leading education and training company, has signed an agreement with Indian Institute of Management Indore (IIM-I) to offer management programmes through

Given that the current base of wired classrooms is small — around 600 for a market size of Rs 145 crore — CLSA anticipates 75-80 per cent CAGR for the next several years

VSAT technology. The courses are expected to benefit working executives as well as self-employed graduates and are offered through Everonn's education centres. As part of the arrangement, two programmes will be launched immediately, and more programmes will follow, notes Pawan Kumar Singh, director, IIM-I.

NIIT Imperia is also introducing virtual classrooms connected 'live' to teachers in management institutes. For the September 2008 cycle, it will introduce programmes offered in conjunction with management institutes like Indian Institute of Management Calcutta (IIM-C), Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow (IIM-L) and Indian Institute of Management, Indore (IIM-I). The programmes will cover a wide spectrum of areas like general management, family busi-

ness management and financial management. In 18 months, over 2,500 professionals have studied at NIIT Imperia.
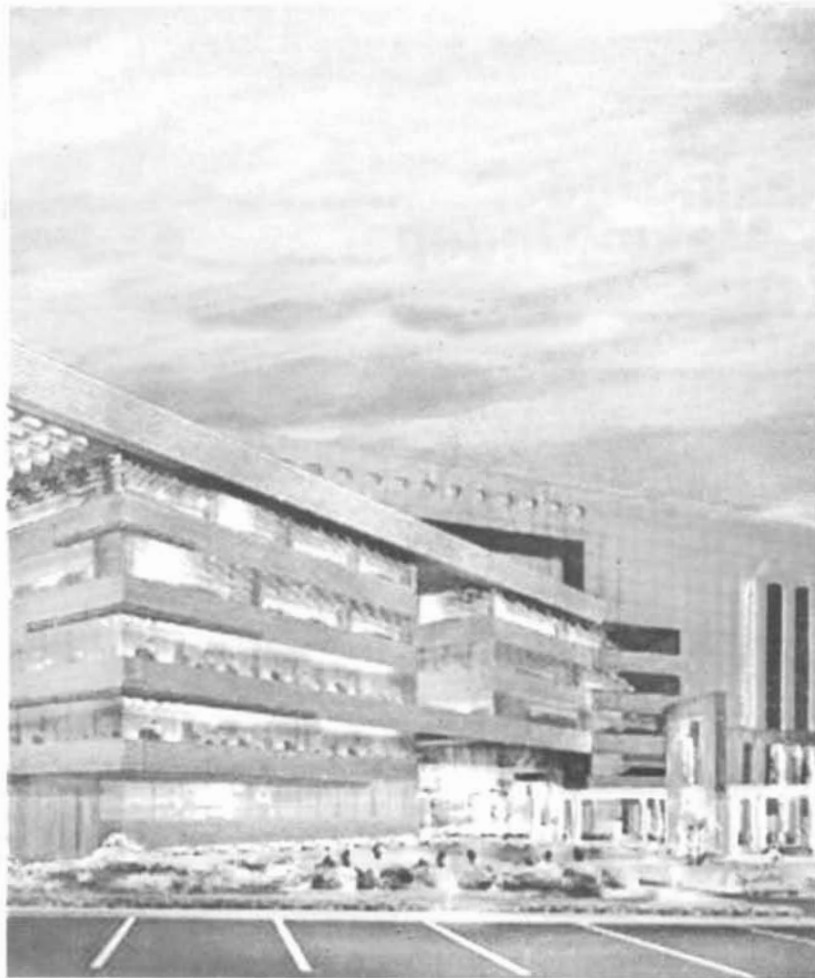
Graycell 18, a joint venture of Network 18 and Educomp, launched Topper TV last month, an interactive education service. Topper TV is currently available on direct-to-home or DTH television services for a yearly subscription of Rs 1,000 and has already got 40,000 students registered on its website.

Aptech, for instance, has had long experience in preparing content for computer-based and web-based training. Aptech is offering corporate training in multiple formats through internet and computers. If a company buys a course for a base price of Rs 2 lakh, it can use it to train 300 users. So it proves cost-effective.

Amity University will soon launch Youth TV in Delhi. It is expected to cater to the educational and career-based needs of students. Anna University Chennai is planning a TV channel to aid distance education.

Data Management made easy with NIIT

NIIT, as part of its IT career program GNIIT, introduced a new programme, Business Systems and Information Management recently. The programme will introduce career aspirants on technologies like Analytics, Programming, Dashboards, Data Mining and Warehouse.

On the eve of the launch Hema Gopalan, vice-president, Chennai branch, said, "The programme has come very timely seeing the world scenario. To manage data in IT field is a big task. With this programme, the professionals of tomorrow would be aptly trained on how to manage information." Also present were G Raghavan president Individual learning solutions, NIIT, BS Ganesh, Zonal Head-South, NIIT.

"With the computerisation of all departments, finance, banking, government organisation, there is a huge pool of data to be managed. This new programe will help the students to manage the data and also help them in complete analysis of the situation and decision making," said BS Ganesh.

This new programme will be incorporated in the GNIIT programme, which is a three year course. The curriculum comprises common business processes, Introduction to enterprise framework and Information Analysis, Business Intelligence Fundamentals and Modelling and Designing a data warehouse.

The curriculum is based on SAS software and technologies.

The new curriculum will be rolled out across other parts of the country towards the end of August 2008.

Those who have completed their graduation are eligible to apply

THE BUZZ

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कम्प्यूटर व अंग्रेजी ज्ञान के बिना शिक्षा अधूरी : मोदी

- सभी हाई स्कूलों में होगी कम्प्यूटर की पढ़ाई
- आईसीटी स्कूल परियोजना का उद्घाटन
- नियुक्ति में कम्प्यूटर शिक्षा अनिवार्य

पटना (हि.प्र.)। उप मुख्यमंत्री सुशील कुमार मोदी ने कहा कि आज के दौर में बिना कम्प्यूटर एवं अंग्रेजी ज्ञान के शिक्षा अधूरी है। भले ही लोग बीए, एमए पास कर जाएं, पर बिना कम्प्यूटर ज्ञान के वे पढ़े-लिखे अनपढ़ कहे जाएंगे। शुक्रवार को महंत हनुमान शरण हाई स्कूल में आयोजित आईसीटी स्कूल परियोजना का औपचारिक उद्घाटन करते हुए श्री मोदी ने कहा कि साक्षरता की परिभाषा अब बदल गई है। केवल बीए पास करके लोगों को अब चपरासी की भी नौकरी भी नहीं मिलेगी। कम्प्यूटर शिक्षा की जानकारी अति आवश्यक है। इस कारण गुजरात सरकार की तरह बिहार सरकार भी सभी प्रकार की नियुक्ति में कम्प्यूटर शिक्षा अनिवार्य करने की बात सोच रही है।

श्री मोदी ने कहा कि अगले कुछ वर्षों में बिहार आईटी के क्षेत्र में अन्य राज्यों से पीछे नहीं रहेगा। अगले तीन-चार वर्षों में सूबे के सभी स्कूलों में कम्प्यूटर शिक्षा की व्यवस्था होगी उन्होंने ने कहा कि कम्प्यूटर के माध्यम से अब लोग घर बैठे हर क्षेत्र की जानकारी प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। यहां तक कि अब कम्प्यूटर के माध्यम से छात्र उच्च पढ़ाई भी कर सकते हैं उन्होंने एनआईआईटी से आग्रह किया कि वे स्कूली छात्रों के साथ-साथ शिक्षकों को भी कम्प्यूटर की जानकारी दें। उन्होंने शिक्षकों से अपील की कि वे एक दिन का वेतन बाढ़ राहत कोष में दें। इस मौके पर मानव संसाधन मंत्री हरि नारायण सिंह ने कहा कि सूबे के एक हजार स्कूलों में यह परियोजना शुरू की जा रही है। उन्होंने बताया कि सूबे में लगभग तीन हजार हाई स्कूल हैं। आने वाले कुछ वर्षों में राज्य के सभी स्कूलों में कम्प्यूटर की पढ़ाई शुरू हो जाएगी। इस मौके पर बेलट्रान के प्रबंध निदेशक आलोक वर्धन चतुर्वेदी, रघुवंश प्रसाद एवं एन बाला सुब्रमन्यम सहित कई लोगों ने अपने विचार व्यक्त किए।

एनआईआईटी ने छात्रों को दी कम्प्यूटर शिक्षा

पटना, ८ सितंबर (एजेंसी)। बिहार के सरकारी स्कूलों को शिक्षक दिवस के अवसर पर राज्य के उप मुख्यमंत्री की तरफ से अनूठा तोहफ मिला है। मुख्यमंत्री ने महंत हनुमान शरण हाइ स्कूल में आयोजित समारोह में आईसीटी स्कूल परियोजना का औपचारिक उद्घाटन किया। यह राज्य के उन ४०० सरकारी स्कूलों में से है जिनमें अग्रणी ग्लोबल टेलेन्ट डेवलपमेंट कार्पोरेशन एनआईआईटी कंप्यूटर आधारित शिक्षा उपलब्ध कराएगा। और इससे राज्यभर में करीब ६००,००० छात्र प्रभावित होंगे। एनआईआईटी राज्य के सरकारी स्कूलों में कंप्यूटर शिक्षा का प्रबंध करने के लिए बिहार स्टेट इलैक्ट्रॉनिक्स डेवलपमेंट कार्पोरेशन बेल्ट्रॉन के साथ मिलाकर काम कर रहा है। यहां आयोजित समारोह से मुख्यमंत्री सुशील कुमार मोदी ने बताया सरकार ने राज्य को कंप्यूटर साक्षर बनाने की योजना बनायी है। हम एनआईआईटी के साथ मिलकर राज्य के दूर दराज तक के हिस्सों में भी कंप्यूटर साक्षरता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए प्रयासरत हैं ताकि कामय-ाब भविष्य के लिए इन छात्रों को अभी से आवश्यक दक्षताओं से सु-सज्जित किया जा सके। इस अभियान के अंतर्गत, एनआईटीआईटी ने कंप्यूटर सिस्टम के लिए आवश्यक कंप्यूटर हार्डवेयर, सॉफ्टवेयर पेरीफेरल्स आदि जुटाएं हैं और यह कंप्यूटर शिक्षा, कंप्यूटर आधारित शिक्षा सेवाओं को बंदोबस्त करने के साथ-साथ कुछ निर्धारित सेकंडरी तथा हायर सेकंडरी सरकारी स्कूलों में टर्नकी आधार पर, ३ वर्षों के लिए ८ वीं से १२वीं कक्षाओं तक को बढ़ाने हेतु प्रशिक्षकों की तैनाती भी करेगी।

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सरकारी नौकरियों के लिए कम्प्यूटर शिक्षा अनिवार्य : मोदी

(आज समाचार सेवा)

पटना।वर्तमान समय में कम्प्यूटर एक जरूरत बन गयी है।आने वाले समय में जिसे कम्प्यूटर का ज्ञान नहीं वह पढ़ा-लिखा अशिक्षित कहलाता है।इसलिए हरेक व्यक्ति को कम्प्यूटर की जानकारी

'आईसीटी एट स्कूल' योजना का शुभारंभ

होना आवश्यक है। बिहार सरकार सरकारी नौकरियों के लिए कम्प्यूटर की जानकारी अनिवार्य योग्यता के रूप में करने की योजना बना रही है। यह बातें आज सूबे के उपमुख्यमंत्री सुशील कुमार मोदी द्वारा महंत हनुमान शरण उच्च विद्यालय में आयोजित विद्यालयों में 'कम्प्यूटर तकनीक में सूचना (आईसीटी एट स्कूल प्रोजेक्ट)' योजना के अवसर पर उद्घाटन संबोधन में कही। उन्होंने कहा कि राज्य सरकार की 'कम्प्यूटर शिक्षित बिहार' की परिकल्पना साकार होने जा रही है।एनआईआईटी सूबे के ६ लाख छात्रों को 'आईसीआ एट स्कूल' योजना के तहत कम्प्यूटर की निःशुल्क शिक्षा प्रदान करने जा रही है। सरकार इसके लिए फंड का इंतजाम कर चुकी है। बिहार में प्रतिभा की कमी नहीं है। आने वाले समय में बिहार सूचना तकनीक में

काफी आगे जायेगा। श्री मोदी ने कहा कि सरकार गांव-देहातों के छात्रों को इस योजना के तहत शिक्षित करने हेतु मोबाईल वैन का इंतजाम कर रही है जो कि घूम-घूम कर छात्र-छात्राओं को कम्प्यूटर शिक्षा प्रदान करेगी। इस अवसर पर मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री हरिनारायण सिंह, अंजनी कुमार सिंह, आलोक वी चतुर्वेदी, एनआईआईओ के प्रेसीडेंट एल. सुब्रह्मण्यम, देवदास बनर्जी, विजय कुमार आदि ने भी योजना के बारे में विस्तारपूर्वक बताया। श्री सुब्रह्मण्यम ने कहा कि केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार के सहयोग से एनआईआईटी बिहार के ४०० सरकारी विद्यालयों के छात्र-छात्राओं को कम्प्यूटर

शिक्षा प्रदान करेगी। जो छात्रों को प्रशिक्षित कर प्रतिवर्ष परीक्षा आयोजित करेगी। पटना में बीस विद्यालयों को इसके लिए चयनित किया गया है। इस योजना के लिए सरकार फंड उपलब्ध करा रही है और एनएनआईआईटी बिहार के अलावे १२ अन्य राज्यों में भी एनआईआईटी इस योजना को कार्यान्वित कर रही है। इस योजना के बारे में श्री सुब्रह्मण्यम ने बताया कि प्रत्येक विद्यालय को दस कम्प्यूटर एवं एक सर्वर एवं अन्य सम्बद्ध वस्तुओं को संस्थान द्वारा उपलब्ध कराया जा रहा है।

शिक्षक दिवस पर एनआईआईटी का तोहफा

पटना। बिहार के सरकारी स्कूलों को शिक्षक दिवस पर उपमुख्यमंत्री ने एक कार्यक्रम के दौरान महंत हनुमान शरण हाईस्कूल में आईसीटी स्कूल परियोजना का औपचारिक उद्घाटन किया। यह राज्य के उन ४०० सरकारी स्कूलों में से है जिनमें अग्रणी ग्लोबल टेलेंट डेवलपमेंट कार्पोरेशन एनआईआईटी कम्प्यूटर तथा कम्प्यूटर आधारित शिक्षा उपलब्ध कराएगा और इससे राज्यभर में करीब 6,00,000 छात्रों को लाभ मिलेगा। उपमुख्यमंत्री सुशील कुमार मोदी ने कहा कि बिहार सरकार ने राज्य को कम्प्यूटर साक्षर बनाने की योजना बनाई है। हम एनआईआईटी के साथ मिलकर राज्य के दूर दराज तक के हिस्सों में भी कम्प्यूटर साक्षरता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए प्रयासरत हैं, ताकि कामयाब भविष्य के लिए इन छात्रों को अभी से आवश्यक दक्षताओं से सुसज्जित किया जा सके। श्री मोदी ने कहा कि कम्प्यूटर शिक्षा हमें भी देश के दूसरे विकसित राज्यों की बराबरी में ला खड़ा करेगी।

एनआईआईटी ४०० स्कूलों के छात्रों को देगा कम्प्यूटर शिक्षा

पटना, 8 सितंबर। बिहार के सरकारी स्कूलों को शिक्षक दिवस के अवसर पर राज्य के उप मुख्यमंत्री सुशील मोदी की तरफ से अनूठा तोहफा मिला है। उपमुख्यमंत्री महोदय ने यहां महंत हनुमान शरण हाईस्कूल में आयोजित समारोह में आईसीटी स्कूल परियोजना का औपचारिक उद्घाटन किया। यह राज्य के उन ४०० सरकारी स्कूलों में से है, जिनमें अग्रणी ग्लोबल टेलेंट डेवलपमेंट कार्पोरेशन-एनआईआईटी कंप्यूटर तथा कंप्यूटर आधारित शिक्षा उपलब्ध कराएगा और इससे राज्यभर में करीब 600,000 छात्र प्रभावित होंगे।

एनआईआईटी राज्य के सरकारी स्कूलों में कंप्यूटर शिक्षा का प्रबंध करने के लिए बिहार स्टेट इलेक्ट्रानिक्स डेवलपमेंट कार्पोरेशन (बेल्ट्रॉन) के साथ मिलकर काम कर रहा है।

यहां आयोजित समारोह में उपमुख्यमंत्री सुशील कुमार मोदी ने कहा बिहार सरकार ने राज्य को कंप्यूटर साक्षर बनाने की योजना बनायी है। हम एनआईआईटी के साथ मिलकर राज्य के दूरदराज तक के हिस्सों में भी कंप्यूटर साक्षरता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए प्रयासरत हैं ताकि कामयाब भविष्य के लिए इन छात्रों को अभी से आवश्यक दक्षताओं से सुसज्जित किया जा सके।

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Govt appointments

'Computer literacy may be made mandatory'

HT Correspondent
Patna, September 5

THE STATE Government is seriously thinking to make knowledge of computers compulsory for any government appointments in future. It will also introduce mobile vans with computers to disseminate computer literacy in far-flung areas of the state.

Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi said this while flagging off the ICT @ School project at Mahant Hanuman Saran High School, here on Friday. "The Gujarat government has already implemented it. The Bihar Government plans to do the same," he added.

The ICT@ project has been initiated by the Department of HRD, Government of Bihar to impart computer education in the High and Higher Secondary schools in the state. NIIT has partnered with Bihar State Electronics Development Corporation (BELTRON) to implement this project, while the Bihar e-Governance Services and Technologies (BeST) are the consultants to Government of Bihar for this project.

Modi said the project would be launched in 1,000 secondary schools in the State. A total of 3,000 secondary schools will be covered in the next four years, he added.

"Some states have also taken help of mobile vans accompanied by 10 to 12 computers to spread computer literacy in rural areas and some small places. The Bihar Government will follow the model," he said.

Others who spoke on the occasion included the HRD Minister Hari Narayan Singh, Principal Secretary, HRD Department Anjani Kumar Singh, Secretary, IT and Science and Technology Aloke V Chaturvedi, Director Education, Bihar, Raghuvansh Prasad and NIIT president L Balasubramanian.

बिहार को मिला एनआईआईटी का तोहफा

400 स्कूलों के 6 लाख छात्रों को मिलेगी कम्प्यूटर शिक्षा

बिहार। बिहार के सरकारी स्कूलों में एनआईआईटी कम्प्यूटर शिक्षा उपलब्ध कराएगा जिससे करीब 600,000 छात्रों को लाभ मिलेगा एनआईआईटी बिहार में इलेक्ट्रानिक्स डेवलपमेंट कारपोरेशन के साथ मिलकर काम कर रहा है।

इस कार्यक्रम के तहत एनआईआईटी ने कम्प्यूटर सिस्टम के लिए आवश्यक कम्प्यूटर हार्डवेयर, साफ्टवेयर, पेरीफेरेल्स आदि जुटाए हैं और यह कम्प्यूटर शिक्षा के साथ-साथ हायर सेकंडरी तथा हाई स्कूलों में टर्नकी आधार पर 3 वर्षों के लिए 5वीं से 12वीं कक्षाओं के लिए प्रशिक्षकों की सेवा भी उपलब्ध करेंगी। एनआईआईटी के स्कूल लर्निंग सॉल्यूशंस के अध्यक्ष एल. बालसुब्रमण्यम ने कहा कि हमें प्रसन्नता है कि बिहार के स्कूलों में कम्प्यूटर शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए यहां की सरकार ने हमें चुना है। उन्होंने कहा कि आज ज्ञान आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था में कम्प्यूटर शिक्षा युवाओं के लिए बहुत जरूरी है। श्री बालसुब्रमण्यम ने कहा कि सरकारी स्कूलों में एनआईआईटी के पाठ्यक्रम लागू होने से यहां के छात्र भी कम्प्यूटर शिक्षा कर देश के तमाम शहरो और महानगरों के मेघावी छात्रों के समक्ष खड़े हो सकेंगे।

एनआईआईटी हर स्कूल में 10 कम्प्यूटर तथा एक सर्वर का नेटवर्क तथा एक यूपीएस और जेनरेटर उपलब्ध कराएगा। इसके साथ ही छात्रों के लिए माइंड चैम्पियंस एकेडमी की वार्षिक चैस चैम्पियनशिप तथा डिजिटल आर्ट्स फेस्टिवल जैसे आयोजन भी छात्रों के लिए किए जाएंगे। एनआईआईटी ने अब तक आंध्र प्रदेश, असम, बिहार, छत्तीसगढ़, हिमाचल प्रदेश, कर्नाठक, मध्यप्रदेश, मेघालय, तमिलनाडु, त्रिपुरा तथा बंगाल सहित 12 राज्यों के 7 हजार स्कूलों में अपनी सेवा दी है जिससे करीब 34 लाख छात्र लाभान्वित हुए। इसी तरह 34 देशों में 50 लाख छात्रों को आईटी की शिक्षा उपलब्ध कराई।

India Inc bets on 'intrapreneurs'

Shreya Biswas
NEW DELHI

MANAGING ideas may be as challenging as a business. And a lucrative one too. Little wonder then, India Inc has devised a way to do just that—encourage 'intrapreneurs' or employees who have ideas that could potentially become a venture in itself. They would focus on ideas that could be implemented on a large scale with support from organisations or get the initial funding to check the commercial feasibility.

In many cases, these intrapreneurs end up steering those projects and ventures. The catch, though, is the idea has to be strategically aligned with the interest of the company. Some companies bitten by the intrapreneurship bug include Adobe, NIIT, KPMG, Pepsi and Microsoft.

Adobe, for instance, launched the incuba-

tion programme for its Indian employees three years back. This was following the success of its global seed programme. Under the programme, employees generate ideas which are then sifted through various channels and finally recommended by a committee for innovation', set up specifically for the purpose. Once it's approved, these ideas get the support from Adobe's global expert pool for further development. "Creative ideas can come from anywhere and that calls for a robust system to nurture and develop those into something noteworthy," says Adobe CEO Naresh Chand Gupta. Apart from initial funding of $1 million, the idea initiator also gets a 6-12 months window to work on it. If it succeeds, it's scaled up and the person behind it ends up heading the entire project or venture. The programme is already yielding results. In the last three years, the IT major's Indian arm filed 60 and 25% of the

patents filed by Adobe worldwide last year came from India alone.

Similarly, Growth Through Innovation (GRIN) programme at NIIT was introduced with the same objective three years ago. Under the programme, any new idea goes through various levels of sifting. Once approved, its commercial viability is gauged and then the initiative is supported through funds at various stages. Till now, this channel has generated six ideas that are running successfully in the form of IFBI Institute, NIIT Imperia, NIIT-Litmus to name a few, and five employees who were the brain behind them head their respective ventures. The NIIT incubation programme helps the idea till it acquires a certain size and can operate on its own. "This was done to encourage newer ideas and offer them a breeding ground," says NIIT New Business Incubation president Ashish Basu.

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● राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों के कर्मचारियों को प्रशिक्षण देगा आई.एफ.बी.आई.

कोलकाता, (भाषा): एनआईआई और आईसीआईसीआई बैंक की संयुक्त पहल से स्थापित दि इंस्टीट्यूट आफ फिनांस, बैंकिंग एंड इंश्योरेंस (आईएफबीआई) ने दो राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों के करीब 8,000 कर्मचारियों को प्रशिक्षण देने का आर्डर हासिल किया है।

एन.आई.आई.टी. के अध्यक्ष (रणनीतिक पहल) समरजीत डे ने बताया कि पिछले साल हमने राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों के करीब 5,000 कर्मचारियों को प्रशिक्षित किया था। इस साल हमें भारत में 14 स्थानों पर दो राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों के 8,000 कर्मचारियों को प्रशिक्षण देने का आर्डर मिला है। उन्होंने कहा कि इससे साफ संकेत मिलता है कि राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों द्वारा प्रशिक्षण पर कितना जोर दिया जा रहा है। जिन दो राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों के कर्मियों को प्रशिक्षण दिया जाएगा उनमें एक कोलकाता स्थित, जबकि दूसरा बैंगलुरु स्थित बैंक है।

NIIT Recruits Shraman Jha as Senior V-P

NIIT has appointed Shraman Jha to head their Imperia Centre for Advanced Learning business. Jha, moves in from ABP Group's The Telegraph where he was Vice-President for the last two years.

Prior to the ABP Group, Jha had spent his entire professional life with Hindustan Lever Ltd, where he had worked across diverse assignments in sales, brand management, business economics, corporate planning and market research. He is a MBA from IIM and a Chevening Gurukul Senior Scholar at the London School of Economics.
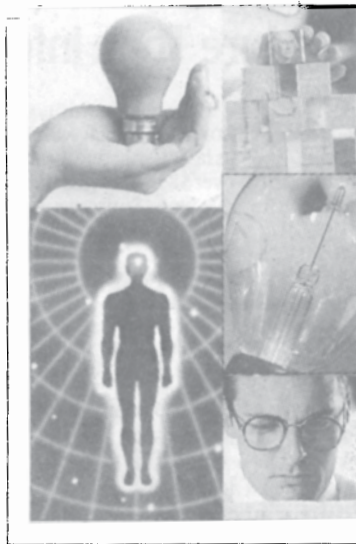
India Inc bitten by 'intrapreneur' bug

Shreya Biswas
NEW DELHI

MANAGING ideas may be as challenging as a business. And a lucrative one too. Little wonder then, India Inc has devised a way to do just that—encourage 'intrapreneurs' or employees who have ideas that could potentially become a venture in itself. They would focus on ideas that could be implemented on large scale with support from organisations or get the initial funding to check the commercial feasibility. In many cases, these intrapreneurs end up steering those projects and ventures. The catch, though, is the idea has to be strategically aligned with the interest of the company. Some of the companies in India who have been bitten by the intrapreneurship bug include Adobe, NIIT, KPMG, Agilent, ITC, Pepsi and Microsoft.

Adobe, for instance, launched the incubation programme for its Indian employees three years back. This was following the success of its global seed programme. Under the programme, employees generate ideas which are then sifted through various channels and finally recommended by a committee for innovation', set up specifically for the purpose. Once it's approved, these ideas get the support from Adobe's global expert pool for further development. "Creative ideas can come from anywhere and that calls for a robust system to nurture and develop those into something noteworthy," says Adobe CEO Naresh Chand Gupta. Apart from initial funding of $1 million, the idea initiator also gets a 6-12 months window to work on it. If it succeeds, it's scaled up and the person behind it ends up heading the entire project or venture. The programme is already yielding results. In the last three years, the IT major's Indian arm filed 60 and 25% of the patents filed by Adobe worldwide last year came from India alone. Currently, 8-10 ideas are being piloted.

Similarly, Growth Through Innovation (GRIN) programme at NIIT was introduced

with the same objective three years back. Under the programme, any new idea goes through various levels of sifting. Once approved, it's commercial viability is gauged through market research and then the initiative is supported through funds at various stages. Till now, this channel has generated six ideas that are running successfully in the form of IFBI Institute, NIIT Imperia, NIIT-Litmus to name a few, and five employees who were the brain behind them head their respective ventures. The NIIT incubation programme helps the idea till it acquires a certain size and can operate on its own. "This was done to encourage newer ideas and offer them a breeding ground," says NIIT New Business Incubation president Ashish Basu. "such an initiative also helps extend individuals' growth in the organisation that tends to plateau after a level. Constantly innovating keeps them going."

For Agilent Technologies, All Ideas Matter (AIM) works on the same logic. Launched four years back only to get reintroduced on a larger scale two years later. AIM has received

an enormous response. Out of the 730 ideas posted on the website last year, specifically designed for the purpose, 37 required funding. In the last four years, 50 ideas have been funded and around 40 individuals are heading their respective projects. So much so, one of the ideas floated a-year-and-half back is a global project today. Its success in the domestic market led its global foray, says Agilent quality head Sushmita Narayan. "It was getting difficult to manage ideas and this seemed the right way to channelise them. Besides, such an initiative sends out a message to youngsters that we care about what they say."

In the consultancy business, such incubation programmes drive growth. In fact, KPMG's latest offering in HR domain—Human Capital Solutions division—was a result of the same, which the ideator now himself heads. "For us, constant innovation and identifying newer areas of business is imperative, be it a new service line, market or industry for survival," says Human Capital Practice partner and head Ganesh Shermon.
shreya.biswas@timesgroup.com

WHAT AN IDEA!

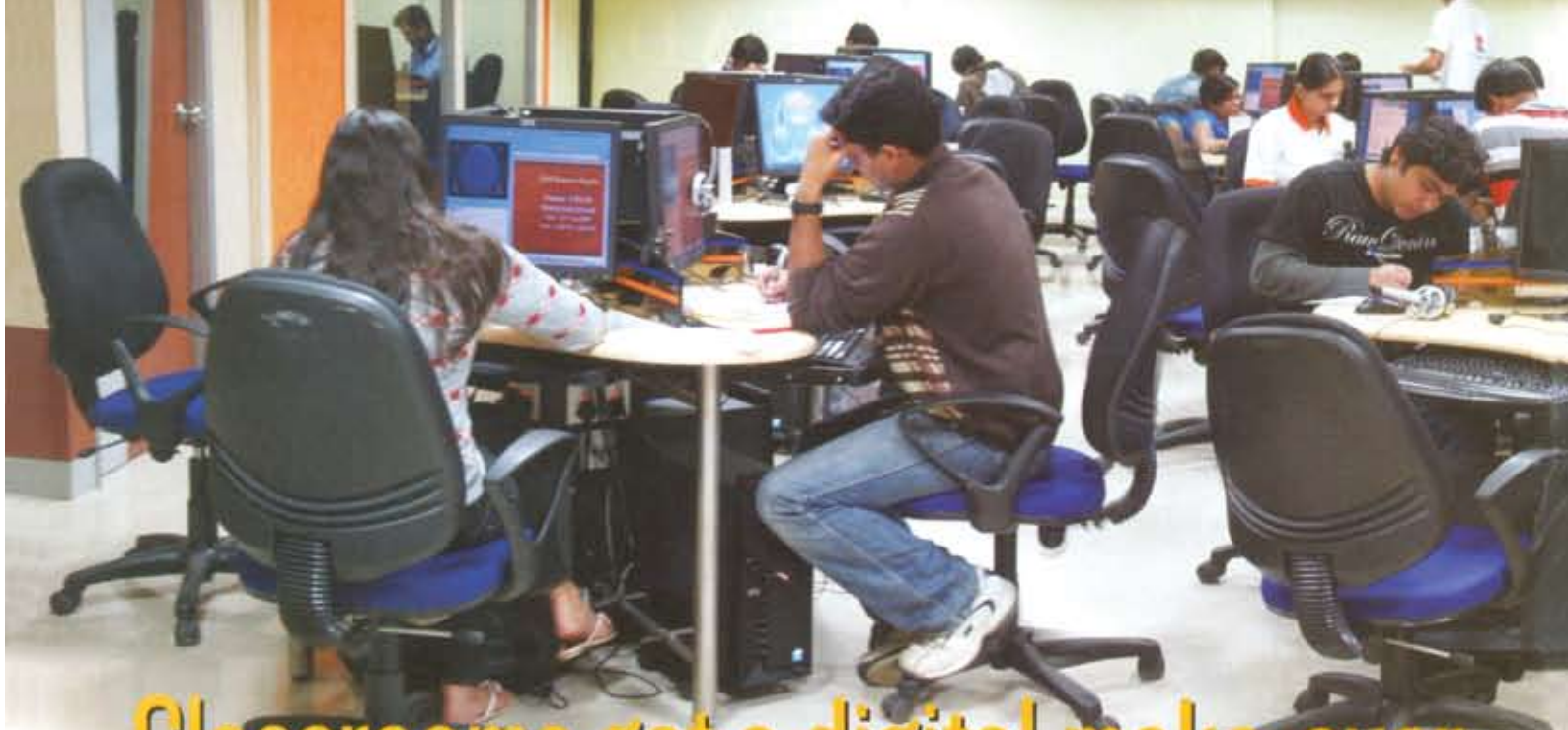Many companies are encouraging employees to come up with ideas that could be implemented on large scale. A few examples:

- **Adobe floated** incubation programme for its employees three years back
- **Growth** Through Innovation (GRIN) programme was introduced at NIIT three years ago
- **Agilent Technologies** too introduced All Ideas Matter (AIM) on same logic
- **KPMG's latest** offering in HR domain Human Capital Solutions division was a result of the same

DARE CO.IN

opportunity/education

Classrooms get a digital make-over

After changing the way we work and play, technology is now changing the way we learn

/Sreejiraj Eluvangal

Deepti Gulati is halfway through IIM-Indore's Executive Program in Applied Management. The course, conducted on weekends, helps her juggle her education and her career as a finance professional at the Bangalore office of Thomson Reuters. Every day, Deepti settles down in her chair for the three-hour evening class.

Higher learning

However, this is not the usual evening class. For starters, only about a dozen of her classmates actually sit in the same room in Bangalore as her. The rest are spread across the country, in similar classrooms in different cities. The teacher too, is usually sitting hundreds of miles away in Indore or Delhi. However, like a normal classroom, she can 'see' the teacher and the teacher can 'see' her. She can even interrupt the teacher's lecture by 'raising her hand', through a mouse click.

"I might have considered joining a full-time MBA course," says the 26-year-old, "But for personal reasons, I cannot be away from my job. I can't take a break. Of course, it's tough to get into an IIM."

Welcome to the classroom of the future. At NIIT's Imperia 'classroom', ace professors can teach literally hundreds or even thousands of students at the same time, whether they are sitting in Delhi, Mumbai, Guwahati or Patna.

"Learning happens because of many factors: because of what the instructors say, because of the questions students ask and because of the interaction between the students themselves," says Udai Singh, executive VP at NIIT and the man in charge of Imperia, its 'virtual classrooms' initiative.

Udai's design of the 22 Imperia classrooms reflects this belief. Each student has a computer with a webcam. Unlike the classical e-learning, where interaction tends to be more one-sided due to the broadcast mode or recorded programming; here, the students and the teacher are joined together by a 1.2 Mbps video link.

"Everyone wants to learn from an expert. Good instructors motivate and encourage you to learn. At the same time, we realized that such inspirational teachers are always in short supply. They are not able to reach out to as many students as they would like to," Udai explains.

NIIT, which started operating such classrooms a year-and-a-half ago, is of course not alone. It was the US-based communications provider Hughes Network Systems that pioneered the concept of virtual classrooms in India, in 2002. Starting with just 128 students for a virtual classroom course from IIM-Kozhikode, Hughes now has 3,500 students at its 120 franchisees across the country, doing a variety of courses from IIT Delhi and Bombay, IIM Calcutta and XLRI, among others.

Another strong player that also offers courses from the IIMs and IITs, is the Chennai-based Everonn Systems. Everonn, which has most of its live classroom network in its partner schools and colleges, has around 400 learning centers in the country.