



Press Release

NIIT's schools program empowers 10 Million students across India

Brings computer-aided education to the doorstep of over 16,000 schools in the country

Neemrana, Rajasthan, October 7, 2011: NIIT today achieved a significant milestone in its mission to take computer proficiency to the grass root levels, by imparting computer-based learning to 10 million students across India.

Through its 'NIIT@School' program that offers computer education in Government and private schools, NIIT has been shaping the future of Indian students for over a decade now. NIIT's computer education movement, introduced for the first time in 371 Government schools in Tamil Nadu in 1999 through the Public Private Partnership model, now covers nearly 16,000 educational institutions across 18 States in the country. From Keylong (Himachal Pradesh), to Ramewaram (Tamil Nadu) and from Vindis (Gujarat) to Agartala (Tripura) the program spans the length and the breadth of the country, reaching out to the students in the farthest and the remotest corners of India.

At an event held at the not-for-profit NIIT University campus in Neemrana to mark the 10 million milestone, Mr. Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Union Minister for Human Resource Development and IT, delivered the keynote address and felicitated outstanding students and teachers from across the country. Mr. Rajendra S Pawar, Chairman, NIIT, leading academicians, principals of various schools, bureaucrats and members of NIIT and NIIT University were also present on the occasion.

Mr. Sibal congratulated NIIT for its significant contribution in bridging the digital divide, by bringing the light of IT literacy into the lives of 10 million students. Sharing words of encouragement with students & teachers from Assam, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi NCR and other parts of India, Mr. Sibal said that the objective now is to take the 10 million number to many more millions – and touch the entire community of India's school going children.

Children recognised for their exemplary performance included Mahasweta Kumar from Mangaldai Govt Girls Higher Secondary School, Darrang, Assam, who is the National winner of MindChampion Academy 2011 (a joint initiative with Viswanathan Anand for developing young minds through Chess). Anuveth Iyengar from Pune was also felicitated for completing the first 10000 certificate program in Chess – a mind booster.

Touching the 10 million student count, involved creating 33936 hours of content, setting up 1,07,203 computer based learning nodes, selecting, training, certifying 496,440 computer teachers across Government and Private schools. NIIT has indirectly made a positive contribution to the general development of the villages where children are being taught computers. These villages in remote location now enjoy power supply, telephone and Internet connectivity.



The schools program is based on NIIT's founding vision of *Reaching People and Computers Together - Successfully*. The initiative showcases how advance in technology and innovations in learning can be effectively harnessed to bring computer education within the reach of all, thereby providing every student an opportunity to participate in India's transformation to knowledge based society.

Speaking on the role of technology-based education in shaping young minds, **Mr Rajendra S Pawar, Chairman, NIIT** said, *"Reaching the ten millionth school student is a significant achievement. A good education is the foundation for a great future and we are proud to be involved in shaping the future of Indian school children."*

"NIIT is committed to making ICT enabled education more affordable and accessible by devising new ways of learning and technology deployment," added **Mr. Pawar**.

NIIT has been at the forefront of the global movement to bridge the digital divide, by bringing computer education to the doorsteps of children from all segments of society. The journey to empower 10 million students saw many significant milestones including initiatives like HIWEL (Hole in the Wall) project that aims to take computers to underprivileged children. Modified Indian Academy (MCA), a joint initiative of World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand and NIIT to promote chess in schools, set a new Guinness World Record in 2010 when 20,480 participants played chess simultaneously, guided by Viswanathan Anand. NIIT's Schools program has received numerous recognition during its journey, including the UNESCO award for innovation in education which led to the launch of Mobile Science Lab.

Mr. Hemant Sethi, President, School Learning Solutions & HIWEL, NIIT said, *"NIIT has overcome every obstacle and crossed every divide, be it social or geographical, and has successfully reached up to school students across India through its ICT enabled education solution. Today we are proud to have empowered 10 million students. And as I look into the future, I realize the path of another 10 million children whose lives will be transformed by NIIT."*

About NIIT's schools program

NIIT provides complete IT integration solutions for both government and private schools. NIIT stands for a holistic range of School Learning Solutions that aims to make the vital process of teaching and learning simpler, thus bringing back the joy of learning for students. It is an integrated and comprehensive teaching learning and education resource planning solution for the school that has been designed to address the needs of all key stakeholders within the education realm: Students, Teachers, School management and Parents.

NIIT@School Initiative offers turnkey IT integration program tailored to the needs of educational institutions. The Schools program has been conceived and developed with a view to providing an offering that combines the strength of both computer education and computer-aided education. With an exhaustive library of over 23,936 hours of content in both IT and non IT subjects, covering various syllabi, the program brings in complete expertise for a school's IT integration need.

Several Indian State Governments have been extensively harnessing NIIT's strengths to take computer literacy to government schools. NIIT's partnership with the Government, across 18 states like Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra to name a few, have benefited millions of young Indian citizens crossing the digital divide to become IT savvy.



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