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September 23, 2010

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2. National Stock Exchange of India Ltd.

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Bandra (E), Mumbai – 400 051

Fax No. : 022-26598237, 26598238

Subject: NIIT & IGNOU launch “Certificate Program in Chess as Mind Booster”

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed a copy of the above referred Press Release. This is for your information and record.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully,
For NIIT Limited

Parveen Jain
Company Secretary & Legal Counsel

Encl: a/a

Press Release

NIIT & IGNOU LAUNCH CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN CHESS AS MIND BOOSTER

First of its kind Joint Certification Program to Enable Development of Young Minds through Chess

New Delhi, 23 September, 2010: NIIT, leading Global Talent Development Corporation and Asia's largest IT trainer, and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), world's largest Open University, have come together to launch 'Certificate Program in Chess as Mind Booster', to enable development of young minds through Chess. **The program was unveiled by World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand.** Also present on the occasion were Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU; Prof. K.R. Srivathsan, Pro-Vice Chancellor, IGNOU; Sh. Udai Singh Tolia, Registrar, IGNOU and Mr. P. Rajendran, Chief Operating Officer, NIIT. Dr. Anita Priyadarshini, Director, DEP-SSA and convener, welcomed the gathering.

The program aims to encourage young students to play Chess which would enable young minds to develop, and subsequently help them to think logically and improve their life skills. Also, under the guidance of Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand, IGNOU and NIIT will work towards extending the - NIIT MindChampions Academy across the country. The program will help the students to learn the game, practice, solve puzzles, analyze great moves, enrich their knowledge on Chess history and expose them to games of eminent players. Students will get an opportunity to play with Anand and participate in the annual ChessMaster.

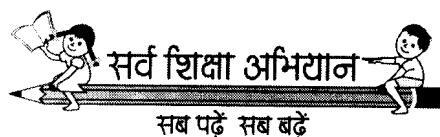
"We are pleased to take our association with NIIT to the next level by offering joint certification program to promote Chess across the country. We are confident that this will encourage more and more people to learn and play Chess and will help in making India the world's foremost nation in Chess once again" said Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU.

Commenting on the importance of Chess as a mind booster, Mr. P. Rajendran, COO, NIIT Ltd., remarked, ***"Studies have revealed that Chess has a positive impact on academics. I am confident that the Certificate Program in Chess as Mind Booster from NIIT & IGNOU will enable development of young minds and improve their concentration."***

Speaking on the occasion, **World Chess Champion and NIIT MindChampion, Viswanathan Anand,** said ***"I am delighted to be part of this unique initiative by NIIT and IGNOU that will go a long way in popularizing the game of Chess amongst youngsters in India."***

After the successful completion of the program students will be felicitated with a joint Certification by NIIT and IGNOU. This will enable the students to become members of the NIIT MindChampions Academy and contribute to the Chess movement in India.

Prof. K.R. Srivathsan, Pro Vice Chancellor, IGNOU, who initiated the program between of IGNOU and NIIT, explained the importance of offering this program through the Distance Education Program of the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan. This would further help making school education more exciting and relevant to children's development. Prof. Srivathsan stated how this program will be made openly accessible to all interested through the 'Sikshadhara' portal of open education under the DEP-SSA whose development he had been guiding.



A Pan-India study on the Impact of Chess programmes on children - 'Developing MindChampions through Chess', indicates that Chess benefits students by enabling them to meet academic challenges through thoughtful preparations and flawless execution. These children also developed self-regulated learning, increased concentration on problem solving and a quest for newer concepts. The study proves beyond doubt that proficiency in Chess helps students to organise and manage time effectively.

About NIIT MindChampions Academy

A Joint initiative by NIIT and GM Viswanathan Anand- 'NIIT MindChampions Academy' was introduced in the year 2002 with the objective of initiating students into the world of Chess. The Academy today fosters nearly 9000 Chess clubs with more than 8,50,000 students cumulatively since inception. The phenomenal success of NIIT MindChampions Academy has reiterated the fact that Chess has been a rewarding experience for students, helping them approach the academic problems in a more tactical and logical manner.

About DEP-SSA and IGNOU

The Distance Education Program – Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (DEP-SSA) is an MHRD Project hosted at IGNOU. DEP-SSA conducts continuing education in distance mode as well as through workshops in different regions for teacher-educators, the SSA District Education Coordinators, SSA associated officials in the states and others. MHRD officials and experts from school education related organizations use its services and IGNOU's EDUSAT Teleconferencing and other facilities to reach out to SSA officials in all the states along with teachers and educators for necessary continuing education related to SSA Programs. Vice Chancellor, IGNOU is also the Chairperson of the DEP-SSA Project.

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