

Inauguration of NIOS Cell at Port Blair

A Brief Report

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) Cell at Port Blair has been formally inaugurated by the hon'ble Chairman NIOS, Dr. Sitansu S. Jena at Shiksha Sadan, Port Blair on 14 March 2011. The inaugural function was also graced by Shri G.G. Saxena, IAS, Secretary, NIOS, Shri Sanjay Kumar Saxena, Secretary Education, A&N Administration, Dr. R. Dev Das, Director of Education, A&N Administration.



Addressing the gathering, the NIOS Chairman Dr. Jena explained the special features of NIOS and the various benefits learners are now getting from its flexible learner friendly schemes. He informed that NIOS is one of national level boards of our country and it's certificates are

equivalent to the certificates issued by other recognized boards of education. By joining NIOS, one becomes a part of the largest open schooling system in the world.

He told that the main objective of establishing a cell at Port Blair is to effectively monitor and provide support to the existing study centre of NIOS, and also to help in expansion and spreading NIOS activities in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Informing about the facilities the students will get from the new NIOS cell, the Chairman added that the NIOS Cell in these islands will be upgraded to sub-regional and Regional centre in the long-run.. He assured to explore the possibility of having on demand exam centre in Port Blair.

In his address on the occasion, the Secretary NIOS, Shri G.G. Saxena, IAS expressed his happiness over the inauguration of the new cell for the



convenient of the student of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. He also made a mention of the tourism activities which developing at a fast pace in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and said that the youth of these islands should take benefit of the various vocational courses offered by NIOS in hospitality sector.

The Secretary Education Shri. Sanjay Kumar Saxena, emphasized the need of spreading open learning system in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. He said that the NIOS has expanded its Study Centre from 9 to 15 in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Student enrolment No. has also



increased from 1826 in the year 2006-07 to 3350 in 2010-11. Every year there is an increase of around 15% to 20% admission in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. More open school centres will be opened covering the areas of North & Middle as well as in southern group of islands, the Secretary added.



The Director of Education, Dr. R. Dev Das said that the NIOS, which made its small presence decades ago here, has now become a full fledged cell for the benefit of the students. The school dropouts of these islands will be benefited immensely from the new cell. He assured to extend all type of support and cooperation from the Department of Education, Andaman and Nicobar Administration to NIOS for expansion of open learning system in these Islands.

Mentioning about the advantages of the NIOS, Shri Aditi Ranjan Rout, Regional Director, NIOS, Regional Centre, Kolkata explained the various flexibilities offered by NIOS on choice of subjects, admission, and examination. He also

mentioned about the latest developments in NIOS like 100% online admission, revaluation of answer books, inclusion of new subject like Bengali at Sr Secondary level etc.

In his address, Shri D. Vijay Kumar, Nodal Officer, NIOS said the setting up of NIOS cell of Shiksha Sadan is as per the MOU signed by the Secretary NIOS and the Director of Education in spreading the reach of open schooling in A&N Islands. NIOS is doing a yeoman service in these islands for past many years through its accredited institution, he added.

The inaugural function ended with vote of thanks proposed by Shri Aditi Ranjan Rout, Regional Director, NIOS, Regional Centre, Kolkata.
