

Union Education Minister performs Bhoomi Poojan for new NCERT auditorium

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan presides over signing of MoU between NCERT and Flipkart, inaugurates Google Learning Centre and releases NISTHA Integrated Teacher Training Modules

MoU between NCERT and Flipkart will enhance the availability of NCERT textbooks, delivering them to learners' doorsteps across the country - Shri Dharmendra Pradhan

NCERT is collective academic repository of the country - Shri Dharmendra Pradhan

Posted On: 16 DEC 2024 6:55PM by PIB Delhi

Union Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, performed the Bhoomi Poojan for a new NCERT auditorium, which can accommodate approximately 900 persons. He also presided over the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NCERT and e-commerce marketplace, Flipkart to ensure the affordable and seamless availability of NCERT publications across the country, especially in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. The Minister also inaugurated the Google Learning Centre, which will facilitate the capacity building of teachers and educators on digital tools including AI. This state-of-the-art lab has been created for 40 people with adequate computers and networking facilities. Along with this, 200 YouTube channels have been created for simulcast of PMeVIDYA DTH TV Channels. The Minister also released NISTHA Integrated Teacher Training Modules, NISHTHA-ET, Kaushal and Edu-Leader.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, while addressing the audience, stated that the signing of the MoU between NCERT and Flipkart will enhance the availability of NCERT textbooks, delivering them to learners' doorsteps across the length and breadth of the country. He further emphasized that initiatives like the NISHTHA teachers' training modules and the experiential learning centre by Google India will strengthen the capacities of teachers and empower both educators and students.

Shri Pradhan highlighted that NCERT is Bharat's pride and a cornerstone of the nation's education system. He described it as not just an institution but a collective academic repository for the country. The Minister

also noted that as NCERT transitions into a research university, it must aspire to become a melting pot, integrating content development, syllabus design, pedagogical approaches, innovative educational practices, teacher capacity building, and technology infusion under one roof.



Expressing his confidence in NCERT, Shri Pradhan encouraged the institution to adopt and assimilate innovative and best educational practices from across the country to develop textbooks enriched with locally driven content. He underlined NCERT's responsibility to prepare Bharat's new generation—and those in other emerging economies—for 21st-century education and learning.

Aimed at democratizing access to education and complementing the Government of India's mission to promote inclusive learning opportunities nationwide, this collaboration will facilitate the sale and distribution of NCERT publications through the online marketplace of Flipkart, ensuring greater accessibility through authorized sellers designated by NCERT. Flipkart will ensure wider reach by making NCERT publications accessible to students and parents across urban and rural India, enabling last-mile connectivity through its platform. Additionally, Flipkart and NCERT will work together to guarantee the availability of authentic, high-quality content.

Shri Rajneesh Kumar, in his address, said that by leveraging the technological expertise and extensive reach of the Company, the aim will be to bridge the gap in access to affordable educational materials, supporting the nation's vision for an empowered and educated youth.

Shri Sanjay Jain, in his speech, mentioned that the goal of the Google Centre is to support the

vision of NEP 2020 of bridging the digital divide, providing equitable access to teachers and students across the country, and offering training in emerging digital skills like AI and ML.

Joint Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Smt. Prachi Pandey; Director, NCERT, Prof. Dinesh Prasad Saklani; Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Flipkart Group, Shri Rajneesh Kumar; Head, Google for Education, India, Shri Sanjay Jain; Secretary, NCERT Shri Aman Sharma and other officials of the Ministry, academicians, and Heads of Institutions, also attended the event.

MV/AK

(Release ID: 2084965)