

HP to establish 80 IT labs in schools

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TO STRENGTHEN the Information Technology (IT) Education, the Education Department and the IT Department, in a joint venture, have decided to establish 80 IT laboratories in the secondary schools of the state.

Sources said, the Department of IT would provide all the hardware materials to the Education Department, which would be the nodal agency to run the laboratories in the senior secondary schools.

"We have chalked out all the modalities of the action plan. The department has received the list of the schools and very soon, the work to establish IT

labs would be started in the enlisted schools," said Director, IT Education, Subhashish Panda, adding that all the hardware material to be used in the schools would be procured from the HP State Electronic Development Corporation.

It may be mentioned that various surveys done by the different non-government organizations had found messed up IT Education in the schools throughout the state. A study done by a Bombay based research institute had found that IT education being provided in the state was no where near satisfactory, with only one computer available for 45 students. "Due to insufficient number of computer systems, the students

some times don't get chance to touch the computers for weeks," the study had observed.

This is the first joint "practical" effort by both the departments in which, according to information, along with the schools students, other local persons will learn the IT skills before and after the school time. The outsiders will pay more fee than the schools students and the IT teachers presently running the IT education in the senior secondary schools of the state will teach skills in the labs, said sources.

The Department of Education would provide all other facilities to run the programmes in the schools, reveals information.

PREPARING PLATFORM FOR PROFESSIONAL IT PROGRAMMES

THIS JOINT effort is being seen as the state government's move to make environment for professional IT education, especially for the programme to run the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and other training courses in the colleges of the state.

The nodal agency to run training programmes in the colleges - Society for Improvement of IT and E-Governance- has already invited tenders from private companies, which would run courses in the about 41 colleges in the state. HTC