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“ Students Should Begin Preparation for Placements in First Year” –

National Employability Conclave, New Delhi

- **Industry and Academia Converge to Discuss Employment, Skills and Bridging the Employability Gap**
- **Placement Officers Felicitated with „ Career Guru“ Awards, organised by Aspiring Minds**
- **Witnessed participation from more than 100 TPOs and leading industry heads**

New Delhi, January 29, 2013: Aspiring Minds, India's leading employability measurement firm, held the National Employability Conclave (NEC) in the Capital today. Held at the Royal Plaza, Connaught Place, the NEC provided a rich interface between Training and Placement Officers (TPOs) from more than 100 institutions and recruiters from reputed institutions such as HCL Technologies, Accenture India Limited, Sapient, Deloitte, IVRCL Infrastructures & Projects Limited and CA Technologies among others.

The Conclave started off with an opening address from Prashant Bhatnagar, Director-Hiring, Sapient Consulting. Commenting on the need for a platform like the NEC, Prashant Bhatnagar, Director-Hiring, Sapient Consulting said, “ ***There is huge effort that the industry needs to undergo to mine out the right kind of talent from the nearly 6 lakh engineering graduates that pass out every year. Is our education system indeed preparing our students to face challenges? Forums like the National Employability Conclave will help us find solutions to the problems that we face.***”

Puneet Kumar Pandey, Sr. Director-Talent Management Group, HCL Technologies and Kapil Bhatia, Head of HR, VinSol shared perspectives on the lack of Programming and English skills in engineering graduates. Perspectives were also shared by Varun Aggarwal, COO and CTO, Aspiring Minds. The NEC also witnessed an insightful panel discussion on the theme of shaping the talent pool as per employers's requirements from the recruiter's perspective.

Varun Aggarwal, COO and CTO, Aspiring Minds said, ***“With top companies interacting with only 700 campuses out of the existing 3000, there is a need to do things differently to make students more employable and let employable students get jobs. It is imperative that efforts to make engineers employable are initiated in the first year of education itself rather than the fourth. Different skills should be imparted in different years with a focus on functional skills and spoken English. Platforms such as NEC help in bringing forth insights which in turn lead to employability solutions”***

The NEC saw Aspiring Minds sharing sharp insights on understanding and improving the employability gap in India. **The employability levels for engineering graduates from Delhi, across different industry sectors as revealed, were:**

Industry Sectors	Employability
IT Services	39.78
IT Product	10.91
KPO	27.59
Hardware Networking	53.37
BPO	54.78

This was followed by the ‘Career Guru’ awards which saw TPOs being felicitated and recognised for their efforts towards ensuring greater employability of their students and a session on skill building.(solutions for you, solutions by you) and for their untiring efforts towards ensuring greater employability. The winners in various categories were:

Categories	Names of Winners	Institutions
Performing Minds	Shishir Saxena	V.I.T., Jaipur
	A.K. Mahapatra	I.G.I.T.I., Delhi
Inspiring Minds	Brig. S.K. Kakkar	Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology, Delhi
	Alok Basu	Bharti Vidyapith College of Engineering, Delhi
Visionary Minds	Shefali Raj	P.S.I.T., Kanpur
	Naveen Juneja	L.P.U., Punjab

Brig. S.K. Kakkar, Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology, Delhi said ***“It is essential that we as representatives of the academia understand the recruiters needs. The industry being volatile, the skill requirements keep on changing and it is essential we keep ourselves updated to the same. Through the NEC, not only have we received recognition of our efforts in this direction, we have also gathered some critical industry insights towards better employability of our students.”***

NECs, a nation-wide initiative across 5 cities, have been conceptualised as a platform for academia and industry HR heads to spur new thoughts and best practices in tailoring training and placement programs. The initiative endeavours to nurture fresh talent and harvest practical solutions towards greater employability. It features **HR leaders of some of**

the largest IT and engineering companies sharing an employer's perspective on shaping young talent to meet industry expectations. **It is supported by experienced corporate trainers, and Aspiring Minds, India's leading largest job assessment and talent benchmarking company.**

Through industry specific case study presentations and interactive sessions, NECs are aimed at sharpening the training infrastructure.

A pioneering effort of Aspiring Minds, the National Employability Conclave leverages the expertise of the firm in the science of employability measurement to build a more vibrant employment ecosystem that addresses the concerns of all the stakeholders. By highlighting the requirements of recruiters, NECs will help institutions identify gaps in current training programs thereby modifying and re-designing the same. Already held in Pune, Hyderabad and now Delhi, subsequent NECs will be held across Bengaluru and Kolkata.

Career Guru Awards Jury

The jury for Career Guru awards comprised of a distinguished panel of judges inclusive of industry veterans such as:

- Mr. Naveen K, Program Director, Head - Orchard, Campus Talent Acquisition, Mindtree Ltd
- Mr. Niranjana Subramanya Sarja (NS), Head Campus, HCL Technologies,
- Mr. Prasanna Arunachalam, Campus Recruitment Lead (Engineering Schools), Accenture India Private Limited
- Mr. Puneet Pandey, Director - Resourcing and Training, HCL Technologies (Infrastructure Services Division)
- Ms. Savita Subramanian Venugopal, Associate Director - Talent Acquisition, Cognizant Technology Solutions
- Mr. Tarun Nallu, India Lead for Campus Hiring for Audit, Risk Consulting and Tax, Deloitte

About Aspiring Minds:

Aspiring Minds is India's leading employability solutions company, headquartered in Gurgaon. Aspiring Minds offers scientific assessments with an innovative large-scale sourcing model analogous to a GRE-for-job concept. The state-of-the-art assessment tools developed by Aspiring Minds have been used across industry verticals to help recruit the right people, develop profile-wise employability benchmarks and assess workforce health.

Aspiring Minds' intelligent adaptive assessments span across Language, Cognitive skills, Domain knowledge and Personality. A strong in-house research and development team with alumni from IITs and MIT form the development back bone of the patent pending assessment tools.

AMCAT™ - the flagship product is India's Largest Employability Test. Conducted across the country throughout the year, AMCAT has been taken by over 750,000 candidates in 1300+ campuses, spread across 23 states. Tens of thousands of candidates secure their dream jobs every year through AMCAT.

Powered by a highly dedicated management team drawn from the IITs and IIMs, over 180 full-time employees, and a pan-India operational presence, Aspiring Minds has helped leading brands across verticals to improve their recruitment process efficiency and the quality of talent they hire. Aspiring Minds products and solutions have been adopted by leading corporates across sectors.

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