

# THE HINDU Business Line

Business Daily from THE HINDU group of publications

Wednesday, Jan 28, 2009

## Keeping e-learning in ship-shape

ONLINE COURSE.

*Adith Charlie*

Mumbai, Jan. 27 Twenty-five-year-old Tuhin Deb is a marine officer who spends more than six months of the year on the high seas, criss-crossing the globe. But this does not deter him from pursuing his academic interests.

Thanks to the concept of e-learning, he has enrolled for a course in business administration which he will pursue from the deck of his ship!

"We cater to several students who take classes from on-board ships where they are employed. However, since they cannot attend the online classes due to difference in time schedules or connectivity problems, we archive those sessions and make it available to them at a time of their choice," said Mr Shailesh Mehta, Founder & Chief Executive Officer of Gurukul Online Learning Solutions (GOLS).

GOLS is currently exploring opportunities to tie up with shipping majors in the country to jointly develop and implement marine courses for employees who wish to further their careers on the high seas.

**Similarly, another e-learning firm 24x7 Learning has enabled employees on rigs of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to access online courses related to a range of oil & gas related subjects in their free time, said Mr Karthik KS, Chief Executive Officer, 24x7 Learning.**

**The company has achieved this through its partnership sewn with the oil major in August 2008, as part of which it built, implemented and managed an e-learning academy for ONGC.**

In spite of the unfavourable macro economic environment, the e-learning space has not been as badly impacted as some of the other sectors. "Even though decision making has been impacted, the across-the-board move to trim costs is actually helping this industry," said Mr Ashish Basu, President, New Business Incubation, NIIT Ltd.