

Cargill India and the United Way of Delhi National Capital Region provides a new approach of experiential learning to the children in Haryana

Mr. Sam Pitroda, Advisor to Prime Minister of India on Public Information Infrastructure and Innovations, inaugurated first of its kind Science Center in Gurgaon in the presence of Mr. Siraj Chaudhry, Chairman Cargill India and Mr. Thiagrajan, MD, Agastya International Foundation

Gurgaon, 15 January, 2014: Today, Cargill India along with the United Way of Delhi National Capital Region and Agastya Foundation announced the launch of the first of its kind Science Center for children in Gurgaon. The center will serve as a resource bank and a teacher training center reaching out to over 10,000 students annually.

Aimed at empowering students and teachers with experiential learning, the science center was inaugurated by Mr. Sam Pitroda, advisor to the Prime Minister of India on Public Information Infrastructure and innovation.

Cargill India has contributed Rs. 50,00,000 to United Way Delhi National Capital Region to set up the science center at the Government Senior Secondary Model School in Gurgaon (Sector 4/7 adjacent to Gymkhana club), Haryana. The science center will act as a hub for students and teachers of the community to learn and teach the concepts of science, ecology and mathematics through a participative approach. It will reach out to 10,000 students and 125 teachers in a year enabling local schools and educators to deliver improved content and quality of education to under privileged students.

Announcing the launch, **Mr. Sam Pitroda, Advisor to Prime Minister of India on Public Information Infrastructure and Innovations**, said, "The potential of Science Centers across the country as instruments and agents of percolating scientific temper, innovation, and therefore socio-economic development is under utilised. The National Innovation Council is working to promote innovation through science museums across India. This initiative by Cargill India and United Way in Delhi National Capital Region is a great example of a new-age approach to science education and it gives me immense pleasure to be a part of this launch in Gurgaon. I hope more schools, parents, teachers, children and other stakeholders will join hands to make best use of this place and more such centers will be opened across India with public-private partnership. The Government of India has also made a commitment in the 12th Five Year Plan to promote innovation through science centers across India"

Speaking on the occasion **Mr. Siraj Chaudhry, Chairman, Cargill India** said, "Cargill is committed to helping serve the community that we operate in. We are proud to support United Way of Delhi National Capital Region and are excited for this new Science Center that will reach out to 10,000 students and 125 teachers in a year. Cargill India has always been known for its innovative ways to support the community and social development and this science centre is another step in our effort to continue that tradition. We hope to enable young students and teachers to harness their potential and create an exciting environment for learning."

Mr. Virendra Sharma, Principal, Government Senior Secondary Model School commented, "The implementation of the Science Centre is a great step forward towards curricular enrichment. This would provide students of schools without laboratory facilities the opportunity to conduct experiments and learn. The hands-on learning experience will lead to significant improvement in the quality of education and stimulate curiosity among the children."