**CHALLENGE IS “TO BE BETTER THAN**

**THE PERSON YOU WERE YESTERDAY”**

**Introduction to the Pioneer:** Mr. Shridhant Joshi the Founder and Managing Director of Kautilya Academy (set up in 2003) has been instrumental in changing the scenario of education in central India over last 16 years. Hailing from a progressive Brahmin family from Jagdalpur, a quiet city of Chhattisgarh, Mr. Joshi benefited greatly from the Montessori education he received in his early years. It not only laid the foundation of his academic learning and pursuit but also moral values and virtues. Mr. Joshi has firsthand witnessed and experienced the struggles of growing up without exposure and resources required embarking on and achieving your future goals. But he is also a living example of the fact that if you have unwavering resolve, firm belief, dedication and commitment to achieve your set goals, there is absolutely nothing which can hold you back from achieving success. Armed with courage, leadership qualities and pioneering spirit, Mr. Joshi dared to dream big and set out to touch the invisible horizons.

**His Role Model: U**nder the strong influence of his grandmother, who inspired him to dream big and never underestimate his capabilities, Mr. Joshi participated in various quizzes and oratory competitions. This hones his oratory skills and won him many accolades and prizes. From a very young age, Mr. Joshi has been passionate about civil services. This passion had a patriotic character.

**Motivation for the Organization:** Understanding the importance of a good educational support system, Mr. Joshi envisioned an institution for helping civil services aspirants prepare for the exams in a focused manner. To facilitate their passage through the tough and prestigious civil service examination, Mr Joshi founded "Kautilya Academy" in the year 2003. Under his visionary leadership, the academy strives to provide the aspirants with some time tested solutions. These solutions enable them to understand the techniques of solving papers using smart learning strategies.

**Grooming Organization:** The effective teaching methodology of the Academy helps the students translate their dreams into reality with assured success. The academy stands heads above its counterparts because of its unprecedented approach towards education. Mr. Joshi believes in high-quality education being provided by very experienced and accomplished teaching faculty, keeping in mind individual needs of students and aiding them to achieve best results possible. He adopts scientifically designed teaching methods and approaches the curriculum accordingly.

Kautilya Academy under the wings of Mr. Joshi has transformed into a dynamic force guiding the students through not only the traditional civil services selections and competitive tests but also prepare them for business management and engineering studies, through examinations like GATE and CAT.

**An Exceptional Teacher:** Through the years Mr Joshi has not only established himself as an innovative pioneer and visionary leader but also as an exceptional teacher. His students describe him as a mentor who not only explains but also demonstrates, using various tools, to simplify complex issues such that students are able to easily understand and recall the subjects taught.

**Sacrifices for Success:** Over the last 16 years, Mr Joshi has raised Kautilya Academy on the top of the ladder in the civil services examination training sector. The journey to this extraordinary achievement has been tough as it has come at the cost of sacrificing all personal time, missing many social and personal obligations and commitments. At times it has involved working under nerve-breaking situations and pressure without any role model to show direction. Nevertheless, Mr. Joshi always remains calm and composed and, with the support of his family and friends, navigated all hurdles to achieve great success.

**His Achievements:** Apart from his biggest achievement - which is the success of his students, Mr Joshi's hard work and devotion to education has been recognized by society, earning him many esteemed laurels. He was the sole participant from Madhya Pradesh in the “Dharma Sansad-2015” held in the United States of America. Additionally he has been accorded recognition as the "Chhattisgarh Ratna".

Mr. Joshi was one of the two participants from the state of Madhya Pradesh at the National Conference on Education, organized in New Delhi by India Today Group in 2011. He has received the prestigious 'Captains of Industries Award-2013' for excellence in education from Madhya Pradesh Government. He also has received the honour of the 'Education Excellence Award' of Madhya Pradesh Government for three consecutive years from 2016-2018. He has also been conferred the “Karmath Karmyogi award” by the honourable Governor of Madhya Pradesh Ms. Anandiben Patel. As an institution, Kautilya Academy had been awarded "India's No. 1 Brand Award" in the Civil Services Coaching institutions category.

**Literary Works:** Mr. Joshi is the author of several books related to the preparation of Civil Service Examinations like UPSC and MPPSC. Some of his books have been published by leading international publishers like LexisNexis. He also founded the Institute for Management and Entrepreneurship Studies (IMES) and Takshshila Publication.

**As a Mentor:** Overcoming the biggest shortcoming of not having any role model in his profession to follow, Mr. Joshi has faced every difficult situation independently. The strategies and solutions devised by him have paved the way for his team in meeting everyday challenges. The accomplishments in his professional journey are a result of his perseverance, strong determination and unwavering passion towards his work. All these qualities have played a great part in positioning Kautilya Academy at the cutting edge of real competitive learning. Today, Kautilya Academy is widely known for its distinction of achieving the highest success rate in the Civil Services Exam.

With nearly 20 years experience as the M.D. of Kautilya Academy, Mr Joshi's entrepreneurship and management skills are par excellence. Under his guidance and mentorship many of the aspirants for the Central and the State level competitive exams have tasted success. Kautilya Academy has to its credit 12,000 students who have over the years been selected as administrative officers in almost all categories, including civil judges and probationary officers, nationwide.

**A Step Forward:** Accomplishments taking forward his aim to provide quality education to the youth, Mr. Joshi founded the Institute for Management and Entrepreneurship Studies (IMES). His passion for literature has prompted him to start a publication house named Takshshila Publications.

**IMES:** The Institute for Management and Entrepreneurship Studies aims to provide holistic learning to produce responsible citizens and equip the students with leadership qualities so they can serve our society at every level. Mr Joshi envisioned IMES to be a place where future achievers are equipped with in-depth managerial knowledge and entrepreneurial ability. IMES is first of its kind of institute in central India.

**Striving for Social Cause:** Ever since its inception Kautilya Academy has hosted countless events and social campaigns to support the causes which will morph the society into a better place. Mr. Joshi has been very actively supporting various awareness campaigns. One such was the campaign for creating awareness on child rights, which he joined with Nobel Peace Laureate Mr. Kailash Satyarthi to inspire the youth to stand up for the things that matter and make a difference. He has constantly expressed his support for the Clean India Campaign and encouraged his students to actively partake in the same.

**Bharat Bhagya Vidhata Initiative:** Having witnessed the lack of resources the civil services aspirants faced and moved by their dedication and drive to achieve something, he initiated the "Bharat Bhagya Vidhata Scholarship Test". This huge campaign is directed towards helping the students with limited means but abundant ambition and willingness to strive hard for their dreams. He believes that deserving students should get guidance and resources they require, irrespective of their economic conditions.

**Work – Family Balance:** At the helm of affairs of an organization of such magnitude, Mr. Joshi also maintains a very healthy work-life balance. When asked how he manages the professional and personal aspects of his life so well, Mr. Joshi says there is no need to establish any hard and fast rules about work life balance. His mantra is to just put your heart and soul into whatever you are doing, whether it is your work or spending time with family. This simple mantra works unbelievably well for all aspects of life.

**Message to Young Aspirants:** Despite his many successes, Mr. Joshi remains a very down-to-earth person, who is rooted to his humble beginnings. He strongly believes there is no shortcut to hard work. His message to all the youth aspiring to establish their identities: “**Your originality is your strength.** Everyone has a unique fingerprint, which points out to the fact that all are unique and capable of greatness. In life the only competition you have to undertake is being better than the person you were yesterday, improving on the person you are today and building on the person you want to be tomorrow.”