

Snowden learnt ethical hacking, Java programming in India



■ Edward Snowden AFP PHOTO

HT Correspondent

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Edward Snowden, who worked as a cyber security contractor for the US National Security Agency (NSA) and stole thousands of sensitive documents containing details of the worldwide snooping operations of the NSA, spent six quiet and cautious days in India in 2010 learning about ethical hacking and core Java programming.

“Snowden told us that he worked for the NSA,” recalled Hema Sharma, training centre manager at Moti Bagh campus of Koenig Solutions, the institute where Snowden spent six days before he made headlines for shocking the US government for stealing data from the NSA.

But the Koenig trainers were not surprised with Snowden’s NSA background as they get many students working with the

US snooping agency. “Snowden kept to himself and only revealed information that was sufficient to get him enrolled at our campus. He was not active on social media nor did he make any friends during his stay here,” added Sharma.

As per company records, Snowden remained at Koenig from September 3, 2010 to September 9, 2010. He took two courses — Core Java and an advance certificate course in ethical hacking.

“Our package for foreign students also includes arrangements for stay. He paid a total of US \$2,143 (around ₹1.1 lakh) and stayed at Koenig Inn in Karol Bagh,” a company spokesperson added. India was part of the group of countries to which Snowden had sought asylum when he was hiding at Moscow airport during transit. But India politely declined with an intention of not getting into any diplomatic row with the US.