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Business Standard

NIIT develops actionable roadmaps and toolkits to help learning and development organizations minimize COVID-19 impact

ANI Last Updated at March 26, 2020 15:00 IST

The COVID-19 pandemic is an ongoing global crisis. NIIT Limited is first and foremost concerned for the victims of the disease, their families, and anyone else who is being adversely affected by this tragic outbreak.

As the situation continues to evolve, businesses around the world find themselves in uncharted territory as they scramble to manage through the crisis. This includes learning and development organizations that will have to make major changes in their delivery approach almost overnight.

In response to this unprecedented pandemic, NIIT Limited and its subsidiary, Eagle Productivity Solutions Inc have developed a set of actionable roadmaps, toolkits and packaged services to help Learning and Development (L & D) organizations minimize the disruption caused due to the accelerating impact of the crisis.

These actionable plans and roadmaps have been designed to help L & D organizations take control and minimize disruption for the here and now and jumpstart digital transformation for a sustainable future.

These resources are available at http://info.niit.com/covid-19 and have been designed to help L & D organizations:

- 1. STABILIZE: minimize disruption for scheduled training events in the here and now due to the abrupt implementation of work from home protocols and "social distancing"
- 2. NORMALIZE: rebuild and regain control once the immediate situation is stable by getting a plan together to help organizations normalize training delivery operations for the coming months.
- 3. EVOLVE: Sustain a digital future with a more flexible, digital learning ecosystem that is both more efficient and effective than currently prevalent models.

"Many of our clients are worried about the mandatory training programs that are scheduled for the next few weeks. Many others are already in the midst of broader digital transformations and see this as an opportunity to accelerate the journey. NIIT's learning professionals stand ready to help L & D organizations navigate the crisis. Initially, we'll ensure that their short-term needs are covered to minimize disruption. Then, we'll help organizations build a roadmap to sustainable digital transformation," said Sapnesh Lalla, CEO, NIIT Limited.

Visit http://info.niit.com/covid-19 for more information.

NIIT's goal is to minimize any disruptions to scheduled work, training and deliverables to meet customer requirements, while ensuring the health and safety of its employees.

To facilitate this, NIIT Limited has already enabled a work from home protocol for its employees. The company has also invoked business continuity management protocols for all customers and will continue to monitor the evolving pandemic situation and take necessary steps to ensure minimal disruption of scheduled customer deliverables.

This story is provided by BusinessWire India.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/niit-develops-actionable-roadmaps-and-toolkits-to-help-learning-and -development-organizations-minimize-covid-19-impact-120032600756 1.html







ANI Updated March 26, 2020 14:46 IST

Atlanta (USA)/New Delhi [India] March 26 (ANI/BusinessWire India): The COVID-19 pandemic is an ongoing global crisis. NIIT Limited is first and foremost concerned for the victims of the disease, their families, and anyone else who is being adversely affected by this tragic outbreak.

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https://www.aninews.in/news/business/niit-develops-actionable-roadmaps-and-toolkits-to-help-learning-and-development-organizations-minimize-covid-19-impact20200326144540/



Education TIMES

NIIT University recognised as University of the Year

TNN | Posted on Friday, March 06, 2020

The Rajasthan–based university was recognised at the annual Indian Education Congress & Awards 2020



Rajasthan-based NIIT University (NU) has been recognised as 'University of the Year (North)', at the tenth Annual Indian Education Congress & Awards 2020 held in Bengaluru recently.

Prateek Chatterjee, senior vice president, NIIT Ltd and Ratnaraja Singh, regional director, Centre for Industry collaboration, NIIT University received the award.

Conceptualised as an institution of excellence, NU provides exceptional education based on the four core principles that make learning industry-linked, technology-based, research-driven and seamless.

"We are delighted to be recognised as the 'University of the Year (North)'. Over the years NU has established a new model of higher education that fosters critical thinking, innovation and a research mindset. This award further endorses our commitment to deliver the best in education that helps our students carve successful careers," said VS Rao, NU president.

The Indian Education Congress & Awards recognises excellence in the education sector. The Annual Indian Education Congress & Awards 2020 had more than 5500 nominations, 2500 delegates and 600 thought leaders. The initiative is aimed towards building the platform as the largest industry event designed at empowering the entire Indian education fraternity.

https://www.educationtimes.com/article/campus-beat-college-events/74505507/NIIT-University-recognised-as-University-of-the-Year





NIIT University recognised as 'University of the Year - North' at Indian Education Congress and Awards 2020

ANI 3 March 2020

Neemrana (Rajasthan) [India] March 4 (ANI/BusinessWire India): Established with a vision to bring about innovation in higher education and learning in emerging areas of the knowledge society, the not-for-profit NIIT University has been recognised as 'University of the Year (North)', at the Tenth Annual Indian Education Congress & Awards 2020.

The award was received by Prateek Chatterjee, Sr Vice President, NIIT Ltd, and Ratnaraja Singh, Regional Director, Centre for Industry collaboration, NIIT University at a recent ceremony in Bengaluru.

Conceptualized as an institution of excellence, NU provides exceptional education based on the four core principles that make learning industry-linked, technology-based, research-driven and seamless.

NU is well poised for meeting the emerging needs of the knowledge economy through its focus on building strong industry linkages and a research-oriented approach.

"We are delighted to be recognised as the 'University of the Year' (North)'. Over the years NU has established a new model of higher education that fosters critical thinking, innovation, and a research mindset. This award further endorses our commitment to deliver the best in education that helps our students carve successful careers", said Prof VS Rao President NU.

With 598 industry partners, NU is dedicated to forging strong industry linkages as one of its core principles. This ensures that the University is connected with the best organizations and institutions.

The Centre for Industry Collaboration (CIC) assists students in their endeavours to enrich their education, careers, and lives and make lifelong contributions to society.

The Indian Education Congress & Awards is counted among the most prestigious awards that recognize excellence in the education sector. On the foundation of the overwhelming response received from the previous nine editions, which had over 5500 plus nominations, 2500 plus delegates, and 600 plus thought leaders, this initiative aims towards building the platform as the largest industry event designed at empowering the entire Indian education fraternity.

This story is provided by BusinessWire India.

https://in.news.yahoo.com/niit-university-recognised-university-north-indian-education-congress-074840622.html



live mint

How NIIT University pivoted to digital, minimized **COVID-19 disruption**



- The university is tinkering with virtual labs where experiments can be demonstrated via video conferencing
- Around 13 March, India had reported about 83 confirmed cases the count spiked to 415 by 23 March

Many brick and mortar universities are laggards when it comes to adopting technology. But black swan events such as Covid-19 outbreak would now accelerate the shift online.

NEW DELHI: Sanva Kapoor, a third-year engineering student at NIIT University, was preparing for a presentation on March 13 when she received an e-mail from the university's dean of student affairs. Academic and co-curricular activities were being suspended.

The sprawling university campus at Neemrana. Raiasthan, is surrounded by the Aravali hills. It is a residential school with 1000 B.Tech, M.Tech, M.Sc and MBA students. There are 48 teachers. Students were asked to leave for their home towns. Sanya came back home, in Noida. "When we were asked to go home, there were not many COVID-19 cases in India. We were puzzled and it was an unexpected break." she said. "Three days into the break and we realised that the university was starting online classes. That was great because we would be on track once we get back on the campus," she added.

Around 13 March, India had reported about 83 confirmed cases — the count spiked to 415 by 23 March. The brick-andmortar NIIT University acted fast and pivoted to a digital mode, minimising the disruption caused by the outbreak. The university is not only holding lectures through video conferencing, it is also tinkering with virtual labs where experiments can be demonstrated through video conferencing. Going ahead, if the outbreak prolongs, even examinations could be held remotely. The academic sessions end in May.

"The teachers and students took a couple of days to familiarise themselves with the video conferencing software," said Sanya. For online classes, the university uses software platforms such as Adobe Connect and Zoom. "Now, classes are running just as it did on the campus. We get daily timetables. We can un-mute and interact during the lectures or through chat," she added.

Professor V.S. Rao, President of the university said that almost 70% of the students are currently accessing the classes live. And now, the faculty, thus far lecturing from the university campus, is being enabled to teach from home. "We are allowing teachers to work from home. We have to ensure that the faculty has Internet connections in their home towns. We will reimburse the bills. We are shipping laptops and desktops to their houses too," Rao said.

Ensuring business continuity at the university has yet another dimension — admissions. The university follows its own processes that involves prospective students interacting with the faculty.

"The interactions with prospective students and the faculty is meant to understand compatibility; we want the faculty to judge the potential of the student," said Rao. In earlier years, prospective candidates reported at NIIT University's regional offices in cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Hyderabad. They took some tests before interacting with the faculty through Skype. This year, many candidates wouldn't be able to reach these centres because of lockdowns. "We are allowing them to take the tests and interact with the faculty from their homes," Rao explained.

Many brick and mortar universities are laggards when it comes to adopting technology. But black swan events such as the COVID-19 outbreak would now accelerate things, industry watchers said. Education is headed for what is being called a 'blended model'

Ratnesh Jha, Chairman of industry body FICCI's Publishing Committee and the India CEO of Burlington English, a publisher of educational material and digital content, explained that traditional universities rated the social angle to be very important in the development of a student — the people one studies and collaborate with. "Residential universities added value by bringing many of these aspects of social collaboration. What was not happening was the leveraging value of

A wide range of technology, which includes data science and facial recognition, can now map outcomes and track a student's progression far better than humans ever can. Education technology start-ups such as the Bengaluru-based Vedantu have built online businesses leveraging such technology.

"Now, there will be a blend of online and offline education. People realise that existing standalone teaching is a problem in the kind of situations we have today." Jha added.

https://www.livemint.com/news/india/how-niit-university-pivoted-to-digital-minimized-covid-19-disruption-11584960267257.html



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Business Wire India

Posted at: Feb 13 2020 5:55PM









NIIT Foundation Organize 'Beacon of HOPE' - A tryst towards bringing equal opportunity for the specially-abled

Business Wire India

NIIT Foundation, a not-for-profit education society organised 'Beacon of HOPE' - a tryst towards bringing equal opportunity for the specially-abled, in New Delhi on 12th of February 2020. The day-long event was a mix of panel discussions, success stories, experience sharing and demonstrations on technology inclusive education. The key highlights were, a panel discussion on Transformation towards Inclusive Education' and a lively skit performed by the specially- abled students.

NIIT Foundation and Microsoft India have been working together on several projects to make the specially-abled digitally inclusive and employable. This event was organised to raise awareness of the role of technology to address the challenges emerging in this area.

The Beacon of HOPE event showcased Microsoft India and NIIT Foundation's projects that are working towards making 'digital learning' accessible to thousands of underprivileged children and youth. The projects are designed to provide employability skills to these students and empower them to build a career for themselves.

Many stakeholders including government officials, NGOs, special educators and employment partners working in the area of disability were invited to this event. Ms. Juthika Patankar -IAS, Addl Secy, MSDE - Government of India was the Honorable Chief Guest. Other key guests included Ms. Manju Dashmana - CSR Lead Microsoft India, Ms. Ruma Roka - Founder, Noida Deaf Society, Mr. Manindar Singh Navvar - Co-Chairman, Assocham India, Dr. Maneesh Mishra - Head, Sankalp, MSDE, Govt of India, Mr. Anup K Srivastava - CEO, SCPwD, P. Rajendran - Joint Managing Director, NIIT Ltd, and senior leadership from NIIT Foundation were also present at the event.

"To bring about a positive transformation for the specially-abled, it is important for the entire eco-system to come together towards this cause. The government, NGOs, corporates and educators need to work together to create and ensure the inclusion of PwD," Ms. Sapna Moudgil, Director, NIIT Foundation.

The key discussions during the event highlighted the efforts made by Corporates and NGOs in this direction, and the emerging demand for right training, environment & tools to make the specially-abled employable. Also, the need for government and corporates towards providing more placement opportunities.

The corporate stakeholders present at the event indicated, that the need for technology has always been there but projects like these showcase the realistic benefits of technology.

http://www.uniindia.com/niit-foundation-organises-beacon-of-hope--a-tryst-towards-bringing-equalopportunity-for-the-specially-abled/business-wire-india/news/1886768.html



Reputation

Trust in the time of Al

POSTED BY: PRATEEK CHATTERJEE MARCH 5, 2020



When Al goes from regular scripted responses to conversations with context, it would require for users to exercise more caution than before. The change is inevitable and so, the onus would lie on the human brain to exercise its options.

- Prateek Chatterjee

So, how would you know that the reply to your gmail is a customised response suggested by a machine? Would you trust it as much, if it were to be so? I asked this to the speaker Raghu Ravintula, founder Yellow Messenger, delivering a deep dive session on – 'Tech You Can Talk to: The New Frontier in NLP', last month at the 28th edition of NASSCOM Technology and Leadership Forum #NTLF2020.

As machines get smarter, they move beyond operational chat bots that reply to specific/ predictable customer queries to ones which suggest personalised answers to individual conversation timelines, like gmails, where each answer is unique. Currently, gmail suggests only boxed answer options like – thank you, how are you, good to hear from you, and so on and so forth.

Now imagine a not so distant future, where machines can draft out unique individual replies and not just suggest boxed answers to

chose from? Would you take them as seriously? The speaker mentioned that, yes the machines are headed that way. These are complex #NLP (Natural Language Processing) led responses which will be possible soon, as machines are learning fast. So where does that leave trust? That grain of thought lead to a whole plethora of interesting possibilities that contextual conversations by AI and bots would lead us to. I've noted down a few points for us to chew upon.

Relevant to the times

So what does AI (Artificial Intelligence) mean to communication anyway? If virtual assistants can read my emails and remind me to pay my bills on time, shouldn't they prompt me to carry an umbrella if I'd be landing in London on an unexpected day of showers in March? Or that I'd need vaccines for yellow fever when I'd be travelling to Kenya for the Masai Mara in August this year? Promptly then, must it not also go ahead and tell me the authorised centres where I can get these shots from. Agreed that all this information may be a click away on Google; but wouldn't I like it if someone voluntarily told me about this like a caring friend, without me having to look it up?

When the complexity of NLP gets streamlined – and what with the pace of technology and machine learning, we know that day isn't far – Al would achieve a true human-machine interaction status wherein machines can be talked to, taught, and trusted the same way we do with humans. Having said that, think about what this would do to limit human interactions?

Trust in communication - What's law got to do with it?

Conversations are emotional, they are two way and they are personal. What we aren't talking enough is the possibilities of breach of trust due to Machine Learning's ability to give conversational and contextual replies. That day isn't far. With this, communication – the most important thread in professional relationships and the factor on which organisations are built on – is at stake. The truth is: when Al goes from regular scripted responses to conversations with context, it would require for users to exercise more caution than before. The change is inevitable and so, the onus would lie on the human brain to exercise its options. Lest we forget, the invention of Al is not to make us dumb; it is to make us smarter.

In times like today, when emails can be used as evidence in the court of law, people could blame technology for their own selfish motive. Rebuttals like 'the Machine sent it' or 'I clicked on it by accident' could be used as excuses to get out of tricky situations? And one day soon, when AI would be able to do sentiment analysis and opinion mining wherein it can detect your personal and interpersonal well-being (Is a person happy/stressed/angry etc. or gauge conversations between you, your spouse and kids?), there could be a lot of invasion of privacy or even the manipulation of it.

The emotional quotient

I find the Grammar Nazi app, Grammarly quite liberating. It has an AI powered tone-detector to show you how your email sounds (confident, rude, joyful, etc) before you hit the send button. Then again, this 'machine' has a lot to learn about who you are and how you sound in general – because the real fun would be when AI would be able to decipher sarcasm, humour and context from your social media – link it to sentiments and trends (about news, people and brands) and give that in reference during a conversation in progress. When one can't make out if they are speaking to a human or a bot – that would call for a lot speculations in the future.

Unraveling the mysteries of science

On the other hand, I think NLP can unwrap some of the bigger mysteries around language – like how does it work or how do we learn new languages? How do we put words into sentences and the affect they can have on someone? Like how does the brain link language to perception and how does one react? The union of written and visual communication – the balance between what we write and what we think. The beautiful mysteries of the science of communication could in fact help us understand human behavior at a far deeper level, don't you think?

Walking with the changing times

As responses get smarter, they may not always be original but will keep getting refined to match up to an intelligent human response. However, I would like to add here that AI is here to make our lives easier and hence, it should in fact free up more time for human interactions and not limit it. While the machine is busy picking your peculiarities, never give it the power to take away from what's unique to you. Don't delegate to the machine – write your own personalised mails instead. Cherish the words. Know that it's the only way we'd be able to trust each other in the times of AI.

https://reputationtoday.in/trust-in-the-times-of-ai/





NIIT Q3 profit rises 40% to Rs 27 crore

The company had garnered a profit of Rs 19.4 crore in the same period a year ago

PTI|Last Updated: Feb 05, 2020, 05.57 PM IST



Overseas market led by the US and Europe contributed 77 per cent of the total corporate learning group business, Thadani said. NIIT, a global leader in skills and talent development, on Wednesday reported 40 per cent jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 27.1 crore for December quarter 2019-20 on account of increase in demand from corporate sector.

The company had garnered a profit of Rs 19.4 crore in the same period a year ago.

"During the quarter, NIIT delivered strong Profit After Tax of Rs 27.1 crore, up 40 per cent year-on-year on the back

of strong growth of 17 per cent year-on-year in corporate learning group (CLG). We started Canada business two years back which has started delivering now," NIIT Vice Chairman and Managing Director Vijay K Thadani told PTI.

Overseas market led by the US and Europe contributed 77 per cent of the total corporate learning group business, Thadani said.

NIIT recorded 10 per cent growth in its consolidated revenue to Rs 247.6 crore during the quarter under review from Rs 225.5 crore in the year-ago period.

CLG recorded net revenue of Rs 189.5 crore.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/earnings/niit-q3-profit-rises-40-to-rs-27-crore/articleshow/73962393.cms





https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvWtA_TdxP0



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxbfQTOyOtM



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXynF71Eevw



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AON8EpRwE8Q



moneycontrol

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PTI @moneycontrolcom

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CLG recorded net revenue of Rs 189.5 crore.

Thadani said the company is planning to build more training capacities for the technology vertical especially in areas like augmented and virtual reality.

During the quarter, the company completed buyback of 2.68 crore equity shares after approval from the shareholders of the company at Rs 125 per share, representing approximately 16 per cent of the total paid up equity share capital for an aggregate amount of Rs 335 crore, exclusive of taxes.

Established in 1981, NIIT offers multi-disciplinary learning management and training delivery solutions to corporations, institutions, and individuals in over 30 countries.

The company ranks among the world's leading training companies owing to its vast, yet comprehensive array of talent development programs.

https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/earnings/niit-q3-profit-rises-40-to-rs-27cr-4909941.html





NIIT University Welcomes Launch of NEAT Portal by MHRD to Encourage EdTech Startups

Sunday January 12, 2020 4:36PM IST (11:06AM GM

Institutes awards for faculty members and students to enhance their participation in selection of EdTech companies



Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India: Established with a vision to bring about innovation in higher education and learning in emerging areas of the knowledge society, the not-for-profit NIIT University (NU) is excited to be a part of MHRD's pioneering initiative NEAT (National Education Alliance for Technology) to encourage EdTech start-up culture amongst students in the country. The University looks forward to working with AICTE to implement MHRD's vision of harnessing technology for better learning outcomes.

The initial selection of the EdTech companies for the NEAT initiative, was done in a very innovative way by crowd sourcing suggestions from faculty members and students across the country.

To encourage the scheme of MHRD, so that more faculty members and students come forward in the forthcoming selection of EdTech companies, NU will institute 5 awards of 50,000/- each for faculty members and 10 awards for students of Rs. 10,000/- each. The awards will be determined through a rigorous process and will be announced at an appropriate time.

Being the University of the Future with an emphasis on Innovation & Entrepreneurship with deep interest in Education Technology, NU has been laying emphasis in usage of Technologies right from inception in all areas of the University including academic operations, assessments & examinations and administration.

About NU

Established in 2009, NIIT University (NU) is a not-for-profit University covered under section 2(f) of UGC Act and notified by the Government of Rajasthan. A premier institution of higher learning and research, NU seeks to create original thinkers who will lead the knowledge society of the future. The University inherits four decades of rich expertise and global know-how of its principal sponsor, the NIIT Group.

Nurtured by some of the foremost thought leaders and corporate-practitioners of the country, the multi-disciplinary University focuses on emerging areas of technology and management. NU is a part of a 100-acre campus at Neemrana, Rajasthan, 90 minutes from Delhi Airport.

Nestled in the Aravalli hills, the fully residential green campus offers an idyllic and intellectually vibrant environment for pursuing higher education and research. Set up with the vision to be the role model of learning, research, innovation and sustainability for the knowledge society, NU is dedicated to building great careers and ensuring excellent job opportunities for all its students. It has been developed as an institute of excellence to provide exceptional education based on its Four Core Principles that make learning Industry-linked, Technology-based, Research-driven and Seamless.

NU offers the entire spectrum of academic programs. At the undergraduate level, it offers BTech (Computer Science & Engineering, Electronics & Communication, Biotechnology), 4-year Integrated MBA (Marketing & Marketing Analytics, Entrepreneurship, Finance Banking & FinTech, Business Analytics, Communication & Media studies, Digital & Social Media Marketing), 4-year Integrated MSc (Computer Science), 5-year Integrated MTech and M. Tech (Educational Technology and Geographic Information Systems). In addition, NU also offers MBA, PhD programs and several Industry Sponsored Programs.

https://www.businesswireindia.com/niit-university-welcomes-launch-of-neat-portal-by-mhrd-to-encourage-edtech-startups-66540.html



hindustantimes

Consultancies are launching academies to bridge the academia-industry gap

KPMG, Capgemini, PwC and others are partnering with educational institutes to help graduates and young executives keep pace with changes in their fields.

Updated: Jan 22, 2020 20:16 IST



Every year, millions of students graduate. But more than half of them are unemployed or, if they manage to crack the interviews, struggle to fit into their jobs.

It's not hard to see why. There's a big gap between academics and industry skills. Market forces have made IT, finance, analytics and management industries upgrade at a faster pace than university curriculums can match. Machine learning and automation are entering the industry, widening the gap.

It's no surprise then, that corporate organisations are launching academies to bridge the divide.

KPMG, an international accounting and finance firm, has collaborated with National Institute of Information Technology and started a finance academy. Pricewater-houseCoopers (PwC), a consultancy firm, has come up with their own educational institution for courses in accounting, banking and finance. Capgemini, a global consulting

and technology services company, has an initiative called Digital Academies for courses in coding, SQL and web development.

These academies are not meant to offer a formal education degree, they're for fresh graduates and working professionals to catch up. Courses, meanwhile are geared to the job market, but are open-ended enough that candidates aren't forced to apply only to the companies that have offered them.

"Integration between corporates and the education sector is a significant step, which will help address India's 'employability' issue," says Gagan Rai, MD and CEO of NSDL e-Governance, which provides e-Governance technology solutions in education. They recently came up with scholarship schemes and education loans for students to pursue higher education, in association with TISS. "The companies launching their academies will design courses keeping in mind industry requirements and thus will be more practical," he says.

Merging sectors

At PwC, the idea of an academy came up in 2015-2016, when the finance industry underwent changes in regulations and corporate reporting. The Indian Accounting Standards converged with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and the firm launched PwC's Academy in India in 2017

They conduct diploma courses in International Financial Reporting, which are recognised by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA). They also hold Indian accounting standards workshops for CAs and freshers and have a course called Finance for Non-Finance Professionals. "Training students on the current trends and practices will help organisations grow and retain talent," says Sanjay Tolia, India Markets Leader, PwC India.

In the pipeline are programmes on areas related to internal financial controls, data privacy laws, cyber security and forensics. "The course material is designed with real-life case studies which also calls for the student's business acumen," says Tolia.

At Capgemini, the focus is on digital inclusion, particularly for youth from marginalised backgrounds, unemployed students and LGBTQ individuals within the age-group of 18 – 40 years. Their courses are free and they also reach out to women in STEM and specially-abled people.

They partner with social organisations and NGOs for curriculum design and implementation. There are college visits to identify students who need upskilling. The non-profits then directly connect with the aspiring students through calls or counselling sessions to help them understand the value of the training programme and the employment opportunities potentially arise after.

Currently, they have academies in Mumbai and Pune. "The course content includes both technical skills like coding, cloud, artificial intelligence, web development, and soft skills to enable students with job opportunities," says Anurag Pratap, head of CSR, Capgemini India. Training programmes cover a minimum of 500 hours, less if a trainee has a job experience.

The KPMG-NIIT Academy primarily offers four programmes: One for fresh graduates seeking a career in finance; a similar programme prepare fresh talent for finance jobs; an intermediate programme for companies to upskill and reskill mid-level finance executives and an advanced programme that will help companies to upskill and reskill experienced finance professionals.

"In addition, students from the graduate programme will get placement opportunities for finance and accounting roles," says Karan Marwah, partner and head

Amit Aggarwal, 30, an entrepreneur who works remotely from Mumbai, completed the Diploma in Taxation programme at NIIT Gurgaon, in collaboration with KPMG. "It wasn't like the usual classroom training where you are given a set of notes and industry professionals share their experiences," he says. "Here, the mentor was an expert from KPMG, and used recent case-studies, unlike the 20-25 year old ones that we are taught in college." The team was encourage to collaborate on situation-based problems. "These exercises made us understand how professionals deal with cases in organisations," he says.

While such programmes help students fit for the industry they are set to enter, niche courses can have a flip side, says Karan Gupta, a Mumbai-based education counsellor. "Earlier there used to be just the basic training of 1-2 weeks by the companies," he says. Now, the training is prolonged, but the offerings might be too niche. If any course is too specific, it leaves out soft skills and gets too technical. Students might not be able to transfer that knowledge across other jobs."

https://www.hindustantimes.com/education/consultancies-are-launching-academies-to-bridge-the-academia-industrygap/storv-b4ISAwNhDRgXODMW62T03L.html





NIIT Foundation organize 'Beacon of HOPE' - A tryst towards bringing equal opportunity for the specially-abled

NIIT Foundation organises 'Beacon of HOPE' - A tryst towards bringing equal opportunity for specially-abled

ANI | Updated: Feb 14, 2020 12:18 IS

New Delhi [India] Feb 14 (ANI/BusinessWire India): NIIT Foundation, a not-for-profit education society organised 'Beacon of HOPE' - a tryst towards bringing an equal opportunity for the specially-abled, in New Delhi on February 12, 2020.

The day-long event was a mix of panel discussions, success stories, experience sharing and demonstrations on technology inclusive education. The key highlights were a panel discussion on 'Transformation towards Inclusive Education' and a lively skit performed by the specially-abled students.

NIIT Foundation and Microsoft India have been working together on several projects to make the specially-abled digitally inclusive and employable. This event was organised to raise awareness of the role of technology to address the challenges emerging in this

The Beacon of HOPE event showcased Microsoft India and NIIT Foundation's projects that are working towards making 'digital learning' accessible to thousands of underprivileged children and youth.

The projects are designed to provide employability skills to these students and empower them to build a career for themselves.

Many stakeholders including government officials, NGOs, special educators and employment partners working in the area of disability were invited to this event.

JuthikaPatankar - IAS, Addl Secy, MSDE - Government of India was the chief guest. Other key guests included Manju Dashmana - CSR Lead Microsoft India, Ruma Roka - Founder, Noida Deaf Society, Manindar Singh Nayyar - Co-Chairman, Assocham India, Dr Maneesh Mishra - Head, Sankalp, MSDE, Govt of India, Anup K Srivastava - CEO, SCPwD, P Rajendran - Joint Managing Director, NIIT Ltd, and senior leadership from NIIT Foundation were also present at the event.

"To bring about a positive transformation for the specially-abled, it is important for the entire eco-system to come together towards this cause. The government, NGOs, corporates, and educators need to work together to create and ensure the inclusion of PwD", said Sapna Moudgil, Director, NIIT Foundation.

The key discussions during the event highlighted the efforts made by Corporates and NGOs in this direction, and the emerging demand for the right training, environment & tools to make the specially-abled employable. The need for government and corporate towards providing more placement opportunities was also discussed.

The corporate stakeholders present at the event indicated, that the need for technology has always been there but projects like these showcase the realistic benefits of

https://www.aninews.in/news/business/niit-foundation-organises-beacon-of-hope-a-tryst-towards-bringing-equal-opportunity-for-specially-abled20200214121748/



The Telegraph

Tricks of trading with a technological giant next door

Sailbal Dasgupta's book, Running With the Dragon, is intended to be prescriptive — telling Indian companies how they can do better at exploiting China's market, albeit belatedly

By Penelope MacRae Published 24.01.20, 12:00 PMUpdated 24.01.20, 7:18 PM



Living next door to China, the world's most populous nation, Indian firms might reasonably have been expected to make a serious attempt to penetrate its market. Instead, companies have displayed mainly apathy. Even when they have given it a shot, their efforts have been largely half-hearted and they have failed to do their homework, says veteran China hand, Saibal Dasgupta, in his new book, Running With the Dragon. "The foot-dragging demonstrated by Indian companies in the face of opportunities in China is astonishing," he writes.

Dasgupta's book is intended to be prescriptive — telling Indian companies how they can do better at exploiting China's market, albeit belatedly. This makes it a vital read for firms keen to do business there. Still, while the subtitle is "How India Should Do Business With China", it cannot help being more a primer on how India should not do business with China. Dasgupta's tales of gaffes tumble out. For instance, he recounts

how many Indian events serve dinner, mostly Indian fare, far later than the Chinese 6 pm eating hour and how he has spied Chinese guests scoffing food in their cars before going inside to wait, possibly hours, for a proper meal.

A lot of other things have gone wrong, too, and some are pretty basic, such as India's lack of sufficient Mandarin translators. Then, there is knowing the market. Dasgupta says the Chinese invest heavily in understanding foreign cultures and markets and that is why Chinese brands like Xiaomi, Haier, Huawei, ZTE and Lenovo have become household names in urban India. Chinese money has also gone into internet-related businesses in India, such as Alibaba, which plunked \$500 million in Snapdeal and \$700 million in Paytm. Much of Chinese investment has come since the prime minister, Narendra Modi, took office in 2014. (Modi made four visits to China while he was Gujarat chief minister and his state was the biggest Chinese investment recipient during that period.)

Another dispiriting indication of how serious Indian business has been about cracking China's market is the fact that none of the hundreds of industry associations covering different sectors in India has a Chinese office. The lone significant presence is the Confederation of Indian Industry's Shanghai office. Indian business "is still shying away from China either because it is unable to realize the available potential or [does] not want to take pains even where big profits can be made," says Dasgupta. Hardly any Indian consumer-product brand, with the exception of Tata Motors's Jaguar (still viewed by the Chinese as British), has gained a foothold in China.

Still, there are a few Indian firms which have made it big in China, like the educational giant, National Institute of Information Technology, whose story makes instructive reading. NIIT works closely with universities and colleges in China to train students in information technology and with Chinese and multinational companies to provide solutions for sourcing, training and hiring IT professionals. The NIIT chairman, Rajendra Singh Pawar, said he went to China in 1996 on a vacation. "As a rule, I go to a country for a short vacation if I plan to launch business in it... It became very obvious to me that it was going to be useful for the Chinese society to partner with us in education and skill-building," Pawar said. Of course, NIIT faced a steep learning curve. "We had to model and remodel our business [to meet local needs]," Pawar said. China was too large a country for NIIT to invest the money needed to build a consumer brand so it opted to be a B2B — do business with business. NIIT has trained over half a million students in IT skills in its two decades in China and boasts an over 90 per cent job placement rate. Asked about the secret sauce for NIIT's China success, Pawar replied, "We try to put ourselves in the shoes of the customer completely". There are other companies, too, that have fared well in China, like Infosys and TCS, which have piggybacked on their international corporate connections to source and grow their businesses in the country. But trade remains overwhelmingly tilted in favour of China in value terms. India buys from China triple of what it sells. India's China imports, ranging from electrical machinery to semiconductors and fertilizers, totalled \$58.1 billion in 2018. By contrast, India's exports were \$18.83 billion, according to Chinese official data. There is vast untapped possibility, though, for India to export more, says Prabir De, the Asean-India Centre coordinator at RIS, in areas from rice, horticulture and cotton to jewellery and chemical products. But the standout export potential lies in pharmaceuticals. China has just opened up the sector to meet huge domestic demand for high-quality, low-cost drugs. (American generic prices might seem expensive, but they are on average only 55 per cent of the cost in China, according to Credit Suisse.) Analysts reckon that China's policy to make its healthcare system more affordable means Indian drug exports could soar 30-fold in the next two years to \$1 billion.

Dasgupta says that China's market is for long-distance runners and those seeking quick profits need not apply. Political risks from bilateral ups-and-downs will continue to challenge investors in both countries. But a 2019 McKinsey report forecast \$6-trillion Chinese consumption growth that will grow through to 2030, a sum equivalent to the combined consumption growth projected for the United States of America and Western Europe over the same period. Opportunities for Indian and other foreign firms are so enormous that it is "simply absurd for any company... to stay out of China," Dasgupta says. "The cost is not excessive if one takes into account the cost of losing opportunities." Now is possibly the best time to engage with China in the face of the Donald Trump administration's punishing trade war against the country, he concludes

https://www.telegraphindia.com/culture/books/book-review-running-with-the-dragon-how-india-should-do-business-with-china

-by-saibal-dasgupta/cid/1739063





NIIT University Welcomes Launch of NEAT Portal by MHRD to Encourage EdTech Startups

By iednewsdesk -January 12, 2020

Dehradun: Established with a vision to bring about innovation in higher education and learning in emerging areas of the knowledge society, the not-for-profit NIIT University (NU) is excited to be a part of MHRD's pioneering initiative NEAT (National Education Alliance for Technology) to encourage EdTech start-up culture amongst students in the country. The University looks forward to working with AICTE to implement MHRD's vision of harnessing technology for better learning outcomes.

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The initial selection of the EdTech companies for the NEAT initiative, was done in a very innovative way by crowd sourcing suggestions from faculty members and students across the country.

To encourage the scheme of MHRD, so that more faculty members and students come forward in the forthcoming selection of EdTech companies, NU will institute 5 awards of 50,000/- each for faculty members and 10 awards for students of Rs. 10,000/- each. The awards will be determined through a rigorous process and will be announced at an appropriate time.

Being the University of the Future with an emphasis on Innovation & Entrepreneurship with deep interest in Education Technology, NU has been laying emphasis in usage of Technologies right from inception in all areas of the University including academic operations, assessments & examinations and administration.

About NU

Established in 2009, NIIT University (NU) is a not-for-profit University covered under section 2(f) of UGC Act and notified by the Government of Rajasthan. A premier institution of higher learning and research, NU seeks to create original thinkers who will lead the knowledge society of the future. The University inherits four decades of rich expertise and global know-how of its principal sponsor, the NIIT Group.

Nurtured by some of the foremost thought leaders and corporate-practitioners of the country, the multi-disciplinary University focuses on emerging areas of technology and management. NU is a part of a 100-acre campus at Neemrana, Rajasthan, 90 minutes from Delhi Airport.

Nestled in the Aravalli hills, the fully residential green campus offers an idyllic and intellectually vibrant environment for pursuing higher education and research. Set up with the vision to be the role model of learning, research, innovation and sustainability for the knowledge society, NU is dedicated to building great careers and ensuring excellent job opportunities for all its students. It has been developed as an institute of excellence to provide exceptional education based on its Four Core Principles that make learning Industry-linked, Technology-based, Research-driven and Seamless.

NU offers the entire spectrum of academic programs. At the undergraduate level, it offers BTech (Computer Science & Engineering, Electronics & Communication, Biotechnology), 4-year Integrated MBA (Marketing & Marketing Analytics, Entrepreneurship, Finance Banking & FinTech, Business Analytics, Communication & Media studies, Digital & Social Media Marketing), 4-year Integrated MSc (Computer Science), 5-year Integrated MTech and M. Tech (Educational Technology and Geographic Information Systems). In addition, NU also offers MBA, PhD programs and several Industry Sponsored Programs.

https://indiaeducationdiary.in/niit-university-welcomes-launch-of-neat-portal-by-mhrd-to-encourage-edtech-startups/



Business Standard

NIIT University welcomes launch of NEAT portal by MHRD to encourage EdTech startups

ANI Last Updated at January 12, 2020 18:20 IST

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This story is provided by BusinessWire India.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/niit-university-welcomes-launch-of-neat-portal-by-mhrd-to-encourage-edtech
-startups-120011200605 1.html



THE TIMES OF INDIA

FDUCATION

NIIT to not hold classes in Delhi-NCR centres due to coronavirus pandemic

PTI | Mar 13, 2020, 14:47 IST







Skills and talent development company NIIT on Friday said it will not hold classes in its education centres located in Delhi-NCR until further notice amid the coronavirus outbreak.



Representational Image

NEW DELHI: Skills and talent development company NIIT on Friday said it will not hold classes in its education centres located in Delhi-NCR until further notice amid the coronavirus outbreak.

"In compliance with Delhi government order to close all educational institutions as a precautionary measure to control COVID-19 spread, NIIT

has decided not to hold classes in its education centres located in Delhi- NCR, until further notice," NIIT Senior Vice President (Corporate Communications and Marketing) Prateek Chatterjee said in a statement.

He added that the company is reviewing the situation and will keep the students informed on a regular basis.

"Till such time the classes restart, we are working on online modes of imparting training to our learners to minimise disruption," he said.

The number of $\underline{\text{coronavirus}}$ patients in India has risen to 75, as per health ministry records.

The national capital has so far recorded six cases of coronavirus.

The Delhi government on Thursday ordered all educational institutions in the national capital including schools and colleges to be closed till March 31 in view of the coronavirus outbreak.

More than 1,30,000 cases of the novel coronavirus have been recorded in 116 countries and territories, killing at least 4,900 people.

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/niit-to-not-hold-classes-in-delhi-ncr-centres-due-to-coronavirus-pandemic/articleshow/74610128.cms



Business Standard

Coronavirus: NIIT to not hold classes in Delhi-NCR centres

Press Trust of India | New Delhi Last Updated at March 13, 2020 14:20 IST

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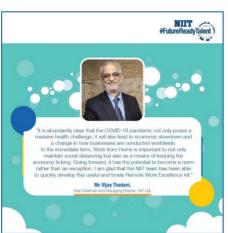
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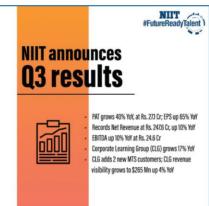
https://twitter.com/NIITLtd





















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