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THE CHANGEMAKERS

“Creating transformative, new learning models”

Education is one of those fields where once you enter, you get so engrossed that you just don't feel like leaving it. It is very engaging, very purposeful and very satisfying to work in this space. To me, there is nothing more gratifying than helping people realize their true potential – something that education convincingly achieves. For us, this tryst with learning began with the setting up of NIIT in 1981. We decided to launch the company at a time when there was a growing realization that computers are going to be very important. At that time, while the IT arena was in its nascent stage, there were virtually no places that people could go to for acquiring knowledge in this field.

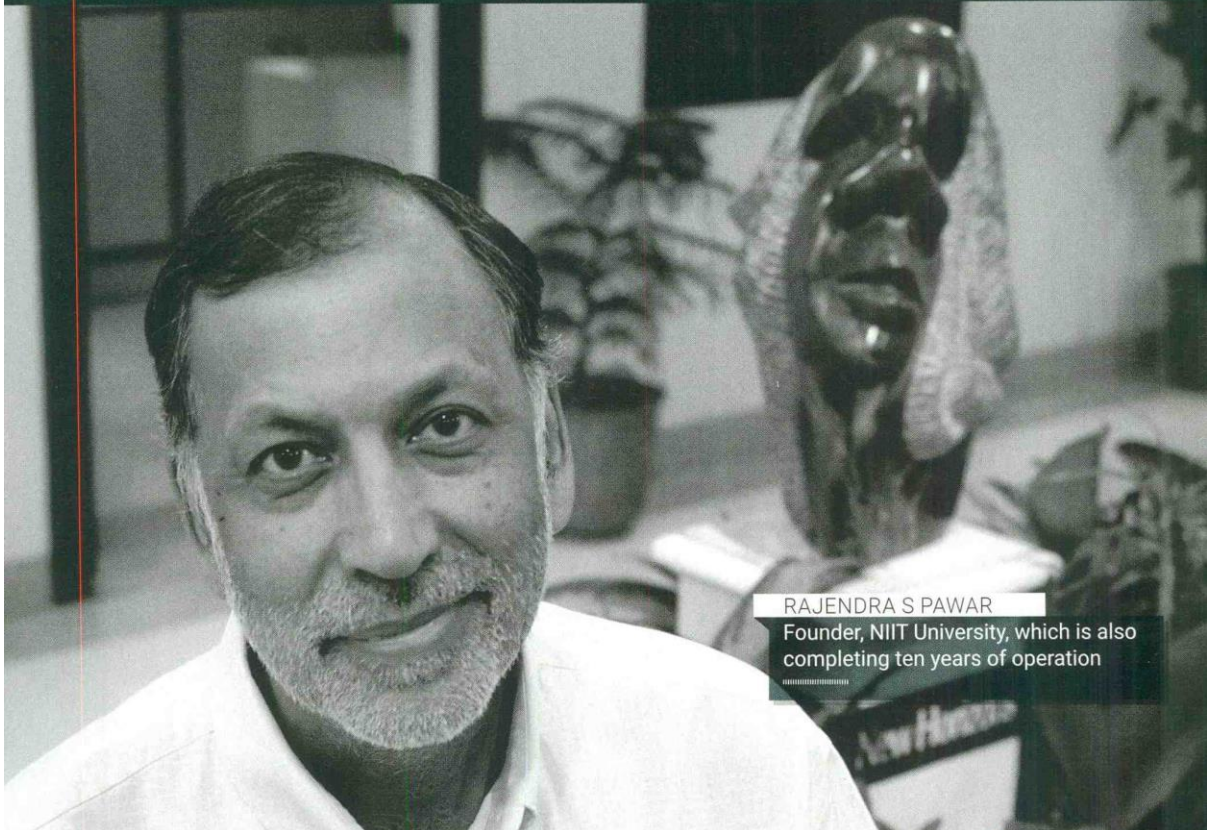
It was this scenario that led us to conceive a simple mission statement for NIIT—“Bringing people and computers together, successfully”. We started out with this mission and have stayed with it. During NIIT's 38-year journey—where we operated in more than 38 countries – we have impacted around 38 million people!

Our idea was to build talent that could be hired by the fledgling Indian IT sector and leveraged to accelerate its growth. We wanted to catch them young, improve the employability quotient of India's graduates and undergraduates, and enable them to build careers in the sunrise IT industry.

While NIIT has been operating for 38 years, we as founders started another venture 10 years ago in the higher education space by setting up not-for-profit NIIT University (NU).

On one hand, NIIT Ltd symbolizes scale and width, on the other, NU focuses on scope and depth. When we established NU, it was with the purpose of undertaking extensive innovation in the area of higher education. Our aspiration is to build revolutionary, innovative education model that would catalyse reform in the area of formal education in India.

Let me sum up by saying that while the last 38 years of NIIT have helped us build skills at scale globally, the last 10 years of NU are seeing us explore and create new learning models that can help transform higher education in India. □



RAJENDRA S PAWAR

Founder, NIIT University, which is also completing ten years of operation