

NIIT poised to focus on digital training

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Kolkata: IT education major NIIT is going for a sea change in its skills and talents development business. It is planning a complete brand makeover in the next few years via what it calls the DigiNxt Series, under which it will shift its whole general IT education and training modules towards futuristic technologies like robotics, virtual reality, cyber-security, MEAN stack, big data, design thinking, cloud stack, internet of things (IOT) stack, artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Rahul Patwardhan, chief executive, NIIT Ltd, told TOI, "DigiNxt Series is going to transform NIIT's DNA. It is our most important strategy to fuel our targeted 20% EBIDTA growth in the coming years. Of India's over 4 million IT workforce, at least 3.5 million need reskilling in future technologi-

es as companies are leaving no stone unturned to maintain an edge over their global competition. NIIT DigiNxt will also fill the vacuum in the fresher entry path."

NIIT, the IT training pioneer that has trained over 35 million people since 1981, is making its courses shorter, slimmer and smarter (a three-month-long, industry-ready, project-based course will cost Rs 80,000). To begin with, NIIT will offer retail training programmes under the DigiNxt portfolio in its 150 centres to train up to 25,000 professionals a year. The IT education giant has 300 centres across India.

Today, an entry-level and experienced professional with digital skills attracts 50% to 60% higher salaries than those with traditional IT skills. Industry experts also believe, digitally transformed organizations are 26% more profitable than their industry competitors.