NIIT

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NIIT in the News
July - September 2017

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

NIIT's Sapnesh Lalla assumes charge as Chief Executive Officer of the company

ET Bureau|Updated: Aug 01, 2017, 02.32 PM IST

Lalla's focus would be to drive forward strategies aligned to the requirements of the economy that is witnessing digital disruption.

NEW DELHI: NIIT Ltd announced that Sapnesh Lalla who has been leading NIIT's Global Corporate Business, has assumed charge as the Chief Executive Officer of the company starting August.

Lalla's focus would be to drive forward strategies aligned to the requirements of the economy that is witnessing digital disruption.

Vijay Thadani, vice chairman, NIIT Limited said, "With his global experience and keen understanding of disruptions that the economy is currently undergoing, he will be responsible for establishing the company as a leader in the digital learning space."

Lalla joined NIIT in 1992 as a project lead in the Learning Content Development team and has since held various management and leadership roles in product management, customer support, channel development, sales, and support functions.

Earlier, he led critical initiatives for the expansion of the company in North America and Europe including significant acquisitions like Cognitive Arts and Element K.

He is an Electronics and Communications Engineer, and received his Executive Education at the Ross School of Business, University of Michigan. He was selected into the prestigious Managing Director's Quality Club and has the distinction of receiving the coveted Global Leadership Award twice in 2001 and 2010.

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/niits-sapnesh-lalla-assumes-charge-as-chief-executive-officer-of-the-company/articleshow/59861260.cms

Sapnesh Lalla, CEO, NIIT Ltd ... Corporate Radar, Zee Business
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Sapnesh Lalla, CEO, NIIT Ltd talks about the company outlook on Corporate Radar, Zee Business

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4PnuiYo2MY

NIIT to train employees in banking, insurance sectors

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, September 13

NIIT Ltd will soon provide training programmes to employees for financial services and insurance sectors, said its CEO Sapnesh Lalla, without giving a time frame for the launch.

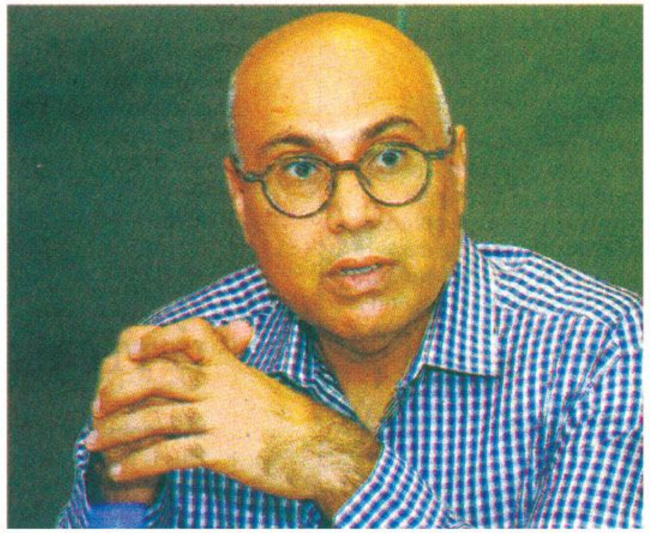
With India's middle income rising, financial services and insurance are two under-penetrated sectors so far but have enormous potential to grow in next 5-10 years. Family income is growing, and people need to secure their assets and wealth. This trend will in turn lead to demand for financial services and insurance products, and the two sectors will recruit employees in large numbers, he told newspersons.

NIIT has already established as a strong player in providing training for employees in the banking sector. In the last five years, the company had trained nearly 50,000 in areas such as sales and customer relationship for banking sector. This model will be replicated for financial services and insurance sectors, he said.

In the banking sector, NIIT has ICICI as an anchor client, and many other banks as clients. Similarly, it will have anchor clients in both financial services and insurance sectors, he said.

For NIIT, nearly 65 per cent of revenue comes from the corporate business providing training to employees of clients such as Shell, Salesforce.com, SAP, GSK and Rolls Royce. The balance is from retail business and school segments, he said.

On demand from IT and ITeS segment, Lalla said the sector continues to grow and there is a huge demand to re-skill employees.



Sapnesh Lalla, CEO, NIIT Ltd, at a press conference in Chennai on Wednesday BIJOY GHOSH

Hindu Business Line, New Delhi, *September 14, 2017*

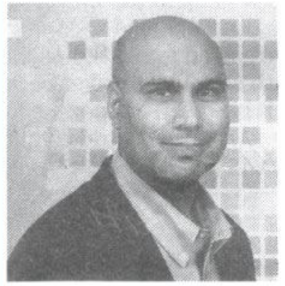
NIIT to enter financial services, insurance

CHENNAI

NIIT Ltd. plans to expand its product portfolio by entering new sectors such as financial services and insurance, said a top official. "IT and IT-enabled services are going to be strong growth drivers not only for NIIT, but for the country. If the industry, does not transform itself, it will die," said Sapnesh Lalla, chief executive officer. "Insurance is has been an under-penetrated sector for the last few years. Now it is opening up," said Mr. Lalla.

Hindu, Bangalore
September 14, 2017

NIIT to offer training programme in BFSI sector



Chennai: Skill and talent development firm NIIT soon provide training programmes to employeesfor financial services and insurance sectors, said its CEO Sapnesh Lalla. NIIT, which provides training for employees in the banking sector, estimates financial services and insurance sectors to grow over the next five years. He also said that there is a huge demand to re-skill IT employees.

The New Indian Express, Chennai, *September 15, 2017*

BW BUSINESSWORLD

NIIT Appoints Sapnesh Lalla As CEO

As the CEO of NIIT, his focus would be to drive forward strategies aligned to the requirements of the economy that is witnessing digital disruption

01 August 2017 by BW Online Bureau

Indian management training company NIIT Ltd on Tuesday (1 August) has announced the appointment of Sapnesh Lalla as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the from from August 1, 2017.

As the CEO of NIIT, his focus would be to drive forward strategies aligned to the requirements of the economy that is witnessing digital disruption.

Vijay Thadani, Vice Chairman & MD, NIIT Ltd said, "We are delighted to have Sapnesh Lalla taking charge of the company at a time when our business transformation initiatives have started to yield results and the company is firmly back on a growth path. With his global experience and keen understanding of disruptions that the economy is currently undergoing, Sapnesh will be responsible for establishing NIIT as a leader in the digital learning space."

Sapnesh joined NIIT in 1992 as a Project Lead in the Learning Content Development team and has since held various management and leadership roles in product management, customer support, channel development, sales, and support functions.

Prior to his appointment as CEO, Sapnesh served as the President of NIIT's Global Corporate Business, which constitutes nearly seventy percent of NIIT's total business.

"The world is going through a spate of very substantial disruptions. "Digital" is changing how we and our customers do and will do everything. The millennial workforce works and learns differently. Soon we will have an average lifespan of 100 years. Education and Training are the best known enablers of change. As I look ahead, I see a great opportunity for us to create new value for our customers and grow," Said Sapnesh Lalla, CEO, NIIT Ltd.

Sapnesh Lalla is an Electronics and Communications Engineer, and received his Executive Education at the Ross School of Business, University of Michigan.

http://www.businessworld.in/article/NIIT-Appoints-Sapnesh-Lalla-As-CEO/01-08-2017-123280/

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bt businesstoday.in

Firms need digital talent to curb disruption

Prakash Menon New Delhi Last Updated: July 31, 2017 | 00:00 IST

Businesses today are operating in a world where everything is digitised. They realise that going the digital way to engage with their clients and maintain relevance in the industry is the key to success. Acknowledging this change is one part of the process, but another, and equally important part is becoming a part of this transformation at the required pace.

According to research, automation will take over many jobs, including professional jobs, shortly. A survey, conducted to check the probability of accounting and auditing jobs becoming automated in the next 20 years, pegged the score at almost 94 per cent. For some tax preparation roles, this likelihood climbs to almost 99 per cent. Many other (and non-related) industries saw similarly high estimates. Another study done by the Oxford University estimated that mobile robots and smart computers - those who learn on the job - make it likely that occupations employing about half of today's US workers could be possibly automated in the next decade or so.

Respond to change

The first step towards accepting the digital disruption is an assessment of the company's digital maturity. It includes understanding the way technology is being integrated into the business now and the larger picture of how the digital movement will affect the company. For this, the companies will need to rethink the entire business plan and method of operation. The digital strategy that the company develops must be comprehensive beyond marketing. Keeping the profit motive in mind will not be wrong, but this should be done in conjunction with meeting the demands of customers, suppliers and employees as well as investors. The focus needs to be on innovation.

Hertz, the car rental company, started self-service kiosks in 2007. In 2011, it added the digital innovation factor to these kiosks by moving to dual-screen kiosks - one screen to select rental options via touchscreen and a second screen at eye level to communicate with a customer agent using real-time video.

Take employment game to the next level

The workplace itself is undergoing a significant change in these times of digital transformation. In the UK alone, 4.64 million people are self-employed while in the US, 34 per cent of the workforce is freelancing. These numbers are growing by the day. It is expected that by 2025, 72 per cent millennials will be a part of the workforce. Now, these are the people who are technologically comfortable and can accept change with ease. The perception of an employee being physically present at the workplace is also changing as is the concept of a working day. These fundamental transformations affect the way businesses work, and the sooner the companies accept this fact, the better it is for their growth. Companies must learn how to attract and retain the right talent in a market that is constantly changing. The skills that an employer looks for should be relevant for today as well as for tomorrow.

Get new tech talent

The key lies in hiring the right technology talent. Over the next five years, enterprises will invest about hundreds of millions of dollars - and some of them more than a billion dollar - to fuel digital transformation. Acquiring top engineering talent can yield double-digit investment savings by accelerating the transformation process by even 20 to 30 per cent. However, finding such talent can be a challenge. Before starting the hiring spree, digital businesses must identify the key capabilities they need. It will determine the skills and strengths that new talent must possess.

While this may vary depending on geography, market and target audience, there are some skills that should be part of every digital business's talent pool. These include:

Machine learning engineers: Companies are quickly adapting machine learning. P&G collaborated with the Los Alamos National Laboratory to create statistical methods to streamline processes and increase uptime in its factories, saving more than $1 billion a year. Thus, businesses need new-age engineers who can read and interpret data and program in scalable computing environments.

Experience creators: Customer experience remains a key focus area in the digital age. Thus, companies will need talent who can deliver this experience. These roles will often include UX designers, who will deliver human-centred designs, and front-end engineers, who will translate these designs into exceptional experiences.

Agility coaches: Agile development lies at the heart of the digital technology engine. Thus, organisations will need scrum masters and agile coaches to scale the agile culture across different teams. These coaches have good convincing skills and can communicate effectively. Their key responsibility is to put in place measurable key performance indicators (KPIs) and metrics to track progress.

Full stack developers: The rapidly changing technology landscape needs developers who are fluent across all technology components, including web/mobile user interface, middleware micro services and backend databases, and have expertise in more than one area. These people have at least eight to ten years of software engineering experience and deep expertise with one or two core programming languages (Java, .NET, Node.js and so on).

What it takes to succeed

Companies that are willing to transform themselves and embrace new technology have been successful. The UK grocery retailer Tesco acquired video-streaming service Blinkbox, digital music store We7 and e-book platform Mobcast. All these enabled the company to quickly acquire skills to keep up to date with the digital media.

Another example is Walmart that missed the bus on the digital wave initially and fared poorly compared to Amazon. But in 2011, it established WalmartLabs, an idea incubator, as part of its growing e-commerce division in Silicon Valley. The unified, company-wide e-commerce platform that was built, thus, helped Walmart increase online revenues by 30 per cent in 2013, outpacing Amazon's rate of growth.

The ball now is in the court of business houses to rise to the challenge or bear the brunt of the digital change. They should pursue innovation and make changes in their business models (to the extent of completely disrupting it) before the competition gets the better of them. Without a digital plan in place, companies will only end up losing their business. The threat of digital disruption is more serious than it might appear. It is because technology changes at an exponential rate, giving rise to new platforms that the companies need to incorporate into their scheme of growth.

Prakash Menon is President, Global Retail Business, NIIT Ltd

http://www.businesstoday.in/opinion/columns/firms-need-digital-talent-to-curb-disruption/story/257446.html

NIIT eyes link with private engg colleges

Times News Network

Kolkata: NIIT, the leading managed training services provider for IT and banking technologies, is talking to private engineering colleges to build a direct association for student up-skilling programmes.

On the sidelines of an interaction programme with the private technology and engineering colleges in Kolkata, NIIT CEO Sapnesh Lala, CEO, told **TOI**: "Over 30% of the existing technologies are changing every year. It is difficult for the government as well as private engineering colleges to keep up with the rapid pace of change in the IT domain. Students, corporate employees and job aspirants are not waiting for any authority to train them. They are investing on their own to become industry-ready professionals."

According to Lala, both the engineering-IT graduates as well as the general stream passouts are joining this digital transformation programmes. "Over 80% of the engineering grads are looking for IT openings. And there lies our potential as an IT training institue in India," he added.

NIIT imparts training to 120,000 students in 250 training centres, including 70 metro units, across the country. "We are running on 55%-57% capacity utilization in our training centres. So, there is no question of unveiling new centres or increasing the number for now. With our current capacity, we can add up to 40% more students," Lala added. The institute 4,200 students enrolled in its 19 centres in Bengal.

The NIIT CEO claimed that the institute's current size in India is larger than all its competitors put together and 70%-80% of NIIT passouts are getting jobs.

The Times of India, Banglalore
September 12, 2017

Digital & Social Media Marketing EP at IIMC

IIMC HAS global reputation, imparting high quality management education

In association with Training.com - a multi-modal learning platform by NIIT, IIM Calcutta announced the second batch of the Executive Program in Digital and Social Media Marketing Strategy to help build a career in the field of digital marketing. The six-month programme focuses on providing in-depth knowledge on digital marketing and analytics, including developing holistic digital and social media strategy, designing success metrics that are aligned to corporate marketing strategy, cross-platform and cross-media digital marketing using Big Data etc. It will emphasize on sharing the latest trends, best practices and technologies for effective Digital Marketing.

Careers360, *September 17, 2017*

Convocation

ACHIEVERS OF 'Sponsored IT Program' project

Corporates pick IT-trained youth from the northeast

Giving hope to the employment dreams of IT-trained youth in the northeastern States, leading corporates across India like Hyundai, Renault, Reliance, Cognizant, Aegis and TCS have given placements to over 1000 youths who successfully completed 'Sponsored IT program of Department of Information Technology' of the Meghalaya government. Meghalaya government's IT Department in association with NIIT recently felicitated students from across the State who cleared NIIT's certification programmes. Companies that absorbed candidates also included Genpact, Infosys, WIPRO, Accenture, Airtel, TATA Indicom, HDFC and Bajaj Capital, to name a few. The students were trained in programmes such as Diploma in Finance & Accounting; Diploma in Business Systems & Information Management; Diploma in Hardware and Networking, Program in Managing Interconnected Network Devices and Network Administration and Server Fundamental.

Careers360, National, *September 2017*

NIIT bets on skills & career training

A STAFF REPORTER

Calcutta, Sept. 11: NIIT Ltd remains bullish about its skills and career business segment on the back of rising technology spend by global companies.

The Indian multinational company providing learning management and training solutions has three business verticals — corporate learning, skills and career, and school learning.

The skills and career development business constituted 27 per cent of NIIT's net revenue in 2016-17 (Rs 1,187 crore), down 3 per cent over the previous year. However, Sapnesh Lalla, the chief executive officer of NIIT, said the company's investment in expanding the training programmes would yield.

"IT is a major growth driver. The banking sector is going through technological disruptions but we expect that to stabilise. We have invested significantly in digital transformation and over the next three years, we expect the growth rates to touch mid-teens (around 16 per cent)," Lalla told **The Telegraph.**

Estimates from Nasscom suggest that 80 per cent of the incremental spending on IT is expected to be in digital technology. For NIIT, this presents an opportunity of reskilling a large number of professionals in IT services.

LEARNING CURVE

NIIT net revenue in FY17

	In Rs m	% rise
Corporate learning	7,662	35
Skills & careers	3,230	-3
School learning	979	-8

The company expects to exit government schools by 2019-20 as part of an ongoing restructuring. "Over the next year an half, we expect to be done with all the projects and we are not taking any new contracts. We will focus on private schools and every quarter we are adding new contracts," said Lalla.

Slow cash realisation from government projects is a major reason for backing out of the sector. Dues from government school contracts are around Rs 50 crore.

Bengal capacity

In Bengal, NIIT operates 19 centres. Last year, it had registered around 4,200 enrolments. But the capacity utilisation is only around 55-60 per cent, reflecting the slow demand for skilled professionals.

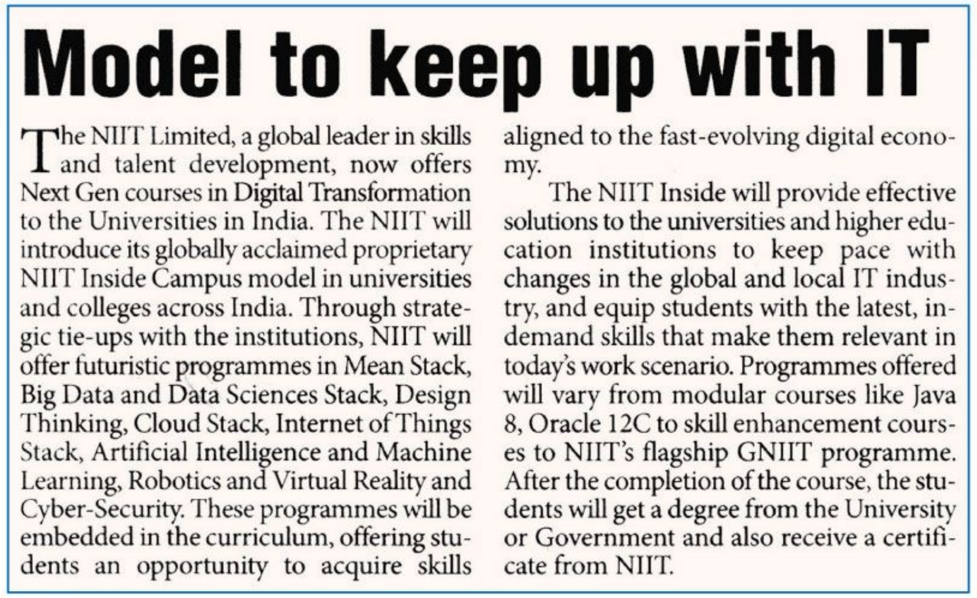
Lalla, however, said the scenario could change with employment opportunities being created in the IT space in the backdrop of Infosys announcing its decision to set up a development centre in the state.

Telegraph, Kolkata, *September 12, 2017*

NIIT prepares for future digital transformation

LUCKNOW: NIIT Limited aims to create a global workforce in Lucknow by offering futuristic digital transformation career programmes to the students in the city. On offer are programmes under the DigiNxt series, like MEAN Stack, Big Data & Data Sciences Stack, Cloud Stack and Cyber-Security. These will offer students an opportunity to acquire skills aligned to the fast-evolving digital economy. Vice chairman & managing director, NIIT Limited Vijay Thadani. said, "The DigiNxt series is aligned to UP government's most ambitious project 'Make in UP' - a start-up fund for promoting MSMEs within the state. The policy aims at the state-centric 'Make in UP' project, in alignment with the Centre's flagship 'Make in India' mission."

Hindustan Times, Lucknow, *September 01, 2017*

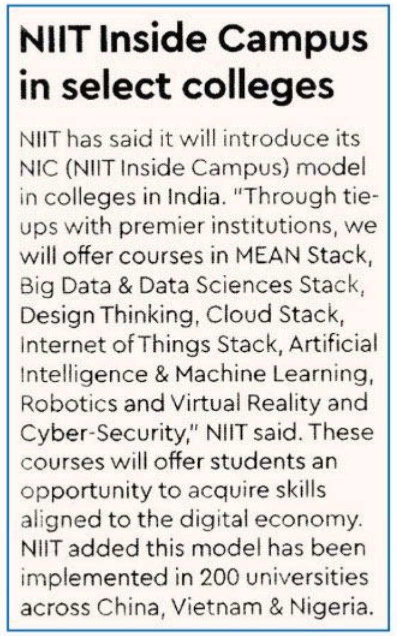


Model to keep up with IT

The NIIT Limited, a global leader in skills and talent development, now offers Next Gen courses in Digital Transformation to the Universities in India. The NIIT will introduce its globally acclaimed proprietary NIIT Inside Campus model in universities and colleges across India. Through strategic tie-ups with the institutions, NIIT will offer futuristic programmes in Mean Stack, Big Data and Data Sciences Stack, Design Thinking, Cloud Stack, Internet of Things Stack, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Robotics and Virtual Reality and Cyber-Security. These programmes will be embedded in the curriculum, offering students an opportunity to acquire skills aligned to the fast-evolving digital economy.

The NIIT Inside will provide effective solutions to the universities and higher education institutions to keep pace with changes in the global and local IT industry, and equip students with the latest, in-demand skills that make them relevant in today's work scenario. Programmes offered will vary from modular courses like Java 8, Oracle 12C to skill enhancement courses to NIIT's flagship GNIIT programme. After the completion of the course, the students will get a degree from the University or Government and also receive a certificate from NIIT.

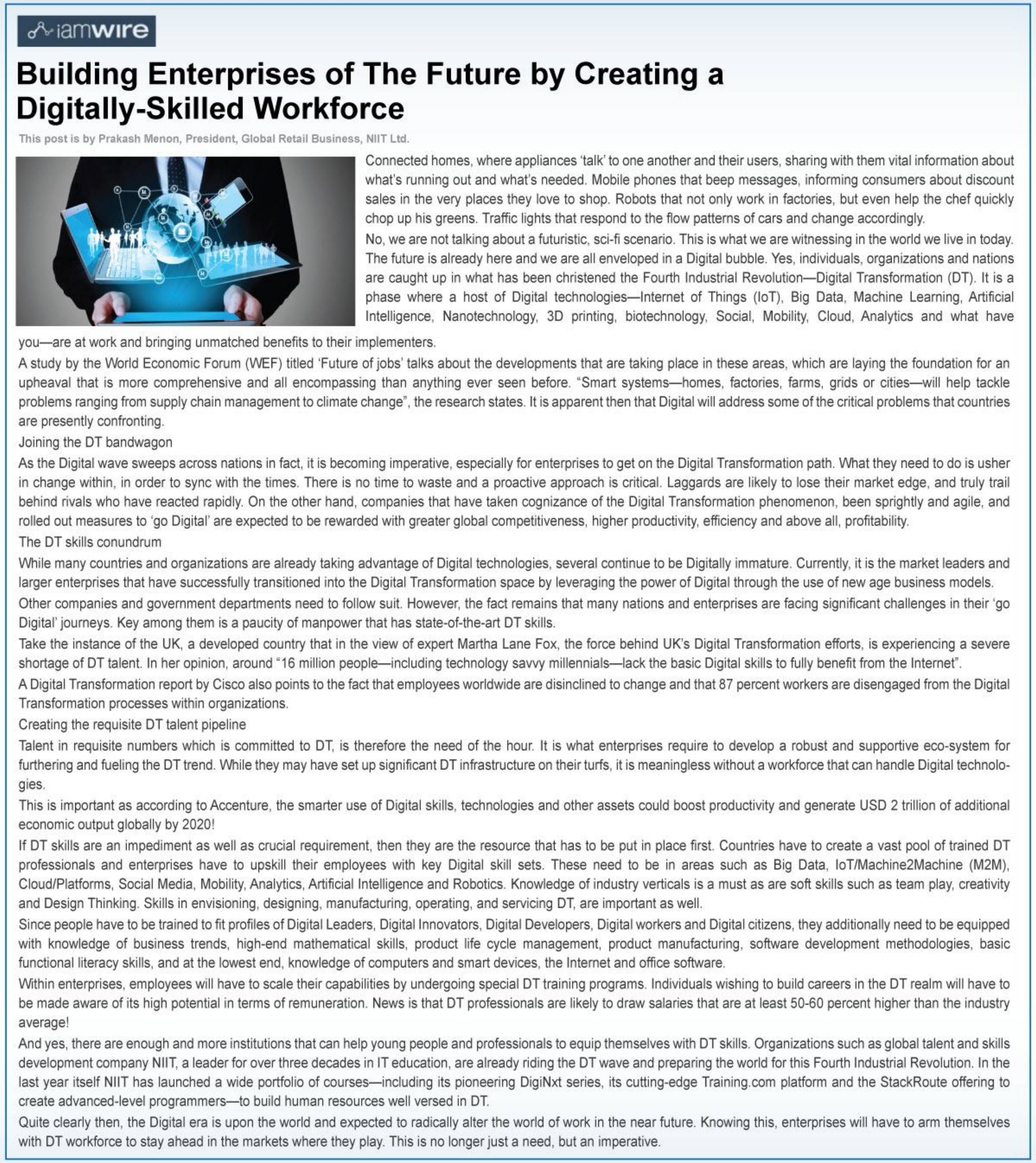
Pioneer, New Delhi, *July 26, 2017*



NIIT Inside Campus in select colleges

NIIT has said it will introduce its NIC (NIIT Inside Campus) model in colleges in India. "Through tie-ups with premier institutions, we will offer courses in MEAN Stack, Big Data & Data Sciences Stack, Design Thinking, Cloud Stack, Internet of Things Stack, Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, Robotics and Virtual Reality and Cyber-Security," NIIT said. These courses will offer students an opportunity to acquire skills aligned to the digital economy. NIIT added this model has been implemented in 200 universities across China, Vietnam & Nigeria.

Financial Express, New Delhi
July 24, 2017



iamwire

Building Enterprises of The Future by Creating a Digitally-Skilled Workforce

This post is by Prakash Menon, President, Global Retail Business, NIIT Ltd.

Connected homes, where appliances 'talk' to one another and their users, sharing with them vital information about what's running out and what's needed. Mobile phones that beep messages, informing consumers about discount sales in the very places they love to shop. Robots that not only work in factories, but even help the chef quickly chop up his greens. Traffic lights that respond to the flow patterns of cars and change accordingly.

No, we are not talking about a futuristic, sci-fi scenario. This is what we are witnessing in the world we live in today. The future is already here and we are all enveloped in a Digital bubble. Yes, individuals, organizations and nations are caught up in what has been christened the Fourth Industrial Revolution—Digital Transformation (DT). It is a phase where a host of Digital technologies—Internet of Things (IoT), Big Data, Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Nanotechnology, 3D printing, biotechnology, Social, Mobility, Cloud, Analytics and what have you—are at work and bringing unmatched benefits to their implementers.

A study by the World Economic Forum (WEF) titled 'Future of jobs' talks about the developments that are taking place in these areas, which are laying the foundation for an upheaval that is more comprehensive and all encompassing than anything ever seen before. "Smart systems—homes, factories, farms, grids or cities—will help tackle problems ranging from supply chain management to climate change", the research states. It is apparent then that Digital will address some of the critical problems that countries are presently confronting.

Joining the DT bandwagon

As the Digital wave sweeps across nations in fact, it is becoming imperative, especially for enterprises to get on the Digital Transformation path. What they need to do is usher in change within, in order to sync with the times. There is no time to waste and a proactive approach is critical. Laggards are likely to lose their market edge, and truly trail behind rivals who have reacted rapidly. On the other hand, companies that have taken cognizance of the Digital Transformation phenomenon, been sprightly and agile, and rolled out measures to 'go Digital' are expected to be rewarded with greater global competitiveness, higher productivity, efficiency and above all, profitability.

The DT skills conundrum

While many countries and organizations are already taking advantage of Digital technologies, several continue to be Digitally immature. Currently, it is the market leaders and larger enterprises that have successfully transitioned into the Digital Transformation space by leveraging the power of Digital through the use of new age business models.

Other companies and government departments need to follow suit. However, the fact remains that many nations and enterprises are facing significant challenges in their 'go Digital' journeys. Key among them is a paucity of manpower that has state-of-the-art DT skills.

Take the instance of the UK, a developed country that in the view of expert Martha Lane Fox, the force behind UK's Digital Transformation efforts, is experiencing a severe shortage of DT talent. In her opinion, around "16 million people—including technology savvy millennials—lack the basic Digital skills to fully benefit from the Internet".

A Digital Transformation report by Cisco also points to the fact that employees worldwide are disinclined to change and that 87 percent workers are disengaged from the Digital Transformation processes within organizations.

Creating the requisite DT talent pipeline

Talent in requisite numbers which is committed to DT, is therefore the need of the hour. It is what enterprises require to develop a robust and supportive eco-system for furthering and fueling the DT trend. While they may have set up significant DT infrastructure on their turfs, it is meaningless without a workforce that can handle Digital technologies.

This is important as according to Accenture, the smarter use of Digital skills, technologies and other assets could boost productivity and generate USD 2 trillion of additional economic output globally by 2020!

If DT skills are an impediment as well as crucial requirement, then they are the resource that has to be put in place first. Countries have to create a vast pool of trained DT professionals and enterprises have to upskill their employees with key Digital skill sets. These need to be in areas such as Big Data, IoT/Machine2Machine (M2M), Cloud/Platforms, Social Media, Mobility, Analytics, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics. Knowledge of industry verticals is a must as are soft skills such as team play, creativity and Design Thinking. Skills in envisioning, designing, manufacturing, operating, and servicing DT, are important as well.

Since people have to be trained to fit profiles of Digital Leaders, Digital Innovators, Digital Developers, Digital workers and Digital citizens, they additionally need to be equipped with knowledge of business trends, high-end mathematical skills, product life cycle management, product manufacturing, software development methodologies, basic functional literacy skills, and at the lowest end, knowledge of computers and smart devices, the Internet and office software.

Within enterprises, employees will have to scale their capabilities by undergoing special DT training programs. Individuals wishing to build careers in the DT realm will have to be made aware of its high potential in terms of remuneration. News is that DT professionals are likely to draw salaries that are at least 50-60 percent higher than the industry average!

And yes, there are enough and more institutions that can help young people and professionals to equip themselves with DT skills. Organizations such as global talent and skills development company NIIT, a leader for over three decades in IT education, are already riding the DT wave and preparing the world for this Fourth Industrial Revolution. In the last year itself NIIT has launched a wide portfolio of courses—including its pioneering DigiNxt series, its cutting-edge Training.com platform and the StackRoute offering to create advanced-level programmers—to build human resources well versed in DT.

Quite clearly then, the Digital era is upon the world and expected to radically alter the world of work in the near future. Knowing this, enterprises will have to arm themselves with DT workforce to stay ahead in the markets where they play. This is no longer just a need, but an imperative.

http://www.iamwire.com/2017/09/building-enterprises-of-the-future-by-creating-a-digitally-skilled-workforce/167354

BW BUSINESSWORLD

Creating New Order In The Face Of Endless Disruption

To remain relevant, organizations will need to evolve. But the question is how? How can enterprises create a new order out of the endless disruption given the unpredictable nature of today's technology?

05 September 2017 by Arjun Shankar

By 2030, every organization will go digital and new technology will reshape lives. Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, virtual reality, augmented reality and cloud computing, will transform our lives and how we work over the next decade. Disruption is inevitable, and already underway. We are seeing business models being disrupted, and long standing blue chip companies grappling with change. The "list mortality" of Fortune 500 companies is the highest ever. The global top 10 companies by market capitalization is dominated by tech Goliaths.

To remain relevant, organizations will need to evolve. But the question is how? How can enterprises create a new order out of the endless disruption given the unpredictable nature of today's technology? Yes, leveraging digital transformation and focusing on customer experience can help enterprises pave a path to success, but is that it? Is digital disruption only about customers?

Customers stand at one end of the disruption trail, while the other end is tied to the workforce. Sadly, lately, the story of digital transformation has tended to focus on the story of replacing human labor. While it's not entirely wrong to say that about specific roles, it isn't completely true either. To take disruption head on and survive, companies will need to shift their focus on working 'with' the technology and not against it. Often, companies have to have a digital business strategy, running in parallel to, or replacing a traditional brick and mortar, or click and brick strategy.

According to a study from Ifop, a French Market research firm, 87 percent employees understand the impact of digital disruption on their jobs, but 64% of them also feel their organization doesn't support them enough to use new technologies. So, to respond to the digital disruption, organizations must continue to fill the talent gap. They'll need to enhance the capabilities of their workforce and prepare them to add value in the volatile digital environment. Industry forerunners have already embarked on the path. Employees and recent graduates have also started their strife. According to the recent Talent Blueprint 2017 report, working people in many countries are enrolling in online courses to pick up specific skills including AI, Robotics, Machine Learning, and Big Data. Bottomline? While disruption continues to introduce path-breaking innovations, it's imperative to have the right arsenal in your kitty, the right talent to back you. This includes not only people who understand change, but ones who can create change. It also required leaders to move beyond casual appreciation of technology to thinking through disruptive elements and factors.

But disruption doesn't work in a linear fashion, so you can't just pick a handful of employees and train them and hope to solve the problem. It's a full circle event that impacts all levels of the organization, every department. Thus, it becomes imperative for companies to promote integration and break the silo mentality that still exists in the workplaces. One way of acting upon this, in the words of Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, is to appoint "someone to look out for what is coming, for what might disrupt your own business". At a Gartner event, he urged businesses to consider implementing a Chief Disruption Officer, because while technology plays a critical role, it can't fuel disruption all by itself.

As people are empowered to act, and as companies successfully adopt technology, there will be a significant enhancement in performance. Digitization has the potential to enhance productivity, raise throughput, improve predictions, outcomes, accuracy, and optimization. In fact, some organizations are already reaping the benefits - Google reportedly cut down its energy consumption by applying artificial intelligence from its DeepMind machine learning to its own data centers. However, there shouldn't be a rush to respond to digitization. In his recent commentary for Harvard Business Review, Freek Vermeulen, Associate Professor of Strategic and International Management, London Business School makes a valid point, "Sometimes it is better to deal with contextual change and uncertainty by not changing at all – at least not immediately – but by giving things time to play out. If your company is in an environment in which new technologies come and go quickly, you may need to slow down rather than speed up."

Digital disruption is impacting every industry, but in different capacities and speeds. It is important to carefully study one's own specific situation and craft a response that integrates changes to people, process and technology all at once.

http://www.businessworld.in/article/Creating-New-Order-In-The-Face-Of-Endless-Disruption/05-09-2017-125407/

BUSINESS INSIDER
INDIA

Here's why IT companies should re-skill their employees; these are the areas they must focus on

GUEST AUTHORJUL 6, 2017, 06.09 PM

We are witnessing what Professor Klaus Schwab calls the Fourth Industrial Revolution, where the physical, digital and biological worlds fuse, and advanced technologies like robotics, autonomous transport, artificial intelligence, and machine learning are gaining traction and transforming the world in unprecedented ways. The impact has been felt closer home as well. Earlier this year, NASSCOM noted that 40 per cent of Indian IT workforce must be re-skilled in the coming five years to keep up with the changing face and automation of the industry. In the same communication, it stated that nearly half of the workforce in the IT services firms would need significant intervention to reskill the workforce.

There is urgent need to reskill employees in the right direction to survive in an economy where multiple forces are at work such as the secular growth of Indian GDP, the opportunities provided by increased globalization and digitization, and the near term threat to low skilled jobs being taken over by automation.

According to industry experts almost half of the sector's workforce needs to be trained to keep up with the technological advancements. The current breed of IT professionals will need to be trained in emerging technologies while the incoming generation of freshers will have to be imbibed with digital skills at a foundation level. Of the 800,000 engineers India produces every year, the tech sector absorbs only about a eighth. This absorption level may decline further if relevant skill upgradation does not happen. Thus, the 12 million graduates who pass out of Indian colleges every year need to be reskilled and made job-ready amidst this paradigm shift. This may help to match the demand of over 2,00,000 net IT employee additions projected - besides creating the 3,50,000 digitally skilled employees that the industry gurus expect because of digital transformation.

While the scale of this impact may have set off the alarm bells for some IT players, the realistic ones are taking swift action. One of the Top 5 IT Services companies saw this coming back in 2015, and had put through its software engineers for immersive programs in new digital technology platforms. Elsewhere, Nestle has set up The Digital Accelerating Team (DAT), which works towards upskilling its employees in the digital space. Talent transformation is a core agenda for the Indian IT services firms, more than ever before.

Speaking of the reskilling, NASSCOM has identified three major areas where transformation will lead in the Indian IT industry. The first area of focus will be training people in technologies like machine learning, virtual reality and IoT (Internet of things).

Some other skills that organizations will need to focus on include -

Artificial Intelligence (AI) - Decisions will be made closer to where work is done and thus organizations will need candidates who can use AI to augment work and take on higher roles. In fact, there is growing demand for AI courses online that deliver learning through personalized modules.

Robotics - By 2025, robots will take over a third of jobs, according to Gartner. Robotics has evolved to become more than just traditional hardware robots supporting human functions; in the new era, robots have been designed to support end-to-end automation, which will have implications across all professions, from blue-collar factory workers and their white-collar equivalent in knowledge work.

3D printing: - By 2021, 3D printing market is expected to cross $79 Million in India alone. In fact, according to a recent report by the Times of India, India has approximately 350 listed 3D printing services, Mumbai alone having over 100. This indicates the rapid growth of this market and thus an increasing demand of professionals skilled in the field.

Big Data - Data volumes will continue to grow. As the famous quote goes, "Data is the new oil". While currently organizations are hiring analysts and scientists who can interpret and analyze data for business success, the field needs more architects and experts in data management according to IDC.

The second area will focus on helping employees understand how new technologies will reshape their existing work.

And the third identified area is soft skills. The industry body will be closely working with 20 companies with an aim to reskill a million people over the next two-three years.

This reskilling of the employees is a healthy trend. On one side, where certain capabilities are becoming redundant, introduction of new skill areas will lead to creation of new jobs. Indian IT needs to look at innovative models of reskilling to adapt to this environment.

The harsh reality of the industry is that there is a decisive movement to make a shift from the time and material model to transaction based, platform based models. This trend will continue. The rising protectionist policies of key Western markets will mandate more onshore work and onshore software factories. There has been a continuing pressure on margins over the last five years. Automated software tools are disrupting the software industry itself. In India, IT Services being a high visibility industry, each incident of layoffs is likely to receive disproportionate media and public attention.

The following challenges are going to be key

- How can medium and large IT Service organizations continue to increase productivity but still allot resources for reskilling and upskilling
- Will large IT services firms continue to hire plain vanilla engineers in large quantities and will it be affordable to run long induction programs for them
- How can organizations be more innovative with training delivery models other than campus hires and learning self-owned campuses for their own employees
- How can organizations set up models to tackle continuous knowledge change rather than treating the current crisis as an one time disruption

These are indeed interesting times for employers, employees, training firms and indeed all stakeholders. While the disruption will be seen through at an industry level, new winners may be thrown up and the key reason may well be the ones who innovated on their talent transformation approaches.

http://www.businessinsider.in/Heres-why-IT-companies-should-re-skill-their-employees-these-are-the-areas-they-must-focus-on/articleshow/59475143.cms

CIOReview (India Edition)

Enabling Digital Transformation through Learning Sciences

By Rajan Venkataraman, Chief Digital Officer, NIIT Limited

As Digital trends have pervaded every part of human life, individuals, organizations and governments have embraced the Digital Transformation (DT) phenomenon as a strategic priority. Creating a clear path for this change has become imperative for all.

However, the fact remains that the journey towards making DT a reality is a challenging one. Key among the difficulties is the paucity of people with requisite skills to enable Digital Transformation.

Business developments also point to a skill shortage in this area, meaning that it could be a major impediment to the Digitalization of humanity and institutions. Research by the Technical University of Munich has shown that this skill gap may emerge as a deterrent to successful DT.

According to its study, around 83 percent of respondents believe their organizations do not possess the right skills to roll out DT in their organizations. Around 73 percent meanwhile, feel that their employees do not have the necessary technology-oriented skills needed to be a part of the Digital workplace.

There is no doubt that for today's organizations, equipping their teams with these critical DT skills is a necessity and not an option. But how can these skills be acquired easily and cost effectively?

There is a way that could lead to DT nirvana and it is called Learning Sciences (LS). To borrow a definition from Wikipedia, "LS is an interdisciplinary field that works to further scientific understanding of learning as well as to engage in the design and implementation of learning innovations, and the improvement of instructional methodologies". This might seem like a mouthful but all it means is that it is a deep dive into learning and the methods of knowledge dissemination.

Basically, LS investigates how learning works, and looks for ways in which the mechanisms of human learning can be supported to build skills efficiently, whether through new technology or more traditional means. LS brings together fields such as cognitive science, educational psychology, computer science, anthropology, sociology information sciences, design studies, and instructional design to form a complete picture of how the mind's learning functions can be best utilized.

Learning Science will ultimately make possible the co-existence of bots (Robots) and humans in the modern, 21st century work environment. Many fear that bots will take over life as we know it owing to their ability to learn faster and better. They are concerned that bots will eventually outstrip humans, create a visible and tangible skills and learning gap that will only grow over time. A more likely scenario is that companies will bring their employees on par with the bots by helping them to learn more quickly and compete with Machine Learning. This will require them to invest in learning solutions and systems that facilitate and hasten skill building among their people while shrinking the time taken to gain knowledge and skills from decades to maybe even a year! Therefore, concepts such as Engagement Sciences, Design Thinking, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning have now to become a part of the emerging Digital organization.

Learning Science can enable flexible, convenient 'anytime-anywhere' learning for a diverse workforce in an instant and on smart devices, including phones that people own and hold in their hands constantly.

Learning Sciences in fact, will play a significant role in altering the knowledge and skilling environment within organizations. Instead of promoting traditional online and offline learning, companies will deploy new age Learning tools such as Multi-Sensory, Real-time Training Simulators that will cater to every job profile. Thanks to Learning Sciences, employees will be able to leverage the trove of past knowledge that their companies have created as well as Big Data, and myriad training platforms that are available for their use.

On a broader scale, Learning Sciences will transform the entire learning cycle for everyone—right from the school to the advanced level. It will change the way children (who will one day lead the world) learn and assimilate knowledge. By catching them young and equipping them with Digital skills from the beginning itself, the primary and secondary education system will gear up for DT. At the higher levels too, Learning Sciences will assist in building industry-ready Digital professionals who are employable and hour-one ready as they enter the world of work and seamlessly fit into their cutting-edge offices. In this way Learning Sciences will catalyze the proliferation of Digital Transformation and spur the momentum of this revolution.

In order to make this vision of DT a reality, individuals, organizations, and government institutions will have to take responsibility to drive their own learning. They must commit themselves to 'going Digital' and actively harness the power of Learning Sciences to make a meaningful Digital Transformation and ensure that communities along with society as a whole have readied themselves for this monumental alteration.

https://fleet-management.cioreviewindia.com/cxoinsight/enabling-digital-transformation-through-learning-sciences-nid-3302-cid-1.html

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FILE PHOTO

NIIT Q1 Net Profit Jumps to ₹10.4 cr

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Skills and talent development firm NIIT today said its consolidated net profit has seen manifold jump to ₹10.4 crore in June 2017 quarter, helped by strong growth in corporate learning business.

The company's net profit was at ₹0.8 crore in the corresponding quarter last year.

Its net revenue growth, however, was almost flat at ₹209.9 crore in the quarter under review compared to ₹210 crore in the year-ago period.

"The business transformation programme has started to yield results. Our go forward business has grown 5% year-on-year," NIIT CEO Rahul Patwardhan said in a statement.

The company's net debt reduced from ₹130.4 crore to ₹40.2 crore on year-on-year basis.

NIIT CEO designate Sapnesh Lalla said the Corporate Learning Group (CLG) business continues to be on a strong growth path.

"We added two new MTS clients this quarter and have significantly expanded services of an existing client. We go into second quarter with a healthy pipeline of new deals," he added.

CLG recorded net revenue of ₹117.5 crore, up 14% year-on-year in constant currency terms, maintaining a steady operating margin of 15%.

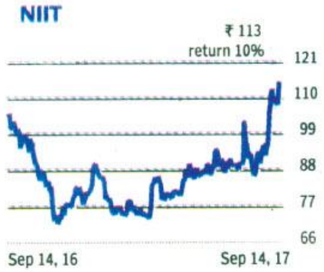
The Economic Times, Mumbai
July 29, 2017

NIIT (₹113.6)

YOGANAND D
BL Research Bureau

The stock of NIIT jumped 6.4 per cent with extraordinary volume on Thursday, breaching a key resistance at ₹110. This rally gives investors with a short-term perspective an opportunity to buy the stock at current levels. Since taking support at ₹72 in March, the stock has been on an intermediate-term uptrend. After a corrective decline, the stock took support at around ₹84 in mid-August and resumed its uptrend. Since then, the stock has been in a short-term uptrend.

While trending up, the stock emphatically breached a key long-term resistance band between ₹100 and ₹105 in early September which has strengthened the uptrend. Both the daily and weekly relative strength indices are featuring in the bullish zone backing the stock's uptrend.



Overall, the short-term forecast for the stock is bullish. The stock can continue to trend upwards and reach the price targets of ₹118.5 and ₹121 in the coming trading sessions. Buy the stock with a stop-loss at ₹111.

(Note: The recommendations are based on technical analysis. There is a risk of loss in trading.)

Hindu Business Line, New Delhi, *September 15, 2017*

The Telegraph
India

NIIT Earns Twenty Brandon Hall Group HCM Excellence Awards Jointly with Customers

BusinessWire India. Atlanta, GA, United States & New Delhi, Delhi, India, Sep 8, 2017

Brandon Hall
GROUP
HCM EXCELLENCE AWARDS
2017

NIIT Earns Twenty Brandon Hall Group HCM Excellence Awards Jointly with Customers.

NIIT Limited, a leading provider of managed training services announced today that it has been awarded twenty Brandon Hall Group awards for excellence jointly with its customers for the second consecutive year. NIIT won eight gold awards, three silver awards, and nine bronze awards in various categories.

Now entering its 23rd year, the Brandon Hall Group Excellence Awards Program is the most prestigious awards program in the industry. Often times called the 'Academy Awards' by Learning, Talent and Business Executives, the program was one of the first of its kind in the learning industry, which was pioneered in 1994. The award entries were evaluated by a panel of veteran, independent senior industry experts, Brandon Hall Group analysts and executives based upon the following criteria: fit the need, design of the program, functionality, innovation, and overall measureable benefits.

NIIT earned the following awards jointly with customers:

- 2017 Brandon Hall Gold in the Best New Hire Onboarding category jointly with QuintilesIMS for CRA Graduate Program
- 2017 Brandon Hall Gold in the Best Unique or Innovative Sales Training Program category jointly with MetLife for MetLife Distribution Capability CoE
- 2017 Brandon Hall Gold in the Best Use of Games and Simulations for Learning category jointly Royal Dutch Shell for Pearl GTL Virtual Tour
- 2017 Brandon Hall Gold in the Best Use of Games and Simulations for Learning category jointly Royal Dutch Shell for Wells Control Simulator
- 2017 Brandon Hall Gold in the Best Advance in Custom Content category jointly with Royal Dutch Shell for Get the Basics Right
- 2017 Brandon Hall Gold in the Best Advance in Custom Content category jointly with Royal Dutch Shell for Code of Conduct
- 2017 Brandon Hall Gold in the Best Advance in Custom Content category jointly with Royal Dutch Shell for SAP Cross-Functional Integration
- 2017 Brandon Hall Gold in the Best Advance in Custom Content category jointly with Royal Dutch Shell for Safeguarding Most Confidential Information
- 2017 Brandon Hall Silver in the Best Advance in Custom Content category jointly with Royal Dutch Shell for Intellectual Property Awareness
- 2017 Brandon Hall Silver in the Best Advance in Custom Content category jointly with Royal Dutch Shell for Well Integrity: Operating and Maintaining a Well
- 2017 Brandon Hall Silver in the Best Advance in Learning Measurement category jointly with MetLife for MetLife Distribution Capability CoE
- 2017 Brandon Hall Bronze in the Best Advance in Custom Content category jointly with Royal Dutch Shell for Workplace Incident Response
- 2017 Brandon Hall Bronze in the Best Advance in Custom Content category jointly with Royal Dutch Shell for Continuous Improvement Curriculum: VA/NVA/BNVA
- 2017 Brandon Hall Bronze in the Best Advance in Custom Content category jointly with Royal Dutch Shell for Trade Compliance
- 2017 Brandon Hall Bronze in the Best Advance in Custom Content category jointly with QuintilesIMS for Leading a Project Setup/Startup
- 2017 Brandon Hall Bronze in the Best Advance in Custom Content category jointly with Statoil for Upholding Security as a Company Representative
- 2017 Brandon Hall Bronze in the Best Use of Games and Simulations for Learning category jointly with Statoil for Travel the World
- 2017 Brandon Hall Bronze in the Best Customer Training Program category jointly with CA Technologies for Mainframe Academy with CA Technologies
- 2017 Brandon Hall Bronze in the Best New Hire Onboarding Program category jointly with Aon Hewitt for Source Train Hire at Aon Hewitt
- 2017 Brandon Hall Bronze in the Best New Hire Onboarding Program category for NIIT Boot Camp

"We are honored to win twenty Brandon Hall awards jointly with our customers. Our customers represent the highest standards of excellence in learning and development and these prestigious awards recognize the high quality of work and business impact achieved by their learning programs," said Devenderjit Chadha, Executive Vice President & Global Head, LDO & Content Design & Development, NIIT.

Brandon Hall award winners were announced on September 7, 2017. The winners are listed at http://www.brandonhall.com/excellenceawards/excellence-learning.php?year=2017. Excellence Award winners will be honored at Brandon Hall Group' **HCM Excellence Conference 2018** in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

https://www.telegraphindia.com/pressrelease/bwi/63021/niit-earns-twenty-brandon-hall-group-hcm-excellence-awards-j.html

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THE HINDU BusinessLine

NIIT forms strategic relationship with Cornerstone On Demand

July 6, 2017: Business Wire India

NIIT Limited, a leading provider of managed training services, announced today that it has formed a strategic relationship with Cornerstone OnDemand (NASDAQ: CSOD), a global leader in cloud-based learning and human capital management software.

The two companies will collaborate in the areas of implementation, business consulting, technical and content consulting, and outsourced administration. As part of the agreement, NIIT will add Cornerstone certified administrators and resources to its implementation and support teams across the globe, with the initial implementation in Canada. NIIT will in-turn, support Cornerstone in training content rebuild with high quality, modern learning content - specifically for modern learner engagement, audience management, content reduction, governance and non-mandatory services.

"We envision that the collaboration will combine the best of both worlds – NIIT's high quality managed training services with Cornerstone's powerful platform. We look forward to providing our customers with better and more improved business-aligned services with this relationship," said Sailesh Lalla, Senior Vice President, Business Development at NIIT.

"We're thrilled to add NIIT to our ecosystem of global implementation and consulting alliances. In particular, NIIT's significant Canadian presence will benefit our continued expansion in the region," said Dave Mortell, Vice President of Alliances for Cornerstone OnDemand.

About NIIT

NIIT is a leading Skills and Talent Development Corporation that is building a manpower pool for global industry requirements. The company, which was set up in 1981 to help the nascent IT industry overcome its human resource challenges, today ranks among the world's leading training companies owing to its vast and comprehensive array of talent development programs. With a footprint across 40 nations, NIIT offers training and development solutions to Individuals, Enterprises and Institutions. NIIT has three main lines of business across the globe – Global Corporate Business, Global Retail Business Skills and MindChampion Learning Systems Limited.

NIIT's Global Corporate Business (GCB) offers Managed Training Services (MTS) to market-leading companies in North America, Europe, Asia, and Oceania. The Global Retail Business (GRB) delivers a diverse range of learning and talent development programs to millions of individual and corporate learners in areas including Digital Transformation, Banking, Finance & Insurance, Soft Skills, Business Process Excellence, Retail Sales Enablement, Management Education, Multi-Sectoral Vocational Skills, Digital Media Marketing, and new-age IT. As NIIT's wholly owned subsidiary for its K-12 school learning initiative - MindChampion Learning Systems Limited (MLSL), provides futuristic NIIT nGuru range of learning solutions for schools comprising, interactive Classrooms with digital content, technology-driven Math Lab, IT Wizard programs and Quick School - an Education Resource Planning software. The Training.com learning platform is an NIIT initiative for advanced career programs, which are delivered live by industry experts in an immersive and interactive online mode, combining instructor-led classrooms with the convenience of accessing the training sessions from anywhere.

As the Most Trusted Training Brand in India for 5th year in a row (Brand Trust Report, 2017), NIIT's learning and talent development solutions, continue to receive widespread recognition globally. NIIT has been named among the Top 20 Training Outsourcing Companies for the past nine consecutive years by Training Industry, Inc. USA. Further, leading Indian ICT journal Dataquest has conferred upon NIIT the 'Top Training Company' award successively for the past 20 years, since the inception of this category. NIIT has also been featured as the 'Most Respected Education Company'-2016 by leading financial magazine, Business World. NIIT.tv – a disruptive innovation by NIIT, won the prestigious award for 'Educational Technology, at the Indo-American Education Summit 2016.

http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/business-wire/niit-forms-strategic-relationship-with-cornerstone-ondemand/article9751738.ece

The Tribune

In man vs machine, let both win, say experts

Posted at: Sep 17, 2017, 12:10 AM; last updated: Sep 17, 2017, 12:10 AM (IST)

Vijay C Roy & Sanjay Khurana in Chandigarh

Machine learning and artificial intelligence, experts and educationists say, cannot entirely replace the learning system. They say excessive online education and shortcut technology platforms blunt creative skills.

"Relying only on e-learning can restrict the ability to think out-of-the-box, as one gets tuned to the software and the responses thereof. In the long run, people will not make effort to memorize things and rather keep on relying on their tablets/PCs etc," says Dr Sandeep Grover, Professor of Psychiatry, PGI, Chandigarh. He warns against excessive use of mobile phones/internet. "In the next decade, this would emerge as the biggest addiction, maybe more than any other substance. People have already started avoiding socializing, which is going to decrease with time. This is already leading to lack of acceptance of failure and problems in relationship and mental stress," says Dr Grover.

Prof. VS Rao, president, NIIT University, too, does not rule out negative implications. "Students are likely to develop poor studying habits and a lazy attitude towards education. Technical problems and computer malfunction can cause loss of assignments and other material, resulting in high levels of tension."

NIIT University in 2009 introduced M.Tech. in Educational Technology Programme, an interdisciplinary subject designed for future professionals. The course targets in-service (and pre-service) teachers and working professionals with a graduate degree in any discipline with relevant experience. "The programme is designed to train professionals, teachers included, in business process innovation or teaching-learning process innovation who in turn create value for the organization/ institution."

With the arrival of convergence technologies, learning process can be effectively engineered to make it brain-compatible with every learner (individual or organization). "The NIIT programme uses all information processing technologies to enhance learning effectiveness," says Prof Rao.

In the near future, he says, artificial intelligence could be seen more in the classroom. Programs that use artificial intelligence can act as tutors for students by determining what each student is struggling with and delivering personalized interventions, just as a teacher would, he said.

But he has a word of caution for app-based learning. "Data shows that those who are enrolled in online courses have higher chances of failing, dropping out, and are less likely to benefit from them. This could be because lessons delivered online or through digital resources lack face-to-face interaction between a teacher and a student," says Prof Rao.

Edurev founder Hardik Gupta says while there are merits in edtech, education is much more than transferring knowledge. "It lies in discussions, friendship, sports, debates, human interaction which can only happen in a school/institute environment. So, the objective should be to remove repetitive tasks and offer an environment of curiosity."

Experts are of the view that a large number of prospective learners cannot access education due to various factors such as remote location, inadequate infrastructure, shortage of teachers and the like.

Edtech startups not only resolve the issues, but are a great way to connect with other participants and the instructor. "Despite several advantages, the percentage of e-learners is small in India. Its ability to adapt and innovate will determine its future. The prospects seem bright in the long run with technology having immense potential to ensure equity in access to education and lowering its cost," says Rohit Manglik, CEO, EduGorilla.

Given the emergence of new technologies like automation and cognitive computing, 'up-skilling' has now become more important. "Not just Tier-1 cities, but also people from Tier 2 & 3 are turning to online education. The edtech space can only complement basic learning. We see a healthy co-existence between traditional way of learning and the modern technological help to improve one's overall skills," says Ishan Gupta, MD India, Udacity.

"Since students are active users of technology nowadays, they feel more confident in interacting and displaying their skills among their peers and teachers. Technology thus seems to be bridging the gap between the students and teachers. The need is to enhance human sensitivity towards learning," says Prof. VS Rao.

http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/sunday-special/kaleidoscope/in-man-vs-machine-let-both-win-say-experts/468246.html

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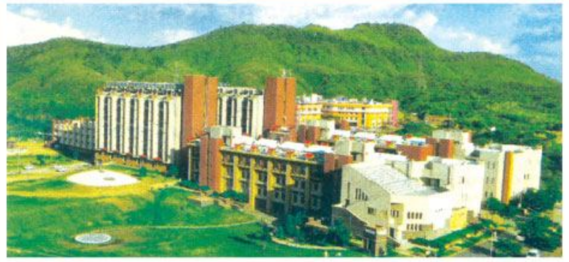


NIIT University,

Neemrana, Rajasthan

Established in 2009, NIIT University (NU), a not-for-profit Universityis a premier institution of higher learning and research.NU is dedicated towards forging strong industry linkages as one of its core principles. This ensures that the University is connected with the best organisations and institutions, and is the primary reason for the exceptional placement of 97.3% last year.

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 to 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. The University inherits three decades of rich expertise and global know-how of its principal sponsor, the NIIT Group which has impacted over 36 million learners. This gives NU a competitive edge towards imparting Next Gen skills, necessary for lifelong learning.

India Today, National, *July 24, 2017*

NIIT University,

Neemrana, Rajasthan

"With the world shifting towards a knowledge driven society, tight compartmentalization of education will soon become redundant. NU offers a whole new model of learning to correct the tunnel vision problem of students and aims to prepare the youth to educate themselves throughout their lives."

— Prof. V S Rao
President, NIIT University

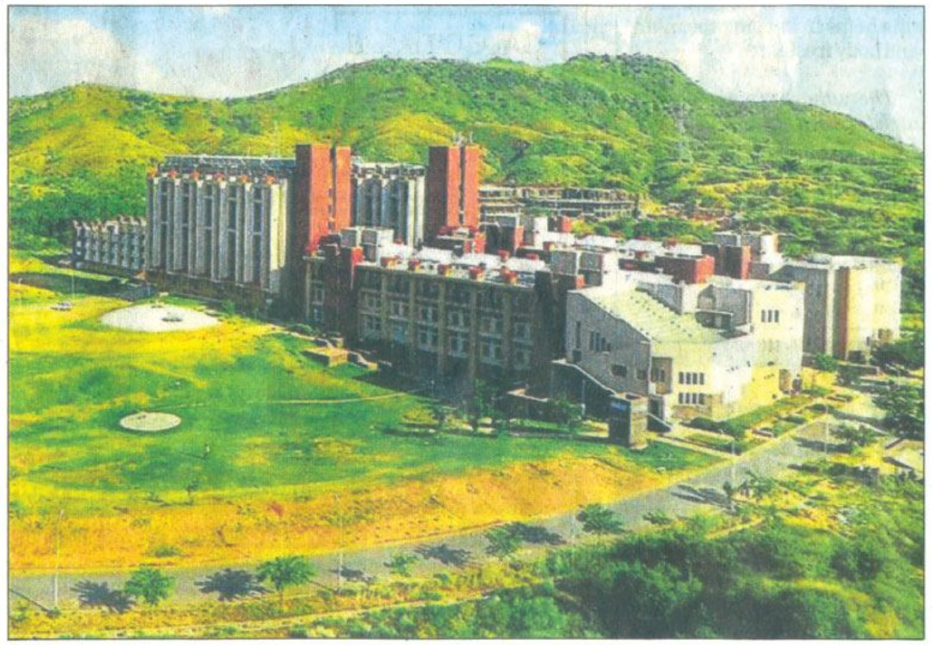
India Today, National, *July 24, 2017*

NIIT University creates employable students with industry-academia linkage

UNIVERSITY OF THE FUTURE Pawar's NIIT University is focused on developing learning structures that are technology-enabled and research-driven, which will equip students to solve problems in their daily lives thus plugging the gaps that ails India's education system today

AMITY UNIVERSITY
Presents
hindustantimes
campus calling
HT GUIDE TO ADMISSIONS

Nandita Mathur
nandita.m@htlive.com



The NIIT University at Neemrana in Rajasthan

WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

NEW DELHI: Even as India struggles to create jobs for the lakhs of people joining the ranks of the unemployed each year, the mismatch with those passing out from colleges, is only growing. There seems to be little correlation between job seekers and the requirements of companies with universities staying rigidly stuck with outdated curriculums and teaching structures.

In this milieu, an experiment by a recently set up private university in Rajasthan, may be worth keeping an eye on.

It's the university of the future that has its eyes set on plugging the gaps that ails India's education system today, mainly producing students that are readily employable. Located about 100 kms from Delhi, in Neemrana district of Rajasthan, the 100-acres NIIT university (NU) founded by R.S. Pawar, chairman and co founder of NIIT group is based on a strong industry-academia linkage. With the job market shrinking not only in India but globally too and Indian education unable to provide holistic learning which includes crucial skills that creates employable people, Pawar is clear that NU will provide outstanding educational value that emphasizes on building real life skills, fostering research and developing talent for sustainable growth of industry and society through the use of technology.

The not-for-profit university was founded in 2009 and has grown steadily from 40 students to over 200 in 2016. It offers undergraduate and post graduate work integrated programs with leading organizations like ICICI bank, IBM, WNS and PwC. For example, NU offers an MBA in Business Analytics in collaboration with WNS and MBA (banking & finance) in collaboration with ICICI bank. Pawar says that the placement rate is exceptionally high at around 97.3%, as it leverages some of the strengths of NIIT Ltd (that offers learning management and training delivery solutions to corporations, institutions and individuals) namely, its solid technology platform and strong ties with industry.

However, deep connectedness with industry characterizes the academic ethos of NU.

Industry plays a significant role in identifying new courses, designing curricula, facilitating hands-on training for students, sponsoring research, and providing senior managers as visiting and mentor faculty at the University. NIIT University has built unique partnerships with various industries to offer industry-sponsored programmes at all levels --graduate, postgraduate and doctoral.

The University is focused on developing learning structures that are technology-enabled and research- driven, which will equip students to solve problems in their daily lives. The curriculum is also thus designed so that students can extract the maximum possible benefits from it. NU's curriculum is research-based, there are joint programmes with industry, electives are co-created with industry that includes real life problems as course assignments. In the final year, students have a 6 month long internship that allows them to work on real life problems at different industries. The internship gives both the students and the companies to familiarize themselves with each other in the process and most students are absorbed in the companies they intern at.

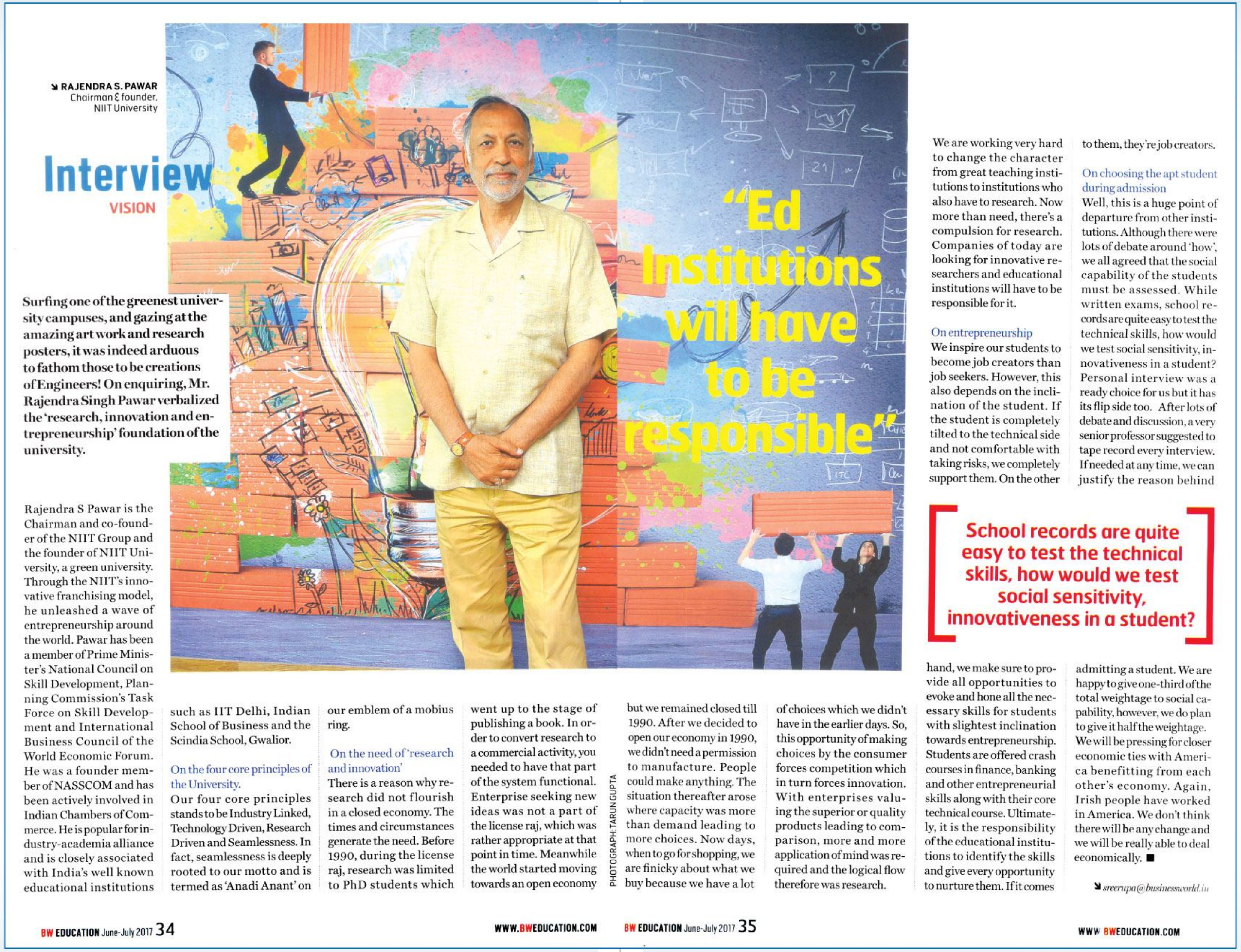
NU also has an elaborate admission process that includes giving weightage to class 10 and 12 examination results. In addition, there is a panel interview that is conduced online due to the growing numbers. Pawar says an interview is important to judge things like social sensibility, goodness and integrity.

Even at the Masters programme, the candidates are required to have a work experience of about 2 years. The selection is done jointly by company and the faculty, and at the time of admission the candidate is given the appointment letter which states what their job and salary will be at the two years. ICICI bank is one such company that is part of this programme.

Similarly, NU has designed a B.Tech CSE programme in collaboration with NIIT that is aligned to what the IT industry today needs. "It is possible for industry and academia to work together," affirms Pawar.

Surprisingly, NU is low key and does not believe in advertising or rankings. Pawar says rankings distort or commoditize the process of education. So what's next for NU? Pawar's dream is to sort the problem on the intake side, which means that the university is looking to collaborate with schools. "At least75% of the students should be coming from the schools we start working with,' says Pawar, adding that they will work with students from classes 8-12 and let them come to the university in the summer and winter breaks so that both the student and the university have a mutual discovery process. A university with a difference, Pawar also does not believe in any tie ups with foreign colleges or universities as he does not want to use anyone else's label. "We have to be a fountainhead and I believe in Indian pride and individuality."

Hindustan Times, New Delhi, *July 15, 2017*



RAJENDRA S. PAWAR
Chairman & founder,
NIIT University

Interview
VISION

"Ed Institutions will have to be responsible"

Surfing one of the greenest university campuses, and gazing at the amazing art work and research posters, it was indeed arduous to fathom those to be creations of Engineers! On enquiring, Mr. Rajendra Singh Pawar verbalized the 'research, innovation and entrepreneurship' foundation of the university.

Rajendra S Pawar is the Chairman and co-founder of the NIIT Group and the founder of NIIT University, a green university. Through the NIIT's innovative franchising model, he unleashed a wave of entrepreneurship around the world. Pawar has been a member of Prime Minister's National Council on Skill Development, Planning Commission's Task Force on Skill Development and International Business Council of the World Economic Forum. He was a founder member of NASSCOM and has been actively involved in Indian Chambers of Commerce. He is popular for industry-academia alliance and is closely associated with India's well known educational institutions such as IIT Delhi, Indian School of Business and the Scindia School, Gwalior.

On the four core principles of the University.

Our four core principles stands to be Industry Linked, Technology Driven, Research Driven and Seamlessness. In fact, seamlessness is deeply rooted to our motto and is termed as 'Anadi Anant' on our emblem of a mobius ring.

On the need of 'research and innovation'

There is a reason why research did not flourish in a closed economy. The times and circumstances generate the need. Before 1990, during the license raj, research was limited to PhD students which went up to the stage of publishing a book. In order to convert research to a commercial activity, you needed to have that part of the system functional. Enterprise seeking new ideas was not a part of the license raj, which was rather appropriate at that point in time. Meanwhile the world started moving towards an open economy but we remained closed till 1990. After we decided to open our economy in 1990, we didn't need a permission to manufacture. People could make anything. The situation thereafter arose where capacity was more than demand leading to more choices. Now days, when to go for shopping, we are finicky about what we buy because we have a lot of choices which we didn't have in the earlier days. So, this opportunity of making choices by the consumer forces competition which in turn forces innovation. With enterprises valuing the superior or quality products leading to comparison, more and more application of mind was required and the logical flow therefore was research.

PHOTOGRAPH: TARUN GUPTA

We are working very hard to change the character from great teaching institutions to institutions who also have to research. Now more than need, there's a compulsion for research. Companies of today are looking for innovative researchers and educational institutions will have to be responsible for it.

On entrepreneurship

We inspire our students to become job creators than job seekers. However, this also depends on the inclination of the student. If the student is completely tilted to the technical side and not comfortable with taking risks, we completely support them. On the other hand, we make sure to provide all opportunities to evoke and hone all the necessary skills for students with slightest inclination towards entrepreneurship. Students are offered crash courses in finance, banking and other entrepreneurial skills along with their core technical course. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the educational institutions to identify the skills and give every opportunity to nurture them. If it comes to them, they're job creators.

On choosing the apt student during admission

Well, this is a huge point of departure from other institutions. Although there were lots of debate around 'how', we all agreed that the social capability of the students must be assessed. While written exams, school records are quite easy to test the technical skills, how would we test social sensitivity, innovativeness in a student? Personal interview was a ready choice for us but it has its flip side too. After lots of debate and discussion, a very senior professor suggested to tape record every interview. If needed at any time, we can justify the reason behind admitting a student. We are happy to give one-third of the total weightage to social capability, however, we do plan to give it half the weightage. We will be pressing for closer economic ties with America benefitting from each other's economy. Again, Irish people have worked in America. We don't think there will be any change and we will be really able to deal economically. ■

School records are quite easy to test the technical skills, how would we test social sensitivity, innovativeness in a student?

sreerupa@businessworld.in

CENTENNIAL EDITION

Young Turks

CORPORATES REDEFINE HIGHER EDUCATION

During the last decade, a series of corporate players got into the university space, and the results are exceptionally encouraging...

by Ashish Jha & Abhay Anand

Corporates and higher education do not go hand in hand. Higher education is strictly for non-profits and most corporates do work for generating profit for their stakeholders. And globally, though some corporations do get into setting up of their own universities, it is generally not the trend. Globally, corporations just provide funds and research ideas to universities. But, in India the case is slightly different. Until 2000 most educationists, especially in the private sector, were individuals to whom education was their profession or vocation. And some of them have also evolved into education conglomerates. But real business houses, whose primary vocation is something else, have only come in to the picture very recently.

Birth of corporate universities

Corporates do have a history of giving money to Indian higher education. The Birlas, the Tatas, the Singhanias have all contributed to building schools and even affiliated colleges. At the university level, the contribution has been quite minimal. Tatas did fund the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and the Birlas the famous Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani. There are others too. But they were exceptions rather than rules. As a rule Indian corporates have never gotten heavily into the tertiary education domain, especially in terms of green field investments. So, when and why did this trend change?

The recent trends

It is only the last decade-and-a-half that a slew of big corporate houses got into creating institutions of excellence, especially at the university level. The first off the block was the Indian School of Business(ISB),Hyderabad. It was spearheaded by two ex-Mckensky executives and fully funded by a host of corporate houses. The success of ISB, in some sense, spurred on other corporate houses to get into the university domain in earnest. NIIT Group, Reliance Group, Hero Honda group, Vedanta...the list is long

> ***What makes these forays interesting, is that fact none of these corporates have direct interest in higher education. The models are also different***

Models of institution building

What makes these forays interesting, is the fact none of these corporates have any direct interest in higher education. Their models are also quite different. An Ashoka University (AU), for example, is a classic example of a group of entrepreneurs coming together to donate money and build a corpus. On the other hand, a Shiv Nadar University (SNU), or an Azim Premji University (APU) are set up under the aegis of a well-funded foundation. They also differ in terms of their approach to higher education. An SNU, for example, seeks to emerge as a professional university, offering programmes on science and engineering and have a strong hold on management. On the other hand, an AU is an out-and-out liberal arts school with no professional orientation. Which model will work better, and why? As they say, just wait and watch.

USP

Founded by thought leaders and corporate-practitioners of the country, the multidisciplinary University focuses on emerging areas of technology and management.

The University offers Industry-linked courses like MBA Program in Business Analytics in collaboration with WNS, MTech (GIS) in collaboration with esri Inc, California, PGDBA in collaboration with United Bank of India and Bank of Maharashtra, and MTech (Educational Technology) in collaboration with leading companies and schools in the country. The University is also building research capabilities in areas such as Biotechnology, Mobile Healthcare, Cognitive Radio, Technology-driven pedagogies, and Next-generation Networks.

NIIT UNIVERSITY

Overview

Established in 2009, NIIT University (NU) is a not-for-profit University notified by the Govt. of Rajasthan. NU inherits three decades of expertise and global know-how of its principal sponsor, the NIIT Group. It is a part of a 100-acre campus at Neemrana, Rajasthan. Nestled in the Aravali hills, the fully residential green campus offers a vibrant environment for pursuing higher education and research.

Prof VS Rao,
President NU

At NU, we have been working towards creating University of the future that fosters critical thinking, innovation and research centric approach. This focuses on shaping individuals who can adapt to the fast-changing global economy and contribute meaningfully to the growth of their organizations and the society at large.

Moving ahead the University aims to create more industry tie ups and research, discovery and entrepreneurship through collaborative action. Our mission is to establish NIIT University as an institution of excellence which will redefine higher education in India. The top of the agenda is to foster a research mind-set, and partner with industry leaders, especially in sunrise industries, to develop study programmes aligned with the skill-sets required by the new knowledge economy. We see NU emerging as a new model in Higher Education.

Academic Structure/Programme/No of students

NU offers the entire spectrum of academic programmes. At the undergraduate level, it offers B.Tech (Computer Science & Engineering, Electronics & Communication, Biotechnology), 4-year Integrated M.Sc (Computer Science), and 5-year Integrated B.Tech - M.Tech (Computer Science, Electronics & Communication, Biotechnology, Educational Technology and Geographic Information Systems). In collaboration with University of Missouri, Kansas City, it offers a 5-year dual degree B.Tech & M.S programme wherein students undertake academic work at NU for 3.5 years and then continue at UMKC for 1.5 years. At the postgraduate level, it offers M.Tech, MBA and Ph.D programmes as well as several Industry Sponsored Programmes.

Select clubs:

- Mozilla Club: Partners with Mozilla to organise seminars and workshops on various IT-related topics
- NU Saahas: The Adventure Club which encourages students to explore the beautiful terrain surrounding the campus, by carrying out weekly treks to the nearby Aravalli features.
- Rangmanch NU: The Theatre Club for all theatre enthusiasts at the University

Careers360, National, *July 2017*

Photograph: ANIL DAYAL

THE HEART OF LEARNING

Over half of young students—each mindful of his/her special interests—are opting for courses fit for new-age careers

Students at a vocational course class at NIT Hamirpur; below, an IT class in progress

BY LOLA NAYAR

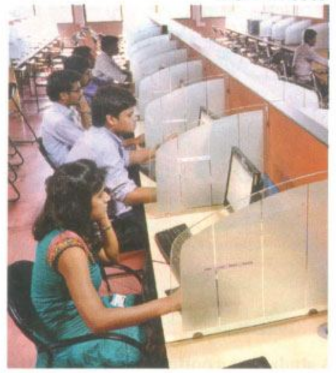
THEY are young, impatient and, instead of blindly blundering down a path chosen by forebears, know their minds. The trend of youngsters pursuing careers that combine their interests with opportunities to earn gainful employment is on the rise. Together with changing market trends, particularly the digital transition as well as labour requirement, a slow change is being observed in the courses being offered by universities. Introduced over the last couple of years by very mainstream places like Delhi University and Mumbai University, they are reflective of the varied aspirations of the young or those seeking a change from mundane jobs. Top among vocational courses being offered by government and private varsities is retail management, reflecting the sharp growth in this sector. Other popular courses are healthcare management and IT courses—from basic computer systems to programming and data sciences.

Entrepreneurship being the new buzzword, there are both graduate and post-graduate courses on offer with interesting specialisations. For instance, in Delhi, Ambedkar University offers a post-graduate course in Early Childhood Care and Education, while Jamia Millia Islamia offers a vocational degree in Solar Energy. These are apart from those offered by the College of Vocational Studies under DU. Last year, the Delhi government launched several short-term vocational courses, the most popular being those catering to the hospitality and retail sectors.

"Lately, several colleges offer vocational courses. The focus on these has gained momentum since last year. As a lot of parents remain wary of sending their children for diploma courses, the UGC has this year made a push to introduce vocational degree courses," says Jitin Chawla of Centre for Career Development.

Unlike India, many countries have a system of awarding vocational degrees. Australia has, in fact, reorganised its system over the last 15 years to integrate vocational courses with the degree stream. For instance, after a year of education, a student can get a diploma and after three years of education get a degree. This is now being considered in India as part of the national skill development initiative.

Chawla points to the fact that though the CBSE has introduced vocational subjects in schools, like food processing, not many parents allow their children to opt for them, as at the time of admission to undergraduate courses, marks are reportedly reduced from the aggregate when a student has had a vocational subject.



KASHIF MASOOD

At the college level too, most takers for vocational courses are from government schools or from not too well-off families. This is because the government system is not able to attract children from posher socio-economic backgrounds. The apathy is reduced to an extent when the same course is offered at a top private university or college. "Most Indians are not ready to accept their child's desire for doing a vocational programme. An alternative career is still to take root in India. Most students go for it after graduation, when they are better aware and in a position to make informed choices," states Chawla, citing the case of a child who had come for career counselling and voiced

Outlook, National, *July 10, 2017*

NEW TURNS

JITENDER GUPTA

LAYING IT OUT Vocational courses in hospitality is a big draw

the desire to pursue a career in gaming, but was overruled by his parents.

Ironically, though a vast number of youths enter the job market each month, neither the government nor the private sector is focusing adequately on vocational or skill development. While private universities look at courses purely from a placement point of view, in government colleges and universities, any proposed change takes decades to be implemented, says Mohan Tiwari of Students' Destination, a career counselling start-up.

"There is need for more focus on new-age careers, anything apart from STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). So far, everyone has been focusing too much on STEM; going forward, I feel we should have qualifications that are purely vocational," says Tiwari. He is among experts who feel vocational qualifications are in and will remain so for the next 20 years and more, as they are skill-driven qualifications and have a direct corelation with employability.

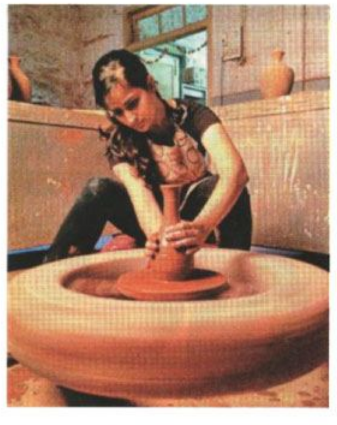
Breaking cliched career moulds, many children are venturing into fields like carpentry and handicrafts, which were earlier restricted to certain communities. Now, enterprising youngsters with a background in design are visiting villages and towns off the beaten tracks to discover and learn dying art forms and using their formal training to create products in tune with emerging trends. This is helping revive dying arts and crafts, while providing new career opportunities. Some institutions, like the JJ College of Arts, are helping with interesting courses like ceramics, pottery and puppetry.

Many students just out of school and graduating from colleges are no longer just talking about getting any job but becoming writers and pursuing other interesting activities after their hearts. Many go to great lengths to seek information on new opportunities.

The idea today is to ensure that youngsters are all finding their separate niches, their unique metiers, as it were, as not everyone needs to fit into that old, hackneyed Indian binary—'an engineer or a doctor'. This is increasingly being understood by parents; therefore, career counsellors are striving to make children aware of their strengths, abilities and mindset, as also career opportunities that fit those abilities and inclinations.

"Aspirations are not any less among children today, it's just that their career goals may be different. Around 20-25 per cent people want to constantly upgrade themselves to keep ahead of changing trends and market requirements," says Tiwari, an alumnus of IIM Ahmedabad who himself switched to career counselling after 14 years in the corporate world.

"Going by data of students coming to us in the last two years, over 50 per cent opt to go to new-age careers, be it shoe designing to film-making, becoming a blogger, a YouTuber, an e-advertiser etc. Everyday, we are talking about a large number of new careers. More than 50 per cent kids are moving away from traditional or conventional careers. That is a huge jump," Tiwari adds.



A student at a pottery class

Whether it be fashion designing or communications management, new trends drive new career opportunities. These are careers that require a continuous upgrading in skills and modes to become a better professional and be able to outshine not just the competition but also oneself.

The need to have an industry-ready workforce is seeing a shift in the way courses are being designed. For instance, NIIT University's BTech in computer science, with emphasis on digital transformation technologies, has been designed to create a new breed of IT engineers sorely needed by the industry. The programme is focused on building a strong foundation in mathematical and algorithmic concepts. Similarly, its MSc programme in computer science is designed to provide students an overview of computing, an understanding of concepts, principles and skills in their application and extension, and a practical experience in applied computing. This redesigning is in keeping with the evolving industry and marketing needs, just like the new certificate and diploma courses in data analytics, cloud management, digital marketing etc being offered by many private universities. Wherever there is user interface, there is a felt need for specialisation. This applies to courses like multimedia and animation, which are greatly in demand.

In all, around 60-70 per cent of people opt for vocational courses after graduation while 30-35 per cent opt to do them after school. Age seems to be no bar for a career switch, going by the number of people opting for new education or specialisation before making the change. Free, bold thinking on careers is here to stay. ◻

Outlook, National, *July 10, 2017*

NIIT

Honing skills

The company is now well placed to capitalise on the rising demand for skill development

SIRTRAVELALOT/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

MEERA SIVA

Battling demonetisation, handling the resignation of its CEO for personal reasons, managing the shift in business from government school focus to other segments, NIIT, an education service provider, has had a challenging year, to say the least.

The company has managed to cope with these challenges. Revenues in 2016-17 increased 18 per cent and operational net profit rose 30 per cent. In the recent June quarter, the company posted operating profit as against a loss in the year-ago period.

Investors have taken note. The stock dipped up to 10 per cent in April on the news of its CEO's resignation (effective July 31), but the price recovered quickly. The stock price had touched a low of ₹70 after demonetisation, but recouped in a few months. The stock shot up 14 per cent last Friday after the announcement of the June quarter results.

The stock is reasonably valued and the current price of ₹101 discounts the company's estimated 2017-18 earnings by about 16.5 times, in line with the average forward multiple in the past few years. There are no comparable peers in the space of computer education and training to corporates, schools and individual clients.

Companies are increasingly looking for skill development in their workforce, be it freshers or existing employees. NIIT's fundamentals appear strong to capitalise on this industry requirement. Investment risk is also minimised, with high revenue visibility in the corporate learning group and diversified growth from multiple verticals.

The company's strong balance sheet — net debt at 0.2 times equity — also provides comfort. Margins are likely to improve with focus on profitable corporate learning and shift from the government school segment. Investors can buy the stock, given these positives. But exposure can be limited, given the stock's small-cap nature.

Better revenue mix

NIIT derives revenue from three main verticals — corporate learning, skill development and school segment — and it is shifting its focus to improve the mix.

Revenue share from the corporate learning vertical has been growing. The company earns intellectual property (IP) and annuity-based revenue in this segment through training contracts that provide good multi-year revenue visibility.

Its share of overall income has increased to 65 per cent in 2016-17 from 56 per cent a year ago. It is also shifting out of government schools — revenue from this segment fell 8 per cent in 2016-17, contributing only 8 per cent to the overall income (down from 11 per cent a year ago).

There were a few reasons to shift focus away from this segment. One, the receivables cycle is very long, hurting the working capital cycle.

Two, the business is capex-heavy, with low return on capital. The company plans to exit this segment by 2018-19 when contracts end and focus on asset-light, cloud-based solutions for private school clients.

The revenue shift is already helping. Depreciation expenses fell 5 per cent in 2016-17, after a 21 per cent reduction in 2015-16. The receivables cycle (days of sales outstanding) reduced to 79 days in the March 2017 quarter, from 98 days in the December quarter.

Growing revenue

NIIT's revenue growth is robust, with the key corporate learning segment growing at a strong pace. Revenue increased 35 per cent y-o-y to ₹766 crore in 2016-17, including a strategic one-time pass-through payment (no contribution to profit); after excluding this, revenue growth was still good at 16 per cent y-o-y.

The company added three customers in 2016-17 and two in the June quarter (total 36); order intake increased 23 per cent y-o-y in the June quarter and revenue visibility is $191 million (1.5 times annual revenue). This provides comfort over revenue growth in the medium term. Revenue from NIIT's Skills and Career Group was impacted by demonetisation. The segment, which contributes about a third of revenue, saw a 3 per cent y-o-y dip in revenue to ₹323 crore. However, its Beyond-IT courses (retail sales, finance) are also seeing good traction and account for 40 per cent of the segment revenue.

IT courses such as DigiNxt have seen 4,000 student enrolment and deals with colleges have been signed. The company plans to launch more courses (virtual reality, robotics and cyber security) and expects to train 10,000 freshers in 2017-18.

It has launched StackRoute Online and DigiNXT NIC to help companies retrain their existing professionals in digital technology. These new courses should aid revenue growth.

In the school business segment, IP-driven private school business grew 29 per cent in 2016-17 and contributed 40 per cent to the segment revenue of ₹98 crore.

NIIT added 685 schools during the year. In the June quarter, private school business accounted for 45 per cent share of the segment's revenue and the number of contracts increased 13 per cent y-o-y to 157 schools.

In 2016-17, revenue (₹1,188 crore) was impacted by issues such as demonetisation but recovered briskly in the March quarter (up 51 per cent y-o-y). In the June quarter, overall revenue was flat y-o-y but corporate learning group income increased 7 per cent.

Management expects that the skills segment will be profitable and grow in high single digit in 2017-18. Corporate learning and school segments are expected to grow at 15 per cent this year.

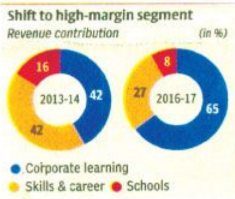
Margins to improve

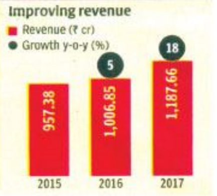
NIIT's operational net profit increased 30 per cent y-o-y to ₹5 crore in 2016-17, in spite of adverse forex movement. However, lower income from associates dragged consolidated profit (down 3 per cent to ₹65 crore).

Operating margin in its corporate learning segment (after adjustment for one-time revenue) was steady at 11 per cent in 2016-17.

Margin in the skills segment inched up to 2 per cent. In the June quarter, depreciation expenses decreased 14 per cent y-o-y. Margins are likely to improve over the next few years and the management expects that school segment margins will be about 10 per cent (8 per cent currently).

The focus on the high-margin corporate learning segment will also help, as will the turnaround in the skills segment. The company's net debt fell to ₹40 crore in June 2017, from ₹104 crore in the December quarter.





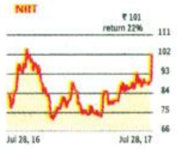
BUY

Why

- Growing revenue
- Margins to improve
- Reasonable valuation

Did you know?

NIIT added two corporate clients in the June 2017 quarter, after three additions in 2016-17



Hindu Business Line, New Delhi, *July 31, 2017*

TOP DRAW Students strike the happy pose at NIIT University, Neemrana

Goal: Summa Cum Laude

With a market-oriented, cross-discipline approach, corporate-led private varsities are changing education

BY ARINDAM MUKHERJEE & LOLA NAYAR

THEY are well funded, have excellent infrastructure and promise an alternative and a new approach to higher education. Welcome to the world of corporate-led private universities, a reality India is gradually waking up to.

While traditional government-owned and -funded universities have been the mainstay of Indian education, in the last decade or so, private universities, mostly promoted by Indian corporate houses have carved a niche in the burgeoning Indian education business. Most are funded by large corporate houses through their philanthropic arms and are set up largely on the Western model of education. These include Shiv Nadar University, Azim Premji University, NIIT University, O.P. Jindal University, Future Innoversity and Brij Mohan Lall Munjal University, among others.

Most top business houses now want to get into higher education either as a business venture, corporate social responsibility (CSR) requirements or as part of philanthropic activities. Promising unique value proposition in education, many are focused on requirements of specific sectors, while others are more broad-based in courses and syllabus.

The top advantage of private/corporate universities is that of providing a very high benchmark of standards.

Says Rupamanjari Ghosh, vice-chancellor, Shiv Nadar University, Greater Noida, "In the 1990s and 2000s, philanthropy was not on businesses' agenda. Now, they are quite alive to it. People started pitching in and now it has got structured. Many of these universities are not CSR; they want to bring in good education system in India."

Many show their foreign linkages and promise a new approach to education inspired by the cross-discipline approach followed by private US varsities. In India, where demand for higher education far outstrips supply, these universities are opening new avenues for students.

One of the most important aspects driving these universities is availability of corporate funds. While government universities function on tax payers' money, which is hard to come by and has strict accountability standards, corporate houses are liberal with funds. Their centralised decision-making often makes it easier for sanction of funds and fast rollout of projects.

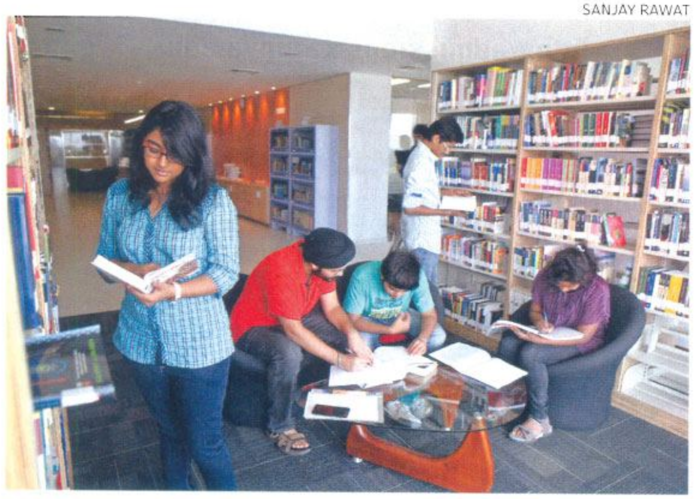
But, unlike state universities, funds could be limited over a long period for private universities. Says Pramath Raj Sinha, founding dean, Indian School of Business, and co-founder, Ashoka University, "In private, there is some pressure on making the economic and financial model self-sustaining over time, so that private funding and donations are not going into a bottomless pit."

Dilip M. Nachane, director, IGIDR, Mumbai, says that private educational enterprises have been an integral part of our higher education system. In recent times, many have been accorded deemed university status and the official policy has become more receptive to their presence, resulting in a proliferation of private varsities both Indian and foreign.

But there is considerable difference among the institutions in terms of quality of training, scope of subjects taught, administrative set-ups, and social commitment. Some have emerged as world-class centres of excellence, while others have fallen short of the mark. Yet, there is sufficient commonality among the educational services provided and the problems posed by these institutes.

Nachane, a former vice-chancellor of

SANJAY RAWAT



WORK STATION In the library at Shiv Nadar University, Uttar Pradesh

Manipal University, states that in theory, private universities are ideally positioned to provide high quality education. They enjoy advantages like a more comfortable funding structure compared to state and even central universities. Further, they are relatively free of political interference—that bane of state universities. Consequently, they face far less student and teacher agitations. Not being hampered by unwieldy bureaucracy, "they can respond quickly and flexibly to emerging needs in education. For example, many universities immediately started courses on intellectual property rights as it emerged as an important issue at the WTO. Similarly, in recent years, Data Analytics has become important in the corporate sector, prompting several private universities to start courses. Contrast this with the situation in public universities, where syllabus modernisation remains hostage to unwieldy boards of studies and obstructionist bureaucracies," says Nachane.

Perhaps the most important advantage of private and/or corporate-funded universities is that of providing a competitive benchmark of standards, which could spur public universities to improve standards. "There is no denying that many private universities are oriented primarily to serve the needs of the corporate sector. This means that the emphasis is mainly on management education. Natural science subjects receive little attention and the liberal arts virtually nil," opines Nachane.

Sinha, however, says that private universities are trying to bring in a difference. "We have over 800 universities in India. Around 70 per cent of them are private. Of these 500-plus universities, we have a handful of private universities trying to do things differently, while 99 per cent of private universities are as good or bad as the government ones."

Of course, the use of government money essentially drives universities towards safer practices, with limited scope for experimentation. Hence, universities have stuck to rote teaching and learning processes with limited efforts to align it with modern needs. This is where private universities have moved ahead.

Ghosh states, "An independent philanthropic sector is needed to increase experimentation without bothering about using tax-payers' money. Only then can one take calculated risks."

The other thing is curriculum and approach. There is hardly any multi-disciplinary research happening at India's old universities—a common feature in private US universities. Although the IITs have only recently introduced humanities and English, corporate and private universities in India have started with such an approach. "Today's problems are not restricted to any one discipline and unless you have a multi-disciplinary approach there cannot be any inter-disciplinary problem solving. Our engineering curriculum has creative designing. We teach social sciences, hardcore sciences and then engineering. The teaching and learning process have all changed. This will make students 360 degree human beings rather than one-dimensional," says Ghosh.

Free of political interference, private universities can respond quickly to emerging needs in education/training.

In corporate universities, it is not students alone who are made familiar with application of knowledge but also faculty members, who are encouraged to work for six months to a year in industries related to their specialisation to understand evolving industry needs, challenges and market realities.

ACCORDINGLY, some new corporate universities are involving even undergraduates in research and have engineering, humanities and management under the same roof to encourage inter-disciplinary interactions. Says Prof V.S. Rao, vice-chancellor, NIIT University, "The best practices of industry form part of the corporate universities. Because of industry linkage, we send our students to the industries for a period of six months to work on live projects, which is of direct interest to the industry, as a regular employee."

Others emphasise on social contributions through education. Anurag Behar, vice-chancellor, Azim Premji University, states, "Our university has been established with a clear social purpose--to contribute to social change for a more just, equitable, humane and sustainable society--through our teaching programmes, research and deep engagement with the real world. Our research programmes go deep into issues of education, sustainability, governance, economic development and livelihoods. Our programmes are often the first choice for students interested in contributing to society."

While private universities are trying to change education modes, they face

Outlook, National, *August 2017*

INDIA'S BEST UNIVERSITIES
The Private View

PRABHJOT SINGH GILL

TRIBHUVAN TIWARI

Foreign faculty at Lovely Professional University (left), Jalandhar; students at Ashoka University (right), Sonipat

an acute shortage of quality faculty. While traditional universities, buttressed by their old reputation, manage to find some quality faculty, private varsities have often found it difficult to attract good talent. Most, therefore, tend to depend on guest and overseas faculty members.

Shiv Nadar University for instance, taps on to the Indian diaspora and has a strong team of NRI faculty. Ghosh also boasts that her university has more IIT PhDs than the IITs themselves, while the IITs face a shortage of faculty. Last year, IIT Delhi had a shortage of 400 faculty members, while IIT Bombay had a shortage of 350.

BUT this approach has its own critics. Says Nachane, "Because of the over-reliance on foreign teachers, syllabi and courses taught in the social sciences (such as economics) have marginal relevance to Indian realities. The better among private universities tend to become elitist enclaves, taking the cue from foreign universities, with very little interaction with other universities (public or private) within India."

Is getting into a private university easy? Given the stringent systems of admission, in most cases it is not. Shiv Nadar, for instance, has its own admission test system, which evaluates students on many parameters, many do not allow anyone scoring less than 80 per cent in class 12 to apply. Others have similar systems. Says Ashoka University's Sinha, "Ashoka's admission process is more holistic than most. It's not just based on marks, rank or an entrance test, but evaluates various aspects of a student's potential." Mostly, only the most meritorious or talented are selected in the best of corporate-led private universities.

That brings us to that most important aspect—cost of education. On an average, the cost of education in private universities is many times that of state-funded universities. While a three-year undergraduate course in a government university costs less than Rs 30,000 on an average, a private university can charge anything from Rs 4 lakh at Amity University to upwards of Rs 25 lakh for Ashoka University. Others, like Shiv Nadar University and Jindal University, have similar cost structures.

Rao defends, "Public universities are publicly funded, while corporate universities have to depend on private funding. So we have to depend on tuition fees or philanthropic contributions by the private sector."

Ashoka's Sinha concurs, "High quality higher education is expensive, and around the world it has always been for the elite. Even in India, the cost of high-quality education incurred at an IIT or IISc or IISER or IIM will come to Rs 25 Lakh for 3 years. This...is public information." As many private universities are philanthropically funded and are truly non-profit, Sinha points out that many of them spend a lot on scholarships to make sure that the common woman can also avail of the opportunity if she merits admission.

A private university is much, much more expensive than a state-run university, but admission systems are stringent too.

Naturally, many criticise the approach of corporate-led universities. Pritam Singh, a seasoned educator and former director of IIM Lucknow, feels their approach to education is flawed. "They have not delivered because you cannot manage universities like you manage companies. You cannot superimpose management principles on a university. That is why some have had to close down their divisions, while others are having problems. There are tremendous problems in governance related issues."

Despite the criticisms, corporate-led private universities have brought in a new approach to higher education along with a strong social connect, which is essential for our times. With their foreign linkages, they have also provided access to external knowledge and new ideas. It remains to be seen if, in the long run, these universities look beyond industry specific interests to deliver on quality education, and help improve the employability of millions of young job seekers. Sustainability of their business models and ability to attract the best of young talent are areas that are still yet to be fully tested. But they have their sights trained on the correct targets. ◻

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BusinessLine

MindChampion Learning Systems Limited shines at the 3rd South Asia Education Summit 2017

September 5, 2017: Business Wire India

MindChampion Learning Systems Limited (MLSL) wins three prestigious awards at the '3rd South Asia Education Summit 2017'

MLSL dedicates the awards to Teachers on the occasion of Teacher's Day.

Bags 3 prestigious awards for innovation in school education at the Summit.

MindChampion Learning Systems Limited (MLSL), NIIT's wholly owned subsidiary for its K-12 school learning initiative, has been conferred with three prestigious awards at the '3rd South Asia Education Summit 2017,' organized by ICT post. MLSL has bagged the 'Interactive Solution Provider' award for NIIT Nguru - IT Wizard & MathPlus; 'Testing and Assessment Tool Provider' award for state-of-the-art NIIT Nguru - Practice Plus and 'Teacher Training (K-12)' award for 'The CTET Advantage Program'. The awards were presented by Mr Anil Swarup, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Govt. of India at a glittering ceremony organized in New Delhi recently.

Started in the year 2014 with the help of UNESCO, South Asia Education Summit is a dedicated platform to explore the latest potentials of innovation in education sectors across 8 countries in South Asia: India, Pakistan, Nepal, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka. The forum aims to make benefits of the education accessible and meaningful for all humanity and to raise public awareness and give deserved public recognition to the highest quality education for the marginalized society, produced all over the South Asia.

Mr. Gavin Dabreo, CEO, MindChampion Learning Systems Limited (MLSL) said, "On the occasion of Teacher's Day, MLSL wishes to compliment teachers for their tireless commitment towards nurturing students of today. We are pleased to have bagged three awards at the prestigious South Asia Education Summit, as an endorsement of our commitment towards school education. Such recognitions encourage us to work towards helping school teachers make learning more effective and engaging through our innovative products and solutions".

Nguru IT Wizard is an end-to-end teaching-learning solution that aims at revolutionizing the way IT is being taught. An impact model that was rolled out in November 2016 highlights an increase of 5% in National Academic Results for schools using the product. We have touched over 1 million students till date.

Nguru MathPlus is a unique solution designed for fostering mathematical skills using colors, shapes and real-life examples. The program has been carefully designed for students of class 1 to class 8, keeping in mind the guidelines of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF 2005) developed by NCERT. Nguru MathPlus is highly engaging, makes students curious and interested in the concept, encouraging them to want to know more. It provides insight to the learner on various career options and highlights the relevance of math in real life. The MathLab Impact Study has shown an increase from 38% to 46% in share of grade A in the performance of Class X students after its implementation.

Practice Plus is a scientifically designed Practice & Assessment solution which help students improve and progress through the methodology of 'Assessment for Learning'. It actively engages and empowers all stakeholders, including schools, teachers and parents through a 360 degree online solution to identify learning gaps and improve through guided practice. In a short span of time, we have touched over 55000 students.

The CTET Advantage Program offered by NIIT has been designed to support pre-service/in-service teachers to prepare for the forthcoming CTET and to help them ace the exam. It guides the teachers on taking examinations by providing them with innumerable practice tests for clearing doubts and by conducting mock tests in real test environment. The program also includes workshop in CCE, student management skills and interview skills. NIIT has been successful in implementing 5 cycles of this course by now with over 65% pass percentage as compared to the national pass percentage of 3-7%. About MindChampion Learning Systems Limited

As NIIT's wholly owned subsidiary for its K-12 school learning initiative - MindChampion Learning Systems Limited (MLSL), is providing technology based learning to around 2,000+ private schools across India, reaching out to more than a million students. At MindChampion Learning Systems Limited (MLSL), all our products seek to give an integrated academic access to each of our schools and their school children. The futuristic NIIT Nguru range of learning solutions for schools comprises Practice Plus- Smart practice companion, Interactive Classrooms with digital content, Technology-driven Math Lab, IT Wizard programs, English Plus language lab and Quick School - an Education Resource Planning software.

MLSL, builds on the strong lineage of NIIT's School Learning business. Started in 1990, as NIIT's foray into School Learning, the company has provided technology based education to 17,000+ schools in India, Bhutan, South Africa and the Middle East, impacting more than 10 million students.

http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/business-wire/mindchampion-learning-systems-limited-shines-at-the-3rd-south-asia-education-summit-2017/article9845786.ece

साक्षात्कार

अर्थव्यवस्था और व्यावसायिक विकास के मामले में वस्तु एवं सेवा कर एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएगा

-पद्मभूषण डॉ. राजेंद्र एस. पवार

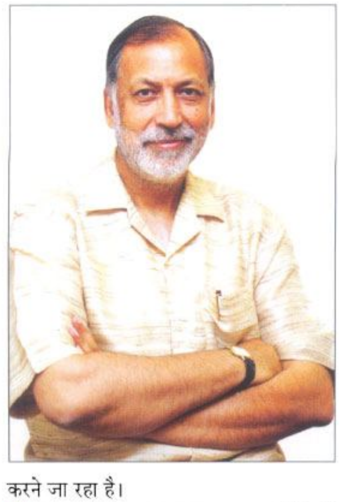
विगत दिनों अभ्युदय वात्सल्यम् के प्रधान सम्पादक आलोक रंजन तिवारी ने देश के सुप्रसिद्ध एनआईआईटी समूह के अध्यक्ष एवं सह संस्थापक पद्मभूषण डॉ. राजेंद्र एस. पवार से राष्ट्रीय- वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था, शिक्षा व्यवस्था, सूचना एवं प्रौद्योगिकी उद्योग और अन्य महत्वपूर्ण विषयों पर विस्तृत बातचीत की। प्रस्तुत है बातचीत के प्रमुख अंश:

■ एक प्रमुख उद्योगपति और शिक्षाविद के साथ-साथ आप एनआईआईटी समूह के अध्यक्ष एवं सह-संस्थापक और एनआईआईटी विश्वविद्यालय के संस्थापक भी हैं। एक विश्वविद्यालय के संस्थापक के रूप में आप भारतीय शिक्षा व्यवस्था की गुणवत्ता से कितना संतुष्ट हैं?

भारतीय शिक्षा प्रणाली में एक व्यापक वृद्धि हुई है और यह विभिन्न दृष्टिकोणों का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है। केंद्र सरकार ने शिक्षा के अवसरों को सर्व सुलभ बनाने के क्रम में अपना सर्वोत्तम योगदान दिया है। कौशल विकास और व्यावसायिक शिक्षा ने आधुनिक शिक्षा में एक नवीन पंख जोड़ने का उत्कृष्ट कार्य किया है। वर्ष १९९१ में, उदारीकरण की नवीन प्रक्रिया के तहत भारत ने विदेशी निवेश के लिए अपने दरवाजे खोले। उदारीकरण की प्रक्रिया ने भारतीय उद्योग जगत में एक विशाल आर्थिक शक्ति को जन्म दिया। तब से कई भारतीय कंपनियों ने वैश्विक बाजार में विशिष्ट पहचान अर्जित कर भारतीय उद्योग जगत की प्रतिष्ठा में भारी वृद्धि की है। शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में हमें समान प्रकार की नीतिगत सुधारों की आवश्यकता है और इस क्षेत्र के लोगों को प्रवेश, संचालन और प्रस्थान की स्वतंत्रता दी जानी चाहिए। ऑल इंडिया सर्वे ऑन हायर एजुकेशन के अनुसार भारत में ७६७ विश्वविद्यालय हैं, जिनमें ३८ हजार महाविद्यालय, ३ करोड़ ३० लाख विद्यार्थी और १३ लाख शिक्षक हैं। इसके बावजूद भारत में और अधिक विश्वविद्यालयों की आवश्यकता है, पाठ्यक्रम सुधार की आवश्यकता है। आज की दुनिया में, जहाँ तकनीकी ज्ञान प्रतिदिन विकसित हो रहा है, शैक्षिक संस्थानों को उद्योग के साथ जुड़ने और आवश्यकता पड़ने पर पाठ्यक्रम बदलने की स्वतंत्रता मिलनी चाहिए। शिक्षा उद्योग को वही सिखाना चाहिए जिसकी उद्योग जगत में माँग हो। अंतत: शिक्षा क्षेत्र में भी आर्थिक सुधारों की आवश्यकता है, विशेषकर उच्च शिक्षा में। सरकार को उन लोगों को छात्रवृत्ति और ऋण प्रदान करना चाहिए जिन्हें उस चीज की सर्वाधिक आवश्यकता हो और शैक्षणिक शुल्क के निर्धारण प्रक्रिया को मार्केट फोर्सस पर छोड़ देना चहिए। इस कदम के माध्यम से हम अपने शैक्षणिक संस्थानों को प्रासंगिक और आत्मनिर्भर बना सकते हैं। इसी उद्देश्यों की प्राप्ति के लिए हमने गैर-लाभकारी एनआईआईटी विश्वविद्यालय का सृजन किया है, जो पिछले कुछ वर्षों से उद्योग के साथ व्यापक संबंधों को बढ़ावा दे रहा है। यह आईसीआईसीआई, आईबीएम, डब्ल्यूएनएस जैसी प्रमुख संस्थाओं और कंपनियों के सहयोगी के रूप में एक सक्रिय भूमिका निभाता है।

■ १९८१ में स्थापित एनआईआईटी लिमिटेड विश्व के ४० देशों के संस्थानों, निगमों और व्यक्तियों को बहु अनुशासनिक शिक्षा प्रबंधन और प्रशिक्षण समाधान प्रदान करने के सन्दर्भ में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रहा है। आने वाले समय में एनआईआईटी को कहाँ तक ले जाना चाहते हैं?

एक संगठन के रुप में एनआईआईटी लिमिटेड ने भारत में आईटी प्रशिक्षण की पहल करते हुए सूचना एवं प्रोद्योगिकी क्षेत्र के ३५ मिलियन लोगों को आईटी प्रशिक्षण दिया है। एनआईआईटी लिमिटेड मौजूदा पेशेवरों और नये लोगों की पुनर्कुशलता के लिए डिजिटल कौशल को सबसे बड़ी आवश्यकता के रुप में देखता है। स्टार्ट अप उद्योगों को फुल स्टैक आईपी अभियंताओं की तत्काल आवश्यकता है और अर्थव्यवस्था में नवीन नौकरियों के सृजन में यह महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएगा। इसलिए हमने अक्टूबर, २०१५ में स्टैकरूटइन की शुरुआत की, जिसका उद्देश्य बहु-कुशल और बहु-अनुशासनिक प्रोग्रामर्स बनाना है जो शीर्ष उत्पादन कंपनियों, स्टार्ट अप्स और आईटी कंपनियों में उच्च प्रदर्शन करने वाली टीमों के सदस्य बन सकते हैं। डिजिटल कौशल प्राप्त करने और बेहतर नौकरी की चाह रखने वाले नये स्नातकों के लिए स्टैकरुटइन का अनुसरण करते हुए वर्ष २०१६ में, एनआईआईटी द्वारा डिजीनेक्स्ट नामक अन्य उत्पाद की स्थापना की गई थी। ट्रेनिंगडॉटकॉम-एनआईआईटी का एक बहु-विषयक शिक्षा मंच आईआईएम जैसे प्रमुख संस्थानों के सहयोग से डिजाइन किए गए कार्यक्रमों को प्रस्तुत करता है और इसे डिजिटल अर्थव्यवस्था की बदलती जरुरतों को पूरा करने के लिए विशिष्ट रुप से स्थापित किया गया है। डिजिटल परिवर्तन आज उद्योग में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रहा है और एनआईआईटी में हम इस परिवर्तन को सुविधाजनक बनाने के लिए प्रतिभाओं के विकास में एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएंगे। उद्योग के अनुमानों के मुताबिक, जो संगठन डिजिटल तरीके से रुपांतरित हुए हैं, वे अपने उद्योग प्रतिद्वंद्वियों की तुलना में २६ प्रतिशत अधिक लाभदायक हैं। २०१९ तक डिजिटल परिवर्तन प्रौद्योगिकियों पर वैश्विक खर्च २.१ बिलियन अमरीकी डालर पार करने की उम्मीद है। २०१८ तक सूचना और प्रौद्योगिकी संसाधनों का ३५ प्रतिशत नये डिजिटल राजस्व प्रवाह के सृजन पर खर्च किया जाएगा, और २०२० तक आईटी बजट के लगभग ५० प्रतिशत अंश को डिजिटल परिवर्तन उपक्रमों के साथ जोड़ा जाएगा। ये सभी चीजें एक संकेत देती हैं कि डिजिटल परिवर्तन आईटी उद्योग में विकास के अगले चरण को संचालित करने जा रहा है।



■ आप व्यक्तिगत स्तर पर प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी की कार्यशैली से कितना प्रभावित हैं?

वर्ष २०१० में, हम गुजरात सरकार के साथ एमेगा शतरंज कार्यक्रम और स्वर्णिम गुजरात शतरंज महोत्सव में शामिल थे, जहाँ २०,००० से अधिक खिलाड़ी अहमदाबाद के एक स्टेडियम में नए गिनीज विश्व रिकॉर्ड बनाने के लिए एक साथ शतरंज खेल रहे थे। यह कार्यक्रम गुजरात के तत्कालीन मुख्यमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी द्वारा शुरु किया गया था। उस दौरान उनके साथ काम करने में खुशी हुई। निजी तौर पर मैं श्री मोदी के प्रति उनके उच्च स्तर की प्रतिबद्धता और गुजरात में शतरंज के खेल को लोकप्रिय बनाने के लिए मेरे हृदय में अगाध सम्मान की भावना है।

■ एक उद्योगपति के रुप में आप भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था की गति-प्रगति से कितना संतुष्ट हैं?

भारत में एक विशाल जनसांख्यिकीय लाभांश है, आंकड़े बताते हैं कि २०२० तक ५०% से अधिक आबादी २५ वर्ष से कम होगी। १९९१ में उदारीकरण होने के बाद, देश ने वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए अपने आर्थिक दरवाजे खोल दिया, जिससे आगे चलकर जीडीपी को एक स्थिर और गतिशील वृद्धि दर प्राप्त हुआ। हम आगे एक रोमांचक भविष्य देख रहे हैं।

■ भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में वस्तु एवं सेवा कर के समावेश को किस दृष्टि से देखते हैं?

वस्तु एवं सेवा कर (जीएसटी) का उद्देश्य भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को बढ़ावा देना है। जीएसटी के माध्यम से करों पर कर (कैस्केडिंग) से बचा जा सकेगा और अर्थव्यवस्था में माल एवं सेवाओं का मुक्त प्रवाह किया जा सकेगा, जिससे भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को व्यापक स्तर पर मजबूती मिलेगी। ऐसी उम्मीद है कि अर्थव्यवस्था और व्यावसायिक विकास के मामले में वस्तु एवं सेवा कर एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएगा। चूँकि किसी भी देश की अर्थव्यवस्था मुद्रा संचलन, व्यापार और व्यवसाय पर निर्भर रहती है और ये सभी आर्थिक तत्व महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं। दीर्घकालिक परिप्रेक्ष्य में व्यवसाय निकायों पर जीएसटी का सकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ेगा। नवीन कर व्यवस्था उत्पादकों पर कर के बोझ को कम करेगी और अधिक उत्पादन के माध्यम से वृद्धि को बढ़ावा देगी। जीएसटी के आने से व्यवस्था में अधिक पारदर्शिता होगी जिससे ग्राहकों को पता चल सकेगा कि वे किस आधार पर कितने करों का भुगतान कर रहे हैं। जीएसटी की शुरुआत भारत में अप्रत्यक्ष कर सुधारों के क्षेत्र में एक उल्लेखनीय कदम है। केंद्रीय और राज्य करों को एक ही कर में मिलाकर कैस्केडिंग (करों पर कर) से बचा जा सकेगा और इसके माध्यम से सामान्य राष्ट्रीय बाजार के मार्ग को प्रशस्त किया जा सकेगा। उपभोक्ता की दृष्टि से जीएसटी सामान और सेवाओं पर समग्र कर के बोझ को कम करने में सहायक साबित होगा। भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में जीएसटी के आने से भारतीय उत्पादें राष्ट्रीय और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में प्रतिस्पर्धी बन सकेंगी।

■ वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्धा के सन्दर्भ में भारतीय सूचना और प्रौद्योगिकी उद्योग को कहाँ तक देखते हैं?

भारत परिवर्तन कर रहा है और इस परिवर्तन के पीछे का प्रमुख कारण प्रत्येक उद्योग को क्रांतिकारी बनाने के लिए प्रौद्योगिकी का उपयोग है। नॉसकॉम के अनुसार, २०२५ तक भारतीय आईटी - बीपीएम उद्योग के ३५० अरब डॉलर तक पहुंचने की उम्मीद है। वर्तमान में घरेलू सॉफ्टवेयर उत्पाद बाजार वर्तमान ४.८ अरब डॉलर के सॉफ्टवेयर उत्पादों के बाजार में सिर्फ २ फीसदी का योगदान देता है। वर्ष २०२५ तक भारतीय सूचना और प्रोद्योगिकी के अपेक्षित विकास को ध्यान में रखते हुए उत्पादों के पक्ष में बहुत अधिक अवसर हैं।

■ आप अपना आदर्श किसे मानते हैं?

मेरे आदर्श व्यक्तियों की एक लंबी सूची है। मेरा मानना है कि अगर कोई देखने के लिए उत्सुक है तो उसके चारों तरफ उत्कृष्टता है।

■ कोई सदग्रंथ अथवा विचारधारा जिससे आप सर्वाधिक प्रभावित हों?

एक बार फिर कहना चाहूँगा कि ऐसे पुस्तकों की एक लंबी सूची है जिसने पिछले ६ दशक में मेरे विचार को एक विशिष्ट आकार दिया है।

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NIIT #EdTech
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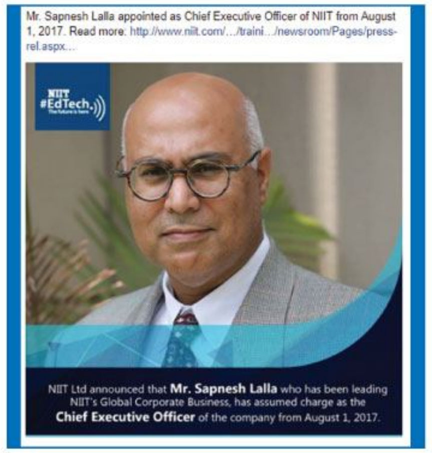
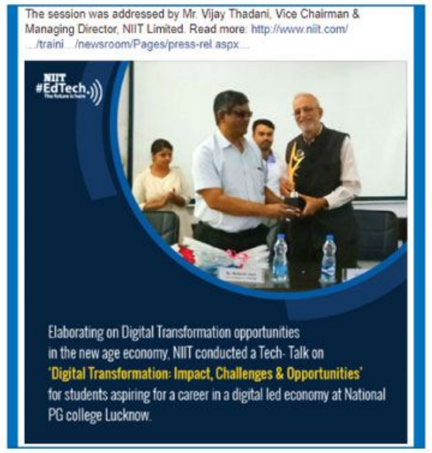

Mr. Sapnesh Lalla appointed as Chief Executive Officer of NIIT from August 1, 2017. Read more: http://www.niit.com/…/traini…/newsroom/Pages/press-rel.aspx…

NIIT Ltd announced that **Mr. Sapnesh Lalla** who has been leading NIIT's Global Corporate Business, has assumed charge as the **Chief Executive Officer** of the company from August 1, 2017.


The session was addressed by Mr. Vijay Thadani, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, NIIT Limited. Read more: http://www.niit.com/…/traini…/newsroom/Pages/press-rel.aspx…

Elaborating on Digital Transformation opportunities in the new age economy, NIIT conducted a Tech- Talk on 'Digital Transformation: Impact, Challenges & Opportunities' for students aspiring for a career in a digital led economy at National PG college Lucknow.

"In the previous year itself, NIIT has launched a wide portfolio of courses—including its pioneering DigiNxt series, its cutting-edge Training.com platform and the StackRoute offering to create advanced-level programmers—to build human resources well versed in DT." – Prakash Menon, President, Global Retail Business, NIIT Ltd. Read more: http://www.iamwire.com/…/building-enterprises-of-the…/167354

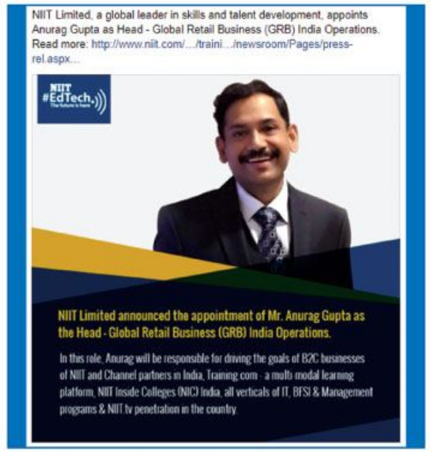
Building Enterprises of The Future by Creating a Digitally-Skilled Workforce

It is becoming imperative, especially for enterprises to get on the Digital Transformation path.

IAMWIRE.COM

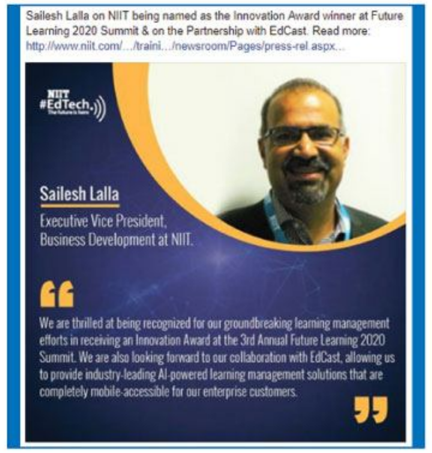
Since #AI can help reduce wait times for many types of interactions, this trend sounds like a win for businesses and customers alike. Read more: http://aibusiness.org/9-predictions-about-ai-that-might-su…/

ACCORDING TO RESEARCHER GARTNER, AI bots will power **85%** of all customer service interactions by the year **2020**.


NIIT Limited, a global leader in skills and talent development, appoints Anurag Gupta as Head - Global Retail Business (GRB) India Operations. Read more: http://www.niit.com/…/traini…/newsroom/Pages/press-rel.aspx…

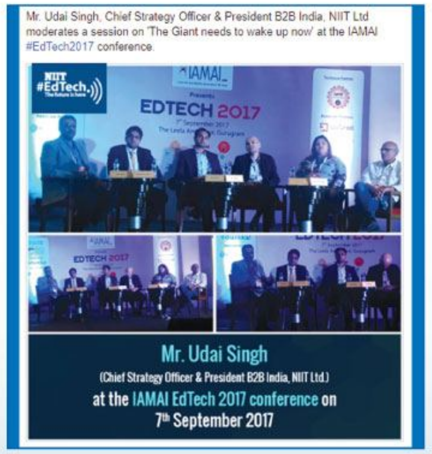
NIIT Limited announced the appointment of Mr. Anurag Gupta as the Head - Global Retail Business (GRB) India Operations.

In this role, Anurag will be responsible for driving the goals of B2C businesses of NIIT and Channel partners in India, Training.com - a multi modal learning platform, NIIT Inside Colleges (NIC) India, all verticals of IT, BFSI & Management programs & NIIT.tv penetration in the country.

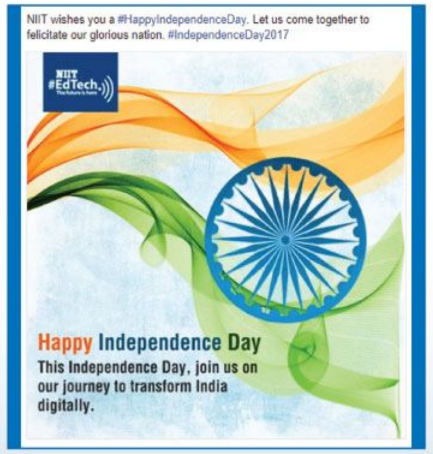

Sailesh Lalla on NIIT being named as the Innovation Award winner at Future Learning 2020 Summit & on the Partnership with EdCast. Read more: http://www.niit.com/…/traini…/newsroom/Pages/press-rel.aspx…

Sailesh Lalla
Executive Vice President, Business Development at NIIT.

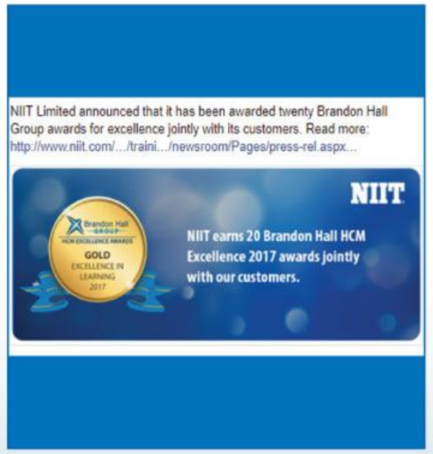
"We are thrilled at being recognized for our groundbreaking learning management efforts in receiving an Innovation Award at the 3rd Annual Future Learning 2020 Summit. We are also looking forward to our collaboration with EdCast, allowing us to provide industry-leading AI-powered learning management solutions that are completely mobile-accessible for our enterprise customers."


Mr. Udai Singh, Chief Strategy Officer & President B2B India, NIIT Ltd moderates a session on 'The Giant needs to wake up now' at the IAMAI #EdTech2017 conference.

Mr. Udai Singh
(Chief Strategy Officer & President B2B India, NIIT Ltd.)
at the IAMAI EdTech 2017 conference on 7th September 2017


NIIT wishes you a #HappyIndependenceDay. Let us come together to felicitate our glorious nation. #IndependenceDay2017

Happy Independence Day
This Independence Day, join us on our journey to transform India digitally.


NIIT Limited announced that it has been awarded twenty Brandon Hall Group awards for excellence jointly with its customers. Read more: http://www.niit.com/…/traini…/newsroom/Pages/press-rel.aspx…

NIIT earns 20 Brandon Hall HCM Excellence 2017 awards jointly with our customers.

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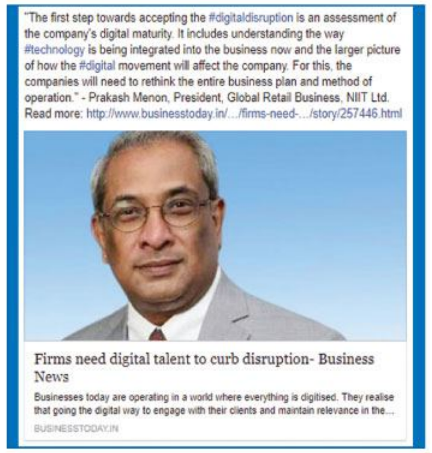
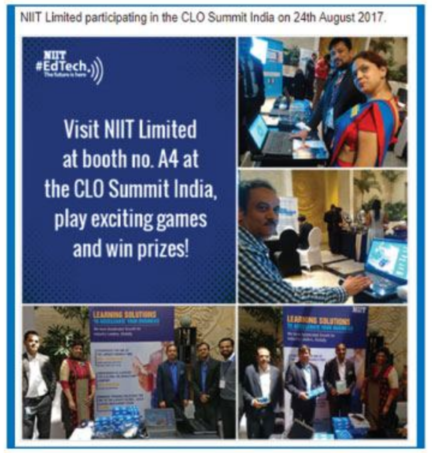

"The first step towards accepting the #digitaldisruption is an assessment of the company's digital maturity. It includes understanding the way #technology is being integrated into the business now and the larger picture of how the #digital movement will affect the company. For this, the companies will need to rethink the entire business plan and method of operation." - Prakash Menon, President, Global Retail Business, NIIT Ltd. Read more: http://www.businesstoday.in/…/firms-need-…/story/257446.html

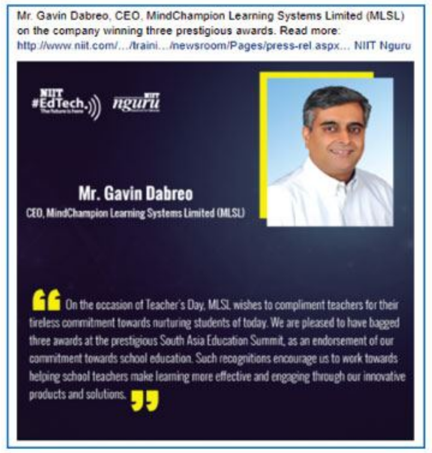
Firms need digital talent to curb disruption- Business News

Businesses today are operating in a world where everything is digitised. They realise that going the digital way to engage with their clients and maintain relevance in the…

BUSINESSTODAY.IN

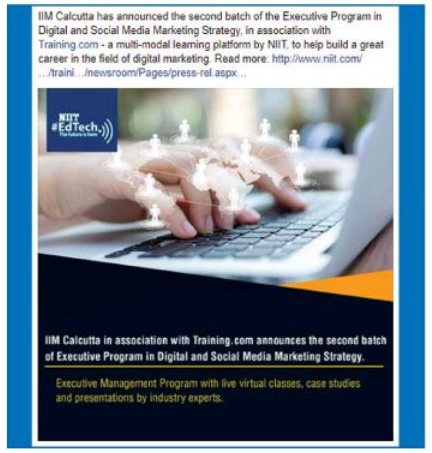

NIIT Limited participating in the CLO Summit India on 24th August 2017.

Visit NIIT Limited at booth no. A4 at the CLO Summit India, play exciting games and win prizes!


Mr. Gavin Dabreo, CEO, MindChampion Learning Systems Limited (MLSL) on the company winning three prestigious awards. Read more: http://www.niit.com/…/traini…/newsroom/Pages/press-rel.aspx… NIIT Nguru

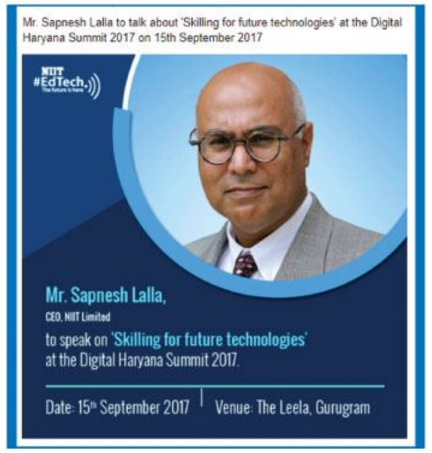
Mr. Gavin Dabreo
CEO, MindChampion Learning Systems Limited (MLSL)

"On the occasion of Teacher's Day, MLSL wishes to compliment teachers for their tireless commitment towards nurturing students of today. We are pleased to have bagged three awards at the prestigious South Asia Education Summit, as an endorsement of our commitment towards school education. Such recognitions encourage us to work towards helping school teachers make learning more effective and engaging through our innovative products and solutions."


IIM Calcutta has announced the second batch of the Executive Program in Digital and Social Media Marketing Strategy, in association with Training.com - a multi-modal learning platform by NIIT, to help build a great career in the field of digital marketing. Read more: http://www.niit.com/…/traini…/newsroom/Pages/press-rel.aspx…

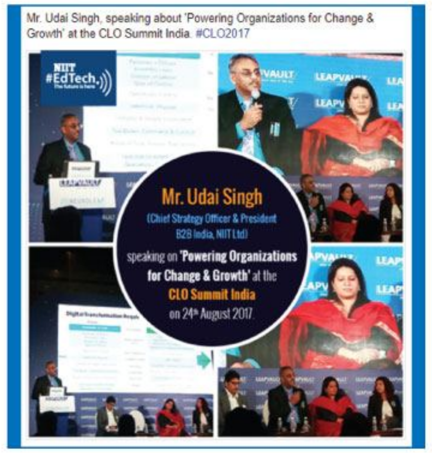
IIM Calcutta in association with Training.com announces the second batch of Executive Program in Digital and Social Media Marketing Strategy.

Executive Management Program with live virtual classes, case studies and presentations by industry experts.

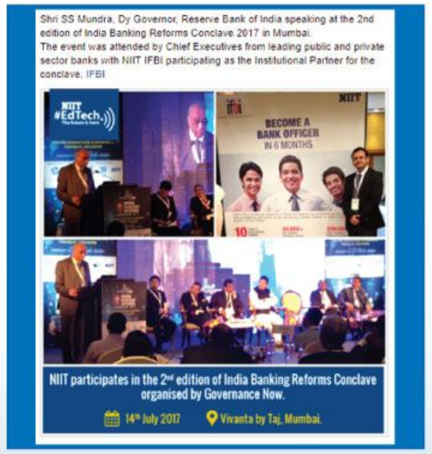

Mr. Sapnesh Lalla to talk about 'Skilling for future technologies' at the Digital Haryana Summit 2017 on 15th September 2017

Mr. Sapnesh Lalla,
CEO, NIIT Limited
to speak on 'Skilling for future technologies' at the Digital Haryana Summit 2017.

Date: 15th September 2017 | Venue: The Leela, Gurugram

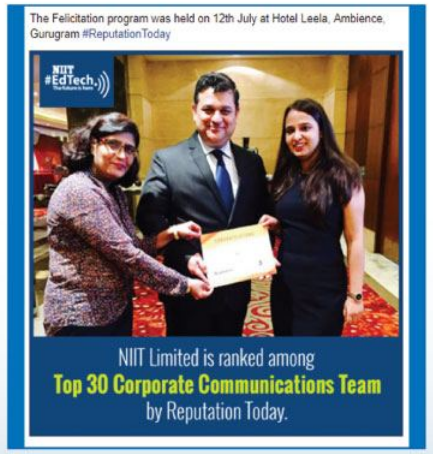

Mr. Udai Singh, speaking about 'Powering Organizations for Change & Growth' at the CLO Summit India. #CLO2017

Mr. Udai Singh
(Chief Strategy Officer & President B2B India, NIIT Ltd)
speaking on 'Powering Organizations for Change & Growth' at the CLO Summit India on 24th August 2017

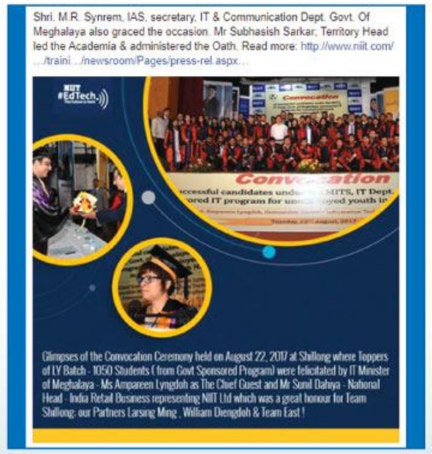

Shri SS Mundra, Dy Governor, Reserve Bank of India speaking at the 2nd edition of India Banking Reforms Conclave 2017 in Mumbai.
The event was attended by Chief Executives from leading public and private sector banks with NIIT IFBI participating as the Institutional Partner for the conclave. IFBI

NIIT participates in the 2nd edition of India Banking Reforms Conclave organised by Governance Now.

14th July 2017 Vivanta by Taj, Mumbai.


The Felicitation program was held on 12th July at Hotel Leela, Ambience, Gurugram #ReputationToday

NIIT Limited is ranked among **Top 30 Corporate Communications Team** by Reputation Today.


Shri. M.R. Synrem, IAS, secretary, IT & Communication Dept. Govt. Of Meghalaya also graced the occasion. Mr Subhasish Sarkar, Territory Head led the Academia & administered the Oath. Read more: http://www.niit.com/…/traini…/newsroom/Pages/press-rel.aspx…

Glimpses of the Convocation Ceremony held on August 22, 2017 at Shillong where Toppers of LY Batch - 1050 Students (from Govt Sponsored Program) were felicitated by IT Minister of Meghalaya - Ms Ampareen Lyngdoh as The Chief Guest and Mr Sunil Dahiya - National Head - India Retail Business representing NIIT Ltd which was a great honour for Team Shillong: our Partners Larsing Ming , William Diengdoh & Team East !