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Digital Transformation is here



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Megatrends that will shape the future of learning

MAR 23, 2017, 04.34 PM

The world is undergoing an exponential and rapid change at virtually every level and there are several megatrends at work that are altering life as we know it.

These trends span micro and macroeconomics, politics, science and technology thus creating a big impact on individuals, organizations, society and governments.

Leaving no area untouched, these megatrends are creating upheavals in the learning sphere, which is under compulsion to evolve in order to align itself with the future of work.

Learning and education have become crucial pillars that nations are now banking upon to survive and thrive. Singapore's work on making people skills as a differentiator and the many strides made by Scandinavian countries on skilling and repurposing are well documented. Learning has become synonymous with skills and talent development and countries that have invested in learning and in building knowledge societies can expect to enjoy a rosier future. There have been many voices on the urgency for nations like India to invest in skilling and development to realize the fruits of their demographic dividend.

In recent years, however, as digital technology pervades the world, the manner in which learning happens is undergoing a tectonic paradigm shift as well. New methodologies, platforms and technological tools are coming up. These make learning more flexible, accessible and affordable.

These megatrends require individuals, organizations, society, the community and governments to delve into the future of learning, anticipate the shape of things to come and prepare for the future.

In my view, the future of learning will be defined by three important megatrends.

The 100 year life!

Yes, longevity will be a primary trend. A hundred year life is expected to become reality for a growing population across the globe. According to a recent research, 50 percent of the babies born after 2007 in G-7/OECD countries are expected to live to more than 100 years!

While this grand extension of life is good news, it will also throw up immense challenges for the healthier nations, as they grapple with issues related to their aging populations. Countries that are now "retiring" citizens at the age of 58-60 years, will have to find new ways of keeping them up-and-about, productive and "employed" in some kind of activity or another as they continue into their 70s and 80s.

Individuals who believed that investing in about 20 years of learning, at one stretch through school and university, hoping that this would see them through for the next 40 years, will have to do a rethink to survive until their 100s. They will have to plan for the next 35 years, post their typical retirement age of 65.

In order for all generations to have longer productive careers and contribute to society in the sunset years of their lives, they will require to be constantly reskilled/upskilled. They will have to learn and unlearn, handle multiple transitions and basically stay abreast of the developments taking place in the realm of work. Most importantly, they will have to embrace lifelong, or continuous learning in order to stay relevant until they finally call it a day.

Corporations in fact, will have to go beyond training people on just knowledge and skills but also on the transformational capabilities so that they can make transitions. HR in enterprises will have to gear up to deal with the challenge of managing such an eclectic group of workers.

As far as governments are concerned, they will have to step in with regulations that protect the rights of workers, (especially those with 'flexible' work profiles). Policy makers will have to worry about unemployment, especially among older citizens. An individual may move swiftly across modes like being a trainee, intern, employee, business owner or simply on a reskilling break.

Transformation through technology

The second important trend that is likely to impact the future of learning is technology, which is evolving at an extremely rapid pace and causing disruption. Going forward, we can expect to see an invasion of Intelligent, Digital and Virtual technologies that will have a massive transformational impact on education and skilling as we know it.

Here we are talking about the latest buzzwords including Applied Artificial Intelligence (AI), Advanced Machine Learn (read

that as Neural networks and Natural Language Processing), Intelligent Applications (AI-powered Virtual Personal Assistants and immersive, conversational and continuous interfaces) and intelligent machines such as robots, drones and Autonomous Vehicles.

Robots too will exhibit a lot of potential in learning. Intelligent machines have already overturned conventional notions that machines are only good for black and white thinking and that they cannot handle fuzziness. As for Virtual Reality/Augmented Reality, these technologies are expected to be central to what is going to happen to learning going forward. Just as was the case with office Productivity software in the 90s, the Internet and Social media in the last decade, competence in the next level of more advanced technologies will soon become the norm for different age groups. Additionally, the generations ahead will need to learn to interact,

collaborate (work as symbiotic teams) and integrate with co-workers who are not necessarily human!

The rise of the Exponential Organization

The third dimension in the future of learning will be the new kind of Enterprise, or what is being referred to as the Exponential Organization. Author Salim Ismail in his book called 'Exponential Organizations' describes them as companies that are learning to adapt and thrive in a world of abundance by diving into new structures that leverage exponential technologies and a shifting global business mindset. Typically, these companies are 10 times more impactful in terms of speed, efficiency and productivity owing to their adoption of new organizational techniques and their utilization of network technologies.

An important characteristic of these organizations will be their workforce, which will encompass few highly empowered employees, intelligent bots, and expert staff on demand.

Learning Science to rescue

One challenge that organizations and their world of work will face, will in fact revolve around the co-existence of bots and humans on their turfs. The fact is that Machine Learning systems gather knowledge rapidly at a mind boggling pace, quite unlike humans. The difference between Machine and Human learning is quite stark. Not too long from now Machine Intelligence will become relatively stronger than Human Intelligence and this gap will only get wider and wider. It is crystal clear that that the learning community will have to bridge this chasm. The community will have to work on strategies centered around Learning Science. The focus will need to be on making humans learn much faster – for example, we need to ask the question, 'Can we compress in one year, what would typically take decades'?

Investments in Learning Science will have to go up, and organizations will additionally need to focus on Engagement Science, Design Thinking and AI/Machine Learning. They will also have to ensure that learning remains real time and long term.

Learning, therefore, as we go forward, will remain on a gallop. It will become more advanced, tech-led and ubiquitous, becoming available to a diverse workforce within milliseconds, and on devices as handy and easy-to-use as their smart phones.

With all this change taking place, individuals, companies and governments will all have to take greater responsibility for learning and knowledge strategies.

I see three key responses that will emerge to address the challenges posed by these megatrends.

- Firstly, there will emerge a framework and model for Human Life-Long Competency Assurance, similar to the model of medical or healthcare insurance. Governments, Companies and Individuals will invest in "insuring" the continued competence of their citizens, employees and selves respectively. Some governments are already debating adding lifelong competency assurance into the social security coverage of their citizens.
- Secondly, there will emerge the concept of a Human Real-Time Competency Index for every individual which can accurately measure & report the competency of each individual in real time using real time big data (almost like a Fitbit reports today on one's health index), and understand where they stand in the roles that they are meant to perform.
- Finally, the current traditional offline & online learning models will be replaced entirely by Multi-Sensory Real-Time Training Simulators, where live feeds from the world of work for every role, as well as access to the entire historical repository of past knowledge and past transaction big data, will feed into a set of purpose built training simulators for every role, that run in a closed loop system using big data and machine learning, thereby delivering learning outcomes at many orders of magnitude better than today.

The future of learning is at a critical juncture, with megatrends such as 100 year life span, transformation through technology and rise of exponential organizations shaping the entire ecosystem. It is for mankind to embrace the necessary changes to realize massive and possible gains by riding on these defining developments.

(The article is authored by Rahul Patwardhan, CEO, NIIT Ltd)

<http://www.businessinsider.in/megatrends-that-will-shape-the-future-of-learning/articleshow/57792689.cms>

indiatoday 

India Today School Summit 2017: Accelerating innovation, technology and education

How the digital age has empowered children as agents of change.

Akshita Khosla | Posted by Mohak Gupta February 11, 2017 | UPDATED 21:56 IST



The second debate of the India Today School Summit was on accelerating innovation, technology and education. The speakers, Gavin Dabreo, CEO, Mind Champion Learning Systems, NIIT's subsidiary, Lisa Heydlauff, Founder, Going to School and Sashwati Banerjee, MD, Sesame Workshop India talked about how the digital age has empowered children as agents of change.

The panel discussion was preceded by a presentation on the work and achievements of Sesame Workshop India, a not-for-profit organization leading the movement to change the educational paradigm through its innovative projects that puts children at the center of development. Banerjee said that the biggest challenge for all educationists is affordability and access to devices and data.

"Most educators these days are not equipped to address this change. We need solid policy adequacy for proper infrastructure and need to understand how digital education can be a supplement and enabler," explained Banerjee.

Taking the discussion forward Gavin Dabreo discussed how teachers and most adults today are a little awkward with technology. "We need to conduct experiments and accept that technological advancement has the capacity to deliver new academic outcomes. This needs to start with small schools because millions of children at the base of the pyramid are still struggling with virtual reality," said Dabreo.

In this highly polarized inter connected world, knowledge is more about application than access. Artificial intelligence is taking over the untapped aspects of the education industry. A child born in 2017 will be in a different environment than the children of the 80s or 90s.

Talking about the technology-heavy future, Heydlauff said the Indian hardware is not up to the mark. "It's all moving so fast that there really is a hardware gap. We need to ask what we want and what we are looking at. With massive potential in the digital age, we can't and don't want to replace local role models; it must revolve around developing open systems and apt mediums," explained Heydlauff. Banerjee added that content plays a major role because in the end technology is just a mere platform.

On being asked about the innovative ways a teacher can adopt in classrooms, Heydlauff said feedbacks by young people are the most important part. "By listening what a student wishes to learn helps an educator design the curriculum; children can often create their own content and design stories. We must let them lead from the very beginning," added Heydlauff.

Students will only gradually learn and unlearn everything that the internet throws at them. "We must collectively make sure that the content has feel and there is no negative role-modeling. While teaching children to be stronger, we need to make sure that they are kinder," explained Banerjee.

Dabreo emphasised on how children must be allowed to blossom by being engaged in a dialogue; the right to disrupt and question should not be taken away from them. According to Heydlauff, "teachers are adults and often parents. The process of shifting to virtual reality should be started with them. Parents and teachers need to learn how to work as a community."

Discussing the dilemma of a teacher, Banerjee said that we must accept the fact that teachers and educators are under a lot of pressure. Often overburdened and stressed, teachers do not receive any rewards or recognition; there is nothing to incentivise them. "The only relief is that even though aspirations still exist, they are today meshed with a high realization," said Banerjee.

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/india-today-school-summit-2017-accelerating-innovation-technology-education/1/880705.html>


 CXOtoday.com
IT Perspective for Decision Makers

How Digital Transformation Drives Business Value

by Rajan Venkataraman, Chief Technology Officer, NIIT Limited Mar 01, 2017



Digital transformation is rightly touted as the 'next big thing'. Technology is what the economic concept of 'total factor productivity' refers to, and this sole factor compounds the effects of labour, productivity, and capital in a business. Therefore, businesses are now moving towards a digital way of operation, and compounding the spends on technology. Technological integration and digitization, impacts businesses in dual aspects – the organization facet and the customer facet.

The Organization Facet Training Cost Efficiencies

A recent market analysis by IDC highlights a 1 billion dollar increase in US application training software costs in companies this year. While this might look like a humongous investment, the overall cost effectiveness, thanks to digitisation, is unparalleled. The total cost of inception and operating of an eLearning platform gets divided by the number of times it's

used, and hence the total cost of training and learning for an enterprise plummets. This has a compounding effect over the obvious cost savings thanks to reduced costs of travel, in person training, and physical material costs.

Standardized Operations

Though a trained and experienced workforce and training staff can ensure a strategy aligned operation across the company, there will be inevitable disparities in the working styles. This is where digital working brings in the standardisation of procedures, and consistency in the delivery of content. This consistency paves way for consistent information being available across departments, and hence reduces any delays or erroneous data processing.

24X7 Availability

These days the 9-6 business working hours are being fast replaced by more balanced, convenient working hours. Therefore, the availability of business data and processes around the clock has become crucial. By going digital, an organisation can practically host both its data and processes over the web or a shared server, making real-time access easy and swift. This way, employees can get access at their whim and can contribute towards a more productive performance.

A Conducive Growth Environment

A recent report into the HRD development by Capgemini points out how digitisation and use of technology is transforming not just the way organizations work, but also the environment and attitude of the working resources. Digitisation helps create an environment where failure isn't seen as a taboo but rather as a feedback step in the entire process. Most ERPs and business process workflow software have a feedback mechanism through which errors and inputs can be recorded. It also creates an environment where exploration of new ideas cannot just be encouraged, but also put to test.

Effective Knowledge Management and Decision Making

It is important for any enterprise to capture and maintain project outputs, emails and new discoveries which are made during the day to day operations of the business. These will not just be available for everyone to access, but also provide for a base for decision making for the present and the future. The use of online tools and technologies to talk and record conversations amongst the employees and the business stakeholders also brings in an exchange of ideas and best practices. This can in turn help in making business operations more agile, by removing any deadlocks or repetitive process steps. Business Intelligence and data analytical platforms can help businesses tap the daily generated data sets to be used as churn outs of business trends to support decisions.

The Customer Facet

This is the Age of Customer. Technology and economic forces let customers dictate the way they interact with businesses. Let's understand how digital transformation will play a part in the evolving customer expectations and behaviour.

Improved Customer Experience

Technology may be at the heart of digital transformation but it will make businesses more customer-oriented. Most decision makers rank improved customer experience as their number one digital transformation priority. Customer experience and strategic thinking also top the list of skillsets considered key for a senior executive responsible for all aspects of digital business.

Real- Time Access

With organizations going digital, customers will expect dramatically reduced response times and real-time access to products and services. International Data Corp. recently predicted that over the next three to five years, most business-to-business and four fifths of business-to-consumer enterprises must overhaul their "digital front doors" to support 1,000 to 10,000 times as many customers and customer touchpoints than they do today. With digital processes replacing manual labour, businesses will be able to accelerate their turnaround time and deliver customer expectation in real-time.

Omnichannel Experience

Customers interact with businesses via multiple channels and expect seamless experience throughout. Thus, providing for a personalized omnichannel experience and engage customers across channels should top businesses list of digital transformation priorities. According to a survey conducted by Deloitte and Informatica, 72 percent indicated that they believe achieving a 360-degree customer view requires insights into products purchased, preferences, behaviours and customer relationships. And almost three-quarters said that this is either critical or very important to differentiating the organisation and their customers' digital expectations. With access to behavioural data and real-time insights, organizations will get a 360-degree view of the customers, helping the, deliver personalized experiences across all channels.

Digital transformation begins with restructuring and refinement of business processes but isn't complete without customer value proposition. While the best path to transformation for any business depends on its strategic objectives, every organization must use digital content, insight, and engagement to change internal operations and customer value proposition in tandem.

<http://www.cxotoday.com/story/how-digital-transformation-drives-business-value/>



The Most Sought After Professions of 2017

The HR divisions need to be a part of the overall digital transformation lifecycle.

by Rahul Patwardhan February, 2017



The digital revolution is transforming enterprises and disrupting industries. Leaner start-ups are hunting forerunners from all sides, challenging them to revamp themselves to become organizations of today. However, becoming a digital enterprise requires more profound changes than merely investing in, and adapting, digital technologies. Companies must rehash their fundamental thinking, business models, operations, and above all, their workforce.

Talking about the workforce, enterprises need to on board, retain, and develop digital talent, and train the existing workforce in relevant skills. While being surveyed for a recent IDT Skills Report, most respondents noted a substantial gap in digital skills across domains. For instance, nearly 73% respondents thought extensive Big Data Analytics skills to be important for digital transformation of the enterprise. However, only 39% respondents possessed the necessary skills in the domain.

Most of the companies (77%) consider missing digital skills as the key hurdle to their Digital Transformation. For employees to be relevant in this rapidly changing digital environment, they must refresh their skills frequently. But what are these skills? Let's evaluate -

1. Cloud and distributed computing

In an age where concepts such as platform as a service (PaaS) and software as a service (SaaS) run rife, the world is certainly moving towards cloud. A host of business process automation tools such as SAP, Sales force etc. are moving to a distributed architecture, being hosted on cloud. Thus, the demand for professionals adept in cloud and distributed computing skills is on a rise. In fact, in a recent LinkedIn survey, the skill ranked #1 on almost every list — including France, Germany, India, Ireland, Singapore, the U.S., and Spain.

2. Data Science

If there is anything that is progressing at a rate in sync with the increasing population, it is data. This abundance of data provides corporations with the great opportunity to decipher trends about customer spending patterns and preferences. And to make this happen, they need data scientists on board. A Gartner study revealed that data scientist job will witness a year on year growth of about 35 percent. Data scientists will be a very important part of the data intelligence and informational decision enhancement strategy of companies going forward.

3. UI Design

LinkedIn dubs User Interface skills as the new black. It ranked #14 in 2014, #10 last year, and #5 this year (second largest jump on this year's Global Top Skills of 2016 list). With startups mushrooming in every other industry, this trend is only set to increase in the years to come. A report by the Bureau of Job Statistics suggests almost 13 percent surge in UI designer jobs by the year 2020, as the demand for development of new web avenues surges.

4. UX

As the number of people using the internet grows, so will their interactions with online business avenues. Hence, the skill of a user experience designer will be key for any business. In fact, the demand is so ripe that companies are ready to offer hefty pay packages to candidates with the right skill sets. A recent report from Glassdoor states the median base salary of UX designers in the US at a whopping \$91,800.

5. Storage System

With the Hadoop ecosystem and other big data tools emerging on the scene, organizations must design data storage systems and schemas to power such data science applications. In fact, it is this very trade, if performed with diligence, that will add to bringing down the demand for SEO and SEM experts who run the age-old marketing campaigns for promotions over the web.

6. Search Engine Marketers and Optimizers

This profession has been in constant demand ever since internet took over as the primary business activity ecosystem. Although it is set for a healthy growth, LinkedIn's report suggests that only the most innovative SEO and SEM experts will see a sustained growth in demand in the times to come. This is primarily because the supply of the traditional SEO professionals has largely caught up with demand from companies.

7. Middleware and Integration Software Design

Middleware is a broader term used for application servers and the supporting architecture modules that form a bridge between the data layer and the presentation layer within any IT project design. As solutions become smarter and leaner in the times to come, it will be down to the integrating systems to enable an effective data acquisition Mechanism. Oracle's premier integration product ODI is hence becoming a great ELT platform in IT projects.

While these skills will make for a strong portfolio in 2017, targeted skill development is what will help enterprises create and retain the workforce of tomorrow. The HR divisions need to be a part of the overall digital transformation lifecycle. Besides, they'll need to implement recruitment/training programs that can help close the skill gap. Advanced training programs in skills like Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, Robotics, and Big Data and Analytics can help the Millennial workforce to become 'hour 1, day 1' productive, and job and industry ready.

<http://bwdisrupt.businessworld.in/article/The-Most-Sought-After-Professions-of-2017/02-02-2017-112375/>

NIIT launches big data training centre in China's Guiyang

New Delhi: Skills and talent development company NIIT on Monday said it has unveiled its largest big data training base at Guiyang City in China.

The centre will conduct IT and big data training for university graduates, working professionals and government employees in Guizhou province.

"The centre will also help the government professionals to up-skill themselves in digital technology. Through this flagship training centre, NIIT aims to train 2,000 candidates per year and expects an annual revenue of 20 million RMB (USD 2.8 million)," NIIT said in a statement here.

In May 2016, NIIT entered into strategic agreements with Guiyang Municipal Government and Guizhou Professional College of Electronics in Gui'An New District.

"As per the agreement with Guiyang Municipal Government, NIIT now unveils a flagship training centre in public-private partnership model with Guiyang government," the statement pointed out.

The centre was inaugurated by the Vice Mayor of Guiyang Xu Hao and NIIT Ltd CEO, Rahul Patwardhan. The Centre will provide career programs in big data, cloud, cyber security, amongst others and will be based on project-based learning delivery model with real life projects in companies and government departments, the statement pointed out.

DNA, Mumbai, January 10, 2017

IIM-A forays into online education with e-PGP

VINAY UMARJI

Ahmedabad, 16 January

Foraying into short-term and long-term online education, the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A) on Monday launched a new two-year e-Post Graduate Programme in Management (ePGP) for working executives and entrepreneurs.

Offered on an interactive onsite learning (IOL) platform through technological partnership with online learning solutions provider Hughes Global Education, the programme will be offered through multiple tech-enabled classrooms across major cities.

According to Ashish Nanda, director of IIM-A, the ePGP is targeted towards working executives and entrepreneurs with an eligibility of minimum graduation score of 50 per cent and who can enrol through GMAT, CAT or the institute's IIM Admission Test (IAT) scores. Nanda stated that the course has been designed, keeping in mind the requirements of the entrepreneurs and working executives to add value to their professional functioning and equipping them with knowledge in areas of management.

To commence from June 2017, the ePGP will have 800 classroom instruction hours, conducted during evening hours or over the weekends

to suit the convenience of working executives or the business owners. In the first year, the programme curriculum will comprise compulsory core courses, followed by the bouquet of elective courses in the second year, with three campus modules are planned as integral parts of the programme.

While ePGP is IIM-A's long-term diploma online offering, the premier B-school will also be going online with six hybrid short-term executive education programmes or management development programs being launched this year, three each with Hughes Global Education and NIIT.

More on business-standard.com

Business Standard, New Delhi, January 17, 2017

IIM-A launches online PG course

OUR BUREAU

Ahmedabad, January 16

The Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad (IIM-A) on Monday launched its new two-year e-Post Graduate Programme in Management (ePGP) for working executives and entrepreneurs with a hybrid learning structure – online as well as classroom learning. This marks the entry for IIM-A into online education.

Online learning solutions provider Hughes Global Education is the technology partner for the course.

Announcing the course here, IIM-A Director Ashish Nanda said the course has been designed keeping in

mind the requirements of the entrepreneurs and working executives to add value to their professional functioning and equipping them with knowledge in areas of management.

"This is the wave of future. This course is targeted at junior, mid and senior level professionals and entrepreneurs seeking skills and strategies to take their organisations to the next level," Nanda said. The fees of the programme is ₹17 lakh (excluding taxes) for the two-year period.

IIM-A is also considering to launch six other hybrid programmes, three in partnership with Hughes Global Education and three others in

partnership with NIIT. "These programmes will cover different areas of management learning including business financing, business analysis, advanced general management among others," said Nanda.

"We are already offering courses at other premier business institutes. But the course being offered at IIM-A is a much more intensive and rigorous programme. We have set up 80 tech-enabled classrooms across 45 cities," said Partho Banerjee, president & managing director, Hughes Communications India Ltd. The two-year ePGP course will begin in June 2017,

and have 800 classroom instruction hours, which will be conducted during evening hours or over the weekends to suit the convenience of working executives or business owners.

Admission criteria

Minimum qualification requirements are graduation and three years of work experience. The entry to the course is through an entrance test, either GMAT, CAT or IIM Admission Test (IAT).

In the first year, the programme will comprise compulsory core courses, which is followed by a bouquet of elective courses in the second year.

Hindu Business Line, New Delhi, January 17, 2017



Will 2017 be the Reboot Year for K-12 Education?

GAVIN D'ABREO

Gavin Dabreo is the Chief Executive Officer of MindChampion Learning Systems Limited (MLSL)- NIIT's K-12 school learning subsidiary. An MBA from the Manchester Business School, UK, Gavin has extensive work experience of 25 years across - education, transportation, telecom and consumer product industries.



Source: Genesis Global School

With companies replacing humans with machines and organizations launching a strife to digitize their processes, 2016 has been an eventful year in terms of technological disruption. While these events made it to the headlines, another profound impact of technology wasn't discussed much. I am referring to the digitization of K-12 education in India.

With a current market size of estimated USD 1 Billion, e-learning isn't a newfound concept in the sub-continent. However, in the last one year there have been some tremendous developments in the field, which have caught the attention of e-learning advocates, investors, and stakeholders (students, teachers, and parents) alike. 2016 saw Mark

Zuckerberg and wife Chan Zuckerberg invest in the Indian edtech market, soaring hopes of a bright future. As per industry reports the smart classroom market in India will witness a growth of a CAGR of 15.89%. But what does this future exactly look like?

Let's look at some trends that have shaped the smart learning industry over the last year.

Mobile-based Learning – Enabling a Larger Student Base

Mobile data usage is witnessing a YoY growth of 74% pan India. This means now even people living in smaller towns and cities can get access to the best possible learning resources from across the world at affordable prices.

Mobile learning is giving a facelift to K-12 education system in India. Students are more motivated to learn when using mobile devices. The gamut of m-learning apps available today are providing students an enriching learning experience, engaging them through gamification and other medium. They allow students to gain easy access to learning material and promote self-paced learning, mobile devices being constant companions. This helps in retaining students' interest and engaging them better.

Getting Teachers to Enable Themselves

While m-learning has encouraged students to explore self-learning, it hasn't been a lonely affair after all. Teachers are being trained to use technology to interact with and instruct students in physical as well virtual environment. E-learning advocates and government are working together in this direction. The launch of e-classes and subsequent teacher training in Vijaywada is a founding example. There, teachers will now be conducting digital classes in Government-run schools with a strength of 300 students. Special training sessions will be held to bring teachers up-to-date with the technology.

So, the transition isn't only for students but for teachers as well. E-learning aims at developing better teachers. Teaching through digital platforms helps them reach a larger student base, get real-time feedback, and give students personalized attention. Government of India has also launched the Aakash Education Portal in a bid to empower teachers through workshops, which are conducted using a unique blend of technology and an innovative pedagogy. It will teach them about the importance of experiential learning, and help them transition smoothly from the top-down method of teaching to digital learning.

Bigger investments in indigenous e-learning products

One in every five fundings in India is in the edtech sector. CB Insights' recent report revealed India's strong holding in the global e-learning market. In 2015 we witnessed around 50 edtech deals, the number went up by 315 per cent since 2011. And 2016 was a record-breaking year too. This money rush in the education sector is indicative of one thing – people are hooked to tech-enabled learning. The instant gratification may be limited, but education technology is finally gaining momentum in the country.

The Reform Push from the Government

E-learning is a stepping stone in making Digital India. Keeping this in view, the Indian government is taking several initiatives to promote digital learning. Recently, it allocated a Rs. 500 crore (\$ 81.38 million) budget for digitization of the classrooms, which ups the expected growth trajectory exponentially. Besides, the Ministry of Human Resources Development has also started the National Program on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL). Its main aim is to design curriculum-based video lectures and web courses to enhance the quality of engineering education in India. Other initiatives include A-VIEV, a multimedia e-learning platform that provides an immersive e-learning experience that is almost as good as a real classroom experience and the Virtual Learning Environment.

Boards are also doing their part to make digital learning main stream in Indian schools. CBSE recently released the E-CBSE app. It aims to provide students and teachers with learning and teaching resources to supplement and complement existing curriculum.

As the Indian e-learning market in India grows to touch the \$40 Billion by 2017, it becomes imperative to understand how tech will further transform k-12 education as we know it today.

The Global Outlook

There will be a significant shift in the e-learning market at the global level. Disruptive technologies like Artificial Intelligence will change the way students learn in 2017. Innovations like Study Assistants will make personalized learning fun. Besides, Big Data will provide creators and teachers insights into students' performance and achievements. This will help them in creating learning modules tailored for individual needs.

This personalization will also make way for microlearning. It refers to a bite-sized learning module designed to meet specific learning goals, especially in case of students with shorter attention spans.

In another bid to improve attention span, edtech companies will experiment more with gamification. Games motivate learners and thus, we'll see a rise in creation and adoption of gamified content in the coming year. As per a recent study, the Global Gamification Market will cross a whopping \$7 billion by 2021.

E-learning in India in 2017 – Setting Things into Perspective

More investments coming in

With focused edtech incubators, hefty investments are likely to come in. This seems the right time for entrepreneurs to contribute to the space, which is no less than a gold mine. So, we can expect new players to emerge in the space. It is just a matter of time when a unicorn is born here.

Measurement of Learning – A Key Driver for Companies and Schools

As technology becomes an integral part of education, moving forward we'll have accurate, real-time data available about various performance indicators related to K-12 education. There'll be data points for student performance, teacher training, curriculum design, and other aspects that'll help schools and edtech companies improve the quality of learning.

Teaching with Technology Aids

As students gravitate towards new learning mediums, teachers will also have to gear up and learn to deal with technology in the classroom. They'll need to get familiar with new technology aids like whiteboards, tablets, wearables etc. to utilize them to the best of their potential. Taking trainings and attending tech demos will prove to be a good resource. Besides, they'll also have to be in touch with the parents to let them know about the tech they'll use in classrooms and get insights on how it can be made effective.

Increased Parent Participation

Just like students and teachers, parents will also feel the impact of education technology. With the help of technology parents can seamlessly communicate with schools and vice-versa. They can keep a track of their child's curriculum, performance, and attendance, amongst other things. What's more? Parents can stop worrying about finding ways to encourage their children to study. Thanks to the gamification approach apps and e-learning tools are bringing to the classroom, children are taking the initiative to learn and take tests/quizzes. This is likely to encourage parents to support their kids in transitioning from traditional to e-learning.

Making Ed-Tech more secure

Security and privacy will remain key concerns in the future as well. Inventions and development efforts will be focused on protecting student data and preventing phishing or leaks. Keeping the tech-based systems up and running throughout will also be a challenge. Edtech startups will also need to figure out ways to ensure tech-enabled tools are easy to use and can be integrated seamlessly with existing school systems.

In the upcoming years, we expect the edtech industry in India to mature. New technologies and tools will appear on the scene, while attempts will be made to make eLearning more mainstream. At the end of the day, the idea is to make learning fun and education accessible to all.

<http://www.iamwire.com/author/gavin-dabreo>

DATA ANALYTICS COURSE BY NIIT



National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT)'s online learning platform, training.com, has introduced an advanced skill development programme in data analysis. The year-long programme, in association with Indian Institute of Management Calcutta (IIM-C), will be conducted both online and offline.

While the online mode will involve live interactive sessions, the offline mode will call students for campus visits to the IIM-C. The content will include skill enhancement in handling, managing, analysing and interpreting data.

On completing the programme, students will be awarded a certificate, along with the status of alumni of the IIM-C.

The first batch of the course is scheduled to begin in March this year.

For more information, visit bit.ly/2jrvOjf.

Hindustan Times, Mumbai
January 18, 2017

Executive Program in Applied Finance

IIM Calcutta recently launched an Executive Programme in Applied Finance to help build a successful career in the field of Corporate Finance in association with Training.com — a multi-modal learning platform of NIIT for Advanced Learning Programs.

The programme will be delivered through a combination of online and offline modes. The online component will be in a direct-to-device mode delivered through training.com. In addition, the programme will also have campus visit components at IIM Calcutta.

The course aims to create high-impact learning experience by bridging the gap between quality, affordability and accessibility.

The 12-month Executive Programme in Applied Finance will provide in-depth knowledge in the frontiers of finance that is required for a successful professional in the corporate sector, banks, and financial institutions.

Professionals seeking to develop their careers in Cor-

porate Finance with a background in MBA Finance, CA, CS etc. can apply for this course. Applicants should be graduates (10+2+3 or equivalent) in any discipline with a minimum of 50 per cent marks (aggregate). They should also have a work experience of at least two years.

The course will be taught with the help of case studies, live corporate examples and general discussions. In order to provide greater industry insights, business leaders from the different industries will be invited to share their experiences. This is the 12th batch of the EPAF Program and the first batch being conducted in the live online interactive mode through www.training.com.

On successful completion of the program the participant will receive a certificate of successful completion from IIM Calcutta. The candidates will also be awarded an Alumni status by IIM Calcutta.

For more information, visit:
<https://www.training.com/finance-courses-online/executive-program-in-applied-finance>
and
<https://iimcal.ac.in/ldp/EPAF>



Tribune, New Delhi, January 25, 2017



IIM Lucknow and NIIT Imperia announce 6th batch for Executive Program in Business Management

March 10, 2017

New Delhi: NIIT Imperia – Centre for Advanced Learning Institute along with IIM Lucknow has announced the sixth batch for Executive Program in Business Management (EPBM). This one-year part-time certificate program covers all critical functions of Management and is specially designed for professionals who seek to groom their corporate careers for higher levels of responsibilities.

The one-year Executive Program in Business Management (EPBM), offers a mix of experience sharing, real life case discussions and assignments, and has been created for professionals looking to enhance their performance and create greater value through their work. Applicants should have at least 50% marks in their graduation/post-graduation recognised by UGC/AICTE/DEC/AIU in any discipline. They should have a minimum of 2 years of work experience post completion of graduation to apply for this program. EPBM will prepare the professionals to take on the challenges in the dynamic environment and also help them make better managers with evolved decision making capabilities.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Vice President, NIIT Ltd, said, "NIIT Imperia has been offering tailor-made management programs in association with premier institutes to enable aspiring professionals to move to larger and more meaningful roles in their organizations. The Executive Program in Business Management in association with IIM Lucknow has been especially designed for Managers looking for broader knowledge of other functional areas so that they can gain a more strategic profile within the organization."

Prof. Rajesh Aithal, Chairperson MDP, IIM Lucknow, said, "IIM Lucknow is one of the most reputed business schools in Asia which believes in creating a distinct career path for professionals through its cutting-edge programs. We are delighted to offer the Executive Program in Business Management through NIIT Imperia. The program will provide broader insights of business fundamentals across functions of Management, thus enabling the learners to build a meaningful career and eventually be able to transform themselves into corporate leaders."

One-year program in EPBM focuses on functional management skills, strategic planning and execution and complimentary soft skills to enhance the decision-making capabilities of the participants. The classes will be held once a week and will be delivered using synchronous learning technology platform. In addition to this, students need to attend 3 days of campus visit module at the beginning of the program. Successful candidates will be given certification from IIM Lucknow and will be awarded IIM Lucknow MDP Alumni Status.

The program enables students to analyze the client needs and requirements and use leadership skills and styles to maximize productivity. Professionals undertaking the program will be trained in human resource management, economic environment, organizational behaviour, operations management, business communications, quantitative techniques in management, principles of sales & marketing management and much more.

<http://indiaeducationdiary.in/iim-lucknow-niit-imperia-announce-6th-batch-executive-program-business-management/>

IIM-Ahmedabad logs out of second-campus plan

Plans classroom, accommodation expansion within existing campus

VINAY UMARJI
Ahmedabad, 26 January

The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, (IIM-A), has dropped its plans for a second campus and instead looking at restoring and adding capacity within the campus at a cost of over ₹75 crore, even as it also looks to enhance online offerings in future.

The premier B-school had been exploring possibilities of a second campus within or outside the country while trying to add more classrooms and residential facilities within its existing 100-acre campus and having forayed into online short- and long-term executive education.

Moreover, it is looking to set up couple of small engagement centres in metros like Delhi and Mumbai, which could house a small classroom for running short-term executive education programmes, apart from providing incubation facilities to local start-ups.

"We are not thinking of a second campus. It is very difficult to

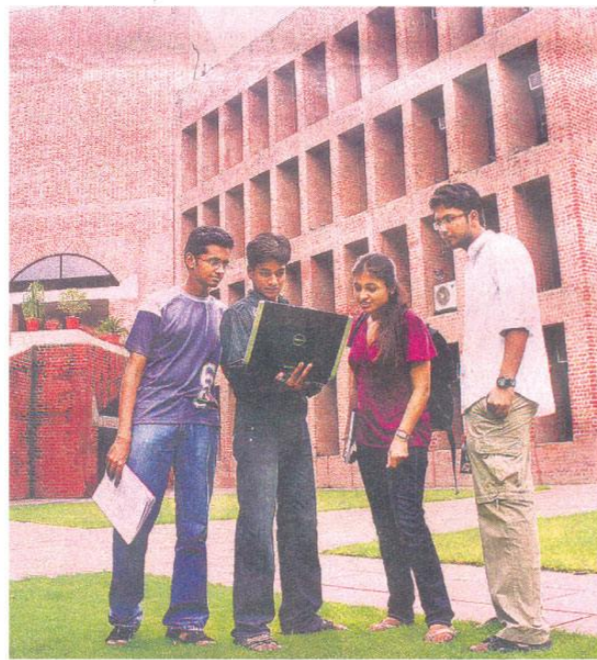
replicate the culture and the environment. There is probably only one B-school globally which has done well with multiple campuses. Our IIM-A is spread across 100 acres and therefore, geography is not an issue," Ashish Nanda, director of IIM-A, told *Business Standard*.

"Rather, what we are planning to do is have engagement centres such as in Mumbai and Delhi. It will be a place where one classroom can conduct an executive education programme, apart from providing some support to entrepreneurs through incubation facilities and gathering place for alumni and local people."

The premier B-school is also partnering with service providers such as Hughes Global Education and NIIT

Over the next 25 years, IIM-A is looking to double its classroom capacity as well as faculty and residential facilities. Of these, the institute would look to build new classroom capacities and dormitories, apart from a new building for a School of Public Policy as well as sports and recreation facilities.

The premier B-school is also partnering with service



providers such as Hughes Global Education and NIIT for blended learning.

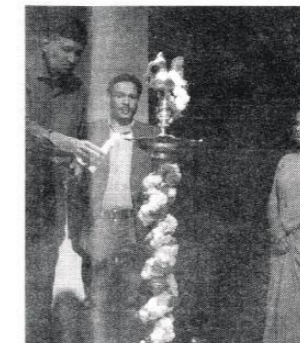
For short and long-term online education, two-year e-postgraduate programme in management was launched recently for working executives

and entrepreneurs. The programme will be done through multiple tech-enabled classrooms across major cities on an interactive onsite platform through partnership with online learning solutions provider Hughes Global Education.

Business Standard, New Delhi, January 27, 2017

NAAC holds entrepreneurship summit at Mt Carmel

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in association with Mount Carmel College organised SPURTHI, a one day workshop on 'Empowering Employability through Entrepreneurship' on January 24. The event was held to foster and promote the spirit of entrepreneurship among the youth. The event, held at Mount Carmel College, had 250 students participating from 10 government run rural colleges. The seminar had technical sessions and motivational talks by entrepreneurs and industry experts. Several students benefitted from the on-ground advice that start-up gurus gave them, up close and personal.



Australian Education Fair in Chennai on Feb 4

IDP Education India, a student placement service provider, is organising 'Australian Education Fair' in Chennai on February 4 for students aspiring to pursue higher education in Australia. The fair, spread across 14 Indian cities, will bring together prominent universities and educational institutes from Australia under one roof. The fair which started on January 22 at Kolkata will conclude on February 9 at Coimbatore. IDP's Australian Education Fair in Chennai provides an opportunity to have one-on-one interaction with 27 Australian universities and institutions.

IIM-C, NIIT launch CorpFin programme

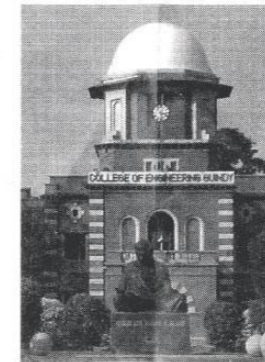
IIM Calcutta has launched an Executive Programme in Applied Finance in association with *training.com* — a multi-model learning platform of NIIT for advanced learning programmes. The programme will be delivered through a combination of online and offline modes. The online component will be in direct-to-device mode delivered through *training.com*.

campus digest

KEEP A TAB ON COLLEGE NEWS HERE

Conference on Molecular Signalling held

Anna University, Chennai organised the 5th International Conference on Molecular Signalling on January 10 at K B Chandrasekhar Research Centre. Molecular signalling, the theme of ICMS 2017, denotes highly networked communication among life, non-life and cellular components that drive the flow of life process.



Applications open for HSR deal

J Walter Thompson Company kicked off the New Year by opening applications for its third annual Helen Lansdowne Resor (HLR) scholarship. The scholarship is an international opportunity that addresses the lack of female creative leadership in the ad industry by empowering female college students with the support they need to join advertising's creative ranks.

IIM-A faculty to teach at Ashoka University

Ashoka University, India's first non-profit liberal arts university and Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) joined hands to design an entrepreneurship curriculum to be delivered at Ashoka University.

Whistling Woods marks ten years of cinema studies

Whistling Woods International celebrated their 10 year anniversary along with their third alumni annual meet. The Head of Academics at WWI, Rahul Puri, welcomed the dignitaries followed by a performance by the students of Whistling Woods International School of Music.



Indian Express, Chennai, January 30, 2017



Prakash Menon, President, Global Skills and Careers Group, NIIT Ltd, Delhi

SURVIVAL OF THE SKILLED



INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF EMPLOYABILITY AFTER SCHOOL WITH THESE IN-DEMAND PROFESSIONAL COURSES

In the changing world scenario with regard to industry and the job market, there is an overpowering need for skilled workers. Digital transformation is dictating the direction of all industries today. It is essential for students to focus on learning skills that can make them job-ready from day one. Here is a list of 10 skill-based courses that you can pursue right after school.

1 BUSINESS ANALYTICS

According to a study by Gartner Inc, 75 per cent of world's leading companies will use business analytic technologies in their operations by 2020. If mathematics and statistics are your strong point, take up this course as it encompasses data analysis technologies like spark, hive and visualisation tools like tableau and qlickview.

2 DATA SCIENCE

People from various educational and occupational backgrounds are shifting to data-driven sciences. Trending technologies like R programming, and Statistical Analysis System (SAS) are taught as a part of this course.

3. MEAN STACK

Mean stack refers to a collection of JavaScript based technologies used to develop web applications. It is an attractive stream for students who have an interest in coding. This software packaging tool covers MongoDB, Express.js, Angular and Node.js.

4 3D ANIMATION AND VFX

Improved tools have made animators more sought after than ever, marking this as a great time to learn 3D animation and visual effects. An intensive course will equip you with professional skills that will help you excel in competitive VFX jobs.

5 DEVOPS

Statistics show that DevOps adoption increased from 66 per cent in 2015 to 74 per

cent in 2016. With continuous integration and testing, this course will help you become a developer and teach you methods that can improve collaboration between development and operations.

6 ROBOTICS

Robotics is no longer science fiction. If you're even remotely interested in this science, now is the time to get the training to enter this field. The world of robotics combines both mechanical and electronics engineering and uses latest artificial intelligence technologies.

7 MACHINE LEARNING

Machine learning gives computers the ability to learn without being explicitly programmed. To make use of artificial intelligence in the business processes, knowing the machine learning techniques is a must. By using algorithms, a machine learning student can analyse bigger, more complex data and deliver faster.

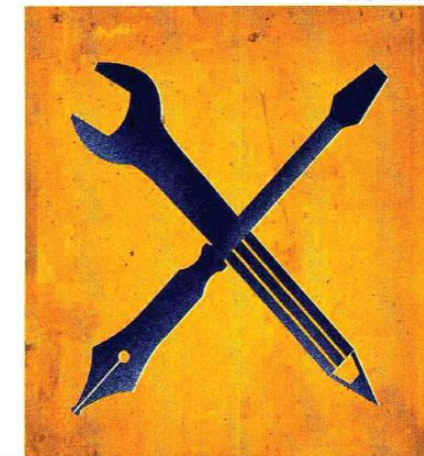
8 PHOTOGRAPHY

A course in photography can help develop the technical and artistic talents of amateur photographers. You can also take up online courses to help you enhance skills in photo editing and image processing.

9 DIGITAL MARKETING

Half of the world's population shops online. Advertising and marketing in physical media is fast becoming a thing of past now. E-mail marketing, blog promotions, Facebook ads are the new digital marketing strategies. A course in digital marketing will give you a unique competitive advantage.

RAJ VERMA



10 USER INTERFACE DESIGN

User interface design or UI design courses can be a great choice for students who are creative and love to play with pixels. These courses teach you methods that can enhance a user's satisfaction by improving the usability and accessibility of a product.

Growth and Innovation in Organisations

I was a different kind of evening—two of the world's top business educators speaking on big data, analytics and business growth to an audience comprising some of India's top business executives. Professor Rajkumar Venkatesan, the Ronald Trossell Professor of Business Administration at Darden School of Business, is an expert on how to leverage Big Data for growth. And Saras Sarasvathy, the Paul M. Hammer Professor of Business Administration, founded the concept of effectuation in 2001. The duo complemented each other's talks and the audience joined in, making for an educative and interactive experience.

Venkatesan began with examples of companies that use Big Data. In 2012, The Weather Company bought Weather Underground, a company that used data from people with smartphones uploading current weather pictures and text—to predict weather closer to real-time. Then, Weather Company created industry-specific applications. For example, if rains are predicted in a neighbourhood, should you stock up on umbrellas in stores like 'Mama's'? In 2015, IBM bought Weather Company to give strength to its cognitive and analytics engine, Watson. At this point, a member of the audience, Sandeep Singh, who is Managing Director, Distribution Marketing at IBM India, pointed out that "it's a good manage to have. Weather brings in data of weather and brings the ability to read that data and be cognitive, and put that into industry contexts". Watson, of course, is used by many other industries. Retailer Macy's app, for instance, helps provide your preferred choice of clothes to choose from as it learns your preferences over time.

At the same time, as Venkatesan pointed out, several companies are not able to use data for strategic benefits. To change that, besides basics like customer-centricity and top management involvement, companies need to be mindful of the "five paradoxes of data analytics"—situations in which companies should use analytics, but usually don't.

1. **Market success.** Successful companies think they've made it without using data, so they don't need it.
2. **Uncertain outcomes.** In disruptive situations, companies feel there is no point in using data. But that is incorrect.
3. **Problem complexity.** When many groups are involved and decision-making is complex, companies feel they cannot use data.
4. **Data quality.** Companies need people like curators, in-house statisticians who can talk about the story of the business, using data.
5. **Paradox of perfection.** Perfection comes in the way of progress. So, first small, build a prototype, make it work, and then expand the use of data.

Sarasvathy then spoke about how to take decisions when you don't have data, using entrepreneurship as the base. For starters, she explained what effectual logic is. Think about a cooking process where you create a new dish with whatever ingredients are available at home, in your garden, and in the fridge—as opposed to a causal approach where you strictly follow a recipe. Of course, it will only work if you know how to cook. "But if you think about two cooks who are equally good, then the chance of coming up with something new is higher in the effectual case. At the same time, if something goes wrong, you would have lost".

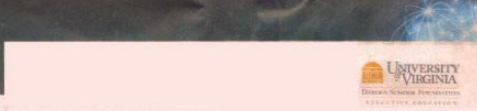
In a research study she had conducted with a group of experienced entrepreneurs, the respondents preferred a strategy that was low in prediction and high in control. And that's why they were able to function in an uncertain environment. "Because you're not trying to predict the future. You're going to work with what's available and co-create it with self-selected stakeholders," said Sarasvathy.

She explained this logic using the five principles of effectuation—**bird in hand, affordable loss, crazy quilt, lemonade and pilot in the plane**—using the case of Airbnb, a venture started by two founders because they couldn't afford to pay their rent. So, they decided to put up their beds and convert it into a lodging, with the additional lure of a fresh breakfast.

"Bird in hand, use what you can afford to lose. As customers start coming in, they want to scale it up and convince other people to also rent out their beds. So they called on a friend who is a brilliant engineer who worked nights and weekends with them—affordable loss because he doesn't give up his day job. Then, they get the lemonade when their attempt to sell cereals at the 2008 Democratic National Convention results in a lot of cereal left over. Then, after a stint with homebased, they go to New York City, and literally go door-to-door. It teaches them that they have to build a platform for photographers. And this platform creates a new marketing channel and kicks off the company.

Venkatesan then returned on stage, and explained how Airbnb uses data analytics for strategy. A project conducted by his students by scraping a day's data from Airbnb's website across locations, showed different cities responding to different needs in terms of demand. For example, prices were more important in Miami than in Paris, where apartment rules. So, Airbnb would need to have region-specific strategies. "As we were doing this, Airbnb started smart pricing, where it would suggest to the host what they could price their property at for rent."

Throughout the two hours of the talks, the audience—comprising some top leaders such as Suresh Narayanas, CMO of Nestle India; Oliver Mira, MD & CEO, Dr. Oetker India; Jitendra Chaudhri, Senior Director, Operations & Strategy, Intel India; P. Abi Rami, Director, Finance, Capital City of India; Harish Gandhi, Director-Strategy & Planning, Cisco among many others—listened with right attention and also put questions and observations from time to time, giving the event added value and making it a hit.



A CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE

Executive Roundtable Engines of Innovation

A powerful line-up of decision makers across industries made for a cracker of a workshop on innovation using data

The highlight of the evening was a stimulating roundtable on innovation joined by more than 25 top executives from leading companies across industries—automobiles, e-commerce, insurance, education, content, oil, media, FMCG, among others. And, they also comprised a good mix of CEOs from HR, strategy, operations, technology, innovation, etc., from several companies. These leaders were split into five groups—each seated at a different round table. Professor Rajkumar Venkatesan and Saras Sarasvathy of Darden School of Business then addressed each group to discuss an innovation challenge that the group would then try to resolve using the professor's research methodologies. It was a fascinating exercise. At one table, TD Chandrasekhar, Chief Innovation Officer, Bennett Coleman and Co Ltd, pointed out that India is one country where newspapers are still popular, but the future is uncertain because youngsters are not taking up the habit of reading the paper in the morning. So, the challenge is to keep the morning habit going by reworking the paper, the masthead into something else.

INNOVATION'S BIG DATA IMPERATIVE

The Economic Times and University of Virginia Darden School of Business presented two of the world's top business academics giving a master class on using Big Data for business growth, with top executives of Indian business in attendance.



Rajkumar Venkatesan, Ronald Trossell Professor of Business Administration, University of Virginia, Darden School of Business



Saras Sarasvathy, Paul M. Hammer Professor of Business Administration, University of Virginia Darden School of Business

Executive Roundtable

Engines of Innovation

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Table 1

V.N. Dalmia, Chairman, Dalmia Cement	Vincent Gupta, Founder & Partner, Charter, Airtel	Ashish Chaudhri, Director, Chaudhri, Addlynia Learning Solutions	Rosemary King, Managing Director, Kalfund
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Table 2

T.D. Chandrasekhar, Chief Innovation Officer, Bennett Coleman	Alak Vaidh, CEO, New Delhi	Ashish Prasad, Senior VP, Sahara Consumer	Jitendra Chaudhri, Senior Director, Intel
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Table 3

P. Abi Rami, Director, Finance, Capital City of India	Vishal Singh, CEO, V.P. Sales & Marketing, Hovis/Marabou, 8 Screen India	Ruchika Dhanraj, Chief Product Officer, Ispire	Nikhil Chaudhri, General Manager, Confessions, Bengaluru
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Table 4

Ali Hashmi, Head, Group Analytics, Dura Steel/Steel	Sandeep Kumar, Chairman & Managing Director, KSL	Gopal Jaiswal, CEO, Sankhya	Sandeep Kumar, Chairman & Managing Director, KSL
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Table 5

Kanika Marwaha, Director, Founder, Oxyon	Uday Singh, CEO, President, ECHO, New Management, Nepal	Rommel Vellaz, Head, Suburban Sales, CAR, Airtel	Jagbir Singh Sidhu, Head, Marketing, Pepsi, Koodie
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Table 6

Harish Gandhi, Director-Strategy & Planning, Cisco	Suresh Narayanas, CMO, Nestle India	Ramandeep Singh, Director, Operations, Intel India	Oliver Mira, MD & CEO, Dr. Oetker India
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The Economic Times, New Delhi, January 31, 2017

NIIT's new China project

THE DELHI-BASED NIIT LTD (estb.1981), a global leader in ICT skills and talent development, inaugurated its biggest Big Data talent training base at Guiyang City, China on January 9. It will conduct IT (information technology) and Big Data training for university graduates, working professionals and government employees in Guizhou province. The centre will also help government professionals to upskill themselves in digital technology.

"The launch of NIIT's training base is a brand-new start towards much larger cooperation between Guiyang City and NIIT. It's a milestone in two years of our working together to develop Big Data IT talent in Guiyang. The cooperation with NIIT is the largest international talent development cooperation for Guiyang City and we look forward to greater cooperation between China and India," said **Xu Hao**, vice mayor, while inaugurating the NIIT centre in Guiyang City.

"The launch of a flagship centre in Guiyang is a result of initiatives taken by the leadership of Guiyang municipal government and NIIT under the guidance of the provincial government to develop Guizhou into a leading Big Data destination for the digital economy of the future. With our understanding of the changing skills requirement of industry, NIIT is committed to support China in its human capacity building initiative," added **Rahul Patwardhan**, CEO of NIIT Ltd, speaking on the occasion.

WHAT THEY SAY



The setting up of Digi Gaon will open new vistas for technology-based education for our rural folks.

Vijay K Thadani, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, NIIT Ltd, India

DNA, New Delhi February 02, 2017

Education World, National, February 2017

**IIM CALCUTTA-NIIT LAUNCH
ADVANCED PROGRAMME
IN DATA SCIENCES**

Training.com, a multi-modal learning platform by NIIT has launched an advanced programme in data sciences in association with IIM Calcutta. The course will be delivered through a combination of online and offline modules.



While the online sessions will take place via live sessions on training.com, the off-line training will happen during campus visits to the IIM campus in Calcutta. This course aims to create a high-impact learning experience by bridging the gap between quality, affordability and accessibility and allows students to explore data sciences as a profession.

India Today Aspire, National, February 2017

MindChampion Learning Systems Limited (MLSL), NIIT's subsidiary for its K-12 school learning initiative, unveiled Nguru MathPlus. It is designed for fostering mathematical skills using colours, shapes and real-life examples. The programme has been carefully designed for students of Class I to Class VIII, 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

Nguru MathPlus launched

know more. It provides insight to the learner on various career options and highlights the relevance of math in real life. Nguru MathPlus emphasises experiential learning for the students, using TLM-Lab-App (Teaching Learning Material-Laboratory-Application) combo that brings the best of inter-connected resources that can be used for learning Math in a fun way. Interesting elements like comic strips, interactivities, Multimedia (through QR codes) have been incorporated keeping in mind

the interest of the age-group. All the components of the solution work in a coherent manner to accomplish the L-A-D approach (Learn-Apply-Diagnose). The Nguru MathPlus book series is based on Robert Mills Gagne's *Nine Steps of Instruction*, an American Education Psychologist best known for his "conditions of learning".

This is the first book series all over India which is based on this theory.

For more information, log on to www.niitnguru.com.

Pioneer, Lucknow, February 23, 2017

THE HUFFINGTON POST

Skill-Building Is Key To Turning India Into A Digital Economy

02/03/2017 2:09 PM IST | Updated 06/03/2017 9:17 AM IST

by **Rahul Patwardhan** Chief Executive Officer, NIIT Ltd.

Digital technologies have become the cornerstone of disruption, innovation and wide-ranging transformations globally, while at the same time drastically altering the social, economic and business landscape in every nation. Without a doubt, technology will continue to shape and reshape the world and be at the core of what defines a modern economy.

Last year proved to be a banner year for India, with it coming up as the sixth-largest economy in terms of GDP, after the United States, China, Japan, Germany and France.

Although the global economic forecast is bleak, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India has remained ahead of China, growing at 7.5%, and emerged as the fastest growing major economy in 2016-17.

'For India to achieve the ambitious goals laid out in the Digital India programme, development of digital skills needs to take centre stage.'

The Indian government is focused on developing a "Digital India"—an enabler for a digital economy. In fact, the announcements by the Finance Minister in the recently presented Union budget clearly indicate the government's thrust towards India's massive digital revolution—one that will help eradicate corruption and black money and galvanise the economy. The BHIM app launched by the government, for instance, will unleash the power of mobile phones for digital payments and enable financial inclusion. Aadhaar Pay, a merchant version of the Aadhaar Enabled Payment System is also expected to be launched shortly. Several announcements made by the government have only reiterated their resolve to make India "digital."

While there is no blueprint to become a digital nation, the core of any digital economy is the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector. India has a strong ICT sector and a substantial number of qualified ICT workers. A key requirement for these highly skilled personnel is to keep ahead of the learning curve, when it comes to honing their digital skills, so as to ably grapple with rapidly advancing technologies. Hence, for India to achieve the ambitious goals laid out in the Digital India programme, development of digital skills needs to take centre stage.

Then again, for India to achieve its goal of becoming a digital nation, infrastructure and connectivity issues need to be overcome. Today, a gaping digital divide is visible, with many having limited access to new technologies and therefore lagging behind with respect to digital adoption. Last mile connectivity is an issue in remote areas and over 55,000 villages still lack mobile connectivity.

Improving digital skills across workplaces

Global spending on digital transformation technologies is expected to cross \$2.1 billion by 2019. According to industry experts, digitally transformed organisations are 26% more profitable than their industry competitors. Enterprises, for the most part have stayed on top of digital technologies, embracing them in order to stay competitive in the global marketplace. Yet, of the more than 42,000 employers surveyed globally, 40% are experiencing difficulties filling roles. In India, 58% of employers reported that finding replacements for job vacancies is becoming more difficult due to talent shortage.

'A whole lot more focus is required on ensuring that digital skills meet global quality standards, so that India remains competitive.'

The challenge lies not only with regard to fresh skilling and reskilling. The need is digital skills for all Indians, not just those encompassing the IT and ITES industry. If India is to be the most sought after digital marketplace, effective Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) participation is an absolute must. However, SMEs today, are already under immense strain to invest in new ICT technologies to stay ahead. This holds true for start-ups as well. Larger organisations also need to invest heavily in digital upskilling.

A whole lot more focus is required on ensuring that digital skills meet global quality standards, so that India remains competitive. High skilled jobs in the areas of big data, analytics, cloud computing, Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI), will be the next big wave. This means that while digitisation will remain central for businesses to outperform, skill needs are changing rapidly. Job holders and job seekers need to constantly be upping their skill sets.

Tackling the digital skills divide

Digital disruption has been a focal point at the World Economic Forum (WEF) too. Coupled with IoT, the digital revolution will have a significant impact on everyday life. In fact, according to the WEF, in their report, the combined value of digitisation to society and industry is pegged at over US\$100 trillion over the next decade.

'Collectively honing our digital prowess will allow for a fast-evolving and successful global economy.'

The questions to be asked are: Is there a mismatch in terms of digital skills required and what is available today? Where does digital competence feature in business enterprises? At what level does the digital literacy of a company's supervisory and executive board stand? After all, these are the very skills that will drive companies to leapfrog and connect with the world of tomorrow.

more....

<http://www.huffingtonpost.in/rahul-patwardhan/skill-building-is-key-to-turning-india-into-a-digital-economy/>



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
INDIA'S PREMIER NEWS AGENCY

NIIT Launches First-of-its Kind Specialized IT Center in Hoa Sen, Vietnam to Create Talent for Digitalization of Vietnam

Source: NIIT Limited

To offer futuristic IT programs targeted to high school & university students, working professionals and institutes under LEAD (Learn, Enhance, Aspire, Deliver) module



New Delhi, Delhi, India & Vietnam - Business Wire India

Photo Caption: Mr. Sanjay Tickoo, Head, International Education Business (Emerging Markets), NIIT Ltd, with Mr. Hiep Luu, Chairman, Hoa Sen University, during the NIIT IT center launch at Hoa Sen, Vietnam

NIIT, a global leader in skills and talent development, unveiled its first specialized IT center in Hoa Sen, Vietnam to create a talent pool for Digitalization of Vietnam. The center will deliver futuristic IT training programs to School pass outs, University students and working professionals under the LEAD (Learn, Enhance, Aspire, Deliver) methodology. NIIT will be delivering these programs through innovative blended learning process comprising both online and offline which will give students flexibility of time & place.

The specialized NIIT IT center is being launched in Ho Chi Minh City with state-of-the-art products, for a career in IT ranging from data science to networking to software engineering. The NIIT center will offer programs on technologies like Office 2013, Java 7, Visual Studio 2012, SQL Server 2012, ASP.net, MVC 4.5, HTML 5, JQuery, Java Script, Infrastructure Management to enable students to learn Office 2013, Windows Server 2012, Microsoft SQL Server 2012 and Microsoft Share Point 2013. Apart from these, various rapid employability and career enhancement programs will also be offered by NIIT. Key technologies acquired during the courses include tracks like 12C, MS Server 2012, Jelly Bean, Kit-Kat, Oracle, CCNA & CCNP, A+ & N+, Web Design & Development, Graphic Designing, MIS, and Project Management etc.

Programs under Training.com- a multi-modal learning platform by NIIT, will be made available to help Individual, Corporates and Universities. With our thrust on curriculum development and regular faculty training, NIIT will offer the most sought after IT programs to the Vietnamese youth.

Speaking on the occasion Prakash Menon, President, Global Skills and Careers Group, NIIT Ltd., remarked, *"The world is going through an intensive phase of digital transformation. All existing industries and economies are being disrupted. Physical economy is being replaced by a digital economy. We have launched the specialized IT center in Hoa Sen to help Vietnam transform into a digital economy. With our keen understanding of the changing skills requirement of the industry, NIIT is committed to support Vietnam to create a talent pool to facilitate digitalization of the country."*

Information technology has changed the way people work and the next ten years will be about transforming the businesses across all industry sectors. According to industry experts, digitally transformed organizations are 26% more profitable than their industry competitors. Global spending on digital transformation technologies is expected to cross \$2.1 Trillion by 2019. By 2018, 35% of IT resources will be spent to support the creation of new digital revenue streams, and by 2020 almost 50% of IT budgets will be tied to digital transformation initiatives.

NIIT is pioneering innovative delivery methods. Its new venture training.com multi-modal learning platform, a direct-to-device initiative for advanced career programs will make cutting-edge blended learning programs available to professionals in Vietnam in partnership with world's leading universities and education institutes. The programs on Training.com are targeted at working professionals who want to take their careers to the next level by enhancing their knowledge of the latest business concepts.

Sanjay Tickoo, Head, International Education Business (Emerging Markets), NIIT Ltd, said, *"This is indeed a very proud moment for NIIT as we are at the threshold of a transformational change in the Digital Learning space, driven by upskilling and talent development requirements for Digitalization of Vietnam. Towards this we have launched Big Data, Java Enterprise Apps with DevOps and diginx-MMS to help create a talent pool armed with futuristic skill-sets aligned to the industry needs. We look forward to further strengthening this initiative, by empowering more and more students in the coming years."*

Additionally, the not-for-profit NIIT University (NU) entered into a tie-up with Hoa Sen University (HSU), one of the leading private universities in Vietnam to empower the Vietnamese society with futuristic learning programs. To this end, NIIT Data Research Institute was set up at HSU as a step towards making cutting-edge education and training available to the masses. Under this tie-up, student exchange programs between NU and HCU will be organized regularly. The universities will work together to develop new programs that are aligned to the digital economy. Incubation center for collaborative projects between NU and HCU will also be set up.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Nguyen Thanh Duy, President Hoa Sen College said *"I congratulate NIIT and our team on the launch of IT center and collaboration with NIIT University for establishment of Research Center in HSC Vietnam. Together we hope to transform Vietnam into a digital economy."*

more....

http://www.ptinews.com/pressrelease/22989_press-subNIIT-Launches-First-of-its-Kind-Specialized-IT-Center-in-Hoa-Sen-Vietnam-to-Create-Talent-for-Digitalization-of-Vietnam


 BW Disrupt
ENTREPRENEURS' DISRUPT

NIIT Launches IT Center in Vietnam

It's a first-of-its kind specialized IT center at Hoa Sen University, Vietnam, to offer futuristic IT programs targeted at students, professionals and institutes.



NIIT, a global leader in skills and talent development, unveiled its first specialized IT center at Hoa Sen University, to create a talent pool for the digitalization of Vietnam. The center will deliver futuristic IT training programs to School pass outs, University students and working professionals under the LEAD (Learn, Enhance, Aspire, Deliver) methodology.

Hoa Sen is a leading university in Vietnam. It was one of the first private universities founded in Vietnam after this was legalized by the government.

NIIT is a leading Skills and Talent Development Corporation set up in 1981 to help the nascent Indian IT industry overcome its human resource challenges and today ranks among the world's leading training companies. With a footprint across 40 nations.

The specialized NIIT IT center is being launched in Ho Chi Minh City with state-of-the-art products, for a career in IT ranging from data science to networking to software engineering. The NIIT center will offer programs on technologies like Office 2013, Java 7 and Visual Studio 2012. Key technologies acquired during the courses include tracks like 12C, MS Server 2012, Jelly Bean, Kit-Kat and Oracle.

Programs under Training.com- a multi-modal learning platform by NIIT, will be made available to help Individual, Corporates and Universities. With our thrust on curriculum development and regular faculty training, NIIT will offer the most sought after IT programs to the Vietnamese youth.

Speaking on the occasion Prakash Menon, president of the Global Skills and Careers Group for NIIT Ltd. said, *"The world is going through an intensive phase of digital transformation. All existing industries and economies are being disrupted."*

He's right if you go these numbers: digitally transformed organizations are 26 percent more profitable than their industry competitors. Global spending on digital transformation technologies is expected to cross 2.1 trillion dollars by 2019. By 2018, 35 percent of IT resources will be spent to support the creation of new digital revenue streams, and by 2020 almost 50 percent of IT budgets will be tied to digital transformation initiatives.

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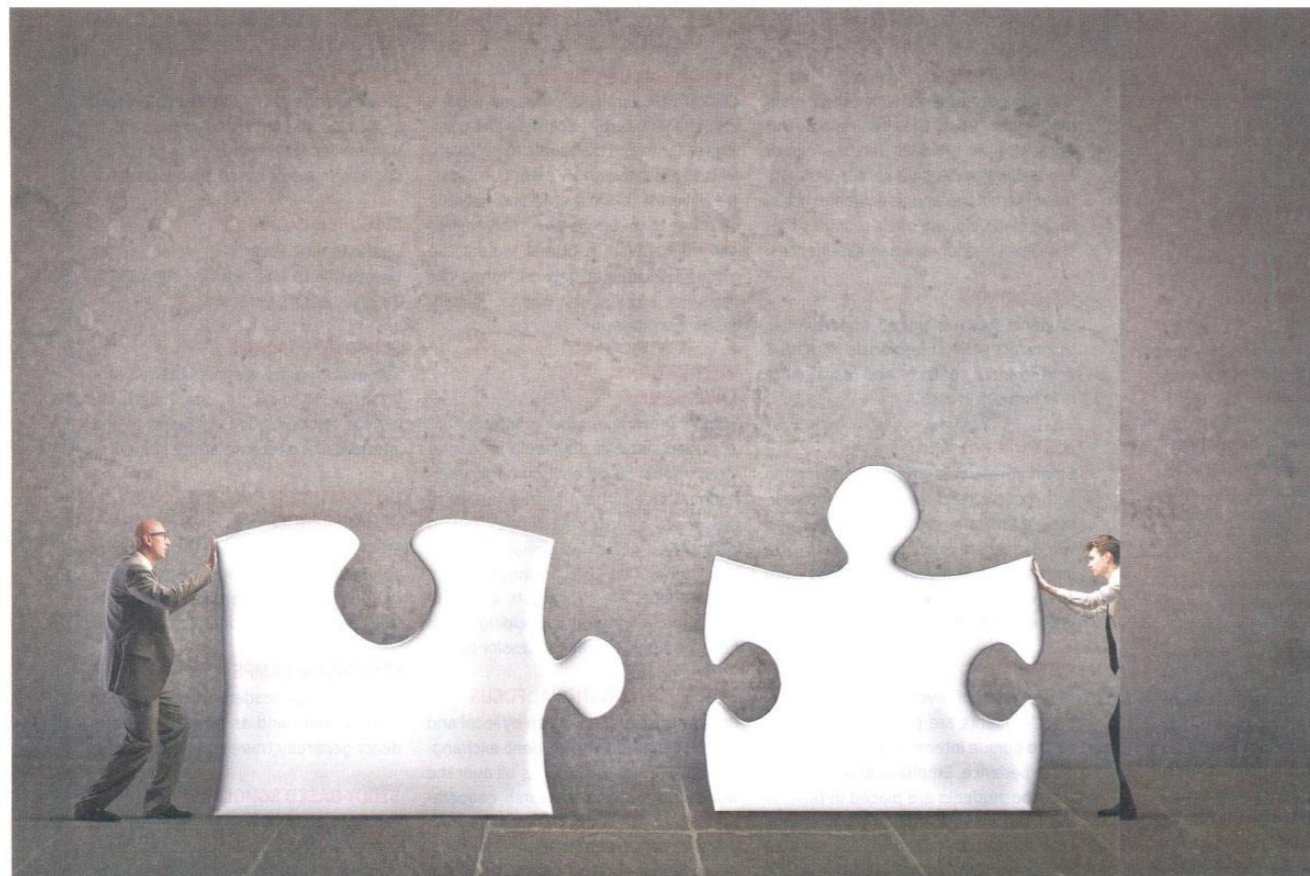
Additionally, the not-for-profit arm of NIIT called NIIT University (NU) entered a tie-up with Hoa Sen University to empower the Vietnamese society with futuristic learning programs.

<http://bwdisrupt.businessworld.in/article/NIIT-Launches-IT-Center-in-Vietnam/09-03-2017-114161/>


 OUTSTANDING UNIVERSITIES 2017
 PERSPECTIVES

INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA PARTNERSHIP: A 21ST CENTURY IMPERATIVE

Stanford University was instrumental in building an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship in the Silicon Valley. Can such a model emerge in India?



Dr. VS Rao

The colleges and universities of the world are not just the citadels of education, they are also the seeding grounds for research and innovation. Much of what humanity has seen in terms of invention, can often be traced back to these schools of learning. Often, that's really where it all started.

Natural allies

While clearly, academia continues to be the cradle for conceptualizing and building the future, it is industry that almost always takes these ideas to fruition. Industry is the engine that transforms research to reality and what is on the drawing board into what is tangible.

In that sense, academia and industry are natural allies, with an inter-dependency which is logical and only to be expected. They are tied at the hip, complimenting and drawing sustenance from each other and driving mutual growth.

This truth has of course been proved time and again, though in a way best exemplified by Silicon Valley, USA. Silicon Valley (christened so owing to the large number of high-tech start-ups in the south of San Francisco and the north of the state of California, USA), received much of its impetus through Stanford University. It is accepted fact that the famous University's engineering school—including its erudite faculty and brilliant students—was

instrumental in unleashing the tech revolution and building an eco-system of innovation and entrepreneurship around the Bay area.

Silicon Valley is of course the most celebrated instance of this win-win partnership between academia and industry—where proximity between a University and industry emerged through the academic unity. Other nations too have their share of close academia-industry collaborations that have led to breakthrough developments, particularly in the 21st century IT and now Digital age.

Industry disconnect

India, sadly, has not been able to leverage the academia-industry bond to the best extent possible. A common criticism by analysts has been that research in the country's prestigious engineering institutions like the IITs, has remained de-linked from industry. Most advanced schools of learning work in isolation—like islands that are far from the mainstream.

However, this scenario needs to change. The new Indian government has launched its famous Skill India and Digital India initiatives, both of which require industry and academia to join heads and work together in a big way.

This has become critical in view of the fact that a majority of graduates of Indian universities, both engineering and non-engineering,

“Academia has to make progress in research and innovation, and curriculum development and design and do so by enlisting the active partnership of the industry. Industry on the other hand needs to know from academic research about what is going to appear on the horizon and how it must gear up in terms of talent for this emerging trend”



OUTSTANDING UNIVERSITIES 2017 PERSPECTIVES

are not considered 'industry-ready' or worse still 'employable'. The very purpose of education is to send out skilled people who can be instantly deployed by organizations and be productive in the real world of work. If this talent has to be re-skilled at great costs by companies, the very objective of education is defeated.

Will India fritter away its advantage?

While India is sending out large volumes of people into the job market each year, the majority are not the preferred choice of hirers. This is a waste, especially in view of the fact that we have among the largest number of people in the 20-35-year age group, that have the potential to be transformed into a powerful and transformational force. Without necessary 'employability' skills, India may lose its 'great demographic dividend', a short window of opportunity that simply cannot be frittered away.

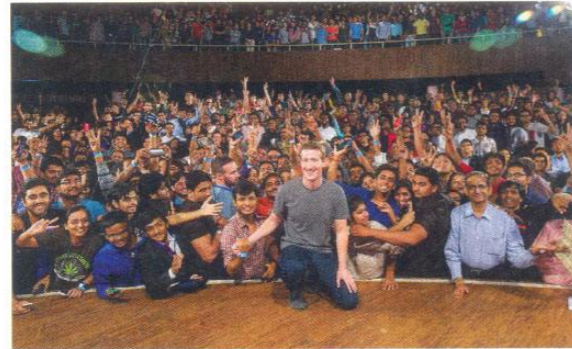
Having said that, India must look for solutions to this massive challenge. And one of the ways is by forging a strong linkage between academia and industry.

It is apparent now that the emerging needs of the knowledge economy can only be met through an enhanced focus on robust industry linkages and a research-oriented approach.

Industry-academia participation

Academia has to make progress in research and innovation, and curriculum development and design and do so by enlisting the active partnership of the industry. Industry on the other hand needs to know from academic research about what is going to appear on-the-horizon and how it must gear up in terms of talent. It must also take on the mantle of advisor, guiding academia on what hard and soft skill sets it needs and the profile of the workers it hopes to see coming out of the educational system. Universities have to collaborate with organizations that are part of different industry verticals, to gain insights into what domain knowledge has to be created. Adding industry-linked courses will also help.

Interestingly, India's leading chamber of commerce for the IT-BPM industry, NASSCOM, has recently tied up with US-based University, Georgia Tech to work jointly with the foreign institution to address the technological and non-technological challenges that surround the adoption of the Internet of Things (IoT) technologies and develop a vibrant IoT ecosystem.



FACEBOOK'S MARK Zuckerberg's at IIT-Delhi. A good example of industry-academia interface

“ While academia continues to be the cradle for conceptualizing and building the future, it is industry that almost always takes these ideas to fruition. Industry is the engine that transforms research to reality and what is on the drawing board into what is tangible. In that sense, academia and industry are natural allies, with an inter-dependency, which is logical

Importance of internships

The other area that has to be pushed is internships. Besides on campus projects, universities need to organize paid internship for students in premier companies. These internships will give learners a hands-on experience of the new age workplace and what to expect when they begin their career journeys. If after the completion of the internship, the students can be placed in these very set-ups, even better.

Exposure for faculty

Faculty in advanced educational institutions can also be encouraged to take paid sabbaticals to gain exposure in organizations, to understand their work environments and manpower requirements. At the same time, industry practitioners can be invited on an on-going basis by colleges and universities to talk to students, and teachers about the issues of skilling and upskilling and answer their career building queries.

All this has to happen as a massive movement that sweeps across all colleges and Universities (not just the top ones in the land). This thinking and approach must infiltrate into educational institutions in India's tier 1, 2 and 3 cities and townships, ensuring that industry-academia linkages become an important part of the nation's learning fabric. Eventually, it will be through these win-win partnerships that India will remain at the cutting edge of learning and maintain its edge as the global skills capital. □

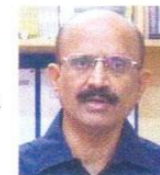
The author is President, NIIT University

Union Budget 2017-18 reactions



The measures announced in the budget will provide much needed impetus to the education and skill development sectors in the country — **Monica Malhotra Kandhari**, managing director, MBD Group, Delhi

It's encouraging to see the government's announcement to set up 100 India international skill centres and a budget of Rs.2,200 crore set aside for investment in vocational training. It will push the Skill India drive and help in creating more employment for skilled youth — **Prof. Atmanand**, MDI, Gurgaon



The allocations made for promotion of education through online technologies is a substantial initiative and has been accorded perhaps the greatest emphasis of any Union budget, and has the potential of creating a tectonic impact in getting more children into the education net. But failure to open up the education sector to foreign direct investment is disappointing — **Shantanu Prakash**, managing director, Educomp Solutions Ltd



Indian higher ed institutions need to develop into hubs of innovation and excellence in research and find their rightful place in international rankings of top institutions. This budget has made welcome moves in that direction — **Dr. P. Venkat Rangan**, vice chancellor, Amrita University, Coimbatore

SWAYAM got a special mention as the latest digital initiative of the government. It shows the high priority the government accords towards promoting technology-based learning. This additional focus on advanced skills development and preparing a global workforce through India international skills centres is a very welcome step — **Vijay K. Thadani**, vice chairman & managing director, NIIT Ltd, Delhi



Focus on monitoring and improving learning outcomes through investment in ICT-enabled transformation is expected to have a far reaching impact on improving quality, equity and access of education in the country — **Rohin Kapoor**, director, Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP, Delhi

Education World, National, March 2017

The Tribune

Education sector waits for Budget thrust

Posted at: Jan 25, 2017, 1:26 AM; last updated: Jan 25, 2017, 1:26 AM (IST)



It was good to see education forming one of the nine pillars that Finance Minister mentioned in his Budget speech last year as crucial sectors for India's transformation and growth. However, as we look forward to the new budget of 2017, there are some likely expectations from the government on the education sector from the budget. Higher education in India directly affects the future of 30 million youth in the age group of 18 to 28 years who are enrolled in our colleges, universities and institutions of higher learning. This needs priority in terms of funding, infrastructure and professionalism.

The Budget's good funding and allocations will largely determine how we are going to attain higher education targets set under the 12th Five year plan (2012-17). Here's what some education sector players had to say about expectations from this year's Budget:

Allocations to the school level education sector were cut by around 10 per cent in its planned outlay last year which needs to be changed considering the importance of primary education as also the need to allocate budget for quality research in institutions of higher learning. Let us hope that the forthcoming Budget looks into the academic standards of state universities and affiliated colleges which should be raised up to the level of IITs and IIMs so that the benefits of quality higher education are not confined to limited urban elites. The Budget should also look for increased emphasis on the public private partnership model to compensate for the shortfall in government resource. And last but not the least, the

Budget must promote interdisciplinary and skill education in view of the demands of industry and economy. It will raise the quality of education and job prospects.

Dr Prashant Bhalla, President, Manav Rachna Educational Institutions

The Budget should focus on empowering private universities. Government in the upcoming Budget should seriously look at freeing top private universities from excessive regulatory control, and create a level funding playing field. This is essential if they have to compete, innovate and contribute to meeting the challenges of Make in India, and also adapt to the needs of a rapidly growing, information-centric population.

Dr. P. Venkat Rangan, Vice Chancellor, Amrita University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

"Although there has been lot of focus on skills and training, we expect some tax relief for the education and training sector in this budget. We expect that the government will introduce measures to ensure a level playing field for the highly regulated Indian online education and training companies, against the global players who are entering the Indian market aggressively in an unregulated manner as far as Indian taxation regime is concerned. The Government, has already announced phased reduction of Corporate Tax rates from 30 to 25 per cent, and we expect some announcement in the Budget to this effect. Tax regime is one of the significant considerations for Multinational Enterprises to set up their business in a particular tax jurisdiction. This would be a tremendous step from the government in respect to ease of doing business, encouraging more multinationals to expand their business in the country".

Rahul K Patwardhan, CEO, NIIT Limited

The cost of education is still prohibitive for a large section of the population due to the incidence of various direct and indirect taxes, excise duty, and VAT on sector inputs like paper, CD's, manufacture of educational materials, and content generation for digital education etc. To promote the sector, government must make books, note-books and educational material including e-learning education programmes at nil rate under the new GST regime which is expected to kick in shortly. Also, a general tax holiday or tax incentive to those engaged in promoting education under the new tax regime will make the sector more accessible to the public. Tax credit or exemptions for various input materials and other activities related to the sector and exemption of the industry from paying service tax are necessary measures to lower the cost of education and make it more accessible. Moreover, initiatives should also be taken to roll out the much awaited New Education policy (NEP) to usher in an era of reforms in teacher training, curriculum upgradation and modernisation

Monica Malhotra Kandhari, Managing Director, MBD Group for the education sector.

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/jobs-careers/education-sector-waits-for-budget-thrust/354978.html>

The Times of India

When cartoon games teach students complex fractions

Paras Singh | TNN | Updated: Feb 8, 2017, 01:17 AM IST



NEW DELHI: At the bright red box located near the staircase, Moh Priya, a student at the municipal primary school in Malviya Nagar, is intensely focused on clearing stage after stage of a cartoon-based game. "Who doesn't like video games?" she beams. Just as well, for even as she pits her genius against the so-called "playstation", she is actually learning about complex arithmetic fractions.

Hobbled by lack of funds, the municipal primary schools are under no illusion that they will be able to use innovative techniques in education. Until now, that is. "We too are now trying out technology-based education, like private schools do," said an education official of the South Delhi

Municipal Corporation. Over 50 primary schools under the corporation will soon get the red playstations under a project supported by NIIT, Rotary Club and the Australian embassy.

The playstation, of course, is not the Japanese gaming console, despite its wannabe name. It is a basic, red metallic box with over 700 software programs in various subjects — from language, geography and history to science and mathematics — developed by NIIT with inputs from the Azim Premji Foundation. "The programs cater to children from nursery up to Class XII," said Chanchal Gupta, a teacher deputed to work in the Malviya Nagar school by NGO Parwarish.

The games are the first experience with computers for Moh Priya. Her friend Sandhya Muskan enthuses about the cartoon components, though the playstation also offers game-based learning through modules on academics, lifeskills, activity-based learning and even edutainment. The teachers hope that these will create somewhat of a level-playing field for their students, who mostly have economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

There is a computer meant for every class in Malviya Nagar's Nigam Pratibha Vidyalaya for girls, but as in most municipal schools, they are nonfunctional. No wonder principal Shashi Rajpal is elated with the playstation project. "Our children will get the opportunity to access and learn how to operate computers. This will build confidence in them," Rajpal said. "Children are addicted to games on their parents' mobile phones, so these education games can be an excellent complement to regular teaching." Students in the lower classes are demanding to know when their turn to play will come, the principal smiles.

Purnendu Hota, head of the NIIT project, said that the modules aim "to help the child break free from the fear of technology". Each playstation unit costs Rs 2 lakh and is robustly built. According to the NIIT officials, the metallic encasement has been specially designed to prevent breakdown and prevent the fate of the dead computers in the schools. "We have designed it by incorporating the lessons we learnt in the last one and a half decade," said Hota.

When the bell rings to mark the end of classes, many girls, including Moh Priya — in a marked change from normal — linger around. They all rush to the red box. Their principal nods in approval.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/when-cartoon-games-teach-students-complex-fractions/articleshow/57028307.cms>

NIIT #EdTech The future is here

<https://twitter.com/NIITLtd>


Join Mr. Rajendra S Pawar at the #NASSCOM Leadership Forum 2017 on 15th February. #NASSCOM_ILF



Rajendra S Pawar
(Chairman & Co-Founder, NIIT Group)
to address the session on 'Is that masked unknown intruder the scary future?' at the NASSCOM Leadership Forum 2017.

Date: 15th February, 2017
Time: 2pm - 3pm
Venue: Grand Ballroom II, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Mumbai

Mr. Vijay K Thadani, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, NIIT Ltd shares his insights on the budget for the #Education and Skill sector. Read more: [#UnionBudget2017](http://www.niit.com/.../traini.../newsroom/Pages/press-rel.aspx...#UnionBudget2017)



Vijay K Thadani
Vice Chairman & Managing Director, NIIT Ltd

The additional focus on advanced skills development and preparing a global workforce through India International Skills Centres is a very welcome step.

Read Rahul Patvardhan's insights on India's Digital Transformation as published in CIO Review Magazine. bit.ly/2xb10S

CEO INSIGHTS


Overcoming the Manpower Challenge Facing **India's Digital Transformation Economy**

By **Rahul Patvardhan**, CEO, NIIT Limited



The Digital Transformation (DT) wave is upon the world and the Digital has become the core for progressive organizations. It is no longer confined to the business world but has spread to all sectors, be it education or health care. The impact of Digital Transformation is being felt in the way we live, work and play. It is a very welcome step.

Mr. Prakash Menon, President, Global Skills and Careers Group, NIIT Ltd talked about NIIT's commitment to the best of IT training, at the launch of NIIT Guiyang BigData talent training base



Prakash Menon
President, Global Skills and Careers Group, NIIT Ltd

NIIT pioneered the category of IT training in China in the late nineties with an aim to create a manpower pool, to empower the IT industry in the country. By setting up the Flagship centre in Guiyang we are strengthening our foundation and are re-committing to deliver the best of IT training to accelerate new-age career opportunities for the Chinese students.

Udai Singh, Head, New Business Initiatives, NIIT Ltd, on the launch of the 12th batch of Executive Program in Applied Finance in association with IIM Calcutta. Read the complete press release here: <http://www.niit.com/.../traini.../newsroom/Pages/press-rel.aspx...>



Mr. Udai Singh
Head, New Business Initiatives, NIIT Ltd.

NIIT has played a pioneering role in redefining the education and training sector in India through technological & pedagogical innovations in the space. With the launch of Applied Finance program through training.com in collaboration with IIM Calcutta, we aim to help professionals in developing their ability to create greater value for their organization.

Prof V S Rao, President, NIIT University on being recognized as the 'Best Institution for promoting industry-academia interface' at 10th ASSOCHAM Higher Education Summit 2017. Read the complete press release: <https://www.niituniversity.in/pdf/other/feb-2017-2.pdf>



Prof V S Rao
President, NIIT University

NIU has been developed as an institution of higher education that works closely with the industry to create higher education programs that are aligned to their needs. The industry-academia connect has been designed to create 'leaders of tomorrow' who can adapt to the fast-changing global economy and contribute meaningfully to the growth of their organizations and the society at large. I am grateful that our efforts are being recognized by the industry. I would like to thank ASSOCHAM for this honour and reiterate our commitment to further deepen the industry-academia alliance.

Mr. Gavin Dabreo, CEO, MindChampion Learning Systems Limited (MLSL) on Ngru MathPlus. Read more: [#](http://www.niit.com/.../traini.../newsroom/Pages/press-rel.aspx...#)



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

Math in its true sense is a colorful world, full of shapes, figures and patterns. In its original form, it is as much fun and as fundamental for a child's cognitive development as playing, talking & reading. However, children start fearing the subject at an early age. Many a research has shown that this fear stems from rote teaching-learning techniques and parenting practices that play a key role in students getting disconnected from Math. Ngru MathPlus is an innovative product that engages the learner in the process of learning, aiming to remove the 'fear of Math'. All stakeholders - students, parents & teachers are able to relate to Math intuitively through real life applications, thus making the subject interesting and fun.


Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Vice President, NIIT Ltd on the announcement of the 6th batch for Executive Program in Business Management. Read the complete press release here: <http://www.niit.com/.../traini.../newsroom/Pages/press-rel.aspx...>



Dr. Neeraj Sharma
Vice President, NIIT Ltd

NIIT Imperia has been offering tailor-made management programs in association with premier institutes to enable aspiring professionals to move to larger and more meaningful roles in their organizations. The Executive Program in Business Management in association with IIM Lucknow has been especially designed for Managers looking for broader knowledge of other functional areas so that they can gain a more strategic profile within the organization.


Sanjay Tickoo, Head, International Education Business (Emerging Markets), NIIT Ltd on the launch of an iIT center in Hoa Sen, Vietnam to create talent for Digitalization of Vietnam. Read the complete press release here: <http://www.niit.com/.../traini.../newsroom/Pages/press-rel.aspx...>



Sanjay Tickoo
Head, International Education Business (Emerging Markets), NIIT Ltd

This is indeed a very proud moment for NIIT as we are at the threshold of a transformational change in the Digital Learning space, driven by upskilling and talent development requirements for Digitalization of Vietnam. Towards this we have launched Big Data, Java Enterprise Apps with DevOps and Digital MARK to help create a talent pool armed with futuristic skill-sets aligned to the industry needs. We look forward to further strengthening this initiative, by empowering more and more students in the coming years.

Prakash Menon, President, Global Skills and Careers Group, NIIT Ltd, on the launch of a specialized IT center in Hoa Sen, Vietnam. Read the complete press release here: <http://www.niit.com/.../traini.../newsroom/Pages/press-rel.aspx...>



Prakash Menon
President, Global Skills and Careers Group, NIIT Ltd

The world is going through an intensive phase of digital transformation. All existing industries and economies are being disrupted. Physical economy is being replaced by a digital economy. We have launched the specialized IT center in Hoa Sen to help Vietnam transform into a digital economy. With our keen understanding of the changing skills requirement of the industry, NIIT is committed to support Vietnam to create a talent pool to facilitate digitalization of the country.

The Corporate Learning Group (CLG) of NIIT has had the most successful customer and new business acquisition period during the first 9 months of FY17 as compared to the similar period of past few years. Read more on: <http://www.niit.com/.../traini.../newsroom/Pages/press-rel.aspx...>



NIIT emerges as a **leading Corporate Training provider** through significant wins in North America, Europe & India during the first 9 months of FY17

NIIT.tv is an internet TV portal that can be accessed on a computer, tablet or smartphone anytime, anywhere. Read the complete press release here: <http://www.niit.com/.../traini.../newsroom/Pages/press-rel.aspx...>



It is a democratic digital learning initiative, backed by NIIT's strong Educational Technology framework that was launched in October 2015 with an aim to bring high quality training from its classrooms to every digitally connected learner, for free, at any time, place and language of their choice.

NIIT #EdTech The future is here

<https://twitter.com/NIITLtd>

NIIT University wins 'Best Infrastructure of the Year' award at Indian Education Congress & Awards 2017. Read the complete press release here: <https://www.niituniversity.in/pdf/other/feb-2017.pdf>



Mr. Kamal Singh, Advisor, Campus Planning and Green Initiatives, receiving the 'Best Infrastructure of the Year' award on behalf of NU at the Indian Education Congress & Awards 2017.

Udai Singh, Head, New Business Initiatives, NIIT Ltd, shares his views on the programs offered by training.com. Read more on: <http://www.niit.com/.../traini.../newsroom/Pages/press-rel.aspx...>



Udai Singh
Head, New Business Initiatives, NIIT Ltd

With the launch of Advance Program in Data Sciences in association with IIM Calcutta we aim to develop globally competitive workforce who can take various challenging role and can add greater value to their organization.

"The world is undergoing an exponential and rapid change at virtually every level and there are several megatrends at work that are altering life as we know it." - Rahul Patvardhan, CEO, NIIT Ltd

Read more: <http://www.businessinsider.in/megatrends-the-.../57792689.cms>



Megatrends that will shape the future of learning
Investments in Learning Science will have to go up

BUSINESSINSIDER

NIIT Limited announced today that it has been awarded the status of Accredited Learning Provider by the Learning and Performance Institute (LPI), UK. Read more on: <http://www.niit.com/.../traini.../newsroom/Pages/press-rel.aspx...>



NIIT awarded Learning and Performance Institute Accreditation for commitment to high quality and process improvement in learning, development and training services

NIIT booth at the NASSCOM Leadership Forum 2017 on 15th February. Join us at our stall at the #NASSCOM_ILF from 15th - 17th Feb.



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"One out of three software engineers in India is trained by NIIT." - Prakash Menon, President, Global Skills & Careers Group, NIIT Ltd. Watch the complete video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQswRteluQ&feature=youtu.be>



NIIT News on TECHGIG Code Awards Campus Hunt 2016

BREAKING NEWS YOUTUBE.COM