NIIT

DigITal Transformation is here

Transforming
the next generation for the digital world.

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NIIT

Strategy is to move towards platform-led presence: NIIT

NAVADHA PANDEY

New Delhi, September 27

NIIT Ltd, which offers learning management and training delivery solutions to corporations, institutions and individuals, has decided to strategically move away from brick-led presence and towards platform-led presence, in its aim to engage with global consumers.

"We are looking at a transformation journey for creating technology platforms, to engage with people at large and create global customers," Udai Singh, Head of New Business Initiative, NIIT Ltd, told *BusinessLine* after the company announced the acquisition of Bengaluru-based start-up Perceptron Learning Solutions.

The company believes that this acquisition will bring together complementary technology platforms and capabilities of NIIT and Perceptron, thus enabling NIIT to further accelerate its digital transformation initiatives – StackRoute, digiNxt, and Training.com.

'Ilimi', which is Perceptron's next-gen learning platform, combines developments in semantic computing, predictive analytics, learning science, etc.

NIIT did not divulge the size of the deal but said "it is not a very large size transaction since Perceptron is fairly young".

With the acquisition, NIIT has also appointed Satish Sukumar, co-founder and CEO of Perceptron, as Chief Technology Officer of StackRoute Labs. NIIT's StackRoute Labs aims to build competencies in areas such as machine learning, IoT and full stack product engineering.

The company's announcements and tie-ups with various players in the last few months also clearly indicate its focus towards strengthening its digital presence.

Earlier this month, NIIT announced a tie-up with IIM Calcutta for the latter's 'Post Graduate Certificate in General Management'(PGCGM).

The programme will be delivered through a combination of online and offline modes. The online component will be in direct-to-device mode through NIIT's Training.com learning platform.

On September 1, the company had launched 'Java Enterprise Apps with DevOps' to enable learners to implement various aspects of enterprise app development through project-based learning methodology.

In June, the company had launched its first interactive live, online course in digital marketing, offered in association with Digital Marketing Institute (Ireland). In May, it had announced a tie-up with massive open online course (MOOC) provider edX to offer a blended learning MOOC model.

However, this thrust on digital does not mean that the company will offer only online training. "Our focus on digital will not mean that only online training will be available. NIIT centres will continue to operate to offer distinct learning," Singh clarified.

Udai Singh

THE ECONOMIC TIMES
ET SmallBiz

NIIT acquires Bengaluru-based start-up Perceptron

By IANS | Updated: Sep 27, 2016, 08.34 PM IST

NEW DELHI: The National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT) has acquired the Bengaluru-based start-up Perceptron, it was announced on Tuesday.

The strategic acquisition is expected to bring together complementary technology platforms and capabilities of NIIT and Perceptron, enabling NIIT to further accelerate its Digital Transformation initiatives - StackRoute, digiNxt, and Training.com.

"Taking forward NIIT's thrust on Digital Transformation in the EdTech domain, this strategic acquisition of Perceptron will further strengthen NIIT's leadership role in the Digital Learning World," said NIIT CEO Rahul Patwardhan.

"We are happy to have Perceptron's team, including the co-founders Satish Sukumar and Feroz Sheikh, join us in this journey as NIITians. NIIT will continue to look for innovative start-ups and talent in the EdTech space," he added.

Perceptron's next-gen learning platform "Ilimi" has combined leading edge developments in semantic computing, predictive analytics, learning science, and digital transformation technologies to create an environment for implementing learner-centric, immersive learning and mastery learning strategies.

"This acquisition builds on NIIT's strategic focus for a leadership role in the Digital Learning world," said Perceptron CEO Satish Sukumar.

Sukumar has been named the CTO of StackRoute Labs -- an NIIT initiative to build deep competency in areas of machine learning, IoT and full stack product engineering.

"Together with existing platforms, this will become an integral part of NIIT's future multi-modal learning platform and 360 degree learning eco-system," Sukumar said, adding: "Further, Perceptron's co-founders and engineering team will strengthen NIIT's technology talent pool with their proven expertise."

Digital transformation: Techies with advanced skills can power enterprises

Techies, with advanced skills, can power digital transformation for enterprises

New Delhi | Published: September 5, 2016 6:01 AM

Going digital appears to be the trend shaping organisations today. The word 'digital' encompasses all the new-age terms we are increasingly becoming familiar with—SMAC (social, mobile, analytics, cloud), the Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence, robotics, machine learning, virtual reality, cyber security, to name a few.

Independent research by IDC, Assocham and Nasscom has indicated that digital transformation will become big business in the years to come—digitally-transformed organisations are stated to be 26% more profitable compared to those who don't take this route. IDC reports that global spending on digital transformation technologies will cross $2.1 billion by 2019. Yet another study indicates that, by 2018, 35% of IT resources will be spent onsupporting the creation of new digital revenue streams, and by 2020 almost 50% of IT budgets will be tied to digital transformation initiatives.

While predictions about the digital transformation trend are good news, what is worrisome is whether the ICT industry in India is ready—in terms of rightly skilled talent—to support digital transformation initiatives being rolled out by organisations. The view of industry pundits is that companies allocating almost 50% of their IT budgets on new digital revenue streams by 2020 will create an unprecedented demand of over 10 lakh newly-trained digital professionals. It tells a compelling story.

India, which has a leadership position within the global technology realm owing to its strong ecosystem of MNC R&D centres, global in-house centres and software product start-ups, is best positioned to participate in this digital transformation dream.

As with the IT revolution, where the country's skilled software professionals enabled her to occupy pride of place on the global IT-BPM services map, talent will play a major role in establishing our success in the digital era.

Techies, with advanced skills, can potentially power the digital transformation for enterprises around the world, and help India become a moonshot economy.

Research shows that India is home to a digitally-ready talent pool of 5 lakh engineers, who can help execute digital transformation projects. This number is set to rise to over 10 lakh engineers—trained in digital transformation technologies—by 2020.

This massive demand will ensure that even entry-level and experienced professionals with digital transformation skills draw at least 50-60% higher salaries than those with traditional IT skills. With these myriad positives on its side, all India needs to do is build its next generation of skilled tech resources that can give it an edge in the global digital transformation universe. And the resources can and will be made available.

At NIIT—a company that once helped create manpower resources that fuelled the rise of the Indian IT juggernaut—we have again taken up the challenge of fashioning India's futuristic, future-ready and future-proof workforce. Leveraging our vast experience of having trained more than 35 million people in IT over 34 years, and our deep understanding on the changing skills needs of the industry, we are concentrating on redefining IT training and taking it to the next level—towards digital transformation. One of our initiatives is called the Stack-Route, which aims to produce multi-skilled and multi-disciplinary full-stack programmers. We have also introduced retail training programmes in digital transformation technologies under the DigiNxt umbrella, for young people wishing to enter the digital services industry.

With such and more options available to develop the next level of talent and bridge the yawning skills gap that currently exists within enterprises for such people, India is sure to expand its base of professionals who will drive the digital transformation strategies of global organisations. It is then that the country will emerge as the hub of talent and the digital skills capital of the world.

Prakash Menon (The author is president, Global Skills & Careers Group, NIIT Ltd.)

http://www.financialexpress.com/industry/tech/techies-with-advanced-skills-can-power-digital-transformation-for-enterprises/367054/

Catching Them Young For The Digital Transformation Revolution

Gen Y is here and set to embrace what is being called the 'Fourth Industrial revolution' — essentially, the Digital age

BY Gavin Dabreo , CEO, MLSL, NIIT Limited

How often have you found yourself staring in amazement at the sight of a two-year old infant enthusiastically and passionately attack an iPad, effortlessly use the keys, and interface seamlessly with a game that you would be hard pressed to even comprehend? It is commonplace now to see children use computers, and expertly deal with smart devices, especially mobile phones, as though they were really born bearing them in their hands. And in a way, they have!

Just as the generation that is now in its '50s was internalizing cycles and large phones with black dials, today's generation is literally a community of Netizens—born to the Internet.

Gen Y is here and set to embrace what is being called the 'Fourth Industrial revolution'—essentially, the Digital age. What youngsters now find themselves in is a constant state of connectivity, where they are linked on an anytime, anywhere basis with anyone on the planet. They are also hooked on to smart machines and handling new media that are altering the way they will eventually live and work.

The Digital Transformation that now envelops this generation, and extends across offices, factories and homes, requires several things of these young people who are on the cusp of an exciting future. It primarily needs them to have skills that they never possessed before—skills that equip them to handle automated systems and lead to higher human-machine partnership and co-dependence.

According to a January 2016 study launched by the World Economic Forum, global citizens will need brand new skills and abilities to be productive contributors to economic growth in the future.

Research shows that tomorrow's citizens will require cognitive abilities, creativity, logical reasoning, problem sensitivity, mathematical reasoning and visualization. From basic skills, to content skills, to active learning, oral expression, reading, comprehension, written expression, process skills and above all ICT literacy.

Abundant ICT skills are also the need of the hour for India's growing IT industry, the spearhead of the country's current exports led growth. The nation's vibrant IT-BPM industry, which continues to be a major driver of the country's GDP and generates millions of jobs every year, will always need people well versed in IT and with relevant Digital Transformation skills to fuel its momentum.

Clearly then, IT knowledge and skills are of the essence. Also, and since children are in an IT bubble and IT lies at the core of everything they do, at home and beyond, they need to be equipped with IT know how.

The fact is that these youngsters will one day go to offices that are completely automated and Digital. They will have to be completely conversant with everyday technology that defines the workplace. From knowing how to handle computers, smart devices, networking, communications and connectivity equipment and software at work, to optimally using office productivity tools, these citizens of the future world will have to be able to easily find their way around within the IT bubble. In order for this to happen, Gen Next will have to internalize IT and do it as early in their life cycles as they can.

What this really means is that India's primary, secondary and even higher education systems have to focus on IT, IT and more IT. They have to be ready with specialized IT curriculum and programs that are prepared in partnership with the tech and non-tech sectors (that actually do the hiring), and ready children and young people for what lies ahead. Learning now needs to be IT focused so that it promotes objectivity, creativity, both left and right side development and yes, tech prowess.

IT then must be made a compulsory subject at the level of primary and secondary education, like other critical subjects like English, Math, the Sciences, Economics, Accounting, among others.

Recognizing the importance of IT as a mainstream subject, India's educational institutions will need to ensure that learners experience IT's different facets across all levels. They should be able to relate this exposure to their experiences with technology, thus unleashing their creativity.

Students will need to understand, assimilate and practice IT concepts, which will ensure that learning requirements for all types of students like visual, kinesthetic, tactile etc. are taken care of. Overall the aim will have to be to go beyond text books and provide learners with the skills that will shape their future careers.

What will also be needed going forward will be end-to-end solutions that bring together all the key elements required by teachers, students and school and college managements for learning and managing IT.

IT then must reach children quickly. By paying due attention to IT skills in school and college, the Indian education system will also be able to align itself to the government's vision of Digital India.

The Digital Transformation revolution will be spurred by those literally 'Born to the Internet'. It is now time to 'Digitally ready' this generation.

http://www.edu-leaders.com/article/2016/09/12/catching-them-young-digital-transformation-revolution

NIIT unveils Training Centre at Tongren College in China

NIIT unveiled its Flagship Training Centre at Tongren Polytechnic College in China to develop a pool of next generation IT professionals in the field of Big Data and Analytics. In April, NIIT entered into a strategic agreement with Guizhou province to help the provincial government build global quality talent in IT services and Big-data industry. Under this agreement the company now launches its flagship centre at Tongren, the 3rd largest city in the Guizhou province. The centre was inaugurated by Mr Chen Yan, Mayor of Tongren City and Rahul Patwardhan, CEO, NIIT Ltd. Tongren Polytechnic College is the foremost national level 12+3 education system college in the city. The flagship centre at the college is a part of public-private partnership between Tongren municipal government and NIIT. Focused on developing talent in IT and Big Data, the centre will offer programmes on IT software development and Big Data Technologies. For the first time ever, young professionals and students will have the flexibility to choose options from a range of multiple new-age career programmes, aligned to the evolving needs of the knowledge economy. The smart and vibrant flagship centre is spread across 5000 sq ft with a capacity to enrol 250 students.

Indian Express, Bangalore, *September 26, 2016*

Indian IT industry likely to be worth $300 billion by 2022: Kris Gopalakrishnan

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, September 28

Entrepreneurship has to be part of the curriculum in schools and colleges to develop the culture of entrepreneurship, according to Kris Gopalakrishnan, Past President of CII and co-founder of Infosys.

"I strongly believe that the culture of entrepreneurship is extremely important" even if a person does not actually start a business, he said.

'Problem-solving attitude'

Ownership of a problem, being part of the solution and being excited by problems demonstrates the person's capability to solve problems, he said at a panel discussion on 'policies and frameworks for start-up success' at CII Connect 2016, an international conference and exposition on Information and Communication Technology.

The Kerala government distributed computers to nearly 10,000 eighth-grade students to play around, create projects and participate in contests. It created an ecosystem where students build products and systems, Gopalakrishnan said.

Entrepreneurship has flourished in Tamil Nadu for generations, with people building great businesses in engineering, textiles, garments, food products, machine tools and automotives. There is also a culture of mentoring and funding as angel investors.

On the Indian IT industry, Gopalakrishnan said: "I strongly believe the industry will become $300 billion in size, by 2020 or 2022." The industry is now around $160 billion, contributing 8-9 per cent of India's GDP and employing around 4 million people.

Over the years, it has grown between 35-50 per cent, but is now growing at around 10 per cent against a global average of 3-4 per cent.

Even at 10 per cent, it has the potential to create a large number of jobs. It is important that both the State and Centre support this industry, and make sure the industry reaches its potential, he said.

In his valedictory address, M Manikandan, Tamil Nadu IT Minister, said the Global Investors Meeting held last year resulted in 98 MoUs, committing a total investment of ₹2.42-lakh crore with direct employment potential of 4.70 lakh jobs. Of this, the IT department alone has attracted 17 investors with an investment of ₹10,950 crore expected to generate over 2 lakh jobs.

The State has so far distributed 32.35 lakh free laptops to government and government-aided schools and the Global students. For the academic year 2016-17, the State will distribute 5.36 lakh laptops, he said.

Every village will be connected with a high-speed optical fibre network, enabling broadband connectivity at the grassroots level, he said.

Arun Jain, CMD of Intellect Design Arena (centre), receives a Lifetime Achievement award from M Manikandan, Tamil Nadu IT Minister, in Chennai. Also present are Ravi Viswanathan (left), Chairman of CII Connect; Kris Gopalakrishnan, Past President of CII (second right); Vijay Thadani, Vice-Chairman and MD, NIIT BIJOY GHOSH

Hindu Business Line, New Delhi, *September 29, 2016*

Pathos of Partition showcased at the Annual PACE Principals' Meet

In an age when history and its interpretation often makes news for the wrong reasons, the magnitude of the Partition of the subcontinent was showcased in all its raw and painful reality through a musical at a gathering of an estimated 600 educators. Organised by Partnerships for Action in Education (PACE), the Hindustan Times newspaper in education initiative, the show titled 'Partition – Stories of Separation', presented by singer-composer Sonam Kalra, amplified the need for educators to help students interpret history in a constructive and holistic way to instil in them empathy, understanding as well as a broad-minded approach that would combat divisive tendencies. The experiential performance at the Taj Palace hotel blended the power of music, spoken words of eminent poets and authors such as Ali Sardar Jafri, Manto, Daman, Faiz Ahmad Faiz and Amrita Pritam; videos, art, archival material as well as personal accounts of well-known personalities from diverse spheres and of ordinary people. A makeshift stage was transformed into a period setting that evoked the sights of the 1940s, replete with antique trunks, posters, replicas of oil-lit lamps as well as a bright red letter box in which the audience members were to drop postcards with imaginary messages for those 'on the other side' of the Indo-Pakistan border sometime in the future. The show climaxed with forceful pleas by Kalra as well as Salima Raza, who enacted the role of the narrator, to India and Pakistan to stay engaged with each other and to keep open channels of communication. A video showing people of all ages and visualising what they would do on that imaginary date in the future when they meet friends on the other side of the border provided a happy ending. Earlier, the programme kicked off with the lighting of the lamp by Rakesh Oberoi, national head, marketing (buses and vans), Tata Motors, Parappil Rajendran, joint managing director, NIIT Ltd., AK Jindal, general manager, Russell Hobbs, and Annapoorna Sehgal, head-education, HT Media Ltd. Tata

Motors and NIIT University were the associate partners for the event, while Russell Hobbs was the gifting partner. Referring to the turnout, Annapoorna Sehgal, head-education, HT Media Ltd., said, "Through this event it is a matter of great pride for me to be able to bring together so many principals who have over the years lent their invaluable support for PACE." After the show, Kalra emphasized the need for adults to speak to students about Partition. "We should talk about what happened, why it happened, about (India's and Pakistan's) history, the love and grief that we share... Dialogue between our countries should continue. We must breach the atmosphere of distrust and help bring about peace and harmony. We are children of the same mother..."

INVESTITURE CEREMONY AT DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, MARUTI KUNJ
Delhi Public School, Maruti Kunj, Gurgaon, held its 21st Investiture Ceremony. In a solemn ceremony, the oath was administered to the student council members and the house appointees. The ceremony was graced by school alumni Dr. Vishal Arora - MD Ophthalmology and Pranav Nasa - Software Engineer – as special guests. Dr Vishal Arora is the director and owner

Aro Health. He is also a visiting consultant at Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurgaon and Artemis Hospital, Gurgaon. Dr. Vishal Arora always upheld the ethos of the school and the school is proud of his achievements. Pranav Nasa is presently serving as an executive manager at Sun Life Financials India Service Centre Pvt. Ltd. During his school days, he demonstrated leadership qualities and carried out his duties as the head boy of the school for two consecutive years – 1998-99 (class 11) and 1999-2000 (class 12). The ceremony began with a welcome song by the school choir. Students also presented a colourful dance. Principal, Rachna Pandit addressed the gathering and motivated students to shoulder their responsibilities with sincerity and dedication. The members of the student council were adorned with the badges by the revered guests. The students pledged to perform their duties with sincere commitment and prove themselves to be worthy of the trust reposed in them. The guests motivated students with inspirational words. Their nostalgic speeches took everyone down the memory lane as they shared their experiences as students in school. They congratulated the students, and urged them to be role models for others. Head boy Markandey Sharma and head girl Sarabjit Kaur proposed the vote of thanks. The ceremony concluded with the National Anthem.

▪ **(Top) Sitting left to right: Pankaj Sharma and Pradeep Narayanan with Parappil Rajendran, joint managing director of NIIT Ltd. at the Annual PACE Principals Meet; (above) investiture ceremony at Delhi Public School, Maruti Kunj.**

IIM-L, NIIT Imperia announces EMP in Sales Marketing

NIIT Imperia - Centre for Advanced Learning Institute along with IIM Lucknow, has announced a fresh batch for Executive Management Program in Sales and Marketing. It is exclusively designed for professionals with minimum 2 years of work experience in sales and marketing. Graduates or postgraduates in any discipline with 50% aggregate marks can apply for this. Students who take up the exam during the programme and qualify in comprehensive assessment standards drawn by IIM Lucknow will be awarded a 'One Year Part Time Certificate of Successful Completion'. In addition, students need to attend a mandatory 4-day campus module at IIM Lucknow, Noida campus at the beginning of the programme and a 2-day campus module towards the end of the programme. Students can also avail up to 90 percent of the programme fee as Customized Education Loan from leading banks.

Sales and Marketing professionals with 2 years experience are eligible

Building the next generation of skilled tech resources

Techies, with advanced skills, can power digital transformation for enterprises

PRAKASH MENON

Going digital appears to be the trend shaping organisations today. The word 'digital' encompasses all the new-age terms we are increasingly becoming familiar with—SMAC (social, mobile, analytics, cloud), the Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence, robotics, machine learning, virtual reality, cyber security, to name a few.

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While predictions about the digital transformation trend are good news, what is worrisome is whether the ICT industry in India is ready—in terms of rightly skilled talent—to support digital transformation initiatives being rolled out by organisations.

The view of industry pundits is that companies allocating almost 50% of their IT budgets on new digital revenue streams by 2020 will create an unprecedented demand of over 10 lakh newly-trained digital professionals. It tells a compelling story.

India, which has a leadership position within the global technology realm owing to its strong ecosystem of MNC R&D centres, global in-house centres and software product start-ups, is best positioned to participate in this digital transformation dream.

As with the IT revolution, where the country's skilled software professionals enabled her to occupy pride of place on the global IT-BPM services map, talent will play a major role in establishing our success in the digital era.

Techies, with advanced skills, can potentially power the digital

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With these myriad positives on its side, all India needs to do is build its next generation of skilled tech resources that can give it an edge in the global digital transformation universe.

And the resources can and will be made available.

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The author is president, Global Skills & Careers Group, NIIT Ltd

Financial Express, New Delhi
September 05, 2016

NIIT Launches Java Enterprise Apps with DevOps in Nagpur

NIIT Limited, a global leader in skills and talent development launched Java Enterprise Apps with DevOps, on the occasion of 26th anniversary of the Nagpur Centre. As part of NIIT's strategic focus to offer futuristic courses in IT under the Digital Transformation series, this program is the first offering under the digiNxt portfolio for students in Nagpur. The launch was announced by Rina Sinha, NIIT Nagpur. As part of the anniversary celebration, NIIT Nagpur organised a programming competition Techathon. Budding programmers from reputed colleges showcased their talent in programing language in C, C++ and Java. The contest was aimed to bring out the logic and the complexity in solving the given set of programs. Almost 300 students from five colleges participated in the contest.

Indian Express, Bangalore, *September 12, 2016*

NIIT buys Bengaluru-based Perceptron

NIIT Ltd, a global skill and talent development firm, on Tuesday, said it had acquired Bengaluru-based start-up Perceptron Learning Solutions Pvt Ltd to accelerate its digital initiatives and bring in deep analytics capabilities to its learning platforms. Started in 2014, Perceptron has been working on developing next generation learning platforms that combine deep analytics and semantic computing to ensure better learning outcomes. **BS REPORTER**

Business Standard, Kolkata, *September 28, 2016*

NIIT UNIVERSITY (NU)

Nestled in the foothills of Aravali, in Neemrana, Rajasthan, NIIT University (NU) is truly the University of the Future. Just off National Capital region (NCR), the picturesque 100-acre fully residential Green campus of NU encourages closeness with nature, and it undertakes initiatives to create a sustainable environment.

NIIT University, a not-for-profit institution, inherits more than three decades of its rich experience, know-how and global reputation of the NIIT group.

NIIT University is equipped with state-of-the-art, technology-enabled teaching and a strong research-focused curriculum. The strong reputation for trust, innovation and technology that has been created by NIIT Limited provides a powerful platform for NIIT University.

Set up with the vision to be the role model of learning, research, innovation and sustainability, for the knowledge society, the not-for-profit NIIT University is dedicated to building great careers and ensuring excellent job opportunities to all its students. It has been developed as an institute of excellence to provide exceptional education based on the four core principles that make learning industry-linked, technology-based, research-driven and seamless.

The NIIT University offers **B.Tech programs in Computer Science and Engineering, Biotechnology and Electronics and Communication Engineering**; NIIT University also offers a 2 year **M.Tech program in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Educational Technology (ET).**

Dual degree integrated M. Tech programs in Computer Science and Engineering, Electronic Communication and Biotechnology are also offered by NU.

NU offers **Ph.D programs** in Biotechnology (BT), Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE), Educational Technology (ET), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) and Management. These programs are based on the university's core principles of providing **industry-linked, technology-based, research-driven and seamless education.**

NIIT University has entered into an academic collaboration with **University of Missouri, Kansas City, USA**, which enables students to complete their B.Tech from NIIT University and M.S in Computer Science Engineering in 5 years.

NIIT University offers the perfect blend of academics and sports by providing all the facilities of outdoor as well as indoor sports.

Apart from the numerous sports events that happen within the campus, NU also encourages students in imbibing the spirit of adventure and camaraderie. To refine this facet of the students' personality, a variety of cultural events are organized at NU.

NU commitment to building great careers begins with giving students Industry Practice (IP) – a full semester conducted on site in an organisation to allow students to gain real life working experience. During IP, students are guided by a dedicated faculty and a mentor from the organisation. Additionally, NU's Entrepreneurship Cell is a unique initiative dedicated to develop and promote new start-up ideas

NIIT University, a truly global Institution is established under section 2 (f) of UGC Act and notified by Government of Rajasthan u/a of 2010.

NIIT University Neemrana Campus

PRESIDENT SPEAK »»»»

Prof VS RAO
President, NIIT University

NIIT University is a university of the future; which focuses upon enhancing the capabilities by harnessing the inherent potential of its students through a variety of innovative curricular and co-curricular activities. The University provides umpteen opportunities to acquire, test and share knowledge and to develop abilities to think rationally and critically in a multicultural ambiance. All our learning modules strongly rely on research based, technology driven and industry linked education. The academic programmes in the University have been designed to ensure an outstanding educational value with a wide selection of courses and flexible scheduling. The university through its 6 months long industry practice provides opportunities to students to work on real life problems at different industries.

We constantly endeavour to ensure that the students, during their stay discover the excitement of learning, the importance of individual integrity, commitment to work ethics and the joy of sharing & helping.

NU NIIT UNIVERSITY

Why NIIT University (NU)

- Awarded "Best University in use of Technology in Teaching-Learning Practices" at the National Educational Excellence Awards, 2013, by leading Industry body ASSOCHAM.
- Awarded "the Greenest and the most environment-friendly campus" in India Today Aspire Education Summit 2012.
- NU offers Undergraduate & Post Graduate work integrated (Industry Linked) programmes with leading partner organizations like ICICI Bank, IBM, WNS, PwC, Federal Bank, UBI, BoM and more.
- **For its B Tech programmes , NU offers**
- Multiple Specialisations
- CSE : Data Sciences, Cyber Security, Cloud Computing,
- ECE : Embeded Systems Design, Internet of Things (IoT), Signal Processing
- BT : Plant Biotechnology, Bioinformatics
- 6 months of mandatory Research Project or Industry Practice in leading Institutions/Organisations
- Support to startups through "Incubation Cell".
- Upto 100% Merit Scholarship under "NU Scholar Search" Initiative.

TOP RECRUITERS

Amazon, IBM, PwC, Cognizant, Sapient, PayU, KPMG, Cadence, Texas Instruments, Coca-Cola.

NIIT UNIVERSITY IMPARTS EDUCATION

TO FOSTER
Research, Discovery and Sustainability.

TO DEVELOP
talent for sustainable growth of Industry and society.

TO NURTURE
a culture of seamlessness in all facets of life.

TO DELIVER
Distinctive education through the pioneering use of technology.

CAREER HOTLINE
PERVIN MALHOTRA

email your queries to careers@tribunemail.com

How should I prepare for **a career in Big Data Analytics**?

Q. I started with my first job last year, as data analyst. I'm enthusiastic about Big Data and wish to handle a Big Data analytics role in the near future. How can I prepare myself for the same? — KARAN AHLUWALIA

A. You're off to a good start. Companies are struggling to find the right people with expertise in Big Data, but most people are confused about the way they should prepare themselves for Big Data. So, you'll be a step ahead when it comes to securing a role on the analytics team.

Hadoop and MapReduce are amongst the widely adopted tools in the market which are then supported by database languages such as NoSQL, Hive etc.

Some good Big Data training courses in India are offered by organizations such as SimpliLearn, Edureka, Blue Ocean Learning, BigData-Training.in, Jigsaw Academy, iClass Bangalore and NIIT. To equip working professionals with industry-relevant knowledge, IIIT Bangalore, Genpact & UpGrad have also teamed up to offer a post-graduate diploma in Data Analytics.

Courses are also offered by prominent Indian B-schools such as IIM-A/B/C and ISB, but those are more geared towards business analytics in general. Alternatively, if you intend taking a Big Data course online, you should check out MOOC providers such as edX and Coursera.

THINKSTOCK

Tribune, New Delhi, *August 31, 2016*

RAJWANT RAWAT

NIIT University Neemrana

EMERGING UNIVERSITIES

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION
Basic knowledge of software database and networking

JOBS TO EXPECT
Information Security Managers, Security Analysts, IT consultants, Security Engineers and Security Architects

WHERE TO STUDY

NIIT UNIVERSITY
Neemrana, Rajasthan

INDIAN SCHOOL OF ETHICAL HACKING
Kolkata

EXTREME HACKING
Pune

LUCIDEUS TRAINING
Delhi

ANKIT FADIA CERTIFIED ETHICAL HACKING COURSES
(Online)

Ethical Hacking

The first ever ethical hack was carried out in 1939, by the British, to decode encrypted German messages during World War II. Hacking has come a long way since then. As a term, it's usually associated with computer criminals—those who sabotage computers and electronic systems for personal gain.

But this is only part of the truth, as there are primarily two types of hackers, black hat and white hat. Black hats are the computer criminals, architects of cyber warfare and terrorism. Right from stealing passwords and sifting through your personal details to engineering programmes and instruments which destabilise security systems to holding companies and organisations to ransom, black hat hackers are always on the wrong side of the law. The white hat hacker are the ethical hackers, experts at systems breaching and compromising security systems. What sets them apart is that they don't use the data acquired for personal gain or unwarranted advantage. Instead, they report their successful attacks and breaches to an organisation they might be working for, even do the attacks at the behest of organisations, thus enabling them to patch up leaks and improve defenses.

A systems breach today can cause billions of dollars' worth of damage, not just to an organisation but also to associated industries. So organisations offer rewards and recruit promising individuals with hefty packages across the globe, to constantly help expose flaws and loopholes in their systems.

Today, ethical hacking is an exciting proposition and can be studied at a number of specialised institutions in India. "The cyber security market is expected to grow to $35 billion by 2025. Thus the demand for skilled professionals in the space is very high, coming from all over—domestic companies, MNCs, government and IT firms bringing in work from clients," says Sunil Khanna, vice-president, NIIT University. Depending upon posts and prowess, pay packages in India today vary anywhere from Rs 7 lakh to 25 lakh per annum.
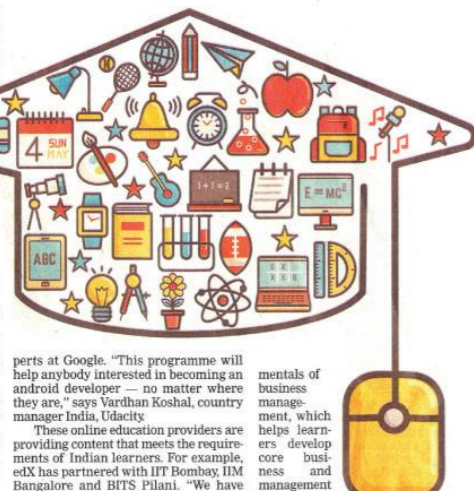
India Today, *September 05, 2016*

Open sesame

Online platforms with international quality course content are changing the way Indian students learn and skill up, says **Avijit Chatterjee**

Akshay Kulkarni did not have good scores in Plus Two and couldn't get into a good engineering college either. He enrolled for the computer science programme at an engineering college near Hyderabad, but was not happy with the quality of teaching. "I was really confused and began considering other career options," he says.

Around this time, in 2012, along came edX, an online platform for interactive study on the web, created by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University. It offered online university-level courses in a wide range of disciplines, some of which are free of cost. Kulkarni signed up for a computer programming course by MIT. "I realised that not only was I good at programming, but I actually loved it," he recalls. An enthused Kulkarni went on to take many more edX courses, and when he finally received an interview call from Microsoft, all that additional learning came in handy. "While other candidates got grilled for hours with technical questions, my interview was short because of the courses I took at edX," says Kulkarni, currently working as a software engineer at Microsoft in Hyderabad.

Amol Bhave, who went to school in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, has a similar story. After having scored 97 per cent marks in edX's circuits and electronics course, he bagged a seat at MIT as a full-time student.

Indeed, free online courses, also called Massive Open Online Courses or Moocs, are catching on and changing the way students learn, read and skill up. For employers, too, the courses are a validation of students' skills. Recently e-commerce giant Flipkart decided to do away with interviews for those who have completed the android developer nanodegree programme from Udacity, a Moocs platform. Three Udacity graduates have already started working at Flipkart with the mobile development team.

"The conventional hiring process often comes down to the performance of the candidate on that specific day, which may not be a true reflection of the candidate's skills and temperament," says Peeyush Ranjan, chief technology officer, Flipkart. "The shortlisted profiles and data provided by Udacity allowed us to assess the candidate's competencies in a much better way."

Sebastian Thrun, a co-founder of Udacity, stresses that its goal is to ensure that its nanodegree graduates are in demand for the jobs of the day — such as data analysis, web development and machine learning. Udacity recently tied up with Google for the android basics nanodegree programme. No programming experience is required to enrol for the course, and students will learn directly from experts at Google. "This programme will help anybody interested in becoming an android developer — no matter where they are," says Vardhan Koshal, country manager India, Udacity.

These online education providers are providing content that meets the requirements of Indian learners. For example, edX has partnered with IIT Bombay, IIM Bangalore and BITS Pilani. "We have partnered with IIM-B to offer an XSeries Program, a series of courses called fundamentals of business management, which helps learners develop core business and management skills. Similarly, IIT Bombay offers a series called Fundamentals of Computer Science, which helps learners gain knowhow to get jobs in the software engineering space," points out Anant Agarwal, MIT professor and CEO of edX.

Moocs platform Coursera offers specialisations from 19 university partners such as Caltech, Stanford and Princeton in data science, digital marketing, music production, global affairs and other fields. "We have recently partnered with the Indian School of Business, e-commerce firm Snapdeal and tech giant Google to offer job-oriented courses," says Kabir Chadha, India country manager, Coursera.

These firms are tying up with Indian entities because the country forms a large learner base for them. Among edX learners 11 per cent are Indians. Around nine per cent of Coursera learners are from India. Even the California-based non-profit University of the People (UoPeople), is looking at India as a major destination and has plans to collaborate with the Indian government.

So, how do these tie-ups help Indians? Says Agarwal, "Moocs allow Indian students who would not traditionally have access to education to receive the skills required to compete in the job market."

These firms also have partnerships with top universities to accept talented students. For example, UoP tied up with Yale ISP Law School for research and New York University to transfer top students. "We have also tied up with the University of California, Berkeley (UCB), to accept talented UoP graduates for transfer admission to complete a bachelor's at UCB," says UoPeople president Shai Reshef.

These Mooc providers also offer career services such as mock interviews, personalised LinkedIn profiles and recruitment support. But there is a hitch. These courses can't be accessed unless you have a high-speed Internet connection. Connectivity in India is not only spotty but data plans are quite expensive.

To reach out to more Indian students, makers of online courses are adding Hindi subtitles. edX has come up with a mobile app to connect with learners who do not have Internet access

To overcome these issues, Coursera is making it possible for users to download classes on its mobile app and view them later. A user, for example, can download video content over Wi-Fi at a restaurant or school, and play it back later. edX is also contemplating creation of non-video content such as audio lectures that consume less data.

To reach out to more students, Mooc makers are adding Hindi subtitles. edX has come up with a mobile app to connect with learners who do not have Internet access. "We are also exploring partnerships with institutions such as NIIT, who provide on ground, in-person assistance to learners — from tutoring, equipment, and so on," says Agarwal. Udacity is also working on distributing downloadable versions of offline course materials.

Where there is a Mooc, there is a way.

Telegraph, Kolkata, June 27, 2016

'Need parents to look at sports as essential and natural'

Five-Time World Champion Viswanathan Anand Says Two Years Before An Olympics Is Period Where India Must Focus On

Jamie Alter | TNN

New Delhi: When five-time world chess champion **Viswanathan Anand** speaks about the health of sports in India, you are naturally compelled to pay attention. During the course of his nearly 25-year professional career, the 46-year-old has seen up close the state of sport in the country and witnessed the differences overseas. In an interview with Times Sport, Anand spoke on a range of topics, including India's Olympics participation and what changes the country needs to make. Excerpts:

What is your view on India's performance in Rio?

Disappointed. But we seem to have created a pool of new disciplines and sportspersons who could be medal winners in 2020. I think a sportsperson who prepared and lost narrowly would feel the pain most. You almost know by how much you lost, yet it's not something tangible. I would say the most positive takeout is we missed narrowly in a few events and we found a lot of new talent.

Gymnastics has never been considered a medal prospect for India but we could easily be in contention in 2020.

India won six medals in London 2012 but failed to improve, even replicate that...

I think we get very excited every four years. We get euphoric about a medal. But two years after an Olympics is where all the attention should be. That's when sportspersons are competing in World Championships or qualifiers to make it to the Olympics. I think we need to feel the spirit then when the training begins.

To what extent is the system to blame?

Winning is all about timing. At that moment you have to be at your best. In this Olympics a lot of our medal prospects lost out narrowly. Some even put in their best performances. So we were very close but the medals don't take into account near misses. I can tell you that for some of the matches I lost, I prepared the hardest but sometimes it just doesn't click at the second when it matters most.

Isn't it high time that the red tape/bureaucracy is done away with? Or is it not so simple?

I think almost every sportsperson would have dealt with officialdom at some level. You can't just solve it by throwing it away. We need a framework. It's a very complex mechanism. On one hand it's needed so as to reach out to talent, but on the other hand it also stalls growth.

Do you agree with Abhinav Bindra when he says that India must immediately re-evaluate how it looks at sport?

Every four years we go through this rhetoric, but I agree with Abhinav that it has to go beyond the Olympics and start at the grassroots level. If you see talent, how do you ensure they move up very quickly? That is the key.

In your personal experience, what are the major hindrances to India's sportspersons?

We need parents to look at sports as something essential and natural. The government should definitely help in identifying talent and sustaining talent. But it shouldn't compete with private organisations that may be better equipped at providing training or a support system.

The Olympic Gold Quest, for instance, spends a lot of resource in identifying talent.

The Times of India, New Delhi, September 02, 2016

EVENT

THE 6TH INDIAN EDUCATION CONGRESS & AWARDS 2016 | AWARDS

Honouring the Initiative

Category	Winner
Innovation in Early Learning / Child Development	EuroKids International Private Limited
Early Child Playschool Chain - East	Little Laureates
Early Child Education Publisher of the Year	Oxford University Press, India
Best Innovative after School Model	Helen O'Grady International
Emerging Play School of the Year:	Iris Florets
Best Innovative K-12 School	Lotus valley international school, noida
Best in Ongoing Teacher Enhancement	Sunbeam Eduserve
Best Academic Innovative Curriculum	Vibgyor high
Best Emerging School of the Year -North	Learning Paths School
K12 School Chain of the Year - North	Seth M. R. Jaipuria Schools
Best in Teacher Training - Nursery	Pollen Cubes Private Limited
Best in Teacher Training - K12	Les transformations learning private limited
Best Infrastructure & Resources Provider - K12	Aditya Edu Ventures Private Limited
Best New Initiative in School Education	Smartclass Pro - Educomp Solutions Private Limited
Best Sport Empowerment	Sunbeam Suncity
Early Child Playschool Chain - National	KIDZEE; ZEE Learn Limited
Business School of the Year - North	Vidya School of Business
Most Emerging Higher Education Institute of the Year	Oshwal Education Trust
University of the Year- East	Himalayan University
University of the Year - West	Amity University, Mumbai
Best Private University of the Year - North	Sharda University

Category	Winner
Women Entrepreneur of the Year	Ms. Divya Jain; Founder & CEO; Safeducate Learning Pvt Ltd
Standalone Pre School of the Year	Little Millennium
Best Edutainment Program	Science In Box
Best Innovative Learning Tool	Smart STEM - Educomp Solutions Private Limited
K12 Education Publisher of the Year	Oxford University Press, India
Standalone School of the Year	The Mann School
Best Vocational Training Institute of the Year	Centum Learning Limited
Best Physical Education/ Sports Education Programme	Mahesh Bhupathi Tennis Academies Private Limited
Best Online Education Platform	NIIT.tv
Online Tutoring	Eduwizards Infosolutions Private Limited
Best Infrastructure in Early Education	Sanfort Play Schools
K12 School Chain of the Year -National	Amity International Schools
Institute with Best Placement	Amity University, Uttar Pradesh
Best Training Institution	Vlcc institute of beauty & wellness
Contribution to the Community	Dr. Pranavi Luthra; Principal & Chairperson Auditor QMS, Coach - Neurolinguistic Programming Expert - DMIT & Values Establishment Behaviour Stability (VEBS)
Education Entrepreneur of the Year	Shri Anirudh Gupta; CEO; DCM Group of Schools
Outstanding School Leader of the Year	Ms. Shalini Nambiar; Vice- President; GEMS International School , Palam Vihar

Category	Winner
Best Infrastructure of the Year	Seth M. R. Jaipuria School, Lucknow
Best Vocational Education Institute of the Year - Retail Management	Future Learning (Future Sharp Skills Ltd)
Best Vocational Education Programme of the Year	Times Institute of Management & Technical Studies
Best Vocational Education Institute of the Year - Banking, Financial Services & Insurance (BFSI)	BANKEDGE
Best Vocational Education Institute of the Year - IT	Raman International Institute of Information Technology (RIIIT)
Best Beauty Training Institute of the Year	ISAS - International Beauty School
Best Education Sector Magazine	LXL Ideas Private Limited
Coaching Institute of the Year	The Sports Gurukul
Civil Services Coaching	Unique Shiksha

Franchising India, National, *July 2016*

Cycle tracks and walkways to be 'IT-enabled' services

19 Software Frms Sign Pact With MCG For Green Initiatives

Shilpy.Arora@timesgroup.com

Gurgaon: As many as 19 city-based IT companies have been allotted areas to plant trees, paint zebra crossing, build cycle tracks and pedestrian tracks after they extended support to make Gurgaon a clean and green city last week.

The Nasscom Regional Council had signed an MoU with the MCG on July 10 at the inauguration ceremony of Green Gurgaon initiative, attended by chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

Sources said the project has been rolled out by the MCG after city's poor performance in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan rankings of the cleanest (and dirtiest) towns and cities, launched in August last year, where Gurgaon was placed at 466th out of 476.

Shankar Chowk, Old Delhi-Gurgaon Road, Atlas Chowk, Iffco Chowk, Huda City Centre, Signature Tower, the road between Medanta hospital and Bhakhtawar Chowk, the stretch from Kingdom of Dreams to South City-1, the road near Galleria market and Sohna Road to National Highway via Netaji Subhash Chowk are some of the spots that will be developed under the initiative.

"We have already been planting trees and maintained many green belts in the area," said Megha Jha, head of corporate communications, Nagarro. "We are happy to take part in this initiative and take up more stretches and green belts. The aim is not just to make the city cleaner and greener, but safer too by constructing zebra crossings,

pedestrian tracks and cycling tracks. Time-bound projects have been given to all corporates. We hope to make it a big success," she added.

Deepak Ohlyan, member of Nasscom Regional Council (Haryana) and executive director of Dell, said, "We are glad to be part of the initiative that will help enhance the green cover of the city. Besides, we will be able to maintain the

MAKING GURGAON GREEN AGAIN

19 city-based firms have joined hands with MCG to develop and maintain the green belts located around their office campuses

AS PART OF THE PLAN, THE COMPANIES WILL

Pedestrian tracks | Build cycle tracks | Plant trees

SPOTS MARKED

➤ Shankar Chowk
➤ Old Delhi-Gurgaon Road
➤ Atlas Chowk
➤ Iffco Chowk
➤ Huda City Centre
➤ Signature Tower
➤ Near Galleria market
➤ Medanta hospital to Bhakhtawar Chowk

➤ Between Sohna Road and Delhi-Jaipur Expressway

➤ The stretch from Kingdom of Dreams to South City-1

cleanliness around our office campus."

Apart from the set target of planting as many trees as possible, the firms are also working on banning paper cups, saving 2,13,000 units of electricity every year, making it mandatory to print on both sides of the paper and switching to CNG buses from diesel cabs. "No authority can work without the support of the people," said an MCG official. "Public-private partnerships work best when it comes to making the city cleaner, greener and safer," the official added.

AON, Genpact, Annik Systems, Fidelity, Dell, Snapdeal, Sapient, Makemytrip, ENY, HSBC, NIIT, United Lex, DLF, XL Catlin, Schneider Electric and Nagarro are some of the companies that have taken part in the initiative.

The Times of India, Gurgaon, *July 17, 2016*

THE LIBERATED E-NTREPRENEURS

The children of liberalisation are already stars and their example is inspiring the next generation

Sachin Bansal
CHAIRMAN, FLIPKART

The biggest gain that liberalisation brought in is the belief that one can create a world-class company from India without having any contacts in the government and without the need to lobby. Access to three key things helped the rapid growth of the private sector and the rise of entrepreneurship: capital, talent and markets. Of the three, market access was the pivotal factor.

When we started Flipkart in 2007, we began small by selling books. But we always had the goal of creating a consumer internet company that will be at par with the best in the world. This dream would not have been possible in a pre-liberalised India. Flipkart, I believe, is a truly a child of liberalisation.

Vinod Dham
ENTREPRENEUR & VENTURE CAPITALIST

I was in Silicon Valley at Intel Corporation, starting the development of the Pentium Processor. The Pentium Chip went on to become the most popular chip in the history of the semiconductors and popularised the use of PCs and laptops for decades to come.

I was invited by Rajendra Pawar, MD of NIIT and then president of MAIT, to give a key note speech titled 'Convergence of Computers, Communication, and Content'. Prime minister PV Narasimha Rao was the guest of honour at the MAIT's annual function in Pragati Maidan, Delhi. My meeting with Rao led to the start of Intel's serious engagement in India.

Kunal Bahl
COFOUNDER, SNAPDEAL

I recall my father, who was an SMB entrepreneur, telling me that to move an electricity pole in their factory, they needed nearly a dozen approvals. Clearly, we now live in a very different India — one with a far liberalised business environment.

Through the 1990s, one started learning of more people going to the top universities outside India and then building successful careers. This gave hope to middle-class families, like my own, that even if the family's financial resources were not abundant or sufficient, studying at a top global university was still a possibility.

Biswarup.Gooptu@timesgroup.com

Economic Times, New Delhi, *July 21, 2016*

"Model university of the future"

Dilip Thakore interviewed **Dr. V.S. Rao,** *interim vice chancellor of the top-ranked Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani till mid-July and president-designate of NIIT University (estb. 2009), over email and the telephone. Excerpts.*

After a long innings at BITS-Pilani, which has built a huge reputation as India's #1 private engineering university, you are taking charge at the newly-promoted NIIT University (NU). What is at the top of your agenda in this new assignment?
NIIT University's four core founding principles of industry-linked, technology-based, research-driven and seamless learning have built a solid foundation for this university of the future. My mission is to establish NIIT University as an institution of excellence which will redefine higher education in India. At the top of my agenda is fostering a research mindset, and partnering with industry leaders, especially in sunrise industries, to develop study programmes aligned with the skill-sets required by the new knowledge economy.

Despite NIIT Ltd's excellent record in skilling an estimated 35 million IT industry professionals over the past three decades, NIIT University isn't ranked among the Top 50 in the latest EducationWorld India Private University Rankings 2016. Where would you rank NIIT University?
NIIT University has made a conscious decision to disregard rankings for the first ten years of operations. We believe institution-building is a long process and we need to focus on building a strong foundation on which we can build a higher education institution of global repute.

Having said that, we have made significant strides in offering industry-linked education by entering into strategic alliances with leading corporates including ICICI, ESRI, IBM, WNS, PwC and Federal Bank. The university has also become a hot bed for budding entrepreneurs with over a dozen start-ups active on our campus. Moreover, we have engineered perhaps the greenest, eco-friendly university campus countrywide which has received several national awards.

A common criticism of India's university graduates is that they are not employable because their learning is too theoretical/textbookish. Given NIIT University's parentage, it has the potential to produce industry-ready graduates. What's your comment?
The current education system is defined by a wide chasm between industry and academia. Very little of what is learnt in colleges and universities can be put into practice in corporates and businesses. In most education institutions, the curriculum is theoretical and students aren't taught to apply theory in industry settings.

Therefore right from the start, one of the core principles of NIIT University is to offer industry-linked education. To this end, we have constituted an industry advisory board (IAB) which will help us build a strong, engaged and active relationship with Indian industry.

Quality of faculty is widely perceived as the Achilles heel of India's higher education institutions. How impressed are you with the faculty of NIIT University?
It's undeniable that Indian higher education is suffering a severe shortage of adequately qualified faculty. This is reflected in the general lack of enthusiasm and passion for teaching/learning and research within the faculty as well as student communities. Regrettably, teachers in Indian academia are mistakenly regarded as the manufacturing community and students as consumers. On the contrary, they should be partners in learning.

NIIT University has a highly qualified faculty, 75 percent of them with Ph Ds, hired after a stringent recruitment process. NU also has a team of founding professors — very senior and highly accomplished professionals in their respective fields of specialisation — who guide faculty and students.

In sharp contrast to several Chinese varsities, none of India's 800 universities is ranked among the Top 100 of the London-based rating agencies QS and *THE*. What's the explanation?
I agree our higher education system has many flaws. But it's also important to remember that India is the single largest provider of global talent with one of four graduates worldwide produced by our higher education system. We also need to understand that these rankings are based on global criteria which are too narrow for developing countries. Our universities are low-ranked because our priority has been skilling, whereas Chinese universities are more rankings-focused.

How long do you think it will take to bridge the education gap between the developed OECD countries and India?
India has made significant strides in transforming the higher education system over the past two decades. Access to low-cost, high-quality university education to students from all strata of society is a reality in contemporary India. Further, technology is being used effectively towards resolving the longstanding tension between excellence and equity in education.

To bridge the quality gap, we need disruptive innovation in industry-academia interaction and research and development practices. This is already happening in NU and by 2019, it will become a model university of the future.

MSC IN INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The University of Sheffield invites application for admission in MSc Information Management and MSc Water Engineering courses commencing in September 2016. The deadline to apply for the course is July 2016.

This one-year full time course focuses on the processes involved in enabling the effective acquisition, storage, management, and use of information and knowledge and other strategic goals.

For eligibility, candidates should be a holder of a three-year bachelor degree with a minimum of 60 per cent or first class from a reputable university with at least two years or work experience. IELTS (or an equivalent) with a score of 6.5 (with no component less than 6.0) is required.

The annual fee for overseas students starting in 2016 is £17,750. All postgraduate scholarships will take the form of a tuition fee reduction. Only self-funded students, not sponsored students (either internally or externally), are eligible for scholarships and rewards. These include an Automatic Postgraduate Taught Scholarship of £2000 each, for students paying fees between £15,250-£17250; and £2500 each for students paying fees of £17,251 upwards.

BA HONOURS

Indian Institute of Art and Design (IIAD) in collaboration with Kingston University, London offers BA (Hons) in Fashion Design, Interior Architecture and Design, and Communication Design. The final degree will be awarded by Kingston University. The deadline for applying is July 15, 2016.

Candidates must have passed the CBSE/ISC/IB (or any other equivalent board) 10+2 examination in any discipline. Those who have recently appeared for the examination and are awaiting their results may also apply at *www.applytoiiad.com*.

The admission will be based as per the candidates performance in iDAT (IIAD Design Aptitude Test), portfolio evaluation, and Interview. IIAD offers scholarships up to 50 per cent to meritorious students

BTECH, MBA, PHD

The NIIT University, Neemrana, Rajasthan, invites applications for admission in BTech, MTech, MBA and PhD courses. The last date to apply is July 10, 2016.

Students can apply online at *www.niituniversity.in* or by registered post at any of the regional or central admission offices. Limited scholarships available for meritorious students. Selection is based on entrance exams, group discussion and· personal interview.

The Pioneer, New Delhi, *July 06, 2016*

UNIQUE COURSES
CYBER SECURITY

DR SUNIL KHANNA,
Vice President, NIIT University

Cyber Security market will be one of the biggest and fastest job growth areas in the coming decade. This sector is highly demanding as well as a high paying field and requires security experts to constantly keep up with growing computer threats, attacks and changing technology
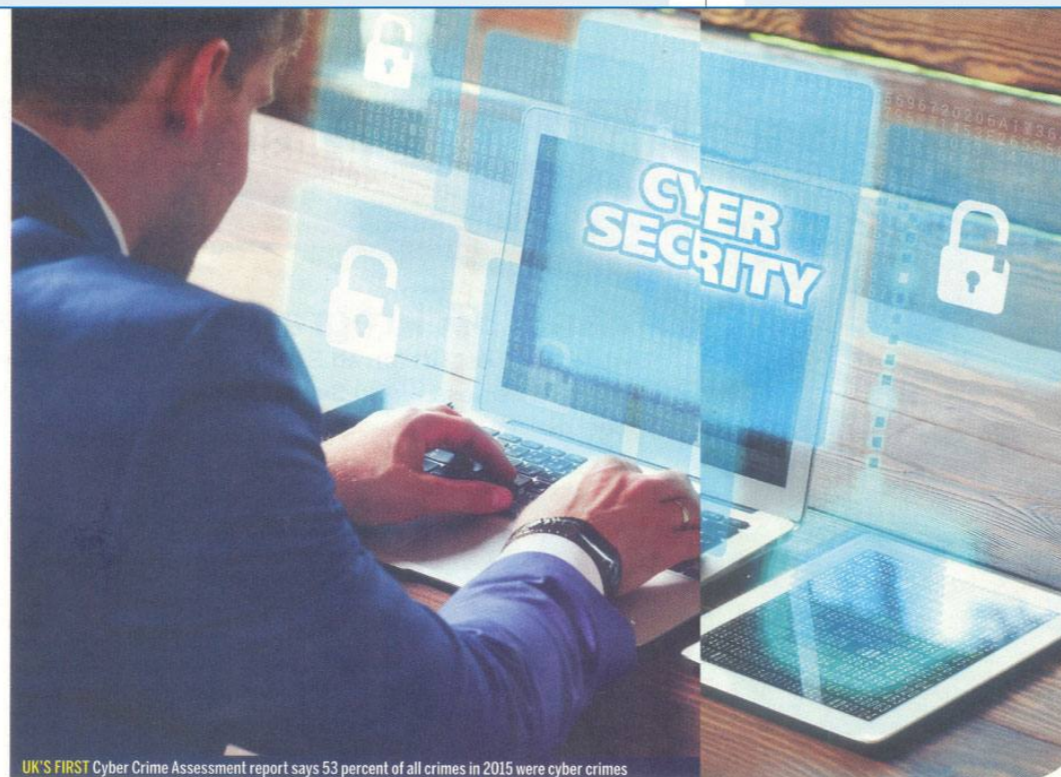
UK'S FIRST Cyber Crime Assessment report says 53 percent of all crimes in 2015 were cyber crimes

Shutterstock

DETECTIVES OF THE VIRTUAL WORLD

As India leapfrogs the West in the digital domain, cyber security has become a prime concern, spawning a huge demand for professionals qualified to tackle cyber crimes...

by Aeshwarya Tiwari

In this technology-enabled era we shop anything and everything; pay bills, exchange mails, and network online. But this habit has a dark side to it. This has given birth to cyber crimes, where hackers misuse confidential information, withdraw money or valuable information and inflict losses on companies and people. Courses in cyber security have evolved primarily to curb such crimes. "I have always been fascinated by the world of computing and wanted to undertake a course that has great scope in the future," says Avi Sharma, a 3rd year B.Tech student in Cyber Security and Forensics at University of Petroleum & Energy Studies.

What is cyber security and Digital forensics?

Cyber security is defined as the protection of systems, networks and data in cyberspace or you can say the practices designed to protect networks, computers, programs and data from cyberattack, damage or unauthorized access in your web space. A related area, digital forensics or computer forensics is a part of cyber security which helps to deal in an investigation and involves examining a variety of digital footprints such as system registry, event logs, recycle bin, digital storage media etc.

The demand for security workforce is on the rise and India needs 1 million cyber security professionals by 2020. "Cyber security will be one of the biggest and fastest job growth areas in the coming decade," says Dr Sunil Khanna, Vice President, NIIT University.

How to get in

For B.Tech or BSc, it is 10+2 with PCM subjects with minimum 60% marks and for PG course one must have a degree in any technical discipline or have a degree such as B.Tech or B.Sc preferably in CE/IT/CS/EC with minimum 60 percent marks. Selection is usually based on the basis of institute-specific entrance tests or on academic performance. Select institutions offering courses in cyber security are:

● IIIT Delhi; Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar; M. S. Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bangalore; Amrita University, Coimbatore; UPES, Dehradun; Hindustan University & SRM University, Chennai; KL University, Guntur; The NorthCap University, Gurgaon

What do you learn?

The course structure is designed as per industry needs. One can learn various types of crimes related to digital systems and how solutions are being made for crimes committed using information and communication systems. The curriculum is completely focused on application and computer programming. A few popular subjects are: Foundations to Computer Security; Network Security; Privacy and Security in Online Social Media; Ethical Hacking; Security Engineering etc.

Industry-integrated offerings

Some universities have tie-ups with corporates to offer courses tailored to industry needs. UPES' B.Tech is in academic collaboration with IBM. NIIT University has a tie-up with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), a big four audit firm, and offers Master's in Cyber Security followed by an internship at PwC.

Cyber Law

Cyber Law addresses legal issues related to technology. "Cyber professionals are required in almost in all the organizations which deal with IT and ITes," says Dr. Atul Kumar Pandey, Faculty In-charge, Rajiv Gandhi National Cyber Law Centre, NLIU, Bhopal which offers a Master's in Cyber Law and Information Security. The boom in digital commerce will fuel the demand of professionals. Those who have a cyber-law degree can work as cyber law expert, advisors, consultants in various government and private organization.

Job profiles and salary package

After completing a course in cyber security, one can work as a cyber security expert; cyber forensics solutions architect; tech consultant; cyber malware analyst; security administrator; intelligence analyst; computer and information system manager etc.

Salaries vary according to job profiles. "The average salary package of the students is Rs 4.5 Lakh p.a. with some packages being offered at Rs. 6.5 lakhs per annum," says Dr. Latika Singh, Head of Department, CSE&IT, The NorthCap University, Gurgaon. Sectors that require professionals in large numbers are: banking, finance, telecom, utilities such as power, and a host of government agencies, including police, army etc. So if you have a passion to become a detective in the virtual world, go for a course in cyber security. ◙

COLUMN

SAKET MODI,
CEO, Lucideus
(An IT Risk Assessment and Digital Security Services provider)

SPECIALIZATION IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT

When digital growth, be it in e-commerce, social media, Internet of Things or mobile applications is taking shape globally, the security of digital is a natural point of concern for the advancements. Therefore, there is tremendous growth opportunity, especially for the person who is studying cyber security today, for the next ten years.

As the world is increasingly moving towards specialization, the top management of large companies are already asking for niche cyber security advice, which is an integral part of their digital strategy. To be able to give this advice, specialization is extremely important.

The Indian cyber security policy states a requirement of over 500,000 cyber security professionals, while currently the official count is only 60,000 professionals. I would recommend young persons to take up any aspect of cyber security and develop in deep way their expertise in it. For a young person I feel, the question should not be which field has the potential, but it should be about which field interests him/her the most.

There is an ample requirement of network, web application, and mobile application database end point security professionals. In India every large company is a potential recruiter and typically they would be having all the components mentioned above in their technology stack. ◙

UNIQUE COURSES DATA ANALYTICS

▶ FAST FACTS

Programme B.Tech Computer Science & Engineering + Big data Analytics/Business Analytics **Top institutes** for UG: UPES, Graphic Era University, U. V Patel College of Engineering, Mody University, DIT University For PG: IIT Delhi, IIT Hyderabad, Reva University, VIT University, Amrita University **Major recruiters** E-commerce, pharmaceutical, Insurance and Banking sector companies **Job profiles** Advanced Analytics & Optimization Consultants, data analytics/data manager **Salary** Rs. 4 to 9 lakhs per annum

UNESCO'S "STATE of the Broadband 2015" report ranks India at 131 on broadband penetration

SRINIVAS CHILUKURI,
Data Science Manager,
ZS Associates, Pune

Big data analytics is everywhere, tightly embedded in our daily lives. It is used in finance markets for algorithm trading, online shopping for recommendations and airlines for optimized routing

CRUNCHING NUMBERS FOR
REAL WORLD SOLUTIONS

Do you know how to decipher the language of data science and use large volumes of data to find answers to business problems?

by Shiphony Pavithran Suri

Imagine, your boss giving you customers' demographics and asking you to come up with a meaningful conclusion to design a product. If you are not curious about the data and its usage you will not be able to provide the right solution. Data analytics, using computer-based tools provides the solution. These applications help discover patterns and relationships in large volumes of data, enabling interpretation of the result and form business strategies. "Big data analytics is tightly embedded in our daily lives. It is used in finance markets for algorithm trading, online shopping for recommendations and airlines for optimized routing," says Srinivas Chilukuri, Data Science Manager at ZS Associates, Pune.

Managing data
With the information explosion happening around us, large unstructured data sets, arising out of weblogs, social media posts, sensors, images, e-mails and video files, need to be harnessed and analyzed. "Through Facebook and Twitter newsfeeds, the data analysts can detect and learn our patterns and preferences and start selecting top articles for our newsfeed," shares Sonya Hooja, Co-Founder & COO, Imarticus Learning, a financial services and analytics education firm. For instance, if Twitter handles more than 6000 tweets per second then that means 500 million tweets are posted per minute or 500 million per day. So a lot of processing power is needed to handle this data.

What is data analytics?
Analytics is a way of thinking that allows the use of knowledge, tools and technologies to extract valuable insights from data. Business/data analytics is something that can process these types of records to build a technical and financial model. Data analysts look at the data a company generates, and derive insights needed to garner more business and enhance customer experience. Adequate knowledge of Data Mining, Data Warehousing, Business Intelligence, Statistical Methods, Query Languages such as SQL is essential for them. "Analytics combines processes, technologies and techniques turning data into knowledgeable information to drive business planning," says Dr. Manish Prateek, Associate Dean, Centre for Information Technology, University of Petroleum & Energy Studies (UPES). His center offers B.Tech Computer Science & Engineering with specialization in Big Data Analytics in association with IBM.

Growing demand
"Big data analytics is one of the fastest emerging industries creating a need for skilled professionals and students to have knowledge to manage the data differently," says Prakash Menon, Global President Skills & Careers Group, NIIT Ltd. NIIT offers industry-aligned certifications in Big Data & Data Sciences, Databases Systems, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. According to Nasscom the big data analytics sector in India is expected to witness eight-fold growth to reach $16 billion by 2025 from the current level of $2 billion. A survey by Deloitte reports that 65.2 percent of respondents are using some form of analytics that is helping their business.

Technical Vs. Management Data Analytics
Though at a first glance jobs in Data Analytics look suitable for people with management background, it is also necessary to use coding tools to build up an efficient mathematical model. "It depends upon the requirement of the organization. If the company wants a person with good management skills and less coding, then MBA is preferred. Whereas if coding is the preference then definitely B.Tech graduate is required," says Dr. Ankush Mittal, Director Research, Computer Science & Engineering, Graphic Era University.

How to enter?
Select institutes like UPES, Graphic Era University, U. V Patel College of Engineering, Mody University, DIT University offer B.Tech CSE with specialization in Big Data Analytics/Business Analytics. Some of them have aligned the programme with industry collaboration, mainly IBM. The eligibility for the course is 10+2 with minimum 65 percent marks.

What do you learn?
Combining CSE, the above institutes give strong foundation on Business Analytics application development. The data analytics studies comprise data analysis, data mining, machine learning and programming languages like R and Python. "The programming knowledge helps us to make the computer do the heavily lifting of computation and visualization, it opens the scope to analyze the data to the core," says Kartikay Sharma pursuing B.Tech (CSE with Big Data Analytics) from Graphic Era University. "Business Analytics is one branch where lot of practical learning is there. In addition to the theoretical concepts we learn in the lecture sessions," says Samiksha Sarraf doing B.Tech CSE+ Business Analytics & Optimization, UPES.

International competitions
Universities encourage students to take part in international competitions to hone their skills. "Facebook, Flipkart, Google, Microsoft, IBM conduct data analytics competitions which are open for a fresher. These competitions are hosted on websites like Kaggle, Hacker Earth, Top Coder, says Dr. Mittal. These competitions gives the students hands-on experience in real-time situations. "We provide a platform for our data analytics students to explore the data sets provided in these competitions as case studies," added Dr. Mittal.

Job prospects
The job profiles include Advanced Analytics and Optimization Consultants, data analytics and data manager/ scientist. Top IT players like TCS, Wipro, Infosys, Dell, Citibank regularly hire people with data analytics skills.

Salary talk
As per Analytics India magazine, the average salary of analytic professionals across the country is Rs. 9.4 lakhs per annum. A fresher can expect a salary around 4 lakhs per annum. The employer could be large IT companies that have an analytics practice, analytics KPOs, in-house analytics units of large corporates and analytics firms. The annual package of a data scientist in US ranges from $90,000 - $240,000, with an average of $120,000.

If you are a wizkid with numbers, has an analytical mind and the ability to think abstractly, you could be a right fit for the job of a data analyst. ▣

by Abhay Anand

Has digital marketing taken over traditional marketing? It seems so, going by the recruitment trends in B-Schools. Candidates now get better offers for digital marketing positions.

Broadly digital marketing tools include components like organic social media, paid social media, email marketing, display retargeting, programmatic advertising, website testing, video hosting, content creation, content curation, website analytics, customer service, search engine optimization etc.

What it takes to be a digital marketing professional?

Candidates needs to have a good understanding of the nuances of web paradigms and how they interact. They need to know how social and digital channels operate and interact with each other and the resulting synergies. Candidates require more than just the basic knowledge about the Internet and should have a strong presence on it. They should be creative and understand how to create campaign-specific strategies.

As the industry is growing at a fast pace, fresh graduates are getting good salary at the entry level, ranging from Rs. 30-50,000 per month, depending on the organization and skill sets.

Gaining prominence

Programmes in Digital Marketing are gaining prominence as traditional marketing concepts are becoming obsolete. Dr. Raj Agrawal, Director, Centre for Management Education (CME) at AIMA says, "Traditionally marketing courses at B-Schools focus on concepts building. Various theories and models are discussed, but the focus is less on linking them to practice. Over a period of time some of them have become redundant or need to be replaced by more practical /pertinent concepts."

Digital marketing courses, on the other hand, cover more contemporary challenges faced by marketers. Many B-Schools and university departments offer it as an elective course, where the focus is more on concept building.

REACHING WIDER AUDIENCE AT LEAST COST

There is a world of opportunities in the domain of digital marketing where you can build a career sans frontiers, cutting across products and services....

Learning process

Digital Marketing course offered by AIMA in joint collaboration with Digital Vidya covers various aspects of leveraging digital media such as Search Engines, Social Media for Career & Business Growth, Web Analytics, Email Marketing. Participants learn digital marketing from industry experts through series of case studies, tools and hands-on exercises. The participants start practicing these tools from the very first session, create online campaigns, digital ads and a lot more.

Arjun Shankar, Chief Delivery and Operations Officer, Skills and Careers Group, NIIT Ltd says, "The biggest benefit of using digital marketing is that the results are much easier to measure; and another is that a digital campaign can reach a focused audience."

Benefits

The world of digital marketing would continue to evolve as long as technology continues to advance, thereby leading to increase in demand for professionals with relevant skills. One of the benefits of using digital marketing is that the results are much easier to measure; and another is that a digital campaign can

reach an infinite audience. It can be tailored to reach a local audience while at the same time it can be used on the web and reach the entire world, if necessary.

"Compared to traditional marketing, digital marketing offers multiple advantages including customer targeting, low cost, global reach and strong measurability," informs Dr. Agrawal.

Digital Marketing programmes

Programme like Professional Certificate in Digital Marketing Analytics is recommended for those involved in planning, implementation or measurement of digital strategies - or anyone who is looking to add a new skill set and pursue a career in this dynamic field of marketing. The modules include:

▸ Search Engine Marketing (SEM): Learning how to effectively run ads on Search Engines

▸ Search Engine Optimization (SEO):

Learning how to get website listed among top search engine results

▸ Web Analytics: Learning how to make business decisions from the metrics available in digital media

▸ Email Marketing: Learning to effectively build users lists, deliver emails & generate relevant clicks

▸ Social Media Marketing: Learning how to build brand, generate leads & aggregate audience on Social Media.

NIIT offers Professional Diploma in Digital Marketing that enables students to harness the power of digital marketing as a core driver of the marketing strategy for an organization. "The program syllabus is planned and developed in conjunction with NIIT's industry partners-both international as well as Indian, hence helping us to keep the program current," says Shankar.

Demand for professionals

There's a huge gap in demand for skilled professionals and available talent. Given the dynamic nature of the digital marketing industry, academic institutions are not able to provide relevant and quality education in digital marketing, at par with global standards.

India has emerged as a digital outsourcing hub for diverse services including online advertising, social media and website design. The digital marketing industry is creating thousands of new jobs every year as more companies tap the Internet and the social media platform to bolster business and businesses across the globe outsources their digital marketing operations to India. Digital marketing can be used to fulfill multiple business objectives ranging from HR, product development, customer support, marketing and sales.

Top recruiters

Industries that exploit the opportunities of digital marketing are: FMCG, media, IT and Internet, BFSI, travel & hospitality. In fact, almost every brand has a digital marketing strategy and is struggling to hire people to execute the same. Hence, with emergence of newer mediums and improvement in infrastructure the demand for professionals will definitely be on the rise. ∎

Graphicstock

DIGITAL MARKETING helps to reach targeted audience globally, even those who are on the move

NIIT acquires start-up Perceptron

STAFF REPORTER

BENGALURU: NIIT said it has acquired city-based start-up Perceptron Learning Solutions. The acquisition will bring together complementary technology platforms and capabilities of NIIT and Perceptron, enabling NIIT to further accelerate its digital transformation initiatives, the company said in a BSE filing.

NIIT also announced the appointment of Satish Sukumar, Co-Founder and CEO of Perceptron as CTO of StackRoute Labs.

StackRoute Labs is an NIIT initiative to build competencies in areas such as machine learning. "Taking forward NIIT's thrust on Digital Transformation in the EdTech domain, this strategic acquisition of Perceptron will further strengthen NIIT's leadership role in the Digital Learning World," said NIIT CEO and Chief Executive Rahul Patwardhan.

Hindu, New Delhi
September 28, 2016

COURSE CRUISING

BSc Economics & Finance

Indian School of Business & Finance (ISBF), an affiliate centre of the University of London (UOL) with academic direction from the London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE) invites students to apply for its three-year full-time undergraduate honours degree programme BSc Economics and Finance.

Eligibility: Applicants should have cleared Class XII examination conducted by CBSE/ISC/State Board/International Baccalaureate (IB)/GSCE A-Levels. Applicants for this degree should have demonstrable proficiency in both, English and mathematics.

Selection procedure:
CBSE/ISC/State Board: Selections are made on the basis of an Entrance Exam (iMET- ISBF Mathematics English Test) and Personal Interview.

IB and A-Level students: Are exempted from the Entrance Exam (based on the application). Selections are made on the basis of a Personal Interview.

Entrance Exam: iMET (ISBF Maths English) Test centers: New Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Mumbai/Pune, Kolkata

How to apply:
Online:
Visit www.applytoisbf.com
Download application form: Visit www.isbf.edu.in - Undergraduate section. Complete the form as per the instructions and send it via email (uol@isbf.edu.in) or print the completed form and courier it to: ISBF, 15A, Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar IV, New Delhi 110024.
Deadline: June 30, 2016
Web: www.isbf.edu.in

Tech courses and MBA
NIIT University, Neemrana, invites applications for BTech, MTech, MBA and PhD courses for 2016 session.
How to apply: Completed admission application form should be submitted on or before the specified dates . Students can apply online at www.niituniversity.in or by registered post at any of the regional / central admission offices.
Selection procedure: Selection to all the courses is based on entrance exams, group discussion and personal interview.
Deadline: June 30 2016
Check out:
www.niituniversity.in

MSc Water Engineering
The University of Sheffield is inviting applications for MSc Water Engineering course commencing in September 2016. This course is offered on a full-time or part-time basis over 24 or 36 months

The course: This course will provide students with the fundamental knowledge and practical experience of water engineering science, including environmental regeneration, protection and management. The students will learn a broad base of disciplines including environmental science, chemistry, hydrology, applied hydrogeology and hydraulic engineering.

Eligibility: The candidates should have a three-year bachelor's degree with a minimum of 60 per cent or "first class" from a reputable university in civil, structural or relevant science or engineering subject.

International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) with an overall 6.5 or above with at least 6.0 in each component, or equivalent.
Fee: £20250
Deadline: July 2016

Pharmacy courses

The School of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Apeejay Stya University (ASU) is inviting applications for Bachelor of Pharmacy (B. Pharm), a four-year industry-oriented programme. The programme has been approved by Pharmacy Council of India (PCI).

The course: The programme has been designed in collaboration with pharmaceutical organisations of repute. The newly launched R&D centre for pharmaceutical research will further ensure a holistic and experiential learning for the students. The School of Pharmaceutical Sciences at ASU also has two centres of excellence - Centre for Novel Drug Delivery System (NDDS) and Centre for Formulation Development to boost high-quality teaching-learning culture.

Eligibility: Minimum 50 per cent aggregate marks in 10+2/Class XII with PCM (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics) or Physics, Chemistry, Biology from any recognised board.

Eligible applicants would be short listed on the basis of their academic performances and aptitude followed by a mock test.

How to apply: Application forms can be downloaded from the university website: www.university.apeejay.edu
Check out:
www.university.apeejay.edu

The Tribune, New Delhi
July 06, 2016

BusinessLine
THE HINDU

Strategy is to move towards platform-led presence: NIIT

OUR BUREAU

GET READY FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES WITH NIIT DIGINXT PROG FOR ENGINEERING GRADUATES.

NEW DELHI, SEPT 27: NIIT Ltd, which offers learning management and training delivery solutions to corporations, institutions and individuals, has decided to strategically move away from brick-led presence and towards platform-led presence, in its aim to engage with global consumers.

"We are looking at a transformation journey for creating technology platforms, to engage with people at large and create global customers," Udai Singh, Head of New Business Initiative, NIIT Ltd, told BusinessLine after the company announced the acquisition of Bengaluru-based start-up Perceptron Learning Solutions.

The company believes that this acquisition will bring together complementary technology platforms and capabilities of NIIT and Perceptron, thus enabling NIIT to further accelerate its digital transformation initiatives – StackRoute, digiNxt, and Training.com.

'Ilimi', which is Perceptron's next-gen learning platform, combines developments in semantic computing, predictive analytics, learning science, etc.

NIIT did not divulge the size of the deal but said "it is not a very large size transaction since Perceptron is fairly young".

With the acquisition, NIIT has also appointed Satish Sukumar, co-founder and CEO of Perceptron, as Chief Technology Officer of StackRoute Labs. NIIT's StackRoute Labs aims to build competencies in areas such as machine learning, IoT and full stack product engineering.

The company's announcements and tie-ups with various players in the last few months also clearly indicate its focus towards strengthening its digital presence.

Earlier this month, NIIT announced a tie-up with IIM Calcutta for the latter's 'Post Graduate Certificate in General Management'(PGCGM).

The programme will be delivered through a combination of online and offline modes. The online component will be in direct-to-device mode through NIIT's Training.com learning platform.

On September 1, the company had launched 'Java Enterprise Apps with DevOps' to enable learners to implement various aspects of enterprise app development through project-based learning methodology.

In June, the company had launched its first interactive live, online course in digital marketing, offered in association with Digital Marketing Institute (Ireland). In May, it had announced a tie-up with massive open online course (MOOC) provider edX to offer a blended learning MOOC model.

However, this thrust on digital does not mean that the company will offer only online training. "Our focus on digital will not mean that only online training will be available. NIIT centres will continue to operate to offer distinct learning," Singh clarified.

http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/niit-acquires-bengalurubased-startup-perceptron-learning-solutions/article9154061.ece

Business Standard

NIIT Ltd acquires Bengaluru-based ed-tech startup Perceptron

Perceptron works on developing next generation learning platforms that combine deep analytics and semantic computing to ensure better learning outcomes

Moulishree Srivastava | Mumbai   September 27, 2016   Last Updated at 16:52 IST

NIIT Ltd, a global skill and talent development firm, on Tuesday, said it has acquired Bengaluru-based start-up Perceptron Learning Solutions Private Limited to accelerate its digital initiatives and bring in deep analytics capabilities to its learning platforms.

"We have been associated with Perceptron since last year. We are taking this association to the next level. This is a strategic move to strengthen our digital capabilities as the startup brings complementary technology platform to NIIT. It is an early stage startup, so the deal size is not very big," said Udai Singh, head of new business initiatives, NIIT Ltd, declining to disclose the deal size.

Started in 2014, Perceptron has been working on developing next generation learning platforms that combine deep analytics and semantic computing to ensure better learning outcomes. Deep analytics entails data mining that analyzes, extracts and organizes large amounts of data beneficial for an organization or individual, while semantic computing involves analyzing data based on meaning, context and intention.

Perceptron's next-gen learning platform, Ilimi, helps identify areas where a learner is lacking and provides appropriate recommendations. It is a cloud based platform, which combines short videos with personalized learning activities for its users based on its analytics and social learning.

Ilimi technology is also one of the core components of the EkStep learning platform, a not-for- profit initiative set up by Nandan Nilekani, Rohini Nilekani and Shankar Maruwada, to create learning opportunities for children.

At present, NIIT run three digital transformation initiatives - StackRoute, digiNxt, and Training.com and Perceptron's Ilimi will bring semantic computing, predictive analytics, learning science capabilities to create learner-centric, immersive learning and mastery learning platform for its users, the company said.

"Perceptron brings next gen platform that uses predictive analytics and social network learning to our learning platform that allows us to create personalized learning experience for our users," said Singh. "This will become an integral part of NIIT's future multi-modal learning platform."

A total of 18 people from Perceptron including co-founder and chief executive Satish Sukumar will join NIIT's team. Sukumar will serve as chief technical officer (CTO) of StackRoute Labs, NIIT's new research entity, established mid last year, to build deep competencies in areas such as machine learning, Internet of Things, data science and full stack product engineering.

Shares of NIIT Ltd rose 1.69 per cent to Rs. 99.20 at the close, while Sensex fell 0.25 per cent to 28,223.70.

http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/niit-ltd-acquires-bengaluru-based-ed-tech-startup-perceptron-116092700722_1.html

Inc42

In The Fourth Industrial Age Robots Are Out To Steal Your Jobs, Humans!

Digital technology is galvanising a colossal change, influencing every aspect of our personal and professional lives. There is a global buzz about the beginning of a fourth industrial revolution with path-breaking developments in robotics, genetics, artificial intelligence and nanotechnology among many others. The impact of this mammoth change will be unlike anything that was seen before, creating newer avenues and patterns of employment, consumption and production.

Fear still looms large on whether the job disruptions caused by technology will be momentary as the workforce adapts, or will there be a scenario akin to a sci-fi script where robots and automated processes take over the human tasks.

Technology is definitely widening the gap between the teach savvy and everyone else, creating extremely precarious times for the economy and traditional human employment. Global business consultancy McKinsey predicts far higher levels of artificial intelligence and development of distributed autonomous corporations that will be able to carry out set objectives autonomously, without any direct human supervision.

The debate about the human future in an automated world has assumed unprecedented significance as we have become subservient to these kinds of automation in many ways, expecting them to just know what to do and go ahead and do the task for us. These growing concerns make it imperative to understand the need to walk in arms with the growing technological advancements for our own benefit.

The future of employment will depend to a large extent on this effective human-automation partnership and the need to survive the tech takeover.

Evolve Or Perish

Growing demands are being made across the globe for a basic income in the scenario of increasing job losses to automation. These new implications to the future of work, with automation taking over, have garnered substantial support. Ensuring a basic income will aid in innovation by allowing people to start their own ventures, take risks and leave the jobs that they don't fit into.

A universal basic income is essential to the future of work as automation increases. Basic income helps innovation by allowing people to take job risks, start businesses, and leave jobs that aren't a good fit. A recent Swiss protest saw humans dressed as robots supporting the implementation of the universal basic income, reflecting the human face of AI.

The supporters of this belief argue that this is probably one of the best ways to create jobs in modern societies while pushing for technological advances. While Switzerland rejected the referendum for a universal basic income on grounds of no clarity on how to fund the action, the stark reality of job loss to automation has added another facet to it.

Every segment of the human population privy to this monumental change is facing the natural consequence of this technological innovation – the quest for acquisition of new types of skills. While the pace of technological development has been galloping with every passing moment, skill development has not been able to match its steps, creating a dangerous imbalance. And the present scenario doesn't paint an optimistic picture.

Workforce For The Machine Age

Investment in technology is not the only solution and answer to our woes as we need to support the tech growth with investment in skills and knowledge to prepare for the future. Digital transformation has the potential to create a significant number of jobs with World Economic Forum estimates amounting to nearly six million jobs in just the electricity and logistics industries by 2025.

The demand for new multidisciplinary digital skills is mounting along with the need for rapid reskilling and up-skilling of its present workforce.

The fear of technology including robotics and AI replacing human tasks has been looming large. However, if the pace of skill development can match up with the pace of tech evolution, this worst-case scenario can be averted and the same technology can be used to augment human skills.

New age skills of upcoming segments including cloud computing, extensive and growing use of social media, AI etc., have become the need of the hour. But our education system is paying very less attention to these upcoming domains and not equipping students in the relevant skills making only 43 per cent of the current youth to be considered in the fully employable category.

A reinvention will need a vast paradigm shift to develop the tools of change needed to survive in the algorithm age. The demographic dividend if not given the treatment of skills may simply turn into a demographic disaster. The imbalance between the too few skilled workers and fewer jobs for the medium and low-skilled workforce is pointing towards the impending disaster.

To ignore the present scenario will be at one's own peril as the youth today is caught between the devil and the deep blue sea. To compete with the potential billion plus job seekers by 2050 and the technology takeover now is the time to arm yourself with the required skill sets.

https://inc42.com/resources/robots-steal-jobs-humans/

ET tech BETA

Prakash Menon
President, Global Skills and Careers Group, NIIT Ltd
As the President, Global Skills & Careers Group, NIIT Limited, Prakash Menon is responsible for the turnaround of the China & Emerging markets business, and for the Skills & Careers business in India.

Augmented Reality - Changing the World at 4X Pace

Sep 12, 2016, 06.48 PM IST

With Pokemon Go dominating social media conversations and tabloid headlines, augmented reality (AR) has taken a centre stage. But this gaming application isn't the lone instance. Google Translate's sign translation has been utilizing AR for what seems like forever. And now it is only a matter of time when the technology blurs the line between real and virtual and merges the two worlds.

According to Digi-Capital, the augmented reality market is projected to generate $120 billion in revenue by 2020. That's four times the $30 billion business virtual reality will generate by the same time.

AR can disrupt the mobile market. With behemoths like Google and Microsoft gobbling up intellectual property, the stage is set for AR's grand entry in the consumer market. And global brands are leaving no stone unturned to monetize this channel. While TopShop's Kinect dressing room lets shoppers to virtually try on their purchases, Converse's Sampler app allows shoppers to try on any shoe in the range by simply pointing their phone to their leg. Volkswagen is also using spatial augmented reality to project virtual data onto real vehicle design models, which allows them to analyse components straight away.

Even academic institutions are not shying away from experimenting with AR. Recently, University of Wisconsin-Madison created a documentary on Dow Day Protest 1967 that could only be viewed with the use of augmented reality technology. The participating students could point their camera at a location on the campus to learn what was happening at that spot during the protest.

This digital transformation wave is pushing enterprises to the edge, inspiring them to evolve. Add to this the low cost of entry into AR, and there'll be a much rapid adoption rate. On one hand, while this has led to collective investments worth $587 Million in companies like Magic Leap and Blippar, on the other hand it has encouraged companies like NIIT Ltd. to work towards equipping developers with new-age skills such as Internet of Things(IOT), Web Technologies, Robotics, Design Thinking etc. under NIIT.

From Real to Virtual - Transforming The Workplace

Augmented reality isn't just disrupting industries on a superficial level, it is changing how things work at the molecular level within workplaces. Speaking of workplace transformation, hiring can be an area of concern for IT industries.

Creating AR tools requires more than everyday knowledge of computer graphics; it calls for in-depth understanding of image processing and computer vision techniques, 3D modelling and desktop, the web and mobile programming. Thus, it becomes necessary to empower graduates with a digital skillset that can complement the changing workplace needs in the age of transformation.

There'll be a pool of billion job seekers by 2050; the challenge is to make them digitally adept in matching global standards. The current dearth of employable talent in the field of AR calls for proactive skill development measures by Indian & Global IT companiesThe need of the hour is to shift the focus of education from imparting knowledge to building skills in this area.

And this presents a whole new set of possibilities for us at NIIT. After studying the changing IT skills requirement for the industry very closely, we've introduced the DigiNxt program. It includes Digital Transformation Technology Programs such as Internet of Things (IOT), Web Technologies, Robotics, Design Thinking and many more under the Skills and Careers Group.
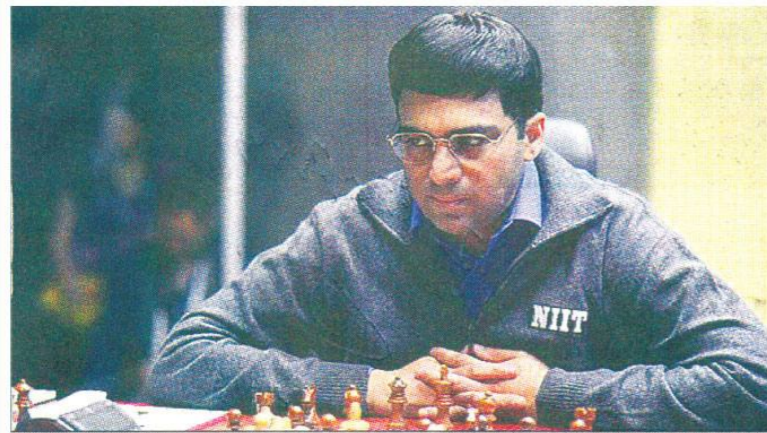
This is a step forward in our commitment towards providing the industry polished IT professionals, armed with new-age skills, and helping companies to explore and unveil the complete potential of digital transformation.

Contemplating the Future

Augmented Reality is here to stay and the possibilities are endless. The technology will soon become a part of nearly every major industry. However, to garner its real potential, enterprises must start out early, just like Indian startup, Empower Labs, and deal tactfully with the shortcomings.

Companies will have to battle odds like information overload, possible over-reliance on augmented reality, and privacy concerns. Besides, they'll need to employ the right talent and equip the workforce with next-gen tools that'll merge the real and digital worlds. The key to success is having the right blend of tech, talent, and creativity.

http://tech.economictimes.indiatimes.com/catalysts/augmented-reality-changing-the-world-at-4x-pace/1789

With 1.5 points each, Anand is on joint lead with Nepomniachtchi and Giri

Anand crushes Mamedyarov to take joint lead

Viswanathan Anand crashed through the defences of Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan to jump to joint lead after the end of the second round of 10th Tal Memorial Chess tournament. Showcasing some brilliant resourceful play, Anand had to tackle what appeared to be a dangerous attack on his king and made excellent use of his first white pieces in the tournament. Anish Giri of Holland and Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia joined Anand in lead. Giri got the better of Boris Gelfand of Israel in anther steller performance of the day while Nepomniachtchi played out a draw with fellow countryman Peter Svidler. The other two games of the day were also drawn – Russian Vladimir Kramnik failed to break the ice against Chinese Li Chao while after a disastrous first round, Russian Evgeny Tomashevsky was just happy to open his account against Levon Aronian of Armenia.

Indian Express, New Delhi, *September 29, 2016*

N→xtBigWhat
by *Guest Author*

Ushering in the Age of IoT. What Lies Ahead For IT Jobs?

IT sector will lose 6.4 lakh jobs 2021, as IoT gathers pace.
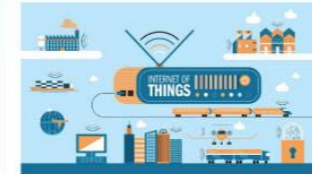
We dwell in interesting times – times of revolution and constant change. This is where technological prowess and evolution is taking us beyond explored frontiers, breaking the shackles of the status quo. The coming of the internet was a major revolution that the human race had to come to terms with in the twenty-first century.

It saw a lot of professions across the globe become obsolete and paved the way for a new way of doing things. The internet space is set to undergo yet another revolution, some calling it Digital 2.0.

This is the world of the Internet of Things, where the World Wide Web will transform into a phenomenon such as electricity – existing in our lives, and yet invisible to the naked eye. Come the year 2020, and IoT is expected to bring in $19 trillion worth of profits for companies worldwide.

IoT and changing jobs roles

Enterprises are busy gearing up for this change and developing devices which are intelligent enough to communicate with each other. This will engulf and transform every aspect of life as we know it today, including jobs and recruitment. Hence, it is immensely important that the workforce of the present, and the future, is equipped with necessary skills to succumb to this change.

A recent report by HFS proclaims IT sector in India will lose about 6.4 lakh jobs of menial and redundant nature by 2021, as IoT gathers pace. The maximum job cuts will be seen in process based jobs, and this does look like a grave situation for the country's $160 billion ITeS industry.

However, the same report also suggests a 56% increase in high-end, skill-intensive jobs, which would ideally mean a migration of jobs from the bottom of the skills pyramid, to the upper reaches. Needless to say, the 15 lakh workforce which comes in each year needs to match the new skill requirements, to be suitably employed. In coming times IoT will become all pervasive leading to new job roles such as.

Chief Internet of Things Officer (CIoTO)

Companies are likely to appoint Chief Internet of Things officer in the near future. And in the light of the fact that 94% businesses are investing in initiatives to prepare for IoT, this will happen sooner than later. The CIoTO will design the company's IoT strategy, and drive technology decisions that'll help the business embrace Digital 2.0. They'll mastermind IoT products and initiatives and analyze and predict trends based on data gathered from IoT devices. Effective communication and sound tech knowledge will be paramount for this position.

Industrial Data Scientists

Touted as the sexiest job of the decades to come, data scientists will find themselves in great demand. An industrial data scientist will literally assume the role of the man behind the machine, with the machine being the analytical solutions for an enterprise. The skillet ideal for such a job would be a sound footing in statistics and concepts of regression, along with a prowess at handling myriad technological tools such as R, SAS etc.

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The Skills of the Future

As more and more jobs are created in the IoT sector, there'll be a steep increase in the demand for professionals trained in specialized skills. Here are some skills touted as must-have to land an IoT related job.

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https://www.nextbigwhat.com/ushering-in-the-age-of-iot-what-lies-ahead-for-it-jobs-297/