



## Launches the Asian Lens Forum



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NIIT University Campus: NH-8, Delhi-Jaipur highway, Neemrana, District. Alwar, Rajasthan 301 705

Admissions Office: 85, Sector 32, Institutional Area, Gurgaon 122 001.

Tel: 1800-103-5050, [www.niituniversity.in](http://www.niituniversity.in), Follow us on: [www.twitter.com/niituniversity](https://twitter.com/niituniversity)



## NIIT University launches the Asian Lens Forum

**First of its kind initiative to sensitize young generation to Asian heritage, culture, history and values**

**New Delhi, February 18, 2014:** Established with a vision to bring about innovation in higher education and learning in emerging areas of the knowledge society, the not-for-profit NIIT University (NU) unveiled another unique initiative - **The Asian Lens Forum**.

The Forum is an attempt to sensitize the coming Asian generations on the rich and diverse legacies of Asia with an aim to create a sense of identity, direction and vision as a beacon for the "Asian 21st Century". By fostering a better understanding of the past, the inherent objective is to establish a robust foundation for Asia's youth, to build an aspirational future. The Asian Lens Forum will also act as a launching pad for the faculty and student bodies of NU to undertake research and disseminate knowledge about challenges, achievements and roles of Asian societies in the globalized world.

The launch event of Asian Lens was attended by eminent personalities like award-winning journalist and author **Pallavi Aiyar** who has written "Smoke & Mirrors" - an outstanding book on China, and just launched her recent book "Punjabi Parmesan"; **Arun Maira**, Member of the Planning Commission, former India Chairman of Boston Consulting Group, author of "Remaking India: One Country, One Destiny" and "Transforming Capitalism: Business Leadership to Improve the World for Everyone"; and **Deepak Nayyar**, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi, who has had a distinguished career in academia interspersed with short periods in the government, and author of "Catch Up".

*The format of the event itself, made the session truly engaging and intense. It showcased a new-age classroom set-up wherein the key speakers were seated on a rotating stage in the middle of the hall, with three concentric circles of seating around it. This enabled eye contact between everyone in the hall, creating an opportunity to interact closely with panelists, thus stimulating a free-flowing exchange of ideas.*

There was also a recorded message by well know educationalist and author **Prof. Rajiv Malhotra** who has written extensively on civilizations & cross-cultural encounters, including his path breaking book "Being Different: An Indian Challenge to Western Universalism". Also present were **Rajendra Pawar**, Founder, NIIT University; members of the NU Board including **Harpal Singh**, Chairman Emeritus, Fortis and **Dr. Rajendra Pandey**, President, NIIT University.

The conversations at the event were anchored by NU Visiting Professor, **Dr Jean-Pierre Lehmann**, Emeritus Professor of IMD Lausanne, and an exceptional Asianist who has invested a majority of his scholarly pursuits in understanding Asia and globalization, and has written extensively on these subjects.

Speaking on this significant launch, **Rajendra Pawar, Chairman, NIIT Ltd & Founder, NIIT University** said, "The rich and diverse cultural heritage of Asia and India is probably second to none. However owing to centuries of dominance by western culture and economy we seem to have forgotten our legacy. Asian Lens is an attempt to enable today's youth to appreciate and understand their legacy and draw inspiration from it."

During the 19th and 20th centuries many of the Asian countries were colonized or otherwise subjugated by the West. The Asian mosaic of civilization was severely damaged, if not completely overwhelmed by Western imperialism. This dominance extended to every arena of economic, social and cultural life in a way that the Asian view of the world, and indeed of itself, got distorted by what one may call the Western Lens. Consequently, it would not be an overstatement to suggest that much of what Asians know of themselves is from the prism of western writers, historians and thinkers.

However, since the turn of this century, one is witnessing the emergence of a new global reality: The Resurgence of Asia. Notwithstanding this significant development, there continues to be a major dependence on the Western Lens for Asians to study their individual societies or indeed for developing an understanding of a broader Asian regional context. The proliferation of "Asian Studies" centers, departments and institutes throughout North America, Australia and Europe (trained to think and research by the use of the Western Lens) will, if anything, accentuate the distorting effect and prevent "truer" contextual understanding of Asian realities.

According NIIT University Visiting Professor, **Dr Jean-Pierre Lehmann**, "The need of the hour, therefore, is to set up comparable entities in Asia that study Asia through Asian eyes".

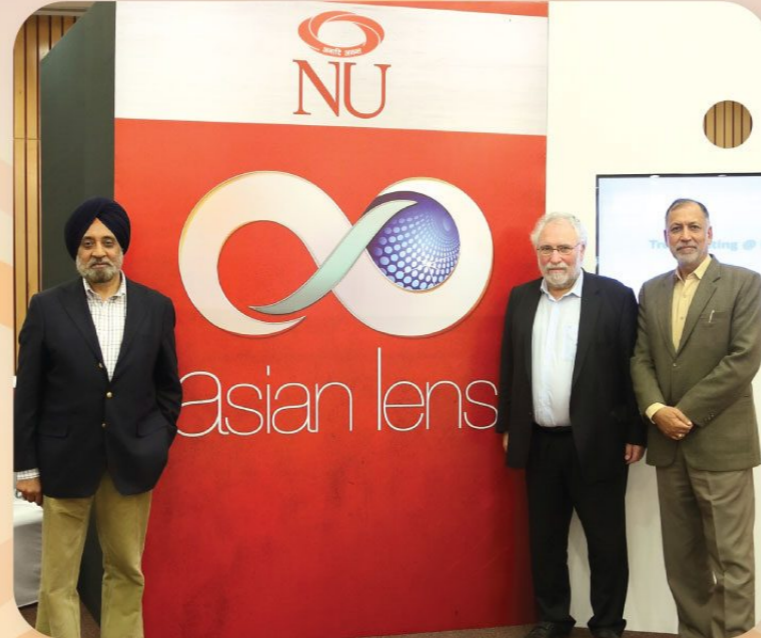
**Mr. Harpal Singh, Board Member, NIIT University & Chairman Emeritus, Fortis** further added, "NIIT University strongly feels that Asians can play their rightful role in the building of a just and successful 21st century society only if they truly appreciate the heritage that has made them what they are today."

NU realizes the need and importance of developing new and potentially superior understanding rather than creating a new body of knowledge that is parochial, self-centered and narrow. Asians and citizens from other geographies must, in the future, have the opportunity to "Know" about Asians from new and alternative lenses, as they reflect and think about what kind of future they would like to build for themselves and for the global community.





Glimpses from the launch





### NIIT University launches Asian Lens Forum

NIIT University, Chennai, has launched a new initiative – The Asian Lens Forum, which will enable faculty and students of the university to undertake research and disseminate knowledge about challenges, achievements and roles of Asian societies in the globalised world. The launch event was attended by Pallavi Aiyar, author and award-winning journalist, Arun Maira, member of the Planning Commission and former India Chairman of Boston Consulting Group, and Deepak Nayyar, former vice-chancellor, University of Delhi. Also present at the event were Rajendra Pawar, founder, NIIT University; members of the NU Board including Harpal Singh, Chairman Emeritus, Fortis and Rajendra Pandey, President, NIIT University.



(Clockwise from left) Arun Maira, Jean-Pierre Lehmann, Emeritus Prof, IMD Business School, Lausanne, Switzerland, Deepak Nayyar and Pallavi Aiyar

Indian Express, February 24, 2014



### NIIT UNIV LAUNCHES ASIA LENS

NIIT University, Neerana, has launched 'Asia Lens Forum,' an initiative to sensitise the young generation to Asian heritage. The forum will act as a launch pad for faculty and students to under-

take research on Asian societies. "The rich heritage of Asia is second to none. However, owing to centuries of dominance by the West we seem to have forgotten our legacy," said Rajendra Pawar, Founder, NIIT.

Mail Today, February 25, 2014

### THE ASIAN LENS

# Creating a new vision for Asia

Institutions of learning across Asia can and must lead the resurgence, reacquainting young people in the continent with their abounding traditions and customs



RAJENDRA S PAWAR

It is true that Asia, despite its ancient roots and rich legacy, has remained a quieter cousin of the West. The 19th and 20th centuries—a period when many Asian nations were colonised or otherwise subjugated by the West—have prevented Asia from taking centre stage. Once a cradle of art, culture and learning, and home to the famous spice route, Asia and its nations accounted for a large part of global wealth and population. Everything changed, however, with the rise of Europe and North America, and as the balance of power gradually shifted Westwards.

The emergence of the West—based on its economic dominance and influence—has led to the creation of a powerful western lens, which has become the sole way of viewing the world. Asia, and in particular its young people, have become accustomed to this lens, even looking at themselves through this western perspective.

Therefore, instead of feeling a sense of pride in the resplendent heritage, ethos and histories of their nations, the youth of the continent are turning towards the West, blindly embracing its values and philosophies. The ubiquitous Western Lens has prejudiced many a young mind, preventing the creation of a strong Asian identity. Whether it is the issue of marriage, family ties, care for the elderly or focus

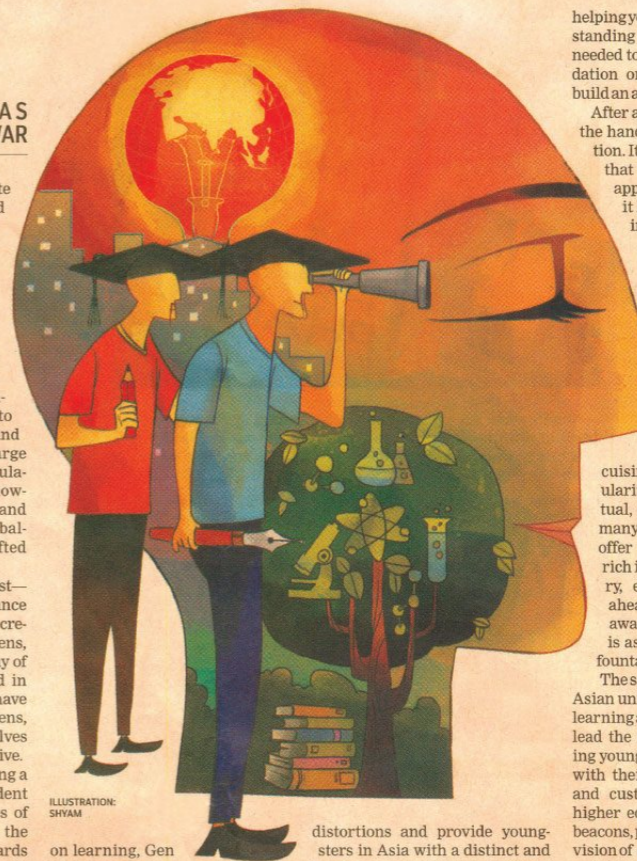


ILLUSTRATION: SHYAM

on learning, Gen Next is now increasingly veering towards the western thought process, setting aside the ethics and ideals it has grown up with.

There is clearly a need for an alternative lens, or should one say lenses, which can remove existing

distortions and provide youngsters in Asia with a distinct and precise notion of themselves and the countries they were born in.

Such lenses, blending the positives of western and Eastern thought, can sensitise the coming Asian generation about the richness and diversity of the continent. Such lenses are critical in

helping youth build a better understanding of their past. They are needed to establish a robust foundation on which Gen Next can build an aspirational future.

After all, Asia's tomorrow is in the hands of this young population. It is imperative, therefore, that this segment of society appreciates and values that it has inherited and reveals in its 'Asian-ness'.

Young people need to know that Asian-ness is indeed in and gaining resonance in the world order. From North America to Europe, an Asian wave is visible which is washing ashore practices like yoga and ayurveda. Asian cuisines are increasing in popularity as is the simple, spiritual, oriental lifestyle. Today, many American universities offer programmes that give rich insights into Asia's history, economy and the road ahead, building greater awareness about a land that is as old as the hills and the fountain of civilisation.

The same role can be played by Asian universities. Institutions of learning across Asia can and must lead the resurgence, reacquainting young people in the continent with their abounding traditions and customs. Asian schools of higher education can emerge as beacons, providing students with a vision of an 'Asian 21st century'.

Indian universities have remained low-key as the crucial area of research, a prerequisite for nurturing studies like these, has largely remained neglected. Clearly, there is a need to revisit the Indian higher education sphere. We need to begin the

groundwork for building more ground-breaking universities.

Indian universities should play a proactive role in encouraging research and disseminate knowledge about challenges, achievements and roles of Asian societies in the globalised world. I hope that, going forward, this neutral Asian Lens will help study Asia through

**INDIAN UNIVERSITIES HAVE REMAINED LOW-KEY AS THE CRUCIAL AREA OF RESEARCH, A PREREQUISITE FOR NURTURING STUDIES LIKE THESE, HAS LARGELY REMAINED NEGLECTED. CLEARLY, THERE IS A NEED TO REVISIT THE INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION SPHERE. WE NEED TO BEGIN THE GROUNDWORK FOR BUILDING MORE AND MORE GROUND-BREAKING UNIVERSITIES**

Asian eyes, enabling the people of this continent to play their rightful role in the building of a just and successful 21st century society.

Asian Lens will regenerate the concept of an Asian space that promotes the exchange of ideas and learning, laying the foundation for a platform that provides rich cultural, intellectual and scientific pickings for future generations of Asians and one from which even non-Asians can profit.

The author is chairman, NIIT Ltd, and founder, NIIT University

The Financial Express, April 14, 2014





GUEST COLUMN

### View from Asian, not western, standpoint

**A lack of effort in developing a new lens may have us face ironies, where our future generations will be taught that yoga was a western practice, IT revolution a western feat, and Bollywood was Hollywood misspelt.**

**Harpal Singh**

*Chairman, Nanhi Chhaan Foundation, and a board member of NIIT University*

IT is an irony that we Indians (and this is true for all peoples of the emerging world) have had to learn and know about ourselves from the eyes of others. In most part these eyes have been of western origin. If it is Sanskrit that you might want to learn, you would probably be referred to Max Weber, and if you happen to be a student of state craft, it is likely you will be asked to read Machiavelli and not Chanakya who preceded Machiavelli by 1,800 years. That every student of geometry would know about Pythagoras would be a given, but that every student of mathematics would know about Aryabhata's zero would be a tenuous conclusion.



Is this just a matter of chance or a calculated approach to minimise the contributions of people and cultures of non-western origin? It can be argued that there is evidence to suggest that western dominance over much of the globe during the last 300-odd years has been built on a concerted strategy to overstate western contributions and underplay, if not destroy, contributions made by other societies. The proof of such thinking was best expressed by Lord Macaulay in his speech to British Parliament in 1835. He said: "I have travelled across the length and breadth of India and I have not seen one person who is a beggar, who is a thief. Such wealth I have seen in the country, such high moral values, people of such caliber, that I do not think we would conquer this country, unless we break the very backbone of this nation, which is her spiritual and cultural heritage, and therefore, I propose that we replace her old and ancient education system, her culture, for if the Indians think that all that is foreign and English is good and greater than their own, they will lose their self-esteem, their native culture and they will become what we want them, a truly dominated nation."

India's contributions can't be undermined.

It would, however, be unfair to put the brunt for such thinking only on the British. Much worse happened to highly evolved societies colonised by Europeans.

Much of what Indians and Asians know of themselves is from the prism of western writers, historians and thinkers. The lens is coloured by (many) intellectuals and leaders who came from cultures alien to the local context, even though the rigour of their endeavours were often intense and insightful. The lens had us not only see things from a different perspective but often twisted reality to reinforce particular points of view to support predetermined conclusions of facts and occurrences to suit western purposes,



*India's contributions can't be undermined*

resulting in either the full picture not being presented or even worse, a complete distortion of truth.

India-South Asia is a young continent in demographic terms. The available perspectives of our condition — economic, social or cultural - do not provide enough evidence of the richness of our heritage in a way that can inspire our youth to realise their true potential. We need to research, debate and introspect to evolve a lens that will deliver confidence not only of their capabilities, but also of the contributions their previous generations have made in creating wonders of today's world, for which disproportionate credit has gone to western historians.

Without such introspection, South Asians cannot evolve a true picture of themselves and it would be wishful to think they can play their rightful role in the future of mankind in the 21st century. The objective must be to develop potentially superior understandings rather than creating a new body of knowledge that is parochial, self-centered and narrow. Future generations must have the opportunity to "know" about themselves from a different lens.

Our educational and think-tank institutions should become a pervasive and enduring arena of enquiry. There are two ways to go about it. Firstly, encourage all educational institutions in Asia to have, as a key objective, the development of the lens. All disciplines must be required to explore the contributions Indians and Asians have made.

Secondly, encourage think-tank institutions to take up similar initiatives in areas of their choosing and partner with institutions which could include other think tanks, government institutions, etc. Multiple macro perspectives will evolve, the quality of which can be enhanced with cross-country partnerships within Asia.

It is important to recognise that dwelling on the past, as also the present, with a new pair of glasses is only for better understanding. Building a regional consensus on policy and building on the unique strengths of local communities and geographies can be a real outcome of such an approach. It would produce deeper insights and better strategies for implementation. A lack of effort in developing such an approach may have us face ironies of a kind where our future generations will be taught that yoga was a western practice, the IT revolution a standalone western achievement and Bollywood was actually Hollywood misspelt by Indians.



## PROJECT SYNDICATE

THE WORLD'S OPINION PAGE

**Jean-Pierre Lehmann**

Jean-Pierre Lehmann is Emeritus Professor of International Political Economy at IMD, Switzerland, Founder of The Evian Group, and Visiting Professor at Hong Kong University and NIIT University in Neemrana Rajasthan.

## Asia's Democratic Drama

FEB 11, 2014

GENEVA – Asia's political spectrum ranges from the brutal despotism of North Korea to the enlightened constitutional monarchy of Bhutan (so enlightened that it developed Gross National Happiness as an alternative measure to Gross Domestic Product), with many shades in between. But the old charge that Asia is ill-suited for Western-style democracy is being leveled again. Are the skeptics right?

In South and East Asia, democracies outnumber dictatorships by 17 to six. But democracies are facing turbulent times. Thailand's political impasse, amid massive anti-democracy demonstrations, has hit world headlines, and elections have also been violently contested in Bangladesh. There have been widespread human-rights abuses in Sri Lanka. Cambodians have suffered a brutal political clampdown. And political life in the world's largest democracy, India, is raucous and unruly.

Nonetheless, the notion of democratic exclusivity is both wrong and historically short-sighted. Although almost all Western countries are currently democracies, this has only been the case since the 1990's. Just a half-century earlier, one could count the number of Western democracies on one's fingers. And even these were imperfect: using the most basic democratic yardstick – universal suffrage – the United States could not be seen as truly democratic until the civil-rights victories of the 1960's.

Although Britain was a beacon of democracy in the twentieth century, it did not extend this principle to an empire that held sway over more people and territory than any previous world power. It suppressed independence movements in India and across the Middle East and Africa (though many of these movements' members willingly fought for Britain during both World Wars).

Similarly, the Dutch did not extend their democracy to Indonesia. Nor did France support free and fair elections in Indochina or in its Middle Eastern and African colonies. The Belgians were particularly brutal in Congo. The Spanish and Portuguese ravaged Latin America. And the Germans were not much better in Southwest Africa. Indeed, two of history's most terrifying ideologies, fascism and communism, were devised and embraced in continental Europe.

The fact that the word "democracy" derives from ancient Greek, and that one can discern the kernel of democratic thought in Greek philosophy, by no means implies that democracy is embedded in the West's political DNA. Only after centuries of absolutist rule, extremism, war, revolution, and oppression can the West as a whole reasonably claim to be free, democratic, peaceful, and prosperous – and even now there are exceptions. It is also debatable whether this so-called Western democracy was a cause or a consequence of peace and prosperity.

The West was not always the world's most politically advanced region. When Jesuit missionaries came to China in the seventeenth century, they enthused about how much Europeans could learn from the country's enlightened political philosophy, Confucianism. The enlightenment philosophers Voltaire and Kant did just that.

Confucian concepts such as the "mandate of heaven" seemed infinitely more just than that of Europe's "divine right of kings." The Nobel laureate economist Amartya Sen traces the origins of Indian democratic dialogue to the third-century BC Buddhist Emperor Ashoka. He also contrasts the religious tolerance preached and practiced by the Muslim Emperor Akbar in the 1590's with the Inquisition, which was hounding heretics in Europe at around the same time.

Our assumptions about the relative prosperity of Asia and the West should also be reconsidered. As recently as 200 years ago, Asia accounted for 60% of global GDP. However, following the industrial revolution in northwestern Europe, the colonization of much of Asia, and the Opium Wars in China, their relative positions switched. By the 1950's, Asia's share of global GDP had fallen to less than 20%.

In his 1968 work *Asian Drama: An Inquiry into the Poverty of Nations*, Swedish economist and Nobel laureate Gunnar Myrdal considered the words "Asian" and "poor" to be synonymous. But, over the past three decades, Asian prosperity appears to be within reach once more.

It is of course impossible to say how Asia might have developed had Western imperial powers stayed away. There is no reason to suppose that the region could not have found its own path to peace, prosperity, and democracy. Socially and economically, Asia now stands roughly where Europe was at the start of the twentieth century; and one can only hope that its democratic journey will be shorter and less violent.

Crucially, that path has already been taken by South Korea. Despite 35 years of brutal Japanese colonization, three years of civil war, military dictatorship, and a lack of natural resources, the country has emerged from extreme poverty to become – in a volatile neighborhood – a stable, prosperous, and vibrant democracy. Its neighbors could surely follow in its footsteps.

Democracy is not a Western product; nor is it for Western citizens alone. Asia has enough historical experience to suggest that even its six remaining dictatorships could, in time, embrace a fairer system of government – and the peace and prosperity that come with it.

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/jean-pierre-lehmann-disputes-the-widespread-view-that-democracy-is-a-western-invention>




 ASIA'S FUTURE

# The Imagining of Asia Through Asian Lenses


**Rajendra S Pawar**

Asia is a continent as old as the hills. Home to some of the world's most ancient civilisations, Asia has made an immense contribution to global thought, culture and religion, helping shape life as we know it.

While Asia remained the dominant force in world history until the early 1700s, accounting for the bulk of its population and wealth, the tide began to turn after the dawning of the industrial revolution. The balance of power then shifted to the West, which became the cradle for political, intellectual and business discourse.

Between the 18th and 20th centuries in particular, many Asian countries were colonised or otherwise subjugated by the West. The Asian mosaic of civilisation was severely damaged, if not completely overwhelmed by western imperialism. This dominance extended to every arena of economic, social and cultural life in a way that the Asian view of the world and, indeed, of itself, was distorted by what one may call the western lens. It would not be an overstatement to suggest that much of what Asians know of themselves is from the prism of western writers, historians and thinkers.

But since the turn of this century, one is witnessing the emergence of a new global reality: the resurgence of Asia. Over the last few decades, the wheel seems to have turned full circle. Asia is once again in the news, dominating the headlines and positioning itself to assume leadership status, before the middle of the 21st

century. The rise of Asia is expected to create a paradigm shift within the global economy, based on its burgeoning markets, innovation and consistent, rapid economic ascent.

Despite these economic upheavals and the emergence of the East on the horizon yet again, the world is still viewing life through the omnipresent western lens. The western view of how things are and ought to be, still rules. So dominant is the western lens that even Asians are using it to study their individual societies and develop an understanding of a broader Asian regional context. The proliferation of Asian Studies centres, departments and institutes throughout America, Australia and Europe (trained to think and research by the use of the Western lens) are, if anything, accentuating the distorting effect and preventing truer contextual understanding of Asian realities. They are, simply, reiterating the generally accepted western world-view.

So, the need of the hour is to set up comparable entities in Asia that study the region through Asian eyes. The rise of the Asian juggernaut requires this. Asians and citizens from



other geographies must, in future, have the opportunity to know about Asians from fresh and alternative lenses, as they reflect and think about what kind of future they would like to build for themselves and for the global community.

For this, they need to prepare themselves and their future generations, to build lasting solutions to existing problems that will, in turn, take Asia towards success and pre-eminence. Asian lenses will help young Asians better understand themselves, their societies and those of peer nations and find answers to their own needs.

Asia and India could have been in an advantageous position had it been able to build on its rich heritage of learning. Global shifts, however—both economic and cultural—have prevented India, as well as Asia itself to lose knowledge power, especially in higher education, to the West. Indian universities in particular, have remained low-key on many counts, especially in the crucial area of research, a prerequisite for innovation. Clearly, there is a need to revisit the Indian higher-education sphere.

The creation of Asian lenses will help Asia attain the position that prevailed prior to western imperialist dominance. It will regenerate the concept of an Asian space that promotes the exchange of ideas and learning, laying the foundation for a platform that provides cultural, intellectual and scientific pickings for future generations of Asians and one from which even non-Asians can profit. This exploratory exercise will hopefully lead to the creation of many more Asian lenses, enabling people of this continent to play their rightful role in building a just and successful 21st century society.

*The writer is Chairman, NIIT and Founder, NIIT University*

The Economic Times, March 17, 2014


**OUTSTANDING UNIVERSITIES**

OPINION

## Forging Asia's universities of the future

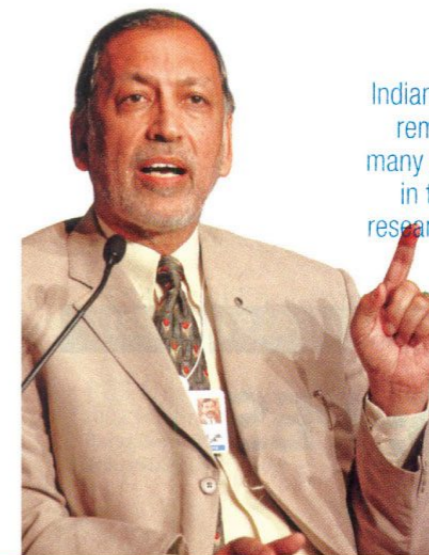
Founders of India's two up and coming universities speak to Career360's Abhay Anand about their vision to make a paradigm shift in India's higher education system

Indian universities have remained low-key on many counts, especially in research, a prerequisite for innovation. We need to begin the work for building more and more ground-breaking universities.

NIIT, I must add, has tirelessly worked towards the creation of such a school of learning—the not-for-profit NIIT University (NU). Our core principles reflect the changing paradigm of learning. Today, learning needs to be industry-relevant and job-oriented, technology-based, driven by research and innovation and seamless and boundary-less and this is exactly the thinking that NU thrives on.

Research, the building block for quality and creativity, has been accorded priority at NU. We ensure that we hire faculty—especially PhDs—who are best equipped to nurture thinking minds.

NU's breakthrough initiative - Asian Lens - therefore comes at an opportune time. It is my belief that it will not only impart NU with its biggest differentiators in the global market, it will also help Asia attain the status quo that prevailed prior to Western imperialist dominance. ■



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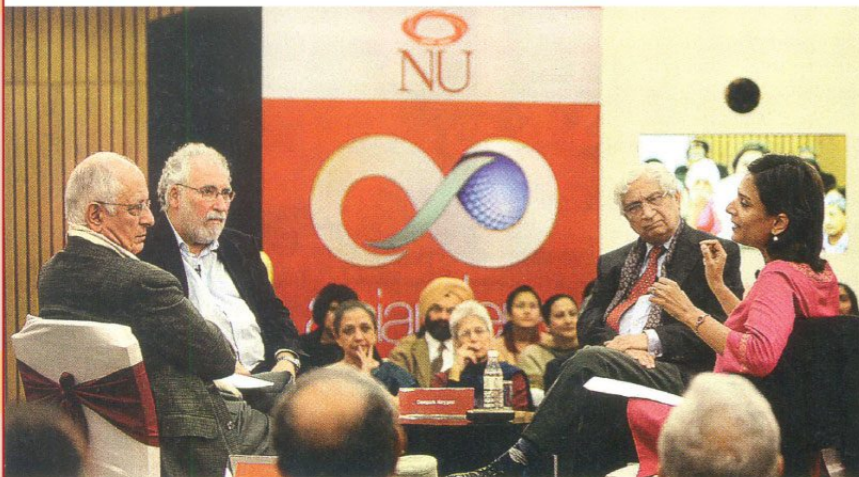
RAJENDRA S PAWAR,  
FOUNDER,  
NIIT UNIVERSITY

Careers360, March 2014



# TAKING A CLOSER LOOK

NIIT University launches a new forum to improve our understanding of Asia. By **Mridu Rai**



The Asian Lens Forum seeks to provide a vision towards a better Asia

**W**ith the objective of sensitising the young generation about the rich and diverse legacy of Asia, NIIT University (NU) has launched a unique initiative called the Asian Lens

Forum. "As Asians, this forum looks at renewing a sense of identity within us. It seeks to provide a direction and a vision towards a better Asia," explains Rajendra. S. Pawar, chairman, NIIT and

founder, NIIT University. The Asian Lens Forum will act as a platform for faculty members as well as students of NU to undertake research about challenges, achievements and roles of Asian societies in the globalised world.

Explaining the need for such a forum, Pawar says that the history of colonisation in the continent resulted in "Asians having an understanding of themselves from the prism of western writers, historians and thinkers." He adds that, "the Asian civilisation was severely damaged, if not completely beset by Western imperialism. This dominance extended to every arena whether it's our economic, social or cultural life."

While agreeing that in the new century, Asian countries are witnessing a major growth that allows them to stand head to head with the Western world, Pawar also says that our understanding of Asian societies is dominated by Western worldview. "Notwithstanding the significant development (of Asia), there continues to be a major dependence on the Western lens for Asians to study their individual societies. This will prevent a true contextual understanding of Asian realities" says Pawar.

This exploratory exercise promotes the exchange of ideas and learning, laying the foundation for a platform that provides rich cultural, intellectual and scientific pickings for future generations of Asians and one from which even non-Asians can profit.

India Today Aspire, April 2014

## About NIIT University

Set up with the vision of being the leading center of innovation and learning in emerging areas of 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 a center 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 BTech Programmes in Computer Science and Engineering, Biotechnology and Electronic and Communication Engineering; MTech Programmes in Educational Technology, Embedded Solutions and Convergence, Computing and Communications and in Bioinformatics; and PhD programs in all the above disciplines. The University also offers MTech Programme in Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Dual degree integrated MTech Programmes in Computer Science and Engineering, Electronic Communication and Biotechnology are also offered by NU. These contemporary and industry-relevant programmes are customized to prepare skilled professionals and researchers for high-end mobile computing and wireless, communication technology and biotechnology jobs. Highly qualified faculty, state-of-the-art laboratories, associations with research labs and research universities in USA and UK, strong wireless stimulation, performance and modeling concepts are other unique features of these programmes.

The University also offers an MBA Programme (NU- MBA) designed to help aspiring professionals build meaningful connections to the real world of business and become successful leaders of the future. Through the Mentorship Programme, each MBA student will be mentored by an eminent CEO and coached by an industry professional. NU-MBA trains future CEOs to deal with the challenges and opportunities thrown up by emerging economies such as China and countries in Africa through its International Immersion programme. The University has also launched an industry-linked programme in MBA (Banking & Finance) in collaboration with ICICI Bank.

NIIT University has entered into a partnership with Autodesk to promote 'Design Thinking' as a course across all disciplines of BTech programmes. Further, a design oriented post graduate programme will be launched by NU shortly. The Asian Lens Forum has been set-up at NIIT University to sensitize young generation and to create a sense of pride in Asian/Indian heritage, culture, history and values amongst youth. The Forum will also act as a launching pad for the faculty and student bodies of NU to undertake research and disseminate knowledge about achievements and role of Asia to the world.

Vibrant social and recreational activities form the heart of Campus Life at NIIT University, with a host of student activities interspersed along the central walking spine. The Campus provides students a wide array of sports activities like volleyball, basketball, tennis, a golf putting range and gymnastics. Furnished student hostels make life comfortable for students. Temperatures are maintained at the Campus all year around using an energy-efficient, geothermal cooling system, with minimal carbon footprint. For further information please visit [www.niituniversity.in](http://www.niituniversity.in).