



Press Release

Academicians, industry leaders and students converge at NIIT University to discuss 'New Alternatives in Higher Education'

- *Third Annual Lecture by Dr. Karan Singh organized at NU Campus, Neemrana*
- *World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand shares leadership lessons from Chess*
- *Awards degrees to the 1st batch of MTech students in the fast emerging field of 'Educational Technology'*

Neemrana, November 12, 2011: 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) today hosted the **3rd Annual Lecture** by **Dr. Karan Singh, Chairperson NIIT University and Hon'ble Member of Parliament**. The event held in NIIT University campus, Neemrana, also saw **World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand** sharing the leadership lessons drawn from the game of Chess in his motivating talk on '*Building a Beautiful Mind.*'

On this significant occasion academicians, industry leaders and students converged at NIIT University to discuss the challenges in the field of higher education. They also deliberated on the new alternatives that can be adopted to help higher educational institutes groom the 'future leaders', who would script success stories for tomorrow's knowledge economy. A high-level panel discussion on '*New Alternatives in Higher Education*' galvanized the audiences. The panel discussion saw the exchange of thought-provoking dialogues from Rajendra S Pawar, Chairman, NIIT and Founder, NIIT University; Dr. Rajeev Shorey, President, NIIT University; Viswanathan Anand, World Chess Champion; Deep Kalra, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, MakeMyTrip; Harpal Singh, Mentor & Chairman Emeritus, Fortis Healthcare Ltd and Arun Kapur, Director, Vasant Valley School.

Dr. Karan Singh also awarded degree certificates to the first batch of MTech students from the emerging field of 'Educational Technology' (ET). Sreekala R received the Dr. Karan Singh Gold award for excellence in education. The emerging field of ET has the potential to transform the way organizations conduct business today. The world of business itself has undergone a transformation in tandem with technological advances, moving from local to global operations with innovation becoming the key for both survival and success.



The recent developments in world economy have also shaped the trends in higher education. The rapid trend of globalization and technological changes has compelled educationists and industry leaders to revisit and review the current system of higher education and its relevance to the fast growing knowledge economy. Today, the structure of the curriculum, the pedagogy, the knowledge imparted and social sensitivities have become a powerful catalyst in higher education, especially given India's growing dominance in the world economy.

Since its inception in 2009, NIIT University has made significant progress in research and innovation in curriculum development and design. Conceptualized as an institute of excellence, NIIT University provides exceptional education based on **four Core Principles that make learning industry-linked, technology-based, research-driven and seamless.**

Dr. Karan Singh, Chairperson NIIT University and Hon'ble Member of Parliament congratulated Mr. Pawar and his team on successful completion of three years of excellence, in education. In his address, Dr. Singh said, *"India's aspirations are touching new heights. We are today the world's largest democracy and by the year 2050, we would be the second largest economy in the world. To sustain this growth, we need a higher education system that goes beyond text book learning and focuses on holistic development of individuals."*

Mr. Rajendra S Pawar, Founder, NIIT University and Chairman, NIIT Limited said, *"With the world shifting towards a knowledge driven society, tight compartmentalization of education will soon become redundant."*

"NU offers a whole new model of learning to correct the tunnel vision problem of graduates," added **Mr. Pawar.**

World Chess Champion, Viswanathan Anand said *"Progress in education and knowledge are intrinsically linked with the human brain. Chess offers an outlet for pure, real and meaningful thinking, and the game has a 'Zen' like quality of symmetry, equality and fair play. The strategies from the game of Chess can be used effectively and innovatively to create the great leaders of tomorrow."*

Dr. Rajeev Shorey, President, NIIT University and leading researcher & academician, said, *"NU aims to prepare the youth to educate themselves throughout their lives. My heartfelt thanks to the eminent faculty, the students and all those involved in establishing NIIT University as an institute of excellence."*

During the day, Grand Master Viswanathan Anand also played simultaneous Chess with students from schools around Neemrana and prestigious schools like Scindia School, Gwalior; Mayo College Boys (Ajmer), Mount St. Mary, Delhi etc. The event drew an enthusiastic response from nearby schools in the



district, such as Raath International School, Vrindavan International School, Mohan Lal Dayal Vinay School, with students using this platform for spearheading a Chess movement in the region.

Nestled in the foothills of the Aravali in Neemrana, Rajasthan, the picturesque 100-acre fully residential green campus of NIIT University is equipped with state-of-the-art technology-enabled methodology that's backed by a strong research-focused curriculum for facilitating a continuous process of learning and development. The University offers **BTech Programs** in Computer Science and Engineering, Information and Communication Technology, Biotechnology and Electronic and Communication Engineering; **MTech Programs** in Educational Technology, Embedded Solutions and Convergence, Computing and Communications and in Bioinformatics; and **PhD programs** in all the above disciplines. Besides this, the University has announced MTech Program in GIS recently.

The University also offers an MBA Program based on the core principle of Industry-linkage, to help provide career-focused education to all its students. **NU MBA** is a comprehensive management program aligned to the needs of the industry, wherein every MBA student is guided and mentored by an eminent CEO and coached by an industry professional. The University has also launched an industry-linked program in **MBA (Finance & Banking)** in collaboration with ICICI Bank.

NU students get to blend their theoretical knowledge with real life work scenarios through NU's robust internship program. B.Tech and MBA students from NU have derived enriching work experience with leading institutions such as IISc, Coca Cola Ltd., Ernst & Young, Nestle, ICICI, NIIT, HCL, to name a few.

Over the last two years, several eminent personalities from Academia and the Industry across the world have visited NU and shared their knowledge and practical experiences with students through lectures organized at the campus. Some of the dignitaries who visited the campus include: **Mr. Kapil Sibal**, Hon'ble Union Minister for Human Resource Development and Communication & IT; **Dr. Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan**, Member, Planning Commission & Ex-Chairman ISRO; **Prof Dinesh Singh**, Vice-Chancellor, Delhi University; **Prof PV Indiresan**, Former Director, IIT Madras; **Dr. Gurcharan Das**, Acclaimed Author, Playwright and Former CEO, Procter & Gamble India; **Prof Sudhir Jain**, Director IIT, Gandhinagar and Member, BOM; **Prof Jean-Pierre Lehmann**, Professor, IMD, Lausanne; **Mr. Vikram Singh Mehta**, Chairman, Shell Group of Companies, India; **Mr. Arun Kapur**, Director, Vasant Valley School; **Prof Ramjee Prasad**, Professor, Aalborg University, Denmark; **Dr. Rakesh Pandey**, Former Director of Research, Bose Corporation and **Prof Adrian Perrig**, Professor, Carnegie Mellon University, USA. During this time, the University has also hosted the **British High Commissioner, Sir Richard Stagg** and the Mongolian Ambassador, H. E. Voroshilov Enkhbold along with several delegations from China, Japan, UK and Africa.



NIIT University, the Green Campus at Neemrana

Continuing its endeavor to create a sustainable campus, NIIT University has undertaken various initiatives to facilitate ecological resurrection and contain ecological degradation of its surrounding areas. NIIT University marks a unique initiative where a campus is established on a comprehensive long-term masterplan keeping environmental considerations at the centre.

Greening of the Hill - NU students have launched a drive called 'Shram-Daan' in an effort to convert the neighbouring barren 'Kali Pahari' to a fertile 'Hari-Pahari'. About ten-thousand trees of various varieties have been planted in the neighboring hills during the monsoons this year. **Drip-Irrigation** - NU has adopted about three hectares of nearby land for tree-planting. Almost 3,000 trees have been planted so far using drip-irrigation. The district forest authorities have also appreciated this initiative. **Minimizing carbon footprint through Earth Air-Tunnels** - The NIIT University earth air-tunnels act as enormous self-regulating heat sinks for the campus, with little electricity required to cool or heat the air. The earth air-tunnel installation harnesses wind chimney for a natural ventilation effect. **Preserving natural resources with water-recycling** - NIIT University campus is being designed with rainwater harvesting facilities and water recycling system. The latter will be 97% efficient, ensuring the maximum reuse of this precious natural resource for the benefit of all. **Containing illegal mining of rocks** - Blasting in surrounding ranges of Aravalis and illegal mining of rocks, earlier a rampant practice has now been successfully curbed through a positive collaboration with local people. **Controlling Soil-Erosion** - NU highlighted the problem of washing away of fertile top-soil during monsoons by putting forth videos and pictures of soil erosion to mobilize public opinion. With the support of District authorities NU got over a dozen of large earthen dams created to contain the monsoon waters. **Nursery of local plant varieties** - NU started its own nursery in May 2010 with a wide variety of trees. The nursery is also home to the 'Jal Pilu' tree, a native plant which has now become extremely rare in the region. NU plans to plant more than one thousand Jal trees by the end of this year. **Minimizing fossil fuel consumption through 'Pedestrian Only Campus'** - The campus is comfortably explored on foot via the 'pedestrian promenade' that seamlessly unifies the campus and provides a daily meeting place for students, faculty and staff.

The environment drive, initiated by NU students, has rapidly gained local acceptance. The local village community is now proactively involved in greening of the Aravalis, contributing whole-heartedly in the plantation drives of NU students. During Monsoon, they celebrated *Sawan Somwar* (a local auspicious ceremony) at the NU campus.



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 exceptional 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.***

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*The University also offers an **MBA Program** (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 Program, each MBA student will be mentored by an eminent CEO and coached by an industry professional. NU- MBA will train 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 program. The University has also launched an industry-linked program in **MBA (Banking & Finance)** in collaboration with ICICI Bank.*

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 a minimal carbon footprint.

For further information please visit www.niituniversity.in



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