



Press Release

Renowned education administrator Prof VS Rao of BITS Pilani to join NIIT University as its next President

Prof Rao to bring forth rich expertise of over three decades of institution building and experience of developing work-integrated programs, to promote strong industry linkages at NU

Neemrana, May 23, 2016: 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 announced the appointment of renowned education administrator Prof VS Rao as the next President for NU. Currently the acting Vice Chancellor of BITS Pilani (overseeing the campuses in Pilani, Hyderabad, Goa and Dubai), Prof VS Rao will join NU in July this year.

Prof Rao comes with an in-depth experience of institution building. With a distinguished career spanning over three decades, he has been the Founding Director for BITS Pilani (Hyderabad campus) since 2006. Prof Rao has demonstrated strong industry-linkages by virtue of developing extensive work integrated programs for the University. A Ph.D in Chemistry, with a specialization in the field of Green Chemistry, he is deeply involved in promoting innovation in higher education.

Speaking on the occasion, **Mr. Rajendra S Pawar, Chairman NIIT and Founder NIIT University** said, ***“We are delighted to welcome Prof VS Rao as the next President of NU. He has demonstrated great leadership in institution building over the last three decades.”***

“Dr. Rao’s rich experience in implementing innovative ideas in industry-linkage programs is strongly aligned to NU’s uniqueness in partnering with industry leaders in sunrise sectors of the knowledge economy”, added Mr. Pawar.

Widely known for offering exclusive Industry-Linked programmes, NU has entered into strategic industry alliances with leading organisations like ICICI, ESRI, IBM, WNS, PwC and Federal Bank for offering pioneering masters level programs.

Expressing his excitement about his forthcoming role at NIIT University, **Prof VS Rao** said, ***“NU’s four core principles that make learning Industry-Linked, Technology-Based, Research-Driven and Seamless, provide a solid foundation for building the University of the Future.”***

Actively involved with the industry associations for promoting innovations in learning, Prof Rao has been a member of the CII State Council since 2012; a member of FICCI Higher Education Committee



since 2016; member, AP Society for Knowledge Network (2013-14) and a member of Telangana Academy of Skills & Knowledge (TASK) since 2014.

About NU

*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 NU is dedicated to building great careers and ensuring excellent job opportunities to all its students. It has been developed as an institution of excellence to provide exceptional education based on the **four core principles that make learning industry-linked, technology-based, research-driven and seamless.***

*NU offers **B. Tech Programs** in Computer Science Engineering, Biotechnology and Electronics and Communication Engineering, **M. Tech Programs** in Educational Technology, & Geographic Information Systems and **Ph.D Programs** in Humanities & Social Sciences and management in addition to all the above disciplines. NU offers exclusive Industry Linked programmes at the master's level. Recently NU announced launch of MBA (Business Analytics) with Industry leader WNS and M Tech (Cyber Security) in collaboration with PwC.*

*With a focus on innovation and research-driven approach to education, **NU is beginning to emerge as the hot-bed of entrepreneurship.** The university provides an enabling platform for students to innovate ideas for their own startups, under the guidance of its expert faculty. These startups are based on innovates ideas like – a smart network health monitoring tool; a dedicated one stop solution for pet care services; NU-Window; First Move Technologies; AT-Lead; Food tech; My Geo Info, Astra and a peer learning site, to name a few.*

The students from the University engage in internships at prestigious organizations. BTech students also get the opportunity of a 6-month work experience before they graduate. NU also offers a 2-year full-time MBA programme with options to specialize in areas like Marketing, Finance, HR, Digital Marketing, Business Analytics, Banking and Banking Technology. The University has conducted industry-linked programs in MBA (Banking & Finance) in collaboration with ICICI Bank.

NU has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Missouri - Kansas City's (UMKC) School of Computing and Engineering, to offer a 5-year program that will allow students to secure B. Tech degree from NU & and MS in Computer Science Engineering from UMKC. This is the first of its kind landmark agreement between two educational institutions to collaborate in B.Tech and MS degree programs and research activities through the exchange of degree seeking students and faculty members in the area of computer science and computer engineering.

*The University has entered into a partnership with Autodesk to promote '**Design Thinking**' as a course across all disciplines of B.Tech Programs. NU has a unique 'Microsoft Innovation Centre' on campus that features the best of equipment, the latest technology & expert guidance that fosters an environment of learning & entrepreneurship on campus. **The Asian Lenses Forum** has been set-up at NU 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 NU, 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.

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