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The future is
Digital

"We cannot solve today's problem with yesterday's mindset, we really require tomorrow's mindset to solve today's problem. That change is obviously a challenge. More than a challenge, It is an evolutionary process."

- Dr. Saji Gopinath

New year,
New beginnings

With the arrival of the dawn of 2023, the ICT Academy of Kerala kicked off the new beginning with a bang, hosting a flurry of events. The academy paved the way for a year of growth and learning, where dreams and knowledge fused together to create a vision for the future.



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New year, New beginnings

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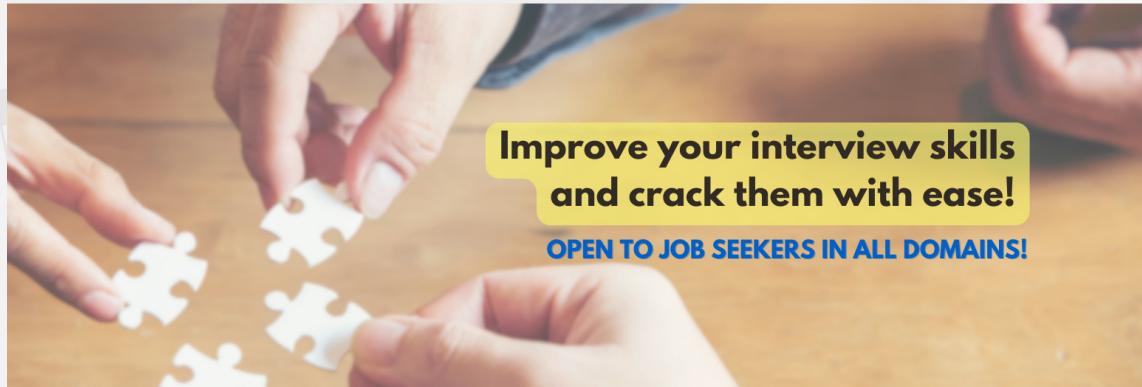
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EDITORIAL

As we come to a close on a fiscal year that is finally back to normal, I'd like to pause and think about where our academy stands today and where we want to go in the future. As we start to emerge from a once-in-a-century epidemic that has permanently altered every part of our lives, including skilling, I am tremendously thrilled about the skilling prospects that lie ahead. However, I am also well aware that some changes will need to be made in the way we proceed.

The reason that our Academy is so well equipped to continue to meet our founding mission – building the skills gap and building the nation's future – is because of the strong connection with the industry that helps us in understanding the requirements of the industry and equip the learners to meet the needs of the industry.

The Academy offers skills training in industry-relevant technologies. The training is focused on improving the employability skills by providing both domain skills and employability skills training. The skills training is categorized under four quadrants namely Digital technologies, Digital infrastructure, enterprise systems and workforce enablement. The training is customized based on the needs of various stakeholders such as government, corporate, faculty, graduating students and graduated youths.

The training is delivered following the Academy's own learning model known as PERL which ensures a unique learning experience for the learners by leveraging the capabilities of multiple learning platforms. The model helps us to structure the learning into various levels - foundation, core technology, capstone project and virtual internship - to equip the learners with the hands-on skills expected for various domains. With this, our certified professionals will be uniquely industry ready and able to enter the industry confidently.

The training is offered in various modes - physical, virtual and hybrid - and the hybrid provides a new learning experience by incorporating the advantages of virtual and physical modes such as scaling and deeper immersion, respectively. Ensuring quality at all levels - from design to delivery - is the biggest challenge and in this fiscal year, the academy will be focusing on more effective ways of managing end-to-end quality.

In this edition of SKOPE, you can read about the prospects for developing digital skills in Kerala, an app that streamlines communication for businesses and governments, a sneak peek into various ICTAK initiatives, and much more.

Riji N. Das
Head, Knowledge Office, ICTAK



The reason that our Academy is so well equipped to continue to meet our founding mission – building the skills gap and building the nation's future – is because of the strong connection with the industry that helps us in understanding the requirements of the industry and equip the learners to meet the needs of the industry.



COVER STORY

The future is *Digital*



Watch the
full interview here
 tinyurl.com/skope-talk-02



Ms. Athira Krishnan holds the position of Project Coordinator at ICTAK. She has a PG degree in Home Science and has gained extensive experience working with various non-governmental organizations.

"We cannot solve today's problem with yesterday's mindset, we really require tomorrow's mindset to solve today's problem. That change is obviously a challenge. More than a challenge, It is an evolutionary process" says Dr. Saji Gopinath

In this article, we bring you an insightful interview with Dr. Saji Gopinath, the first Vice Chancellor of the newly formed Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation, and Technology (Digital University Kerala). His extensive experience in academia,

research, and industry uniquely equips him to lead the Digital University Kerala, which aims to address the research and talent issues of Industry 4.0. During the interview, he unveils his vision for the university and shares his riveting insights

on various topics including the role of technology in education.

Q: What makes the Digital University Kerala special, when compared to Conventional universities? Also, what are the challenges that you're facing?

Firstly, I need to clarify that the Digital University Kerala is not a virtual university. That is, it's not an online university. There are some aspects, in which the university distinguishes itself. The first is typically to say, the university is a unitary university. So, compared to normal conventional universities, we don't have multiple campuses and multiple affiliated colleges, we will have more campuses but not affiliated institutions. Secondly, it focuses on postgraduate education and research. It is digital because it primarily focuses on the creation of talent, leading research, and development of products in the context of the digital world. Technology is an integral part of all the elements of the university. The third difference is that we have a very strong focus on entrepreneurship and innovation. Universities are change-makers in the world, so universities create talent who in turn develop the economy of the country. Our objective is that the university can play a very important role in developing an 'industrial business ecosystem' in the state of Kerala, specifically focusing on the knowledge industry. We work through large research centres, which have been established to help the industries which spin off a large number of startups, and even for the transformation of existing companies. We also have several product developments in the IT space. These are all professional product which is needed by the industry or the government. Students can actually be a part of it and get exposure to the live product development process. So these are some of the areas which make the university different from conventional universities.

There are some challenges, better to call them issues that need to be resolved. In the 1990s industry could not grow due to regulations in the country. That's when we liberalized the state and then we saw the industrial growth. Education is now exactly

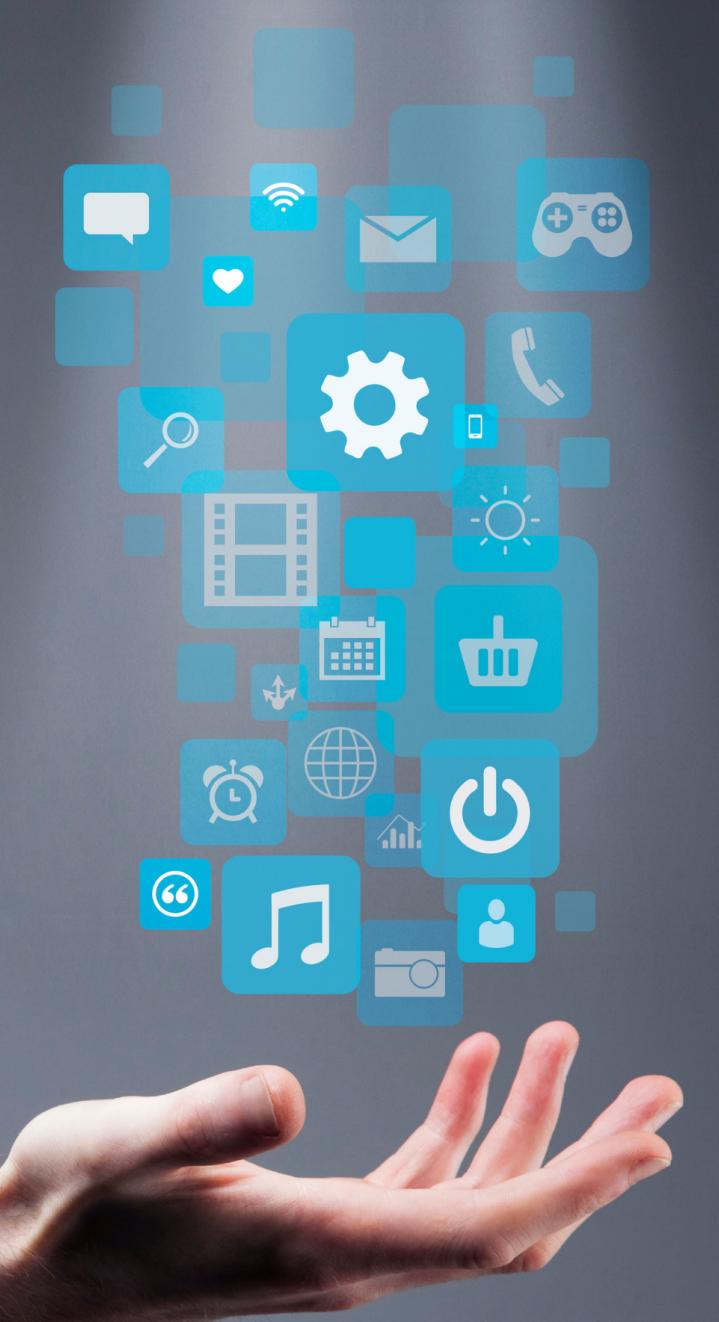
at that sort of a crossroad today. We have too many regulations, which are distributing the education institution. We are in a time of transition. so, the transition period is something which actually defines. Maybe the next two to three or five years is a time when there will be a lot of changes that might happen in the external environment which may have to be adopted. As a university which is focusing on newer technologies, our biggest challenges are that people actually need to ensure that the curriculum gets revised very fast. Newer methods of pedagogies have to be adopted, but at the same time, the regulation may not allow that, which is actually the challenge, even with online programs. We cannot really launch fully fledged programs because even though they have their platform, they have people who know how to recreate the content and how to get into online education, but then the regulations, which is the biggest challenge, limit that.

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In the 1990s industry could not grow due to regulations in the country. That's when we liberalized the state and then we saw the industrial growth.

The second thing is, moving from an industrial world to a digital world is not that easy. One cannot really make that change happen very easily because there is always a dilemma over there. We also want to be a self-sustaining university. The only way you can do this is by using the intellectual asset of the university. This is an entrepreneurial type of model. It is not conventional, so naturally, there is resistance if there will be people who have challenges adapting to this. More or less we are on track. We cannot solve today's problem with yesterday's mindset, we really require tomorrow's mindset to solve today's problem. That change is obviously a challenge. More than a challenge, It is an evolutionary process.

Q: There is always a gap between the curriculum and the needs of the industry. How is the Digital University of Kerala addressing that?



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The country's one of the biggest gig platforms, is developed by the Digital University Kerala, we are running a very large project close to 1.8 million.

From a larger perspective, people always think that there is an issue that colleges do not produce what the industry requires. This is common rhetoric and everybody speaks about it. Most of the educational institutions in the country focus on

knowledge. Industries are not really worried about knowledge because for them people need to be employable on day one and need knowledge and skills together. The Digital University Kerala is very clear about this, we know that the industry requires day-one professionals, but at the same time, we cannot compromise on knowledge. For this, we are creating a curriculum which joins both knowledge and skill. The university takes on a large number of projects, by the faculties, of course, it brings revenue for the university but it also provides students with live projects. The country's one of the biggest gig platforms, is developed by the Digital University Kerala, we are running a very large project close to 1.8 million and so many large live projects are going on. They have people getting into very big data analytics and many projects are behind. The challenge of Industry versus Institute is a very valid and live issue that may get addressed.

Q: People always say that the Indian education system has not much developed when compared to foreign universities. How can we activate evolution with the help of digital skills?

We need to ask the question 'Why is it not developed?' rather than being critical. Most of the universities were actually headed by extremely brilliant people. Both in the state, as well as the central and we at any point of time, were really led by scholars. With all those people, if our system has not developed, there should be some innate reasons. One of the innate reasons is that if we go back to some 20 years or 15 years the whole industrial growth is actually being driven by the resources. People now have financial resources, human resources and many more. So, there is a big gap between people who have money and those who don't have money. Now, this creates a challenge that a person who joins a system has no clarity on what he or she can get into. That is, one may be a wonderful singer but he or she can never be assured that they can make a career in singing. They will learn because we don't know where the opportunities are. We were always in a world where

there was a shortage of opportunities. Now, when we analyze the last few years, especially the post-internet period, this whole thing has become inverted. Suddenly, you have information available at your fingertip and thanks to the Internet

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Today we speak about a world as the 'creator economy'. One can create content simply sitting in any part of the globe, with the help of our own gadgets.



revolution. We are able to access this knowledge at the end of smartphones and other gadgets. The knowledge gap is shrinking and people are also suddenly finding a lot of opportunities coming in.

Today we speak about a world as the 'creator economy'. One can create content simply sitting in any part of the globe, with the help of our own gadgets. The whole concept in the past that I needed to go to a company to do all of this has gone. This will actually now accelerate learning. Now, what was happening in the other parts of the world, especially developed countries, had this luxury of abundance. At that point of time, when we have a country where per capita income is some 60,000 rupees and somebody who has got 60,000 dollars, you basically get to understand the difference. So the difference is now reducing because one doesn't really require a lot of money to achieve what the others have achieved. This is actually the change. With this change today, any student in Kerala can actually access the best education in the world. They don't have to actually limit themselves if they think that they are in a particular area, with a particular topic that is one professor in some university in the world. It is very easy for students to find such universities today when compared to the past.

Q: Whether the Digital University of Kerala has any unique platform for virtual internships?

The Digital University Kerala doesn't have virtual internships but can do the internships virtually because we are inviting students from any institution on specific projects with faculty float on internship. There are some projects which are not allowed because of data privacy and some conditions. But the selection process is generally difficult. The university collects requirements from the faculties and then they will be floated and whoever applies will be screened and then will be selected. But one can also pay the fees, it's not necessarily free. But we expect students to take this on a serious note. Not because as I said, these are all serious commercial projects. So one cannot expect them to come just for a certificate, that is

not what the university expects.

There is also running a program, now with blockchain and maybe later very soon will do it in other areas also, where people who are graduated can actually join this program. They're given resources for three months for free. It is not necessary that they need to have any background in blockchain, but they need to learn about blockchain technologies themselves. After the initial three months, they can actually get into a project where we pay them and they can go through another six months. Then they can decide whether they want to continue or not. So that is a sort of a finishing school, but a very different type of finishing school. We don't have a very large online internship program, where thousands of students have been taken. We are ready to take students who are interested to work on live projects, but not in thousands of numbers.

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I am not feeling bad about students going out of Kerala for studies, but I am feeling bad about students not coming to Kerala.

Q: Apart from hard skills, what other skills should students have in this fast-paced world?

I think even the hard skills are not expected to be stable. Since technology keeps on changing one cannot expect that one technology is going to be the de facto standard of the world. So one of the important things which the students need to do is 'how to learn to learn'. What we used to say is that we should know where the resources are. If a new technology comes, one can actually understand or study it properly through YouTube videos, tutorials, etc. Today, when we speak about personality, personality by definition is adaptability to the environment. Adaptability to the environment in the past was like, 'Do you know how to work with another person' ? and things like that. Today, we are moving very fast in our world, where there is remote working. Now the personality has become a

personality to technology. I am able to adopt new technology. How am I able to move from something which I learned in college to something different? So learnability is going to be the key skill which makes things more important.

Q: Recent reports show that there is a hike in students going abroad for pursuing higher studies by 68% in Kerala when compared to the previous year. What is your view on this?

I am not feeling bad about students going out of Kerala for studies, but I am feeling bad about students not coming to Kerala. Going to another place and getting exposure is nothing wrong because as we see the newer world, we are getting exposed to a newer network. When the students move out they see heterogeneous crowds. They can easily network with them and get to know how to work in a multicultural environment. We have to think in depth about why students from other states or other parts of the world are not coming to Kerala. If we go to any part of India, there will be a teacher from Kerala in many of the schools. Kerala teachers are making a difference in many parts of the world. Even though many parts of the world are well aware of the academic growth of Kerala, they are not coming here. That is an area which we need to really worry about.

For people who are going out, one important thing which needs to be understood is that in today's world, topics are not very important. One learns computer science today, tomorrow, maybe completely moving to synthetic biology. So what is important is the institution where the students are going. So when individuals are planning to go abroad to pursue higher studies they should focus more on the quality of the institution. It is important to understand that in many parts of the world, the starting pay may be higher. But when you become a skillful person, the pay is not necessarily better than in India in the end. India is a country, which is growing at around 10% or 12% in the next few years. In the coming days, the number of opportunities will double in India. For studies, going abroad is nothing

Continued on Page #30

KKEM

The Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission is a digital platform-based strategic program launched by the Government of Kerala to transform the State into a knowledge economy.

ICT Academy of Kerala is the Demand Aggregation & Skills Partner of KKEM



ICTAK ICT Academy of Kerala (ICTAK) is a Social Enterprise created in a Public-Private Partnership model (PPP) for imparting ICT skills to the youths of Kerala and improving their employability opportunities in the Industry. The company is supported by Govt. of India, partnered by Govt. of Kerala, and the IT industry.



FOR MORE DETAILS
<https://knowledgemission.kerala.gov.in>

Enlivening Skilling Ecosystem



Dr. Deepa V.T. brings her diverse experience from teaching to program management to her current role as Regional Manager South, Academic Operations where she spearheads academic initiatives and operations.

As we embark on an age of technological progress, which brings rapid changes in the industry, the demand for professionals with versatile skill sets grows more pronounced. In this article, the author delves into the efforts of ICTAK in revitalizing the technological backdrop through enlivening skilling in the State.

The ICT Academy of Kerala has recently completed 76 technical training programs, both micro-skill and long-term, in academic institutions across Kerala. These programs have equipped learners with the expertise to excel in critical areas such as data analytics, full-stack development, the Internet of Things, digital marketing, and other domains.

What data analysis tells about the latest trends?

When the data were analysed, it became clear that undergraduate students majoring in the arts and science had an enticing interest in engineering-related technological fields like AI, ML, and data analytics. Using virtual and physical modes, we have trained about 11,383 students in advanced IT subjects including programming as well as soft skill development.

According to gender studies, boys are more interested in programming, Internet of Things, and Web development applications, while girls are more inclined

towards learning data analytics and business intelligence. With reference to the statistical data, we have trained a total of 2539 students in physical mode through academic institutions like Engineering, Arts & Science, and MBA colleges. The popularly opted courses are Data analytics and Internet of Things.

Beyond the classroom

An orientation programme was designed to give an overview of the most recent technological advancements in the IT industry to newly enrolled students in academic institutions through which we made them better understand the necessity of taking additional courses to secure employment in multinational corporations meeting the job market demands.

Several training techniques have been developed to help students develop their entrepreneurial and design thinking skills, and many institutions have integrated these modules as part of the training through the IEDC cells to align with the start-up ecosystem in Kerala. The top 10 institutions in Kerala have been in continual contact with us, and we have collaborated with many more across the state.

Regarding the non-technical aspect, we are receiving a lot of interest from the institution's end for courses on Tableau and Digital Marketing. 3142 students in their final and pre-final years have been connected to internships and live projects in robotic process automation and the internet of things.

Collaborative symphony

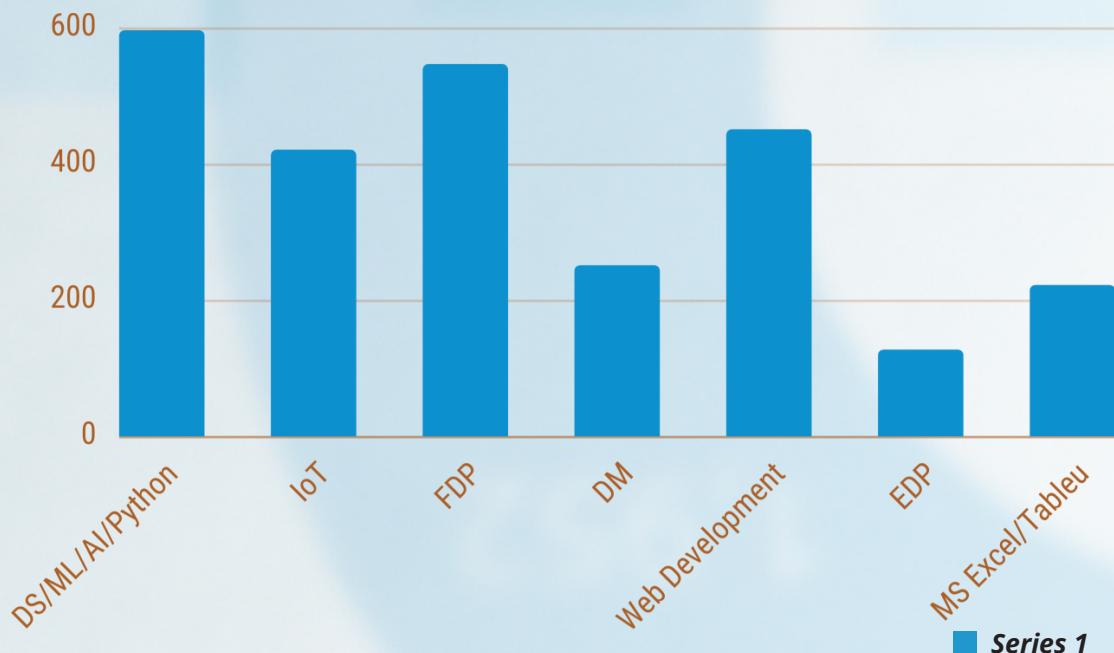
One of the major attractions of our training menu is our partner programme. In collaboration with Google, Salesforce, and Microsoft, we offer several free certification programmes that are directed at our 100 premium colleges in Kerala. The Employability Training Courses provided by Earnest & Young and Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission are helping more than 4200 final-year students. In addition, we have trained nearly 554 faculty through



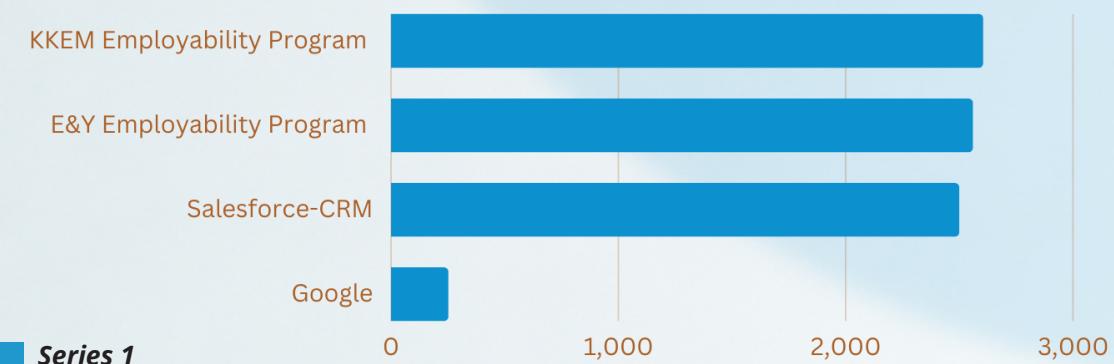
our faculty development programmes, mostly in areas like cyber security and design thinking.

In general, practically all institutions want their students to receive skill training in addition to their academics because of a growing trend of offering additional

courses beyond their core curriculum. This is a highly encouraging development for the academic community, and in reality, students will be hired immediately by global corporations, saving them the time they would have spent studying for their subsequent courses.

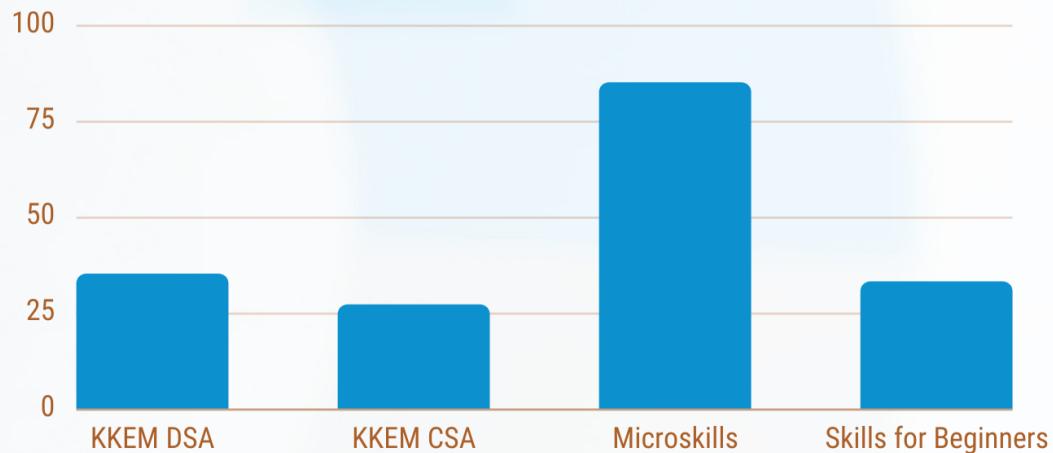


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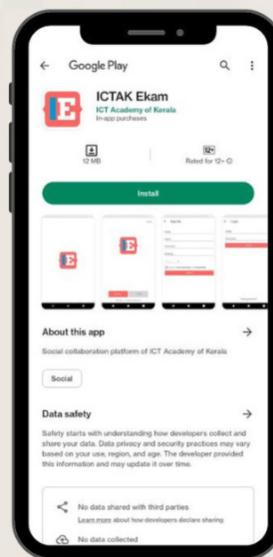
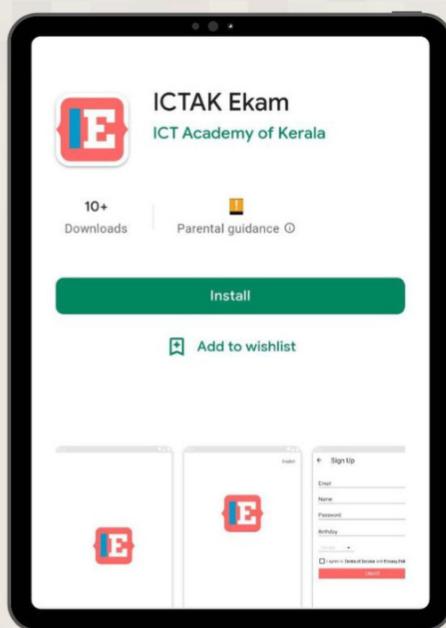


b. Partnership-connected Training

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c. Scholarship offered Program




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Unleashing Your Potential

How to use ChatGPT to improve **Problem-Solving Skills**



Mr. Riji N. Das is an experienced professional who leads the Knowledge Office at ICTAK, dedicated to developing innovative curricula and training programs to enhance the employability skills of young professionals.

In a rapidly evolving world, problem-solving skills have become essential for navigating personal and professional challenges. ChatGPT, a powerful AI language model developed by OpenAI, can serve as an effective tool to help enhance these skills. In this article, we will explore how to use ChatGPT to improve your problem-solving abilities, making you more adaptable and resourceful in various situations.

Brainstorm Ideas with ChatGPT

When you're faced with a complex problem, generating multiple ideas and solutions is key to finding the best approach. ChatGPT can help you brainstorm by providing a diverse range of suggestions and insights. Simply input your problem and ask the AI for ideas or solutions. Also, ask follow-up questions or request more details, as this will allow you

to explore different angles and arrive at a well-rounded solution. (Eg. Offer a new spin on an existing product to make it more appealing to a specific audience)

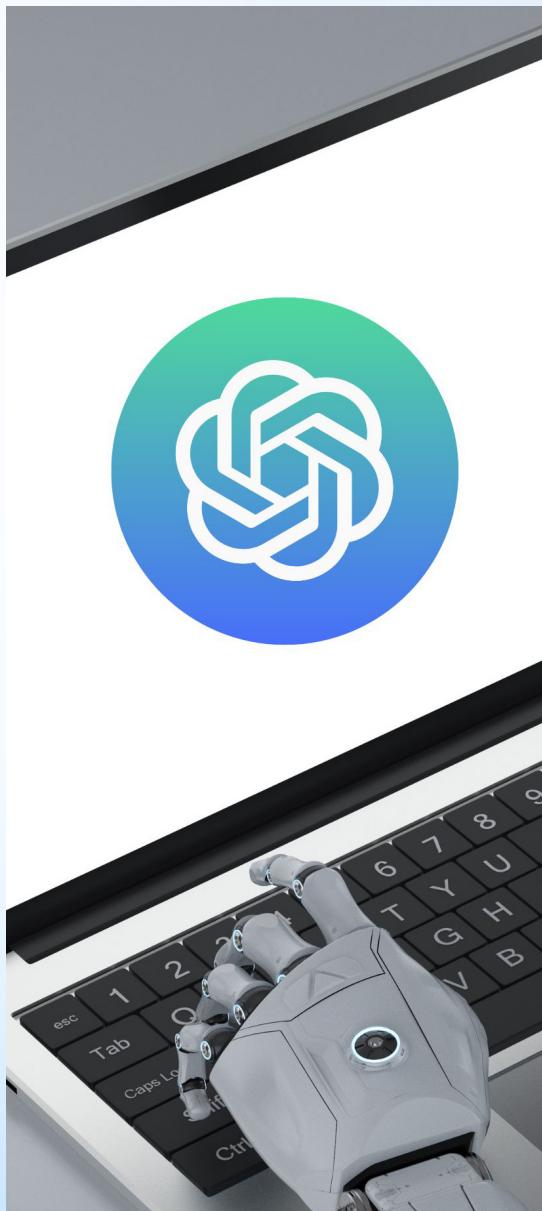
Gain a Fresh Perspective

Sometimes, to solve a problem we have to look at it from a different angle. ChatGPT can offer alternative viewpoints, helping you to think outside the box. Present your

problem to the AI and ask for a new perspective or an unconventional solution. You may be surprised by the innovative ideas that arise from this exercise. (Eg. Creating a self-learning portal)

Research and Learn with ChatGPT

ChatGPT can assist you in learning about



various topics by providing concise summaries, definitions, or explanations. Simply ask the AI about the information you need, and it will provide you with an informative response. This can help you build a strong foundation of knowledge, enabling you to tackle problems more effectively.

Break Down Complex Problems

Complex problems can be overwhelming, but breaking them down into smaller, more manageable components can make them easier to tackle. ChatGPT can help you deconstruct a problem by identifying its key elements and suggesting possible steps to address them. By focusing on one aspect at a time, you can make steady progress and ultimately solve the entire problem.

Practice Critical Thinking Skills

Engaging with ChatGPT can help you refine your critical thinking abilities. Use the AI to debate or discuss various topics, presenting arguments and counterarguments. By challenging your own assumptions and engaging in thoughtful discourse with the AI, you can sharpen your analytical skills, which are essential for effective problem-solving.

Collaborate with Others

ChatGPT can also be a valuable addition to your team when working on group projects or brainstorming sessions. By integrating the AI into your discussions, you can benefit from its input, fostering a more comprehensive and innovative approach to problem-solving. Additionally, ChatGPT can help maintain a neutral perspective, minimizing group think and promoting healthy debate.

Using ChatGPT's features can help you sharpen your problem-solving abilities and become a more flexible and resourceful person. ChatGPT can be a valuable ally in your quest to improve as a problem solver, whether you're generating ideas, looking for other viewpoints, or acquiring new facts. Accept this innovative technology and realize your full potential.



Alchemy of Dream Weaving



Mr. Arun Perooli is an Electronics & Communication Engineering graduate from the University of Calicut. He has founded multiple tech ventures including MuseON, QKopy, and Nearwala.

In this insightful piece, Arun Perooli shares his journey of founding impact-driven startups, including MuseON, QKopy, and Nearwala. MuseON is a technology consulting and services company, while QKopy is an app that simplifies communication for businesses and governments. On the other hand, Nearwala is an app that helps offline hyperlocal businesses get discovered online and enables consumers to do social shopping. Keep reading to learn more about the innovative growth of these companies.

The Start - MuseON

Arun Perooli's journey in the tech industry started in 2010 when he founded MuseON. The company specializes in providing technology consulting and services to clients from India, the Middle East, Europe, and the USA. With MuseON, his vision was to create a company that could offer cutting-edge solutions to businesses and organizations that were looking to leverage technology to grow and succeed

in their respective fields.

QKopy to GOK Direct

In 2017, Arun Perooli co-founded QKopy with two of his college mates. The app quickly gained popularity and became an essential tool for critical government missions. During the outbreak of the Nipah virus and floods in Kerala, QKopy helped the government manage the situation effectively. The app's success continued during the COVID-19 pandemic

when it was used to provide timely and accurate information to citizens.

The success of these ventures hasn't gone unnoticed. Qkopy has received multiple recognitions for its effort, including the CNN News 18 Tech and Automotive awards, and the Kairali startup awards. These awards are a testament to the hard work and dedication put forward by Arun Perooli and his team.

In addition to Qkopy, He was the mastermind behind the GOK Direct app, which the Government of Kerala used during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide timely and accurate information to citizens. His expertise in technology and understanding of the challenges faced by the government in communicating with



the public during a crisis was essential in the development of the app. His vision was to create an app that was easy to use and effective in providing the necessary information to the people and that can be seen in each and every step taken by him.

Nearwala- a bridge between two worlds

Following the success of Qkopy, He turned



his attention to Nearwala, an app designed to help offline hyperlocal businesses get discovered online and enable consumers to do social shopping. The app has the potential to revolutionize the way small businesses operate and connect with customers. His vision is to use technology to bridge the gap between offline and online businesses, helping small businesses to reach a wider audience and succeed in the digital age.

Arun Perooli expressed pride in the achievements of his team and himself in bringing innovative solutions that have contributed to the growth of businesses, governments, and communities. He further noted that his team's efforts have received recognition from several quarters. He also expressed his commitment to using technology for the greater good, adding that he would remain dedicated to creating positive change in the world through hard work.

For More Reference:

Website: www.Perooli.com

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/perooli/>

Facebook & Instagram: [@ArunPerooli](https://www.instagram.com/@ArunPerooli)



Own Your Career with **LinkedIn**



Ms. Smrithi Sasi, an MBA graduate, holds the position of HR Recruiter in Government OU of ICTAK. She excels in identifying skilled individuals and facilitate their placement with suitable employers.

Social media has become a vital aspect of modern life, influencing our decision-making processes. LinkedIn has emerged as a prominent social media platform in the professional world, providing a distinctive space to connect with colleagues, learn new things, and participate in various activities. This article explores the basics of LinkedIn and highlights why professionals are increasingly taking centre stage on this platform.

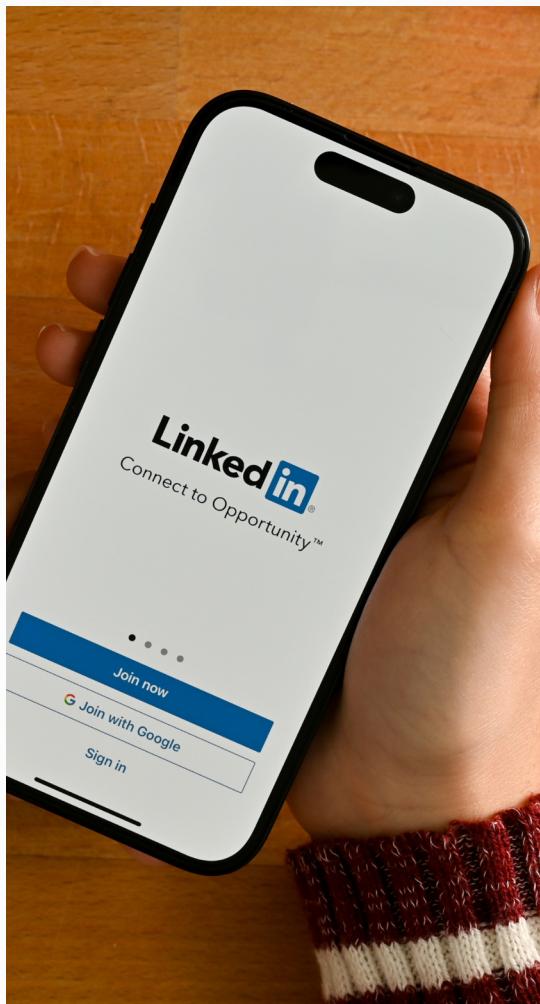
In today's world when a student or anybody goes to buy something from the market, assume we are going to buy a mobile phone, before even we are going to a mobile shop or login into an Amazon app we already know in our mind what kind of a product we need, what configuration, what brand which is going to your final transaction. This is a proven fact that 57% of the decision to buy something is now made before any commercial contact with our business. This is what social media is doing today which enables us with good content, enables us with the right elements to move around or have a great life ahead. But social media can be split

into different segments where we have Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram. As a professional where we are spending more time today and trying to position our best in front of people through LinkedIn. So the one which is doing the marketing for you is the linked profile.

Why LinkedIn?

Every Social media has its own difference. For example, if we are on Facebook we are thinking of friends and family, if we are on Twitter we are talking about politics, elections and all. But when we are linked

your thought process is more to do with how can we improve our professional life, how can we get a job, how can we switch jobs, how can we talk to my peers, how can we talk to our batch mates, what are the latest trends in the HR industry or what are the new technologies coming up. It is a common saying that when you put up your two hours on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter it is called we spend time. But in LinkedIn, we said that we invested the time because anything we read on LinkedIn can be your interviews, it can be your conversations with professionals, can be your LinkedIn leanings because everything is posted and



everything is connected to employees by LinkedIn. Whatever they post, they posted in a concept that is relevant to or more informative. This is why people always log in to LinkedIn and stay more time on LinkedIn.

The three basics of LinkedIn

Build your Connections: Most social media platforms work similarly but LinkedIn works with building our connections first. If we didn't build our connections it's trying to advertise ourselves in a desert which means we have put a huge effort into showcasing our profile but there is nobody to watch. So we need connections and it is

not made overnight. It is a long journey which we need to take so that we can progressively increase our connections.

Gain Knowledge: The second thing is that, how many of these connections are posting the content and how much we absorb through these posts and are aware of the content.

Engage: Once we are more aware of different things that is where we are engaged and that is where we start taking action. One of the biggest things why LinkedIn is recommended is each and every time there are instances where people are going to our profile. The journey of every individual has changed. It is no longer linear and requires continuous engagement.

So the real concept of LinkedIn is to get connected with as many people because every connection will offer something at different stages of life. And always be mindful of what type of connections should you have.

Why and How are professionals taking the stage?

In today's world especially after covid professionals are becoming more aggressively active especially on LinkedIn because it is very easy to shift online which we have seen in the last two years. So we cannot be very passive towards LinkedIn because, in absence of a physical connection, these are the things which tell what kind of a profession you are. The great Marshall Goldsmith said, "What got you here, won't get you there." Typically mean all those things which have made us reach here are not sufficient for us to be taken to the next level. That is the reason why people usually say we should constantly learn and evolve. There is a concept called continuous learning which LinkedIn has introduced and that is LinkedIn learning. The concept of LinkedIn learning is like we cannot stay alive or active with the physical education we have. By the year 2025, all the basic skills will be going off and there will be new skills coming in. So you should have a mindset to continuously learn new skills.



Democratising Innovation YIP 5.0



ICT HAPPENINGS

New year, New beginnings



Ms. Jayasree M.R., former Creative Associate at ICTAK, is a meticulous writer and designer with a keen eye for detail and a talent for bringing creative ideas to life.

Ms. Maya M. is a journalist aspirant who completed her post-graduation in History from the University of Kerala and is currently working as Creative Associate at ICTAK.

With the arrival of the dawn of 2023, the ICT Academy of Kerala kicked off the new beginning with a bang, hosting a flurry of events. The academy paved the way for a year of growth and learning, where dreams and knowledge fused together to create a vision for the future. From a job fair where women find their place to the Young Innovators Program, a seed thrown to nurture young minds - ICTAK's past month is buzzing with stories to tell!!



Job Fair Recap - Mr. Santhosh Kurup was awarded by Hon' Minister Sri. V. Sivankutty for ICTAK's role in coordinating the job fair across Kerala.

The Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission (KKEM), in association with the ICT Academy of Kerala, organized a job fair connecting employers with potential candidates in various fields. This unique

program, exclusively for women, 'Thozhilangathakk' secured the participation of 10,386 candidates from 14 districts. And among the 20,959 interviews conducted, 8,883 candidates were



YIP 5.0 Training - A snap from training the trainer's program

shortlisted. By the end of the day, over 1,500 candidates succeeded in securing a job, making the venture a great accomplishment.

The KSRTC's quick response to transport over 300 job seekers from Wayanad exemplifies the collaborative effort of different sectors in the successful execution of the job fair. This initiative was a significant milestone in February, as it envisioned the future and aimed to empower women and achieve their career aspirations.

Quest for 'SKOPE'

The inaugural issue of SKOPE, a bimonthly magazine published by ICTAK, got released in February. The 2023 Jan-Feb issue features a range of thought-provoking articles on subjects ranging from cyberbullying to agricultural policy, alongside an exclusive interview with Dr. Tony Thomas, Chairman of ICTAK and CDIO of Signify. This publication endeavours to satisfy readers' quest for knowledge by presenting the profound insights of distinguished experts.

YIP 5.0 Kick-started

The Young Innovators Programme by K-DISC is back for its fifth edition, with various training programs to support young innovators.

This new edition features exciting programs designed to support young innovators in every way possible. From the

Train The Master Trainers (TTMT) Program to the Intern Training Program (ITP), the participants received comprehensive training in innovation, research, design thinking, and other essential areas.

The Train the Trainer (TTT) Program saw a whopping 600 participants across 20 batches, while the orientation for Innovation and Entrepreneurship



Development Centers (IEDC) officers attracted 100 officers from different colleges. But that's not all! Departmental workshops were also organized to address real-life problems faced by government departments. The event witnessed the active participation of more than 110 participants from every district, with Trivandrum leading the way with 140 attendees. Thanks to the empanelled master trainers, Dr. Manoj A.S. and Mr. Nithin Das, and the diligent supporting team, made the impossible possible!

Corporate Meetup at Kochi

The Corporate Meetup organized by the IT Parks' Liaison Office and the ICT Academy of Kerala in Kochi on January 30, 2023, provided a platform for corporates in the state to discuss their digital skill requirements.

Mr. Susanth Kurunthil, the CEO of Infopark Kochi, addressed the gathering, and Mr. Santhosh Kurup, CEO of the ICT Academy



Corporate Meetup - Round table discussion on collaboration opportunities

of Kerala, delivered the keynote address. As part of the corporate hospital tie-up, ICTAK signed an MOU with Apollo Adlux Hospital during the event. The meetup also explored areas of collaboration with IT park companies and the Liaison Office's role in supporting the state's IT ecosystem.

Startup Meet at Kochi

The ICT Academy of Kerala (ICTAK)

conducted a startup meetup at Kochi that brought a dynamic group of innovators and entrepreneurs to explore the potential areas for cooperation. Over ten companies attended the meetup at the Amphitheatre, Integrated Startup Complex in Kalamassery on January 31, 2023.

The event kicked off with a warm welcome from Mr. Sreekumar K.V., Head of Retail Operations. Mr. Santhosh Kurup shared



Startup Meet - Keynote Address by CEO

his insights and interacted with the representatives of the startups. Mr. Thomas Joseph, the Corporate Relations Manager of ICTAK, delivered a vote of thanks to wrap up the event.

A brief look into academic programs

The ICT Academy of Kerala has been making waves in the educational scene with an avalanche of academic programs.

In January and February, the academy conducted several Faculty Development Programs (FDPs) and Long-term Training (LTT) programs across various colleges in Kerala. It includes the FDP Addon Course on BI with Tableau at Nirmala College, FDP on Cyber Security at TKM College of Engineering Kollam, FDP on IoT at Jyothi Engineering College, LTT on Digital Marketing at Rajagiri Viswajyothi College of Engineering and Technology, LTT program on CSA, ML & AI at Nirmala College, FDP on Computational Forensics at Carmel College of Engineering and Technology and a project mentoring program at



Session in Progress - Training session on Web Security Threats



Idea pitching competition guest - Mr. Gopu Darshan served as a judge for Ideathon 1.0.



Departmental Workshop - Training session in progress.

Marian College, Kuttikkanam.

The academy is leaving no stone upturned in ensuring that the next generation of professionals is well-equipped, with each session attracting over 30 participants.

Acabes Placement Drive

Acabes International Pvt. Ltd. conducted a three-day placement drive in partnership with the ICT Academy of Kerala providing job opportunities for 122 candidates. The first phase, held on the 27th and 28th of February at the Rajagiri School of Engineering and Technology, attracted over 1200 candidates. The last phase of the placement drive at the Providence Women's College, Kozhikode, was a success with the participation of 585 candidates. This event in February was a grand success as it recorded a total



participation of 1833 candidates.

Finalist in LinkedIn Talent Awards

The ICT Academy of Kerala has been named as one of the finalists in the category 'Learning Champion in Academia - India' in the LinkedIn Talent Awards 2022. The Talent Awards recognizes companies that lead the future of work through innovation and creativity based on their utilisation of LinkedIn Talent Solutions in India and activities on the LinkedIn platform. The Learning Champion in Academia award recognizes the institution that invested most effectively in learning and developing relevant skills. This nomination honours the academy's commitment to the skills acquisition of its workforce.

Concluding Thoughts



Acabes Placement Drive - Acabes conducted a three-day placement drive in association with ICTAK at Ernakulam & Kozhikode.

ICTAK continues to prosper and thrive in the new year with the same pulsating energy and spirit. The days are finally becoming longer, and we are more fruitful than ever. Revolutionary decisions were made like a job fair exclusively for women,

fueling and inspiring our journey ahead. The new year brings new opportunities for growth and development, and ICTAK is taking a proactive approach to achieve success.



The ICT Academy of Kerala is one of the finalists of the 2022 edition of LinkedIn Talent Awards in the category 'Learning Champion in Academia - India'.



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5. Select the course titled "Security Matters"
6. Click on Enroll me button and start learning

Attempt the Quiz at the end of the course. The first learner who successfully completes the quiz will get a LinkedIn Learning License worth 9,000 INR for 6 months period.



Continued from Page #10

wrong, but ensure that the studies which you do are relevant.

Q: What is your message to our readers who would like to pursue their careers ahead?

I will speak few things about studying abroad and career. The students should give more emphasis to the institution than the program because doing any program in a good institution is far more valuable than doing a so-called 'hot topic' in a not-so-good institution. So it is not the course which matters today. Moving from one branch to another branch, moving from one thing to another is not very difficult.

“

When individuals are planning to go abroad to pursue higher studies they should focus more on the quality of the institution.

One can always do multiple things simultaneously. What is required is a good environment of people who work with you on challenges. Select the right institution for starting your studies and choose a growing career. It's not like in the past, people can afford to take risks. So take a little bit of a risk and identify areas which actually excite you and which help you to really grow fast, be there and do the best in that.



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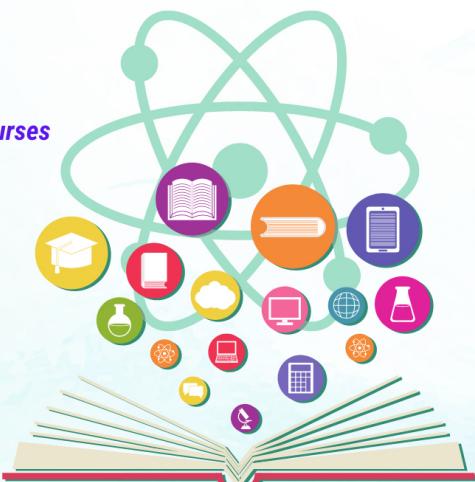
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IDEAS EVALUATED
11,354
STUDENT STARTUPS TRAINED
2,575

INSTITUTIONS CONNECTED
12,575
FACILITATORS TRAINED
2,563

Training

STUDENTS TRAINED
1,00,000+
CAPACITY BUILDING
2,000+
TEACHERS TRAINED
25,000+

Placements

JOB SEEKERS MOBILIZED
13,66,512
COMPANIES CONNECTED
2,210
VACANCIES CREATED
4,80,070
JOBS PROVIDED
14,417



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