

ETCETERA

■ Young Designer Award

Nippon Paint (India) Private Limited (Decorative Division), recently launched the AYDA (Asia Young Designer Award) 2020, India Edition, in a virtual conference. The theme for this edition is "Human Centered Design". Students and young professionals in the field of interior design and architecture can submit their projects based on the theme by October 31. More information at www.asiayoungdesignerawards.com

■ New PTE centres

Pearson recently announced a second wave of locations, including India and the U.K., where people can now take PTE as a Secure English Language Test (SELT) for UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) purposes. The U.K. government approved Pearson to open bookings for SELTs in a further 72 locations, with 15 centres being in India. Bookings can be taken at all locations, with 57 of these locations open now to deliver testing, and the remaining 15 to open once individual COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

■ New technology

IC1101, a conglomerate with tech-based innovative product development business, announced its association with NEHU (North-Eastern Hill University), Shillong, to bring a new invention: the Unique Non-Contact based IR Scanner invented by Dr. Sudip Paul at IC NEHU. Designed according to the WHO (World Health Organization) norms, it accurately measures body temperature from a distance of 100 cm. The scanner will help detect and control the spread of COVID-19.

■ Mentorship programme

Educational Initiatives, recently announced the launch of the ASSET Mentorship Programme 2020 (AMP) that will focus on building skill sets, with the support of personal mentors. AMP is an online programme that will guide aspiring students through the crucial years of academic development and help them make informed decisions about their higher education. More information at: www.assettalentsearch.com/asset-mentorship-programme/index.php

■ Aspiring entrepreneurs

Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai, has announced that their Atal-Great Lakes Balachandran Incubator (AGBI), a joint venture between Great Lakes and the AIM, Government of India, is currently hosting sessions on entrepreneurship and other concepts for aspiring entrepreneurs and incoming students. This is part of the institute's "Term Zero" initiative, an optional pre-commencement module for incoming students that prepares them for business school during the COVID-19 pandemic. Term Zero will continue until the end of July. The AG-

BI is currently accepting applications for incubation from startups. For more information, visit www.agbinc.in.

■ Digital campus

Great Learning, recently announced its new offering 'Olympus Digital Campus', an end-to-end cloud-based technology solution for online learning delivery and programme management, on a subscription basis to colleges and universities to help them deliver online and blended learning programmes. It supports all aspects of learning including live learning, time-tabling, proctored exams, assessments, grading, student collaboration, attendance, content development, progress/engagement tracking, and faculty feedback.

■ Free online learning

The University of Sheffield, UK, in partnership with FutureLearn, has a number of free, online taster courses to help you try a subject, meet academic staff and get a taste of university life. These no-obligation courses are an excellent way to evidence your learning and interest in a topic, especially when considering an application to university. Anyone can apply, without prior knowledge or skills as well. For more information, visit: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses>

■ Boosting virtual learning

Next Education Pvt. Ltd. has partnered with Vonage, a global business cloud communications leader, to cater to the increased need for virtual classroom sessions in 12,000+ schools across India due to COVID-19 lockdown. By embedding the Vonage Video API directly into Next Education's existing platforms, the education solutions provider can offer millions of children a simple remote, interactive, and adaptive assessments, live streaming, as well as classroom learning sessions.

■ First online B.Sc Degree

Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has announced the launch of India's first online B.Sc. Degree in Programming and Data Science open to anyone who has passed class XII, with English and Math in class X, and enrolled in any on-campus UG course. Students who are completing their class XII this year are also eligible. Graduates and working professionals can also apply. For more details about the programme, visit www.onlinedegree.iitm.ac.in.

■ IIM Ahmedabad Endowment Fund

The Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad recently announced the launch of the 'IIM Ahmedabad Endowment Fund'. With an initial commitment of ₹100 crore from 10 founding alumni, it aims to raise ₹1,000 crore over a period of five years. "These funds will play a significant role in realising the long-term goals of the Institute and retain its autonomy," said Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairperson, IIMA Board of Governors.