



Rajendra S. Pawar
Chairman,
NASSCOM

Mr. Rajendra S. Pawar is Chairman and co-founder of the NIIT Group, that encompasses two businesses—NIIT Technologies Limited, the software and services arm and NIIT Limited, the leading Global Talent Development Corporation. He is currently the Chairman of NASSCOM.

Set up in 1981, NIIT pioneered the computer education market in India, creating a completely new industry segment and taking it to consolidation and maturity. Mr. Pawar has played a leadership role in nurturing NIIT and building it into a leading Global Talent Development Corporation.

Mr. Pawar led NIIT's foray into the software and services market, creating NIIT Technologies, a global IT Solutions organization. Assessed at SEI-CMMi Level 5, NIIT Technologies serves clients across North America, Europe, Asia, Middle East and Australia. He has personally conceptualized and driven several initiatives that have enabled NIIT Technologies to rank among the frontrunners of the IT-BPO industry—an organization with significant stakes in IT services, Managed Services and BPO.

Mr Pawar is a member on the Prime Minister's National Council on Skill Development; has served on the Prime Minister's National Task Force commissioned to develop India into an IT Superpower; is an advisor to the Hunan Province of China and was a member of PIAC (Presidential International Advisory Council) of the Government of South Africa for IT. He is currently a member of the International Business Council of the World Economic Forum.

Actively involved in India's key Chambers of Commerce, Mr Pawar has led several ICT industry initiatives, giving voice to the sector's aspirations and goals. As President of MAIT (Manufacturers Association for Information Technology) in 1990-92, Mr Pawar integrated MAIT activities into those of other leading industry associations in India. MAIT played a significant role in shaping IT policies of Government of India, during his Presidency.

Acknowledging his contribution to the IT industry in India, Mr. Pawar has been awarded the country's prestigious civilian honour, Padma Bhushan by the President of India.

Global Business Intelligence firm, Ernst & Young conferred on Mr Pawar, its prestigious 'Master Entrepreneur of the Year Award', in 1999. He has also been named the 'IT Man of the Year' by IT industry journal, Dataquest. Pawar has been awarded 'The Global India Splendor Award' on the occasion of 60th year of India's independence, for his work on developing human resource potential. He is a Fellow of the Computer Society of India and the Institution of Electronics & Telecom Engineers.

Known for promoting industry-academia alliances, Mr. Pawar has been working closely with the country's wellknown educational institutions. He is on the Board of Governors of India's premier engineering institution, IIT Delhi; leading management institution, IIM Bangalore; country's first global business school, the Indian School of Business; and the Scindia School. Mr Pawar also serves on the Board of Management of world's largest distance learning university, Indira Gandhi National Open University.

Having revolutionized the IT Training industry, Mr Pawar is involved in establishing an innovative model in Higher Education. Currently a member of the Planning Commission's Consultative Group on Higher Education, he is deeply engaged in shaping the not-for-profit NIIT University. This University has been set up with a vision of being the leading centre of innovation and learning in emerging areas of the Knowledge Society.

Mr. Pawar studied at the Scindia School, Gwalior and graduated from the country's prestigious engineering institution, the IIT, Delhi in 1972 where he pursued the B. Tech programme in electrical engineering and received the Distinguished Alumnus Award of IIT in 1995. He has also been awarded an Honorary Doctoral Degree by the Rajiv Gandhi Technical University in 2005.

Mr. Pawar is an avid reader, writer and music buff.