LTIMindtree Foundation, FUEL, IDRP and IIIT Dharwad Launch Skill Development Program for Future Skills

Bengaluru, Dharwad, India, **November 18, 2024** — LTIMindtree Foundation, in collaboration with FUEL (Friends Union for Energising Lives), IIIT Dharwad Research Park (IDRP), and IIIT Dharwad, announce the launch of a transformative skill development program aimed at empowering underserved youth with essential skills for the IT, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Core Java industries. This certificate program for future skills is designed to bridge the gap between education and employability by providing them with the tools they need to thrive in the digital economy. The program will be conducted by faculty from FUEL Business School and IIIT Dharwad and a joint certification will be provided by LTIMindtree Foundation and IIIT Dharwad.

This certificate program, spearheaded by LTIMindtree Foundation, aims to empower students who have been out of formal education, with comprehensive training, internship opportunities, and stipend support. Delivered in collaboration with IIIT Dharwad, the curriculum features instructor-led and self-paced learning, workshops, expert talks, project work, and internships assuring a blended delivery model that provides both theoretical knowledge and practical industry experience.

The key features of this program are:
- Livelihood Support: Students will receive support to secure sustainable career opportunities in the IT sector.
- Career Awareness: Exposure to diverse work environments, career options, IT skills, and industry culture.
- IT Skill Education: Targeted education focused on preparing students for the IT jobs of the future.
- Apprenticeship Opportunities: Apprenticeship opportunities will help students transition smoothly into the IT industry.
- Certificate of Completion: A course completion certificate from IIIT Dharwad to enhance employability.

The program is specifically tailored for youths from marginalized and weaker sections of society who wish to pursue a career in IT, AI and Core Java. Women, as well as students in their final year of graduation or those who have recently graduated and are searching for IT, AI and Core Java jobs, are encouraged to apply.

"We are committed to advancing economic mobility by providing high-quality technology training to underserved youth. This program is a testament to our dedication to building a diverse talent pipeline and supporting India's leadership in the digital economy," said, **Paneesh Rao, Chief Sustainability Officer, LTIMindtree**.

"This collaboration is an important step towards empowering youth with future-ready skills and providing them with opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. We are proud to be part of this transformative journey," added, **Ketan Deshpande, Chairman, FUEL.**

"Our partnership with FUEL and LTIMindtree Foundation aims to bridge the skill gap in the IT, AI and Core Java industries by providing students with the right mix of technical and soft skills. We are excited to see the impact this program will have on the lives of these young individuals," emphasized **Prof. Mahadev Prasanna, Director, IIIT Dharwad**.

This skill development program combines comprehensive soft skills and aptitude training, technical education in Artificial Intelligence, and Core Java, and hands-on experience with leading IT companies. The goal is to equip

students with industry-relevant skills, provide a supportive learning environment, and facilitate pathways to sustainable livelihoods.

About LTIMindtree

LTIMindtree is a global technology consulting and digital solutions company that enables enterprises across industries to reimagine business models, accelerate innovation, and maximize growth by harnessing digital technologies. As a digital transformation partner to more than 700 clients, LTIMindtree brings extensive domain and technology expertise to help drive superior competitive differentiation, customer experiences, and business outcomes in a converging world. Powered by 84,000+ talented and entrepreneurial professionals across more than 30 countries, LTIMindtree — a Larsen & Toubro Group company — solves the most complex business challenges and delivers transformation at scale. For more information, please visit https://www.ltimindtree.com/.

About FUEL
FUEL (Friends Union for Energizing Lives) has been a transformative force for over 18 years, impacting over one million youth across India through skill development, STEM education, scholarships, and career counseling. Founded by Ashoka Fellow Ketan Deshpande and mentored by Santosh Huralikoppi, FUEL has reached 18 states, trained 293,768 individuals in future skills, counseled 902,882 students, and provided scholarships to 2,907 underprivileged students. FUEL Business School further empowers deserving students through a 100% scholarship program for BBA and PGDM courses, ensuring access to quality education. Supported by 76 corporate donors, including LTIMindtree, Castrol, BP, and Capgemini, FUEL is advancing toward launching FUEL International Skill Tech University to build specialized schools for future-ready skills.

About IIIT Dharwad Research Park

IIIT Dharwad Research Park (IDRP) focuses on incubation, industrial research and consultancy, skill development and online learning. Established in 2024 as a section 8 company by IIIT Dharwad to serve the objectives of enhancing industrial-academia linkage and carrying out academic social responsibility aspects of IIIT Dharwad. IDRP is currently executing several projects along these lines. They will do the overall coordination of this project among different partners.

About Indian Institute of Information Technology Dharwad

IIIT Dharwad is an Institute of National Importance set up in 2015 in Public-Private-Partnership mode between the Ministry of Education, Government of India, Government of Karnataka and industry partner Keonics under an Act of Parliament (23 of 2017). The primary objective of setting up IIIT Dharwad is to address the skill gap in high-end information technology and thereby enable India to retain its global leadership role in IT and allied areas.

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