

AICTE facilitates simulated training for students from rural areas

As many as 1,20,000 students got hands-on training in semiconductors, cybersecurity, and network engineering

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AICTE along with EduSkills Foundation is offering virtual internship opportunities to technical students from small towns and rural areas to create a talent pool of professionals skilled in semiconductors, cybersecurity, cloud technologies, and network infrastructure. Several students got to intern with companies such as Microchip, Juniper Networks, and AWS.

As many as 1,20,000 students have completed internships and a new cohort was recently launched by the AICTE chairman, Prof TG Sitharam.

The skilling programme will support students studying in colleges located in remote places, who lack opportunities to intern in corporates. The access to advanced technical opportunities provides them with training in simulated conditions to enable them to intern in Multinational Companies (MNCs). Students were selected after registering on the National Internship Portal and were trained by moderators to

work on real-time projects in nine collaborating companies including Microchip, Juniper Networks and AWS.

These virtual internships are being offered in 12 domain areas including cloud; AI-ML; data analytics; cybersecurity; embedded systems development; data ana-

lytics process automation; robotics process automation; process mining; networks security; network cloud; networking and robotic process automation development. Most students with BTech degrees or diplomas are interning on a stipend of Rs 5000-10,000.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi envisaged that at least 1 crore students should get internships by 2025. We have already reached 30 lakhs, we plan to involve more companies to expand the internship opportunities. So far, the focus is on emerging technologies and the superconductor industry," says Buddha Chandrashekar, chief coordinating officer, AICTE. Se-

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veral electronic companies are operational and many projects are in the pipeline that require a talent pool to work in silicon and semiconductor-based industries, says Chandrashekar.

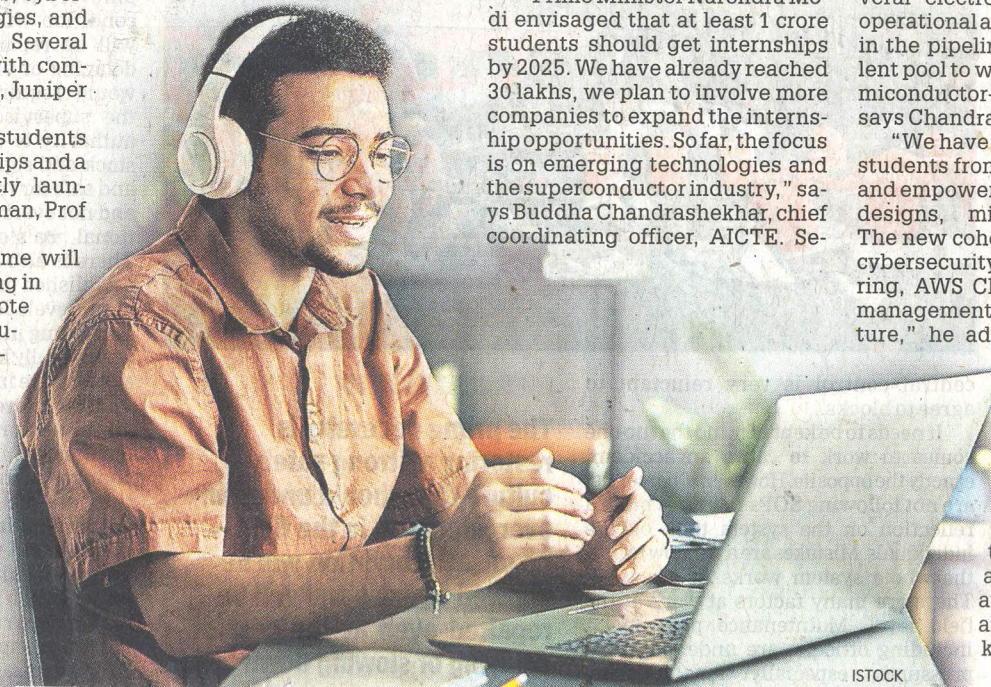
"We have given internships to students from rural areas to train and empower them to create VLSI designs, microcontrollers etc. The new cohort will be trained in cybersecurity, network engineering, AWS Cloud Security, cloud management and cloud architecture," he adds. To increase in-

ternship opportunities in rural and remote areas, training software had been downloaded in the institutions in these areas. The selected students were allowed to practise after regular classes and on the weekends. "After comp-

letion of training, the students submit their designs to the company they are interning with," says Chandrashekar, explaining that these internships are simulation-based. For instance, VLSI design can be done through software, and students can work on it in real-time.

Students were trained to make chips used in mobile phones, speakers, digital display boards, and microcontrollers. "Microchip, a leading tech company, is training students in electrical engineering and once students work on microchips then it gets easier for them to create nano chips. AICTE plans to onboard more companies so that students can pursue their interests in varied fields," says Chandrashekar, adding that trained professionals are also required for creating network infrastructure for implementing 5G operations across the country.

The initiative has created a win-win situation for both the industry and academia, says Anil Sahasrabudhe, former chairman, AICTE, and the present chairman, National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), "This initiative allows industries to benefit from the fresh and innovative technical ideas brought forth by young minds," he adds.



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