Software Technology Parks of India

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Newsletter

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Message from **Director General**

The Indian IT Industry played a cardinal role in catapulting the Indian economy to a higher echelon in 2018 by driving digital transformation across the board. On the cusp of technological disruption, India leveraged emerging technologies like AI, IoT, Cloud & Data Analytics and huge talent pool to steer inclusive growth by harping on the transformative power of IT. While the IT Industry noticed significant buoyancy in skilling and scaling, the high-octane growth in IT/ITeS exports shifted to digital solutions delivery making India a sweet spot for investment in domain-centric startups.

The IT-BPM Industry has transformed the Indian economy by building an ecosystem of entrepreneurship, innovation, employment generation and boosting IT/ITeS exports. It's pertinent to cite the success of India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) and North East BPO Promotion Scheme (NEBPS) in dispersing entrepreneurship to Tier-II/III cities and generating jobs for the local youth. Implemented by STPI, IBPS & NEBPS have together created 23,352 jobs in the small towns of India. Tech startups should disperse their operations to Tier-II/III cities and

In the backdrop of technological evolution in 2018, India noticed a groundswell of adoption of emerging technologies by IT Industry & startups. The Govt. of India set the context for National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence by sharpening its focus on five sectors viz. Healthcare, Agriculture, Education, Smart Cities & Infrastructure and Smart Mobility & Transportation to redefine India's leadership AI-led innovations. The economic opportunities through AI that India can achieve are huge. AI has the potential to transform the economic progress of the country. This dynamic shift requires innovation in AI to address the challenges in human-AI ecosystem. Innovation in AI can breed numerous solutions to address the societal issues.

Moving forward India can bolster its economy by recalibrating policies on emerging technologies, startups and research & development. While global technology behemoths are leveraging India's talent pool, business ecosystem and demographic dividend to further spur innovation, on domestic front Indian IT companies and startups can play a dominant role in collaborative research to fructify India's vision

> Moving forward India can bolster its economy by recalibrating policies on emerging technologies, startups and research & development. While global technology behemoths are leveraging India's talent pool, business ecosystem and demographic dividend to further spur innovation, on domestic front Indian IT companies and startups can play a dominant role in collaborative research to fructify India's vision for becoming the global leader in digital economy.

Dr. Omkar Rai
Director General, STPI

leverage the local talent to not only bolster research & innovation and develop superlative software products but also generate enormous employment opportunities for the worthy talent pool.

While the Indian IT Industry has made its presence felt across the world for technology prowess and superior service delivery to global corporate giants, on the domestic front India needs the participation of IT professionals in augmenting the socio-economic standards of underprivileged sections of society. From this vantage point, the Hon'ble Prime Minister urging the IT Industry for the larger good of society will herald a new direction for inclusive growth leading to New India.

Post launch of the Self4Society portal, various leading IT companies in India have shown their interest to strengthen this initiative. IT majors like HCL, Cognizant, KPIT, Dell, Cyient, D-Link, Tech Mahindra and NIIT have contributed significant efforts in addressing the social challenges in the areas of healthcare, nutrition, education, farming, cleanness, energy and mobility.

for becoming the global leader in digital economy.

With a vibrant startup ecosystem, accelerators & incubators can play a decisive role in bolstering investment & innovation in India. On this front, STPI is pioneering the incubation movement in India by nurturing startups and boosting innovation through domain-centric Centres of Excellence (CoEs). STPI is working in a collaborative model in partnership with industry, academia, industry associations and state governments to foster research & innovation and boost entrepreneurship by transforming startups and budding entrepreneurs as the change agents in India's growth narrative. Initiatives like Electropreneur Park, IoT Open Lab, Virtual/Augmented CoE, and the upcoming STPI CoEs in AI & Computer Vision, Blockchain, FinTech, Automotive Electronics, Big Data, MedTech, Gaming & Animation, HealthTech and Rural/Agri IoT will rev up the future innovations in India. As in the past, STPI has been the fulcrum of India's IT success, in the coming days it will transform India as a product nation and sustain the momentum for collaborative innovation to drive India's leadership in Industry 4.0 era, making India a trillion-dollar digital economy. ☐

IOTomation:
Pioneering Intelligent Building & Energy Automation System

IOTomation Technologies Pvt. Ltd. is a pioneer in designing, developing and manufacturing building automated solutions that not only improve homes, buildings, utilities, and offices, but also enable safer, efficient and more productive world. The company empowers customers with bespoke technology solutions that reduce operational costs while enhancing operational efficiency. IOTmation's intelligent building & energy automation system uses artificial intelligence that helps optimise the use of resources by reducing the wastage. Founded in 2016, IOTomation is headquartered in Noida with branches in Gurugram and Bengaluru. With 15 direct and 150 indirect employees, the company works on a pay-as-you-use model and has an order booking of over ₹ 4 crore. IOTomation team comprises technology experts, sustainability gurus, energy engineers, data scientists and master systems integrators that regularly work on the solution and keep it updated as per the latest technologies.

IOTomation has path-breaking intelligent utility automation system that ensures energy saving by 30%. The company has a centralised quick response emergency system which sends alert in case of any mishap while ensuring building completely monitored. IOTomation plans to design HVAC Field Controller and GSM-based Mini DDC to further augment building automation.

IOTomation's flagship product iBEMS is an intelligent building solution that not only automates and integrates various subsystems of a building on a single centralised platform but also optimises energy usage, improves productivity and increases energy efficiency. IOTomation has implemented IoT-enabled, comprehensive intelligent digital building solution in 8 buildings with a covered space of 5 million sq. ft. With the funding of ₹ 3.6 crore, IOTomation has a valuation of over ₹ 16 crore, which is a visible success for a three-year old startup.

Dharmendra Rathore
Founder & CEO, IOTomation

"Our intelligent building products based on cutting-edge IoT technology make us one of the top and upcoming product startups in India. Our success as a technology startup is largely because of our association with EP,"

While the growth of IOTomation has been spectacular since its inception, the success it has achieved over these years is largely credited to its association with Electropreneur Park (EP). As an EP incubatee, IOTomation has leveraged STPI's ESDM inubation facility based out in New Delhi. Apart from the state-of-the-art facility, EP provided the support of mentor pool to guide IOTomation along the product development lifecycle. EP ensured the company gets associated with quality mentors, who with their experience have shaped the direction they need to move in order to match the global perspectives in intelligent building automation system. EP also supported in showcasing their indigenous products to the global audience in United Kingdom, which resulted in IOTomation's business getting noticed in the global platform. IOTomation received the angel fund as soon as it got incubated in EP. The resources that EP contributed has helped IOTomation thrive and succeed. "Our intelligent building products based on cutting-edge IoT technology make us one of the top and upcoming product startups in India. Our success as a technology startup is largely because of our association with EP," concludes Dharmendra Rathore, Founder & CEO, IOTomation.

Product USP

Certified machines have helped companies saving energy by over 30%. A centralized quick response emergency system makes sound alert in case of any mishap while ensuring the building completely monitored.

EP's Role in Success

Electropreneur Park (EP) not only provided its product development centre to IOTomation for their research and development, but also it gave them a chance to showcase their indigenous products to the global audience in United Kingdom, which resulted in their business getting noticed in the global platform. EP also ensured that the company should be associated with the quality mentors, who with their experience have shaped the direction they need to move in order to match the global perspective. IOTomation received the angel fund as soon as they got incubated into EP. The resources that EP contributed have helped IOTomation's business thrive and succeed.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the Self4Society portal and mobileapp on 24th October 2018 in New Delhi urging the IT/ESDM industry to collaborate for accelerating inclusive growth of underdeveloped sections of society.

The portal based on 'I to We' concept (*Mai Nahi Hum*) enables IT professionals and organisations to synergise their efforts towards social causes and serve the society through single platform. It is a groundbreaking initiative to catalyse greater collaboration towards the service of weaker sections of society by leveraging transformational power of technology.

Interacting with IT and electronic manufacturing professionals, captains of industry and technocrats, the PM emphasised that many people want to work for the weaker sections, serve the society and make a positive difference.

Industry leaders from leading IT companies including Infosys, Bengaluru; TCS, Kolkata; Cisco Systems Pvt. Ltd, Bengaluru; Tech Mahindra, Hyderabad; Persistent Systems Ltd., Pune; Cognizant Technology Solutions India Pvt. Ltd., Chennai and Mindtree, Bhubaneswar interacted with PM. Various industry leaders including Shri Anand Mahindra, Smt. Sudha Murthy and Shri Subroto Bagchi talked to PM on their organisation's CSR initiatives.

Mrs. Sudha Murthy, Chairperson of Infosys Foundation interacted with the PM and congratulated him for making it mandatory for companies to spend two percent of their profits for CSR activities. Claiming that the Foundation has spent ₹ 1,200 crore in the past four-and-half years on CSR, she expressed how the Foundation is inspired by the Sanskrit hymn '*Desha Hitham Mamakaraniyam.*' To her question as to what inspired him to organise the town hall, PM retorted the key objective was to reach out to the needy through corporate.

Mr. Sameer Garde, President of Cisco India and SAARC said that the Company has a policy 'Time to Give' under which the employees volunteer and work with various organisations. He emphasised that the Cisco employees have served 35,000 hours of volunteering last year. Ms. Nancy Jain, an IT engineer and a volunteer from Cisco while interacting with the PM explained the services they deliver. Replying to Nancy's question, PM asserted that more people are paying taxes because they have faith that their money is being used properly and for the welfare of people. PM further added, "Paying tax is *prakriti* (natural)", and not paying tax is *vikriti* (deformity). But, paying tax plus doing more is *sanskriti* (acculturation)." The PM emphasised that he has been observing how India's youngsters are leveraging the power of technology efficiently not only for themselves but also for the welfare of others. He commended and encouraged the young social entrepreneurs for their involvement and efforts and underlined the role of Self4Society platform in creating better synergy among similar initiatives leading to better outcomes.

"The future of India is in technology and the technology is in your hands. This will take the country forward," said the PM.

Social inclusion will give impetus to India's impressive digital story. Weaved around this theme, the Self4Society event reminded IT professionals of their social responsibilities. The participants discussed as to how the vibrant IT and electronic sector can undertake initiatives and contribute in building a "New India".

"Every effort, however big or small, must be valued. Government may have schemes and budgets but the success of any initiative lies in public involvement. Let us think about how we can use our strengths to bring a positive difference in the lives of others," the PM further added.

Addressing the IT professionals, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon'ble Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology and Law & Justice said, "Indian IT companies have unfurled the Tricolour across the world with their commitment and power of technology. I am confident they can tell the world that by coming together they will transform and develop our country as well."

Numbers That Speak

- **725** venues across **104** cities where live interaction with PM was screened
- **4 lakh** IT professionals participated in the event
- **1.25 crore** impressions clocked on social media on the event day
- **1,33,000** tweets generated with #Self4Society hashtag
- **58,000** tweets generated with #STPIINDIA hashtag in three days

Activities & Events

STPI to Establish the First Fab Lab in Bhubaneswar

STPI and The Fab Foundation, USA have signed an MoU to establish it's first Fab Lab in Bhubaneswar. The upcoming Fab Lab, a collaborative initiative of STPI and Electronics & IT Department, Govt. of Odisha will create a vibrant ecosystem for startups and young techno-entrepreneurs of the region to bolster innovation. Ms. Sherry Lassiter, President & CEO, Fab Foundation shared her insights on digital fabrication at the STPI-HQ on 1st November 2018 in New Delhi. She articulated that India should leverage the digital fabrication concept to its advantage. "With the current revolution in digital fabrication, India has a chance to make a difference if right steps are taken right now. We need to democratise access to knowledge and tools in ways that are equitable and allow economic inclusion," she added.

Dr. Omkar Rai, DG, STPI said, "Entrepreneur and researchers are aspiring to innovate and the Fab Lab will provide an excellent platform for creativity and prototyping. India needs inclusive and affordable technologies to push itself forward as a Product Nation."

Ms. Lassiter also visited STPI-Bhubaneswar and Electropreneur Park, Delhi and interacted with startup professionals.

Make in Odisha Conclave 2018

Make in Odisha Conclave 2018, the flagship biennial business event, was organised by Government of Odisha for showcasing the policy and regulatory environment, attracting investment across focused sectors including IT & ESDM and boosting manufacturing in all industrial sectors. After the resounding success of the event in 2016, the State organised the second edition of the marquee event at Bhubaneswar during 11th-15th November 2018.

The conclave showcased the policy and regulatory environment, investment opportunities across focused sectors including IT & ESDM and the manufacturing prowess of the State to attract investment and promote IT/ITeS/ESDM exports from the State. STPI in collaboration with Electronics & Information Technology Department, Government of Odisha set up an IT pavilion where 11 leading IT startups including VARCoE, the STPI Centre of Excellence on AR & VR, showcased their products. A number of speakers shared their views on the role of IT/ESDM sector in the economic progress at the plenary session.

Shri Chandra Sarathi Behera, Hon'ble Minister, Electronics & IT Department, Govt. of Odisha along with Shri C. J. Venugopal, Principal Secretary, Electronics & IT Department, Govt. of Odisha and Shri Manas Panda, Director, STPI-Bhubaneswar in presence of other officials inaugurated the IT pavilion on 11th November 2018 and interacted with the entrepreneurs who displayed their products in the pavilion.

The IT pavilion by STPI and Electronics & IT Department, Govt. of Odisha was adjudged the best pavilion in terms of aesthetics, range of exhibits and products displayed and footfalls in the Conclave.

The products showcased in the event included Pollution Monitoring and Flood Management System, Energy Management System, Robotics Application, Cloud Services, Smart Mobility and Advanced Driver Assistance System, Touch Screen & Touch Panel Kiosk, Building Management System, Open Source Monitoring of Social Programmes and Industrial Weighing Automation.

4th India International Science Festival 2018

The 4th India International Science Festival (IISF) 2018 was inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind in the presence of Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister of Science & Technology, Govt. of India and Shri Yogi Adityanath, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh on 5th October 2018 at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Lucknow. The event was represented by approximately 10,000 delegates including 5,000 students, 550 teachers, 20 international delegates and around 200 startups. Focused on collaboration among industry, academia and government for making India a superpower in innovation and entrepreneurship, the event was organised by Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Earth Sciences in association with Vijnana Bharati during 5th-8th October 2018.

Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI addressed the participants and also visited STPI pavilion and interacted with units from Agra, Allahabad, Kanpur and Lucknow exhibiting their products and services.

Bengaluru Tech Summit 2018

The 21st edition of Karnataka State flagship Information Technology and Biotechnology event, Bengaluru Tech Summit 2018 was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri H. D. Kumaraswamy on 29th November 2018 at Bengaluru. The three-day event was bigger, better and more engaging than ever with global participants, industry captains, futurists and innovators showcasing the proud legacy of innovation in Karnataka.

Themed on 'Innovation and Impact,' the event largely focused on convergence of technologies including AI, IoT and blockchain and their application for addressing the challenges faced by healthcare, education, agriculture and energy sectors. While the established players have an advantage, the SMEs and startups need support to leverage these emerging technologies.

Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI during his address in the event asserted: "India is transforming from an outsourcing destination to a Product Nation because of strong IT Industry and its talent pool. R&D & innovation coupled with proactive government policies will reinforce India's leadership in product development."

Organised by the Department of Information Technology and Biotechnology, Government of Karnataka, in association with STPI-Bengaluru, the event witnessed the presence of many dignitaries including Shri K.J. George, Hon'ble Minister of IT, BT, S&T, Govt. of Karnataka; Shri R.V. Deshpande, Revenue Minister, Govt. of Karnataka; Ms. Kate Jones, Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development, Queensland, Australia; Shri Gaurav Gupta, Principal Secretary, Dept. of IT, BT, S&T, Govt. of Karnataka; Shri Kris Gopalakrishnan, Co-founder, Axilor Ventures; Shri Shailendra K. Tyagi, Director, STPI-Bengaluru and Dr. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Chairperson and Managing Director, Biocon.

STPI IT Export Awards

Every year STPI presents awards to IT companies in different categories to recognise their performance and contribution to the IT industry. The STPI IT Export Awards 2017-18 function, held on 29th November 2018 at Bengaluru recognised the top performing IT companies of Karnataka region in terms of exports, overall employment, women employment as well as employment to the differently-abled persons.

While addressing at the event Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI underlined the IT industry's contribution to global outsourcing market & exports made by Indian IT industry and its contribution to nation building, job creation and value creation in a continuous manner.

Student Delegation from Hamirpur visited STPI-Bengaluru

A delegation of meritorious students from Hamirpur constitueny, Himachal Pradesh visited Bengaluru Tech Summit 2018 on 30th November 2018 under Sansad Bharat Darshan. Accompanied by STPI-Bengaluru officials, the delegation visited various stalls and were educated about the latest IT startups. The students were excited to learn about the latest technologies showcased at the exhibition and expressed their interest for getting hands-on experience.

MSA for IoT OpenLab Signed

Shri Sanjeev Keskar, MD, Arrow Electronics and Shri Shailendra Tyagi, Director, STPI-Bengaluru signed the Master Service Agreement (MSA) for STPI IoT OpenLab Centre of Excellence (CoE) on 4th October 2018 in New Delhi in presence of Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI and Shri M.M. Natarajan, Vice President, South East Asia, Arrow Electronics. This CoE will focus on the application of IoT in healthcare, education, automotive, defence, aeronautics, industrial manufacturing and agriculture, and nurture startups to further deepen research & innovation and build solutions for these sectors.

USP
- Infrastructure support in the form of lab & ready-to-work office space
- Technical Mentoring
- Academic & Domain Expertise
- Industry & Market connect
- Funding support

Review Meet of MeitY Departments

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon'ble Minister of Electronics & Information Technology and Law & Justice, Govt. of India reviewed STPI, NIC and CSC on 13th October 2018 at Tirupati. Shri C.V.D. Ram Prasad, Director, STPI-Hyderabad along with NIC and CSC officials were present in the review meeting.

Hon'ble Minister said, "IBPS is one of the successful schemes of Govt. of India, which has focused on inclusive growth of the IT industry in Tier-II and Tier-III cities for creating rural employment." He also advised the IT/ITeS employees, especially women, to make use of various schemes and opportunities that are available under MeitY and various other Ministries of Govt. of India for skill development and women empowerment.

Hon'ble Minister further expressed happiness as this scheme has provided the employees an opportunity to work in their home town and support their families and also highlighted that most of these BPO companies are working with US and European clients.

Hon'ble Union MEIT Met with BPO Units of Tirupati

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon'ble Minister of Electronics & Information Technology and Law & Justice, Govt. of India visited Tirupati on 12th October 2018 to review the implementation of India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) in Andhra Pradesh and also interacted with BPO employees.

Five IBPS units M/s. AGS Health Pvt. Ltd, M/s. Venusgeo Solutions, M/s. Rapidcare Transcription Pvt. Ltd. and M/s. String Information Pvt. Ltd. participated during the interaction meeting. Apart from them some of the IT/ITeS companies who desired to set up IBPS units also interacted with the Hon'ble Minister.

Further, Hon'ble Minister exclusively interacted with 26 women employees from all the BPO companies who returned from Tier-I cities and are working in their home town.

Uttarakhand Investment Summit

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon'ble Minister of Electronics & Information Technology, Govt. of India participated in Uttarakhand Investment Summit and chaired the IT session along with other dignitaries on 7th October 2018 at Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, Raipur, Dehradun. The event was organised to attract investment in Uttarakhand in the areas of IT, ITeS and Biotech.

Hon'ble Minister assured support to create a robust digital connectivity in the state and announced additional 500 seats for Uttarakhand under India BPO Promotion Scheme.

Many dignitaries including Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand; Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat, Hon'ble State Minister (Independent Charge) for Cooperatives, Higher Education, Dairy Development and Protocols, Govt. of Uttarakhand; Shri R.K. Sudhanshu, IT Secretary, Govt. of Uttarakhand; Shri Amit Kr. Sinha, Director, ITDA, Govt. of Uttarakhand and Shri Rajneesh Agrawal, Director, STPI-Noida were present during the event.

Inauguration of CRISP at Indore

Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI inaugurated the Centre for Research and Industrial Staff Performance (CRISP) at Indore on 3rd November 2018. The event was attended by students, faculty members and staff of CRISP.

CRISP is a registered society set up by the Government of Madhya Pradesh and the Department of Technical Education for imparting trainings to industry personnel, government officials, faculties of academic and engineering/polytechnic institutions and jobseekers through its qualified, trained and experienced trainer.

The CRISP centre at Indore, established in partnership with ANTEK Skill Development and Education Society, will provide training in the areas of programming, networking, cybersecurity, data analytics, database administration, mobile applications, Tally and AutoCAD to jobseekers, students and the underprivileged sections of society.

India Joy 2018

Government of Telangana in association with Telangana VFX Animation & Gaming Association (TVAGA) conducted India Joy 2018, the largest digital entertainment, media expo and conference, during 2nd-6th December 2018 at Hyderabad.

India Joy is an aggregator platform, bringing together prestigious international events in one place to unfold opportunities for investors, corporations, studios, content developers, delegates, consumers, hardware manufacturers and students, through series of networking, trade exhibitions, product launches, and B2B & B2C events. The event attracted wide participation from industry with 25,000 delegates, 300 exhibitors and 500 speakers from 30 countries.

Addressing the inaugural session, Shri Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Department of IT, Govt. of Telangana said, "Hyderabad has witnessed tremendous growth and dynamism in the media and digital industry sector in the last few years, and has far outperformed all other sectors. At this juncture, giving a bigger push to the sector by organising a mega event like India Joy makes lot of strategic sense for the government. The government continues to extend crucial support to the sector keeping in view the huge growth potential. We expect more inward investments, more interest among the people to take up a career in the sector, and the emergence of a comprehensive and integrated ecosystem."

Shri Rajeev Chilaka, President, TVAGA said, "The media and digital entertainment segment are growing rapidly and there is strong interest among entrepreneurs, academia and professionals about its promise and potential in the global market. With an event like the scale of India Joy, this is bound to accelerate even further and position India as a favourable trade destination for media and digital entertainment."

STPI-Hyderabad participated in the event and set up a stall for the promotion of IMAGE incubation facility and other services of STPI.

Visit of Uzbekistan Delegation to STPI

A delegation of Republic of Uzbekistan met Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI at the STPI headquarters on 21st December 2018 to understand the evolution of Indian IT Industry, Government's promotional role, Single Window Clearance by STPI and the collaborative model built together with the industry. Before the visit to STPI headquarters, a delegation of four members of MITC, Uzbekistan led by Mr. Khurshid Kamilov, Deputy Head of Department (MITC) also visited STPI-Bengaluru on 18th December 2018 to understand the functions and operations of IT Parks.

STPI has signed a pre-agreement with the Ministry for Development of Information

Technologies and Communications (MITC) for setting up IT Parks and enabling an ecosystem for growth of IT industry including startups in Republic of Uzbekistan.

INFOCOM Kolkata 2018

STPI-Kolkata co-hosted INFOCOM 2018 and organised STPI Export Awards 2017-18 for the state of West Bengal from 6th to 8th December 2018 at Kolkata.

Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI while speaking at the inaugural session of the event emphasised, "India will emerge as the hub for product innovation powered by talent, experience and exposure of IT services industry. India's economy is one of the fastest-growing in the world. We have great potential and we now aspire to be the Product Nation & Startup Capital of the world."

Many dignitaries including Shri Amit Mitra, Minister for IT & Electronics, Finance, Industry & Enterprise and MSME & Textiles, Govt. Of West Bengal; Mr. Mustafa Jabbar, Minister of Post, Telecom and IT, Peoples Republic of Bangladesh; top CIOs/CISOs from the SAARC nations; well-known industry leaders;

entrepreneurs and academicians from across the world participated in the event.

During the event, STPI Export Award 2017-18 was also given to recognise the registered IT/ITeS companies in West Bengal for playing a prominent role in boosting the software exports from the state. The awards were categorised in terms of the volume of annual exports of the companies in crores of rupees.

CEO Get-together at Chennai

Dr. Sanjay Tyagi, Director, STPI-Chennai delivered a special address to the CEOs on STPI initiatives and services during the NASSCOM CEO Get-together event held on 19th December 2018 at Chennai. Many dignitaries including Shri Sunil Paliwal, Principal Secretary, Labour and Educational Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu; Dr. M.K. Shanmuga Sundaram, Development Commissioner, MEPZ; Shri Sridharan Sivan, Chairperson, NASSCOM Tamil Nadu Regional Council and MD, S10 Healthcare Solutions Pvt. Ltd.; Shri Ramkumar Ramamoorthy, Executive Director, Cognizant Technology Solutions and Shri Srikanth Srinivasan, Director, Member Outreach, NASSCOM participated in this event.

Certificate of Appreciation for CoE Bhubaneswar

The Virtual/Augmented Reality Centre of Excellence (CoE), a collaborative effort of STPI-Bhubaneswar and Indian Institute of Technology-Bhubaneswar, received the certificate of appreciation for spearheading a resource project in 26th National Children's Science Congress held at Bhubaneswar during 27th-31st December 2018.

17th Edition of CII Connect 2018

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organised the 17th edition of Connect 2018 – India's premier ICT annual event with the theme "Accelerating Progress: Inclusive Digital Growth" – on 9th & 10th October 2018 at Chennai. The event was jointly organised by the Govt. of Tamil Nadu and CII.

Connect 2018 broadly touched upon how potential technologies have transformed the works and lives of people, especially enabling businesses disrupt the traditional market by adopting new technologies and building innovations. Shri Edappadi K. Palanisamy, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu during his speech emphasised on the role of STPI in promoting the IT/ITeS industry and boosting exports from the state of Tamil Nadu and appreciated the efforts of the state government for setting up FinTech

CoE at Chennai in collaboration with STPI. The objective of this CoE is to help startups get access to facility, technology, mentorship and support for kickstarting their business in the area of FinTech.

Dr. Sanjay Tyagi, Director, STPI-Chennai delivered a special address during the inaugural session and highlighted the role of India BPO Promotion Scheme implemented by STPI for job creation in Tier II/III cities of Tamil Nadu.

STPI-Patna Participated in Rozgar Mela

STPI-Patna participated in Rozgar Mela hosted jointly by National Skill Development Corporation, Govt. of India and Department of Labour Resource, Govt. of Bihar at Patliputra Ground during 4th-6th December 2018.

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon'ble Minister for Electronics & IT and Law & Justice inaugurated the event and also visited the STPI pavilion with other dignitaries.

STPI-Patna showcased its different services and strengths under Digital India initiative and the role played by them in the growth of IT/ITeS industry of the region.

Ideathon 2018

Ideathon 2018, organised by Dept. of Information Technology, Govt. of Bihar and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), held during 3rd-4th December 2018 at Patna. Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI addressed the IT professionals and distributed prizes to the winners of Ideathon 2018.

Ideathon 2018 was conducted to provide a platform for professionals, students, entrepreneurs and commercial establishments to help them showcase new ideas in their respective fields. Investors, venture capitalists and IT firms also participated in this two-day event.

ICACIE 2018

ICACIE is a multidisciplinary conference organised with the objective of bringing together academicians, scientists, research scholars and students working in all areas of advanced computing and intelligent engineering. Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI addressed the 3rd International Conference on Advance Computing and Intelligent Engineering 2018 (ICACIE 2018) organised by SOA University at Bhubaneswar on 24th December 2018. He emphasised on how India is heading towards a product nation with various activities and opportunities created by IoT, AI and Big Data Analytics. He also awarded certificates to presenters of best research papers.

Inauguration of Repco Bank Co-location Service

Dr. Sanjay Tyagi, Director, STPI-Chennai and Smt. R.S. Isabella, MD, Repco Bank along with senior officials from Repco Bank inaugurated the co-location of server racks at MSITS Data Centre, STPI-Chennai on 12th November 2018. Dr. Tyagi welcomed the Repco Bank officials for availing the

co-location service and emphasised on the significance of Tier III Data Centre. Smt. R.S. Isabella expressed gratitude for co-locating server racks in the safe & secure envirovnment at STPI-Chennai and hoped that Repco Bank would provide uninterrupted services to their customer.

Visit of British Deputy High Commissioner

British Deputy High Commissioner, His Excellency, Mr. Jeremy Pilmore-Bedford visited STPI-Chennai on 16th November 2018. Dr. Sanjay Tyagi, Director, STPI-Chennai discussed on a range of topics including the importance of FinTech CoE in a digitally inclusive society, cross-border collaborations in FinTech and the opportunities available for both India and UK with him.

Sudan Delegation Visit

A six-member delegation under the Ministry of Industry and Investment from Khartoum, State of Sudan visited STPI Hi-Tec City office on 4th December 2018 to understand the working models, management and practices followed by STPI in India,

The delegation visit was organised by CrAdLE (Centre for Advancing and Launching Enterprises), a Technology Business Incubator promoted by Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB) and Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India.

Odisha Startup Policy Meeting

Shri Manas Panda, Director, STPI-Bhubaneswar participated in 11th Task Force Meeting under Odisha Startup Policy chaired by Additional Chief Secretary, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Department, Govt. of Odisha on 28th December 2018. During the meeting, 12 innovative product ideas from startups were presented and evaluated for financial assistance.

CII IoT-AI Summit 2018

STPI co-hosted the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) 2nd edition of IoT-AI Summit, a one-day conference with the theme "Transforming Enterprises into Smart & Intelligent Businesses", held on 20th December 2018 at Hyderabad.

Smt. L Ramadevi, Director, Emerging Technologies & OSD, IT, Electronics & Communications Department, Govt. of Telangana said, "The State government has been piloting several use cases of projects that use IoT and AI to improve governance and offer better services."

Shri C.V.D. Ramprasad, Director, STPI-Hyderabad in his special address to industry said, "STPI will be establishing a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Computer Vision, Gaming and Animation in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Govt. of India; Government of Telangana and local industry bodies such as Telangana VFX, Animation and Gaming Association (TVAGA) and HYSEA to support startups by providing mentorship and industry connect initially with a 100-seat facility in the next couple of months at STPI's existing incubation space in Madhapur with an investment of Rs. 20 crore over five years."

Visit of Goa IT Secretary to STPI-Pune

Shri Ameya Abhyankar, IT Secretary, Govt. of Goa, visited STPI-Pune office on 10th October 2018 and shared his views on various promotional schemes of Government of Goa. He also interacted with one of the BPO unit's representatives and explained how the state government is providing various benefits to set up new BPO/ITeS operations in Goa under India BPO Promotion Scheme.

National Workshop on Android App Testing

A national workshop on Android app testing was conducted during 1st-5th December 2018 in association with National Institute of Technology, Rourkela wherein Joint Director & OIC, STPI-Rourkela was invited as guest-of-honour. He highlighted STPI's initiatives for creating multiple Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in emerging technologies for the promotion of innovation-led products, IPR generation and creation of jobs.

The objective of this workshop was to discuss about practical and theoretical aspects of Android app testing and to exchange research ideas and challenges being faced by the developers' community. Around 150 participants from all over India comprising research scholars, students, industry representatives and professionals from IT/ITeS sector attended this workshop.

TiECON Kolkata 2018

The two-day entrepreneurship summit TiECON Kolkata 2018 with the theme "The Tipping Point — Accelerating the Growth of Entrepreneurship in East India" was organised by the Kolkata Chapter of The Indus Entrepreneurs with the support of STPI-Kolkata from 2nd to 3rd November 2018 at Kolkata. Over 1,000 entrepreneurs from Kolkata and East India and 40 global, national entrepreneurs & experts participated in the event.

The event provided a platform for entrepreneurs to showcase and share their experiences and learn from each other. In this edition, entrepreneurs came up with new ideas to get non-binding term sheet and also got a platform to attract marquee investors.

Agri-Digital Connect Workshop

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in association with Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU) organised an Agri-Digital Connect Workshop with the theme of "Empowering Agriculture with Digital Technologies" at the university campus at Hyderabad on 27th November 2018.

Dr. V. Praveen Rao, Vice-Chancellor, PJTSAU urged the students to adapt to new changes and leverage technological disruptions that are revolutionising the agriculture.

Shri Anil Kumar V. Epur, former Chairman of CII Southern Region said, "The current and upcoming technologies like IoT, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Drones and Blockchain hold the potential of catalysing innovations in organisation that leads to improvement of agricultural models."

Shri C.V.D. Ramprasad, Director, STPI-Hyderabad in his inaugural address said, "There are lot of opportunities with digital revolution and the same can be used for the betterment of agriculture and allied industries."

DG, STPI Awarded Technology Icon Award

The North East Technology Sabha, a two-day conference organised by The Indian Express group, was held at Guwahati during 23rd-24th November 2018. The conference explored new trends and innovations in creating a digital ecosystem for accelerating e-Governance initiatives.

The conference featured thought leaders from various government organisations who have undertaken some of the best Government-to-Government, Government-to-Citizen and Government-to-Business initiatives.

Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI was conferred the "Technology Icon" award for his outstanding contribution in promoting the IT industry in global platforms. While receving the award he said, "The recently launched Digital North East Vision 2022 is another milestone in the journey of North East's mission for digital transformation. This programme will empower the North Eastern states to develop state-wise roadmaps for implementing digital initiatives and become an integral part of the trillion dollar digital economy that India is aspiring to achieve in near future."

He further added that STPI is setting up eight Centres of Excellence in emerging technologies in North Eastern states with Innovation Zones to take it along with the rest of India, which is fast emerging as Product Nation.

Roadshows and Signing of MSA by IBPS & NEBPS Units

During the period October-December 2018, Master Service Agreements (MSA) have been signed with eligible companies to set up 39 BPO/ITeS units across the country under India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) and North East BPO Promotion Scheme (NEBPS). This corresponds to total 6,725 seats distributed in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

The top three companies in terms of seats allocated are M/s. Omics International Pvt. Ltd., M/s. CRM Services India Pvt. Ltd. and

M/s. Mahima Technology Pvt. Ltd. who have been allocated 1,998, 600 and 300 seats respectively.

To promote and attract potential bidders for IBPS and NEBPS, STPI Directorates oraganised seven roadshows during November and December at Mohali, Bhubaneswar, Pune, Coimbatore, Patna, Visakhapatnam and Ranchi. RFPs for 8th round of India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) and 11th round of North East BPO Promotion Scheme (NEBPS) were published on 6th November 2018. The online bid submission was started on 4th December 2018 and closed on 19th December 2018. Total 38 companies participated in bidding for IBPS and one company bidded for NEBPS.

Review Meeting by Hon'ble MoS at Patna for MeitY

Shri S.S. Ahluwalia, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Govt. of India visited STPI-Patna Patliputra Incubation Facility and chaired the review meeting with officials of STPI, NIC-DGRC, NIELIT and CSC on 8th October 2018.

Vibrant Gujarat Startup & Technology Summit 2018

STPI-Gandhinagar supported and participated in the Vibrant Gujarat Startup and Technology Summit 2018 during 11th-13th October 2018 at Gandhinagar. The event was organised by Gujarat Electronics & Software Industries Association (GESIA) in association with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI). The three-day event was aimed to promote micro, small and medium entrepreneurs by creating conducive environment for entrepreneurship in the field of IT/ITeS and also provided an unparalleled opportunity to Government, Startups and SMEs to showcase India's innovations, investment environment and new business opportunities. Shri Vijay Rupani, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat visited STPI exhibition stall on the first day of the event.