STPI

एसटीपीआई

Three Decades of Impactful Journey

30 Years of TRIUMPHAL JOURNEY

Contents

Message from Director General

Every journey begins with an impassioned pursuit; a pursuit that encompasses a vision to architect significant milestones while embarking on the journey so that a flashback in future would look immensely incredible. A little over 30 years ago, visionaries in India like Shri M.G.K. Menon, Shri K.P.P. Nambiar and Shri Narasimhiah Seshagiri envisioned the humongous opportunities of growth and enormous potential for job creation in the IT sector through software services and outsourcing. With much deliberation, they plotted the frameworks for the legal, operational and business processes to nurture the IT sector. Subsequently, the Software Policy was introduced in 1986, published in the Gazette of India, to promote software development and exports. The first historic event that heralded the genesis of IT Industry in India was the establishment of three Software Technology Parks at Bhubaneswar, Bengaluru and Pune in 1989. Consequently, in 1991 these three STPs were legally merged to create a single national-level organisation Software Technology Parks of India (STPI). STPI, under the tutelage of Shri N. Vittal, the then Secretary of Department of Electronics in 1991, was nurtured, empowered and strengthened to address the contemporary challenges of IT industry by warranting various proactive policies. The rest is history.

STPI has been acting as a potential facilitator to develop a promising ecosystem for the IT/ITeS industry in India. The persistent efforts of STPI in necessitating business-friendly environment have immensely attracted global MNCs to establish their offshore development centres and R&D campus in metros. Consequently, FDI in IT industry poured in to further bolster the operations of Indian IT companies and exports in this sector.

Over these 30 years, STPI has created many milestones while promoting the Indian IT industry in the global market. The journey of STPI is replete with many firsts and superlatives. STPI has been on the forefront of bringing comprehensive reforms for the Indian IT industry since its inception, which is being reflected on the glorious performance of this industry at world stage. To boost software exports, STPI started providing high speed data communication services to STPI member units in 1992 via satellite communication. In 1993, with another pioneering technological initiative in India, STPI established video conferencing facility between Bengaluru and Washington, DC. The industry has been greatly benefitted by STP schemes over the years. Today, the exports made by STPI-registered IT/ITeS units have increased from ₹ 3,50,679 crore in FY 2016-17 to ₹ 3,75,988 crore in FY 2017-18 with a growth rate of 7.2%. The cumulative exports clocked by STPI members between 1991 and 2018 stands at ₹ 35,22,770 crore. This is no mean achievement.

As the world is cavernously heading towards Industry 4.0 era, STPI has left no stone unturned to revolutionise the IT policy ecosystem in India to consummate the changing demands of industry and envisage India as a product nation. As an industry facilitator, STPI has been bringing out futuristic programmes apropos the technological advancements. STPI has also been continuously providing inputs to the Govt. for the raising demand of industry time to time. The launch of National Policy on Software Products (NPSP) and National Policy on Electronics (NPE) by

Dr. Omkar Rai
Director General, STPI

> **STPI's commitment towards transforming India as product nation will unwaveringly galvanize all stakeholders in achieving this mission in times to come.**

MeitY this year also echoes the vision of STPI for transforming India as a global software and electronics product leader.

Since its inception, STPI has nurtured over 10,000 startups and MSMEs and many of them today are IT behemoths. STPI's sharp focus on startups and software products development can fuel the growth of IT industry and will make India the most preferred country for partnering technology business with the right skill with right pricing and supportive government policies. Technology is changing very fast, and so is STPI.

To sustain the growth that the IT industry has achieved in last 30 years, STPI aims to build India's leadership in emerging technologies such as IoT, Blockchain, AI, ML, AR & VR, FinTech, MedTech, Health Informatics, Gaming & Animation, Data Science & Analytics, Cyber Security, Chip Designing, ESDM etc. by setting up 21 domain-centric Centers of Excellences (CoEs) in collaborative manner across India. CoEs will play a major role by creating a vibrant ecosystem at the bottom of the industry pyramid with an aim to nurture and equip budding entrepreneurs with the desired training, skill and capability in disruptive technologies. As India is on the glide path of emerging as the frontrunner of adopting disruptive technologies, CoEs will unequivocally play the role of facilitator and spur the desired momentum to the future growth of IT industry.

The journey that STPI has embarked on is amaranthine. STPI takes pride in the stupendous growth achieved by IT Industry during last three decades. STPI has persistently endeavoured to promote the Indian IT industry in global platforms and bolster software exports in a discernible estimation. STPI's commitment towards transforming India as product nation will unwaveringly galvanize all stakeholders in achieving this mission in times to come. ☐

I would say that one of the main reasons why the software industry took off in 1991-92 and has reached the level and India becoming the software centre of the world is primarily due to the Software Technology Park model that was designed by the Department of Electronics and continued by the Ministry of Information Technology. I am very, very grateful to STPI for all the wonderful policies they have put in place and everybody in the software industry in India must be very grateful to them.
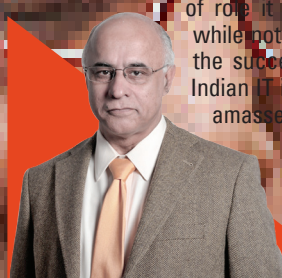
Shri N. R. Narayana Murthy
Founder & Chairman Emeritus,
Infosys Limited

The Indian IT industry happened because the government set up STPI. I still remember very clearly, when even the largest Indian IT companies like Wipro, TCS and Infosys could not afford to buy a two crore earth station. That point in time STPI was set up to create common infrastructure and provide the enabling conditions to IT industry, which was very nascent then. STPI is an arm of the government, yet it's the most entrepreneurial, risk taker and all of us are deeply indebted to the kind of role it has played, while not claiming all the success that the Indian IT industry has amassed for itself.

Shri Subroto Bagchi
Co-Founder, MindTree

Every industry needs a catalyst and for the IT industry, I think the STP scheme has been one of the major catalysts. I still remember, 30 years ago many of us started IT companies and were struggling for support from the government. The STP scheme came as a real shot in the arm because it enabled us to set up our own units. The scheme was visionary in every aspect of what we try to do since then. I think that a partnership between government, industry and people is working for this industry. I think STPI can take a lot of credit for making that collaboration to happen.

Dr. Ganesh Natarajan
Executive Chairman & Founder, 5F World

Persistent Systems is really a Software Technology Park based company. We were one of the first companies to be established in STPI-Pune and that was our primary business in early years. We were also the first company to export software from any STP units in 1991. We would not have existed without the support we got from the STP scheme in early years. The early years were really tough and STPI helped us with compliance, statutory requirements, networking facilities, incubation facilities and setting up space, which without STPI's support, a company like ours would not have existed.

Dr. Anand Deshpande
Founder, Persistent Systems

I feel delighted to speak about STPI because my journey as an entrepreneur started with launching of STP scheme by Government of India. Such schemes made STPI very successful in initial period, but equally important the people who actually managed the STPI with the extremely positive mindset to make sure that the scheme would become successful. There was actually unwritten law between the industry and the STPI. The old golden days that any paper we gave them could come back to us in 24 hours with the necessary approvals. Initial stages were great; it continues to do good work even now.

Shri BVR Mohan Reddy
Founder & Executive Chairman,
Cyient Limited

STPI started its operations nearly three decades back. Since then it has been helping the IT industry to grow and nurture. During the initial days, STPI provided Datacom services, because there were no service providers in India available then. In the 17 years that we have been with STPI, it has helped us to grow our business multi-fold. As the part of STPI scheme, we enjoyed many benefits including exemption of income tax and custom duties during these years. STPI and its staff have been extremely helpful and make sure that they are no hurdles towards the conduct of our business.

Shri Sachidanand Varadarajan
VP (Engineering), Qualcomm

Directors' Cut

From its nascent stage three decades ago, STPI has embarked on its mission to accomplish the vision of the government by making our country a global IT force. Simultaneously, during the aforesaid journey it has also created a powerful ecosystem to nurture startups, MSMEs, and budding entrepreneurs in IT/ITeS sector. Today, STPI is synonymous with the global success of Indian IT industry and as a way foreward it will strive to build a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem in the country.

Shri Devesh Tyagi, Senior Director, STPI-HQ

STPI has been the engine of growth of IT/ITeS industry in the country and transforming India as the global software hub. STPI is the pioneer in setting the startup movement in India through its incubation facilities. I am thoroughly enjoying working in STPI, an evolving and learning organisation with corporate professionalism and nation building commitments. I congratulate all fellow STPIians for maintaining the ecosystem.

Shri P.K. Das, Director, STPI-Guwahati

It was an exciting journey for STPI during the last three decades in serving the IT/ITeS industry. STPI has been addressing the most important needs of the IT Industry since its formation by providing statutory support, high-speed data communication and incubation facilities for boosting IT/ITeS exports. Establishment of Electropreneur Park, Fab Lab and CoEs across the country will strengthen the continued efforts of STPI in supporting the IT Industry.

Shri CVD Ramprasad, Director, STPI-Hyderabad

It has been a great journey to be associated with STPI. We have been instrumental in implementing all the reforms, incentives conceived and introduced by the Government of India through Foreign Trade Policy in the 90's for the growth of IT industry in the country. The success of STPI in boosting the software exports from the metros has resulted in dispersing its operations to the Tier-II/II cities.

Dr. Sanjay Tyagi, Director, STPI-Chennai

STPI has played a role of catalyst in promotion of IT/ITeS industry by providing stupendous services since last three decades. With STPI's tremendous support, Indian IT/ITeS industry has created global footprint with expanding economy to propel growth and employment opportunities in the country. STPI aims to make the Indian IT/ITeS industry world-class by providing a platform to understand and adopt new policies & best practices.

Shri Sanjay Kumar Gupta, Director, STPI-Pune

STPI is the most industry-friendly organisation for the growth of the IT startup ecosystem in India. With the evolution of technology, STPI has been constantly transforming itself to address the challenges of industry. Recent initiatives like setting up 21 CoEs in emerging technologies will play a game-changer in India's vision to become the global tech startup hub. All STPIians together will make this happen.

Shri Subodh Sachan, Director, STPI-HQ

STPI's endeavours have yielded remarkable results in last three decades. The effective implementation of policies and providing quality datacom links paved the way for evolution of IT industry, boosting large scale employment. The strategies and wisdom of IT industry coupled with STPI's support have enabled India to emerge as the IT super power. I take pride in working with STPI. May it rise to the highest glory.

Shri Rajneesh Agarwal, Director, STPI-Noida

Moving up the value chain, under the dynamic and visionary current leadership, STPI has reinvented itself from a provider of conventional incubation to next-gen incubation, from NOC to datacentre, from computing facility to CoEs to fulfill the mission of building a software product nation. During the last three decades, STPI has contributed significantly to the greater IT visibility enjoyed by the states and the country.

Shri Manas Panda, Director, STPI-Bhubaneswar

With great leadership backed by highly professional and skilled employees, STPI in the last three decades has transformed the IT industry landscape by making India as the preferred IT destination in the global map, accelerating the economy and creating millions of jobs. With this, STPI has set an example as one of the best government body to administer government policies in promotion of IT industry.

Shri Shailendra Kumar Tyagi, Director, STPI-Bengaluru

With good talent pool in STPI, we could successfully place our nation as the best and happening IT destination in the globe. The kind of effectiveness we had maintained in managing various schemes proves the commitment and keeps us moving forward.

Shri S.R.Subramaniam, Director, STPI-Thiruvanthapuram

In the early 90's when creation of IT infrastructure was a formidable task, STPI provided world-class state-of-the-art infrastructure with plug-n-play facilities that significantly supported budding entrepreneurs to join the IT export bandwagon. STPI's pan-India incubation facilities helped the dispersal of IT industry to tier-2/3 cities and warranted equal opportunity to talented local youth.

Shri Paritosh Dandriyal, Director, STPI-HQ

1991

3 STPs merged to establish Software Technology Parks of India on June 5 that heralded a paradigm shift in addressing the challenges of Indian IT industry.
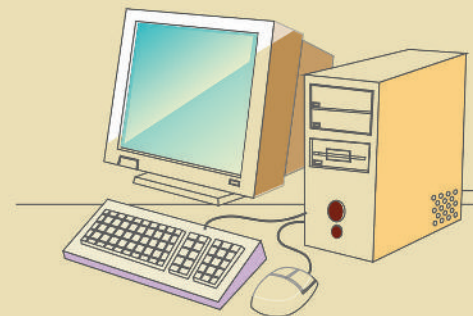
1992

STP & EHTP schemes were implemented via single window clearance to accelerate software & electronic hardware exports, clocking an inspiring ₹ 17 crore, first time by STPI members. Satellite-based High-Speed Data Communication (HSDC) services was launched to bolster software exports, spearheading the last-mile connectivity. This enabled companies develop software on their international clients' computers from India.

1993 - 94

To expand the international business of STPI units, STPI was the 1st org. in India to demonstrate video conferencing facility between USA & Bengaluru, and further collaborated with 20 international carriers such as New York, London, Netherlands & Germany, connecting the world. STPI was the only Class-A commercial Internet Service Provider for IT industry, govt. & academia in India. STPI launched first of its kind Incubation services where 156 STPI members availed 1.8 lakh sq. ft. space pan India.

1989

The Journey Begins

Establishment of Software Technology Park (STP) at

Bhubaneswar | Bengaluru | Pune

to promote software exports was a pioneering step to realise the potential of global IT opportunities.
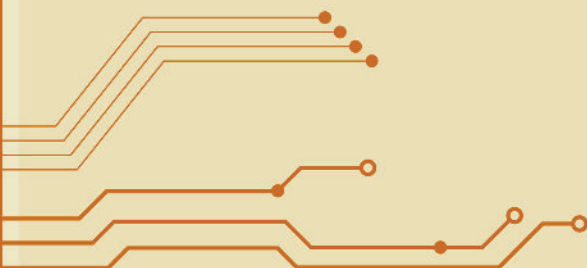
1995-97

To encourage investment (both domestic and FDI) & entrepreneurship in IT industry, tax holiday benefits under 10A & 10B were provided to the software exports units. In a span of 5 years, exports of STPI units increased 10,000% from an impressive ₹ 17 cr in 1992 to ₹ 1780 cr in 1997.

STPI also started offering consultancy in 1995 with an ambitious software development project for a Japanese tech major, Fujitsu.

1997-99

STPI units clocked ₹ 3.4k cr exports, contributing towards 52% of national software exports. An impressive 1.3 lakh employment provided by STPI units. Identifying the needs of IT industry, STPI collaborated with 57 international carriers to provide connectivity to STP units promoting software exports across the globe.

2000-02

In a matter of just 2 years, STPI more than doubled the no. of centres from 15 in 2000 to 35 in 2002.

The world started seeing STPI as a great example whilst replicating the STP model. STPI collaborated with Mauritius to execute the "Ebene Cyber City Project" and with UNESCO to replicate STP model in Nepal.

2003-04

In 2004, India announced itself online via .in domain. STPI acted as a backbone for implementing .in Internet Domain Name Policy that resulted in 75,000 .in domain registrations in the very first week of its opening up to the public. All 40 centres with more than 50% in Tier II/III cities launched satellite gateways across the country. 3 lakh sq. ft. incubation facility was made available pan India. STPI also set up technology infrastructure for NIXI and CERT-In.

2005-07

STPI units set another massive milestone by clocking more than ₹ 1 lakh crore exports, accounting for 95% of India's software exports. Also, helped set up IT Parks in developing countries like Cote d'Ivory, Bhutan and Cyprus. 1 million employed directly in IT/ITeS sector with 75% employment from STPI units.

Bengaluru was identified as a startup-focused community and Orchid Techscape was created to encourage the startups to own the Intellectual Property within India and strengthen the startup ecosystem.

2008 -12

In 20 years, STPI grew from 3 to 51 centres pan India with 44 centres in Tier-II/III cities, enabling the dispersal of IT industry. 2 million direct employment in IT/ITeS sector with a consistent 75% of the total employment were provided by STPI units. In a span of 9 years, employment grew 11 times from 1.3 lakh to 15 lakh.

STPI units doubled the exports in just 3 years with over ₹ 2 lakh crore exports in 2009. STPI also provisioned 1 Gbps bandwidth to customers across the country.

Despite the lapse of tax exemption provided to STP units under 10A/10B on March 31, 2011, STPI units grew tremendously due to ease of doing business, no administrative hurdles and transformative efforts while implementing the STP/EHTP scheme expeditiously.

2013 -18

STPI units clocked over ₹ 3 lakh crore exports in 2013.

To position India as a global hub for ESDM, STPI launched Electropreneur Park, first of its kind incubator. STPI, in association with Govt. of Karnataka, also setup Semiconductor

Characterization Lab in Bengaluru, known as SMART (Semiconductor Measurement Analysis & Reliability Test) Lab to test electronic hardware. To safeguard Indian standards & practices for manufacturers in Electronics & IT products, STPI was also entrusted with the Compulsory Registration Scheme.

2019

To build India's leadership in emerging tech, STPI also embarked on setting up 21 domain-centric Centers of Excellences (CoEs) in collaborative manner across India. Launched CoEs in IoT OpenLab, ESDM and FinTech.

Moreover, STPI established the first Fab Lab in a Tier II city, a concept of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA. STPI units has also garnered a massive ₹ 1.5 lakh crore investment (including FDI) since 1992.

Success Story

Parallel BPO Solutions: Realising Vision of IBPS in Shimla

31 Parallel BPO Solutions Pvt. Ltd., a bootstrap startup operating under India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS), commenced its operations on 7th April 2014 with four associates in an attic in Khalini, a Shimla suburb. The company is providing outsourcing services in sales, customer care, finance & accounting, mortgage and internet marketing to a US-based client from two operational centres in Shimla. Since then 31 Parallel has grown immensely in the BPM/outsourcing space by employing about 400-plus local youth, working in multiple shifts. As the largest BPO unit in Himachal Pradesh, 31 Parallel has put Shimla on the Indian outsourcing landscape by providing employment opportunities to local youth in the hill state where jobs are hard to come by. In the BPO vertical, 31 Parallel is one of the disruptors operating in a Tier-III city, which has ramped up its operations in a short span of time.
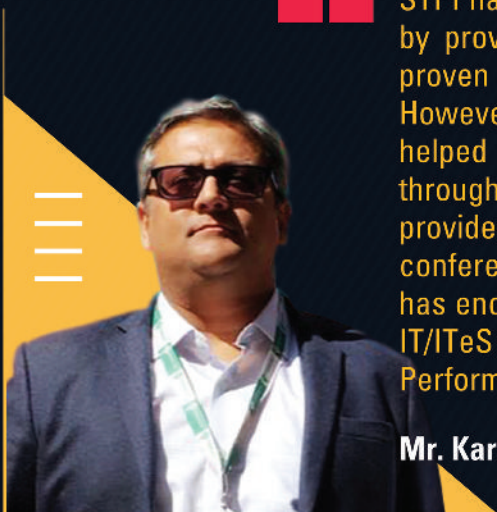
The co-founders of the company, Karan Pal Singh Chauhan and Vivek Parmar, are first cousins and come from Himachal. To carry forward the legacy of their forefathers and shoulder their responsibility towards their fellow hill people, they left their successful corporate careers in National Capital Region and began their entrepreneurial journey. The driving force behind this mission was to combine entrepreneurship and social empowerment for bridging the rising rural-urban divide by putting Shimla on the national BPO landscape. Their intent was to deliver inclusive growth by solving the problems of unemployment amongst the youth in the hill state.

Mr. Karan Pal Singh Chauhan, Co-founder, 31 Parallel asserts, "Since its inception, our company has decidedly played an important role in Tier -II/ III BPO space. Today, we have put Shimla on the Indian outsourcing landscape and ramped up our operations from four employees in 2014 to 400-plus in a difficult geographic terrain. Our growth story with our current clients is an indicator of their satisfaction. What we are embarked on is to offer niche services to our customers at competitive price and in that process we combat unemployment by providing stable, sustainable employment option to youth in Himachal and neighbouring states."

31 Parallel is reducing costs for the growing set of Indian domestic companies exploring the outsourcing market by solving the several problems that plague the BPO industry such as high attrition rates, extremely high real estate cost and other overheads. "Our revenue has increased almost 500% since inception. We are working with some of the Indian market leaders. Usually, BPOs in Tier-II/III cities offer less complex, non-voice processes, but we are disrupting the market by bringing in niche BPO work at competitive prices," adds Mr. Chauhan.

> STPI has played a major role in growing our organisation, primarily by providing the requisite infrastructure in a small town. It has proven to be facilitator for meeting our space and IT needs. However, its role is not restricted to just playing a 'lessor', it has helped us understand different government schemes/programmes through knowledge outreach and mentoring. Additionally, STPI has provided us a platform to develop our business/network via its conferences, meetings held in conjunction with TiECon, etc. STPI has encouraged the entire organisation's workforce as well as the IT/ITeS community of Himachal by recognising us as "Best Performer in Incubation" under the STPI Award 2018

Mr. Karan Pal Singh Chauhan | Co-founder, Parallel BPO Solutions

Activities & Events

Assessment of Pre-Fab Academy Training

To assess the learning of participants in Pre-Fab Academy Training programme, which was conducted for two weeks starting from 18th March 2019, a video conferencing was established between headquarters and STPI-Bhubaneswar on 5th April 2019. While talking to the participants of Pre-Fab Academy training, Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI accentuated the role of STPI Fab Lab and said, "The ultimate purpose of Fab Lab is to democratise its usage by ensuring people from all walks of life in any region access this lab and know its benefits by trying their hands." He further urged all to proliferate the use of Fab Lab to artisans, craftsmen, students, innovators, researchers, artists, startups and budding entrepreneurs to revolutionise the design-centric innovations by following an inter-disciplinary approach.

Mr. Luciano Betoldi, Director, International Operations, Fab Foundation while attending a video conferencing with participants from the headquarters highlighted how standardisation due to technology has affected the creativity locally and a lot of cultures in the world are facing this problem. He further added that it is a matter of great relief that people sitting in MIT and Fab Lab are thinking in this direction. He futher highlighted the need of Fab Lab and creativity in a localised and diversified manner to make sure that diversity is not removed, minimised or made extinct, at the same time allowing people to create, ideate and think more than before moving forward.

Visit of STPI Team to CIIE of IIM Ahmedabad

Shri Rajneesh Agrawal, Director, STPI-Noida and Shri Subodh Sachan, Director, STPI-HQ visited Centre for Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) at Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad on 5th June 2019 and deliberated upon various opportunities of mutual benefits with CIIE officials. Dr. Suresh Batha, OIC, STPI-Gandhinagar also participated in the meeting. STPI team had fruitful discussions with Shri Swarup Pandya, Sr. Associate - Programs, CIIE and Shri Sandeep Koujalgi, Vice President, Bharat Inclusion.

During the meeting, CIIE team explained about the Bharat Inclusion initiative, an incubator that works with the objective for social benefit. CIIE team briefed on various startup programmes including Innocity, which enables to get guidance, support and services from relevant professionals, mentors, startup founders, angel investors and other startup service providers within the city. STPI team mentioned about the availability of incubation facility at various centres for the implementation of the startup programmes for their benefits in various cities.

Moreover, STPI team broadly discussed about the establishment of domain-specific Centres of Excellence (CoEs) across India in emerging technologies like Internet of things, Blockchain, FinTech, Artificial Intelligence, Augmented & Virtual Reality, ESDM, Data Science & Analytics, Medical Electronics & Healthcare, Gaming & Animation, Machine Learning, Cyber Security, etc. CIIE has shown interest in collaborating with STPI CoEs to take it forward for encouraging the entrepreneurship and startup ecosystem in the country.

The meeting also focused on organising Incubation Manager Program with all the directorates to understand the CIIE activities.

International Yoga Day Celebration

The 5th International Day of Yoga was celebrated at all STPI centres on 21st June 2019. Various programmes were conducted by centres to ensure fitness is a critical aspect of healthy living standards. A session on "Awareness and best practices of Yoga" was conducted by yoga teachers to learn yogic practices for the health and wellbeing including "decreasing stress and anxiety" in the workplace and increasing employees' productivity. STPI staffs and employees of incubatees attended the event with great enthusiasm.

FinTech CoE First GC Meeting

FinTech CoE Governing Council (GC) meeting was conducted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI on 18th June 2019 in New Delhi. The meeting was attended by Shri Devesh Tyagi, Sr. Director, STPI-HQ; Dr. Sanjay Tyagi, Director, STPI-Chennai; Shri Subodh Sachan, Director, STPI-HQ; Shri M. Vijaya Kumar, MD, ELCOT, Govt. of Tamil Nadu; Shri Mahesh Ramachandran, Partner, Pontaq and Shri Diwakar Dhingra, Scientist-B, MeitY focused on "Strategies for implementation of FinTech - Centre of Excellence".

Shri Arun Jain, Chairman, Project Management Group of FinTech CoE; Dr. Santhosh Babu, Principal Secretary, Dept. of IT, Govt. of Tamil Nadu; Shri Santhosh Kumar Mishra, Commissioner of e-Governance, Govt. of Tamil Nadu; Prof. Dr. V. Kamakoti, IIT-

Madras also participated and deliberated on the future prospects and modalities of FinTech CoE through video conferencing.

CoE Meet with Academia and Industry

A meeting on Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Gaming, VFX, Computer Vision & AI with industry associations, state government officials and academia was held on 4th June 2019 at Hyderabad.

The meeting was attended by Shri CVD Ramprasad, Director, STPI-Hyderabad; Shri Shashidhar Reddy, Chief Mentor of CoE; Shri Shawket Hussain, Joint Director for Promotions, ITE&C Dept.; Shri Ramesh Loganathan, IIIT, Hyderabad, Shri Murali Bollu, President-HYSEA and officials from TVAGA. Sridhar, CEO & Co-founder, YesGnome and Chairman & Co-founder (Education for Free Research Centre); Shri Rajat Ojha, CEO, Gamitronics; Shri Rajiv Chilaka, Founder & CEO, Green Gold Animations; Shri Sanath P.C. and Shri Mike Yatham.

Visit of Officials from Khadi and Village Industry Commission

Forty administrative officials of Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC) visited STPI-Hyderabad facility on 13th June 2019 to understand the office automation techniques during their visit to National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (NIMSME), Hyderabad.

Shri B. Vinay Kumar, Joint Director, STPI-Hyderabad briefly presented on STPI's role & activities and also apprised of the office automation techniques during interaction with the staff. NIMSME also organised the visit of KVIC staff to STPI facility during their stay at Hyderabad.

Principal Secretary, Electronics & IT Dept., Govt. of Odisha Met FAB Gurus

Shri C.J. Venugopal, Principal Secretary, Electronics & IT Dept., Govt. of Odisha interacted with FAB Gurus during his maiden visit to STPI Fab Lab Bhubaneswar on 4th June 2019. He appreciated the efforts of STPI for the Train the Teacher concept through the Fab Lab Pre-Academy Training Programme organised for STPI personnel across the country and advised them to play an important role to convert the innovative ideas of the startups and young tech entrepreneurs into working prototype for final product.

While interacting with Fab Lab trainees from STPI centres across

the country, he was hopeful that the Fab Lab programme would boost the innovativeness of startups and young entrepreneurs. Fab Lab can create an environment of innovation through CoEs in niche technology.

Visit of Trade Commissioner from Austrian Embassy

Dr. Robert Luck, Commercial Counsellor from Austrian Embassy, New Delhi and Mr. T. S. Sampath Kumar, Director, South India, Bangalore, Advantage Austria visited STPI-Hyderabad on 24th May 2019 to understand the current IT ecosystem prevailing in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and the facilities extended by STPI to the budding IT entrepreneurs.

Shri CVD Ramprasad, Director, STPI-Hyderabad briefed on STPI's role and apprised of STPI's new initiatives like upcoming CoEs and IT ecosystem in both the states.

Dr. Robert Luck, Commercial Counsellor emphasised, "The astounding progress made by STPI in handholding many of the startups in the country, which have paved the way for the surge in software exports from India year after year, is truly incredible."

Seminar on International Trade in Software and Services

Foreign Exchange Department, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Hyderabad organised a seminar on "International Trade in Software and Services" on 29th May 2019 to address the concerns related to valuation and export & import of IT software & services.

Shri Subrata Das, Regional Director of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, RBI; Shri S.B.S. Reddy, Addl. Director, Directorate General Foreign Trade; Shri CVD Ramprasad, Director, STPI-Hyderabad; Smt. Jinubala, Jt. Director, STPI-Hyderabad; Shri Subrahmanya Sarma K, GM (Fin), Tech Mahindra; Ms. Surinderjit Kaur, AGM, SBI and Smt. N Sara Rajendra Kumar, General Manager, Foreign Exchange Department, RBI participated in the seminar.

Shri Subrata Das said, "Reporting of exports is mandatory, based on which the government can take decision on the incentives."

Shri SBS Reddy informed, "All services exported receiving foreign exchange needs to be captured and reported under Softex and all the B2B invoices need to be submitted, as going forward invoices will be generated from GST portal."

Stakeholders' Meet for Establishing ACES, an Automotive CoE

STPI-Pune proposed to set up a world-class Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Automotive sector at Pune. The proposed CoE will host physical lab facility, state-of-the-art incubation centre along with training, mentoring, networking and marketing support, access to the financial resources, IPR and other support services for the benefit of the startups.

The 2nd stakeholders' meeting was held on 20th June 2019 at STPI-Pune office for setting up Automotive CoE in Pune under the chairmanship of Chief Mentor Dr. Ganesh Natarajan. Officials from Government of Maharashtra; College of Engineering, Pune; Automotive Research Association of India; Society of Automotive Engineers, India; TATA Motors Ltd.; Intel Technology India Pvt. Ltd. and Visteon Technical & Services Centre Pvt. Ltd. participated in the meeting. During the meeting, Shri Sanjay Kumar Gupta, Director, STPI-Pune explained the roadmap of this proposed initiative. Chief Mentor Dr. Ganesh Natarajan also shared insights on focus of Automotive CoE and model of incubation, and underlined how each stakeholder's contribution will strengthen the Automotive industry.

National Technology Day Celebration at STPI

Technologies for the Growth of IT Industry".

All STPI directorates organised presentations on latest technologies like Internet of Things, Machine Learning and role of Fab Lab. Various centres and sub-centres also conducted workshops. Industry leaders like Dr. Manoj Kumar, CEO & MD, Pinaacle Technologies; Shri Shankar Rao Piriya, Director, Amzur Technologies (I) Pvt. Ltd.; Shri Murali Manohar Rao Bulusu, Director, Sankhya Technologies; Shri Narendra Nerla, COO, Inspriedge IT Solutions Pvt. Ltd. and Shri P Sudhakar, CEO, Prospecta Technologies India Pvt. Ltd. talked on "Leveraging Emerging Technologies for the growth of IT Industry". The talk programmes were attended by the STPI officials and employees of centre-specific incubatees and startups.

Many centres also invited renowned academicians to address on the National Technology Day. At STPI-Rourkela, Prof. Dr. Durga Prasad Mohapatra, NIT-Rourkela delivered a special talk and enlightened all the participants about the importance of latest technology in IT businesses. He also emphasised on the changing paradigms of businesses where newer technologies are disrupting their flow of operations. He highlighted about the e-commerce sector where AI-based applications like chatbots are playing an important role for increasing their businesses by live interaction with customers. A number of participants attended this workshop were from IT/ITeS/BPO industry comprising IT head and professionals and faculty members from engineering colleges.

National Technology Day was observed on 11th May 2019 across the centres and sub-centres of STPI to mark the anniversary of Mission Shakti, which was accomplished with the Pokhran nuclear test on this date in 1998. This day highlights the importance of science and technology in nation building. STPI being a premier national organisation promoting IT, celebrated the day with great fervour by organising various activities like talk programmes, quizzes and presentations based on the theme "Leveraging Emerging

Announcement of Winner of the AIC STPINEXT INITIATIVES Logo Contest

On 15th June 2019, STPI announced the results of the AIC STPINEXT INITIATIVES Logo Contest conducted in March 2019. A specially appointed jury selected an entry created by Shri P.G. Saikumar as the winner. Shri Saikumar is a professional graphic designer with more than 20 years of experience and has worked with Kumudham, a Chennai-based publication, as a layout & graphic designer. He will receive the award of Rs 50,000 for his entry.

In this contest, STPI received 1,271 submissions from artists all over the country, which signifies a great success in terms of numbers and outreach. The sheer number of entries demonstrates the wonderful creativity that inspired the participants to achieve the contest's goal by reflecting the domains of AIC STPINEXT INITIATIVES, a section 8 company set up by STPI, focusing on the role of providing world-class incubation facilities with cutting-edge infrastructure in terms of capital equipment and operating facilities, coupled with the availability of sectoral experts for mentoring the startups, business planning support, access to seed capital, industry partners, trainings and other relevant components required for encouraging innovative startups.

STPI appreciates the spirit of creativity and innovation of all participants in this contest and congratulates all for their inspiring entries. "I congratulate the winner on this exciting achievement and wish him luck for his future endeavours,"

said Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI and Chairman of AIC STPINEXT INITIATIVES. He further added. "AIC STPINEXT INITIATIVES is the latest endeavour of STPI in promoting and encouraging innovation-led tech entrepreneurship through building an ecosystem to facilitate incubation, mentoring, R&D, industry-connect and funding."

The selection of logo entailed a deeper analysis and rigorous scrutiny of how the entries imbibed the ethos of the vision of AIC STPINEXT INITIATIVES. "The logo submitted by the winner was a manifestation of a subtle combination of creative liveliness and the reflection of vision of the organisation," emphasised Shri Subodh Sachan, CEO, AIC STPINEXT INITIATIVES.

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