Software Technology Parks of India

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Newsletter

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Message from Director General

The economic fabric of a nation principally hinges on the vision of the government and how it's implemented in terms of clear deliverables. The Union Budget 2019 sets another path-breaking shift from the earlier ones by steering a synergistic approach to emphasise on easing of FDI, massive infrastructural development through public-private partnership, creation of national grids, promotion of R&D and innovation, incentivising startups, MSMEs & skilling and tax exemption for corporate to rev up holistic economic development, making India a $ 5 trillion economy by 2025.

The aspirations of the government to become $5 trillion economy can be accomplished by leveraging the strong foundation provided by the IT industry. It's evident that Indian IT industry's core competencies and strengths have attracted significant investments from major countries. The computer software and hardware sector in India has attracted cumulative Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows worth US$ 37.23 billion between April 2000 and March 2019, ranking second in inflow of FDI. India's IT & ITeS industry revenue has touched US$ 181 billion in 2018-19. Exports from the industry have also increased to US$ 137 billion in FY19 while domestic revenues (including hardware) advanced to US$ 44 billion. Revenue from digital segment is expected to comprise 38 per cent of the forecasted US$ 350 billion industry revenue by 2025.

Keeping in mind the global reality, our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has launched the Digital India programme and we have celebrated its fourth anniversary on 1st July 2019.Till date, significant progress has been made in several initiatives under this programme.

In order to realize the vision of the government's Digital India push, STPI is setting up multiple Centres of Excellence (CoEs) across the country to promote next-gen technology, which includes artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), robotics, internet of things (IoT), blockchain, FinTech, MedTech, data analytics, computer vision, virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR). STPI is building a robust ecosystem by collaborating with various state governments, industry, industry associations, academia and investors community to support tech startups transform their ideas into innovative products and scale their business in international market by leveraging state-of-the-art incubation facilities, mentor pool, market access, lab facilities, statutory support and funding.,

Recently, FinBlue, a CoE in FinTech, was launched and became operational at STPI, Chennai, with the objective of providing mentoring, technology support and funding for FinTech startups. First among proposed STPI CoEs, FinBlue has also started the PitchFest, commencing its first cohort. 178 applications were received through online registration from which 84 rejected at preliminary round. In the 2nd stage of screening, 30 rejected based on scalability. After a multi-level screening process, 24 rejected and 6 startups didn't turn up leaving behind 34 applicants. In the pre-final screening, 8 startups rejected based on their current market traction and business performance. In the final screening process, 9 startups rejected based on the business plan. Eventually, 19 startups were shortlisted with 10 as residential members and 9 as associate members for virtual incubation. FinBlue is a collaborative model, and a milestone in the State's thriving start-up

Dr. Omkar Rai
Director General, STPI

> **While the world has started adopting emerging technologies, India is poised to build leadership position by creating the ecosystem for promoting research & innovation to bolster economy.**

ecosystem. Smart entrepreneurs can tap into its various facets to build successful products and solutions in FinTech domain.

STPI has also soft launched NEURON, a CoE in Data Analytics, AI, IoT and AVG, and also launched an Open Challenge for startups at Mohali Incubation centre to incubate 50 startups in each year and provide them comprehensive support in the form of incubation facility, mentoring, industry connect, market access, lab access, networking & funding.

While the world has started adopting emerging technologies, India is poised to build leadership position by creating the ecosystem for promoting research & innovation to bolster economy. STPI firmly believes that the promotion of disruptive technology-led innovations and ecosystem development will transform India into a hub for new generation software products and address the sectoral challenges effectively while revving up inclusive growth and buoying economy. □

Success Story

STEMROBO
Making Learning Fun

#ElectropreneurPark

Incorporated in June 2016, STEMROBO Technologies Pvt. Ltd. is an educational technology company focused on designing and making innovative electronic devices, software and methodologies around STEM Robotics for K-12 segment. Incubated and nurtured at Electropreneur Park (EP), STEMROBO is leveraging emerging technologies in education to act as an enabler for students to learn, programmme and experiment in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Robotics (STEM-Robotics).

From the vantage point of demand for electronic kits in the Indian domestic market, which is estimated at Rs. 5,750 crores per annum at present and growing at 10-15% yearly, around 70% is imported. Furthermore, the global market for electronic DIY kits and educational devices, estimated at US$ 80 billion (Rs. 4.8 lakh crores), is still not tapped by Indian manufacturers as exports from India presently constitute less than 0.08% of this huge market. This brings up a pertinent use case for STEMROBO to focus on the rising demands in this space and scale up its business to address the gap.

Valuated at Rs. 4 crores, STEMROBO, with 100-plus strong team, generated Rs. 5 crores during FY 2018-19. The company follows an online subscription model to deliver services like software platform and rich content to K-12 students. Patented hardware kits, especially focused on embedding design thinking and creative innovation for students, STEMROBO provides an ensemble of products to students in STEM segment to experiment and learn while gaining richer experience through learning process. STEMROBO has already developed seven products to its credit.

Shri Gupta further elucidates that the success of STEMROBO is largely drawn from the kind of support provided by EP during their formative years. EP helped STEMROBO to connect with a key resource mentor who guided STEMROBO towards scaling up their business model and advised on how to capture the growing demand in education sector for their products in ESDM space. With proper guidance and mentorship from EP, STEMROBO expanded their network and got the right tempo for an innovative business segment where the opportunities are perennial and abound.

Shri Anurag Gupta
Founder of
STEMROBO Technologies underlines

"STEMROBO embeds curiosity, creativity and imagination in young minds and inculcates 21st century skill sets such as design mind-set, computational thinking, adaptive learning, physical computing, etc. Young children will get an opportunity to work with tools and equipment to understand what, how and why aspects of STEM and Robotics"

Lead Story

Inauguration of TCS Centre at Patna

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon'ble Minister of Electronics & IT, Communications, Law & Justice inaugurated the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) centre on 13th July 2019 at Patna in the presence of Shri Sanjiv Chaurasia, MLA-Digha, Bihar; Shri Nitin Nabin, MLA-Bankipur, Bihar; Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI; Shri Alok Kumar, Country Delivery Head, TCS & Shri Milind Lakkad, Global HR Head, TCS.

Speaking at a function organised on the occasion, Shri Prasad said the opening of TCS centre at Patna is a good signal for Bihar as it would not only generate employment, but also attract other firms to invest in the state.

Shri Prasad appreciated India's growth in the digital field. He further added that digital revolution in India has also helped in the upliftment of the poor as they have been directly getting the benefits of several government schemes.

The TCS centre, located at Buddha Colony, has been established at the cost of Rs. 20 crore and it will provide jobs to 500 IT professionals involved in business processing and software development. TCS will further expand this centre, he asserted.

Dr. Omkar Rai, DG, STPI said, "The inauguration of TCS centre at Patna is a step forward in making the city a leading tech hub in the country by promoting entrepreneurship, boosting IT/ITeS exports and generating employment opportunities in the state."

Transforming India Digitally

4th Digital India Anniversary Celebrations

The 4th anniversary of Digital India was celebrated with pomp and splendour on 1st July 2019 at all STPI centres across the country.

Various campaign materials such as video testimonials of beneficiaries of different schemes; publication of columns by eminent personalities in reputed print/online newspapers, news portals and journals on a subject of their choice reflecting how use of technology has transformed governance; conducting discussions on Digital India at STPI centres by inviting eminent personality, digital influencer, successful startups and preparation and propagation of infographics depicting success stories of Digital India through various social media platforms made the day abuzz with STPI's contributions towards the success of Digital India.

Digital India is an ambitious programme launched by the Government of India on 1st July 2015 in order to ensure the Government's services are made available to citizens electronically by improved online infrastructure and by increasing internet connectivity or by making the country digitally empowered in the field of technology. Digital India consists of three core components: the development of secure and stable digital infrastructure, delivering government services digitally and expansion of universal digital literacy.

Since inception, BPO Promotion Scheme has already shown good progress by playing a key role in digital inclusion by catalysing the dispersal of the BPO/ITeS industry to smaller cities. Under this scheme, already 297 units have been allocated to 205 companies in 119 cities of 28 States/UTs. More than 33,000 youth are getting employment opportunities in these units near their home and contributing to the growth of the country through proliferation of digital technologies. Now, the small towns and rural areas are also starting to get access to the benefits of the growth of IT/ITES industry, which has been traditionally a narrative of metropolitan cities. This is a firm step towards digital inclusion in the country by creating enormous employment opportunities for local youth and promoting regional entrepreneurs.

STPI and its various centres carried out social media campaign on the 4th anniversary of Digital India with 318 original tweets, garnering 6,59,783 impressions with 93,865 engagement. STPI also organised discussions on a variety of topics including Digital India and Future of Technology-led transformations and different dimensions around this across its centres pan-India at 35 locations by roping in 88 eminent speakers from industry, academia and startups. 32 news reports and columns in various languages including English, Hindi, Bengali, Telugu and Tamil were published from 19 locations across India. The reports fundamentally covered the events and activities related to Digital India conducted by STPI across various centres and several columns were also written by eminent industry personalities on topics covering BPO Scheme, Digital India and role of STPI in the evolution of the IT industry.

Soft Launch of NEURON at Mohali

Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) soft launched NEURON, a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Data Analytics (Big Data), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT) and Audio Visual Gaming (AVG) and also launched Open Challenge at STPI Incubation Centre, Mohali in association with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of Punjab, Indian School of Business (ISB), Punjab Technical University (PTU), IIT Ropar, TiE Chandigarh and Chandigarh Angel Network on 30th September 2019. NEURON will connect people, support collaboration, attract investors and ultimately strengthen the startups community for creating a pipeline of future job-creating businesses.

NEURON is a cardinal part of STPI's larger goal of establishing 28 domain-centric CoEs across the country for promoting entrepreneurial spirit amongst youth, researchers, engineers and society at large, which will contribute to economic and social development of the country.

NEURON is being set up with project cost of Rs. 20.92 crore over a period of 5 years with Rs. 10 crore support from Govt. of Punjab and remaining from MeitY, STPI and other stakeholders. This CoE will have fully furnished 33,026 sq. ft. of incubation space having 500 plug & play seats with necessary lab infrastructure including Data Analytics Lab, AVG Lab and Innov IoT Lab. NEURON plans to incubate 50 startups in each year and provide them comprehensive support in the form of mentoring, industry connect, market access, networking & funding access, lab, access to STPI Mohali Data Centre and high-speed internet access.

AI and IoT are emerging & fast-growing digital technologies and both are complimenting each other in providing a variety of solutions. The combination of IoT, Big Data and AI is fueling futuristic innovative solutions and applications in the areas of healthcare, digital business, cyber security, smart cities, smart homes, fintech, information management, agriculture, education, manufacturing etc.

According to McKinsey, AI has the potential to deliver additional global economic activity of around US$ 13 trillion by 2030, or about 16% higher cumulative GDP compared with today. Another report by Accenture suggests that AI has the potential to add US$ 957 billion or 15% of the current gross value added to India's economy in 2035.

Government of India has been playing a pivotal role in boosting AI development in India, with NITI Aayog championing the cause of making India an emergent player in AI. India is at an inflection point when it comes to AI and has the potential to become a world leader in this domain.

Startups are the new growth engine and the Government has initiated several schemes to boost the growth of startups, promote entrepreneurship and create high-skilled jobs. While economic output delivered through AI-driven innovation is enormously huge, a recent report published by IDC reveals that global spending on AI systems will reach US$ 97.9 billion in 2023, more than 2.5 times the US$ 37.5 billion that will be spent in 2019 with a CAGR of 28.4% for the 2018-23 forecast period. Recent reports indicate that there are presently close to 700 AI & Analytics startups in India. The AI market was valued at US$ 16.06 billion in 2017 and is expected to reach US$ 190.61 billion by 2025, at a CAGR of 36.62% during the forecast period.

The Soft Launch of "NEURON (Startup Punjab Hub @ STPI)" & "Open Challenge" has been realised by Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI and Smt. Vini Mahajan, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Industries, Govt. of Punjab in the august presence of Shri Ajay

Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Punjab Technical University & Chief Mentor Sh. I.S. Paul, MD, Drish Infotech and Chairman, TiE Chandigarh.

On the occasion of Soft Launch of NEURON, Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI said, "STPI firmly believes that promotion of disruptive technology-led innovations & supporting ecosystem will transform India into a hub for next generation software products through policy support as enabler, market catalysis for growth and knowledge exchange resulting in innovative products and solutions by next-gen entrepreneurs."

"The tri-city region of Chandigarh has a vibrant and rapidly evolving startup ecosystem supported by STPI and some of the top universities & research laboratories, giving it significant advantages in the region. NEURON through its state-of-the-art infrastructure will support the startups engaged in AI development, Data Analytics, IoT, AVG and allied areas," said Ms. Vini Mahajan, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab.

"These tech applications make the business system intelligent, self-learning and cognitive. AI-enabled IoT system automates the business processes and provides a collaborative environment. It boosts the productivity and performance of the system and eases the maintenance & in turn contributes towards Industry 4.0 revolution," said Chief Mentor of NEURON, Shri I. S. Paul, Chairman, TiE Chandigarh & MD, Drish Infotech.

To identify & support potential cutting-edge IT entrepreneur especially in the field of Big Data, AVG and IoT applications with a viable business plan, NEURON is inviting applications from startups working in IoT, Big Data & advanced data analytics, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.

NEURON
A CoE in Data Analytics, AI, IoT and AVG by STPI

Launch of FinBlue Startup PitchFest Programme at Chennai

STPI in association with ELCOT, Govt. of Tamil Nadu has launched FinBlue, a financial technology (FinTech) Centre of Excellence (CoE) on 20th August 2019 at STPI-Chennai. Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI & Chairman of the Governing Council of FinBlue has launched Startup PitchFest in the presence of Shri Arun Jain, Chief Mentor, FinBlue & Chairman and MD, Intellect Design Arena Ltd.; Dr. Santhosh Babu, Principal Secretary, Department of Information Technology, Govt. of Tamil Nadu; Dr. Sanjay Tyagi, Director, STPI-Chennai & CEO, FinBlue; Shri Subodh Sachan, Director, STPI-HQ & CEO of STPI Next Initiative; Shri K. Vivekanandan, Commissioner, Directorate of Technical Education, Govt of Tamil Nadu; Shri Mahesh Ramachandran, General Partner, Pontaq and other partners of Finblue. The PitchFest is conducted for the purpose of identifying eligible and innovative startups for on-boarding of FinBlue programme.
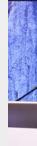
During his welcome address, Dr. Sanjay Tyagi, Director, STPI Chennai & CEO of FineBlue said, "We are honoured to be a part of this initiative by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Govt. of India and Govt. of TN. FinBlue will surely establish Tamil Nadu as a leader in producing FinTech startups for the future. With right partners on board, we are confident that budding entrepreneurs in FinTech space will benefit significantly."

Dr. Omkar Rai delivered his special address during the launch of FinBlue PitchFest. Commenting on the occasion, Dr. Omkar Rai said, "We are very happy and delighted to launch Startup PitchFest for identifying eligible and innovative startups for FinBlue, the first-of-its-kind FinTech Centre of Excellence by STPI in collaborative model. This is a milestone in the state's thriving startup ecosystem and we are confident that this will bolster the growth of business spirit. Through this centre we aim to further strengthen the accessibility and support to FinTech startups, which will, in turn, make the state a benchmark in entrepreneurial initiatives." Delivering on Hon'ble Minister's announcement of establishing the FinTech CoE by STPI in 2019, which has come on ground today with the launch of Startup PitchFest with the support of MeitY, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Industry, Industry Associations and Academia, Dr. Omkar Rai said that FinBlue would augment the startup ecosystem and accelerate innovation in FinTech space. Further, Dr. Omkar Rai added, "The support provided by Govt. of Tamil Nadu for FinBlue in terms of providing 50% funding and land has enabled FinBlue become the first CoE among 28 others being implemented by STPI in India."

While delivering the keynote address, Mr. Arun Jain said, "Globally, our products and services have been benchmarked for innovations and design. The creation of the FinTech startup ecosystem as a CoE comes at the right time where we do believe that it has a potential to create and disrupt the FinTech space by helping the startup community to grow further."

Dr. Santhosh Babu while delivering his speech said, "This is yet another significant initiative of the Tamil Nadu Government to further strengthen the reputation of being a leader in tech space. Tamil Nadu Government will surely make use of advanced technological development for sustained growth as well as promoting the industry across the state."

Shri Subodh Sachan while delivering his speech articulated, "To build India's leadership in emerging technologies, STPI in a

mission mode is setting up domain-centric CoEs in collaborative model, which will foster tech startups to transform into tomorrow's unicorns." Further, he added, "Startups PitchFest for the FinBlue is a pioneering initiative by STPI to reach out to the bright and promising startup in FinTech space and provide them a vibrant ecosystem to further transform their business & technology ideas into breakthrough products by leveraging FinTech CoE."

First among proposed STPI CoEs, FinBlue has also started the PitchFest, commencing its first cohort. 178 applications were received through online registration from which 84 rejected at preliminary round. In the 2nd stage of screening, 30 rejected based on scalability. After a multi-level screening process, 24 rejected and 6 startups didn't turn up leaving behind 34 applicants. In the pre-final screening, 8 startups rejected based on their current market traction and business performance. In the final screening process, 9 startups rejected based on the business plan. Eventually, 19 startups were shortlisted with 10 as residential members and 9 as associate members for virtual incubation.

Activities & Events

Visit of Hon'ble MoS, MEIT & C & HRD to STPI IMAGE Facility

Shri Sanjay Dhotre, Hon'ble Minister of State for Ministry of Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Human Resource Development visited STPI-Hyderabad IMAGE facility on 29th September 2019 and reviewed the works of incubates. The CEOs of incubation units such as Pennywise Solutions, Plugxr, Bigcode Games, BPM Links, Confimind, DoLearn Technologies, ERS Labs and Global Genesis participated in the meeting and gave brief presentations about their domain areas.

Shri CVD Ramprasad, Director, STPI-Hyderabad apprised on the role of STPI activities and upcoming initiatives to the Hon'ble Minister.

27th Annual HYSEA Innovation Summit & Awards 2019

HYSEA-STPI Awards Function 2019 was held on 1st August 2019 at Hyderabad during 27th Annual HYSEA Innovation Summit. Based on the theme "Nextgen Businesses: Powered by Future Technologies", the event witnessed a good participation of over 120 startups, 700 delegates and 90 exhibiting stalls. Leading organisations, technology gurus and independent analysts/consultants attended the summit and shared their experiences how next-gen businesses are being powered by future technologies such as AI, ML, IoT, Blockchain and AR & VR.

Dr. Omkar Rai, DG, STPI graced the occasion as Guest of Honor. Shri S. K. Joshi, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Telangana; Shri Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Dept. of ITE&C, Govt. of Telangana; Shri CVD Ramprasad, Director, STPI-Hyderabad; Shri Murali Bollu, President, HYSEA participated in the Awards function.

During the Awards session, Shri T Hanuman Chowdhary, the first Chairman and MD of VSNL, was felicitated with Lifetime Achievement Award. Awards under various categories such as exports, product development, CSR and newly instituted best women-led startup were also presented to STPI units.

Symposium on "Emerging Technologies: Curriculum, Industry and Policy"

STPI participated in the Symposium on "Emerging Technologies: Curriculum, Industry and Policy" organised by Awareness in Action (AIA) at Hyderabad on 2nd August 2019.

Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI as Chief Guest addressed the gathering during the inaugural session. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Omkar Rai said, "The topic itself is very apt. It focuses on how to bring together industry and other stakeholders in curriculum formation by way of policy creation. This is crucial because the students coming out of our institutions should not only be readily employable but also stay updated with the latest trends and knowledge in their respective fields. Moreover, they should be able to indulge themselves in innovation, ideation, product development, knowledge creation and wealth creation. That is why it becomes very important for all of us to deliberate on this very important issue."

Further commending the initiative of AIA, Dr. Omkar Rai said, "Any policy formulation for developing curriculum for embracing emerging technologies must happen in a collaborative manner." He shared various initiatives undertaken by STPI for bringing the stakeholders together.

Members from Academia, IT industry, professionals like Shri

M. Ramakrishna, MD, Kistler-Morse Automation Limited; Prof. Vishnukanth Chatpalli, Former Advisor, NAAC, Professor, RCU, Belagavi; Dr. B. N. Bhandari, Director, Academic & Planning, JNTUH; Shri Vijaya Kumar Khaderbad, Chairman, Association of Enterprise Architects, Hyderabad Chapter; Shri Arunachalam Karthikeyan, AVP, Manufacturing & PQ, 5BARZ India Pvt Limited; Shri Krishnakumar Thiagarajan, Vice President, Delivery & Partnerships, eGovernments Foundation and Dr. V Kamakshi Prasad, Director of Evaluation, JNTUH participated in the event and addressed as well.

हिंदी पखवाड़ा का सफल आयोजन

प्रत्येक वर्ष की तरह इस वर्ष भी एसटीपीआई मुख्यालय और इसके सभी केन्द्रों और उपकेंद्रों पर हिंदी पखवाडा का सफलतापूर्वक आयोजन किया गया । भारत सरकार के सभी कार्यालयों, उपक्रमों, उद्यमों, संस्थाओं में हिंदी पखवाडा हर वर्ष १४ सितंबर से २८ सितंबर तक मनाया जाता है। अपने कर्मचारियों के बीच राजभाषा हिंदी के प्रति जागरूकता पैदा करने के लिए हिंदी पखवाडे के दौरान एसटीपीआई ने हिंदी में सुलेख, कवि सम्मेलन, संगोष्ठी, अनुवाद, टंकण, हिंदी में सर्वाधिक ई–मेल भेजने आदि जैसी विभिन्न प्रतियोगिताएं आयोजित की, जिसमें भारी संख्या में अधिकारियों और कर्मचारियों ने उत्सुकतापूर्वक भाग लिया । विभिन्न प्रतियोगिताओं के विजेताओं को महानिदेशक डॉ. ओंकार राय के हाथों पुरस्कृत किया गया ।

Jharkhand BPO/BPM Summit at Ranchi

Jharkhand BPO/BPM Summit 2019 was organised on 22nd August 2019 at Ranchi and STPI-Ranchi participated as a co-organiser of this event. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Shri Raghubar Das was the Chief Guest along with Dr. Omkar Rai, DG, STPI; Principal Secretary, IT; Secretary, Industries and Principal Secretary to CM as special guests at the event.

Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI addressed the participants of the summit and shared his views on how this industry has played a critical role in creating job opportunities for youth and helped bolster ITES exports. During his speech, he also said that especially, BPO Scheme has further aided in dispersing BPO industry to 119 smaller towns.

CII-15th India Innovation Summit

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with Government of Karnataka, organised the 15th India Innovation Summit 2019. The two-day event was held during 21st -22nd August 2019 at Bengaluru. The theme of the event was "Innovation Manifesto for India". The Innovation Manifesto will focus on the strategic rationale and on the development plan for the innovation in the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Omkar Rai, DG, STPI said, "Ideation on creating policies for the innovation and support in guiding pathway for the effective implementation are the needs of the hour and STPI is holding hands of startups for disruptive innovations in the country."

Graduation Day Ceremony of RV College of Engineering

RV College of Engineering conducted its 9th Graduation Day Ceremony on 27th July 2019 at Bengaluru. As the Chief Guest, Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI addressed the Engineering, MCA and M.Tech students and emphasised on how the youth today should leverage the entrepreneurial opportunities in the system and become job creators.

While addressing the students, DG, STPI, Dr. Omkar Rai said, "As we all know, technology is changing the way industries should run and, in saying that, I would like to tell you that the skills required for the industry are also shaped by technology. It's a proven fact, the skills that are acknowledged by the industry

today may be irrelevant after some time due to the disruptive technology interventions. To make the skills relevant as per the industry needs, collaboration between industry and academia is required which is now happening in the country in a big way."

He further added, "This is just a beginning of startup momentum in the country. We have to travel many more miles and by leveraging the potential of youth we may create world-class companies in times to come that country can be proud of."

He also gave away the degree certificates to the graduated students.

Meeting on National Software Product Mission

The first meeting of National Software Product Mission held on 19th August 2019 at STPI- Bengaluru. Shri Rajiv Kumar, Joint Secretary, MeitY chaired the event and other dignitaries such as Shri S Gopalakrishnan, Joint Secretary, MeitY; Dr. Omkar Rai, DG, STPI; Arun Jain, Chairman and MD, Intellect Design; Shri Lalitesh Kartagadda, Ex-Country Head (Product), Google India; officials of MeitY, STPI, NASSCOM, iSPIRIT & IIT Bombay and Industry representatives were present in the meeting and discussed about the National Policy on Software Product. Deeper deliberations were carried out by the officials to envision India as a dominant player in the global software product market.

Minister Announces Setting up New CoE at Balasore

Shri Tusharkanti Behera, Minister, Electronics & Information Technology Department, Govt. of Odisha visited STPI-Balasore on 3rd September 2019. While interacting with industry representatives of NOCCi, Shri Behera announced setting up of a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in collaboration with STPI at Balasore and other STPI locations of Odisha for promoting innovation & startup movement in the state.

Shri Manas Ranjan Panda, Director, STPI-Bhubaneswar briefed Hon'ble Minister on the role of STPI in promoting the tier II & tier III cities by dispersing IT industry and creating employment opportunities in the region. They also visited Weaverbird Engineering and Technology Pvt. Ltd., an STPI unit at Balasore engaged in exporting GIS, photogrammetry and engineering & design solutions for their offshore clients establishing the fact that innovation is possible anywhere.

Meeting with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa

Shri Sanjay Kumar Gupta, Director, STPI-Maharashtra & Goa met with Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa on 31st August 2019. During the meeting, he briefed about various activities of STPI and several government schemes & initiatives.

Hon'ble CM acknowledged the same and congratulated STPI for its contribution towards promoting the IT/ITES/ESDM industry under its umbrella and boosting IT/ITeS exports from the state of Goa.

Consultative Meeting with Stakeholders for CoEs in North East

Under North East Vision Document 2022, the consultative meeting with stakeholders for Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in North East was conducted on 2nd September 2019 at Guwahati, Assam. Shri Rajiv Kumar, Joint Secretary, MeitY, Govt. of India expressed the intent of MeitY to set up CoEs with Innovation Zones in each of the eight states of the North East.

He underlined, "CoEs will be able to leverage better utilisation of technology in solving issues important to the society and citizens. In addition, the CoEs with Innovation Zones will build a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the region."

Apart from Shri Rajiv Kumar, Joint Secretary, MeitY, the other dignitaries who participated in the consultative meeting were Shri Niraj Verma, Principal Secretary, Department of Information Technology, Government of Assam; Dr. A. K. Garg, Scientist-F, MeitY; Shri Prabir Kr. Das, Director, STPI-Guwahati; Shri Subodh Sachan, Director, STPI-HQ; Shri Kumaran Venkatesh, President & partner, AXLERATE Now, Bengaluru; Shri Rajeshwar Singh Janwar, Scientist-E, MeitY; Shri Debajit Sarma, Additional Director, STPI Guwahati, officials from IIT Guwahati, AMTRON, Tea Board, IIM Culcatta, NIELIT NE centres and industry.

Seminar on Alignment of IP with Strategies of Automotive Industry

Seminar on "Alignment of IP with strategies of aspiring businesses from India's automotive industry" was organised by Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) & the European Patent Office (EPO) in cooperation with Software Technology Parks of India, Pune and European Business and Technology Centre (EBTC) on 25th September 2019 at Pune.

This event was mainly focused to create awareness about patents in general and its benefits for the automotive industry as share of digital and electronics in automobile has increased.

Indian automotive industry leaders presented their views on 'Increasing innovation in automotive, mobility and mechatronics sectors' and 'Alignment of IP with business strategy in the Indian automotive sector'.

4th Technology Meet and Excellence Awards

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) organised 4th Technology Meet & Excellence Awards 2019 on 19th September 2019 at Kolkata. The theme of the event was Futuristic Technologies: AI, Blockchain and Beyond. STPI- Kolkata supported the event.

While addressing the Technical Session, Shri Manjit Nayak, OIC, STPI-Kolkata discussed global techecosystem and trends like AI & Blockchain and Futuristic Technologies and elaborated upon how FinTech revolution would achieve greater financial inclusion. Many dignitaries from the State and Central governments, startups, small and medium IT/ITeS companies participated in the event.

India@75 Policy Dialogue at Dehradun

DIT University, Dehradun, organised "India@75 Policy Dialogue- Skill India, Innovate India, StartUp India, Make in India" to stimulate discussions and deliberations on various issues related to development of India on 17th August 2019. India@75 - Mission 22 carried the themes like Education & Skills, Technology & Innovation, Agriculture & Food Security, Business & Economy, Urbanisation & Environmental Sustainability, Arts, Literature & Sports etc.

The programme was held in two sessions. The first session was dedicated to India@75 Policy Dialogue, while the second session was on Skill India, Innovate India, StartUp India and Make in India.

Dr. Omkar Rai, DG, STPI expounded on the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Electronics & IT, Govt of India like MeitY Startup Hub (MSH) and National Policy on Software Product. He also talked at length on 28 Centres of Excellence (CoEs) those are being set up by STPI across the country in collaboration with Ministry of Electronics & IT and other stakeholders including state governments, industry, industry associations, academia and funding partners. The event generated adequate intellectual dialogues. The panellists and participants dwelt in depth on the realisation of the past performance of the nation, converged on the capability and ultimately identified the capacity building measures.

VARCoE: Progressively Evolving Synthetically Intelligent Vehicle with AR/VR-Enabled Driving Station

The vision is to build a massively distributed, on-demand remote-chauffer service which would be disruptive and futuristic transportation solution for the 5G-world. Two prototypes are being built; one will work as an AR/VR-Enabled Automotive Driving Station and the other will work as a Progressively Evolving Synthetically Intelligent Tri-modal vehicle. The two units would communicate with each other through a 5G network.

The driving station will have all the facilities to simulate the driving environment of a vehicle. This unit will transmit the control signals to the running vehicle in real time. The driving system would receive huge amount of data from the running vehicle, which would include complete environment's perceivable (both visual and non-visual) data in real time. The application of 5G technology is inevitable because of the high data speed and low latency required in the communication between the driving station and the vehicle. The vehicle is also being fitted with electronic devices and sensors to generate and transmit all non-visual data like the linear and angular accelerations, surrounding temperature, wind speed, road conditions etc. in real time to the driving station.

A couple of test drives have been attempted within the IIT Bhubaneswar campus and further refinements on all aspects are being pursued. The team is led by Dr. S N Panigrahi, Professor, School of Mechanical Sciences, IIT Bhubaneswar.

Meeting of Project Advisory Committee of VARCoE

The Project Advisory Committee (PAC) of VARCoE met at IIT Bhubaneswar on 26th September 2019, wherein several strategic decisions were taken to make VARCoE as one of the most advanced Centres of Excellence (CoEs) of the country. STPI was represented by Directors Shri Manas Ranjan Panda & Shri Subodh Sachan who gave valuable inputs for AR/VR startups.

Shri Subroto Bagchi, Chairman, Odisha Skill Development Authority & Co-founder, Mindtree emphasised on attracting the best young minds to pursue their ideas and dreams at VARCoE. A prototype of remotely driven car using AR/VR technology designed at VARCoE was also showcased to PAC members.

Role of IPR in Innovation Management in ESDM & ICT Sector

A workshop on "Role of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Innovation Management in ESDM & ICT Sector" was held on 20th September 2019 at Bhubaneswar. While addressing the gathering, Shri Manas Panda, Director, STPI-Bhubaneswar briefed on the new initiatives of STPI, which would contribute to the mission of building India a product nation as envisaged in NPSP.

He further said that the recent initiatives of STPI in terms of Center of Excellence (CoE), Next Generation Incubation, Fab Lab, Electropreneur Park would strengthen the mission of building India as the global software product hub driven by innovation & IPR, promoting technology startups & specialised skill sets in ICT.