एसटीपीआई
STPI

Software Technology Parks of India

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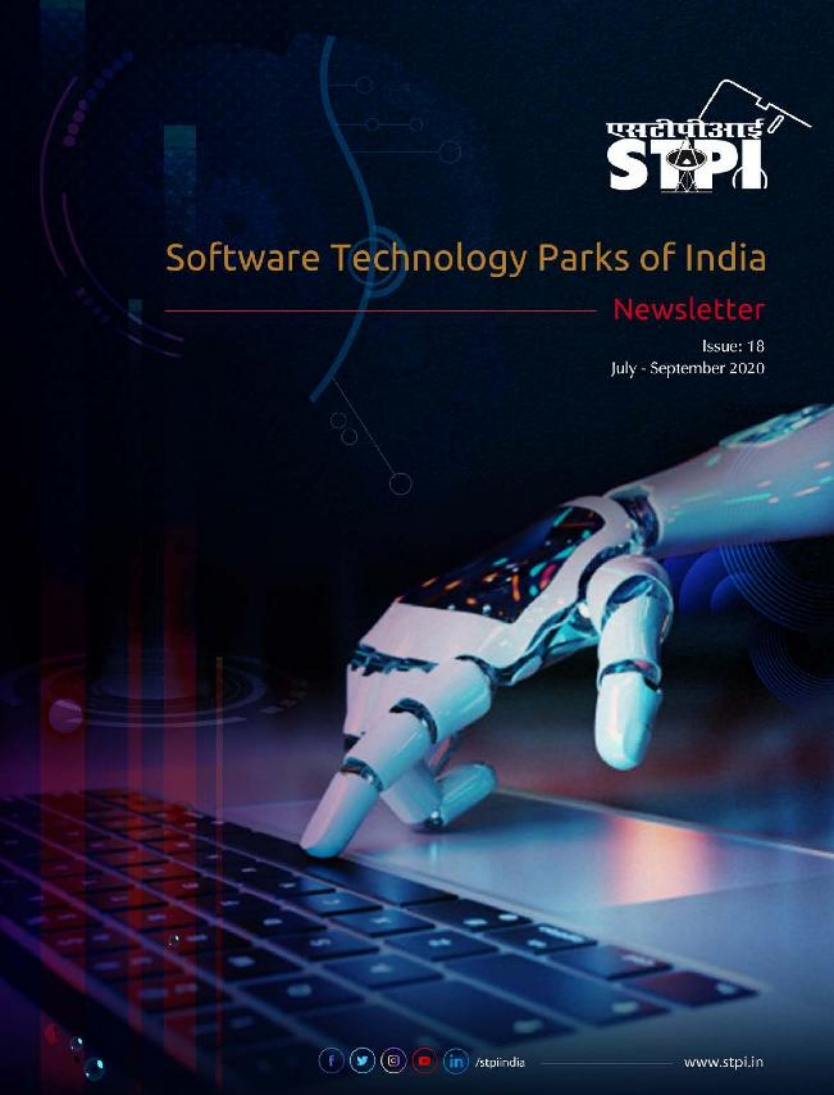

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सॉफ्टवेयर टेक्नोलॉजी पार्क्स ऑफ इंडिया में हिंदी दिवस और हिंदी पखवाड़ा का आयोजन

सॉफ्टवेयर टेक्नोलॉजी पार्क्स ऑफ इंडिया में प्रत्येक वर्ष की भांति 14 सितम्बर से 28 सितम्बर, 2019 के दौरान हिंदी दिवस और हिंदी पखवाड़ा का सफल आयोजन किया गया। अधिकारियों और कर्मचारियों में हिंदी के प्रति जागरूकता बढ़ाने और उन्हें अधिक–से–अधिक सरकारी काम हिंदी भाषा में करने के लिए प्रेरित करने के लिए हिंदी निबंध प्रतियोगिता, हिंदी टिप्पणी एवं मसौदा लेखन प्रतियोगिता, हिंदी अनुवाद, हिंदी वाद् प्रतियोगिता एवं हिंदी व्यवहार प्रतियोगिता आयोजित की गयी।

14 सितम्बर, 2019 को हिंदी दिवस के अवसर पर महानिदेशक श्री डॉ. ओंकार राय ने संस्थान के अधिकारियों और कर्मचारियों को सम्बोधित किया। अपने संबोधन में उन्होंने हिंदी भाषा का जीवन में और देश को समृद्धशाली बनाने में राजभाषा हिंदी के महत्व को बताया। उन्होंने मुख्यालय और इसके विभिन्न केन्द्रों में हिंदी के प्रयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हिंदी कार्यशाला के आयोजन, सामान्य टिप्पणियां तथा पत्रादि को हिंदी में लिखने और सभी केन्द्रों में हिंदी की प्रतियोगिताएं आयोजित करने के लिए भी प्रेरित किया।

तकनीकी और गैर तकनीकी संवर्ग के लिए अलग-अलग मंच प्रतियोगिताएं आयोजित की गयी। दोनों संवर्ग में प्रथम पुरस्कार ₹5000 द्वितीय ₹4000 तृतीय ₹3000 और सांत्वना पुरस्कार ₹1000 निर्धारित था। कार्यालय के वरिष्ठ निदेशक श्री देवेश त्यागी ने विजेता अधिकारियों और कर्मचारियों को पुरस्कृत किया तथा उन्हें और प्रतियोगिता में न सिर्फ बढ़–चढ़ कर हिस्सा लेने बल्कि कार्यालय के दैनिक कार्यों में भी हिंदी का अधिकाधिक उपयोग करने के लिए भी प्रेरित किया।

Message from **Director General**

The way COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the global supply chain and world economy, it's crucial for us to revolutionise innovation process so that we can build software products & platforms indigenously, which will help protect data sovereignty & warrant privacy.

Dr. Omkar Rai Director General, STPI

From the vantage point of the global disruptions erupted by COVID-19 pandemic, it can be argued why self-reliance and localisation are the way forward to thwart similar crises in future. We have noticed how India during the pandemic walked on water and warranted local production of PPEs and N-95 masks while boosting the exports of these products. This accentuates how India can transform challenges into opportunities during adverse scenarios, which underlines self-reliance is a core strength of India's collective consciousness. What's required now to democratise this movement to build a robust ecosystem by collaborating with all stakeholders of economy to boost research & innovation, accelerate prototyping, create IPRs, promote mass manufacturing, and strengthen the supply chain to ensure accessibility and affordability of resources.

Hinged on the vision of putting India in the global leadership league of technology innovation & democratisation, mass productisation, and dispersal of IT industry to smaller cities of India, STPI has undertaken pioneering initiatives such as launch of Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in emerging technologies and implementation of Next Generation Incubation Scheme (NGIS) across 12 STPI Centres in Tier-2 cities to boost tech entrepreneurship and promote research & innovation to strengthen the tech startup ecosystem for developing path-breaking software products for industries & society at large.

In the last quarter, STPI launched CoEs like ModTech at Lucknow, Apiary at Gurugram, and OctaNE with 3 CoEs i.e. Agri IoT in Guwahati, Animation at Shillong and Emerging Tech-AR/VR at Imphal under Phase -I. The MedTech CoE will realise the vision of Make in India & Digital India by fostering promising startups to develop ground-breaking products in medical electronics & health informatics space, and eventually help the nation in achieving zero imports of electronics products. Apiary CoE, which focuses on developing Blockchain solutions in the segments like eGovernance, Finance, Supply Chain & Agriculture, can facilitate startups the much needed ecosystem to startups for transforming their ideas into path-breaking products. Similarly, the OctaNE CoE, which is an interneteworked group of 8 CoEs in the respective capital cities of North Eastern states, will empower the startups of the region to scale their business & products and create employment opportunities for the local talent.

STPI also launched CHUNAUTI to encourage tech startups & young innovators for participating in the challenge programme and showcasing their innovative ideas and prototypes to avail the incubation, mentoring, technical, and funding support through NGIS. The overwhelming response to CHUNAUTI with 6,708 applications from 36 states & UTs underlines the aspirations of Indian startups, budding entrepreneurs & young innovators to pitch into the national mission for revving up the movement in technology product development.

The way COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the global supply chain and world economy, it's crucial for us to revolutionise innovation process so that we can build software products & platforms indigenously, which will help protect data sovereignty & warrant privacy. In an ever-growing global competitive landscape, India can transform itself into a product nation and achieve the goals of self-reliance by strengthening the research & innovation, bolstering multi-stakeholder collaboration, and promoting the promising innovators & startups to translate their ideas into ground-breaking products. STPI has been doing that since its inception and reinventing itself to the demand of industry to meet their expectations.

Launch of Next Generation Incubation Scheme (NGIS)

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon'ble Minister of Electronics & IT, Communications, Law & Justice, Government of India inaugurated the Next Generation Incubation Scheme (NGIS) and launched CHUNAUTI, the Next-Gen Startup Challenge programme under NGIS, for Patna on 28th August 2020 in the august presence of Shri Sushil Modi, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar as Guest of Honour; Shri Suresh Kumar Sharma, Hon'ble Minister Urban Development & Housing Department, Govt. of Bihar; Shri Sanjeev Chaurasia, Hon'ble MLA (Digha); Shri Nitin Nabin, Hon'ble MLA (Bankipur); Shri Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & IT, Govt. of India; Dr Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI and other dignitaries.

During the inauguration of NGIS, Hon'ble MEITS Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad accentuated, "Digital India will not be possible without dispersing the IT/ITeS industry to smaller cities of India. We need to focus on software product creation, which is in the direction of Atmanirbhar Bharat, and NGIS will play a major role in empowering the youth of smaller towns to showcase their potential in building indigenous software products for India and the world. "

"NGIS will empower the youth of Bihar to come forward and build software products in emerging technologies," articulated Hon'ble Deputy CM of Bihar, Shri Sushil Modi during the event.

"Now startups are coming up in small cities and we are planning to empower them through NGIS. The incubation program that we are starting today will see massive momentum in next few years down the line," emphasised Shri Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & IT, Govt. of India during the inauguration.

While delivering the welcome address during the inauguration of NGIS, Dr. Omkar Rai, DG, STPI underlined, "STPI is taking initiatives and measures to realise the vision of Digital India. NGIS programme is created and aligned with the vision of NPSP 2019 and it will create a robust ecosystem for software product development in the country and enable India become a software product nation while realising the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat."

STPI has brought in NGIS and simultaneously launched CHUNAUTI to encourage tech startups and young innovators to participate in the challenge and showcase their innovation mettle. NGIS is a pioneering initiative by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) & STPI to build a world-class incubation ecosystem for identifying & nurturing startups working towards path-breaking software products for addressing the futuristic problems in business & society, and transforming them to become tomorrow's unicorns. Along with MeitY, STPI, MSH, STPINEXT INITIATIVES, a vast spectrum of industry, academia, investment & funding agencies have joined hands to support the innovative product-focused startups in the most comprehensive manner.

NGIS is focused on 12 Tier-II locations in the country viz. Agartala, Bhilai, Bhopal, Bhubaneshwar, Dehradun, Guwahati, Jaipur, Lucknow, Prayagraj, Mohali, Patna, and Vijayawada. It aims to support 300 startups/entrepreneurs/SMEs in the field of IT/ITeS/ESDM over a period of 3 years. Startups from pan-India can also apply and become NGIS beneficiary. Each NGIS location has a dedicated chief mentor along with a "mentor pool" and knowledge partners. The services offered by NGIS to its beneficiaries include physical infrastructure (including state-of-the-art incubation and dedicated Software Product Security Testing (SPST) facility), mentoring, access to VCs for funding support, advisory services (such as HR, Legal, Accounting, IPR/Patenting) along with financial incentives like seed funding upto Rs. 25 Lakhs.

About CHUNAUTI:

A NextGen Startup Challenge Contest: The first Startup Challenge Contest under NGIS christened CHUNAUTI - Challenge Hunt Under NGIS for Advanced Uninhibited Technology Intervention - is an online challenge to explore products & solutions to address the challenges faced during and post pandemic situation. CHUNAUTI is looking to identify and support the solutions, which can assist government, industries, and public at large for their seamless operations and enabling them to face the varied difficulties & bottlenecks during and post pandemic situation.

Chunauti

Challenge Hunt Under NGIS for Advanced Uninhibited Technology Intervention

The products/solutions can be proposed keeping in view the focus areas such as EduTech, AgriTech & FinTech Solutions for masses, Supply Chain, Logistics & Transportation Management, Infrastructure & Remote Monitoring, Medical Healthcare, Diagnostic, Preventive & Psychological Care, Jobs & Skilling, Linguistic Tools & Technologies. CHUNAUTI contest is open for potential startups and the last date of submission of ideas on the portal is 7th September 2020.

An Over Whelming Response to CHUNAUTI

The whole ecosystem has shown an enthusiastic participation in CHUNAUTI outreach programme. All kinds of stakeholders like budding entrepreneurs, startups, academia and enterprises have been part of this contest. Since this was a Tier 2 focused contest, the participation number has broken the previous records of other STPI contest. Collectively, over 6,708 participants showed interest for participating in the contest. The level of participation can be gauged with the fact that out of 36 states & UTs, 31 states & UTs have exhibited participation.

- Among the top 10 participating states, the ones with no metro cities are Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Rajasthan.
- In the overall participation, 71% applications are received from non-metro cities (Tier 2 and below).
- Preliminary screening filtered out about 4,888 applications due to incomplete data. Therefore, remaining 1,820 application were analysed.

Geographic spread of complete applications: Over 25% of the total participants, which work out to be 1,820 complete applications were selected through first level of screening. Therefore, further analysis will focus on these participants only. Since, this contest had an objective to offer equal opportunities to Tier 2 startups, understanding the geographic spread will be a key factor.

Startups are inclined to offer products/solutions which can address problems of masses. The pandemic scenario has shown possibility of wide application of various new solutions and startups would like to offer their solution in EdTech, AgriTech and FinTech domains. Startups willing to support Rural India had submitted variety of ideas to address concern of wide diaspora of end users. As we know that 70% of nation's population resides in rural India, therefore, it is important to understand the inclination of startups to address the concern of Rural India Vs Urban India.

Considering the benchmark of participation in various Hackathons/Contest/Challenges for tech startups, the volume of participation in CHUNAUTI is a significant achievement. The analysis reveals that CHUNAUTI has undoubtedly achieved the desired objective. Currently, the multi-level scrutiny of applications is going on and the result of the contest will be out soon.

STPI IoT OpenLab

Geared up for Mission Innovation in IoT Space

STPI in association with Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Govt. of India and Arrow Electronics has set up IoT OpenLab at Bengaluru. The first batch of IoT startups was on board and the Lab went live on 21st September 2020. The IoT OpenLab will bring in transformative changes in innovation, product development & IPR creation in IoT domain by nurturing promising tech startups while providing a compelling collaborative platform.

IoT OpenLab will enable innovative startups to develop disruptive IoT-based applications, products & solutions in various business verticals like Defence, Aeronautics, Industrial, Agriculture, Health, Automotive and Education. The Lab is spread over an area of 4,200 sq. ft. It aims to support & nurture around 500 startups over a period of 5 years.

The IoT OpenLab is being supported by IESA & TiE (Industry Association Partners) to provide network opportunities to startups, PES Institute of Technology and RV College of Engineering (Academic Partners) to provide academic expertise & mentoring and Cyber Media & Forum Synergy (VC/Angel Partners) to provide funding access & opportunities to the startups. The industry partnership covers ONsemi, Kyocera, NXP, Analog devices, ST Micro, Infineon, Silicon Labs, Microchip, Littelfuse, and KEMET.

Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI, in his keynote address during the webinar of Going Live with IoT OpenLab said, "STPI IoT OpenLab is a national lab and the startups associated with the STPI programmes can access this lab effectively. Startups can access the Lab from across the country and can leverage the potential of mentor pool. With an extensive global technology supply chain network, we are well positioned to provide best-in-class engineering resources, technological expertise, and supply chain capabilities to local innovators and engineers as they create, make, and manage forward-thinking products."

Shri Sanjeev Keskar, MD, Arrow Electronics and Chief Mentor STPI IoT OpenLab was excited about his role and eagerly ready to share his expertise to enable startup to quickly build prototypes, develop products/solutions for go-to-market. "It's a very happy moment for all of us that what we dreamt two years back that has finally converted into reality. IoT will play a significant role in electronics & semiconductor space in the coming times." stated Shri Sanjeev Keskar.

"With all the incubation & lab facilities, mentoring & funding support, startups can transform their entrepreneurial vision. We are planning to nurture 500 startups in a period of 5 years. This CoE has been getting overwhelming response and we have now 16 startups to be incubated in the 1st cohort," highlighted **Shri Shailendra Kumar Tyagi, Director, STPI-Bengaluru** in his inaugural speech at the go-live program.

"TiE-Bengaluru & IESA are collaboratively working to build an IoT ecosystem. We have seen massive growth in last 5 years, with 100 enterprise-level companies and over thousands of startups," underlined **Shri Ravi Gururaj, President, TiE-Bengalore.**

"Startups are the indication of innovations & R&D. IoT has varied applications across industries such as healthcare and manufacturing. The startups that will be incubated at IoT OpenLab will have the market access in India and outside," underlined **Shri Subodh Sachan, Director, Startup & Innovation Promotion, STPI and MD & CEO, STPINEXT INITIATIVES.**

MedTech CoE

Promoting Research & Innovation in Medical Electronics

Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) soft-launched MedTech - A Center of Excellence in Medial Electronics & Health Informatics – and also introduced an Open Challenge Program on 14th August 2020. The MedTech CoE at Lucknow is being set up by STPI & MeitY in collaboration with Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGI, Lucknow; Department of IT & Electronics, Govt. of UP; Association of Medical Device Industry (AiMED) & Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone (AMTZ).

The soft-launch of MedTech CoE & Open Challenge Programme was done by Ms. Jyoti Arora, Special Secretary and Financial Advisor, MeitY, Govt. of India and Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI in the august presence of Shri Rishirendra Kumar, Special Secretary, Department of IT & Electronics, Govt. of UP; Shri Jitendar Sharma, CEO, AMTZ and Co-Chief Mentor, MedTech; Shri R.K. Dhiman, Director, SGPGI, Lucknow; Shri Rajiv Nath, Forum Coordinator, AiMED; Shri Rajneesh Agrawal, Director, STPI-Noida and Shri Subodh Sachan, Director, Startups & Innovation Promotion, STPI and MD & CEO, STPINEXT INITIATIVES.

STPI MedTech CoE is a significant stride in enabling Indian healthcare sector to empower their patients. The core objective of the CoE is to catalyse the transformation of Life Sciences & Healthcare industry for accelerated and sustained growth, to capture new business opportunities and markets and build solutions for real world challenges through co-creation programmes.

With an estimated budget of Rs. 22 crores, the CoE will nurture 50 startups over a period of five years, stimulating R&D in medical electronics and health informatics while facilitating an entrepreneurial ecosystem to promote young innovators to create affordable, high-quality indigenous medical products, drive employment and contribute to the economy.

The CoE will come up on the PGI campus, with a built-up space of 18,000 sq. ft. Dr. Saurabh Srivastava, Former Chairman of NASSCOM & Founder, Indian Angel Network is be the Chief Mentor of MedTech CoE.

"This CoE will promote research & innovation and help create innovative products in medical electronics domain. MedTech CoE will make a lot of difference on the ground and meet the expectations of India at large in the medical sector. The initiatives taken by STPI will help nurturing startups, promoting innovation & entrepreneurship, eventually making India self-reliant ," envisioned **Dr. Omkar Rai, DG, STPI** said while delivering the keynote address during the launch of MedTech CoE.

"STPI is playing a key role in establishing CoEs in various emerging technology domains. Startups should come out with prototypes of their products to test & validate, and this CoE will help supporting & scaling," expressed **Ms. Jyoti Arora, Special Secretary & Financial Advisor, MeitY, Govt. of India.**

"There are massive opportunities for healthcare sector in tele consultation, AI-based diagnostics, and remote healthcare management. India has shown its capability of rapid product development during the COVID-19 pandemic and it has strong hold in IT domain; we can build sophisticated software products in healthcare domain," articulated **Shri Rajiv Nath, Forum Co-ordinator, AiMED.**

"High imports in medical sector are the reason why it has become necessary to create a system for self-reliance," cited **Shri Rajneesh Agrawal, Director, STPI-Noida** while delivering the welcome address at the soft-launch of STPI MedTech CoE.

"We need to be very agile in developing products & launching in market, and this CoE will play a key role in this segment. This MedTech incubator will play a significant role in allowing people to do business of science in a very ethical manner," expressed **Dr. Jitendar Sharma, CEO, AP MedTech Zone & Co-Chief Mentor of STPI MedTech** at the soft launch.

"This initiative will contribute to the vision of the government and policies like Make in India and Startup India, and leverage medical and clinical access & research. CoEs like STPI MedTech will be very helpful in developing innovative products for the healthcare sector in the country," expounded **Dr. R. K. Dhiman, Director, SGPGI.**

"The Govt. of Uttar Pradesh is promoting medical electronics in a big way and we are launching a new policy very soon," articulated **Shri Rishirendra Kumar, Special Secretary, IT & Electronics, Govt. of UP.**

MedTech CoE is a pioneering initiative by STPI to boost research & innovation, build entrepreneurship, and accelerate domestic manufacturing of medical electronics products, while significantly reducing the dependency on imports,"" said **Shri Subodh Sachan, Director, Startup & Innovation Promotion, STPI and MD & CEO, STPINEXT INITIATIVES.**

STPI MedTech also launched the Open Challenge Programme to encourage startups focused on MediElectronics, HealthInformatics, HealthTech & IoT to showcase their innovation mettle & transform their ideas into ground-breaking products.

Soft Launch of OctaNE

Interneworked North East CoEs to support technology led innovation by STPI

Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) soft launched the first phase of OctaNE - A Centre of Excellence (CoE) in IoT in

Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) soft launched the first phase of OctaNE - A Centre of Excellence (CoE) in IoT in Agriculture at Guwahati, Animation at Shillong and Emerging Tech-AR/VR at Imphal and simultaneously launched the Open Challenge Programme on 20th July 2020. STPI OctaNE is a ground-breaking initiative by STPI to transform the digital profile of North-East by providing a robust startup ecosystem to rev up innovation & entrepreneurship in emerging technology domains.

OctaNE is poised to nurture startups in emerging tech in a collaborative model by facilitating mentoring, funding, marketing & IPR while enabling them to address the challenges of local industry & build software products. Network of 8 STPI CoEs for North East will transform innovation & entrepreneurship in the region.

The services available for the beneficiaries of OctaNE shall include physical infrastructure including 450-seater state-of-the-art incubation (200 for Guwahati, 150 for Shillong and 100 for Imphal). Along with e-Commerce facilitation and Tinkering Lab in each of the three centres, mentoring, financial support through seed funding, technical support, marketing support, IPR/Patenting facilitation and legal, accounting & other support services will be provided to startups.

The soft launch of OctaNE & Idea Challenge Programme was done by Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI and Shri Rajiv Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Govt. of India in the august presence of Shri Kumaran Venkatesh, President & Partner at AXLerate Now and Chief Mentor of CoE in IoT in Agriculture at Guwahati and Shri Biren Ghose, Country Head, Technicolor & Chief Mentor of CoE in Animation at Shillong; Shri P K Das, Director, STPI-Guwahati and Shri Subodh Sachan, Director, Startups & Innovation Promotion, STPI and MD & CEO, STPINEXT INITIATIVES.

"Our CoEs are collaborative efforts of stakeholders from government, industry, academia, industry associations and state governments. In two years, STPI is going to be the largest startup ecosystem in the nation," asserted **Dr. Omkar Rai, DG, STPI** while delivering the keynote address during the launch of OctaNE CoE. Dr. Rai further added, "For Atmanirbhar Bharat, IoT can play a key role in precision agriculture, in realising the vision of Hon'ble PM in doubling farmers' income, and North-East has the potential for sectors like agriculture, horticulture & floriculture."

"In North-East, we are providing the fundamental support to create the ecosystem for the growth of startups. OctaNE is the realisation of the vision of Digital North East 2022, which was launched in 2018, and our commitment for North-East. We are taking a small but a very important step today in the journey of North East Vision 2022." said **Shri Rajiv Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Govt. of India.**

"There is a demand for the development of innovative products in our country. If we need to increase GDP of the country, we must focus on Agritech. Agritech startups are growing at a rate of 25% YoY. Every 9th Agritech startup in the world is originating out of India. Huge opportunity for Agri-IoT startups as the adoption of IoT is rising faster and it will be the driver of change. Adoption of tech can significantly increase farmers' income in the country," cited **Shri Kumaran Venkatesh, President & Partner, AXLerateNow & Chief Mentor of CoE in IoT in Agriculture** at Guwahati.

"Today, the transformation in digital tools has enabled us to start this CoE in Animation. The business of art will reduce the gap between man and environment. STPI CoEs will provide a canvas to paint new stories of our times," articulated **Shri Biren Ghose, Country Head, Technicolor & Chief Mentor of CoE in Animation.**

"STPI OctaNE will create a robust ecosystem for startups to boost R&D, innovation & entrepreneurship in the region. Funding support will be provided to startups for cloud hosting, mentor support & IP creation," stated **Shri Prabir Kr. Das, STPI-Director, Guwahati** while sharing presentation on STPI OctaNE.

Open Challenge Programme

STPI OctaNE launches the Open Challenge Programme to inspire startups in the North East region to participate in the programme and transform their brilliant ideas into path-breaking products in Agri-IoT, Animation, and AR & VR domains. Open Challenge Programme is a platform where a startup gets an opportunity to solve problems through innovative solutions. The objective of Open Challenge Programme is to identify, recognize & reward aspiring and early-stage tech entrepreneurs.

Soft Launch of apiary

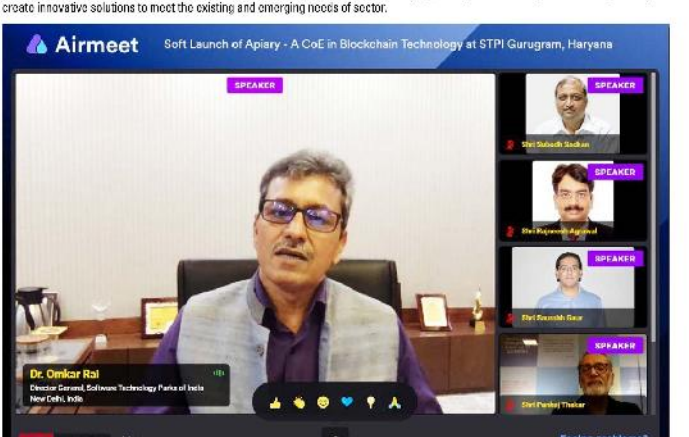
A CoE in Blockchain Technology by STPI

On 17th July 2020, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) soft launched Apiary, a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Blockchain and also launched Idea Challenge Programme in Blockchain at Gurugram in association with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Govt. of India, Government of Haryana, Government Blockchain Association and several blue-chip companies and top tier academic institutions.

The soft-launch of Apiary & Idea Challenge Programme was done by Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI in the august presence of Shri Saurabh Gaur, Joint Secretary, MeitY; Shri Ajay Singh Tomar, Additional Secretary, Department of IT, Electronics & Communication, Govt. of Haryana; Shri Pankaj Thakar, CFO & Founder, Padup Venture; Shri Devesh Tyagi, Senior Director, STPI; Shri Rajneesh Agrawal, Director STPI-Noida and Shri Subodh Sachan, Director, Startups & Innovation Promotion, STPI and MD & CEO, STPINEXT INITIATIVES.

The 7,000 sq. ft. Apiary CoE, at STPI-Gurugram targets 100 startups in coming 5 years. The centre aims to provide blockchain as a service and allows all stakeholders to benefit from shared learning, experiences, and resources. The startups will be mentored by a group of accomplished industry and academic pioneers, led by the Chief Mentor Shri Pankaj Thakar, CoE & Founder, Padup Venture and aided by a strong Governing Council (GC) & Project Management Group (PMG) consisting of top technology industrialists, investors and academicians. Several corporate and academic partners have already come on board, including IBM, Intel, Padup Venture, Indian Angel Network, Vinners Angel Group, Padup Syndicate, and Venture Catalyst. Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer, FITT, IIT Delhi/Sonepat Campus will be participating as academic partner.

Blockchain is now a widely deployed technology, finding use beyond the financial realm. The adoption of it in sectors such as e-Governance, health, agriculture, travel, and several other sectors will provide trust and immutability to the assets. The objective of opening this CoE is to boost startups in the field of blockchain technology and to contribute to Make-in-India & Digital India programmes of Govt. of India. It will create a holistic ecosystem for encouraging R&D, innovation, entrepreneurship in blockchain technology in India by providing physical infrastructure and support services for prototyping, developing, testing & marketing for incubating startups to create innovative solutions to meet the existing and emerging needs of sector.



Expressing his thoughts on the launch of STPI Apiary, **Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI** said, "Blockchain is the most important technology after internet. It has significant application areas across industry verticals including e-governance. Startups can access mentors, capital, market, and the entire world-class infrastructure in Apiary CoE, so they can sit together and create world-class IPRs. We are creating state-of-the-art infrastructure and enabling support systems for startups for creating innovative products. Being a new technology, Indian startups /companies can take a lead and become world leader in this domain."

"Blockchain CoE will be very instrumental in building innovative products for governance. Blockchain has the potential to help reduce the regulatory oversights and can unblock new values and sources of efficiencies in the government's federal structure," underscored **Shri Saurabh Gaur, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & IT, Govt. of India.**

At the soft launch of the CoE, **Shri Pankaj Thakar, Founder, Padup Ventures & Chief Mentor** underlined, "Entrepreneurship is a combination of art and science, and its implementation plays a critical role. How you use the technology in building innovations makes all the difference. STPI CoEs are bringing structure to the startup ecosystem in terms of education, mentoring, workshops, and funding."

The vision of this Blockchain CoE is also to provide a platform for Government industry idea exchange," cited **Shri Subodh Sachan, Director, STPIINDIA & CEO, STPINEXT** on the soft launch of Apiary.

"In the last decade, Blockchain has been found to be one of the most prominent technologies with massive applications. Apiary will provide an all-inclusive ecosystem for startups to innovate in Blockchain technologies and develop path-breaking products for various sectors," underlined **Shri Rajneesh Agrawal, Director, STPI Noida.**

"The environment we have created in the state of Haryana will foster entrepreneurship. The Startup Policy of Haryana incentivises innovation & product development by startups," stated **Shri Ajay Singh Tomar, Additional Secretary, Department of IT, Electronics & Communication, Govt. of Haryana.**

Open Challenge Programme

STPI Apiary also launched Idea Challenge Programme in Blockchain Technology in domains like Supply Chain, Agriculture, Finance and e-Governance to invite applications from startups and budding entrepreneurs to showcase their innovation quotient in developing path-breaking solutions in the aforementioned domains.

Launch of Electrovibes

— A Pioneering Webinar Series on ESDM Sector —

Electrovibes, a pioneering initiative by STPI to foster ideation, deliberation, and discussion on ESDM industry, was launched virtually under the STPI Pulse platform by Dr. Omkar Rai, Director General, STPI in the august presence of Shri Saurabh Gaur, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Govt. of India; Shri Devesh Tyagi, Senior Director, STPI; Shri Manoj Kumar Mishra, Secretary, Electronics & IT Department, Govt. of Odisha; Shri Manas Ranjan Panda, Director, STPI-Bhubaneswar; Shri Subodh Sachan, Director, Startups & Innovation Promotion, STPI and MD & CEO STPINEXT INITIATIVES and Shri Sanjeev Chopra, CEO, EP-New Delhi & Bhubaneswar.

A panel discussion on "Odisha: An Emerging ESDM Hub" was conducted on 7th August 2020 with eminent panelists like Shri Pradeep Gupta, CMD, Cybermedia & Chief Mentor, Electropreneur Park-New Delhi & Bhubaneswar; Shri Jay Krishnan, General Partner, Mantra Capital; Shri Jaswinder Ahuja, Managing Director, Cadence Design Systems and Dr. Satya Gupta, Chairman, IESA. The session was moderated by Shri J.B. Pany (Dulal), Chairman & Mentor, Obpoo Solutions Pvt. Ltd. and hosted by Ms. Lopa Mishra Jana, CDO, Electropreneur Park-Bhubaneswar.

Delivering a keynote address during the inaugural session of Electrovibes, **Dr. Omkar Rai, DG, STPI** underlined, "Odisha has become a test bed for us to test our ideas, products, and using this initiative we can expand to other parts of the country. The time is so ripe & India is moving forward, and therefore the localisation of manufacturing will make the country self-reliant."

Shri Manoj Kumar Mishra, Secretary, Electronics & IT Department, Govt of Odisha said, "Odisha has all the resources like manpower, infrastructure, academia, and all these can help the State to emerge as a major hub for ESDM (Electronics System Design and Manufacturing) sector."

Arista Vault Launches Shuddhi Basket

Dr. Omkar Rai, DG, STPI launched Shuddhi Basket, an indigenously built product developed by Arista Vault, an incubatee of Electropreneur Park, Delhi at the headquarters in presence of Shri Rajneesh Agrawal, Director, STPI Noida; Shri Sanjeev Chopra, CEO, Electropreneur Park; Ms. Purvi Roy, Founder & CEO, Arista Vault and Col. K.K. Singh, Founder & CTO, Arista Vault on 9th September August 2020.

During the launch, Dr. Rai highlighted, "The tallness of success achieved by Electrpreneur Park, the first-of-its-kind ESDM Centre of Excellence in the country, in terms of innovative product development and IPR creation is enormous, and the launch of Shuddhi Basket signifies its veracity."

Shuddhi Basket is a foldable solution to disinfect office files, fruits, vegetables, laptops, and anything placed inside. It is built with UV calibrated lamps and all the mechanism inside makes it like the Clean Room Technology for disinfection of any object. Clean Room Technology has been used in hospitals to disinfect surgical equipment for decades. And now with the help of experts, scientists and technologists, Arista Vault has built the same environment inside this jute chamber.

Among other features, being light-weight, easy-to-carry body and cost-effective biodegradable, Shuddhi Basket is the right answer to all the sanitisation woes in the pandemic. It is known to clean all objects including groceries, files, laptops completely.

"Shuddhi Basket will minimise the fear of the spread of the virus and allow people to enjoy their moments freely. This will disinfect all items that you bring in so that you have happiness and not the virus at home."
quoted **Ms. Purvi Roy, CEO And Founder, Arista Vault.**

Motion Drive - Online Knowledge Series on NextGen ACES Mobility

STPI-Pune organised the first virtual Motion Drive - A Knowledge Series on NextGen ACES Mobility for the startups working in Autonomous, Connected, Electric & Shared (ACES) Mobility space on 11th September 2020. Motion Drive is a path-breaking initiative by STPI to rope in industry stalwarts from automotive sector to ideate, deliberate & disseminate insightful information to startups & innovators in ACES mobility space.

"The purpose of this platform is to work as a bridge between government, industry & academia so that we can be the guiding light for the startups," articulated Dr. Omkar Rai, DG, STPI as the keynote speaker during the event. He further emphasised, "Five things that are important for startups to scale & succeed which we see during screening: power of your idea, business model & team, funding, and ability to get customer access."

Shri Arun Firodia, Chairman, Kinetic India during his speech said, "Pricing, capacity & battery charging are some of the critical challenges to be addressed for building a seamless ACES mobility ecosystem. The challenges India is working right now in EV are cost, product capacity and charging time of the battery."

"With the Aatmanirbhar Bharat mission, we are witnessing a lot of startups have launched indigenous products during the pandemic," said Dr. Ganesh Natarajan, Chairman, 5F World & Chief Mentor, MOTION-CoE.

Shri Sanjay Kumar Gupta, Director, STPI Maharashtra & Goa, delivered the welcome address and shared his thought on the role of STPI Motion Drive knowledge series in connecting renowned leaders of industry for deliberations in this initiative. He cited, "10 startups have been selected for the first cohort of the MOTION CoE, focusing on Autonomous, Connected, Electric & Shared Mobility vehicle solutions."

"MOTION DRIVE will foster ideation & deliberations in ACES mobility space to enable startups leverage the best practices and insights, which will further galvanise the ecosystem of MOTION CoE to build ground-breaking innovations," mentioned **Shri Subodh Sachan, Director, Startup & Innovation Promotion, STPI and MD & CEO, STPINEXT INITIATIVES.**

Abhijit Muley, General Manager, ARAI; Shri Vinten Diwakar, Head Battery System, Green Cubes Technology; Shri Rahul Hatkar, General Manager, Cerence Inc. and Shri Niket Nikhare, COO of MOTION-CoE participated in the webinar and also shared their thoughts on the upcoming technologies in automotive domain.

Success Story

AgNext

Transforming Agriculture Supply Chain through AI-powered Innovations in Food Quality

On the cusp of a historical change that the civilization is going through ushered in by a tiny virus, efforts are being channelized in an unprecedented manner not done hitherto, to make sustainable and safe food systems across the world. The compelling mission staring at humanity and challenging its sheer existence is being taken head-on through a multitude of interventions that technology offers.

Efforts and innovations to manage pre-harvest and post-harvest food management systems are increasing exponentially across the world, as our future of food hinges on digitising and bringing efficiencies across the food value chain.

So why not start digitising food instantly and objectively for on-spot, on-time food assessment to digitise every inbound and outbound flow and remove human subjectivity. But to attain this herculean task, one needs to move away from human intervention in any form including testing at laboratories as it leads to delays in decisions. To obviate this premise, it was AgNext's innate desire to unleash a technology that combines the power of Science of Labs and Sense of People to provide disruption in Food Quality Assessments, which are instant, portable, and accurate.

The technology that AgNext offers has a ubiquitous presence across all the nodes, right from a collection centre upstream to a processing centre downstream. The company believes in the maxim that if someone aims to disrupt an industry, he/she must be willing to disrupt himself/herself. AgNext's mission is to sense food in just 30 seconds through technology, which would disrupt the food chain from the field all the way to the fork riding on basic principles of science..

The SpecX Technology of AgNext addresses all the following basic questions and has the potential to emerge as the veritable tool for the food systems of the new world.

1. Can the chemical test be done on the field using an advanced understanding of molecular and spectral sciences, to unravel the underbelly of the food so to say?
2. Can the physical tests be done on the field using computer vision, to disclose the physical components of the food itself?
3. Can the ambient quality or the shelf life of the food- the external environment so to say be assessed by sensors?

Using data sciences, AgNext has built the world's most futuristic platform for instant, portable, and accurate food assessments to undertake the right financial decisions. This ecosystem has been developed in deep learning sciences and a deeper understanding of the business of food.

The USP of this technology lies in the fact that it is 100% portable and delivers results in 30 seconds. It gets commercialised at a maximum of 2% play. It has 0 consumables, as the costs are low and operations are fully field-class and it can map every type of food that nature has to offer on the aforementioned three parameters.

The chemical assessment technology developed using AI can analyse protein, gluten, starch, ash, moisture in various grains like wheat, corn, barley, etc and key components like curcumin in turmeric or piperin in pepper, composition molecules like fat, SNF, and protein, contaminants like palm oil, detergent and urea in milk. This technology is critical to ensure adulteration free safe food chains.

AgNext has built LORA WAN and IoT-based food sensor networks, which measure and predict when the food is losing its quality. This finds applications across storage like silos, cold stores and warehouses, and post-harvests like curing solutions of tobacco and tea. The core of SpecX technology lies in its data sciences and the company is poised to build the world's largest banks of food molecular signatures and visual feature segmentation algorithms of food.

Taranjeet Singh Bhamra
CEO and Founder, AgNext Technologies

"I imagine a world in which AI is going to bring sustainability in food systems by empowering farmers, accelerating quality trade for food businesses & a happy consumer; creating a win-win situation for all & achieving a universal mission of Quality Food for Billions.

The journey of building this unique platform required collecting million plus samples, understanding 1000+ parameters, working on 100+ algorithms, building integrated devices, and crunching this data to deliver on one single platform called Qualis, which can be deployed for a particular commodity across the value chain mapping all kinds of chemical and physical quality.

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