

FIVE HIGH-END PROJECTS LAUNCHED TO UPLIFT KERALA'S IT ECOSYSTEM



Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan kicked off five high-end IT projects, including the State's second World Trade Centre at Technocity, which would act as pivots for Kerala's robust IT ecosystem, trigger jobs and ensure sustainable economic development.

The others are Swatantra, the world's largest integrated free and open source facility in a government sector; the Skill Delivery Platform of Kerala (SDPK), Design Innovation Centre and Space Tech Application Development Ecosystem (STADE).

In his presidential address, Minister for Cooperation, Tourism and Devaswom, Kadakampally Surendran said, "The government has great hopes from the youth of our State and is working to create opportunities that provide people jobs of their liking with decent incomes."

M Sivasankar IAS, Secretary, Electronics & IT, Government of Kerala welcomed the gathering while Dr. Jayasankar Prasad, Director, International Centre for Free and Open Source Software (ICFOSS), proposed the vote of thanks. Dr. Chithra S IAS, IT Mission Director and Santhosh Kurup, CEO, ICT Academy also attended.

SWATANTRA

An initiative of ICFOSS, it will house the ICFOSS Research Centre and Office, FOSS Innovation and Incubation Space, Open Hardware Lab and FOSS Training Space.

It is aimed at enhancing the government's agenda of promoting democratic access of information with the objective of sustainable economic development. By using FOSS, users can run any programme sans any restrictions, for any purpose. Users can

also modify programmes as per their wish and preferences.

Kerala became the first State to adopt a pro-FOSS IT policy and in 2009, the Kerala government started ICFOSS in Thiruvananthapuram. A free online software treasure hunt called Swatantra International Conference is being conducted by ICFOSS for the last seven years.

SKILL DELIVERY PLATFORM FOR KERALA (SDPK)

The SDPK by Kerala State IT Infrastructure Ltd. (KSITIL) intends to bridge the gap between the industry and colleges and is equipped to provide a live tele-presence network with 150 engineering colleges of the State that comes under APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University. By providing training in blockchain and Internet of Things (IoT) for 50,000

RACKBANK TO SET UP HYPER DATA CENTRE AT INFOPARK

Kerala has signed an agreement with hyper scale data platform RackBank Datacenters (RBDC) to set up a mega data park at Infopark in Cherthala with an investment of about Rs. 1000 crore. The MoU of the project, an outcome of the digital summit #FUTURE held last year, was signed between Hrishikesh Nair, CEO, IT Parks Kerala and Anil Reddy, Chairman, RBDC in the presence of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and M Sivasankar IAS, Secretary, IT & Electronics, Government of Kerala. The CM said, "This is going to be a great boost for



the IT industry in Kerala as there is a need to have world class data centre facilities to meet the growing demands."

"RBDC is proud to be investing in Kerala and in its endeavors to

support technology and innovation," said Anil Reddy who leads the Specialist Management Team at RBDC. M Sivasankar IAS, Secretary, IT & Electronics, Government of Kerala. The State's High Power IT Committee (HPIC) Chairman and Infosys Co-founder, S D Shibulal, has been instrumental in bringing RBDC to the State as part of Global Connect organised in the US as a follow-up to #FUTURE. Founded in 2013, RBDC is a reputed data center platform serving cloud, content and large enterprise customers across India, Europe and USA.

students per year, this e-learning platform is aimed at improving the employability of engineering students. Through this, the students will be able to network with major IT hubs in the State and they will be equipped with skills as per the demands of the industry.

The Chief Minister inaugurated SDPK by interacting with students of over 18 colleges through teleconferencing and the official website of SDPK was also launched on the occasion. Hi-tech classrooms have been set up in engineering colleges for this purpose.

WORLD TRADE CENTRE

The second World Trade Centre (WTC) in Kerala after Kochi is being executed by the Brigade Group in an area of 2.5 million sq. ft. that will generate employment for 15,000 persons. An MoU to this effect was exchanged between Hrishikesh Nair, CEO, IT Parks Kerala and M R Jaishankar, CMD, Brigade Enterprises, in the presence of the Chief Minister.

WTC Thiruvananthapuram is proposed to be part of a larger mixed use development with allied facilities including a hotel, serviced apartments, hostel (men and women) for working professionals and neighbourhood retail and entertainment. Brigade Groups holds WTC licences for all the major cities in South India like Bengaluru, Kochi, Chennai,



Thiruvananthapuram and Hyderabad. WTC Bengaluru and WTC Kochi are already operational, while WTC Chennai will be launched by the end of the year.

STADE

Letters of occupancies at STADE by Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) were handed over to three startups working in the space tech arena – Satsure, Bellatrix and Agnikul – by the Kerala IT Secretary in the presence of KSUM CEO Dr. Saji Gopinath. Airbus Biz Labs is also partnering with KSUM on this project.

DESIGN INNOVATION CENTRE

The #DesignKeralaSummit held in Kochi paved the way for setting up a Design Innovation Centre in

Kerala. One of the delegates at the summit, Sreeni Sreenivasan, also the president of World Design Organisation studied design opportunities in the State and decided to launch a Design Innovation Centre by setting up his US-based company Lumium in Kerala.

An MoU in this regard was exchanged between Dr. Saji Gopinath, CEO, KSUM and Sreeni Sreenivasan, Chairman and CEO, Design Innovation Centre. The Centre is proposed to be set up in Kochi. A company started in 2006, Lumium has proved its expertise in Design Research, Strategy, Design & Detailed Engineering, Packaging and Digital Experience to create award-winning products. In India, they have their design centre in Ahmedabad also.

IIoT CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE OPENS AT WIPRO IN KOCHI

Wipro recently announced the launch of its Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Kochi, India.

The CoE marks Wipro's commitment to developing innovative IIoT solutions that span across the technology stack in the industrial manufacturing, automotive, healthcare and pharmaceutical, consumer products and goods, and utilities space. Leveraging AI, blockchain and robotics, the lab will develop Proofs of Concept (POCs) and market-ready IoT solutions.

M Sivasankar IAS, Secretary, IT and Electronics, Government of Kerala, who inaugurated the centre said, "Kerala has focused on technologies which are critical to the Industry 4.0 concept and IIoT is an integral part of this proposition. With the rollout of the Kerala Fibre Optic Network (KFON), the ambitious fibre2home/enterprise/institution network in the next 18 months, local economy stakeholders will increasingly benefit from IoT deployments. Wipro's decision to set up its third global IIoT lab in Kerala is a timely one. I hope it grows into a major development centre soon."



Separately, Wipro hosted a two-day hackathon on Industrial IoT on March 12 and 13 at its Kochi development centre, which saw active participation from leading engineering colleges in Kerala. Wipro will extend pre-placement offers to winning participants in the final year of their engineering degree course while those in the penultimate year of their degree programme will receive internship opportunities. The new hires will join Wipro's IIoT research and development team in Kochi.

Jayraj Nair, Vice President & Global Head – IoT, Wipro said, "We

are proud to launch our IIoT CoE in Kerala after Mountain View, California and Bengaluru."

By combining its services and offerings, Wipro offers comprehensive engineering solutions for IoT adoption. These range from sensors, connectivity, edge computing, storage, AI, machine learning and analytics. Wipro also leverages its partnership ecosystem, which spans across edge, connectivity, application enablement platforms, business solutions, infrastructure, and cloud partners to ensure the best outcome for its clients' IoT programmes.

CYBERPARK ORGANISES YOU TURN 2.0



Cyberpark Kozhikode, in association with Mobile 10X, GMi, Cafit, Wemakez and Flife foundation organised You Turn 2.0, a 12-day workshop on Node.js. The workshop was inaugurated by Kozhikode District Collector Sambasiva Rao IAS on February 17. It was open to 30 participants with basic programming skills. Other dignitaries present were Sana Thayyil, Director, Ping and Ajay Sankar, Assistant Manager, IAMAI

Mobile 10X. Ping Foundation is an open source community focusing on product development and training. It is involved in developing apps with social impact. There were interactive sessions on various topics including Mobile App Development by Ajith V Giri (Android Developer, Qkopy); Opportunities in Disruptive Technologies by Roshan Kynadi (Representative of GMi) and Design Thinking by Deepak (Mentor and investor).

IOSS CEO WINS YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR AWARD



Abdul Gafoor K V, Chief Operating Officer, Infinite Open Source Solutions LLP (iOSS) received the 'Young Entrepreneur' award from Padma Bhushan Dr. K Radhakrishnan, former Chairman, ISRO at the 22nd Annual Management Convention of Calicut Management Association (CMA) held in Kozhikode recently.