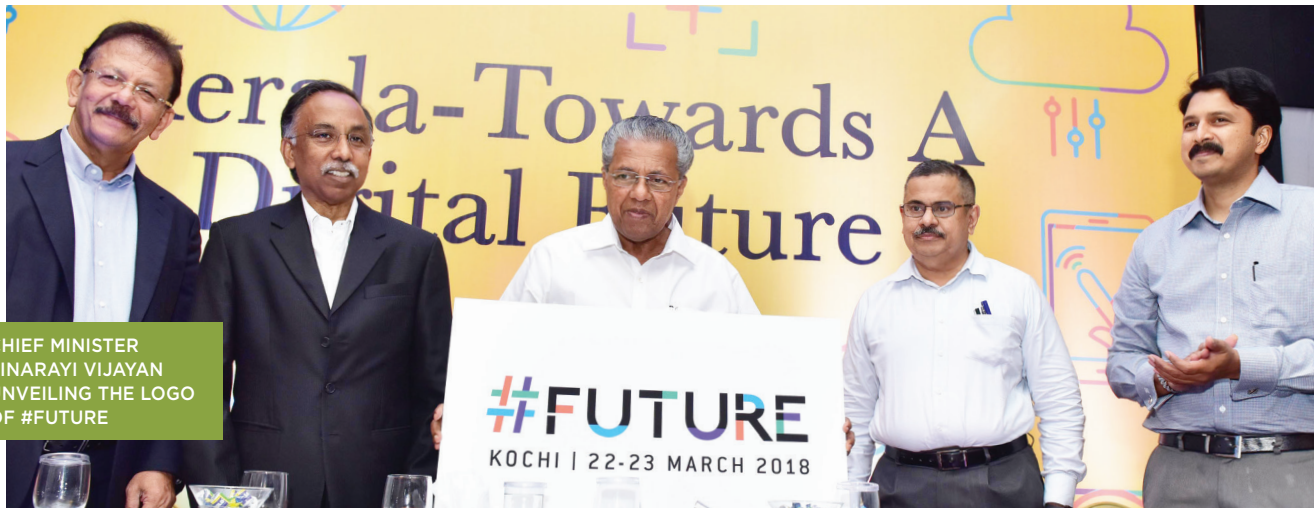


MEET ON MAKING STATE A DIGITAL HUB IN THE #FUTURE



Top business leaders of the knowledge industry from all over the world will come together in Kochi on March 22 and 23, 2018 for #FUTURE, a summit to discuss emerging trends, ground realities and the way forward to position Kerala as a hub for digital innovation and investment.

Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister, Kerala, announcing the event, said: “The potential of the Information Technology industry to transform the socio-economic landscape of the State is huge and it is for this reason that a High Power IT Committee (HPIC) has been constituted to act as an advisor to the Government.”

“The event in Kochi will be an industry initiative supported by the State Government. It will be a gathering of achievers in the knowledge industry, creating a platform for information exchange on topics of great relevance to the digital era that would benefit the State and nation,” said the Chief Minister. The event will see the convergence of around

2,000 professionals, entrepreneurs, academicians, key influencers and other stakeholders. Over 30 global business leaders of the knowledge industry are being invited to share insights on the opportunities that would help enterprises compete and lead in a digital world.

“This would be a wonderful opportunity for Kerala-based IT companies, startups, aspiring entrepreneurs and individuals to learn directly from some of the brightest minds in the world about emerging trends in the digital space and what the future holds for them. So all stakeholders – entrepreneurs and enterprises from within and outside the State, belonging to all verticals, government and academic institutions – would be direct beneficiaries,” said S D Shibulal, Chairman of HPIC and Co-founder, former MD & CEO, Infosys.

The summit is envisaged as a bi-yearly event that will create and nurture a network of digital achievers and inspire them to be

part of the efforts to realise the digital ambitions of the State. It will showcase the digital achievements of Kerala and promote its potential as a consumption-ready digital market place.

Each edition of the event will have a few core themes which the panels and experts will debate and discuss. A highlight would be the digital experience theatre – a state-of-the-art virtually simulated and interactive platform.

“The overall theme ‘towards a digital future’ has been carefully chosen as it is currently an important point of conversation in businesses in India and globally. Disruptive technological forces are set to revolutionize the way businesses are being carried out. Kerala cannot afford to be left behind,” said V K Mathews, Convener, #FUTURE; Member, HPIC and Executive Chairman, IBS Software Services.

A direct outcome of the event will be the formation of a ‘Digital Achievers Network of Kerala Origin.’

PQFF CELEBRATES TECHIES' FILMS



Passionate filmmakers and artists among the techie community in Kerala were honoured for their works at the Prathidhwani Qisa Film Festival (PQFF) awards ceremony held at Travancore Hall in Technopark. Filmmaker-actor Dileesh Pothan and actor Alencier Ley Lopez presented the awards to the winners who were nominated under eight categories. Entries for the sixth film festival organised by Prathidhwani were screened.

Awakening directed by Suraj

Nair of Infosys bagged the award for best film. *Rodham* directed by Sarin of UST Global won the award for the second best film. Deepak S Jay of Applexus Technologies won the award for best director for the film *45 seconds*. Freddy Abraham of Envestnet won the award for Best Screenplay for *Pretha Veedu*.

Best performer award was shared by Mani Nair for his character in the film *June 1* and Parvathy Krishnan for her role in *Awakening*. Award for best director of photography was

won by Sabin Chandran for the film *Yaar*, directed by Amal J Prasad of Alamy Images. Appu Bhattathiri won the best editor award for his work in *45 seconds*. Special jury award was presented to Baburaj Asariya for the documentary *Unsung Heroes*, which portrays the life of ambulance drivers in Kerala.

At the award ceremony, Dileesh Pothan said, "Relentless efforts and dedication have helped many people to leave a mark in the film industry."

In the six editions of PQFF over as many years, more than 120 films by IT employees have been screened. The main goal of conducting the PQFF is to encourage the filmmaking talents of IT employees. The main conditions to screen a film at PQFF is that it should be shorter than 45 minutes and directed and scripted by employees working in Kerala's private IT sector.

UST GLOBAL, KERALA POLICE DEPARTMENT TO LAUNCH GLOBAL CYBER CENTRE

Leading Digital Technology Services Company UST Global is set to launch the UST Global Cyber Centre in partnership with Kerala Police Department's Cyberdome at Thiruvananthapuram in 2018. The announcement was made by Sajan Pillai, the company's CEO, recently.

"It will be a world-class security operating centre which could monitor all the required items for the Central and State governments. The centre will primarily utilise the cybersecurity capabilities developed by UST Global Israel. We believe this will be a huge opportunity for Keralites," said Pillai.

"Started 18 years ago, UST Global has become the first billion dollar technology start-up from Kerala. We started with retail and healthcare and later expanded to banking and financial services, technology and telecommunications. Now, these are the four major verticals we are focusing on," said Sajan. These four industries are getting heavily disrupted by digital transformation, he pointed out. The print media world over is getting challenged by other forms of media like social media and digital media, he added.

Launched in 1999, UST Global is one of the pioneers of IT industry in Kerala.



HRISHIKESH NAIR, CEO IT PARKS KERALA, INAUGURATING THE NEW FACILITY OF TRENSEOR TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS IN TECHNOPARK



VOLUNTEERS OF VIVEKANANDA STUDY CIRCLE (VSC) DISTRIBUTING RICE BAGS TO RESIDENTS OF POONTHURA WHO WERE AFFECTED BY CYCLONE OCKHI. THE GROUP DISTRIBUTED 1,020 KG OF RICE TO 248 HOUSEHOLDS IN THE COASTAL HAMLET

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM TECHNOPARK

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