TECH MAHINDRA'S ARRIVAL TAKES
TECHNOPARK TO A BIGGER LEAGUE

Close on the heels of Nissan Motor Corporation setting up a digital hub at Technocity in Pallipuram, Tech Mahindra, part of the Mahindra Group, is all ready to open a 200-seater facility at a 12,000-square feet area in Technopark. The office space will be on the 10th floor at Ganga Tower, Technopark Phase 3. Hrishikesh Nair, CEO, Kerala IT Parks handed over a letter in this regard to Palani Velu, General Manager (Infrastructure - Corporate Services), Tech Mahindra recently.

In March 2018, C P Guruswami, CEO, Tech Mahindra met Paul Antony IAS, Chief Secretary, Kerala and M Sivasankar IAS, IT Secretary to

discuss plans regarding finding space for the company in Technopark.

"Kerala is getting noticed by IT companies globally as one of the most preferred locations in India. This is because of the extensive support by the state government and extremely skilled talent base the State has to offer," said Hrishikesh Nair, pointing out how the recent big ticket investments are boosting the investors' confidence in the State's IT market. With the arrival of Tech Mahindra in Tech-

nopark, the State will be soon hosting five Indian major IT of the country, boosting the momentum of the ongoing #movetotrivandrum campaign. Tech Mahindra will also be providing IT services to Nissan digital hub.

The office is expected to be operational in the next three months. The company will also cater to a range of global clientele. "Initially, Tech Mahindra will employ 200 people. In future, they will have around 2,000 job openings after moving to their own campus in the State," Pinarayi Vijayan, Kerala Chief Minister, said in a Facebook post.

The State Government is already implementing plans to expand the IT space with new facilities. Bengaluru-based Embassy Group and US-based Taurus Investment Holdings recently inked an agreement with the State government. An IT infrastructure which includes a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) will be developed to set up an Embassy Taurus World Technology Centre worth around Rs. 12 billion.

Headquartered at Pune, Tech Mahindra Limited is an Indian multinational provider of information technology, networking technology solutions and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) to various industry verticals and horizontals. According to official figures the company the net asset of the company is $4.7 billion.

SENIOR TEAM FROM AIRBUS BIZLAB ARRIVES IN TECHNOPARK; PROSPECTS OF A TIE-UP EXPLORED

A senior team from Airbus BizLab visited Technopark on July 18 with a view to 'learn' and understand the existing ecosystem and for possible collaboration, specifically in the space sector. The delegation was led by Bruno Gutierres, Global Head, Airbus BizLab and Siddharth Balachandran, India Head. The team was welcomed by M Sivasankar IAS, Secretary, IT & Electronics, Kerala and Hrishikesh Nair, CEO, IT Parks, Kerala.

The IT Secretary presented to the delegation the Government of Kerala's strategy on Space Tech Vertical. M C Dathan, Advisor to Govt. of Kerala & Former Director, VSSC; Santhosh Kurup, CEO, ICT Academy and Dr. Saji Gopinath, CEO, Kerala Startup Mission also gave presenta-

tions on the various opportunities in the space sector and for startups in Kerala.

An interaction between the delegation and startups from Maker Village followed. The team also visited Fab Labs, where they were taken through

demonstrations on various equipment. "The discussions held were really fruitful. Airbus team has shown great interest and promised to work closely with Technopark to arrive at a possible association in the future," said Hrishikesh Nair.

29TH TECHNOPARK FORMATION DAY

As part of the 29th Formation Day celebrations of Technopark, the Park Centre team organised 'Coffee with GVR', an interactive session with G Vijayaraghavan, founder CEO of Technopark, on his thoughts, experiences and values of Technopark.

"Technopark was registered as a society under the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Registration Act on July 28, 1990. Over the past 28 years, our IT park has grown leaps and bounds and has now around 56,000 employees. With the new

initiatives focussing on emerging technologies and a knowledge-based IT ecosystem, Technopark is on its path of crossing a milestone; that of creating a legacy on the global IT map for all of us to be proud of," said Hrishikesh Nair, CEO, Kerala IT Parks. Vijayaraghavan shared his happiness on how the Park has evolved over time.

"We established the Park, with an aim of providing employment to around 5000 people. Over the years, it has grown to one of the landmark organisations in the country," said Vijayaraghavan.

US CONSULATE GENERAL VISITS TECHNOPARK

Robert G Burgess, US Consulate General in Chennai, visited Technopark on July 18 and had an interactive session with around 20 CEOs of Park companies which are involved in transactions with the US. Hrishikesh Nair, briefed the Consulate General about the existing IT ecosystem in Technopark. Burgess also inaugurated an office of US-based firm HiPOINT Connect Pvt. Ltd. at the Park. The company is an enterprise leased line provider operating out of Technopark.

THREE KERALA STARTUPS BAG NATIONAL-LEVEL INNOVATION FUNDING

Three startups mentored by the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) bagged a seed funding of up to Rs 25 lakh each in the India Innovation Growth Programme (IIGP) 2.0 held in New Delhi recently, which will enable them to scale up their operations and accelerate market penetration.

Kerala-based startups Genrobotic Innovations, Irov Technologies and Sastra Robotics were among the 16 winners who will also get an opportunity to undergo an incubation process along with mentoring support.

IIGP 2018 edition was a combined initiative of Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, Lockheed Martin and Tata Trusts.

The programme aims to support the Government of India's missions of 'Start-up India' and 'Make in India.' It envisages providing an ecosystem to enable innovators and entrepreneurs to develop technology-based solutions.

The 16 winners were selected from the top 50 innovators chosen from the 3,000 applicants. The selected innovators were given an opportunity to attend a boot camp conducted by IIM-Ahmedabad, after which the 16 were picked. Of the nine startups from Kerala that participated in the event, seven were supported by KSUM.

Genrobotic Innovations Pvt. Ltd., which provides robotic solutions for sewer cleaning and other manual works, was founded by Arun George, Nikhil N P, Rashid Bin Abdulla and Vimal Govind M K in 2015.

Irov Technologies Pvt. Ltd. uses its underwater drone EyeROV to inspect critical underwater infrastructure.

Kochi-based Sastra Robotics India Pvt. Ltd. is a startup founded by Aronin P in 2012. Its product SR-Dimenzio helps perform human-arm actions for high-risk tasks requiring precision.

These startups will now get an opportunity to test their products in the market with the help of leading scientists, technology experts, entrepreneurs and investors partnered with the programme.

KSUM is the nodal agency of Government of Kerala for entrepreneurship development and incubation activities in the State.

NEW OFFICE OPENS AT CYBERPARK

Proaims IoT Solutions LLP, a new entrant to UL Cyber Park, Calicut was inaugurated by A K Saseendran, Minister of Transport on August 11. The facility having an area of approximately 1200 sq. ft. has been set up to provide opportunity for business aspirants with innovative ideas and create more jobs in collaboration with Uralungal Labor Contract Cooperative Society (ULCCS). Proaims currently has 15 employees and 25 seats. The minister also launched their new product, Class Bell, a communication platform between teachers and students on student safety.

SENIOR COP BRIEFS WAYS TO SHEILD CHILDREN FROM CYBER THREATS

UST Global conducted an awareness session on cybersecurity at Infopark, Kochi. Sanjay Kumar Gurudin IPS, KAP Kannur who is popular with his socially consious lectures spoke at the event.

Some of the points covered by Gurudin included, key risks associated with Internet and social networking sites; why and how children fall into the dangers of cyberworld; key warning signs/symptoms by children who face online threats; ways to overcome these threats; and some useful tips to parents on protecting children when they go online. "It is not necessary to be an 'expert' to help your children enjoy the internet safely," he said

Commenting on the awareness session, Manoj Alappat, Account Manager, UST Global, said, "UST Global has always been at the forefront when it comes to addressing social issues. In this new digital and cyber age, our children are very susceptible to

cybercrimes. Awareness campaigns like these are the first step towards educating and enlightening the citizens, especially children and their parents, on how to navigate and avoid getting into pitfalls of the cyber world. We are grateful to Gurudin for the interactive and informative session on keeping our children 'cyber safe.' I am confident that the session was of benefit to the children and parents."