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KERALA IT
NEWS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF IT PARKS KERALA

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STATE BUDGET INCLUDES PROPOSALS
TO BOOST STARTUP ECOSYSTEM

Kerala Budget 2020 presented by Dr. T M Thomas Isaac, State Finance Minister, in the first week of February proposed that the total area of Technopark, Infopark and Cyberpark would be raised to 245 lakh sq. ft. by 2021. "In 2016, the total area of Technopark, Infopark and Cyberpark was about 145 lakh sq.ft. In 2021 this will be raised to 245 lakh sq.ft. In 2016 around 78,000 persons were employed in IT/IT related fields. Now the number has risen to nearly 1 lakh. In 2021, another 85,000 persons are expected to be employed here. Most prominent electronic companies in the world have expressed their desire to invest in Kerala. Since there is non-disclosure clause their names cannot be revealed," the Finance Minister said in his Budget speech.

Besides, the Minister said, the building of Technocity having an area of 2 lakh sq.ft., which is expected to be completed by March, has been fully booked by various companies. "Further, the government is adopting a policy that encourages the private companies also to establish parks," the Budget noted.

Minister Isaac mentioned that all the prominent corporate companies that had expressed their desire to make investments in Industrial Parks, as mentioned in the previous budget speech, have already commenced their operations in Kerala. "Nissan

has given employment to 800 persons at Technopark in the field of data science and artificial intelligence. An understanding has been reached to establish a new centre for the electrical vehicles segment of the company on a 30-acre plot in Technocity. Taurus has commenced the work of its two buildings at Technopark having an area of 27 lakh sq.ft. A complex having 57 lakh sq.ft. space will be completed before 2024. H R Block has operationalised its 40,000-sq.ft. building and given employment to 800 persons," the Budget said.

In another major development that would give further impetus to the growth of Kerala's startup ecosystem, the Finance Minister has proposed sanctioning of loans to startups without asset security. "Today, 2300 startups are working across various sectors. Paucity of capital is the biggest issue faced by them. As a solution

to this, loans would be made available without asset security to those who have secured work order from government/quasi government/major corporates or institutions," it said.

The proposals are:

A scheme for providing 90 per cent of work order as loan, up to a maximum of Rs. 10 crore at an interest rate of 10 per cent. If these are purchase orders, money will be given after discounting them. KFC & KSIDC will give money across the counter without any collateral security on the recommendation of an expert committee chaired by the IT Secretary. Any loss sustained on account of this will be made good by the government.

Financial assistance of up to Rs. 1 crore will be provided at the time of development of new product prototypes that are linked to the sustainable development goals of the UN and are also required by any government department. For this, an amount of Rs. 10 crore is provided to KFC. An amount of Rs. 73.50 crore is earmarked for Startup Mission for 2020-21.

There has been a criticism that new companies set up their headquarters in Chennai and Bengaluru since the stamp duty in Kerala for starting and merging the companies is higher compared to that in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The issue will be included in the Finance Bill to examine and rationalise the rates.

UST GLOBAL OPENS INFINITY LAB IN PENANG, ITS FIRST IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

UST Global has launched its first Infinity Lab in South East Asia and third Delivery Centre at Penang in Malaysia. The new office is located strategically on the Mini-Circuits campus and is UST Global's second office in Penang.

Infinity Labs™ is UST Global's network of innovation labs, spanning across various countries, including the US, the UK, India and now in Malaysia. The Penang lab is focused on innovation-driven problem-solving to support business-led digital transformations that deliver breakthrough results at both speed and scale. Infinity Labs-Penang provides an exciting springboard and a collaborative environment for the employees, clients, academia and partner ecosystem.

Through this initiative, Malaysia's technologists and engineers will now have an opportunity to solve critical business problems for UST Global's Fortune 500 and Global 2000 customers by tapping into Infinity Labs' 30-plus Digital Innovation capabilities across domains like Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Augmented Reality/Mixed Reality (AR/MR), Robotic Process Automation, Internet of Things, Blockchain, Cybersecurity,

Advanced Analytics and Big Data Engineering.

UST Global had spun-off several focused products and platforms as startups, including CyberProof, SmartOps, Qubz, Pneuron and C2C (Concept to Camera).

The inauguration was officiated by Chow Kon Yeow, Chief Minister of Penang; Dato' Ng Wan Peng, COO, Malaysia Digital Economy Cooperation (MDEC); Krishna Sudheendra CEO,UST Global; Alexander Varghese, COO, UST Global; Kim Chin Kuang, Chairman, Malaysia GBS Focus Group; and Amar Chhajer, Country Head, UST Global Malaysia.

Commenting on the occasion, Dato' Ng Wan Peng said "The proposition of Malaysia as a research and development (R&D) hub for digital

technology and services will accelerate Malaysia's strengths and efforts to develop digitally-skilled Malaysians and digitally-powered businesses, and help attract more digital investments into the country. To UST Global, I would like to say that you have made the right choice and rest assured that MDEC will always work with you as a strategic partner to ensure that UST Global continues to grow and contribute significantly to the Malaysian digital economy."

Speaking on the occasion, Krishna Sudheendra, CEO, UST Global, said, "We are excited at the potential of innovation and ideas that will emerge at this new centre in Malaysia. UST's Infinity Labs - will bring customer-centric solutions to reality through breakthrough technologies."

IIITM-K TO HOLD TRAINING IN UBUNTU LINUX SERVER ADMINISTRATION

Knowledge Centre in Software Engineering & Project Management at the Indian Institute of Information Technology & Management-Kerala (IIITM-K) in Thiruvananthapuram has announced short-duration training programmes in Ubuntu Linux Server Administration.

The training will be conducted in Basic and Intermediate levels separately. The Basic level course will be held from March 18 to 20 and the Intermediate Level programme from April 16 to 18. The training seeks to provide inputs to members of IT cells, systems administrators and technical systems professionals in organisations

to effectively manage the Free and Open Source Ubuntu Linux server.

The training will also help meet the requirements of basic to intermediate levels and assist fresh graduates who want to build a career in systems administration.

Participants can join for both the levels as a combined programme or any one of them, based on their present skill levels. The maximum number of participants to be admitted for the training will be 20 and registration will be done on a first-come, first-served basis.

For further details and registration, visit: www.iiitmk.ac.in/kcsepm/ or call: +91 79074 69704.

IBS UNVEILS NEW LOGO

IBS Software, the leading global provider of new generation IT solutions to the travel industry, has unveiled a new logo and brand identity reflecting its growing and evolving role in the travel technology ecosystem. "It is a modern

ibssoftware

identity that celebrates our heritage, while embodying our mission to transform how travel companies operate in a digital world, delivering next-generation products to accelerate growth and drive efficiency," the company says.

'CYBERDOME SUMMIT' DISCUSSES CYBERSECURITY ISSUES

Cyberdome Kozhikode hosted its first hacking conference 'Cyberdome Summit 2020', at Government Cyberpark, Kozhikode recently with the participation of IT professionals from various organisations. The various activities of the event included drone flag launch, workshop on cyber warfare, CTF Challenge and open discussion on the topic, 'How can people contribute to and associate with Cyberdome?'

Ashok Yadav IPS, IGP North Zone & Nodal Officer, Cyberdome, Kozhikode; A K Jamaludheen IPS, Dy. Commissioner of Police, Kozhikode City; C Sivaprasad, Inspector of Police and Asst. Nodal Officer-in-charge, Cyberdome, Kozhikode; S Prathap Kumar, Scientist, NIELT, Kozhikode; Muhammed Shahid Abdulla, Associate Professor, IIM, Kozhikode; Dr. Deepthi P P, Professor, NIT; Pradeep K Bharathan, Asst. Professor, Govt. Engineering College, Kozhikode; Nireesh C, General Manager, Cyberpark Kozhikode; T Vinod, Cybersecurity Head of UL Cyberpark, Kozhikode; Haris P T, President, Calicut Forum for IT (CAFIT) and Anil Balan, Vice President, CMA were among the dignitaries present on the occasion.

Manish Gupta, cybersecurity analyst and offensive cybersecurity-certified professional who has immense knowledge in the field of cybersecurity and ethical hacking, and professionals from Red Team Hacker Academy conducted classes at the workshop on the topic 'A practical approach to hack and secure'. The team members of BSOD Erode won the CTF Challenge held as part of the programme.

Cyberdome conducted the programme in partnership with Red Team Hacker Academy, Government Cyberpark, Kozhikode, Shobhika Silk, CAFIT, Kozhikode City Police Employees Co-op Society, RC Club (Remote Control Club), Kochi and TecQ, Kozhikode along with Media Partner Blue Pin.

Cyberdome, conceived by Technological Research and Development Centre of Kerala Police as a public-police participation model, is aimed at combating emerging cyber threats through effective policing. The project would partner with IT companies as well as individuals for ensuring a secure cyber world. It has already shortlisted at least six companies and 150 volunteers as associates. This is apart from tie-ups with software firms, technological agencies, educational institutions and research groups for providing solutions for the project.

DANIEL FAIMAN, FOUNDING PARTNER OF THE US-BASED IT FIRM, REVYRIE GLOBAL, OFFICIALLY OPENS THE COMPANY'S NEW OFFICE IN THEJASWINI BUILDING AT TECHNOPARK ALONG WITH TINA JAMES, CEO, REVYRIE GLOBAL AND J BOBY, MANAGING DIRECTOR

SASI P M, CEO, IT PARKS KERALA, HOISTING THE TRICOLOUR AT TECHNOPARK MARKING THE BEGINNING OF 71ST REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS ON THE CAMPUS

THE NEWLY-LAUNCHED 200-SEATER FACILITY OF BYJU'S – THE LEARNING APP IN THAPASYA BUILDING ON INFOPARK KOCHI CAMPUS WHICH PROVIDES BACK-OFFICE FUNCTIONS OF THE COMPANY