

KERALA IT NEWS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF IT PARKS KERALA

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KERALA'S HIGH-PROFILE DIGITAL SUMMIT, #FUTURE2020, IN APRIL

Building on the tempo set by its inaugural edition in 2018 in positioning Kerala as a global digital hub, the big-ticket Digital Summit #FUTURE2020 will be held at Hotel Grand Hyatt in Kochi on April 2 and 3. Billed as the country's largest such conclave, the biennial event will see convergence of achievers, professionals, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders in the knowledge industry from across the world to discuss key topics, challenges and opportunities in a global order dominated by digital technologies.

Launching the website of #FUTURE2020 recently, S D Shibulal, Co-founder, Infosys and Chairman of High Power Digital Advisory Committee (HPDAC), Government of Kerala, said the core purpose of this event is to inspire and energise people in the journey towards a knowledge-driven digital future.

Nobel laureates Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo are among the speakers invited to the event. 'Towards a Digital Future' is the theme of the meet, which will feature 35 high-profile panelists from across key sectors and 2500 delegates.

"This event is happening against the backdrop of increasing use of digital technology across industries. Every industry will continue to create more and more jobs that require digital skills. Being a digitally savvy and well-connected State, Kerala is an ideal destina-



tion to be a digital hub," Shibulal noted. He added #FUTURE2018 made a head start by presenting Kerala's strength before a global audience.

V K Mathews, Chairman, IBS Software, and Convener, #FUTURE2020, said it is significant that this event is taking place when the life and business are hugely impacted by digital technologies. "We are living in times of deeply unsettling changes, which also hold opportunities. The functioning of economies, organisations and individuals are significantly changing. The economy is being driven by the ability to collect, analyse and use massive amounts of digital data," Mathews said.

The key topics to be covered by the meet are 'Future of Financial Services', 'Future of Healthcare', 'Future of Travel and Transport', 'Future of Jobs and Youth' and 'Changing Consumer Behaviour'.

"We are planning to make the forthcoming edition of the event

more impactful than the previous edition. There will be a Startup Zone at the venue for select startups to showcase futuristic innovations," said M Sivasankar IAS, Secretary, IT & Electronics, Govt. of Kerala. He said the conclave will be a platform for thought leaders to come together and discuss the future of Kerala.

Prominent panelists invited to the meet include Amitabh Kant, CEO, Niti Aayog; Dave Calhoun, Chairman, Boeing; Douglas Steenland, Chairman, AIG; John Chambers, Ex-Chairman and CEO, Cisco; Harish Manwani, Partner, Blackstone; Santhosh Mathew, Country Lead, Social and Public Finance Policy, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Thomas Kurian, CEO, Google Cloud; Rajesh Gopinath, CEO, TCS; George Kurian, CEO, NetApp and Amitabh Khosla, Director, IATA India.

For details, log on to: www.towardsfuture.in

DIGITAL VARSITY STATUS, NEW CAMPUS FOR IIITM-K

The proposed anointment as Digital University is eventually a double delight for Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management–Kerala (IIITM-K) that has introduced learning and research in a number of revolutionary information technology areas in the country.

Established in 2000 by the Kerala Government, IIITM-K is a premier institution of excellence in science, technology and management located at Technopark. The honour is being conferred on IIITM-K at a time when it is all set to shift to its new campus in Technocity in Thiruvananthapuram.

The 'green campus' will have world-class facilities, including an auditorium, administrative and academic



blocks, students hostel, library and laboratory wing, faculty and non-faculty residences and community centre. It will have a learner-centric environment, facilitated by state-of-the-art infrastructure in cutting-edge areas.

IIITM-K, affiliated to Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), currently offers MSc Programmes in Cyber Security, Machine Learning, Ecological Informatics, Data Analytics and Geospatial Analytics.

It also has two MPhil programmes in Computer Science and Ecological Informatics, besides doctoral programmes in Computer Science.

It admits students for PhD programmes in IT-related topics in the areas of Distributed Computing, Software Engineering and advanced computing areas like High Performance Computing, Grid and Cloud Computing etc.

The sole hardware incubator, Maker Village, Kochi, is functioning under IIITM-K, and the varsity status will be a boon for Maker Village.

India's first Blockchain academy, Kerala Blockchain Academy, was also set up by the State Government under IIITM-K.



UST GLOBAL HONoured AS ONE OF THE TOP 100 BEST PLACES TO WORK IN 2020

UST Global has been honoured with Glassdoor Employees' Choice Award, recognising the company as one of the Top 100 Best Places to Work in 2020. In addition to this, the company is also featured among the top 31 tech companies in this year's ranking.

The Employees' Choice Awards programme, now in its 12th year, is based solely on the input of employees, who are elected to provide feedback on their jobs, work environments and companies on Glassdoor, one of the world's largest job and recruiting sites. UST

Global employees gave an average of 4.3 out of 5 in their reviews for working in the company. UST Global is a fast-growing organisation that provides advanced digital transformation services, products and platforms to Global 1000 and Fortune 500 enterprises around the world.

"We are honoured to be recognised by Glassdoor as one of the Best Places to Work in 2020," said Krishna Sudheendra, Chief Executive Officer, UST Global. "This award, based entirely on reviews from our employees, is a testament to the dedication and

hard work of each and every team member," he added.

"This year marks the shift to a culture-first decade in the workplace, and Glassdoor's Employees' Choice Awards winners are employers that are prioritizing culture, mission and employees at the heart of everything they do. By doing so, their employees have spoken and are recognising them truly as the Best Places to Work in 2020," said Christian Sutherland-Wong, Glassdoor President, Chief Operating Officer and incoming Chief Executive Officer.

CLAYSYS OPENS OWN CAMPUS AT INFOPARK

ClaySys Technologies recently opened its campus at Infopark. Hormis Tharakan, former DGP of Kerala, inaugurated the main building of the campus. Founded in 2010 at Infopark with less than 20 employees, ClaySys has now become an IT major with 250 employees, catering primarily to the US market.

The company has, over the years, made its mark in the field of automation technology. The firm's software application development platform called ClaySys AppForms is a next-generation platform building business software applications faster with better security and ease of maintenance features. The ClaySys AppForms platform also has a Robotic Process Automation Module which enables automation of many manual tasks using software robots.

The company's clientele consists of IT majors and Fortune 500 companies, including Facebook, Deloitte and JP Morgan Chase besides mid-sized international companies.

BUILDING WITH A DIFFERENCE

The building of ClaySys at Infopark Phase 2 has some uniqueness. A major part of the glass facade of the building is covered with solar panels which makes it one of the first such buildings in India. The solar panels can generate 50 kilowatts of power that would help meet more than 30 per cent of the energy requirements of the building.



The ClaySys Campus was constructed using next generation construction technologies that have been utilised in Kerala for the first time. The heat insulation specifications used in the construction ensures energy efficiency. With the heat insulation specification of R20, the building requires less than 30 per cent of the energy for air conditioning, as compared to traditionally constructed buildings without heat insulation. The entire design, development and construction of ClaySys campus were executed by the ClaySys Lifestyle Pvt. Ltd., the construction arm of the company.

"The ClaySys IT Campus is designed to offer an embedded club and recreation centre within the office

itself, to provide the right work-life balance for our staff. Being an international company, we have staff working at odd hours to support clients around the world, and having the right facilities at the office ensures the appropriate options for leisure activities while in the office itself," said Vinod Tharakan, MD, ClaySys Technologies.

"The opening of ClaySys campus at Infopark is a great milestone. Once the campus gets fully completed, more than 3000 job opportunities will be created," said Sasi P M, CEO, IT Parks Kerala. He said the Phase 2 campus of Infopark is almost nearing completion and is already housing companies like Cognizant, Trans Asia, Pi Datacenters, Jyothirmaya, Caspian Techparks, among others. "Also, more facilities are coming up in Phase 2 like an international school, shopping mall, hotels, multiplexes, convention centre etc.," he added.

PINMICRO HELPS MAKE KOCHI DESIGN WEEK A 'SMART EVENT'

The recently-held Kochi Design Week (KDW) turned out to be a one-of-a-kind event by using IoT-enabled smart technology that improves visitor experience by carrying out real-time analytics for managing proceedings.

A Japanese startup, Pinmicro, a location-based solution provider founded by a Malayali, helped achieve this feat. The Tokyo-based firm, headed by Tiby Kuruvila, provides solid platforms for O2O, retail business, contactless payment and

KOCHI DESIGN WEEK

inventory management. Pinmicro's EventPlus platform was used at the KDW, which attracted around 5500 visitors. Its use has smoothened the proceedings involving sessions for individuals to learn and interact like workshops, panel discussions, keynote speeches, exhibitions and

interactions with the industry experts, and explored ways towards building sustainable infrastructure for Kerala.

Ravindranath Ange Veetil, CEO of Pinmicro, India, said EventPlus employs Bluetooth low-energy IoT hardware placed at strategic locations at an event's venue, capturing real-time location information. "It is then processed on the EventPlus cloud to generate real-time insights and operational event dashboards," he added.