

SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY PARKS OF INDIA

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Smart Farm Grant Challenge

STPI, MeitY awarded ₹20 Lakh grant to 4 AgriTech Startups for creating solutions in growth of sugarcane harvest

Shri Arvind Kumar, Director General, STPI honoured with Tech Leader 2023 "The Transformer" award

STPI hosted successful "Startup Demo Day" in 3 locations

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Smart Farm Grant Challenge

₹

5 Lakh

Received by 10 teams during Ideation to Prototyping stage

₹

20 Lakh

Received by 4 teams during Prototyping to Product stage

₹

50 Lakh

Prize Money to be given to the Winner

₹

10 Lakh

Per annum to be given to the winning team for 2 years for Operation & Maintenance expenses

ADVISORY BOARD

- Arvind Kumar
- Devesh Tyagi
- Subodh Sachan
- Amit Bansal
- Sangeeta Hemrajani
- Navneet Sharma
- Nanda Das

Message from **ARVIND KUMAR** Director General, STPI



This techade is going to be a transformation phase for Indian agriculture, which was earlier plagued by heavy rainfall, reduction of groundwater level and insufficient vegetation cover among others. The government's distinctive focus on the digitalization of farming has boosted farm incomes and opened up newer avenues of opportunities for rural youth and farm workers. According to the STPI's AgriTech report, Innovations through Agritech, the agricultural export between April 2022-January 2023 stood at USD 43 billion. Investments in AgriTech startups grew at a CAGR of around 51 percent from CY 2017-2022. Emerging AgriTechs are solving critical problems like farm inputs, finances, labour shortages among others.

In the era of the Internet of Things (IoT) and AI revolution in Agriculture, seamless integration of the technologies in agriculture is making farming 'smart' like our handsets and televisions. Farmers can monitor everything right from soil condition to greenhouse humidity levels in one go through these Sensors and Transmitters installed on IoT devices. On top of that, the data generated by these technologies is further assisting the industry in improving crop growing conditions and overall efficiency. The public-private partnerships (PPP) are leveraging the benefits of emerging technologies as the private sector is also introducing cutting-edge innovation in the areas of digitization and AI.

Modern agricultural technology increases employment, and efficiency in the production of food, saving time and reduction in costs. Farmers have gained significant

benefits from high innovation of technology. The major technological innovation that includes Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographical Information System (GIS) in precision Agriculture, satellites, drones and aerial Imaging, modern irrigation and agricultural robots have allowed farmers to improve crop yields while reducing labour costs and environmental impacts

STPI along with the Ministry of Electronics & IT Industry has also been charting a new course for innovation and entrepreneurship in the country with Smart Farm Grant Challenge (SFGC), which does not limit itself to Tier-I / Metro locations along with three AgriTech- focused Centres of Entrepreneurship.

This futuristic initiative aimed at transforming the agriculture industry in India and enhancing farmers' livelihoods.

With technology intervention at the forefront, the solutions developed through the SFGC challenge program will provide farmers with cutting-edge technologies and data-driven insights to optimize operations and boost harvest yields of sugarcane, which is an important commodity for human consumption as well as trade. The selected startups at various stages are being supported by MeitY, MeitY Startup Hub (MSH), STPI, Neuron CoE, DCM Shriram Sugar Mills & Directorate of Sugar Mills, in addition to the various mentors and industry experts. The challenge aims to predict the optimum time for harvest, estimate sugar content, identify mature plots, and provide insights in an easily interpretable format.

SUCCESS STORY



EV Urjaa

Building sustainable infrastructure for Electric Vehicle Charging station and mobility in India

EV Urjaa is an Indore-based automotive firm with a vision of building a hassle-free battery swap ecosystem for electric vehicles with long charging capability and low maintenance. Founded in 2017 by Shri Sanyog Tiwari, the startup is building an ecosystem for electric three-wheelers and two-wheelers across the Nation.

The company empowers local shop owners to become energy operators and boosts their income with the help of cutting-edge technology services including IT infrastructure, IoT-enabled batteries and fast-income charging stations.

Fast-income charging stations are fully smart machines that enable a quick battery exchange platform, which enables instant 2-minute swapping and saves the working hours of the riders. Nucleus (IoT device) enabled batteries are packed with facilities to mobilize & immobilize, theft protection, live tracking, battery health status monitoring, strong communication model, and in-built antenna.

EV Urjaa is also one of the proud winners of STPI's CHUNAUTI Challenge under NGIS (Next Generation Incubation Scheme). The company bagged a seed fund of Rs 25 lakh besides availing various services of STPI including physical incentives and soft support.

www.evurjaa.com



We team EV Urjaa are extremely delighted to share that we have received seed funding from STPI under NGIS Chunauti Programme. We extend gratitude to DG STPI Shri Arvind Kumar and STPI for the support created for assisting & nurturing us. "

Shri Sanyog Tiwari, Co-founder and CEO.





STPI, MeitY awarded ₹ 20 Lakh grant to 4 AgriTech Startups for creating solutions in growth of sugarcane harvest

STPI awarded the 4 winning AgriTech Startups with Product Development Grants of Rs. 20 Lakhs each for qualifying the second stage of the Smart Farm Grant Challenge (SFGC) Program on 31st January, 2023. The award ceremony was held at Electronics Niketan, Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) in New Delhi and saw the presence of Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma, Secretary, MeitY, GoI; Shri Bhuvnesh Kumar, Additional Secretary, MeitY, GoI; Shri Akash Tripathi, Joint Secretary, MeitY, GoI and Shri Arvind Kumar, Director General, STPI; Dr Devesh Tyagi, Senior Director, STPI; Shri Saurabh Srivastava, Chairman, Indian Angel Network; Shri Roshan Lal Tamak, Executive Director of DCM Sriram, and other senior representatives from Ministry, STPI & Industry also attended the event.

SFGC was initiated with the goal of creating cutting-edge approaches for sugarcane harvesting and received an impressive response in the form of 474 submissions. The challenge aimed to predict the optimum time for harvest, estimate sugar content, identify mature plots, and provide insights in an easily interpretable format.

The expert Jury had pre-screened 108 applications and shortlisted 25 startups for pitch presentation. Subsequently, 10 startups were recommended for a prototype grant of Rs. 5 Lakh each in September 2022. After 3 months of rapid development and validation, the top 4 startups have been selected by the Jury for product development grant of Rs. 20 Lakhs each.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Alkesh Kumar Sharma, Secretary, MeitY, GoI, said when it comes to agriculture, a farmer is the most difficult entity. They live with the uncertainty of weather.

“With the products of these startups, we are hoping that it will increase the efficacy of the produce and ensure that the right kind of moisture is present in the soil. It's a matter of great pride that now academia is participating in creating a whole new ecosystem of end-to-end solutions,” he said.

Sh. Arvind Kumar, DG, STPI said, “The challenge aims to provide a digital solution for optimum sugarcane harvest. The SFGC program was launched on 9th May 2022 to nurture the tech ecosystem from the newer cities. Today's felicitation is a testimony to the fact that two of the four selected teams come from Tier II/III cities of India.”

Amongst the 4 winners - AGAutomate Private Limited, GB Pant University of Agriculture & University, AGMitra Technologies Private Limited and Satyukt Analytics Private Limited - each will develop product over next 6 months and eventually one of them will be declared as final winner. The final winner will receive Rs 50 Lakh in the first year and Rs 10 lakhs per year for the next two years towards the operation and maintenance of the solution.

The winning solution will be deployed in 100-acre plot area for use by the government of India, State Government entities, and sugar mills for a period of three years. The winner startup will provide dissemination advisory to farmers for the next two years.

With programs like SFGC, MeitY and STPI are ushering a new course for innovation and entrepreneurship in the country that does not limit itself to Tier-I / Metro locations.



G20 Outreach Event at STPI-Chennai

G20- Digital Innovation Alliance (DIA) outreach event was organized at STPI-Chennai on 23rd February 2023. Startups were briefed about G20-DIA & invited to submit applications, propose digital solutions in sectors like Fintech, Edu-Tech, Health-Tech, Agri-Tech, Digital Infrastructure & Circular Economy.



Road Show on G20-DIA & PitchFest-2023 in Puducherry

A Road Show on G20-Digital Innovation Alliance and PitchFest-2023 Outreach Program were conducted at Puducherry. Participants were advised to pitch their innovative ideas and solutions on emerging technologies including FinTech.



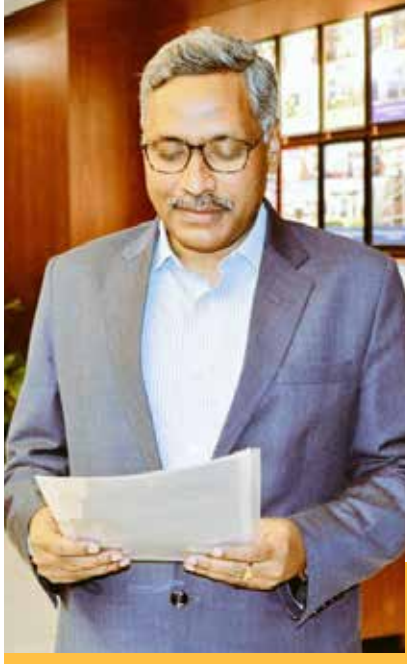
STPI Hyderabad Observed Swachhta Pakhwada

STPI Hyderabad and its sub-centers carried out the various cleanliness activities during the Swachhta Pakhwada period from 1st - 15th February 2023. Banners were displayed at prominent places at all the Centre and its Sub-Centres. Publicity campaign extensively carried out on Social Media through Platforms. The Centre also organised online awareness session on e-waste management and interactive sessions on cleanliness to house-keeping staffs.

As a part of Swachhta Pakhwada Activity, beautification of office premises and surroundings, plantation activity carried out at SES, Jubilee Hill Office Premises on 8th February 2023.

Shri Arvind Kumar, DG, STPI planted sapling at Jubilee Hills office during his visit to Hyderabad on 8th February 2023.

All the officials and staff actively voluntarily participated in the activities during the Swachhta Pakhwada fortnight period.



On the inaugural day of the Swachhta Pakhwada, DG, STPI Shri Arvind Kumar and other Officials took the 'Swachhta Pledge' to keep their office premises, surroundings & nation, neat and clean.

Swachhta Pakhwada was organised at **STPI Gurugram**. During this pakhwada, many events were organised like tree plantation, cleaning of office area, disposal of old furniture, display of banners, poster competition, spreading awareness regarding cleanliness with incubated units.

Swachhta Pakhwada was organized at **STPI Srinagar/Jammu** from 1st -15th Feb 2023. During this pakhwada many events were organized like Pledge taking ceremony, cleaning of office area, disposal of old files and items, display of banners, spreading awareness regarding cleanliness with incubated units.



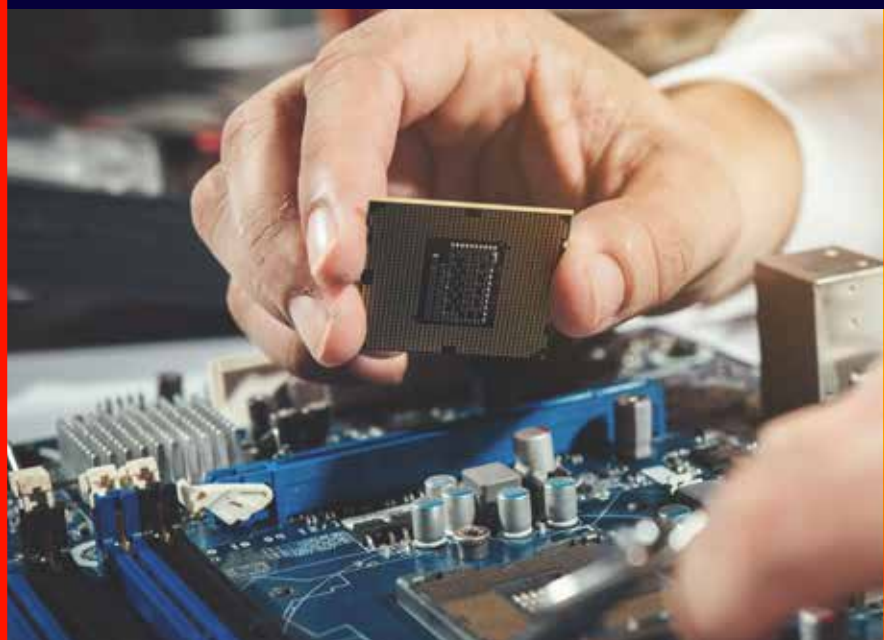
STPI Chennai & Sub-Centres Officials and Staff took Swachhata pledge on the observance of Swachhta Pakhwada from 1st-15th February 2023.

Swachhta Pakhwada was observed from 1st-15th February 2023 at **STPI Thiruvananthapuram** with a number of activities like pledge taking ceremony, slogan writing and poster making competition. A workshop on cleanliness and e-waste management was chaired by Shri Brahmanayagam, State Coordinator, National Service Scheme on 2nd February 2023.



G20-Digital Innovation Alliance at STPI Shillong

STPI Shillong organised an outreach program on 10th March 2023 in association with academic partner NIELIT Shillong for Startups/Students/Entrepreneurs to create awareness on the G20 Digital Innovation Alliance and STPI Octane CoE in the North-Eastern Region.



Govt. of India approves setting up of Electronics Manufacturing Cluster at Hubballi-Dharwad in Karnataka

The Government of India has approved setting up of the Rs 180 crore Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) at Dharwad on 24th March 2023.

The project, will come up in Kotur-Belur Industrial Area in the Dharwad District of Karnataka under the EMC 2.0 scheme, is expected to catalyse investments to the tune of over ₹ 1,500 crore soon. Nine companies, including startups, have already committed to making investments of ₹ 340 crores with an employment potential of 2,500 people.

This EMC has a strategic locational advantage and is well connected with NH-48 (1 Km), and Hubli Domestic Airport (33 Km), it will reduce the logistics/ transportation costs to

the Industries in the EMC.

The Centre has already approved a Common Facility Centre (CFC) for the development of an advanced testing facility in Mysuru, Karnataka that will meet the various testing requirement of the industry.

The Modified Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC 2.0) scheme was introduced on 1st April 2020 to create world-class infrastructure along with the common testing facilities, including Ready Built Factory sheds/Plug & Play infrastructure for attracting Anchor units along with their supply chain to set up their manufacturing/production facility in the country.

Canada-India interactive workshop on digital transformation



STPI and the High Commission of Canada conducted an interactive workshop on digital transformation in New Delhi on 22nd March 2023. The event saw the attendance of more than 35 tech enterprises & startups representing both the countries besides the dignitaries. The objective of the workshop was to demystify and understand the new digital landscape in India along with challenges and opportunities for market expansion and diversification of Indian

companies that are under the aegis of STPI and Canadian companies in the market.

The workshop was a significant step in strengthening the ties between Canada and India in the field of digital transformation. It has provided an excellent platform for industry leaders and experts to share insights, best practices and explore opportunities for collaboration.

STPI participated in UP Global Investors Summit

STPI participated in Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023 under MeitY Pavilion. The 3-days long Investors summit kickstarted on 10th February 2023, brought together policy makers, corporate leaders, business delegations, academia, think-tanks, political and government leadership from across the globe to collectively explore business opportunities and forge partnerships in the State.

Various Technology Startups from MedTech CoE and NGIS showcased their products. Visitors were apprised about the initiatives and services of STPI in Tier II/III cities. Shri Arvind Kumar, DG, STPI along with Dr Rajneesh Agrawal, Director STPI-Noida visited stalls & interacted with STPI startups. They also discussed about the challenges faced by the startups.



IT/ITeS Summit “Infinity Vizag -2023”

The two-day Andhra Pradesh's flagship IT/ITES summit 'InfiniTy Vizag' was held on 20th & 21st January 2023 at Visakhapatnam. IT Association for AP (ITAAP) organised the Summit in collaboration with STPI, ITE&C Department and AP Innovation Society. Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma, Secretary MeitY, GoI, Shri GVL Narasimha Rao, Rajya Sabha Member (UP), Shri Arvind Kumar, Director General, STPI, Shri Saurabh Gaur, Principal Secretary, ITE&C Department, Andhra Pradesh, Shri CVD Ramprasad, Director, STPI Hyderabad, Shri BVR Mohan Reddy, Founder-Chairman of Cyient Limited have graced the inaugural function.



MedTechCoE OCP4.0

The MedTechCoE OCP4.0 outreach event was held on 21st March 2023 at Bansal Institute of Technology, Lucknow wherein staff and students were encouraged to participate and showcase their innovative ideas at the OCP4.0.





STPI hosted successful **Startup Demo Day** in 3 locations to connect investors with innovative tech startups

The 2-day startup event, "Startup Demo Day" was organized for CHUNAUTI 3.0 startups under NGIS scheme to showcase their ideas, gain insights from experts and pitch to potential investors in **Vijayawada** (22nd & 23rd February 2023), **Lucknow** (28th February & 1st March 2023) and **Mohali** (3rd & 4th March 2023).

The Day 1 of the event at each location kickstarted with an inaugural ceremony, followed by a mock pitch session wherein participants had practiced their presentation skills and received feedback from mentors and talks from industry experts. They had shared their experiences and insights on building successful startups. State Government representatives also provided information about the benefits available through the local ecosystem.

On Day 2, at each location the focus was on pitching to

investors. CHUNAUTI 3.0 startups got the opportunity to present their business ideas to a panel of investors, who evaluated the potential of each idea and offered feedback. This session was a valuable opportunity for participants to refine their ideas and gain exposure for potential investors who can provide funding and support.

Throughout the event, participants bagged networking opportunities, where they connected with mentors, investors, and other entrepreneurs. This enabled them to build relationships and gained insights into the startup ecosystem.

By bringing together experts, investors, startups and aspiring entrepreneurs, the event created a dynamic and supportive environment that fosters innovation and growth in Tier II & III cities.





35-member delegation from 11 countries visited STPI Bhubaneswar

A delegation of 35-members from 11 countries had from 11 Countries visited STPI-Bhubaneswar on 15th February 2023 to attend Know India Program (KIP), organised by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. STPI officials apprised them about the role of STPI in promoting IT Exports & creation of an ecosystem through innovation-led entrepreneurship in the country.



Canadian delegates visited STPI

A delegation from Canada Trade Commissioner Service team in India visited STPI-HQ on 12th January 2023 to understand the role played by STPI in the promotion of IT/ITeS exports and nurturing startup ecosystem in India. The members also had a discussion on possible areas of collaboration.



Egyptian delegates visited STPI

A delegation from Egypt, led by H.E. Dr. Amr S. Talaat, Minister of communication and IT, visited STPI-HQ on 11th January 2023 to understand the role played by the STPI in nurturing startup ecosystem in the country and explored various areas of collaboration.



Delegation from the Republic of Cuba visited STPI

A delegation from the Republic of Cuba, led by H.E. Mrs Grisel Reyes Leon, Vice Minister of Communications visited STPI-HQ on 29th March 2023 to comprehend the role played by STPI in nurturing startup ecosystem & IT industry in India and pursued strategic collaboration between the two nations.



DG STPI bagged Tech Leader 2023 award

Shri Arvind Kumar, Director General, STPI honoured with Tech Leader 2023 "The Transformer" award by the honourable Chief Minister of Goa, Shri Pramod Sawant at the Future Tech Leadership Forum 2023, organised by Umang Group on 18th February, 2023.

STPI COLLABORATIONS



STPI Signed MoU with State Bank of India Global IT Centre

An MoU was signed between STPI and State Bank of India Global IT Center Mumbai for strategic collaboration in the areas of information security, IT/ITeS (Information Technology/Information Technology Enabled Services), and the promotion of innovation & startups in emerging technologies.



MoU signed between STPI and AP Innovation Society

An MoU signed between STPI and AP Innovation Society to support the DeepTech startups of Andhra Pradesh on 4th March 2023 in the presence of Shri Gudivada Amarnath, Hon'ble Minister, ITE&C Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh.



STPI signed MoU with Siksha 'O' Anusandhan university

An MoU was signed between STPI and Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar on 5th January 2023 to promote an innovation ecosystem among students/startups and have a mutual exchange of ideas for improvisation of the startup ecosystem.



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