

# SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY PARKS OF INDIA



## Newsletter

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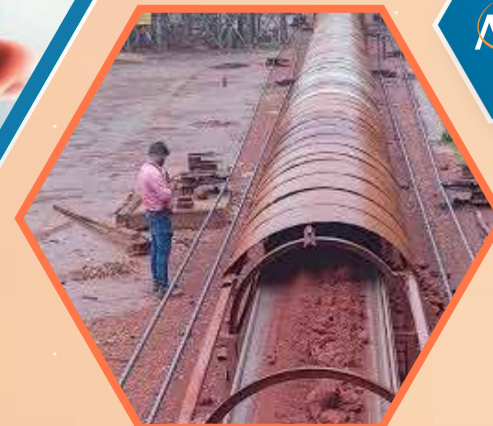
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**STPI organizes Mining Challenge Program to solve challenging issues faced by Mining Companies, Industry**

**LEAP AHEAD to provide investment opportunities to startups**



**KALPATARU**  
A CoE on Industry 4.0







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# Message from ARVIND KUMAR

Director General, STPI

Indian tech startup ecosystem is growing exponentially and witnessing significant progress in the number of startups and unicorns. Since the launch of the Startup India initiative in 2016, DPIIT has recognised 1 lakh+ entities as startups from merely over 400 when the program was launched. Another interesting trend, which has come to the limelight, is that 50 percent of startups are coming from tier 2/3 cities and are expected to grow 2.2× by 2025. It clearly shows that the growth of startups is not limited to metro cities, indicating that investors now have no inhibitions of looking beyond urban settings for prospective unicorns.

As the tech startup ecosystem is growing, startups of the day require adequate hand-holding, quality mentoring, funding and the right set of problem statements for creating innovative solutions that may be adopted by industries and society at large. So, the need of the hour is to facilitate these startups so that the solutions and products can be developed for the industry's needs and mass consumption. In order to materialise this vision, stakeholders including government, industry and academia are working towards facilitating the startups to grow further.

Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) is working towards furthering the growth of startups from technology domains and has established 22 domain-specific Centres of Entrepreneurship (CoEs) across the nation. These CoEs are providing all requisite support to the startups for moving forward and creating world-class innovative products. STPI through its CoEs has been organising various Open Challenge Programs (OCPs) and hackathons to identify and select the promising startups that are focusing towards building innovative solutions.

To advance the growth of the startup ecosystem, STPI has launched its 22nd CoE Kalpataru in Visakhapatnam to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in Industry 4.0. It fosters the spirit of growth and dynamism to help tech-based innovators establish a solid global standing from start to finish using Industry 4.0 technologies such as Machine Learning, Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, Industrial Automation, Industrial Robotics, Industrial Drone, Industrial IoT, Industrial 3D Printing and other related technologies powered by AI. Since the CoE is located at the Rashtriya ISPAT Nigam Ltd – Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (RINL-VSP) campus, the startups incubated with this CoE can get a chance to develop innovative solutions related to

the problem statements shared by RINL-VSP. If the product turns out to be viable, the RINL-VSP may adopt these products.

Likewise, STPI's other CoE, Electropreneur Park, Bhubaneswar is working towards developing a holistic ecosystem for encouraging R&D, innovation, and entrepreneurship in ESDM sector. The CoE had organised a pan India Mining Challenge Program to solve real problems faced by mining companies, industries and masses through Innovative solutions created by the Startups. Solutions developed through these challenges will be applied to heavy (e.g., Mining and Petrochemical) and manufacturing industries.

For furthering the growth of startups in the northeast region, STPI's OctaNE, a cluster of eight CoEs, had invited applications from the startups/ Entrepreneurs for the Open Challenge Program in domains including IoT in Agriculture, Animation, Emerging Tech-AR/VR, IT Applications in Graphic Design, Gaming & entertainment, Data Analytics & AI, IT Applications in Healthcare & Agritech and GIS Applications (incl. Drone Technology) to solve the problems of industry and masses.

These open challenge programs serve as a bridge between established corporations and agile startups, encouraging collaboration and knowledge exchange. By posing specific challenges, STPI crowdsources innovative ideas and technologies, gaining access to a diverse range of solutions. After getting selected through these challenge programs, the startup can get access to ready-to-work plug-and-play space, a mentor network, market reach, sponsorship to national/international vents, funding assistance and IPR-related support services.

Under STPI's Next Generation Incubation Scheme (NGIS) for the startups, a LEAP AHEAD initiative has been planned by STPI in collaboration with TiE-Delhi for startups to get access to investment, mentorship and global connections. This initiative will be a game-changer for tech startups that are in the scaling stage, growth stage, product diversification or planning expansion into new geographical locations. They can benefit through funding support of up to ₹ 1 Crore and a comprehensive three-month mentorship program that combines virtual and in-person sessions for a well-rounded learning experience.





## SUCCESS STORY



# M/s Arficus Private Limited

## Revamping the world of diagnostics with their AI-based results in 53 seconds

STPI MedTech Centre of Entrepreneurship-incubated and NGIS funded M/s Arficus Private Limited, a health-tech startup originated from Bhillai, is an artificial intelligence-based disease screening/diagnostics/prediction SaaS-SAMD platform. Diseases including monkeypox, otitis media, melanoma, carcinoma, COVID, mucormycosis, Alzheimer's, breast cancer, tuberculosis, pneumonia, brain stroke, heart attack and leukaemia can be diagnosed through this platform in just 53 seconds.

Founded in 2019 by Shri Sandeep Sinha, the target market for this health-tech company is healthcare establishments such as primary healthcare centres in rural areas, diagnostic centres, dental clinics, medical clinics, maternity homes, hospitals, direct consumers. It also aims to cater to the app-based support for diagnosis/testing, quick diagnosing and treatment.

The company has now extended its services to seven countries in the world and even joined hands with the Indian government for the early diagnosis and treatment of diseases like pneumonia, tuberculosis, cancer and kidney failure. They are also working with the state governments of Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Tamil Nadu.



Arficus started with a vision to provide quality, affordable and quick end-to-end health solutions to needy and underprivileged sections of society. We are happy that now we have become a buzz across the world. Our journey was started by two 1st generation entrepreneurs, who didn't know any criticalities of business. We did face a lot of hurdles, crests and troughs but we finally sailed through. But, we know we still have a long way to go to become the world's 1st AI SaaS Medtech Unicorn."

– **Sandeep Sinha**, Founder and CEO

In 2021, the company conducted a health check-up campaign of almost 8,000 people in Bastar, Chattisgarh and suspected pancreatic cancer in 47 people. And, again in 2023, the Arficus team visited the same places in Bastar and discovered those 47 people were suffering from pancreatic cancer. When the UN got to know about the achievement of their software, Medhini, the UN representatives shared the responsibility of diagnosing diseases like yellow fever and measles in African nations to them.

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to STPI for being an invaluable partner on our remarkable journey to success. Their unwavering support, expertise and resources have played a pivotal role in our growth and development. STPI's guidance, and infrastructure have empowered us to navigate the complexities of the tech industry and overcome challenges with confidence," said Sinha.





## LEAD STORY

# STPI launches Kalpataru CoE at Vishakhapatnam to promote innovation, entrepreneurship in Industry 4.0

STPI has marked a significant milestone as the organisation has joined hands with RINL-VSP to launch its newly dedicated CoE on Industry 4.0 on 6th July 2023 at Visakhapatnam amidst the gracious presence of Shri Atul Bhatt, CMD, RINL-VSP, Shri CVD Ramprasad, Director, STPI-Hyderabad, Shri Arun Kanti Bagchi, Director (P&O), Prof V Krishna Mohan, Registrar, Andhra University, Shri. Anil Kumar, CEO-APIS, KALPATARU startups and other senior officials from the IT Industry.

Titled Kalpataru, the CoE on Industry 4.0 at Visakhapatnam is one among the 22 STPI CoEs which has been set up by partnering with RINL-VSP with the support of Ministry of Electronics and IT, Govt, of India and Andhra Pradesh Innovation Society (APIS) in collaboration with industry, academia among others. The CoE aims to nurture around 175 innovative startups over a period of five years with a total budgetary outlay of ₹20.32 crores. This platform will facilitate aspiring entrepreneurs and innovators and their success through strategic networking, seed funding, mentoring, providing support for training, marketing, patenting, and access to the CoE labs, tools, software and state-of-the-art incubation facility.

The CoE is situated in an area of 6,000 sq. ft with a state-of-the-art incubation facility at the RINL-VSP campus and has domain-specific physical laboratories like IoT, AI/ML, AR/VR and Industrial Automation, Robotics & Drone. Its aim is to create a holistic ecosystem for encouraging R&D, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the domain of Industry 4.0. It is also looking to identify and support tech startups/budding entrepreneurs working towards digital transformation and

inclusive growth of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) with a focus on Industry 4.0 technologies in the Andhra Pradesh region.

“The centre offers the best ecosystem to startups, as problem statements are provided by customers, the risk is covered by CoE, back-up support is from STPI, academic help is from Andhra University and IIM Vishakhapatnam and technology support is from reputed organisations. If startups can provide effective solutions to problems in the steel industry, the return on investment will be huge,” said Shri Atul Bhatt.

In the inaugural address, Shri CVD Ramprasad said, “This is the first incubation centre under the Ministry of Electronics and IT with a whole gamut of technologies. Using the Kalpataru CoE ecosystem, startups can provide products and solutions to industries, including VSP. This will give a boost to the Indian automation industry, thereby augmenting exports and reducing imports of automation equipment.”

The CoE has launched two Open Challenge Programs (OCPs) to identify and support promising startups working towards digital transformation products/solutions enabling equitable & inclusive growth of PSUs with focus on Industry 4.0. From OCP 1.0, after evaluation, five startups have been selected for the problem statements of RINL. Total project cost estimated for problem statements to be committed by RINL-VSP is ₹ 86 lakhs.

From OCP 2.0, after evaluation 16 startups have been selected. Out of these, eight startups were selected for the problem statements of RINL and the remaining eight were selected for general problem statements for providing innovative solutions. The total project cost estimated for eight problem statements to be committed by RINL-VSP is ₹470 lakhs.





### Selected startups from OCPs and the problem statements they are working on:

Sl. No	Name of the Startup	Problem Statements
1	ANTAR IoT	Controlled Charging of Hot Metal (HM) from HM Ladle to Converter and controlled dumping of Steel in Emergency Container for avoiding Splashing / Spillage.
2	CODEBUGGED Organization Pvt. Ltd.	On-line inspection of defects using Digital Cameras (In SMS, Rolling Mills) and Deep Learning
3	NighaTech Global Pvt. Ltd.	Clearing of chute jams in RMHP, SP, TPP and Coke Oven areas
4	Ind4Steel Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	Hot Repair of Coke oven Batteries
5	Rosys Virtual Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	Inspection of structures using Drones
6	Saikumar Reddy Yeddula	Inline Detection of Surface Defects in Garret Line of SBM
7	Augurai Pvt. Ltd.	Detection of oversize material after screening in Sinter Making
8	AddWise Techno Solutions	Prevention of collision between Twin Boom Stacker (TBS) and Blender Reclaimer (BRC) in Sinter Plant
9	Mr. N.V.S. Shankar	Material Tracking in Billet Mill
10	Mr. Lakshman Routhu	Bar counting and chain movements at CP9 and CP10 of Bar Mill
11	Saikumar Reddy Yeddula	Heat Weight Standardization at BOF shop of SMS-2
12	DaSpatio Rrobotique Laboratory Pvt. Ltd.	Condition monitoring of stoves, furnace dome, hot blast main, Bustle main and suction ducts by thermal Imaging or any other technology in BF
13	Dr Shounak Chakraborty	Stock Verification of Bulk Raw Materials in RMHP
14	SensOnn Technologies	Temperature abnormalities cause malfunction of electronics
15	Hyperreality Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	Technician Training Challenges in Manufacturing Enterprises, Reduced Effectiveness
16	Tvasta Manufacturing Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	Building for the future : Construction 3D Printing
17	Nayan India Science and Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	Making the road infrastructure safer, faster and smarter through app-based, real-time crowd sourced monitoring, and AI driven data analytics
18	CoRover Private Limited	Human Centric Conversational and Generative AI Platform
19	Mazout Electric	Making the next gen of 10 million electric vehicles connected and 10x smarter
20	Invariance Automation Pvt. Ltd.	Empowering India's Electronics Revolution: Pioneering Indigenous SMT Machines for Widespread Innovation and Localized Growth
21	Infinite Swasthya Pvt. Ltd.	AI Enabled Portable Digital Primary Care Clinic

During the inaugural event, MoUs were also exchanged between stakeholders. The first MoU was exchanged among STPI, STPINEXT and Lotus Wireless Technologies India Pvt. Ltd., which will act as an Industry Partner for Kalpataru CoE. The second MoU was exchanged among STPI, STPINEXT and IIM Visakhapatnam to become an academic partner for supporting the startups. The third MoU was exchanged among STPI, STPINEXT and Electro Optical Systems India Pvt. Ltd. to strengthen the startup

ecosystem and empower them to build path-breaking innovations for addressing the challenges of PSU.



# STPI organizes Mining Challenge Program to solve challenging issues faced by Mining Companies, Industry

STPI Electropreneur Park CoE at Bhubaneswar has organised a pan-India Mining Challenge Program to solve real problems faced by mining companies, industries and citizens through innovative solutions created by the startups. The contest was conducted with the support of the Ministry of Electronics & IT, Government of India and Electronics & IT Department, Government of Odisha in collaboration with JSW, NALCO, Rourkela Steel Plant, Startup Odisha, Plugin Alliance, IESA, Excelpoint Systems, CSM Technologies, Happiest Minds Technologies, MathWorks, Texmin and ANSYS.

The goal of this contest is to invite a large pool of startups and emerging entrepreneurs, who are expected to come up with innovative ESDM ideas that solve problem statements to bring out new solutions or new ways of solving the problems.

This would help to open up new areas of co-creation and open corporate innovation between industries and startups in areas of technology collaboration, investment, growth of startups, and further development within the mining industry.

Odisha is the best place to conduct the Mining Challenge Program for startups to get benefits like paid PoC, proper analysis of competitors, customers, problems and challenges faced in the mining industry, chalking out strategies and planning for building PoC and prototyping. Solutions developed through these challenge contests could be applied to heavy (e.g., Mining and Petrochemical) and manufacturing industries as well.

Under this initiative, the officials of STPI-Bhubaneswar, EmTek CoE and EP Bhubaneswar conducted many outreach events and interacted with the industry partners to understand their problems. Many STPI-incubated startups also visited the NALCO mining site to collect the onsite mine information and had discussions with the mine's officials on the opportunities for further piloting implementation.

The Mining Challenge Program received 85 complete applications from all over India, out of which 57 startups were shortlisted after pre-screening for pitching to the Screening Committee and total 30 startups were selected for further mentoring, product development and implementation support in Stage-2.

## Below are some of the problem statements of the mining challenge program:

Sl. No	Problem Statements
1	Controlling pilferage in Mining areas
2	Realtime location tracking of Dispatching vehicles such as Trucks
3	Realtime Data Transmission in low bandwidth dark zones, Asset to asset communication in underground mining due to network issues
4	Improper stacking during grading of materials in mining
5	Fleet and fuel management in Mining (Real-time monitoring of fuel consumption, Prevention of fuel theft, Monitor the information of vehicles and load, Asset management to optimize the mining operations etc.)
6	Surveillance System to detect & monitor various mining activities (Detection of accidents, unusual incidents, Hazards, geohazards etc.)
7	Transportation/Logistics challenges faced by Authorities due to miscommunication of drivers
8	Fogging condition in low visibility areas in Mining
9	Slippery condition in Mining especially in rainy season
10	Illumination survey in Mining
11	Difficulty in operating Heavy Earth moving machineries during rainy seasons (4-5months) due to extremely poor visibility conditions leading to significant loss of Excavation and Production.
12	Autonomous/ Tele-operated haulage by dumpers during force majeure situations.
13	Real-time knowledge of ore body being mined out.
14	Frequent dislodgement of cable belt conveyor along hilly terrain for various reasons.





## DG STPI met Hon'ble Lt. Governor J&K

Shri Arvind Kumar, DG, STPI met Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Lt. Governor J&K on 30th September 2023 at Raj Bhavan, Srinagar and discussed the promotion of the IT sector, startups, innovation, entrepreneurship and explored the synergy of setting up of Centre of Entrepreneurship in J&K region.

## Vietnam delegation visited STPI-Gurugram

A delegation from Vietnam under the leadership of Mr. Nguyễn Thực Hiện, Vice Chairman, Can Tho City People's Committee visited STPI Gurugram on 26th July 2023 and discussed various possibilities of mutual cooperation and collaboration in the field of IT/ITeS.



## Entrepreneurs and investors from Silicon Valley visited STPI-Bhubaneswar

Entrepreneurs and Investors from Silicon Valley visited STPI-Bhubaneswar, FabLab and Electropreneur Park CoE in the STPI Elite Building on 6th July 2023. Shri Surya Kumar Pattanayak, Director, STPI-Bhubaneswar apprised them about the potential of Bhubaneswar and the enabling ecosystem created by STPI in attracting IT investments and growth of IT/ITeS industries & startups.

## MoU signed between STPINEXT & Ventana Ventures

An MoU was signed between STPINEXT & Ventana Ventures which was organised virtually by IMAGE CoE on 1st September 2023. The purpose of the MoU is to support the early stage startups through investment, mentoring and connect with the ecosystem enablers for exponential growth.

## Electropreneur Park CoE at Bhubaneswar featured in SISFS

Electropreneur Park CoE at Bhubaneswar has been featured as one of the top Incubators to support tech startups under the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) on 25th August 2023.



## STPI signed MoU with Andhra University, Visakhapatnam

An MoU was signed between STPI and Andhra University on 6th July 2023 for setting up a state-of-the-art STPI incubation facility at Andhra University, Visakhapatnam. This facility would offer Statutory, Incubation, High Speed Data Communication and Start-up activities to encourage entrepreneurship.



## MoU signed for supporting Apiary CoE-Gurugram

MoU signed between STPI and Citizen Resource Information Department, Govt. of Haryana on 18th September for supporting Apiary, a CoE in Blockchain Technology at STPI-Gurugram. The ceremony was attended by Shri V Umashankar, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Haryana; Shri Arvind Kumar, DG, STPI and Shri Yash Garg, Director Information Technology, Govt of Haryana.

## Standing Executive Board (SEB) meeting for STPI-Srinagar

The 2nd SEB meeting for the UT of J&K was held on 20th September 2023 under the chairmanship of Shri Arvind Kumar, DG, STPI; wherein various aspects were discussed for the promotion and development of IT/ITeS industry in J&K.

## STPI-Jaipur organised SEB meeting

STPI-Jaipur organized a Standing Executive Board meeting for the State of Rajasthan under the chairmanship of Shri Arvind Kumar, DG, STPI on 6th September 2023, discussing various aspects for the promotion and development of the IT/ITES industry in the state.

## Visit of Parliamentary Committee on Official Language to Visakhapatnam

The Second Sub-Committee of the Committee of Parliament on Official Language visited Visakhapatnam for inspection of the Official Language Policy, highlighting the achievements and outlining the future plans of the Central Government organisations. The Committee interacted with the senior officials of STPI on 24th August 2023 and reviewed the progress of implementation of Rajbasha in day-to-day office works at STPI-Visakhapatnam.



## Online Mentoring Workshop at FinBlue

An online mentoring Workshop on "IIT Madras Performance Monitoring & Analytical Tool Suite-APPEDO & DATA LIBRE at FinBlue SandBox" was conducted on 21st September 2023 for STPI FinTech Startups



# Major Outreach Activities

## in Emerging Tech Hubs of India (Tier II & Tier III cities)



**Chandigarh** | STPI MOHALI OIC highlighted about NEURON CoE of STPI during ICONN Chandigarh Startup Conclave.



**Bhopal** | STPI officials explained about STPI services to the students of Bhopal School of Social Sciences



**Indore** | STPI officials discussed about various IT services being offered by STPI during meeting with Director-ICAR-Indian Institute of Soybean Research



**Mysuru** | Outreach program for startups of Sri Jayachamarajendra College of Engineering – Science & Technology Entrepreneurs Park (SJCE-STEP) was conducted by STPI-Mysuru officials.



**Bhubaneswar** | STPI-Bhubaneswar & EmTek CoE organised a session on "All about AI" for startups in the region



**Thiruvananthapuram** | Director, STPI, participated in Bharatheeya Vidyanikethan Schools event, highlighted importance of employability skills for IT sector



**Coimbatore** | STPI official apprised about various services provided by STPI during meeting with Principal, SRCAS



**Tirupati** | STPI-Tirupati officials explored partnering opportunities for technology skilling / mentoring of innovators & startups with IIT Tirupati Navavishkar I-Hub Foundation.



**Madurai** | STPI-Chennai Director highlighted how 22 domain-specific CoEs of STPI are fostering startups at CII CONNECT 2023 - Madurai



**Lucknow** | Students of Babu Sundar Singh Group of Institutions were briefed about STPI services during industrial tour



# Major Outreach Activities

in Emerging Tech Hubs of India (Tier II & Tier III cities)



## Visakhapatnam

OIC STPI VIZAG accentuated various benefits being provided by STPI through NGIS, Incubation, CoEs to women led entrepreneurs during mini boot-camp program by NRDC at American Corner



## Guwahati

Students of Govt. Secondary Schools explored STPI OCTANE Centre of Entrepreneurship in Guwahati



## Gandhinagar

Director, STPI-Gandhinagar briefed about STPI services during Foundation Day celebration of IIT Gandhinagar.



## Coimbatore

STPI-Coimbatore officials briefed about 22 domain-specific CoEs while addressing an event at RVS College of Arts & Science



## Gangtok

STPI-Gangtok officials conducted outreach event for Open Challenge Program under OctaNE CoE at ICFAI University



**Imphal** | STPI Imphal officials organised a training session for OCTANE CoE startups, working in emerging tech, on mastering the lab equipment of the facility.



**Ranchi** | OIC STPI Ranchi discussed on promotion and growth of IT industry in the State during meeting with GM, District Industries Centre (DIC), Govt of Jharkhand



## Kohima

STPI-Kohima officials informed about the ongoing OCTANE CoE's Open Challenge Program to technopreneurs & students at NIELIT, Kohima.



## Agartala

STPI-Agartala officials conducted outreach activities for the OCP of STPI OCTANE CoE at NIT, Agartala



## Vijayawada

STPI officials briefed about STPI services to the students of Dhanekula Institute of Engineering and Technology



# LEAP AHEAD to provide investment opportunities to startups



Launchpad for Tech Entrepreneurs towards Accelerated growth and Pioneering AHEAD

## WHAT IS LEAP AHEAD ?

STPI, in collaboration with TiE Delhi-NCR and a prestigious group of Investors, is launching LEAP AHEAD (Launchpad for Tech Entrepreneurs towards Accelerated Growth and Pioneering AHEAD) - a pan India initiative to select tech startups for high-quality mentorship, securing investments & establishing global connections. This is a remarkable opportunity for startups to accelerate their growth.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

LEAP AHEAD is designed for Tech Startups with Early Traction and in Growth stage. If you're a passionate entrepreneur and innovator and aspiring to scale, this initiative is meant for you.

## KEY BENEFITS

- A 3-month intensive mentorship in hybrid mode, blend of virtual and in-person sessions
- Opportunity to access vast network and get 1-on-1 mentorship with investors and industry experts
- Funding of upto Rs. 1 Cr after grooming & hand holding in co-investment model
- Networking Opportunity and Global Market Exposure
- Incubation in STPI's Centers Pan India
- Cloud Credits and other benefits from leading third-party service providers
- 1-year Free Associate TiE Delhi-NCR Membership

## LEAP AHEAD TIMELINE

Application Open ▶ 6 November 2023 | Application Close ▶ 10 December 2023

In-Person Pitching ▶ **Bhubaneswar** 28 November 2023 | **Vijayawada** 6 December 2023 | **Chandigarh** 13 December 2023

Online Pitching for remaining applicants ▶ 14 December 2023 & 15 December 2023

Commencement of LEAP AHEAD COHORT ▶ 16 January 2024

Announcement of Startups For Funding Up to INR 1Cr. ▶ 15 April 2024 onwards



Please visit:  
<https://leapahead.stpi.in>

## ROADSHOWS TO BE HELD:

Agartala | Bhillai | Bhopal | Bhubaneswar | Dehradun | Guwahati | Jaipur | Lucknow | Prayagraj | Mohali | Patna | Vijayawada



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