

MAITwire

Where IT Industry Connects and Communicates



COVER STORY

EDUVISION

Mandating IT in every classroom in India

SPOTLIGHT

OUTLOOK

Interview WITH
Shri. J. Satyanarayana,
Advisor (IT), Government
of AP and Chairman, UIDAI



PERSPECTIVE

Revisiting MAIT's
Vision & Goals - 2017



CEO SPEAKS

Interview with
Mr. Thomas Fuhrmann,
Managing Director,
TUV Rheinland (India) Pvt. Ltd.

New Leadership at MAIT



Nitin takes over
as President



KK continues
as Vice President



Harish appointed
as Vice President

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WELCOME

Dear Readers,

As we move towards the start of a new financial year, I am pleased to announce a new leadership team at MAIT. Nitin Kunkolienker, Director (Member on Board), Synegra EMS Ltd., has taken over as President, P. Krishnakumar (KK), Vice President, Consumer & SB (CSB) Dell India, will continue as Vice President and Harish Krishnan, Managing Director (Public Affairs & Strategic Engagements - India & SAARC), Cisco Systems, will take on the role of Vice President. To keep pace with the changing times, we at MAIT have redrafted our charter and set new visions and goals for ourselves.

During the course of this financial year, we will be working on many new initiatives that include, tracking business opportunities in government for ICT companies, working on the Smart Cities initiative by creating a portal on the subject and conducting workshops on revitalising SMEs for Digital India.

This issue looks at Eduvision that mandates the use of IT in every Indian classroom. Apart from interviews with government and industry heads, we have started a new section called 'Hawkeye', to highlight new policies that have been put forth by the government.

With the GST rollout on the anvil, we can expect a huge change that will greatly impact the course of our nation. It is also a resounding validation of the digitisation drive of the government and a reiteration of our belief that computers will lead to socio-economic growth.

We continue to focus on bringing value to our members and our community and we look forward to your support & recommendations on improvement and future programmes.

Regards,

Anwar Shirpurwala

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New Leadership at MAIT

At the 5th MAIT Executive Council meet held on April 13, 2017, Mr. Nitin Kunkolienker, Director (Member on Board), Synegra EMS Ltd., was unanimously appointed as President, MAIT. Mr. P. Krishnakumar (popularly known as KK), Vice President, Consumer & SB (CSB) Dell India, will continue as Vice President, MAIT. In addition, Mr. Harish Krishnan, Managing Director (Public Affairs & Strategic Engagements - India & SAARC), Cisco Systems, was appointed as Vice President, MAIT.

Nitin is presently Director (Member on Board), Synegra EMS Ltd. Previously, he was Director-Corporate Affairs, Smartlink Network Systems Ltd. - one of India's top most companies in the field of Computer Networking and Information Technology. He has been Chairman, Taxation & Legal and has aggressively represented all issues & concerns of the industry at appropriate government forums. He has had a string of successful associations with various industry bodies, starting off with Verna Industries Association (VIA), and also headed diverse industry and social organisations like Goa Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCCI), Vidya Vikas Mandal (VVM), Goa Management Association (GMA), etc.



KK is Vice President, Consumer & SB (CSB), Dell India and has been with the company for over 8 years. Previously holding the position of Executive Director & General Manager, CSB, KK continues to be the driving force behind Dell's sales and business strategy for the consumer and small business segment in India. KK has held several key positions at MAIT and has immensely contributed to the growth & development of the association.

Harish leads Cisco's strategic engagement with National and State Governments of India on a wide range of policy issues that concern Cisco - as an investor, globalisation hub and as a corporate citizen. Harish also serves on Cisco's India 3.0 board which looks at transformational project and strategic issues on a 3-5 year horizon. Harish has held several important positions at MAIT and contributed to the growth & development of the association over the years.



EDUVISION

Mandating IT in every classroom in India



Education plays a key role in ensuring competitiveness and prosperity in today's age of globalisation. It forms the very core of economic development and serves to end poverty by improving living standards. A nation's success depends on the education of its people and the manner in which they give back to the economy after being employed. In order to achieve equity in employment, the need of the hour is a uniform, high standard of education for the entire population of the country.

While this is an immense challenge, it is not insurmountable. The use of IT in education offers a new way to achieve this goal, as it improves the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the education process. In a resource-poor setting, it is important to bring many key elements together to effectively integrate technology into teaching practices and fulfill its potential to improve learning as it stands today. Reliable connectivity, consistent power supply, and training teachers to leverage IT are some of the key elements required to get started. Designing new curricula that combines online and classroom learning is another high priority. Public-private partnerships can help close this gap. Today, due to the lack of infrastructural support, IT initiatives cannot be extended to every student in the country. Nevertheless, the potential is enormous if teachers can be trained and roped in for this buildup.

Accessibility of IT enabled vocational training, leads to economic participation from even the underprivileged groups by harnessing their productive potentials. Leveraging technology for skill development offers a magnitude of benefits for better employment opportunities through — focused training, applied knowledge, objective evaluation and credible certification — at a fraction of the cost compared to that of traditional class room training methodologies. In the near future, IT will increasingly occupy center stage in the educational process.

Leveraging IT in education can dramatically transform classrooms everywhere (from KG to PG), offering the best of teaching methodologies from both the worlds (offline & online) thereby increasing the quality of the education imparted and finally implemented in the workplace. The role of technology therefore, in driving 'Education for All', is immutable.

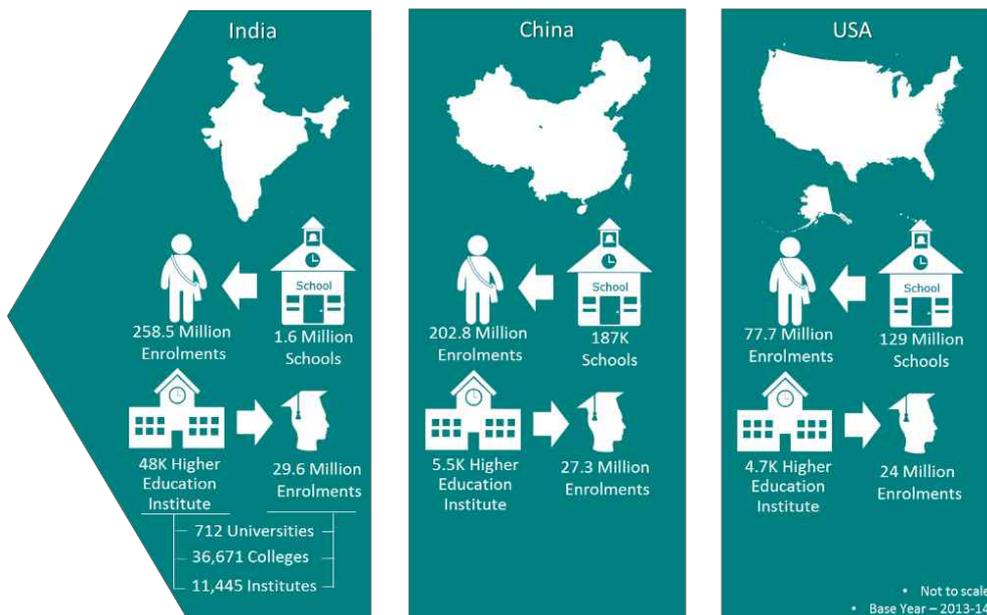
India's Educational Landscape

If one were to look at the diversity of India in terms of sheer volume – 1.3 billion population spread across 3.3 million square kilometers, split over 18 major languages with 49 education boards – the numbers seem overwhelming. These numbers spell both opportunities as well as challenges, when it comes to providing high level, uniform education to all. India has more than 1.6 million schools with 258.5 million student enrolments and more than 48,000 higher education institutes with 29.6 million student enrolments. It is one of the largest education systems in the world along with the US and China in terms of enrolments, schools and higher education institutes.

While there are high enrolments at the K12 and higher educational level, the number of dropouts at the K12 level is an area of huge concern, as also the fact that many graduates remain unemployed - a trend that is increasing every year.

The problem becomes exponential when even 20 percent of students, who enroll for higher education, are not industry trained and lack relevant skills, resulting in poor absorption in the industry. The gravity of the problem is while around 10.8 million remain unemployed, the majority of them are employed at levels that are not commensurate to their education level.

One of the main issues with a poor education system is the curriculum (what is taught) and the pedagogy (how it is taught). In the Indian context, along with the curriculum that focuses on developing thinking skills, acquisition of relevant knowledge and building core competencies, there is an imminent need to make students 'occupation ready'. This is because more than 85 percent of students drop out of schools to support their families. To encourage students to stay on, there has to be a link with higher education resulting in increasing returns. This, however, also means that with higher education, job-specific skills need to be taught so that students have a better shot at employment opportunities. There must be a separate and parallel measure to deal with the issue of standardisation to qualify for a graduate degree or certificate – the curriculum should be inclusive and accessible – tailored to ensure heightened employability prospects for those graduating. As a first step, the curriculum needs to be revisited so that it incorporates subjects, field work and training that yield practical or 'industry oriented' programmes.



Another determinant of educational success is the quality of teachers and the strength of their leadership. Teachers need to be trained to exhibit these very qualities, and must be provided with the tools and methods (through the use of technology) to lead students.



The focus needs to be on quality, apart from quantity. It is more than known that the quality of teacher training is a matter of huge concern, mainly in government schools. Several teachers are incapable of even filling up basic forms like those in the Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET)!

Yet another cause of concern is the 'Pupil-Teacher Ratio' (PTR), resulting in poor engagement and inadequate focus on students. The mix of poor quality teachers and high PTR, is a lethal combination.

The lack of quality institutes and teachers is more prominent in higher education. The irony lies in the fact that, in spite of a small percentage of students opting for higher education, there is a dearth of good institutes. In India, the number of seats in quality institutes are few, implying that students with better means go to better schools, allowing them a competitive advantage that can assure them commensurate employment. In an ideal scenario, the level of the institutes should not vary and if faculty, curriculum and processes are standardised, it will provide parity to a large section of society.

Technology is the Fulcrum

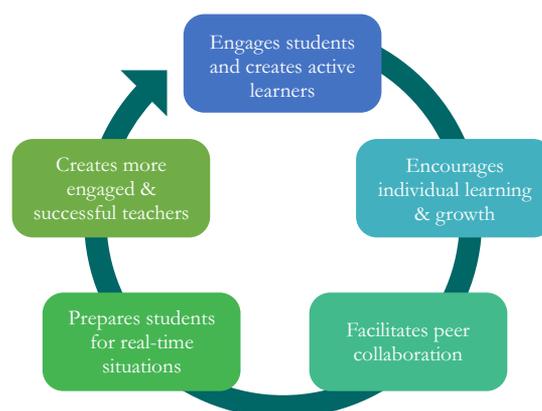
For education to be an enabling lever that can transform the socio-economic fabric of India, technology has to be the fulcrum. Integrating IT into classroom instruction means much more than teaching basic computer skills and software programme in a separate computer class.

Through technology, a myriad of solutions available in the online world can be accessed, which provide the students more interesting, diverse and contemporary learning materials. Teachers can ideate and incorporate newer and successful methods of engaging students and enable learning.

The power of technology connects local education ecosystems to experts in the real world, enhancing presentation of content (through images, sounds and text) and the quality of content, by opening up benchmarks across the world. These modules are not only available for students but for teachers as well, who can hone their teaching skills and improve their marketability.

Incorporating IT into the curriculum has many benefits for teachers and students alike. Some of the key benefits of incorporating IT in education are as under:

- Enhancing access to the system through an online medium
- Improving the quality of teaching, especially across remote locations
- Increasing transparency and strengthening systems, processes and compliance
- Measuring students learning participation and effectiveness
- Analysing student behavior to maximise student's involvement, optimise retentions and improve placements
- Offering cost effective learning methods



Eduvision - What Lies Ahead

There have been several steps taken by the government with regard to incorporating IT in education. Budget 2016-17 stressed on digital literacy for over 6 crore households in rural India and the establishment of a digital repository of academic records. The National Policy of ICT on School Education promotes universal, equitable, open and free access to state-of-the-art ICT tools to students and teachers. The Digital Saksharta Adhiyan (DISHA), also known as the National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM) scheme, has been formulated to impart IT training to 52.5 lakh persons including Anganwadi and Asha workers. The Mission Mode Project (MMP) on education looks at encouraging online admission, attendance, transfer, scholarship, grievances and certificates. The question that must be asked is whether all these initiatives have achieved their desired objectives?

Eduvision 2015, recommended a coherent national policy on 'IT in Education' that could lead to successful ICT integration and capacity building. Emphasis was laid on the government ensuring IT connectivity, basic infrastructure and accessibility for education in institutions, for which, sustainable partnerships between government, private sector and civil societies needed to be forged. Regional networks of collaboration among states had to be leveraged to promote educational quality and equality to bridge the digital divide.

EduVision The Key Stakeholders

ICT Platform

Device
Manufacturers

Connectivity
Providers

Content
Providers

Alternate
Power Providers

Capacity Building of Teachers

EduVision

Key Objectives

- Creating a repository of quality-assured digital content in English, Hindi and regional languages across subjects
- Training and encouraging teachers to develop and use e-content

- Enabling the provision of ICT-integrated examinations and e-governance at the institutional and systemic level, including setting up of education portals
- Creating provisions for ICT in classrooms or portable facilities and a projector with rechargeable batteries, and implementing ICT-integrated education
- Bringing Industry and Academia together and showcasing how the Industry can utilise IT solutions in imparting education
- Capacity building for all stakeholders
- ICT Platform for Education Governance

Plan to land the Initiative: (April 2017 to January 2018)

Constitute an expert group



Prepare an
impact/gap analysis report



Facilitate stakeholder
engagement



Conduct a policy advocacy campaign
mandating IT in education

EduVision will further analyse whether the government has matched its efforts in digitising education at par with the Digital India initiative and its objectives. Eduvision will look at what the practical challenges are while implementing ICT integration. The aim is to also explore ideas on building sustainable IT infrastructure, conduct a need-gap analysis of IT in education, look at ways in which technology can be leveraged for both school & higher education and take a pragmatic approach to devise ways to land the solutions on ground.

INTERVIEW

With Shri. J. Satyanarayana, Advisor (IT), Government of AP and Chairman, UIDAI, responds to Sameer Sachdeva of MAIT, on the Enterprise Architecture Framework.



Shri. Satyanarayana, a retired IAS officer and former DeITY Secretary, succeeds former Infosys co-founder Mr. Nandan Nilekani at UIDAI. He holds an MBA and an M.Sc. in Physics and served as special chief secretary in Andhra Pradesh. Shri. Satyanarayana is well known for his contributions to the e - Governance sector and was the founder of e-Seva — a one-stop shop for citizen services. He has also been a part of the Passport Seva project of the External Affairs Ministry and various e - Governance projects.

Q: You have been advocating for an Enterprise Architecture (EA) framework, both at the federal and the state levels with respect to e-Governance. What are the components of such a framework?

A: From an Enterprise Architecture perspective, there would be 4 components, namely; Business Architecture (which sets out the vision of the government), Application Architecture (the portfolio of applications, the manner in which they shall be designed and their relationships), Data Architecture and Technology Architecture. The essence of Enterprise Architecture is to take a holistic view on how the business vision will be supported by technology.

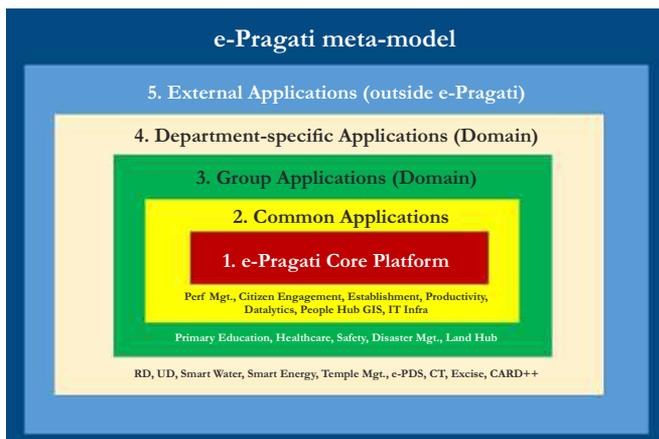
Q: Do you think this is a step towards a connected government?

A: Yes. EA is about a connected government and more significantly about 'ONE government'. EA treats the whole of government as a single enterprise, not merely from a technology perspective, but also from the point of view of the users – citizens, businesses and employees.

Q: What were the learnings of the e-Pragati framework, which is currently under implementation in the state of Andhra Pradesh?

A: Over the last two years, since the design of e-Pragati commenced in AP, several lessons have been learnt. Firstly, e-Pragati is an unimaginably large initiative that calls for political will of a very high order, to sustain the interest of all stakeholders. Design and development of e-Pragati called for numerous, involved discussions with the line departments and subsequent dispersed ownership. Moreover, it was a highly iterative and evolutionary process.

The meta-model of e-Pragati, which consists of a core platform, surrounded by multiple layers like the Common Applications, the Group Applications and Department-specific Applications, appears to be the right framework to adopt. Though it looks logical and simple now, it took quite some time for the EA team to discover this pattern. The meta-model of e-Pragati is represented below:



Q: What are the challenges involved?

A: Designing an Enterprise Architecture for a large and diverse country like India, can face several formidable challenges. Creating a consensus on designing such a framework is itself the first challenge, as the resources required would be huge and benefits would not be easily and quickly discernible. Developing the business vision with clear focus and resisting the temptation of including all sectors and domains, is the next challenge. In the federal structure of the country, evolving a commonly accepted minimum agenda for designing an Enterprise Architecture can be a long-drawn process. Shortage of resources — both HR and financial resources — can pose severe problems in implementation.

Q: Today discussions amongst both government and industry revolve around Industry 4.0. Is the Enterprise Architecture framework a step towards Government 4.0?

A: I would say that EA is a step towards government 2.0 rather than 4.0. Compared to the Industry, Government has many more constraints, most of which are well-known — like shortage of resources, large set of demands competing for scarce resources and above all, tedious procedures. One of the major hurdles of governance reforms is governance itself! An important factor to be realised by all the stakeholders is that EA should be the preferred option, when compared to multiple investments in discrete initiatives and projects, as EA promises to be cost effective through shared infrastructure and applications.

Q: What kind of financial investments will be needed to implement the Enterprise Architecture framework across federal and state governments?

A: It is difficult to estimate financial requirements with any degree of confidence. The estimate depends on the size of the agenda, the number of ministries and states opting to participate, and the business models to be evolved. However, two strong considerations are important in this regard – 1. Open-standards based ecosystems are to be promoted in all domains conducive for the same and 2. Cost-recovery based financial models have to be adopted widely in implementation. Above all, the EA programme has to be a long-term plan, with a few identified quick wins being launched at regular intervals.

e-Pragati is an unimaginably large initiative that calls for political will of a very high order, to sustain the interest of all stakeholders.

REVISITING MAIT'S VISION & MISSION



Background

The principle objective of MAIT as an association is to support Government and ICT industry in building a robust ecosystem for the ICT sector in India. The efforts of MAIT must be towards Creation, Development, Maintenance and Acceleration of the ICT Ecosystem. These efforts should lead to digital readiness of the nation, which in turn will benefit the industry in their business goals. This can be achieved by device (TV, PC, Tablet, Smartphone etc.) penetration, development of shared infrastructure, building user capacity and content creation.

There is an urgent need for India to move towards a digital knowledge economy and MAIT must, from time to time align itself to the changing goals of the Government.

The definition of manufacturing also needs to be strengthened in MAIT's vision statement. The word manufacturing is not just limited to hardware manufacturing but applies to software also. Software manufacturing is the process of producing software, much like the manufacturing of tangible goods.

The Vision

To develop, maintain and accelerate ICT ecosystem that will transform India into a digital knowledge economy.

The Mission

ICT Ecosystem Development

- Encourage domestic market by focusing on domestic manufacturing
- Create demand for IT products in the country, leading to an increase in IT penetration
- Promote development and usage of technology related products and services
- Support Innovation and IP creation

ICT Ecosystem Maintenance

- Ensuring compliance of standards and regulatory framework, which is favorable for nation building
- Support government in policy making and in its smooth implementation
- Advocacy for policy, which will lead to the development of ICT sector in the country

ICT Ecosystem Acceleration

- To work for Public Procurement Reforms which are conducive for accelerating use of IT in the country
- To accelerate ICT by aligning to the government's initiatives
- To encourage IT intervention in sector specific initiatives
- Guiding the creation and dissemination of data, information and content



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TO CONDUCT**

**AWARENESS
WORKSHOPS ON
ENVIRONMENTAL
HAZARDS
OF
ELECTRONIC
WASTE**

**for Manufacturers,
Dealers and
the Informal Sector**

May 2017 - July 2017

Panjim, Puducherry, Kolkata, Patna,
Ranchi, Guwahati, Imphal, Indore,
Moradabad, Bhubaneswar

For more information write in to
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INTERVIEW

with Mr. Thomas Fuhrmann,
Managing Director,
TUV RHEINLAND (INDIA) PVT. LTD.

Q: What has your journey in TUV Rheinland been like so far and what is your vision for the future?

A: We have been operating globally for 150 years, and for 20 years in India. We started with 4 colleagues in 1996 and now we have more than 1000 colleagues. The growth has been aggressive, particularly over the last few years, growing by 30-35 percent year on year, by focusing on product testing, system auditing and training services/consulting services, in particular. Over 50 percent of our staff are currently providing vocational/professional training in about 8 locations in India. Another area of focus is electronic and electric safety. We are one of the first companies to be accredited to test imported goods in India and directly contribute to increased safety and support the government towards this end. Going forward, we would like to contribute to Skill in India, Make in India and supporting the industry. We will be investing in the EMCs and hubs and looking at product development for our partners and qualification of their staff. In future, we are looking at supporting industry, government, young people, and bringing the whole infrastructure into the global business arena.

Q: You had mentioned electronics and electrics being the focus. How much of this drives your business in India?

A: Roughly about 30 percent of our staff deals with electrical services and testing of equipment that is electrically powered. With regard to turnover, I would say about 40 percent. Currently, our turnover is about 30 million Euros and so 30 percent would be about 10 million Euros that we contribute by doing business in the electrical field.

Q: If you would look at the cost of compliance in India, what is your opinion on where we stand?

A: Well, that would depend on the product. But let's take a typical certification service like an electrical switch. In India, we provide the same service at about 40-50 percent of the cost compared to what we would charge globally in countries like Germany or USA. This does not mean that the quality is any less, it really is about lower labour costs.

Q: Are there any challenges that test labs face in India?

A: Infrastructure is a challenge – be it power supply, water supply. Long term testing over a period of a week becomes a huge challenge with power shortage. Another challenge we face is that we do not get qualified staff in India. A lot more investment is needed from our side to get qualified people. Another issue is that our customers are young – primarily startup companies, who are still learning the ropes on standards and compliance requirements. While this is not unique to just India, we have a lot more startups in India. These companies need to realise the importance of compliance and standards-related aspects with regard to their product design and use in a global market. There needs to be more awareness on the value that can be derived by being compliant to a particular standard. It is a very complex topic and I have spent about 15 years educating the market in China where the situation is the same. Companies must understand what they have to do to sell and produce products for the international market, which are also complaint to standards.

They need to spend time to gain product related experiences, documentation, risk assessment, infrastructure, quality management and control. Transparent and traceable procedures must be in place. In the textiles industry for example, to sell globally, it is not enough to just produce a good product. Processes must be adhered to, there can be no use of child labour, there needs to be a safe environment etc. This is a learning process for a country like India. It is our mission to provide services globally to deliver knowledge and help companies and the industry to attain those standards.

Q: How do you rate the standards and compliance policies in India?

A: At a theoretical level, for most part, local standards and compliance policies are good. Of course, there are some areas in which the level is higher and sometimes lower than the international average. With respect to electronics, the standard is quite good and the requirements are more or less the same as other countries. Implementation is another topic! Expectation and results do not match always. But BIS and associations like ours have a good understanding of the theoretical side and international standards.

Q: What are your views on the CRO (Compliance Registration Order) in its current form? Do you think that there are changes required in the same?

A: Like I have been mentioning, if you want to play internationally, you have to adopt international standards. If you want to enter the American or European market in particular, you have to be a hundred percent compliant with related standards, like the low voltage directives or any kind of dual standards. I think theoretically we are at a good level and there are no big differences. We do not have much deviation here. In our business we often see that products that are submitted for testing do not meet compliance benchmarks. However, I have not seen too much of that in India. India is well ahead of the average rate of compliance as compared to some other countries.

Q: How do you view the issue of suspension of test labs? It affects business continuity, so how can this be rectified?

A: We are not impacted directly and this is a reflection on our company. As a responsible manager, I am very happy that the strict audits that we face twice a month, confirm that we fulfill the accreditation requirements. I feel very comfortable that the government is taking control ensuring that the minimum requirement is followed by all test labs. It is also a good thing because companies cannot focus only on profits and ignore quality. In our business, it is very easy to issue a certificate. It takes merely a minute to print and put a stamp and signature on it. But in India the government is taking strict control and companies that are violating the rules are getting into serious trouble. For us, it has had a positive impact. It has helped increase our market share. We are an ideal partner for the industry and our reputation is our biggest selling point. We are a reliable partner and when one sees a component or service that is quality assured by us, it is an indicator of trust, safety and quality. It would be wonderful if more countries took it as seriously as India does.

Q: What is your expectation from industry associations like MAIT? What role can they play?

A: You should identify the challenges faced by the industry, be it taxation, infrastructure or import and export related hurdles that need to be overcome and addressed by the government. Industry associations must also be able to assess trends in the market. To boost the industry here, we must talk about infrastructure and it has to be taken up by the government. They must understand what they can do to encourage business development that is sustainable. Our discussions need to be taken forward and the government should be advised by associations like yours.



Training of Trainers Workshop, Noida February 16 - 18, 2017

Under MeitY's 'Awareness programme on Environmental Hazards of Electronic Waste', MAIT organised a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop from 16th to 18th February, 2017, at NIESBUD, Noida. The workshop was conducted to train representatives of NGOs, State Pollution Control Boards and IT Departments from 10 cities across various states. A total of 16 trainees participated in the event. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Debashis Dutta, Sr. Director & Group Coordinator, MeitY, who highlighted the importance of creating awareness on e-Waste and also emphasised the value that can be derived out of a workshop of this nature.

The trainers were trained by e-Waste experts from the government as well as the private sector, to enable them to become torch bearers of MeitY's initiative. Topics such as e-Waste rules 2016, dismantling and recycling practices, challenges in e-Waste management, sustainable lifestyle and reduction of carbon footprint, were covered.



The trainees were taught to use the training manuals developed by MAIT and were also taught to conduct training activities for stakeholders such as college-going students, resident welfare associations, informal sector, etc.



A special session on using the website - www.greene.net.in, a central repository of all e-Waste related information, was also organised. The website has an e-Waste collection centre locator, using which an individual can dispose e-Waste in an environmentally safe and sound manner. The session also covered hands-on training on using the greene mobile app, which is available on both Android and iOS.

**MAIT – Knowledge Partner at 3rd
Digital India Summit & Awards
March 23, 2017, New Delhi**

Times Network launched the third edition of 'Digital India Summit and Awards' on March 23, 2017, at Hyatt Regency, New Delhi. The event was presented by Union Bank of India, Lead Partner - GTL, Summit Partner - GE, Digital Partner - Sify and Associate Partner - WNS. The initiative was supported by MeitY, The Better India, Knowledge partner - MAIT and Tech4Good partner - Nasscom Foundation. Shri. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Law & Justice and Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, was the special guest of honour.



The summit kicked off with the welcome address by Mr. Satyan Gajwani - Vice Chairman, Times Internet, followed by a keynote address by Shri. Ravi Shankar Prasad. The summit aimed to lay out key imperatives and framework for turning the vision of 'Digital India' into a reality.



The awards acknowledged and honoured the undying spirit and contributions made by individuals and organisations that harnessed IT usage, for the growth of the nation, gearing it towards a digital revolution.

The entire event was converted into episodes and telecast on Times Now and ET Now, during the month of April.

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Breakthrough

ACT Fibernet launches 1GB/second wired broadband service in Hyderabad.

ACT Fibernet launched 1 Gigabit per second wired broadband internet service in Hyderabad, becoming the first player in the Indian market to offer such high speeds for an entire city. ACT Fibernet, which claims to be the largest non-telco internet service provider (ISP), uses fiber optic technology, and its 1 Gbps offering, is 400 times faster than the average internet speed of 2.5 megabits per second in India. The company believes that such high speeds will transform the way Internet is now being consumed at large and that this will fast track the Telangana government's target to connect all its 23 million residents through the Internet by 2018. Telangana's Minister for IT, Shri. K. Taraka Rama Rao said, that the 1Gbps internet speed offered by ACT in Hyderabad would help fulfil his vision of making Telangana a digitally advanced tech hub. ACT Fibernet's 1 Gbps wired internet service is expected to soon be available in the 11 cities that the company has presence in.

Hawkeye

Aadhaar Card mandatory for Mobile Connections

The Department of Telecom (DoT) has issued directives to telecom operators to re-verify their subscribers — both prepaid and post-paid — through an Aadhaar-based eKYC process by February 6, 2018. This order follows the Supreme Court order that Aadhaar-based eKYC verification should be done for all mobile phone numbers in the country.

Kerala unveils new IT policy

Kerala unveiled a new Information Technology (IT) policy, aiming to create 10 million sq. ft. of office space for the IT and IT-enabled Services (ITeS) sectors. The policy, targets the generation of 250,000 jobs in the sectors and plans to make Kerala a 100% e-literate society by 2020. The policy has been further divided into eight sub-policies: Electronic Governance policy, Industry Facilitation policy, Digital Inclusion Guidelines, FOSS policy, Innovation & Entrepreneurship Policy, Digital Capacity Building Policy, Digital Procurement policy, Cyber Security and Disaster Recovery Guidelines.

Cyber security among 22 pacts inked between India and Bangladesh

Pacts on the strategic areas of defence, civil nuclear cooperation and cyber security were among the nearly two dozen agreements signed between India and Bangladesh, during the visit of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and Bangladesh Government Computer Incident Response Team (BGD e-Gov CIRT) agreed to cooperate on cyber security and signed a pact to this effect.

Government Departments, States ordered to ensure Aadhaar privacy

The government has ordered central departments and states to ensure that the Aadhaar numbers of people and their bank account details are not published anywhere, including online platforms, and any such information available in the public domain must be taken down immediately. Any act of publishing personal identity or information such as Aadhaar number and demographic details, along with personal sensitive information such as bank details, is in contravention of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, and the Information Technology Act, 2000, and is disallowed.

Centre to regulate WhatsApp, Facebook and other messaging services

The Department of Telecommunications has told the Supreme Court that it had plans to set up a framework to monitor over-the-top services, including WhatsApp, Facebook, Skype and WeChat. The submission by the Centre was made while the apex court was hearing a case about the privacy policy of instant messaging service, WhatsApp.

Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP) to promote indigenous manufacturing of Cellular Mobile Handsets, its sub-assemblies and parts/sub-parts/inputs of sub-assemblies thereof

The recently notified **Phased Manufacturing Programme** has the objective of progressively increasing the domestic value addition for establishment of robust cellular and mobile handset manufacturing in India. The PMP will enable the cellular mobile handset and related sub-assembly/component industry, to plan their investment in the sector. It mentions an indicative list at the sub-assembly level to be locally manufactured.

Members Corner

We would like to welcome on board our new member,

Synegra EMS Limited.

An EMS company, SYNEGRA is into manufacturing of OEM/ODM and other IT products, like Mother Boards, Networking Products, Telecom Products - right from Mobile Phones to Wireless Applications Products.

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CONGRATULATIONS



Shri. Karan Avtar Singh has been appointed as Chief Secretary to the Government of Punjab. He is a 1984 batch IAS officer of Punjab cadre.



Mrs. Nalini Netto took over as the new Chief Secretary of Kerala on March 31. She is a 1981 batch IAS officer of Kerala cadre.



Ms. Vanaja Sarna is the new Chairperson of the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC). She is a 1980 batch IRS (C&CE) officer.



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