



Centre of Excellence for Innovation,
Entrepreneurship & Startups

CII Tech & Startup Delegation to Saudi Arabia

5 - 9 Feb 2023, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

LEAP 2023 Riyadh is a global platform focused on bringing together the world's greatest minds; from leading tech corporations, inspiring pioneers from the next generation start-ups and the venture capitalists. LEAP organised under the patronage of H.E. Eng. Abdullah Amer-Al Swaha (Minister of Communications & IT), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 6 - 9 February 2023 at the Riyadh Front Expo Centre in Saudi Arabia.

Coinciding with LEAP 2023, CII mounted a delegation consisting of Unicorns, Tech Startups, Incubators and Entrepreneurs to Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's capital and main financial hub from 5th to 9th February 2023. Besides attending the LEAP 2023, CII delegation had meetings with Embassy of India, Riyadh, Federation of Saudi Chambers, King Abdullah Financial District, Public Investment Fund, Angel Investor, Potential Venture Capitalist in Saudi Arabia. The delegation provided the members ample opportunities to explore potential collaboration and networking opportunities with Angel Investors, VC's, from Saudi Arabia and Middle East and connected with important stakeholders for business and market access.

The CII Startup delegation consisted of tech companies, startups and investors led by Mr Chacko Cherian, Director, Raw Data Technologies attended the business interaction attended a business interaction session was organized by Embassy of India, Riyadh on 5 Feb 2023 in collaboration with Federation of Saudi Chambers. The session was chaired by HE Waleed H Aloranian, Assistant Secretary-General, International Relations, Federation of Saudi Chambers and HE Dr Suhel Ajaz Khan, Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh.



HE Waleed H Aloranian, Assistant Secretary-General, International Relations, Federation of Saudi Chambers and HE Dr Suhel Ajaz Khan, Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh at the business interaction session at Federation of Saudi Chambers, Riyadh



The CII delegation attended the LEAP 2023 expo from 6 - 9 Feb 2023. The expo provided ample opportunities to explore potential collaboration and networking opportunities with the cutting-edge & Next Gen tech providers and potential investors, venture capitalists, Angel Investors from Saudi Arabia and Middle East and connected with important stakeholders for business and market access.



Cii delegation at LEAP 2023



Startup Zone and Matchmaking Pavilion at LEAP 2023

A global and wonderful event presenting products, technologies and services in a professional way at #leap2023 at Riyadh Front Expo Centre, Riyadh, KSA. The CII delegation members delighted to witness the Startup Zone with technology and innovation from GCC nationals and other countries.



The CII delegation had an exclusive meeting with Mr Ammar Enaya, CEO, Ajan & Bros Technology

Mr Sumanth Indukuri, Director AST Aerosystems Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad, India, signed MOU with Military Uniforms and Accessory Factory, Saudi. The MoU Enables AST Aerosystems to build Bullet Proof Safety Systems (Helmets and Vest Plates), and Testing for New Gulf Standards. Mr. Suliman, Director General/ General Manager, Military Uniforms and Accessory Factory, Riyadh, Saudi, Honoured signing agreement.



MoU Agreement between Military Uniforms and Accessory Factory, Saudi and AST AeroSystems Pvt Ltd. This is one of many ways of CII Centre of Excellence for Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Startups to connect Global Ecosystems through its initiatives.

The delegation members had meeting with Mr Vivek Silla, D&T Strategy and Governance, Digital and Technology Department, Public Investment Fund (PIF) and Mr Prashant Naik, NACD.DC; C-Suite Executive, Advisor, Board Member, Audit Committee Member, Angel Investor (Startups in Seed to Series A) on 7 Feb 2023 at Riyadh Marriott hotel. The interactive discussion provided the members details about the Public Investment Fund and opportunities for one-to-one discussions for investments.



Mr Gautam Sashittal, CEO, King Abdullah Financial District (KAFD) explained in detail about the Strategies and Roadmap of the World's leading Free Zone for commodities trade and enterprise during the session held on 8th Feb 2023 at KAFD



CII Mission Leader Mr Chacko Cherian, Director, Raw Data Technologies presented the memento to Ms Ritu Yadav, Second Secretary (Com & PIC), Embassy of India, Riyadh and Mr Mr Gautam Sashittal, CEO, King Abdullah Financial District (KAFFD)

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News International



The delegation will take part in various networking opportunities with global venture capitalists. Over 45 Indian companies are participating in the event. Reuters

'HUGE POTENTIAL'

Indian companies eye more tech collaboration with Saudi Arabia

Over 45 Indian companies are participating at LEAP tech conference in Riyadh

Sanjay Kumar New Delhi

Indian companies are setting their sights on more tech collaboration under Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, the Confederation of Indian Industry said on Monday, as a delegation from the South Asian nation visited the Kingdom to explore new opportunities.

The Indian delegation, comprising unicorns and tech startups and led by CII, is in Riyadh to attend the second LEAP tech conference in the Saudi capital, where more than 100,000 global innovators and experts are expected to gather from Feb. 6-9.

Over 45 Indian companies are participating at the event, where the embassy in Riyadh launched a pavilion on Monday to facilitate potential collaboration between India and Saudi Arabia.

The Kingdom's Vision 2030 holds potential to boost cooperation in tech between the two countries, CII said.

"This Vision 2030 is very important, and this is one of the areas where they are trying to collaborate," Manish Mohan, CII senior director, told Arab News.

"We are looking for partnership in the growth story of India's startup ecosystem, how Indian companies can collaborate with Saudi Arabia also in a big way," he said.

FAST FACTS

- The Kingdom's Vision 2030 holds potential to boost cooperation in tech between the two countries, CII says.
- Saudi Arabia is projected to spend over \$24 billion on various technologies by 2025, according to the Saudi Press Agency.

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"They are trying to move from oil economy to non-oil economy, they are trying to look at collaboration in sectors like IT, they are also trying to look at infrastructure... If you see Vision 2030, they are trying to expand and collaborate in various fields," Mohan said.

As Indian companies hope to tap into potential cooperation in IT, technology and startups, the LEAP conference served as a good platform, he added.

During the Riyadh visit, the Indian delegation plans on taking part in various networking opportunities with global venture capitalists while also connecting with various Saudi businesses.

"There is a huge potential of IT business between India and Saudi Arabia," the Indian Embassy in Riyadh said in a tweet.

Testimonial

“There was series of meetings Arranged by CII along with LEAP 2023, Includes Involvement of Secretary’s and Ambassador from Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia. Glad meeting all of them, It was a great Opportunity to meet influential members on one stage. We AST Aero Systems Pvt Ltd got to sign MOU with Military Uniforms and Accessory Factory, Saudi Arabia. The Delegation members i have met are experts in many fields of interest.CII did a great job in executing the programme” **Sumanth Indukuri, Managing Partner, AstroLync LLP**

“I had the pleasure of being part of a delegation to Saudi Arabia organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and it was an incredible experience. CII's efforts to facilitate our visit and provide us with access to key business leaders and organizations in the region was impressive. we were able to witness firsthand the tremendous business opportunities available in Saudi Arabia and explore potential collaborations with key stakeholders in the country. Overall, I am impressed with CII's efforts to promote business relations between India and Saudi Arabia. The trip was a great success, and I look forward to future collaborations facilitated by CII” **Abhishek Garg, CEO, Horeca Stop**

“It’s been an insightful session on doing business in the Kingdom, and a valuable opportunity to network with relevant stakeholders. Appreciate the initiative by CII connect Indian Startups with stakeholders in the Kingdom. Personally was awestruck by the vision and ambition of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia , opening door for steep growth in the coming decade and several new business opportunities that come with it” **Karunakar Reddy Malgireddy, Managing Director, Eco Aviation Pvt Ltd**
