



UK GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES TECH ROCKETSHIP AWARDS 2018-19 WITH NASSCOM

New Delhi, 11th May 2018: The UK's Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, Matt Hancock, today launched the 4th edition of the **India-UK TECH Rocketship Awards**, in partnership with the **National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)**, in the presence of **Ms. Debjani Ghosh, President, NASSCOM**. The awards are designed to help Indian start-ups thrive by giving them access to capital and a platform to go global via the UK. The awards offer a week-long sponsored trip to the UK exposing them to prospective business partners, investors, and incubators during the London Tech Week 2019. Applications for the program are open from today, and seven winners will be selected from among the seven categories of AI, Big Data, Cybersecurity, Fintech, Med-tech, IoT and a Judge's Choice Award.

Previously endorsed by Their Royal Highnesses the Duke & Duchess of Cambridge; and HRH the Earl of Wessex; this year, the Tech Rocketship Awards have been launched by Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Theresa May. Winners and partners have interacted with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Foreign Secretary and other senior ministers, as well as business veterans like Anand Mahindra, Narayana Murthy and Mohandas Pai. Several winners have also received significant investment as a result of the awards and are in the process of developing their international operations in the UK. NASSCOM joins a roster of awards partners that also includes Indian Angel Network, T-Hub, StartupBootcamp, Investopad, TiE, and Manchester India Partnership.

The Prime Ministers of both the countries also announced the India-UK Tech Alliance in London last month, led by NASSCOM and Tech UK to identify and pair businesses, venture capital, universities, and provide access routes to markets for British and Indian entrepreneurs and SMBs. As part of the alliance, NASSCOM launched its FutureSkills platform in the UK with techUK to promote the growth of skills needed for a world where artificial intelligence, machine learning, big data analytics and cybersecurity will be major technology growth areas.

Commenting on the launch, **Ms. Debjani Ghosh, President, NASSCOM** said, *"In such disruptive times, collaboration is the key to success, and NASSCOM's partnership with the UK government epitomizes the possibilities of co-innovation and co-creation between the two nations. India and the UK's mutual synergies have forged a legacy over the years, and we look forward to deepening the tech connect between our two start-up nations."*

Rt. Hon'ble Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, of the United Kingdom, said, *"Carrying forward the joint commitment following the launch of Indo-UK tech Alliance during the visit of PM Modi to London recently, we are happy to partner with NASSCOM for the launch of the Tech Rocketship awards this year. This will help boost innovation and entrepreneurship partnerships between the two nations."*

The congruency between India and UK has previously been reflected through India's £136m technological investment in the UK, bringing together the technological capabilities of both countries with the aim of strengthening high-skilled jobs and economic growth in both. Indian technology companies, many of them NASSCOM members, account for over 30,000 tech jobs in the UK – just under a third Indian-created jobs in the UK.

Entries to the **#TechRocketships** 2019 can be submitted here: <https://www.events.trade.gov.uk/tech-rocketship-awards-2018-19>



APPENDIX: Previous Winners and Funding Recipients

1. **Get My Parking:** A Delhi based start-up that uses IOT-based smart parking platform which digitizes any type of parking space.
2. **RepUp:** A hospitality tech start-up which provides 360° Guest Experience Management solution to hotels. Received funding, now as close to 1000 hotel clients.
3. **Thinkerbell Labs Pvt. Ltd.:** provides technology based solutions for Braille-based education assisting visually impaired people. Received funding from IAN, Anand Mahindra. Major press coverage with Duke & Duchess of Cambridge. Running pilots in UK.
4. **Talocity:** are in conversation with 12 UK-based companies. The company will be looking to set up their UK marketing office by next financial year.
5. **Appspiket:** Currently engaged with two of the UK's leading cyber-security companies BAE Systems Applied Intelligence and NCC Group, and working with them on Go-To-Market strategies for AppsPicket products in the UK and Europe.

About NASSCOM

NASSCOM® is the premier trade body and the chamber of commerce of the Technology and services industry in India. NASSCOM is a global trade body with more than 2500 members, which include both Indian and multinational companies that have a presence in India. NASSCOM's member companies are broadly in the business of IT services, Software Products, BPM, Internet and Ecommerce, Engineering services and start-ups. NASSCOM's membership base constitutes over 95% of the industry revenues in India and employs over 4 million professionals.

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