



Press release

Inclusively designed technology will empower India's digital transformation

New Delhi, December 15, 2016: The third day of the fifth edition of the **International Conference on Digital Libraries (ICDL)** organised here by **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)** emphasised the importance of digital transformation as an agent of social change and the need for developing technologies that meet the needs of a 'smart future' in these early days of what is known as the networked age.

The \$146-billion Indian IT industry, which contributes about 9.5% to the national GDP*, has an integral role to play in making sure that the country's digital divide is bridged through technology. The volume of information generated everyday has reached almost incalculable levels today and, for a smart future, it is vital that we have access to technology and solutions that can help convert raw data into information that is contextual and relevant.

Five billion more people are set to join the virtual world. Digital connectivity will expand very rapidly and will usher in gains in productivity, health, education, quality of life, and economic progress, among others. In this context, organisations today must be agile and adaptive to be able to easily connect, transfer and share knowledge, deal with big data sets and, finally, find innovative ways to engage with their communities to achieve desirable and sustainable socio-economic outcomes.

Mr Srikant Sinha, CEO of NASSCOM Foundation, speaking at the day's keynote session, said, "Digital transformation is all about looking outwards and technology is a medium of empowerment. It removes redundancies like intermediaries and hands control to the user. The future is about artificial intelligence, automation, predictive and big data analytics, augmented and virtual reality, among others. By investing in skills and technology adoption, India can boost its GDP by \$90 billion by 2022."

Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director-General, TERI, calling technology an "investment" that could make the digital world more inclusive and accessible, said, "Organisations have a responsibility to bring out products that look to the future. By facilitating digital transformation, they can improve the quality of life of citizens. We must ask ourselves if we are ready for that change."

A truly empowering technology is one that is designed on the principles of universality and inclusivity. This is especially relevant in the context of the National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM), which aims to have one 'digitally literate' person in every household in India by 2020. As a step towards a 'smart future', approximately 53 thousand people have been trained at 150 NDLM centres around the country so far.

A total of 120 speakers from 22 countries will be participating in more than 30 sessions during the summit. The conference will witness a vibrant mix of academic papers, practitioner presentations, seminars, keynotes, discussions, workshops, and exhibitions by national and international conference

delegates on a range of themes and subjects like innovation and knowledge management, social media and analytics, Big Data, analytics and artificial intelligence, new digital technologies like cloud computing and the Internet of Things, among others.

About ICDL

The journey of ICDL began in 2004 with financial and intellectual support from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Several Digital Library (DL) luminaries came forward and joined hands with TERI to make this event a grand success. The first conference was inaugurated by late Hon'ble Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, the then President of India. Seeing overwhelming responses from all corners — government, librarians, and publishers - ICDL was repeated in 2006, 2010 and 2013.

Download the ICDL mobile app from Play Store to remain updated on the conference details. [ICDL2016 app](#)

About TERI

The Energy and Resources Institute is an independent, not-for-profit, research institute focused on energy, environment, and sustainable development and devoted to efficient and sustainable use of natural resources. Since its inception in 1974, TERI has emerged as an institution of excellence for its path-breaking research, and is a global brand widely respected by political leaders, policy makers, corporate entities as well as the civil society at large.

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