

(Chandigarh) The United Nations Technology Innovation Labs (UNTIL) and the Department Of Information Technology, Electronics & Communication (DITEC) Government of Haryana, India have agreed to open a new Lab which will be located in the city of Gurugram at Hartron's Multi Skill Development Centre (HMSDC) with the goal of articulating, designing, and developing technologies that can help accelerate the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda of United Nations.

The Lab in Gurugram, Haryana is the fourth operational UNTIL Lab to open in the past year. The rapidly expanding network of UNTIL Labs also includes offices in Finland, Malaysia, and Egypt.

Sh. Ankur Gupta, IAS, Principal Secretary to Govt. of Haryana, Information Technology, Electronics and Communication and Chairman, HARTRON detailing this new era in the history of Haryana, said that the major role of UNTIL amongst key roles is to foster partnerships and provide a global perspective for local technology innovation eco-systems already present in the host country. In our pursuit of achieving sustainable development goals, we have established this collaboration with United Nations (UN-OICT) for setting up of "UN Technology Innovation Labs" (UNTIL) at Gurugram a hub of industry & startups. Sh. Ankur Gupta further informed that these arrangements with UNTIL shall prove a milestone in our efforts in mobilizing our technology resources, women entrepreneurship and taking it to newer frontiers with international collaboration (*to address local / national challenges in creating bigger social impact*).

Sh. Ankur Gupta also stated that the Government of Haryana envisions the UNTIL Lab as a catalyst for collaboration between private industry, the UN, civil society, and academia to find globally acceptable solutions to achieve sustainable development goals. Haryana is already a significant center of technology development and the UNTIL office being collocated with Hartron Innovation & Start up hub Gurugram, will complement this vibrant hub.

The Lab in Haryana will work in a number of thematic areas with a particular focus on several Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG-3 (Good Health and

Wellbeing), SDG-4 (Quality Education), SDG- 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG-11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

In particular, the Haryana Lab will focus on technology start-ups with women, as well as capacity building, assisting disadvantaged group better access technology. The Lab will serve as a resource for the delivery of technology and innovation.

Stating the scope and benefits of this remarkable achievement of Govt. of Haryana, Sh. Gupta said that all UNTIL Labs work with their local tech ecosystems, with one another, as well as Member States and UN organizations to develop and design innovative technology solutions. The goal of the Labs is to exchange knowledge and experiences, work on projects, and enhance access to technology through systems in order to accelerate the solution of problems through technology in order to stimulate economic growth and social progress.

This UNTIL Lab will develop innovative technology-based pilot programs for regional and country priorities, support capacity building for information and communication technology, and provide leadership for coordination and mobilization of technology resources. It will also develop a platform for deep thinking, coordination, and innovations, related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This initiative of the Haryana state will bring a great change for other states of India in collaborative manner among the innovation locally developed to address national and international challenges through frontier technologies while accelerating in achieving the UN SDG 2030 mission.