NASSCOM's HIC seeks digital transformation of HCPs in India

19 March 2021 | News

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With an aim to drive the digital transformation of the healthcare providers (HCPs) in the country, NASSCOM CoE for IoT & AI successfully organised Healthcare Innovation Challenge (HIC).

The one-of-a-kind initiative was meant to find out possible solutions to digital technology challenges shared by participating hospitals, the challenges focused on out-patients' convenience including lesser dependence upon administrative staff, cost reduction, inpatient care improvement, pathology digitalisation and use of AI, among others by utilising best health-tech solutions, better branding and promotions, finding cost-effective options and through innovation.

Jyoti Arora, IAS, Special Secretary, MeitY, said, "Government of India has also launched National Digital Health mission to digitise the healthcare records across the country and during this transformation phase, the solutions coming out of HIC will help hospitals in improving their efficiency, reduce costs and ensure quality healthcare and making healthcare more inclusive."

"The integration of healthcare with technology is blurring the divide and improving patient care services, increasing access, affordability, and lowering costs. An important initiative like HIC is vital as it will pave the way to bridge the gap between existing challenges and innovative solutions," said Debjani Ghosh, President, NASSCOM.

HIC received 125 applications from various healthcare start-ups across the country with solution of the problems in six specific areas shared by the participants' hospitals. The hospitals that took part in HIC included Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre, Delhi, Zydus Hospital, Ahmedabad, Institute of Medical Sciences & SUM Hospital, Bhubaneswar, Mehta Multi-speciality Hospital, Chennai, KIMS Hospital, Hyderabad, Aravind Eye Care System, Madurai and Sakra World Hospital, Bengaluru. The applications were screened by NASSCOM CoE team and subsequently the shortlisted start-ups pitched to three jury panel, consisting of all participating hospitals and major corporates. Winners identified by juries were announced by the participating hospitals who also shared their thoughts on how they look to move forward with digital adoption.

Through HIC, NASSCOM CoE is focusing on creating a competitive edge & operational excellence for the hospitals by enabling collaborative and frugal innovation.

"Use of technology will play a pivotal role in all areas like supply chain, patient registration, physician assistance etc. Furthermore, through latest innovations, healthcare facilities can be made available for the remotest locations very easily," said Ishaq Quadri, Secretary, HIMSS India Chapter.