# World IT Congress in Hyderabad in 2018

OMER FAROOQ | HYDERABAD

Hyderabad is going to add another feather to its cap as a global IT hub, as the city has won the honour of hosting World Information Technology Congress in 2018, the biggest event of its kind. Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, expressing his happiness over the choice of Hyderabad as the venue for the prestigious event, said on Friday that the city was going to be host of many more such events in the near future.

Hyderabad was preferred over the National capital Delhi and Bengaluru for hosting the event as the organisers found the city to be better equipped with necessary infrastructure.

KCR however told the officials that much more needed to be done to make the city befitting for the label of a 'Mega City'. He directed them to come up with the plans for the expeditious development of the city.

WITC is a biennial event,

**THIS WILL BE ONLY SECOND TIME THAT THE EVENT WILL BE HELD IN ASIA, LAST BEING IN 2008 IN KUALALUMPUR. THE LATEST EDITION OF 2014, HELD IN MEXICO HAD FOCUSED ON THE THEME OF 'DIGITAL WORLD' AND THE NEXT EVENT OF 2016 WILL BE HELD IN BRAZIL**

which brings thousands of IT experts, policy and decision makers, Government officials from all over the world on one platform to discuss various challenges and possible solutions to them.

This will be only second time that the event will be held in Asia, last being in 2008 in Kualalumpur. The latest edition of 2014, held in Mexico had focused on the theme of 'Digital World' and the next event of 2016 will be held in Brazil.

India and Hyderabad could emerge winner in the race to host

the event in the face of tough competition from European countries.

According to the state government officials, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and Minister for Information and Technology K Taraka Rama Rao will soon meet the officials of NASSCOM, the representative body of Indian software development and export companies to chalk out plans for successful conduct of the event.

The event also coincides with the ambitious target of Telangana government to increase the software exports from Hyderabad to

₹1 lakh crore per annum in next three years.

"State Government attaches a lot of significance to this global event as it will give a big push to the plans to develop the IT sector in the state and also reaffirm the global position of Hyderabad city on the IT map," a senior official said.

As part of the faster development of IT sector, the state government will also put a lot of emphasis on the implementation of the IT investment Corridor around the city, sanctioned by the Union government and give a boost to the infrastructure and the employment opportunities by attracting bigger projects.

The plans received a shot in the arm recently as IT giant Google decided to set up its massive campus in the city. Officials say that many more big names were also evincing keen interest in the state.

Officials said that a new IT policy was being formulated to not only attract new projects but also to encourage the existing companies to expand their operations.