**Press Release**

**District Collector inaugurated Blockathon for Change**

December 21, 2017, Kochi: **K Mohammed Y Safirulla** IAS, District Collector, Ernakulam, inaugurated the *Blockathon for Change* at Maker Village in Kalamassery. “Though we are growing there is a vast segment of population left behind. As a society we need to put efforts to reduce the divide.”

A brainchild of the **US Consulate General, Chennai**, *Blockchain for Change* is supported by **Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR), Maker Village** and **Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM).**

**Alexis S. Wolff**, Spokesperson, US Consulate General, Chennai said in her inaugural address, “innovation and social change should go hand in hand.”

**Dr. D Dhanuraj**, Chairman of CPPR said, “The aim of the Blockathon for Change is to explore technological solutions for the welfare of migrant labourers.”

*Blockathon for Change* is a hackathon to address the societal issues faced by migrant labourers leveraging the blockchain technology. Around 20 shortlisted teams from Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu will compete for a cash prize of **Rs 1.75 Lakh** and an opportunity to incubate at the **Kerala Startup Mission**. The winners will be announced at a valedictory function at Maker Village on December 22, 2017, Friday. **P Vijayan** IPS, IG, Ernakulam Range, will felicitate the winners.

**Prasad Balakrishnan Nair**, CEO, Maker Village welcomed the participants and said “This is an ideal platform for start-up ecosystem to engage with society.”

*Blockathon for Change* is a novel initiative to realise the true potential of blockchain technology. It aims to bring about innovation-driven ideas to help solve some of the issues our labourers face and tap their potential for greater contribution towards the economy. The solutions will improve the quality of their lives as well as those of their families.

 -------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------