



Report on  
**FICCI TNIE Start-up STARS Awards**  
*“Road to Sustenance, Excellence, Scaling and Impact”*  
**Thursday, 8 December 2022 at Hotel Taj Club House, Mount Road, Anna Salai, Chennai**

FICCI Tamil Nadu State Council jointly with The New Indian Express organized the **FICCI TNIE Start-up STARS Awards** (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) with the theme “Road to Sustenance, Excellence, Scaling and Impact” on Thursday, 8 December 2022 at Hotel Taj Club House, Mount Road, Anna Salai, Chennai wherein more than 200 Startups across all sectors including Entrepreneurs, IT & ITES, Manufacturing, Telecom, Retail, Utilities, Automotive, FMCG, Hardware, Electronics and also Infrastructure Industry in terms of IT Parks, Academia participated. **Veda Corp, Perf Systems Advisors, Shankar School of Banking, SIMS Hospital** were Event Sponsors. Consulate General of Israel to South India was Country Partner, Dot School of Design was Creative Partner and Digital SEO was Digital Outreach Partner for the event.

**Thiru. MANO THANGARAJ**, Hon’ble Minister for Information, Technology, Govt of Tamil Nadu said Tamil Nadu is considering bringing out a fresh policy on cyber security. He also said “FICCI has requested to change the current cyber security policy which was implemented in 2020 by the then-ruling AIADMK regime”. He highlighted the need for start-ups to register on the IT Nanban portal, which enables all IT/ITES companies in Tamil Nadu to interact with the state and contribute to policy making, adding that Tamil Nadu has over 3,000 start-ups but the majority are not registered with the portal. Addressing start-ups, he also asked them to target tier-2 and tier-3 cities rather than focusing on Chennai as the former could be cost effective.

He further noted that the IT department and FICCI’s plan to set up a centre of excellence to focus on skilling people, highlighting Hon’ble Chief Minister, Thiru. M. K. Stalin’s focus to bridge the digital divide for the underprivileged. He also said that the global recession may not have any impact on the state’s IT exports. The Valedictory Session was followed by the Award Ceremony wherein Hon’ble Minister for IT, GoTN, felicitated 25 start-up winners with Mementos/Certificate.

**Ms. Virsa Perkins**, Economic and Political Policy Advisor, United States Consulate, Chennai said that start-ups have resulted in the economic recovery post the pandemic. She also said US-India companies are driving technology innovation to new heights.

**Dr. GSK Velu**, Chairman, FICCI Tamil Nadu State Council & Trivitron/Neuberg Group of Companies, **Mr. Bhupesh Nagarajan**, Co-Chairman, FICCI Tamil Nadu State Council & Founder & CEO, Indira Projects **Mr. Bala MS**, Convenor, FICCI Tamil Nadu Startup and Skill Development Panel & CEO, STRATINFINITY INC., **Dr. Rajaram Venkataraman**, Convenor and Head, FICCI TNSC Technology Panel, CEO, Veltech TBI Ecosystem, **Mr. Mahesh Ramachandran**, Chairman, Jury Panel, FICCI:TNIE Startup STAR Awards and Chairman, Tech Innovations, **Mr. Vignesh Kumar**, Senior Vice President, The New Indian Express, **Mr. Joseph Avraham**, Consul for Trade and Economic Mission Trade Consul, Israel Embassy, India also spoke on the occasion.

Caption: L to R: **Mr. Mahesh Ramachandran**, Chairman, Jury Panel, FICCI:TNIE Startup STAR Awards and Chairman, Tech Innovations, **Dr. Rajaram Venkataraman**, Convenor and Head, FICCI TNSC Technology Panel, CEO, Veltech TBI Ecosystem, **Dr. GSK Velu**, Chairman, FICCI Tamil Nadu State Council

& Trivitron/Neuberg Group of Companies, **Thiru. Mano Thangaraj**, Hon'ble Minister for Information, Technology, Govt of Tamil Nadu, **Mr. Bhupesh Nagarajan**, Co-Chairman, FICCI Tamil Nadu State Council & Founder & CEO, Indira Projects, **Mr. Bala MS**, Convenor, FICCI Tamil Nadu Startup and Skill Development Panel & CEO, STRATINFINITY INC., **Mr. Vignesh Kumar**, Senior Vice President, The New Indian Express

\*\*\*\*\*