



Report on  
**FICCI - BE - FIRST 2023 SUMMIT & AWARDS**  
*“FICCI - Bionic Enabled - Future Innovation Reskilling StartUp Transformation 2023  
Summit & Awards”*

**Wednesday, 30 August 2023 at Hotel ITC Grand Chola, Guindy, Chennai**

FICCI Tamil Nadu State Council organized the one day event on **FICCI - BE - FIRST 2023 SUMMIT & AWARDS** (1<sup>st</sup> Edition) with the theme “Bionic Enabled - Future Innovation Reskilling StartUp Transformation” held on 30 August 2023 at Hotel ITC Grand Chola, Guindy, Chennai wherein more than 300 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. **Government of Puducherry was the Partner State. Sairam Institutions, Hindusthan Educational Institutions, Coimbatore, SRM Institute of Science & Technology, Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering and Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science (HITS)** were Event Sponsors for the event.

**Shri. K. LAKSHMINARAYANAN**, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology, Government of Puducherry said “The world is changing so fast with new changes in the IT field. With nearly 2 million tourists in Puducherry while the population of the state is only 1.4 million, it is evident that tourism is a vital source for the economy. Tourism is the backbone for this Union Territory but being a sister state of Tamil Nadu, now Puducherry has envisaged a bunch of opportunities to become a new pocket for the IT field.

Explaining about the current state of unemployment in the state, he said it is a major problem. “Roughly there are 80,000 Engineers and around 8000 are passing out each year from around 30 colleges in Puducherry. Many talented students leave the state to search for a job. This would gradually become a social issue. To overcome this, we need more entrepreneurs”.

Motivating the young talent in the state, he further said, “Startups can play an important role to bridge the gap of underemployment. While skilled manpower is more in number, the cost of living is less which has created a suitable scenario for startups. Aspiring entrepreneurs are encouraged by our Puducherry Government to proceed immediately and there shall be no hassles in government transactions. Puducherry which is a mosaic of all cultures, will have no barriers like caste, color or creed to any aspiring individual to head start a startup”

**Dr. D. Manikandan, I.A.S.**, Secretary, Department of Information Technology, Government of Puducherry said “Puducherry growth is mainly dependent on secondary and tertiary sectors of the state. Newer policies would soon be devised to retain investors and the talents to achieve \$50 billion growth in GDP by the year 2047 from the existing \$4.7 billion”.

**Mr. Balaji Nuthalapadi**, Managing Director and Head of Operations & Technology, CITI South Asia, **Mr. Bhupesh Nagarajan**, Co-Chairman, FICCI Tamil Nadu State Council & CMD, Indira Group of Companies, **Mr. M Balasubramaniam**, Convenor, FICCI TN Startup & Skill Development, Panel & CEO, Stratinfinitly Inc and **Mr. Saravanan Sundaramoorthy**, Co-Convenor, FICCI TN Startup & Skill Development Panel, & EdTech Entrepreneur, Innovator & Angel Investor also spoke on the occasion.

Cap: L to R: **Shri. K. LAKSHMINARAYANAN**, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology, Government of Puducherry, **Mr. M Balasubramaniam**, Convenor, FICCI TN Startup & Skill Development, Panel & CEO, Stratinfinitly Inc, **Mr. Bhupesh Nagarajan**, Co-Chairman, FICCI Tamil Nadu State Council & CMD, Indira Group of Companies, **Mr. Saravanan Sundaramoorthy**, Member, FICCI TN Startup & Skill Development Panel, & EdTech Entrepreneur, Innovator & Angel Investor, **Mr. D Mohan Kumar**, Director - Information Technology, Government of Puducherry, **Mr. P.T. Rudra Goud**, Director - Industries & Commerce, Government of Puducherry