

PRESS RELEASE

Tamil Nadu continues to be the leader in India, whether it is e-Governance, ICT & BPM exports, the number of SAAS companies recognized at global level, attracting investments and creating employment opportunities in ICT.

To show case the various e Governance initiatives of Government of Tamil Nadu, Department of Information Technology, Government of Tamil Nadu jointly with FICCI organized **EczITe 2019** "Empowering Citizens through Information Technology" , on 04 Oct 2019 at Hotel Leela Palace, Chennai, considered as one of the biggest e Governance event, with the theme " Predictive Governance , Empowering Citizens" that attracted all the stakeholders to deliberate and discuss on the various world class e Governance and digital transformation initiatives taken up by the Government of Tamil Nadu, evolve the future paradigm for e Governance in the state of Tamil Nadu , through the emerging technologies like Blockchain , Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning , IoT, Big Data Analytics

FICCI the voice of India's business and Industry continues to engage with Government of Tamil Nadu , thought leaders and other stakeholders in spearheading various initiatives and policy advocacy in the areas of Energy, Healthcare, Education, Agriculture, Infrastructure, Technology, Skills, MSME.

Delivering his Chief Guest address of EczITe 2019 Thiru R B Udhayakumar, Minister of Information Technology, Government of Tamil Nadu highlighted the various new initiatives taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu which had gained momentum with the support of relevant policies and continuous infrastructure upgradation. He also said the prime focus of Government of Tamil Nadu was empowering citizens through various initiatives and using emerging technologies and in the process of empowering citizens there were challenges in finding out the boundaries that define the services. He informed that the Tamil Nadu government had partnered with IIT Madras, IIM Trichy and Anna University in developing systems and delivering various services to empower citizens. He also highlighted the role of IT Department in providing required support to other departments in their efforts to offer various specific services and that Uzhavan App for Agriculture and TN Smart App for disaster management were a great success

Speaking at the event Mr Krishnan IAS, Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Government of Tamil Nadu said that value for money has to be the focus of various initiatives and projects. He informed that the products and services developed has to be simple and easy to adapt so that the ageing population does not feel alienated in dealing with the technology. He also cautioned the departments that in their efforts to digitalize their respective departments, they will have to handle stakeholders as it is perceived that digitalization results in redundancy of resources

Dr Santhosh Babu IAS, Principal Secretary, Information Technology Department , Government of Tamil Nadu delivered the Keynote address that gave insights on the compelling aspirations levels when it comes to using emerging technologies. He informed that how a country like Estonia which did not have access to mobile phones till 1999 have now used to technology to offer almost all services online using block chain. He informed that the primary objective should be to eliminate the need for citizens to visit government office for getting any kind of certificates. He thanked the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for sanctioning Rs 300 crore to IT department and Rs 150 crore to State family data base SFDB to drive various initiatives and projects. He highlighted the effectiveness of the e governance policy in providing end to end solutions and aims to provide more than 1000 plus services in its efforts to empower citizens through technology. He also informed that today villages in Tamil Nadu were connected with 1 GBPS internet service connections to facilitate e governance initiatives.

Delivering the Theme address, Mr Santhosh Misra, IAS, Commissioner of e-Governance and CEO, Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency shared the journey of IT in citizen service initiatives using block chain, IoT, AI technologies. He said that around 120 services were being offered currently including issuance of community, income, nativity certificates, patta transfer etc. It was informed that through G2C services around 1.5 crore transactions happened through 10000 citizen service centers. He said TNeGA has developed a data integration and exchange platform for providing seamless, efficient services. He also informed that the objective was to develop low cost indigenous scalable solutions. He informed that with the objective to enhance the effective utilization of the infrastructure and systems, Government of Tamil Nadu had recently set up, Centre of Excellence in Emerging Technologies (CEET) that would bridge the gap between development and application of emerging technologies and provided insights on various initiatives like block chain as a service, examination as a

service, e-seva centre, Makkal Number, Amma e-Grammam, State Family Database SFDB, state block chain back bone He said that under Tamil Nadu State Data Centre, Tamizh Megam, cloud computing infrastructure initiative had been provisioned for managing e-Governance applications,, a cloud based asset management system to manage IT and Non IT assests had been developed by TNeGA.

Mr Vijayakumar, MD, ELCOT gave a brief about the journey of ELCOT, how e governance was initiated in 1996 with issuance of Electoral photo card, Family Card, Smart driving license. He also informed that in a short span of time, around 200 events have been inaugurated by Hon'ble chief minister of Tamil Nadu through video conferencing. He also informed that World Bank had nominated ELCOT for the procurement of various medical devices for TN Health department

Ms. Kavitha Dutt, Chairperson, FICCI TN State Council addressed the gathering of EczITe 2019 and said that creation of Fintech hubs , Govt dictats on usage of ERP by all Government departments , recent announcements on adoption of block chain, development of facial recognition, start-up and Innovation Policy had reiterated the Tamil Nadu Government's focus to lead from the front with respect to adopting new technologies to get more and more services enabled online and also to ensure that the government services are seamless, predictive and inclusive.

EczITe 2019 was attended by more than 650 delegates with major participation from members of FICCI, representatives from different segments of the value chain including various Government departments. EczITe also had 20 exhibitors showcasing their products and services. EczITE 2019 was a one day event with 3 plenary sessions with eminent speakers from IBM, Microsoft, Infosys, L&T Smart world communication and others, providing valuable insights on the application of emerging technologies including block chain, AI, ML, IoT and Big Data Analytics for evolving the future road map towards enhancing the effectiveness of e Governance in the state of Tamil Nadu

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