**PRESS RELEASE**

**KSUM secures Best Institute honour at IndiaFirst Tech Startup meet**

* ***Four startups led by KSUM earn awards in different categories***

**Thiruvananthapuram, June09**: Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)bagged the Best Institute Award for Startup Initiative at the IndiaFirst Tech Startup(Bangalore Chapter) organized by All India Council for Robotics & Automation (AICRA).

Besides, four of the 15 startups led by KSUM bagged honours in various categories at the second edition of the two-day event at Bengaluru that concluded today (Thursday). Kozhikode-based Coexin Technologies Mental Health Service was adjudged the Best Health Tech Startup, while Fit In Consultants from the Kerala capital won the award in Innovative Smart City Concept category.

Kochi-based Pinmicro India Pvt Ltd bagged the award for the Most Innovative IoT Concept, while Kozhikode-based The E Plane Company notched up the award in the Most Innovative Startup Concept category.

Commenting on the achievement, KSUM CEO Shri John M. Thomas said the nodal agency has always upheld its spirit of encouraging nascent firms engaged in technological innovations. “At a time when the world is becoming increasingly IT-centric, Kerala contributes in its small but vital ways towards the mission. Recognitions are invariably a boost to our startups,” he noted.

At Bengaluru’s Manpho Convention Centre, which hosted the second edition of IndiaFirst Tech, Karnataka Minister for IT and Electronics Dr Ashwath Narayan C N was the chief guest along with AICRA President Shri Rajkumar Sharma on the concluding day.

Earlier this year, Delhi had in mid-February hosted the first of the three editions of IndiaFirst Tech Startup series, supported by Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The next is slated to be held in Mumbai.

Overall, the series provides startups a platform to associate with industry leaders, venture capitalists and government representatives. Panel discussions, exhibitions and keynote sessions are the highlights of IndiaFirst Tech Startup as an AICRA initiative to encourage technology startups and create partnerships with stakeholders.

KSUM is the nodal agency of the Kerala government for entrepreneurship development and incubation activities in the state.

**Ends**