

DECCAN Chronicle

TN to draft 'Deep Tech Policy' to ramp up startups, spur innovation

T. SUDHEESH | DC
CHENNAI, SEPT. 8

In order to spur innovation in the startup sector, the state government has decided to draft a "Deep Tech Policy", the first state-level attempt in the country.

Speaking at the iTNT Industry Conclave hosted by Tamil Nadu Technology Hub functioning under the Information Technology and Digital Services (IT and DS) Department here on Friday, IT Minister Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan said that the state was in the process of drafting the Tamil Nadu Deep Tech Policy. The policy is devised to ensure the role of corporates in nurturing innovation in the Deep Tech space in Tamil Nadu.

"Innovate in Tamil Nadu (IN2TN) is our new mantra. It is more than just a slogan. It is a strategic call to action. It encapsulates our commitment to fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the state. Innovation and startups are pivotal in realising the target of a trillion-dollar economy," said the minister. He also urged industries to industry partners to deepen their engagement with iTNT Hub through strategic partnerships and CSR contributions.

Kumar Jayant, additional chief secretary, IT and DS Department, said that the government had chalked out a strategy to take these winning solutions into deep tech enterprises.

The move on the 'deep techs' comes on the heels of the National Deep Tech Startup Policy (NDTSP) unveiled by the Central government in July 2023. Deep tech is meant for advanced technologies based on substantial scientific or engineering innovation including genomics, robotics, nanotechnology and clean energy initiatives.

A curtain-raiser round table on the "Tamil Nadu Deep Tech Policy" was chaired by Kumar Jayant. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO of iTNT Hub, industry and subject matter experts from the deep tech sectors participated in the discussion.

The minister gave away cheques for cash prizes to the tune of Rs 4.5 Lakh to

the winners of the top three places of the iTNT "Unlock The Future Innovation Challenge".

The challenge attracted more than 500 teams of startups, innovators and aspirants from the emerging and deep tech space across the state.

Healthcare startup Vyuha Med Data won the prize for their solution on AI and IoT for Real-time Data Analysis and Decision Making. Sustainability startup Daijo won the prize for their solution on resource consumption reduction, while Climate Tech startup Climatequant Tech emerged winner for their supply chain transparency and efficiency solution.