iTNT
TAMILNADU TECHNOLOGY HUB

सत्यमेव जयते
Ministry of Electronics
& Information Technology
Government of India

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

Deep Dive

September 2025

An E-Newsletter from Tamil Nadu Technology Hub

Table of Contents

01	Foreword	01
02	Hon'ble IT&DS Minister's Diary	02
03	iTNT Hub Expands to Tier II & III Cities	05
04	Trichy Regional Hub Inaugurated	08
05	Madurai Regional Hub Inaugurated	13
06	What's Brewing at iTNT Hub	18
	• iAccelerate - Pricing Strategy Masterclass	18
	• Azure AI Foundry for Startups	19
	• Masterclass - Product Market Fit	19
	• BEACON Cohort 6.0 with Naan Mudhalvan	20
	• Royal Thai Delegation @ iTNT Hub	23
	• French Consulate & Loire Valley Region Delegation @ iTNT Hub	23
	• Getting Investor-Ready with Due Diligence	24
07	Founder Stories	25
	• Tactovision - Kavitha	25
	• Cogno Valley - Bernard Shaw Theraviam	27
08	DeepTech Insights	29
09	Startup Hiring	30
10	Events on the Radar	31

Foreword

It gives me immense pleasure to extend a warm welcome to the readers of this September edition of Deep Dive. This issue carries special significance, as we celebrate the inauguration of iTNT Hub's new regional hubs in Tiruchirappalli and Madurai – an important milestone in Tamil Nadu's innovation journey, especially in the Deep and Emerging Tech space – by Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology & Digital Services, Government of Tamil Nadu.

For Tiruchirappalli, home to rich academic traditions and vibrant industries, the establishment of a regional hub is more than just an infrastructure addition – it is a bridge between knowledge and practice. Madurai, with its heritage of enterprise and its growing industrial corridors, is equally poised to benefit from this initiative.

The arrival of iTNT Hub here will amplify this mission by opening up new pathways for collaborative research, deep-tech incubation, and sustainable entrepreneurship. It connects students, researchers, entrepreneurs, and businesses to emerging technologies and global networks. At Bharathidasan Institute of Management, we have always believed in nurturing leaders who can navigate disruption with agility and purpose.

By embedding innovation support at the regional level, iTNT Hub ensures that opportunities are not concentrated in metros alone but are democratised across Tamil Nadu. This decentralization is critical for inclusive growth, creating stronger local ecosystems, fostering grassroots innovation, and preparing our youth to lead in an era defined by digital transformation.

To all stakeholders—academia, industry, startups, and policymakers—these regional hubs are a call to action. They are platforms where ideas meet resources, and where aspirations are given the structure and support to become enterprises of impact. As someone deeply committed to institution building and ecosystem transformation, I see this as a timely and strategic intervention that will shape the future trajectory of our state's innovation economy.

I congratulate iTNT Hub and all its partners for this vision, and I invite every reader to engage with the opportunities that these hubs present. Together, we can ensure that Tamil Nadu continues to stand at the forefront of technology, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development.

Dr. Asit K. Barma

Director, Bharathidasan Institute of Management, Tiruchirappalli

Hon'ble IT&DS
Minister's Diary

A gist of the key initiatives launched and participated by Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, the Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology & Digital Services (IT&DS) Government of Tamil Nadu, in September 2025. This includes the launch of the Trichy & Madurai Regional Hubs of Tamil Nadu Technology Hub.

The Hon'ble Minister inaugurated the Madurai Regional Hub of the Tamil Nadu Technology Hub at Anna University Regional Campus – Madurai, the first hub in Southern Tamil Nadu. "Having been involved with iTNT Hub from its inception, it gives me great pleasure to oversee its growth and expansion," he stated. Coming right after the Trichy Regional Hub inauguration earlier this week, this marks a decisive step in bringing deep-tech innovation to Tamil Nadu's regional talent centres.

The inauguration also saw the launch of the first PATHFINDER incubation cohort for Deep & Emerging Tech startups and an agreement to establish an iTNT Hub Satellite Office at Thiagarajar College of Engineering, further strengthening Madurai's role in the State's innovation network. I deeply appreciate the efforts of CEO Ms. Vanitha Venugopal and the iTNT Hub team, and I am confident that regional hubs will soon expand across every part of Tamil Nadu, ensuring balanced and inclusive growth in our digital economy, he added.

Addressing the 67th edition of ICT Academy's Bridge 2025 in Madurai – a platform that unites academia, technology, and industry, Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan stressed that Tamil Nadu — home to 20% of India's STEM graduates — must ensure our abundant talent is job-ready and globally relevant. "That is why our government has launched initiatives like Naan Mudhalvan, Vetri Nichayam, while deepening partnerships with industry to upskill youth and expand opportunities," he said.

"Looking ahead, through the Tamil Nadu Artificial Intelligence Mission, startup hubs, and integration of AI/ML into school curricula, we are preparing the next generation for the transformations already reshaping our economy. With the right investments in education, innovation, and talent development, I believe Tamil Nadu is poised to seize this moment of global change and emerge as a leading talent hub for decades to come," he said.

Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan inaugurated the first Regional Hub of the Tamil Nadu Technology Hub at the University College of Engineering, Bharathidasan Institute of Technology Campus, Anna University Tiruchirappalli, together with Thiru. Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, Hon'ble Minister for School Education. The Hon'ble IT & DS Minister exclaimed that this milestone takes innovation beyond Chennai, expanding to Tier II and Tier III cities – empowering local talent, nurturing startups, and driving inclusive, region-wide growth.

The occasion was graced by Thiru. Brajendra Navnit, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, IT & DS Department; Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO, iTNT Hub; Dr. Asit K. Barma, Director, Bharathidasan Institute of Management; and Dr. T. Senthilkumar, Dean, Anna University Regional Campus, Trichy. He expressed confidence that "This Hub is all set to become a catalyst for new opportunities, jobs, and breakthroughs – strengthening Tamil Nadu's position as a leader in Deep-Tech."

As a reflection of not only deepening ties between Tamil Nadu and France, but also our shared aspirations for greater collaboration and friendship in the years ahead, the Hon'ble Minister hosted dinner for a delegation led by Mme. Delphine Benassy, Vice President of the Regional Council of Région Centre-Val de Loire (France), in the backdrop of an MoU being signed between Centre-Val de Loire and the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. M.K. Stalin.

Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan released the 18th edition of his biannual progress report, covering December 2024 to May 2025, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Perarignar Anna, founder of the DMK. Recalling his guiding words: "Go to the people, live among them, learn from them, serve them," the Hon'ble Minister noted that the report has been shared since 2016 and distributed to all households in Madurai Central Constituency, reflecting the collective journey of trust and accountability.

Participating in the Professional Development Conference & Exposition 2025 of the International Tamil Engineers Forum (ITEF), along with the Hon'ble Minister for Transport & Electricity Thiru. S.S. Sivasankar, the Hon'ble IT&DS Minister appreciated the extraordinary contributions of Tamil engineers who have contributed greatly to upholding the pride of Tamils across the world.

"Engineering is in our DNA," he said, recollecting ancient marvels like the Kallanai Dam and the Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple to today's global IT, manufacturing, and infrastructure projects driven by Tamil talent. With nearly 20% of India's graduates in engineering, arts and sciences coming from Tamil Nadu, our State continues to power progress at home and abroad, he said.

Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan said that Tamil tech professionals are not just participating in the global economy, but shaping it.

Speaking at the Power Speaker Series of the Rotary Club of Madras East, on the theme of Tamil Nadu's Global Footprint, the Hon'ble Minister highlighted how Tamil Nadu's model of equitable development, anchored in strong education and social indicators, has enabled us to embrace and leverage globalization better than many others.

In IT, our State continues to lead from the front, while in manufacturing we are now exporting cars, motorcycles, and even iPhones at global scale, he said. Looking ahead, while Tamil Nadu and the southern states are firmly on a high-growth trajectory, India's true strength will lie in ensuring that all regions rise together. "For our nation to prosper sustainably, we must deliver universal education and skilling across every state; after all, human resources form the bedrock of inclusive growth," he added.

In a fireside chat themed "From Automation to Aspiration: Building Future-Ready Jobs," with Raj Chengappa and Pramod Madhav at the India Today South Conclave in Coimbatore, Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan delved into the critical challenges and opportunities of the AI era on:

1. The Future of Work: Navigating the transformative impact of AI on our workforce; 2. Bridging Skill Gaps: The urgent need to equip our talent with relevant, in-demand skills; 3. Reimagining Education: Moving beyond traditional models to nurture empathetic, creative, and future-ready citizens; 4. Governance and AI: The Govt of TN plans to integrate all existing databases, with privacy controls, to help deliver citizen-centric benefit schemes & 5. Tamil Language Development: Our investments in Tamil language databases and Tamil language LLMs through the Tamil Virtual Academy

He also highlighted Coimbatore's emergence as a vibrant hub for GCCs, startups, and AI innovation, positioning it at the core of Tamil Nadu's digital growth. This local success is a testament to our state's broader, citizen-first digital vision, where we are expanding e-services, harnessing AI for inclusive governance, and creating a robust ecosystem to prepare our youth for the opportunities of tomorrow, he added.

In his Chief Guest address at the 13th Annual Convocation of VIT Chennai, Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan reflected on Tamil Nadu's long-standing commitment to universal access in education, and how institutions like VIT embody that mission by expanding opportunity and nurturing well-rounded graduates. He also spoke about how the age of AI and Deep Tech will reshape work and careers, and why lifelong learning, resilience, and character must remain the true purpose of education. To the graduating class, he offered his heartiest congratulations, as they embark on their journeys with confidence, compassion, and curiosity.

iTNT Hub Expands
to Tier II & III Cities

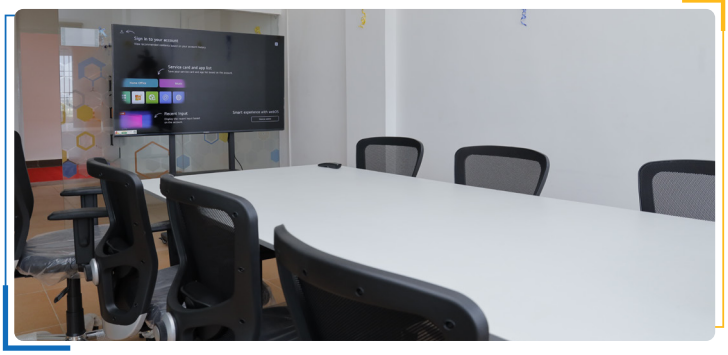
September 2025 will be a month to remember in the journey of iTNT Hub in transforming the Deep & Emerging Tech innovation ecosystem of the State. In two years since the launch if iTNT Hub by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. M.K. Stalin, the Hub has now spread its wings and launched its Regional Hubs in Trichy (September 22) and Madurai (September 26).

These launches are not just the execution of announcements by the Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology & Digital Services in the assembly, but a commitment to take innovation in the Deep & Emerging Tech sectors to the corners of the State, in the march towards "Innovate In Tamil Nadu" & "Build The Future". These launches by Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan were well-received by key stakeholders of the ecosystems.

Establishment of the Trichy & Madurai Regional Hubs will extend the benefits of the Hub to a wider range of researchers, startups, academia, industry and other stakeholders. In addition to the co-working spaces and physical infrastructure at the hub, startups and researchers will gain access to all the programs and initiatives of the hub, including technology transfer.

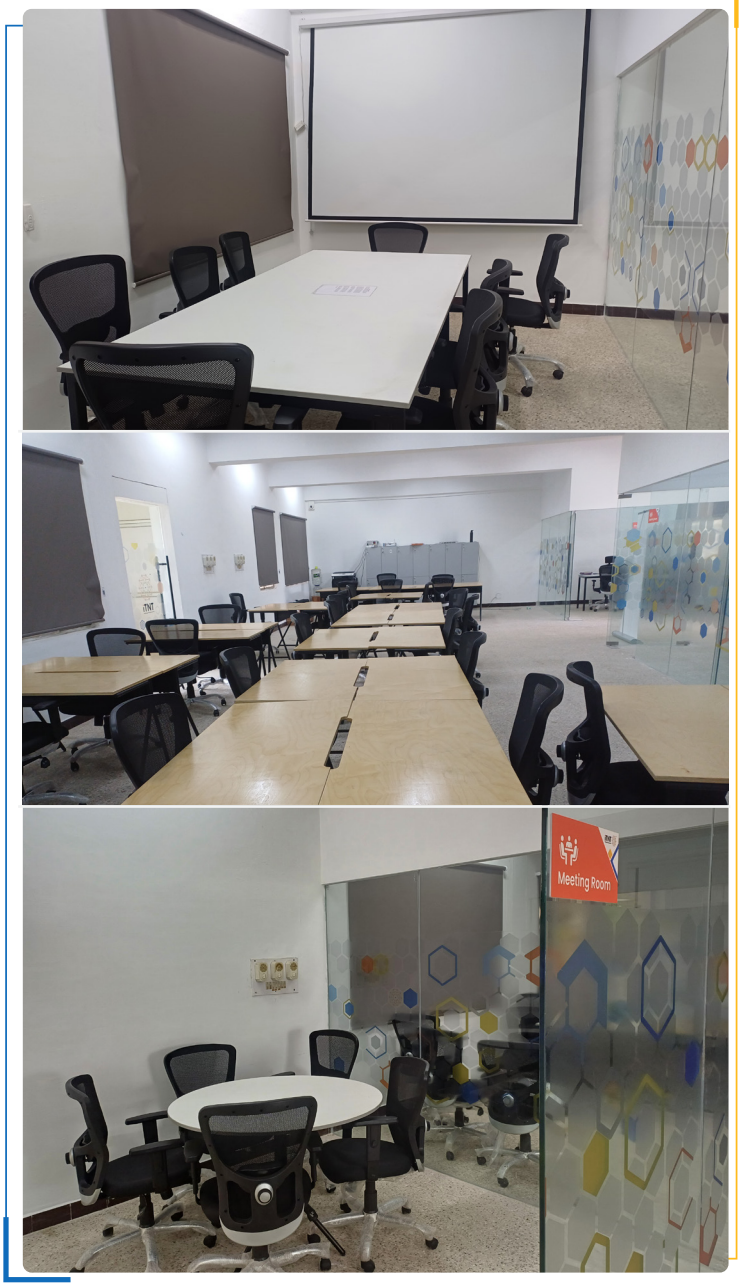
The JIGSAW platform launched by the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in February 2024 has a robust network of 180 engineering colleges from across the State. These researchers and innovative deep and emerging tech startups from this region are actively engaging with iTNT Hub in Chennai, benefiting from the IP and Technology Transfer masterclasses and workshops, BEACON idea validation bootcamps and PATHFINDER incubation program and iAccelerate acceleration cohort.

Researchers and innovators from engineering colleges in these Tier II & Tier III regions will get access to iTNT Hub's initiatives towards patent and intellectual property protection, technology transfer, idea validation, incubation, acceleration, funding through grants and international market access among other flagship initiatives.



The Deep Tech Hardware Product Design Scheme that offers high subsidies for researchers and innovators to convert their idea into a Minimum Viable Product (MVP). Through the Tamil Nadu Technology Transfer Facilitation (TNTTFC) for DeepTech Innovations – functioning at iTNT Hub – we have facilitated commercialisation of 6 crucial Deep & Emerging technology transfers from academic researchers to startups and industry.

These iTNT Regional Hubs will collaborate with corporates and local industries to get innovative solutions through Innovation Challenges. Winners and top solutions from these challenges get nurtured by the Hub to translate into startup ventures or transfer technologies to the industry.



Masterclasses

As part of the inaugural events, iTNT Hub conducted virtual masterclasses to equip entrepreneurs, researchers, and faculty with perspectives on harnessing the power of innovation.

Dr. Raguraman M, Head of the School of Interdisciplinary Design and Innovation, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing (IIITDM), Kancheepuram, provided his expert insights on “Design Aspects for Startups and Product Development”.

Dr. Bhavya Patruni Scientist & DM, National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), Govt. of India, MoST took participants on a deep dive into a masterclass on Lab to Market.

In a video message, Ms. Debjani Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow, NITI Aayog, elaborated on “Lab to Commercialisation: Unlocking India’s Innovation Dividend”.

Dr. Stephen Ezil, Vice President for Global Innovation Policy, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, in a video message articulated the way towards making Universities as Engines of Innovation.

Launch Coverages

iTNT launches regional hub in Tiruchi to boost startup ecosystem

This regional technology hub is the first centre of iTNT in the State outside Chennai

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUCHI

The Tiruchi regional centre of Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) Hub was launched at University College of Engineering, Bharathidasan Institute of Technology Campus, Anna University on Monday.

The regional technology hub aims to strengthen the start-up ecosystem in central districts.

The Tiruchi Regional Hub, the first centre of iTNT outside Chennai, was inaugurated by Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Minister for

Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan at the inauguration of Tiruchi Regional Hub at University College of Engineering, Bharathidasan Institute of Technology Campus, Anna University, on Monday.

Trichy gets TN's first regional iTNT hub on Anna univ campus

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Trichy: The Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) Hub's regional centre was inaugurated at the University College of Engineering, Anna University campus on the Trichy–Pudukottai highway on Sunday by state IT and digital services minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan.

The hub, the first outside Chennai, will support start-ups and researchers in deep-tech fields such as AI, machi-

TECH BOOST: Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan inaugurates the Trichy regional hub of Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) Hub at Anna University campus on the Trichy–Pudukottai highway on Monday

inclusive growth," the minister said.

ve signed MoUs with the hub through the JIGSAW (Joint

புதுமையான கண்டுபிடிப்புகளை ஊக்குவிக்கும் தமிழ்நாடு தகவல் தொழில்நுட்ப மையம்

அமைச்சர் பழனிவேல் தியாகராஜன்

திருச்சி அண்ணா பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் திங்கள்கிழமை மண்டல தகவல் தொழில்நுட்ப மையத்தை திறந்துவைத்த பாலகைப்பட்ட அமைச்சர் பழனிவேல் தியாகராஜன், உடன், கல்லூரி நிர்வாகிகள் உள்ளிட்டோர்.

தமிழ்நாடு தகவல் தொழில்நுட்ப மையம் இருக்கும்போது மற்ற மாநிலங்களில் தொலைவில் 6 ஏனில் மட்டுமே கான தமிழகத்தில் இருந்து அன்று தொழில் 20 சதவிகிதம் பட்டதாரிகள் உருவாக்கி வருகிறோம் என்றார்.

தொடர்ந்து அமைச்சர் அன்பில் மகேஷ் பொய்யாமொழி பேசிய தாவது:

மெல்பொருள் ஏற்றுமதியில் நாட்டிலேயே தமிழகம் 3-ஆவது இடம் தமிழ்நாடு தகவல் தொழில் நுட்ப மையத்தை மெல்லையில் உத்த 2021-ஆம் ஆண்டு முதல் வர் திறந்துவைத்தார். இன்னுமல் வளர்ச்சி பெறவேண்டுமானால், இருக்கிறது. ஆரம்பத்தில் சென்னை அப் நிறுவனங்கள் மட்டுமே இருந்த நிலை தற்போது 130-க்கும் மேற்

40 கல்வி நிறுவனங்களுடன் ஒப்பந்தம் இதுகிட்டமட்டும் 10 தமிழ் நாடு தொழில்நுட்ப வளர்ச்சிக் கழகம் மற்றும் அரசுத் துறை நிறுவனங்களுடன் 40 புதுமைகளை மேற்கொள்ள ஒப்பந்தம் செய்துள்ளது. இதன் மூலம் தமிழ்நாடு தகவல் தொழில்நுட்ப மையம் 3 ஆண்டுகளில் 2 மடங்கு வளர்ச்சி அடையும் என்றார்.

இந்த நிகழ்ச்சியில் தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பத் துறை முதன்மைச் செயலாளர் பிரதேஷ்நி நவனித், தமிழ்நாடு தகவல் தொழில்நுட்ப மையத்தின் தலைவர் செல்வி ஆர் லலிதா, தமிழ்நாடு தகவல் தொழில்நுட்ப மையத்தின் தலைமை செயல் அதி

IT min opens state's first iTNT regional hub at University College of Engineering

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Tiruchy

MINISTER for Information Technology Palanivel Thiaga Rajan on Monday inaugurated the first regional centre of the i-Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) at Anna University's University College of Engineering located on BIT-Tiruchy campus.

Officials said the facility marks a push to decentralise the state's innovation ecosystem and added that it will support researchers, student entrepreneurs and early-stage ventures with co-working

Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan at the iTNT hub in Tiruchy on Monday | EXPRESS

பள்ளி மாணவர்களுக்கு ஏஐ, ரோபோடிக்ஸ் பயிற்சி

அமைச்சர் பழனிவேல் தியாகராஜன் தகவல்

திருச்சி

தமிழக அரசின் தகவல் தொழில் நுட்பம் மற்றும் டிஜிட்டல் சேவைகள் துறையின் கீழ் இயங்கும் தமிழ்நாடு தொழில்நுட்ப மையத்தின் திருச்சி மண்டல மையம் தொடக்க விழா, மண்டையூரில் உள்ள அண்ணா பல்கலைக்கழக திருச்சி வளாகத்தில் நேற்று நடைபெற்றது.

தமிழ்நாடு தொழில்நுட்ப மையத்தின் தலைமைச் செயல் அலுவலர் வனிதா வேணுகோபால் வரவேற்றார். அரசின் தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பம் மற்றும் டிஜிட்டல் சேவைகள் துறையின் முதன்மைச் செயலர் பிரதேஷ்நி நவனித்

அண்ணா பல்கலைக்கழக திருச்சி வளாகத்தில் நேற்று நடைபெற்ற தமிழ்நாடு தொழில்நுட்ப திருச்சி மண்டல மையம் தொடக்க விழாவில் பேசிய தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பத் துறை அமைச்சர் பி.டி.ஆர்.பழனிவேல் தியாகராஜன். உடன், பள்ளிக் கல்வித் துறை அமைச்சர் அன்பில் மகேஷ் பொய்யாமொழி உள்ளிட்டோர்.

மென்பொருள் ஏற்றுமதியில் நாட்டிலேயே தமிழகம் 3ம் இடம்

அமைச்சர் அன்பில் மகேஷ் பெருமிதம்

திருவெறும்பூர் அருகே உள்ள அண்ணா பல்கலை கழக வளாகத்தில் தமிழ்நாடு தொழில் நுட்ப மையத்தின் திருச்சி மண்டல மையம் தொடக்க விழா நடைபெற்றது. விழாவில் அமைச்சர்கள் பழனிவேல் தியாகராஜன், அன்பில் மகேஷ் கலந்து கொண்டனர்.

அமெரிக்காவில் இருந்து திரும்பும் இந்திய நிபுணர்கள்

மத்திய, மாநில அரசுகள் பயன்படுத்த அமைச்சர் வலியுறுத்தல்

திருச்சி, செப். 23–

திருச்சி அண்ணா பல்கலைக்கழக (பிட்) வளாகத்தில் திருச்சி மண்டல தமிழ்நாடு தொழில்நுட்ப மையம் தொடக்க விழா நேற்று நடத்தது.

தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பத் துறை அமைச்சர் பழனிவேல் தியாகராஜன் மையத்தை தொடங்கி வைத்து பேசியது: தமிழக அரசு தகவல் தொழில் நுட்ப வசதிகள் அனைத்து மாவட்டத்துக்கும் கொண்டு செல்ல வேண்டும் என்ற நோக்கில் திருச்சி அண்ணா பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் தொழில்

திருச்சி அண்ணா பல்கலைக்கழக (பிட்) வளாகத்தில் திருச்சி மண்டல தமிழ்நாடு தொழில்நுட்ப மையத்தை அமைச்சர் பழனிவேல் தியாகராஜன் தொடங்கி வைத்து பேசினார். அருகில் அமைச்சர் மகேஷ் பொய்யாமொழி, முதன்மை செயலாளர் பிரதேஷ்நி நவனீத், தலைமை நிர்வாக அதிகாரி வனிதா வேணுகோபால், புல முதல்வர் செந்தில்குமார், பிட் இயக்குனர் அசித்குமார் பர்மா.

யாளர்கள், 5 ஆயிரம் தொழில் முனைவோர் பயனடைந்துள்ளனர்.

மென்பொருள் உற்பத்தியில் 3வது இடத்தில் தமிழகம் உள்ளது. பள்ளி மாணவர்களுக்கு செயற்கை நுண்ணறிவு, ரோபோட் மற்றும் அறிவு சார்ந்த பயிற்சிகள் அளிக்கப்படுகிறது. பல்வேறு நிறுத்த நிட்டங்கள் மூலம் தமிழகத்தை அடுத்த கட்டத்திற்கு எடுத்து செல்லும் வகையில் முதல்வர் செயலாற்றி வருகிறார், என் றார். புதுகை, திருவாரூர், தஞ் சாவூர், பெரம்பலூர், நாகை உள்ளிட்ட திருச்சி மண்டலத்தை சேர்ந்த 40க்கும் மேற்

திருச்சி மண்டலத்துக்கான தமிழ்நாடு தகவல் தொழில்நுட்ப மைய திறப்பு விழாவில் அமைச்சர் பழனிவேல் தியாகராஜன் பேசியபோது எடுத்த படம். அருகில் அமைச்சர் அன்பில் மகேஷ் பொய்யாமொழி மற்றும் பலர் உள்ளனர்.

புதிய கண்டுபிடிப்புகளை ஊக்குவிப்பதற்காக 2-ம் கட்ட நகரங்களில் தமிழ்நாடு தொழில்நுட்ப மையம் அமைக்கப்படுகிறது

அமைச்சர் பழனிவேல் தியாகராஜன் தகவல்

Disruption in globalisation opens new avenues: PTR

மதுரை அண்ணா பல்கலையில் தொழில்நுட்ப மண்டல மையம்

அமைச்சர் பி.டி.ஆர்.பழனிவேல் தியாகராஜன் திறந்து வைத்தார்

தினமலர்

மதுரை அண்ணா பல்கலை கல்லூரியில் மண்டல தொழில்நுட்ப மையம் திறப்பு

அமெரிக்கா விசா விவகாரம் இந்தியாவுக்கு வலிமை சேர்க்கும்

அமைச்சர் பழனிவேல் தியாகராஜன்

iTNT Trichy Regional Hub

Inaugurated

The Trichy Regional Hub of the Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) Hub was inaugurated by Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Hon'ble Minister for IT & DS, at the University College of Engineering, Bharathidasan Institute of Technology Campus, Anna University, Tiruchirappalli, on 22nd September 2025, in the presence of Thiru. Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, Hon'ble Minister for School Education.

The Trichy Regional Hub, the first regional hub of iTNT Hub, marks a significant milestone in the Government of Tamil Nadu's proactive measures to support Deep and Emerging Tech startups and researchers, thereby nurturing innovation across sectors. This initiative empowers regional centers with cutting-edge technological resources and contributes to a balanced growth trajectory for the state's digital economy.

Thiru. Brajendra Navnit, I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Government, IT & DS Department; Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO of iTNT Hub; Dr. Asit K Barma, Director of Bharathidasan Institute of Management; Dr. T. Senthilkumar, Dean, Anna University Regional Campus, Tiruchirappalli, heads of institutions, startup founders and industry stakeholders graced the occasion.

More than 40 engineering colleges from the Trichy region – Tiruchirappalli, Pudukkottai, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Perambalur, Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, and Ariyalur – have signed MoUs with iTNT Hub through the JIGSAW (Joint Innovation Gateway for Synergistic Startup – Academic – Industry – Investor Work) platform.

There is increasing demand from researchers, innovators, ideators, and futurepreneurs from Tier-II and Tier-III regions such as Trichy and Madurai, seeking iTNT Hub's support for venture launch, commercialization, market access, funding, and technology transfer. From the Trichy region alone, 687 researchers, patent holders, and applicants in Deep and Emerging Tech sectors have already been onboarded onto the JIGSAW platform.

Chief Guest Address

DR. PALANIVEL THIAGA RAJAN

Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology & Digital Services

Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan recalled his instrumental role as Finance Minister in the launch of iTNT Hub along with then IT&DS Secretary Dr. Neeraj Mittal, I.A.S. (now the Union Telecom Secretary) instrumental in putting the vision together in getting the Government of India's support to create iTNT Hub. Excerpts from his speech:

As per our Chief Minster's philosophy of opportunity and growth for all we decided to expand to Tier II and Tier III cities. The world is going through a seismic shift. All the kinds of innovation that used to happen only in the USA was fueled by a lot of immigrants from all over the world. There are many Tamil origin individuals leading tech companies and even in top ranking federal positions in the USA. The world is changing in such a manner that people of such caliber can now contribute to our own nation.

Just as liberalization in the 1990s led to a great opportunity for us to accelerate to the national average, this disruption will also prove a second turning point. With only 6 percent of the population we are 20% of all art, science and STEM graduates in the country. This wealth is going to help us transform and initiatives like iTNT bring together mentorship, access to finance and labs and commercialization of patents.

We will be providing these resources widely and proximate access to everybody. The various initiatives at the school education level, in an age of AI, is very important to get ahead of the curve. I was so impressed with the 10 startups I saw today and was thrilled to know that either through the MSME Department, TANII or EDII in many ways the Government of Tamil Nadu is supporting these innovators.

We have talent here and I hope we will find more and more startups and find double benefit of not just the startup becoming successful through their innovation but also the Government of Tamil Nadu and people of Tamil Nadu benefit from such innovations.

Special Address

THIRU. ANBIL MAHESH POYYAMOZHI

Hon'ble Minister for School Education

The Hon'ble Minister highlighted iTNT Hub's potential in building a network of researchers, investors, patent holders and startups in just two years. He also mentioned iTNT Hub's partnership with leading national and international organisations by the signing of MoUs in the recently conducted IN2TN IP Conclave 2025, aimed at driving the commercialization of intellectual property through research outcomes.

Tamil Nadu created a State IT Policy back in 1997 which highlights the forward-thinking vision of the State, he said. The Minister added that recently the State launched textbooks under the TN SPARK (Tamil Nadu School Program for Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Knowledge) of online tools initiative, introducing students in classes 6 to 9 to the fundamentals of computer science, online tools, AI and coding.

He concluded by encouraging students to think as innovators and harness the state's numerous schemes and policies that support innovation, leading to the realization of turning Tamil Nadu into a Trillion Dollar Economy.

Opening Remarks & Context Setting

THIRU. BRAJENDRA NAVNIT

I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Government, IT&DS Department

The idea is that within 2 hours if you have the aptitude and attitude to innovate, if you have the entrepreneurial aspiration for DeepTech, which is a very niche sector, within two hours from your home you can have an incubation centre where you will find working space, mentorships, Legal support to file IP, investor connects and support for product development.

Therefore I urge all the faculties of institutions in the Trichy region to use this facility and give us feedback on how we can accelerate this initiative. Startups which presently belong to the Trichy region but who are in Chennai can be motivated to relocate to Trichy where they will receive all the support.

Welcome Address

MS. VANITHA VENUGOPAL

CEO, iTNT Hub

In the last two years we have worked with many DeepTech startups of Tamil Nadu and this support system should also extend to Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities including their researchers and patent holders, in this regard our Hon'ble Minister for IT & DS made a budget announcement to democratize the landscape. As a first step we have inaugurated a regional Hub in Trichy. Welcoming the Hon'ble Minister, Principal Secretary for IT & DS, and other delegates, she urged the Trichy innovation ecosystem to make use of the Regional Hub.

Vote of Thanks

DR. SENTHIL KUMAR

Dean, Anna University Regional Campus, Tiruchirappalli

Thanking the Hon'ble Minister for IT & DS, Dr. Palanivel Thiga Rajan and Hon'ble Minister for School Education for inaugurating the Trichy Regional Hub of iTNT Hub, the Dean highlighted the significance of the establishment of the Hub at their premises and how it would benefit academia, researchers, studentpreneurs and innovators of the region.

Technology Showcase

At the launch, the Hon'ble IT&DS Minister; Principal Secretary to Government, IT&DS Department and delegates had an in-depth interaction with 15 startup founders from their region and studentpreneurs of the institution who had showcased their innovations.

JIGSAW Colleges Onboarding

At the launch, JIGSAW (Joint Innovation Gateway for Synergistic Startup - Academic - Industry - Investor Work) a first-of-its-kind digital innovation platform, fosters Industry - Academia collaboration and advancement to foster Research & Development & Innovation through impactful collaborations by tapping the knowledge wealth in over 550 engineering colleges in the State.

In the esteemed presence of the Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services, iTNT Hub exchanged MoUs with 12 colleges as part of the ongoing efforts forging strong academia partnerships to strengthen the innovation ecosystem of Tamil Nadu, especially in Tier II & III regions. Colleges that exchanged MoU with iTNT Hub:

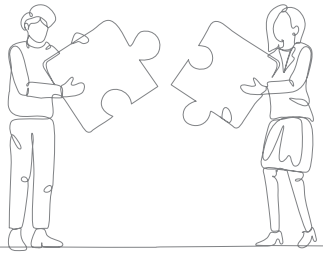
1. Bharathidasan Institute of Management
2. Jamal Mohamed College of Engineering
3. Sri Vignesh College of Engineering & Technology
4. University College of Engineering, Panruti
5. University College of Engineering, Ariyalur
6. Chettinad College of Engineering & Technology
7. KV Institute of Management and Information Studies
8. MRK Institute of Technology
9. Meenakshi Ramaswamy Engineering College
10. Rohini College of Engineering & Technology

Get in touch with iTNT Trichy Regional Hub

University College of Engineering
Bharathidasan Institute of Technology Campus
Anna University, Tiruchirappalli - 620 024

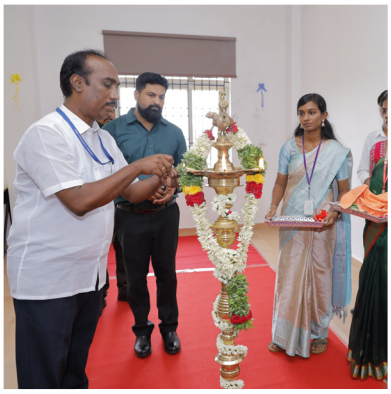
danielwillson@tnthub.org
+91 95004 65413

Stay tuned for exciting updates and be a part of the vibrant Trichy Hub of Tamil Nadu Technology Hub.



iTNT Madurai Regional Hub

Inaugurated



The Madurai Regional Hub of iTNT Hub was inaugurated by Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Hon'ble Minister for (IT & DS), at the Anna University Regional Campus – Madurai, on 26th September. iTNT Hub now has its presence in Chennai, Trichy & Madurai.

The Madurai Regional Hub, the first regional centre of iTNT Hub in Southern Tamil Nadu – and second in the State – marks a significant milestone in the Government of Tamil Nadu's proactive measures to support Deep and Emerging Tech startups and researchers, thereby nurturing innovation across Tamil Nadu.

The occasion was graced by Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO of iTNT Hub; Mr. K. Hari Thiagarajan, Chairman & Correspondent, Thiagarajar College of Engineering; Dr. K. Linga Durai, Dean, Anna University Regional Campus – Madurai; heads of engineering colleges and startup founders from the region.

The JIGSAW platform launched by the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in February last year has a robust network of 180 engineering colleges from across the State. This includes 29 from the five districts in Madurai Region – Madurai, Dindigul, Theni, Virudhunagar and Sivagangai.

From these colleges, a total of 481 researchers, patent holders and applicants from deep and emerging tech sectors have been onboarded to the JIGSAW platform of iTNT Hub. It may be recalled that JIGSAW researchers from these colleges in Madurai Region have filed 293 patent applications.

Chief Guest Address

DR. PALANIVEL THIAGA RAJAN

Hon'ble Minister for IT&DS

This is a day of immense joy for me. It is something I had been hoping for, planning for, and working towards for quite some time. I am delighted that it has finally taken shape, and that too in Madurai, my own constituency, city, and district. This marks a decisive move toward democratizing access and expanding opportunities in Tier II cities like Madurai, taking forward the programs and initiatives launched since our Government assumed office.

iTNT Hub has always held a special place for me. I was associated with it right from its inception when the idea was first brought to me during my tenure in Finance. With the collaboration of private players and the support of both the Government of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu, we financed and launched the initiative. By fortune, I later took on the IT portfolio and could witness its growth in real time. Seeing its expansion and the tangible value it adds today is deeply satisfying.

This morning, I had the privilege of meeting several startups here. I was impressed for a number of reasons. First, it reaffirmed my belief that innovation is not confined to metros. It can emerge anywhere, and it is often driven by local problems. Many of the solutions I saw today addressed pressing challenges. These innovations prove once again that necessity is indeed the mother of invention.

Second, I was thrilled by the remarkable participation of women entrepreneurs. This is heartening because one of the priorities of the IT Department has been to ensure that women in technology are encouraged and supported. From my personal journey, I can say that I have always benefitted from women mentors during my Ph.D. years, in academia, and later on Wall Street. Their unique perspectives have shaped me, and I firmly believe that diversity enhances innovation. By encouraging women in tech, we are opening up new dimensions of creativity and problem-solving.

Third, I was struck by the breadth of institutions represented here - minority colleges, private institutions, and Government-supported campuses like Anna University. The fact that innovation is happening across this spectrum is very encouraging. Broad-based access to opportunity ensures that no section of society is left behind, and it strengthens the fabric of our state's progress.

Looking at the larger picture, we are in the midst of historic economic and technological shifts. The hyper-globalised model of the past; where products, services, capital, and talent moved seamlessly across borders is rapidly being unwound. While this creates barriers in some respects, it also presents us with a powerful opportunity: to concentrate on building our domestic economy. Tamil Nadu, with its relatively high per capita income and strong human development indicators, is uniquely placed to turn this into an advantage.

Another important development is the disruption in global tech talent flows caused by changes in visa regimes such as the H1B. For decades, countless Indians and among them, a disproportionate number of Tamils have made their way to the United States and other countries on these visas, later rising to positions of global leadership. Whether it is Sundar Pichai, Satya Nadella, Indra Nooyi, or even President Trump's AI advisor who graduated from SRM University in Chennai, all of them benefited from these pathways early in their careers.

The recent sharp hike in visa costs will make it much harder for young engineers and professionals to take this route. While this causes immediate disruption and hardship for many, in the medium to long term it will redirect much of this talent to stay back in India, or even return home to Tamil Nadu. This is particularly relevant to us because Tamils have always been a significant part of India's global talent pool. I estimate that 20–30% of Indians abroad are of Tamil origin. And so many of us will find some returning expatriates, people like me, people like the guys who are on HCL here or NBC Comcast Universal in Chennai, and also people who will never go, who would have otherwise gone. I think Tamil Nadu, much better than India, will progress and benefit from this.

Madurai has historically contributed greatly to this outflow of talent, and now it is well-placed to benefit from their return, as well as from the decision of many young people to build their futures here rather than elsewhere. I can personally relate to the joy of returning home, and I know many others will share that sentiment as opportunities here expand.

Special Address

MR. K. HARI THIAGARAJAN

Chairman & Correspondent, Thiagarajar College of Engineering

Today, Tamil Nadu stands at a crucial phase of growth. With a GDP growth rate of 11.2%, well ahead of the national average, our state has long been aspirational, and under the Hon'ble Chief Minister's vision of building a trillion-dollar economy, we are poised to become the leading state in the country. Madurai, with a population of 3.4 million, is home to nearly 19,000 professionals in the IT & IT allied sectors and hosts leading companies like Zoho and HCL.

Yet, there remains enormous untapped potential. Many of our talented graduates from arts, science, engineering, and polytechnic institutions migrate to Bengaluru for opportunities. It is time we create those opportunities right here, in Madurai. Organizations like iTNT are stepping in to change this narrative, by building ecosystems that foster both employment and entrepreneurship, particularly in DeepTech and AI/ML.

With the upcoming State Policy on Deep Technology and growing global shifts, India is uniquely positioned to create jobs and innovation at scale. For Tier II and Tier III cities like Madurai, this is a game-changing opportunity, where talent can thrive close to home, supported by lower costs of living, strong connectivity, and abundant resources.

The Government is committed to supporting industry and enabling skill development through various schemes. But the real transformation will come from collaboration between industry, academia, and organizations like iTNT. This access to ideas, capital, and networks will empower students to innovate and build world-class ventures from Madurai. I thank iTNT Hub for partnering with us and assure our fullest support in putting Madurai firmly on the global entrepreneurial map.

Welcome Address & Context Setting

MS. VANITHA VENUGOPAL

CEO, iTNT Hub

We are gathered here today in the cultural capital of Madurai for the inauguration of the Tamil Nadu Technology Hub.The hub was Inaugurated on May 15, 2023 by our Honourable Chief Minister Sir to nurture and support the DeepTech startups of the state. This hub is a nascent organization. It is only 2 years and to make it as a more of an inclusive approach; how Startups in Chennai can avail our facilities, Tier II & Tier III cities must also benefit from this as part of that Hon'ble Minister IT & DS had made an announcement in the budget that we should expand to other parts of the State.

As part of that in the Southern part of the State, this is the first initiative done in Madurai and it's been our Hon'ble Minister's constituency. This initiative is Tamil Nadu's proud mission because it's a journey towards fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in Tier II & Tier III cities. This particular hub will provide a conducive ecosystem for researchers in and around Madurai region as well as mentorship and collaboration opportunities.

By uniting academia, industry and government, this hub will accelerate Tamil Nadu's role in shaping the future of technology. Madurai is celebrated for its rich heritage. Now it takes its place in the global map as a centre of technological excellence and that is only possible if all the people present here give us the support and a helping hand. The Tamil Nadu Technology Hub stands as the beacon of progress, opportunity and inclusive growth.

Vote of Thanks

DR. K. LINGA DURAI

Dean, Anna University Regional Campus - Madurai

Thanked the Chief Guest Dr. Palanivel Thaiga Rajan, Government of Tamil Nadu, and iTNT Hub CEO, Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, for establishing the Madurai Regional Hub on their campus. He expressed confidence that the Regional Hub will transform research and innovation from the region to futuristic solutions and motivate students and researchers to take up entrepreneurship in the Deep and Emerging Technologies.

MoU Exchanges

As part of the inauguration, Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO of iTNT Hub, formally exchanged a co-incubation agreement with Mr. Vinod Rajendran, CEO of Thiagarajar College of Engineering – Technology Business Incubator. This collaboration will enable startups from both incubators to access shared resources, mentorship, and growth opportunities, fostering stronger innovation linkages between the institutions. This MoU takes the number of deep and emerging tech co-incubators of iTNT Hub across Tamil Nadu to 26.

In another significant step, Dr. Ashok Kumar L., Principal of Thiagarajar College of Engineering, Madurai, and Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO of iTNT Hub, exchanged an MoU to establish the iTNT Hub Satellite Office within the Thiagarajar College of Engineering campus. This initiative will bring iTNT's programs and expertise closer to students and researchers in Madurai, strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem and supporting deep-tech innovation in the region.

PATHFINDER Madurai Cohort

The inauguration was followed by the launch of the first Madurai PATHFINDER incubation cohort. These eight patent holding researchers from Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education. They had their ideas validated under the four-week BEACON bootcamp at iTNT Hub, graduated and have now taken the next big step to launch their Deep & Emerging Tech startup ventures. The flagship incubation program offers structured guidance, mentorship, and access to industry and investor networks, enabling researchers to translate their ideas into impactful ventures.

Get in touch with the iTNT Madurai Regional Hub

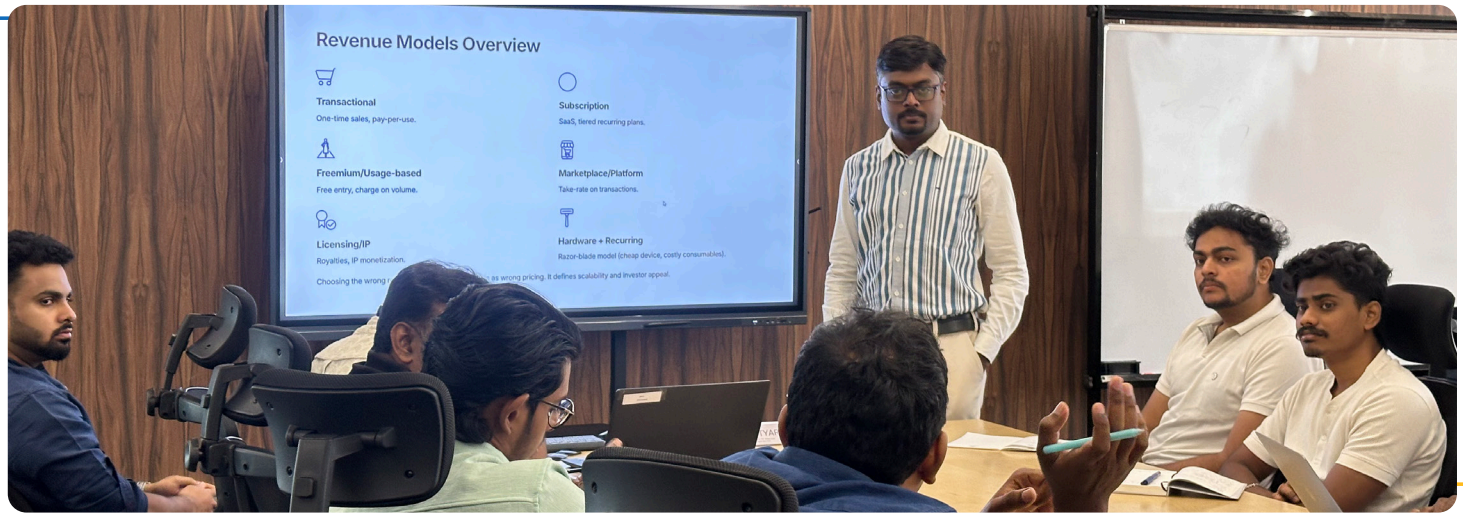
Anna University Regional Campus, Madurai , NH-7, Kanyakumari
National Highway, Keelakuilkudi Road, Madurai- 625019

sreetakshin@tnthub.org
+91 96773 79543

Stay tuned for exciting updates and be a part of the vibrant Madurai Hub of Tamil Nadu Technology Hub.

What's Brewing
@ iTNT Hub

iAccelerate - Pricing Strategy Masterclass



Pricing is more than just a number, it's the bridge between the value you create and the value your customers perceive. Mr. Arvind Subramaniam, Partner, Enlighten Capital, took startups on a deep dive into Pricing Strategy, Pricing Playbook & Revenue Model Canvas and Revenue Operations Module. The Masterclass highlighted that effective pricing strategy is a crucial growth lever for startups, driving revenue, shaping customer perception, and enabling scalability by moving beyond simplistic cost-plus or competitor-copying approaches to value-based pricing anchored in deep customer segmentation.

By understanding and segmenting customers by their needs, willingness to pay, and value perception, startups can design tailored pricing tiers and monetize intelligently through varied models like subscriptions, transactional sales, or the razor-blade approach. Mr. Arvind stressed the importance of evolving pricing, aligning models with customer psychology, and learning from case studies showing how companies that switched to outcome-based or segmented pricing achieved stronger profitability and adoption, particularly in nuanced markets like India where trust and value must be proven before expansion.

Azure AI Foundry for Startups: Solutions to put Ideas into Action

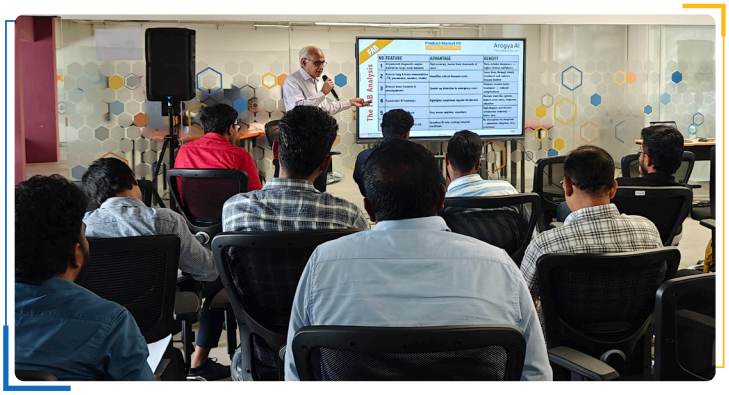
iTNT Hub in collaboration with Microsoft Azure conducted an insightful workshop on Azure AI Foundry, Microsoft's unified platform designed on 12th September 2025 for building, training, and deploying AI solutions at scale. The platform empowers developers, researchers, and businesses with a rich ecosystem of cutting-edge tools,pre-trained foundation models, and seamless integration with Azure services, enabling faster innovation and enterprise-grade AI deployment.

The session was led by Ms. Bhargavi Chakravarthi Rangarajan, Senior Software Engineer at Ford Motor Company, and a distinguished Microsoft MVP & MCT. Through a highly engaging live demo, she walked participants through the end-to-end process of deploying various AI models, showcasing how to identify the most suitable model for custom AI solutions. Participants gained hands-on exposure to:

- Deploying multiple models and chaining them together to create intelligent workflows.
- Experimenting with guardrails and control mechanisms to ensure safe, ethical, and reliable AI deployments.
- Understanding how to fine-tune parameters such as Temperature and Top-P to optimize model creativity, accuracy, and performance.
- Exploring practical scenarios where custom AI applications can be rapidly built and scaled using Azure's robust infrastructure.

The workshop offered participants not only technical know-how but also a strategic perspective on how businesses can leverage Azure AI Foundry to accelerate innovation, ensure responsible AI practices, and unlock new opportunities across industries.

Masterclass: Finding the Perfect Fit For Your Product or Solution



Product Market Fit is 'the difference between building a product you can sell and building a product that can sell itself', Mr. Dinakar Suri, Founder of GASP Sales Academy, elucidated in the Masterclass at iTNT hub on 18th September 2025. He presented a case study of a key AI-based healthcare solution provider that cracked the market by improving triage and prioritisation in radiology. He dissected PMF into seven parts:

- The problem + MVP
- FAB: Features-Advantages-Benefits
- DUVP: Differentiated Unique Value Proposition
- ICP: Idea Customer Persona / Profile
- Value Proposition Statement
- Tag Line
- Sales Narrative & Market Testing

The Masterclass concluded with a practical session, where each participant inculcated the seven PMF components into their startup scenario, presented them and got feedback for implementation.

BEACON Cohort 6.0
The Onset of Future Entrepreneurship

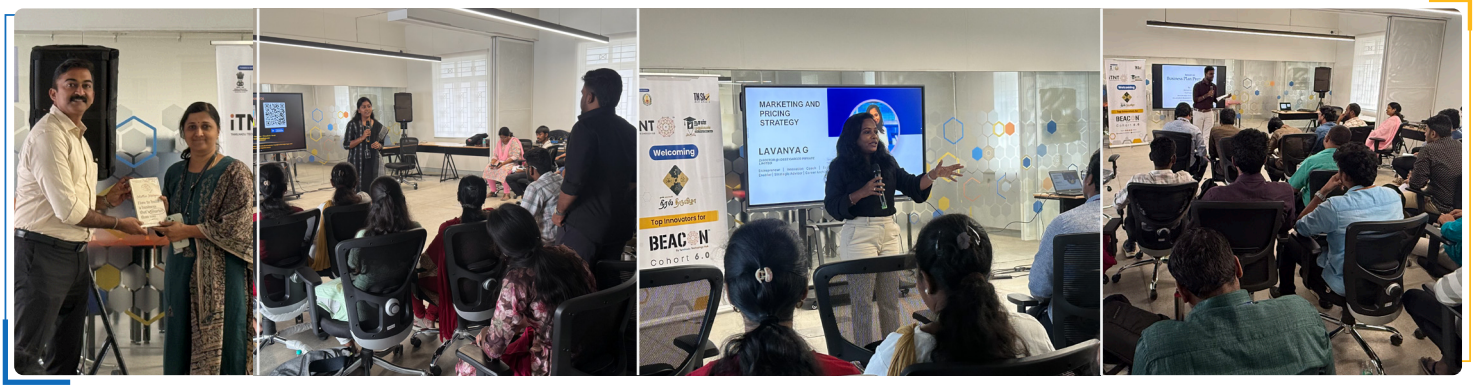
The 6th edition of BEACON (Business Exploration & Accelerating Creation of New Ventures) idea validation bootcamp by iTNT Hub was conducted for 15 teams of top innovators from the Naan Mudhalvan Niral Thiruvizha 2.0 in September 2025. The power-packed 4-day program built strong foundations and empowered them to kick-start their entrepreneurial journey, with some identified as interested and eligible for incubation under the PATHFINDER program.

Dr. M. Jayaprakasan, I.S.D.S., CEO, Naan Mudhalvan; and Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO, iTNT Hub; handed over certificates to the participants from across Tamil Nadu.

Day 1

Mr. George Koshi, Leadership Coach & CEO, Sify Technologies Limited, highlighted practical strategies for validating ideas, aligning team strengths, and fostering collaboration to drive startup success. Ms. Swapna Sundar, Founder – IP Dome, IP Strategist & Advocate, shared insights on compliance, intellectual property protection, and frameworks that ensure business sustainability and growth. Mr. Alan Chryso Jebakumar R, Senior Engineer & Lead, TANSAM, elucidated on how startups can systematically progress from concept to commercialization by validating technologies at each stage of readiness.

Day 2



Ms. Srilakshmi & Ms. Suganya, TM and Patent Department, Puthran & Associates, gave practical guidance on safeguarding innovations through trademarks and patents, and highlighted how a strong IP strategy can enhance business value and competitiveness. Mr. Sriraaman M., Co-Founder & Board Member, IAMUSAP Ventures Pvt Ltd, outlined frameworks to define clear customer value, identify scalable revenue models, and align business strategy with market needs. Ms. Lavanya Gopal, Founder, Lineup (IDEEZ Career Pvt Ltd), emphasized approaches for identifying the right time to enter the market and crafting pricing models that balance competitiveness with profitability.

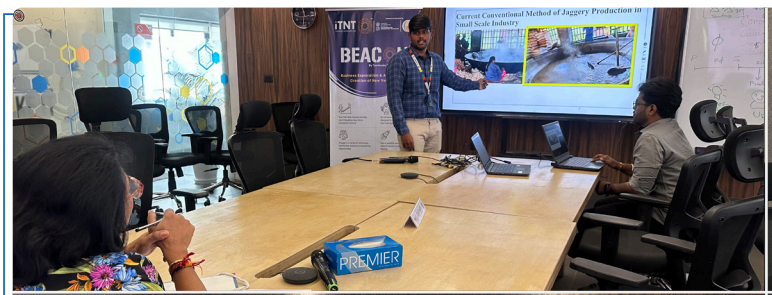
Day 3

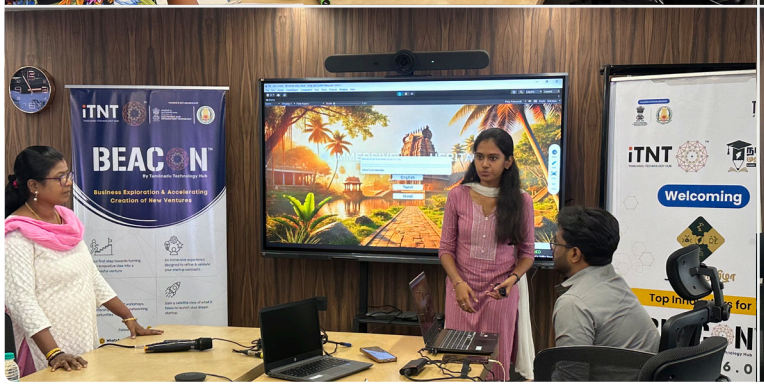
Mr. Kumar Sachidanandam, Co-Founder & CEO, Ydealogy, methods to iterate designs based on user feedback, optimize functionality, and align prototypes with market-ready solutions. Mr. Dinesh Subburaj, Associate Vice President - iTNT Hub, highlighted techniques to evaluate market competition, identify differentiation factors, and craft positioning strategies that strengthen a startup's market presence.

Mr. Karthikeyan K, Project Manager, Torus Robotics Pvt Ltd, demonstrated how startups can quickly test ideas, accelerate iteration cycles, and refine solutions through structured design sprints. Mr. Senthilkumar, Founder & Brand Consultant, Reachwell Brand Consulting shared insights on building impactful brand identities and creating design strategies that resonate with target audiences.

Day 4

BEACON 6.0 concluded with the 15 teams pitching their products to Ms. Naveena Aswadhati Swamy, Founder, Maxelerator Foundation & Kochadai Technology. The teams received valuable feedback on ways to achieve commercialisation of their products and solutions.





Royal Thai Delegation @ iTNT Hub

iTNT Hub hosted delegates from the Royal Thai Consulate led by Ms. Sasirit Tangulrat, Director General, Department of South Asian, Middle East and African Affairs, on 17th September 2025. CEO of iTNT Hub Ms. Vanitha Venugopal shared the Hub's role in building India's first Deep & Emerging Tech innovation network. Areas of international synergies through soft-landing programs were discussed.

The delegation interacted with student innovators and researchers who are part of the BEACON 6.0 cohort. Startups supported by iTNT Hub including
Mr. Nachiappan Founder, White AI Accounting Pvt Ltd, Ms. Adithisri Founder, IBT- Aura Pvt Ltd, Mr. Sridhar Palani founder of Prezitec Health Private Limited & Mr. Jubran Siddique, Founder, EdgeUp, engaged in discussions with the delegation

The delegation - Mr. Kasemsan Thongsiri Director, Division of South Asia and Central Asia, Department of South Asian, Middle East and African Affairs; Ms. Kulkaew Kowattanawaranon First Secretary; Mr. Pinpong Chauvachata First Secretary; Mr. Racha Aribarg Consul-General; Ms. Pornpun Pupiangjai, Consul for Political and Economic Affairs; Mr. Chelikani Dharma Teja Political and Economic Assistant Analyst; Mr. Kittichart Seneewong Na Ayudhaya Senior Software Engineer, SQUADX CO., LTD; Mr. Natee Theppot CEO, Om Platform Co., Ltd; Ms. Panchita Asavateeranun Managing Director, Siam D App (Thailand); Mr. Pipat Pichetjumroen CEO, Witsawa Corporation; Mr. Prakorn Supasaksutat CEO, ASCEND CO., LTD; Mr. Suthat Krongchon CEO, AIoT SmartTech; Mr. Weerawat Pawanawiwat Director, Reconix Co., Ltd; Mr. Pongwud Praipaisankij CEO, The Bingbang Theory.

French Consulate & Loire Valley Region Delegation @ iTNT Hub

iTNT Hub hosted a French Consulate and Loire Valley Region delegation on 16th September 2025. Initiatives taken by iTNT Hub to strengthen the Deep & Emerging Tech innovation ecosystem of Tamil Nadu and prospective areas of cross-border collaboration were discussed.

The interactions were followed by an engaging innovation showcase by four Tamil Nadu startups from the AR/VR sector working on digital heritage technologies - Arun Prasath, Co-founder, FocuzAR; Sathya Priyan, Founder, Madras Mindworks; Praveen, Founder, TechVoyager & Ramasubramani, Founder, VREON Tech.

The delegation - Ms. Delphine Benassy, Vice-President of the Centre-Val de Loire Regional Council, Delegate for Culture and International Cooperation, Mr. Guillaume Crépin, Member of the Centre-Val de Loire Regional Council, delegate for Digital Affairs, Mr. Laurent Olivier, Director of Regional Planning, Centre-Val de Loire Region, Mr. Emmanuel Doudat, Advisor to President of the Regional Council on Digital Technology, Career Guidance, and Vocational Training, Mr. Marty Vincent, President of Pixel Players, Ms. Emmanuelle Davignon, Head of the Europe and International Department, Centre-Val de Loire Region, Ms. Sarah Arbez, Project Officer, Europe and International Department, Centre-Val de Loire Region, Mr. Carl Boulanger, Economic Diplomacy Officer, Ms. Viji Saraswathi, Press & Protocol Officer.

Getting Investor-Ready with Due Diligence

iTNT Hub incubated and accelerated startups had a preparatory Masterclass on 29th September 2025 by R. Kannan, Chartered Accountant from RKRV Associates on being investor ready and preparing for due diligence process, tips to avoid common funding delays, and an interactive Q&A for queries and guidance.

Mr. Kannan outlined the due diligence process required for successful fundraising and business transactions. Covering all critical aspects including business planning, investor evaluation, deal structuring, and both business and legal due diligence. Essential elements discussed include maintaining real-time accounts, ensuring monthly and annual compliance, preparing detailed reports, and keeping comprehensive evidence for all financial transactions. Startups were advised to create data rooms for secure document sharing and review during the due diligence phase.

Founder Stories
@ iTNT Hub

Tactovision - D. Kavitha & V. Ravindran

There has been very few developments in assistive technology for the blind, but research is catching up with developments in science and technology. Ms. Kavitha Founder & CEO, Tactovision and her life partner Mr. Ravindran, Co-founder & CTO, Tactovision, are creating a new horizon in assistive tech with their mobile app and Wearable Refreshable Braille Device.

With a doctorate in Computer Science, Kavitha began working in the field of assistive tech for the blind while pursuing her doctorate in computer science. While being a research scholar she along with Mr. Ravindran began developing a dynamic braille e-book reader with OCR. The project reached the level of proof of concept but she had to discontinue the project due to unforeseen complexities that hindered further progress, this setback did not deter her spirit. Instead, it became a turning point that fueled her determination to reinvent herself.

Driven by resilience and a passion to create meaningful impact, Ms. Kavitha explored other innovative pathways where technology can transform lives for the visually impaired. Stemming from this pursuit was the Wearable Refreshable Braille Device. Mr. Ravindran who is a mechanical engineer and the CTO of Tactvision played a key role in the design and operation of this novel device.

A handheld/wearable device with electromagnetic technology uses a single braille cell that refreshes as the user moves their finger. The sensation moves from right to left as the user reads. Designed to simulate reading a physical braille book. This device mimics the functioning of a computer mouse.

The device still in its prototype stage is set to undergo further precision tuning through user feedback before it makes market entry. This device will create a paradigm shift in assistive tech for the blind. Tactovision is also coming up with an app that will convert text to voice that can take pictures of text and convert them to audio. Capable of handling multiple languages with AI integration. The Wearable Refreshable Braille Device will enable visually impaired students access STEM education with better understanding.

At its core, Tactovision's mission is built on empathy, inclusivity, and the belief that technology should empower every individual, regardless of their physical limitations.

The vision is not just to create a device, but to ignite possibilities that redefine how the visually impaired engage with knowledge, particularly in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Education has always been a catalyst for social mobility, and by designing solutions that democratize access to learning, Tactovision envisions a future where no student is left behind because of the barriers imposed by visual impairment.

The current landscape of assistive technology presents challenges that make it inaccessible for many who need it the most. Devices such as advanced screen readers, refreshable braille displays, and AI-driven accessibility tools often come with prohibitive price tags, placing them far out of reach for students in underprivileged communities. Tactovision is bridging this gap by engineering cost-effective solutions without compromising on performance, usability, or innovation. By integrating accessible design thinking with cutting-edge technologies like OCR, AI, and electromagnetic tactile feedback, the company is lowering the financial barrier while raising the standard of accessibility.

Tactovision is a iTNT Hub PATHFINDER incubation portfolio startup.

Founder Stories
@ iTNT Hub

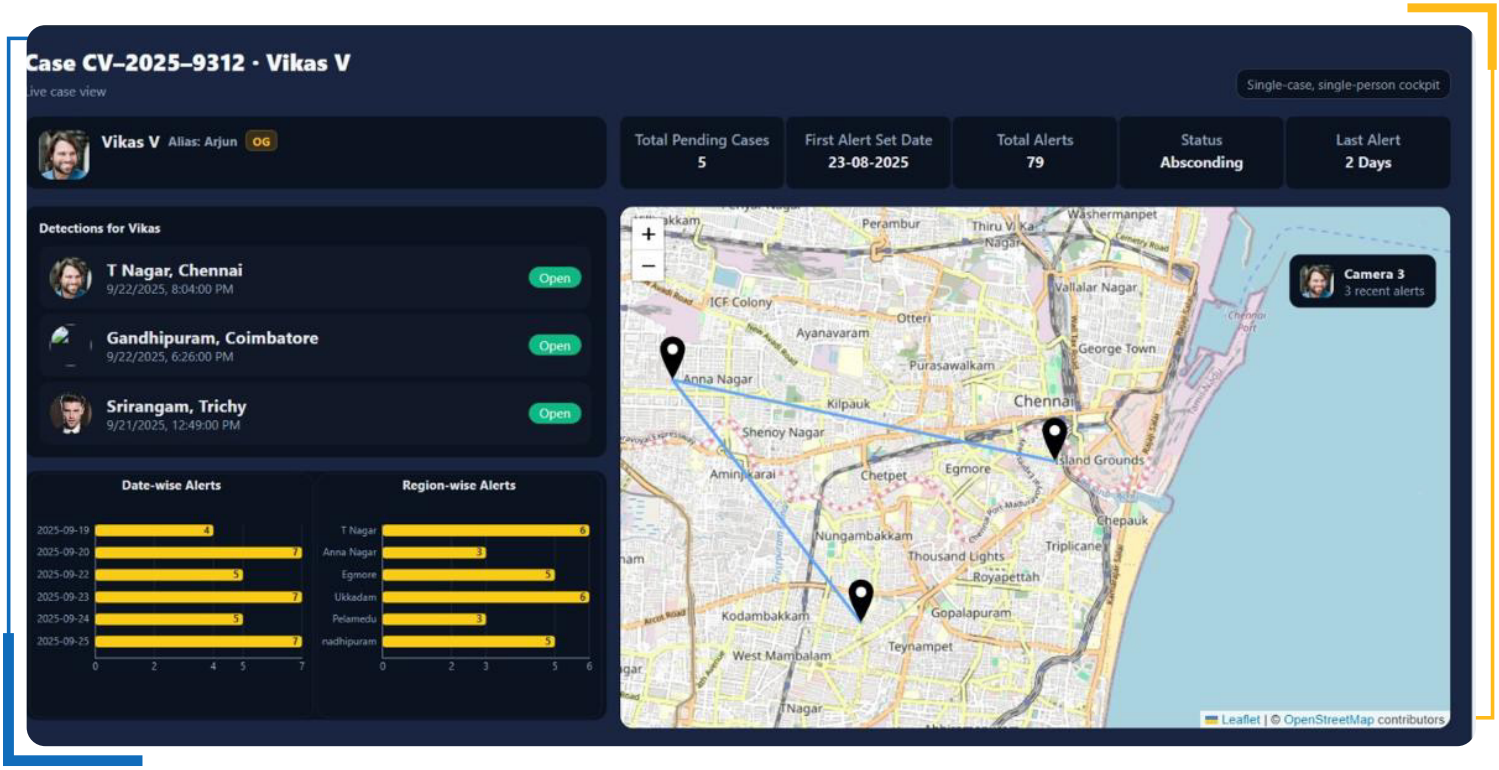
Cogno Valley - Bernard Shaw Theraviam

The 'all seeing eye' the world believes in might not just be a belief but a reality. The world is not all sunshine and rainbows, it can at times be a dangerous and a dark place to be when people go missing or deviant minds plot to create havoc in the lives of the innocent. Mr. Bernard Shaw Theraviam, Co-Founder & CEO Cogno Valley, through use of intelligent technology are on a mission to shine light on the unseen truths, safeguard the vulnerable, and bring clarity in times of uncertainty.

He and Co-founder, Mr. Aldrin Chella Daniel met during their undergraduate at Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences. While working separate jobs at Oracle and Adobe, a chance co-incidence and like minded goals helped them create Cogno Valley. Mr. Bernard was affected deeply by the disappearance of one of his friends' dad who was suffering from Alzheimer's. The relentless efforts by the family and Police department to find him ended up in vain. Bernard knew that cutting edge AI technology integrated through security cameras can aid in finding missing people and also locating the movement and whereabouts of individuals engaging in criminal offences. Their work doesn't promise a perfect world, but it brings clarity where there was confusion, hope where there was fear, and accountability where there was impunity.

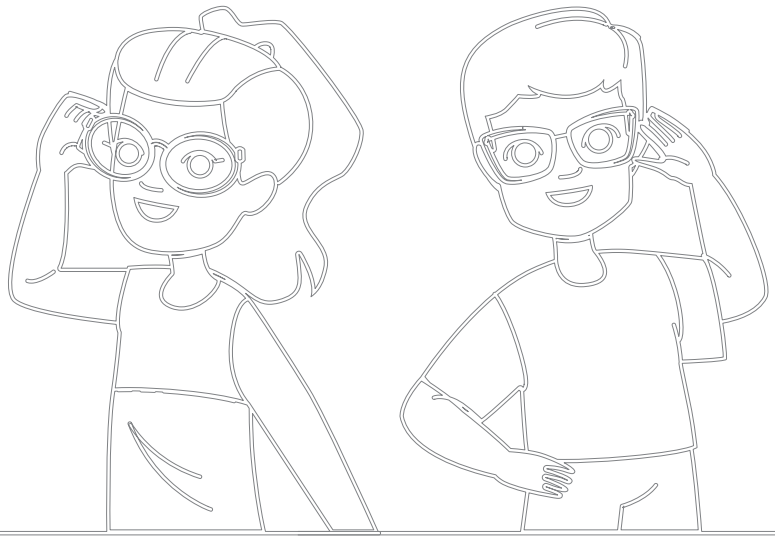
There are thousands of missing people and hundreds of criminals who become untraceable after committing a crime. Cogno valley has devised a unique proprietary software framework offering an engineering-level solution that's 10x faster and highly scalable, unlike simple UI repackaging programming. In their efforts to democratise safety Mr. Bernard has created two solutions. Cogno Falco that can live track a target individual with precision and even program a drone to reach an his/her precise whereabouts. Cogno Profit can detect suspicious activity like blood bleeding, sudden or swift movement, brandishing a weapon or a sudden change in collective movement of individuals and alert authorities at once.

This is a one-of-a-kind solution that goes beyond conventional surveillance and policing methods. The Proprietary AI video processing platform is claimed to be better than any open source available in the world. A GPU normally can handle 4 cameras while Cogno Valley's Platform can handle 60 cameras. By harnessing the true potential of artificial intelligence, Cogno Valley transforms how societies can respond to threats in real time, ensuring that no critical moment is ever missed. Their technology bridges the gap between law enforcement, public safety systems, and humanitarian efforts, offering a proactive approach to preventing crime and rescuing those in danger.



Looking ahead, Cogno Valley is on a mission to scale its impact globally. With applications ranging from urban safety and border security to disaster response and humanitarian aid, the solutions hold the promise of transforming lives at scale. By democratizing safety through accessible, intelligent technology, Bernard and his team are not just creating products, they are building a future where fear and uncertainty is replaced with trust and assurance.

Cogno Valley is iTNT Hub's iAccelerate acceleration startup.



DeepTech
Insights

Prioritise Innovation, Build India's Future as Deep Tech Destination

The Trump administration's proposal to impose a $100,000 fee on H-1B visa holders, clarified later as a one-time charge, is not a minor policy tweak. It is a warning shot, exposing an uncomfortable truth.

Scan to read the full article

DeepTech for Common People: How ML, Deep Learning, and Data Engineering are Shaping Tech Careers

The unprecedented development of digital technologies highlights the norm of global growth in the 21st century. Tremendous advances have been made in numerous digital technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), and supporting disciplines like Machine Learning, Data Engineering, and aspects of Deep Learning have emerged as a result

Scan to read the full article

India's 1st Private Large-format-3D-printing Facility for Rockets Launched by Agnikul Cosmos in Chennai

Agnikul Cosmos has launched India's first private large-format additive manufacturing facility for aerospace, enabling faster and cheaper rocket development. Located at IIT-M Research Park in Chennai, the facility allows 3D-printing of aerospace parts

Scan to read the full article

Early Stage VC Firm 888VC Launches Rs. 175 Crore Fund

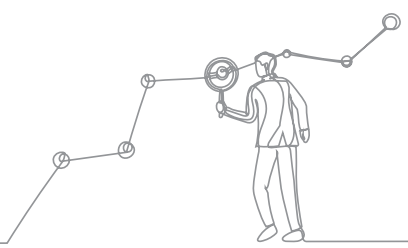
According to a statement from the Bengaluru-based VC fund, over the next three years, it plans to invest in startups with an amount ranging from Rs 2 crore to Rs 4 crore. It aims to support those startups which are based in India but have global aspirations.

Scan to read the full article

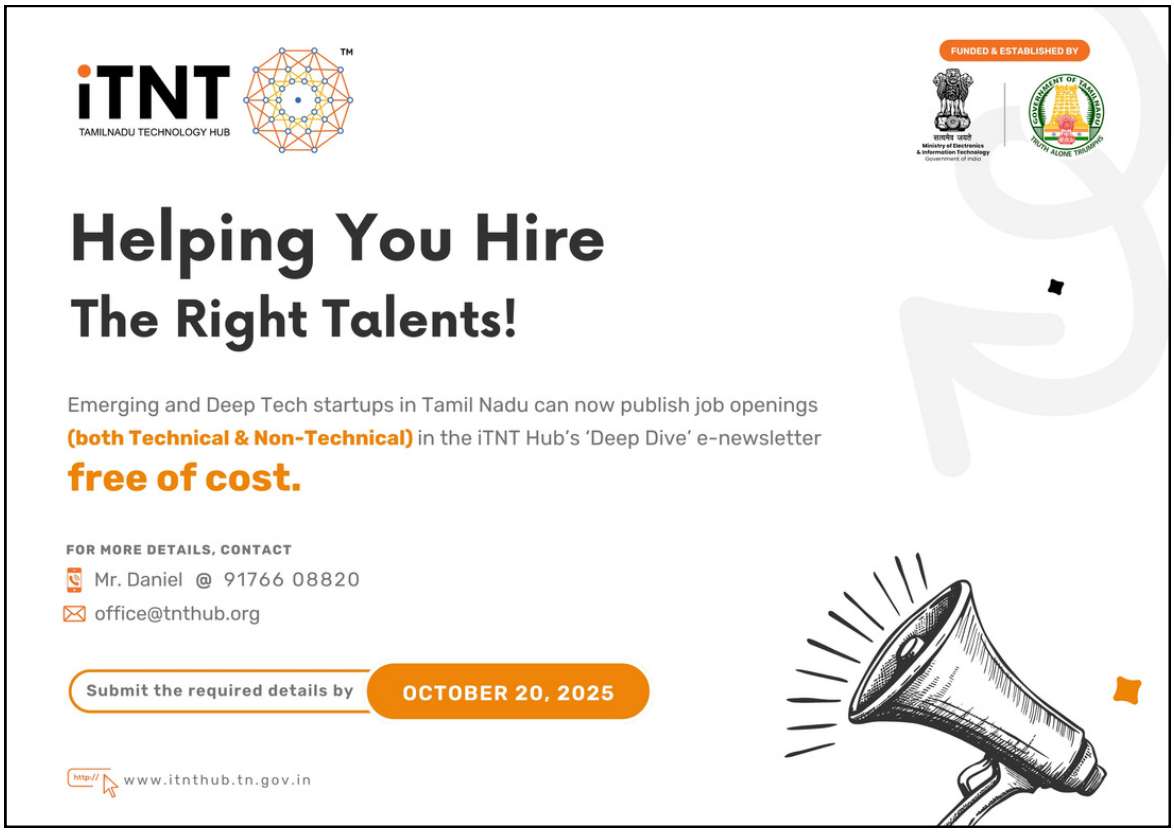
Chakr Innovation Secures $23M in Series C Funding

Chakr Innovation, a Bengaluru-based material science startup, has raised $23 million in its Series C funding round. The investment was led by Iron Pillar, with continued support from SBI Cap Ventures, ONGC, Indian Angel Network (IAN), and Inflexor.

Scan to read the full article



Startup Hiring



IBT AURA PVT LTD.

Positions Vacant: 1

Role: Android App Development

Work Mode: On-site

Stipend: No stipend

Mobile number:
+91 9361871489

Email ID:
ibtaura.info@gmail.com

Apply Soon

Admini PVT LTD.

Positions Vacant: 5

Role: Business Development

Work Mode: Hybrid

Stipend: Rs.7000.

Mobile number:
+91 9944291166

Email ID:
richards.dexa@gmail.com

Apply Soon

Kratu Innovations

Positions Vacant: 2

Role: Marketing & Sales **(Interns)**

Work Mode: On-site

Stipend: Yes

Mobile number:
+91 9940506586

Email ID:
admin@kratu.biz

Apply Soon

Aristoverse Deep-Tech

Positions Vacant: 5

Role: Business development **(Intern)**

Work Mode: On-site

Stipend: Based on performance

Mobile number:
+91 9894595035

Email ID:
Support@Aristoverse.org

Apply Soon

Voxwave AI

Positions Vacant: 5

Role: Frontend Developer (2) **Intern**

Full Stack Developer with
AI Knowledge (3) **Intern**

Mobile number:
+91 7449023417

Email ID:
himayun13@gmail.com

Apply Soon

Teston

Positions Vacant: 2 **(Interns)**

Education: B.E electronic

Work Mode: Hybrid

Stipend: No stipend

Mobile number:
+91 6382047489

Email ID:
chandru2003vpm@gmail.com

Apply Soon

Events
on the Radar

iTNT TAMILNADU TECHNOLOGY HUB

FUNDED & ESTABLISHED BY

सत्यमेव जयते
Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
Government of India

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

Masterclass

Safe Intelligence: **AI Guardrails for Startups & Inventors**

Building safe, ethical, and legally compliant AI practices

- AI Risks, Regulations & Governance
- Ethics, Fairness & Accountability
- Practical Guardrails for Startups

Speaker

Ms. Subathra Mylsamy

Managing Partner, A.K Mylsamy & Associates

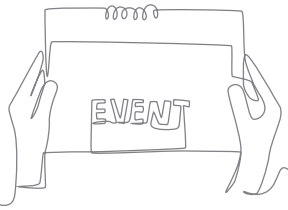
6th October 2025

03:00 PM

iTNT Hub, Chennai

REGISTER NOW

Follow Us : /iTNTHub | **WhatsApp:** (+91) 7305980220 | www.itnthub.tn.gov.in



Events
on the Radar

FUNDED & ESTABLISHED BY

iTNT TAMILNADU TECHNOLOGY HUB

ANNA UNIVERSITY PROGRESS THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

Roundtable
& Sensitization Program

Inviting

Anna University

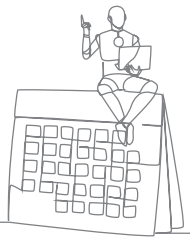
HOD's | Directors | Researchers | Faculty Members

7th October 2025 | 11:00 AM | Anna Centenary Library, Chennai

Register Now

Daniel Prabhakaran @ +91 9176608820

Follow Us : /iTNTHub | **WhatsApp:** (+91) 7305980220 | www.itnthub.tn.gov.in



Events
on the Radar

FUNDED & ESTABLISHED BY

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India

iTNT TAMILNADU TECHNOLOGY HUB

Tamil Nadu Technology Transfer Facilitation Centre (TNTTFC) for Deep Tech Innovations

HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

Patent Searches & Freedom to Operate (FTO) Analysis

WORKSHOP OUTLINE

- Deep dive into Patent searches
- Learn the freedom to operate strategies for product launch
- Practical Exercises through case studies

Dr. Bhavya Manjeera Patruni
Deputy Manager & Scientist, NRDC

WHO CAN BENEFIT

Startups | Researchers | Faculties | IP Professionals

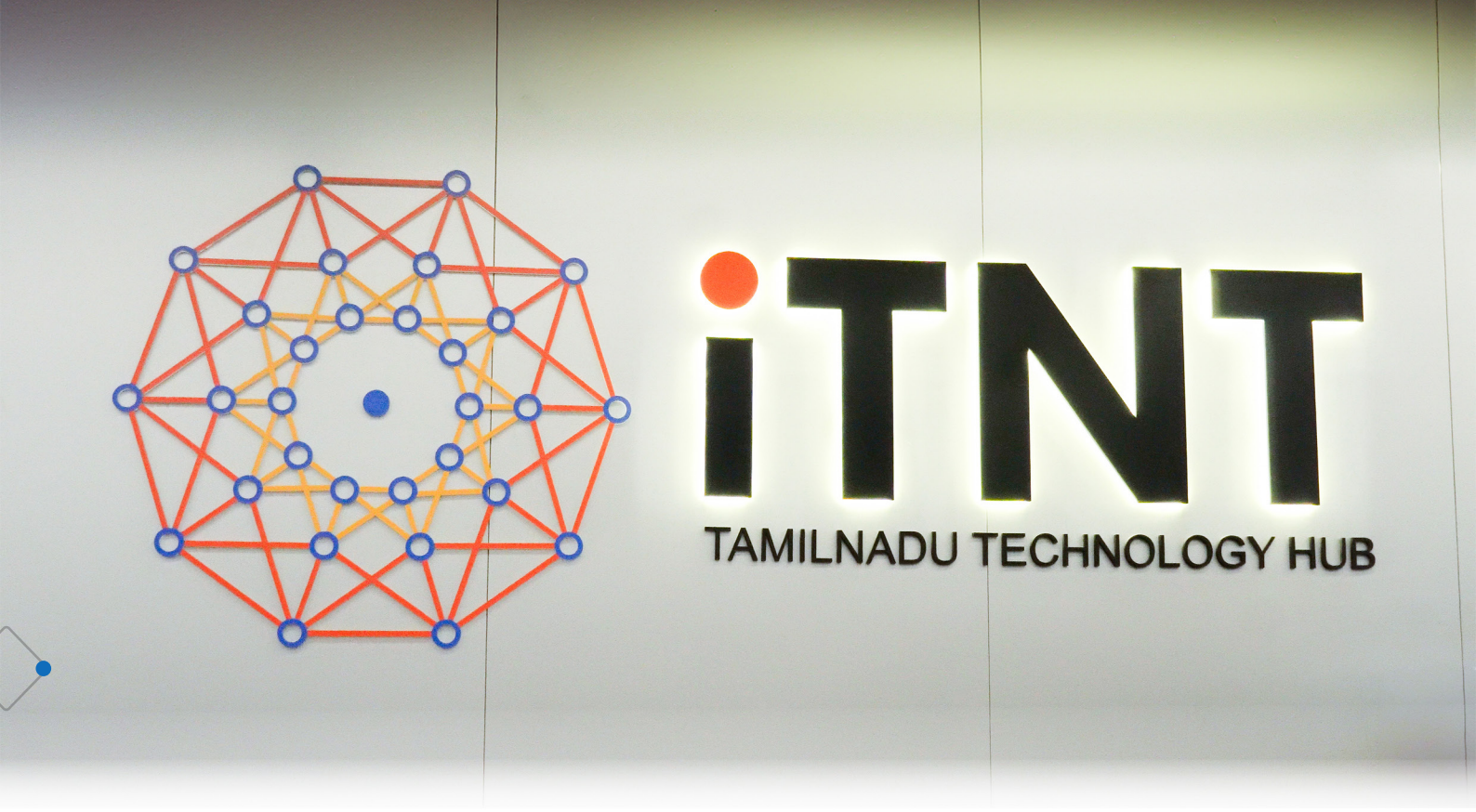
Register Here

05.11.2025 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

iTNT Hub, Chennai

Registration Fee - **Rs.300/-**

Follow Us : /iTNTHub | **WhatsApp:** (+91) 7305980220 | www.itnthub.tn.gov.in



Connect with Us

Head Office - Chennai

3rd Floor, Sir C V Raman Science Block,
Anna University Campus, Kotturpuram,
Chennai – 600 025.

Trichy Regional Hub

University College of Engineering
Bharathidasan Institute of Technology Campus
Anna University, Tiruchirappalli - 620 024.

Madurai Regional Hub

Anna University Regional Campus, Madurai,
NH-7, Kanyakumari National Highway,
Keelakuilkudi Road, Madurai - 625 019.

www.itnthub.tn.gov.in

Scan to follow us on our socials

#INNOVATEINTAMILNADU #BUILDTHEFUTURE