

Deep Dive

January 2026

An E-Newsletter from Tamil Nadu Technology Hub

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Foreword

Tamil Nadu today stands at a defining inflection point in its innovation journey—one where Deep and Emerging Technologies are no longer peripheral, but central to our economic and strategic ambitions. The release of the Tamil Nadu Deep Tech Startup Policy 2025–26 by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. M.K. Stalin, at the inaugural of UImagineTN 2026 marks a significant milestone in this direction.

As India’s first State to introduce a dedicated policy exclusively for Deep Tech startups, Tamil Nadu has taken a decisive step towards transitioning from a service-led growth model to one driven by product-led innovation and long-term value capture. The policy has been thoughtfully designed as an end-to-end support framework—addressing the full Deep Tech lifecycle from early identification of research and innovation, progression across Technology Readiness Levels, intellectual property creation, prototyping, and commercialisation, to market access and returns on investment.

UImagineTN 2026 provided an ideal platform to showcase this vision in action. As a convergence of policy, industry, startups, and global technology leaders, the event underscored Tamil Nadu’s commitment to building a regionally distributed, innovation-led economy. The Deep Tech focus at UImagineTN reaffirmed our belief that advanced technologies—when backed by enabling policy, public infrastructure, and market access—can become powerful drivers of inclusive and sustainable growth.

In this journey, iTNT Hub, functioning under the Information Technology & Digital Services Department, has played a pivotal role. As the authoring institution of the Deep Tech Startup Policy and a key contributor to UImagineTN 2026, iTNT Hub effectively showcased and supported Deep and Emerging tech startups from across Tamil Nadu.

Through curated startup exhibits, ecosystem engagements, and structured interactions with investors, industry leaders, and policymakers, iTNT Hub demonstrated how public innovation platforms can meaningfully reduce risk for early-stage deep-tech ventures and accelerate their path to scale.

As we move forward, the success of the Deep Tech Startup Policy will be shaped by active participation from startups, incubators, academic institutions and industry stakeholders. I invite the ecosystem to engage closely with iTNT Hub, provide continuous feedback, and leverage this policy to translate frontier innovation into real-world impact.

Together, we can strengthen Tamil Nadu’s leadership in Deep Tech innovation and contribute decisively to India’s technology-driven future.



Thiru. Brajendra Navnit

**Principal Secretary to Government
Information Technology & Digital Services Department
Government of Tamil Nadu**

Hon'ble Chief Minister Inaugurates

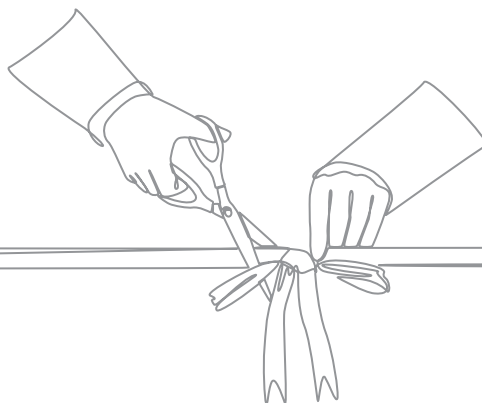
UmanageTN 2026



The fourth edition of UmanageTN 2026, held on January 8 and 9 at the Chennai Trade Centre, Nandambakkam, marked another significant milestone in Tamil Nadu's digital transformation journey. The annual flagship summit of the Information Technology & Digital Services Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, hosted by Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu (ELCOT) brought together policymakers, industry leaders, innovators, professionals, and students for two days of immersive

dialogue and collaboration.

UmanageTN 2026 reflected a strong intent to advance innovation through inclusion, anchored in the belief that inclusion begins with exposure. By bringing global ideas, innovations, and experiences to professionals and students across the State, the summit aimed to spark imagination, broaden perspectives, and inspire the next generation to build a better, future-ready Tamil Nadu.



Thiru. M. K. Stalin, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Delivering the Presidential Address address at the inauguration on January 8, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. M. K. Stalin highlighted the State's aspiration to remain ahead of other States in technological advancement. He noted that UmapineTN 2026 reflects this vision by fostering innovation-led growth, social equity, and inclusive development across all sections of society in technology. He congratulated Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services for organising UmapineTN 2026 in alignment with these objectives.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister emphasised that technology is not restricted to any part of society but is a powerful enabler for the common citizen and a critical driver of economic growth. He observed that Tamil Nadu is evolving beyond a services-led economy towards one anchored in advanced research and development, artificial intelligence, fintech, engineering, manufacturing, and innovation-centric industries. He concluded by reiterating that the Dravidian Model views technology not merely as a tool for economic growth, but as a means for broader social progress and equitable development.



Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology & Digital Services

Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services, expressed pride in noting that across four editions of the conference, this was the third occasion on which the Hon'ble Chief Minister himself inaugurated the event. He conveyed his gratitude to the Chief Minister and highlighted that this reflects the State's commitment to the vision of distributed access and inclusive growth across all regions of Tamil Nadu.

He further noted that in an era marked by global fragmentation, trade wars, geopolitical conflicts, and a shifting world order, startups will play an increasingly critical role in employment generation and in solving local problems using local talent. He emphasised that the Government of Tamil Nadu, under the leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, has taken significant steps to strengthen the startup ecosystem through initiatives such as StartupTN and iTNT Hub under his department.

Tamil Nadu Deep Tech

Startup Policy 2025-26



Hon'ble Chief Minister Releases India's First State-Level Deep Tech Startup Policy

In a decisive step towards capturing long-term technological and economic value for both India and Tamil Nadu, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. M.K. Stalin, released the Tamil Nadu Deep Tech Startup Policy (TNDTSP), at UmapineTN 2026. The policy – drafted by iTNT Hub – is designed to transform cutting-edge research into deployable and scalable solutions, strengthening national technological sovereignty while positioning Tamil Nadu as a global Deep Tech powerhouse.

Deep Tech is shaping the next era of India's economic strength and strategic autonomy. By advancing indigenous innovation in critical technologies – from semiconductors and artificial intelligence to clean energy, aerospace, and quantum – Deep Tech startups will create high-value jobs, unlock new industries, and strengthen India's global competitiveness.

For Tamil Nadu, Deep Tech presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to convert research excellence into lasting economic and strategic value. The Tamil Nadu Deep Tech Startup Policy enables this transformation through lifecycle-based support and a Government-as-early-adopter approach, positioning the State as a leading global deep tech hub and a key driver of India's innovation-led future.

Marking a historic milestone, the TNDTSP is India's first state-level Deep Tech Startup Policy, announced and implemented by the Information Technology & Digital Services Department, Government of Tamil Nadu. The policy sets a national benchmark for how States can systematically nurture research-led, IP-intensive startups and build globally competitive deep tech ecosystems.

Aligned with the Hon'ble Chief Minister's vision of making Tamil Nadu a \$1 trillion economy, the five-year policy sets out to:

- Support 100 deep tech startups
- Mobilise ₹100 crore in public and private investments
- Facilitate technology transfer and IP commercialisation
- Train 10,000+ students & professionals in advanced deep tech skills

The policy adopts a holistic approach to nurture innovators across the entire lifecycle, from early-stage research and proof-of-concept to commercialisation, scale-up, and global market access.



Anchored in the State's strengths and future growth potential, the policy identifies priority sectors including electronics and semiconductors, biotechnology and healthcare, clean energy and sustainability, aerospace and defence including space technology, automotive and electric vehicles, and enterprise applications powered by AI.

In parallel, frontier technologies such as quantum computing, advanced materials, genomics, photonics, and cybersecurity will be actively supported, enabling cross-sector innovation and the creation of clusters of excellence across Tamil Nadu.

To operationalise this vision, TNDTSP introduces a Technology Readiness Level (TRL)-based support framework that provides R&D grants for early-stage innovations, pilot and commercialisation funding for mid-stage startups, and structured scale-up support for market-ready solutions.

The policy also envisages the creation of a Deep Tech Fund of Funds, with the Government acting as a catalytic partner to crowd in private and patient capital, alongside the development of Deep Tech Research Parks, Centres of Excellence, and Government-supported test beds for real-world validation.

Strong emphasis is placed on intellectual property creation, retention, and commercialisation through patent support, technology transfer facilitation, and the creation of a unified digital platform that offers startups single-window access to infrastructure, regulatory facilitation, pilot opportunities, and policy incentives.

The Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) Hub is the nodal implementing agency for the policy. With the launch of the Tamil Nadu Deep Tech Startup Policy, the Government of Tamil Nadu reiterates its commitment to transforming research excellence into economic value, accelerating indigenous innovation, and positioning Tamil Nadu – and India – at the forefront of the global deep tech revolution.

Present on the occasion were Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology & Digital Services; Thiru. T. M. Anbarasan, Hon'ble Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises; Thiru. T.R. Balu, MP, Sriperumbudur Constituency; Thiru. Brajendra Navnit, I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Government, IT & DS Department; Dr. K.P. Karthikeyan, I.A.S., Managing Director, ELCOT; Mr. A.R. Unnikrishnan, Managing Director, Saint Gobain; Dr. Madhan Karky, Writer and Researcher; and Mr. Bhaskar Venu, Regional Director, NASSCOM.

Access the TNDTSP



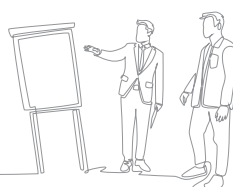
Policy Key Highlights



iTNT Pavilion: Shaping TN's Deep & Emerging Tech Innovation Landscape



The iTNT Pavilion at UmapineTN 2026 showcased the strength and diversity of Tamil Nadu's DeepTech innovation ecosystem. A remarkable moment at the pavilion was the Hon'ble Chief Minister's visit and interaction with cutting-edge Quantum and Deep Tech startups. The Hon'ble Chief Minister was accompanied by Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Hon'ble Minister for IT & DS; Thiru. T.M. Anbarasan, Hon'ble Minister for MSME; Thiru. Brajendra Navnit, I.A.S., and Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO of iTNT Hub.





The Pavilion featured the exchange and signing of MoUs and Letters of Intent (LoIs), launches of innovative products, sector-focused innovation challenges, and technology showcases by deep-tech startups across domains such as AI, robotics, and other emerging technologies. The programme was further enriched by keynote addresses and inspiring interactions with bureaucrats, industry experts, investors, and successful founders, alongside fireside chats, panel discussions, one-to-one industry connects and pitching competitions for student innovators, making it a dynamic convergence of ideas, talent, and opportunity.

Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan Inaugural Address

Delivering the inaugural address at the Pavilion, he highlighted the growing impact of the iTNT Pavilion, noting that a significant number of startups have benefitted from the platform. Emphasising its relevance, he pointed out that Tamil Nadu has witnessed a sharp increase in registered startups over the last five years, reflecting the strength and maturity of the State's innovation ecosystem.

Echoing the Hon'ble Chief Minister's perspective, he observed that as globalisation becomes increasingly fragmented, opportunities for localised innovation and creative problem-solving have expanded substantially. He further emphasised that Tamil Nadu's success lies in inclusion, where exposure to ideas serves as the first critical step.

Despite being less than three years old, iTNT Hub has



already made remarkable progress. He highlighted its expansion from Chennai to regional offices in Trichy, Madurai, and Coimbatore, supported by a strong network of partners across educational institutions, beginning with Anna University, highlights its growing impact.

Thiru. Brajendra Navnit, I.A.S. Opening Remarks



Speaking at the iTNT Pavilion, Thiru. Brajendra Navnit, I.A.S., described the day as a truly memorable milestone with the launch of the much-awaited Tamil Nadu Deep Tech Startup Policy, acknowledging the guidance, collaboration, and sustained efforts of the entire team involved in shaping the policy.

He underscored that Tamil Nadu has become the first State in India to introduce a dedicated policy exclusively

for deep-tech startups. He noted that the policy is rooted in the practical needs observed across incubation and innovation centres and has been designed as a comprehensive, end-to-end support framework.

Highlighting its scope, Thiru. Brajendra Navnit explained that the policy addresses the entire deep-tech startup lifecycle, from early identification of innovations, enabling their progression from TRL 1 to TRL 4, supporting patent filing and intellectual property protection, assisting in prototype design and development, to facilitating marketing, commercialisation, technology transfer, and enabling meaningful returns on investment.

In his concluding remarks, he invited startups, incubators, and ecosystem stakeholders to actively engage with the policy, share continuous feedback, and leverage it productively to further strengthen Tamil Nadu's leadership in deep-tech innovation.

UmagineTN 2026

iTNT Hub Impact

January 8 & 9, Chennai Trade Centre

63

Cutting-edge Deep Tech and Emerging Tech startups and innovators showcased their innovations through dedicated stalls at the iTNT Pavilion.

Startups got onboarded across iTNT programmes, including Quantum Startups, iAccelerate (Cohort 3), Venture Studio (Cohort 1), PATHFINDER Trichy Regional Cohort and Incubation Programme

51

42

Engineering colleges from Tier II & Tier III regions were onboarded onto the JIGSAW Innovation Platform

Startups graduated from the BEACON Pre-Incubation Programme (Cohort 7) and iAccelerate (Cohort 2.0)

38

12

Deep and Emerging Tech startups launched their products - 4 hardware and 8 software - showcasing market-ready innovations

MoUs & LOIs were exchanged with partner organisations

12

02

Innovation challenges were launched

Students pitched their ideas and got valuable feedback from the jury

19

Collaborations with National & International Partners

In the presence of Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, iTNT Hub further strengthened Tamil Nadu's Deep and Emerging technology ecosystem through a series of strategic collaborations with leading national and international partners, at the valedictory of Umaphysics 2026.

iTNT Hub exchanged four Letters of Intent (LoIs) and eight Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with premier academic institutions, global innovation platforms, quantum technology leaders, investors, and

intellectual property experts, reinforcing its commitment to accelerating startup innovation across cutting-edge domains.

These exchanges were formalised by Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO of iTNT Hub. Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Hon'ble Minister for IT & DS, Thiru. Brajendra Navnit, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, IT & DS Department senior bureaucrats, heads of government departments, and prominent industry leaders were present on the occasion.

MoU with IITM C-DOT Samgnya Technologies Foundation

iTNT Hub exchanged an MoU with IITM C-DOT Samgnya Technologies Foundation – a Technology Innovation Hub under the National Quantum Mission. The MOU was exchanged with Mr. Ravindra Barlingay, CEO of IITM C-DOT Samgnya Technologies Foundation.

MoU Highlights:

- Joint incubation program to enable the translation of quantum research into startup ventures
- Shared access to advanced quantum infrastructure across IIT Madras and iTNT Hub
- Launch of quantum-focused innovation challenges and problem statements
- Train-the-trainer initiatives, structured skill development & capacity-building programs



MoU with IIITDM Kancheepuram

iTNT Hub exchanged an MoU with IIITDM Kancheepuram – a Government of India Institute known for excellence in design and engineering. The MoU was exchanged with Prof. M.D. Selvaraj, Dean – DII&CE, IIITDM Kancheepuram.



MoU Highlights:

- Support for the Tamil Nadu Hardware Design Scheme
- Product development assistance and co-incubation of startups
- Technical mentoring and expert guidance
- Joint capacity-building and skill development initiatives
- Infrastructure and resource sharing

Expansion of Foundation Network

iTNT Hub exchanged MoUs with six leading investors to further strengthen the Foundation Network to invest in Deep Tech and Emerging Tech startups in Tamil Nadu. The MoU was exchanged between Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO, iTNT Hub, and Mr. Raj Sethia, Managing Partner, MGF Kavachh; Mr. Ajay Modi, Director, Investments, Piper Serica; Mr. Manu Iyer, Managing Partner, Bluehill VC; Mr. Shrihari, Director, Krystal VC; Mr. Chandu Nair, Partner, The Chennai Angels; Dr. Sunil K Shekhawat, Co-founder & CEO, Sanchi Connect.

MoU Highlights:

- Structured access to the iTNT Hub's startup portfolio for investment evaluation
- Investor-startup mentorship focused on business models and financial projections



Lol with XeedQ

iTNT Hub signed a Lol with XeedQ – the world's first developer of a multi-qubit mobile quantum processor. It was exchanged with Dr. Gopalakrishnan Balasubramanian, Founder & CEO, XeedQ.



Lol Highlights:

- Free remote access for three months to XeedQ's 4-qubit quantum computing system for Tamil Nadu researchers, innovators, and startups through iTNT Hub
- Skill development and capacity-building programmes in quantum technologies for researchers, startups, and educators

Lol with Dubai World Trade Centre

iTNT Hub signed a Lol with Dubai World Trade Centre, with Mr. Abhishek Ganapathy, its Associate Vice President.

Lol Highlights:

- Facilitate curated introductions to global investors, corporates, and policy leaders for Tamil Nadu startups at GITEX events
- Access for Tamil Nadu startups to the GITEX Supernova Challenge pitching platform and support fast-track company setup and related services
- Positioning Tamil Nadu, through iTNT Hub, as a strategic Indian partner within Dubai's innovation ecosystem



Exchanges were also formalised at the iTNT Pavilion, further reinforcing iTNT Hub's deep engagement with ecosystem partners throughout the summit.

Lol with Surana & Surana International Attorneys and S.S. Rana & Co Advocates

iTNT Hub signed a Lol with and with Mr. Johny Solomon Raj, Associate Partner, S. S. Rana & Co Advocates and with Dr. Vinod Surana, CEO & Partner, and Mr. Sanjay Sharma, Head Client Relation, Surana & Surana International Attorneys.



Lol Highlights:

- Establish a collaborative relationship in Intellectual Property (IP) support and capacity building for startups, researchers, and ecosystem stakeholders
- Foster high-impact IP awareness, protection, and commercialisation in collaboration with expert partners

Panel Discussion:

From Policy to Impact – A Deep Tech Startup Policy Supporting Innovation



In line with the launch of the TNDTSP 2025-26, a panel discussion was organised at UmagineTN 2026. The panel discussion, moderated by Dr. Chagun Basha, Chief Policy Advisor, Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor, focused on translating the policy into tangible ecosystem outcomes.

Thiru. Brajendra Navnit, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, IT & DS Department, emphasised deep tech as a strategic lever for achieving Tamil Nadu's \$1 trillion economy ambition by transitioning from a service-led to a product-led value capture model. He highlighted the need to embed deep tech across priority sectors, enable faster commercialisation of research, and create regionally distributed innovation capacity through a

hub-and-spoke incubation framework.

This democratises access to advanced infrastructure, mentoring, and market linkages across districts. He also stressed the importance of aligning policy, procurement, and public infrastructure access to reduce risk for early-stage deep tech startups and accelerate adoption.

This democratises access to advanced infrastructure, mentoring, and market linkages across districts. He also stressed the importance of aligning policy, procurement, and public infrastructure access to reduce risk for early-stage deep tech startups and accelerate adoption.

Ms. Poyini Bhatt, Member, National Entrepreneurship Committee, DST, stressed the need for an integrated ecosystem encompassing R&D, industry validation, regulatory support, and patient capital, with government playing a catalytic role. The discussion underscored industry-academia collaboration, incubators as ecosystem enablers, access to public-funded infrastructure, and talent development beyond metro cities, creating sustainable deep tech

outcomes and Tamil Nadu's emergence as a leading innovation hub across regions.

Earlier Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO, iTNT Hub, outlined the vision behind the Tamil Nadu Deep Tech Startup Policy 2025-26, developed over 1.5 years to transition the State from strengths in manufacturing, services, and IT towards innovation-led value creation. She traced the journey from ideation to policy formulation, led by the iTNT Hub under the IT & DS Department.

Rise and Shine: Women Leading the Tech Revolution



A panel discussion "Rise and Shine: Women Leading the Tech Revolution" at UmagineTN 2026, moderated by Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO, iTNT Hub, brought together leaders from government, industry, startup, and venture capital to highlight the evolving role of women in technology leadership and the impact they are creating across the ecosystem. The discussion underscored the objective of celebrating women's leadership journeys while examining how policy support, inclusive innovation, and ethical perspectives are shaping the future of technology.

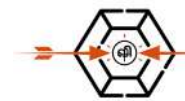
Ms. Dhanalakshmi, Joint Secretary, DST, Govt of India, highlighted the shift in women's roles from traditional welfare sectors to leadership positions in technology, noting sustained government initiatives over the past years to bring women back into the tech workforce after career breaks through targeted training. Ms. Srimathi

Shivashankar, CVP, HCL Technologies, spoke about the emergence of leadership models that blend technology with humanities, emotional intelligence, and inclusivity, observing that women consistently lead resilience and recovery during periods of disruption.

From an investment and startup perspective, Ms. Anju Gupta, Managing Partner, IvyCap Ventures, emphasised the importance of women having a voice in boardrooms, noting that women leaders bring empathy and a distinct perspective to decision-making. From both entrepreneurial and leadership standpoints, she highlighted that women on boards represent diverse segments, while Ms. Gayathri, Founder & CEO, Kynhood, shared her entrepreneurial journey from launching her product at the iTNT Hub to scaling her startup, emphasising the importance of confidence, courage, and belief in one's product.



Startups Showcased



Launch of Innovation Challenges

Quantum Innovation Challenge

The Quantum Innovation Challenge was launched at the iTNT Pavilion in UImagineTN 2026 by Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Hon'ble Minister for IT&DS, to accelerate the growth of India's quantum ecosystem and enable the transition from research to deployable technologies. Curated by iTNT Hub, the challenge draws deep-tech problem statements emerging from the IIT Madras-CDOT-SAMGNYA ecosystem.



Focus areas include:

- High-Performance Digital & FPGA Architectures
- Hardware Cryptography & Secure Digital Systems
- Quantum Communication & QKD Hardware Systems
- Fault-Tolerant Quantum Computing
- Intelligence, Monitoring & Security Assurance

The challenge targets innovation across five strategic sectors—communication, computing, security, hardware subsystems, and software development, with solutions designed for real-world deployment. Winning teams receive support through a Joint Incubation Programme, providing mentorship, ecosystem access, and pathways for scale, positioning Tamil Nadu as a key contributor to India's quantum future.

Quantum Innovation Challenge

Calling Startups | Innovators | Researchers

Quantum Innovation Challenge brings together a comprehensive set of Deep Tech, Hardware, and Quantum-focused problem statements addressing real-world bottlenecks in next-generation digital, secure, and quantum systems

Challenge Focus Areas

High-Performance Digital & FPGA Architectures

Hardware Cryptography & Secure Digital Systems

Quantum Communication & QKD Hardware Systems

Fault-Tolerant Quantum Computing

Intelligence, Monitoring & Security Assurance

Each challenge calls for working designs, validated architectures, or demonstrable prototypes, rather than conceptual proposals

Register Before:

28th February 2026

For Queries: dinesh@tnthub.org

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Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Challenge



Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Hon'ble IT & DS Minister also launched the Advanced Manufacturing Challenge to address a critical hardware challenge in the semiconductor fabrication process. Curated by iTNT Hub, anchored by KAS Equipment, and supported by Kairos Co-Labs as the program partner, the initiative focuses on precision engineering and equipment-grade innovation.

The challenge invites deep-tech startups, hardware innovators, and researchers to develop solutions in:

- Precision hardware and process innovation
- Thin-film deposition systems
- Manufacturing reliability and process uniformity
- Semiconductor equipment-grade technologies

With a strong emphasis on deployability and industry pilots, the challenge calls on innovators to solve core fabrication challenges with global relevance, strengthening India's semiconductor manufacturing capabilities and advancing Tamil Nadu's role in the global hardware ecosystem.

FUNDED & ESTABLISHED BY

iTNT
TAMILNADU TECHNOLOGY HUB

Program Partner

KAS
Group

Kairos CoLabs
Spark. Refine. Ascend.

Advanced Manufacturing

Innovation Challenge

Calling Hardware-focused Innovators, Startups & Researchers

Working On

➤ Thin-Film Deposition

➤ Thermal Systems

➤ Semiconductor Equipment

➤ Precision Manufacturing

➤ Fluid Mechanics

Problem Statement

Design & Develop Precision Showerhead for Advanced Thin-Film Deposition for Next-Gen Semiconductor Devices:

- Achieve uniform, low-defect, lattice-engineered thin films.
- Precisely control gas distribution and residence time
- Co-optimize with chamber geometry
- Align with heater-susceptor thermal profiles

Register Before
28th February 2026

For Queries
dinesh@tnthub.org

Register Now

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Bosch Innovation Challenge Concludes

The grand finale of the Bosch Innovation Challenge – at the iTNT Pavilion in UImagineTN 2026 – showcased how industry-driven challenges can enable impactful, real-world solutions. Jointly organised by iTNT Hub and Bosch Global Software Technologies, the challenge focused on recognising excellence in cybersecurity innovation. The Bosch Innovation Challenge was launched by Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan at inauguration of the iTNT Coimbatore Regional Hub on November 22, 2025.



Congratulations, ClouSec!

As many as 192 contestants comprising students, researchers and startups who had shared their solutions for this Cyber Security Innovation Challenge. The top 10 were shortlisted and underwent a rigorous multi-stage evaluation process and were supported by expert mentoring by industry leaders. At the finale in the iTNT Pavilion these teams pitched their cybersecurity innovations, addressing critical challenges across connected systems and IoT platforms.

Following the final presentations, ClouSec – a cybersecurity startup – was adjudged the winner for its outstanding solution. Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology & Digital Services, gave away the award to Mr. Jerome Melkisdak, Ms. Diana Vedhanayagam, and Mr. Logeshwaran in the presence of Thiru. Brajendra Navnit, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, IT & DS Department; and Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO of iTNT Hub.



Graduations & Onboardings of Cohorts

ImagineTN 2026 witnessed a series of milestone moments for Tamil Nadu's deep and emerging technology ecosystem, with the graduation of startups and innovators as well as the onboarding of multiple cohorts into iTNT Hub's incubation and acceleration programmes. These initiatives at the iTNT Pavilion celebrate the spirit of innovation, ambition, and readiness to scale, fostering the next generation of technology-led ventures across the State.

All graduations and onboardings took place in the presence of Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology & Digital Services; Thiru. Brajendra Navnit, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, IT & DS Department; Dr. K. P. Karthikeyan, I.A.S., Managing Director, ELCOT; and Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO, iTNT

Hub, highlighting the Government's continued support and commitment to nurturing India's deep-tech and emerging technology talent.

Graduation of 2 Cohorts

- iAccelerate 2.0
- BEACON Cohort 7.0

Onboarding of 5 Cohorts

- Niral Thiruvizha Hackathon 2.0 winners for Incubation
- Quantum Startups Cohort 1.0 for Incubation
- iAccelerate 3.0 Investment Readiness Cohort
- PATHFINDER Trichy Regional Cohort
- Venture Studio 1.0

iAccelerate 2.0 Graduation



The graduation of 21 startups from iTNT Hub's iAccelerate 2.0 programme, celebrates a cohort that reflects strong innovation depth, market readiness, and scale ambition. Having successfully completed their acceleration journey with iTNT Hub, these startups are now poised to enter their next phase of growth and ecosystem engagement.

iAccelerate 2.0 Graduates

1. Dreamaerospace Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
2. Guhan Industrial and Manufacturing Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
3. Intrust Innovation Labs Pvt. Ltd.
4. Livvolta Healthcare Innovations Pvt. Ltd.
5. Tensorhub Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
6. Cogno Valley Labs Pvt. Ltd.
7. Cognitive Decision Works Pvt. Ltd.
8. EdgeUp - Zaryah Angel Pvt. Ltd.
9. Prezitec Health Pvt. Ltd.
10. Tvasta Manufacturing Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
11. Vreon Tech India Pvt. Ltd.
12. NeoRains Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
13. Thazhal Geospatial Analytics Pvt Ltd
14. WROXAI Pvt. Ltd.
15. Lexdash Technologies LLP
16. Suzhiyam Industrial Machines Pvt. Ltd.
17. Avris Environment Technologies
18. Cittaa Health Services Pvt. Ltd.
19. CE3 Ventures Pvt. Ltd.
20. White Mastery Systems Pvt. Ltd.
21. Scermlind Healthcare Innovations Pvt. Ltd.

BEACON 7.0 Graduation & Onboarding PATHFINDER Trichy Regional Cohort

The iTNT Pavilion at UmapineTN 2026 also marked the graduation of BEACON (Pre-incubation) Cohort 7.0, celebrating 17 startups and researchers who successfully completed the four-week idea validation programme at the iTNT Trichy Regional Hub. The cohort demonstrated strong innovation potential across deep and emerging technology domains, progressing from early concepts to validated venture pathways.



BEACON Cohort 7 Graduates:

1. Rocket Factory India
2. CEASER Corp Private Limited
3. Kite Braining Institute
4. Mechinex Automation Private Limited
5. Mr. Akhil Ravindran, University College of Engineering, BIT Campus, Trichy
6. Lab 2 Market Private Limited
7. Hilife.AI Private Limited

8. P. Ramadevi, University College of Engineering, BIT Campus, Trichy
9. Sortyx Ventures Private Limited
10. Dr. Vaishnavi P, University College of Engineering, BIT Campus, Trichy
11. Resa Choose Your Cars Private Limited
12. Atom Spare
13. Prime Moto
14. Vast Brick
15. Pass Engineering
16. LandMarket
17. Vaanigar International Private Limited

Following the graduation, five startups from the cohort were onboarded into the PATHFINDER (Incubation) – Trichy Regional Cohort, enabling them to advance into structured incubation with continued mentorship, ecosystem access, and support for product development and market readiness.



Welcome Onboard

1. Hilife.AI Private Limited
2. Vaanigar International Private Limited
3. Prime Moto
4. Atom Spare
5. Pass Engineering

Onboarding Incubatees Niral Thiruvizha Hackathon 2.0 Winners

Nine winning teams from Niral Thiruvizha Hackathon 2.0, an initiative of Naan Mudhalvan, were onboarded into iTNT Hub's Incubation Programme. The onboarding reflects a continued focus on identifying and nurturing high-potential student-led innovations from across Tamil Nadu.

The teams, representing engineering colleges across the State, progressed through an exclusive BEACON idea of validation bootcamp, successfully graduating before advancing into structured incubation. These startups will receive mentorship, structured support, and ecosystem access, enabling them to translate hackathon outcomes into scalable, market-ready ventures.



Welcoming the Teams from:

1. Kamaraj College of Engineering & Technology
2. University College of Engineering Panruti
3. Imayam College of Engineering
4. St. Joseph's College of Engineering, OMR, Chennai
5. Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering
6. Rajalakshmi Engineering College
7. Erode Sengunthar Engineering College
8. Loyola ICAM College of Engineering and Technology
9. Kongu Engineering College

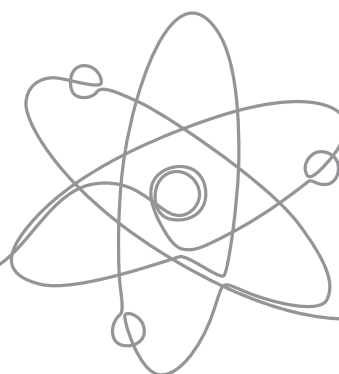
Onboarding Quantum Startups | Cohort 1.0



Onboarding the first cohort of nine quantum-focused startups and innovators into iTNT Hub's Quantum Startups Cohort 1.0 at UmagineTN 2026, marked an important milestone in nurturing next-generation quantum technologies and deep-tech innovation in Tamil Nadu.

Welcome Onboard:

1. WOLV (Individual Innovator)
2. AgriCPS
3. Christy Rajkumar (Individual Innovator)
4. Kottackal Business Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
5. Vijayaram (Individual Innovator)
6. Quantelle Private Limited
7. Nexus Innovators (Individual Innovator)
8. Dragorithm (Individual Innovator)
9. Dinesh Kumar (Individual Innovator)



iAccelerate 3.0 | Onboarding Investment Readiness Startups

22 innovative startups were onboarded into iAccelerate 3.0, an exclusive Investment Readiness cohort designed to support startups in scaling breakthrough solutions across deep and emerging technologies. The programme focuses on preparing founders for growth through structured mentorship, strategic guidance, and hands-on support from seasoned investors.

Through iAccelerate 3.0, participating startups will strengthen their investment readiness, refine market strategies, and advance toward sustainable scale with continued ecosystem engagement from iTNT Hub.



Welcome Onboard:

1. ACME India Medical Drones Pvt. Ltd.
2. Boja Medtech Pvt. Ltd.
3. BSWT Balaji Systems Pvt. Ltd.
4. Observelite Management Pvt. Ltd.
5. Spaceman Craft Pvt. Ltd.
6. Reude Technology Pvt. Ltd.
7. Trinav SpaceTech
8. Unmanned Tachyon Industries Pvt. Ltd.
9. Metafocuz AI Tech Pvt. Ltd.
10. Nodlehs AI 256 Pvt. Ltd.
11. TruConsent
12. Quotientica Pvt. Ltd.
13. Nura Innovations Pvt. Ltd.
14. BOA XR
15. Negha Green Lab LLP
16. Zaifi Business Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

17. University College of Engineering, Madurai
18. Botifyqa Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
19. VoxWave AI Pvt. Ltd.
20. Kenesis Labs Pvt. Ltd.
21. AnjX Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
22. Exo Mudra Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

Venture Studio 1.0 | Onboarding Startups



Six startups were onboarded into the first Venture Studio Cohort of iTNT Hub at UImagineTN 2026. This unique initiative is designed to collaborate closely with innovative founders, addressing complex national and industrial challenges through deep technology, long-term development, and institutional venture building. The Venture Studio provides structured support, strategic guidance, and access to iTNT Hub's ecosystem to enable startups to build scalable, impactful solutions with real-world relevance.

Welcome Onboard:

1. LAB2MARKET Engineering
2. Alphios Finergy
3. ReFAB
4. Sugora Infrastructure
5. Karotimam Innovations Private Limited
6. SiCrest Semiconductors

Product Launches by Hon'ble IT & DS Minister

iTNT Hub facilitated the launch of 12 innovative Deep and Emerging Tech startup products of the Hub's portfolio startups by Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology & Digital Services, at the iTNT Pavilion. The showcase featured 4 hardware

products and 8 software products, highlighting market-ready innovations from startups across Tamil Nadu and reflecting the growing maturity, diversity, and impact of the State's deep-tech ecosystem.

Voxwave AI Private Limited

VoxWave AI empowers small and mid-sized businesses to create professional websites through voice commands in local languages, offering an easy, AI-driven solution with plans to expand into actionable business insights.



Exomudra Technologies Private Limited

Exo Mudra, a next-generation Human-Machine Interface built on an innovative, low-cost wearable. The solution enables users to control smart devices through natural hand gestures without the need for external anchors or hardware.

AnjX Solutions Private Limited

AnjX Solutions uses AI and analytics to optimise supply chain planning by enhancing forecasting, streamlining production, balancing inventory, and enabling smarter decision-making for efficient operations.



Iniramsquare Private Limited

Admini, the product of Iniramsquare is an AI-powered platform that helps SMEs and startups automate administrative tasks, manage social media, and nurture leads, all through WhatsApp.

White AI Analytics Private Limited

FincorpX, a fin-tech AI product of White AI leverages AI to automate financial reporting, enhancing productivity, reducing manual work, and providing real-time insights to revolutionise accounting for businesses of all sizes.



Stratsyn AI Technology Services (Opc) Private Limited

Stratsyn AI Technology Services provides an AI SaaS platform offering data-driven strategic intelligence and customised solutions to enhance decision-making, efficiency, and competitiveness.

Tensorhub Technologies Private Limited

Tensorhub Technologies provides no-code builder for GenAI apps, agents, and pipelines with integrated tools and LLMs.



Cogno Valley Labs Private Limited

Cogno Valley Labs develops an AI-powered solution that tracks absconders and missing persons through CCTV footage, delivering real-time alerts with processing speeds up to 10x faster.

NeoRains Technologies Private Limited

NeoRains Technologies develops a no-code GenAI chatbots that learn from user data for contextual support and lead-gen.





Vreon Tech India Private Limited

EdXAR, a product of Vreon Tech is India's first AR/VR-powered XR platform delivering immersive, affordable NEET UG preparation through 3D experiences, multimedia content, and analytics for students and educators nationwide.

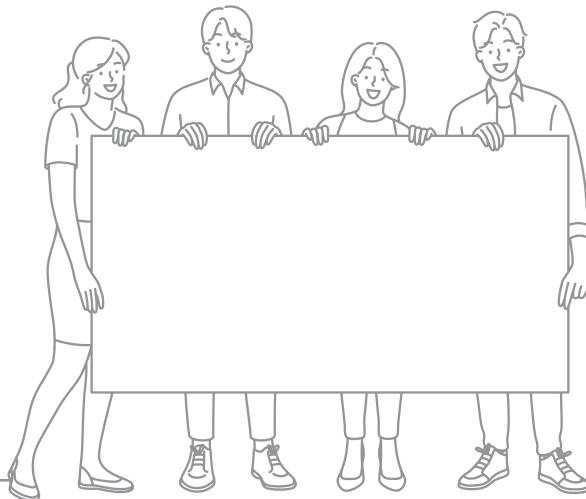
SenseLut Sri Nandha Infotech Private Limited

SENSELUTO, a product of SenseLut Sri Nandha Infotech is an in-situ soil health analyzer that delivers real-time nutrient and condition insights at the farm gate, empowering farmers with data-driven decisions.



Hilife.Ai Private Limited

HI-BIOMETRICS, a product of Hilife.Ai is an AI-driven dual-modal authentication system combining facial recognition and palm vein scanning for ultra-secure, contactless identity verification.



Minister Interacts with iTNT Hub Collaborating Colleges

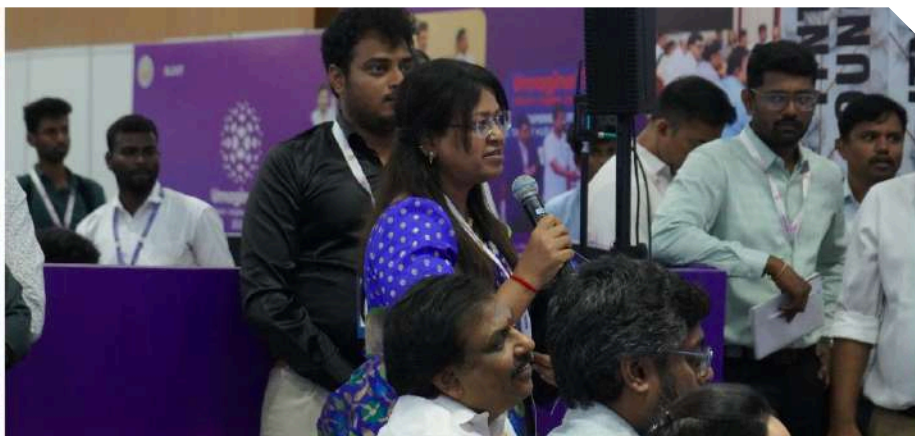


Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology & Digital Services, and Thiru. Brajendra Navnit, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, IT & DS Department interacted with heads of engineering colleges from Tier II & III cities before they were onboarded to the Joint Innovation Gateway for Synergistic Startup - Academic - Industry - Investor Work (JIGSAW) platform of iTNT Hub.

In this interaction at the iTNT Pavilion, the Hon'ble Minister highlighted the JIGSAW programme as a strategic initiative to optimise institutional

infrastructure by enabling startups with limited capital to access high-cost laboratories and testing facilities and welcomed its steady expansion with more colleges participating.

He cited the rise in registered startups from 2,000 to 12,000 over five years as evidence of the democratisation of entrepreneurship, alongside Tamil Nadu's strong participation of women in the formal economy. He also emphasised the need to prioritise deep foundational knowledge over short-term skill training in an era increasingly shaped by automation and AI.



MoUs to Onboard Researchers from 38 Academic Institutions

The interaction was followed by on boarding 38 engineering colleges from Tier II and Tier III cities of Tamil Nadu to the JIGSAW (Joint Innovation Gateway for Synergistic Startup–Academic–Industry–Investor Work) Innovation Platform, in the presence of the Hon’ble Minister.

JIGSAW platform launched by Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin, Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister, at UImagineTN 2024 has onboarded over 6,300 researchers from 172 MoU colleges. With the inclusion of the 38 new institutions,

JIGSAW collaborations have expanded to over 210 engineering colleges across the State.

The newly onboarded colleges hail from Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Dindigul, Erode, Karur, Namakkal, Salem, The Nilgiris, and Tiruppur, further advancing inclusive and regionally balanced innovation in Tamil Nadu. Thiru. Brajendra Navnit, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, IT & DS Department; Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO, iTNT Hub; and heads of participating educational institutions were present on the occasion.

Welcome Onboard



1. A.V.C. College of Engineering, Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam
2. A.R.J. College of Engineering and Technology, Mannargudi, Tiruvarur
3. Annai College of Engineering and Technology, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur
4. Arasu Engineering College, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur
5. As-Salam College of Engineering and Technology, Thanjavur
6. Jayaram College of Engineering and Technology, Thuraiyur, Trichy
7. K.S.K College of Engineering and Technology, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur
8. Mookambigai College of Engineering, Keerarur, Pudukottai
9. Mother Terasa College of Engineering and Technology, Illuppur, Pudukottai
10. National Institute of Technology, Trichy

11. Parisutham Institute of Technology and Science, Thanjavur
12. Ponnaiyah Ramajayam Institute of Science & Technology Thanjavur
13. Sir Issac Newton College of Engineering and Technology, Nagapattinam
14. TRP Engineering College, Trichy
15. CARE College of Engineering, Trichy
16. GTN College of Technology, Dindigul
17. Renganayagi Varatharaj College of Engineering, Virudhunagar
18. RVS College of Engineering, Dindigul
19. SSM Institute of Engineering and Technology, Dindigul
20. Velammal College of Engineering and Technology, Madurai
21. Al-Ameen Engineering College, Erode
22. Dr Mahalingam College of Engineering and Technology, Pollachi, Coimbatore
23. Dr. N.G.P. Institute of Technology, Coimbatore
24. Excel Engineering College, Komarapalayam, Namakkal
25. Info Institute of Engineering, Coimbatore
26. Jai Shriram Engineering College, Tiruppur
27. Jansons Institute of Technology, Karumathampatti, Coimbatore
28. Karpagam College of Engineering, Coimbatore
29. KGiSL Institute of Technology, Saravanampatti, Coimbatore
30. M. P. Nachimuthu M. Jaganathan Engineering College, Perundurai, Erode
31. Nandha Engineering College, Erode
32. Vivekanadha College of Engineering for Women, Tiruchengode, Namakkal
33. Kingston Engineering College, Katpadi, Vellore
34. St. Anne's College of Engineering and Technology, Cuddalore
35. Mahalakshmi Tech Campus (formerly Mahalakshmi Engineering College),
Chromepet, Chennai
36. Easwari Engineering College, Ramapuram, Chennai
37. S.B.M. College of Engineering and Technology, Dindigul
38. R.V.S. School of Engineering and Technology, Dindigul

Expert Insights

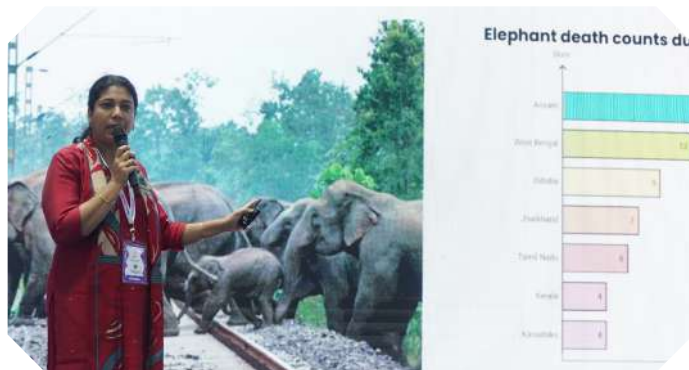
Designing for Scale: What Startups Must Get Right Early



Mr. Syed Mubasheer Ali, Director, D-ESPAAT Pvt. Ltd., led an insightful session on designing startups for scale, emphasising the importance of defining the right scope of work from the earliest stages. He highlighted that the startup journey has no fixed timeline and underscored the need to focus on strong fundamental – team, time, and tools – to build scalable and technically robust products. Stressing prototyping, sound product design methodologies, and technical readiness, he noted that early design choices play a decisive role in a startup's long-term success.

The session on Design for Manufacturing and Assembly (DFMA) reinforced that most product costs are locked in during the early design phase, making concept design far more critical than Computer-Aided Design (CAD) perfection. Comparing sequential and concurrent design approaches, concurrent design was emphasised for its ability to reduce rework, lower costs, and accelerate time to market. The importance of reducing part count was highlighted, as simpler designs significantly lower manufacturing complexity, time, and cost—creating a positive snowball effect as production scales.

Building the Public Innovation Ecosystem: Institutionalising Innovation through TANII Funding and CIG's Emerging Technology Initiatives



Tmt. Sudha Ramen, IFS, Member Secretary, State Planning Commission, highlighted how the State is institutionalising public innovation through strategic funding and the adoption of emerging technologies. She noted that Tamil Nadu continues to lead in governance-led innovation through initiatives that operate quietly yet effectively. The Tamil Nadu State Innovation Fund supports Government Departments in piloting new ideas.

She emphasised Startup-to-Government collaborations, driven through partnerships with departments like iTNT Hub to scale real-world governance solutions. Looking ahead, she outlined the State's focus on emerging technologies such as AR and VR for immersive safety governance, alongside priority areas including AI, quantum technologies, the low-altitude economy, blockchain for governance, and design thinking.

TANII Fund enables institutions such as iTNT Hub and initiatives like the Tamil Nadu Technology Transfer Facilitation Centre (TNTTFC) for Deep Tech Innovations at iTNT Hub.



Investor Perspective

What Investors See Across Portfolios that Founders Often Miss



Mr. Manu Iyer, General Partner, Bluehill Capital, delivered a thought-provoking session that unpacked the fundamental asymmetry between founders and investors. He explained that founders operate at high resolution, deeply focused on a single company, while investors operate at a lower resolution across multiple companies and portfolios. This broader view allows investors to spot patterns, variance, and recurring failure modes, often repetitive rather than novel, that individual founders may overlook.

Drawing from portfolio-level insights, he highlighted that the true edge in venture investing comes from understanding variance rather than relying on averages. He walked the founders through how investors assess progress, the metrics they track, and the signals that indicate sustainable growth beyond surface-level traction. He emphasized the importance of aligning internal startup metrics with investor expectations and encouraged founders to engage investors with sharper, data-driven questions, building stronger founder-investor relationships rooted in transparency, learning, and long-term alignment.

My Startup Journey



Mr. Cherukuru Sritharan, CEO & Co-founder, Blunav Technologies, shared his entrepreneurial journey that began in 2021 with a focus on developing digital solutions for Airport Operating Systems (AirportOS). The company's first flagship product, the Airside Movement and Compliance Monitoring System (AMCOMS), was designed to comprehensively monitor airside operations and significantly enhance operational efficiency and compliance.

Building on this foundation, Blunav Technologies is now advancing to the next stage of growth by developing a robust cloud-based architecture to scale its solutions. Reflecting on the company's evolution, Mr. Sritharan noted that Blunav has transitioned beyond the early startup phase and expressed gratitude to the Tamil Nadu Government for its support through development funding and opportunities that enabled the company's growth.



Fireside Chats

Building a robust Startup Ecosystem across Tamil Nadu



The session, moderated by Dr. Balachandran A, Director, Technology Business Incubator - VIT, featured Mr. Sivarajah Ramanathan, Mission Director and CEO, StartupTN. He highlighted the critical role of policy as the guiding blueprint for government action, noting that Tamil Nadu has a clear five-year roadmap and measures departmental efficiency by effective implementation. He emphasised the importance of collaboration among academia, investors, corporates, startups, and government departments to translate policy into impact.

He also showcased Tamil Nadu's leadership in decentralising the startup ecosystem, moving beyond metro cities through 11 innovation hubs, resulting in significant growth of startups from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. He further stressed the need to strengthen research-to-commercialisation pathways, noting that while academic research is improving, stronger industry and entrepreneurial linkages are essential to create market-ready solutions.

Highlighting the challenges in deep-tech innovation, he observed that both academia and investors often seek quick outcomes, whereas deep-tech requires time, patience, and a culture that accepts failure. To address this, the Tamil Nadu Government is launching a Deep Tech Policy.

TNeGA: From Focusing on Citizen-Centric Digital Governance to AI Adoption



The session focused on how the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) is strengthening citizen-centric digital governance while simultaneously driving the adoption of AI in public administration. Thiru. Srutanjay Narayanan, I.A.S., Joint Director of e-Governance and Joint Chief Executive Officer, TNeGA, in conversation with Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO, iTNT Hub, shared insights into Tamil Nadu's fully digitised governance ecosystem, where secretariats and government departments operate end-to-end on digital platforms. He highlighted impactful citizen-focused initiatives such as the "Namma Arasu" WhatsApp chatbot, which enables seamless payment of property tax, water tax, and other civic services across panchayats and municipalities.



Focusing on the next phase of digital transformation, he spoke about the Tamil Nadu AI Mission, under which TNeGA, ELCOT, and iTNT Hub are working together to enable meaningful government adoption of AI tools by opening real governance use cases to startups, researchers, and founders. He noted that the Government has allocated ₹8 crore for AI projects, with ELCOT supporting the funding, and encouraged innovators, particularly those working in EdTech, HealthTech, and productivity solutions, to submit proposals, emphasising TNeGA's intent to collaborate with 8-10 startups to build scalable, real-world AI solutions for public-sector challenges.

Who Owns Innovation in the Age of AI?

At a fireside chat moderated by Ms. Subathra Mysamy, Managing Partner, A.K. Mysamy and Associates, Mr. Balamurugan, Co-Founder, GUVI, shared insights into GUVI's journey, with a focus on risk mitigation and purpose-driven entrepreneurship. He spoke about the motivations and challenges behind starting GUVI, emphasising that startups driven solely by financial goals rarely sustain long-term success.



He highlighted GUVI's origins as a mission-led initiative to bridge gaps in hiring and tech learning through scalable skilling solutions, stressing that purpose and passion are critical for enduring impact. Reflecting on GUVI's early association with the IIT Madras ecosystem, he noted the importance of foundational support such as IP guidance and urged founders to responsibly adopt AI with strong compliance and data governance. He concluded by encouraging entrepreneurs to actively engage with the startup ecosystem like iTNT, drawing from GUVI's milestones and his own experience of building multiple ventures.

Panel Discussions

Unlocking Quantum Value for India



The panel discussion featuring Dr. N. Subramanian, Executive Director, SETS; Dr. Prabha Mandayam, Professor, IIT Madras; and Mr. Arjun Rao, Co-founder and Managing Partner, Speciale Invest, was moderated by Mr. Ravindra Barlingay, CEO, Samgnya Foundation. The session demystified key concepts in quantum technologies and highlighted their growing strategic and innovation value for India.

Dr. Subramanian traced India's quantum journey since 2019, driven by initiatives of the Department of Science and Technology such as the QUEST program and the National Quantum Mission (NQM). He outlined how the Mission focuses on four core technology verticals, quantum computing, quantum communication, quantum sensing and metrology, and quantum materials & devices, supported by strong R&D.



Dr. Prabha Mandayam emphasised the importance of building a strong quantum talent pipeline in India by removing the fear surrounding quantum science and recognising it as a truly interdisciplinary field. From an investment perspective, Mr. Arjun Rao noted that while India's quantum ecosystem is still at a nascent stage, it has accelerated significantly over the past five years. He stressed the importance of bridging the gap between academic research and real-world industry needs. The rapid increase in quantum startups and deal flow, he noted, is a strong indicator of a maturing and promising quantum ecosystem in India.

How Tamil Nadu Can Become the World's Advanced Manufacturing Capital



The panel discussion, moderated by Mr. Naved Narayan, Vice President, Bosch Global Software Technologies, explored Tamil Nadu's ambition to emerge as a global leader in advanced manufacturing through speed, innovation, and strong execution.

Mr. Piyush Dhawan, Advisory Partner and Investor, Krystal Venture Studio, highlighted Tamil Nadu's

long-standing strength in electronics manufacturing and noted that achieving the vision of a one-trillion-dollar economy will depend on clear intent, faster turnaround times, and disciplined execution. He also emphasised the need for closer collaboration between educational institutions, industries, and Government.

Focusing on sustainability and competitiveness, Mr. Ravichandran Purushothaman, President, Danfoss India, stressed the need to reimagine manufacturing for a rapidly changing world, where speed of execution and ecosystem collaboration are critical. He pointed to deep-tech and space technologies as major future opportunities.



Mr. M.S. Bharath, Founder and Managing Partner, KRIA Law, underscored the importance of strong R&D, robust patenting, and innovation-led growth to move up the global value chain. He highlighted Tamil Nadu's leadership in patent filings and called for more platforms to showcase and celebrate grassroots and garage-level innovations with global potential.

The panel collectively emphasised the role of iTNT Hub in strengthening IP awareness across districts, and connecting entrepreneurs, academia, investors, & Government to create a globally competitive advanced manufacturing ecosystem.



Masterclass: Quantum computing 101



Dr. Julian Rickert, Quantum Optical Scientist at XeedQ, delivered an in-depth masterclass on the fundamentals of quantum computing, highlighting its importance and real-world relevance. The session covered core concepts including qubit initialization, qubit readout mechanisms, and spin measurement using fluorescence detection observed through ODMR. He provided an overview of the XQ1 Quantum System, followed by live demonstrations showcasing its capabilities. Participants gained insights into backend qubit calibration and how developers can control qubits via APIs. The session concluded with a discussion on practical applications of quantum technology across industries, offering attendees a comprehensive introduction to the quantum computing landscape.

Industry Connect



The Industry Connect brought together industry leaders and startups for high-impact, curated mentoring engagements. Organised with the support of NASSCOM, the program enabled access to seasoned industry mentors and facilitated meaningful knowledge exchange.

Over two days, 6 industry mentors engaged with 12 startups across 18 one-on-one mentoring sessions, offering strategic, technical, and business guidance tailored to each startup's stage and challenges. The sessions covered key areas such as product strategy, technology architecture, compliance, go-to-market

planning, enterprise readiness, and scaling.

The response from both mentors and startups was overwhelmingly positive, reaffirming the effectiveness of the Industry Connect model and its role in strengthening collaboration within the iTNT innovation ecosystem

Highlights:

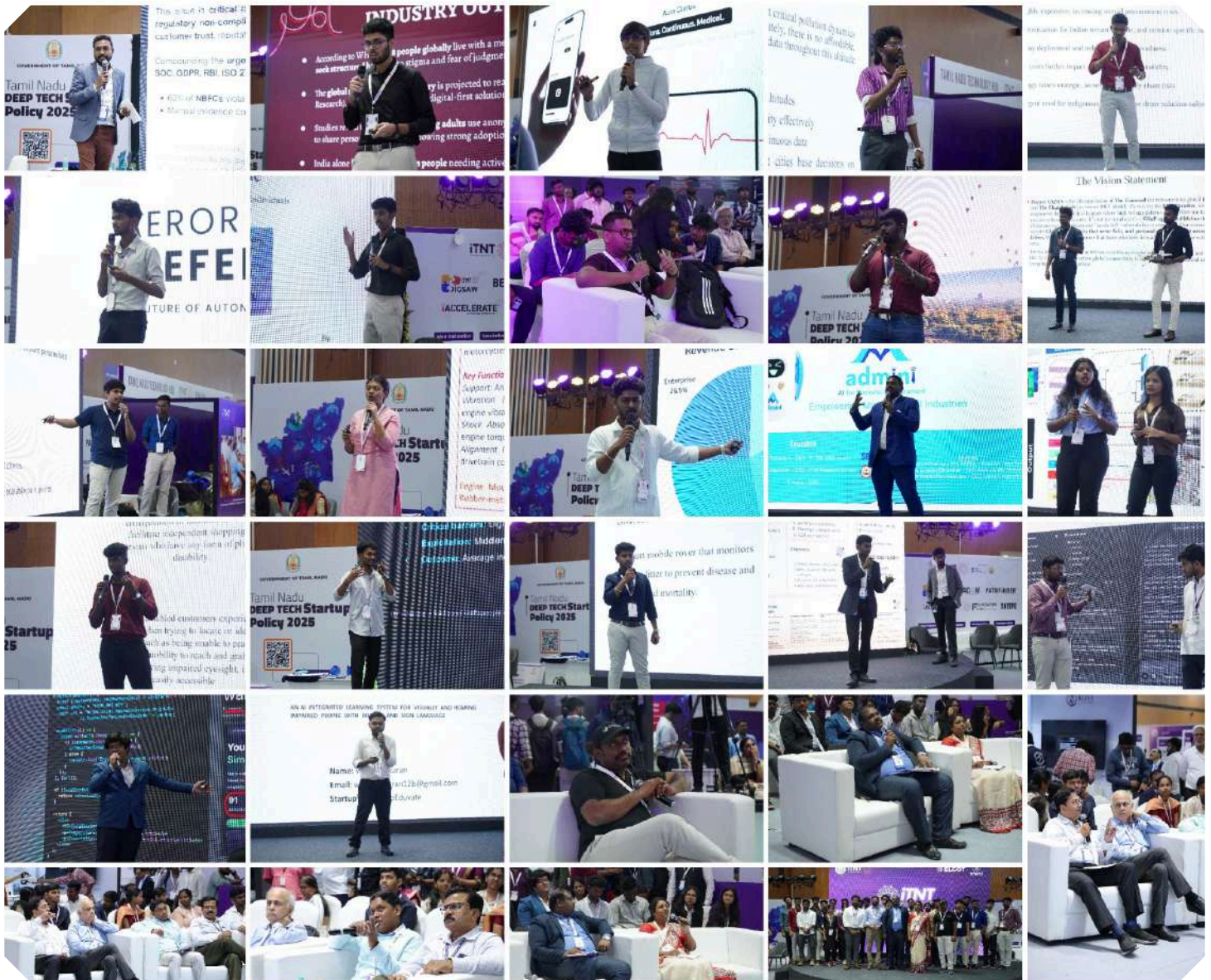
- High mentor and startup satisfaction
- Actionable, stage-appropriate guidance for startups
- Strong mentor curation enabled through NASSCOM
- Reinforced industry-startup collaboration

The Industry Mentors

Mr. Megavarnan, CEO, Eone Technologies; Mr. Aloysius Raj, Global IT Delivery Head, Ashley GCC; Mr. V. Chandrasekaran, Co-Founder and Chief Strategy Officer, Congruent Solutions; Mr. Deepak Kumar Balasubramanian - Vice President, Engineering,

Mr. Cooper India; Ms. Meenakshi Subramanian, Senior Principal Architect, Mr. Cooper India; and Mr. Naushath Raja Mohammed, AVP and Head of Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning CoE, Sutherland.

Student Pitches



The iTNT Pavilion at UImagineTN 2026 came alive with 19 student pitches, as young innovators and aspiring entrepreneurs presented cutting-edge solutions across a broad spectrum of deep and emerging technology domains.

The sessions featured ideas spanning Aerospace and Robotics, SpaceTech, DefenseTech and Drones, Manufacturing (Industry 4.0), Automotive & EV Mobility, alongside AI infrastructure, AI platforms, AR/VR, and HealthTech. Strong representation was also seen in

AgriTech, including aquaculture, poultry, and livestock, as well as solutions addressing Smart Mobility, Road Safety, Industrial and GovTech Safety, and UrbanTech.

The pitches were reviewed by an expert jury, who provided instant remarks, feedback, and practical guidelines, helping participants refine their ideas and align them with real-world requirements. The audience witnessed a diverse range of concepts demonstrating creativity, technical depth, and strong potential to deliver impactful, scalable solutions across sectors.

iTNT Pavilion Testimonials



Ms. Janaka Sudha

Associate Professor, Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering

We were given the opportunity to showcase our product at the iTNT Pavilion because of our project being developed at Niral Thiruvizha 2.0, where we were selected for the iTNT BEACON Cohort 6.0, a four-day programme. Through this, we gained the opportunity to present our product. We sincerely thank iTNT for providing us with this valuable opportunity.

Mr. Ganapathy Shankar

Founder & CEO, Tesorhub Technologies Private Limited

We are a deep-tech AI consulting firm, and this is our first time participating in this event. It has been a memorable experience, featuring engaging talk shows and insightful sessions. I sincerely thank iTNT Hub and the Government of Tamil Nadu for organising such a well-curated and impactful event.



Mr. Suriya

Co-founder, Tachyon Industries

We are building a Level 4 autonomous logistics vessel for the Indian and global markets, and we are pioneers in this sector. We have been part of iTNT Hub's iAccelerate Cohort 3, where we benefited from several interactive sessions that were highly valuable in strengthening our product development. Speaking about today's experience, it has been a great day with strong interest from visitors keen to learn more about our product. We sincerely thank iTNT Hub for their continued support.

Mr. C.K. Prajein

Co-founder, Kenesis

We had a truly great experience at UimageTN 2026. We engaged in valuable conversations with students, faculty members, industry experts, HNIs, and investors who visited our stall at the iTNT Pavilion. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase what we have built so far and share how we are taking it forward. Our journey with iTNT Hub is really great so far. We deeply appreciate the efforts being taken to position Tamil Nadu as a leading ecosystem for deep-tech startups to grow and thrive. We truly thank the Government of Tamil Nadu and iTNT Hub for this opportunity.



IT&DS

Minister's Diary

The overwhelmingly successful UmaphineTN 2026 – the 4th edition of the annual flagship event of the Information Technology & Digital Services Department – was the highlight of the landmark initiatives, projects and events as part of the

action-packed first month of 2026 and December 2025 for Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology & Digital Services. Here is a glimpse of some of the key events in the Minister's Diary.

UmaphineTN 2026



Thiru. M.K. Stalin, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, inaugurated UmaphineTN 2026, the 4th annual edition of India's premier technology and innovation summit, Tamil Nadu's flagship technology conference organised by the IT&DS Department, at the Chennai Trade Centre on January 8 & 9, 2026. Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan expressed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister for inaugurating UmaphineTN for the third consecutive year, and for his constant encouragement and leadership and for his vision of inclusive, equitable, and technology-led development continues to inspire platforms like UmaphineTN.

A salient feature of the flagship event was the Hon'ble Chief Minister launching the Tamil Nadu Deep Tech

Startup Policy 2025-26 – penned by iTNT Hub. The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin presided over the valedictory session, presenting awards, witnessing the signing of key MoUs, and extending support to startups.

The 4th edition marks a key milestone in Tamil Nadu's technology journey, firmly establishing Chennai on the global calendar of annual technology conferences. UmaphineTN 2026 brought together innovators, entrepreneurs, students, and global thought leaders across AI, deep tech, creative technologies, digital governance, and the data economy to explore how technology can drive inclusive growth, innovation, and societal progress.

Hon'ble Minister inaugurates iTNT Pavilion



At UmagineTN 2026, the Hon'ble Minister inaugurated the iTNT Pavilion, which showcased the strength and diversity of Tamil Nadu's Deep Tech innovation ecosystem. The pavilion – packed with a series of thought-provoking sessions, launch of initiatives and innovative products – also exposed 63 Deep Tech and Emerging Tech startups to stakeholders.

The Hon'ble Minister moderated a session on "Ethics, Empathy and AI: Can Technology Stay Human?" The discussion anchored in the film 'Humans in the Loop', which offered a powerful lens into how artificial intelligence is shaped by human choices, labour, and values.



Drawing from the themes explored in the film, the discussion with Sarabhi Ravi Chandran (Creative Producer, Story Culture), VG Shri Rajini Priya (VP & Global HR Head, iMerit Technology), and Anil Arjun (Director & CEO, Story Culture) examined the often-invisible human labour behind AI systems, the risks of bias and exclusion, and the critical role of indigenous knowledge, lived experience, and ethical judgment in technology design.

One message stood out clearly: AI must augment human intelligence, not erase human diversity. The future of AI depends on ensuring that innovation remains accountable, inclusive, and grounded in empathy.

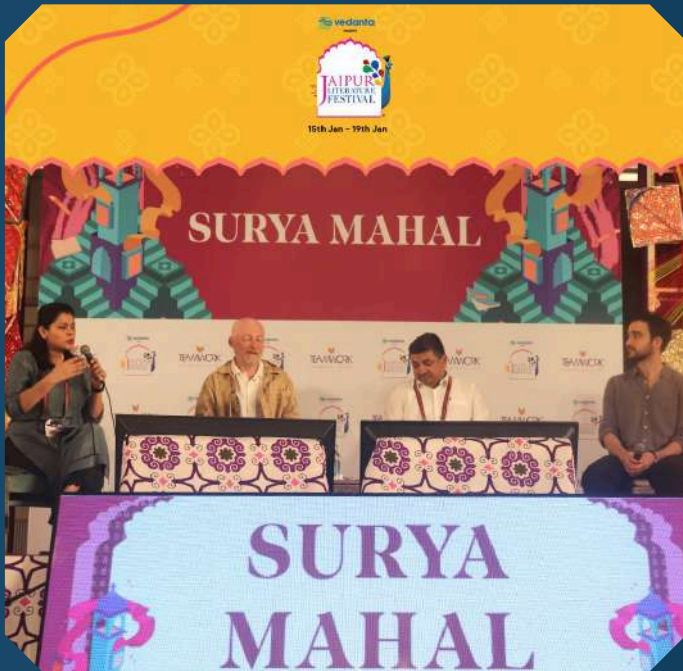
Alanganallur Jallikattu



Thiru. M.K. Stalin, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, witnessed the Jallikattu at the world-famous Alanganallur in Madurai district on the occasion of Pongal and gave away prizes to the winning tamers and bull owners. Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Hon'ble Minister for IT&DS; Thiru. K.N. Nehru, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration; Thiru. K.K.S.S.R.

Ramachandran, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management; Thiru. Thangam Thennarasu, Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Environment Climate Change; Thiru. R.S. Rajakannappan, Honourable Minister for Forests and Khadi; and Thiru. P. Moorthy, Hon'ble Minister for Commercial Taxes and Registration; were present on the occasion.

Jaipur Literature Festival 2026



At the Jaipur Literature Festival 2026, the Hon'ble Minister was part of a rich conversation on "Accelerations: Days of Future Past" with Ali Eslami, Distinguished Research Scientist at Google DeepMind, a pioneer of Google Search AI Mode and co-lead of the Gemini Prototyping team, and Marcus du Sautoy, Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science at the University of Oxford and an acclaimed author on mathematics, creativity, and artificial intelligence.

The session was thoughtfully moderated by Meru Gokhale, editor, publisher, and cultural curator. We explored how accelerating forces, particularly AI and emerging technologies, are reshaping society, culture, and human agency, and why governance, ethics, and values must keep pace with speed and scale.

BIZFEST Expo & Conclave



The Hon'ble Minister addressed the BIZFEST Expo & Conclave, jointly organised by the Rajasthan Association of Tamil Nadu (RAJAT), Maheshwari Sabha, and the Agratrade Association, bringing together enterprise leaders and community institutions on a shared platform.

He highlighted how the spirit of openness and inclusion has strengthened Tamil Nadu's economic and social fabric, enabling collaboration, enterprise, and trust to flourish across generations, while allowing communities to contribute meaningfully to growth without losing their distinct identities.



BIZFEST Expo & Conclave



Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan inaugurated the Business Summit of the UEF Trade Summit 2025, aligning with the theme “4 TN for TN – Aspire, Inspire, Impact.” He spoke on Tamil Nadu’s journey towards becoming a US\$ 4 trillion economy by 2047, an ambitious yet achievable goal. The State has recorded 11.19% real growth in recent years and demonstrated strong, sustained performance even during the global financial crisis.

He emphasised Tamil Nadu’s enduring strengths, including decades of investment in education and social inclusion, a skilled and adaptable workforce, and the State’s readiness to seize emerging global opportunities, particularly in electronics manufacturing, digital technologies, and the AI-driven economy. As the global economic landscape undergoes structural change, Tamil Nadu is well positioned to lead, driven by talent, foresight, and an inclusive development model that converts aspiration into measurable impact.

TN Rising Investors Conference in Madurai



In the presence of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin and Minister for IT&DS Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, 91 MoUs were exchanged at the TN Rising investors Conference in Madurai to draw investments to the tune of Rs. 36,660.35 crore, providing employment to 56,766 people. The Hon’ble Chief Minister also released the Madurai Master Plan 2044 prepared by the Directorate of Town and Country Planning and laid the foundation stone for the SIPCOT Industrial Park to be set up on 278.76 acres at Melur in Madurai.

Thiru. M.K. Stalin also inaugurated 63 projects completed at an outlay of Rs. 2,630.88 crore and distributed welfare assistance to 1.77 lakh beneficiaries under various Government schemes. The Hon’ble Minister for Industries Dr. T.R.B. Rajaa; Hon’ble Minister for Commercial Taxes and Registration Thiru. P. Moorthy; and Madurai MP Thiru. Su. Venkatesan were among those present on the occasions.

16th Global Summit of RISE



Delivering the valedictory address at the 16th Global Summit of RISE, Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan spoke on the growing importance of networks like RISE in a fragmenting world, the transformative impact of artificial intelligence on work and institutions, and the evolving relationship between Tamil Nadu and the global Tamil community—sustained not merely by sentiment, but by shared responsibility, contribution, and purpose across geographies. He was honoured with the “Intellectual Pride of Tamils” award. The Hon’ble Minister also presented awards to leaders of educational institutions for their contributions to learning and institutional development.

Horasis India Meeting 2025 in Singapore



At the Horasis India Meeting 2025 in Singapore, Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan took part in a fireside chat on “Tamil Nadu’s Digital Leap: Powering India’s Global Growth Story” with Mr. Atul Temurnikar, Co-Founder and Executive Chairman of the Global Schools Group, and also addressed a session celebrating the depth and promise of Singapore-India relations. It was co-hosted by the Global Schools Group and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

The Minister spoke about how Tamil Nadu’s leadership in electronics manufacturing and exports, anchored in long-standing global partnerships, women-led manufacturing, and strong workforce retention, is driving India’s export growth. The conversation also highlighted the State’s strengths in STEM talent, startup expansion, and innovation-led manufacturing, alongside a strong focus on responsible digitalisation, transparent governance, and citizen-centric service delivery.

He also further emphasised the need to prepare for the AI era through education reform, entrepreneurship, and upskilling, and the importance of deepening India-Singapore collaboration across technology, investment, and talent development.



Femina Achievers 2025 – South Awards



At the Femina Achievers 2025 – South awards, the Hon’ble Minister shared his thoughts on how the Dravidian movement, from its origins, placed women’s empowerment at the heart of social reform, and how the present Tamil Nadu Government continues this legacy through concrete measures that expand access to education, mobility, and employment.

He emphasised the importance of women’s participation in the workforce. Tamil Nadu’s strong economic performance is closely linked to the significant presence of women in manufacturing sectors such as electronics, textiles, and footwear, and to sustained efforts to help more women enter and remain in productive employment, he added. The Minister gave away awards to women achievements across diverse fields.

14th Men's Junior World Cup Hockey



Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan kick-started the match between Bangladesh and Korea at the newly inaugurated Madurai International Hockey Stadium, as part of the 14th Men’s Junior World Cup Hockey Series held in Chennai and Madurai.

What's Brewing at iTNT Hub

Masterclass: Value Proposition & Effectuation Principles



The Masterclass on Value Proposition & Effectuation Principles, led by Mr. A.J. Balasubramanian (AJB), Lead – Indian Operations, Aigilx Health Technologies Pvt. Ltd., held on 22nd January 2026 at the iTNT Hub, Chennai, offered our portfolio startups practical, experience-driven insights into building strong value propositions and navigating uncertainty using effectuation thinking.

The session highlighted that startups should begin with what they already have, test ideas early, and focus on survival before aiming for big breakthroughs. Founders learned that a strong value proposition comes from clearly understanding the real problems customers want solved, rather than just building features. The discussion emphasised that customer value is not only about price but also about ease of use, experience, trust, and reliability.

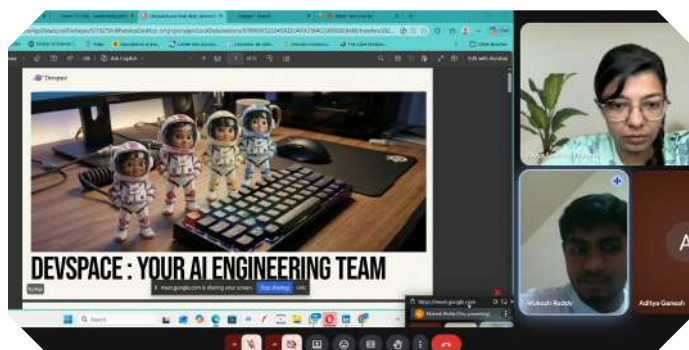
The session also explained that pricing should be based on the value customers perceive; startups that deliver higher value can command better pricing while keeping customer acquisition costs under control. Through effectuation principles, participants were encouraged to act fast, learn directly from customers, build partnerships, and continuously improve instead of waiting for perfection.

Pitch Clinic for iAccelerate Investment Readiness Cohort Startups



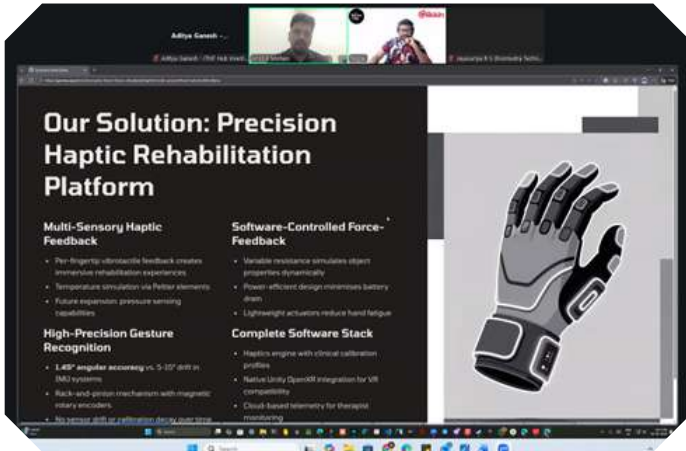
iTNT Hub hosted an exclusive Pitch Clinic for startups from iAccelerate 3.0 – Investment Readiness Cohort – at the iTNT Hub in Chennai on 17th December 2025. The session led by Ms. Divya Sanchana Anand, Pitch Expert and member of the Founding Team at Frontrunner, focused on strengthening startups' pitch readiness for investor engagements.

The Pitch Clinic was designed as a hands-on, capacity-building interaction, supporting iAccelerate Cohort 3 startups in their journey towards effective fundraising and market readiness. Startups presented their pitch decks, receiving structured feedback on problem statements, solution clarity, narrative flow, and fund ask articulation. The session enabled founders to refine their pitches with sharper positioning and stronger alignment to investor expectations.

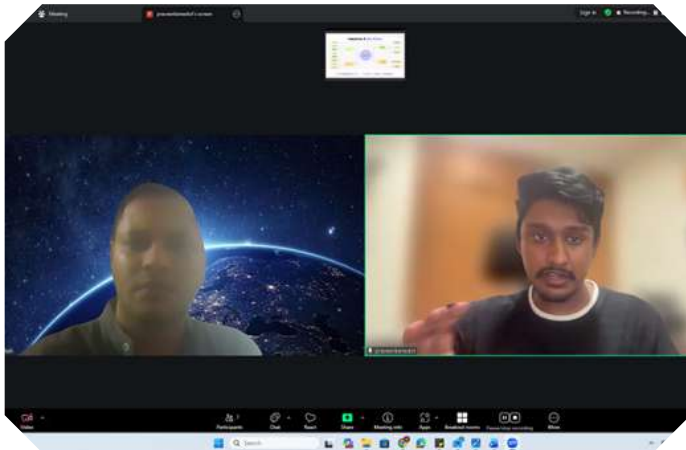


As a follow-up to the in-person pitch clinic, a 1:1 online pitch session was conducted on 29th January 2026 for the iAccelerate 3.0 startups.

Pitch Refinement Session from an Investor's Perspective

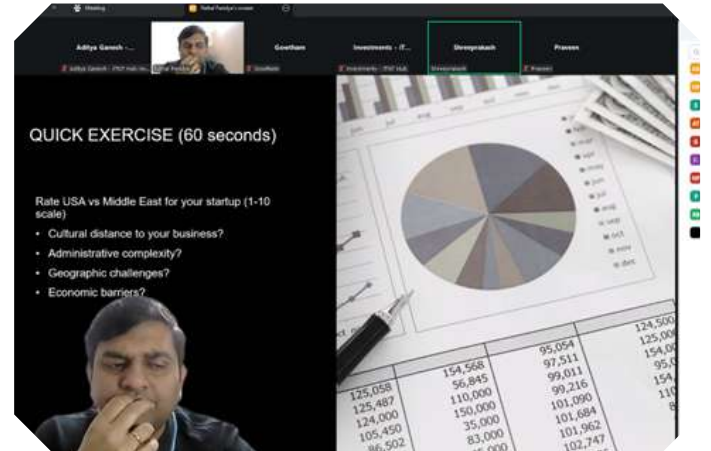


As part of the iAccelerate Investment Readiness programme, a 1:1 online Pitch Refinement Session was conducted between Mr. Anoop Mohan, Investor at Bluehill VC. In another session, Mr. Hardik, Investor, Growthology was engaged with startups.

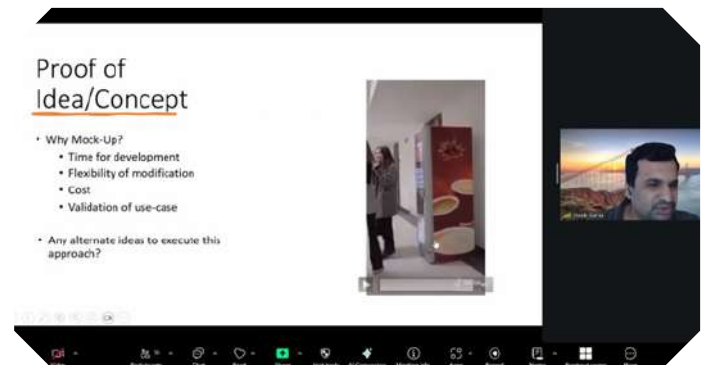


These sessions were focused on refining the startup's pitch narrative, with targeted feedback on problem-solution articulation, market positioning, and fund ask clarity, aligned with investor expectations.

Exclusive iAccelerate Virtual Masterclasses



Session on "Product Strategy and Roadmap" by Vivek Sarda, Design Consultant.



Session on "Go To Market Strategy" by Nehal Pandya, NASSCOM.



Events in January

Global Women Summit 2026

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin interacted with Deep Tech and Emerging Tech women entrepreneurs and innovators supported by iTNT Hub at 'The Global Women Summit 2026 – She Leads' organised by the Tamil Nadu Women Employment and Safety (WESAFE) Project at the Chennai Trade Centre on January 27 & 28.

Thiru. T.M. Anbarasan, Hon'ble Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; and Tmt. Geetha Jeevan, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare & Women Empowerment; were among those present when the Hon'ble Chief Minister visited startups at the iTNT Pavilion on January 27, 2026.



Startups showcased by iTNT Hub at the Global Women Summit:

1. Spacetug Pvt Ltd
2. Aristoverse Deeptech Pvt Ltd
3. Nolsa Ventures Pvt Ltd
4. IBT Aura Pvt Ltd
5. Oliveiot Innovations Pvt Ltd
6. Diagno Intelligent Systems Pvt Ltd

Panel Discussion



Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO, iTNT, moderated a panel discussion on Bridging Talent, Diversity & Technology: Scaling Women's Participation in India's Tech Boom. The discussion had active participation from panellists Dr. G.K. Priya, Global Operations, Transformation and COE Leader, NielsenIQ; Thiru. Kranti Kumar Patil, I.A.S., Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC); Dr. Andal Krishnan, Managing Director, Crest Excellence Centre, Malaysia; Thiru. Ravi Viswanath, Vice President, Amazon; and Ms. Priya Naik, Samhita Collective Good Foundation.

The panel explored policy frameworks, global best practices, workplace culture, leadership skills, and

catalytic philanthropy, with a strong focus on enabling women's participation in India's fast-growing technology and deep-tech sectors. Panellists highlighted the need for policy support, institutional collaboration, and inclusive workplace practices, with emphasis on rural outreach, decentralised work models, and reducing outward migration. Drawing on international perspectives, the session underscored the importance of leadership soft skills in an AI-driven economy, sponsorship-led career progression, and the catalytic use of CSR to support women's transition into deep-tech domains, while highlighting how Deep Tech policy mechanisms can enable women-led startups to scale through testbeds, pilots, and early adoption pathways.

iTNT Hub at India Global Education Summit 2026



The Tamil Nadu Government in association with the National Indian Students and Alumni Union – UK (NISAU) and with the support of Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO) hosted the India Global Education Summit (IGES) on 28th & 29th January 2026. The summit brought together policymakers, global education leaders, universities, investors, industry stakeholders, and international delegations from 20 countries.

iTNT Hub participated in the India Global Education Summit 2026, showcasing four startups that were testimony to Tamil Nadu's growing innovation ecosystem in the emerging tech domains.

Startups showcased:

1. Zaifi Business Solutions Pvt Ltd - AI
2. Tutelr Infosec Pvt Ltd - Cyber Security
3. Tospace Pvt Ltd - Aerospace
4. dVerse Technologies Pvt Ltd - Assistive Technology

As part of the summit, a panel discussion on “Women in Leadership” was moderated by Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO, iTNT Hub. The discussion explored how women attain, sustain, and reshape leadership roles, while examining the structural, cultural, and systemic barriers that continue to limit women's leadership across sectors. The session highlighted actionable strategies for building inclusive and sustainable leadership pathways, drawing insights from diverse domains.

The Panellists who were part of the discussion were Ms. Aditi Chauhan – Former Goalkeeper, Indian Women's Football Team; Prof. Julie Hall – Vice Chancellor, London Metropolitan University; Mr. Selvam Dharanidharan – Co-Founder, Oxford Policy Advisory Group; Ms. Silai Zaki – Australian Consul-General; Ms. Kavitha Muralidharan – Independent Journalist; and Ms. Merlia Shaukath – Founder & CEO, Madhi Foundation.

At Our Regional Hubs

Mentor Meet @ iTNT Trichy Hub



A One-to-One Mentor Meet was conducted at the iTNT Trichy Regional Hub on 29 January 2026, offering personalised mentoring support to startup founders and researchers.

The session featured Mr. Kiran Kumar T. V., Founder, Dorustree Private Limited, and Ms. Anudha Poonamalle, Managing Director, eSales Technologies, who provided strategic insights tailored to individual needs. Discussions focused on startup growth strategies, business models, and pathways for translating research into market-ready solutions.

The meet saw active participation from startup founders and researchers, enabling focused interactions and meaningful guidance.

IP Awareness Program @ Coimbatore Region



An Online Awareness Program on IP Management Strategies for Startups & Entrepreneurs was conducted for the Coimbatore region on 29th January 2026, offering practical insights into intellectual property management for startups, researchers, and students.

The session covered key forms of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), including patents, designs, trademarks, and copyrights, highlighting their scope, duration, benefits, and protection strategies. Participants were also introduced to IP licensing pathways and commercialization opportunities, helping them understand how to translate innovation into value.

The program witnessed strong participation from 123 attendees, comprising 3 startups, 15 faculty members, and 105 students, reflecting growing interest in IP awareness across the ecosystem.



Celebrating

Xwall.io



Xwall.io Partners with Greater Chennai Traffic Police for City-wide Phygital Traffic Awareness Program

Xwall.io, a pioneer in Phygital (Physical + Digital) experiential learning, is proud to announce the official delivery of its latest innovation, Xwall Portable, to the Greater Chennai Traffic Police (GCTP). This marks the launch of a city-wide traffic awareness program designed to educate school students and communities through immersive, movement-based technology.

Founded by Arun Prasath S (CEO) & Sankar K (CTO) – a leadership team of immersive tech veterans with over 15+ years of experience in AR/VR and product innovation – Xwall.io is dedicated to solving the crisis of physical inactivity and passive learning. Through proprietary phygital consoles Xwall transforms any environment into a space where people move, think, and participate.

The collaboration with GCTP was facilitated by the Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) Hub through the Startup 2 Government (S2G) initiative for the Hub's portfolio startups with heads of various government departments. This was followed by pitches by the startup with senior GCTP officers, which led to the creation of Xwall Portable and delivery of 2 units.

To meet the needs of a city-wide mobile initiative, Xwall built Portable – a specialized product line built for sports, events, and entertainment. This Plug & Play

product can run anywhere and anytime, converting any wall into an interactive, gamified space where students absorb life-saving rules through movement and play.

In these two units, gamified Questions and Answers will be uploaded by the police in English and Tamil for the participants to choose from. We have provided a customisable dashboard to the GCTP and trained more than 25 police officers to upload the traffic awareness games,” Arun Prasath said and is hopeful that the units will soon be put to use.

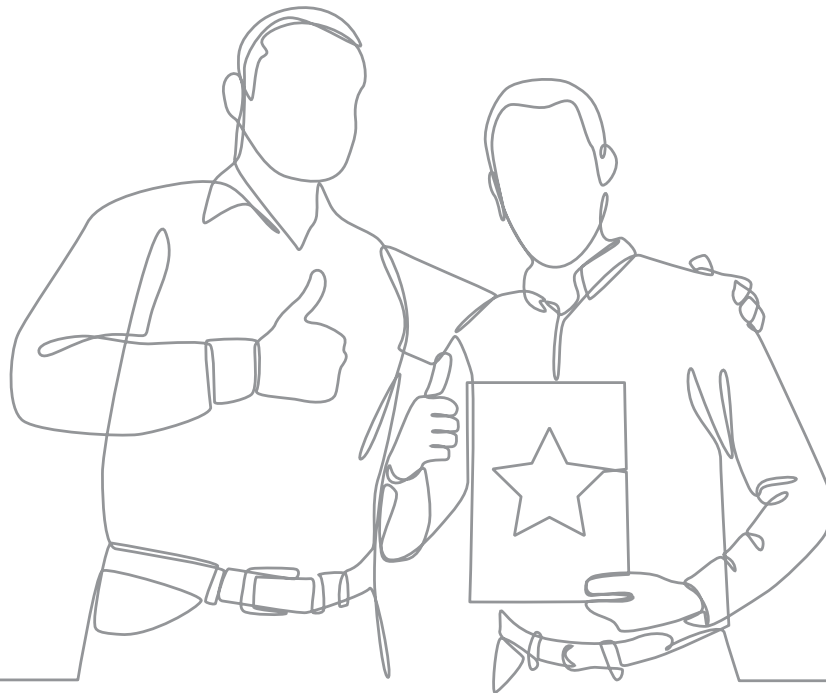
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Featuring a proprietary OS with over 100+ skill-based games, its AI-powered features ensure verifiable engagement and skill development. The GCTP will now take traffic awareness directly into Chennai's schools and communities, turning traditional road safety lessons into interactive experiences that students genuinely enjoy, transforming passive consumption into active participation.

"This project is special—not just for Xwall, but for the impact it creates in shaping the future of public safety," said Arun Prasath S, CEO & Co-founder of Xwall.io. "We are incredibly grateful to the entire iTNT Hub team and its CEO Ms. Vanitha Venugopal for facilitating this vital Government connection and providing us the opportunity to execute this prestigious project," he added.

In addition to S2G, iTNT Hub is elated to have supported Xwall.io – our PATHFINDER incubation startup – through:

- 3D Printing for prototyping & HTC XR Elite headset for testing
- Showcasing at GITEX, leading Expos and branding support
- TNSDSS - Startup Cloud Credits through ELCOT
- Investor Connects and curated masterclass



Celebrating

ATIUM Sports



Hon'ble Deputy CM Launches Statewide Athlete Management System
A first-of-its-kind State-level initiative in the Country

The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin, launched a comprehensive Performance Intelligence Platform (Athlete Management System - AMS) developed by SCREMLIND Healthcare Pvt. Ltd. (branded as ATIUM Sports), a Tamil Nadu-based sports technology startup, marking a historic milestone in Indian sports administration.

The AMS – launched at the inaugural ceremony of TASCON 2.0 on 16th December 2025 – it is implemented by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT). This makes Tamil Nadu the first state in the country to implement an Athlete Management System across the entire State, setting a new benchmark for technology-driven sports governance.

Founded by Murugesh Kumar S.K. – Founder & CEO and Neelkanth Raju R. – Co-founder & CTO, ATIUM Sports provides a centralized digital ecosystem integrating athletes, coaches, sports scientists, support staffs, and the leadership team. The platform captures and consolidates athlete profiles, performance metrics, training schedules, competition results, injury and medical records, enabling a unified and transparent view of the state's sports ecosystem.

A key focus of the platform is simplifying sports science for on-ground implementation. Complex performance metrics and assessments are translated into clear dashboards, actionable insights, and intuitive workflows, enabling coaches, administrators, and support staff to apply sports science principles

effectively without requiring advanced technical expertise.

By leveraging data-driven insights, the AMS enables personalized training programs, evidence-based talent identification, objective performance evaluation, efficient resource allocation, and transparent selection processes. The system supports athlete development at every stage—from grassroots identification to elite performance pathways—while strengthening administrative efficiency and accountability.

Built with robust security standards and role-based access controls, ATIUM Sports ensures secure data management while enabling seamless collaboration among all stakeholders. "This implementation positions Tamil Nadu at the forefront of sports science integration and digital sports administration in India, reinforcing the state's long-term vision of building a structured, scalable, and performance-driven sports ecosystem," Murugesh said.

iTNT Hub Support

ATIUM Sports is proudly an iTNT Hub iAccelerate acceleration portfolio startup. "iTNT Hub has provided us with a dedicated workspace within their innovation hub. The iTNT team has been instrumental in facilitating Government interactions, helping us connect with relevant departments and seamlessly scheduling key meetings that support our growth and collaboration efforts," the founder added.

Celebrating

Scrapify Ecotech Private Limited



A Top 100 Indian Startup to Watch Out For in 2025

iTNT Hub is delighted to share that Scrapify Ecotech Private Limited – our PATHFINDER incubation portfolio startup – has been featured in the December 2025 Edition of the Forbes India Magazine under the column “Top 100 Startups to Watch Out For in 2025.” This recognition is part of the Leap to Unicorn – IDFC FIRST Bank’s flagship program designed to empower startups shaping India’s future, in partnership with Moneycontrol and CNBC-TV18.

This 3rd edition of Leap to Unicorn saw a total of 6,300 applications from startups across India, from which 600 promising ventures were selected to participate in a focussed, high impact bootcamp designed to sharpen their edge and prepare them for the road ahead. Guided by leading experts and mentors, these founders strengthened their strategic thinking, refined their business models and elevated their investor readiness for the journey ahead.

After an intense evaluation process, 100 standout startups emerged – each one pushing boundaries and building for scale in India’s ever-evolving startup

ecosystem. Together, they represent the energy, ingenuity and ambition that define the next chapter of India’s growth story.

On this achievement, Mr. Azhagu Pandia Raja M.P., Founder & CEO of Scrapify, said that it wouldn’t have been possible without the untiring efforts of the entire Scrapify team, whose commitment and passion continue to drive our mission forward. He extended his heartfelt thanks to iTNT Hub, advisors and other ecosystem partners for their constant guidance, trust, and support.

“Grateful for the journey so far—and excited for what lies ahead,” Azhagu Pandia Raja adds.

iTNT Hub is proud to have supported Scrapify with:

1. 3D printing lab for prototyping
2. Government connects to take the product forward
3. Rs. 15 Lakh Seed Fund through FOUNDATION Fund
4. TNSDSS Startup Cloud Credits through ELCOT
5. Investor connections & Mentor connects
6. Expo participation and showcase

Deep Tech Insights

Tamil Nadu unveils India's 1st Deep Tech Startup Policy at UImagineTN 2026

To strengthen its innovation-led growth agenda, the Tamil Nadu government has unveiled India's first dedicated Deep Tech Policy. The policy aims to position the State as the country's premier deep tech hub by fostering advanced innovation, driving industrial growth, and empowering Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, while building a robust ecosystem for deep and emerging technologies to accelerate Tamil Nadu's journey towards a \$1 trillion economy.



Scan to read the full article

Government Announces Relaxation for Deep-Tech Startups for DSIR recognition, Strengthens India's R&D and Innovation Ecosystem

A major relaxation of the mandatory three-year existence condition for Deep Tech startups to avail recognition under DSIRs Industrial Research and Development Promotion Program has been announced. The move aimed at accelerating India's Startup ecosystem, is expected to provide early momentum to early starters or beginners of Startup projects as well as promising innovators and entrepreneurs.



Scan to read the full article

Centre mulls Broader Startup Definition to push AI, Deep Tech Innovation

The central government is considering expanding the definition of a start-up to encourage innovation beyond app-based models, with discussions underway to include emerging areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), deep technology and advanced manufacturing. The objective is to push more companies towards research-led innovation and highimpact technologies, while ensuring that India's start-up ecosystem is not limited to digital platforms and service-based models.



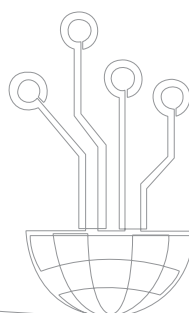
Scan to read the full article

MIT Engineers Design Structures that Compute with Heat

MIT researchers have designed silicon structures that can perform calculations in an electronic device using excess heat instead of electricity. These tiny structures could someday enable more energy-efficient computation. By leveraging excess heat instead of electricity, microscopic silicon structures could enable more energy-efficient thermal sensing and signal processing.




Scan to read the full article





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 <p>Aristoverse Deep-Tech</p> <p>Positions Vacant: 5</p> <p>Role: Business development (Intern)</p> <p>Work Mode: On-site</p> <p>Stipend: Based on performance</p> <p>Mobile number: +91 9894595035</p> <p>Email ID: Support@Aristoverse.org</p> <p>Apply Soon</p>	 <p>REUDE Technologies</p> <p>Positions Vacant: 2</p> <p>Role: Business development (Intern)</p> <p>Work Mode: Hybrid</p> <p>Stipend: No stipend</p> <p>Mobile number: +91 6384667822</p> <p>Email ID: hr@reude.tech</p> <p>Apply Soon</p>	 <p>BOAXR</p> <p>Positions Vacant: 2</p> <p>Education: XR/Unity R&D (Interns)</p> <p>Work Mode: On-site</p> <p>Stipend: No stipend</p> <p>Mobile number: +91 8015115626</p> <p>Email ID: susanna@boaxr.com</p> <p>Apply Soon</p>



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Emerging and Deep Tech startups in Tamil Nadu can now publish job openings **(both Technical & Non-Technical)** in the iTNT Hub's 'Deep Dive' e-newsletter **free of cost.**


FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT

Mr. Daniel @ 91766 08820

office@tnthub.org

Submit the required details by **FEBRUARY 20, 2026**

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Events on the Radar





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Coimbatore Cohort Awareness Program

Calling Deep & Emerging Tech

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Business Exploration & Acceleration Creation of New ventures (**BEACON**) is an intensive bootcamp designed to validate, refine & launch early-stage startups

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Kallakurichi and Karur

Business Exploration & Acceleration Creation of New ventures (**BEACON**) is an intensive bootcamp designed to validate, refine & launch early-stage startups

06th Feb 2026
12:00 PM

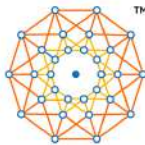
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Events on the Radar

iTNT
TAMILNADU TECHNOLOGY HUB



Post-Quantum Cryptography

Security Implications & Transition Challenges

FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Join us for a session focused on responsible innovation, applied research, and venture translation in the quantum era by

DR. K. K. SOUNDRA PANDIAN,
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/SCIENTIST - E,
MEITY



Who Can Attend Startup Founders | Faculty Members | Researchers

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Security implications of quantum computing on existing cryptographic systems
- Implications for research, innovation, and emerging technology ventures
- Transition challenges and readiness pathways for post-quantum cryptography
- Perspectives for academia, startups, and future digital infrastructure



03
FEB 2026



03:00 -
04:30 PM

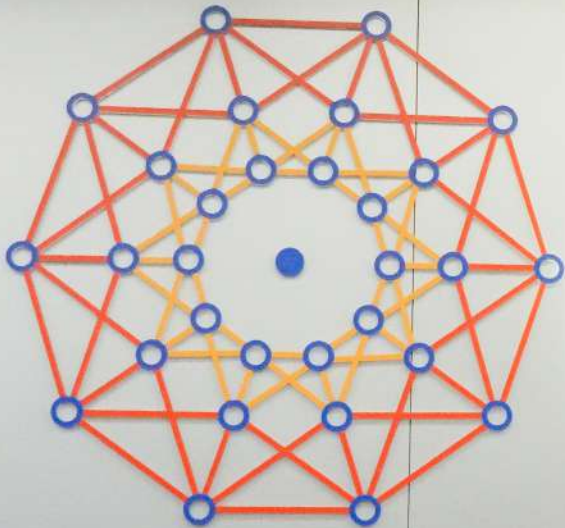


iTNT Hub,
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Anna University Campus, Kotturpuram,
Chennai – 600 025.

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.

Coimbatore Regional Hub

Government College of Technology (GCT)
Campus PJ-102, Platinum Jubilee building,
Thadagam Road, Coimbatore – 641013



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