iTNT
TAMILNADU TECHNOLOGY HUB

Deep Dive

July 2024

E-Newsletter from Tamil Nadu Technology Hub

TABLE
OF CONTENTS

Foreword

Dear All,

July was a month of celebration and reaffirmation of our commitment towards making possible global innovation from Tamil Nadu in the Emerging and Deep Tech space. The iTNT Day celebration in Chennai was a grand success and it would not have been possible without the active participation of you, our wide spectrum of stakeholders. It turned out to be a confluence of policy makers, startup founders, innovators, international partners, industry leaders, noted academicians, and heads of government departments.

As you know, iTNT Hub was launched on May 15, 2023, by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin. The first iTNT Day celebration got delayed due to all practical reasons including the Model Code of Conduct for the general elections across the country. However, this did not hold back the celebration and projecting our vision for the Emerging and Deep Tech ecosystem of Tamil Nadu for 2024-25. The iTNT Day celebration at Leela Palace, Chennai, was graced by the Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan.

It was also studded with speeches by the Vice Chairman of the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission Dr. J. Jeyaranjan; MeitY Secretary Thiru. S. Krishnan, I.A.S., and then Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu, IT&DS Department, Thiru. Dheeraj Kumar, I.A.S. Delightful exchange of ideas in a panel discussion "Intellectual property & Tech Transfer for Deeptech Innovations – Role of Academia, Startups, Government and Industry" and exchange of 58 MoUs with technical higher education institutions and leading global industry partners were other salient features of the day.

Two technology transfers between academic researchers and the industry also happened on the day. We are proud to welcome our first pride of 24 emerging and deeptech startups as incubatees under iTNT's PATHFINDER incubation programme. They have been identified by a panel of experts through different channels including bootcamps, hackathons and submission of Express of Interest forms. We are confident that these startups will successfully hold the "Innovate In Tamil Nadu" banner high as we "Build The Future", and inspire incubatees in iTNT Hub and our network.

We extend a warm welcome to Thiru. Kumar Jayant, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Information Technology and Digital Services Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, the new chairman of the iTNT Board. We also welcome Thiru. Pradeep Yadav, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department,and Thiru. M. Govinda Rao, I.A.S., Chief Executive Officer, Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency, to the iTNT Board. With these stalwarts on our board iTNT Hub will undoubtedly take Tamil Nadu to the global innovation map.

Best wishes,
Vanitha Venugopal
CEO, iTNT Hub

iTNT Day 2024

Minister for IT&DS Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan highlights vision for Emerging and Deep Tech Innovation

iTNT Signs 58 MoUs; Onboards 24 Incubatees

Tamil Nadu Technology Hub (iTNT Hub) was established by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India; and Information Technology and Digital Services (IT&DS) Department, Government of Tamil Nadu; along with industry support. The Hub, inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** in May 2023, is building a first-of-its-kind Deep Tech Innovation Network by leveraging the combined strengths of the Startups,Innovators,Researchers, Incubators, Academia,Government,and International Partners to propel transformative global innovation.

The Hub's sectors in focus include Artificial Intelligence, IoT, Space Tech, Robotics Healthcare, Cyber Security, Creative Tech, and High Value SaaS. In addition to incubating, accelerating, and facilitating Startups, and co-incubating those incubated by Deep Tech incubators across Tamil Nadu, iTNT Hub is also taking strides to accelerate innovation and investment in the target sectors. iTNT Hub will anchor the Tamil Nadu Deep Tech Policy, announced by the Hon'ble Minister for IT&DS **Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan** in the Tamil Nadu legislative assembly in June 2024.

On July 11, 2024, the first iTNT Day, at the Leela Palace in Chennai, marked a celebration of the significant achievements over the past year and set the stage for future advancements through the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders. The event was a confluence of stakeholders joining forces with iTNT Hub in building the first-of-its-kind Deep Tech Innovation Network in the country to propel transformative global innovation. It began with a context setting by the Chief Executive Officer of iTNT Hub, **Tmt. Vanitha Venugopal.**

The Hon'ble Minister for T&DS **Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan** delivered the chief guest address, highlighting the Deep Tech and Emerging Tech might of the startup ecosystem in Tamil Nadu. Vice Chairman of the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission **Dr. J. Jeyaranjan** emphasized the role of iTNT in positioning Tamil Nadu as an innovation-driven economy. MeitY Secretary **Thiru. S. Krishnan, I.A.S.,** shared insights on the soon to be launched National Deep Tech Startup Policy to create a conducive ecosystem to foster innovation.

Additional Chief Secretary to Government, IT&DS, **Thiru. Dheeraj Kumar, I.A.S.,** dwelt in detail on the strides taken by the Department to strengthen the Emerging and Deep Tech landscape of Tamil Nadu by engaging a cross-section of the stakeholders. President of Rolls-Royce India & South Asia, **Thiru. Kishore Jayaraman**; and Chairman of CII Tamil Nadu State Council, **Thiru. Srivats Ram.**

Panel Discussion on "Intellectual Property & Tech Transfer for Deeptech Innovations - Role of Academia, Startups, Government, and Industry"

On iTNT Day, a dynamic panel discussion on "Intellectual Property & Tech Transfer for Deeptech Innovations - Role of Academia, Startups, Government, and Industry" brought together key stakeholders to explore the essential collaborative approach needed to drive deeptech innovation.

iTNT Hub CEO **Tmt. Vanitha Venugopal** set the tone for the insightful discussion by highlighting the critical role of each sector in the Deep Tech innovation ecosystem. She underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in driving technological advancements and posed thought-provoking questions to the panelists, stimulating a rich discussion and drawing out valuable insights.

Here are some highlights of the insights shared by the panelists at the Panel Discussion:

Dr. R. Velraj, Vice-Chancellor of Anna University, highlighted a significant surge in patent filings over the past 2-3 years, attributing his to the concerted efforts of the Government of India, Tamil Nadu Government, and the Chennai Patent Office.He expressed confidence that with continued growth, India could achieve top global rankings in patents and IP filings. Dr. Velraj also stressed the critical need for expert mentorship to ensure sustained growth for deep tech startups.

Mr. Thangapandian, Joint Controller at the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trademarks, DPIIT, Government of India, discussed recent measures to support innovation. He detailed the reduced patent law fee structure for educational institutions and the fast-tracked patent examinations for startups, women entrepreneurs, and MSMEs, aiming for patent grants within a year. He also highlighted the Startup Intellectual Property Protection Scheme, noting over 1 lakh patents granted in FY-23.

Mr. Krishna Chaitanya, CEO of Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund Management Corporation Ltd (TNIFMC), shared insights from an investor's perspective, focusing on TNIFMC's fund categorization for Deep Tech, the Green Climate Fund, and specialized deeptech funds. He noted the significant changes in the deeptech ecosystem over the past 2-3 years and advocated for government standardization of deep tech startup categorization to facilitate specialized funding in these sectors.

Mr. P. Padmakumar, Executive Director, Human Resources at Saint-Gobain India Pvt. Ltd.; and Head of CSR and Chairman of the CII SR Skills Taskforce; provided an industry perspective on nurturing the innovation ecosystem. He emphasized the pivotal role of the CII IPR service in guiding MSMEs and industries with IP filings and the importance of raising IP awareness in educational institutions. Mr. Padmakumar also called for leveraging CSR funding for innovation and optimizing processes to utilize these funds effectively.

The panel discussion emphasized the need for collaboration in advancing intellectual property and tech transfer in the deep tech sector. By joining forces, academia, startups, government, and industry can help deeptech innovations reach their potential and support a thriving ecosystem.

Founder Talk

Mr. Dinesh, CEO, Yali Aerospace

Mr. Dinesh, CEO of Yali Aerospace in his founder talk speech envisioned a future where life-saving medications reach even the most remote areas swiftly. He discussed Yali Aerospace's goal to enhance the delivery of medical supplies in emergencies using deep technology. Yali Aerospace aims to transform medical supply delivery, support rural hospitals, and expand into logistics and surveillance through partnerships with government entities.

Investor Insights

Mr. Vishesh Rajaram, Managing Partner, Speciale Invest

Mr. Vishesh from Speciale Invest discussed the flourishing Indian Innovation landscape, supported by Government-funded infrastructure that enhances academia-industry collaboration. He highlighted Speciale Invest's key sectors—SpaceTech, Energy & Sustainability, Health & Biosciences, AI, and Advanced Manufacturing and notable investments in Agnikul and eplane. He pointed out Tamil Nadu's rising global prominence through university spinoffs and concluded, "India's global reputation has evolved, with emerging companies now creating products of international significance.

iTNT Foundation Day Speeches
Welcome Address & Context Setting

Tmt. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO of iTNT Hub

Tmt. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO of iTNT Hub, welcomed the gathering and set the context for the iTNT Day. "Under the visionary leadership of our Chief Minister and the constantguidance of the Hon'ble Minister for IT and Digital Services, Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Tamil Nadu is poised for significant growth in the DeepTech and Emerging Tech ecosystem. Let's lead the way by innovating in Tamil Nadu with iTNT," she said.

Guest of Honor

Mr. Kishore Jayaraman, President of Rolls-Royce India & South Asia

Mr. Kishore Jayaraman, President of Rolls-Royce India & South Asia, reflected on the fruitful journey of iTNT Hub and Rolls-Royce that was initiated a year ago with the signing of an MoU. Mr. Kishore emphasized the significance of the 3Cs - Clarity, Creativity, and Curiosity - that were instrumental in the success of the "Break The Loop" Innovation Challenge by iTNT Hub in partnership with Rolls-Royce Data Labs. The Innovation Challenge addressed the growing heatwave threat and their societal and environmental impact. He also underscored the importance of patents and copyrights in driving groundbreaking advancements. "The collaboration between academia and industry, facilitated by government support, has been exceptional. I have never seen such dynamic progress as I have witnessed here in Tamil Nadu," noted Mr. Kishore Jayaraman.

Special Address

Thiru. Dheeraj Kumar, I.A.S, Additional Chief Secretary to the Government, IT & DS Department, Government of Tamil Nadu

Thiru. Dheeraj Kumar, I.A.S, Additional Chief Secretary to the Government, Information Technology & Digital Services Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, highlighted the State's talent pool and leadership in national IP registration. He emphasized iTNT's role in advancing deep and emerging technologies. He praised iTNT for the successful completion of a vibrant one year that was studded with onboarding 24 startups and achievements such as onboarding over 4000 researcherson the JIGSAW portal alongside 180 startups and connecting with 120 investors. Mr. Dheeraj Kumar expressed gratitude for the support from MeitY, Government of Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives, Anna University, and industry partners for supporting iTNT in the journey thus far and in the years to come. He identified the upcoming AI Mission as a key opportunity for collaboration, aligning with India's AI mission to enhance iTNT's impact. "iTNT has begun well; let's together drive Tamil Nadu towards a prosperous, tech-driven economy," he concluded.

Keynote Address

Thiru. S. Krishnan, I.A.S., Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India

Thiru. S. Krishnan, I.A.S., Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, in his virtual Keynote Address, reflected on the inception of iTNT Hub. "iTNT Hub was a small seed sown by the efforts of MeitY, the Government of India, the Tamil Nadu Government, and industry partners. This initiative will yield outsized outcomes and propel the startup ecosystem in Tamil Nadu forward," noted Mr. Krishnan. Emphasizing Tamil Nadu's significant growth in IT and startups, with iTNT Hub being a key addition, he highlighted the importance of sector-focused startups, quality hires, and funding availability for ecosystem growth.

Special Address

Mr. Srivats Ram, Chairman of CII Tamil Nadu

Mr. Srivats Ram, Chairman of CII Tamil Nadu, emphasized the evolving deep tech startup ecosystem driven by academic talent and research. Highlighting Tamil Nadu's leadership in R&D and electronics exports, he mentioned CII's support for startups and industries. He expressed interest in partnering with iTNT and bringing together the collective efforts of stakeholders in the ecosystem to achieve Tamil Nadu's vision of achieving a US $1 trillion economy."

Special Address

Dr. J. Jeyaranjan, Vice Chairman of State Planning Commission, Government of Tamil Nadu

Dr. J. Jeyaranjan, Vice Chairman of the State Planning Commission (SPC), Government of Tamil Nadu, shared insights into Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) and the collaborative efforts to establish iTNT Hub. Dr. Jeyaranjan highlighted Tamil Nadu government initiatives,such as the Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Policy, aimed at nurturing the startup ecosystem. He emphasized the need to customize Deep Tech solutions like AI and Blockchain for specific Government Departments and affirmed that iTNT Hub will play a pivotal role in advancing these initiatives.

Chief Guest Address

Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Hon'ble Minister for IT & DS, Government of Tamil Nadu

Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Hon'ble Minister, Department of IT & DS, in his Chief Guest Address recalled securing initial funding for the iTNT Hub. Highlighting Tamil Nadu's human talent as its key asset, he emphasized technology's global impact, seen firsthand during his recent Bay Area visit. Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan highlighted the recent announcement of Deep Tech and AI Policies in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, guided by the mantra "Innovate In Tamil Nadu" (IN2TN). Recognizing iTNT Hub's achievements in the past year, the Minister mentioned "iTNT Hub has progressed significantly in one year. It marks just the beginning of the journey" emphasizing the ongoing need to enhance the State's technological capabilities to drive innovation and propel our economy towards a US $1 trillion goal.

iTNT Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Industry Partners

iTNT Hub has further solidified its role as a catalyst for innovation in Tamil Nadu by signing eight strategic Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with prominent Industry Partners at iTNT Day. These partnerships are set to enhance the State's Emerging and Deep Tech startup ecosystem, providing a robust foundation for growth and development. Industrialists, heads of universities, government departments, industry bodies, higher education institutions, innovators, investors, startup founders & co-founders, and entrepreneurs were among those present on the occasion.

The following MoUs were exchanged by iTNT Hub CEO Tmt. Vanitha Venugopal in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services Dr.Palanivel Thiaga Rajan; Vice Chairman of the State Planning Commission Dr. J.Jeyaranjan; MeitY Secretary Thiru. Krishnan S., I.A.S.; then Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu, Information Technology and Digital Services Department, Thiru. Dheeraj Kumar, I.A.S.; President of Rolls-Royce India & South Asia Thiru.Kishore Jayaraman; and Chairman of CII Tamil Nadu State Council Thiru. Srivats Ram:

MOU with TANSAM:

This MOU with Tamil Nadu Smart and Advanced Manufacturing Centre (TANSAM) provides access to startups associated with iTNT Hub to their equipment at a 50% discount, facilitates market access, and supports startups through knowledge sessions, capacity-building workshops, and connecting with mentors. It was exchanged in the presence of the Project Director of the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (TIDCO) Mr. B. Krishnamoorthy, I.O.F.S.

MOU with TANCAM:

The MoU with the Tamil Nadu Centre of Excellence for Advanced Manufacturing (TANCAM) exchanged in the presence of the Project Director of the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (TIDCO) Mr. B. Krishnamoorthy, I.O.F.S., provides access to iTNT Hub startups at TANCAM's facilities at a 50% discount. TANCAM will also support entrepreneurs by providing funding opportunities and through capacity-building workshops.

MOU with Dlabs:

This MoU will support researchers in Technology Transfers and Commercialization of their innovative solutions. Through this MoU, we aim to run joint startup support programs like acceleration to facilitate market access opportunities for entrepreneurs as well. It was exchanged with Mr. Saumya Kumar, Director, IVenture @ ISB & CEO, DLabs.

MOU with T-Hub:

Aims to nurture the innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem in both States by facilitating technology transfers, running joint incubation and acceleration programs, conducting industry expert sessions, and providing access to grants and competitions. This agreement was exchanged with Mr. Avinash Kedari, Director of Corporate Innovation at T-Hub.

MOU with TNIFMC:

Exchanged with Mr. Krishna Chaitanya, CEO of Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund Management Corporation Ltd. (TNIFMC), this MoU will support investing in potential startups, by scaling and accelerating them.

MOU with T-Works:

Exchanged with Mr. Joginder Tanikella, CEO of T-Works, this MoU aims to support startups, innovators, academia, and corporates through joint-run programs, sharing best practices, providing access to facilities and creating a holistic innovation ecosystem.

LOI with AWS

To provide mentorship, technical expertise, funding opportunities, and technical enablement workshops for the startups, iTNT Hub exchanged a Letter of Interest with Mr. PP Sunil Acharya, India & South Asia Lead: Education, Space, NPO, Channels & Alliances, Amazon Web Services (AWS). More exciting synergies with AWS are detailed in the upcoming pages of this newsletter.

LOI with ID8NXT & Azure Society of Excellence Microsoft:

iTNT Hub startups can now get access to up to $150,000 Azure credits and $2500 OpenAI credits to experiment with Large Language Models (LLM). It also facilitates 1:1 interaction with Microsoft AI experts. Exchanged with Attul Sreenath, Partner ID8NXT, and Azure Society of Excellence Microsoft.

24 Innovative Startups Incubated Under PATHFINDER

iTNT Hub takes pride in welcoming and showcasing our pride of 24 incubatee startups from the 1st cohort of our flagship incubation initiative, PATHFiNDER. Promoting Advanced Technologies & Innovations by Nurturing Entrepreneurs (PATHFiNDER) is a comprehensive incubation program for niche sectoral startups, guiding them through validation, development, and fundraising phases with essential tools, resources, and expertise.

PATHFiNDER provides startups with the essential tools, resources, and expertise needed for these startups to thrive in a dynamic innovation landscape. These startups are from a wide spectrum of sectors in the Emerging and Deep Tech space including AI, IoT, AR/VR, Space Tech, Energy, Medtech, Clean Tech, GIS, Blockchain, Clean Energy, Climate Tech, and Robotics.

"Break The Loop" Innovation Challenge

The iTNT Day celebration marked a significant milestone in fostering innovative solutions to combat climate challenges and signifying the power of collaboration in driving sustainable progress by recognizing the winners of the "Break The Loop" Innovation Challenge. Jointly organized by iTNT Hub in partnership with Rolls-Royce Data Labs, was a resounding success, celebrated at the iTNT Day event.

Launched in June 2024, the challenge addressed the threat of heat waves and their societal and environmental impacts, drawing over 30 applications from startups and researchers in the cleantech and sustainability sectors across Tamil Nadu. An expert committee from Rolls-Royce Data Labs and Climake shortlisted 10 groundbreaking ideas. These startups and innovators received intensive business and technical mentoring, culminating in the Pitch Day at iTNT Hub.

The winners of the grand challenge, including a team from an institution, honored at the iTNT Day are:
- Karotimam Innovations Pvt Ltd
- Climatequant Tech Private Limited (CarbonCompete)
- Kalki Energy Salvation
- Periyar Maniammai Institute of Science & Technology

The three exceptional startups from the winners were inducted to the PATHFINDER incubation program of iTNT Hub, to transform their ideas and solutions into commercially viable innovative startups.

MoU for Tech Transfer

iTNT Hub is proud to have facilitated a Technology Transfer Memorandum of Understanding between Dr. Krupakar Parthasarathy, Scientist E at the Centre for Drug Discovery and Development, Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, and Dr.Hari Balaji Venkatanarayanan, Director of Vivagendx Labs (OPC) Private Limited. This collaboration focuses on the Deep Tech-enabled development of vaccines and immunotherapies through rational protein engineering.

EoI for Tech Transfer

iTNT Hub is excited to have facilitated the signing of an Expression of Interest to evaluate technology for transfer between Dr. Manjula, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, and Astromeda Space Private Limited for the Iridium Ternary Alloy Composition Technology, meeting critical demands in the aerospace market.

MoUs with 50 Technical Higher Education Institutions in Tamil Nadu

iTNT Hub signed MoUs with 50 academic institutions to integrate them into the JIGSAW portal. Joint Innovation Gateway for Synergistic Startup Academic Industry Investor Work (JIGSAW), the dynamic innovation platform facilitated by iTNT Hub aims to foster collaboration between academia, industries, startups, investors, and students, driving advancements in Tamil Nadu's deeptech ecosystem. This initiative reflects iTNT Hub's efforts to expand the deeptech and emerging tech landscape to tier 2 and tier 3 cities in Tamil Nadu through its sensitization program. With these 50 MoUs, the total number of MoUs exchanged by the Hub with technical higher education institutions in Tamil Nadu has climbed to 101.

Colleges that exchanged MoU with iTNT Hub

1. Anjalai Ammal Mahalingam Engineering College, Tiruvarur

2. Annai Mathammal Sheela Engineering College, Namakkal

3. Annapoorna Engineering College, Salem

4. Arifa Institute of Technology, Nagapattinam

5. A.V.S. Engineering College, Salem

6. Bharathiyar Institute of Engineering for Women, Salem

7. C.K. College of Engineering & Technology, Cuddalore

8. Chendhuran College of Engineering and Technology, Pudukkottai

9. Dhirajlal Gandhi College of Technology, Salem

10. Dr. Navalar Nedunchezhiyan College of Engineering, Cuddalore

11. Imayam College of Engineering, Tiruchirappalli

12. Indra Ganesan College of Engineering, Tiruchirappalli

13. J.J. College of Engineering and Technology, Tiruchirappalli

14. J.K.K. Nataraja College of Engineering and Technology, Namakkal

15. K.S. Rangasamy College of Technology, Namakkal

16. Knowledge Institute of Technology, Salem

17. Kongunadu College of Engineering and Technology, Trichy

18. Krishnasamy College of Engineering and Technology, Cuddalore

19. M.A.M. School of Engineering, Tiruchirappalli

20. M.A.M. College of Engineering and Technology, Tiruchirappalli

21. M.I.E.T. Engineering College, Tiruchirappalli

22. Mahendra Engineering College for Women, Namakkal

23. Mahendra Institute of Technology, Namakkal

24. Mount Zion College of Engineering and Technology, Pudukkottai

25. M.R.K. Institute of Technology, Cuddalore

26. Muthayammal Engineering College, Namakkal

27. Oxford Engineering College, Tiruchirappalli

28. Paavai College of Engineering, Namakkal

29. Paavai Engineering College, Namakkal

30. Pavendar Bharathidasan Institute of Information Technology, Trichy

31. Roever Engineering College, Perambalur

32. Salem College of Engineering and Technology, Salem

33. Saranathan College of Engineering, Tiruchirappalli

34. Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai

35. Selvam College of Technology, Namakkal

36. Sengunthar Engineering College, Namakkal

37. Shanmuganathan Engineering College, Pudukkottai

38. Shivani Engineering College, Tiruchirappalli

39. Shree Sathyam college of engineering & Technology, Salem

40. Sona College of Technology, Salem

41. Sri Shanmugha College of Engineering and Technology, Salem

42. St. Joseph's College of Engineering and Technology, Thanjavur

43. Sudharsan Engineering College, Pudukkottai

44. Surya College of Engineering, Tiruchirappalli

45. Tagore Institute of Engineering and Technology, Salem

46. Takshashila University, Villupuram

47. Trichy Engineering College, Tiruchirappalli

48. University College of Engineering, Nagapattinam

49. University College of Engineering, Villupuram

50. Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Viswa Mahavidyalaya (SCSVMV Deemed University), Kanchipuram

AWS and iTNT Hub Collaborate to Nurture Generative AI Innovation Among Startups in Tamil Nadu

Amazon Web Services (AWS) India Private Limited has announced support to Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) Hub in launching a generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) startup program, focusing on accelerating the development of generative AI solutions for public-centric initiatives through the startup ecosystem in Tamil Nadu. The program will enable startups to collaborate with the industry to build public sector-focused solutions using generative AI, and will solicit and shortlist startups building solutions for government, healthcare, education, and non-profit sectors operating in the AI, generative AI, and deep-tech space. This new initiative was announced at the 'Generative AI Startup-Venture Capital' mixer event held by AWS and iTNT Hub in Chennai.

The generative AI startup program aims to support startups and innovators at all stages of maturity, including incorporated startups, mature startups, individual innovators, and pre-incorporated teams. Startups in incubation will have the opportunity to access research opportunities for industry collaboration, sectoral guidance to drive market disruption, and funding avenues. iTNT Hub located in Anna University, Chennai, is focused on building a unique deep tech innovation network in Tamil Nadu by leveraging the combined strengths of startups, innovators, academia, government, and industry leaders. This new program will provide mentorship to founders emerging from incubation programs of more than 570 engineering colleges affiliated with Anna University.

Amazon Web Services (AWS) India Private Limited has announced support to Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) Hub in launching a generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) startup program, focusing on accelerating the development of generative AI solutions for public-centric initiatives through the startup ecosystem in Tamil Nadu. The program will enable startups to collaborate with the industry to build public sector-focused solutions using generative AI, and will solicit and shortlist startups building solutions for government, healthcare, education, and non-profit sectors operating in the AI, generative AI, and deep-tech space. This new initiative was announced at the 'Generative AI Startup-Venture Capital' mixer event held by AWS and iTNT Hub in Chennai.

"AWS recognizes the transformative potential of generative AI, the value it can offer to public sector organizations and citizens, and the role that startups can play in accelerating innovation and developing solutions for adoption," said Sunil PP, Lead – Channels and Alliances, Public Sector, AWS India Private Limited. "By collaborating with iTNT Hub, we aim to nurture a startup community that has core capabilities and strengths in generative AI, accelerate innovation using generative AI, and help public sector organizations implement solutions that can create positive and scalable impact in society."

iTNT Hub will further support the identified startups through its technical expertise and mentorship, guidance on business and funding fundamentals, and setting up industry connections for startups to understand market opportunities and build their solutions.

"iTNT Hub is dedicated to harnessing Tamil Nadu's vast tech capability and fostering research, development and innovation across the state. This exciting collaboration with AWS gives startup founders access to mentorship, resources, and a community for the development of citizen-driven generative AI solutions. Collaborating with a global technology leader like AWS gives us access to the latest technology, innovation methodologies, and best practices, and enables startups to jumpstart their innovation and growth journey with subject-matter expertise on cloud and generative AI," said **Vanitha Venugopal, CEO**, iTNT Hub. "Through this program, we aspire to strengthen the entrepreneurial environment for startups across Tamil Nadu, and empower those based in locations which typically have limited access to resources."

The generative AI startup program will enable startups through webinars, technical workshops, and masterclasses. Selected startups will also benefit from industry connections, roadshows, hackathons, and customer engagements. The program will be governed by a steering management committee comprising executives from AWS India and iTNT Hub.

Interested Startups can Enroll Here: https://lnkd.in/gwBJchPF

The AWS Mixer for AI based Startups and Investors, in Tamil Nadu at Taj Connemara in Chennai on July 11, was a premier networking event studded with speeches by successful startup founders and investors, a panel discussion, and an engaging Q&A session between startup founders and representatives of AWS and iTNT. The event featured around 30 innovative startups working in AI and GenAI and 15 investment firms. The mixer event fostered connections between innovative startups, angel investors, and venture capitalists, by helping startups showcase their ventures to investors in their space.

Guest Keynote by
Mr. Suresh Kalpathi, Chairman of Veranda Learning Solutions Ltd

Mr. Suresh Kalpathi, Chairman of Veranda Learning Solutions Ltd, passionately discussed the evolving startup ecosystem during the iTNT Hub and AWS Startup Mixer event. He highlighted the shift from a service-based to a product-based economy and the increased appetite for risk over the past 30 years. Emphasizing the rise of AI and funding, he praised today's robust support infrastructure for startups, including technical resources, acceleration programs, and funding support from organizations like AWS, as crucial for entrepreneurial success.

Founder's Talk:
Mr. Senthil Murugesan, CEO of Savemom

Mr. Senthil Murugesan, CEO of Savemom, discussed their innovative approach to digitizing maternal and infant health data. Inspired by personal experience, SaveMOM created a device that digitally captures vital health metrics during the critical first 1,000 days. The AI-integrated device tracks health trends and supports personalized treatments. This technology is crucial for India, where high maternal mortality rates persist, particularly in remote areas. By digitizing and directly transmitting data to relevant portals, SaveMOM eliminates manual entry errors and potential data manipulation to ensure safer pregnancies for mothers nationwide.

Legal for AI
Ms. Subathra Mylsamy; Partner - AK Mylsamy & Associates

Speaking on "Legal for AI", **Ms. Subathra Mylsamy**, Partner at AK Mylsamy & Associates, underscored the crucial importance of legal awareness in the use of AI tools. She pointed out that the European Act is the only comprehensive law globally regulating the AI sector, providing detailed classifications and frameworks. In India, while specific AI laws are yet to be established, policies and regulations are anticipated by both central and state authorities soon. Ms. Subathra emphasized the need for startups to create clear licensing agreements with developers when acquiring or distributing AI tools to ensure transparency and avoid legal complications. Additionally, she highlighted the importance of protecting intellectual property (IP), a vital asset for any startup. Securing IP rights is essential for obtaining grants, commercializing products, and safeguarding copyrights.

Panel Discussion on Investing in AI

A highlight of the evening was a thought-provoking panel discussion on "Investing in AI. "Moderated by Mr. Ram Lakshminarayanan, Senior Manager Partners at AWS, the session brought together esteemed panelists to explore the current landscape of Generative AI and its future implications. Here are some excerpts from the discussion.

Mr. Janardhan, Principal, TN Emerging Sector Seed Fund

"AI might still be seen as hype by some, but GenAI is proving its substance. Companies like Tesla and Meta are actively building GenAI solutions, and with 96% of GenAI startups utilizing AWS solutions, it's evident that GenAI is no longer just hype. The government, however, remains cautious due to concerns over privacy and security with citizen data. Once AI policies are set, we can expect a more positive approach."

Tmt. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO, iTNT Hub

"All emerging technologies begin with hype before they narrow down to reality through evolving use cases. The Tamil Nadu government is optimistic about AI, with plans to incorporate it into government functions. However, data security and privacy are major concerns. Just as ERP adoption faced challenges in the 2000s and eventually became integral, AI and GenAI will follow a similar path as companies like AWS make these technologies more accessible."

Ms. Nashid Chowdhry, Investment and Trade Commissioner, Government of Western Australia, India-Gulf Region

"India's high GenAI adoption is commendable, and innovation hubs in Western Australia are also applying GenAI across various sectors. In terms of government perspective, Western Australia is consolidating multiple departments under a single entity to streamline AI adoption and ensure security. Initiatives like Digilocker for international students' data are driving innovation and facilitating solution adoption."

Mr. PP Sunil Acharya, Public Sector Channels & Alliances Lead, AWS

"The adoption of AI, especially GenAI, is accelerating rapidly with technologies like OpenAI and ChatGPT. This shows that the hype around GenAI is real, offering numerous opportunities. Regarding government perspectives, AWS has implemented scalable and secure solutions for various Indian governments, which can be adapted for other countries, given their effectiveness in addressing India's unique challenges."

Mr. Dhanush Ram, Investor, Speciale Invest

"Speciale Invest is bullish on GenAI, with significant investments in the sector. From a VC's viewpoint, security and privacy were initially major concerns. However, many Indian startups are now focusing on these areas. Those providing niche, secure solutions will thrive and capture significant market potential."

Ask The Experts

The panel discussion was followed by an engaging "Ask The Experts" session in which the startups founders and co-founders got queries clarified by experts from AWS, Investors and iTNT Hub. The mixer concluded with a networking dinner

Events From July

Webinar on "Entrepreneurial Paths in Deep Tech: From Academic Research to Commercial Success"

The webinar, on 9th July, 2024, featured Dr. Nishanth Raja, Founder of XYMA Analytics. Dr. Raja discussed XYMA's focus on improving temperature measurements using IoT-enabled Ultrasonic Waveguide sensors, highlighting the journey from ideation to commercialization with crucial support from IIT-Madras.

The webinar attracted 36 participants from diverse sectors including startups and academic background. Dr. Raja emphasized the importance of innovation culture, both at IIT-Madras and within XYMA, and cited examples like Ola's development of Ola Maps. Dr. Raja also covered the integration of Robotics, AI, ML, and IoT in Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) for Industry 4.0, concluding with insights into the entrepreneurial landscape and opportunities in Non-Destructive Examination. The session ended with an interactive Q&A.
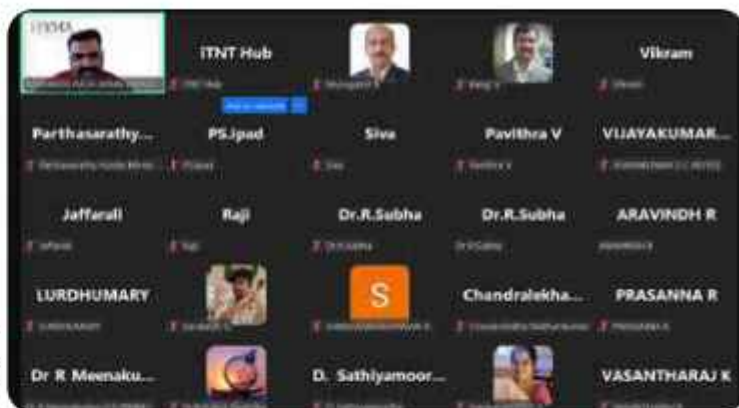
Founder Talk - Giottus

Mr. Arjun Vijay, Co-Founder and COO of Giottus Crypto Exchange, spoke at the iTNT Hub "Founder Talk" series on July 18, 2024, on "The Genesis of Giottus Technology: Turning an Idea into a Business". The session engaged 30 participants from startups and academia. Mr. Arjun shared Giottus's journey to becoming a compliant crypto exchange and discussed the rise of Bitcoin, Decentralized Finance (DeFi), Non-fungible Tokens (NFTs), DApps, Smart Contracts, and Web 3.0.

He emphasized Ethereum's opportunities for developers, the need for standardized blockchain regulations in India, and the potential of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) for financial transactions. He concluded with the thought, "When there is chaos, there is Opportunity," underscoring the dynamic nature of blockchain #innovation.

Mentor Meet - July

Mentor Meet is iTNT Hub's unique opportunity for emerging and deep tech startup founders and innovators to engage with experienced mentors through our monthly one-on-one mentorship sessions. The July 2024 edition of Mentor Meet was held at iTNT Hub, Chennai, on July 31, 2024. This second monthly edition featured three seasoned mentors in Go-To-Market Strategy; Financial and Legal Compliance; and Seed Funding & Securing Grants.

Mr. A.J. Balasubramanian, Lead, Indian Operations for Aigilx Health Technologies Pvt. Ltd. sharing insights on Go-To-Market Strategies.

Dr. Karthikeyan A.K., Chief Executive Officer of MaDeIT Innovation Foundation, mentoring on Seed Funding and Securing Grants.

The Mentor Meet witnessed 16 startups from diverse backgrounds benefitting from the required guidance and establishing plans to implement robust strategies to overcome challenges their startups face in everyday functioning. These sessions equip entrepreneurs with practical knowledge, empowering them to tackle challenges and seize opportunities. Are you eager to be mentored? Stay tuned to our social media for upcoming sessions and reserve your spot.

Ms. Srinidhi T.A., FCA, Founding Partner of Srinidhi & Associates, providing valuable suggestions on Navigating Financial and Legal Compliance challenges.
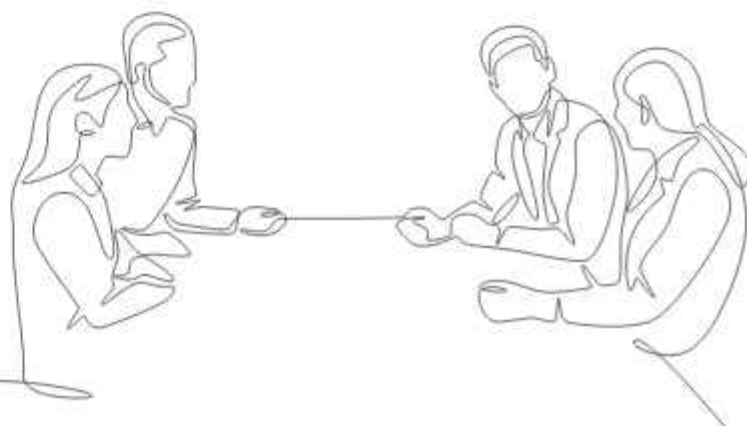
Startup Showcase

iTNT's First Pride of Incubatees

FocuzAR Solutions Pvt Ltd

Building Xwall - an interactive Phygital console with AI camera and body tracking capabilities for edutainment and fitness

Harvtech LLP

Designing and manufacturing 45HP Smart Electrical Tractor to reduce the cost of operation in agriculture

Imrobonix Pvt Ltd

Designed and developed India's first precision robotic hand-held medical surgery device

Scrapify Ecotech Pvt Ltd

Ecofloater, an autonomous water drone for cleaning waterbodies, Scrapify.ai connects waste sellers and buyers for trading waste items

Food Printer Pvt Ltd

Robotics based cloud enabled modular fully automated multi food multi cuisine food processing system development company

Kratu Innovations Pvt Ltd

UniClez, the world's first self sanitizing suit, is a pioneering personal protective coverall designed to control viral transmission rates

Spacetug Pvt Ltd

Building a satellite constellation to ensure the safety of satellites in the earth's orbit

Spacerolls Aerospace Technologies Pvt Ltd

Developing a blade system to power jet engines, leading to greater fuel efficiency

Startup Showcase

iTNT's First Pride of Incubatees

Vividobots Pvt Ltd

Vibrantque, a groundbreaking solution for painting high-rise exteriors to enhance efficiency and safety in construction.

Karotimam Innovations Pvt Ltd

Sustainable solutions for printed electronics, CO2 capture, Green Tech for plastic degradation and enhance cityscapes

Kanli Cleancell Innovations Pvt Ltd

Working with the mission to provide reliable, high-performance batteries to address energy storage challenges across industries

Chimertech Pvt Ltd

Quadmastest detects subclinical mastitis early, helps farmers manage livestock health, and minimize milk wastage.
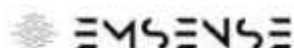
Emsensing Technologies Pvt Ltd

Working on a device that centrally monitors intravenous fluid flow in patients without manual intervention

Aadithyaa Developers Pvt Ltd

"Builder Pluss" is an AI Co-pilot helping construction firms to generate and optimize design options with greater speed and efficiency

Machenn Innovations Pvt Ltd

Developed XR Studio for virtual surgeries and for co-creating surgical plans across demographics

Climatequant Tech Pvt Ltd

AI integrated carbon intelligence platform (SaaS) that aid companies by providing end-to end traceability of their carbon value chain

Startup Showcase

iTNT's First Pride of Incubatees

IbyD Technologies Pvt Ltd
Building fungible, versatile, affordable, and future-proof Autonomous Mobile Robot which improves warehouse efficiency
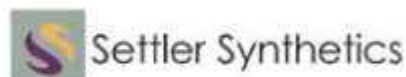
ProSat Pvt Ltd
An accessible and User-centric satellite ecosystem, catering to both the general public and industry giants, while venturing into the aerospace market

Esedios Technology Services Pvt Ltd
Disaster management and climate change related solutions with AI based early warning systems and IOT-based remote monitoring

Settler Synthetic
Converts non-recyclable PET waste into sustainable Unsaturated Polyester Resin (UPR) with superior corrosion resistance and durability.

Acrofluidic Innovation Pvt Ltd
Cancer detection via biopsy cocktail of immunomagentic system and microfluidic chip for staging and validating treatment response

Ledgesys
A blockchain-based platform that automates academic record management, streamlines certification, and ensures reliability

Veyyil Textile Innovation Pvt Ltd
Building an AI vision system for automatic quality inspection, post weaving and knitting in cotton textile production

Kalki Energy Salvation Pvt Ltd
Harness the continuous pressure from hydro and ocean sources to deliver reliable, round-the-clock renewable energy, solving energy and climate crises.

DeepTech Insights

How India Hacked The Startup Code: The Unstoppable Rise of Tech Titans

TICE News

India's tech startup ecosystem has grown significantly, driven by government initiatives, market demand, and technological advancements. The Economic Survey 2023-24 highlights the rise of tech startups, with over 31,000 startups by 2023. Key sectors include EdTech, EnterpriseTech, and HealthTech. Government policies like the Start-up India Initiative and the National Deep Tech Start-up Policy have played crucial roles. The pandemic accelerated digital transformation, boosting sectors like IT services and HealthTech. India now ranks third globally in the tech startup ecosystem, showcasing its potential as a global tech leader.

Scan to read full article

Angel Tax Scrapped: Detailed FAQ on the tax structure and how it'll pan out

The Economic Times BFSI

The Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech on 23rd July 2024 announced the removal of the Angel Tax. As of the latest Budget announcement, the angel tax has been completely scrapped off and will be effective from the upcoming financial year (FY26). Venture Capitalists like Anshu Sharma, Angel Investor and Co-founder & CEO, of Skyflow, and Vikram Chachra, Founding Partner, 8i Ventures highlighted that the angel tax scheme had always been a friction problem and not a money problem. This move will not only attract domestic investors but also bolster confidence among foreign investors looking at India as a viable investment destination. Venture capitalists (VCs) and investors over the years have demanded the angel tax be removed to promote a more conducive environment for startups in India.

Scan to read full article

10 years and 31,000 startups later, Indian startup ecosystem bets on deep tech, Gen AI for next phase of growth K V Kurmanath

The Hindu Business Line

Over 10 years, India's startup ecosystem has grown to 31,000 startups and 90-plus unicorns, fueled by $70 billion in funding. Despite challenges like funding slowdowns and regulatory hurdles, the ecosystem remains resilient, focusing on deep tech and generative AI for future growth. With 3,000 deep tech startups, India's poised for leadership in this space. Venture Capitalists advocate allowing the listing of equity shares of start-ups incorporated outside India on the Indian stock exchange and women's participation in startups has risen, highlighting the ecosystem's achievements and ongoing challenges.

Scan to read full article

Events on the Radar

Featuring Startup Hiring

CHIMERTECH PRIVATE LIMITED

Positions Vacant: 2

Role: 1) Software Developer / Intern
2) Jr. Electronics Eng. / Intern

Mobile number: +91 8110969442

Email ID:
ragul.paramasivam@chimertech.com

Apply Link

Apply Soon

FOCUZ

Positions Vacant: 2

Role: 1) Jr. Unity Developer
2) Marketing & Sales Executive

Mobile number: +91 9962073739

Email ID:
arunprasath.s@focuzar.com

Apply Link

Apply before : 31/08/2024

VEYYIL

Positions Vacant: 2

Role: ML Intern

Mobile number: +91 7904599095

Email ID:
info@veyyil.com

Apply Link

Apply before : 01/09/2024

Helping You Hire
The Right Talents!

Emerging and Deep Tech startups in Tamil Nadu can now publish job openings **(both Technical & Non-Technical)** in the iTNT Monthly Digest newsletter **free of cost.**
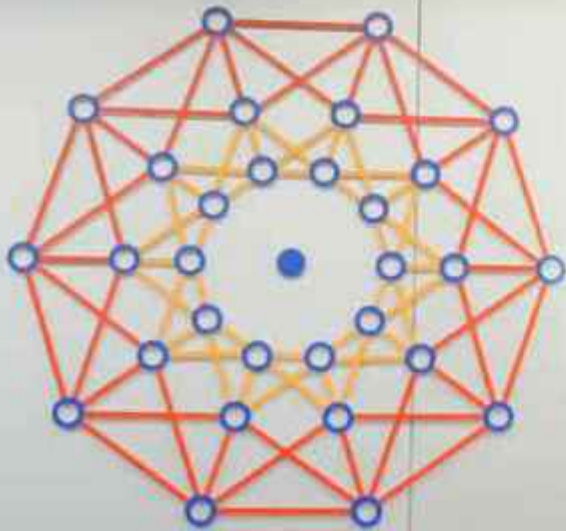
FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT

Mr. Daniel @ 91766 08820

office@tnthub.org

Submit the required details by **AUGUST 20, 2024**

www.itnthub.tn.gov.in

iTNT
TAMILNADU TECHNOLOGY HUB

Connect with Us

3rd Floor, Sir C V Raman Science Block,
Anna University Campus, Kotturpuram, Chennai – 600025.

www.itnthub.tn.gov.in

Scan to follow us on our socials

#BUILDTHEFUTURE #INNOVATEINTAMILNADU