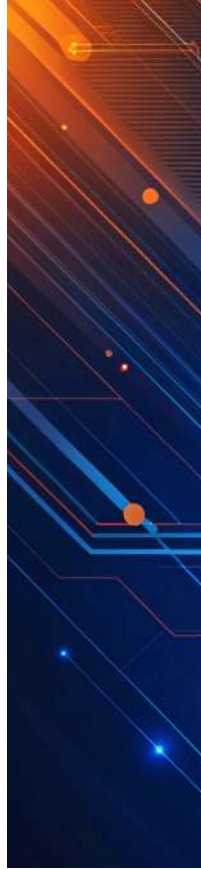
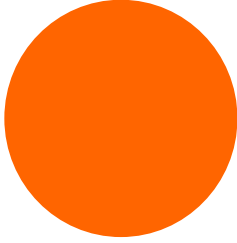


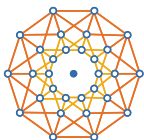
# Deep Dive

February 2025



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# Foreword

Innovation and technology are the cornerstones of a progressive society, and Tamil Nadu has always been at the forefront of leveraging these forces for inclusive and sustainable growth. As we embark on this journey of transformation, the Deep Dive Monthly newsletter serves as a window into the latest developments, insights, and breakthroughs emerging from the Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) Hub.

Through the Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives, a flagship scheme of the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission (TNSPC) has been fostering innovation in the field of public service delivery. Of the close to 400 innovative projects cutting across various departments of the State Government, iTNT Hub is one of the key success stories of TANII.

The Tamil Nadu Technology Hub is committed to fostering a thriving innovation ecosystem. By bringing together entrepreneurs, researchers, policymakers, and industry leaders, iTNT Hub catalyzes ideas that have the potential to shape the future of our state and beyond. Through strategic collaborations and pioneering initiatives, we aim to nurture deep-tech innovations that address real-world challenges and create lasting impact.

Collaboration and transformation is the baseline of the TNSPC's Centre for Innovation in Governance, as we firmly believe that Innovation is the catalyst for transformation in governance. TNPSC is closely working with iTNT Hub in fostering deep and emerging tech startups. Stay tuned for exciting announcements on upcoming collaborations that will impact the masses through innovations in governance.

This newsletter is a step towards keeping our stakeholders informed and inspired. Each edition will offer a glimpse into groundbreaking projects, success stories, and expert perspectives, reinforcing our collective mission to drive technological excellence. I encourage you to immerse yourself in this publication, engage with the ideas presented, and join us in building a future where technology serves as a powerful enabler of development.

Let Deep Dive Monthly be more than just a newsletter - let it be a beacon of knowledge, inspiration, and progress.



**Warm Regards,**  
**Ms. Sudha Ramen, I.F.S.**  
**Member Secretary**  
**Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission**

## Forging DeepTech Collaborations Between Academia, Startups & Industry in Madurai Region



Tamil Nadu Technology Hub in collaboration with the Anna University Regional Campus, Madurai, organised the “DeepTech Sensitization Program – Madurai Edition” here on Thursday (27th February 2025). The Hon’ble Minister for IT&DS Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan was the chief guest of the event, in which nearly 150 principals, deans, and researchers from engineering colleges, DeepTech startup founders and industry leaders from Madurai, Dindigul, Theni, Virudhunagar, Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram districts participated.

The Program served as a catalyst for researchers, startups and industry. Earlier Tmt. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO of iTNT Hub set the context for the program and how it would serve as a stepping stone for building a democratised DeepTech Research & Development & Innovation ecosystem across Tamil Nadu.

The participants were debriefed about the JIGSAW (Joint Innovation Gateway for Synergistic Startup – Academic – Industry – Investor Work) Platform launched by the Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin in February 2024. In one year, JIGSAW has emerged as an ecosystem with 6,000+ researchers from 137 engineering colleges and 250+ Deep and Emerging Tech startups in Tamil Nadu.

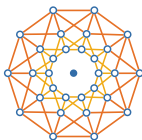
These collaborations were fostered through focused sensitisation programs for the stakeholders in the Chennai, Trichy and Coimbatore regions. Participants at the Madurai sensitization program were encouraged to be part of the highly collaborative JIGSAW platform to enable greater collaboration, innovation, and investment in deep and emerging technologies.

Through this Madurai sensitization program, iTNT Hub is keen to onboard engineering colleges from this region to be a part of this groundbreaking initiative that is fostering and reshaping the Research & Development & Innovation landscape of Tamil Nadu, especially in the Deep & Emerging Tech space.

Promoting DeepTech entrepreneurship & collaboration between academia & industry; facilitating networking opportunities for academic leaders, researchers, and startup founders; and encouraging participation from regional stakeholders in deeptech innovation challenges were highlighted at the program.

Padma Shri Dr. Rajagopalan Vasudevan delivered a special address and his experiences, highlighting the role of innovation, patenting and commercialization of technologies for the larger cause. Mr. Prakash Raman, General Manager and Location Head of Human





Resources at HCL Tech Madurai, shared corporate insights on IP, research and commercialisation.

Mr. M. Maheswarakumar, Sr Consultant, HCL Tech, spoke on cloud computing. Prof. Kottaisamy, Thiagaraja Engineering College, shared insights on role of academic research in solving real-world problems. Insights from Startups were shared by DeepTech startup founders Mr. Kishore, CEO of Rearly Tech; and Mr. Kesavan Alangaramohan, CEO – Quantanics Pvt. Ltd.

## Chief Guest Address



The Hon'ble Minister for IT & DS, Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan delivered an insightful chief guest address, emphasizing the critical role of technology, innovation, and government support in shaping Tamil Nadu's digital future. He highlighted the importance of creating a robust ecosystem for startups and innovators by providing access to funding, mentorship, shared resources, and infrastructure.

The Minister underlined the Government of Tamil Nadu's commitment to nurturing talent and promoting digital inclusion through initiatives that simplify access to services and foster industry-academia collaborations. He spoke about the need for outreach, ensuring citizens and innovators alike can easily engage with government programs without bureaucratic hurdles.

Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, spoke about iTNT Hub's efforts in fostering innovation through initiatives like JIGSAW and PATHFINDER and in creating a robust database of DeepTech researchers, enabling connections with investors and sponsoring innovation challenges aimed at solving real-world problems in government and administration.

He also shared the Government's vision of expanding iTNT's reach by establishing innovation centers like iTNT in cities like Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichy, and Tirunelveli, ensuring that support for idea validation, incubation, and essential services is accessible closer to the people who need it. His address underscored the importance of building a global innovation network and creating a decentralized ecosystem that empowers innovators across Tamil Nadu.

The Minister acknowledged the evolving global tech landscape and the importance of staying ahead by embracing advancements in cloud computing, AI, and data-driven solutions. He expressed his vision for expanding innovation hubs across Tamil Nadu, making support accessible to entrepreneurs in every district and transforming the state into a powerhouse of technological progress.

Concluding his speech, the Hon'ble minister praised the efforts of visionaries and institutions driving change and reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting and scaling these initiatives for a more connected and Innovation driven future.



## Welcome Address



Dr. Lingadurai, Dean of Anna University Regional Campus, Madurai, welcomed the gathering emphasised on commercialisation of research and the role to be played by academia. He also highlighted the role of iTNT Hub in nurturing innovations in the Deep and Emerging Tech space, and in supporting researchers to realise their entrepreneurial dreams.

## Opening Remarks



Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO of iTNT Hub, highlighted the role of the Hub in nurturing Deep and Emerging Tech startups, which has been a cornerstone for innovation since its establishment. She emphasized the need for collaboration among researchers, industry, and academia to drive fundamental and applied research, with a focus on product development and commercialization.

Ms. Vanitha outlined the support available for tech investments and idea validation, stressing the importance of building MVPs and gaining market access. She lauded the initiatives taken by the Hon'ble Minister for IT & DS in establishing auxiliary Hub at Madurai and other tier 2 & 3 cities. Her call to action was clear, to unite efforts in nurturing groundbreaking ideas and turning them into impactful solutions.



## Special Address



Padma Shri Dr. Rajagopalan Vasudevan, Professor of Chemistry at Thiagarajar College of Engineering - renowned as the “Plastic Man of India” - in his insightful special address made a presentation on sustainable plastic waste management and environmental innovation. He emphasized the idea of “Planning, not Banning” plastics, arguing that plastic itself isn’t the problem, rather, it’s our approach to its disposal and misuse.

Dr. Vasudevan showcased his revolutionary invention of Plastic Tar Roads, a breakthrough method where waste plastics are repurposed to create more durable, weather-resistant, and cost-effective roads. This innovation not only reduces plastic pollution but also enhances road quality by preventing potholes and extending their lifespan without the risk of toxic emissions or microplastic pollution.

Highlighting the importance of innovation driven by necessity, he called for a shift in perspective, seeing waste as a resource. He advocated for the 3R Principle (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and stressed the need for eco-friendly research, socially relevant technologies, and interdisciplinary collaborations. He also addressed broader ecological challenges like urbanization, climate change, and resource exploitation, urging industries and communities to adopt sustainable practices.

Through his visionary approach, Dr. Vasudevan painted a hopeful picture of balancing technological advancement with environmental responsibility, demonstrating how innovative thinking can transform waste into valuable solutions.

## Corporate Insights



Mr. Prakash Raman, General Manager and Location Head of Human Resources at HCL Tech Madurai addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of innovation and the critical role universities play in nurturing it. He highlighted how many of the world’s greatest inventions, like the internet, DNA fingerprinting, and vaccines, originated from university research labs, not corporate environments.

He stressed the need for academia to remain a hub of innovation and encouraged students to think like entrepreneurs rather than just preparing for jobs. He called on universities to create innovation labs and foster entrepreneurial mindsets, with industry providing mentorship, technical expertise, and support. Mr. Prakash expressed his commitment in collaborating with universities by sharing real-world problem statements and supporting the development of minimum viable products (MVPs).



## Insights from Startups



The CEO of Rearly Tech Private Limited Mr. Kishore, an IoT integrated startup focused on animal husbandry, shared his journey and vision. Established 2.5 years ago, the company addresses challenges in sheep and goat farming – an under organized field compared to dairy and poultry. Despite high demand, livestock production is declining, particularly in Tamil Nadu, where there's been a drop in sheep population since 2012.

Rearly Tech aims to tackle this through technology-driven solutions for weight and feed management, disease control, breeding, and traceability. Their ecosystem includes IoT integrated Hardware that collects real-time farm data, pushes it to the cloud, and provides analytics. One of their flagship products, a patented sheep handler, simplifies animal identification and data collection, reducing labor needs and improving efficiency.

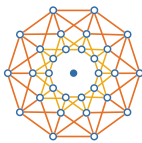


Mr. Kesavan Alangaramohan, CEO of Quantanics Private Limited, shared his startup journey since 2018, specializing in embedded systems, IoT, AI, and ML. Quantanics provides gateway solutions for the manufacturing sectors, focusing on predictive maintenance and operational efficiency, targeting global markets, including Europe. He highlighted their collaborations with iTNT Hub and various incubators and emphasized the need for deeper industry - academia partnerships.

He stressed the potential of transforming research into viable products, calling for more involvement from PhD and postgraduate scholars to drive innovation and global market reach. Mr. Kesavan concluded by appreciating the collaborative opportunities provided by iTNT and other incubation platforms, underscoring their role in nurturing startups and fostering technological advancements for both local and global impact.







## JIGSAW Overview



Mr. Ajit Daniels, Consultant - Corporate Partnerships at iTNT Hub, introduced the JIGSAW (Joint Innovation Gateway for Synergistic Startup-Academia-Industry-Investor Work) Platform launched by the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. Udhayanithi Stalin at Umanage 2024. JIGSAW is designed to unify key stakeholders such as startups, researchers, academia, industry, and investors on a single platform to drive deep tech and emerging technology innovation in Tamil Nadu.

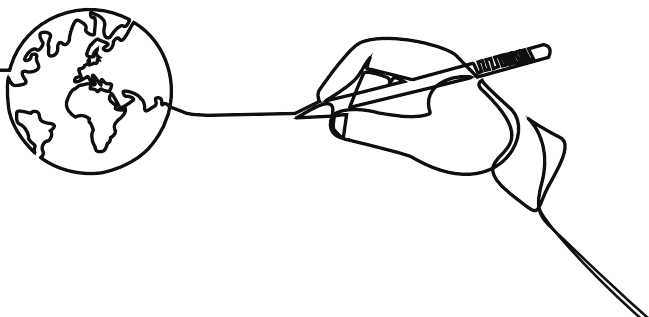
He highlighted JIGSAW's role in addressing real-time industry challenges by connecting innovators and facilitating co-creation of solutions. The platform supports tech transfer and commercialization of patents, with over 2,600 patents and 470 granted patents already onboarded. Through JIGSAW, industry partners can access validated research, startups can scale their solutions, and investors can identify promising innovations.



iTNT Hub CEO Ms. Vanitha Venugopal felicitated Mr. M. Maheswarakumar, Sr Consultant at HCL Tech, for offering insights on Cloud Computing.



iTNT Hub CEO Ms. Vanitha Venugopal felicitated Prof. Kottaisamy, Thiagaraja Engineering College, after he shared his insights at the sensitisation program.



# Tamil Nadu DeepTech Startup Policy Stakeholder Consultation

A Tamil Nadu DeepTech Startup Policy (TNDTSP) Stakeholder Consultation was held at iTNT Hub on 20th February 2025, bringing together a distinguished group of industry leaders, investors, startup founders, ecosystem enablers, and policy experts. The session aimed to shape a comprehensive policy framework that would position Tamil Nadu as a leading hub for deep tech innovation in India. The consultation was chaired by Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO, iTNT Hub.

**Industry Representatives:** Mr. Gopi Koteeswaran (Co-founder, Secretary & GC Member, Dzruptiv AI, TiE Chennai), Mr. Muralidharan Rajagopalan (Board Member, Mobilogix India), Ms. Shobana Ravi (President – Infotech, Innovation & Learning Officer, TAFE Ltd.), Mr. Balasubramanian A J (Director, Aigilx Health), Ms. Nithya Subramanian (Head of Data & Analytics, Kellanova), Ms. Seena Shivanath (Head – Connect Digital Platform & Solutions, Tata Elxsi) and Dr. M.A. Bhagyaveni (Director, Centre for Intellectual Property Rights).

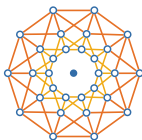


**Investor Representatives:** Mr. Manu Iyer (Managing Partner, Bluehill Capital), Mr. Chandran Krishnan (Managing Director, Campus Angels) and Mr. Vishnu Rajeev (Investment Principal, Speciale Invest). **DeepTech Startup Founders:** Mr. Vibhakar Senthil (Founder, Torus Robotics Pvt Ltd), and Mr. Suseendar Marimuthu (Founder, Blunav Technologies Pvt Ltd).

**Ecosystem Enablers:** Ms. Akhila Rajeshwar (Executive Director, TiE Chennai), Ms. Kritika Murugesan (Senior Director – Startups, NASSCOM), and Mr. Somasundaram M (Chair, Tamil Technology Development Committee, South India Chamber of Commerce & Industry). **Grant Thornton:** Mr. Rishi Shah (Partner, Public Sector Consulting), Mr. Ajit Prasad Balakrishnan (Director), Ms. Rekha Joy (Director) and Ms. Anusha Joshu (Consultant)







**iTNT Hub Team:** Mr. Nirmal Panicker (AVP – Investments) and Mr. Nikhil Muppavarapu (AVP – Incubation)

The consultation marked a significant milestone in building Tamil Nadu's DeepTech ecosystem, fostering collaboration between startups, academia, industries, and investors to drive innovation and economic growth.



## Dubai CommerCity LLC x Tamil Nadu Technology Hub

To foster innovation in the deep and emerging technology sector and create collaboration opportunities for startup entrepreneurship, a Letter of Intent (LoI) was exchanged between Tamil Nadu Technology Hub (iTNT) and Dubai CommerCity LLC in Chennai on 12th February 2025. The LoI was exchanged between Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO, iTNT Hub, and Mr. Arjun Sarkar, Vice-President, Digital Ecosystem and Partnerships, Dubai CommerCity LLC.

Earlier that day, Mr. Arjun Sarkar and delegates from Dubai CommerCity engaged in a collaborative discussion with the CEO of iTNT Hub and team. The delegates discussed insights on doing business in Dubai, Business opportunities and regulatory environment, setting up entities in the UAE and legal and operational considerations. The discussion concluded on mutual collaboration opportunities and future partnerships.



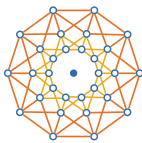
### LoI Highlights

- Collaboration with Ecosystem Partners
- Joint Acceleration Programs
- Startup Exchange
- Industry Expert Sessions
- Startup Showcases
- Peer Learning Networks
- Startup Support Groups
- Investor Meets



Through powerful collaborations iTNT is engendering a strong wave of cumulative support for DeepTech startups by creating a conducive environment for innovation and growth, and propelling dreams of successful entrepreneurship.





## What's Brewing at iTNT Hub?

### GoTN Geospatial Grand Innovation Challenge

**INNOVATE IN TN**  
COMING SOON | CHENNAI

# GEOSPATIAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE

## CHALLENGE SECTOR

## AGRICULTURE

### Routing for Tech in Mapping the Agri Landscape

**Attractive PRIZES**

**Focus Area**

- Develop an AI-enabled system that utilizes satellite imagery & GPS-enabled land maps to generate detailed crop lists for each subdivision within a given agricultural region.

**Outcomes**

- It should accurately identify & categorize crops during the growing season, providing valuable insights for farmers, agricultural organizations & government agencies.

Apply / Learn More

Apply Before: February 28, 2025

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iTNT Hub is conducting the 'GoTN Geospatial Grand Innovation Challenge' to drive cutting-edge solutions in agricultural mapping. Geospatial technologies are revolutionizing industries with advanced tools for location intelligence, spatial analytics, and real-time data visualization. This challenge invites startups and student entrepreneurs to leverage geospatial innovation to tackle critical challenges in mapping agricultural landscapes.

The Grand Innovation Challenge was launched by the Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology & Digital Services, Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, at UImagineTN 2025.

Applications for the challenge were open till February 28, in which startups and teams of innovators from across the State came out with groundbreaking ideas that can enhance farm monitoring, crop analysis, land use mapping, or precision agriculture.

Scrutiny of applications, followed by the final shortlisting, solution development, technical training and the final demo day will be carried out in March 2025. Stay tuned to know the winning solution and what is in store for them.

## Public Sector Innovation Challenge

**iTNT** TAMILNADU TECHNOLOGY HUB

**aws**

**INNOVATE IN TN**  
COMING SOON | CHENNAI

# PUBLIC SECTOR INNOVATION CHALLENGE

## GenAI & DeepTech for Tamil Nadu

**Call for Startups and Innovators**

**WINNERS GET!**  
Up to \$10,000 in AWS Credits Each  
Other Exciting Prizes

**CHALLENGE SECTORS**

- Government
- EdTech
- Healthcare
- Smart Cities & Urban Planning
- Agriculture

Apply Before: March 4, 2025

Apply / Learn More

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Artificial Intelligence is revolutionizing industries by enhancing efficiency, fostering creativity, and solving complex challenges across sectors like healthcare, finance, agriculture, and public services. Recognizing AI's transformative potential, iTNT Hub in collaboration with AWS is conducting the 'Public Sector Innovation Challenge' to empower startups in developing AI-driven solutions for real-world public sector challenges.

Applications are open till 4th March 2025, for this innovation challenge launched by the Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology & Digital Services, Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, at UmagineTN 2025.

This initiative aligns with Tamil Nadu's vision of becoming an AI innovation hub, providing startups with cloud infrastructure, machine learning tools, and data sandboxes to build, test, and scale impactful solutions.

Through mentorship, technical resources, and networking opportunities, this challenge aims to accelerate AI adoption in public services, driving meaningful societal and economic impact. The challenge has received excellent responses from innovators across the State.

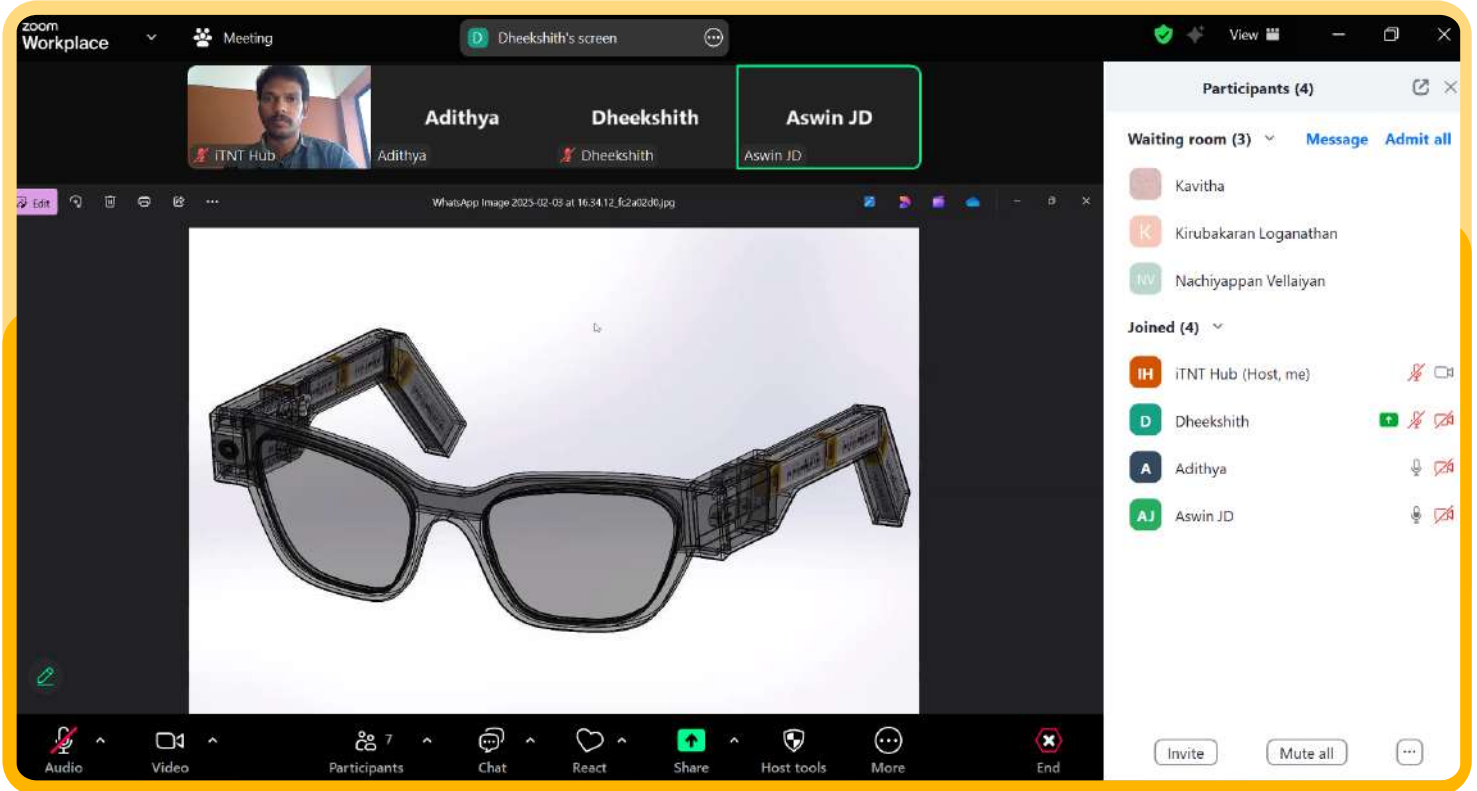
### Know More & Apply Now!

Scan to learn Challenge Areas & Use Cases, Eligibility Criteria, Benefits of Participation, Terms & Conditions, Challenge Timeline. Apply before 5 pm on 4th March, 2025.





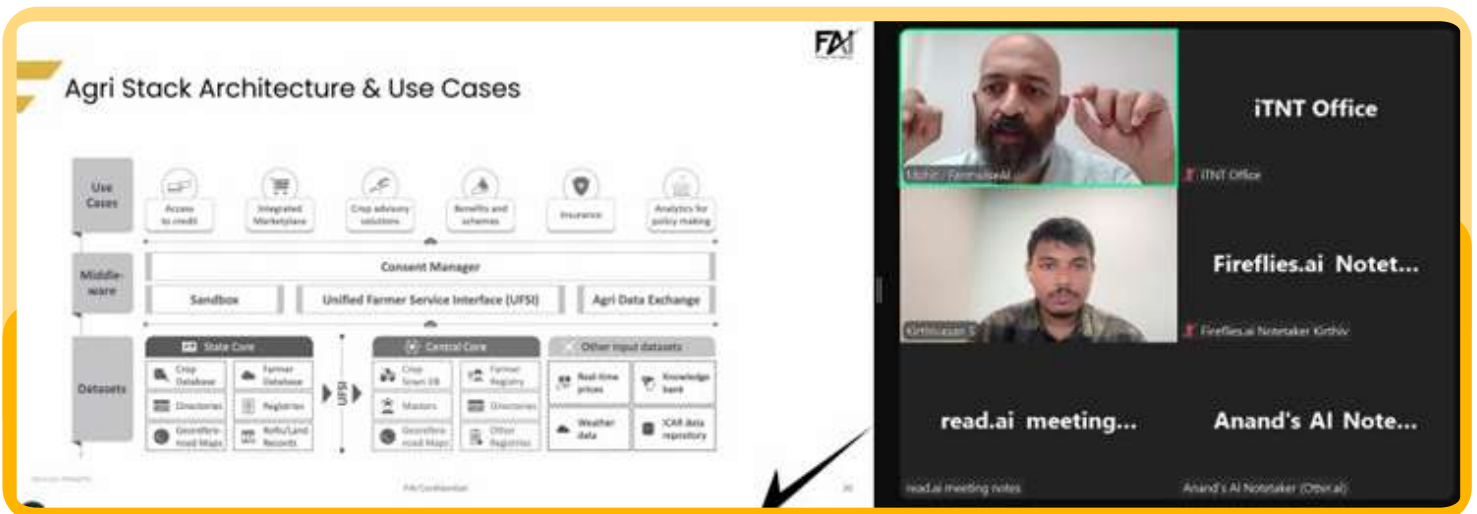
## Virtual Mentor Meet



iTNT Hub on 3rd February 2025 hosted a Virtual Mentor Meet on 'AI Architecture and AI Product Development' by Mr. Adithya Muralidharan, Senior Staff Engineer at Intel Corporation, California, USA. Mr. Adithya Muralidharan, specialises in optimizing AI server hardware for system-level applications.

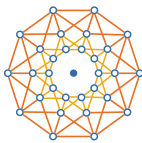
He leverages his expertise in FPGAs, GPUs, and CPUs to analyze and integrate hardware components, ensuring seamless system performance, power efficiency, and scalability for AI and ML workloads. The personalised 1:1 sessions help startup founders navigate their entrepreneurial journey, with tailored insights to tackle their unique challenges.

## Virtual Pitching Sessions



iTNT Hub hosted a series of virtual pitching sessions for the Hub's PATHFINDER incubation and iAccelerate acceleration cohort portfolio startups on the 10th, 17th & 19th of February 2025.

The Hub organized pitching sessions on February 10th and 17th, 2025, providing a platform for promising startups to showcase their innovations to Mr. Kaushik Srikanth, Partnerships Lead at The Chennai Angels.



Among the participants were Lesoko Technologies Private Limited, a full-stack drone technology company, and DAIJO Private Limited, a Chennai-based E-Bicycle manufacturer, both presenting their pioneering solutions and growth potential. On 19th February, the connect was with Mr. Kirthivasan Suresh, Partner, 8x Ventures for FarmwiseAI, which presented their

-agristack solutions and geospatial analytics for government clients in Tamil Nadu.

These investor connects reflect iTNT Hub's dedication to bridging innovators with investors, fostering collaboration, and accelerating the growth of emerging tech startups in Tamil Nadu's vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem.

## iAccelerate



### Go to Market - Workshop

Mr. Kiran Babu, Co-Founder and CEO at rava.ai, provided DeepTech startups with valuable insights into user acquisition, brand positioning, and go-to-market (GTM) strategies as part of the iAccelerate acceleration workshop by iTNT Hub in association with D-labs by ISB as the knowledge partner, on 7th February 2025. Designed to equip founders with actionable strategies, the session covered essential aspects of scaling a DeepTech venture in today's competitive ecosystem.



## Following were the key focus areas:

- **Effective User Acquisition & Growth Hacking** – Startups explored targeted user acquisition strategies and cost-effective growth hacking techniques to accelerate adoption.
- **Brand Positioning in Deep-Tech** – The session emphasized crafting a compelling brand narrative that differentiates startups within the deep-tech landscape.
- **Go-To-Market (GTM) Strategies** – Experts guided startups on building and executing a GTM roadmap tailored to their innovation lifecycle.

Participating founders and co-founders gained a clear understanding to develop and implement cost-efficient user acquisition strategies;

Insights into creating a strong and differentiated brand presence in the deep-tech ecosystem; A structured approach to designing and executing a GTM plan aligned with their startup's growth stage; Strategies to overcome challenges in scaling marketing efforts and effectively measuring ROI; and Knowledge of AI-powered marketing systems for long-term, scalable growth.

With DeepTech startups facing unique challenges in market entry and customer acquisition, this workshop provided practical frameworks to build sustainable and high-impact marketing systems. By leveraging AI and data-driven decision-making, startups are now better equipped to scale effectively and position themselves for long-term success.

## Disney Publishing Worldwide Delegation @ iTNT Hub



iTNT Hub hosted Mr. Ng Yeow Chong, Regional Head (South Asia), Disney Publishing and Digital Experiences, and Mr. Amrit Chopra, Category Lead, Walt Disney, on 13th February 2025. The delegation had an engaging discussion with iTNT Hub CEO Ms. Vanitha Venugopal and team on the Hub's programs and IPR initiatives.

Disney Publishing Worldwide shared insights into their content creation initiatives, including their exclusive audiovisual content division and various business verticals. iTNT Hub explored opportunities for Disney to mentor Tamil Nadu-based startups in the Animation, VFX & Comics space.

## iAccelerate “Getting your Second Date with your Investor”



“Getting your Second Date with your Investor”, a presentation by Mr. Pradeep Yuvaraj, Principal Storyteller & Managing Director at Prezantim Presentation Strategy, was the salient feature of Investment Readiness workshop as part of the iAccelerate 1.0 acceleration cohort at iTNT Hub on February 14, 2025. The day-long workshop on Storytelling, Building the Perfect Pitch-Deck was organised by iTNT Hub in collaboration with D-labs by ISB as the knowledge partner.

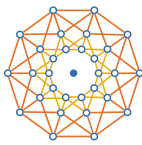
The session provided startups with insights on:

- Power of storytelling
- Storytelling and brain science
- Emotions as a key to pitching
- The power of Simplicity
- Converting abstract into concrete
- A 360° perspective on pitching

The workshop which had a demanding capture of attention of everyone present, gave an all round perspective on welding concrete storytelling artistry into pitch decks. Mr. Pradeep delved into the intricacies of storytelling and how it has the power to turn complex aspects of any phenomenon into simple rendering of ideas. If the session can be summed up in a single line it would be “Facts Tell, Stories Sell”.

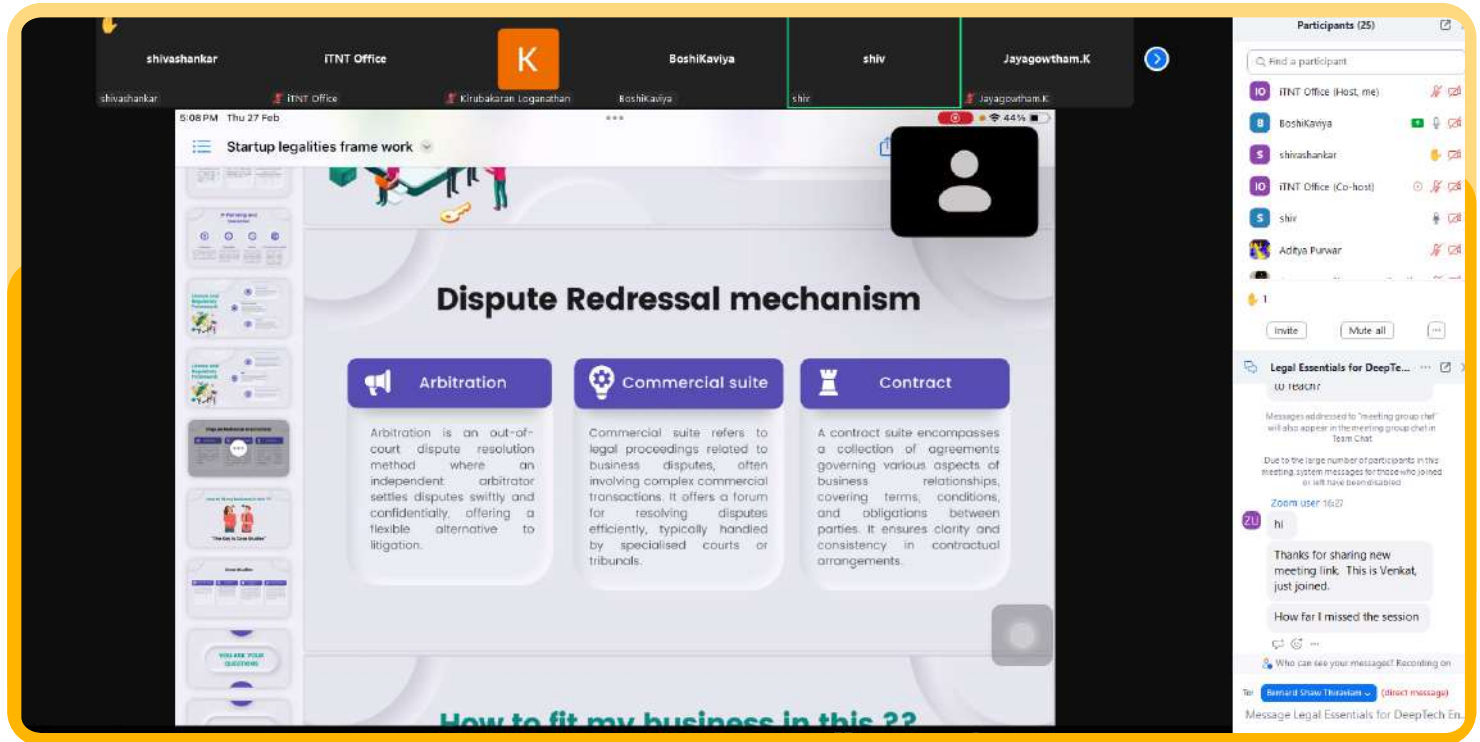
iAccelerate, our flagship Acceleration cohort, designed to propel Emerging & Deep Tech startups at the forefront of technological innovation, to take your dream venture to the next level. iAccelerate aims to support the creation of a vibrant and high impact entrepreneurial ecosystem focused on innovation & commercialization in key sectors.





## Webinar: “Legal Essentials for DeepTech Entrepreneurs”

iTNT Hosted a Virtual Webinar on Legal Essentials for DeepTech Startups on 27th February 2025 by Ms. Boshi Kaviya, a seasoned IP Professional, and Director of LIS Service, as she details the “Legal Essentials for DeepTech Entrepreneurs”.



The Webinar gave strategic insight on:

- **Business Structure:** Recommendation to start with LLP/Partnership instead of Private Limited for early-stage startups
- **Compliance Requirements:** Different legal obligations based on business structure choice
- **Contracts and Agreements:** Importance of vendor, client, employee, and internal management contracts
- **NDAs and Documentation:** Protecting company interests and intellectual property
- **Patents in DeepTech:** Discussion on product patents vs process patents, especially for AI/ML applications
- **Legal Documentation:** Importance of proper documentation and policies for business protection
- **Watch our Social Media Handles and Website for upcoming Webinars and Masterclasses**



## Microsoft Day: Workshop on GenAI and OpenAI



iTNT Hub, in collaboration with the Azure Society of Excellence, organized an engaging workshop on Generative AI (GenAI) and OpenAI on 28th February 2025. Led by Mr. Harun Raseed Basheer, Microsoft MVP and Azure Data Engineer at Hitachi Solutions India Pvt Ltd, the session provided valuable insights into how AI models function behind the scenes.

Differences between Large Language Models (LLM) and Small Language Models (SLM), the mechanics of text generation, and advanced concepts like pTop and temperature and token usage intricacies were among the key topics that were covered. The workshop also explored Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), a powerful technique for enhancing AI-generated outputs with external data.



There was also a live demo of how users can engage with various features Azure AI Foundry.

Mr. Stanford Dsouza, Lead Key Account Manager, ID8NXT, elaborated on Microsoft for Startup Founders Hub. Key takeaways for Startups who will gain access for the Hub's program include

- Based on the stage the startup is in \$150,000 in Azure credits to experiment, prototype, and build your AI application.
- All startups get free access to leading AI models through Azure, including OpenAI GPT-4, Llama 2 from Meta, and more.

- Unlimited 1:1 meetings with experts who can help solve immediate business challenges, plus provide technical guidance on the latest in AI.

- 30+ additional free and discounted tools, tech, and services from Microsoft and our partners including M365, GitHub, LinkedIn Premium and more.

Through continued efforts in conducting such workshops, iTNT Hub is committed to empowering innovators with cutting-edge knowledge and building a strong AI-driven ecosystem.



## Founder Stories @ iTNT Hub

### Karthik Balu - Clofus Innovations

At various points in the road to create technologies and solutions that will make everyday movement of commercial operations efficient, individuals realise that necessity is the mother of invention. Realising his acumen for innovating at a young age, Karthick Balu put his mind to work at the age of 15 by creating a novice messaging platform within a local area network. He did all this while arriving 3 hours before his allotted time at a computer education institute.



Fast forward, after completing his masters in Electronics and Computer Science Engineering at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada; Mr. Karthik worked at Longbow Advantage and developed from scratch a warehouse Analytics Platform, part of the architecture design and development process. He handled various critical software development operations for supply chain and warehouse management services. Although creating a noteworthy impact in the organisations he worked at, Mr. Karthik felt under-utilised and restricted towards his incessant drive to innovate and design technologies and solutions for the real world.

He came back to India and started Clofus Innovations in 2014. His organisation is a leading innovator in AI Software/Hardware solutions and inventory management/warehousing solutions in the country. Specialising in delivering advanced automation systems designed to enhance operational efficiency and accuracy. By integrating cutting-edge technology with tailored solutions, Clofus helps businesses optimize their inventory processes, reduce errors, and improve productivity.

One of their products, AI Dispatch Tracker uses smart camera technology to scan and monitor outbound

inventory, preventing theft and ensuring accurate shipments. It helps businesses maintain customer trust by delivering the right products every time.

Their AI PPE Monitor is equipped with advanced sensors designed to detect and alert individuals lacking required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) like safety shoes, gloves, and vests. This cutting edge solution ensures workplace safety compliance by identifying and notifying users of missing PPE in real-time.



Mr. Karthik Balu has created a range of products designed by the Clofus including the Vikbot AI Camera with sensors and ability to scan any material, people and process. His solutions also extend to AI Pallet Scanner, AI Truck Monitor, AI Assembly Line Monitor, AI Inventory Monitor, AI Worker Monitor.



Through his innovations Mr. Karthik Balu has realised his calling to be an innovator at the forefront of the AI revolution, creating solutions of the future where man and self conscious AI begin to coexist for the greater good. Clofus Innovation is an iAccelerate cohort getting accelerated at iTNT Hub.

## Founder Stories @ iTNT Hub

### Muthukumar Ramalingam: Esedios



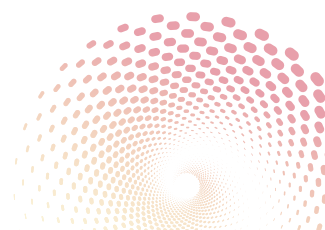
Every year millions are affected by natural disasters, leaving a long-lasting impact on lives and livelihoods and economy. Though most of them are inevitable, disaster management authorities worldwide are trying to enhance the ability of systems to expedite transmission methods, processing time and decision making through early warning to save lives in better response time.

However, upgrading to a new technology can help us in identifying life-threatening hazards, by warning us in early stages. In this field that demands the most acute intelligence in providing the right set of technological tools that will aid humanity. Mr. Muthukumar, CEO of Esedios Technology Services Private Limited, has been working in early warning systems for earthquakes after his post graduation in physics.

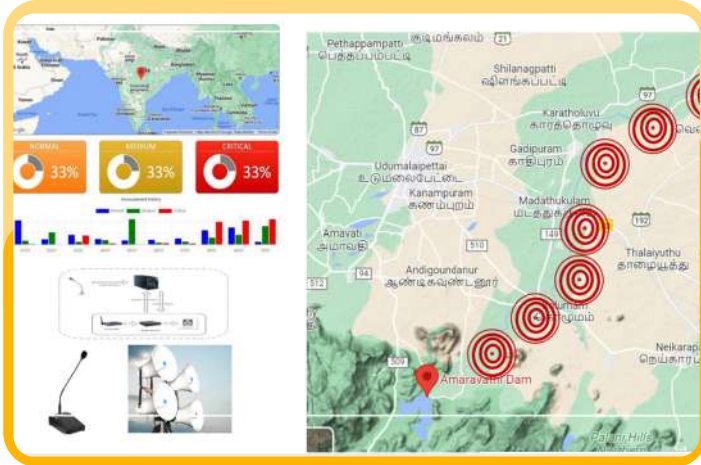
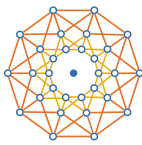
Soon after he joined as a research associate at The Centre for Disaster Management and Mitigation at the College of Engineering Guindy. As one leading to another, he played a pivotal role in executing several mission-critical geophysical and disaster monitoring projects across India. His expertise in seismic technology, early warning systems, and emergency communication networks contributed significantly to national and international initiatives in disaster preparedness, geological research, and real-time monitoring.

Through these projects, Mr. Muthukumar contributed significantly to national disaster resilience, real-time seismic monitoring, and geophysical research. His leadership in deploying cutting-edge geospatial technologies and communication networks has strengthened prediction, monitoring, and timely response to natural disasters and geological phenomena.

With a destiny to create a disaster resilient environment Mr. Muthukumar founded Esedios Technology Services Private Limited and has been developing an Early Warning Announcement System (EWAS). It is an integrated unit of software, server, solar powered remote-functional smart IoT pole with scheduled transmission and distribution system. It is deployable for various geo-physical events such as earthquakes, landslides, volcano explosions, magma eruption and the hydrological events such as floods, drought, tornado, hurricanes, tsunami and climatic events such as wildfire, hailstorms and extreme heatwaves.







The implementation of Esudios' AIoT sensing devices can equip early warning systems (EWS) from multi hazards and natural disasters. The AI and ML based sensing systems play a vital role in the several stages of the data transmission, data processing, decision making which will ease the task of delivering the announcements and alerts to the public as well as the corresponding authorities. The predictive sensing system is highly proactive in aiding decision making.

Esudios' solutions are designed to seamlessly interface with existing sensor setups in high-rise buildings, domes, and various environmental monitoring systems, such as flood monitoring and landslide sensors. Their configurable last-mile connectivity options ensure effective data relay and communication through multiple channels, including Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) networks, National Hydrology Project (NHP) systems, and the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP). Additionally, the technology supports diverse communication methods like satellite, GSM, and extended Wi-Fi, ensuring robust and uninterrupted data flow even in challenging environments.



By integrating Esudios' AIoT sensing devices with existing infrastructure, the company's innovative approach enhances early warning capabilities, supports real-time monitoring, and strengthens overall disaster preparedness and response. This transformative technology is set to revolutionize disaster management, making communities more resilient and better equipped to handle natural and multi-hazard threats.

This iTNT Hub PATHFINDER incubated startup is creating a deep impact in the lives of many through its early warning system interface which will serve as a monumental aid during disasters and build a resilient community at the face of calamities.



## Events in February

### TEDx Jeppiaar University



Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO of iTNT Hub, took the stage at TEDx Jeppiaar University on 19th February 2025 with an inspiring talk titled “The Unfair Advantage: Turning Your Uniqueness into Innovation.” Ms. Vanitha shed light on how the very qualities that make us different, the ones often seen as misfits, can become our greatest strengths in driving innovation and creating meaningful change in the world.

Drawing from her own journey and the experiences of trailblazing innovators, she highlighted how embracing individuality and unique perspectives fuels creativity and opens up new avenues for problem-solving. Her words resonated deeply with the audience, leaving them with a renewed sense of confidence in their own distinctive qualities.

### Nilgiris Economic Dialogue - CII



The Nilgiris Economic Dialogue by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Tamil Nadu is an initiative that will bring together leaders from diverse worlds – Industry, Government, Academia, Planning & Development Bodies to engage on matters of importance for economic, social, and equitable growth towards an optimistic future, through topics of relevance.

iTNT Hub CEO Ms. Vanitha Venugopal on 7th February 2025, spoke at the Panel Discussion on Strengthening Digital Frontiers, particularly in DeepTech, data, and the digital economy. She highlighted how DeepTech startups, driven by advanced R&D, are solving real-world challenges through AI in healthcare, climate modeling, advanced manufacturing, and space tech.



She emphasized India's potential to lead global Deep Tech innovation through policy support, increased funding, industry-academia collaboration, and infrastructure development. She showcased iTNT Hub's role in nurturing this ecosystem through initiatives like JIGSAW platform, and the BEACON, PATHFINDER, and iAccelerate programs designed to validate ideas, incubate startups, and accelerate growth.

Other panelists included Mr. Dayasindhu N, Co-founder & CEO, Itihaasa Research and Digital; Rajesh Subramanian, Founder & CEO embedUR Systems; and Mr. S Swaminathan CEO, GS1 India.

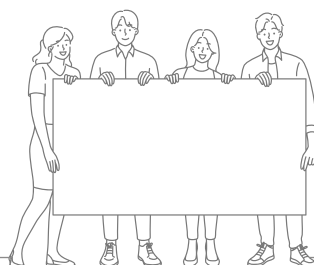


## ELCINA - Enhancing India's Electronics Supply Chain

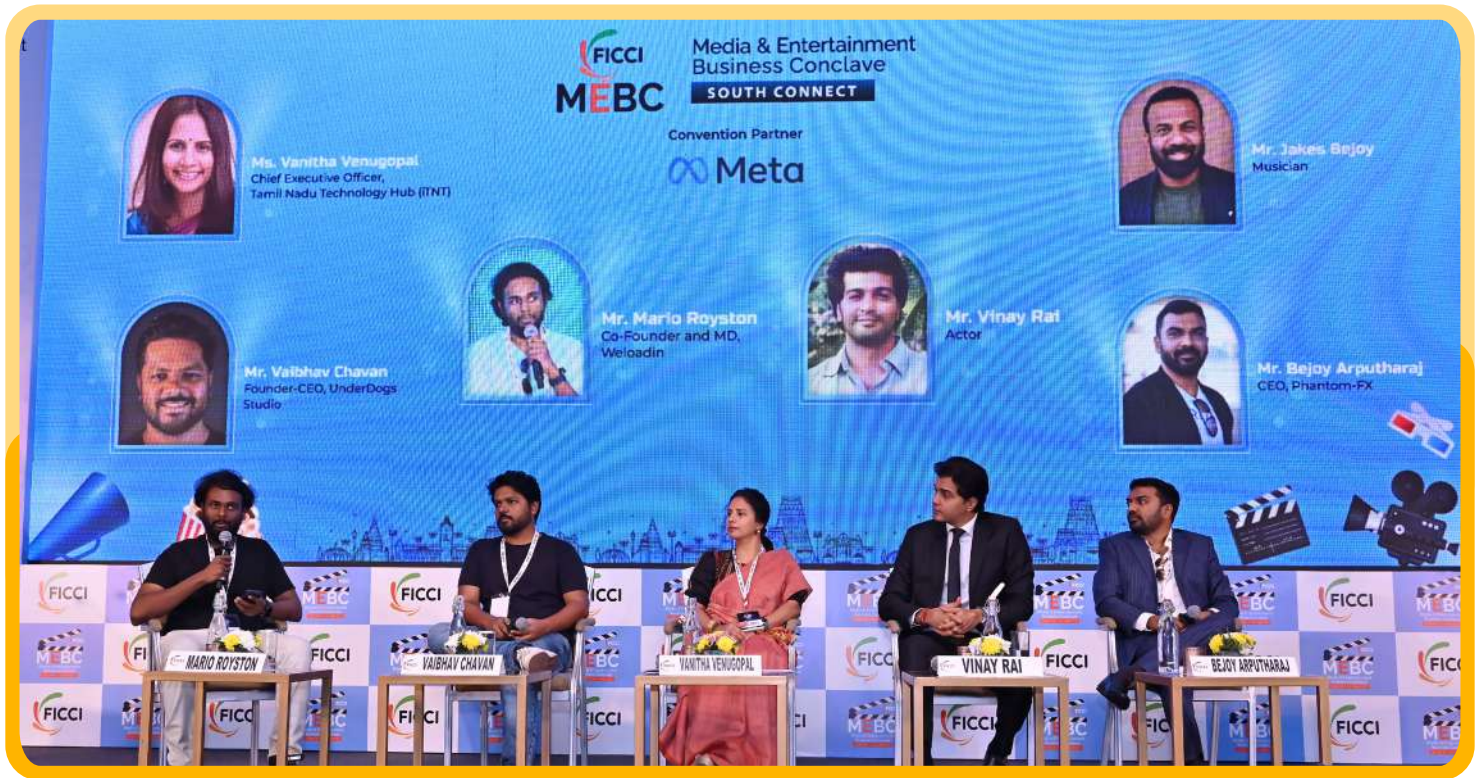


The "Enhancing India's Electronics Supply Chain" conference, conducted by ELCINA at the Chennai Trade Centre on 18th & 19th February 2025, brought together key industry leaders, policymakers, and innovators to discuss India's position in the global electronics value chain.

Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO of iTNT Hub, spoke about India's potential in Deep and Emerging technologies, highlighting iTNT's role in nurturing startups in these domains. She emphasized the need for industry-academia collaboration, robust R&D, and global market access to drive innovation and create impactful solutions in sectors like AI, robotics, and healthcare.



## FICCI - Media & Entertainment Business Conclave



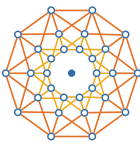
At the FICCI Media & Entertainment Business Conclave on 22nd February 2025, Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO of iTNT Hub, shared her insights in a panel discussion on “Local to Global: Gaming and Transmedia Innovations”. The discussion moderated by Mr. Mario Royston, Co-Founder and MD of Weloadin, featured an esteemed lineup of speakers including Mr. Vaibhav Chavan, Founder and CEO of UnderDogs Studio; Mr. Jakes Bejoy, renowned musician; Mr. Bejoy Arputharaj, CEO of Phantom-FX; and Mr. Vinay Rai, actor.

Ms. Vanitha Venugopal shared insights on Gaming and Transmedia Innovations, emphasizing Tamil Nadu’s potential to become a global hub for AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics).

She highlighted the rise of the metaverse, cultural storytelling through gaming, and the cross-border appeal of Tamil stories, stressing the importance of infrastructure, indie developers, and AR/VR tourism.

The CEO also addressed key challenges in VR-based transmedia storytelling, like hardware accessibility, narrative complexity, and localized content creation, offering solutions through incubator support, training programs, and global collaborations. She called for Indian studios to invest in gaming and animation, drawing parallels with global cross-IP franchises like Marvel and Harry Potter, and encouraged India’s entertainment industry to embrace long-term franchise planning and multi-platform storytelling.





## DeepTech Insights

### Budget 2025:

#### Fund of Funds for DeepTech on the Cards

In an attempt to promote innovation and establish India as a global leader in DeepTech, the Government announced that it will explore a dedicated Fund of Funds for the next-generation startups. A Rs. 20,000-crore investment to drive private sector-led research, development and innovation has also been proposed. It comes at a time when there is a growing demand for advanced technologies such as GenAI, quantum computing, blockchain, robotics, among others.



Scan to read the full article

### India's DeepTech Leap: What 2025 Holds For The Ecosystem

India's DeepTech ecosystem has witnessed remarkable progress, driven by strong Government policies, increasing investor confidence, and a wave of entrepreneurial talent. It is increasingly being recognized as a global force. With a unique combination of cost-effectiveness, intellectual capital, and market potential, India is well-positioned to attract international investments and partnerships.



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### We Are Just Getting Started':

#### Speciale Invest's Arjun Rao On India's DeepTech Future

Mr. Arjun Rao, Partner at Speciale Invest, in an interview with BW Businessworld, talks about his views on India's DeepTech funding landscape and the venture capital climate in the country. Speciale Invest, known for its early-stage investments in exciting startups like Agnikul Cosmos, GalaxEye, CynLr, Mindgrove, and Ultraviolette, continues to be a major player in the DeepTech space.



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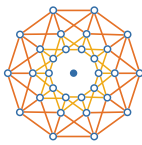
### Quantum Computing Has Arrived; We Need to Prepare for Its Impact

Since the development of the electronic calculator in the 1960s, the field of computing has seen tremendous breakthroughs. In the field of information processing, the last several years have been particularly revolutionary. Technology has made what were previously considered science fiction dreams a reality.



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## Startup Hiring



**Positions Vacant: 2**

**Role: 1)** Diploma in Electrical Engineer - 1  
**2)** Diploma in Mechanical Engineer - 1

**For More Details**

**Mobile:**  
9344954344

**Email ID:**  
muralikrishnanmanoharan@gmail.com

**Apply Soon**



**Positions Vacant: 1**

**Role:** B Tech in AI

**For More Details**

**Mobile:**  
9080059501

**Email ID:**  
contact@eaze-ai.com

**Apply Soon**



**Positions Vacant: 1**

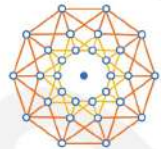
**Role:** B Tech in AI

**For More Details**

**Mobile:**  
9244444499

**Email ID:**  
muru@dgiverse.com

**Apply Soon**



## 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

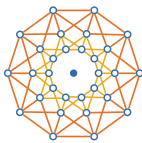
Submit the required details by

**MARCH 20, 2025**

<http://www.itnthub.tn.gov.in>







## Events on the Radar







### Inviting Startup Founders

**Demo Day with Prospective Candidates!**

From Freshworks STS Software Academy, a Social Impact initiative empowering students from under-served communities to begin skill-based IT careers.

### Candidates are trained in

- ✓ Frontend (HTML, CSS, JavaScript)
- ✓ Backend (Python, Java)
- ✓ Testing (Automation & Manual)
- ✓ Data Analytics (MySQL, Power BI)
- ✓ IT Support
- ✓ Data Structure & Algorithm
- ✓ Communication & Life Skills

### They are familiar with

- Sonar Cloud
- Visual Studio
- MySQL
- GitHub



**Sign Up for  
Demo Day**

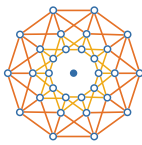


**MARCH  
14, 2025**



**iTNT Hub  
Chennai**

**For Details:**  [dhharshini.jenefer@csr.freshworks.com](mailto:dhharshini.jenefer@csr.freshworks.com)  [+91-82206 22980](https://wa.me/918220622980)



## Events on the Radar








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Intellectual Powerhouse: Transforming Tamil Nadu into the Innovation Capital of India.

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Expert Talks



Fireside Chats



Investor Connects



Pitching Sessions



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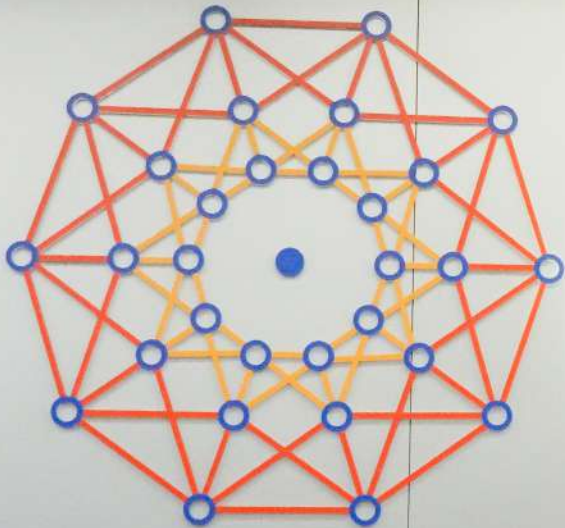
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