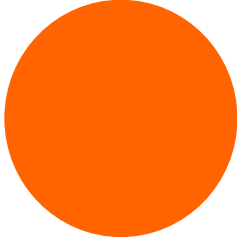


Deep Dive

January 2025



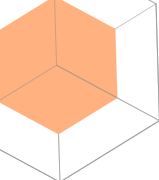


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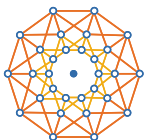
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Foreword

I am delighted to present the latest edition of the Deep Dive Monthly Newsletter, a key initiative by the Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) Hub. This platform serves as a reflection of the immense strides our State is making in the field of Deep & Emerging Tech transformation. iTNT Hub continues to be at the forefront of fostering innovation, nurturing tech startups, and driving the adoption of cutting-edge solutions across sectors, by connecting researchers, innovators, startups, industry & investors.

Tamil Nadu, as a leading technology hub in India, is home to a vibrant ecosystem of talent, entrepreneurs, and industries. Through iTNT, we aim to empower startups, promote digital literacy, and create an inclusive environment where technology can address the unique challenges faced by our society. Our focus remains on building a sustainable and scalable digital economy that drives growth and enhances the quality of life for our people.

UmagineTN 2025 on January 9 & 10 by the IT & DS Department to embark on a journey of transformation, was a resounding success, accelerating Tamil Nadu's Tech Progression. This 3rd annual edition of UmagineTN inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and graced by the Deputy Chief Minister and ministers was studded with talks by over 100 experts, and a tech showcase of 50,000 sq.ft. by over 150 exhibitors attracted over 13,000 visitors from the global tech ecosystem.

A landmark initiative launched at this mega event was the Foundation Fund to invest in Deep & Emerging Tech startups supported by iTNT Hub. iTNT Hub also signed MoUs with 70 leading national ecosystem players, incubators and academic institutions and showcased over 50 deep tech startups. At the Innovation Arena the Hon'ble Minister for IT&DS Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan launched deep tech hardware and software products, initiated Innovation Challenges, interacted with startup founders and innovators and offered to extend support to their new-age ventures.

This newsletter is a testament to the remarkable progress we've made, showcasing the latest developments, success stories, and initiatives within the tech ecosystem. It is our belief that through collaboration, innovation, and a shared vision, we can continue to propel Tamil Nadu towards becoming a global leader in the Deep & Emerging Tech space. I encourage you to explore this edition and look forward to the continued success of iTNT Hub and the growing digital and innovation landscape of Tamil Nadu.



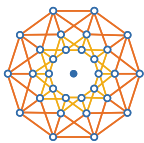
Warm Regards,

Thiru. Kumar Jayant, I.A.S.

Additional Chief Secretary to Government

Information Technology & Digital Services Department

Government of Tamil Nadu



UmanageTN 2025 **iTNT Hub Impact** January 9 & 10 | Chennai Trade Centre

UmanageTN 2025



Innovation Arena



About iTNT Hub @ UmanageTN 2025

Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin | Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu



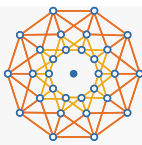
The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin in his virtual chief guest address at the valedictory of UmanageTN 2025 noted that there were 2,300 startups in the state but through government policies and support the number has grown to 10,000. The Startup ecosystem is growing at a rapid pace though Initiatives like iTNT. The Tamil Nadu Government is also encouraging startups by tying up with incubators, he said, adding that several initiatives have helped startups scale their operations and secure funding.



Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan Hon'ble Minister for IT & DS

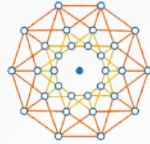
Reflecting on his personal experience, speaking at the valedictory of the two-day event, the Hon'ble Minister Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan remarked, "I have benefited immensely from this conference—whether it was attending the insightful sessions, exploring the exhibits, or engaging in the Innovation Arena. Every aspect of this event has been enlightening, leaving me with valuable takeaways." He shared his admiration for the startups showcased at the event, including many incubated by iTNT Hub. He praised their progress since last year, highlighting the remarkable advancements they had achieved.

The Hon'ble Minister was particularly impressed by the Innovation Arena, which facilitated 83 curated connections between investors and startups. He proudly announced the launch of 10 new products—three in deep-tech hardware and seven in AI and software. The event also featured 57 startup display pavilions, 28 masterclasses, 12 startup pitches, and 7 student pitches. He described the Innovation Arena and the startups as the most inspiring and impressive aspects of the conference.



iTNT Hub @ UImagineTN 2025

Launched



FOUNDATION
UND By Tamilnadu Technology Hub

National & International Collaborations

nasscom
foundation

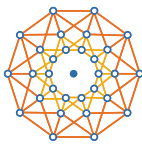


Co-Incubation MoUs with Incubators



JIGSAW MoUs with Engineering Colleges





Innovation Arena @ UImagineTN 2025

Ecosystem Partners



Product Launches



Startups Showcased



Hon'ble Chief Minister Inaugurates **UmagineTN 2025** Third Edition of Annual Mega Event, a Grand Success



The third edition of UmagineTN 2025 inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. M.K. Stalin, at the Chennai Trade Centre, Nandambakkam, was a monumental success. Spanning two days, the annual mega event by the Information Technology & Digital Services Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, attracted a footfall of over 13,000.

The summit featured a diverse lineup of 46 sessions and 170 speakers, delivering exceptional insights through keynotes, fireside chats, and panel discussions. With a focus on emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and DeepTech, quantum computing, climate change, animation, gaming, global capability centers, talent development, and electric vehicles, the event highlighted Tamil Nadu's leadership in innovation and its thriving startup ecosystem.



A salient feature of UماغineTN 2025 was a tech exhibition that hosted 150 exhibitors, including leading companies and startups, showcasing transformative products and solutions across sectors. This display underscored the State's remarkable success in the IT, ITeS & Deep and Emerging Tech sector. It provided attendees with an opportunity to explore cutting-edge advancements driving industry transformation and innovation. The event featured specialized arenas for deep-tech

and emerging-tech startups, providing them with a platform to showcase their innovative solutions to industry leaders, academia, and tech enthusiasts. UماغineTN 2025 successfully established itself as a Hub for thought leadership, innovation, and strategic collaboration. The event solidified Tamil Nadu's position as a leader in fostering technological advancements and a vibrant startup ecosystem, paving the way for transformative growth and sustainable development.

Foundation Fund

A major highlight of the big stage was the launch of the FOUNDATION (Financing Opportunities for Unleashing Deeptech Advancements & Transformative Innovations) Fund by iTNT Hub by the Hon'ble Minister for IT & DS, Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, at the valedictory of UماغineTN 2025.



Fund Highlights

- FOUNDATION Fund will be invested in TN-based Deep & Emerging Tech startups supported by iTNT Hub.
- With support from MeitY, Government of India, the 1st tranche of Rs. 2 Crore will support the Deep & Emerging Tech Innovation ecosystem of Tamil Nadu.
- Up to Rs. 40 Lakh investment per iTNT supported TN-based Deep & Emerging Tech startup.
- Fund aims bringing together angel investors, HNIs, VCs to create FOUNDATION Network.



Innovation Arena



The Innovation Arena, curated by iTNT Hub, was a marquee attraction at UmagineTN 2025, serving as a dynamic platform for collaboration. It brought together DeepTech innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, mentors, industry experts, investors, incubators, international partners, and government bodies.

Close to the Innovation Arena, iTNT Hub also provided curated free stalls to 20 startups, which attracted significant footfall from industry leaders, investors, and

government representatives, fostering valuable connections and collaborations.

The Arena will feature keynote talks, fireside chats, panel discussions, investment pitches, product launches, and new initiative unveilings, with a strong focus on AI/ML, IoT, AR/VR, robotics, cybersecurity, space tech, EVs, creative tech, geospatial tech, climate tech, smart cities, transportation, healthcare, and life sciences.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Inaugurates **UmanageTN 2025**



Collaborations with National & International Partners

iTNT Hub exchanged strategic Memorandums of Understanding with 8 key national and international ecosystem leaders, at UagineTN 2025, to support the Deep and Emerging Tech startups in Tamil Nadu. These MoUs were exchanged between the Chief Executive Officer of iTNT Hub Ms. Vanitha Venugopal and the heads and senior representatives of the organizations in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology & Digital Services Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, senior bureaucrats, heads of government departments and industry leaders.

Thiru. Neeraj Mittal, I.A.S., Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, Government of India; Thiru. Kumar Jayant, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary to Government, IT&DS Department; Tmt. P. Ramana Saraswathi, I.A.S., Managing Director (in-charge), ELCOT; Thiru. M. Govinda Rao, I.A.S., Director of e-Governance / CEO of TNeGA; Mr. Natrajan Mallupillai, Group CEO, IIT MRP; Mr. Srivats Ram, Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu State Council; and Dr. Chandrika Kaushik, Scientist, DRDO, were on stage during the exchanges.

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing

The MoU with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Chennai, was exchanged with Mr. Magesh, Director General, C-DAC, and Dr. Ethirajan, Scientist F and Centre Head, C-DAC.

MoU Highlights

- Creating transformative solutions, boosting regional innovation, contributing to socio-economic growth.
- Driving innovation in High-performance Computing, AI, Quantum Computing, Cybersecurity, and Healthcare Technologies.
- Fostering collaborative research, training, and technology development.
- Enabling startups and innovators access C-DAC's expertise and resources.



Game Developers Association of India

iTNT Hub exchanged the MoU with the Game Developers Association of India (GDIA) with Mr. Sridhar, President of GDIA.

MoU Highlights

- Positioning Tamil Nadu as a leading hub for gaming innovation.
- Nurturing the gaming and interactive entertainment ecosystem.
- Access to cutting-edge resources, mentorship, and industry insights.
- Empowering to innovate & excel in game development technologies.
- Fostering a vibrant community of creators and technologists.



Kerala Startup Mission

The MoU with the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) was exchanged with Mr. Vishal Kadam, Head – Corporate Innovation and Global Relations, KSUM.

MoU Highlights

- Fostering innovation and entrepreneurship across regional boundaries.
- Leveraging strengths of both ecosystems to provide startups.
- Providing access to state-of-the-art infrastructure, mentorship & funding opportunities.
- Enabling startups to scale and thrive in the competitive global market.
- Driving knowledge exchange, joint initiatives, and cross-border collaborations.
- Creating a unified platform to empower startups & catalysing growth.



VFX, Animation and Gaming Society

iTNT Hub exchanged the MoU with the VFX, Animation and Gaming Society (VEGAS) with Mr. Lenin, Vice President, VEGAS.



MoU Highlights

- Positioning Tamil Nadu as a leading hub for AV innovation.
- Nurturing VFX & Animation and interactive entertainment ecosystem.
- Providing access to cutting-edge resources, mentorship, and industry insights.
- Empowering startups to innovate & excel in the AV sector & related technologies.
- Fostering a vibrant community, driving growth, collaboration & global opportunities.

IIT Madras Research Park

The MoU with IIT Madras Research Park (IIT MRP) was exchanged with Mr. Natrajan Mallupillai, Group CEO of IIT MRP.

MoU Highlights

- Strengthening Tamil Nadu's position as a global technology innovation hub.
- Fostering synergy between academia, industry, and advanced research facilities.
- Enabling seamless access to IIT MRP's state-of-the-art infrastructure.
- Accelerating development & commercialization of DeepTech solutions.
- Driving impactful advancements & creating a thriving ecosystem.



NASSCOM Foundation

iTNT Hub exchanged the MoU with NASSCOM Foundation with Mr. Vishal Thakur, CTO, NASSCOM Foundation.



MoU Highlights

- Driving impactful innovation challenges and startup support programs.
- Addressing pressing industry and societal challenges by empowering startups.
- Providing mentorship, resources, and access to key ecosystems.
- Fostering a culture of innovation and sustainable growth.

Action Community for Entrepreneurship

iTNT Hub exchanged a Memorandum of Collaboration with the Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE). Additional Chief Secretary to Government, IT & DS Department, Thiru. Kumar Jayant, I.A.S., and CEO of iTNT Hub Ms. Vanitha Venugopal announced the collaboration.

MoU Highlights

- Strengthening cross-border innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Supporting Tamil Nadu-based startups in exploring Southeast Asian markets.
- Leveraging ACE's expertise & networks for market immersion programs, mentoring, and investor connections.
- Fostering a culture of innovation and sustainable growth.



Maker Village

A MoU with Maker Village was exchanged with Prof. Alex James, Dean (Academic), DUK, Professor-in-Charge, Maker Village, in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister for IT & DS Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, and dignitaries at the Innovation Arena by iTNT Hub.



MoU Highlights

- Enable holistic ecosystem development, impactful technological & societal progress.
- Leverage mutual strengths to drive advancements in innovation & entrepreneurship.
- Build a robust innovation ecosystem & establish a long-term framework.
- Promote cooperation among startups, innovators, academia and corporates.

iTNT Hub to Co-Incubate with **25 TN Deep Tech Incubators**



iTNT Hub exchanged MoUs for co-incubation with 25 Incubators across Tamil Nadu at the valedictory of UmagineTN 2025, in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister for IT & DS Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Thiru. Neeraj Mittal, I.A.S., Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, Government of India; Thiru. Kumar Jayant, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary to Government, IT&DS Department; Tmt. P. Ramana Saraswathi, I.A.S., Managing Director (in-charge), ELCOT; Thiru. M. Govinda Rao, I.A.S., Director of e-Governance / CEO of TNeGA; Mr. Natrajan Mallupillai, Group CEO, IIT MRP; Mr. Srivats Ram, Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu State Council; and Dr. Chandrika Kaushik, Scientist, DRDO, were on stage during the exchanges.

Collaboration Highlights

- Aims to establish a robust network of support for startups and innovators.
- Enable growth of Deep and Emerging Tech ecosystems in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- Foster regional innovation & drive entrepreneurial development throughout the State.



Incubation Collaborators

1. AIC NIFTTEA Incubation Centre for Textiles and Apparels, Tiruppur
2. AIC - Raise Business Incubator, Coimbatore
3. AMET Chamber for Entrepreneurship Innovation and Incubation, Chennai
4. Annamalai Innovation and Incubation Research Foundation-EDII, Cuddalore
5. Association for Bio-inspired Leaders & Entrepreneurs at SASTRA TBI, Thanjavur
6. CODISSIA Defence Innovation and Atal Incubation Centre, Coimbatore
7. Crescent Innovation and Incubation Council, Chennai
8. The Coimbatore Institute of Engineering and Technology - TBI (Cultiv8), Coimbatore
9. Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Center of Excellence in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Chennai
10. EDII Periyakulam Horti Business Incubation Forum, Periyakulam
11. IITM Pravartak Technologies Foundation, Chennai
12. Kalasalingam Technology Business Incubator, Virudhunagar
13. Karunya Institute of Technology and Science, Coimbatore
14. Nehru Group of Institutions Technology Business Incubator, Coimbatore
15. Oasys Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli
16. PSGCT-Science & Technology Entrepreneurial Park (PSG-STEP), Coimbatore
17. Sathyabama Innovation Council, Chennai
18. Sathyabama Technology Business Incubator, Chennai
19. Sri Ramachandra Innovation Incubation Center, Chennai
20. Sri Sairam Technology Incubator Foundation, Chennai
21. SRM Directorate of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Chennai
22. SSN Incubation Foundation, Chennai
23. Technology Business Incubator @ Kongu Engineering College, Erode
24. Vel Tech Technology Incubator, Chennai
25. VIT-Technology Business Incubator, Vellore

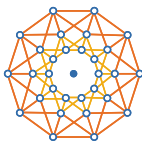
MoUs to On Board Researchers from **35 Academic Institutions**



iTNT Hub exchanged MoUs with 35 Tamil Nadu based Engineering Colleges at UmagineTN 2025, to strengthen the Deep & Emerging Tech Research & Development & Innovation landscape of the State. The MoUs were exchanged between iTNT Hub CEO Ms. Vanitha Venugopal and heads of the institutions, in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister for IT & DS Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan and other dignitaries. This takes the number of Engineering Colleges and Universities in Tamil Nadu that have exchanged MoUs with iTNT Hub to 137.

MoU Highlights

- Researchers from the institutions will be onboarded to the JIGSAW platform that was launched by the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister at UmagineTN 2024.
- JIGSAW (Joint Innovation Gateway for Synergistic Startup Academic Industry Investor Work) platform strives towards "Innovate In TN" & "Build The Future".
- The 35 colleges on boarded at UmagineTN 2025 are from Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Dindigul, Erode, Karur, Namakkal, Salem, The Nilgiris, Tiruppur.
- JIGSAW now has 137 colleges with a focus on Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities to strengthen the Deep & Emerging Tech startups of the State.



Incubation Collaborators

1. Adhiyamaan College of Engineering, Krishnagiri
2. Adithya Institute of Technology, Coimbatore
3. Akshaya College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore
4. Builders Engineering College, Tiruppur
5. CMS College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore
6. Dhaanish Ahmed Institute of Technology, Coimbatore
7. Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan College of Engineering, Coimbatore
8. Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan College of Engineering & Technology, Coimbatore
9. Easa College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore
10. Er.Perumal Manimekalai College of Engineering, Krishnagiri
11. Erode Sengunthar Engineering College, Erode
12. Hindustan Institute of Technology, Coimbatore
13. Hindusthan College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore
14. K.S.R. College of Engineering, Namakkal
15. Karpagam Institute of Technology, Coimbatore
16. Sasurie College of Engineering, Tiruppur
17. Kalaignarkarunanidhi Institute of Technology, Coimbatore
18. Nehru Institute of Technology, Coimbatore
19. P.A. College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore
20. Park College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore
21. Park College of Technology, Coimbatore
22. PPG Institute of Technology, Coimbatore
23. R P Sarathy Institute of Technology (Autonomous), Salem
24. RVS College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore
25. Shree Venkateshwara Hi-Tech Engineering College (Autonomous), Erode
26. SNS College of Technology, Coimbatore
27. Solamalai College of Engineering, Madurai
28. Sree Sakthi Engineering College, Coimbatore
29. Sri Eshwar College of Engineering, Coimbatore
30. Sri Ramakrishna Institute of Technology, Coimbatore
31. Surya Engineering College, Erode
32. Tamil Nadu College of Engineering, Coimbatore
33. United Institute of Technology, Coimbatore
34. Velalar College of Engineering and Technology, Erode
35. Vinayaka Missions Research Foundation (Deemed to be University), Salem

Valedictory



Valedictory



Innovation Arena: **Shaping TN's Deep & Emerging Tech Innovation Landscape**



Exchange of MoU, launch of innovative products, innovation challenges, a showcase by 57 innovative DeepTech startups from various sectors, including AI and robotics, and inspiring talks by bureaucrats, industry experts, investors, and successful startups, fireside chats, panel discussions, 1:1 investor connects between investors & startups, and pitching competition for startups and student startups were the highlights of the Innovation Arena by iTNT Hub at UagineTN 2025.

The Hon'ble Minister for IT & DS, Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, inaugurated the arena, which was a showcase of the DeepTech innovation ecosystem of Tamil Nadu. Additional Chief Secretary to Government, IT & DS Department, Thiru. Kumar Jayant, I.A.S., iTNT Hub CEO Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, Group CEO of IIT MRP Mr. Natrajan Mallupillai, Heads of Government departments, industry leaders and key stakeholders were among those present at the launch.



The Arena was studded with an innovation showcase by 20 startups supported by MeitY Startup Hub, and 10 startups supported PSG STEP, CIIC, VIT, Kalasalingam and Vel Tech Incubation Centres, and TIDCO centres of excellence. Twenty startups were also offered free pods to showcase their products and solutions to the delegates at UagineTN 2025.

Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan Inaugural Address



Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan in his inaugural address at the Innovation Arena spoke passionately about the entrepreneurial spirit deeply rooted in Tamil Nadu. "Tamil Nadu inherently possesses the biological and genetic disposition to be entrepreneurial. This entrepreneurial spirit has been a defining trait of our people for generations. The role of the State Government, therefore, is to foster the right ecosystem where ideas can flourish and transform into impactful realities," he said.

"We are dedicated to creating an environment that encourages startups to collaborate with Government bodies, paving the way for innovation and growth. We have taken significant steps to support this mission. Our policies have been carefully amended to align with the evolving needs of the startup ecosystem," the Hon'ble Minister added.

The Minister said that the Government has established seed funds, targeted funds, and innovation funds, releasing a substantial amount of capital to fuel groundbreaking ideas. "But our efforts go beyond financial support," he said and added that the Government is also providing mentorship to budding entrepreneurs and ensuring global exposure by taking startup delegates to various international platforms.

"These initiatives help our startups connect with the global market, gain insights, and build networks. Our strength lies in the incredible contributions of visionaries, whose success stories inspire us. These individuals not only provide invaluable connectivity and a broad perspective but also feel a deep-rooted urge to give back to the Tamil diaspora and the community at large," he said.

The Hon'ble Minister could foresee that the event will undoubtedly be impactful, gaining momentum through the active participation and collaboration of everyone involved. He concluded by saying, "together, we are shaping a brighter, more innovative future for Tamil Nadu."



Thiru. Kumar Jayant, I.A.S. Opening Remarks



“Tamil Nadu has firmly established itself as a global IT destination, recognized for its unparalleled talent, robust infrastructure, and forward-thinking policies. Building on this strong foundation, we are now envisioning a future where innovation hubs like iTNT extend their reach beyond metropolitan areas into tier-2 and tier-3 cities,” the Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu, said in his opening remarks at the inaugural of the Innovation Arena.

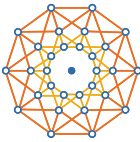
He expressed confidence that this strategic expansion will democratize access to resources, foster regional entrepreneurship, and promote balanced development across the State. He said that Tamil Nadu is home to world-class establishments like the IIT Madras Research Park, which stands as a symbol of excellence in research and innovation. “Such facilities continue to nurture groundbreaking ideas, strengthening Tamil Nadu’s leadership in technology and innovation,” he noted.

Drawing from Tamil Nadu’s rich history, Thiru. Kumar Jayant remarked, “Our entrepreneurial spirit is not a new phenomenon—it is deeply rooted in our heritage.

Archaeological excavations in Keeladi, Adichanallur, and other sites have revealed evidence of thriving trade relationships with ancient civilizations, including the Romans. These findings are a testament to the fact that the people of Tamil Nadu have always been pioneers of commerce and innovation. These traits remain a defining characteristic of who we are today.”

He further emphasized the State’s progress and resilience, saying, “our inherent entrepreneurial DNA continues to inspire and drive us as we chart our path toward becoming a global leader in innovation and development.”





Mr. Natrajan Malupillai Special Remarks



Delivering his special remarks, Group CEO of IIT Madras Research Park, Mr. Natrajan Malupillai, shared his admiration for the innovation and energy on display at the Innovation Arena, comparing it with the Silicon Valley corridor. He acknowledged the immense efforts happening behind the scenes and expressed his delight in witnessing this engine of progress in action.

Highlighting the significant contributions of entities like iTNT, TIDCO, research parks, incubators, and startups, he emphasized the transformative journey unfolding in Tamil Nadu. As the Group CEO of IIT Madras Research Park, Mr. Malupillai pledged his unwavering support to further enhance and contribute to building a vibrant and thriving startup ecosystem in the State.

Ms. Vanitha Venugopal Welcome Note



Earlier in her welcome note, CEO of iTNT Hub Ms. Vanitha Venugopal highlighted iTNT Hub's role in championing deep and emerging technologies. "We are at the forefront of a transformative era not only in India but globally. DeepTech driven by groundbreaking scientific advancement is the catalyst for the unprecedented economic growth and societal progress."

She added, "the theme AT'TN personifies with Tamil Nadu's innovation ecosystem. The State is a Best Performer in innovation as per Startup India. By supporting DeepTech startups, we contribute to a better future, harnessing technology to solve complex problems and improve lives. Let's commit to fostering this ecosystem and leading the way in global innovation."

Inauguration & Innovation Challenges



The Hon'ble Minister launched a "Public Sector Innovation Challenge: GenAI and DeepTech for Tamil Nadu" Innovation Challenge by iTNT Hub in association with AWS. The Innovation Challenge empowers researchers, innovators, and startups to develop AI-driven solutions for Tamil Nadu's public sector, such as agriculture, healthcare, and public services.

The challenge provides access to AWS's cutting-edge cloud infrastructure, machine learning resources, and data sandboxes. Coupled with iTNT Hub's mentorship, this initiative aims to position Tamil Nadu as a global AI innovation hub by fostering scalable, impactful solutions that address real-world challenges.



Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan also launched the Government of Tamil Nadu "Geospatial Grand Innovation Challenge". The Grand Innovation Challenge invites startups to develop transformative geospatial solutions for real-world challenges. Focusing on urban planning, agriculture, disaster management, and infrastructure, the challenge provides access to cutting-edge geospatial tools, datasets, and expert guidance.

BEACON 3.0 Graduation



The Innovation Arena also witnessed the graduation of 17 Deep and Emerging Tech Innovators, Researchers and idea-stage Startups from iTNT Hub's BEACON idea validation workshop Cohort 3. They underwent an intensive 4-week bootcamp in November and December 2024 and are now graduated and are ready to kickstart their dream ventures. Nine of them have joined iTNT Hub's PATHFINDER acceleration program.

BEACON Graduates: Mr. Jeeva S, Dr. B. Prabakaran, Mr. K. Mohanraj, Dr. Nithyanantham K.K., Mr. M.S. Natarajan, Mr. R. Anand, Mr. R. Edwin Joseph, Mr. Anand Balakrishnan, Ms. Niveditha Sridharan, Dr. D. Kavitha, Mr. Aravinth Ramamoorthi, Mr. Harsh Chordia, Dr. P. Chandrasekar, Mr. Sriram, Ms. Priya L, Mr. C. S. Karunakaran, and Ms. Ramalakshmi K.

PATHFINDER Cohorts Launched

On the occasion, the Hon'ble Minister for IT & DS, Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, also launched iTNT Hub's PATHFINDER.AI cohort with 19 startups working on the AI/ML sectors and the second cohort of PATHFINDER with 13 sector agnostic Deep & Emerging Tech startups. These 32 startups will be incubated for a period of 12 to 18 months at iTNT Hub.

PATHFINDER.AI Startups: AnjX Solutions, Aristoverse Deeptech, Eaze AI, Enlivenbot AI Technologies, Exo Mudra, FincorpX, Hivecrest Technologies, IS360 Technologies and Services, Kenesis, Knownfigure Technologies, Neurosense Labs, Sinebyte Technologies, Soulful Shopping Streets, Startrit Infratech, Stratsyn AI Technology Services (OPC), Syncorb Geotech, Tesys India, Upstellar Technologies (Propzng), and Urban Crew & VoxWave AI.



PATHFINDER Cohorts Launched



PATHFINDER 2.0 Startups & Innovators: Cosmicport Space Technology, Reneonix, Tospace, Inblue, Tealaa Innovations, Botifyqa Solutiions, Tactovision, Evoxia Labs India, Oasis, Pullinam Aerospace Technologies, Shieldinelix Securities, Dr. P. Chandrasekar, and Dr. E. Shankar.



Hon'ble IT&DS Minister Launches Deep Tech Products

iTNT Hub facilitated the launch of 10 innovative DeepTech startup products by the Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology & Digital Services, Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, at the Innovation Arena in UagineTN 2025. It included 3 hardware products and 7 AI and software products.

These products were launched in the presence of ELCOT Managing Director (in-charge) Tmt. P. Ramana Saraswathi, I.A.S., iTNT Hub CEO Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, industry leaders and stakeholders.

Daijo



Rideeze, a platform by Daijo Private Limited, a Sustainable Energy startup. RIDEEEZE is a 360 approach to a hassle-free ownership of e-bicycles as well as provides an opportunity to repurpose existing mechanics to be trained and onboarded on the dedicated service module provided in the platform. The I-track hardware is part of the platform offering that help corporates and rental dealers monitor their E-bicycles for health and usage.

Know More  www.pedaleze.com  shiv@daijopl.com

Mayagreens



A first-of-its-kind, eco-friendly, battery-operated Multipurpose Agricultural Autonomous Robot by Mayagreens Services Private Limited, an IoT, Robotics, AI & ML startup. The autonomous robot for weeding, rotavating, spraying and load howling is battery operated and controlled through their ecosystem AIoTaSS software platform. It can be operated through mobile or computer, reducing labour dependency, pesticide and herbicide usage, and increasing yield and profit margin for farmers.

Know More  www.mayagreens.com  arul.kumarasamy@mayagreens.com

Product Launches

Yagen Robotics



Kinetic Intelligence Robotic Agent (KIRA) a state-of-the-art humanoid robot can interact with its surroundings and people in a natural way, by Yagen Robotics. KIRA's intelligent conversational features, when combined with ChatGPT, make it extremely versatile for a wide range of jobs. KIRA enables immersive remote operation through Oculus, improving accuracy and responsiveness. The humanoid can assess its environment in real time because of its depth camera, which enables effective and safe navigation.

Know More 🌐 <https://www.yagenrobotics.com/> ✉ founder.ceo@yagenrobotics.com

Genik Technologies



Rearticle, a cloud-based platform by Genik Technologies, that revolutionizes how writers, researchers, and professionals create, format, and collaborate on documents. The all-in-one publishing platform features LaTeX-based auto-formatting, advanced reference management, collaborative editing, and an AI assistant. Rearticle makes scholarly work more efficient, organized, and impactful, revolutionizing research publishing by simplifying Academic & Research Papers, Business Proposals & Reports, Collaborative Projects, Streamlined Writing, and Collaborative Foundation.

Know More 🌐 <https://www.rearticle.io/> ✉ sriram@geniktech.com

Product Launches

Unmodel.Ai



UNMODEL.AI, an AI/ML startup that empowers e-commerce brands, retailers, and marketplaces to generate high-quality on-model images using Artificial Intelligence. With **UNMODEL.AI**, brands can produce e-commerce-ready catalogue images that match the quality of traditional photoshoots - at scale, with unparalleled flexibility. Their advanced technology creates lifelike models with fully customizable faces, body types, and poses, perfectly aligned with your brand identity. It offers models of all ages, ethnicities, and poses, including both kids and adults, to meet specific needs.

Know More 🌐 <https://www.unmodel.ai/>

✉️ raaja@unmodel.ai

Crud Operations



CRUDBeat, an AI / ML based innovative assessment and recruitment platform that transforms the way talent is discovered and hired. Specializing in JavaScript, full-stack development, AI, Salesforce, and ServiceNow, **CRUDBeat** evaluates students on their technical expertise and problem-solving abilities through structured assessments. Recruiters can efficiently identify top candidates by accessing detailed performance metrics and profiles, simplifying the hiring process. The platform also fosters smooth collaboration between colleges and companies, ensuring that students are fully prepared to tackle real-world challenges.

Know More 🌐 <https://crud-operations.com/> ✉️ ananth@crud-operations.com

Product Launches

Healtether Healthcare Services



Healtether, an AI based hospital management platform to assist healthcare providers with the tools and insights they need to deliver exceptional patient care. Its in-built Clinical Decision Support System (CDSS), helps assist doctors in diagnosing conditions, recommending evidence-based treatments, and identifying potential risks. It also helps mitigate drug errors such as incorrect dosages, harmful drug interactions, or contraindications based on a patient's medical history. Healtether's appointment management system enables the user to effortlessly schedule / cancel / reschedule appointments.

Know More  <https://www.healtether.com/>

 ravi@healtether.com

Showbay Technologies



AI/ML startup Showbay's proprietary AI tools help event managers handle the end of end event management cycle hassle free. From ticket booking, floor planning, booth booking to booth fabrication, event marketing and event analytics. Powered with AI agents, it is an advanced event management tool currently in the market. It's software features include: TicketSuite; ExpoMap BuzzMagnet & EventStream.

Know More  arshath@getkameleon.com

Product Launches

IQ Techmax



IoT startup IQ Techmax's AI Avatar-Based Chatbot is a cutting-edge conversational AI solution that merges realistic 3D avatars, emotional intelligence, and multilingual capabilities. The Chatbot is tailored for businesses looking to improve customer engagement, automate support, and integrate with emerging technologies. Featuring lifelike avatars, natural language understanding, multilingual support, omnichannel integration & adaptability for various industries, it offers a comprehensive approach to enhancing interactions.

Know More  <https://www.iqtechmax.com/>  ceo@iqtechmax.com

Lexincity



Lexdoo is an AI-driven platform by AI/ML startup Lexincity. Lexdoo simplifies legal and audit tasks while connecting users with professionals for seamless access and tech enabled support.

Know More  <https://www.lexincity.com/>  kamaleshkumar@lexdoo.com



Hon'ble Minister Interacts with Innovators & Founders

Scrapify



Welkinrim Technologies



Dextroware Devices



GoWatr



Greenerg Mobility Solutions



Konwert India Motors



Frigate Engineering Services



Dhanajeevam Lifesciences



Hon'ble Minister Interacts with Innovators & Founders

SatoriXR



Suzhiyam Industrial Machines



Dotworld Technologies



Ceratattva Innotech



Trashbotics



Showbay Technologies



Seewise.AI



JSP Enviro



Hon'ble Minister Interacts with Innovators & Founders

Xera Robotics



CRUD Operations



Inion VR Technology



Space Zone



Nandha Infotech



Raptee Energy



ISMO Bio-Photonics



Screenit Labs



Hon'ble Minister Interacts with Innovators & Founders

Kynhood



Plugzmart



Mechinex



Mei AI



PSG STEP



Prezitec Health

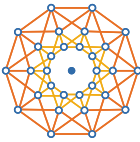


Livvolta Healthcare Innovations



Xibotix





Innovation Arena Expert Insights

Mr. Nat Malupillai - Group CEO, IIT MRP

‘Building Impactful Innovation from Academia’



Unlocking potential begins with energy, focus, and purposeful collaboration. By bridging academia and industry, we can transform research into real-world applications and tackle complex challenges. He said entrepreneurs must identify opportunities in specific sectors, build a strong thesis, and focus on solving meaningful problems. It is important having a working prototype and prioritizing tangible progress over rushing to raise funds.

We are in an incredible era for startups, with abundant support and resources available. The key lies in tenacity and perseverance—staying committed to solving customer problems with empathy and learning from other successful founders. With the right mindset and resilience, entrepreneurs can achieve remarkable outcomes and make a lasting impact.

Mr. Sivarajah Ramanathan - Mission Director & CEO, StartupTN

‘Empowering Tamil Nadu Startups to Succeed’



“Marketing is everything, and everything is marketing,” he quoted Regis McKenna, underscoring the fundamental role of marketing in every aspect of a business. How many people can you reach and how effectively can you scale your efforts? Scaling a business requires not only vision but also intellectual depth. To truly grasp the scope and scale of an opportunity, one must have a deep understanding of the market, its dynamics, and the needs it seeks to address.

He further elaborated that business is a harmonious blend of marketing and innovation, with both being deeply interconnected. Innovation drives the creation of unique solutions, while marketing ensures those solutions reach the right audience. Together, they form the core pillars of a successful business, demonstrating that creativity and strategy must work hand in hand to create meaningful impact and sustainable growth.

Innovation Arena Expert Insights

Mr. Panneerselvam Madanagopal - CEO, MeitY Startup Hub 'Building India's Next-Gen Technology Startup Ecosystem'



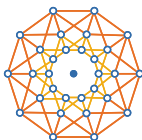
He reflected the growing focus on solving real-world problems. He emphasized that technology is a means to an end, with its true value lying in addressing genuine challenges and delivering impactful solutions. "Run behind customers, not investors," he said. He also focused on understanding needs and creating value for sustainable growth.

Tamil Nadu exemplifies when it comes to creating entrepreneurs, with the highest number of incubators and accelerators in India. He concluded with three critical questions for entrepreneurs: Are you solving a real problem? Will people pay for your solution? Is it scalable? Answers to these questions, he explained, determine entrepreneurial success.

Ms. Uma Maheswari - CEO, TN-RISE 'Supporting Women-led Startups'



Centered her talk on fostering innovation among rural women. She highlighted the mission of TN-RISE to empower women by providing the necessary opportunities and infrastructure and support to develop innovative solutions for real-world challenges. One of its key initiatives includes a Tech Cohort, which recently saw an overwhelming response with 100 women applying to participate. This underscores the immense potential and enthusiasm among women to contribute to innovation and entrepreneurship, given the right support and resources.



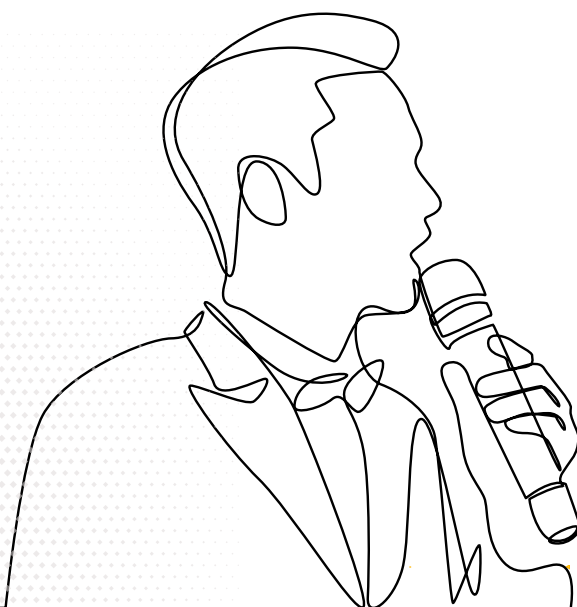
Innovation Arena Expert Insights

Mr. Poongumaran - MD, TICEL Bio Park 'Tamil Nadu's Biotech Innovation Ecosystem'



Highlighted Tamil Nadu's efforts to foster a thriving biotech innovation ecosystem during his address. Tamil Nadu ranks among the top seven States for biotech startups in India, contributing 10% of the country's pharmaceutical output. Policies such as the Life Sciences Policy 2022 and Industrial Policy 2021 support the sector with incentives like land subsidies and training programs.

TICEL Biopark, a Government initiative, provides state-of-the-art facilities in Chennai and Coimbatore to support biotech R&D and startups. Designed in collaboration with Cornell University, the park hosts 65 biotech companies, including Biocon Biologics, Teva, and Johnson & Johnson. Many startups nurtured at the Biopark have successfully scaled and commercialized their innovations.



Investor Perspective

Mr. Krishna Chaitanya - CEO, TNIFMC 'TN Investment Landscape'



Shed light into key challenges and trends in Tamil Nadu's investment landscape. Fundraising for venture capital has slowed, impacted by global protectionism and increased regulatory compliance, with SEBI introducing 44 new regulations in the past year. This has elongated deal closure timelines and shifted VC focus from deal-making to compliance.

Startups must adapt by planning longer fundraising runways of 18-24 months and ensuring stricter compliance to meet due diligence requirements. He emphasized key investment themes shaping Tamil Nadu's landscape, including Generative AI, cybersecurity, and climate tech.

He highlighted the growing significance of the China Plus One strategy, driving substantial job creation, attracting investments, and transforming the ecosystem around manufacturing facilities. This shift is creating new opportunities for startups and entrepreneurs, supported by VCs who play a crucial role in sustaining and expanding this dynamic ecosystem.

Mr. Ashwin Raguraman - Co-founder & CEO, Bharat Innovation Fund



Highlighted the rising ambition among founders, with many now building startups aimed at solving global challenges. He remarked on the remarkable shift in mindset, where entrepreneurs are no longer confined to local markets but are setting their sights on addressing issues of global significance. He also noted the trend of founders bringing expertise from consulting firms into their entrepreneurial ventures, leveraging their strategic insights to create impactful businesses.

Investor Perspective

Mr. Vishal Kataria - AVP, Ankur Capital



Dwelt in detail on India's remarkable progress in becoming a global hub for high-value deep science technology companies, with Tamil Nadu leading the change. He emphasized the growing investment momentum, noting that deep science tech investments in India have surpassed \$1 billion over the past three years—a testament to the country's potential in this transformative sector. He underscored the pivotal role of deep science, stating that today's breakthroughs in deep tech will shape tomorrow's mainstream technologies.

Mr. Gowtham Sarvesh - COO, Keiretsu



Emphasised that investors invest in purpose and people, not just products. He highlighted the importance of presenting a clear problem-solution fit, along with well-defined channels and tangible use cases that showcase the viability of the business. To secure investor confidence, he stressed the need to demonstrate measurable traction and mastery over key business metrics. By showcasing strong fundamentals and a deep understanding of the numbers, entrepreneurs can effectively build trust and credibility with potential investors.

Mr. Anil Joshi - Founder, Unicorn Ventures



Stated that every investor's ultimate goal is to generate returns. He advised entrepreneurs to seek investors who deeply understand their domain, as such alignment ensures meaningful collaboration and guidance. Investors are primarily interested in funding businesses with active operations and a clear market focus, than ventures centered solely on research and development. He highlighted the importance of creating reasonable exit opportunities, as this is a critical factor in attracting and retaining investor interest.

Insights from Corporates



Mr. Shankar Venugopal
Vice President, Mahindra & Mahindra

Successful innovative entrepreneurs always start with empathy—understanding the needs and challenges of their customers. He highlighted the importance of staying prepared for future scenarios, enabling businesses to anticipate and adapt to changing dynamics effectively. Innovation requires growing ideas in an exponential way and thinking beyond conventional boundaries. Entrepreneurs must embrace creative problem-solving and adopt structured methodologies like TRIZ to systematically approach challenges and unlock innovative solutions. He explained that these principles are crucial for building products that are not only impactful but also future-ready.

Mr. Vishal Thakur - CTO, NASSCOM Foundation
'AI for Social Good'

"AI for Social Good" demonstrates how artificial intelligence can address critical challenges in marginalized and rural communities. Key projects include using AI in rural schools to improve quality monitoring and outcomes, deploying AI for live cervical cancer screening to provide instant and accurate results for rural women, and integrating AI with breathing devices to detect lung diseases early among mining workers in Rajasthan. These innovations have shown significant success, with AI-driven models improving diagnostic accuracy from 68% to 98%. The initiative underscores how startups, supported by CSR funding and philanthropies, can leverage technology and innovation to create meaningful social impact in areas such as healthcare, education, and climate resilience.



Insights from Corporates



**Mr. Ram Lakshminarayanan - Senior Manager,
Partner Ecosystem AWS**

'Empowering Public Sector Innovation with AWS'

AWS powers almost 96% of startup unicorns, making it the backbone of innovation for some of the most successful companies globally. As the world's most broadly adopted public cloud, AWS provides unmatched scalability, reliability, and cutting-edge tools to empower businesses. Its Generative AI stack further strengthens its position, enabling groundbreaking advancements across industries. For Governments, Gen AI unlocks transformative use cases, from streamlining public services to enhancing decision-making processes, demonstrating its relevance and potential for driving innovation in the public sector.

**Mr. Utkarsh Mishra
Global Innovation Head, Hero MotoCorp**

Mr. Utkarsh Mishra emphasised that technology should always prioritize convenience and affordability, ensuring it remains accessible and impactful for users. He highlighted Hero MotoCorp is offering funding support of ₹5 crore to empower startups and drive innovation. Mishra stressed the importance of capability management, ensuring that startups have the tools, resources, and guidance needed to scale their ideas and succeed in competitive markets.



Insights from Corporates



**Ms. Kirtika Murugensan - Senior Director,
NASSCOM 10000 Startups & Product**
'Leveraging Technology as a Leader'

DeepTech has the transformative potential in solving critical challenges like water scarcity, personalized healthcare, and climate change. India hosts 3,600 deep-tech startups, of which only 6th are inventive with IP. In 2023, DeepTech funding reached \$850M, with only \$40M for inventive startups. NASSCOM's DeepTech initiatives focus on six pillars: IP frameworks, patient capital, deep-tech talent, mentoring, academia-industry collaboration, and fast-tracking research to market. By 2030, deep-tech solutions are projected to add \$500B to India's GDP. Tamil Nadu is well-positioned to contribute significantly to this ecosystem.

**Mr. Adithya Muralidharan - Senior Staff
Applications Engineer, Intel Corporation**
'Trends in Server Architecture for Running AI Workloads'

Backend workings of cloud service providers is an area often overlooked by end users. Cloud service providers rely on massive, interconnected hardware platforms located in remote data centers. These infrastructures are designed to handle immense volumes of data traffic efficiently. The architecture primarily revolves around three critical components: networking, compute, and storage.

This interconnected system supports various data-intensive and time-sensitive applications, ensuring smooth operations from the top of the rack to compute nodes and storage. For users, the complexity of this backend system is what enables seamless experiences, such as streaming videos on YouTube or Netflix.

By understanding the backend, we can better appreciate the innovation and engineering that power our everyday digital experiences.



Insights from Corporates



Mr. Machaiah Kalengada - Project Head, GDAI Developing Gaming Ecosystem in TN

Representing the Game Developers Association of India (GDAI), he highlighted the immense potential of India's gaming industry, which is now larger than the global film and music industries combined, with projections to reach \$300 billion by 2027. India's gaming market, currently valued at \$1.6 billion, is growing at 30% annually, driven by increasing mobile penetration and a young, engaged audience.

He emphasized Tamil Nadu's potential as a gaming hub, citing its storytelling culture, robust education system, and vibrant industrial ecosystem. Gaming's broader impact includes job creation, innovation in AR/VR and AI, and cultural dissemination.

He encouraged collaboration between industry and government to address skill gaps, protect intellectual property, and attract global investment. Tamil Nadu, with its well-rounded infrastructure, can lead India in building a thriving gaming ecosystem.

Mr. Dhruv Suyamprakasam - Co-founder, iCliniq AI in MedTech

Shared insights into the transformative role of AI in MedTech. He outlined key strategies for customer acquisition, emphasizing the importance of creating experiences that encourage organic referrals and viral growth. Building high-quality partnerships, he noted, is another powerful way to expand reach and credibility. He also highlighted the value of organic growth driven by exceptional service and user satisfaction, underscoring the importance of trust and quality in scaling a MedTech business or any tech based business to newer heights.



My Startup Journey

Mr. C.K. Kumaravel - Co-founder, Naturals



Mr. C.K. Kumaravel, defined entrepreneurship as the ability to move from one failure to another without losing enthusiasm. He emphasized that the true essence of entrepreneurship lies in solving real-world problems rather than simply aspiring to become a billionaire. He encouraged budding entrepreneurs to rely on personal resources or borrow from friends and family, rather than chasing investors, as this fosters greater ownership and resilience. Reflecting on his inspiration, he shared a personal anecdote about his father, who not only pioneered selling shampoo in sachets but also invented the machine to pack them—demonstrating the power of innovation and resourcefulness in driving success.

Ms. Gayathri T - CEO, KYNhood Technologies



Ms. Gayathri, spoke about her buzz creating app KYN, which provides real-time updates, events, and news that elevate local voices and how it is defining the future of Hyperlocal Connectivity. It is empowering individuals and creating thriving marketplaces for community businesses. Product acceptance hinges on delivering value to the public while maintaining a commitment to quality and relevance. Staying ahead requires continuous innovation and a proactive approach to meeting customer needs. By leveraging technology effectively, businesses can enhance their offerings, streamline operations, and remain competitive in an ever-evolving market.

Mr. Swostik Sourav Dash, Co-founder, Neomotion



Differently abled persons using Neomotion's wheelchair as an electric mobility vehicle are doing food delivery, commuting through metro trains and are going to school. Mr. Swostik took pride in sharing such success stories created through their innovative mobility vehicle. Their electric mobility vehicle with a clip-on feature to an electric motor enables those with restricted movement and locomotor disabilities to move freely both indoors and outdoors. Mobility Vehicles like Neomotion instill inspiration in the hearts of many to innovate for an inclusive future.

My Startup Journey

Mr. Arshadh Mohammed, Co-Founder, Showbay Technologies



Mr. Arshadh Mohammed's entrepreneurial journey began during his second year in College. Initially focused on landing a high-paying job, his outlook changed after exposure to entrepreneurship through books, videos, and his college's incubator. Although his friends initially promised to help, they backed out the night before, leaving Arshadh to manage everything alone. Despite hurdles, he overcame them and shifted his focus entirely from placements to entrepreneurship. Showbay Technologies was launched at the Innovation Arena by the Hon'ble Minister for IT & DS, Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan.

Mr. Mohan Krishnan - Co-founder, Xera Robotics



Mr. Mohan highlighted the vast potential of ocean exploration. Noting that humanity has only explored about 15% to 20% of the world's oceans. He emphasized the importance of advancing technology to explore water bodies without relying on humans or animals, paving the way for safer and more efficient solutions. Sharing his journey, he explained how he and his co-founder began working on their first prototype (underwater drones) during college, inspired by biomimicry to replicate the abilities of turtles.

The vibrant startup ecosystem, he said, played a crucial role in connecting them with the right people at the right time. With the support of iTNT Hub, Xera Robotics had the opportunity to expand their horizons, even traveling to Australia to showcase their innovation. Their robots are designed to reduce carbon emissions by 200%, clean water bodies, including rivers, and make them suitable for water mobility—offering a sustainable solution to pressing environmental challenges.

FireSide Chats

Evolving Landscape on Technology Commercialisation



Ms. Subathra Mysamy, partner at AK Mysamy & Associates LLP, moderated the fireside chat on 'Evolving Landscape on Technology Commercialisation', which had active participation of Prof. Bhagyaveni, Director CIPR, Anna University; and Mr. Arvind Subramanian, Co-founder & General Partner, Enlighten Capital; as the panelists.

For startups, IP is a key driver of investor interest and valuation, Prof. Bhagyaveni said and recalled her experience of filing three patents and pursuing commercialization. She underscored the critical role of IP in safeguarding ideas. Addressing the role of IP in green innovation, she stressed the need to foster sustainable ideas among youth to achieve carbon-zero goals.

On challenges in academic IP commercialization, she pointed out that many college projects stop at the prototype stage due to funding gaps and a lack of commercialization focus. Initiatives like iTNT's pitchfest aim to bridge this gap by connecting academicians with investors.

Mr. Arvind discussed India's evolving approach to IP filing, with entrepreneurs adopting a global perspective to market, sell, and protect their innovations internationally. While Government initiatives have boosted IP filings, commercialization remains a challenge, with less than 1% of IPs in India being commercialized compared to 5% globally.

He noted that VCs are increasingly acquiring startups with strong IPs to build valuable portfolios. While there's no fixed strategy for commercialization, startups can leverage IP as a foundation for long-term growth and innovation.

Research to Commercialisation



The panel discussion on 'Research to Commercialisation' was moderated by Mr. Arvind Subramanian Co-founder & General Partner, Enlighten Capital. The session witnessed vibrant participation from the panellists Dr. Hari, CEO of Vivagen DX; and Dr. Krupakar Parthasarathy, Scientist E, Sathyabama University.

Dr. Hari emphasized the importance of "repurposing" existing proprietary technologies into cohesive platforms to address challenges cost-effectively. He shared an example of infertility, where the solution lies in Multidimensional Annotation of the Human Endometrium (MATHE), using clinical, genomic, and imaging data to improve embryo implantation success rates.

On Tamil Nadu's startup ecosystem, Dr. Hari suggested creating bio-hubs to foster innovation by bringing together diverse focus groups, a model already successful in Europe and America. Dr. Hari stressed the importance of engaging end users early in the innovation process to build credibility and refine solutions.

Dr. Krupakar highlighted the growing collaboration, with their own team expanding from two members to 60-70 experts across academia, industry, and clinical fields. He emphasized that partnerships between industry and academia are vital to solving future challenges.

Addressing funding patterns, Dr. Krupakar noted that pre-COVID, life sciences startups faced slow funding due to long gestation periods. Post-COVID, funding has increased, with a stronger focus on addressing healthcare challenges, aided by government support and grant opportunities.

Scaling DeepTech Ventures across the Globe



iTNT Hub CEO Ms. Vanitha Venugopal moderated a fireside chat with Mr. Lena Kannappan, Co-founder, Healthcare Triangle, Inc, on Scaling DeepTech Ventures across the Globe.

Mr. Lena reflected on the growing potential of Tamil Nadu's startup ecosystem, noting its remarkable strides in DeepTech and AI, driven by innovation and supportive infrastructure. He stressed on bridging the gap between technology development and go-to-market strategies. While Tamil Nadu startups excel in technological innovation, they often falter in scaling and accessing global markets.

Drawing parallels with Silicon Valley's mature ecosystem, he pointed out the value of nurturing stronger networks, connecting startups with global go-to-market leaders, and collaborating with investors who offer strategic guidance beyond funding. He highlighted the rise of the U.S.-India funds and the role of Tamil diaspora networks, such as the American Tamil Entrepreneurs Association (ATEA), in curating and promoting startups to secure high-impact partnerships and investments.

Mr. Lena underscored the need to focus on quality startups that can be accelerated through partnerships with Fortune 50 companies and multinational corporations. The discussion concluded with actionable takeaways for iTNT Hub and Tamil Nadu's startups.

The iTNT Hub CEO echoed these sentiments, emphasizing iTNT's role in fostering inclusivity and preparing startups for global success, with collaborative efforts like MoUs to exchange best practices and elevate the ecosystem.

Elevating Entrepreneurship – Government Initiatives & Impact



iTNT Hub CEO Ms. Vanitha Venugopal moderated a fireside chat on 'Elevating Entrepreneurship – Government Initiatives & Impact' with Mr. Panneerselvam Madanagopal, CEO of MeitY Startup Hub (MSH). The conversation offered valuable insights into the mission of MSH and its vision for fostering innovation, particularly in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu's success in growing its startup ecosystem beyond metro cities was applauded. As an independent division under the Digital India Corporation, MSH supports tech and deep-tech startups, aiming to create globally competitive products. MeitY envisions positioning Tamil Nadu as a global innovation hub by retaining local talent, fostering deep-tech innovation, and creating opportunities that match global standards.

Through its GENESIS scheme, which supports 65 incubators, MSH focuses on infrastructure, mentorship, and academia partnerships in smaller cities. MSH evinced interest in collaborating with iTNT Hub to identify and nurture high-potential startups from these regions. In conclusion, MSH in collaboration with partners like iTNT Hub aims to build a thriving ecosystem that empowers startups, supports women entrepreneurs, and nurtures deep & emerging tech innovation across India.

Panel Discussion

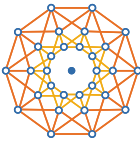
Policies for Innovation Ecosystem in Tamil Nadu



Dr. Balachandran, Director of VIT-TBI, Vellore, as the moderator and panelists Ms. Sudha Ramen, I.F.S., Member Secretary of the State Planning Commission; and Mr. R. Ambalavanan, IA&AS, Director of EDII-TN; and Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO of iTNT Hub; engaged in an enlightening Panel Discussion on 'Policies for Innovation Ecosystem in Tamil Nadu'

Ms. Sudha Ramen highlighted exclusive policy inputs for specific deep-tech verticals like blockchain and specialized hubs such as Fintech City to meet the rising demand for innovation resources.





Panel Discussion



Mr. Ambalavanan elaborated how EDII-TN is supporting startups and fostering entrepreneurial growth across sectors by nurturing 871 incubatees through its nine incubation centers. EDII-TN is also collaborating with institutions and the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation through initiatives such as the Innovation Voucher Program.

Ms. Vanitha Venugopal shared iTNT's role in shaping the State's Deep Tech Policy, inspired by the national framework. The focus is creating a tailored innovation ecosystem through infrastructure like research parks and coworking spaces, alongside expanding R&D capabilities with industry partnerships.



On "how Tamil Nadu can address cultural challenges, like fostering failure tolerance, to support innovation and entrepreneurship?", the panellist pointed out that the State's traditionally conservative mindset is evolving. This is driven by a growing understanding that technology and innovation are key to employment and economic growth.

Initiatives like school-level hackathons, incubation centers in higher education institutions, and broader innovation challenges are fostering an entrepreneurial culture among the younger generation. While the Government remains cautious about over-liberalization, its role is increasingly focused on creating an ecosystem that connects startups with accelerators, investors, and global partners



1:1 Investor Pitching



iTNT Hub hosted 1:1 Investor Pitching sessions at the Innovation Arena, which turned out to be a unique platform for DeepTech startups to connect directly with investors in structured, high-impact meetings. The pitching was conducted in parallel sessions across six meeting rooms, with each startup receiving 30-minute slots (15-minute pitch, followed by discussion). As many as 83 meaningful engagements were enabled for 66 startups.

They showcased their innovations, receive investor feedback, and explore funding opportunities. These 1:1 Investor Pitching sessions saw active participation of 35 investors from different domains and investment capacities from Speciale Invest, Kieretsu Forum, The Chennai Angels, Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund Management Corporation, Unicorn India Ventures, and Bharat Innovation Fund.

27 Startups were identified for further discussions - in terms of investments, collaborations and expressions of interest - with the investor post event. Startups and investors shared positive feedback, commending the event's structure, which ensured seamless scheduling and meaningful interactions. They highlighted valuable networking opportunities and the platform's ability to facilitate productive conversations.

Startup Pitching



The Innovation Arena at UagineTN became a hub of entrepreneurial energy as 12 startups pitched before the jury their groundbreaking ideas across diverse sectors, including Bioplastics and Circular Economy, EV, AI/ML, Cybersecurity, SaaS, Space Tech and Aero Space. It was a testament to Tamil Nadu's thriving innovation ecosystem and commitment to driving progress.

Founders presented innovative solutions aimed at addressing global challenges, from sustainable bioplastics and AI-powered advancements to cutting-edge cybersecurity frameworks and space technology innovations. The event highlighted the startups' potential to transform industries, foster sustainability, and redefine the future of technology and business.

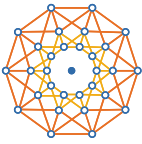
Student Pitching



The Innovation Arena buzzed with energy as student entrepreneurs and aspirants showcased groundbreaking ideas in key domains such as AI/ML, SaaS, Healthcare and Life Sciences, and Electric Vehicles (EV). The sessions provided a platform for seven young innovators to present their solutions addressing real-world challenges.

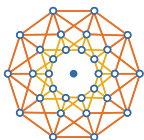


From AI-driven tools to revolutionize industries to sustainable advancements in EV technology, the pitches before the jury highlighted the creativity and technical expertise of the next generation. The audience witnessed a diverse range of ideas with the potential to disrupt markets, foster innovation, and create a lasting impact across sectors.



Jury





Startup Testimonies

Arun Prasath

CEO & Co-founder, Focuz AR

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) Hub and the entire team for flawlessly executing the Innovation Arena. Thanks for providing us with an incredible platform to showcase our innovative Phygital Gaming Platform, Xwall.io, to a captivated audience. The visitors were absolutely mesmerized by the Time Freeze game, which became a massive crowd-puller at the Innovation Arena.

The overwhelming response left no room for the Xwall team to relax, as the pavilion experienced a steady influx of curious and enthusiastic participants. Over 1,600+ attendees played, and more than 8,000+ engaged with Xwall during the event. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to connect with such an engaged audience and be part of this remarkable event."

Azhagu Pandia Raja

Founder & CEO, Scrapify

Being a part of the UImagineTN 2025 was an incredible experience for us. Our stall in the Innovation Arena allowed us to showcase our technology to a diverse audience and connect with key stakeholders. The event was a remarkable platform where we generated several potential leads from research organizations, academic institutions, industries, and investors.

One of the most memorable moments was the visit by the Hon'ble Minister of IT&DS, Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, to our stall and his words of encouragement and support, which motivated us to continue striving for excellence. The event has been a turning point in our journey, and we look forward to building on the momentum we gained here.

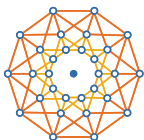
We are immensely grateful to iTNT Hub for providing us with this incredible platform to showcase our vision and innovation at UImagineTN 2025.

Hari Shankar

Co-Founder & CEO, SpaceTug

We had an incredible time at UImagineTN 2025. This event provided us with a wonderful platform to showcase our ideas and connect with a diverse and enthusiastic audience. From students and faculty from educational institutions to industry professionals and investors, the interactions were truly inspiring and insightful.

It was a privilege to share our vision at our stall and receive such overwhelming support. We also extend our gratitude to the Tamil Nadu Technology Hub team for their guidance and assistance in helping us put up our stall. The experience has reaffirmed our belief in the strength of collaboration and innovation. Here's to more opportunities to innovate, inspire, and create a better future together.



Startup Testimonies

Rajkumar J

Founder & CEO, Stratsyn AI Technology Services

We proudly showcased IDPFlow, our state-of-the-art platform for Intelligent Document Processing. The energy and enthusiasm at our stall were truly inspiring as we connected with innovators and business leaders eager to embrace smarter workflows. A special thanks to iTNT Hub for their invaluable support in making this event a success. Your guidance and collaboration ensured a seamless experience, enabling us to focus on connecting with the vibrant audience at UmanageTN.

Prashanth Gandhidoss

CEO & Founder at IQ TechMax Inc

UmanageTN 2025 has been a momentous occasion for IQ TechMax. We are thrilled to announce the official launch of our innovative product, the AI Avatar Chatbot, at this prestigious event. This marks a significant milestone in our journey to revolutionize industry solutions through advanced technology.

A proud moment for IQ TechMax, Inc. - as we extend our heartfelt gratitude to:

Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin, for his visionary leadership in fostering innovation and growth in Tamil Nadu, and Hon'ble Minister for IT & DS, Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, for his invaluable support and encouragement.

Our stall has been a hub of activity, with visitors experiencing live demonstrations and engaging with our team to learn about our cutting-edge solutions."

Vigneshwaran

Founder & CEO, Nandha InfoTech

We developed an AI & IoT integrated soil testing equipment that facilitates soil testing in ten minutes. We met close to 4,000 farmers and tested their soil samples with proven use cases. It is very difficult to create a product and take it to the market but at UmanageTN 2025 iTNT Hub has given us an opportunity to showcase our product in this prestigious event.

The Hon'ble Minister for IT & DS, Dr. Planivel Thiaga Rajan and Additional Chief Secretary to Government, IT & DS Department, Thiru. Kumar Jayant visited our stall and interacted with us and connected us with the concerned government department. This was really surprising. We thank the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Minister and iTNT Hub for giving us this opportunity and making this possible.

Mohan Krishnan

Co-founder, Xera Robotics

We have engineered an underwater robot to inspect various underwater assets. We bio mimic Turtles in terms of creating our product. At UmanageTN 2025, we are showcasing our product in an event for the first time. In this event we had a lot of interest from various academics, industry and investor collaborations. We had good discussions and we have set up subsequent meetings in terms of taking this into a fruitful closure. I would like to thank our Hon'ble Chief Minister, our Hon'ble IT&DS Minister, and iTNT Hub for giving us this opportunity.

Innovation **Arena**



Innovation **Arena**



What's Brewing at iTNT Hub?

PATHFINDER.AI Orientation



iTNT Hub kickstarted the Pathfinder.AI incubation program with an engaging orientation session. The session provided an overview of the program's objectives, structure, and benefits. Queries from participants were addressed by the AVP Incubation Mr. Nikhil M., ensuring clarity and alignment among the attending startups.

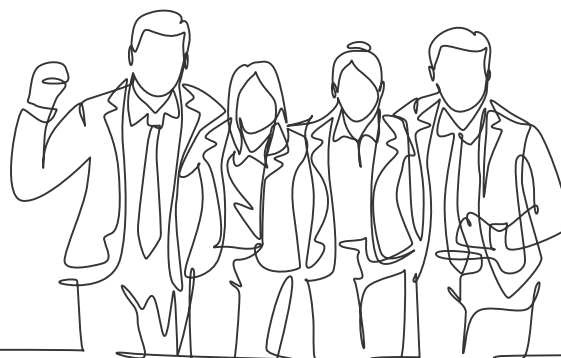
The orientation outlined the comprehensive support offered through the Pathfinder.

AI program, emphasizing its focus on fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in Artificial Intelligence and Gen AI. These startups shortlisted after a rigorous two-tier process, for innovation and scalability, will undergo a structured roadmap of scaling strategies over 12-18 months.

Participants will receive expert mentorship, foundational training in AI and entrepreneurial skills, access to \$5,000 AWS credits, co-working spaces, and industry networking opportunities.

Virtual Pitch Fest

iTNT Hub conducted a series of dynamic startup pitching sessions for the Hub's portfolio startups on 27th January 2025. It offered promising ventures the opportunity to present their innovative ideas to investors. Startups during this session pitched to Mr. Rohit Jhunjunwala and Mr. Sathish Ganesan, Partners - IN44 Capital. The startups were from Drone Tech, AI, and high value SaaS sectors, looking for funds for product commercialisation and market expansion.



Events in **January**

iTNT Hub & Government of Tripura



On invitation from the Government of Tripura, iTNT Hub CEO Ms. Vanitha Venugopal and team visited Tripura on 24th January 2025 to explore collaboration opportunities in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. Ms. Vanitha Venugopal presented the Hub's key initiatives, including Incubation, Acceleration, and the JIGSAW portal, to the officials including Mr. J. K Sinha, I.A.S., Chief Secretary to Government of Tripura; Mr. Kiran Gitte, I.A.S., Secretary to Government for Industries & Commerce, Health & Family Welfare, Public Works Department; and Mr. Jeya Ragul Geshan B, I.F.S., Director for Information Technology, Government of Tripura. The engagements marked a promising step toward strengthening Tripura's startup ecosystem through knowledge exchange and support from iTNT Hub.



World Tamil Diaspora Day 2025



The two-day annual World Tamil Diaspora Day 2025 was organised by the Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non Resident Tamils at the Chennai Trade Centre, on 11th & 12th January 2025. Participating in a panel discussion, Ms. Vanitha Venugopal, CEO of iTNT Hub, addressed the audience on Government Initiatives in Quantum Computing.

The CEO said that the Tamil Nadu Government, through iTNT Hub, is fostering quantum computing startups to position the state as a global leader in deep-tech innovation. By offering mentorship, funding, and infrastructure, iTNT Hub supports ventures in quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and related technologies. Collaborations with academic institutions like IIT Madras and global tech companies provide startups access to cutting-edge research and expertise.

Events in **January**

CEG Global Alumni Meet 4.0

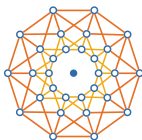


iTNT Hub CEO Ms. Vanitha Venugopal moderated a panel discussion on 'Startup to Scale-Up: Journeys, Lessons, Insights,' at the 4th College of Engineering Guindy Global Alumni Meet (CEGAM 4.0). The prestigious event held at the Anna University Campus, Chennai, on 3rd & 4th January 2025 attracted CEG Alumni from all over the world.

The panelists shared their invaluable experiences,

-navigating the complexities of scaling a startup.

From defining moments and overcoming growth hurdles to building the right team and fostering sustainable growth, the panelists offered a wealth of insights and practical advice. Ms. Vanitha Venugopal also presented certificates to the winners of the Pitch Fest, recognizing and celebrating their innovative ideas and entrepreneurial spirit.



Deep Tech **Insights**

How Corporates and Startups Can Unlock Deep Tech's Potential

Venture capital and private-equity funding for deep tech promising to address society's greatest challenges has doubled its share globally in the past decade. Moreover, governments are increasingly prioritizing deep tech, which is often "dual use"—applicable in both civil and military contexts—through industrial and security policies designed to reduce reliance on foreign technology and promote a nation's security.



Scan to read the full article

Why Future-proofing Industries Depend on AI-powered DeepTech Ventures

Artificial Intelligence (AI) was once a niche technology but, in the last few years, it has flooded every part of our lives. Even a common person can now easily use AI-powered technologies. Since AI is so widely available, businesses cannot avoid implementing it. Businesses must fit AI into their operations and strategy to future-proof their industries.



Scan to read the full article

OrbitAID is Making Waves in the World of Space Tech, as the First Indian Firm in On-orbit Servicing

Imagine refuelling satellites in space. Two young men did. They took their proposal to a businessman-cum-scientist in Bengaluru. But, he closed their painstakingly made file and threw it back to them. He said: "Find a lucrative job and save your family. Do not spend time on unwanted things." They walked out with their heads down.



Scan to read the full article

Deep Tech Startup VuNet Raises INR 60 Crore for Global Expansion

VuNet is a provider of full-stack AI and big data analytics and aims to provide funding to drive the company's global expansion and product innovation. The company plans to enhance its platform capabilities, scale sales and marketing efforts, and further integrate advanced AI technologies, including GenAI across its workflows.



Scan to read the full article

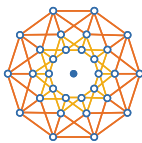
Dream Aerospace Raises 3 Crore in Pre-Seed Round

Dream Aerospace has successfully raised 3 crore funding in Pre Seed round led by Inflection Point Ventures (IPV). The funding will accelerate the development of its ATOM Thruster, validate its propulsion system, and establish an in-house High Altitude test facility.



Scan to read the full article





Startup **Hiring**



Positions Vacant: 1

Role: Digital Marketer

For More Details

Mobile:
9344954344

Email ID:
muralikrishnanmanoharan@gmail.com

Apply Soon



Positions Vacant: 4

Role: 1) Frontend and Backend Development **(2 interns)**
2) AI Development **(2 interns)**

For More Details

Mobile:
7449023417

Email ID:
himayun13@gmail.com

Apply Soon



Positions Vacant: 2

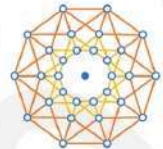
Role: 1) Junior Engineer
2) Chemist

For More Details

Mobile:
97899 92702

Email ID:
setlersynthetics@gmail.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

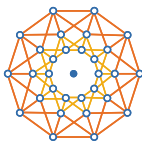
office@tnthub.org

Submit the required details by **FEBRUARY 20, 2025**



www.itnthub.tn.gov.in





Events on the **Radar**






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MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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COMING SOON



Panel Discussions



Expert Talks



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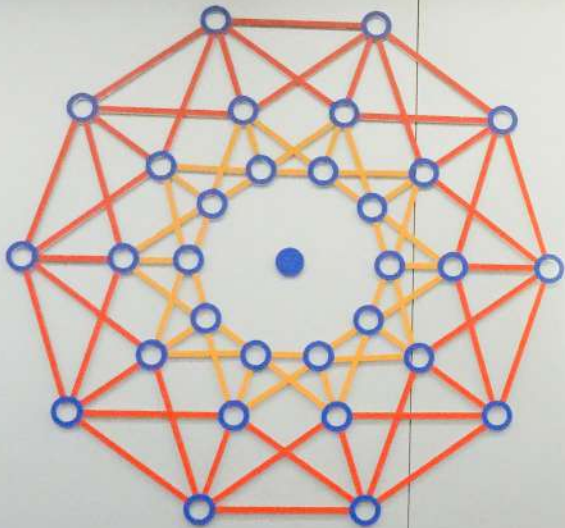
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Subject: "IN2TN IP Conclave 2025"

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