Bengaluru Tech Summit 2026 (17–19 Nov) to focus on 'AI & Beyond'

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News

The 29th Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS 2026), hosted by the Government of Karnataka, will be held from 17 to 19 November 2026 at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), Bengaluru. Its theme is 'AI & Beyond'. Over 1,800 exhibitors, about 25,000 delegates, about 1,000 startups and participants from over 75 countries are expected. Conference tracks include AI & DeepTech, electronics and semiconductors, digital health and biotech, fintech, spacetech and the 'orange economy' (creative industries). The first India edition of 'embedded world' by Germany's NuernbergMesse and an India edition of France's 'ChangeNOW' are co-located with it. At the launch event in July 2026 (reported on 24 July), Karnataka's Electronics and IT Minister Priyank Kharge announced that the State would set up what he called the country's first government-driven artificial intelligence university.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Event	29th Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS 2026)
Dates	17–19 November 2026
Venue	Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC)
Theme	'AI & Beyond'
Hosts	Govt of Karnataka (Dept of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T); KITS, STPI

Point	Details
Expected	1,800+ exhibitors; ~25,000 delegates; 75+ countries
Co-located	embedded world India (first edition); ChangeNOW India
Earlier names	Bangalore IT.com (1998) → BangaloreIT.in → BangaloreIT.biz (2008) → Bengaluru ITE.biz → BTS (2017, merged with Bengaluru India Bio)
Karnataka CM	D.K. Shivakumar (since 3 June 2026)

Background

- History of the summit: it began in 1998 as 'Bangalore IT.com', an IT initiative of the Karnataka government; it was later called 'BangaloreIT.in', became 'BangaloreIT.biz' in 2008 and then 'Bengaluru ITE.biz', and in 2017 it merged with 'Bengaluru India Bio' to form the Bengaluru Tech Summit. The Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) and the State's Vision Groups on IT, biotechnology, startups and space are among its organisers. The 28th edition was held on 18–20 November 2025.
- AI basics: in 1950 Alan Turing asked 'Can machines think?' and proposed the 'Turing Test'. John McCarthy coined the term 'Artificial Intelligence' in the proposal for the 1956 Dartmouth (USA) workshop and is called the 'father of AI'. The 'Transformer' architecture, introduced in 2017 by Google researchers in the paper 'Attention Is All You Need', underlies today's large language models (LLMs).
- India's AI push: in March 2024 the Union Cabinet approved the 'IndiaAI Mission' with an outlay of ₹10,371.92 crore; its pillars include compute capacity (GPUs), foundation models, a dataset platform (AIKosh), AI skilling, startup financing and safe and trusted AI. The 'India AI Impact Summit' was held in New Delhi in February 2026.
- Bengaluru – history and geography: Kempe Gowda I, a feudatory of the Vijayanagara Empire, founded Bengaluru in 1537. It lies on the Mysore (Karnataka) Plateau at about 900 m above sea level, giving it a mild climate. 'Electronics City' (from the 1970s) and later software parks made it famous as 'India's Silicon Valley'.

Tamil Nadu link: the Tamil Nadu government holds 'Umagine TN', an annual information-technology summit, in Chennai. On 8 January 2026 Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated the two-day 'Umagine TN 2026'; MoUs worth about ₹10,000 crore were signed in areas such as digital effects and AI-based virtual-reality physiotherapy (about 4,250 direct jobs expected). The Chief Minister said technology must be accessible to all, calling it 'not an expense but an investment in the future'.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

The 29th Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS 2026), hosted by the Government of Karnataka, will be held from 17 to 19 November 2026 at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), Bengaluru.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

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Practice questions (with answers)

1. Who coined the term 'Artificial Intelligence' in the proposal for the 1956 Dartmouth workshop?

A) Alan Turing

B) Marvin Minsky

C) John McCarthy

D) Geoffrey Hinton

Answer: C – Explanation: John McCarthy – the 'father of AI', who also created the LISP language. Turing proposed the 'Turing Test' in 1950.

2. Bengaluru, the summit's host city, was founded in 1537 by whom?

A) Kempe Gowda I

B) Hyder Ali

C) Chikka Devaraja

D) Krishnadevaraya

Answer: A – Explanation: Kempe Gowda I, a Vijayanagara feudatory. Bengaluru's international airport is named after him.

3. Which architecture, introduced in the 2017 paper 'Attention Is All You Need', underlies today's large language models?

A) Recurrent network

B) Transformer

C) Convolutional network

D) GAN

Answer: B – Explanation: The Transformer, by Google researchers, using 'self-attention'. The 'T' in GPT stands for Transformer. CNNs suit images; GANs are generative adversarial networks.

4. 'Umagine TN', opened by CM M.K. Stalin in January 2026, is Tamil Nadu's annual summit on which sector?

A) Agriculture

B) Textiles

C) Information technology

D) Tourism

Answer: C – Explanation: Information technology – a two-day summit in Chennai; MoUs worth about ₹10,000 crore were signed at the 2026 edition.

5. The Bengaluru Tech Summit 2026, opening on 17 November, is which edition of the event?

A) 29th

B) 25th

C) 30th

D) 27th

Answer: A – Explanation: The 29th. It began in 1998 as 'Bangalore IT.com' and became the BTS in 2017 after merging with Bengaluru India Bio; 2025 was the 28th edition.

Sources: Deccan Herald (BTS 2026, July 2026); The South First (24 July 2026); BioSpectrum India (6 Oct 2026); News On AIR (D.K. Shivakumar swearing-in, 3 June 2026); DT Next (Umagine TN, 8 Jan 2026); PIB (IndiaAI Mission, March 2024); Business Standard (2008) and BioSpectrum (2017) – name history. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.