Tamil Nadu Technology Transfer Summit 2026 opens in Chennai

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News

Higher Education Minister P. Viswanathan on 19 November 2026 inaugurated the 'Tamil Nadu Technology Transfer Summit 2026', organised jointly by the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology (TNSCST) and Anna University, at the Anna University campus in Guindy, Chennai. The summit aims to carry inventions from laboratories to industry (technology transfer); academics, technologists, industry representatives and students took part. The Minister released a compendium of Tamil Nadu's registered Geographical Indications (GI) and launched the 'Tamil Nadu GI Startup Innovation Challenge' (Dinamalar); the Council's patent book was also released (ETV Bharat). Higher Education Secretary Dheeraj Kumar, Anna University Registrar Kumaresan and TNSCST Member Secretary Vincent attended. ETV Bharat reported that the summit is held every year across Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai and Tiruchirappalli. Speaking to reporters later, the Minister said Vice-Chancellor appointments in State universities would be made soon and that there was no conflict with the Governor.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Event	Tamil Nadu Technology Transfer Summit 2026
Date	19 November 2026
Venue	Anna University, Guindy, Chennai

Point	Details
Organisers	TNSCST and Anna University
Inaugurated by	Higher Education Minister P. Viswanathan
Releases	Compendium of TN's GI tags; TNSCST patent book
New initiative	Tamil Nadu GI Startup Innovation Challenge
TNSCST	Autonomous body set up in 1984; under the Higher Education Dept
GI Registry	Chennai (GI Act in force from 15 Sept 2003)

Background

- Technology transfer: the process of moving inventions made in universities and laboratories to industry through patents, licensing agreements and spin-off start-ups. It turns research results into marketable products and creates jobs.
- IPR laws: under the Patents Act, 1970, a patent is valid for 20 years from the date of filing. The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act was passed by Parliament in 1999 and came into force on 15 September 2003; India's only GI Registry is in Chennai. The Act was enacted to meet India's obligations under the WTO's TRIPS Agreement.
- TNSCST: set up in 1984 as an autonomous body, the Council advises the Government on using science and technology for the State's development, funds research in universities, links research centres with industry and runs science-awareness programmes.
- Technology transfer at the national level: the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), set up in 1953 under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) of the Union Science and Technology Ministry, licenses and commercialises inventions and patents of the country's research institutions and universities. Anna University, the venue, was established on 4 September 1978 and is named after C.N. Annadurai. Earlier this month the Minister had said that the matter of Vice-Chancellor appointments in State universities is under litigation, leaving several universities without VCs (PTI).

Tamil Nadu link: This is a Tamil Nadu story in itself. India's GI Registry is in Chennai, and the new start-up challenge is built around the State's registered GI products. The summit is reported to be held every year in four cities to take research to industry.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

Higher Education Minister P. Viswanathan on 19 November 2026 inaugurated the 'Tamil Nadu Technology Transfer Summit 2026', organised jointly by the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology (TNSCST) and Anna University, at the Anna University campus in Guindy, Chennai.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Event: Tamil Nadu Technology Transfer Summit 2026; Date: 19 November 2026; Venue: Anna University, Guindy, Chennai; Organisers: TNSCST and Anna University.

What is the background to this news?

Technology transfer: the process of moving inventions made in universities and laboratories to industry through patents, licensing agreements and spin-off start-ups.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. In which city is India's Geographical Indications (GI) Registry located?

A) Mumbai

B) Kolkata

C) Chennai

D) New Delhi

Answer: C – Explanation: Chennai – India's only GI Registry, set up in 2003. The Patent Office has its head office in Kolkata.

2. Which law gives legal protection to Geographical Indications in India?

A) Trade Marks Act, 1999

B) GI of Goods Act, 1999

C) Patents Act, 1970

D) Designs Act, 2000

Answer: B – Explanation: The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 – in force from 15.09.2003; enacted under WTO TRIPS obligations.

3. The Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology (TNSCST), set up in 1984, functions under which State department?

A) Industries

B) IT & Digital Services

C) Higher Education

D) School Education

Answer: C – Explanation: Higher Education – the Higher Education Minister opened this summit. The Council also funds research in universities.

4. Which Central enterprise, set up in 1953, licenses and commercialises inventions of India's public R&D institutions?

A) NRDC

B) BIRAC

C) TIFAC

D) NSIC

Answer: A – Explanation: The National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) – it works under DSIR, Union Ministry of Science and Technology.

5. Under the Patents Act, 1970, for how many years from the filing date is a patent granted in India valid?

A) 10 years

B) 14 years

C) 15 years

D) 20 years

Answer: D – Explanation: 20 years (Section 53), kept alive only by paying annual renewal fees. A registered design lasts at most 15 years.

Sources: Dinamalar (19.11.2026) – dinamalar.com; Dinakaran (20.11.2026) – dinakaran.com; ETV Bharat Tamil (19.11.2026) – etvbharat.com; The Week/PTI (11.11.2026) – theweek.in; TNSCST – tanscst.tn.gov.in; NRDC – nrdcindia.com; Anna University – annauniv.edu; PIB (15.09.2003, GI Act) – archive.pib.gov.in; Office of the CGPDTM – ipindia.gov.in. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.