

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5385
ANSWERED ON 25/03/2026

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT TO PERAMBALUR AND TIRUCHIRAPPALLI

5385. THIRU ARUN NEHRU:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of projects, grants and incubation/innovation programmes supported by DST, DBT, CSIR etc. in Perambalur and Tiruchirappalli districts during the last five years;**
- (b) the number of institutions, start-ups and students benefited; and**
- (c) whether any district-level science centre, tinkering labs or innovation hubs are proposed in this region?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) to (b): Department of Science and Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) implement a range of national-level schemes and programmes to promote and strengthen research and development (R&D), innovation, incubation and technology development across the country, including in the districts of Perambalur and Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu. The details of various programmes under which benefits have been availed in Perambalur and Tiruchirappalli districts during the last five years are as follows:

Through the DST – Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure (FIST) programme, 4 projects in 3 academic institutions in Tiruchirappalli district have been supported.

Under the DST – National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) programme, start-ups are supported from ideation to commercialization through components such as EIR, PRAYAS, Seed Fund and Technology Business Incubators (TBIs). During the last five years, 14

startups/innovators from the Tiruchirappalli–Perambalur region have been supported with financial assistance of about ₹1.56 crore. DST has also supported a Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Park (STEP) at NIT Tiruchirappalli which has further been supported by Atal Incubation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog with scale-up grant of Rs. 8.66 crore.

Through the DST's INSPIRE Scheme, including INSPIRE-MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge), Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE), INSPIRE Fellowship, and INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship, 475 students and researchers from Perambalur and Tiruchirappalli districts have been supported with fellowship grants amounting to about Rs. 1.74 crore during the last five years.

Under the Technology Development Programme (TDP) of DST, R&D projects have been supported to develop indigenous technologies and translate proof-of-concepts into prototypes in areas such as agro-technology and sensors/devices. During the last five years, a total of Rs. 0.93 crore has been sanctioned to 2 academic institutions located in Perambalur and Tiruchirappalli districts. Also, under Advanced Manufacturing Technologies program one project in Tiruchirappalli district has been sanctioned with a total cost of Rs. 0.45 crore. Under the Climate, Energy and Sustainable Technology (CEST) initiatives of DST, 6 projects in 2 institutions have been supported in the region.

Through various schemes/programmes of ANRF-DST such as Core Research Grant, Empowerment and Equity Opportunities for Excellence in Science, Inclusivity Research Grant, National Post Doctoral Fellowship (N-PDF), National Science Chair, Prime Minister Early Career Research Grant, Ramanujan Fellowship, Start-up Research Grant, Teachers Associateship for Research Excellence (TARE) etc, a total of 88 projects/institutions have been supported with a total funding of about Rs. 25.98 crore during the last five years and the current year in Tiruchirappalli district. The Science and Heritage Research Initiative (SHRI) Cell of DST has also supported two projects in Tiruchirappalli district during the last five years.

Under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) programmes, namely Biotechnology Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (Bio-RIDE), Biotechnology Ignition Grant (BIG), and Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development (SEED) Fund, a total of 12 projects/startups have been supported in various institutes in

Tiruchirappalli district during the last five years, with a sanctioned cost of about Rs. 6.34 crore.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), under its constituent laboratory Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai has undertaken 2 projects in Tiruchirappalli. The students from Perambalur and Tiruchirappalli region were also benefitted by the CSIR Jigyasa 2.0 program conducted by CSIR-Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CECRI), Karaikudi. About 126 students have been part of the program. Also, through the CSIR Integrated Skill Development Program a total number of 130 students have been benefitted. Two companies and 16 trainees from Perambalur and Tiruchirappalli region have been benefitted through the Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai training programmes.

(c) The Government is committed to strengthening the science, technology, and innovation ecosystem across the country, including in the districts of Perambalur and Tiruchirapalli. As per the proposal received, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has established a Space Technology Incubation Centre (S-TIC) at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Tiruchirapalli, to promote start-ups, encourage entrepreneurship among students, and foster an academia-industry ecosystem in the space technology domain.

Under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog, a total of 27 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) in Tiruchirapalli district and 6 ATLs in Perambalur district have been established in schools to enhance the innovation ecosystem at the school level.

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has supported the establishment of a Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Park (STEP) at NIT Tiruchirapalli, and under it's National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems, a Technology Innovation Hub on Sensors, Networking, Actuators, and Control Systems (SNACS) has been established at Indian Institute of technology, Madras. These hubs are strengthening innovation, incubation, translational research and entrepreneurship development in the region.
