**Formation of Deep Tech Forum,
A Special Interest Group at SPIN Chennai**

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Formation of Deep Tech Forum of India (DTFI) under SPIN Chennai

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Background and Rationale

There is a growing and urgent need in India to mobilize Deep Tech entrepreneurs, startups, and SMEs to come together and collectively articulate the unique challenges and opportunities they face. While Deep Technology has been widely acknowledged by both the Government of India and various state governments as critical to India's future — in both peacetime development and strategic self-reliance — one vital stakeholder group remains underrepresented: the Deep Tech innovators themselves.

Today, India is home to an estimated 30,000 Deep Tech companies. Policies and schemes are emerging to support this ecosystem, including the **Draft National Deep Tech Policy** released on **July 23, 2023**, under the leadership of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India. While this is a commendable step forward, it is yet to be formally adopted by the Cabinet, and lacks sufficient grassroots consultation with innovators who build at the frontier of science and engineering.

Why a Forum Now?

Deep Tech companies operate in a space that is fundamentally different from conventional technology or service-based enterprises. Their innovations are often based on original, high-risk research with long gestation periods. Convincing customers — especially large buyers such as governments — of their transformative potential is challenging because the benefits typically emerge only after full-scale deployment. The path from lab to market is long, uncertain, and resource-intensive.

Just as electric light was once a radical departure from lamps and candles, today's Deep Tech products — whether in quantum computing, advanced materials, nanotechnology, or space tech — require a similar leap of imagination and visionary support. Without a proactive ecosystem that nurtures and understands these unique challenges, India risks under-leveraging its scientific talent and fragmenting its islands of excellence.

The Deep Tech Forum of India (DTFI)

SPIN Chennai proposes to establish the **Deep Tech Forum of India (DTFI)** as a **Special Interest Group (SIG)** to provide a structured, collaborative, and advocacy-driven platform for Deep Tech stakeholders across India.

Vision:

To position India as a global Deep Tech powerhouse by enabling an environment where breakthrough technologies thrive through policy support, shared infrastructure, visionary procurement, and global market access.

Objectives:

- Create a **collective voice** for Deep Tech entrepreneurs and startups in India.
- Serve as a **platform for engagement** with government, academia, industry, and civil society.
- **Study and interpret** national policies like the Deep Tech Draft Policy from the lens of entrepreneurs and practitioners.
- **Provide structured feedback** and inputs to government on policy, implementation, funding access, and infrastructure.
- Facilitate **peer learning, mentoring, and collaboration** among innovators across Deep Tech verticals.   Build awareness around **long gestation innovation models**
-   , high-risk capital needs, and transformative procurement policies.

Key Focus Areas (aligned with the 9 themes of the Draft National Deep Tech Policy):

1. Nurturing Research, Development & Innovation
2. Strengthening the Intellectual Property Regime
3. Facilitating Access to Funding
4. Enabling Shared Infrastructure and Resource Sharing
5. Creating Conducive Regulations, Standards, and Certifications
6. Attracting Human Resources & Building Capacity
7. Promoting Procurement & Adoption of Deep Tech
8. Ensuring Policy & Program Inter-linkages
9. Sustaining Deep Tech Startups

Call to Action

The Deep Tech Forum of India under SPIN Chennai is a **clarion call to all Deep Tech entrepreneurs, researchers, investors, and enablers** to join hands in shaping the future of innovation in India. By engaging in this collective effort, we aim to ensure that national policies reflect on-the-ground realities, and that India leapfrogs into a global leadership position in next-generation technologies.

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