

KDEM NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026 EDITION

1080+

TOTAL NO. OF GCCS
IN KARNATAKA

22000+

DPIIT REGISTERED
STARTUPS

181

NO. OF INCUBATORS
AND ACCELERATORS

56

STARTUPS FINALISED
FOR ONBOARDING
INTO KAN COHORT 2

15

NEW COMPANIES IN
BEYOND BENGALURU
Q1 2026

1400+

JOBS CREATED IN
BEYOND BENGALURU
Q1 2026

“
The future of employment will be shaped by technology, and it is imperative that opportunities to acquire these skills are accessible beyond major urban centres. Through these AI labs, Tier-2 and Tier-3 regions will gain hands-on exposure to emerging technologies and participate in the digital economy.

SHRI PRIYANK M KHARGE

Hon'ble Minister for Home, IT & Bt,
and E-Governance,
Government of Karnataka



“
Karnataka is today the GCC capital of India, hosting more than a third of the country's Global Capability Centres, with over 900 units operated by 500-600 companies.

DR. N MANJULA, IAS

Secretary, Department of
Electronics, IT, BT and S&T,
Government of Karnataka



”

Karnataka's digital economy is expected to exceed \$400 billion by 2031-32. MSMEs have been integral to the growth of India's IT industry because they are agile and capable of rapid innovation.

MR B V NAIDU

Chairman, KDEM



”

This is a great partnership to make the GCC ecosystem stronger across Karnataka which includes our emerging tech clusters - Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad-Belagavi, Kalaburgi. Zyoin is our valued partner in progress and we will continue to work together to make Karnataka's GCC story stronger on the global map addressing all the key stakeholders.

MR SANJEEV KUMAR GUPTA

CEO, KDEM



Enabling Startup Growth in Kalaburagi

Date: June 2, 2026

Engaged with 20+ startups in Kalaburagi to understand their challenges and growth needs, while providing access to Karnataka's startup incentives, funding support, and ecosystem resources. The discussions focused on unlocking government policies, bridging market and funding gaps, and connecting startups with innovation support and growth enablers, reinforcing KDEM's commitment to strengthening the regional startup ecosystem.







POLICY AWARENESS WORKSHOP

**Hosted by Karnataka Digital Economy Mission
For IT, BT & Agritech Startups in Bidar**

What's In It For You?

- Unlock policy-driven opportunities for startup growth and scale
- Understand funding, incentives, and support available to startups
- Connect with the ecosystem powering innovation and entrepreneurship

Venue: Guru Nanak Dev Engineering College, Bidar
Date: Tuesday, June 02, 2026
Time: 11:30 AM onwards

Founder-First Workshop in Bidar: Access, Policy, and Connections

Date: June 2, 2026

Organized a policy awareness workshop at Guru Nanak Dev Engineering College, Bidar to support IT, BT, and Agritech founders. The session provided clarity on government incentives, startup funding, relevant policies, and facilitated meaningful connections with enablers, institutions, and fellow founders, strengthening Karnataka's startup ecosystem.

KAN Cohort 2 Master Session: Financial Modeling & Capital Strategy

Date: June 2, 2026

Organised an online master session with focusing on financial modeling, capital structuring, fundraising readiness, and sustainable growth for startups. The session provided founders with practical insights to strengthen financial planning and enhance capital strategy across Karnataka's startup ecosystem.



KARNATAKA ACCELERATION NETWORK (KAN) - COHORT 2

FLAGSHIP ACCELERATION INITIATIVE FOR HIGH-GROWTH STARTUPS

FINANCIAL MODELING & CAPITAL STRATEGY FOR STARTUPS

Strategic Capital Structuring for Growth-Stage Ventures

SPEAKER
Nilesh Ramnani, CFA
Tech Strategy, Finance & Analytics Leader | Private Equity & Investment Banking | CFA | NYU Stern MBA
Based in New York, USA



KAN Cohort-02 Residential Program: Immersive Learning for Founders

Date: June 3, 2026 (Held On May 22, 2026)

Supported the KAN Cohort-02 Residential Program, a two-day immersive journey focused on practical learning, leadership, strategy, and startup growth. The program provided founders with collaborative sessions and workshops, strengthening Karnataka's founder-first ecosystem.

Signed MoU with ZyoIn Group to Strengthen GCC Ecosystem in Karnataka

Date: June 3, 2026

Signed a strategic MoU with ZyoIn Group to support the growth and expansion of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in Karnataka. The partnership combines ZyoIn's expertise in GCC advisory, talent intelligence, and employer branding with KDEM's ecosystem engagement and industry collaboration initiatives, enabling companies to access market entry support, operational setup, and scale-up opportunities across emerging tech clusters.



ZyoIn Group and KDEM Sign MoU to Drive GCC Growth in Karnataka

The partnership strengthens Karnataka's GCC ecosystem through talent, industry collaboration, operational readiness & global enterprise support.



1000+
GCCs in Karnataka



Support across
market entry, setup
and scale-up



Focus
on emerging clusters
across Karnataka




K-tech  Vivekananda Research & Innovation Foundation  GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA  STARTUP KARNATAKA  Karnataka Digital Economy Mission

She Innovates **SamShoDhana**

WEBINAR ON OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Mr. Santosh R. Kittur
Founder of **Rait Setu Eco Tech Solutions LLP**, an agritech startup focused on transforming the sugarcane-to-jaggery value chain through sustainable and innovative solutions.

3rd June

Webinar on Opportunities in the Agriculture Sector

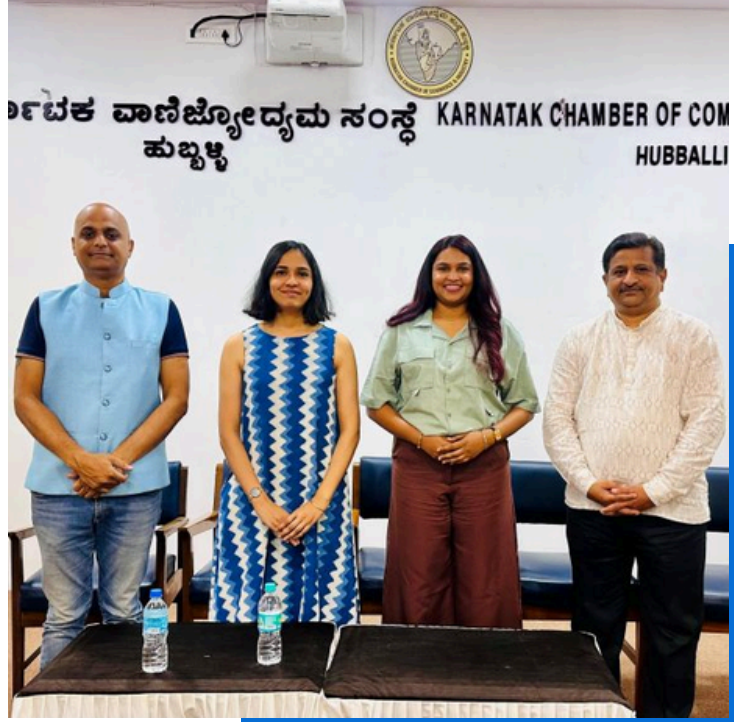
Date: June 3, 2026

Participated as a strategic partner in the webinar which explored innovation, startup opportunities, and emerging trends in the agriculture sector, providing insights on sustainable agritech solutions and value chain transformation for Karnataka's farming and entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Strengthening EV Localization in Hubballi-Dharwad-Belgaum Cluster

Date: June 4, 2026

Participated in the EV localization initiative in the HDB cluster alongside WRI India, Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and ecosystem partners. The effort focuses on building resilient local supply chains, enabling MSMEs, suppliers, and startups, and creating future-ready jobs, supporting a just and competitive transition to electric mobility in Karnataka's automotive manufacturing ecosystem.



KAN Cohort 2 Bootcamp: Accelerating Startup Growth in Dharwad

Date: June 4-5, 2026

As part of the program, the KAN Cohort 2 Bootcamp conducted by ASTRA, University of Agricultural Sciences, in collaboration with GINSERV. The program brought together 16 startups, 12 mentors, and ecosystem enablers for focused mentoring, discussions on scaling, market readiness, and collaboration, reinforcing Karnataka's commitment to building a stronger and connected startup ecosystem.

Engaging with VentureBiz Promotions: Exploring Karnataka's Startup Ecosystem

Date: June 5, 2026

Hosted a delegation from VentureBiz Promotions Private Limited to provide insights into Karnataka's dynamic startup environment. The interaction covered incubation, accelerator programs, government support, funding opportunities, and ecosystem collaborations, highlighting KDEM's role in enabling startups through mentorship, investor access, market linkages, and the "Beyond Bengaluru" initiative to strengthen Tier-2 and Tier-3 startup ecosystems.



Aligning Emerging Tech Hubs with Global Strategy: Interaction with DBS Bank

Date: June 6, 2026

Hosted a strategic discussion with Timothy Wong, Managing Director & Head of Group Research & Strategy at DBS Bank, focusing on aligning KDEM's "Beyond Bengaluru" expansion with DBS's regional macroeconomic outlooks. Key areas included the Coastal Karnataka Corridor, deep-tech de-risking through public-private partnerships, and collaborative macro intelligence to map cross-border venture capital corridors.

Campus to Corporate Workshop: Empowering Women Talent in North Karnataka

Date: June 7, 2026

Organized an employability workshop at JSS College, Dharwad, as part of the North Karnataka Women's Talent Connect 2026 initiative, in collaboration with Rotary Club of Hubli Central. The session trained hundreds of women graduates on personality development, communication, interview preparation, workplace readiness, and campus-to-corporate transition skills.



Showcasing Mysuru's Electronics Manufacturing Excellence

Date: June 8, 2026

Facilitated the visit of Prof. Marco Re, Economic Advisor to the Consulate General of Italy, to Mysuru's PCB and EMS ecosystem. The delegation engaged with AT&S India, Wuerth Elektronik India, Kaynes Technology, and LeePra Technologies to explore advanced manufacturing capabilities, global competitiveness, and investment opportunities.

KAN Cohort 2 Immersion: Mentorship for Market-Ready Startups

Date: June 8, 2026

As part of the program the KAN Cohort 2 Immersion Session at DERBI Foundation, brought together founders, mentors, and ecosystem experts to strengthen startups' go-to-market strategy, unit economics, and business readiness. Nine startups received dedicated mentoring, enabling knowledge sharing, strategic guidance, and collaboration to build scalable, investment-ready ventures and reinforce Karnataka's Beyond Bengaluru startup ecosystem.



Industry Open House: Strengthening Startup- Industry Connections

Date: June 9, 2026

Supported the Industry Open House hosted by JAIN Launchpad, connecting KAN Cohort 2 startups with industry leaders, investors, and ecosystem enablers. Eight startups engaged with experts across technology, finance, healthcare, legal, and investment sectors, enabling mentorship, networking, and strategic collaborations to accelerate market readiness and growth in Karnataka's Beyond Bengaluru startup ecosystem.



Soft Skills & Personality Development Workshop: Building Confidence and Career Readiness

Date: June 10, 2026

Hosted a workshop at Sharnbasva University, Kalaburagi, focusing on building confidence, strengthening communication and interpersonal skills, developing a professional personality, and enhancing career readiness and employability for students, preparing them to succeed in professional environments.



SOFT SKILLS & PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Hosted by Karnataka Digital Economy Mission in association with SB University

AN INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH INDUSTRY EXPERT

- ✓ Strengthen your soft skills for career success.
- ✓ Build a powerful professional personality.

Venue: Dodappa Appa Sabha Mantap, SB University, Kalaburagi
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2026
Time: 10:30 AM onwards

SUBHA MAHATA
 VP - TALENT ACCELERATOR
 KDEM



PLACEMENT & INTERNSHIP DRIVE 2026

HOSTED BY KARNATAKA DIGITAL ECONOMY MISSION IN ASSOCIATION WITH SB UNIVERSITY

WHY ATTEND?

- Internship & Full-Time Opportunities
- Meet Leading Recruiters
- Technical & Non-Technical Roles
- Build Your Career with Industry Leaders

Career Opportunities Drive: Connecting Students with Industry

Date: June 11, 2026

Organized a career opportunities drive at Sharnbasva University, Kalaburagi, in association with leading industry partners. The session provided UG and PG students with access to internships, full-time roles, career guidance, and networking opportunities, enabling them to explore technical and non-technical career pathways and enhance their employability for a successful professional journey.

HomeComing: Connecting Talent with Career Opportunities in Coastal Karnataka

Date: June 11, 2026

Supported the HomeComing platform, designed to bridge the gap between professionals and employers in Coastal Karnataka. The initiative enables talent to explore, relocate, or return home while fostering structured engagement with companies, strengthening the regional ecosystem, and creating a thriving professional network for meaningful career opportunities.



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Dept. of E, IT & Bt

Karnataka Digital Economy Mission

Silicon Beach™ Program

HomeComing

Building Careers Closer to Home

A talent and opportunity platform for the Mangaluru-Udupi region

- No-cost platform** connecting professionals with meaningful careers
- Built for those who want** to explore, relocate, or return closer to home

WitchHunt 2026: India's First Girls-First AI Hackathon

Date: June 12, 2026

Participated as the strategic partner for WitchHunt 2026 at Jyoti Nivas College, Bengaluru. The event brought together young women innovators to solve real-world challenges using AI. The hackathon fostered innovation, collaboration, and inclusive growth, empowering the next generation of women leaders in technology.



Organizing Partner: Jyoti Nivas College

Event Partner: AI4India

Strategic Partner: Karnataka Digital Economy Mission

At WitchHunt 2026 – Women in Technology Challenge

"The idea is not promising employment, it is to make you the most employable human resource in the world."

SHRI PRIYANK M KHARGE
HON'BLE MINISTER FOR HOME, IT & BT, AND
E-GOVERNANCE, GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Sunday, June 14, 2026 | Jyoti Nivas College Autonomous, Bengaluru

Empowering India: AI for Sustainability

Date: June 17, 2026

Participated in the National Conference 2026 - "Synergising AI and Industry 5.0" at SDM College of Business Management, Mangaluru. Cluster Head Vaishakh Pai K moderated a panel on human-machine collaboration, exploring AI's impact across healthcare, manufacturing, and technology. The discussion highlighted AI-driven precision, efficiency, sustainability, and scalable innovation.



Strengthening India- Korea Startup Collaboration

Date: June 17, 2026

Hosted a delegation from the Republic of Korea led by Mr. Seung Hwan Mok and Mr. Seungho Park to discuss cross-border startup collaboration. The session focused on startup exchange, global market access, technology partnerships, and institutional collaboration, reinforcing Karnataka's position as a leading innovation hub and enabling startups to access global networks and growth opportunities.



Karnataka–Seoul Business Bridge: Strengthening Global Startup & Innovation Partnerships

Date: June 17, 2026

Welcomed a delegation from Korea's Ministry of SMEs and Startups and Korea Venture Investment Corporation to explore collaboration with Karnataka's startups and MSMEs. The discussions focused on market access, startup exchange, AI, deep-tech, Centres of Excellence, and institutional partnerships, reinforcing Karnataka's commitment to building global connections and enabling cross-border innovation and investment opportunities.



Planning the Mega Job Drive in Kalaburagi

Date: June 18, 2026

Interacted with officials from the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Skill Development, Xcelerator Program representatives, and principals of diploma and ITI institutions to plan the upcoming Mega Job Drive in Kalaburagi. Discussions focused on student mobilization, industry participation, and creating meaningful employment opportunities, strengthening the skilling and employment ecosystem across Kalyana Karnataka.

The Integrated Workspaces Forum 2026: Shaping the Future of Work

Date: June 19, 2026

Participated in The Integrated Workspaces Forum 2026, organized in partnership with CCiRE and Credai Bengaluru. The forum explored how integrated work environments—combining office, residential, hospitality, education, and wellness infrastructure—are transforming collaboration, productivity, and employee experience, providing insights and best practices for GCCs, corporate real estate, HR, and smart workplace professionals.



Hustler Stories – Belagavi: Founder Journeys & Insights

Date: June 19, 2026

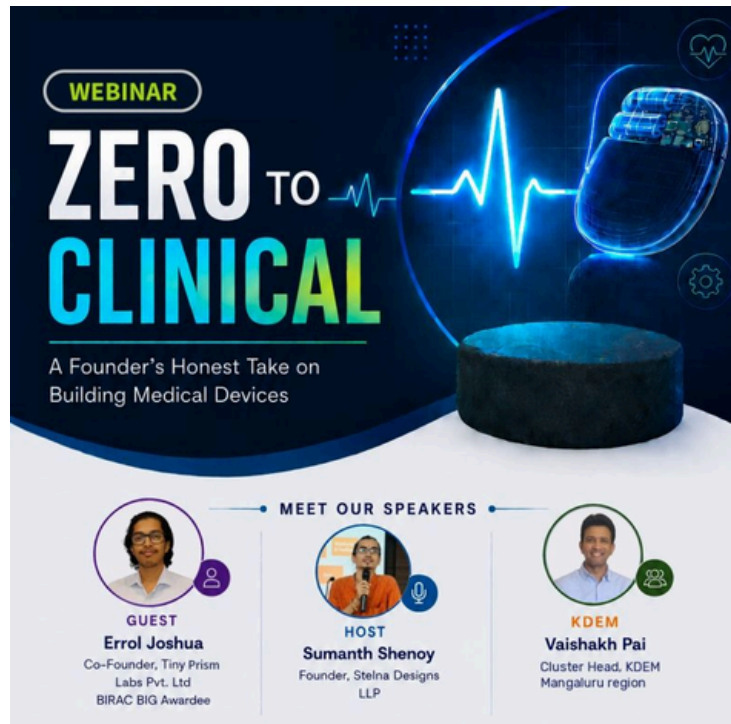
Participated as the strategic partner for Hustler Stories in Belagavi, an initiative by VTU VRIF and Early Founders to bring together entrepreneurs, innovators, and startup enthusiasts. The event featured Elevate 2025 winners sharing their startup journeys, lessons learned, and perspectives on navigating funding opportunities, fostering stronger startup communities, and inspiring the next generation of founders across Karnataka.



Zero to Clinical: A Founder's Journey in Building Medical Devices

Date: June 19, 2026

Supported a webinar sharing insights on building a non-invasive diagnostic device for Dysphagia. The session covered the BIRAC BIG Grant process, regulatory pathways, prototyping, patenting, and applying learnings to Edge AI and vision solutions for manufacturing. The webinar provided practical guidance for medtech startups, doctors with ideas, deep-tech students, and entrepreneurs navigating funding, regulation, and commercialization.



FKCCI-KDEM Strategic Meeting: Advancing Digital Transformation Across Districts

Date: June 19, 2026

Engaged in a strategic discussion with FKCCI leadership to strengthen collaboration following their landmark MoU. The meeting focused on accelerating digital transformation across Karnataka's districts, fostering innovation-driven growth, nurturing digital entrepreneurship, and enabling emerging regions to become technology-enabled hubs, reinforcing Karnataka's vision of inclusive and sustainable digital ecosystems Beyond Bengaluru.



Founders & Investors Xplore (FIX) 2026: Connecting Startups with Investors

Date: June 20, 2026

Participated as the strategic partner for FIX by CEDAT, in collaboration with Mela Ventures as Investment Partner. The event brought together founders, investors, mentors, and ecosystem enablers, featuring live startup pitch sessions, expert feedback, and mentorship. The initiative strengthened Karnataka's startup ecosystem by enabling connections, funding opportunities, and knowledge-sharing to support founders in building scalable ventures.



KAN Cohort 2 SME Mentoring: Building Market-Ready Startups

Date: June 24, 2026

Partnered with SHINE Foundation for the KAN Cohort 2 SME Mentoring Session, supporting 9 startups from the Beyond Bengaluru cluster. Founders received one-on-one mentorship from 4 industry experts covering business strategy, market expansion, fundraising, partnerships, customer acquisition, and growth milestones, enabling scalable, investment-ready ventures and strengthening Karnataka's startup ecosystem through collaboration and expert guidance.

Engage JL – June Edition: Selling Deep Tech to American Enterprises

Date: June 25, 2026

Supported JAIN Launchpad's Engage JL – June Edition masterclass focused on helping deep-tech startups scale globally. The session covered structuring pilot projects to earn enterprise trust, delivering measurable business value, avoiding adoption pitfalls, and converting pilots into long-term customer relationships, equipping founders with practical strategies to build credibility in U.S. enterprise markets.



Startup X-Factor Session 3: Connecting Founders with Investors and Ecosystem Leaders

Date: June 25, 2026

Hosted the third edition of Startup X-Factor, bringing together founders, investors, incubators, accelerators, and ecosystem leaders in a curated virtual session. The session focused on access to government grants, startup support programs, mentorship from experienced founders and industry experts, and opportunities for incubation, acceleration, and strategic partnerships, fostering Karnataka's high-quality startup ecosystem.



MSME Growth Conclave 2026: Empowering Karnataka's Value-Creating MSMEs

Date: June 25, 2026

Mr BV Naidu, Chairman, KDEM, delivered the keynote at The Hindu Businessline MSME Growth Conclave 2026, highlighting Karnataka's vision for MSMEs to transition from vendors to value creators. The address emphasized leveraging AI, automation, and digital tools, nurturing talent through industry-academia-government collaboration, and driving growth across Beyond Bengaluru clusters.



Pegasystems Inaugurates New Office & Executive Briefing Centre in Bengaluru

Date: June 25, 2026

Attended the inauguration of Pegasystems' new office and Executive Briefing Centre at EcoWorld Tech Park, Bellandur, Bengaluru. The event, inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister Shri Priyank M Kharge, highlighted Bengaluru's position as a global hub for enterprise AI and engineering excellence.



North Karnataka Incubators Consortium: Building a Unified Innovation Ecosystem

Date: June 27, 2026

Hosted the North Karnataka Incubators Consortium at KLE Technological University, Hubballi, bringing together TBIs, CoEs, universities, and ecosystem partners. Discussions focused on collaboration, technology commercialization, and strategic partnerships, with key outcomes including participation in Techceleration 2026, launching the first North Karnataka Incubators & CoEs Magazine, and strengthening linkages across academia, startups, and industry.



North Karnataka Women's Talent Connect 2026: Empowering Women, Enabling Careers

Date: June 28, 2026

Organized the North Karnataka Women's Talent Connect 2026 at JSS College, Dharwad, bringing together 25+ leading companies including Magic Bus India Foundation, City Union Bank, TP, BBETTER, [24]7.ai, Sagility, TCS, Bosch, and Lenskart. The event provided curated hiring, pre-screened candidates, and career and returnship opportunities.

COMMUNICATIONS & PR REVIEW

321

TOTAL COVERAGES

1,09,68,523

TOTAL AVES

7

INTERACTIONS

3

**KDEM STAKEHOLDER
ENGAGEMENT**

2

**INDUSTRY
STORY**

2

**PRESS
RELEASE**

Beyond Bengaluru: Talent abounds, ecosystems lag

Infrastructure gaps and fragmented ecosystems continue to slow Karnataka's emerging regional industrial clusters

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

After co-founding professional services firm AIT Digital Technologies, Goutam Bhat was working in Noida until the Covid-19 pandemic struck in 2020. He subsequently returned to his native village Bengaluru in Sirsi taluk of Uttara Kannada district and began working remotely.

He later set up a branch office in neighbouring Vidyanagara. Six years on, the company employs 40 people at Vidyanagara and generates overall annual revenues of around \$3 million while serving clients in the United States. Recognising the need to strengthen the local economy, the 30-year-old Bhat Technologies alumni also launched 'The Meetri', a digital platform that connects skilled workers with job opportunities.

"Setting up the centre wasn't easy at first. With



A view of Aqas Special Economic Zone located in Hukkeri taluk, Belagavi district.

unreliable internet connectivity, I had to rely on three different service providers to maintain a stable connection," Goutam says. "Today, the office enables 40 people to live and work in their village instead of migrating to a metro city, while earning salaries on par with our Noida employees."

"I never asked for government help. The real joy is

INSIGHT

that 40 families, close to 120 people, can stay back in their native place because of our company," he adds. Though Goutam has operated without any government support, he is part of a growing effort to expand economic activity beyond Bengaluru.

This momentum aligns with the state government's 'Beyond Bengaluru' initiative, launched in 2020 to decentralise industrial, digital economy and technology-driven growth by developing regional clusters outside the state capital. Major companies such as Infosys, Wipro and Aqas expanded beyond Bengaluru long before this term was

coined. Infosys set up its Mysuru campus in 2002. Aqas built its first major special economic zone (SEZ) in Belagavi. "We could have started in Hubballi, but land availability was a constraint at the time, so we settled on Belagavi," says Arvind Madhigiri, executive chairman and CEO of Aqas Limited.

He had to build everything from scratch, initially mobilising logistics, workforce, materials and other resources from outside. "Some people laughed when we said our aerospace SEZ would be in Belagavi (Belagavi). Today it is an established global aerospace manufacturing location with every airline having something made in Belagavi," he remarks.

To address these gaps and drive growth outside Bengaluru, the government adopted a cluster-based development approach under the 'Beyond Bengaluru' initiative. However, the programme has struggled to achieve scale.

• **Beyond Bengaluru, Page 2**

'Bengaluru start-up ecosystem valued at \$153 b, top 6 in Asia'

Our Bureau
Bengaluru

Bengaluru has generated \$153 billion in ecosystem value and accounted for 58 per cent of India's artificial intelligence venture funding, reinforcing its position as the country's leading start-up hub, according to a report. The city ranked 15th globally and sixth in Asia in the *Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) 2026*, underlining its growing influence in emerging technologies and venture capital activity.

This valuation is underpinned by a capital formation and exit engine. Between 2021 and 2025, the ecosystem attracted \$39 billion in venture capital funding, ranking it fourth in Asia and yielded \$46 billion across 304 start-up exits. The report jointly unveiled at VivaTech Paris by Startup Genome and the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), establishes the region as a global deep tech powerhouse that is currently growing at three times the average rate of Asia.

VALUE REALISATION
A standout feature of the ecosystem is its rapid value-realisation cycle; the average timeline to a start-up exit is 8.2 years, notably outpacing the global average benchmark of 11.1 years. Corporate strategies are also benefiting from a structurally efficient cost-to-output ratio, where globally competitive deep tech products are built at highly competitive talent costs, exemplified by a local software engineer's median annual salary of \$19.6K.

A primary catalyst for this momentum is the State's aggressive structural shift toward emerging frontier technologies. This recognition by Startup Genome validates our long-term investments in talent, research, entrepreneurship, and emerging technologies."



Priyank Kharge, Minister for IT & BT, Govt of Karnataka

Bengaluru-Karnataka now ranks as Asia's No. 2 AI-Native Cluster and has propelled its overall R&D Engine ranking into the global Top 10, climbing from the Top 30 in 2025.

This rapid scaling is heavily de-risked by state policy interventions, including the \$62.4 million Startup Policy 2.0 (2025-2030) targeted at creating 25,000 new start-ups, the \$110 million Local Economy Accelerator Program (LEAP), and the ambitious \$114 million Karnataka Quantum Mission.

However, maintaining this upward trajectory presents distinct macroeconomic challenges on the global stage.

As detailed in the report, global AI funding remains asymmetric, with North American start-ups absorbing 86 per cent of all late-stage global AI venture capital in 2025.

'GLOBAL HUB'

Commenting on this competitive landscape, Priyank Kharge, Minister for IT & BT, Government of Karnataka, stated, "Bengaluru, Karnataka, is no longer just India's start-up capital; it is increasingly a global Deep-Tech and AI innovation hub. This recognition by Startup Genome validates our long-term investments in talent, research, entrepreneurship, and emerging technologies."

Women In Governance >

The next decade will be focused on deep technologies, says Dr Manjula N, Govt of K'taka

From deeptech and quantum computing to women-led startups, Dr Manjula N, Secretary, Department of Electronics, IT, Biotechnology and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka, discusses the state's vision for the next decade of innovation.



Rekha Balakrishnan • 2068 Stories



BangaloreMirror
FRI, JUN 19, 2026 MUMBAI MIRROR

AI, captain! B'loru charts course to global glory

Tech powerhouse climbs international league tables, fuelled by venture capital, rapid scaling companies, cutting-edge research and entrepreneurial ambition

By Sriharsh Vasan
sriharsh@bmmirror.com

Bangalore by the numbers

- Global Startup Ecosystem Rank: #15
- AI Startup Ecosystem Rank: #8
- AI-Native Startup Ecosystem In Asia: #2
- Global AI&D Engine Rank: Top 10
- Total Ecosystem Value: \$152.8 billion
- Venture Funding Raised (2021-25): \$38 billion
- Startup Exits (2021-25): 304
- Exit Value Generated: \$46 billion
- Active Entrepreneurs: 30
- Ecosystem Growth Since 2021: 100%
- Share of India's AI Startup Funding: 54%
- AI Funding Raised Since 2021: \$1.6 billion
- Global Performance Ranking: Top 10
- AI Performance Ranking: #4
- Asia Funding Momentum Ranking: #4
- Global AI-Native Cluster Ranking: Top 10

Growth story
The report highlights Bengaluru's remarkable growth trajectory over the past four years. The city's startup ecosystem value has surged by 100% since 2021.

significantly outpacing the global average growth of 14% and the Asian average of 46%. Today, Bengaluru's startup ecosystem is valued at nearly \$153 billion, driven by strong venture capital activity, a thriving entrepreneurial culture and a steady pipeline of technology-driven companies. The city recorded 304 startup exits between 2021 and 2025, generating an estimated \$46 billion in value.

Industry observers say the figures reflect Bengaluru's ability to convert innovation into commercially successful businesses faster than many established global technology hubs. The report also notes that startups in Bengaluru reach exit events in an average of 8.2 years, compared with the global average of 11.1 years, indicating quicker capital recycling and faster value creation.

IT & Minister Hrishikesh Kharge said, "Bengaluru's rise to 15th place globally and its position as Asia's No. 2 AI-native startup ecosystem reflect Karnataka's focus on innovation, talent and

research-led growth. These rankings reinforce our commitment to building a future-ready ecosystem that supports startups, attracts investment and drives global technology leadership."

Investor confidence in Bengaluru remains strong. The ecosystem attracted nearly \$39 billion in venture funding between 2021 and 2025, placing it among the world's top 15 startup destinations and fourth in Asia for funding momentum.

AI leadership
Artificial intelligence has emerged as Bengaluru's biggest differentiator. Karnataka accounts for nearly 58% of India's AI startup funding, with AI ventures in the state raising around \$3.5 billion since 2021. The state's AI ecosystem received a major boost this year with the approval of the Centre for Applied AI for Tech Solutions (CATS), an initiative aimed at accelerating innovation in artificial intelligence, robotics, automation and digital transformation.

The report identifies Bengaluru as Asia's second-largest AI-native startup cluster, reflecting the concentration of AI-first companies being built in the city. Beyond AI, Bengaluru is strengthening its position in aerospace, defence and quantum computing. Karnataka accounts for nearly two-thirds of India's aerospace and defence business activity and hosts key institutions such as DRDO, ISRO, IISc, NAL and CVRDC. The Karnataka Quantum Mission, Q-City and the launch of India's first commercially deployable 25-qubit quantum computer have strengthened Bengaluru's status as a deep-tech hub.

Bengaluru ranks 15th in Global Startup Index with \$152.8-billion ecosystem value

Of the \$152.8 billion, about \$46 billion came from startup exits. Karnataka is also home to more than 300 unicorns, 35 of which are in Bengaluru

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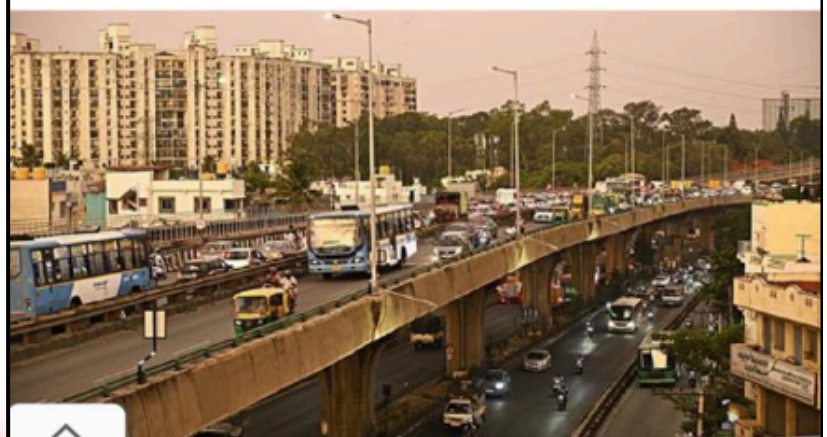
Bengaluru ranked second-best AI-native cluster in Asia, top 15th startup ecosystem globally

Out of 10, Bengaluru scored 9 in performance and R&D, 8 in AI-native cluster, and 7 in funding and market-reach.

Updated - June 17, 2026 06:43 pm IST - Bengaluru



SHILPA ELIZABETH



Bengaluru ranks second in Asia for AI Innovation

BENGALURU: (Jun 18) Bengaluru has secured the second spot in Asia for AI innovation and entered the global top 10 for performance and R&D, the Karnataka government said, according to the Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) 2026.

Ranking 15th globally in the Startup Ecosystem Index, Bengaluru continues to cement its position as India's leading startup hub and has a USD 152.8 billion ecosystem value.

The Karnataka government and Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), in partnership with Startup Genome, has announced key findings from the report unveiled at VivaTech Paris.

ಎಐ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ 2ನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ಪ್ಯಾರಿಸ್‌ನ ವಿವಾಟಿಕ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅನಾವರಣಗೊಳಿಸಲಾದ ಜಾಗತಿಕ ಸ್ಟಾರ್ಟಪ್ ಪರಿಸರ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ವರದಿ 2026ರ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಮುಖ್ಯಾಂಶಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ಜಾಗತಿಕ ಶ್ರೇಯಾಂಕ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾರತದ 6 ಸ್ಟಾರ್ಟಪ್ ಪರಿಸರ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಸ್ಥಾನ ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದು, ದೇಶದ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರದ ಶಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ತೋರಿಸಿದ್ದು,



**ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಈಗ
ಕೇವಲ ಭಾರತದ
ಸ್ಟಾರ್ಟಪ್
ರಾಜಧಾನಿಯಾಗಿ
ಉಳಿದಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದು**

ಜಾಗತಿಕ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಡೀಪ್‌ಟೆಕ್ ಮತ್ತು ಎಐ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರದ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಕೇಂದ್ರವಾಗಿ ವೇಗವಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಸ್ಟಾರ್ಟಪ್ ಜಿನೋಮ್ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಈ ಮನ್ನಣೆಯು ಪ್ರತಿಭೆ, ಸಂಶೋಧನೆ, ಉದ್ಯಮಶೀಲತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಉದಯೋನ್ಮುಖ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವು ನಡೆಸಿರುವ ದೀರ್ಘಕಾಲೀನ ಹೂಡಿಕೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂದ ಜಯವಾಗಿದೆ.

! ತ್ರಿಶೂಲಾಂಕ ಬರ್ಗ್ ಐಟಿಬಿಟಿ ಸಚಿವ

ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಬಹು ಆಯಾಮದ ಸೂಚಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಿರವಾದ ಜಾಗತಿಕ ಸಾಧನೆ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶಿಸಿದೆ. ವಿಶೇಷವಾಗಿ ಪರಿಸರ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯ ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ, ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಗವಾಗಿ ಮೌಲ್ಯ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿರುವಲ್ಲಿ ಬಲವಾದ ಮುನ್ನಡೆ ಕಾಯ್ದುಕೊಂಡಿದೆ.

ವಿಶ್ವಾದ್ಯಂತ 350ಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ 5.5 ಮಿಲಿಯನ್‌ಗಿಂತಲೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಕಂಪನಿಗಳ ದತ್ತಾಂಶವನ್ನು ಆಧರಿಸಿ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ವರದಿಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಾಂಶಗಳು: ಜಾಗತಿಕ ಎಐ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು- ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ಪ್ರಭಾವವನ್ನು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟಪಡಿಸುತ್ತವೆ. ಏಷ್ಯಾದ ನಂ.2 ಎಐ ಆಧರಿತ ಸ್ಟಾರ್ಟಪ್ ಪರಿಸರ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಎಂಬ ಹೆಗ್ಗಳಿಕೆಗೆ ಪಾತ್ರವಾಗಿದೆ. ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಇಆರ್ 2026ರ ಮಾನದಂಡಗಳಾದ್ಯಂತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು- ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಲಯವು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪ್ರಾಮುಖ್ಯತೆ

ಸ್ಟಾರ್ಟಪ್ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿಗೆ ಅಗ್ರಸ್ಥಾನ

ಜಾಗತಿಕ ಸ್ಟಾರ್ಟಪ್ ಪರಿಸರ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ವರದಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು 15ನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನ ಪಡೆದಿದೆ. ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಒಂದು ಸ್ಥಾನ ಕುಸಿದಿದ್ದರೂ, 152.8 ಬಿಲಿಯನ್ ಡಾಲರ್ (12.7 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.) ಮೌಲ್ಯದ ಪರಿಸರ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಏಷ್ಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ 3ನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೃತಕ ಬುದ್ಧಿಮತ್ತೆ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನದ ಬಳಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 2ನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನವನ್ನು ಕಾಯ್ದುಕೊಂಡಿದೆ.

“ನಗರದ ಈ ಯಶಸ್ಸಿಗೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಪ್ರತಿಭೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಭಾರಿ ಹೂಡಿಕೆಗಳು ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿವೆ. ದೇಶದ ಒಟ್ಟು ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇಕಡಾ 50ರಷ್ಟು ಮಂದಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲೇ ಇದ್ದಾರೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರಕಾರವು ಹೂಡಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ವಿಕೇಂದ್ರೀಕರಿಸಲು ‘ಬಿಯಾಂಡ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು’ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಮೈಸೂರು, ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ನಗರಗಳಿಗೂ ವಿಶೇಷ ಆದ್ಯತೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದೆ” ಎಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರಕಾರದ ಐಟಿ-ಬಿಟಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಡಾ.ಎನ್. ಮಂಜುಳಾ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. “ವೇಗವಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ಜನಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗೆ ತಕ್ಕಂತೆ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಒದಗಿಸುವುದು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಸವಾಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಂಚಾರ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ನಿವಾರಿಸಲು ಮುಂದಿನ 5-6 ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಮೆಟ್ರೊ ಜಾಲವನ್ನು 170-180 ಕಿಲೋಮೀಟರ್‌ಗೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು ಕೊನೆಯ ಮೈಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕವನ್ನು (Last-mile connectivity) ಸುಧಾರಿಸಲು ಸರಕಾರ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದೆ” ಎಂದು ಅವರು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಪ್ಯಾರಿಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ ಯೂರೋಪ್‌ನ ಬೃಹತ್ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಸ್ಟಾರ್ಟಪ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ‘ಎವಾಟಿಕ್’ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬುಧವಾರ ಈ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

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By Siddhi Patil
Updated - June 21, 2026 at 09:30 AM

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BV Naidu, Chairman, Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM)

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Bengaluru ranks 15th in Global Startup Index with \$152.8-billion ecosystem value

Of the \$152.8 billion, about \$46 billion came from startup exits. Karnataka is also home to more than 50 unicorns, 35 of which are in Bengaluru

DEBANGANA GHOSH | June 17, 2026 | 12:34 PM



Bengaluru

AI Powered Summary

- Bengaluru ranks 15th in Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2026
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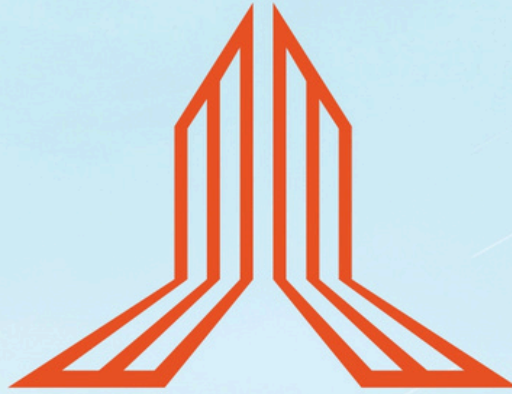
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