



GOVERNMENT OF  
**KARNATAKA**  
Dept. of E, IT & Bt



**Karnataka Digital  
Economy Mission**

# KDEM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026



# KDEM NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026 EDITION

**21458+**

DPIIT RECOGNISED  
REGISTERED  
STARTUPS

**181**

NUMBER OF  
INCUBATORS/  
ACCELERATORS

**1000+**

TOTAL GCC IN  
KARNATAKA

**31**

NEW IT/ITES/GCC  
COMPANIES

**~370K – 400K**

TALENT ANNUAL HEI  
PASS OUT

**\$7. 8B**

VC FUNDING IN  
KARNATAKA

Karnataka today is a global hub for deep-tech, AI, biotech, aerospace, and advanced research, backed by one of the strongest talent pipelines in the world.

**SHRI PRIYANK M KHARGE**

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



Karnataka, recognised among the world's leading innovation ecosystems, is leveraging its network of 200+ engineering colleges, 1,000+ technical institutes, nearly 65 universities & over 1 Lakh graduates annually to build a stronger future-ready workforce aligned to emerging industry needs.

**DR. MANJULA N, IAS**

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



”

Infrastructure is the backbone of digital leadership. With industry-leading economics, a resilient grid and a deep talent base, Mangaluru is primed to host mission-critical workloads while complementing Bengaluru's position as India's digital nerve centre.

**MR B V NAIDU**

Chairman  
KDEM



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India's next growth phase will depend on how effectively we align education with employability and emerging industry demand. Karnataka is already building that pipeline through large-scale skilling, industry-academia partnerships and regional talent programmes.

**MR SANJEEV KUMAR GUPTA**

CEO  
KDEM



## Facilitated Startup Community Outreach

Date: 1st May 2026

Partnered in the Davangere Startups WhatsApp Network initiative alongside the Government of Karnataka, STPI, and Visit Davangere to connect startups and innovators through a common platform. Supported efforts to encourage startups to engage with the ecosystem, access relevant updates, and connect with fellow founders across Davangere.



## Hosting Industry Engagement with UST

Date: 5th May 2026

Hosted an industry engagement with UST Bengaluru to discuss opportunities for strengthening Karnataka's digital economy and innovation ecosystem. Engaged with UST leadership on areas including engineering, semiconductor and datacentre services, GCC enablement, smart manufacturing, and automotive solutions. The visit also included interactions with innovation and R&D teams.

## Partnered in World Fintech Summit 2026

Date: 5th May 2026

Partnered in the 2nd Edition of the World Fintech Summit 2026, organized by Elets Technomedia, and supported keynote sessions and roundtable discussions focused on fintech, enterprise technology, digital infrastructure, AI, cybersecurity, and innovation.



## POLICY AWARENESS SESSION

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

### Why attend?

- Understand IT, BT & Agritech policies
- Learn startup compliance & readiness essentials
- Explore government incentives, benefits & support schemes

**Venue:** Deskly by Aller co-working space, Kalaburagi

**Date:** Wednesday, May 06, 2026

**Time:** 4:00 PM onwards

For more information connect with:  
Mr Sujay Mudgal: [sujay.mudgal@karnatakadigital.in](mailto:sujay.mudgal@karnatakadigital.in)

## Conducted Policy Awareness Session in Kalaburagi

Date: 6th May 2026

Conducted a Policy Awareness Session in Kalaburagi under the Beyond Bengaluru initiative for startups and stakeholders from the IT, BT, and Agritech sectors. Partnered with Deskly by Aller as Host Partner and engaged with members of the regional innovation ecosystem to share information on government policies, incentives, support mechanisms, and startup readiness.

## Supported Startup Talent Connect in Tumakuru

Date: 6th May 2026

Partnered with Startup Tumakuru in an initiative to connect startups and growing companies with internship talent through a structured engagement platform. Supported efforts to facilitate startup-student connections and strengthen talent access for startups in collaboration with ecosystem stakeholders including AICTE, Startup India, Invest India, KSDC, NSDC, Startup Karnataka, and participating academic institutions.



**Startup  
Tumakuru**  
Empowering Startups. Enabling Talent.

Strategic Partner  
  
Karnataka Digital  
Economy Mission

### Great Startups Are Built by Great Teams.

**Find the right interns.  
Focus on what you build.**

From tech to marketing, design to operations – find motivated, skilled interns ready to contribute, learn and grow with your startup.

**WHY HIRE INTERNS?**

-  **Fresh Perspectives**  
New ideas, different
-  **More Bandwidth**  
Get things done faster
-  **Build Your Talent Pipeline**
-  **Cost-Effective Growth**



## KAN COHORT 2 INDUCTION DAY



## KAN Cohort-2 Induction Day - DERBI-SHINE

Date: 8th May 2026

KAN Cohort 2 Induction Day organised by DERBI & SHINE Foundation successfully brought together participating startups under a collaborative platform focused on innovation and growth. The session introduced startups to the cohort roadmap while fostering active engagement and networking among founders and ecosystem participants.

## Strengthened Pathways for Women's Workforce Participation in North Karnataka

Date: 13th May 2026

Partnered with the Department of IT & BT, Government of Karnataka, Rotary Club of Hubli Central, and KCCI for the North Karnataka Women's Talent Connect 2026 Pre-Event Discussion. The initiative brought together academia, industry, and ecosystem partners to strengthen pathways for women graduates entering the workforce.



**NORTH KARNATAKA  
WOMEN'S  
Talent Connect 2026**  
EMPOWERING WOMEN. ENABLING CAREERS.

**PRE-EVENT DISCUSSION**  
Join us for an important discussion with colleges and placement leaders to build stronger pathways for women's employment across North Karnataka.

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

- Placement Cell Representatives
- Department Heads
- Training & Career Services Teams
- Women Empowerment / Career Guidance Cells

**DATE**  
Wednesday, May 13, 2026

**TIME**  
4 PM onwards

**VENUE**  
Karnatak Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) Hubballi  
G. Mahadevappa Chamber Building,  
J C Nagar, New Hubli,  
Hubballi, Karnataka 580020

**YOUR PARTICIPATION CAN  
SHAPE A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE  
for women across North Karnataka!**

## webinar Customer-Driven Agritech Product Development

Turning Real Needs into Scalable Impact

Guest



**Adithya MD**

Co-Founder, IXETronics Pvt. Ltd.,  
Senior Project Assistant, Electronics  
Systems Engineering Dept. IISc,  
Bengaluru

Host



**Vaishakh Pai**

Cluster Head  
KDEM  
Mangaluru Cluster



**Sumanth Shenoy**

Founder  
Stelna Designs. LLP.

What we cover

PROBLEM FRAMING  
WITH COLLABORATORS

PMF STRATEGIES

GO-TO-MARKET  
APPROACH

STAKE HOLDER COLLAB  
FROM IDEA TO SCALE

## Partnered to Advance Customer-Centric Agritech Innovation

Date: 15th May 2026

Partnered with Stelna Designs LLP for a webinar on Customer-Driven Agritech Product Development, bringing together entrepreneurs, innovators, and industry stakeholders to explore practical approaches to building solutions for the agriculture and food-processing sectors.

## Supported the Launch of KrishiKalpa's Centre of Excellence

Date: 15th May 2026

Partnered with KrishiKalpa, Startup Karnataka, and K-Tech for the launch of KrishiKalpa's Centre of Excellence (CoE) and the VIKAAS and PRERANA programs in Kalaburagi. The initiative strengthened the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Kalyana Karnataka by supporting regional founders, fostering grassroots innovation, and creating opportunities in the agri and allied sectors.



**Krishi Kalpa**  
Farmers | FPO's | Startups  
Powering Rural Entrepreneurship

**STARTUP KARNATAKA**

**K-tech**

**Karnataka Digital Economy Mission**

We invite you to the official launch of

# KRISHIKALPA'S CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (CoE)

& FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS

**VIKAAS**  
Incubation Program

**Prerana**  
Pre-Incubation Program

Strengthening the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Kalyana Karnataka Region

18<sup>th</sup> May 2025 | 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM | Kalaburagi

**CHIEF GUEST**  
Priyank Kharge  
Minister for IT/BI, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Government of Karnataka

**ECOSYSTEM LEADERSHIP**  
Prashanth Prakash  
Founding Partner, Accel Chairman, Krishikalpa

**DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION**  
C M Potli  
CEO Krishikalpa

**SPECIAL DIGNITARIES & SPEAKERS**  
Mohammed Ikramulla Shariff, IAS  
Deputy Commissioner, Kalaburagi

Rahul Sankanur  
Managing Director, KITS

Prasanna Kumar C  
Founder & CEO, ViCart

**WHAT TO EXPECT**



**C2C  
CAMPUS TO CAREER**  
FUTURE READY UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES  
15-16 MAY 2026 | BENGALURU

**IN THE AUGUST PRESENCE OF**  
Dr. M.C. Swathika  
Minister for Higher Education, Government of Karnataka

**PROGRAM MENTORS**  
Sri Siddharamaiah  
Minister for Higher Education, Government of Karnataka

**KEY SPEAKERS**  
Dr. B. V. Ramana Reddy  
IAS (Retd)  
Chairman, Karnataka Skill Development Authority (KSDA)

Sri Mohanmad Mahesh, IAS  
Additional Secretary, Higher Education and Skill Development Department, Government of Karnataka

Dr. S. Selvakumar, IAS  
Principal Secretary, Government and Industries Department, Government of Karnataka

Smt. Manjula N, IAS  
Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science Education, Government of Karnataka

Sanjeev Kumar Gupta  
CEO, Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM)

Prof. S. R. Niranjan  
Member, Karnataka State Higher Education Council

## Advancing Employability Through Campus to Career 2026

Date: 15-16th May 2026

Partnered in Campus to Career (C2C) 2026, organized by the Higher Education Department, Government of Karnataka, with Elets as Event Partner and Digital Learning (DL) as Knowledge Partner. Supported discussions on skilling, employability, innovation, industry-academia collaboration, and the future of work through participation alongside policymakers, industry leaders, academicians, and ecosystem stakeholders.

## KAN Cohort-2 Induction Day - GINSERV-ASTRA

Date: 16th May 2026

The Induction Day for KAN Cohort 2 organised by GINSERV-ASTRA marked the beginning of an engaging acceleration journey for the participating startups. The session brought together cohort startups, accelerator partners, mentors, and ecosystem enablers, creating opportunities for meaningful networking, collaboration, and ecosystem interaction.



## Launched Dhruva to Strengthen Startup Infrastructure

Date: 18th May 2026

Partnered with VergeCloud to launch Dhruva, a cloud infrastructure programme designed to support high-potential Indian startups with scalable and reliable technology infrastructure. Through a merit-based, jury-selected approach, the initiative provided startups with access to critical cloud resources, enabling them to build, scale, and innovate more effectively.



**India's Most Ambitious Startup  
Cloud Infrastructure Programme**

In official collaboration with VergeCloud

**₹5 Cr**

Infrastructure  
Credits

**1,100+**

Karnataka  
Startups

**4 Tiers**

Nebula · Nova  
Stellar · Cosmic

## Partnered to Accelerate Healthcare Innovation and Validation

Date: 22nd May 2026

Partnered with BHC for their 'Let's Validate' Chapter 5 Demo Day, creating a platform for healthcare startups to engage directly with senior decision-makers from leading government and private hospitals. The initiative enabled founders to validate their solutions, receive expert feedback, and explore real-world pilot opportunities with healthcare institutions.



BENGALURU  
HEALTH  
COMMUNITY  
"From idea to impact - A Global Healthcare Network"

STRATEGIC PARTNER



Karnataka Digital  
Economy Mission

**CHAPTER 5**  
**LET'S VALIDATE**

**DEMO DAY: IS THE PRODUCT READY FOR PILOT WITH HOSPITALS?**










**22ND MAY | 4 PM - 7 PM | KDEM, HSR**

**REGISTER NOW**

RS. 1200/- TICKET

ASSOCIATE PARTNER



CHARAKA

BANKING PARTNER



IDFC FIRST  
Bank

BOOKINGS +91 6366320781



## SILICON BEACH STARTUP

JOIN US FOR AN  
**INSPIRING STARTUP MEET!**

A space to  
innovate, connect & succeed!

Insights from Experts



**Mr. Vaishak Pai**  
Cluster head, KDEM, Mangaluru

**Topic:**  
Startup policies & Government support  
initiatives in Karnataka



**CA Vignesh Bhat**  
Partner, Gujjadi & Associates

**Topic:**  
Basics of Finance and Statutory  
Compliance for Startups

## Strengthened Mangaluru's Startup Ecosystem through Silicon Beach Startup Meet

Date: 27th May 2026

Partnered with wrkwrk for the Silicon Beach Startup Meet in Mangaluru, bringing together founders, innovators, mentors, investors, and ecosystem enablers on a common platform.

## Powering Innovation, Investment & Global Growth

Date: 27th May 2026

Hosted the second edition of Startup X-Factor, bringing together 100+ founders, innovators, investors, and ecosystem leaders. The session highlighted government grants like ELEVATE, MeitY Startup Hub initiatives, deep-tech and biotech incubation, early-stage investment opportunities, and global market access, fostering collaboration, startup growth, and innovation across Karnataka's ecosystem.



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Dept. of E, IT & Bt

Karnataka Digital Economy Mission

**k-tech**

**STARTUP KARNATAKA**

**STARTUP X-FACTOR**

### Insights from the Frontlines of Innovation

**Deepak Agrawal**  
Partner - Portfolio Growth, Venture Catalysts

Investors back traction, not just ideas. At Venture Catalysts, we support high-potential startups with investments ranging from \$200K-\$2M, helping founders scale globally.

“Deep-tech and biotech breakthroughs need the right ecosystem. For over a decade, BBC has empowered innovators with infrastructure, expertise, and global partnerships to scale impactful solutions.”

**INNOVATE KARNATAKA**  
KEY PARTNERS

**k-tech**



Scan to  
download  
Govt. of Karnataka  
Policies



Scan to join our  
Startup Grid  
WhatsApp  
Group



To get in touch with us, please write to us at  
**info@karnatakadigital.in**