GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Dept. of E, IT & Bt

Karnataka Digital Economy Mission

KDEM NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026 EDITION

1100+
TOTAL NO. OF GCCS IN KARNATAKA

22175+
DPIIT REGISTERED STARTUPS

200+
NO. OF INCUBATORS AND ACCELERATORS

552
APPLICATION RECEIVED KAN COHORT 3

$153 BN
ECOSYSTEM VALUE

190%
GROWTH IN 5 YEARS

ASSOCHAM · IESA · nasscom · STPI · STARTUP KARNATAKA

Women Entrepreneurship Bootcamp: Empowering Future Women Founders in Davanagere

Date: 1st September 2026

Organized the Women Entrepreneurship Bootcamp in Davanagere to nurture entrepreneurial confidence and innovation among young women. The initiative engaged 500+ students through an inaugural session, selected 100 participants for hands-on entrepreneurial training, and enabled 10 teams to develop ideas through collaboration, mentorship, and structured 60-day growth roadmaps, strengthening the women entrepreneurship ecosystem in the region.





K-Combinator: Supporting Coastal Karnataka Startups Through Mentorship and Acceleration

Date: 1st September 2026

Supported K-Combinator – Powered by TiE Nurture, a structured acceleration initiative for early-stage startups from the Udupi-Mangaluru and Coastal Karnataka region. The programme builds on TiE Nurture's founder-focused approach by enabling startups with mentorship, industry connections, and ecosystem support.

Startup Policy Awareness Session: Enabling Innovation in Tumakuru

Date: 1st September 2026

Organizing a Startup Policy Awareness Session at Siddaganga Institute of Technology (SIT), Tumakuru, under the Partners in Progress initiative to help startups, incubators, student entrepreneurs, and innovators understand Karnataka Startup Policy benefits and ecosystem opportunities. The session will provide insights into available support mechanisms, growth pathways, and initiatives enabling founders to build and scale ventures beyond Bengaluru.





Startup Policy Awareness Session: Enabling Innovation in Davanagere

Date: 1st September 2026

Organizing a Startup Policy Awareness Session in association with GM University and Vision Davanagere to connect startups, incubators, student entrepreneurs, innovators, and ecosystem stakeholders with Karnataka's startup support framework. The session will provide insights into Karnataka Startup Policy benefits, ecosystem opportunities, and pathways to help founders build, scale, and access support from the wider startup ecosystem beyond Bengaluru.

FEMTO Launch: Advancing Karnataka's Sovereign AI Innovation Journey

Date: 7th September 2026

Participated in the launch of FEMTO by Vigyanlabs, India's ready-to-use Sovereign AI system, marking a significant milestone for Karnataka's AI and DeepTech ecosystem. KDEM CEO Shri Sanjeev Kumar Gupta highlighted Karnataka's strengths in AI innovation, intellectual property, product development, and talent while recognising Vigyanlabs' contribution to building indigenous AI capabilities from Mysuru.





Global Fintech Fest 2026: Showcasing Karnataka's TechFin Growth Journey

Date: 9th - 11th September 2026

Participated in the Global Fintech Fest 2026 panel discussion on "Building Fintech Nations: How Sovereign Institutions Enable Innovation at Scale." KDEM CEO Shri Sanjeev Kumar Gupta shared insights on Karnataka's evolving TechFin ecosystem, highlighting the role of policy, digital infrastructure, partnerships, and innovation in shaping the future of financial services.
The session brought together global perspectives on building scalable fintech ecosystems and highlighted Karnataka's growing strength in startups, AI, GCCs, and digital capabilities driving the state's digital economy vision.

"The establishment of Global Technology Centres in Belagavi and Hubballi will create new opportunities for youth, startups and technology-driven enterprises in North Karnataka. This is an important step towards strengthening technology-led growth across the State. "

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



Karnataka FinTech Roundtable: Strengthening Karnataka's FinTech Ecosystem Through Collaboration

Date: 9th - 11th September 2026

Chaired the Karnataka FinTech Roundtable at Global Fintech Fest 2026, bringing together leaders from the FinTech and TechFin ecosystem to discuss opportunities for stronger government-industry collaboration. The discussions focused on scaling Karnataka's FinTech ecosystem through innovation, partnerships, global corridors, digital infrastructure, and ecosystem support.





KDEM and Cashfree Payments Partner to Strengthen Karnataka's FinTech Ecosystem

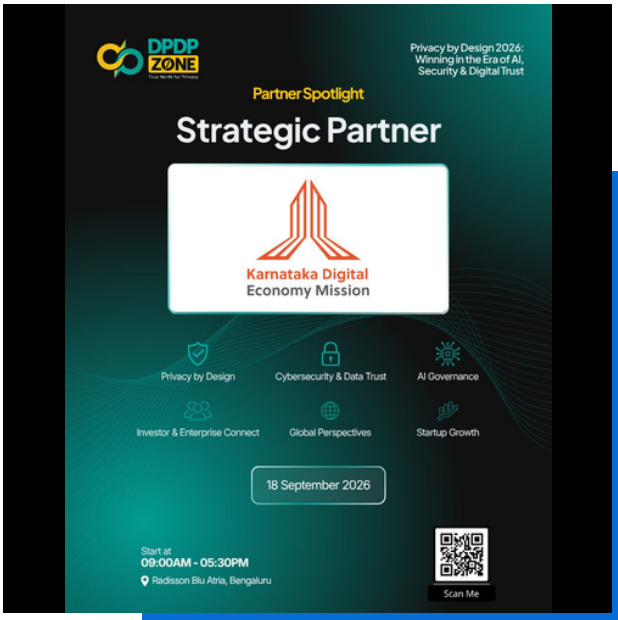
Date: 11th September 2026

Signed an MoU with Cashfree Payments at Global Fintech Fest 2026 to strengthen Karnataka's FinTech and TechFin ecosystem through deeper industry collaboration. The partnership will enable stronger connections between startups, industry, and ecosystem stakeholders, supporting innovation, growth, and scale across the state's digital economy. The collaboration builds on Karnataka's growing FinTech ecosystem, with focus on creating opportunities for technology-driven financial innovation and strengthening the state's position as a global FinTech hub.

Privacy by Design 2026: Strengthening Conversations Around Data Trust and AI Governance

Date: 18th September 2026

Partnered as the Strategic Partner for Privacy by Design 2026, bringing together policy, industry, technology, and innovation stakeholders to discuss the evolving landscape of data privacy, AI governance, cybersecurity, and digital trust. The platform enabled conversations around translating regulatory frameworks into practical approaches for startups, enterprises, and technology teams while strengthening collaboration between government and industry ecosystems.





Strengthening Karnataka–Poland Collaboration Through Technology and Innovation Partnerships

Date: 18th September 2026

Engaged in strategic discussions with H.E. Ms. Neeta Bhushan, Ambassador of India to Poland, to explore opportunities for strengthening Karnataka–Poland collaboration across technology, investment, talent, and innovation. The engagement focused on connecting Polish enterprises with Karnataka's technology and manufacturing ecosystem, enabling DeepTech and R&D collaborations, supporting startup market access, and creating pathways for stronger global partnerships.

Startup X-Factor Session 5: Enabling Founders to Build Investor-Ready Ventures

Date: 18th September 2026

Hosted the fifth edition of Startup X-Factor, bringing together founders, investors, and ecosystem experts to explore the journey from early ideas to scalable ventures. The session covered incubation, deep-tech fundraising, investor readiness, data privacy, Edge AI innovations, and Karnataka Startup Policy 2025-30, enabling founders to access practical insights, ecosystem support, and growth opportunities. The session also featured startup showcases and discussions around emerging technologies, compliance readiness, and funding pathways, strengthening connections between founders, investors, and Karnataka's startup ecosystem.





SEMICON India 2026: Showcasing Karnataka's Semiconductor Vision and Capabilities

Date: 17th-19th September 2026

Participated in SEMICON India 2026, bringing together global semiconductor industry leaders, policymakers, and technology experts to discuss opportunities across chip design, manufacturing, advanced packaging, and resilient supply chains. KDEM CEO Shri Sanjeev Kumar Gupta represented Karnataka's vision for strengthening regional technology ecosystems and advancing semiconductor capabilities through innovation, talent, and industry collaboration.

"Karnataka's biotechnology leadership has been built on a strong foundation of talent, innovation and collaboration. The Government remains committed to strengthening the entire biotechnology value chain—from research and innovation to entrepreneurship, manufacturing and workforce development. Our focus is on creating an enabling ecosystem that supports innovation, attracts investment and develops a future-ready workforce."

DR. N MANJULA, IAS

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





Engaging Future Entrepreneurs in Coastal Karnataka Through Startup Awareness

Date: 21st September 2026

Engaged with final-year students and aspiring entrepreneurs at Vivekananda College of Engineering & Technology, Puttur, to share insights on Karnataka's startup and innovation ecosystem. The session highlighted opportunities across ideation, incubation, mentorship, funding, and market access, encouraging students to explore entrepreneurship pathways and transform their ideas into scalable ventures.

WISE Tech India Pitchathon 2026: Enabling Startup Visibility and Investor Access

Date: 25th September 2026

Partnered with WISE Tech | SPJIMR for the Beyond Bengaluru Edition of WISE Tech India Pitchathon 2026, providing startups across Karnataka a platform to showcase their solutions to investors, mentors, industry leaders, and ecosystem stakeholders. The initiative enabled early-stage startups with working MVPs and traction to access visibility, feedback, networking opportunities, and pathways towards acceleration and growth.



SAMAGRA 2026: Advancing CSR Partnerships for Inclusive Growth in Karnataka



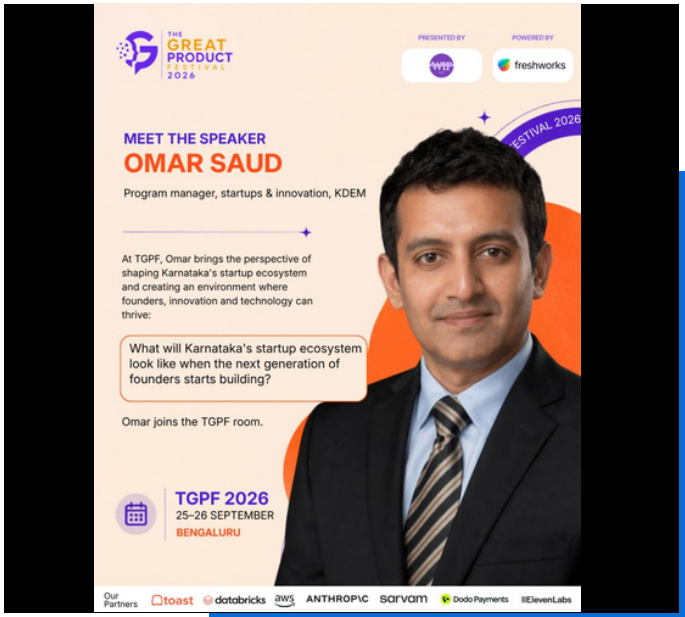
Date: 25th September 2026

Supported SAMAGRA 2026 – Karnataka CSR & Social Impact Conclave as a strategic partner, bringing together government, CSR leaders, corporates, NGOs, academia, and development organisations to strengthen collaboration around social impact. KDEM CEO Shri Sanjeev Kumar Gupta delivered the Chief Guest Address, highlighting the role of stronger CSR partnerships in aligning corporate resources with measurable development outcomes across Karnataka. The conclave highlighted Karnataka's growing CSR ecosystem, opportunities for collaboration, and the importance of directing investments towards education, healthcare, sustainability, rural development, and inclusive growth.

The Great Product Festival 2026: Strengthening Karnataka's Product and Startup Ecosystem

Date: 25th-26th September 2026

Participated as the Strategic Partner for The Great Product Festival 2026, bringing together founders, product leaders, innovators, and technology communities to discuss the future of product innovation and entrepreneurship. KDEM Program Manager – Startups & Innovation, Omar Saud, shared perspectives on Karnataka's startup ecosystem and the opportunities to support founders, innovation, and technology-led growth. The festival enabled meaningful conversations around building scalable products, strengthening startup communities, and creating pathways for the next generation of technology ventures.





SEMICON India 2026: Showcasing Karnataka's Semiconductor Leadership

Date: 17th August 2026

Represented Karnataka as the official State Partner at SEMICON India 2026, where KDEM CEO Shri Sanjeev Kumar Gupta engaged with global governments, industry leaders, and investors to highlight the state's semiconductor capabilities and ecosystem strengths. Under the theme "Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem," Karnataka showcased its leadership across chip design, electronics, R&D, talent, and semiconductor innovation. The engagement focused on creating pathways for investment, industry collaboration, research, and manufacturing opportunities, reinforcing Karnataka's role in India's semiconductor growth journey.

YES 2026: Exploring Product-Market Fit and Entrepreneurial Journeys

Date: 28th September 2026

Participated in the Young Entrepreneurs Summit (YES) 2026 panel discussion on Product-Market Fit, bringing together entrepreneurs, industry leaders, and ecosystem stakeholders to discuss building relevant products and creating market value. The session featured insights on understanding customer needs, validating ideas, navigating entrepreneurial challenges, and transforming concepts into scalable ventures, strengthening the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship within Karnataka's startup ecosystem.





Grow London Enterprise Delegation: Connecting UK Businesses with Karnataka's Innovation Ecosystem

Date: 28th September 2026

Hosted an engagement with the Grow London enterprise delegation from London & Partners, in association with Startup Karnataka and IT BT Department, Karnataka, to connect international businesses with Karnataka's startup and technology ecosystem. The session enabled matchmaking conversations between UK companies and ecosystem stakeholders, providing insights into India market opportunities, business expansion pathways, and collaboration opportunities across Karnataka.

UK–Karnataka Technology Connect: Enabling Global Business Partnerships

Date: 28th Septmber 2026

Partnered with London & Partners for the Enterprise Technology Trade Mission to India 2026, connecting UK-based enterprises with Karnataka's technology and innovation ecosystem. The engagement enabled curated business matchmaking, networking, and discussions around market entry, technology partnerships, collaboration, and global growth opportunities. The mission brought together 34 companies, facilitated 540+ business meetings, and strengthened pathways for deeper UK–Karnataka technology and business collaboration.



"As Karnataka accelerates its digital economy, Mangaluru has firmly established itself as a powerful anchor for technology and innovation among the state's emerging clusters. The region is proving that world-class institutions and an exceptional quality of life can together attract and retain global talent. KDEM is leveraging this momentum to unlock new investment corridors along the coast."

MR B V NAIDU
Chairman, KDEM





Manipal Start-Up Expo 2026: Strengthening Coastal Karnataka's Startup Ecosystem

Date: 29th Septmber 2026

Partnered as the Strategic Partner for Manipal Startup Expo 2026, bringing together startups, investors, industry leaders, clinicians, researchers, and ecosystem stakeholders from Coastal Karnataka and beyond. The platform enabled startup showcases, product launches, expert sessions, and investor interactions, fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and growth opportunities within the region's innovation ecosystem.

London–Karnataka Enterprise Connect: Deepening Business Conversations and Collaboration Pathways

Date: 29th September 2026

Continued the engagement with the Grow London Global Enterprise Delegation through focused interactions between UK enterprises and Karnataka's technology ecosystem. The second day enabled deeper conversations around business opportunities, market expansion, technology partnerships, and potential collaborations across sectors. The engagements provided participating companies with further insights into Karnataka's innovation landscape while creating meaningful connections with ecosystem stakeholders, strengthening pathways for future partnerships between UK businesses and Karnataka's enterprise ecosystem.





Startup X-Factor Session 6: Connecting Founders with Investors and Ecosystem Leaders

Date: 29th Septmber 2026

Hosted the sixth edition of Startup X-Factor, bringing together founders, investors, and ecosystem leaders for discussions on startup growth, fundraising, incubation, and scaling opportunities. The session featured insights from industry experts across venture capital, incubation, agriculture innovation, and startup support, while enabling selected startups to pitch their ventures and receive direct feedback from investors and ecosystem leaders.

"Mangaluru has a growing pool of experienced professionals, and our task is to connect that talent with industry, investment, and the opportunities of an AI-driven economy. We are building skilling pathways, anchoring companies, and strengthening the cluster from the ground up. Execution is what matters, and the coast is where that discipline is beginning to show."

MR SANJEEV KUMAR GUPTA
CEO, KDEM



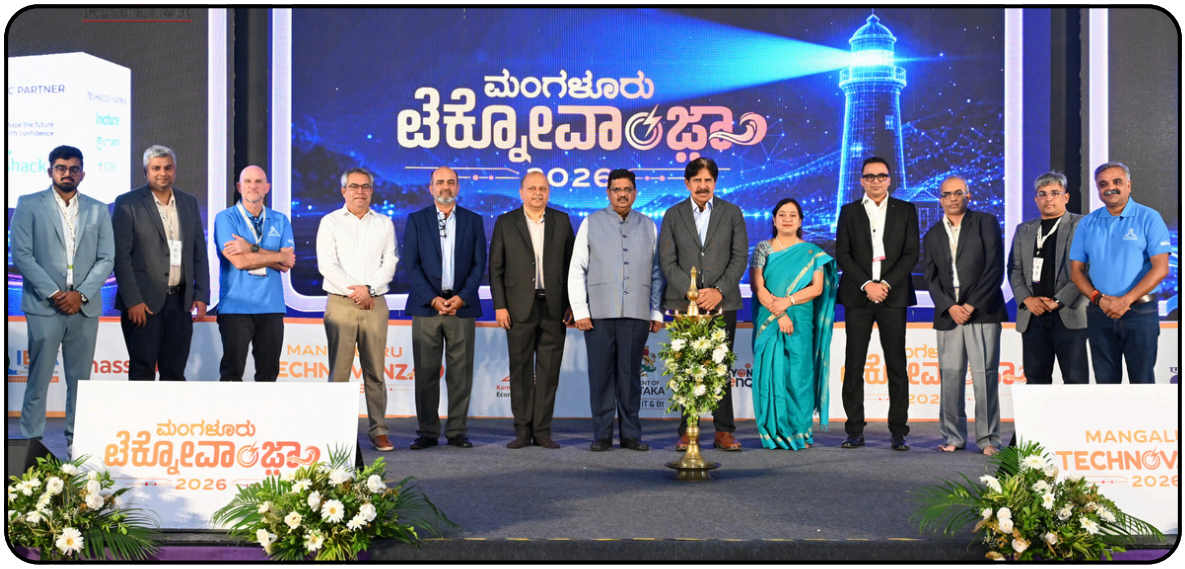
CONCLUDED EVENTS

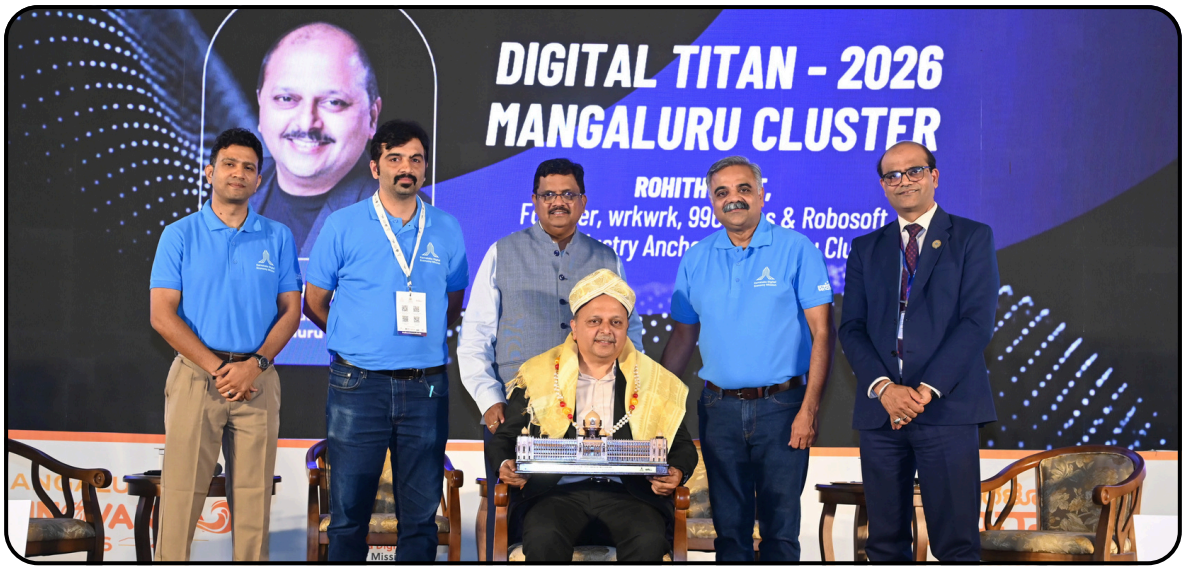
MANGALURU TECHNOVANZA 2026

WED 23 SEPT | TMA PAI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

EVENT AT A GLIMPSE

700+ DELEGATES	25+ SPEAKERS	88+ SHOWCASES	30+ INVESTORS
10+ INCUBATORS	5 NEW COMPANIES ANNOUNCED IN CLUSTER	3 PRODUCT LAUNCHES	3 FUND-READY STARTUPS
	12 ELEVATE WINNERS FELICITATED	4 COUNTRY PARTNERS	





The Mangaluru Technovanza 2026 brought together startups, investors, industry leaders, policymakers, and ecosystem stakeholders to strengthen Mangaluru's position as an emerging technology and innovation hub beyond Bengaluru. The event focused on fostering collaboration, showcasing regional capabilities, and exploring opportunities for technology-led growth.

With discussions spanning AI, digital transformation, GCCs, MedTech, data centres, skills, policy, industry, and capital, the programme featured insightful panels, roundtables, fireside conversations, and ecosystem sessions. The event provided a platform for meaningful connections and collaborations, reinforcing the vision of building a strong, decentralised technology and innovation ecosystem across Karnataka.

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

World AI Summit 2026

14-15 October 2026

KDEM will participate as the Strategic Partner at the World AI Summit 2026, bringing together leading global and Indian AI leaders, innovators, technology experts, and ecosystem stakeholders. The summit will provide a platform to discuss the rapidly evolving AI landscape, explore emerging opportunities, and address the challenges shaping the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence. KDEM's participation will further strengthen its engagement with the global AI ecosystem and contribute to conversations around innovation, collaboration, and the future of AI.





Beyond Bengaluru Cluster Seed Fund: Applications Open for Innovation-Driven Startups

The Government of Karnataka has opened applications for the Beyond Bengaluru Cluster Seed Fund, an equity-based initiative supporting technology startups in emerging clusters with access to early-stage funding. Startups incorporated in Karnataka and operating from Beyond Bengaluru districts can apply if they are building scalable, technology-driven solutions.

The fund aims to support the growth of promising technology enterprises and strengthen Karnataka's startup ecosystem across emerging innovation hubs, enabling startups to build, scale, and grow from the state's expanding technology clusters.

For application details and support, startups can connect with the KDEM team.

Beyond Bengaluru Startup Pods at Bengaluru Tech Summit 2026: Registrations Open

17th-19th November 2026

RRegistrations are now open for the Beyond Bengaluru Startup Pods at Bengaluru Tech Summit 2026, offering eligible startups headquartered outside Bengaluru a platform to showcase their innovations and connect with investors, industry leaders, and ecosystem stakeholders.

As part of the LEAP Pavilion, 75 pods are available on a first-come, first-served basis, with special pricing for early registrations.





Global Invention & Innovation Connect 2026: Applications Open for Innovators

17th-19th November 2026

The Global Invention & Innovation Connect 2026, supported by IFIA Bharat and in partnership with KDEM, will be part of Bengaluru Tech Summit 2026. The platform will bring together inventors, innovators, startups, researchers, universities, and industry leaders to showcase proven technologies, explore collaborations, and accelerate innovation towards adoption and commercialisation.

The initiative will feature a Global Invention & Innovation Exhibition, Challenge-to-Invent initiative, Global Invention & Innovation Awards 2026, and opportunities to connect with industry, investors, and the wider innovation ecosystem. Applications are open until 15 October 2026, with the exhibition scheduled for 17-19 November 2026 at BIEC, Bengaluru.

COMMUNICATIONS & PR REVIEW

107
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Delhi: At SEMICON India 2026, Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, CEO of K Economy Mission, says, "Very happy to be here at SEMICON 20 And that's one of the biggest announcements that has been ma it, and it's showing the confidence in the State of Karnataka's p Karnataka's innovation ecosystem, the State of Karnataka's tal ecosystem of peer groups in the semiconductor industry being same place. Also, we see Applied Materials investing in a big wa manufacturing..."



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

SAMAGRA 2026 focuses on CSR partnerships for Karnataka's growth

The conclave also featured an Impact Showcase, an introduction to NIPUNA Karnataka, a Design Thinking Workshop for CSR and industry leaders, and a masterclass on the use of artificial intelligence for NGOs.



Various panel discussions and impact showcase sessions were held during the Samagra 2026 at Radisson Blu Atria Bengaluru on Friday. Photo | Express

Express News Service

SAMAGRA 2026 focuses on CSR partnerships for Karnataka's growth

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE inaugural SAMAGRA 2026 – Karnataka CSR & Social Impact Conclave was held in Bengaluru on Friday, bringing together representatives from the government, corporate sector, industry, academia, development organisations and the social-impact ecosystem to strengthen partnerships for Karnataka's development.

Organised under the theme 'Co-Creating Karnataka's Development Future Through CSR Partnerships', the conclave was a flagship initiative of the Department of Electronics, IT & BT and Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), in partnership

cases and breakout sessions, with discussions focusing on skills and employability, future-ready skilling, social innovation, corporate impact and last-mile inclusion. The inaugural session was attended by KDEM CEO Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy Rashmi Mahesh, and AISECT India Director Shilpi Varshney, among other stakeholders.

The conclave also featured an Impact Showcase, an introduction to NIPUNA Karnataka, a Design Thinking Workshop for CSR and industry leaders, and a masterclass on the use of artificial intelligence for NGOs. The event concluded with the

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
India's premier news agency

can emerge as major technology vation hub beyond Bengaluru: nk Kharge

LI (KARNATAKA): (Sep 3) Karnataka's Hubballi-Dharwad-Belaga s the potential to emerge as a major technology and innovation h engaluru, driving investment, talent and quality employment ities in North Karnataka, Minister Priyank Kharge said on Thursda

rks came at the sixth edition of HDB Techceleration 2026, which more than 700 delegates, 100 startups and 25 investors, along v eaders, policymakers, academia and technology stakeholders, a t issued by the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) said.

uilding capabilities across semiconductors, Electronics System D ufacturing (ESDM), electric vehicles, artificial intelligence, deep te 4.0 and advanced engineering. This gives the region a strong fou larger technology and manufacturing ecosystem," Kharge, who h on Technology and Biotechnology portfolios, said during the ever


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ವಾರ್ತಾ ಭಾರತಿ

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Trending Andhra Pradesh Train Accident Sonam Wangchuk Hyderabad Molestation Case Cyclone Arnab

Xpheno launches 'Silicon Beach Skills–Annual Edition 2' Re

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TOI

Mangaluru: Xpheno, a leading specialist st
partnership with the Karnataka Digital Eco
Mission (KDEM), on Wednesday released t
Beach Skills – Annual Edition 2' report, wh
a detailed overview of the talent and skill
Udupi and Mangaluru cluster. The report w
during the sixth edition of Mangaluru Tech
at the Dr TMA Pai International Convention
Wednesday.

The report covers comprehensive analysis of the Udupi-Mangaluru region's emerging tech talent po
potential to drive growth in India's digital economy. The objective of the report is to make the rich ar
talent pool of 'Silicon Beach' visible to global capability centres (GCCs) across the world, with the fo
ecosystem initiatives of the govt of Karnataka.


Express Computer

Mangaluru emerges as Karnataka's Silicon Beach as tech ecosystem expands beyond Bengaluru

By Express Computer on September 24, 2026

More than 600 delegates, 70 start-ups, 60 Global Capability Centres (GCCs) and over 20 investors attended Mangaluru Technovanza 2026 on Wednesday, as Karnataka sought to expand technology-led growth beyond Bengaluru


ಸುದ್ದಿ Live News Information ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕನ್ನಡ

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By Suddi Mangalore - September 23, 2026

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Dept. of E, IT & Bt

Karnataka Digital Economy Mission

KDEM Monthly Newsletter | September 2026

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info@karnatakadigital.in



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