Karnataka Digital Economy Mission

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Dept. of E, IT & Bt

BEYOND Bengaluru

MANGALURU TECHNOVANZA 2026

EVENT REPORT

Wednesday 23 Sep, 2026

TMA Pai International Convention Centre, Mangaluru



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WED 23 SEPT | TMA PAI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

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MANGALURU TECHNOVANZA 2026

Mangaluru Technovanza is a flagship initiative of the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission under the Beyond Bengaluru vision. It brings together industry leaders, global capability centres, startups, academia and investors to position Mangaluru as the next knowledge and innovation hub.

Over the years, the event has become a platform for knowledge-sharing, product launches, startup showcases and collaborations that accelerate the region's growth as an emerging technology cluster.

Through participation from government, industry, investors, startups and academia, Technovanza continues to help build Mangaluru's innovation ecosystem with a focus on technology, entrepreneurship and sustainable growth.

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

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MANGALURU CLUSTER INDUSTRY ANCHORS



Rohith Bhat

Founder, WrkWrk 99Games and Robosoft, Lead Industry Anchor, Mangaluru Cluster, KDEM



Ashith Hegde

Managing Director
Asia Pacific Arrivea



Gaurav Hegde

Managing Director
GR Stones



Johnson Tellis

Co-Founder and CEO
InUnity



Mohammed Haneef

Co-Founder & CTO
Novigo Solutions



Murali Manohar

Leader - India and South East Asia,
Rockwell Automation



Prashanth Shenoy

Co-Founder & CTO
UniCourt



Praveen Kalbhavi

Co-Founder, MD & CEO
Novigo Solutions



Shylaja Rao

General Partner
Ventana Ventures



Vijaykrishna Shetty

Founder and CEO
ThoughtGenius



Mukesh S

AVP - Projects
Silicon Beach Program



Vaishakh Pai

Cluster Head - Mangaluru
KDEM

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OUR ESTEEMED SPEAKERS



Shri Priyank M. Kharge

Hon'ble Minister for Housing & IT, BT, and e-Governance, Government of Karnataka



Dr. N. Manjula, IAS

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



Sharath Kumar Bache Gowda

Chairman, KEONICS



B. V. Naidu

Chairman KDEM



Sanjeev Kumar Gupta

CEO KDEM



Ajay Krishnan

VP – ESDM, KDEM



Ajay Vij

Senior Country Managing Director, Accenture India



Akshay Masheslkar

Founder, Experimind Labs



Amit Mishra

Head, Startup & VC Relations, Yotta



Anusha Acharya

Co-Founder, MaVedas Foods and Cereals Pvt. Ltd.



Ashok Chandak

President, IESA and SEMI India



Ben Tulloch

Executive Managing Director – Advisory Services Asia-Pacific, NTT Data



Bhaskar Kumar Verma

Regional Director, nasscom



D.B. Mehta, IRS (Retd.)

CMD, Allegro Ventures; President-Elect, CREDAI Karnataka



Darshan H. V., IAS

Deputy Commissioner, Dakshina Kannada District, Government of Karnataka



Devdutt Yellurkar

General Partner, Charles River Ventures



Dion Monteiro

Director, Rohan Corporation



Dr. Ashwin Mahesh

Founder & CEO, LVBL Accelerator



Dr. Avinash Menon, IAS

MD, KITS and Director, Dept. of E, IT, BT and S&T, Government of Karnataka



Dr. Rohan Monteiro

Founder & CEO, Rohan Corporation



Dr. Shivananda R. Koteshwar

SVP and MD, Astera Labs



Gayathri Sharma

Vice President, IVCA



Guruprasad Thanthri

Centre Head, Udupi CoE, Xpheno



Joohi Smita Sinha

Chief General Manager – Bengaluru, State Bank of India



Johnson Tellis

CEO, InUnity



Kamal Karanth

Co-Founder, Xpheno

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Kamal Kumar
Head of Programs & Technology, TecQubes



L.K. Atheeq, IAS (Retd.)
Finance Advisor to the Chief Minister & Chairman, Bengaluru Business Corridor, Government of Karnataka



Manu Iyer
Co-Founder & General Partner, Bluehill.vc



Neha Karnad
India Lead, Trade Services, London and Partners



Nitin M. Jakaty
Chief Business Officer & Strategic Advisor, Henox; CEO, Quantum Flow



Orli Weitzman
Consul General of Israel in Bengaluru



Pallavi Goel
Assistant Editor, ETGovernment



Prasanth Shenoy
Co-Founder & CTO, UniCourt



Rahul Raj Singh
MD & Chief Revenue Officer, VergeCloud



Rathnakar Bhat
CEO & Director, Karmic Design Centre



Rathnakar Naik
Founder, WWR Innovations



Richard Lobo
Chief People Officer (CPO), Tech Mahindra



Rohith Bhat
Founder, wrkwrk, 99Games & Robosoft; Lead Industry Anchor, Mangaluru Cluster



Roshan Menon
Principal Associate, SAM - K-Combinator and Cohort Startups



Sajiv Nair
CIO and CISO, ESDS Software Solution



Shyam Prasad Hebbar
President, TiE Mangaluru



Siddhartha Anand
Director, Southern India, USISPF



Suprith Alva
Chairman, Indian Institute of Architects (IIA); CMD, Allegro Ventures and Mangalore-Manipal Centre; President-Elect, CREDAI Karnataka



Swastik Kulkarni
Director General, Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), Bengaluru



Syuog Shetty
Vice President, TiE Mangaluru and Startups



Syed Mohamed Beary
Founder & CMD, Bearys Group



Twinkle Dhamecha
Senior Partner, RegFinLegal



Vadeesh Budramane
Founder and CEO, Algoshack



Vijay Anand Ramanujan
CEO, Foundation for QC Innovation (FQCI), NQM T-Hub



Vinod A.R. Pinto
President, CREDAI Mangaluru

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Sculpting the Future of Bioinnovation
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CEOL
CII Confederation of Indian Industry
CREDAI MANGALORE
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TiE BANGALORE Putting Entrepreneurship First
TiE MANGALURU FOSTERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP
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ECOSYSTEM ENABLING PARTNER

Yenepoya Technology Incubator

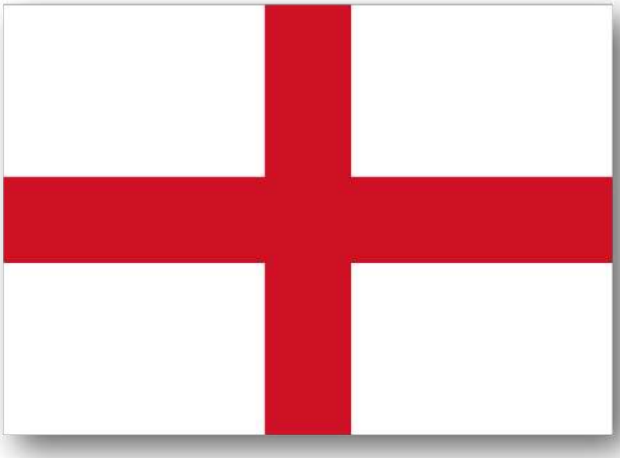
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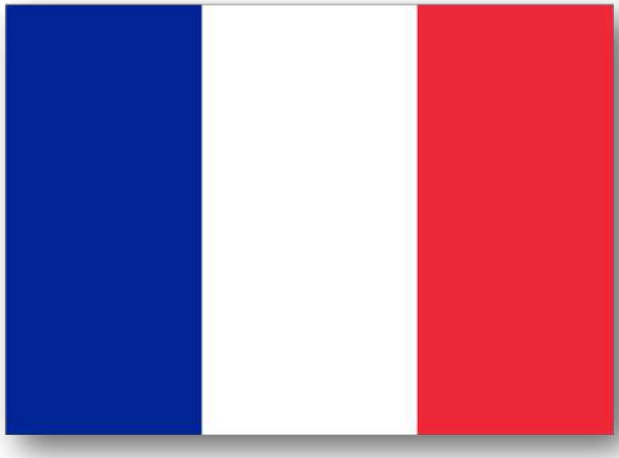
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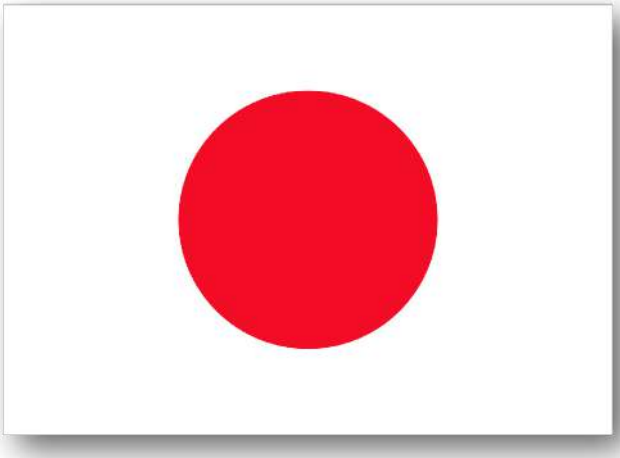
COUNTRY PARTNERS



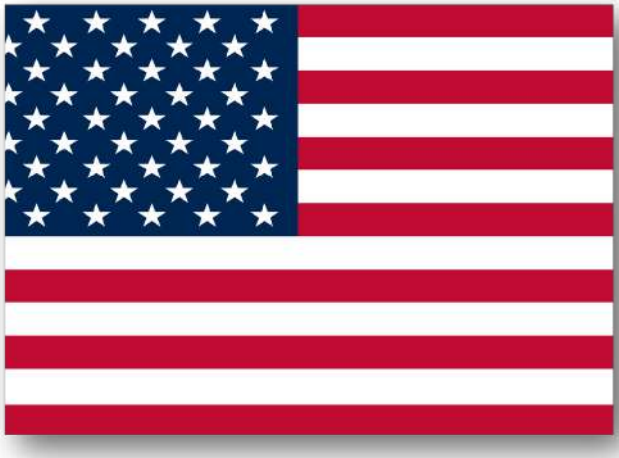
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- TiE HUBLI FOSTERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- TiE MANGALURU FOSTERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- TiE MYSURU FOSTERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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MANGALURU BLUE 2026

Program & Executive Summary

Strategic Vision & Regional Mandate



The Beyond Bengaluru initiative is a flagship program steered by the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) in active collaboration with the Department of Electronics, IT, BT, and S&T, Government of Karnataka, and the Karnataka Innovation & Technology Society (KITS). Its core mission is to decentralize the state's technological and economic growth by nurturing product-based ecosystems, supporting regional innovators, and bridging the gap between Tier-2/3 entrepreneurs and institutional venture capital.

The Mangaluru BLUE 2026 edition specifically targets the coastal cluster (Mangaluru, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Kodagu districts), acting as a vital catalyst for regional technology, digital services, and hardware ventures.

The quantitative metrics and performance indicators for the Mangaluru 2026 application and screening cycle are summarized below:

Key Performance Indicator	**Quantitative Metric**	**Strategic Significance**
Total Applications Received	110 Startups	Extensive participation across the coastal cluster
Shortlisted & Scored Cohort	10 Elite Startups	Evaluated via Jurimetrix Calibrated Aggregation
Gender Inclusivity	57 Startups (51.8%)	Led by Women Founders / Co-Founders
DPIIT Registration	79 Startups (71.8%)	Recognized by central industrial bodies
Startup Karnataka Registration	81 Startups (73.6%)	Active alignment with state policy frameworks

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Pre-Pitch Capacity Building & Masterclass Integration

Masterclass Leadership & Curriculum

To prepare the top-performing regional founders for institutional fundraising and scalable market entry, an exclusive masterclass was conducted prior to the pitching sessions:

- **Masterclass Speaker:** Madanmohan Rao (Research Director, YourStory; Co-founder, MXR.world; Charter Member, TiE Bangalore; DEF Director; Conference Chair, Extensia & DEC Doha; WSA Juror; Author of 15 books; IIT Bombay alumnus).

- **Core Focus:** Structuring pitch decks using the Past, Present, and Future framework, refining customer engagement strategies, incorporating expert mentor feedback, and enhancing storytelling capabilities.

Sequential Impact on Cohort Performance

The masterclass served as a crucial calibration bridge, equipping founders with the necessary frameworks to articulate their unit economics, product differentiation, and go-to-market execution clearly before the institutional investor panel.

Ecosystem Diversity, Formalization & Legal Structures

3.1 Regulatory Compliance & State Registrations

Analysis of the 110 applicant entities in the Mangaluru cluster reveals a strong baseline of formal business structuring and regulatory compliance:

Registration Category	Count	Percentage Share	Strategic Implication
DPIIT Registration	79 Startups	71.8%	High formal recognition by central industrial bodies
Startup Karnataka Registration	81 Startups	73.6%	Strong active alignment with state policy frameworks
Women-Founded / Co-Founded	57 Startups	51.8%	Exceptional gender inclusivity in regional ventures

3.2 Legal Entity Breakdown

The 110 applicant entities operate across the following corporate vehicles:

- **Private Limited Company (Pvt. Ltd.):** 76 Startups (69.1%) - Dominant corporate vehicle for venture funding readiness.
- **Limited Liability Partnership (LLP):** 18 Startups (16.4%) - Preferred structure for professional service and boutique tech firms.
- **Partnership Firm:** 12 Startups (10.9%) - Collaborative regional business entities.
- **Proprietorship:** 4 Startups (3.6%) - Early-stage solopreneur ventures.

Technology Readiness Level (TRL) & Commercial Traction

TRL Distribution Across the Cohort

The Mangaluru cohort exhibits a balanced technological maturity distribution spanning early validation to commercial operations:

- **Advanced TRL (TRL 6 to 9):** Comprises mature prototypes, system demonstrations, and active commercial deployments.
- **Early TRL (TRL 1 to 5):** Comprises foundational research, component validation, and lab-scale proof-of-concept developments.

Customer Traction Status

A significant portion of the cohort reports active pilot testing, Letters of Intent (LOIs), or active commercial onboarding, reflecting strong product-market fit across coastal enterprises and digital consumers.

Sector Mapping & Industrial Distribution

Applications spanned a diverse array of industrial, digital, and deep-tech domains across the coastal cluster:

Sector Classification	Active Application Count	Percentage Share
IT / ITES	20 Startups	18.2%
Ed-Tech	14 Startups	12.7%
Clean-Tech & Smart-City	12 Startups	10.9%
Agriculture & Agri-Tech	9 Startups	8.2%
Healthcare & Med-Tech	11 Startups (Healthcare: 8, Med-Tech: 3)	10.0%
Industrial Machinery & Manufacturing / ESDM	12 Startups (Industrial: 6, ESDM: 6)	10.9%
Consulting & Operations / Tourism	10 Startups (Consulting: 5, Tourism: 5)	9.1%
Legal/ Law / HR / Marketing / Finance / Others	22 Startups	20.0%

Evaluation Panels & Jury Members

Preliminary Screening & Evaluation Jury

The evaluation of startups was conducted by a multi-disciplinary panel of industry experts, founders, and innovation leaders:

- **Jagan Karthick G** – Chief Operating Officer, Savemom Private Limited
- **Nandeesha H D** – Assistant Professor, JSS Science and Technology University
- **Mallesh Kumar K S** – Manager - Innovation Management, Krishik-Agri Business Incubator, UAS Dharwad
- **Piyush Pranesh Joshi** – Investment Team, Bluehill VC
- **Chethan K T** – Business Transformation, Strategy and AI Lead

Venture Capital & Investor Participation

The investor showcase and pitch integration featured prominent venture capital funds, legal experts, and ecosystem enablers:



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Name	Designation	Firm Name
Manu Iyer	Managing Partner	Bluehill Capital
Mahesh Madan Bhat	Founder	MMB Legal
Nikil VS	Associate	Pontaq VC
PV Harikrishnan	CEO	KITVEN
Mudit Kumar	Co-Founder	Ideabaaz
Gayathri Sharma	Vice President	IVCA
Sonal Saldanha	Principal	3one4 Capital
Anirudh Siddharth	VP Investments	Capital A
Shylaja Rao	General Partner	Ventana Ventures
Prashant Aroor	Executive Director	Avatar Hotel

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Official Top 10 Leaderboard (Jurimetrix Calibrated Scores)

Based on the official calibrated aggregation mode from Jurimetrix, the top 10 ranked startups for the Mangaluru cluster are:

Rank	Startup Name	District & Sector	Calibrated Score (%)	Evaluated Jurors
1	Cheggout Services Private Limited	Dakshina Kannada · Marketing	6.49 (64.9%)	10/10
2	Goodhart | Vividved Technologies LLP	Mangaluru · Ed-Tech	5.81 (58.1%)	10/10
3	Gati Gait & Posture Private Limited	Mangaluru · Healthcare	5.74 (57.4%)	10/10
4	VAPAC Bio-Plastics Private Limited	Chikkamagaluru · Clean-Tech & Smart-City	5.65 (56.5%)	10/10
5	Fuwu Innovations Pvt Ltd	Dakshina Kannada · Healthcare	5.59 (55.9%)	10/10

6	Tattviq Labs Private Limited	Mangaluru · Ed-Tech	4.98 (49.8%)	10/10
7	Plangle Studio Private Limited	Visual Effects · Animation	4.58 (45.8%)	10/10
8	HireEdge Technologies Private Limited	Mangaluru · Ed-Tech	4.01 (40.1%)	10/10
9	Bellare GIS Consultancy Private Limited	Dakshina Kannada · Agriculture	3.71 (37.1%)	10/10
10	Aaptam Foods	Uttara Kannada · Food & Beverages	3.44 (34.4%)	10/10

Founder Support Demands & Ecosystem Gaps

An audit of explicit support requests submitted by cohort founders across the Mangaluru cluster highlights primary ecosystem requirements:

- **Investor Connects & Funding Access:** Representing the dominant requirement for scaling operations and securing seed capital.
- **Marketing & Brand Visibility:** Go-to-market acceleration and regional market penetration.
- **Mentoring & Technical Guidance:** Product architecture refinement, regulatory compliance, and institutional scaling support.

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Top 3 Ventures

Cheggout Services Private Limited

- **Sector & District:** Marketing · Dakshina Kannada
- **Score & Standing:** Secured Rank 1 in the Mangaluru cluster with a calibrated score of 6.49 (64.9%) across all 10 evaluating jurors.
- **Operational Focus:** Delivers innovative digital marketing solutions, merchant-customer engagement frameworks, and scalable brand visibility platforms tailored for regional and growing enterprises.
- **Strategic Value:** Demonstrates exceptional commercial viability, strong market penetration potential, and alignment with digital economy scaling mandates.

Goodhart | Vividved Technologies LLP

- **Sector & District:** Ed-Tech · Mangaluru
- **Score & Standing:** Secured Rank 2 in the cluster with a calibrated score of 5.81 (58.1%) across all 10 evaluating jurors.
- **Operational Focus:** Focuses on next-generation educational technology frameworks, interactive learning tools, and digital skill enhancement architectures.
- **Strategic Value:** Fills critical learning and skilling gaps within Tier-2 and Tier-3 educational ecosystems, showcasing robust product architecture and institutional readiness.

Gati Gait & Posture Private Limited

- **Sector & District:** Healthcare · Mangaluru
- **Score & Standing:** Secured Rank 3 in the cluster with a calibrated score of 5.74 (57.4%) across all 10 evaluating jurors.
- **Operational Focus:** Specializes in advanced healthcare technology, posture analysis, biomechanical tracking, and rehabilitative patient care solutions.

- **Strategic Value:** Highlights the strength of the coastal cluster in specialized medical-tech and deep-health innovations, combining clinical insight with scalable digital health delivery.



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CXO ROUNDTABLE

The CXO Roundtable at Mangaluru Technovanza 2026 brought together leaders from government, industry and the technology ecosystem to explore Mangaluru's evolving position as an emerging technology cluster. The conversation focused on the infrastructure, talent, policy, industry participation and cross-sector collaboration needed to accelerate regional technology growth and advance Karnataka's Beyond Bengaluru vision.

Emerging Cities as Future Technology Hubs

At the CXO Roundtable during Mangaluru Technovanza 2026, Ajay Vij, Senior Country Managing Director, Accenture in India, shared insights on the opportunity for emerging clusters such as Mangaluru to contribute to Karnataka's technology growth.

His perspective highlighted:

- Moving beyond relocating existing GCC operations to creating new opportunities
- Recognising emerging cities as destinations for future-ready technology centres
- Strengthening the Beyond Bengaluru vision through the growth of technology clusters beyond established hubs



His insights underscored the opportunity for cities like Mangaluru to play a larger role in Karnataka's technology ecosystem by attracting and enabling new technology-led opportunities.

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Strengthening the Foundations for Regional Growth

At the CXO Roundtable during Mangaluru Technovanza 2026, L.K. Atheeq, IAS (Retd.), Finance Advisor to the Chief Minister and Chairman, Bengaluru Business Corridor, Government of Karnataka, shared insights on the interventions needed to support Mangaluru's next phase of technology-led growth.

His perspective focused on:

- Building stronger infrastructure, talent and policy frameworks to enable regional growth
- Expanding opportunities in data centres, AI, skilling and emerging technology sectors
- Strengthening collaboration between industry and ecosystem partners under the Beyond Bengaluru vision



His insights highlighted the importance of targeted regional interventions in developing distributed technology clusters and creating sustainable growth opportunities across Karnataka.

Strengthening Karnataka's Emerging Technology Clusters

At the CXO Roundtable during Mangaluru Technovanza 2026, Dr. Manjula N, IAS, Secretary to Government, Department of E, IT, BT and S&T, Government of Karnataka and Co-Chair, KDEM, spoke about the importance of coordinated ecosystem efforts in advancing Mangaluru's technology growth.

Her perspective focused on:

- Strengthening collaboration between government, industry and academia
- Building future capabilities across AI, marine biotechnology, GCCs and innovation
- Supporting startup growth and technology infrastructure through the Beyond Bengaluru vision



Her insights emphasised the role of cross-sector collaboration and regional innovation in expanding Karnataka's digital economy and strengthening emerging technology clusters.

Mangaluru's Technology Ecosystem: From Potential to Progress

During the CXO Roundtable at Mangaluru Technovanza 2026, Chetan Dixit, VP – Beyond Bengaluru, KDEM, presented an overview of Mangaluru's growing technology ecosystem and the opportunities shaping its future as a technology destination.



The presentation highlighted:

- A growing technology workforce of 50,000+ professionals, including both office-based and remote talent
- An ecosystem of 300+ technology companies and 15+ GCCs contributing to regional growth

- Emerging opportunities in data centres, GCCs, infrastructure and talent development
- Policy initiatives supporting startups, digital infrastructure and technology-led growth

The presentation demonstrated Mangaluru's progress under Karnataka's Beyond Bengaluru vision and the growing role of industry, government and ecosystem partnerships in building a future-ready technology cluster.

Driving Technology Growth Through Collective Action

At the CXO Roundtable during Mangaluru Technovanza 2026, Mr. BV Naidu, Chairman, KDEM, emphasised the importance of collective participation in developing Karnataka's emerging technology clusters.

His address focused on:

- Bringing together government, industry, academia and infrastructure partners to build a sustainable ecosystem
- Strengthening the Beyond Bengaluru agenda by giving greater focus to regional technology clusters
- Encouraging local industry participation and ownership to translate ecosystem potential into tangible progress



His address reinforced the importance of long-term collaboration and shared responsibility in building distributed technology ecosystems and supporting sustained regional growth.

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Industry Participation in Building Mangaluru's Technology Cluster

At the CXO Roundtable during Mangaluru Technovanza 2026, Rohith Bhat, Lead Industry Anchor – Mangaluru Cluster, highlighted the role of industry participation in shaping the region's technology ecosystem and supporting its continued growth.

His perspective focused on:

- Encouraging greater industry participation in the development of the Mangaluru cluster
- Strengthening collaboration among industry, government, academia and ecosystem partners
- Building a stronger foundation for sustainable regional technology growth under the Beyond Bengaluru vision



His insights reinforced the importance of industry-led collaboration and collective ownership in developing Mangaluru as a stronger and more sustainable technology cluster.

Key Takeaways

- Mangaluru has a strong and growing technology base, with an expanding talent pool, technology companies and GCC presence.
- Infrastructure, talent and supportive policy frameworks are critical to sustaining the next phase of growth.
- Emerging areas such as AI, data centres, GCCs, marine biotechnology and startups present opportunities for further ecosystem development.

- Government, industry, academia and infrastructure partners need to work in greater coordination.
- Local industry participation and ownership are essential to converting regional potential into tangible outcomes.

Way Forward

- Strengthen digital and physical infrastructure to support technology companies, GCCs and emerging sectors.
- Develop a stronger industry-aligned talent and skilling pipeline in areas such as AI and emerging technologies.
- Create greater opportunities for startups, GCCs and technology companies to establish and scale operations in Mangaluru.
- Facilitate stronger government–industry–academia collaboration through sustained ecosystem initiatives.

Recommendations

- Establish focused industry-led working groups for key opportunity areas such as GCCs, AI, data centres and marine biotechnology.
- Strengthen industry–academia partnerships to align curriculum, skilling and talent development with emerging technology requirements.
- Develop targeted initiatives to improve startup support, digital infrastructure and investment readiness.
- Encourage greater participation from local businesses and ecosystem stakeholders in shaping the cluster's growth agenda.



PARALLEL SESSIONS

Event Details and Summary

KDEM ran two startup and investment sessions at Mangaluru Technovanza 2026 on 23 September 2026. The morning session drew 50+ participants and the Angel Investors Masterclass drew 45+.

Item	Details
Event	Mangaluru Technovanza 2026, under Beyond Bengaluru – Mangaluru BLUE
Date	Wednesday, 23 September 2026
Venue	TMA Pai International Convention Centre, Mangaluru
Organised by	Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM)
Session 1	Parallel Session – Startups and Innovation (S&I), 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Session 2	Angel Investors Masterclass, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Knowledge Partner (Session 2)	IC RegFin Legal Partners LLP
Participation	Session 1: 50+; Session 2: 45+ (42 pre-registrations)

Session 1 gave founders and ecosystem stakeholders a clear view of Karnataka Government support. It covered the Karnataka Startup Policy 2025–2030, the Beyond Bengaluru Cluster Seed Fund, Silicon Beach Angels and the Karnataka Acceleration Network. It opened with a storytelling masterclass for founders.

Session 2 introduced coastal investors to angel investing as a structured asset class. It covered term sheets, investment instruments, investor rights, SEBI's Angel Fund framework and overseas investment rules.

Session 1: Startups and Innovation Parallel Session

The session covered state programmes, funding and acceleration support available to startups in the Mangaluru cluster. It had 50+ participants.

Sl No	Segment	Speaker(s)
1	Storytelling Masterclass	Mr. Madanmohan Rao, Research Director, YourStory
2	Karnataka Startup Ecosystem	Mr. Bharath Chandra B K, AVP – S&I, KDEM
3	Startup Policy and Fiscal Incentives	Mr. Omar Saud, Program Manager – S&I, KDEM
4	Karnataka Acceleration Network (KAN)	Mr. Suvin Narayan, Program Manager – KAN, KDEM
5	Beyond Bengaluru Cluster Seed Fund	Mr. P V Harikrishnan, CEO, KITVEN Fund
6	Silicon Beach Angels	Mr. Prashanth Rao Aroor, Founder, The Avatar Hotel; Executive Director, Shanker Vittal

2.1 Storytelling Masterclass – Mr. Madanmohan Rao

Mr. Madanmohan Rao opened the session with a masterclass on storytelling for founders. He is Research Director at YourStory, Co-founder of MXR.world and a Charter Member of TiE Bangalore. He is a DEF Director, Conference Chair of Extensia and DEC Doha, and a WSA Juror. He has authored 15 books and is an IIT Bombay alumnus.

The masterclass addressed how founders can present their startup story clearly to investors, customers and partners.

2.2 Karnataka Startup Ecosystem – Mr. Bharath Chandra B K

Mr. Bharath Chandra presented Karnataka's startup ecosystem and KDEM's role in growing it beyond Bengaluru.

Ecosystem highlights

Indicator	**Value**
Startups founded (2010 onwards)	22,000+
Funded startups	3,300+
Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) 2026 rank	#15
Women-led startups	2,257+
Funded women-led startups	650+
Unicorns (highest in the country)	55, valued at USD 194 billion
Capital raised (2010 onwards)	USD 79 billion+
Soonicorns	180+

Karnataka Startup Policy 2025–2030

The policy aims to establish up to 25,000 new startups, of which 10,000 will be in the Beyond Bengaluru clusters. It follows a life-cycle approach across seed, early, growth and late-expansion stages. Its enablers are funding, mentorship, infrastructure, regulatory support and market access.

Key state programmes presented

Programme	Support	Achievements / Status
New Age Innovation Network (NAIN)	₹5 lakh per student project; ₹12 lakh per year to the NAIN host institute (NHI) as OPEX; 10 projects per batch	628 projects funded, 443 prototypes, 60 companies incorporated, 2,000+ students
Rajiv Gandhi Entrepreneurship Program (RGEP)	Stipend of ₹25,000 per month for 12 months; for innovators aged 30 or below with Karnataka domicile	Domain support through a K-tech partner
WEscalate	Incubation and acceleration for women-led startups	30 women-led startups; two incubators to run the programme
Grassroot Innovation	₹4 lakh grant per grassroot innovator	20 startups supported for 2026–27
ELEVATE (Idea2PoC)	One-time grant of up to ₹50 lakh	1,300 startups funded; ₹300 crore committed; 26.4% women-led; 37.12% Beyond Bengaluru winners
ELEVATE NXT 2026	Grant of up to ₹1 crore for deep-tech startups, pan-India	983 applications; 33 winners; ₹30 crore committed

ELEVATE received 1,780 applications in 2025, up from about 300 in 2017. Its current tracks are ELEVATE 2026, ELEVATE Unnati (SC/ST), ELEVATE Shakti (women founders) and ELEVATE Aspire (Beyond Bengaluru).

LEAP – Local Economy Accelerator Program

LEAP is a 5-year, ₹1,000 crore (USD 110–120 million) initiative targeting 5 lakh jobs. Its Class A clusters are Mysuru, Mangaluru and Hubballi-Dharwad-Belagavi. Its Class B clusters are Tumakuru, Kalaburagi and Shivamogga.

Recently announced Centres of Excellence under LEAP:

- Defence Technology and Industry 5.0 – Dharti Foundation, IIT Dharwad
- Agri and Allied Sectors – KrishiKalpa, Kalaburagi
- Quantum AI and Computing (QAIC) – IIIT Dharwad

Centres of Excellence (CoEs)

The state supports sector CoEs including FinTech (IIMB NSRCEL), IoT and AI (Nasscom), Machine Intelligence and Robotics (IIITB), Semiconductor Fabless (SFAL), Cyber Security (IISc), AI (IIT Alumni Centre Bengaluru), ARTPARK (IISc), AVGC (ABAI) and the Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre. CoE Aquamarine at NITTE is relevant to the coastal cluster. It supports marine biotechnology, has incubated 3 startups and offers 50,000 sq. ft. of lab space. Upcoming CoEs are Sensor AI (ELCIA), MedTech (KIER), Innoverse, CATS (Nasscom) and SpaceTech.

2.3 Startup Policy and Fiscal Incentives – Mr. Omar Saud

Mr. Omar Saud explained the fiscal incentives under the Karnataka Startup Policy 2025–30, who is eligible, and how to apply.

Eligibility

- Eligible entities: Private Limited Company, Registered Partnership Firm, LLP, and Multi-State or State Co-operative Society.
- The entity must be within 10 years of incorporation or registration.
- Annual turnover must be below ₹200 crore.

- The entity must operate in Karnataka and be registered with the Karnataka Startup Cell (KITS).
- Proprietorships, unregistered firms, freelancers and individuals are not eligible. Entities formed by splitting or reconstructing an existing business are also not eligible.

Fiscal incentives

Sl No	Incentive	Quantum	Key conditions
1	State GST Reimbursement	50% of net SGST, capped at 100% of Fixed Capital Investment	7 years from start of commercial production; not available in any year the turnover limit is exceeded
2	Patent Subsidy	75% of expenses, up to ₹15 lakh per year	Up to 5 claims a year; 60% paid on filing and 40% after verification; provisional patent costs not covered
3	Global Karnataka	40% reimbursement, up to ₹5 lakh per year	International events; DA up to USD 100 per day; 2 employees, 2 events a year
4	Quality Certification	50% of fee, up to ₹6 lakh	Up to 5 certifications (CE, ISO, CMMI, etc.)
5	PF/ESI Reimbursement	₹3,000 per employee per month for 2 years	New jobs; salary below ₹21,000 per month; company not older than 3 years; cap ₹12 lakh per company
6	Cloud Storage	40%, up to ₹1 lakh per year	Prototype, MVP or early scaling stage
7	R&D Project Grants	50% of project cost, up to ₹1 crore	Triple Helix consortium (academia, startup, industry); first 25 projects; 6–18 months
8	Internship Support	₹5,000 per month per startup	Up to 3 interns for 6 months; can be availed 3 times; not combinable with Yuva Nidhi

Funding and strategic programmes

Programme	Support
ELEVATE / ELEVATE Unnati	Idea2PoC grant-in-aid of up to ₹50 lakh, paid in 2 tranches
ELEVATE NXT	Grant-in-aid of up to ₹1 crore for deep-tech startups across India
RGEP	₹25,000 per month for 12 months
Beyond Bengaluru Cluster Seed Fund	₹75 crore fund for Beyond Bengaluru startups
KITVEN Fund-5	Venture capital for growth-stage startups in AI, ML, EV and MedTech
WEscalate	For startups with 51% or more women ownership; 1-year incubation and acceleration
Karnataka Acceleration Network (KAN)	Fully subsidised acceleration worth ₹4 lakh per startup
LEAP Mission	₹1,000 crore over 5 years; 16 programmes across Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities

Sectoral policies with startup benefits

- IT Policy 2025–30: R&D reimbursement of 40% up to ₹5 crore; 50% office rent reimbursement with a Beyond Bengaluru focus; 5-year electricity duty waiver.
- AVGC-XR Policy 2024–29: 40–50% support on early-stage costs; IP support of ₹20 lakh international and ₹5 lakh domestic; KITVEN Fund-4 (AVGC).

2.4 Beyond Bengaluru Cluster Seed Fund – Mr. P V Harikrishnan, CEO, KITVEN Fund

Mr. Harikrishnan presented the ₹75 crore Beyond Bengaluru Cluster Seed Fund (BBCSF). It is a Government of Karnataka fund that invests in early-stage startups outside Bengaluru. KITVEN Fund is the fund manager.

About KITVEN Fund

- KITVEN is a SEBI-registered Category I Alternative Investment Fund, set up by the Government of Karnataka. It has invested since 2000.
- It manages an aggregate corpus of about ₹225 crore across 6 sector-focused funds.
- It has invested ₹171 crore in 59 entities and exited 34 of them, realising ₹116 crore.
- Its unliquidated investments are valued at ₹145 crore.
- It takes minority stakes of 5–30% in equity or equity-linked instruments, with a 3–7 year horizon.

BBCSF – fund corpus

The target corpus is ₹75 crore. Contributions presented at the session:

Contributor	Amount (₹ Cr)
KITS (Government of Karnataka)	20
State Bank of India (SBI)	5
KSIIDC	5
Local HNIs	17
Total presented	47
Balance to be raised	28
Target corpus	75

BBCSF – Key Terms

Parameter	**Details**
Legal status	SEBI-registered Category I AIF – Venture Capital Fund (Reg. No. IN/AIF1/22-23/1224); scheme taken on record by SEBI in December 2025
Sectors	IT, ITES, BT, AVGC, ESDM, semiconductor and other emerging technologies
Clusters	Mangaluru, Mysuru and Hubballi-Dharwad-Belagavi, and other identified clusters
Term	10 years, extendable by 2 years
Fund manager	KITVEN Fund (Karnataka Asset Management Company Pvt Ltd)
Mobilising partner	KDEM

BBCSF – application to investment process

A cluster batch goes to its Advisory Committee once 5–10 valid applications are ready. KDEM facilitates the process but does not decide investments.

Contact: Mr. P V Harikrishnan, CEO (hari@kitven.in); Mr. Manish Kumar, Vice President (manish@kitven.in).

2.5 Silicon Beach Angels – Mr. Prashanth Rao Aroor

Mr. Prashanth Rao Aroor presented Silicon Beach Angels (SBA), a network of angel investors for coastal Karnataka. He is Founder of The Avatar Hotel, Executive Director of Shanker Vittal and Strategic Advisor to Alt DRX.

SBA's case is that coastal Karnataka has produced many successful entrepreneurs, bankers and business families but never had a dedicated early-stage investment vehicle.

Parameter	**Details**
Thesis	Founder-first and sector-agnostic
Stage	Pre-seed and MVP/PMF-stage companies registered in India
Ticket size	About ₹50 lakh per company, deal by deal
Primary focus	Coastal Karnataka (Silicon Beach)
Secondary focus	Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities in South India; metro startups with regional relevance
Model	Direct investment; each angel invests independently; no pooled capital and no lock-ins

What SBA looks for: strong founders, a market of ₹1,000 crore or more, a defensible solution, and capital efficiency with 10x growth potential. Red flags: crowded markets without differentiation, founders unwilling to be coached, and no path to revenue within 12–18 months.

Deal flow sources: pitch events (TiE, K-Combinator, KDEM competitions), angel referrals, university networks (NITK, Manipal, SDM) and ecosystem scouts.

Current pipeline sectors: DefenceTech and maritime intelligence (a Udupi company cleared initial screening), aerial and deep-tech systems, student fintech, AgriTech and FoodTech, HealthTech, and EdTech.

SBA curates deals, coordinates diligence information, handles legal closing and documentation, and coordinates portfolio reporting. SBA is not a SEBI-registered investment adviser and does not give investment advice.

2.6 Karnataka Acceleration Network (KAN) – Mr. Suvin Narayan

Mr. Suvin Narayan presented KAN, a six-month acceleration programme for growth-stage startups run by KDEM under Startup Karnataka. It is fully subsidised, worth about ₹4 lakh per startup.

Programme modules

Module	Duration	Focus
1. Startup Foundation	4–6 weeks	Baseline assessment, diagnostics, goal setting, mentor onboarding
2. Market Validation	8 weeks	Customer discovery, product validation, go-to-market, early traction
3. Growth Strategy	8 weeks	Sales, partnerships, market access, fundraising preparation
4. Investment Readiness	8 weeks	Investor connect, pitch refinement, due diligence, Demo Day

Implementing partners are Ginserv, DERBI Foundation, JGI Jain Launchpad, Astra Startup Hub, SHINE and SCE STEP, across the Hubballi-Dharwad-Belagavi, Mangaluru and Mysuru clusters.

Cohort results

Indicator	Cohort 1 (completed)	Cohort 2 (in progress)
Startups	56 graduated	56 onboarded from 293 applications
ELEVATE-backed startups	18	34
Mentorship hours	2,000+	360+ planned
Funds raised	₹8.5 crore	–
Revenue generated	₹9.9 crore	–
Jobs created	200+	–
Investors engaged	50+	–

Cohort 1 drew startups from Bengaluru (19), Mysuru (12), Mangaluru (11), Hubballi-Dharwad (8), Kalaburagi (4) and Shivamogga (2). Startup headcount rose 137%, and 18 of 20 tracked startups recorded business growth. In Cohort 2, 35.8% of applications came from Beyond Bengaluru, and Module 3 is in progress.

Cohort 3: starts in November 2026 with 60 startups across six accelerator partners. Applications close on 23 September 2026. Startups that graduated from earlier cohorts are not eligible.

Session 2: Angel Investors Masterclass

The masterclass trained 45+ coastal investors to approach angel investing as a structured asset class. It was held with IC RegFin Legal Partners LLP as knowledge partner.

3.1 Context

Coastal Karnataka has deep private wealth and a growing startup base, but no structured bridge between the two. Between 1880 and 1935, 22 banks were founded in the region, including Canara Bank, Corporation Bank, Karnataka Bank, Syndicate Bank and Vijaya Bank. TiE Mangaluru, set up in April 2023, counts 15+ active angels in the region and three recent tech exits worth about USD 250 million. The masterclass was the first formal effort in the Mangaluru BLUE calendar to build a local angel investor base.

3.2 Resource Persons

Ms. Gayathri Sharma, Vice President, IVCA. She has over 25 years of experience in venture capital operations, ecosystem building and industry associations. She has held roles at Upekkha, the Wadhwani Foundation (NEN), Microsoft Accelerator and TiE Bangalore. IVCA is the apex industry body for alternate capital in India.

Mr. Sushreet Pattanayak, Partner, IC RegFin Legal Partners LLP. He leads fund structuring and formation work in the firm's funds and financial services practice. He recently advised TVS Capital Funds on TVS Shriram Growth Fund 4, which closed at ₹3,592 crore. He holds a B.B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) from National Law University, Jodhpur.

3.3 Participant Profile

The form drew 42 registrations between 13 and 23 September 2026. Actual attendance was 45+.

Profile	Registrants
Business owners and entrepreneurs	21
Chartered accountants, lawyers and consultants	6
Corporate professionals, IT and engineering roles	6
CXOs and senior leadership	3
Family office, HNI and NRI investors	3
Others	3
Total	42

By location, 30 registrants were from Mangaluru and 8 from elsewhere in the cluster (Udupi, Manipal, Kundapura, Puttur, Kumta). Three were from Bengaluru and one from outside the region. 29 of the 42 had not yet made an angel investment. Of the 13 with experience, 9 had made 1–3 investments, 3 had made 4–10 and 1 had made more than 10.

The most requested topics were startup evaluation (71%), whether angel investing suits the investor (67%), and portfolio discipline (60%).

3.4 Topics Covered

Overview of angel investing: how to evaluate a startup; whether angel investing suits the investor; risk profile; deal sourcing; portfolio discipline; what happens after investing; and exit options.

Term sheet vs definitive agreements: A term sheet (or MoU or LoI) records intent and key commercial terms. It is generally not binding, except for clauses on costs, confidentiality, exclusivity and dispute resolution. Definitive agreements (SSA, SPA, SHA) are binding and enforceable.

Key term sheet provisions and their relevance to angels

Provision	**What it means**	**Relevance to angel investors**
Due diligence	Review of financials, secretarial records, litigation, licences and IP	Basic legal and financial hygiene check
Board rights	Right to appoint a director (votes) or observer (attends only)	Usually not relevant
Information rights	Audited and quarterly financials, MIS, minutes, litigation	Useful; multiple angels may create admin burden for the company
Reserved matters	Investor consent needed for winding up, restructuring, new securities, charter changes	Not needed if a VC or lead investor holds them

Representations and indemnity	Standard reps on title, IP, authority; indemnity usually capped at 1x	Standard reps on capacity and authority are enough
Liquidation preference	Priority payout on liquidation, M&A or change of control (1x, 2x, participating)	Gives preference over promoters and other shareholders
Pre-emptive right	Right to invest pro rata in the next round	Usually given; angels are typically diluted
Anti-dilution	Full ratchet or broad-based weighted average	Mostly provided to angels
Transfer restrictions	Promoter lock-in, RoFR, RoFO, tag-along	Ideally a free right to transfer, except to a competitor
Exit rights	IPO, buyback, strategic sale, sale in next round, drag-along	Strategic sale matters most; angels should be able to tag along if a VC drags
Event of default	Material breach, fraud, involuntary winding up	Can tag along with the VC or lead investor
Dispute resolution	Arbitration; domestic (DIAC, MCIA, ICA) or foreign (SIAC, LCIA, HKIAC)	Foreign seats are expensive

Types of instruments

Instrument	**Key features**
Equity shares	Ordinary shareholding
CCPS	Converts to equity; must convert within 20 years and before IPO; voting on an as-if-converted basis
OCPS	Optionally convertible; has a redemption element
CCD	Converts to equity or preference shares within 10 years and before IPO; rights are contractual
OCD / NCD	Redemption and assured return; for individual investors must be fully secured, or risk being treated as a deposit under the Companies Act
Warrant	Right to fixed shares at a set price later; part paid upfront
Convertible note	Debt that converts to equity, usually at a discount to the next round; permitted for DPIIT startups

Angel rights in follow-on rounds: Angels should try to retain pre-emptive rights, anti-dilution, liquidation preference, tag-along, and a tag-along on VC-led exits. Rights likely to be curtailed include board seat, reserved matters, RoFR/RoFO and event-of-default rights. Exit timelines will need to align with VCs.

Overseas investment by individual angels: Resident individuals can invest abroad under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme, up to USD 250,000 per financial year. This falls under the FEMA (Overseas Investment) Rules and Regulations, 2022. Any equity in an unlisted foreign entity counts as ODI. The foreign entity must run a bona fide business. Investment in financial services, banking, insurance, real estate or gambling is not allowed.

Contacts

- **KDEM:**bharath.chandra@karnatakadigital.in, omar.saud@karnatakadigital.in, suvin@karnatakadigital.in
- **KITVEN Fund:** hari@kitven.in, manish@kitven.in
- **IC RegFin Legal Partners LLP:** sushreet.pattanayak@regfinlegal.com

Session 3: GCC Roundtable

The GCC Roundtable at Mangaluru Technovanza 2026 brought together leaders from GCCs, consulting and technology firms, industry bodies, academia, financial institutions and ecosystem organisations to explore Mangaluru's potential as a global GCC destination. The discussion focused on the region's strengths, opportunities for attracting investments and the steps needed to accelerate GCC growth.

Mangaluru offers a strong proposition through its growing talent pool, lower operating costs, low attrition and quality of life. With over 50,000 technology professionals, 300+ technology companies and 15+ GCCs, supported by a strong academic ecosystem, the region has a solid foundation for further growth. Its competitive operating costs and expanding Grade A office space also offer opportunities for companies looking to establish or expand their operations.

A key theme was the need to build a distinct identity for Mangaluru rather than replicate established technology hubs. Participants highlighted opportunities in healthcare, BFSI, ESDM, semiconductors, manufacturing, engineering, life sciences and marine-related technologies, with an emphasis on developing specialised capabilities beyond conventional IT services.

The discussion emphasised stronger collaboration between government, industry, academia and ecosystem partners. Academic institutions can contribute through specialised curricula, research partnerships and industry-aligned talent development. Initiatives such as the Silicon Beach Program, Homecoming platform and regional startup networks can further support talent mobility, entrepreneurship and investment.

Participants also identified areas requiring attention, including attracting experienced and specialised talent, improving connectivity and flight schedule certainty, strengthening urban and social infrastructure, and translating strategic plans into action. Targeted marketing, industry case studies and global outreach were highlighted as important to attracting prospective GCC investments.

Key Takeaways

- **Leverage existing strengths:** Build on Mangaluru's talent base, cost advantage, low attrition and liveability.
- **Develop specialised capabilities:** Create a distinct identity through sectors such as healthcare, BFSI, ESDM, manufacturing and marine technologies.
- **Strengthen ecosystem partnerships:** Bring together government, industry, academia and service providers to drive GCC growth.
- **Mobilise global networks:** Leverage diaspora and alumni connections to attract talent, investors and prospective companies.
- **Focus on implementation:** Develop targeted prospect lists, industry case studies and focused investment outreach to convert opportunities into GCC establishments.

The roundtable reinforced that Mangaluru has a strong foundation for GCC growth. The next phase will require focused efforts to build specialised capabilities, strengthen partnerships and translate the region's potential into tangible investments and employment opportunities.

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MANGALURU TECHNOVANZA 2026
WED 23 SEPT | TMA PAI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

Data Centre Roundtable

The Data Centre Roundtable at Mangaluru Technovanza 2026 brought together government, industry and local ecosystem leaders to discuss converting growing interest in data centres and Cable Landing Stations (CLS) into actionable outcomes, with a focus on Mangaluru and coastal Karnataka. The session was chaired by B.V. Naidu, Chairman, KDEM, with Sanjeev Gupta, CEO, KDEM, and Rohit Bhat, Lead Industry Anchor, Mangaluru, as co-chairs.

The discussion highlighted a pipeline of over 810 MW of proposed data centre capacity under facilitation across Mangaluru and Bengaluru, including 410+ MW in Mangaluru. Two proposals for Mangaluru also include Cable Landing Stations, with one positioned as India's first open-access CLS. These developments could strengthen the region's international connectivity and attract significant investments.

Key discussions focused on identifying suitable land parcels, ensuring reliable high-voltage power supply, developing diverse fibre connectivity between Mangaluru and Bengaluru, streamlining regulatory clearances and providing clarity on investment incentives. The need for renewable energy and long-term power planning was also emphasised.

Key Outcomes

- Six working groups formed to focus on Cable Landing Stations, Centre of Excellence, Data Centre Park, Power, Future Investments and Renewable Energy.
- Time-bound targets established with measurable deliverables over 30, 60 and 90 days.
- Quarterly leadership reviews planned to track progress and move investment proposals towards implementation.

The roundtable established a collaborative framework to address infrastructure and policy requirements, strengthen investor engagement and advance Mangaluru's potential as a data centre and international connectivity hub.

Silicon to Solution: Building Coastal Karnataka's Hardware and ESDM Ecosystem

The TiE Mangaluru Hardware SIG session at Mangaluru Technovanza 2026, supported by KDEM, brought together hardware companies, deep-tech innovators, industry leaders and ecosystem enablers to explore opportunities in electronics, hardware and ESDM. Dr. Shivananda R. Koteshwar, SVP and Managing Director, India Site Head, Astera Labs, and Ajay Krishnan, VP, ESDM, KDEM, contributed to the discussion.

The session highlighted Mangaluru's potential to build on its established software and IT strengths and expand into hardware, electronics and product development, with the larger vision of positioning the region as the Silicon Beach of India.

Seventeen companies showcased capabilities spanning semiconductor design, electronics, embedded systems, IoT, product engineering, prototyping and manufacturing, demonstrating the region's ability to support the entire journey from silicon and design to products and markets. The session also created opportunities for networking, knowledge exchange and collaboration across the hardware value chain.

Sl No.	Presenter	Company
1	Rathnakar Bhat	Karmic Design
2	Gopal Krishna Nayak	Anvation Labs
3	Hariprasad Nandavara Jayaram	Anmaya Technologies
4	Narasimha Bhat	Manipal Dot Net

5	Venkatesh P V	Brevera Technologies
6	Mayur Shetty	BlackFrog Technologies
7	Dinesh Shetty	ELOGIXA Technology India
8	Kian Nayak	Fastbit Embedded Technologies
9	Clyde Lobo	Lohatec Precision
10	Smitha Rao	OjasQuest
11	Ashitha Prajwal	Singularity Automobiles
12	Jatin Gupta	Sophrosyne Technologies
13	Sumanth Shenoy	Stelna Designs
14	Anand Yaligar	Teloquence
15	Punith Salian	Zilliot Technologies
16	Mahesh Nayak U	Tiny Prism Labs
17	Iqbal Mohammad	Semnox Solutions

Beyond the presentations, the session was a space for companies to connect, exchange ideas and explore collaborations across the hardware value chain. Vaishakh Pai K, Bharath Chandra B K and Suvin Narayan of KDEM helped bring it together. It closed on the note that the conversation has started and the connections have been made, and now it's time to build.

"We are at the right time, with the right talent and the right foundations."

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MANGALURU TECHNOVANZA 2026
WED 23 SEPT | TMA PAI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

MAIN SESSION

Setting the Stage for Innovation and Growth

23 September 2026 | 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM
TMA Pai International Convention Centre, Mangaluru



The opening ceremony of Mangaluru Technovanza 2026 – Day 2 brought together leaders from government, industry, academia and the startup ecosystem, setting the tone for a day focused on technology, innovation and collaboration.

Key Takeaways

- Strong participation from key ecosystem leaders across sectors.
- Emphasis on innovation, technology and cross-sector collaboration.
- The event set the stage for exploring new ideas, opportunities and growth for Karnataka's technology ecosystem.

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Silicon Beach Skills Report: Talent Landscape of Udupi & Mangaluru Cluster



The Silicon Beach Skills Report – Edition II, launched at Mangaluru Technovanza 2026, provided an overview of the evolving talent and technology landscape across the Udupi–Mangaluru cluster.

Key Takeaways:

- 280K white-collar professionals form the cluster's accessible talent pool, including 105K with 1+ years of experience.
- Mangaluru and Udupi account for nearly three-fourths of the region's experienced white-collar talent.
- Growing capabilities across IT/ITeS, engineering and programming indicate strong talent readiness for technology-led growth.

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MANGALURU TECHNOVANZA 2026
WED 23 SEPT | TMA PAI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

Fireside Chat: Mangaluru's Potential as a GCC & Technology Destination



The fireside conversation with Ajay Vij, Accenture in India, and Richard Lobo, Tech Mahindra, moderated by Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, CEO, KDEM, explored how Mangaluru can build a distinct position as an emerging destination for GCCs and technology-led growth.

Key Takeaways:

- Build specialised capabilities and a distinct ecosystem rather than replicating established technology hubs.
- Leverage local and distributed talent to strengthen Mangaluru's technology potential.
- Shift GCC growth from cost-driven models towards capability, innovation and local problem-solving.

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MANGALURU TECHNOVANZA 2026
WED 23 SEPT | TMA PAI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

Session: Mangaluru's Vision as a Global Technology Destination



Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, CEO, KDEM, presented a vision for Mangaluru's growth as a global technology destination, highlighting the region's potential to expand its technology ecosystem through talent, startups, GCCs and industry collaboration.

Key Takeaways:

- Potential to create 2,00,000 tech jobs and 80+ GCCs, supported by Centres of Excellence and a growing startup ecosystem.
- Strengthen Mangaluru's coastal technology ecosystem through collaboration between startups, industry and other ecosystem stakeholders.
- Leverage the region's diverse talent and multilingual ecosystem to build a distinctive technology destination.

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Dept. of E, IT & Bt
Karnataka Digital Economy Mission

MANGALURU TECHNOVANZA 2026
WED 23 SEPT | TMA PAI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

Session: Mangaluru Cluster – Karnataka's Vision for Coastal Growth



L.K. Atheeq, IAS (Retd.), shared Karnataka's vision for the Mangaluru cluster, highlighting the region's existing strengths and the interventions needed to accelerate its evolution into a stronger technology and innovation destination.

Key Takeaways:

- Beyond Bengaluru is creating new regional growth centres, with Mangaluru emerging as an important technology cluster.
- Stronger industry–government collaboration and supportive policies can accelerate ecosystem development and investment.
- The proposed Fisheries, Marine and Blue Economy University, along with policy initiatives, can strengthen innovation around Mangaluru's coastal economy.

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Session: Building Mangaluru's Identity as a Technology Hub



Rohith Bhat, Lead Industry Anchor, Mangaluru Cluster, spoke about the journey of developing Mangaluru's technology ecosystem and building a distinct identity for the region as the Silicon Beach of India.

Key Takeaways:

- Strengthen Mangaluru's identity as an emerging technology hub.
- Build stronger connections between industry, institutions and innovation ecosystems.
- Convert the region's existing potential into new opportunities for future growth.

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Session: Enabling Startup Growth Through Finance and Digital Innovation



Joohi Smita Sinha, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Bengaluru, highlighted the role of financial institutions in supporting startups, digital businesses and emerging industries within Karnataka's growing innovation ecosystem.

Key Takeaways:

- Strengthen the startup ecosystem through dedicated financial support and initiatives.
- Enable businesses through digital solutions and technology-driven platforms.
- Expand access to financing and digital innovation programmes to support emerging businesses and future-ready growth.

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WED 23 SEPT | TMA PAI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

Session: Policy, Industry & Capital – Roadmap for Mangaluru's Technology Ecosystem



The session on Policy, Industry and Capital explored the collaborative efforts needed to strengthen Mangaluru's technology ecosystem and advance the Beyond Bengaluru vision.

Key Takeaways:

- Strengthen industry and ecosystem collaboration to support cluster development.
- Accelerate technology and industrial infrastructure to enable the region's next phase of growth.
- Build specialised, future-ready capabilities by leveraging Mangaluru's local talent, companies and institutions.

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Launch: AI Governance for Indian Startups – A Set of Principles



The AI Governance for Indian Startups report, launched at Mangaluru Technovanza 2026, presented a practical framework for startups to develop and deploy AI systems responsibly, with a focus on trust, safety and innovation.

Key Takeaways:

- Promote fairness, transparency and data protection in AI adoption.
- Embed safety, sustainability and intellectual property protection across the AI lifecycle.
- Strengthen AI upskilling and responsible innovation to support Karnataka's growing startup ecosystem.

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Session: Building Mangaluru as a Global DeepTech Hub



Ben Tulloch, Executive Managing Director – Advisory Services, Asia-Pacific, NTT DATA, shared his perspective on developing Mangaluru as a globally recognised technology ecosystem.

Key Takeaways:

- Build DeepTech capabilities in areas such as AI and quantum technology.
- Develop a strong engineering talent base capable of serving global technology needs.
- Position Mangaluru as a hub for innovation, advanced expertise and future-ready solutions.

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Session: Data Centres – Building Mangaluru's Digital Infrastructure



The Data Centres panel at Mangaluru Technovanza 2026 explored the infrastructure, connectivity and security requirements for positioning Mangaluru as a potential data centre destination.

Key Takeaways:

- Strengthen digital connectivity and route diversity to improve network resilience.
- Leverage Mangaluru's strategic location for potential cable landing infrastructure.
- Build supporting capabilities around data sovereignty, reliable power, transmission infrastructure and technology readiness.

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Session: MedTech – Advancing Healthcare Through Technology



The MedTech panel at Mangaluru Technovanza 2026 explored how AI, semiconductors, sensors, imaging and connected devices can drive the next generation of healthcare innovation.

Key Takeaways:

- Advance healthcare solutions through medical silicon and connected technologies.
- Enable AI-driven healthcare through reliable and validated data.
- Strengthen Karnataka's DeepTech ecosystem and talent pipeline through collaboration, internships and industry exposure.

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Session: AI-Powered Software Quality Engineering



Vadeesh Budramane, Founder & CEO, Algoshack, showcased how AI is transforming software quality engineering through autonomous testing, intelligent validation and adaptive automation.

Key Takeaways:

- Accelerate software releases through autonomous testing across multiple platforms.
- Improve reliability with self-healing automation that adapts to changing applications.
- Strengthen AI governance through validation, traceability and audit-ready testing.

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Session: Sustainable Cities – Building Future-Ready Urban Ecosystems



The Sustainable Cities panel at Mangaluru Technovanza 2026 explored how infrastructure, urban planning and business-friendly ecosystems can support Mangaluru's long-term growth as an emerging technology hub.

Key Takeaways:

- Develop future-ready infrastructure and sustainable urban planning alongside economic growth.
- Improve ease of doing business to attract and retain companies in emerging cities.
- Leverage Mangaluru's strengths in education, talent and entrepreneurship to build a distinctive and sustainable urban ecosystem.

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Session: Green Data Centres – Building Sustainable Digital Infrastructure



Kamal K., Head of Programs & Technology, TecQubes Technologies, explored approaches to developing sustainable data centres that balance digital growth with environmental responsibility.

Key Takeaways:

- Power data centres through clean energy and efficient resource management.
- Explore green hydrogen as a potential energy source for future digital infrastructure.
- Adopt water recycling and circular systems to enable more sustainable data centre operations.

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Session: Building Global Bridges – Connecting Startups to International Markets



The Building Global Bridges panel at Mangaluru Technovanza 2026 explored pathways for startups and businesses to access international markets, partnerships and opportunities across Japan, the UK and the USA.

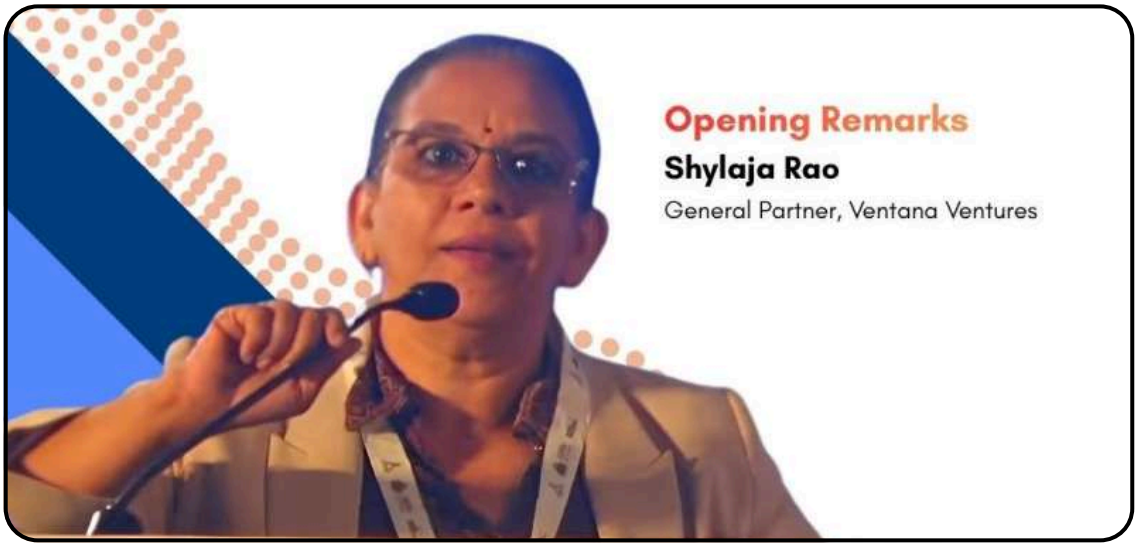
Key Takeaways:

- Build strong international partnerships supported by market understanding and local networks.
- Leverage global collaboration to create opportunities across technology, AI, manufacturing and emerging sectors.
- Encourage startups to pursue global markets and connections to accelerate growth and expand their reach.

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Session: Mangaluru's Startup Ecosystem – From Foundation to Growth



Shylaja Rao, General Partner, Ventana Ventures, reflected on the evolution of Mangaluru's startup ecosystem and the progress made in building a stronger platform for entrepreneurs.

Key Takeaways:

- Mangaluru's startup ecosystem has grown through stronger industry engagement and ecosystem initiatives.
- Startup platforms and showcases are creating greater opportunities for entrepreneurs to connect with investors and industry.
- Emerging areas such as GCCs, data centres and market expansion are opening new avenues for the region's startups.

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Digital Titan Award: Recognising Technology Leadership & Ecosystem Building



The Digital Titan Award at Mangaluru Technovanza 2026 recognised Rohith Bhat for his contribution to technology leadership, entrepreneurship and the development of Karnataka's coastal technology ecosystem.

Key Takeaways:

- Built and scaled technology ventures, including Robosoft Technologies and 99Games, with global reach.
- Contributed to strengthening the regional startup, innovation and technology ecosystem through initiatives such as TiE Mangaluru and Silicon Beach.
- Created platforms that connect founders, investors and technology leaders, supporting the growth of the region's technology community.

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Vote of Thanks & Closing Ceremony



The closing session of Mangaluru Technovanza 2026 acknowledged the collective efforts of government, industry, startups, ecosystem partners and the wider community that contributed to the success of the event.

Key Takeaways:

- Recognised the vision and support of government and district administration in strengthening Karnataka's technology ecosystem.
- Acknowledged the contributions of industry partners, startups, ecosystem organisations, volunteers and the KDEM team.
- Reinforced that building Mangaluru as a technology hub requires collective vision, collaboration and sustained commitment.

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Valedictory Address: Building Momentum for Mangaluru's Technology Ecosystem



In his valedictory address at Mangaluru Technovanza 2026, BV Naidu, Chairman of KDEM, reflected on the growing momentum around the Mangaluru cluster and the increasing interest from global industry leaders, investors and ecosystem partners, including Accenture, Tech Mahindra and NTT DATA. He acknowledged the contributions of Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, Rohith Bhat, industry anchors and the entire KDEM team in advancing the Mangaluru cluster through continued collaboration and a shared vision.

Key Takeaways:

- Data Centre Growth: Multiple companies expressed interest in establishing data centres in the cluster.
- Startup Funding: Initiatives such as the Cluster Seed Fund are strengthening funding opportunities for startups.
- Industry Collaboration: Industry anchors, leaders and the KDEM team are working together to build the cluster.

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Product Launches: Bringing New Ideas to the Market







Mangaluru Technovanza 2026 provided a platform for the launch of three new products across education, sports and PropTech, showcasing innovative solutions to address different industry needs. The launches highlighted the region's growing innovation ecosystem and provided a platform for emerging products to move from ideas to real-world solutions.

Product Launch Highlights

- **Academic Alerts**: Brings academic events and opportunities together on a single platform.
- **Coachbuddy AI**: Integrates AI and technology into sports training.
- **SpotNest Spaces**: Simplifies the process of finding and connecting around rental spaces.

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ELEVATE Startups: Showcasing Mangaluru's Emerging Innovation Ecosystem









Mangaluru Technovanza 2026 provided a platform for 12 ELEVATE startups to showcase their ventures and innovations across sectors including food, healthcare, agriculture, sports, sustainability and emerging technologies.

The participating startups were Aaptam Foods LLP, Aikyam Sports Science, Anmaya Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Baeru Environmental Services, Bellare GIS Consultancy Pvt. Ltd., Cymasonic Labs, Healwave Healthtech Private Limited, MozziQuit Solutions LLP, ProBharath Technologies, Sarwam Trash Tech, Snow-Zoe Technologies Pvt. Ltd. and VS Collective.

Representing diverse domains such as FoodTech, AgriTech, HealthTech, ClimateTech and DeepTech, these startups highlighted the range of challenges being addressed by emerging entrepreneurs and the growing diversity of Karnataka's startup ecosystem.

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PRE-EVENT SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Total Posts: 59













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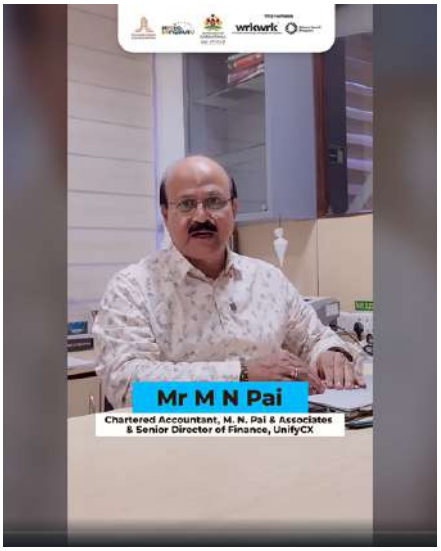
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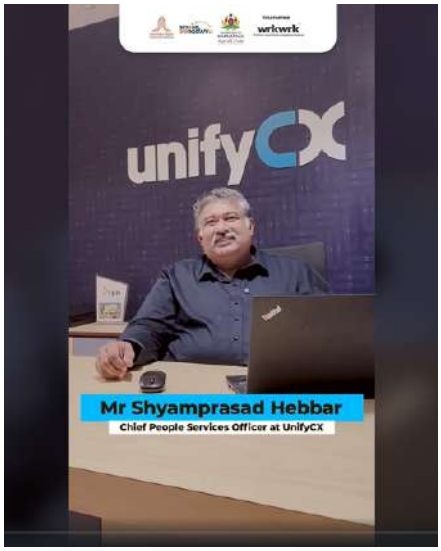
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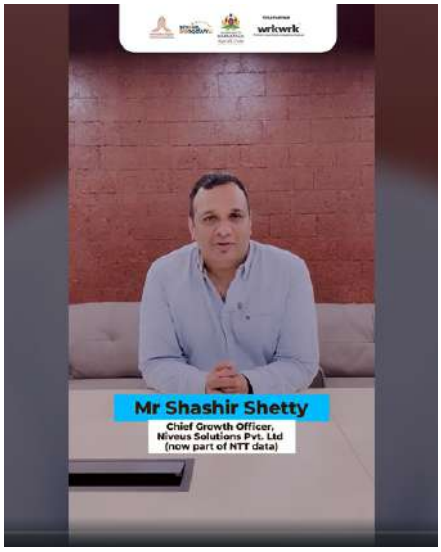


















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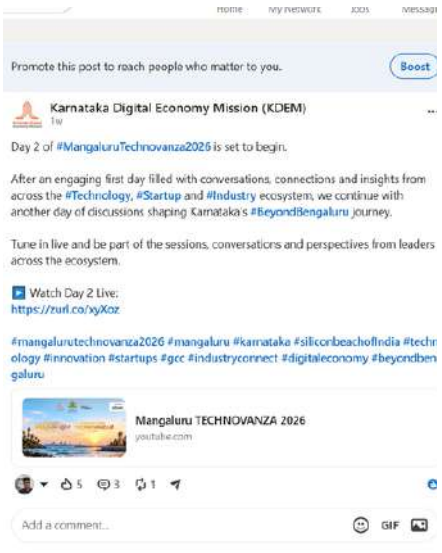
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POST EVENT SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS













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MEDIA COVERAGE

Communications & PR Review

52 TOTAL MEDIA COVERAGES	**11** PRINT REGIONAL COVERAGES	**19** ONLINE ENGLISH COVERAGES
6 ONLINE REGIONAL COVERAGES	**13** PRINT ENGLISH COVERAGES	**1** ELECTRONIC MEDIA COVERAGES
1 RADIO BROADCAST	**2** SOCIAL MEDIA	

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ಹೂಡಿಕೆಗೆ ಕರಾವಳಿ ಯೋಗ್ಯ ತಾಣ: ಅತೀಕ್



ಮೂರು ಕ್ಷಿಪ್ರ ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭರಮೆ

ಘೋಷಿತ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಖಚಿತ

ಸಂಯುಕ್ತ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

ಕರಾವಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಐಟಿ-ಜಿಬಿ, ಪ್ರವಾಸೋದ್ಯಮ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಹೂಡಿಕೆ ಅರ್ಥಪೂರ್ಣ | ಎಐ ಪಿ.ವಿ. ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆಗೆ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ

ಐಟಿ, ಬಿಟಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಮೂಲ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಕಲಿಸಲು ಬದ್ಧ



Mangalore Edition
Sep 24, 2026 Page No. 02
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ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಟೆಕ್ಕೋವಾಂಜಾ ಆರನೇ ಆವೃತ್ತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ | ಭವಿಷ್ಯ ನುಡಿದ ಎಲ್.ಕೆ. ಅತೀಕ್

ಕರಾವಳಿ ಭವಿಷ್ಯದ ದುಬೈ, ಸಿಂಗಾಪುರ



ಯೋಜಿತ ಪ್ರಗತಿಗೆ 'ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಡಿಸೈನ್ ಕೌನ್ಸಿಲ್'

'ಟೆಕ್ಕೋವಾಂಜಾ 2026'ರ ಸಂವಾದದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಲಹೆಗಾರ ಎಲ್.ಕೆ.ಅತೀಕ್ ಮಾಹಿತಿ



ಜನರ ದೈನಂದಿನ ಬವಣೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನವೋದ್ಯಮಗಳಿಂದ ಪರಿಹಾರ

ವಾರ್ತಾ ಭಾರತಿ

ಕರಾವಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೂಡಿಕೆ ಅರ್ಥಪೂರ್ಣ

ಎಲ್.ಕೆ.ಅತೀಕ್

ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಟೆಕ್ಕೋವಾಂಝಾ-2026 ಆರನೇ ಆವೃತ್ತಿಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ



Mangaluru must carve out niche to emerge as GCC hub: Industry leaders

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mangaluru: Mangaluru must carve out a distinct niche instead of trying to replicate Bengaluru or Hyderabad if it is to emerge a global capability centre (GCC) hub, industry leaders said at Mangaluru Technovanza here Tuesday. A fireside chat, titled 'Mangaluru the Landing Station in the GCC Orbit Ready?', explored how the coastal city could strengthen its position as a technology and business destination. The session was part of the sixth edition of Mangaluru Technovanza at the Dr TMA Pai International Convention Centre.



DISCUSSION: Richard Lobo (right), chief people officer, Tech Mahindra and Ajay Vij (left), senior country MD, Accenture India, at a fireside chat at Technovanza

Ajay Vij, senior country managing director, Accenture India, and Richard Lobo, chief people officer, Tech Mahindra, said Mangaluru had advantages including its location, connectivity, educational institutions and growing technology ecosystem.

Vij said businesses worldwide were rethinking organisational structures, making talent availability and location increasingly important. Mangaluru needed a long-term strategy and should identify sectors where it could build a lasting advantage, he said. "The city must decide the niche it wants to play in. It could be tourism, healthcare, marine biology or any other area where it is already strong," Vij said.

Lobo said the GCC model had evolved from being primarily cost-driven to one focused on specialised capabilities. "Today, investments in GCCs are driven more by capabilities offered than by size. Mangaluru should not be come a duplicate of Bengaluru or Hyderabad. It should create its own unique proposition," he said.

He suggested positioning Mangaluru as part of a distributed talent model, with teams operating from multiple smaller cities. The speakers also stressed the need to market Mangaluru as a business destination by showcasing patents, projects and industry outcomes rather than relying solely on promotional campaigns. Lobo said alumni of Mangaluru-based institutions holding senior positions globally could become ambassadors for the city. "If Mangaluru can build the specialised skills that the world will need three years from now, companies will come to the city," he said.

They also called for curriculum redesign, faculty development, mentoring, sponsorship, and joint research between industry and educational institutions. They stressed the need to invest in faculty, who would shape generations of students and equip them with industry-relevant skills for the future.

Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, CEO, KDEM, moderated the session.

'Silicon Beach Skills-Annual Edition 2' report launched

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mangaluru: Xphere, a leading specialist staffing firm, in partnership with the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), on Wednesday released the 'Silicon Beach Skills - Annual Edition 2' report, which provides a detailed overview of the talent and skill landscape of Udupi and Mangaluru cluster.

The report was released during the sixth edition of Mangaluru Technovanza, held at the Dr TMA Pai International Convention Centre on Wednesday.

The report covers comprehensive analysis of the Udupi-Mangaluru region's emerging tech talent pool and its potential to drive growth in India's digital economy.

The objective of the report is to make the rich and diverse talent pool of 'Silicon Beach' visible to global capability centres (GCCs) across the world, with the focused ecosystem initiatives of the govt of Karnataka.

The findings underscore the region's strengths as a "Talent Triangle," extending beyond the coastal stretch and encompassing a 2,80,000+ potential talentpool. However, it also highlights the need for strategic interventions to fully unlock its potential, as only 1,05,000 professionals currently possess more than one year of work experience.

Kanal Karanth, co-founder, Xphere said, "Xphere has been at the forefront of enabling talent access for Greenfield GCCs in India, and this partnership with KDEM allows us to further contribute to the growth of Karnataka's digital ecosystem."

BV Naidu, chairman, KDEM said, "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."

Projects that CM announced will happen: Atheeq

K Atheeq, financial adviser to the chief minister and chairperson, Bengaluru Business Corridor, said that CM BK Shivakumar has not announced any project without considering the availability of resources, and all projects already announced will be implemented.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a programme in Mangaluru, Ateeq said the govt was working on action plans for the projects announced so far in consultation with the finance department. TNN

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THE HINDU

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Sixth edition of Mangaluru Technovanza on September 23

Published - September 12, 2026 06:56 pm IST - MANGALURU

THE HINDU BUREAU

READ LATER

The sixth edition of Mangaluru Technovanza 2026, a platform to showcase the cluster's technology and innovation ecosystem, will be held at T.M.A. Pai International Convention Centre here on September 23.

THE HINDU

Mangaluru Technovanza 2026 to focus on global capability centres, data centres, startups, medtech

The main programme on September 23 will feature a fireside chat with Priyank Kharge, Minister for Home Information Technology and Biotechnology, on the State's vision for Mangaluru as the 'Silicon Beach of India'

THE HINDU BUREAU

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Karnataka Digital Economy Mission

The sixth edition of Mangaluru Technovanza 2026, which begins here for two days on September 22, will focus its deliberations on four key growth engines: global capability centres (GCCs), data centres, start-ups and medtech, according to the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), the organiser of the event.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Mangaluru Technovanza to bring together tech ecosystem on Sept 23

Times News Network / Sep 12, 2026, 19:01 IST

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TOI

Mangaluru: The sixth edition of Mangaluru Technovanza 2026, a platform to showcase the cluster's technology and innovation ecosystem, will be held at the Dr TMA Pai International Convention Centre on Sept 23.

The department of electronics, IT, and BT, and Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) is organising this annual business and tech conference under the Beyond Bengaluru initiative for the emerging tech cluster Silicon Beach Of India. The event is hosted by IT & BT minister Priyank Kharge.

According to the organisers, the event is expected to bring together more than 600 delegates, 150 startups, 40 global speakers, 50 global capability centres (GCCs) and over 20 investors. It will focus on the clusters emergence as a technology, knowledge, and innovation hub, building the Silicon Beach of India, and its growing role in Karnataka's coastal technology ecosystem.

MANGALORE TODAY

Mangaluru Technovanza 2026 to Showcase Coastal Tech Ecosystem on Sept. 23

Mangalore Today News Network

Mangaluru, Sep 13, 2026: The sixth edition of Mangaluru Technovanza 2026, showcasing the region's technology and innovation ecosystem, will be held at the Dr TMA Pai International Convention Centre on September 23.

The day-long conference is being organised by the Department of Electronics, IT and BT and the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) under the Beyond Bengaluru initiative, which aims to promote Mangaluru as the emerging "Silicon Beach of India." IT and BT Minister Priyank Kharge is hosting the event.



According to the organisers, the conference is expected to attract more than 600 delegates, 150 startups, 40 global speakers, 50 global capability centres (GCCs) and over 20 investors.

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Mangaluru Technovanza on Sept 23

The sixth edition of Mangaluru Technovanza 2026, a platform to showcase the cluster's technology and innovation ecosystem, will be held at the Dr TMA Pai International Convention Centre on Sept 23. The department of electronics, IT, and BT, and Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) is organising this annual business and tech conference under the Beyond Bengaluru initiative for the emerging tech cluster Silicon Beach Of India. The event is hosted by IT & BT minister Priyank Kharge. According to the organisers, the event is expected to bring together more than 600 delegates, 150 startups, 40 global speakers, 50 global capability centres (GCCs) and over 20 investors.

Yakshagana fest today

The Tulu Cultural Research Foundation will organise a Tulu Yakshagana festival 'Tulu Yakshayana' at Sri Venugopalakrishna Sabha Bhavana in Karkala from 4pm to 6.30pm on Sunday. A discussion on 'The future of Tulu Yakshagana' will be held. Books and publications related to Tulu Yakshagana will also be released.

Mangaluru Technovanza on Sep. 23

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The sixth edition of Mangaluru Technovanza 2026, a platform to showcase the cluster's technology and innovation ecosystem, will be held at T.M.A. Pai International Convention Centre here on September 23.

The Department of Electronics, Information Technology and Biotechnology, and Karnataka Digital Economy Mission are organising this annual conference under the 'Beyond Bengaluru' initiative.

According to the organisers, the event is expected to bring together more than 600 delegates, 150 start-ups, 40 speakers, 50 global capability centres, and over 20 investors.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Dept. of E, IT & Bt

Karnataka Digital Economy Mission

MANGALURU TECHNOVANZA 2026

WED 23 SEPT | TMA PAI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

Mangaluru sets sights on global tech cluster status

Silicon Beach 2034 Vision Targets 2 Lakh IT Professionals

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mangaluru: Three years after the launch of the Silicon Beach programme to chart a technology roadmap for the coastal region, Mangaluru's technology ecosystem is showing steady growth, with rising startup activity, new GCCs, expanding IT infrastructure and increased investor interest.

Speaking at the sixth edition of Mangaluru Technovanza, held at the Dr TMA Pai International Convention Centre on Tuesday, Rohit Bhat, lead industry anchor, Mangaluru cluster, said the programme was launched through a collective decision by entrepreneurs and industry leaders to shape the region's technology future.

Its 2034 vision targets two lakh IT professionals, 4,000 startups, five unicorns, green IT infrastructure and an increase in the region's GDP from $20 billion to $100 billion.

"Companies have grown steadily and startups have increased," Bhat said, pointing to recent public listings by Manipal Hospitals and Manipal Payment System as indicators of the region's entrepreneurial potential.



TALKING TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT: (from left) Rohit Bhat, lead industry anchor, Mangaluru cluster, Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, CEO, KDEM, LK Atheeq, financial adviser to the chief minister and BV Naidu, chairman, KDEM, release 'Silicon Beach Skills' booklet during the sixth edition of Mangaluru Technovanza at the Dr TMA Pai International Convention Centre in Mangaluru on Wednesday

TECHNOVANZA

Recalling the initiative had focused on building the ecosystem's underlying infrastructure and support systems. Govt has allocated about Rs 6.5 crore to K-Combinator, an industry-led accelerator that selected eight startups from nearly 96 applications.

Silicon Beach Angels, a group of 25 investors, is also backing local startups.

The next phase will require greater ambition and collective effort, Bhat said, adding that a new Karavali Vision 2047, aligned with India's national goals, was being planned.

KDEM: City eyeing global technology cluster status

Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) CEO Sanjeev Kumar Gupta said Mangaluru was steadily emerging as a global technology cluster, driven by collaboration among industry, govt and educational institutions.

He said Mangaluru was one of only two places in the world popularly identified as a "Silicon Beach", and urged stakeholders to look beyond their organisational roles and see themselves as citizens of the wider technology cluster. Gupta outlined a vision of two lakh technology jobs, Rs 40,000 crore in technology exports, more than 3,000 startups, at least 80 GCCs and 10 centres of excellence, along with data centres, cable landing stations and advanced manufacturing and electronics facilities. "We are the safest city and the cluster already has 15 GCCs, more than 100 global brands and around Rs 35,000 crore in exports. Its talent pool includes about 35,000 professionals working from offices and another 20,000 working remotely. Also, the most premium infrastructure is available here," he said.

Data centre at NITK likely

LK Atheeq, financial adviser to the chief minister and chairperson, Bengaluru Business Corridor, said a good number of GCCs had come to the region over the past three years. Govt was also looking at data centres and cable landing stations, while ready-to-use office infrastructure was expanding through local entrepreneurship, he said.

He said govt was looking at developing five vibrant clusters, including Mangaluru-Udupi and Manipal. Joint effort to deepen academia-industry collaboration, govt is in talks with NITK director B Ravi, who has offered land on the campus to host a data centre, Atheeq said.

Mangaluru Design Council to advise govt. on urban planning: L.K. Atheeq

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Financial Adviser to the Chief Minister L.K. Atheeq said here on Wednesday that the Mangaluru Design Council will be launched to advise the government on urban design and planning.

Speaking at a session on 'Policy, Industry, and Capital for Mangaluru' at the sixth edition of Mangaluru Technovanza - 2026, he said that as the city grows, traffic management needs to be given attention.

At the same time, proper development of infrastructure and its management are key to development. "Mangaluru Design Council will act like a think tank for urban design and planning. The council will have eight stakeholders as of now," he said.

Some of the stakeholders are the Kanara Chamber of Commerce and Industry, CREDAI Mangaluru, the Architects Association, the Confederation of Indian Industry, the Engineers Association, and the Coastal Tourism Development Council, he said.



Dignitaries releasing the Silicon Beach Skills-2026 report during the sixth edition of Mangaluru Technovanza, in Mangaluru on Wednesday. H.S. MANJUNATH

IT parks

Mr. Atheeq said land is available for the development of an IT park and industries in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.

The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) has issued the final notification for the acquisition and development of 350 acres of land at Balkunje. About 100 acres of the 350 acres can be carved out for setting up an IT park or technology park.

In addition, Mr. Atheeq said 350 acres of undeveloped land is available with the New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA). "This land can also be opened up for development either on a lease or rent-sharing basis," he said.

The Financial Adviser said land is also available near Padubidri for development. Of about 40 acres of land in Tannirbavi, 20 acres are available for development.

B.V. Naidu, chairman, Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), which organised the Technovanza under the 'Beyond Bengaluru' mission, said that the National Institute of Technology - Karnataka, Surathkal, has come forward to set up a Centre of Excellence on Data Centre.

A report, 'Silicon Beach Skills, Talent Landscape of Udupi and Mangaluru Cluster', was released on the occasion. In addition, another report, 'AI Governance for Indian Startups', was released.

Mangaluru cluster added over 60 tech firms, 13,000 workers in three years: KDEM CEO

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The CEO of Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) Sanjeev Kumar Gupta said here on Wednesday that the Mangaluru cluster of the KDEM has added over 60 new technology companies and more than 13,000 workers over the last 36 months.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the sixth edition of Mangaluru Technovanza - 2026, he said that more than one million sq. ft. of Grade-A office space is under construction in the cluster. "Our vision is to build a cluster with 2,00,000 technology jobs, ₹40,000 crore in technology exports, 4,000-plus start-ups, 80-plus Global Capability Centres (GCCs) and 10 Centres of Excellence, backed by a $10 billion coastal knowledge economy. This is not aspirational, it is already under way," he said.

Mr. Gupta said that with ₹35,000 crore in total exports, 35,000 on-site professionals and 20,000 professionals working remotely, the technology ecosystem in the Mangaluru region is scaling rapidly.



Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, CEO of Karnataka Digital Economy Mission, speaking at the 6th edition of Mangaluru Technovanza in Mangaluru on Wednesday. H.S. MANJUNATH

Setting the industry perspective and regional context, Rohith Bhat, founder, wrkwrk, 99Games, and Robosoft, said: "Three years ago, a small group of us sat in a room and decided we wouldn't wait for someone else to give this region its direction. We dreamed big: two lakh IT professionals, 4,000 start-ups, five unicorns, and a GDP leap from $20 billion to $100 billion – all by 2034. Today, that dream has roots. Start-ups have grown a third over, two home-grown companies have had IPOs in the last six weeks alone, and what started as a handful of passionate volunteers has become a movement."

The event brought together 600 delegates, 70 start-ups, 60 GCCs and over 20 investors.

'CoE in marine studies to come up at College of Fisheries'

Speaking at Mangaluru Technovanza, Financial Adviser to the Chief Minister L.K. Atheeq says the centre is expected to come up at the college within a year, while its upgradation into a university might take another five years

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Financial Adviser to the Chief Minister L.K. Atheeq said here on Wednesday that the Department of Information Technology and Biotechnology has got the government's approval to set up a Centre of Excellence in Marine Studies and Blue-economy at the College of Fisheries in Mangaluru at a cost of ₹60 crore.

Speaking at a session on 'Policy, Industry, and capital for Mangaluru' at the sixth edition of Mangaluru Technovanza - 2026, Mr. Atheeq said that the Cabinet meeting held in Mangaluru on September 18 accorded in-principle approval to upgrade the College of Fisheries into a fisheries university, duly enhancing the intake from the present 60 students to 200 students a year.



L.K. Atheeq, Financial Adviser to the Chief Minister, speaking at the 6th edition of Mangaluru Technovanza in Mangaluru on Wednesday. H.S. MANJUNATH

The upgradation as a full-fledged university might take another five years. The Centre of Excellence in Marine Studies and Blue-economy will be set up as an immediate step in this direction. The centre is expected to come up within a year.

Once upgraded as a university, it can focus its studies on oceanography in addition to fisheries, he said, adding that there is a need to create human resources in maritime engineering.

Budget proposal

It may be mentioned here that former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, while presenting the Budget for 2026-27, proposed to establish a Centre of Excellence at the College of Fisheries to promote biotechnology-based industries, development of new technology and mariculture.

The approval to upgrade the college into a university was given during the Cabinet meeting in Mangaluru

A specialised branch of aquaculture, mariculture involves the cultivation of marine organisms, including finfish, shellfish and seaweed, in controlled or enclosed saltwater environments, namely, cage culture, ponds, or offshore sea areas. Mariculture thus offers a sustainable, high-growth alternative to marine fishing, thereby providing protein-rich food and economic livelihoods.

Focus on competencies, capabilities, tech firms told

AJ Vinayak
Mangaluru

Speakers at the 'Mangaluru Technovanza 2026', organised by the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), have stressed the need to focus on specialised competencies and capabilities to build a technology ecosystem in the coastal Karnataka region. Speaking at a panel discussion on 'Policy, Industry, Capital', Devdutt Yellurkar, General Partner, Charles River Ventures, said the Mangaluru region has to figure out its core competency to scale on.

Highlighting Mangaluru's strength in the healthcare sector, he cited his own example. Stating that he has a special heart condition, Yellurkar mentioned that his cardiologist, Dr Maneesh Rai, had put him in contact with research universities in the region that are conducting cutting-edge research on DNA analysis. "They have really commendable stuff that compares to anything that happens at Stanford. Can we leverage some of that with technology and build clusters around it, and truly become world-class? If we build that, venture capital funds will come," he said.



(From left) Prashanth Shenoy, Co-Founder and CTO of UniCourt; BV Naidu, Chairman of KDEM; LK Atheeq, Financial Advisor to Karnataka Chief Minister; and Devdutt Yellurkar, General Partner, Charles River Ventures; at the panel discussion

Referring to the Karnataka government's decision to upgrade the Fisheries College in Mangaluru into a marine university, he asked the technology ecosystem to focus on exploring opportunities in ocean science.

OCEAN RESOURCES

Referring to his association with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in the US, he said,

"We are investing in research from different universities working on ocean science," he said, adding that the cluster was built around the nearly 100-year-old Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

He said he is ready to make an introduction on ocean science in the US to the technology ecosystem from coastal Karnataka, if it is interested in connecting with the research universities in the US.

He urged the technology ecosystem in coastal Karnataka to focus on quality. That will solve the capital problem, he said.

Prashanth Shenoy, Co-Founder and CTO of UniCourt, Mangaluru, who moderated the session, said the government's focus on ocean science and Yellurkar's expertise could help do something related to ocean science in coastal Karnataka.

BV Naidu, Chairman of KDEM, and LK Atheeq, Financial Advisor to the Karnataka Chief Minister, also spoke on the occasion.

TAPPING POTENTIAL

Meanwhile, a fireside conversation on GCCs with Ajay Vij, Senior Country MD, Accenture India, and Richard Lobo, Chief People Officer of Tech Mahindra, explored Mangaluru's potential as an emerging technology destination.

Vij said it is necessary to decide the niche that Mangaluru needs to emphasise. Cities like this must build specialised capabilities rather than simply replicate existing ecosystems. He stated that local innovation can create a global impact by solving challenges that matter. Lobo said GCCs were focusing on cost and proprietary models earlier. However, now they are shifting from cost advantage to capability and innovation-led models, he said.

Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, CEO of KDEM, moderated the fireside chat.

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Karnataka Digital Economy Mission

KEONICS, 27th Main Rd,
1st Sector, HSR Layout,
Bengaluru, Karnataka 560102, India