

MoU signed for setting up consortium of local education institutes as civic think tanks

It will support the district administration through research, design, and youth-led interventions in finding solutions to local challenges identified by the government departments

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Dakshina Kannada district administration and the National Institute of Technology - Karnataka (NIT-K), Surathkal, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Tuesday for establishing a consortium of local education institutes as civic think tanks.

The consortium, starting with engineering colleges, supports the district administration through research, design, and youth-led interventions in finding solutions to the local challenges identified by the government departments during the administration. For example issues related to solid waste management (SWM) and how to overcome them.

M. P. Mullai Muhilan, Deputy Commissioner and B. Ravi, Director, NIT-K signed the MoU.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that a dedicated platform will be launched soon to invite all local education institutes to contribute innovative solutions and products for challenges sourced from various departments.

The initiatives will be supported and mentored



Deputy Commissioner M.P. Mullai Muhilan with director of NITK B. Ravi in Mangaluru on Tuesday.
H.S. MANJUNATH

with a focus on nurturing them into "pilot-ready implementations and eventually socially-driven startups."

By involving in finding solutions to the challenges posed by the government departments, students gain the opportunity to work on real-world challenges helping them to acquire key competencies for a meaningful career, Mr. Muhilan said.

"By bringing the region's brightest minds to

the forefront of civic action, Dakshina Kannada is setting a national precedent in collaborative district development," he said.

Mr. Muhilan said that the district administration has identified about four domains where the consortium can intervene to find out solutions to the challenges. One of them is SWM in Mangaluru city.

He said that the collaboration aims to integrate the intellectual and technical

capacities of academic institutions into the district's development strategy setting the foundation for a long-term, structured partnership between governance and knowledge ecosystem.

Prof. Ravi said that if need be, the NIT-K will organise a hackathon for students to come out with solutions. The alumni of NIT-K and other education institutes will also be involved to support the consortium.