

DK district admin collaborates with NITK to find practical solutions to civic challenges

MANGALURU, DHNS

The district administration entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal, to find solutions to local issues.

Deputy Commissioner Mullai Muhilan M P said the collaboration aimed 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 ecosystems. The MoU marks the first step towards establishing a consortium of local institutions as civic think tanks, supporting the district administration through research, design and youth-led interventions, he said.

The partnership will operate on a biannual engagement model, aligning academic calendars with the district's development priorities. "We will come up with a platform for the setting up of a consortium of



Deputy Commissioner Mullai Muhilan signed a memorandum of understanding with NITK Director Prof B Ravi at his office in Mangaluru on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

all educational institutions to contribute innovative solutions and products for challenges sourced from various departments. These initiatives will be supported and mentored, with a focus on nurturing them into pilot-ready implementations and eventually, socially-driven startups," the deputy commissioner elaborated.

He added, "It stands as a symbolic representation of the administration's continued efforts to partner with universities, an approach already initiated through its flagship programme Solve4DK, which engaged students from regional institutions. These students will develop practical solutions addressing waste

management, traffic systems and other civic challenges by working closely with the Mangaluru City Corporation and Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC)." MCC Commissioner Ravichandra Naik, ZP CEO Dr Anandh K, Mangaluru Smart City Limited MD Raju K were the other signatories to the MoU.