

DK district administration and NITK partner to drive innovation continuum

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IN a move that signals a new era of participative governance and institutionally anchored innovation, the Dakshina Kannada district administration has formally entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal.

This 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 ecosystems. The MoU marks the first formal step towards establishing a consortium of local institutions as civic think tanks, supporting the district administration through research, design, and youth-led interventions.

The partnership will operate on a biannual engagement model, aligning academic calendars with the district's development priorities. Prof B Ravi, director, NITK, stated, "This collaboration leverages research and innovation to benefit Mangaluru. We look forward to working with the

MCC to create impactful solutions."

Deputy Commissioner Mullai Muhilan M P, said, "The MoU aligns with the broader vision of the district administration to ideate and pilot innovative initiatives to effectively involve talented citizens in developing solutions with positive societal impact. It stands as a symbolic representation of the administration's continued efforts to partner with universities, an approach already initiated through its flagship program, 'Solve4DK',

which engaged students from five regional institutions. These students went on to develop practical solutions addressing waste management, traffic systems, and other civic challenges by working closely with the Mangaluru City Corporation and the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC)."

The DC also indicated that a dedicated platform will soon be launched to invite all regional 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.

"These initiatives stand as a testament to the district administration's commitment to inclusive, transparent, and innovation-led governance. By bringing the region's brightest minds to the forefront of civic action, Dakshina Kannada is setting a national precedent in collaborative district development," added the DC.



DK Deputy Commissioner Mullai Muhilan M P and NITK director B Ravi while signing the MoU in Mangaluru on Tuesday