

# DUK NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026



**Kerala University of Digital  
Sciences, Innovation and  
Technology  
(Digital University Kerala)**

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## KBA's Blockchain-Based System at KPSC Inaugurated by the Hon. Chief Minister



The Hon. Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, formally inaugurated the implementation of a blockchain-based system at the Kerala Public Service Commission, developed by the Kerala Blockchain Academy. With this deployment, the Kerala Public Service Commission became the first public service commission in India to integrate blockchain technology into its recruitment processes.



In recognition of their contributions to the design and implementation of the system, Prof. (Dr.) Asharaf S., Sakeer M A, Mobin Mohanan, Sachin V S S, and Vishva Prasad were awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Hon. Chief Minister.



The initiative represents a significant milestone for the Government of Kerala, the Kerala Public Service Commission (KPSC), and the Digital University Kerala, highlighting the application of emerging technologies to public-sector governance and to transparency in recruitment.

## Chief Minister launched ‘AIDeA’ Platform to Advance Data-Driven Governance

Kerala strengthened its digital governance initiatives with the launch of AIDeA – Application for Intelligent Data Engineering and Analytics, developed by the Centre for Digital Transformation and Innovation (CDTI) at Digital University Kerala and inaugurated by the Honourable Chief Minister, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, on January 03, 2026. The platform marks an important achievement in the university’s ongoing mission to create impactful technological solutions for the public good.

AIDeA has been designed to support the Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Kerala, by enabling large-scale survey data collection, efficient data management, and advanced analytics. By transforming data into meaningful insights, the platform will aid evidence-based policymaking and strengthen planning processes across the state. The first module launched under AIDeA is EARAS (Establishment of an Agency for Reporting Agricultural Statistics), developed to modernize the collection and management of agricultural data, ensuring greater accuracy, timeliness, and reliability in statistical reporting.

The successful development of AIDeA highlights the growing role of the Centre for Digital Transformation and Innovation (CDTI) and Digital University Kerala in driving innovation for governance. The platform is expected to enhance collaboration among government departments while promoting transparency, efficiency, and citizen-centric administration.

This milestone reflects the shared commitment of CDTI and Digital University Kerala to leveraging research and technology to address real-world challenges. With initiatives like AIDeA, they continue to contribute significantly to Kerala's vision of building a smarter, more responsive, and future-ready governance ecosystem.



## Centre for Intelligent Government Completes Landmark Digitalization Project for Kerala Lok Ayukta

Marking a significant leap in the digital transformation of Kerala's judicial institutions, the Centre for Intelligent Government at the Digital University has successfully completed a specialized consultancy project for the Kerala Lok Ayukta.



On December 17, 2025, the Functional Requirement Study (FRS) Report was formally handed over to the Hon. Kerala Lok Ayukta, Justice N. Anil Kumar, at his chamber. The report was presented by Shri Jayachandran MB, Project Coordinator and Chief Technical Officer, in the presence of the Registrar and Deputy Registrar of the Kerala Lok Ayukta. Key project team members, including Research Associate Mr. Rony P John and Project Associate Mr. Prasanth Sasidharan, were also present for the milestone submission.

The submitted Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Functional Requirement Specification (FRS) document serve as a strategic blueprint.

With the successful completion of this study, the Lok Ayukta is now positioned to implement a state-of-the-art automated solution that will enhance the transparency, speed, and efficacy of its judicial and administrative functions.



## MoU Signed between DUK and Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR)

The Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology (Digital University Kerala – DUK) and the Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly develop an AI-powered digital archival platform aimed at preserving, organizing, and enabling intelligent access to Kerala’s rich historical heritage. The MoU was signed on January 06, 2026 by Prof. Mujeeb, Registrar, DUK, and Prof. Dinesan V, Director, KCHR, in the presence of Prof. Saji Gopinath, Honourable Vice Chancellor of DUK, and Prof. K. N. Ganesh, Honourable Chairman of the Kerala Council for Historical Research. Prof. T Radhakrishnan, Chair, SoDS was also present in the function. The project will be carried out by the DUK investigation team comprising Prof. Ajith Kumar, Prof. Satheesh Kumar, Prof. Anoop, and Prof. Manoj Kumar.



As part of this collaboration, Digital University Kerala will design and implement an advanced digital platform that leverages Artificial Intelligence and Generative AI technologies to process and interpret KCHR’s extensive collection of digitized historical documents. These include historical books, handwritten diaries, letters, newspapers, official records, and documents spanning multiple languages and scripts.

The proposed platform will go beyond conventional digitization by enabling automated transcription of handwritten and printed materials, AI-driven metadata generation, entity extraction, document classification, and semantic search. Researchers and the public will be able to explore historical materials through an intuitive interface with advanced search and discovery features, making Kerala’s archival wealth more accessible, searchable, and research ready.

Speaking on the occasion, representatives from both institutions emphasized that the initiative marks a significant step towards modernizing historical research and preserving institutional memory using cutting-edge digital technologies. The project is also expected to lay the foundation for large-scale collaborative research, interdisciplinary scholarship, and public engagement with history.



The collaboration brings together KCHR’s deep domain expertise in historical research and Digital University Kerala’s strengths in AI, data analytics, and digital transformation, positioning the initiative as a model for technology-enabled heritage preservation in India. This partnership reflects a shared commitment by DUK and KCHR to harness technology for societal impact and to ensure that Kerala’s historical legacy is preserved and made accessible for future.

## 77th Republic Day Celebrations at Digital University Kerala

Digital University Kerala (DUK) commemorated the 77th Republic Day with great patriotic spirit on January 26, 2026, at the university campus. The celebration brought together faculty members, staff, and students to honour the spirit of the Constitution and the values of the nation.

The programme commenced at 8:30 AM with the ceremonial unfurling of the National Flag by the Honourable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Saji Gopinath, followed by the singing of the National Anthem. A ceremonial parade by the security staff added dignity and elegance to the occasion. The Vice Chancellor addressed the gathering, highlighting the significance of Republic Day and urging students to uphold constitutional values and contribute responsibly to nation-building.

The formal felicitation was delivered by the faculty member, Mrs. Shanujas V., followed by the Republic Day speech by Ardra Sasidharan. The cultural segment began with a patriotic song presented by students, filling the atmosphere with national pride. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by the Chair, Students' Affairs, expressing gratitude to all participants and organizers for making the event a success.

The Republic Day celebration at DUK reflected the university's commitment to fostering patriotism, unity, and constitutional values among its academic community.





## CDTI Expands CeTMS Implementation in Museums Under Kerala Archaeology Department

The Centre for Digital Transformation and Innovation (CDTI) at Digital University Kerala has successfully piloted and expanded the implementation of the Centralized e-Ticket Issuing and Monitoring System (CeTMS) for museums under the Department of Archaeology, Government of Kerala. Developed as a robust digital platform, CeTMS modernizes the ticket issuance process at museum counters while enabling centralized monitoring and streamlined administration across the department.

Building on the success of the pilot phase, the CDTI team recently implemented the system in four additional museums: the Archaeological Museum, Thrissur (Kollengode Palace) from January 13–16, 2026; Bastion Bungalow, Ernakulam, from January 13–16, 2026; Pazhassi Kudeeram (Pazhassi Raja’s Tomb), Wayanad, on January 16, 2026; and Krishnapuram Palace, Alappuzha, from January 7–9, 2026.

The phased rollout has generated valuable insights into system performance, operational efficiency, and user adoption, supporting continuous enhancement of the platform. By digitizing ticket issuance and enabling real-time oversight from the directorate, the initiative promotes greater transparency, improved revenue tracking, and more effective management of museum operations.

This achievement underscores CDTI’s growing role in delivering practical, scalable technology solutions for the Government of Kerala, contributing to the modernization of public services and the state’s broader digital transformation efforts.





## International Innovation Award for Autotransfusion Device

The Intraoperative Autotransfusion (IAT) device that CAN Lab is developing in collaboration with the doctors of CMC Vellore, for which DUK and K-DISC jointly hold the patent, has been selected for the WFSA (World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists) Innovation Award in Blood Health. The Award will be given during the 19th World Congress of Anaesthesiologists at Marrakech in Morocco (WCA2026) on April 16.

The Award package includes among other benefits:

- 1) \$25,000 to develop the innovation over two years.
- 2) Funding for a short film showcasing the innovation for promotional purposes.
- 3) Expert guidance and support through WFSA's global network.

The innovation will also be promoted through WFSA events and platforms, with recognition at WCA2026 and WCA2028. The award is expected to boost the device's visibility and increase its commercialization prospects.

This is the second international award for this device, the other being 1st prize in the Innovation category at the 4th International Congress on Innovations in Global Surgery at Blantyre, Malawi, May 2025.

## Strategic Meeting with Officials from Survey of India (SoI)

A strategic meeting was convened at Digital University Kerala (DUK) on January 07, 2026 with officials from the Survey of India (SoI) to explore potential avenues for academic and research collaboration between the two institutions. The discussions also emphasized the effective utilization of SoI's extensive geospatial repositories and services to support DUK's academic, research, and development initiatives.

The meeting was attended by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of DUK, Prof. Saji Gopinath, along with Prof. Radhakrishnan T. and Mrs. Vidhu Vincent from DUK. The Survey of India delegation comprised Mr. Pankaj Kumar (Superintending Surveyor and Wing In-Charge), Mr. Ratheesh R. (Deputy Superintending Surveyor), Mr. Arunkumar T. S. (Officer Surveyor), and Mr. Madhu Chembath (Officer Surveyor).



## 38th Kerala Science Congress

Prof. Anoop A (School of Digital Sciences, Digital University Kerala) chaired the Chemical Sciences session on January 31, 2026, at the 38th Kerala Science Congress held at St. Albers College Ernakulam. The session featured insightful presentations and discussions reflecting current directions in chemical research.



## Student Research Presentations at the 38th Kerala Science Congress

Ms. Janavalsa AN and Ms. Haripriya KR, fourth-semester postgraduate students of the MSc Data Analytics and Geoinformatics programme from the School of Digital Sciences, successfully presented their research work at the 38th Kerala Science Congress held at St. Albert's College (Autonomous), Kochi. Ms. Janavalsa AN presented a poster titled “Multi-Year Mangrove Change Detection Using Optical-SAR Fusion in the Sundarbans”, while Ms. Haripriya KR delivered an oral presentation on “Mapping Paddy Growing Fields Across Kerala Using Multi-Temporal SAR and Optical Imagery.” Both studies were carried out under the supervision of Dr. Shamjid P, Assistant Professor, School of Digital Sciences. The participation of the students in the Kerala Science Congress highlights the School’s continued engagement in research-oriented academic activities.



## THARANGAM 2026 - Hostel Day

THARANGAM 2026, the first hostel day celebration at the University, took place on January 28, 2026, in the Mess Hall, starting at 6:00 PM. The event aimed to foster a sense of community, togetherness, and cultural engagement among the hostel residents. The evening featured a lively mix of entertainment and interactive sessions. Multiple game activities were held throughout the program, encouraging enthusiastic student participation and creating a joyful atmosphere. The cultural segment included vibrant dance performances by various student teams. Overall, Hostel Day 2026 was a resounding success, providing a platform for students to showcase their talents, strengthen bonds, and celebrate the spirit of hostel life at Digital University Kerala.







## Martyrs' Day at DUK

Martyrs' Day was solemnly observed at Digital University Kerala on January 30, 2026. Two minutes' silence was observed at 11:00 a.m. in reverent remembrance of those who sacrificed their lives in the Freedom Struggle. Faculty members, staff, and students paid heartfelt tribute to the martyrs, reaffirming their commitment to patriotism and upholding the nation's values and ideals.

## Martyrs' Day at Hostel

Martyrs' Day was solemnly observed at the hostel on January 30, 2026, in the Mess Hall. The event was organized to pay tribute to the martyrs and foster students' patriotism and respect for national values. Students from the hostel, mess workers, and other staff members observed a two-minute silence in honor of the martyrs. The atmosphere during the observance was reflective, encouraging everyone to remember and appreciate the sacrifices made by those who laid down their lives for the nation.

## National Summit on Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence in Recruitment Featuring the Projects Developed by Kerala Blockchain Academy

The Kerala Public Service Commission (KPSC) organised a National Summit on Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence in Recruitment on January 12, 2026 at Sonata, Mascot Hotel, Thiruvananthapuram. The summit was inaugurated by the Hon. Governor of Kerala, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar. The summit introduced the blockchain and AI-based recruitment systems developed at KPSC to representatives from public service commissions across various Indian states. In his inaugural address, the Hon. Governor emphasised the effective and productive use of technology in public institutions and highlighted Kerala's role as a model state, particularly in the health and education sectors, alongside technology.



The summit was attended by M. R. Baiju, Chairman of KPSC, Dr. Dinesh Dasa, Member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), along with chairpersons and members of public service commissions from various states. The summit facilitated inter-state knowledge exchange on the adoption of emerging technologies in recruitment and governance. Dr. Saji Gopinath, Hon. Vice Chancellor of the Digital University Kerala, conducted a session titled “Structure and Framework of Association between Kerala Public Service Commission and Digital University Kerala”, outlining the institutional collaboration and governance framework between the two organisations.

During the summit, the blockchain-based verification system and AI-driven analytical tools developed by the Kerala Blockchain Academy were presented to delegates from various states by Prof. Dr. Asharaf S., Dean (Research and External Linkages) and Director of Kerala Blockchain Academy

His sessions on “Blockchain Technology in Recruitment” and “Artificial Intelligence in Recruitment” highlighted Kerala Blockchain Academy’s role in the successful implementation of the blockchain-based recruitment system at KPSC. These systems demonstrated the practical application of advanced technologies in enhancing transparency, efficiency, and trust in recruitment processes. The summit demonstrated Kerala Blockchain Academy’s success in translating blockchain and artificial intelligence research into scalable, operational solutions for public sector recruitment through effective institutional collaboration and national-level dissemination.



കേരള പബ്ലിക് സർവീസ് കമ്മീഷന്റെ നാഷണൽ സമ്മിറ്റ് ഓൺ ബ്ലോക്ക് ചെയിൻ ആൻഡ് ആർട്ടിഫിഷ്യൽ ഇന്റലിജൻസ് ഇൻ റിക്രൂട്ട്മെന്റ് ഗവർണർ രാജേന്ദ്ര ആർലേക്കർ ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഡോ.എസ്.ശ്രീകുമാർ, ഡോ.എ.ആർ.ബൈജു, ഡോ.ദിനേഷ് ദാസ, ഡോ.മിനി സക്കറിയസ് എന്നിവർ സമീപം ചിത്രം മനോരമ

## റിക്രൂട്ട്മെന്റിന് ബ്ലോക്ക് ചെയിൻ, നിർമിതബുദ്ധി: ഉച്ചകോടി നടത്തി

തിരുവനന്തപുരം • റിക്രൂട്ട്മെന്റിന് ബ്ലോക്ക് ചെയിൻ സാങ്കേതിക വിദ്യയും നിർമിതബുദ്ധിയും ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതിനായി പിഎസ് സിയുടെ മേൽനോട്ടത്തിൽ ഡിജിറ്റൽ സർവകലാശാല വികസിപ്പിച്ച സഹായകങ്ങളെ ഇതര സംസ്ഥാനങ്ങൾക്കു പരിചയപ്പെടുത്താൻ ദേശീയ ഉച്ചകോടി നടത്തി. ഗവർണർ രാജേന്ദ്ര ആർലേക്കർ ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്തു.

സാങ്കേതികവിദ്യയെ വിവിധ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളുടെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിൽ എങ്ങനെ ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്താമെന്ന് കേരളം രാജ്യത്തിനു കാണിച്ചു കൊടുക്കുകയാണെന്ന്

അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞു. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം, ആരോഗ്യസേവനം തുടങ്ങിയ മേഖലകളിലും കേരളം എന്നും രാജ്യത്തിന് വഴിവിളക്കായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞു.

പിഎസ്സി ചെയർമാൻ ഡോ. എ.ആർ.ബൈജു അധ്യക്ഷനായി. യു.പി.എസ്സി അംഗം ഡോ. ദിനേഷ് ദാസ, വിവിധ സംസ്ഥാനങ്ങളിലെ പിഎസ്സി ചെയർമാന്മാരായ പർമാർ രവി മനു ഭായി(ബീഹാർ), ബുറ വെങ്കിടേ ശ്യാമ(തെലങ്കാന), ഡോ.ഉദയ് സിൻഹ് എസ്.റാവു രാണ(ഗോവ), ശിവശങ്കരപ്പ എസ്. സഹകാർ(കർണാടക), അരുൺ കുമാർ ചൗധരി(ജമ്മു കശ്മീർ),

ഡോ.രവിദത്ത് ഗൊഡിയാൽ(ഉത്തരാഖണ്ഡ്), ഡോ.സി.വി.ശങ്കർ റെഡ്ഡി(ആന്ധ്ര), കർണാടക പിഎസ്സി അംഗം ഡോ. ബി.പ്രഭുദേവ്, കേരള പിഎസ്സി അംഗം ഡോ.ശ്രീകുമാർ എന്നിവർ പ്രസംഗിച്ചു.

ഡിജിറ്റൽ സർവകലാശാല വിസി ഡോ.സജി ഗോപിനാഥ്, ഡിൻ(ഡെവലപ്മെന്റ്) ആൻഡ് പ്രഫസർ ഡോ.എസ്.അഷറഫ് നാഷണൽ യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റി ഓഫ് അയർലൻഡിലെ സീനിയർ റിസർച്ച് ഡോ.എസ്.ആദർശ് എന്നിവർ വിവിധ സെഷനുകൾ നയിച്ചു.

# Perspectives on Employment Dynamics in Web3 by Dr. Asharaf S. in Mathrubhumi

Prof. Asharaf S. penned a write-up in Mathrubhumi examining employment dynamics within the Web3 ecosystem. The contribution outlines how developments in blockchain and artificial intelligence are reshaping employment structures, skill requirements, and professional pathways in the Web3 domain. It highlights the increasing relevance of multidisciplinary skill sets, continuous upskilling, and innovation-oriented roles in emerging digital ecosystems. The write-up serves as a knowledge resource for students, professionals, and academic institutions engaged in understanding technology-led workforce transformations.



## തൊഴിൽവഴികളിലെ അനന്തസാധ്യതകൾ

ബ്ലോക്ക് ചെയിൻ ഇന്ന് ഒരു താൽക്കാലിക ട്രെൻഡ് മാത്രമല്ല, കരിയർ കൂട്ടിടയാണ്



### ഡോ. എസ്. അഷരഫ്

ഇന്റർനെറ്റിന്റെ അഭ്യന്തരഭാഗമായി വിഖ്യാതമായ വെബ് 3, ബ്ലോക്ക് ചെയിൻ, ആർട്ടിഫിഷ്യൽ ഇന്റലിജൻസ് (എഐ) തുടങ്ങിയവയെ ഉൾക്കൊള്ളുന്ന ഒരു സാങ്കേതികവിദ്യകളുടെ സമാഹാരമാണ് വെബ് 3. ഇത് നമ്മുടെ ജീവിതത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന മാറ്റം വലിയതാണ്. വെബ് 3-യുടെ ഭാഗമായി നമ്മുടെ ജീവിതത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന മാറ്റം വലിയതാണ്. വെബ് 3-യുടെ ഭാഗമായി നമ്മുടെ ജീവിതത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന മാറ്റം വലിയതാണ്.

### ഇന്റർനെറ്റിന്റെ നവീകരണം

വെബ് 3 എന്നത് ബ്ലോക്ക് ചെയിൻ, ഐ.ടി.എസ്, ഓഗ്മെന്റഡ് റിയാലിറ്റി (എആർ), വെർച്വൽ റിയാലിറ്റി (വെആർ) തുടങ്ങിയവയെ ഉൾക്കൊള്ളുന്ന ഒരു സാങ്കേതികവിദ്യകളുടെ സമാഹാരമാണ്. വെബ് 3-യുടെ ഭാഗമായി നമ്മുടെ ജീവിതത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന മാറ്റം വലിയതാണ്. വെബ് 3-യുടെ ഭാഗമായി നമ്മുടെ ജീവിതത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന മാറ്റം വലിയതാണ്.



ബ്ലോക്ക് ചെയിൻ കോഴ്സ് പങ്കെടുക്കുന്നവർ

### അറിഞ്ഞിരിക്കേണ്ട കാര്യങ്ങൾ

ബ്ലോക്ക് ചെയിൻ പാതയിൽ അധികാരികളില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഇത് സെന്ററലൈസ്ഡ് സിസ്റ്റമുകളിൽ നിന്ന് വിട്ടുപോകുന്നു. ബ്ലോക്ക് ചെയിൻ സെന്ററലൈസ്ഡ് സിസ്റ്റമുകളിൽ നിന്ന് വിട്ടുപോകുന്നു. ബ്ലോക്ക് ചെയിൻ സെന്ററലൈസ്ഡ് സിസ്റ്റമുകളിൽ നിന്ന് വിട്ടുപോകുന്നു.

ബ്ലോക്ക് ചെയിൻ സെന്ററലൈസ്ഡ് സിസ്റ്റമുകളിൽ നിന്ന് വിട്ടുപോകുന്നു. ബ്ലോക്ക് ചെയിൻ സെന്ററലൈസ്ഡ് സിസ്റ്റമുകളിൽ നിന്ന് വിട്ടുപോകുന്നു.

### ബ്ലോക്ക് ചെയിൻ

ബ്ലോക്ക് ചെയിൻ സെന്ററലൈസ്ഡ് സിസ്റ്റമുകളിൽ നിന്ന് വിട്ടുപോകുന്നു. ബ്ലോക്ക് ചെയിൻ സെന്ററലൈസ്ഡ് സിസ്റ്റമുകളിൽ നിന്ന് വിട്ടുപോകുന്നു.

### പഠനം കേരളത്തിൽ

2017-ൽ സർക്കാർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് കോഴ്സ് ആരംഭിച്ചു. ഇത് സെന്ററലൈസ്ഡ് സിസ്റ്റമുകളിൽ നിന്ന് വിട്ടുപോകുന്നു. ബ്ലോക്ക് ചെയിൻ സെന്ററലൈസ്ഡ് സിസ്റ്റമുകളിൽ നിന്ന് വിട്ടുപോകുന്നു.

### ട്രെൻഡിംഗ് സാധ്യതകൾ

വെബ് 3 ഒരു താൽക്കാലിക ട്രെൻഡ് മാത്രമല്ല, കരിയർ കൂട്ടിടയാണ്. ഇത് സെന്ററലൈസ്ഡ് സിസ്റ്റമുകളിൽ നിന്ന് വിട്ടുപോകുന്നു. ബ്ലോക്ക് ചെയിൻ സെന്ററലൈസ്ഡ് സിസ്റ്റമുകളിൽ നിന്ന് വിട്ടുപോകുന്നു.

### കോഡിങ്ങ് മാത്രമല്ല

അനുഭവം, കോഡിങ്ങ് മാത്രമല്ല വെബ് 3 ലെ കരിയർ കൂട്ടിടം. ഇത് സെന്ററലൈസ്ഡ് സിസ്റ്റമുകളിൽ നിന്ന് വിട്ടുപോകുന്നു. ബ്ലോക്ക് ചെയിൻ സെന്ററലൈസ്ഡ് സിസ്റ്റമുകളിൽ നിന്ന് വിട്ടുപോകുന്നു.

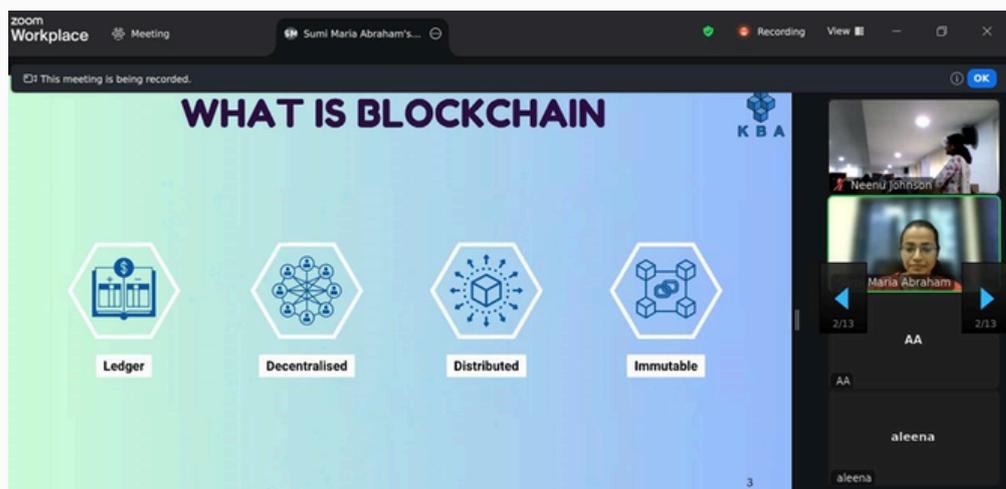
## Practical Blockchain Development Workshop at FISAT

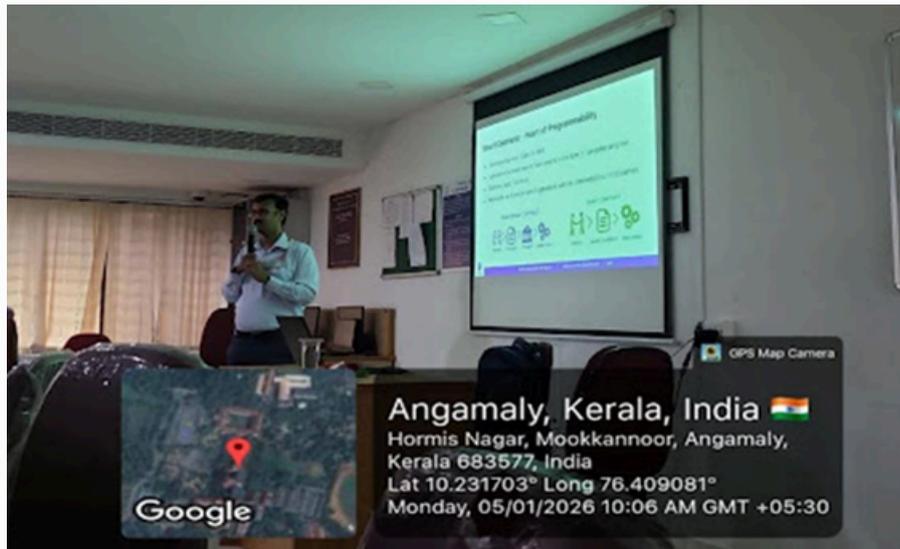
As part of a Blockchain Workshop conducted at the Federal Institute of Science and Technology (FISAT), Angamaly, participants engaged in a hands-on session on Decentralised Application (dApp) Development. The session emphasised practical blockchain development skills and deploying smart contracts across blockchain networks. This exclusive workshop was organised under the Kerala Blockchain Academy Innovation Club initiative, with a focus on extending learning beyond theoretical concepts.



The online session was held on December 04, 2025, followed by an offline session at the FISAT campus on January 05, 2026.

Sessions on “Blockchain and Ethereum Fundamentals” were delivered by the Kerala Blockchain Academy at FISAT in a blended format by Nikhil V Chandran and Sumi Maria Abraham. These sessions provided foundational knowledge of blockchain technology and the Ethereum ecosystem, complementing the hands-on development training.





## **Expert Talks on Artificial Intelligence in Governance and Research by Prof. Dr. Asharaf S.**

As part of the International Conclave on Generative AI & the Future of Education 3.0, organised by the Institute of Human Resources Development (IHRD), Prof. Dr. Asharaf S., Dean (Research and External Linkages) and Director of Kerala Blockchain Academy, was invited as an expert. He talked on “AI in Deepfakes and Digital Misinformation” on January 16, 2026 at 2:00 PM at Nishagandhi Auditorium, Thiruvananthapuram. The session examined the role of artificial intelligence in addressing deepfakes and digital misinformation, with a specific focus on judicial and oversight mechanisms, access to justice, ethical governance, transparency, and accountability.

In addition, Prof. Dr. Asharaf S. served as a delegate resource person for the session “Responsible AI for Scientific Research” under the programme ‘Integrating Artificial Intelligence in Science Research Tools and Techniques’, conducted as part of the PM-USHA Scheme at the UGC Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC), University of Kerala. The session focused on ethical, transparent, and accountable applications of artificial intelligence in scientific research, reinforcing Kerala Blockchain Academy’s contribution to responsible AI discourse across academic and research institutions.

## Gratitude Tree

Gratitude is not just a polite emotion or a positive attitude; it is a powerful, science-backed practice that reshapes the brain, body, and relationships.

Modern neuroscience and psychology show that gratitude literally rewires our brains. When we consciously acknowledge what we are thankful for, the brain activates areas linked to dopamine and serotonin, the same “feel-good” chemicals associated with happiness, motivation, and emotional balance. Over time, this trains the brain to notice abundance rather than absence.

### Neurological Impact

Practicing gratitude strengthens neural pathways related to optimism and resilience. The prefrontal cortex (responsible for decision-making and emotional regulation) becomes more active, helping us respond calmly instead of reacting impulsively. Gratitude also reduces activity in the amygdala, lowering stress and fear responses.

### Physical & Emotional Benefits

Research shows that grateful individuals experience:

- Lower stress hormones (cortisol)
- Better sleep quality
- Improved immunity
- Reduced symptoms of anxiety and depression

Gratitude shifts the nervous system from a state of survival to one of safety, allowing the body to heal and restore.

### Social & Relational Power

Gratitude fosters empathy, trust, and deeper connections. When we appreciate others, relationships deepen, conflicts reduce, and cooperation increases. It reminds us that we are interconnected, not isolated.



### A Daily Practice, Not a Grand Gesture

Gratitude doesn't require perfect circumstances. It thrives in small moments – a kind word, a warm cup of tea, a breath of calm, a lesson learned. The brain does not distinguish between “big” and “small” gratitude; it responds to intentional awareness.

### Motivational Reminder

You may not be able to control everything in your life, but you can always choose what you focus on. What you appreciate, appreciates.

Each moment of gratitude is an act of self-empowerment – gently telling your brain and heart: “I am safe, I am supported, and there is good here.” Gratitude doesn't change life overnight – it changes the way you walk through it, and that makes all the difference.



## A Day of Growth: SEC Leadership Training at Kappiness Café

As part of the Leadership Training Program, the Social Engagement Centre (SEC), Digital University Kerala, organized a visit to Kappiness Café, Thiruvananthapuram, on January 10, 2026 to expose students to mental health awareness, mindfulness, and inclusive leadership. Kappiness Café, a NADI Foundation initiative and India's first mental health café, provided a safe space for open conversations around emotional well-being. The visit began with a mindfulness meditation session led by Shaheena Sharafudeen, Consultant Psychologist, focusing on stress management and self-care. This was followed by an interaction with Shakhiya S Priyamvada, a transman, who shared lived experiences highlighting challenges faced by the transgender community, fostering empathy and understanding among participants. The visit offered meaningful learning beyond academics, reinforcing the importance of mental health, compassionate leadership, and social responsibility, and left students with valuable insights for personal and professional growth.



## Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Best Participating Institute Award

In recognition of its long-standing commitment to rural development and social responsibility, Digital University Kerala (DUK) has been honored with the Best Performing Participating Institute Award by the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) Regional Coordinating Institute, IISER Thiruvananthapuram.

This prestigious accolade serves as a testament to the five years of tireless dedication by the Social Empowerment Center (SEC), which has spearheaded DUK's sustained engagement in the UBA program. By bridging the gap between advanced academic research and grassroots community needs, DUK has consistently implemented impactful initiatives aimed at rural upliftment and technological integration. This award highlights the university's leadership in the UBA network and reaffirms its mission to use digital innovation as a catalyst for meaningful, large-scale social change in adopted villages and beyond.



# ഇത്തിരി നേരം , ഒത്തിരി ഓർമ്മ

## Little time, endless memories

ഇത്തിരി നേരം , ഒത്തിരി ഓർമ്മ (Little Time, Endless Memories) was organised by the Social Engagement Centre (SEC), Digital University of Kerala, on January 30, 2026 at the college front area as a student-centric social engagement initiative. Designed to provide students a relaxed space amidst academic pressures, the event fostered emotional expression, creativity, and peer bonding. The programme opened with a soulful rendition of Vande Mataram, followed by musical performances and an interactive game session that encouraged spontaneous participation and laughter. Students also shared personal reflections, creating a warm atmosphere of trust and connection. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation and positive feedback, successfully serving as a platform for relaxation and community building. This marks the first edition of SEC’s proposed monthly initiative aimed at promoting student well-being and social interaction on campus.



## Digital Access for Community Empowerment (DACE)

The five-day DACE training session concluded with an inspiring address by Dr. Saji Gopinath, Vice Chancellor of Digital University of Kerala, setting a clear direction for the successful completion of DACE 2026.

The DACE-II five-day training program for the 2026–27 batch was designed to inspire students to engage deeply with real-world social challenges and explore how digital technologies can drive meaningful change. The program featured a dynamic mix of expert-led sessions, hands-on workshops, and collaborative team activities.

Key focus areas included: Understanding Social Issues and Problem Identification; Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA); Social Science Research Methodology; Technology and Rural Development; Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship; Innovation for Social Good; and Data Analysis, Report Writing, and Documentation. These sessions were delivered by practitioners and academics with rich experience in community-based work, offering students grounded and practical perspectives.



Through interactive discussions, field-informed insights, and activity-driven learning, students gained a deeper understanding of the social realities around them and the critical role young innovators can play in addressing these issues using emerging digital technologies. The opportunity to learn directly from experts with hands-on community experience made the learning process especially impactful.

Over the course of five days, the program successfully sparked curiosity, critical thinking, and a strong sense of social responsibility among students—encouraging them to identify socially relevant problems and envision innovative, tech-enabled solutions for social good.



The DACE program's intensive training series successfully equipped students with a comprehensive toolkit for social impact, beginning with a deep dive into root-cause identification and community needs led by Dr. MJ Joseph and Mr. Kaveeshar Krishnan. This foundational work was expanded through Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) sessions with expert Biju Simon, which shifted the focus to community-led development through social mapping, alongside a workshop on social science research methods by Mr. Ashik Shaji that provided the analytical rigor needed for effective policy intervention. The curriculum further integrated technology and rural development through strategic insights from Dr. Malu G and Dr. Athira Kakkara, while a powerhouse trio of innovation experts, Dr. Elizabeth Sherly, Dyana B Rose, and Shruthy Thankappan, inspired students to view social challenges through an entrepreneurial lens. By reviewing the program's four-year legacy of past projects with the SEC team Dr. KG Satheesh Kumar, Prof. Pradeep Kumar K , Mrs. Arya R Chandra and Ms. Fousiya CK and mastering the art of professional report writing and data analysis under the guidance of Dr. Gopakumar V and Dr. Satheesh Kumar, students are now fully prepared to translate fieldwork into tech-enabled, sustainable solutions that amplify the community's voice for stakeholders and policymakers alike.



## Training on Digital Tools & Productivity

A six-day training programme on Digital Tools & Productivity commenced on January 27, 2026 for MBA and BBA students of KITTS. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Aswin V. S., Chair, CEECS.

Dr. Sini V. Pillai, Assistant Professor, SODIHLA, DUK; Dr. Kannan V. Unnithan, Assistant Professor, Department of Management, KITTS; and Mr. Anish Vijay S., Relationship Manager, DUK, were present at the inauguration.

The first day's sessions were handled by Dr. Gopakumar V, Head, Knowledge Centre, Digital University Kerala.



## Research Talk by Prof. Pankaz K. Sharma, Cotton University

The Research Office at Digital University Kerala organized a research talk by Prof. Pankaz K. Sharma, Professor, Cotton University on January 21, 2026 at 4:00 PM.

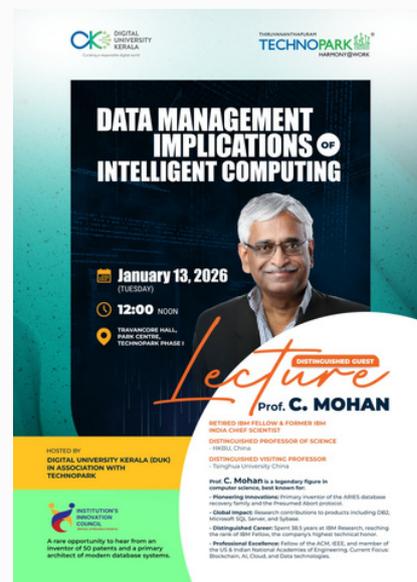
The title of the talk was “Noncovalent Interactions and Some Simple Chemical Systems: Sophisticated Exuberance on the Juxtaposition by the Haemoglobin in the Atmosphere”. The talk focused on noncovalent interactions in chemical systems and aimed to enrich students’ and faculty members’ understanding of fundamental chemical phenomena.

## Expert Talk by Prof. C. Mohan, Member of the BoG

The Research Office at Digital University Kerala hosted a Distinguished Expert Talk by Prof. C. Mohan, Retired IBM Fellow & Former IBM India Chief Scientist, and Member of the BoG – DUK, on January 13, 2026 at 12:00 Noon at Travancore Hall, Technopark Phase I.

The title of the talk was “Data Management Implications of Intelligent Computing”.

The session, organized in collaboration with Technopark, highlighted the importance of effective data management for AI and intelligent systems, emphasizing practices that ensure reliability, security, and trustworthiness in modern computing.



## Expert Talk by Dr. Jobichen Chacko, University of Queensland

The Research Office at Digital University Kerala invited faculty members and students to a research talk by Dr. Jobichen Chacko, Senior Researcher, University of Queensland, held on January 07, 2026 at 11:00 AM.

The title of the topic was X-rays, Electrons, and Algorithms: Three Roads to the Heart of Proteins. Dr. Chacko, a structural biologist with extensive expertise in protein structural biology, protein-ligand interactions, proteases, and drug discovery, shared insights into protein structure determination using X-ray crystallography and Cryo-Electron Microscopy. His research spans immunity, host-pathogen interactions, protein secretion systems, and snake venom toxins.

The talk provided an opportunity for students and researchers to deepen their understanding of advanced protein analysis techniques and contemporary trends in structural biology.

## Kerala Regional AI Impact Conference 2026

Dr. Preetam Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Digital University Kerala, presented on the ‘Emergence of cybersecurity in AI, and overview of research/development impact of Digital University, Kerala’. He explained the multifaceted use of AI in cybersecurity and the role of Digital University Kerala in advancing that.

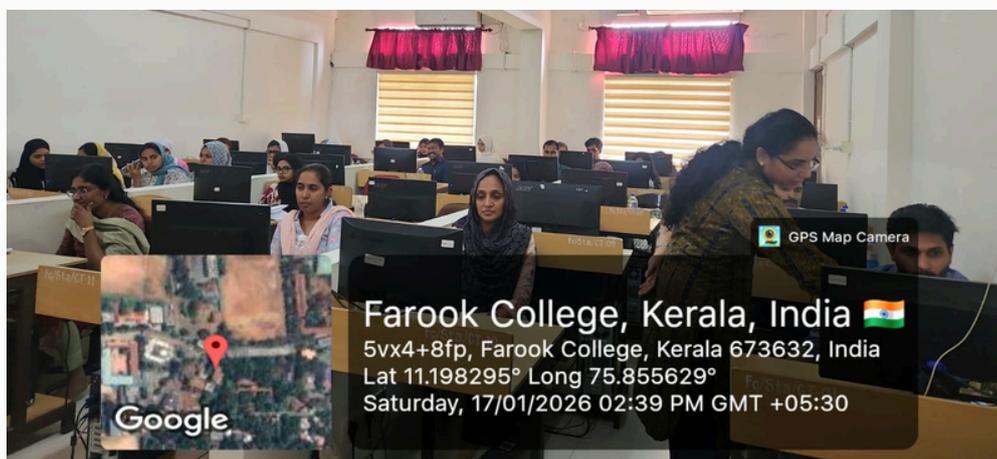


## Hands-on Workshop on AI & ML for Chemoinformatics (January 16–17)

Dr. Sherin D R served as the Resource Person for a two-day hands-on workshop titled “AI & ML for Chemoinformatics: From Theory to Practice”, conducted on January 16–17, 2026 at Farook College, Calicut, for MSc and PhD students and faculty members in Chemical Sciences.

The workshop introduced participants to the fundamental concepts of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning and their applications in chemoinformatics, emphasizing the integration of theoretical foundations with practical implementation through interactive lectures and hands-on sessions.





## Two-Day Machine Learning Workshop held on January 22–23, 2026

Dr. Aswin V. S., Assistant Professor, School of Digital Sciences, served as a resource person for the Two-Day Machine Learning Workshop on Regression, Classification, and Clustering Algorithms and Applications, held on January 22–23, 2026 at St. John’s College, Anchal, Kerala. The workshop, organized by the Department of Mathematics and sponsored by the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE), successfully combined conceptual discussions with hands-on sessions and real-world case studies. Dr. Aswin highlighted the importance of building strong analytical foundations in machine learning and appreciated the active engagement of participants, noting that the program effectively enabled learners to translate data into actionable insights for informed decision-making.



## Expert Panelist at NIRT Silver Jubilee Celebrations

Dr. Manoj Kumar T. K., Professor, School of Digital Sciences, Digital University Kerala, was invited as an Expert Panelist in the panel discussion on “Empowering the Rubber Industry: Building Future-Ready Skills, Embracing Technology, and Sustainable Growth” during the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the National Institute for Rubber Training, held at the Rubber Research Institute of India, on January 09, 2026.



## RDACM 2026 Conference

Faculty members from the School of Digital Sciences, Digital University Kerala (DUK), delivered invited talks at the national conference on Recent Developments in Applied & Computational Mathematics (RDACM), organized by the Department of Mathematics, Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), Thiruvananthapuram, from January 15 to 17, 2026.

On January 15, 2026, Dr. T. K. Manoj Kumar presented a talk titled “Large Language Models in Space Science: Opportunities, Adaptation, and Challenges”, highlighting the emerging role of AI-driven language models in space science research and applications. On the same day, Dr. K. Satheesh Kumar delivered a lecture on “Time Series Induced Network Forecasting: A Structural Alternative to Machine Learning Models”, focusing on innovative network-based approaches for forecasting complex systems.

Continuing the academic engagement, Dr. Sishu Shankar Muni presented his research on January 16, 2026 with a talk titled “Resonant Torus Doubling Bifurcation in Three-Dimensional Maps”, contributing to advanced discussions in nonlinear dynamics and computational mathematics.

The participation of DUK faculty in RDACM 2026 reflected the university’s growing academic presence and its interdisciplinary contributions at the interface of applied mathematics, computational methods, and emerging digital technologies.



## Articles/ Book Chapter/ Conference Proceedings

Mary, P., & Mujeeb, A. (2025). Machine learning ensemble models for predicting the antibacterial efficacy of gold nanoparticles. *Materials Research Express*, 12, 115011. <https://doi.org/10.1088/2053-1591/ae1dce>

Sooraj Viswam, A. K., & Mujeeb, A. (2025). Automated identification and quantification of inhomogeneous spatial dynamics in laser speckle imaging via specular artifact removal and pixel selection. *Journal of Signal, Image and Video Processing*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11760-025-04>

Janavalsa, A. N., & Shamjid, P. (2026). Multi-year mangrove change detection using optical-SAR fusion in the Sundarbans. In *Proceedings of the 38th Kerala Science Congress* (p. 608). St. Albert's College (Autonomous), Ernakulam.

Haripriya, K. R., & Shamjid, P. (2026). Mapping paddy growing fields across Kerala using multi-temporal SAR and optical imagery. In *Proceedings of the 38th Kerala Science Congress* (p. 44). St. Albert's College (Autonomous), Ernakulam.

Sadhvi, K., Lengaigne, M., Suresh, I., Dutheil, C., & Vialard, J. (2026). Stratification and wind changes shape future Indian Ocean chlorophyll. *Environmental Research Communications*, 8(1), 011004. <https://doi.org/10.1088/2515-7620/ae3462>

Muraleedharan, V., Rajan, S. C., N P, S., Kumar V, S., & Jaishanker, R. (2026). A comprehensive tree leaf image dataset for morphometric studies. *Environmental Research Communications*, 8(1), 014501 <https://doi.org/10.1088/2515-7620/ae3463>

Rani, S. S. R., & Datta, S. (2026). Spectral line enhancement for noise-resilient passive sonar detection using dual-attention-guided wavelet domain FISTA-Net. *IEEE Sensors Letters*, 10(2), 1-4. [10.1109/LSENS.2026.3654985](https://doi.org/10.1109/LSENS.2026.3654985)



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