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Chief Minister Launched ‘Nammude Keralam’ Unified Service Delivery Platform

DIGITAL UNIVERSITY KERALA

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Fifth Foundation Day celebrated

The 5th Foundation Day of Digital University Kerala marks an important milestone in the university’s journey of advancing digital education, research, and innovation ....

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FEBRUARY 2026

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

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Chief Minister Launched 'Nammude Keralam' Unified Service Delivery Platform Developed by Kerala Blockchain Academy

In a prestigious milestone for digital governance in the state, the "Nammude Keralam" Mobile Application and Web Portal, developed by Kerala Blockchain Academy for the Kerala State IT Mission, was officially launched on February 24, 2026 by Hon. Chief Minister, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan at the Nishagandhi Auditorium. Shri Seeram Sambasiva Rao IAS and Shri Sandeep Kumar IAS addressed the gathering. Dr. Saji Gopinath, Hon. Vice Chancellor, Digital University Kerala represented the university.

Dr. Asharaf S., Dean (Development & Research) and Director KBA led the Nammude Keralam project. The Unified Digital Service Platform (USDP) is designed to streamline citizen access to government services through a single mobile application and web portal. Developed as a citizen-centric digital platform, the application integrates more than 100 government services from various departments, enabling citizens to conveniently access essential services without visiting multiple government offices.

The platform offers several key features, including unified service access, allowing users to access services from multiple departments in one place, including bill payments and document access through DigiLocker integration. Citizens can also track the status of their applications in real time, ensuring transparency. The application further provides a grievance redressal and support module, including SOS emergency services, as well as a “Meet an Official” feature that facilitates direct communication between citizens and government authorities.

The successful development of this comprehensive digital platform brought accolades to Kerala Blockchain Academy, the CoE at Digital University Kerala. Dr. Asharaf S, who led the project, along with the dedicated development team, received mementos, certificates, and appreciation in recognition of their contributions to this landmark initiative.

The dedicated team included Sakeer M A, Aneesh R S, Mobin Mohanan, Vineesh T K, Vishva Prasad P, Sachin V S, Ullas Kumar G, Arundhati K M, Vidya Chandran G, Dr. Arya V N, Lekshmi P G, Soya Chandra C S, Pooja P B, Manu Padmanabhan, Shamnad Meerasahib, and Subina C.

The launch of “Nammude Keralam” represents a major milestone for Kerala Blockchain Academy, highlighting its expertise in developing large-scale digital solutions that strengthen transparency, efficiency, and citizen-centric governance.

5th Foundation Day and Anniversary Celebrations of Digital University Kerala

The 5th Foundation Day of Digital University Kerala marks an important milestone in the university's journey of advancing digital education, research, and innovation. Celebrating five years of academic excellence and technological progress, this occasion provides an opportunity to reflect on the university's achievements in shaping a responsible digital future. More than a ceremonial event, the Foundation Day serves as a platform to inspire new visions, strengthen partnerships, and reaffirm the university's role in driving digital transformation and innovation in Kerala and beyond.

The celebrations commenced on February 20, 2026 with a solemn and symbolic lighting the lamp ceremony led by the chief guest, Dr. Swami Manohar, Principal Research Scientist at Microsoft and founder of the Simputer initiative, followed by Hon. Vice Chancellor Prof. Saji Gopinath and other dignitaries. This ceremonial beginning set a reflective and inspiring tone for the day's proceedings.

The inaugural session featured an intellectually stimulating Foundation Day Lecture by Dr. Swami Manohar, chaired by Prof. Vijay Chandru, Chairman of the University. The lecture highlighted the transformative role of digital technologies and innovation in shaping the future, inspiring the audience with insights into emerging technological paradigms. The occasion also marked the launch of the Climate Action Unit, underscoring the university's commitment to sustainability and responsible digital development.

In the afternoon, the focus shifted to evolving workplace dynamics through a thought-provoking panel discussion on “The Future of Work – Empathetic Leadership or AI-Driven Leadership.” The session brought together a distinguished panel comprising Smt. Meera K, IAS, IG Registration & Joint Land Revenue Commissioner; Dr. Muthumani S, Assistant Professor, CUSAT; Ms. Deepa Sarojammal, Executive Chairperson, Reflections Info Systems; Ms. Jebi N, Associate Director, EY GDS; Prof. Elizabeth Sherly; and Prof. Saji Gopinath. Moderated by Mr. Santhosh Kurup, the discussion explored how leadership is evolving in an increasingly AI-driven world, emphasizing the balance between technological advancement and human empathy.

Simultaneously, the university engaged young learners through a parallel workshop titled “AI for a Safe and Responsible Future,” specially designed for high school students. The workshop introduced participants to the ethical considerations and practical applications of artificial intelligence, fostering awareness and responsible innovation among the next generation.

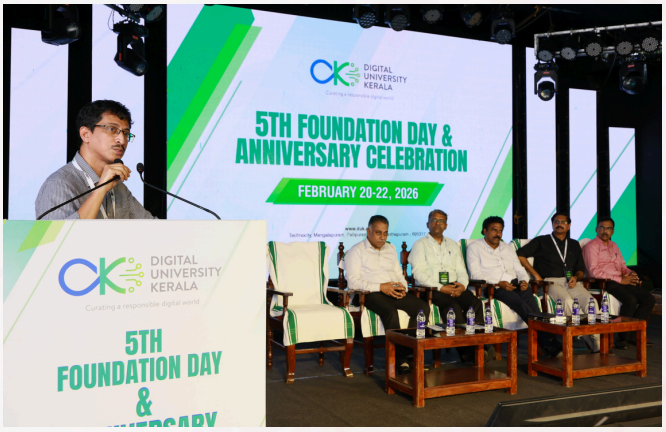
The evening sessions infused energy and enthusiasm into the celebrations. Participants actively engaged in the AI Quiz, “Brain Wave: AI Meets Human Intelligence,” which tested their knowledge, analytical skills, and creativity in the field of artificial intelligence. The day concluded on a vibrant cultural note with a music concert by the Mangosteen Club, bringing together students, faculty, and guests in a lively celebration of art and community.

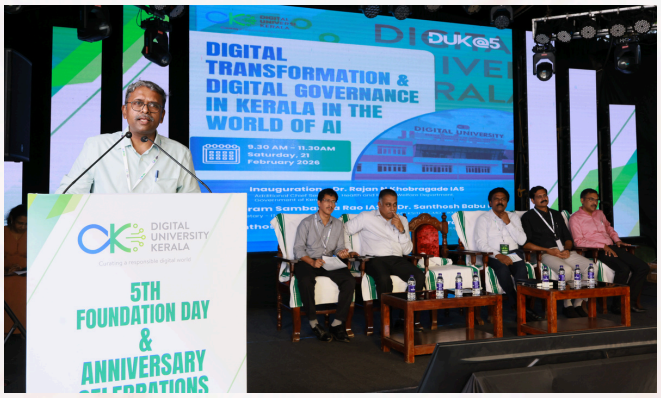
The Second Day Events

The second day was filled with engaging discussions that explored the impact of artificial intelligence on governance, industry, and human resources. The morning session began with a panel discussion on “Digital Transformation and Digital Governance in Kerala in the World of AI.” The session was inaugurated by Dr. Rajan N. Khobragade IAS, Additional Chief Secretary of the Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Kerala. Distinguished speakers, including Mr Seeram Sambasiva Rao, special secretary, IT and OSD to CM, Dr. Santhosh Babu IAS, MD KSITL & CMD IKM and Mr Santhosh Kumar S, DGF, Kerala, shared their perspectives on how AI-driven technologies are transforming governance and public services. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Asharaf S. Dean (Research) of the university. The session also included a book release and the launch of a 24-hour Hackathon, encouraging innovation and collaboration among students and researchers.

In the afternoon, industry leaders gathered for another insightful panel discussion titled “Industry Transformation in the World of AI.” The session featured experts such as Praveen Sasidharan, Chief Insurance officer, Allianz Services India; Jijimon Chandran, Founder and CEO of Acsia Technologies;

Sree Kumar I from Tata Elxsi, Shilpa Menon from UST; and Hariprasad C from Netrasemi.





The discussion was moderated by Dr. Alex James, Director, IIITM-K (Moderator) and faculty at the university. This was followed by an interactive session on “Future of HR in the Era of AI,” where HR leaders including Mr Prakash P. Nair, VP & Global Head SunTech Business solutions, Mr. Sony George, Managing Director, Skill up Global, Ms Annie Mary Rodriguez, HR head, Armada and Mr Unnikrishnan Nair, Senior Manager, people & culture, talent acquisition, Allianz Technology discussed the evolving workplace and the changing expectations of talent management in an AI-driven environment. The session was moderated by Prof. Jaishankar R. Nair, Dean (Academics) of the university.

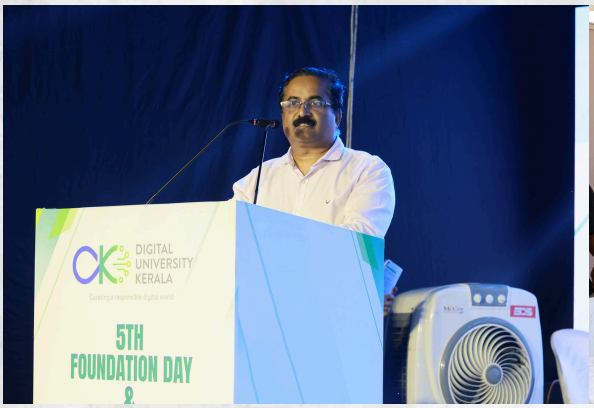
The day concluded with vibrant cultural performances by students, faculty, and staff, creating a lively atmosphere and strengthening the sense of community within the university.

The Third Day Events and Valedictory Session

The final day of the celebrations focused on creativity, research, and reflection on the university's journey. The morning began with a Workshop on AI Filmmaking and an AI Film Festival, led by Mr. Varun Ramesh, founder of the AI Storytelling Institute. Participants explored how artificial intelligence can be used in storytelling, filmmaking, and digital media production, demonstrating the growing intersection between technology and creative arts.

In the afternoon, an insightful session on "Translational Research for the World of AI: Research on AI and Emerging Technologies" brought together prominent academics and research leaders. The session featured Prof.Sabu Thomas, former Vice-Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi University and Chairman of TrEST Research Park, along with Prof. Jagathyraj V. P., Hon Vice-Chancellor, SGOU and Prof. Rajasree M. S, CEO TrEST Research Park. The discussion emphasized the importance of translating academic research into practical technological solutions that benefit society. The session was moderated by Prof.Manoj Kumar, Dean (HR) of the university.

The celebrations concluded with the Valedictory Session, where the achievements of the three-day event were reviewed. The session also included the report of the hackathon, prize distribution, and the release of a compendium documenting the first five years of the university's journey. The event ended with a vote of thanks by Prof. Ajith Kumar R., marking a fitting conclusion to three days of intellectual engagement, creativity, and celebration.


DIGITAL UNIVERSITY KERALA
5TH FOUNDATION DAY


FEBRUARY 20-22, 2026


DIGITAL UNIVERSITY KERALA


5TH FOUNDATION DAY &
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
FEBRUARY 20-22, 2026












DIGITAL UNIVERSITY KERALA
5TH FOUNDATION DAY &
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

CDIPD Officially Rolls Out NHM and AYUSH Health Services through Loka Keralam Online Portal for Non-Resident Keralites Worldwide

The Honourable Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan, officially unveiled NHM and AYUSH health services for the global Malayali community through Loka Keralam Online, a dedicated digital platform for Non-Resident Keralites (NRKs), during the 5th Loka Kerala Sabha held on January 30, 2026 at the Kerala Niyamasabha Mandiram, Thiruvananthapuram. The inauguration was graced by Hon'ble Ministers, the Hon'ble Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, senior government officials, and members of the Loka Kerala Sabha, underscoring the significance of the initiative.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister officially launches the NHM and AYUSH services on the Loka Keralam Online at the 5th Loka Kerala Sabha.

This landmark initiative represents a pivotal step in Kerala's digital outreach to Malayalis across the world, strengthening access to essential health services while bridging geographical boundaries. The initiative reinforces the State's commitment to fostering inclusivity, connectivity, and well-being within Kerala's global diaspora through technology-driven solutions. This innovative digital platform has been conceptualised, developed, and implemented by the Centre for Digital Innovations and Product Development (CDIPD), A Centre of Excellence under Digital University Kerala. The function was attended by Sri.Arun Kumar Balakrishnan, Senior Project Manager, CDIPD, and team members.

Designed as a comprehensive digital platform, Loka Keralam Online serves as a unified address for the global Malayali community spread across continents, enabling them to stay closely connected to the pulse of their homeland. Originally envisioned and introduced during earlier editions of the Loka Kerala Sabha, the portal now enters its next phase of evolution, strengthened with enhanced features and expanded service offerings aligned with the needs of a rapidly

changing global landscape. Beyond facilitating the exchange of employment opportunities, culture, and ideas, the platform stands as a protective digital framework, placing strong emphasis on the health, well-being, and social security of expatriate Malayalis.

CDIPD team members at the 5th Loka Kerala Sabha, marking the official launch of NHM and AYUSH services on Loka Keralam Online

Members and participants of the Loka Kerala Sabha at its 5th edition during the official launch of NHM and AYUSH services on Loka Keralam Online, held at the Kerala Niyamasabha Mandiram, Thiruvananthapuram.

In collaboration with the National Health Mission (NHM) and the AYUSH Mission, Loka Keralam Online offers free mental health consultations, as well as Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic consultations, providing timely and compassionate support to expatriates navigating the complexities of life abroad. With upgraded features and user-centric services, registration on the Loka Keralam Online portal enables every Malayali to become part of an inclusive network of safety, support, and engagement, irrespective of geographical boundaries.

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, Loka Keralam Online marks a new chapter where technology and empathy converge, reaffirming Kerala's commitment to keeping its global diaspora closely connected to their cultural and emotional roots through a single, unified digital platform for Malayalis worldwide.

Digital University Kerala, Department of Culture Sign MoU to Digitally Showcase State's Living Heritage

Digital University Kerala, in collaboration with the Department of Culture, is developing interactive portals aimed at bringing Kerala's unique art forms under a single umbrella and showcasing them to global audiences.

The agreement was signed in the presence of the Honorable Minister for Cultural Affairs, Shri Saji Cherian, and the Honorable Vice Chancellor of Digital University Kerala, Prof. Saji Gopinath. The MoU was formally executed by Dr. Divya S. Iyer, Director of Culture, and Prof. A. Mujeeb, Registrar of Digital University Kerala.

Dr. Malu G., Head of the Centre for Digital Transformation in Culture (CDTC) and Assistant Professor at the School of Computer Science and Engineering; Prof. Elizabeth Shirley, Emeritus Professor; Shri Manu C. Pulikkan, Personal Secretary to the Minister; Smt. Rajani M., Joint Secretary, Department of Culture; and Smt. Sushama Bhai S., Administrative Officer of the Directorate of Culture were also present on the occasion.

The collaboration will be implemented through the Centre for Digital Transformation in Culture (CDTC) at Digital University Kerala. The initiative focuses on building digital infrastructure for the documentation, research, and dissemination of Kerala's cultural heritage while creating opportunities for artists and scholars.

At the heart of the project is a digital initiative titled 'Kerala's Living Heritage: A Digital Journey', which integrates advanced technologies with traditional cultural knowledge. The platform brings together a wide spectrum of cultural elements, including performing arts, folklore, tribal traditions, landscapes associated with artistic communities, costumes, musical instruments, and local ecological contexts.

To enrich the database, the initiative encourages public participation through a contribution portal where individuals can submit photographs and videos from private collections. These contributions will undergo expert verification to ensure accuracy and authenticity. Cultural academies, institutions under the Department of Culture, artists, and cultural practitioners will also collaborate in building this repository. The project also represents a strong interdisciplinary research effort. The centre operates under the guidance of an advisory body chaired by K. Jayakumar IAS and supported by experts from cultural, academic, and technological domains.

Survey of India and Digital University Kerala signed MoU

Survey of India and Digital University Kerala signed MoU on February 03, 2026, for academic and research collaboration in the field of Geo-informatics /AI & ML for automated Feature Extraction/Geodesy (Physical, Marine, Satellite), Astronomy, and other engineering disciplines.

The major objectives of the collaboration are;
(i) Promoting interaction in mutually beneficial R&D areas
(ii) Providing academic support to SoI Officers in the field of emerging technologies
(iii) Facilitating academically eligible Officers from SoI to pursue higher degrees at Digital University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.

The function was attended by Prof. Saji Gopinath, Vice Chancellor, Prof.A Mujeeb, Registrar, Prof. Manoj Kumar T.K., Dean HR, Prof. R. Jaishanker, Dean (Academics), Dr. Jose Joseph, Chair Research Office, Dr. Radhakrishnan T., Chair, School of Digital Sciences & Coordinator Centre for Geospatial Analytics, Avinash Mishra, Superintending Surveyor, Wing-in-Charge, Kerala & Lakshadweep Wing, R.Ratheesh, Deputy Superintending Engineer, Ambi T.S., Office Surveyor and Arun Kumar T.S., Office Surveyor.

This MoU provides a formal basis for initiating interaction as per the expertise and infrastructure available with the parties and provides an institutional framework for an effective synergy in knowledge and/or resource-sharing environment.

Kerala Launches IRIA Digital Ecosystem: Blending Ayurvedic Tradition with Advanced Digital Technologies

Application for The Digital Ecosystem of the International Research Institute of Ayurveda (IRIA), developed by the Centre for Digital Transformation and Innovation (CDTI), Digital University Kerala (DUK), was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, on February 25, 2026 at the IRIA campus in Kalyad.

Designed and implemented by CDTI, Digital University Kerala, the platform serves as a digital knowledge infrastructure for Ayurveda research and collaboration. By integrating advanced digital tools, the system enables scholars, doctors, and

researchers to access, explore, and contribute to a growing repository of Ayurvedic knowledge while ensuring that centuries-old wisdom is preserved and made accessible in the digital era.

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As part of the lead-up to the inauguration, a pre-inaugural Ayurveda conference titled “Expanding the Frontiers: Mainstreaming Ayurveda in Cancer Care” was held in Kannur on February 20, 2026 which was technically supported by the Centre.

Key Features of the System:
Meta Search Engine for Medicinal Plants – Enables fast and unified search across multiple repositories containing information on medicinal plants and Ayurvedic resources.

Palm Leaf Manuscript Viewer – A specialized digital interface for accessing and exploring digitized palm-leaf manuscripts, supporting preservation and scholarly research on traditional Ayurvedic texts.

Idea Hub for Doctors and Researchers – A collaborative platform that enables doctors, researchers, and scholars to share innovative ideas, research concepts, and knowledge related to Ayurveda and healthcare.

Launch of FORESIGHT Portal for Kerala Forest Department

The FORESIGHT (Forest Satellite Imagery and Geographic Hotspot Tracking) Portal, developed by the Centre for Geospatial Analytics (School of Digital Sciences, DUK) for the Kerala Forest Department (KFD), was formally launched on February 26, 2026 by the Hon'ble Minister for Forest and Wildlife, Government of Kerala, Shri A. K. Saseendran. On the occasion, Dr. Radhakrishnan, Chair and Coordinator of the Centre for Geospatial Analytics, received a memento from the Hon'ble Minister in recognition of the initiative.

He expressed sincere gratitude to Shri Rajesh Ravindran, IFS, PCCF & Head of Forest Force (HoFF); Dr. P. Pugazhendi, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Finance, Budget & Audit); and Sri Santhosh Kumar, DCF (IT) for facilitating the brainstorming sessions and for their continuous encouragement and guidance in shaping this solution.

The team also expressed heartfelt thanks to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, the Registrar, faculty colleagues, the Geospatial team, and the Administration, Systems & Network teams of DUK for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout this initiative.

CAN Lab Secures ICMR Funding for Medical Device development

Supporting medical technology research at DUK, CAN Lab has secured Rs. 22 lakh in ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) funding for the further development and testing of a specialized catheterization assist device designed to enhance patient safety.

Valedictory function and Certificate Distribution to students of KITTS who have completed course on 'Productivity and Digital Tools'

A 36-hour training programme on "Productivity and Digital Tools" was successfully conducted by Digital University Kerala (DUK) for 17 students of the Kerala Institute of Tourism and Travel Studies (KITTS).

The valedictory function and certificate distribution ceremony was held on February 17, 2026 at Digital University Kerala. Dr. A. Mujeeb, Registrar, Digital University Kerala, distributed certificates to the students and addressed the gathering, highlighting the importance of digital productivity skills in the modern workplace.

The programme included a welcome address by Dr. Aswin V. S., Chair, CEECS, a keynote address by Dr. Harikrishnan P. K., KITTS, and felicitations by Ms. Anjali Satheesh (KITTS) and Dr. Sini V. Pillai (DUK). The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Gopakumar, Head, Knowledge Centre, DUK.

The event was attended by faculty members and officials from DUK and KITTS, including Mr. Anish Vijay S., Relationship Manager.

Pre-Summit of India AI Impact Summit 2026

Digital University Kerala successfully organized a Pre-Summit event Democratizing AI Resources: Bridging Access, Skills, and Innovation in the context of the India AI Impact Summit 2026 on February 04, 2026 at the Gallery Hall, Digital University Kerala.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Malu G., Assistant Professor, Digital University Kerala, who also served as the Coordinator of the event. The presidential address was delivered by Prof. Saji Gopinath, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Digital University Kerala, who emphasized the transformative potential of AI in higher education and research. He highlighted the need for inclusive AI literacy, ethical frameworks in AI adoption, and the role of universities in equipping students with future-ready skills, and also elaborated on how collaborative efforts between academia, industry, and government can accelerate AI-driven innovation while ensuring equitable access to technology across India.

The dignitaries and invited speakers were formally addressed by Jaishankar R. Nair, Dean (Academics). Prof. Asharaf S., Dean (Research and External Linkages), set the context for the event and introduced the keynote speaker. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Sreekumar K. P., Chairman, Synbrains, who spoke on "Democratizing AI: Challenges and Opportunities for India", emphasizing affordable AI infrastructure and open ecosystems.

The technical sessions featured expert talks by Dr. Divya S. Vidhyadharan (Litmus7 Systems Consulting), introduced by Prof. Preetam Mukherjee, and Dr. Anjana P. Das (Tata Elxsi), introduced by Prof. K. G. Satheesh Kumar, Distinguished Visiting Professor. The sessions focused on AI skill development and edge-driven innovation for decentralized, low-cost AI solutions.

The event witnessed active participation from students, faculty members, and representatives of multiple institutions, followed by an engaging interactive discussion. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Shanujas V., Assistant Professor, who also served as the Co-Coordinator of the event. The Pre-Summit event successfully strengthened industry–academia interaction and contributed to building awareness on AI-driven innovation aligned with the national vision of Viksit Bharat.

One to one student mentoring session by PMI Kerala chapter members

The PMI Students' Club at DUK successfully organized a One-to-One Mentoring Session, providing students with a valuable platform to interact with experienced professionals and gain insights into career development and professional growth.

The session began with a welcome address by Shri Pradeep Kumar K., Faculty, SoDiHlA, who highlighted the importance of mentorship in helping students bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world professional expectations.

An insightful introduction to mentoring was delivered by Akhila Gowri Shankar, who spoke about the significance of mentorship in shaping careers and encouraged students to take proactive steps toward their professional development.

The event was further enriched by the presence of several distinguished mentors who generously shared their time and expertise with the students. The mentors included:

- Sqdn Ldr Archana K A
- Joji John
- Jyotis S V
- Manoj Sekharan
- Poornima Menon
- Ria Rachel Thomas
- Sooraj H
- Visakh Soman

During the breakout mentoring sessions, students had the opportunity to engage in meaningful one-to-one discussions with the mentors. The mentors shared valuable guidance on topics such as preparing for interviews, exploring job opportunities, developing professional skills, and building confidence in career decision-making.

The interactive nature of the session allowed students to ask questions, clarify their doubts, and receive practical advice based on real-world experiences. The mentors' encouragement and insights inspired students to approach their career paths with greater clarity and confidence.

The event was successfully organized and managed by the PMI Student Leaders at DUK, with special acknowledgement to John Samuel for his efforts in coordinating and supporting the initiative. Overall, the One-to-One Mentoring Session proved to be a highly insightful and motivating experience, reinforcing the importance of mentorship in guiding students toward professional success.

The PMI Students' Club at DUK looks forward to organizing more such initiatives that create meaningful learning opportunities and foster professional development among students.

Seminar on IoT Security and SOC at Jyothi Engineering College, Thrissur

As part of the MoU collaboration with the Department of Cyber Security at Jyothi Engineering College, Thrissur, the KSAAC organized seminars focusing on emerging domains in cybersecurity.

On February 06, 2026, an expert talk on “IoT Security” was delivered by Ms Leeba Merin Sam, Cyber Security Engineer. The session highlighted key security challenges in IoT ecosystems, including device vulnerabilities, network-level threats, firmware risks, and best practices for securing connected environments.

Following this, on February 10, 2026 a webinar on “Essentials of SOC” was conducted by Ms. Sruthi Krishna G, Cyber Security Research Associate. The session provided a comprehensive understanding of Security Operations Center (SOC) architecture, roles and responsibilities, threat monitoring, incident detection, and response workflows.

Industrial Visit from Rajadhani Institute of Engineering and Technology

The S6 BTech Cyber Security students of Rajadhani Institute of Engineering and Technology visited Digital University Kerala on February 18, 2026 from 10.00 AM to 1.00 PM, as part of their Industrial Visit programme.

The session was inaugurated by Prof. Meraj Uddin and Dr. KG Satheesh Kumar, who emphasized the importance of developing industry-oriented cybersecurity skills and gaining practical exposure to real-world security challenges.

The training programme was coordinated by Mrs. Sruthi Krishna G, and the sessions were conducted by Ms. Leeba Merin Sam, Ms. Sruthi Krishna G, Mr. Aswanth K Das, and Ms. Priya from the KSAAC team.

The programme featured hands-on demonstrations and real-time, scenario-based training on topics such as Ethical Hacking tools, Security Operations Center operations, Threat Intelligence, and live Web Application Auditing. The interactive sessions provided students with valuable insights into real-world cybersecurity practices and the evolving threat landscape.

National Educational Expo

The National Education Expo, organized by the Higher Education Council, was held from February 09-11, 2026 at Government College for Women, Thycaud.

Digital University Kerala (DUK) participated in the expo with an exclusive stall showcasing the university's academic programmes, research initiatives, and technological innovations. The stall received significant attention from visitors, including students and educators.

DUK was honoured with the Best Stall Award in the University Category in recognition of its informative and engaging presentation.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
& THE KERALA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL

NATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE & KERALA HIGHER EDUCATION EXPO 2026

RESEARCH TO IMPACT: INNOVATION AND TRANSLATION FOR SOCIETAL ADVANCEMENT

Certificate of Excellence

This is to certify that Digital University of Kerala (institution / Organisation) has been awarded the Best Exhibition Stall Award in the Category (University / Engineering College / Arts & Science College) at the National Research Conference and Kerala Higher Education Expo 2026, organised by the Department of Higher Education, Government of Kerala and the Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) and held at Government College for Women Thiruvananthapuram, during 09th-11th February 2026. The award is conferred in recognition of the institution's outstanding presentation, innovation, academic relevance, and effective dissemination of best practices showcased through the exhibition stall.

11th February 2026
Thiruvananthapuram

Vice Chairman
Kerala State Higher Education Council

Member Secretary
Kerala State Higher Education Council

Blockchain-Powered Digital Revenue Card Launched in Kerala

The Digital Revenue Card, a major initiative aimed at simplifying land and revenue services in the state, was launched on February 24, 2026 by Hon. Speaker A. N. Shamseer. The card was distributed by K. Rajan at the Co-Bank Auditorium. Resembling an ATM card, the Digital Revenue Card carries a unique 10-digit digital identification number enabling citizens to conveniently access land, building, and liability-related services from village offices. The initiative aims to consolidate multiple revenue records into a single smart card, making government services more accessible and efficient.

A key highlight of the system is the integration of blockchain technology, implemented by Kerala Blockchain Academy. Blockchain ensures that records are immutable, tamper-proof, and securely verifiable, creating a transparent and trustworthy digital infrastructure for land and revenue management. Each transaction or update is recorded on a distributed ledger, providing a permanent audit trail, enhanced data integrity, and secure authentication of records. By leveraging blockchain, the Digital Revenue Card strengthens transparency in public services while allowing citizens to access critical land-related information quickly and reliably.

Dr. Asharaf S on Agentic AI and the Power of Young Developers in Building Kerala's Future

Dr. Asharaf S shared insights on emerging trends in artificial intelligence in an interview published in Mathrubhumi on February 26, 2026. The interview was conducted by P Muraleedharan and focused on the growing influence of Agentic AI, particularly developments from Anthropic.

During the discussion, Prof. Asharaf explained that Agentic AI systems function similarly to a travel agent who can autonomously handle tasks such as booking tickets and arranging accommodation. In the software development domain, such AI agents can assist in coding, testing, and analysis. He cited the example of Claude Code, which can generate software code within a significantly shorter time compared to traditional development approaches such as Agile methods that typically require longer development cycles. However, he noted that aspects such as software aesthetics and certain creative design elements require human expertise, which marks the significance of human interference.

He also observed that while Kerala has many technology evangelists, only a limited number of professionals are deeply familiar with emerging AI systems such as DeepSeek.

എ.ഐ.യോട് അയ്യേ എന്നു പറയരുത്

നിയമം, വിൽഷന, ധനകാര്യം, മാർക്കറ്റിങ്, ഡേറ്റ വർക്ക്ഫ്ലോ തുടങ്ങിയ കാര്യങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യാൻ പ്രത്യേക പ്ലഗിനുകളുള്ള എ.ഐ. ഏജന്റ് അമേരിക്കൻ കമ്പനിയായ ആന്ത്രോപിക് പുറത്തിറക്കിയത് സോഫ്റ്റ്‌വേർ, എസ്.എ.എ.എസ്. (സോഫ്റ്റ്‌വേർ ആസ് എ സർവീസ്) കമ്പനികളുടെ ഓഹരിമൂല്യത്തിൽ വലിയ ഇടിവുണ്ടാക്കി. നിർമിത ബുദ്ധിയുടെ വളർച്ചയിലെ പേടിഷിക്കുന്ന വേഗത്തെക്കുറിച്ചും അത് തുറക്കുന്ന സാധ്യത കളെക്കുറിച്ചും മാതൃഭൂമി പ്രതിനിധി പി. മുരളീധരനുമായി കേരളത്തിലെ ഡിജിറ്റൽ സർവകലാശാലയിലെ ഗവേഷണവിഭാഗം ഡീൻ ഡോ. എസ്. അഷ്റഫ് സംസാരിക്കുന്നു

'ആന്ത്രോപിക് പോലുള്ള കമ്പനികൾ പുതിയ ടൂളുകൾ പുറത്തിറക്കിയതോടെ സോഫ്റ്റ്‌വേർ രംഗത്ത് വലിയ പരിഭ്രാന്തിയുണ്ട്. എന്താണ് ഇതിന്റെ യാഥാർഥ്യം

= നാം മുൻപ് കണ്ടിട്ടുള്ള പ്രോസസ് ഓട്ടോമേഷനിൽ നിന്ന് തികച്ചും വ്യത്യസ്തമായ ഒരു ഘട്ടത്തിലേക്കാണ് നാം നിങ്ങുന്നത്. പണ്ട് നമ്മൾ കംപ്യൂട്ടറിൽ ചെയ്തിരുന്ന കാര്യങ്ങൾ സ്ക്രിപ്റ്റുകളും ഉപയോഗിച്ച് ഓട്ടോമേറ്റ് ചെയ്യുന്ന രീതിയായിരുന്നു റോബോട്ടിക് പ്രോസസ് ഓട്ടോമേഷൻ. എന്നാൽ, ഇന്ന് ആന്ത്രോപിക് പോലുള്ള കമ്പനികൾ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നത് ഏജന്റിക് എ.ഐ. എന്ന കൺസെപ്റ്റാണ്. ഇതൊരു ട്രാവൽ ഏജന്റിനെപ്പോലെയാണ്. നമുക്കൊരു യാത്ര പോകണമെങ്കിൽ ട്രാവൽ ഏജന്റിനോട് പറഞ്ഞാൽ മതി, അദ്ദേഹം ടിക്കറ്റ് ബുക്കിങ്, ഹോട്ടൽ, ലോക്കൽ ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ടേഷൻ തുടങ്ങി ആദ്യവസാനം വേണ്ടതെല്ലാം ചെയ്യുന്നതും. സമാനമായി, സോഫ്റ്റ്‌വേർ രംഗത്തും പല ഫങ്ഷനുകളും (കോഡിങ്, ടെസ്റ്റിങ്, അനാലിസിസ്) ചെയ്യുന്ന എ.ഐ. ഏജന്റുകളുടെ ഒരു കൂട്ടം ഒന്നിച്ച് പ്രവർത്തിച്ച് നമുക്ക് ആവശ്യമായ സോഫ്റ്റ്‌വേർ നിർമിച്ചുനൽകുന്നു.

ഇത് സോഫ്റ്റ്‌വേർ ഡിവലപ്മെന്റ് മേഖലയെ എങ്ങനെയാണ് ബാധിക്കുന്നത്

= തീർച്ചയായും വലിയ മാറ്റങ്ങളാണ് വരും. പണ്ട് നമ്മൾ 'അജൈൽ' (Agile) രീതിയിലാണ് സോഫ്റ്റ്‌വേർ നിർമിച്ചിരുന്നത്. പണ്ട് നമ്മൾ ആദ്യം ഒരു സോഫ്റ്റ്‌വേർ ഉണ്ടാക്കും. പിന്നീട് പലതവണ ഉപഭോക്താവിന്റെ ഫീഡ്ബാക്ക് എടുത്ത് വീണ്ടും വീണ്ടും അതിനെ റിഫൈൻ ചെയ്യും. മാസങ്ങളോ നീണ്ടുനിൽക്കുന്ന 'സ്പ്രിന്റു കൾ' വഴിയായിരുന്നു ഡിവലപ്മെന്റ് നടന്നിരുന്നത്. ഇപ്പോൾ സ്പ്രിന്റ് എന്ന കൺസെപ്റ്റ് തന്നെ പോയി. ആന്ത്രോപിക്കിന്റെ 'ക്ലോഡ കോഡ്' എന്ന കോഡിങ് ഏജന്റ്, മുൻപ് ഒരുമാസംകൊണ്ട് എഴുതിയിരുന്ന കോഡ് ഒരുമണിക്കൂർ കൊണ്ടോ, ചിലപ്പോൾ ഒരു മിനിറ്റ് കൊണ്ടോ എഴുതിത്തരും. എ.ഐ. വരുമ്പോൾ ചില തൊഴിലുകൾ നഷ്ടപ്പെടുമെന്നത് സത്യമാണ്. എന്തുകൊണ്ടെന്നാൽ പുതിയ സാങ്കേതികവിദ്യ പഠിച്ചെടുക്കുക എന്നതാണ് നമ്മുടെ മുന്നിലുള്ള വഴി.

എ.ഐ. ഏജന്റുകൾ സ്വയം കോഡ് എഴുതുകയും സോഫ്റ്റ്‌വേർ നിർമിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ മനുഷ്യന്റെ റോളിൽ വരുന്ന മാറ്റം

= എ.ഐ. കൊണ്ടുവരുന്ന ഏറ്റവും വലിയ മാറ്റം 'അബണ്ടൻസ്' (Abundance) അഥവാ ഉത്പന്നങ്ങളുടെയും സേവനങ്ങളുടെയും ആധിക്യമാണ്. പണ്ട് ഒരുവർഷം കൊണ്ട് അഞ്ച് ബാങ്കുകളെ ഓട്ടോമേറ്റ് ചെയ്തിരുന്ന സ്ഥാനത്ത് ഇന്ന് 50 ബാങ്കുകളെ ഓട്ടോമേറ്റ് ചെയ്യാൻ എ.ഐ.ക്ക് സാധിക്കും. ഇവിടെയാണ് മനുഷ്യന്റെ പ്രസക്തി വർധിക്കുന്നത്. എ.ഐ.ക്ക് ഒരിക്കലും ചെയ്യാൻ കഴിയാത്ത ചില കാര്യങ്ങളുണ്ട്. ഉദാഹരണത്തിന്, ഒരു സോഫ്റ്റ്‌വേറിന്റെ എയ്സ്തെറ്റിക്സ് അഥവാ സൗന്ദര്യശാസ്ത്രപരമായ വശങ്ങളും. രൂപകല്പനാ കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ മനുഷ്യന്റെ തീരുമാനം അനിവാര്യമാണ്.

കേരളത്തിലെ സാഹചര്യത്തിലേക്ക് വരുമ്പോൾ, നാം എവിടെയാണ് നിൽക്കുന്നത്

= കേരളത്തിൽ എ.ഐ.യെക്കുറിച്ച് പ്രസംഗിക്കുന്ന 'ഇവാഞ്ചലിസ്റ്റുകളും' ഒരുപാടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ, പണി അറിയാവുന്നവർ, അതായത് ഡിപ്പ് ടെക് അറിയാവുന്നവർ വളരെ കുറവാണ്. കേരളം എങ്ങും എത്താത്തതിന്റെ കാരണം ഈ ഇവാഞ്ചലിസ്റ്റുകളാണ്.

ഒന്നും ചെയ്യാതെ ഇന്റർനെറ്റിൽ നിന്ന് ഡൗൺലോഡ് ചെയ്ത് എന്തൊക്കെയോ വായിച്ചു തള്ളുന്ന കുറെ ആൾക്കാരാണ്. കേരളത്തിൽ ഡിപ്പ് ടെക് എ.ഐ.യിൽ ഒന്നും നടക്കുന്നില്ല, കുറച്ച് ആഘോഷങ്ങളും മാത്രമേയുള്ളൂ. അതിനപ്പുറത്തേക്ക് ഡിപ് ടെക് എ.ഐ.യുടെ ഒരു കൺസോളിഡേഷനോ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ വളരെ ആത്മാർഥമായ ശ്രമമോ ഞാൻ കാണുന്നില്ല. അതിന്റെ കാരണം, എല്ലാം പി.പി.ടി. പ്രഭാഷകരാണ് തീരുമാനിച്ചത് എന്നതാണ്.

വിദ്യാഭ്യാസരംഗത്ത് എന്ത് മാറ്റമാണ് വേണ്ടത്

'പ്രവൃത്തിയിലൂടെ പഠിക്കുക' എന്ന രീതിയിലേക്കുമാറണം. ക്ലാസ്റൂം പ്രഭാഷണങ്ങളും കുറച്ച് സ്റ്റാൻഡേഡ് മോഡൽ ലാബുകൾക്ക് പ്രാധാന്യം നൽകണം. ഇൻഡസ്ട്രി ഏക്സ്പീരിയൻസ് ഉള്ളവർ അധ്യാപനരംഗത്തേക്കു വരണം. അധ്യാപകർ കേവലം പ്രഭാഷകരാകാതെ കാര്യങ്ങൾ എളുപ്പമാക്കുന്ന എനേബിളർമാരായി മാറണം. കേരളം പണ്ട് സാക്ഷരതാ പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിലൂടെ കൈവരിച്ച നേട്ടംപോലെ ഒരു എ.ഐ. പ്രസ്ഥാനം താഴെത്തട്ടിൽ നിന്ന് വരണം. അടുത്ത മൂന്ന് വർഷത്തിനുള്ളിൽ ഈ മാറ്റം കൊണ്ടുവരാനായില്ലെങ്കിൽ നമുക്ക് വലിയ അവസരങ്ങളും നഷ്ടമാകും.

മനുഷ്യജീവിതം കൂടുതൽ സുഖകരമാകുമോ, അതോ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടാകുമോ

= കൂടുതൽ സുഖകരമാകും. അബണ്ടൻസ് അല്ലെങ്കിൽ വിഭവങ്ങളുടെ ലഭ്യത കൂടും. ഡൂ മോർ വിത് ലെസ് എന്നാണല്ലോ. അബണ്ടൻസ് അപകടമാണോ എന്ന ചോദ്യമുണ്ട്. മനുഷ്യൻ കൂടുതൽ മടിയനാവും. ഒന്നും ചെയ്യേണ്ട കാര്യമില്ലല്ലോ. അതായത് നാലഞ്ചുദിവസം ഫാക്ടറിയിൽ പണിയെടുത്താലേ അരി മേടിക്കാൻ പറ്റൂ എന്ന സാഹചര്യം മാറി ആഴ്ചയിൽ ഒരു ദിവസം, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ദിവസവും ഒരുമണിക്കൂർവീതം പണിയെടുത്താൽ മതി എന്ന സാഹചര്യമുണ്ടാവും. ബാക്കി എട്ടു മണിക്കൂർ ഫ്രീ ആയി കിട്ടും. അപ്പോൾ വിനോദവ്യവസായം കൂടുതൽ പണിയെടുക്കേണ്ടിവരും.

ഒരു മൂന്നുവർഷത്തിനകം ഇന്നത്തെ സമൂഹജീവിതത്തിന്റെ സ്വഭാവം മാറും, അല്ലേ

= ഉറപ്പായിട്ടും. മൂന്ന് വർഷത്തിനുള്ളിൽ വലിയൊരു ഡിസ്റപ്ഷൻ ഉണ്ടാകും. ആവർത്തനസ്വഭാവമുള്ള ജോലികളും ചെയ്യുന്നവർ കരിയറിൽ വെല്ലുവിളികളും നേരിടും. അവരെ നാം പുനരധിവസിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടി വരും. പുതിയ സാങ്കേതികവിദ്യയിലേക്ക് മാറാൻ തയ്യാറായാൽ വലിയ അവസരങ്ങളാണ് നമുക്ക് മുന്നിലുള്ളത്. പണി അറിയുന്നവർ നേതൃത്വത്തിലേക്ക് വരുക എന്നതാണ് ഇതിനുള്ള ഏക വഴി.

അതിജീവിക്കാൻ നമ്മൾ കൂടുതൽ ക്രിയേറ്റീവ് ആകണം

=അതെ. അങ്ങനെ ക്രിയേറ്റീവ് ആകാൻ പറ്റുന്നത് ചെറുപ്പക്കാർക്കാണ്. ലോകത്ത് മാറ്റം വരുത്താൻ വേണ്ട സഹായം അവർക്ക് നൽകുക. അവരിലൂടെ മാത്രമേ ഈ മാറ്റം സാധ്യമാകൂ. കേരളത്തിൽ പതിനായിരക്കണക്കിന് ഡിവലപ്പർമാർ വരട്ടെ. അത് കൂട്ടികളാവട്ടെ.

Emphasizing the need for transformation in education, he suggested adopting the Stanford-style lab-based learning model, where experimentation and hands-on activities replaces lecture-driven instruction. In such a system, teachers should act as facilitators and enablers rather than only instructors.

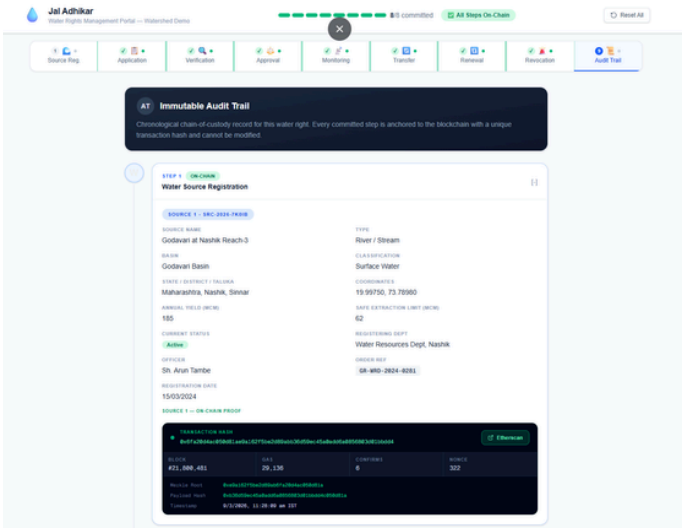
Highlighting the urgency of AI adoption, Prof. Asharaf remarked that Kerala should aim for widespread AI literacy, similar to the state's historic achievement of 100% literacy. According to him, the next three years will be critical and failing to adopt these technologies quickly may result in falling behind global advancements. While AI will significantly ease human workloads and increase productivity, it will also lead to major technological disruptions.

He further emphasized the importance of empowering young innovators. He added that Kerala needs tens of thousands of skilled young developers. The youth must be encouraged and supported to build new solutions and lead the next wave of technological innovation.

Session on AI and Blockchain for Watershed Management

Mr. Ananthan R, Research Scientist, KBA delivered an online Writeshop-cum-Workshop on the implementation of AI and Blockchain technologies in WDC-PMKSY 2.0, organised by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj. As part of the session, a blockchain-based watershed management prototype titled “Jal Adhikar- Water Rights Management Portal” was demonstrated.

The application demonstrated how blockchain can support transparent, accountable water rights governance within watershed ecosystems. The demo illustrated a complete workflow comprising 9 stages: Water Source Registration, Water Rights Application, Verification & Assessment, Approval/ Rejection, Usage Monitoring & Logging, Transfer/ Trade Of Rights, Rights Renewal, Revocation & Dispute and Immutable Audit Trail.



Participants were shown how water sources such as rivers, reservoirs, groundwater aquifers, and watersheds can be registered with detailed metadata and supporting hydrological records, each receiving a unique on-chain identifier. The system further demonstrated how applicants can request water rights, which are then verified by field officers, assessed by hydrologists, and approved or rejected by authorities. Once approved, the rights are issued as unique Water Right Token IDs, enabling transparent tracking of allocations and usage.

The demonstration also highlighted real-time usage monitoring through IoT-enabled data logging, compliance dashboards, and automated alerts for threshold breaches. Additional features such as transfer of water rights, renewal based on compliance history, and dispute resolution were presented, with every action securely recorded on the blockchain to ensure transparency and traceability. The session also introduced participants to open-source blockchain tools, including MetaMask, Hyperledger Besu, and Etherscan, demonstrating how these technologies can be integrated to build practical applications for watershed and water resource management.

One-Day Volunteering: Campus to Community

Students of Digital University Kerala participated in a one-day volunteering initiative titled Campus to Community, organized by the Social Engagement Centre on February 07, 2026 in collaboration with Helping Hands Organization. The programme aimed to extend student engagement beyond academic spaces and encourage meaningful interaction with local communities.

Through this initiative, students actively contributed to a range of community-oriented activities. Volunteers supported the development of sustainable mini farms, promoting small-scale, environmentally conscious practices that could benefit local households. In addition to these practical efforts, students engaged with community members through music, art, and informal interactions, creating spaces for connection, creativity, and shared experiences.

The programme emphasised empathy, collective responsibility, and the importance of community participation. By working directly within the community setting, students were able to observe local realities, understand social contexts, and reflect on the role of technology and knowledge in addressing everyday challenges.

More than a conventional volunteering activity, Campus to Community served as an experiential learning platform, reinforcing the value of service-based learning and encouraging students to apply their skills and perspectives to contribute to social well-being.

National Science Day Marked by Invited Talk at International Conference

In commemoration of National Science Day, Dr. Shamjid P, Assistant Professor at the School of Digital Sciences delivered an invited talk at the International Multidisciplinary Conference, RICERCA 2026, hosted by St. Joseph's College for Women, Alappuzha, on February 27, 2026. His session, "Seeing Through Clouds: Microwave Remote Sensing for Earth Monitoring," highlighted the critical power of microwave remote sensing in continuous, all-weather Earth observation.

Invited Talk-Artificial Intelligence in Chemical Sciences 2026 (AICS2026), CUSAT

Dr. Sherin D. R., delivered an invited talk at "Artificial Intelligence in Chemical Sciences 2026 (AICS2026)", held at Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) on February 06, 2026. The title of the talk was "ML in Chemical Sciences: From Molecular Property Prediction to Design and Synthesis." The session highlighted the role of machine learning in accelerating molecular discovery, optimization, and rational design in chemical sciences.

Invited Session as part of National Environmental Summit 2026

Dr.Radhakrishnan T., Chair, School of Digital Sciences, delivered a session on the topic, Challenges in GHG Accounting and Net Zero Campaign, as part of National Environmental Summit 2026, organized by Haritha Kerala Mission held at Uday Palace Convention Centre, Kowdiar on February 24, 2026.

Paper Presentation in a 2nd IEEE conference on Advances in Intelligent computing and applications

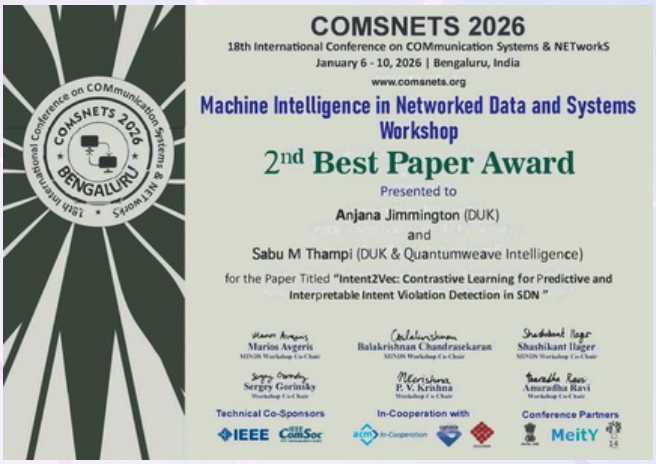
Mr. Rajesh KP, PgDeg Student (2026 Batch) presented a paper named "Knowledge Graph Based Semantic Framework for Infodemic Analytics_Insights from COVID 19 Tweets" Presented in a 2nd IEEE conference on Advances in Intelligent computing and applications held at CUSAT on February 11-13, 2026.

Invited Lecture as part of National Science Day 2026

Prof. Anoop A., School of Digital Sciences, DUK, delivered National Science Day lecture at HLL Healthcare on "Generative AI for Research, Creativity and Industry" February 26, 2026.

Research Achievements

Ms. Anjana Jimmington, Research Scholar in SoCSE, received the Second Best Paper Award at COMSNETS 2026, Bengaluru. The award was presented for the paper titled “Intent2Vec: Contrastive Learning for Predictive and Interpretable Intent Violation Detection in SDN,” conducted under the guidance of Dr. Sabu M. Thampi.



Mr. Aromal C. J., Research Scholar, School of Electronic Systems and Automation (SoESA), received the Certificate of Merit at the 12th Annual Conference of the ISMRM Indian Chapter held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, for his work titled “Low-Field to High-Field MRI Translation with Anatomy Preserving Iterative Refinement.” He was one of the three awardees selected for this recognition at the conference.

George, J. K., & Sherly, E. (2026). Modeling human attention: Analyzing scanpaths and visual features in fixation prediction with transformer-based deep learning. Neural Computing and Applications, 38, Article 103. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00521-025-11812-3

Aboobaker, N., & Shanujas, V. (2026). Redefining the rules: How optimal cyberloafing shapes the effects of workplace cyberbullying on employee well-being and retention. International Journal of Productivity and Performance Management. Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1108/IJPPM-04-2025-0338

Aromal, C. J., & Datta, S. (2026, February 27–March 1). Low-field to high-field MRI translation with anatomy preserving iterative refinement. 12th Annual Conference of the ISMRM Indian Chapter, Thiruvananthapuram, India.

Rani, S. S. R., & Datta, S. (2026, February 23–25). Spectral line enhancement for noise-resilient passive sonar detection using dual-attention guided wavelet domain FISTA-Net. IEEE Applied Sensing Conference (APSCON) 2026, New Delhi, India.

Nair, G. R., & Thomas, T. (2026, February). Message-agnostic quantum digital signatures with delayed verification. SPARC International Symposium on Quantum Computing and Applications (SPARCQC 2026).

"The future depends on what we do in present"
- Mahatma Gandhi

Designed and Developed

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Knowledge Centre
Digital University Kerala

DIGITAL UNIVERSITY KERALA
Curating a responsible digital world

www.duk.ac.in
+91-471-2788 000
Technopark Phase IV, Mangalapuram
Thonnakkal P.O, Veiloor, Kerala 695317