

DEPARTMENT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DATA SCIENCE

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Report on Cognithon 2026-24 hour women code hackathon

The Department of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science (AI & DS) of GSSS Institute of Engineering and Technology for Women (GSSSIETW), Mysuru, in association with Avinya Techknows, Bengaluru and MTD, Mysure and Club Of Data science Engineers organized the 24 hour women code hackathon “**COGNITHON 2026**” on 10th and 11th of April 2026. The event aimed to bring together creative minds, innovative thinkers, and aspiring technologists under one platform to celebrate the power of Artificial Intelligence and its potential to transform the world. The chief guest of the event was Mrs. Chondamma Kusha, Senior Technology Architect, Infosys, Mysuru and the Guest of honor was Dr. Benjamin Sukumar Vice President Operations (India'), NISSI Computing Labs LLP, Bengaluru.



Picture: Inaugural function of “Cognithon 2026”-A 24 hour women code hackathon

The hackathon commenced with an inaugural session where dignitaries highlighted the growing importance of AI in transforming industries and solving real-world challenges. Participants, working in teams, engaged in an intense 24-hour coding marathon to develop innovative AI-based solutions across domains such as healthcare, agriculture, smart cities, and education. The event witnessed an overwhelming response with **90 participants forming 30 teams** from various engineering disciplines. There were 3 panels each panel was assigned with the 10 real world problem statement in domains such as **smart agriculture, education and smart cities**.





Mentors/Evaluators for the Cognithon 2026 were Suman Shankar Pujar, Shreenidhi T H, Dharani Gowtham S ,Senior Technical Trainers, MTD, Mysore. They guided the participants throughout the event, offering valuable insights and technical support. The atmosphere was vibrant and energetic, with students working round the clock to build prototypes, train models, and present their solutions.

The event concluded with a valedictory ceremony where winners were awarded **cash prizes, certificates, and recognition**, marking the event as a grand success. In all 3 panels First and second prizes were announced with a cash prize of Rs.6000/- AND Rs.5000/- respectively. The Third prize of Rs. 3000/- for each panel was sponsored by MOU Partner Avinya Techkonws , Bengaluru. The



judging panel evaluated projects based on innovation, feasibility, technical implementation, and societal impact



.During the valedictory program, Mentors shared the experience of the hackathon and their evaluation process. **Suman Shankar Pujar** shared valuable insights into the fundamentals of software development. She explained that building a successful software product begins with breaking down large and complex requirements into smaller, manageable parts. Each component is then developed individually and later integrated to create a complete and functional system.

Shreenidhi T H, addressed the participants by explaining the judging criteria for Cognithon-2026. He outlined that projects would be evaluated based on factors such as innovation, problem-solving approach, technical implementation, and overall presentation. He also emphasized the importance of clarity in ideas and how effectively teams were able to translate their concepts into practical solutions. His guidance helped participants better understand the expectations and encouraged them to focus on both creativity and execution during the hackathon.

Dharani Gowtham S, spoke about the evaluation process for Cognithon2026, giving participants a clear idea of what the judges were looking for. He highlighted that equal importance would be given to originality, feasibility, teamwork, and the practical impact of the solution. He also encouraged students to present their ideas confidently and ensure their projects addressed real-world problems

effectively. His explanation helped participants align their work with the expectations of the hackathon.

Principal, **Dr. M. Shivakumar**, addressed the audience with a thought provoking message, appreciating the Department of AI & DS for hosting an event that reflects both innovation and vision. He spoke about the growing influence of Artificial Intelligence in today's world, pointing out that while it has the potential to revolutionize various fields, its impact ultimately depends on how responsibly it is used. He described AI as a powerful aid that should complement human intellect rather than take its place. Adding to this, he highlighted that true progress lies in preserving human qualities alongside technological growth.

Dr. Roopashree H.R., Head of the Department, shared an insightful overview of the event, shedding light on the vision and purpose behind organizing it. She elaborated on how the competition was designed to provide students with a platform to explore innovative ideas, apply their knowledge, and engage in meaningful problem-solving.

Event encouraged innovation, teamwork, and practical application of technical knowledge.


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