

# NITK Surathkal's ATV deployed for beach cleaning drive

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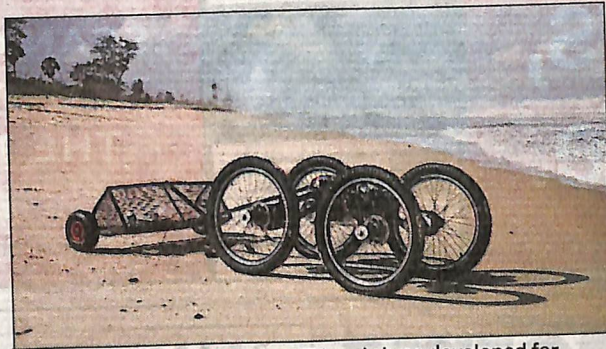
**Mangaluru:** Known for their expertise in engineering and innovation, the Centre for System Design (CSD) at NITK Surathkal demonstrated their dedication to foster an eco-friendly atmosphere by deploying a prototype of an all-terrain vehicle for beach grooming to effectively collect plastic trash at NITK's Surathkal beach here on Thursday.

The four-wheeled electrically powered, 24-volt battery ATV can tow around 70kg of debris collected in its basket. It will run for around two hours on a single charge.

This entire setup can be

dismantled and carried in a compact car. Because of its small size and low weight, rather than using heavy machinery vehicles which will affect biodiversity this compact vehicle can be used as a cost-effective alternative, the institute said.

The prototype was developed by student Rajath C Koteekar and his team, under the guidance of Dr KV Gangadharan and Dr Pruthviraj Umesh. The event was inaugurated by Kavan Kubevoor, an alumnus of NITK Surathkal, who serves as the district Leopresident. Kavan emphasized the urgent need for technological solutions to



**INNOVATIVE METHODS:** The ATV prototype developed for beach cleaning by NITK, Surathkal

combat the pervasive issue of ocean pollution.

As many as 40 students and staff members from

NITK Surathkal actively participated in a beach cleaning drive near the Surathkal - NITK Beach.

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The event was jointly organised by the Ocean Society of India, the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), Ministry of Earth Sciences and was locally coordinated by CSD.

The team collected about half a ton of waste from the shoreline. The clean-up ef-

orts involved a combination of manual picking by volunteers and the use of automated machines.

They collected plastic bottles, wrappers, home appliance covers, glass bottles, and various other non-biodegradable materials.

To promote sustainability, some of the collected materials were recycled using desktop-based plastic recycling units developed in-house. These recycled materials were transformed into utilities such as keychains and pen holders. The remaining waste was handed over to the municipal authorities in designated gunny bags.