

NITK to unveil cutting-edge technology SEARCH today

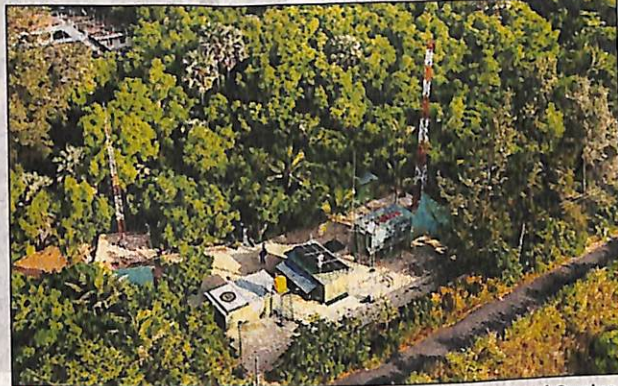
Hailed As Pioneering Leap In Emergency Response Capabilities

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Mangaluru: The National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK) will unveil the fruition of cutting edge technology with the dedication of SEARCH (System for Emergency Assistance, Response, and Communication Hub) on Monday.

"As the curtains rise on SEARCH, the stage is set for a new era in emergency response capabilities, guided by the indomitable spirit of the institution and its visionary alumni," said Pruthviraj U, assistant professor, department of water resources and ocean engineering and part of Centre for System Design (CSD), NITK Surathkal. SEARCH is a brainchild of Pruthviraj, whose team has been working for the past year.

Pruthviraj, who is also the professor in charge Transdisciplinary (research and development) at NITK, said it is anchored by its control and command centre in a portable container cabin inside the



FOR THE GREATER GOOD: SEARCH Control and Command Centre in a portable container cabin on the NITK Surathkal campus

campus. SEARCH represents a pioneering leap in emergency response capabilities for Dakshina Kannada's coastal areas. SEARCH integrates state-of-the-art UHF/VHF/HF radio stations and autonomous aerial/marine vehicles, offering a robust platform for communication and rescue operations. "The initiative, born out of a transdisciplinary project led by the CSD, NITK Surathkal, aims to redefine

the landscape of emergency management," he said.

He said that SEARCH is not just a technological marvel, it stands as a pioneering achievement, being the first initiative worldwide by any institution to seamlessly integrate autonomous marine vessels, autonomous aerial vehicles, and UHF/VHF/HF HAM radio stations, all within a single hub housed in portable container cabin. The hub is designed to enhance

disaster response and protect the environment, showcasing NITK's commitment to fostering innovation for the greater good.

The others behind the SEARCH project are: KV Gangadharan (mechanical department), Mohit P Tahiliani (computer science department) and Sreevalsa Kolathayar (civil engineering department) and retired professor Vijay Desai. The project is funded by NITK Surathkal alumni. "As SEARCH prepares to make a lasting impact in emergency response, these individuals stand as inspiring pillars within the NITK community and beyond," added Pruthviraj.

The project inauguration will see the presence of Rangan Ramasamy, a distinguished alumnus from the class of 1983, who made his career in multinational corporations and currently plays his role at the Federal Aviation Administration in the USA, and Yajnanarayana Kammaje, chairman of the Sona Group and NITK alumnus from the class of 1971.