

e-bicycles roll on NITK campus, thanks to alumni

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mangaluru: It was a memorable homecoming for the alumni of National Institute of Technology-Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal on Friday. Returning to their alma mater 50 years after passing out of its hallowed halls, the students flagged off services of four e-bikes, which the institution is operating as part of its e-mobility project. Funds used for the procurement of the four bikes were provided by students who graduated from NITK in 1972.

Of the four bikes that will be available to students, two are unisex models that can also be used by girls on campus. The launch of services of the four e-bikes is a precursor to the institution's larger plan that entails having at least 12 e-bicycles, besides other electric vehicles on campus.

The alumni donated a sum of Rs 15 lakh towards procurement of the bikes, while former president of Moser Baer India, PM Pai shouldered the bulk of the financial responsibility for the entire initiative, donating Rs 10 lakh. The bikes were conceived and manufactured at the Centre for System Design, NITK.

Alumni turn benefactors

NG Tukaye, D Mane, Vilas Devtale, Ravindra Ghate, Anil Harolikar, Rajashekar Swami, Ki-



DONATED: The 1972 batch of NITK Surathkal, launch e-bikes as part of the institute's e-mobility project, funded by the batch

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ran Phadnis, Raju Lathe, C Balwat, and the late Suresh Hundre, were some of the alumni who came together to help NITK realise its dream of a sustainable eco-friendly campus. Returning to the campus, accompanied by their respective families, the alumni relived their college days.

Dubbing 'electric vehicles' the future of mobility, Pai said that they would greatly benefit the rural parts of India in the years to come. He expressed delight with the e-bicycles being readied for the launch after clearing multiple tests within six months, when funds were disbursed towards the initiative.