

Wednesday, October 21, 2015 Kochi Edition

Cycling Towards Lasting Solution

Express News Service

Kochi: Traffic jams, blocks and brawls, we have faced it all. Amidst all this and lack of sensibility towards handling a crisis, a cycling enthusiast has come up with a solution and that is cycling! M S Athirup's childhood dream to start a cycling club has given wheels to 'Athi's Bicycling Club'. Launched in 2011 at his home town, Thiruvananthapuram, the club with over 5,000 members, provides services in Kochi as well.

Athirup now has one more reason to cheer. Nine spots in the city - Marine Drive, Under North Railway Overbridge, in front of South Railway station, Kaloor private bus stand, KSRTC bus stand, Manorama Junction, Boat Jetty and

Kacheripady- will have new racks installed to facili-

tate better road accessibility for people who do not depend on trains or buses any more for transportation.

"The Corporation has given its approval for the racks and this is a happy moment for our mission," said Athirup.

The mission of the club is

to promote cycling as a sustainable mode of transportation by establishing a cross city network. It wants to introduce a linear, integrated and flexible mode of bicycling with objectives such as encouraging public and corporations to replace motorised travelling by cycling,

the reduction of urban traffic congestion, minimising parking problems, reduction in emissions from vehicles and most importantly better health conditions.

Various locations around the city has racks from where bicycles can be obtained. Each rack will have a drop-box for payments. Registrations are done through a simple SMS. Individuals can contribute a bicycle or an amount of ₹3,500. For each bicycle contributed, one member can rent a bicycle from any rack and use it up to 3 hours per day free of cost for a period of six months.

Beyond that, they'll be charged a nominal amount of ₹2 per hour. With more people becoming aware about their health as well as environmental issues, ABC is set to find more volunteers in bringing back the simplicity yet utility of the bicycles.



Cycling enthusiasts out on an outing in the city to promote this healthy mode of transport