

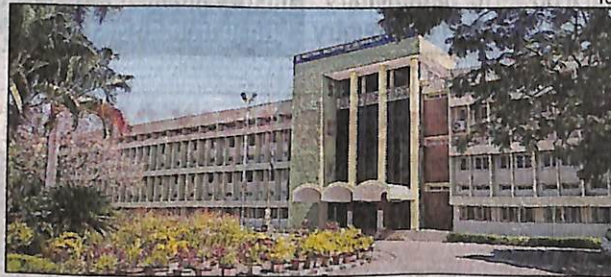
NITK will get geotechnical textile testing lab soon

To Cost ₹6.2Crore | New Courses, Advanced Research Planned

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Mangaluru: NITK, Surathkal has been identified by the National Technical Textile Mission, ministry of textiles, Government of India, to set up a state-of-the-art geotechnical textile testing laboratory as a national facility at the campus.

The facility is likely to be operational in a year, and aims at boosting research in geotextiles and reinforced soil, attracting bright minds to the institute. The project, costing Rs 6.2 crore, aims at promoting the use of geotextiles for various applications and train students and faculty in technical textiles, said Sreevals Kolathayar, coordinator for the project and assistant professor, department of civil engineering, NITK Surathkal. Out of the Rs 6.2 crore, Rs 5.9 cro-



WITHIN A YEAR: The project aims at promoting the use of geotextiles for various applications

re is earmarked for the procurement of equipment and the rest for training.

"With the new facility, NITK has plans to introduce new courses on technical textiles and conduct advanced research on geotextiles. The center at the institution will host all basic equipment for element tests on soil and geotextile fabric, as well as advanced equipment for model testing on reinforced earth

under dynamic loading and field tests. A total of 21 state-of-art equipment will be procured. All this is advanced machinery and one of a kind. The grant is approved by the ministry," said Kolathayar, adding that it will take another six to seven months to purchase the machinery.

"This facility will not only further put NITK and Surathkal in the spotlight but also the civil engineering de-

partment, one of the founding departments of the institution. We are happy to receive such a facility on our campus," he added.

The proposal was submitted in March 2023, took three months to be prepared. A presentation to the panel was made in July, and the grant was approved in August. The facility will conduct around 11 various tests.

Once launched, the facility will be accessible to all. "This grant is from public funds. Therefore, we wish to keep the facility accessible to anyone in need as per NITK and NTTM norms, especially for passionate researchers from tier-2 institutions that have limited access to advanced facilities. This grant is a recognition of NITK and its civil engineering department and geotechnical engineering programme," he added.