

## Amrita students take pledge for 'Clean India'

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KOLLAM: Nearly one lakh students, teachers and staff members of Amrita Vidyalayams, Amrita University and other Amrita institutions across the State took pledge to strive for a 'clean India,' marking the formal launch of Amalabharatham project on Monday.

Processions were taken out in Wayanad to create awareness among the public about the importance of keeping our environment clean.

Painting competitions for school children were held in Amrita Vidyalayams based on the theme 'cleanliness in society.'

Students and staff members of Amrita University continued their clean-up drive on the NH 47 here as part

of the Amalabharatham project initiated by the Mata Amritanandamayi Math.

In an eighth such drive over the past two months, the volunteers took up the most ambitious project so far by cleaning up 22 kms of the NH 47 from Vavakkavu to Haripad on Sunday.

1,200 Amalabharatham volunteers participated in the clean-up drive.

They arrived at their assigned spots on the NH 47 at 8.00 a.m. and completed the cleaning activities by 6.30 p.m.

Many stretches of the National Highway were littered with waste disposed of by local towns and also by motorists who dump garbage packed in sacks and plastic bags taking advantage of lax measures to check this practice. At several places, volunteers found it very difficult to remove the waste that has accumulated over the years.

Three earth movers and 12 trucks were pressed into service to clear tonnes of waste from the roadsides and bury them at spots specified for the purpose.

Municipal authorities, police, BSNL, etc actively took part in the clean-up campaign.

Across 14 districts, in more than 75 places, over a lakh volunteers including students, teachers, doctors, government officials, sanyasins, brahmacharis, brahmacharinis and public participated in the Amalabharatham clean-up campaign on Sunday. This was a tribute to Kerala on its 54th formation day.

The campaign resulted in removing thousands of tonnes of waste from the National Highway across the length of the State.

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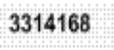
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