



Appreciation

Amphibious Car

P. S. Vinod

Kerala

Scout: K T Alex

P. S. Vinod (32), a car mechanic cum electronic operator from Kerala has modified a Maruti 800 car and adapted it to move on land as well as water.

Perturbed by the heavy flooding every rainy season, Vinod thought of modifying an existing car to make it an amphibious vehicle. Starting with a 1985 Maruti 800 model as the base, he went about modifying it to make it amphibious. It has two engines, regular petrol engine of the car and kerosene boat engine. His amphibious vehicle uses the front located petrol engine of car for moving on the road while for floating on water, it uses an outboard engine mounted in the rear. A boat like floating structure is fixed above the tyres. The vehicle is completely water proof and can only accommodate two passengers. It can travel at the maximum speed of 140 km/h on road and 20 km/h in water. Just a matriculate by education, Vinod could successfully complete his amphibious vehicle in 2003.

This vehicle may have applications in defence, aqua tourism, water sports, hunting and fishing and may find relevance during rescue and relief operations during floods.

