

Newspaper Clips

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Hindustan Times ND 20/03/2012

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IIT Kanpur makes prototype of lunar robot for ISRO

Vanita Srivastava

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NEW DELHI: Moving a step ahead in a nationally relevant space project, the IIT Kanpur has developed a prototype of a lunar robot for ISRO mission to the moon.

The project, which was started in 2010 has a larger objective to send a mobile robot to the moon for performing experiments and developing maps of the lunar terrain.

There were fundamentally two components which had to be completed by IITK, Dr Ashish Dutta, Associate Professor of mechanical engi-

neering said. This included the structured light based 3D map generation of lunar terrain that is being carried out by Dr. K.S. Venkatesh, Associate Professor of Electrical engineering.

“As there is no ready made map of the lunar surface, the focus is to use structured light to generate a map of the lunar terrain after landing. Based on the map the robot is expected to move from one point to another for experiments,” Dr Dutta told HT.

The second component is kinematics and path planning. After the map is generated the robot has to move to a desired location. As the lunar terrain

consists of dust, rocks etc the robot has to choose the safest path to travel by.

The focus of this part is to analyse all the possible feasible paths and then choose the best path in terms of safety and least energy consumption, he said, Underlining the major challenges confronted he said the lunar terrain consists of rocks, ash and craters.

Planning motion in such an environment is extremely difficult, as there is no scope of mistakes.

Besides the gravity on the moon is 1/6 that of earth and hence the design has to consider this sub gravity conditions.

INDIAN EXPRESS ND 20/03/2012

UGC to devise AICTE-like rules for foreign varsity tie-ups

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI

NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

SHOWCASED by this government as part of its reform agenda, the Foreign Education Providers Bill now has little or no hope of being passed by Parliament. But the Union Human Resource Development ministry has no plans of giving up.

Keen to forge collaborations between Indian and foreign varsities with or without legislation, the ministry has asked the University Grants Commission (UGC) to formulate regulations for the same. Sources said that a UGC committee is being set up to devise these regulations on the lines of the twinning

formula of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

The AICTE has drawn up rules for collaboration and partnerships between Indian and foreign institutes in the field of technical education and students enrolled for these courses can complete semesters in partner institutes. With this 'twinning' arrangement working fine, the ministry is of the opinion that a similar format be followed for varsities as well. "Most of the provisions of the Bill can be effected through UGC regulations. Only a foreign university cannot come to India and set up a stand-alone full-fledged campus

on its own. It can, however, do so in collaboration with an Indian institute. Students enrolled will be able to complete one semester in the Indian institute and complete the rest in the foreign institute fulfilling the purpose of the Bill. This arrangement will effectively at least allow a foothold to foreign educational institutes in India," an official said.

The issues that UGC will have to find a way around are those of degree awarding and fee regulations. It is expected that in three-four months the regulations can be readied and approved by the UGC, paving the way for entry of foreign partners in India's university system.

Economic Times ND 20/03/2012

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First-Time Recruiters Mark Presence at IIMs

At IIM-K, 'maiden' offers grow by 47%; global companies too come calling

OUR BUREAU
KOLKATA

The Indian Institutes of Bangalore, Lucknow and Kozhikode have wrapped up their final placements, with a significant number of first-time recruiters making their presence felt on each campus to help tide over what was perceived to be a slow year.

While IIM Bangalore saw as many as 36 first-timers including Zynga, Redbus, Development Bank of Singapore and Raymond, at IIM Lucknow there were 57 first-timers including Michael Page International, Target Retail and Ingersoll Rand. At IIM Kozhikode, first-time recruiters rose by a huge 47%, including Global Environment Consulting (GEC), String Infotech, Head Hunters and Arbitron.

International offers too were significant. At IIM Bangalore, 43 international offers were made and 41 of them accepted. These offers were made for Hong Kong, Singapore, Dubai, London, Paris, New Jersey, Dallas, Seoul and Switzerland.

In IIM Lucknow, students



bagged international offers from several companies including Olam International. IIM Kozhikode saw a top international CTC of \$150,000 offered by a Europe-based investment bank.

Despite the batch sizes at the institutes being large, all three institutes saw a large number of offers being made. IIM Lucknow had a total of 446 offers being made by 216 companies for the 389-strong Class of 2012.

Some 135 companies participated in the placements this year for the batch of 317 students at IIM Kozhikode and IIM Bangalore had 423 offers from 126 companies for 363 PGP students.

Several students also bagged pre-placement numbers with IIM Lucknow and IIM Kozhikode witnessing 70 and 51 PPOs respectively. At IIM Bangalore, 93 PPOs were made and 73 accepted.

Regular recruiters like McKinsey & Co, BCG, Deloitte, ITC and

Mahindra & Mahindra made their presence felt across campuses. This year, e-commerce came up in a big way, represented by the likes of Amazon, ebay, Flipkart, Yebhi.com and Zynga.

Interesting profiles were also snapped up by the students. At IIM Bangalore, for instance, Hyundai Motors recruited for its global leadership programme based out of its Seoul headquarters. Ingersoll Rand offered its 'entrepreneur creation programme' for the second consecutive year and Siemens Group offered its global leadership programme with stints in India and Germany. TAS recruited in IIM Kozhikode for the first time.

Several out-of-the-box offers were also made at the three institutes. At IIM Kozhikode, students joined start-ups like Sports Cradle, Global Environment Concern, Neudesic and Heckyl to test their entrepreneurial abilities.

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Century on debut by IIM Rohtak

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: All the 47 students in the first batch of the Indian Institute of Management (Rohtak) have been placed.

The average salary was Rs.12.2 lakh and the highest domestic offering was Rs.28 lakh. The recruiters included HSBC, Cognizant, Tata group companies, BPCL, Ernst & Young, Pfizer, HDFC, Yes Bank and Titan, according to a release on the inaugural convocation of the Institute, held in the NCR last Saturday. Confederation of Indian Industry President and Tata Steel Vice-Chairman B. Muthuraman was the chief guest.

In his address, IIM Rohtak Chairman Ravi Kant, who is Vice-Chairman of Tata Motors, said the Institute was still quite new in the marketplace with proven players. But in the past two years, it had witnessed significant enrichment through a talented mix of passionate faculty members and brilliant students. "The Institute has not compromised on the quality of its students and faculty which is synonymous with the brand IIM," he said.

IIM Rohtak, Mr. Kant said, would focus on nurturing transformational leaders capable of navigating the ambiguity and complexity of the emerging markets and the new interconnected world. There was a dearth of managers in India who were capable and had the right mindset of dealing with the new systems and culture in a new geography, he said.

IIM Rohtak Director P. Rameshan said it was an exciting placement experience despite slowdown in the global economy.

INNOVATIVE FLIGHT AIRCRAFT WAS DEVELOPED BY 11-MEMBER STUDENT TEAM WITH FUNDING FROM LOCKHEED MARTINI

DTU students develop lightweight aircraft for surveillance

NANDINI THILAK
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

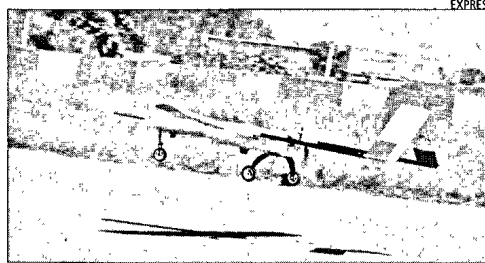
GIVING wings to innovation, a team of undergraduate students at Delhi Technological University (DTU) has designed and built a light Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) that can be used for urban surveillance purposes. The project, conceived in August 2009, has been funded by defence industries giant Lockheed Martin.

The aircraft, Arush X1, has a high-definition camera which can transmit images in real-time to a ground-based station, and is being flight tested by the students.

"The UAVs currently available

in India for defence purposes are large ones which cannot be transported easily. Some IITs are working on models which are small but can only fly for about 15 minutes. The model we have built is roughly 37 kg and can fly for up to 8 hours. It has a wide range of applications and is suitable for security surveillance, disaster management and pipeline management in both urban and difficult terrains," said Gaurav Gupta, a final-year student of Mechanical Engineering at the university, heading the 11-member team.

The team comprises first- and final-year students from different branches of engineering at the University.



The aircraft, Arush X1, has a high-definition camera which can transmit images in real-time to a ground-based station

The aircraft is made of a composite of carbon and glass fibres and has been assembled using parts made in India, most of them

sourced from Delhi. The engine and the software have been sourced from outside Delhi, Gaurav said. The vehicle has now

completed six flight tests, attaining heights of up to 700 feet. The model can work on auto-pilot mode and transmit signals to ground stations in a 30-km range. It can take off and land in a runway length of 10 feet.

"After every test, we have made improvements and the final model looks very different from what we started out with. Now the team is looking to build Arush X2, which will be lighter and will incorporate the improvements made so far, along with a higher-resolution camera and a shorter runway requirement," Gaurav said.

The UAV was exhibited at the DRDO expo, which concluded in Bangalore in February this year,

and is now set to be exhibited in Student Unmanned Aircraft System (SUAS), an international competition for UAVs, to be held in Maryland, USA, in June 2012.

The project was launched after a UAV assembled by the team won Director's Best Effort award at SUAS 2009 and impressed representatives from Lockheed Martin who visited DTU to fund and initiate the present project, said NS Raghava, Faculty Advisor.

"The aircraft has been completely designed by students. After the preliminary design was arrived at, there were periodic reviews by faculty. The vehicle can be used for urban surveillance needs," Raghava said.

Financial Express ND 20/03/2012 P-6

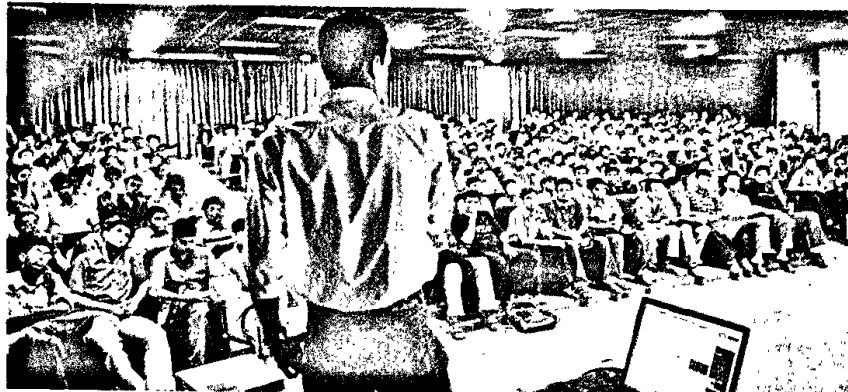
FM takes care of students' credit needs

■ Credit Guarantee Fund will replace National Education Finance Corp planned by HRD ministry

Kirtika Suneja
New Delhi, Mar 19

THE Credit Guarantee Fund proposed by finance minister Pranab Mukherjee in his Budget to serve the credit needs of students will replace the human resource development (HRD) ministry's plans for a National Education Finance Corporation (NEFC) for refinancing of education loans.

The NEFC, which was intended for the expansion of educational institutions as well as to offer refinancing facility for education loans, faced opposition from the Planning Commission on the grounds that the government is already making financial contribution to the education sector and that there is no need for establishing another independent body for the same. Besides, it also envisaged the creation of a Credit Guarantee Fund Resources for



Education Loans to provide guarantees to the advances granted to students for acquiring higher education without obtaining any collateral security or third-party guarantees.

However, the corporation will no longer be required once the

new fund is in place. In fact, the fund seeks to separate the guarantee and refinance parts to reduce the risk perception involved in education loans.

"The NEFC will no longer be required as the fund will take care of the guarantee part. The Indian

Banks' Association (IBA) and finance ministry are working on the new fund and we think that the government will provide only a partial guarantee to students otherwise the banks might end up lending indiscriminately," said an HRD ministry official.

Under the present model, there is a maximum limit for education loan of ₹10 lakh for studies within the country and ₹20 lakh for studies abroad. As per the IBA, the public sector banks had sanctioned ₹15,207-crore education loans in 5.42-lakh accounts in the year ended 31st March. The amount of the disbursement was ₹11,200 crore during the year.

"The fund seeks to tweak the guarantee part as education loan is a separate product in itself because while any other loan is repaid in a few years, this loan can't be repaid till the time the student is studying," the official added.

The fund is also a blessing for the public sector banks that often complain of default on loan repayment as there is no collateral involved. According to IBA, the total outstanding loans of public sector banks for education as on 31st March stood at ₹43,074 crore in more than 22 lakh accounts.

Business Line ND 20/03/2012 P-7

Coming soon, \$30-40 I-slate tablets for school students

Pilot project started in AP school

Our Bureau

Hyderabad, March 19

If proposals of Nanyang Technological University (NTU) of Singapore and Villages for Development and Learning Foundation (ViDAL) go as planned, school children in one of the poorest districts in India would get 50,000 tablets in the next three years.

When bought in bulk, these tablets will be available for just \$30-40 from vendors, while NTU and ViDAL would take care of the content that goes into these tablets, labelled I-slate.

These entities in association with Rice University (Singapore) and the Andhra Pradesh Government have already been doing a pilot in two Government schools in Mahaboobnagar district by giving school children 30 tablets. "We have been studying the user experience for the last three years. We will be coming out with a detailed paper," Mr Krishna Palem, a professor at both Rice and NTU, and who created the I-slate.

I-slate is a low-cost learning tool designed for classrooms with no electricity and too few teachers. It is under joint development by the I-slate consortium that includes hardware experts at Rice and NTU, ViDAL and a US-based design team.



Low-cost learning tool: Mr Henrik Anderson, a Swedish designer of 'I-slate', explains to a teacher its usage.— P.V. Sivakumar

"I-slate is a device designed for a single purpose – education in a low-resource environment. We have talked to manufacturers in China and they agreed to supply these units at \$30-40 a piece, if you buy lakh units. The price

would gradually go up as the number goes down," Mr Krishna Palem, who was here to showcase the model, told *Business Line*.

Ms Rajeswari Pingali, ViDAL Chairperson, said the learning curve had moved up

in the user group after they started using the device. Each year, the consortium partners would take the slates back and study and analyse the usage patterns in order to get insights.

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Opt for engineering only if you can face challenges

20 Mar 2012, Hindustan Times (Kolkata)

Engineers have the ability to bring about an impactful change. They can bring blueprints alive. They can use a barren land as a canvas and spill colours to make a new painting for invention and latest technology.

Every year millions of students appear for engineering entrance exams like AIEEE and IIT-JEE. All Class 12 students might be busy with board exams, but are equally eager to achieve their dreams and enter best colleges and universities.

Engineering as a career has attracted the student fraternity of the country in a big way and the large number of aspirants taking the engineering exams is a proof of the rise in demand. Students don't shy away from giving in their best. The rat race of "being the best" has made students cross their own bar. They are aware that clearing these exams is not a cakewalk.

Every student who wants to be an engineer dreams of pursuing the degree from IIT. But it is very important to understand that preparation for Indian Institute of Technology Joint Entrance Examination (IIT-JEE) requires rigorous hard work as competition for the limited seats at the prestigious IITS is increasing every year. Nowadays, students start preparing from Class 9. They take special coaching to sit for the entrance exams.

IIT-JEE is an annual college entrance examination in India. It is one of the toughest engineering entrance exams in the world with a success rate of around 1 in 45. AIEEE is the largest entrance examination in the world. It is the exam for admission in engineering or architecture bachelor courses throughout.

Engineering is amongst the few professions where creativity and ingenuity knows no bounds. Moreover if you are one who looks for challenging opportunities then probably engineering is the most ideal profession to opt for.

As a profession it offers a wide range of career possibilities. From the design of fighter planes to that of pacemakers for hearts to boring holes deep into the earth for petrochemicals, engineers play a pivotal role.

It is very important to know that the candidates who are appearing for their final examinations of 12 in 2012 are eligible to apply and can appear twice in the Joint Entrance Exam in consecutive years. Those who have passed their Class 12 exam from a recognised board are also eligible to sit for the exam.

It is advisable to stay focused and maintain a positive attitude. Fretting over the exam will not be helpful, you will only waste time. It is important to develop speed.



Do not overstress yourself, it is important to sleep five to six hours every night, especially three to four days before the exam to keep you physically and mentally fit. This year IIT-JEE and AIEEE is slated for April 8 and April 29.

Hindustan Times

Title : GANGA CRUSADER AIRLIFTED FROM VARANASI

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GANGA CRUSADER AIRLIFTED FROM VARANASI

NEW DELHI: Former IIT professor and noted environmentalist GD Agarwal, 80, who has been on a fast-unto-death since January 15 "to save Ganga" was airlifted from Varanasi to the Capital after his condition deteriorated.

He was admitted at the AIIMS at about 4 pm in the evening.

"He has been admitted under the care of Dr AB Dey of the medicine department, in ward AB-8, which is our critical care unit," Dr Rakesh Yadav, spokesperson at AIIMS said telling about Dr Agarwal.

"Investigations are underway and concerned specialists are being consulted. His overall condition is stable," he said.

Sources in the hospital said he was very weak and looked pale. According to sources, noted activist Anna Hazare visited Agarwal at AIIMS.

"He stopped taking water from March 9 and his condition deteriorated. Doctors advised he be taken to AIIMS. He is on his way and will reach Delhi by 3 pm," said Rajendra Singh, an activist and Magsaysay awardee.

HTC