

BUSINESS PIONEER

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DCE on all-terrain road to success

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ONCE AGAIN the Delhi College of Engineering (DCE) is set to bag laurels at the Society of Automobile Engineers (SAE) Mini Baja, All Terrain Vehicle (ATV), in an international level competition scheduled on 17th October at Pretoria, South Africa.

A nine member group of students under the guidance of Prof R S Khanduja and Prof S Maji, faculty advisors in the college, were all set to participate in Mini-Baja Mid West, United Kingdom in the first week of June this year, however, the visit was can-

celled as the team could not procure visas on time.

The Vehicle christened, "Resistance", is a result of the sheer persistence and hard work of the students. It took more than a year for the students to design the car. Rahul Ahlawat, the team leader, conceived the idea of participating in the competition. The very idea infused new energy in all and the students were prepared to devote hours on the internet, libraries, in meeting experts and for holding meetings among the team members.

They had to design and build a single seat, off road recreational vehicle for non-

professional off road enthusiasts. "After months of research, we started working on cheap material like curtain rods and wood. Only by February 2003, did we start working on the real material", said Ahlawat.

The mammoth task was not to be accomplished with enthusiasm alone. The students confronted the problem of finance themselves. "Though the project had to be completed within the shoestring budget of Rs 30,000 only, we were finding it hard to find sponsors as no one was ready to believe what we were up to. But we convinced them of our determination. JK tyres

and Telco gave a few necessary equipment needed for the vehicle. We even went on a two month training during the vacations", said Rajat, a team member.

The students had a few more months at their disposal with the cancellation of the visit in June, which they utilised for further improvement. The ATV finally rolled down the stairs of the college to the slimy bank of the Jamuna for a test drive this Sunday amidst cheers.

Prof Maji says, "I am proud to say the students left no stone unturned to translate the idea into reality." "We have won FISITA Best

Endeavour Award for our SAE Formula Car earlier and we are confident of winning an award at Mini-Baja 100", says, Prof R S Khanduja.

The Principal of the College, Prof P B Sharma was all praises for the students who handled the project in a "genius manner."

To transform DCE into a world class knowledge enterprise, he has proposed initiatives including projects in air conditioning, bio-diesel plants and energy conservation. Prof Sharma is enthusiastic about the bio-diesel plant that will help produce unconventional energy from plant waste.

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