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IIT-Delhi to represent India at international robotics event

Considered the biggest robotics event for undergraduates in the Asia-pacific region, Robocon International will see the institute vying with 35 teams

Pallavi Singh

New Delhi, March 15: Come August, a bunch of 20 students from IIT-Delhi will swing robots in Hanoi, Vietnam to win an international Robotics competition. In the five years of the event, this is the first time that IIT-Delhi is going to represent India at the event.

The Robotics team this week registered a win over more than 25 competing colleges from across the country, including three IITs to emerge as national champion. Financially supported by IIT-Delhi administration, the team has developed three robots — one manual and two automated — over the last 12 months for the competition with a budget of around Rs 2 lakh.

Robocon International, organised every year by Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union of which Doordarshan is a member, is considered the biggest robotics event for under-graduate students in the Asia-pacific region. While Vietnam has been a winner for the first three years of the event, India has never gone beyond quarterfinals.

"Our country's performance at the event has so far been dismal. We are analysing videos of previous years' events and are in the process of identifying our weak points," said Dr SK Saha, project coordinator for the event.

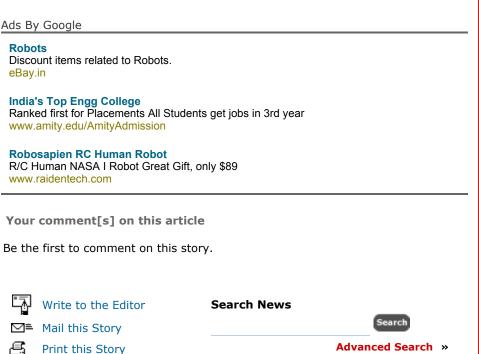This year's Robocon theme is based on an old Vietnam legend wherein

dragons engage in a contest to capture the Vietnamese islands. In the game, robots will signify the dragons and try to accomplish the task of putting cylindrical "pearls" into pole-shaped "islands".

While Dr Saha terms it a "difficult" game, the students are in high spirits after becoming national champions and feel that the competition as well as the fabrication of the robots was a thrilling adventure. Shailesh Jain, mechanical coordinator of the participating team, said: "We not only need good robots, but strategy and mind games to win the game. We hope to display our technological skills and emerge winners."

And, to ensure a smooth run at the event, the team also is in need of sponsors. "Our institute has already extended a financial support of Rs 2 lakhs for our endeavour. We are looking for sponsors to help us further," said Jain.

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