

PATUCK-GALA COLLEGE OF COMMERCE AND MANAGEMENT

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION CELL

STUDENT BULLETIN BOARD

JUNE 2023

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STUDY WEBS OF ACTIVE-LEARNING FOR YOUNG ASPIRING MINDS (SWAYAM) – AN ONLINE PLATFORM FOR STUDENTS IN INDIA



The Swayam program offers digital classrooms with the help of internet and satellite connectivity to the remotest corners in the country. Swayam is essentially a portal which has been formulated as a solution to the problem of difficult access to physical educational infrastructure and teachers along with study material and textbooks. Swayam provides online study material to students free of cost and the courses are taught via digital classrooms.

This initiative of Human Resource Development Ministry spells out SWAYAM as Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM). The broad categories of courses offered are engineering, management, science, arts and recreation, mathematics, languages, general studies, humanities, library sciences, energy, sustainable development, social science etc.

The courses are designed and delivered by Institutions of repute like IITs, IGNOU, University of Delhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru University, IIM's Indian Institute of Science, NCERT etc. The courses offered are from school to post-graduate level.

Furthermore, these courses can easily be integrated into the learners' formal traditional education system. It allows the transfer of credits that a college student earns from a course directly into their academic records. It provides courses that are vocational in nature and also for those who are working while studying.

If a student wants to get certification for the enrolled course, one needs to register for it and the certification process will be carried out after the completion of the course and examination. Enrolment of courses in the Swayam portal is free of cost, however, a nominal fee is charged to appear for the examinations and certification.

The program takes digital education and satellite technology to a new paradigm in the country. Students across the country will be able to make use of the service and any queries that they have will apparently be clarified in real time to maintain a classroom-like environment.



INDIA AIMS FOR THE MOON WITH LAUNCH OF CHANDRAYAAN-3



India is gearing up for another historic moon landing on July 14 at shortly after 5 A.M. EDT with the launch of Chandrayaan-3. The spacecraft consists of the Vikram lander, named after Vikram Sarabhai, the father of the Indian space program, and the Pragyan rover, meaning "wisdom" in Sanskrit. The previous lunar landing mission, Chandrayaan-2, faced a setback in 2019 when its lander crashed during descent. However, it successfully deployed India's second lunar orbiter, which continues to provide valuable lunar science data.

Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander is heavier than its predecessor, weighing 1,752 kilograms, primarily due to added precautions implemented by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) after the previous landing failure. The lander carries more fuel for better trajectory control, reinforced legs to absorb landing shocks, and improved navigation sensors and software to prevent potential failures. ISRO has adopted a "failure-based design" approach, focusing on identifying and addressing possible failure scenarios.

With a combined mass of 3,900 kilograms, the Chandrayaan-3 mission's orbiter, lander, and rover are within the lift limit of the GSLV Mk III, India's most powerful rocket. After deployment, the Chandrayaan-3 orbiter will maneuver Vikram to and around the Moon before settling it into a circular polar orbit 100 kilometers above the lunar surface.

If all goes as planned, on August 23, Vikram will autonomously descend to a targeted landing site on the Moon's Earth-facing side, near the lunar south pole. ISRO officials are confident in the mission's success, and Chandrayaan-3 represents a significant step forward in India's lunar exploration efforts.



GREEN LIBRARY: AN OVERVIEW

Libraries have always been bastions of knowledge, fostering learning, and cultural enrichment. In recent years, a new concept has emerged that aligns libraries with a greater purpose - environmental stewardship. Green Libraries, also known as eco-friendly or sustainable libraries, have taken center stage as institutions that actively contribute to environmental conservation and sustainability while continuing to serve their primary function of providing access to information.

Green Libraries are part of a global movement to create eco-conscious spaces that operate with minimal impact on the environment. These libraries recognize their responsibility not just as repositories of knowledge but also as leaders in promoting sustainable practices within their communities.

The vision of a Green Library encompasses a range of eco-friendly initiatives. One of the primary areas of focus is energy efficiency. Libraries strive to reduce their energy consumption by implementing energy-efficient lighting, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. Integration of renewable energy sources, such as solar panels, is becoming increasingly popular, contributing to a greener power supply.

Waste reduction is another significant aspect of green practices in libraries. By encouraging digital resources and adopting recycling programs, libraries can significantly reduce their environmental footprint. The shift from print to digital resources not only saves paper but also cuts down on transportation and storage-related emissions. Water conservation is a crucial consideration in a Green Library's agenda. Libraries can install water-efficient fixtures and even employ rainwater harvesting systems, thereby making an impact in preserving water resources. Sustainable building design is an essential element of Green Libraries. Construction with eco-friendly materials, optimizing natural lighting, and promoting proper ventilation help reduce the overall energy demand of the library.



While the idea of Green Libraries has gained traction globally, India faces specific challenges in implementing sustainable practices in its library system which include Digital divide, Awareness and education, Policy and regulations etc. Despite the challenges, some libraries in India have embraced sustainability and are leading by example. By adopting simple yet effective measures like switching to LED lighting, promoting e-books, and organizing environmental awareness campaigns, they demonstrate that every effort counts.

In conclusion, Green Libraries are a beacon of hope in the battle against climate change. While India faces specific challenges in realizing the full potential of these eco-friendly havens, concerted efforts by all stakeholders can pave the way for a greener, more sustainable future for libraries and the communities they serve. By embracing sustainability and taking active steps towards being eco-friendly, libraries in India can lead the charge in building a better, greener world.