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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Two professors of Jadavpur University involved in ISRO's soft landing project for planetary mission

TNN | Aug 25, 2023, 01.19 PM IST



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Kolkata: Two professors of Jadavpur University are involved in a soft landing project for a planetary mission sponsored by ISRO. The project is a part of the 'RESPOND' scheme by ISRO with premiere academic institutions related to space science and space technologies. Another ISRO scientist from Jalpaiguri Koushik Nag is part of Chandrayaan 3 mission.

Professor of the Power Engineering Department Amitava Gupta and professor of Electronics and Telecommunication engineering department Sayan Chatterjee submitted a project on autolander for a planetary mission to ISRO in 2019 and in 2020, they started

their work. Co-investigator Chatterjee said, "The work had two parts - imaging and control. I did the imaging part along with two of my UG students. The control part was done by professor Gupta along with a research scholar, a master student and two UG students." We completed the project in 2022 and submitted it to Isro.

"Since it is a restricted mission, we do not know whether or how much of our work has been used in Chandrayaan 3. But we worked in collaboration with Isro and were definitely part of the RESPOND project," added Chatterjee. He feels proud as an Indian citizen and congratulated ISRO for taking this effort and achieving this for the first time with limited resources. "It perhaps focuses on the long legacy of research at JU," added Chatterjee.

Principal investigator Gupta said that they created a simulator to control simulation of the lander while landing on the lunar surface by maintaining real time. "Simulator plays a vital role during soft landing of the lander - how it moves, rotates and maintains speed," added Gupta. He said, "It is not only for the Chandrayaan 3 but the simulator based soft landing can be used for ISRO's mission to other planets also." According to him, Chandrayaan 3 was successfully landed just because of the hard work of the ISRO scientists. "We are just a small part of the team effort."

On Wednesday, Gupta was hooked on to the TV screen to see the live streaming. "It was to me like watching a cricket match sitting close to the fence."

31-year old Nag joined ISRO in 2018 and has been associated with the project since inception. But acting upon strict instructions, he did not even tell his parents that he was on the mission. His mother Sonali Nag said, "It was only in May this year that he revealed the secret to me. He was also a member of Chandrayaan 2 mission."