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Student finds guardian angel in city bizman

Gautam Adani sponsors Australian conference trip of a doctoral student

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Adani responded immediately after he came to know about student's request

Akshay Bhat, 27, an XLRI doctoral student from Jamshedpur, emailed CEOs and heads of various corporate groups, asking to support him for attending international strategic management conference in Australia. While doing so, he had not expected immediate from any of them.

But much to his surprise, Gautam Adani, the founder and chairman of Adani Group, responded within a few hours of receiving the mail. And in a span of two to three days he made all the arrangement for Bhat.

"Gautam Adani believes in value addition and encourages young people to gain international exposure. When he went through Bhat's mail, he was impressed by Bhat's achievements and seriousness at such young age," said an official from Adani Group.

The group booked Bhat's flight tickets in July itself for the conference, which was held from December 6-8 in Sydney. World's leading scholars and professional gathered at the event to discuss various development in strategic management.

"I am a scholarship-based doctoral student at XLRI and have already attended two international conferences this year, thereby exhausting XLRI funds which are kept for students to attend conferences," said Bhat.

However, when he was invited to present his paper in the Sydney conference by "Strategic Management in the Asian Century - Dealing with Dynamism, Diversity and Development" he knew that he would have to fight for his chance in the sun and attend the conference.

He emailed several CEOs stating his achievements and the opportunity he was presented with. "A representative from Adani Group immediately called within a few hours and told me that he will look into the matter" said Bhat. The group sponsored Bhat with flight tickets worth Rs. 70 thousand for travelling to Sydney and successfully attending the conference.

The developed countries have a solid support system for research and funding for their students. But the initiative by Adani shows that India finally has corporate heads who truly want education to flourish and help upcoming students" said Bhat.



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