

City boys grab US scholarship

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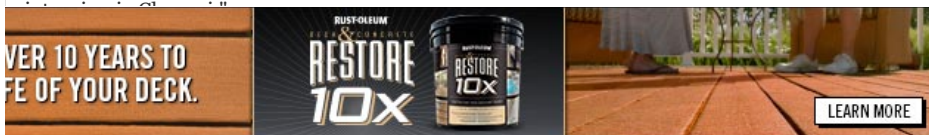
Mahesh and Girish will do a one-year course at Mesa Community College in Arizona

Overcoming modest background, two second-year college students are all set to take the long flight to America

One's father is a gardener and one's is a car driver, but that hasn't deterred two college boys from dreaming big. In a week, the two — Girish V and Mahesh Andani — will fly to the US on a fully-paid scholarship to do a one-year certificate programme in Business Management/Administration and Early Child Education respectively at Mesa Community College in Arizona.

20-year-old Girish V, a second-year B Com student at Vijaya College, comes from a modest background; his father is a car driver and his mother a maid. He also works as a life skills facilitator at Dream A Dream, a Bangalore-based NGO, where he teaches young kids "life lessons with the help of a football". Girish, who stays in Pothalappa Garden on Hosur Road, said, "I wanted to study business administration because I want to set up my own business in the future. I still can't believe that I cracked the scholarship."

The long process started in October 2013. Girish said, "We had to be either in the first or second year of college to apply for the scholarship. Then we had to write six essays explaining why we wanted the scholarship and if selected, what we would be doing with it. Then we had to write a TOEIC (test of English for international communication) to prove our skills English. After that there was a visa



The boys plan to come back to Bangalore once they complete their courses to finish their course at Vijaya College. Girish said, "We couldn't have got through if we were not in the middle of our course. Our family was worried that we might not complete our studies because they have saved on our college fees. But we, with the help of colleagues at Dream A Dream, managed to convince them that it was for our own good. Our college principal, too, had to call our parents up to convince them." For the proud, hard-working parents, it's a huge moment.

Mahesh's mother Bhavani, a housewife, said, "I cannot believe our son is going to America. Everybody dreams of going there one day, and my son is actually going. We are very proud of him, but I am equally sad because this is the first time he will be staying away from us for a year."

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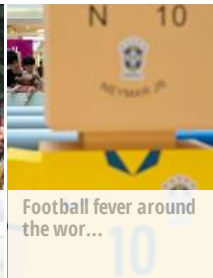
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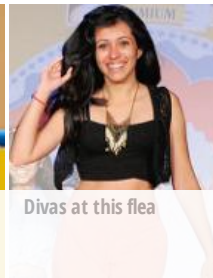
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