

## Amalthea attracts 1,500 students

The second day of the technology fest at IIT-GN saw students and speakers discuss the changes that can be brought in society

IIT Gandhinagar's annual tech festival 'Amalthea' organised in association with Ahmedabad Mirror saw a participation of more than 1,500 students on Saturday.

The students of various colleges including Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University, LDRP institute of technology and research, L D College of Engineering, Nirma University, Gandhinagar Institute of Technology, MICA, AIT, VGEC, Som Lalit Management Institute, Gandhinagar Engineering College.



Students from various colleges listened to the speakers who talked about their initiatives and interacted with them

The students listened attentively to the eminent speakers who delivered the lectures. Some of the speakers on day one included V S Raju, former director of IIT Delhi, Utpal Sharma, dean of faculty of planning and public policy of Cept University and Pravin Gandhi, business development director of Underwriters Laboratories Inc.



**SUBBIR HAZRA Associate vice president and head strategic planning Delhi International Airport Pvt Ltd GOVT MUST MOTIVATE PRIVATE DEVELOPERS.**

Since 2003-04 private players have entered into the construction of airports. As the concept is new, there are only a few private players in this business. Funds play a major role in airport infrastructure. Therefore, it is not possible for one person to take care of the entire construction. Hence, private equity and shares plays a role in this game. In the case of small airports or air-strip projects, the profits seen are less as the trade and movement of flights seen are less. Thus, it discourages people from involving themselves Government should promote the public private partnership (PPP) model. This will reduce a lot of burden and simultaneously quicken the process of clearance as the government is involved.

**(As told to Kuldeep Tiwari)**



I am not sure about Mumbai, but Ahmedabad has the potential to become like Shanghai. The city is expanding in all directions with projects like

riverfront and Gujarat International Financial Tech-City (GIFT). Quality roads and infrastructure can change the face of the city in the near future. Surat's Hope Bridge site is the only location in India that has the potential to match with San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. It is one of the most internationally recognised symbols of San Francisco, California. Golden Gate Bridge has been declared one of the modern Wonders of the World by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

**SANTOSH RAI Sales  
Head, Strategic  
Initiatives, E&C  
Business at HCC  
POTENTIAL TO BE**

#### **CITY LACKS PLANNING**

The roads are good but do not meet international standards. It is because of the chaos that can be seen on the roads. The planners must aim to solve the problem faced by the commuters while planning and constructing the roads. If this is not taken care of, the chaos on the roads will not change.

**(As told to Kuldeep Tiwari)**

Poor people have aspirations to lead a better life. Often, they are willing to pay the necessary price if it improves the quality of life. The current Indian education system encourages mugging up. But students must learn through discovery and experiential learning. Visual aid helps make learning interesting and creative for children. Our scheme is for families whose monthly income does not exceed \$50 (approx Rs 2500). The laptop was designed with 40 years of research and the help of scholars such as Seymour Papert and Jean Piaget. The laptop uses minimal electricity to reduce the expenses and make it more feasible for children in rural areas. With an easy interface, the water-proof, unbreakable laptop can be used by children with ease.



**SATISH JHA President  
and CEO of One Laptop  
Per Child  
FEASIBLE FOR CHILDREN**

#### **GUJARAT LEADS THE WAY**

Gujarat is leading the way in development so I think it is ready for the project. I had a word with the chief minister last year but nothing so far has worked out. The project has been successfully launched in Kerala, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh as well as countries like Peru, Uruguay among others. Hopefully, we shall launch our project in Gujarat soon.

**(As told to Dhvani Pathak Dave)**

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Page : 08