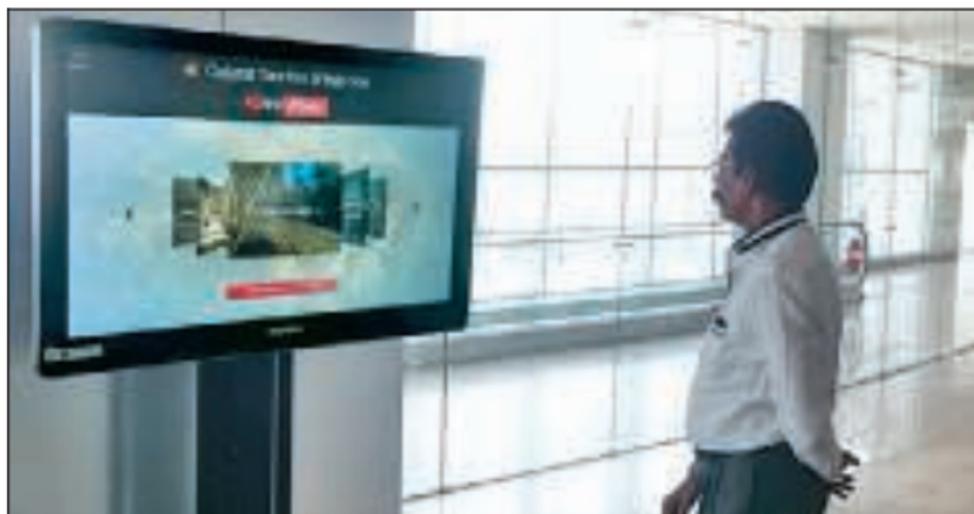


Now, virtual tour of hotspots at airport



Ashish Chauhan & Piyush Mishra | TNN

Ahmedabad: Fliers can now zero in on tourist attractions or add destinations to their itinerary after a virtual tour of tourism hotspots, while waiting at the city airport lounge.

Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd (TCGL), with support from four Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IITGN) alumni, has developed special '4D' display touchscreens, the installation of which has begun at the airport.

Initially, six such systems will be installed at the airport. The total number could be expanded to 40 by the end of this year, at places such as other airports in the state and the new GSRTC bus depots at Vadodara and Ranip.

Tourists can take a virtual tour of Rani ki Vav, Polo forest, International Kite Festival and Indroda Park. The Rannotsav of Kutch, Dholavira, Champamer and Asiatic lion sanctuary at Gir will be included soon.

The four IIT-GN alumni — Dhyey Shah, Eepsit Tiwari, Ankit Pandole and Preet Shah — have developed these special screens.

"We wanted to create a platform that not only gives a comp-

lete feel of the place but also communicates key information subtly, in context," said Dhyey Shah, who developed the screens under his startup '4Dea' which was incubated by IIT-Gn, said.

"Our effort is to exactly provide a user experience that is happy and surprising. People at both international and domestic terminals at the airport can experience some beautiful and unexplored places by interacting with 4Dea vTours on Gujarat Tourism touchscreens," Shah said.

"We received proposals from many companies, but chose this young man who graduated from IIT-Gandhinagar. We liked his idea and approach. We took up the project to promote Dhyey's idea and Gujarat tourism," said Nityanand Srivastava, managing director, TCGL.

The virtual tour touchscreens have been placed in the security hold area (SHA) in the departures side of the domestic terminal.

Shrivastava further said, "We started by placing screens at the airport, as people spend a lot of time waiting and this give us an audience. We asked the firm to start with virtual tours of 10 tourism sites and will increase this later."