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SKID-FREE CARNAMA

Students from 11 GTU colleges make a vehicle to participate in national race car design competition; tech varsity sanctions Rs 15 lakh for the project

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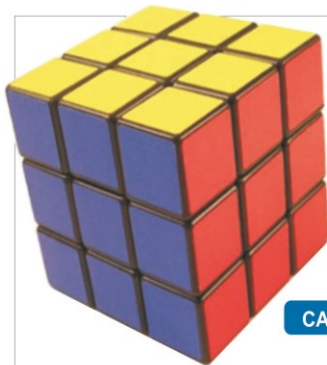
The workshop of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at LD College of Engineering is throbbing with activities these days. Twenty-two students from 11 colleges are working almost round the clock to give shape to their dream: a race car that can accelerate but won't skid on treacherous tracks. It is power-packed and has endurance but is fuel

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Jatin Patel, GITian



The car took six months to materialise and will compete with creations from 43 teams across the country



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Cops withdraw security to Narayan rape case witness

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Despite the court order, Palghar police recently withdrew protection to a key witness in the Narayan Sai rape case which is being conducted in a Surat court. The witness now fears for his life and has pleaded with the police for the restoration of security. Claiming that the security was withdrawn due to paucity of manpower, the police said they would approach the Surat court to ascertain if the witness indeed needed security.

Dr Bharat Verma (46), a registered homoeopath who runs a clinic at Virar in Mumbai, had testified against Narayan Sai in the Surat court about the godman's involvement in rape of



Dr Bharat Verma had testified against Narayan Sai in the Surat court

minor girls at his ashram. Since December 4, 2013, Narayan Sai is languishing in jail along with his father, Asaram who is in Jodhpur. He was arrested by Surat police under Sections 376 (rape), 377 (unnatural sex), 354 (molestation) and other sections of the IPC after a survivor complained to

the police. Dr Bharat Verma and his wife Rekha, a homemaker, testified in the court about various incidents of rape by Narayan Sai of girl inmates at his ashram in Virar and as per the court orders, the couple was provided with a gunman from the Palghar police eight months ago as there was threat to their lives.

Said Dr Verma, "We found that Narayan Sai's cronies had made attempts to murder at least two witnesses, Dinesh Sindhi and Amrut Prajapati (who was a witness in the Asaram rape case). We pleaded for police security and the Surat court granted us the same. We have an 8-year-old daughter and we fear for our lives."

The doctor had reported to the Virar police in 2005 about the rape of minor girls by Narayan Sai at Virar ashram, but the police did not take action against the godman, said Dr Verma.

Jalore man hangs self in train toilet

Cheganlal Kamaram boarded train from Miraj was travelling to Surat

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man travelling on Ajmer Garib Nawaz Express committed suicide in one of the train's toilets on Saturday night. "The man who had a reservation till Surat, boarded the train from Miraj around 12.40 pm on Saturday," said a Vasai Government Railway Police (GRP) official.

Finding the toilet door locked from inside, passengers pulled the chain and brought the train to a halt at Virar station. Vasai GRP officials broke the door and found the man's body hanging from the toilet's main pipeline. The man had used a shirt to hang himself. The victim has been identified as 33-year-old Cheganlal Kama-



Cheganlal Kamaram

ram of Rajasthan's Jalore district. Police have registered a case of accidental death.

The man's Aadhar card was found with his belongings. "After finding Kamaram's address on his Aadhar card, we informed his relatives in Ahor village about his death. They are on their way to claim his body," said an official. "We have sent Kamaram's body to Virar PHC for post-mortem examination. No suicide note has been recovered. Probe is on," added the official.

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efficient. The car will compete against 41 similar products of students from across the country in January and their makers will have to convince the jury of the design, the cost, as well their business plan.

Assistance and encouragement has come in full measure from Gujarat Technological University with which their colleges are affiliated. The university has not only sanctioned a grant of Rs 15 lakh for the project, but also signed MoUs with colleges to ensure students' participation in the most talked about campus automobile competition in the country right now: Formula Student India-2015 at Coimbatore from January 20 to 25 next year. The same team will go to the main event: Supra SAE India-2015 at Chennai in July.

It all began with LD College of Engineering's Devak Bhardwaj getting to know about the event. He approached his college to participate in it but as the project cost was high, the college approached GTU. The tech varsity, too, was hesitant as it involved a big grant to a student from one college. To overcome this problem, Bhardwaj went around the colleges affiliated with GTU and convinced students. Finally 21 more students from 11 colleges came to form the team christened GT Motorsports.

The team participated in the rapid fire eliminator quiz on May 25 this year and made it to the final round where they will be competing with 43 other teams from across India.

Once GTU Vice Chancellor Akshai Aggarwal was convinced of the utility of the project and the learning that the students were to take from it, he asked the university officials to sign MoU with all colleges and sanctioned the grant.

"It took us three months to complete the formalities and three more months to design and produce the vehicle. We have divided ourselves in two teams. We work in shifts and put in about 20 hours every day to complete the project," Bhardwaj, who became the team captain, said.

"We bought a KTM motorcycle. We ripped out its engine and modified it to make it fit our design. Wheel rim, tyre, shock absorbers, etc, were either imported or made to order to meet our specifications. Effort has been made to control the weight of the car without compromising on the strength and efficiency," he added.

The car driven by four of the team members has touched a speed of 143 kmph.

Said Dr Aggarwal, "We have sanctioned Rs 15



Team captain evak hardwa in the drivers seat

LD College of Engineering
Indus Institute of Technology & Engineering
SAL Institute of Technology
Nar Narayan Shastri Institute of Technology
Gandhinagar Institute of Technology
Universal College of Engineering
Silver Oak College of Engineering
Ahmedabad Institute of Technology
Labhubhai Trivedi Institute of Technology and Engineering
Vishwakarma Government Engineering College
Alpha College of Engineering & Technology

lakh as for the first time a team from Gujarat is participating in a competition of this scale. They are working very hard and I am happy with the effort they have put in."

T T T

Formula SAE is the world's largest student engineering design competition in which university students design, manufacture, test and compete with a single seat racecar. This highly prestigious engineering competition has seen the last 34 years filled with innovative and award winning designs from universities and colleges across the globe. Now, the competition encompasses 511 registered teams worldwide.

Each car is judged in a number of events, which are separated into two types: static and dynamic. Static events consist of design, cost, as well as a business presentation. The static events allow teams to showcase their financial acumen, marketing strategies and overall design philosophies. The dynamic events consist of acceleration, skid-pad, autocross, fuel economy and endurance.