



Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd

APRIL 13, 2014 | PAGES 42 | INCLUDING AHMEDABAD TIMES (FOR AHMEDABAD AND GANDHINAGAR CITIES ONLY), TIMES LIFE! AND TIMES PROPERTY | TIMESOFINDIA.COM | EPAPER.TIMESOFINDIA.COM

O F I N D I A

High note for Gulzar:

Lyricist, director chosen for Dadasaheb Phalke award **P 6**

Sandhu beats Olympian:

Outshines Diamond to clinch gold in Shotgun World Cup **P 18**



AHMEDABAD

PRICE ₹5.00

Taking mini ideas TO THE SKY

Tech students from across the country converge in capital for finals of aero-modelling contest to promote aircraft manufacturing in India

Photos: Sanjay Sekhri

Amin Ali | TNN

This project was like giving wings to their dreams. An aero modelling contest by a global major in aircraft manufacturing in association with IIT Delhi required engineering students from across the country to demonstrate their aero-modelling skills. After the zonal competitions ended at other IITs, the finalists reached Delhi with their machines.

After sleepless nights, constant reworking of formulae and endless flying hours, the mini planes were ready for flight.

Gaurav, an aeronautical engineering student and Chetan pursuing mechanical engineering in Nagpur felt creating their 1m x 1m machine was nothing less than building an entire aeroplane from scratch. "First we browsed through all the technology needed to build an actual aircraft and then looked for lightest, cheapest and easily repairable material to build our model," said Gaurav.

It was important to get the material right as well. Every test had the possibility of a crash. The teams were permitted only one model and they



had to immediately repair their existing model to be eligible for the next trial.

That's why Rishi and Pratyush, pursuing engi-

neering in Bhopal, had opted for high-density thermocol to sustain even the worst of crashes. It also helped them to get the weight to power ratio of their planes right.

The teams in the contest also hope their models will be put to better use in the future. Pavan, Tabrez and Vignesh from Bangalore hoped their equipment would aid the authorities in surveillance; Zimbabwean student Junaid and Namibian Michael, pursuing engineering in India, felt their planes could be fitted with cameras and used to keep tabs on wildlife and poachers, much like it's done in Africa.

Pratyush Kumar of Boeing India was quite impressed with the talent on display. "This contest is aimed at getting India ready for aerospace manufacturing," he said.

While students had their ideas about the future of aero modelling in India, one participant said, "We would want our teachers to start tracking us through our creations."

