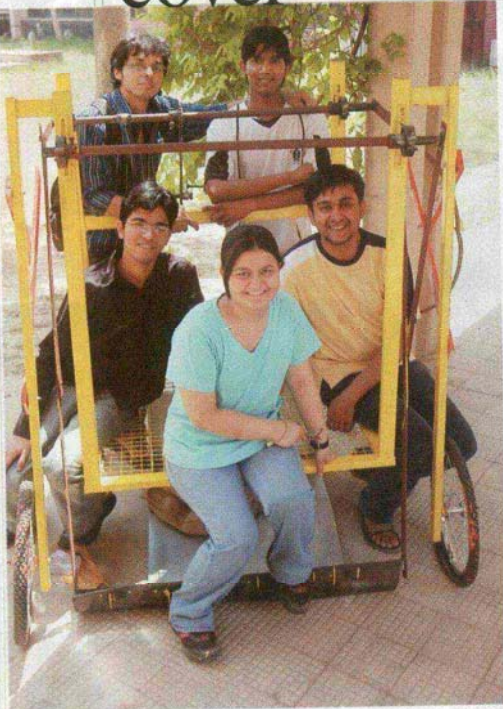


cover



sign Analog VSLI Chip to Emulate Retina. Simply put, Gilhotra's chip, once it has been human tested, will work as faux eyes for the blind in place of the retina. Says Gilhotra, "This product will restore vision and make it more accurate."

Another product that is poised to make waves is Lt Cdr Santosh Biradar's High Speed Digital Underwater Modem, which allows real voice communication between divers in deep waters. A young officer in the Indian Navy, Biradar is currently pursuing his MTech in electrical engineering along with

Serious fun

The Easy Garbage Collector (left) helps lift garbage from large open spaces; the team that designed the Mini Baja all-terrain vehicle (below)

about to call it a day, after brainstorming for hours."

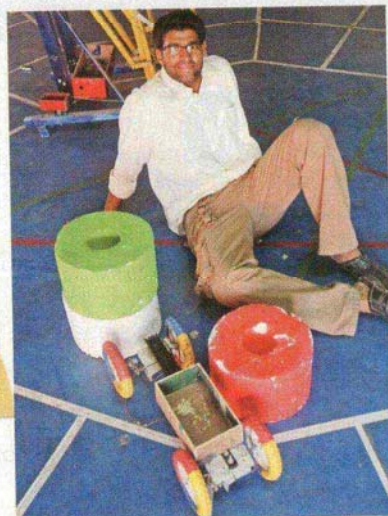
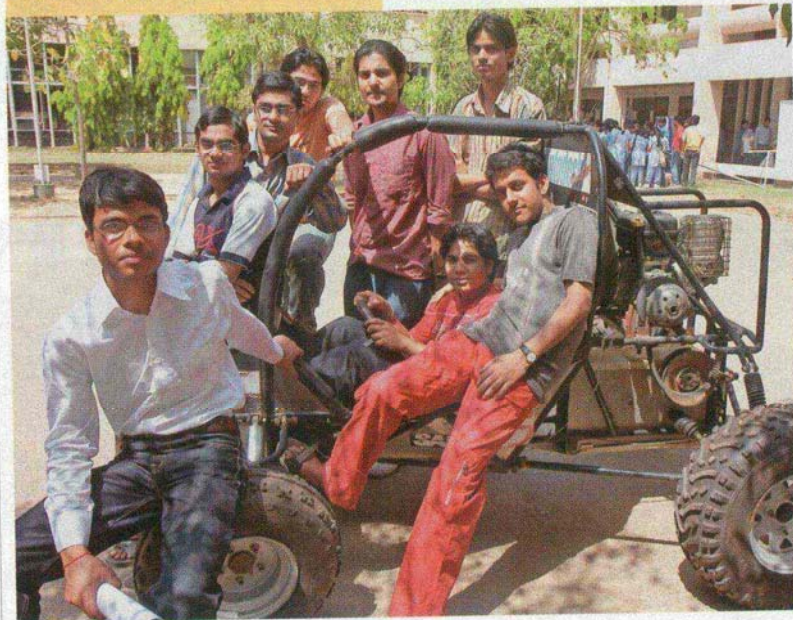
Charting starry nights is Skyfy, a database programme developed by Nishil Gupta and Ashok Mandavagane, that allows you to see all the stars in one single frame, at any date, time and place. It is the result of Gupta's fascination with the heavens ever since he attended an astronomy workshop by Amit Sriti, an NGO, in his hometown Bhopal.

The computer wizardry got more intense at the Bharati Lab, which played host to the team (Rohan Paul, Ankush Garg, Dheeraj Mehra and Vaibhav) that designed a Smart Cane for the visually impaired. Tested by Delhi's National Association for the Blind, the cane uses ultraviolet rays to sense objects within three metres. A computer programme within the rod makes it vibrate (at four different levels depending on the proximity of the object).

In the electronics alley, was PhD student Pavan Gilhotra's De-

Ruling Robo

Manvendra Singh with Robocon 2007 (right), which won the All-India DD MIT 2007 Robocon contest and will travel to Vietnam later this year.



four other naval officers. Biradar, a product of the National Defence Academy, says, "I love water skiing and sailing and have done recreational diving in Lakshwadeep."

One of the most user-friendly inventions was a mechanised bookshelf. Designed like a giant wheel, it could help those who find it painful to reach the lower and upper racks of shelves. Designed by second year mechanical engineering students—Kritika Upreti, Gautam Chawla, Ruchir Gupta and Vineeth Naik—the shelf can hold about 80 books. Says Upreti, "The idea came from a shoe shop, where we saw shoes being stocked haphazardly. But ultimately, we ended up making a book rack."

For those looking to have some

fun, there was Robocon. Made of three machines—one pre-programmed and two operated by remote—the machine is part of a competitive game. Designed by Manvendra Singh, along with 20 of his classmates, IIT Delhi's Robocon came first among 26 teams at the all India DD MIT 2007 Robocon competition held this March in Pune. Techno talk is sure taking on a more active role in everyday life.

■ by Newly Paul and Damini Purkayastha