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Students offer alternative solutions for smart city problems

Staff Reporter

HYDERABAD: Solutions to smart city problems are driven more by innovation rather than high-end technology, is what students and entrepreneurs proved through their showcases at the just-concluded 'Hacker Summit'.

The three-day event, organised by the HYSSEA (Hyderabad Software Enterprises' Association) at IIIT, got the enterprising youngsters to develop products with the theme 'smart cities'. About 175 members formed into 40 teams and worked on solutions related to traffic management, smart urban lighting, waste management, city maintenance, intelligent transport system, smart wi-fi, smart grids, e-governance and safety management.

A model, which was adjudged the winner, works when internet network fails. The 'Direction via SMS' that helps people get the right direction to their destination through an SMS was developed by students of Gokaraju Rangaraju Institute of Technology. "According to a study, only 40 per cent of the mobile users have smart phones. Even if one has a smart phone, there is every chance of encountering data connec-

The recently-concluded 'Hacker Summit' saw students developing products that make sustenance in smart cities easier

tivity issues or battery problems while using Google or other maps for a long time," said A. Harish, one of the team members who developed the product.

"By just sending a text message along with the transport mode, the user will get the direction information within 30 seconds. The product can be commercially viable if we can tie-up with local vendors or cabs for ads," said D. Himabindu, faculty at GRIT and mentor of the group.

The first runner-up at the event was 'UNIACT'. The model helps citizens post information regarding a social issue and the kind of help required in the digital space and curate actionable items.

The second runner-up was 'Intelligent Train Engine', mainly developed to avoid accidents at unmanned railway gates by closing the gate when the train arrives and opening it in either of the directions.