

'Infrastructure with vision leads to change'

At inaugural function of IIT-Gn tech fest, Modi said the single decision to create highways changed fate of both Gujarat and S Korea

By Ahmedabad Mirror Bureau

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Tech fest Amalthea 2011 kickstarted at IIT Gandhinagar on Friday with Chief Minister Narendra Modi inspiring young IITians to boost infrastructure growth. He addressed aspiring professionals, ahead of a two-day conclave which will begin on Saturday.

Organised in association with Ahmedabad Mirror, the event with the theme of 'Prosperity through Technology' will include conclaves, exhibitions and technical sessions on October 15 and 16.

Elaborating on the importance of infrastructure, he said South Korea has often been compared to Gujarat in various ways. "Infrastructure with vision can lead to revolution. A single decision that changed the face of that third world country was a six-lane road that cut across the country," he said.

Speaking of Gujarat's infrastructure growth, he said that with just one policy decision of forming east-west highways, which earlier ran north-south, wealth has been evenly distributed in the state.

"An adivasi farmer from the tribal belt can easily access any port within four hours because of the new highways," he pointed out. Modi also said there has always been a pressure on states on whether to give priority to issues concerning the common man or focus on infrastructure.

"Now, times have changed. We have to look at infrastructure keeping in mind the future generations," he said.

'Civilisation flourishes near highways'

"In the past, human civilisation across the world flourished near a water body. Now they flourish next to highways," he said. Giving the audience a glimpse of the future, he said, "Soon, the next generation will see human development wherever there are optical fibres."

Modi promised to allot the institute a 450-acre plot near Gandhinagar. The institute can lease the land for 99 years at a token amount of Re 1, he said.