

DCE Students With The Right Designs On Formula One Cars

HT City Correspondent

THEY COULD have been another group of tech-savvy teenagers living it up on the campus. But for the past three years, 17 students from the Delhi College of Engineering have been possessed by a passion for Formula One racing. Beyond being couch potatoes rooting for Schumi or Kimi, they participate in the Formula Student Competition. "The Competition is a challenge for engineering students from around the world to conceive, design, fabricate and race small Formula style racing cars," says Arpit Gupta, a Final-Year student of Mechanical Engineering and the project leader.

Four of the group will travel to Bruntingthorpe Proving Ground, 8 miles south of

Leicester, between July 4-7, to race against competitors from 48 universities.

So, they are busy putting finishing touches to their vehicle with a 600 cc Yamaha Y2F R6 engine. "Some of our leading contenders are Rochester, Birmingham, Toronto and Leeds University. We'll be measured on a scale of 1000 and 350 of these points will be devoted to the race. The rest will go into presentation, cost report and design analysis of the car," elaborates Shiva Dixit, a student of Polymer Science Technology.

To understand the nuances of designing an F-1 car, the students underwent training in suspension geometry under Mohinder Lalwani at Mumbai. "Lalwani has been designing the Formula Maruti for the past 20 years. We



From Left: Shiva Dixit, Arpit Gupta, Sumit Chowdhary and Anuj Chowdhary are part of a group of DCE students ready to race their vehicle in the Formula Student competition at Bruntingthorpe Proving, England

PHOTO: RAJ K. RAJ

also visited the race track near Chennai for first-hand experience," adds Mechanical Engineering student Sumit Chowdhary.

More than the tinkering or welding that went into the making of dream machines,

this inspired group of students had difficulty finding sponsors and negotiating bureaucratic hurdles. "Although we managed to find good sponsors such as JK, Advance Ventilation, Sona Steering, Kalyani Brakes and Hin-

dalco, it took us more than a month to get the customs duty waived off our engine import," says Gupta.

The new machine can go up to 120 km an hour, owing to the speed restrictions and the serpentine circuit that is too narrow, adds Anuj Chowdhary, another mechanical engineering student of Final Year. Still, if their enthusiasm is any indication, the rookie engineers can make India proud!

PHOTOS: RAJ K. RAJ



Popular Consensus: HT Is The Best!

The *Hindustan Times* What's The Headline Contest is a big hit all over the city. **ASMITA AGGARWAL** spoke to a few of the winners to find out what makes *HT* their favourite morning daily.

ARTI GUPTA: A resident of Chawvri Bazar, she is completing her MA in English from HP University. Gupta says reading *HT* is the best way to get in sync with the world before you start your day. "I read every page of the newspaper carefully. Among the supplements I love *HT City*, because of the *Take Five* and the daily horoscope," says Gupta.

KAMAL NEGI: A resident of Rohini, Negi is doing his MBA from Madhurai Kamraj, Vikaspuri. *Hindustan Times*, he says is like a one-stop shop when it comes to accurate information. "I read *HT Careers* with great interest to find out information about the latest job opportunities. As a student this is the best thing for me," says Negi.

CHARU AGGARWAL: For this resident of Jyoti Nagar, who has just completed schooling from DAV Public School, Brij Vihar, *Hindustan Times* defines a complete newspaper. She says that she is particularly fond of the various supplements that come with *HT*: "I like reading *HT City's* travel page and also *HT Careers* for