

bers allegedly sent a fake parcel in the name of Ashwin Mehta to a courier company called Mathav Mangal in National Chambers at Navrangpura. According to the officials, the parcel contained stones. When the two angadiyas of the company came to deliver the parcel at the said address, the five accused allegedly threatened the angadiyas at a knife point and looted cash and jewellery. A complaint was registered with Navrangpura police sta-

involved in a case of compelling a businessman to commit suicide. He is also accused in theft, loot and other cases. Jhaveri was also involved in a number of cases," said prevention of crime branch (PCB) police inspector G S Khaira. Patel was also involved in an insurance scam that reportedly involved crores of rupees. The case is being investigated by the CBI. Patel will be sent to the Porbandar district jail, while Jhaveri will be lodged in Rajkot district jail.



Girls offer prayers at a Shiva temple for 'aluna', as part of the 'Gauri Wrat', in Surat on Wednesday.

ferred to the paediatric ward of SSG on Saturday.

Also, a fresh case of one Pinto Rathwa (5) of Manka village was rushed to the Chhota Udepur CHC on Tuesday evening with symptoms of fever and convulsions, putting the total number of cases at 13.

At least ten villages of Chhota Udepur taluka have been affected by the disease. One case has been reported from Jaduli village of Allraipur taluka in Madhya Pradesh. Officials are trying to ascertain if the disease has made a comeback to villages that reported such cases in 1997.

### Govt official booked in DA case in Surat

Times News Network

Ahmedabad: A class I officer with the Water and Land Management Board, Surat, was booked in a disproportionate assets case by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday. Executive engineer with the board, Pravin Dhangar, was booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act after movable and immovable assets, worth Rs 24.68 lakh, in his name were found to be in excess of his income.

## Diamond scanning device fetches tech award for A'bad co

Times News Network



Ahmedabad: Technocrat and entrepreneur Arvind Patel dared to dream and today his start-up company Sahajanand Laser Technology (SLT), has been selected by the Technology Development Board for the national award for the successful commercialisation of a technology-based product by an SSI unit.

Ahmedabad-based SLT has developed a diamond scanning machine based on laser scanning and marking to bring out a three dimensional model, based on which manual polishing can be done. "This machine is not only cheaper than the imported one, it will also lead to more than 20 per cent saving in material cost for diamond polishing companies," said Arvind Patel, managing director of SLT.

The Technology Development Board presents awards every year to honour

the many scientists, researchers and entrepreneurs across the country, who have successfully transformed their dreams into commercial products.

A BE in electronics, Patel worked for several years at companies like ISRO and GNFC's electronics division, before deciding to go on his own. In 1990, he started SLT with a couple of crores from some NRI friends. Today, the company has emerged as a leader in the diamond machinery industry in India and

a pioneer in the field of laser and CNC technology.

SLT has created synergy through integral working of laser specialists, application engineers, diamond experts, software specialists, electronics and mechanical engineers and techno-commercial personnel. Company manufactures state-of-the-art diamond cutting machines with robotic automation and talking facility.

"These are comparable to the best imported machines on all fronts," said Patel.

"We started off by modifying Swiss machinery and making machines suitable for Indian conditions. The focus was on building high quality machines, which can be operated by regular workers and would not require highly trained operators," said Patel.

Currently, 90 per cent of SLT's ma-

chines are sold to the diamond industry and the rest go to industrial machining as well as ISRO and defence. With most of the diamond polishing taking place in Surat, SLT's machines are largely sold there and in Mumbai. The company also exports 10 per cent of its turnover to Israel, Russia and some European countries.

On the cost front, SLT's machines are significantly cheaper: its regular diamond cutting machinery costs around Rs 25 lakh, while a similar machine imported from Switzerland would cost around Rs 40 lakh.

Patel has already won the 'Young Scientist Vikram Sarabhai Award' for his contribution to industry with laser technology, and the 'National Award for R&D Efforts in Industry' by the central government's ministry of science & technology.

Thursday, July 1, 2004