

# Future of India

**Manava Bharati India International School, Panchsheel bagged the top spot in the 2008-2009 Future Cities India 2020 competition.**



The winning team members from (left to right) – Ujjawal Gupta, Shwetank Choudhary, Sambit Ghosh and Harkeerat Singh.

**NEW DELHI:** The ministry of science and technology, government of India, and Bentley Systems, Incorporated, a company dedicated to providing comprehensive software solutions for the infrastructure, recently announced that the project designed by students of Manava Bharati India International School, Panchsheel won top honors in the 2008-2009 Future Cities India 2020 competition. Second place honors went to Amity International, Gurgaon.

Launched by the ministry of science and technology and Bentley in 2006, the program is a partnership among

government, universities, and the business community to promote and inspire young students to consider careers in the infrastructure design and engineering professions. It encourages students to use their design skills, along with Bentley's software, to help prepare India's cities for the year 2020, when it is estimated that more than 50 percent of India's citizens will live in the country's largest cities.

This year's challenge centered on Indian Railway's plans to refurbish the country's aging railway stations into world-class facilities. Student teams submitted conceptual designs for the rehabilitation of the New Delhi railway station, the first of 22 stations on the redevelopment schedule.

The Future Cities India 2020 competition consisted of 15 student teams representing 14 high schools. Teachers and industry mentors guided each team in designing a plan to rehabilitate the New Delhi railway station. Using Bentley software, students designed a world-class railway station to accommodate the country's growing number of commuters, while keeping in mind the concerns of the surrounding infrastructure and all environmental sustainability issues.

A panel of experts from India's infrastructure community judged the project presentations based on three requirements: using the existing land and infrastructure to best advantage, accommodating internal access zones, with separate parking zones at Paharganj and Ajmeri Gate terminals, and using environmentally responsible materials.

Commenting on the winning team's experiences during the five-month competition, team leader Shwetank Chaudhry, said, "We met the challenge put before us, but all the students produced great projects so no one team had more of an advantage over the others. This makes winning all the better given the high caliber of our competitors." Says Kapil Sibal, union minister for science and technology and earth sciences, in his message to the participants said, "By exposing young minds to engineering and design, we are grooming the next generation of infrastructure professionals, and giving them an opportunity to contribute to society now." ●