

On the 'Silky Route'

Parth.Shastri@timesgroup.com

Ahmedabad: Brownfield projects in developing mega cities like Ahmedabad — the Metro rail project or upcoming Bullet train project — need a lot of considerations while digging up urban land. A number of amenities, ranging from stormwater drainage to electric and telephone wires, can be damaged if the digging takes place haphazardly.

This is where GeoCarte Radar Tech, founded by IIT-Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) alumna Silky Agrawal comes into play. Her developed technology of improved algorithms and calculations for ground-penetrating radar (GPR) are used not only in Metro and Bullet train projects in Ahmedabad but also for similar projects in Mumbai and Pune today for high-precision 'X-ray of the land.'

"I belong to a business family from Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh and I am the first from my family to get into engineering, leave alone IIT. There were surely

The technology developed by IITian Silky Agrawal is used not only in the metro and Bullet train projects in Ahmedabad, but also in projects in Mumbai and Pune

some apprehensions when I chose civil engineering as my preferred branch, but I loved the discipline and was fortunate to get some great faculty members as guides," Silky said. "My interest in GPR technology grew when I joined a team working at Dholavira," said Silky whose improved algorithms helped find underground structures during the project.

After

Silky
Agrawal



her graduation in 2015, she decided to become an entrepreneur. "When I used to go for presentations, I was often asked about the other partner — as for them it was difficult to comprehend a woman in infrastructure domain going solo. But I never lost heart and let our technology speak for itself," says Agrawal, adding that she is happy that now women entrepreneurs are finding their distinct voice.

The technology gives over 90% precision — her GPR results have helped the Metro project officials identify 40-odd properties underground against 14 perceived earlier. "As more and more cities are going for brownfield development, application of GPR will increase. It also has applications like scan of heritage buildings," she added.

Title: On the 'Silky Route'

Source: Times of India (Pg. no. 2)

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/charting-the-silky-route/articleshow/68310839.cms>

Date: 08/03/2019