

# Editor bytes: Only positive news today



**IT-ERNAL OPTIMIST:** Narayana Murthy

## TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Success, they say, is about 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration. Having a Guest Editor like N R Narayana Murthy ensures you get plenty of both. As he criss-crossed the globe, we kept in touch, burning the midnight oil to work out special packages on subjects close to his heart.

By the time he landed in Delhi, he found — ready and waiting — a special page on urban renewal, a comparison between how India and China are faring in hi-tech areas, and a study on smaller towns which are witnessing a boom thanks to IT. Flip through this edition, and you'll find plenty of evidence of our Guest Editor's handiwork.

When it was time to plan the edition, he came up with a special request: Only positive stories on the Front Page, please. I want people to start the day on an upbeat note, not weighed down by negativism. For too long, we've had a defeatist outlook, maybe because of all the years of slavery. I want

*TOI* readers, especially the youngsters, to wake up and read about a nation on the move. What about the negative but necessary reports, we queried.

Take them inside, he said. Or at least not on the top of the front page. When we presented our list of the most positive stories of the day, he heard us out patiently, then asked, "They're all nice, but what about young readers? Don't you have something on rock music, or fashion, or gaming, or young achievers?"

We scrambled to put together some of these stories. If you like the ones about Ankit Fadia and IITs acting as incubators, you have Mr Murthy to thank.

As we got on with the job of preparing the day's edition, someone asked him the inevitable question: Would he care to play an active role in politics? "I am an action-oriented person, I like to have strict measures and deadlines for everything I do," he said. "You could say I believe in metrics, not rhetoric. So I really don't think I should take the plunge."