

Malls banking on garba grounds to boost biz

They plan on offering attractive discounts to increase footfalls

Kuldeep Tiwari

With Navratri around the corner, the mall developers and managers are hoping for a boom in business which, they hope, can continue till Diwali. They are, however, not sitting idle and instead mulling ways to check the downturn in the retail sector business. Some of the mall-owners are planning to tie up with garba organisers in the city to promote their malls.

As it is, the garba events attract the masses in a big way, and it makes a lot of marketing sense to

capture a ready clientele.

In addition, some malls are planning to offer attractive discounts in the period, a departure from the practice in earlier years.

Dev Arc Mall on SG Highway is mulling to offer discounts to the shoppers during Navratri. Besides, in a bid to capture the festive mood, the mall has decided to organise a garba in the premises too.

wooing shoppers

"This is the first time in the city that a mall will have garba indoors. We will invite people to participate here," said Sanjay Thakkar, owner of Dev Arc mall.

"We will also offer discounts to shoppers so as to attract more footfalls. Our team is also in talks with some clubs as we want to sponsor their event. This



"We will offer discounts to shoppers so as to attract higher footfalls. Our team is in talks with some clubs for sponsoring their events. This will bring us the much-needed publicity at a happening place"

—Sanjay Thakkar, owner of Dev Arc Mall

will bring us the much-needed publicity at a happening place," Thakkar added.

Dev Arc has also planned tie-up with CEPT where it will put up promotional banners and hoardings.

Himalaya Mall, located at the Gurukul Road in Western Ahmedabad, is going for a similar tie-up with Narayani Farms and Resorts near Gandhinagar, which has been organising garba for the last 10 years.

"We have tied up with Narayani Group in order to promote our mall and expect better business. This will benefit both, our mall and the resort as well," said Anshu Mathur, manager of the Himalaya mall.

Anand Gupta, director of Narayani Farms and Resorts, shared Mathur's views about the tie-up helping both the groups. Regional manager of Future

Group Anand Adukia said, "Retail sector is not doing as bad as many would like to believe. It is only that there was an oversupply earlier, which has dropped now."

Navratri is one of the prominent festivals of Gujarat and the Future group is looking forward to perk up business by offering discounts up to 50%, from October 1 to 5, in all its malls, hypermarket and stores, added Adukia.

Shrenik Shah of Space Management told DNA that the retail will have to experiment a lot to secure good business.

According to sources in the market, the retail stores and malls are prepared to cut down the prices wherever possible, like house-keeping and more. This is because they are not getting enough business, sources said.



Short stories

HC verdict in Xavier's student's case

The Gujarat high court on Monday has come out with a solution in the case involving a standard XII science student of St. Xavier's High School, Loyola Hall, Navrangpura. The student, Simardeep Bhatia, who was suspended by the school for indiscipline, had approached the high court. On Monday the court ruled that Bhatia will not be attending classes but will be considered as a regular student at Boards examination and the examination authorities will not insist for his attendance in the school.

Temple demolition condemned



All Gujarat Minorities Fund has condemned the demolition of several temples in Kankaria by the AMC without any prior notice to the trustee of the Mandir. Fund's convener Samshad Pathan said, "AMC

has ignored the supreme court stay on the order passed by the Gujarat high court asking the local authorities to remove the places of worship that amounted to encroachment." "The AMC should have respected the apex court's order and restrained from demolishing the religious structures," he added. Pathan further demanded restoration of the temples at the original places.

Congress takes out procession

Gujarat Congress Samiti took out a procession 'Nirman Yatra' at Gomtipur on Monday to apprise people about various development works done by the UPA government at the centre. Municipal councillors Iqbal Sheikh and Dahyabhai Parmar, and other Congress leaders including Babu Dalsaniya, Mithiben Nagar, Firoza Gandhi and Gyasuddin Sheikh participated in the procession.

Board to inspect school records

In the standing committee meeting of GSH-SEB, it was decided to send a notice to 12 non-grantable schools of the state. Sources said that it was a routine procedure and that the school representatives were called as they had not submitted adequate information to the committee. After assessing the student strength at eh schools, the committee will decide whether to order closure of the schools or not.

Tenant held in theft case in Vatva



Narottam Shrimali, a resident of Jetalpur in Ahmedabad district, had lodged a complaint with the Vatva police on Sunday night of a theft occurring in his house during the month of April. The

Vatva police investigated the case and interrogated one Karan, alias Ghantu Yadav, 22, who had been staying on rent at Shrimali's house since April. On investigation at the premises, the police found one Indian-made pistol, two live cartridges and gold ornaments worth Rs17,000 from Yadav and arrested him, said sources.

A rejoinder

This refers to the news report, 'Employee dies at pizza outlet' that appeared in this newspaper on September 17. The report erroneously mentioned that an employee of Pizza Hut had died. The error is regretted.

A page from history



■ A file picture of the historic 'Bhoodan Movement Padyatra' undertaken by Vinoba Bhave, accompanied by our first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, among others. The yatra entered Gujarat on September 22, 1958. — Shukdev Bachch

Judicial custody for 2002 riots accused

The 17 were held in connection with the Gulbarg society and Naroda Patia massacre cases

DNA Correspondent

The metropolitan court sent 17 accused of the post-Godhra riots cases to judicial custody on Monday. Seven of the accused were arrested by the special investigation team (SIT) in connection with the Gulbarg society massacre, four in the Naroda Patia massacre case and six in the Naroda Gam rioting case.

The SIT had earlier obtained remand of the accused, the period of which

ended on Monday. The court rejected an application submitted by the SIT seeking further remand of the accused in connection with the Gulbarg society and Naroda Patia massacres and sent them to judicial custody. It also sent the accused in the Naroda gam rioting case to judicial custody as the SIT had not asked for remand.

The Gulbarg society massacre accused were earlier sent to police remand after the SIT filed a petition for their custody, stating that it wanted to find out who else was present in the mob apart from the accused and that it wanted to collect lost evidence after the case. The SIT also stated that it

wanted to find out who had planned the massacre, who had led the mob and who had obtained the inflammable liquid used in the killings.

Representing Naran Tank and five others accused in the Gulbarg society massacre case, lawyers

BM Gupta and Chandrashekhar Gupta and representing the accused in the Naroda Patia massacre case, Rajkumar Chaumal, submitted in court that, although remand was granted till Monday, the SIT had not mentioned in its application what investigation it had conducted during the remand period. They also submitted that the grounds stated in the remand application were the same as before.

godhra probe

Dog bites cop on master's order

Man sets his dog on the policeman for bringing summons for his mother

DNA Correspondent

A head constable from the Ellis Bridge police station found himself at the receiving end of a dog's fury when he went to deliver to its owner a summons from the police station.

Rajendra Ramdayal had gone to Shashibala Sharma's house in Satyagraha Chhavni in Jodhpur Tekra to hand over a police summons issued in her name. He was greeted at the house by a young man who claimed to be Shashibala's son.

When Ramdayal told him about the summons, the man asked the constable to hand over the paper to him. Ramdayal refused on the ground that such



summons could only be handed over to the person in whose name it was issued. He asked the man to send his mother to the Ellis Bridge police station on Monday. The head constable's refusal angered the young man who shouted at him and said, "My mother has not committed any crime. Why is she being issued a summons?" He then set his dog

upon the constable who dutifully bit the 'unwelcome intruder'. The constable, who had to be taken to a hospital, later registered a complaint with the Satellite police station against the man. "We have registered a case against Shashibala's son for obstructing a government employee from performing his duty," a police official said.

Two AMC councillors quit Cong

DNA Correspondent

Two Congress municipal councillors of Saijpur ward, Dr Krishna Thakar and Deepak Makwana, resigned from the party following the appointment of Pravin Tomar as the new ward president.

Although the two will continue holding their offices as councillors, they refused having any further association with the party.

Not only did they express disappointment over the election but have also said they may form a new party competing against the Congress. Many other prominent local Congress workers including Dr Ganpat Parmar have submitted their resignation.

Bus plows into vehicles, 2 injured

The AMTS bus driver lost control after allegedly having an attack of hysteria

Ritesh Shah

An Ahmedabad Municipal Transport Service (AMTS) bus collided with a number of vehicles and ran into a number of persons in Sardar Nagar on Sunday night when the driver lost control of the bus. It then plowed into a temple before coming to a stop.

Vinod Shivani, an auto-rickshaw driver and resident of Noble Nagar, lodged a complaint with the Sardar Nagar police. He stated in his complaint that AMTS bus no. 105, from Naroda to Lal Darwaja, did not take a scheduled turn at the Noble Nagar crossroads and instead ran straight on. The bus hit Shivani's auto-rickshaw, which had two passengers sitting in it. Both escaped with minor injuries.

According to sources, the bus then collided with a Chinese food joint by the side of the road, and also hit the customers who

were seated at the tables. A number of persons walking along the road were also hit. The bus then rammed into the wall of a Lord Shiva temple located on the side of the road, said sources.

An angry crowd surrounded the bus. The passengers and crowd then noticed that the driver was foaming at the mouth as he had had an attack of hysteria, said sources.

The Sardar Nagar police registered a case against the driver and have commenced investigations into the case.

Harshil Patel's new exhibition will run at Marvel Art Gallery till October 5

Recreating the dynamics of the city

Harmony Siganporia

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of an art exhibition? A gallery bedecked from wall to wall with an artist's works? In a bid to alter every preconceived notion one might have about such artistic undertakings comes Harshil Patel's 'Nagar-nama II - Nationalism to Internationalism' at the Marvel Art Gallery.

Curated by the gallery's director, Chaitya Dhanvi Shah, Nagar-nama II comprises just 5 exhibits — and what exhibits they are. The highlight of the show is the artist's 8x40 foot canvas depicting an old city pol. The work is staggering, not just in scale but in ambition as well — the artist seeks to recreate a dynamic part of the city, 'reinventing' the way we think of cityscapes and telling the story of the streets we live in. That he has, in one so young, already



"I want to explore the realm of the inanimate, giving things which are viewed as non-living a life and verve that is palpable."

—Harshil Patel

forged a medium of artistic expression all his own, derived out of what he calls 'constructionism' or depicting the life and times of cityscapes, streets and constructions, is obvious. What is staggering is how he manages to carry forward this style and adapt it to the telling of different tales. The next piece on dis-

plays a view of Benaras on an 8x20 foot canvas, is a case in point.

"People have always depicted Benaras as something of an assault to the senses — in strong, dark colours. I decided to depict it in the softer tones of the sun's first half-light," he says. The 'story' of Patel's Benaras, how-

ever, retains his signature hallmarks in terms of style. The artist has mastered the art of playing with textures, making his canvases so lush one cannot help but want to touch them. "However, we'll have to ensure that people don't do this as the Banaras piece is in oils, and therefore will take months to dry," says curator Shah, grinning.

There is another smaller piece from Patel's London series, a series of tiny works ranging mere inches in size, and an installation figuring one of his earlier works, which plays upon the imagery of a 'key', with all the attendant connotations of 'unlocking' memories, spaces, ideas that it entails.

"The rest of his works are showcased in a special catalogue we've come up with. We decided to go with 'spot' photography - taking the works and placing them at various locations across the city, which seems to echo the form or content of the pieces," explains Shah.

કેન્દ્ર સરકારને વારંવાર સવાલો પૂછતા લાજપાના આગેવાનો હવે પ્રજાને જવાબ તો આપો

કંધારમાં ખુંખાર આતંકવાદીઓને વળાવવા ગયેલા કેન્દ્રમંત્રી આપના પક્ષના હતા કે કોંગ્રેસના ?

ગુજરાતના મુખ્યમંત્રીના ઘરઆંગણે અક્ષરધામ મંદિરમાં આતંકવાદી હુમલો થયો ત્યારે ગાંધીનગર અને દિલ્હીમાં સત્તા કોની હતી ? આતંકવાદીઓ સામે કડક પગલાં લેવાની જવાબદારી કોની હતી ? આપના પક્ષના હતા કે કોંગ્રેસની ?

દિલ્હી એરપોર્ટ પર હાજર એન.એસ.જી. ને મોકલવામાં વિલંબ કરી અન્ય ટીમને જવાબદારી કેમ સોંપાઈ ? આ પગલું આતંકવાદીઓને સલામત નીકળી જવાની સગવડ કરી આપવા ભરાયું એવી શંકા ખોટી કેવી રીતે કહેવાય ?

પોતા હોવા છતાં દિલ્હીના સંસદભવન પર, જમ્મુના રઘુનાથજીના મંદિર પર અને ગાંધીનગરના અક્ષરધામ મંદિર પર આ જ સાબિત થાય છે કે કાયદા તો હોય પણ આતંકવાદને ડામવા રાજકીય ઇચ્છાશક્તિ ખોઈએ

અરે, જનતા તો જાણે જ છે પંજાબમાં આતંકવાદ અને ખાલીસ્તાનવાદીઓનો અંત કોણે કરવો.

ઈન્દિરા ગાંધી અને રાજીવ ગાંધી જેવી આતંકવાદનો અંત લાવવાની ઇચ્છાશક્તિ ક્યાં છે ?

વિકાસ પરિષદ, ગુજરાત