

Short stories

Amdavadi artist's London love



A 40x8 feet painting of Harshil Patel (R), an artist from Ahmedabad, will be on display at Marvel Art Gallery in Shapath-II on SG Highway for two weeks beginning Monday. Harshil has portrayed a combination of life in London and structures of Ahmedabad in his work — Pankaj Shukla, DNA

Fees fixed for 25 engg colleges

The fee regulatory committee on Sunday declared a new fee structure for 25 colleges offering diploma in engineering. The range of the fee for these courses has been fixed to be Rs20,000 to Rs32,000. However, the fees for six colleges which had failed to send details to the committee have not been finalised. The fee structure declared by the committee would be valid for three years.

Settle prisoners' complaints: HC

The Gujarat high court on Sunday ruled that the complaints received from prisoners should be settled as early as possible and the jail authorities should take act quickly in the matter, said sources. MR Shah, judge of the Gujarat high court, in an order addressed to the jail authorities of Sabarmati and Vadodara prisons, said so in response to a writ filed by Vipul Pandya, a life imprisonment prisoner in Vadodara jail.

Drainage pipeline leaks

A pipeline near Mira theatre leaked and the surrounding areas of Bhairavnath were flooded with the polluted water. Currently AMC officials are trying to find out the fault in the drainage lines. AMC officials said that near Mira theatre, three pipelines meant for storm water, drainage and drinking water run paral-

Bhupesh Modi, a physically challenged man, has scaled four mountains of the world

He dared odds to defy disabilities

Forum Chhaya

Choosing to walk through a difficult terrain, this man made weakness his greatest strength. Bhupesh Modi, who is physically challenged, always preferred to take the road less travelled. He wanted to do things others would even hesitate to think - this is despite being born with a deformed feet! Modi has been trekking world's four huge mountains - Himalayas, Alps, Kilimanjaro and Alaska - for the past 17 years, a feat that has fetched him many accolades on the way. Modi, who always remained depressed during his school and college days owing to the congenital deformity in his foot, had almost given up on life. Going down memory lane Modi recalls: "I had given up all hopes of living and life had come to a virtual standstill."

Modi says, "I was a huge cricket fan. One afternoon as I was listening to a commentary by cricketer Vijay Merchant, I was inspired to meet him." With some effort he was successful in meeting his idol, and life took a new turn for Modi. "During the meeting, Merchant had predicted that I will be climbing different heights of the world someday. That's it. I built up my dreams on his prediction." And an enthused Modi soon set out on his very first adventure in 1992 - to trek in the Himalayas - and since then he has never had the occasion to look back. He has trekked all the way till he reached the height of 16,000ft in the Himalayas as well as withstood temperatures as low as -16°C while trekking in the snow-capped Alaska. "My instructors and friends would advice me too take rest and even ask me to quit at times. But I remained steadfast to my challenge. There

were moments when even the most capable among normal people would also give up, but I climbed on," he said. Modi has been awarded for being the first physically challenged person to trek all the huge mountains of the world in different continents - Asia, America, Africa and Europe. Ask him what's next on his agenda and Modi doesn't even hesitate for a second before saying: "I want to go to Japan for trekking." While talking about memorable moments of his trek, Modi recalled a dangerous incident when he survived a 70-ft fall. "Once, when I was in Switzerland climbing at a height of 13,000ft, I had to climb even further to reach the peak. The rope which I held on to broke and I fell down nearly 70ft into the valley. Luckily I survived the fall as my instructors had already noticed that the rope was about to break and two of them caught me before I could fall even further," he said.



Close illegal patho labs: Docs

Restrain unqualified people, demand members of APPM

DNA Correspondent

The members of the association of practising pathologist and microbiologist (APPM) protested against the state government's indifferent attitude towards their problems by keeping a one-day fast near Lal Darwaja on Sunday.

The association protested against the government's inaction in closing down of the illegally operated pathology laboratories in the state.

According to the members of APPM the state government had passed an order to close such illegal units on April 19, 2008. However, the sources said, no sincere efforts have been made to enforce the order. APPM president Dr Sadhana Kothari said, "Technicians cannot function as pathologists unless they hold at least MBBS degrees."

However, in city and other developed parts of the state, no laboratories should be granted permission to operate unless there are managed by an MD or a DCP degree holder,



— Dhaval Bharwad, DNA

Doctors on strike

The state government had passed an order to close such illegal units on April 19, 2008.

Technicians cannot function as pathologists without having MBBS degree, say protestors

Compared to 1,000 authorised labs, about 5,000 unauthorised labs function in the state

said Dr Kothari.

The doctors present at the venue expressed their anger by

shouting slogans against the state administration.

President of Gujarat pathol-

“Compared to 1,000 authorised laboratories, about 5,000 unauthorised laboratories operate in the state.”

—Dr Rajendra Lalani, President of Gujarat pathology association

“Technicians cannot function as pathologists unless they hold at least MBBS degrees.”

—Dr Sadhana Kothari, APPM president

ogy association, Dr Rajendra Lalani, said "Compared to 1,000 authorised laboratories, about 5,000 unauthorised laboratories function in the state."

Sources said that after the closure order of illegal pathology laboratories was passed, the practitioners of these units went on strike for three days. According to sources, the protest discouraged the government authorities from taking any action against them.

The sources in APPM said their association has filed a public interest litigation (PIL) in the high court (HC) in the matter and the case is going on.

Guj teacher at global meet on human devt

DNA Correspondent

Gujarat made its presence felt at an international conference, Inclusion, Equality and Human Development', organised annually across the globe by Boston-headquartered Human Development and Capability Association, USA.

The current series of the conference was held in New Delhi, hosted by Institute for Human Development, New Delhi, from September 10 to 13. Gujarat was represented by Indira Dutta, teacher in the department of economics, LD Arts College, Ahmedabad.

While talking to DNA, Dutta said she was one of the few among Indian delegates invited at the conference to represent Gujarat for presenting her paper on 'Present Education & Human Development in Gujarat'. The conference was

attended by 250 foreign delegates invited from across the globe.

She said her paper highlighted the initiatives taken up by the Gujarat government for the promotion of primary education with the launch of schemes such as Laxmi Vidya Bond Scheme, Vidya Deep Scheme, Kanya Kavayani Rath.

The international audience at the conference were keen on listening to the educational initiatives in Gujarat where the paper emphasised that the primary and secondary education complement each other in many ways in which the secondary education plays a key articulate role, she said.

Today, Gujarat faces a big challenge whether it will be able to compete in the knowledge economy or face a future of increasing exclusion in the 21st century, she said.



— Indira Dutta

Doctors drop scalpels, pick willows

Heavy rains fail to deter sporting spirit of docs from Bhavnagar

DNA Correspondent

The cricket tournament spearheaded by doctors from across the state and organised by the Sports Medicine Association of Gujarat (SMAG) commenced on Sunday morning on Gujarat College's cricket ground.

This anxiously awaited match saw participation from four teams - Paldi, Amraiwadi, Surendranagar and Bhavnagar. The tournament, initially scheduled to begin on September 14, had to be postponed due to unforeseen rains that flooded the roads. So much so, that even after a week now, the Bhavnagar team had to take another route to reach Ahmedabad and still got delayed by a valuable seven hours which is more than double the time actually required to arrive at the city.

Participating teams from other districts did not seem satisfied with the facilities which were believed to be more or less similar to the ones provided a year before. Nonetheless, they were appreciative of the fact that the participating fees for the match were lowered and marked it as a positive



Doctors try their hands at the gentleman's game in city on Sunday — Dhaval Bharwad, DNA

change.

Responding to such growing discontents, Jatin Solanki, owner of Klarity Event and coordinator of the event, said, "We essayed to provide the necessary facilities to make the teams, from city as well as those coming from outside, feel comfortable." He added that in order to bolster the enthusiasm of

the players and give them encouragement, free sports T-shirts were also distributed among the participants.

DNA earlier reported that a total of 16 teams comprising doctors from across Gujarat would be participating in the tournament whose management would also be undertaken by the doctors themselves.

Banyan trees' vanishing act

Haphazard felling at construction sites responsible, say environmentalists

Kintu Pushpa Gadhi

HERE is another instance of urbanization playing villain. A rapidly urbanising Ahmedabad is losing its trees. There has been a steep reduction in the number of trees in the city including varieties like Banyan, Neem, Pipla and Pipal.

Remarks city-based environmentalist Mahesh Pandya, "I have never agreed with the inflated official figures on tree numbers in Ahmedabad. While the authorities have banned Gando Bavul (wild Babul) cutting, they haven't paid any attention to the steep reduction (40%) of Banyan, Pipal and Neem trees primarily due to haphazard felling at various construction sites.

Besides making Ahmedabad barren, this felling has also affected religious rites. Every year, during the Vatsavriti fast (the Vad Pujan festival, where the Banyan is worshipped), how many women get to worship a Banyan? Already, women have started looking at options. Also, we don't find any serious attempts to plant and maintain such trees anywhere."

In Gujarat, the Banyan has a lot of significance, with names of towns/areas such as Vadnagar, Vatva, Vadgam, Vadodara and Vadali being derived from the Banyan's Gujarati name, Vad. In Ahmedabad, at one time, Banyans stretched in vast swathes from Ambawadi to Bopal and Sarkhej to Sabarmati.

All that seems to be a thing of the past. Banyans require space to spread. Every village has at least one tree. But in overcrowded cities, Banyan trees don't have much of a chance. In Baroda, because of Banyans' reduction, some organizations have started a movement to save the trees. It's time Ahmedabad followed suit.



Depleting banyans		
Number of trees	2004	Present scenario
Banyan	2825	485
Neem	84450	51070
Pipla	13931	8359
Pipal	15131	9790
Asopalav	49290	29554
Kanji	24088	14477
Gunda	4738	2842
Badam	5978	3586

Shivani Bhatt's works are on display at the Ravishankar Raval Kala Bhavan

Her works redefine space & landscape

Harmony Siganporia

If recent art exhibitions around town are anything to go by, CEPT has turned into as much of a hotbed of artists as of architects! Following close on the heels of architect Prashant Luhar's recent exhibition comes that of Shivani Bhatt, another student who is pursuing her M Tech at CEPT, all the while nurturing her enduring interest and passion for art.

Bhatt will be exhibiting a collection of 30 of her most recent works at the Ravishankar Raval Kala Bhavan from September 22 through to September 24. Entitled 'Space: How big is the word?', the exhibition seeks to depict and delineate the concept of 'space' in a multitude of ways - perspectives and entries into canvases reveal bird's eye views and an interesting 'insect-view' perspective among others. Chief secretary, government of Gujarat, Manjula Subramaniam, will inaugurate the exhibition at 10 am on Monday.

"I've always sketched. It's something that comes naturally to me. I don't find



it at all curious that I took to architecture - it is a discipline which marries inquiries into form and design. The creation and rendering of perspective and depth among other things are also common features that conjoin the two disciplines - as both an architect and an artist, I pay utmost attention to capturing these," says the artist.

Her definition of space is various - it encompasses much, and in so doing, comes close to forging a new syntax to

space odyssey

She uses a variety of media - oil, water and acrylic colours as well as charcoal in some of her sketches. "However, I'm most comfortable playing with

“The way we use the term landscape needs redefining when we need to use it in the context of an urban milieu. The line demarcating 'urban' and 'rural' is also beginning to blur, and it is this melange and ambiguity that I have tried to capture in my canvases.”

—Sanjay Nirupan

acrylics because oils take too long to dry and apply - acrylics allow a painter to be more prolific," she explains. Another theme that runs through her collection is that of 'rejuvenation'. Following on from a school project at CEPT, she took inspiration from the work in conservation/rejuvenation of ancient structures that they had to undertake the study of. One of her personal favourites, which she feels makes the best 'face' for the exhibition is a study which sees a structure from the vantage point of an insect.

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Sr. No.	Tender Number & Description of material	Due date & time (Hrs.) for submission & opening of tender
1.	SP/T-0212/0908 High-chrome Grinding balls for BBD- 4772 Coal mill of U-7 at Chandrapur TPS & Paras TPS (250 MW)(Two bid system)	22-09-2008 16.00 23-09-2008 11.00
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4.	SP/T-0414/0908 1.1 KV Aluminium Conductor, HRPVC Insulated, HRPVC FRLSH sheathed, Armoured power cable. (Two bid system).	13-10-2008 16.00 14-10-2008 11.00
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