

	Temperature		Humidity		Sunset 1820 hrs
	Max.	Min.	Morn	Eve	
Ahmedabad	34.5°C	24.2°C	83%	51%	Moonrise 1455 hrs
Surat	32.2°C	24.6°C	60%	36%	Sunrise 0634 hrs
Vadodara	35.0°C	25.0°C	67%	19%	Moonset 0108 hrs
Rajkot	34.6°C	24.5°C	52%	24%	

**Forecast:** Light to moderate rain likely to occur at isolated places over the whole region, especially few places in south Gujarat.

Events	
75th celebration of The Union high school, Langhanaj — A walk to the school; Sarvajnik high school, Ranip; 1pm	An art exhibit by Falsi Patel; Ravishankar Raval kala bhavan, Nr Law Garden: noon to 7 pm
Inaugural of Gujarat state Indian wind power association: Fortune Landmark, Usmanpura: 11.30am	Sugam Sangeet' by Ketan Paladiya organised by Index-c; Ahmedabad Haat, Vastrapur: 8pm to 10pm
A special gathering on the occasion of 107th anniversary of Jayprakash Narayan; Gajjer Hall: 5:00pm	

Get listed here: Fax: 079-39814082; Email: editletters@dnaindia.net

Ahmedabad, Saturday, October 11, 2008

DAILY NEWS & ANALYSIS . CITY

## AMC inks MoU with Spain, Germany on tourism, heritage

The deal was signed during A'bad mayor's recent visit to the countries

Niyati Rana

In a move to expand Ahmedabad's experience in pioneering heritage conservation work and to learn advanced technology from Germany and Spain the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has inked an MoU with the two countries. The MoU was signed during city mayor Kanaji Thakore's recent visit to both the countries.

Thakore said that the MoU has been inked for heritage conservation, to expand opportunities in tourism, for city development and for adoption of advanced technology from Germany.

"Every year, 10 people from Ahmedabad comprising experts from different fields (not necessarily from the civic body) will visit Germany and vice versa. As per the deal, the teams will learn various aspects of the functioning from each other," said Thakore.

Thakore said that the move is beneficial because Ahmed-

### Beyond borders

Kanaji Thakore said that the MoU has been inked for heritage conservation, to expand opportunities in tourism, city development and for adoption of advanced technology from Germany and Spain

abad citizens will get a benefit from Germany's advanced technology, power generation system and also in other areas.

AMC has also signed an MoU with a city in Spain for Heritage conservation. "Exhibitions and seminar will be organised under the exchange programme where both the countries can showcase their culture and technological aspects and promote tourism," added Thakore.

Thakore said that heritage conservation was the key focus in the deal with Spain as Ahmedabad is known for its Heritage conservation policy across the globe. Delegates from both the country will soon land in Ahmedabad to take lessons on heritage conservation.

# Civil hospital plans to smoke out ban violators

Contact number and email address for registering complaints to be displayed

Kuldeep Tiwari

With the smoking ban in all public areas and workplaces having been in place for nine days now, the authorities of Civil hospital have made its implementation part of their agenda. The hospital, in association with its de-addiction department and the help of the state government, will spread awareness among its employees on the evils of smoking and help them to quit the habit.

After the announcement of the ban on October 2, Civil hospital authorities organised a meeting of all heads of department for its quick implementation. According to a senior official of Civil hospital, "There are around 4,500 staffers at the hospital, of which 1,000 are class one and two doctors, 1,500 are class three workers and nurses and 2,000 are class four workers." The hospital is spread over an area of 110 acres. Hence, enforcing the smoking ban will require a lot of planning, he said.

MM Anchalia, medical superintendent of Civil hospital said that the hospital on an average sees 10,000 footfalls every day, including staff members. Thus, the chance of passive smoking increases, which is very harmful for patients and their relatives.

### Law enforcement

Every day, on average 10,000 people visit Civil hospital, including staff members

The hospital authorities will be displaying hoardings and banners at all gates and entrances, outpatient departments, canteens and other public places in order to educate the staff and public about the law and punishments for violating it

A violator who refuses to pay the fine will be subject to police custody

Of all cancer patients coming to Civil hospital, around 50% consume tobacco in some form



"Before the law came into force, we were strict with our employees over consumption of tobacco and cigarettes. However, the formal announcement of the smoking ban has made it mandatory to prohibit smoking within the campus," said Anchalia.

The law alone is not enough as proper monitoring is required. Civil, being spread over such a large area and with many private and trust-run departments, will need proper super-

vision to prevent violations of the law within its premises.

In reply to this, deputy medical superintendent of Civil hospital, KM Mehariya said, "We have passed the circular to all departments. Regarding the effective implementation of the ban, the people in charge of their respective departments will be keeping an eye open."

A person found violating the law for the first time will be subject to a penalty of up to Rs200. "Also, a hoard-

"We have passed the circular to all departments. Regarding the effective implementation of the ban, the people in charge of their respective departments will keep a watch for violators."

—KM Mehariya, deputy medical superintendent, Civil hospital

"We can only enforce the law, but realisation that there is a problem needs to come from within."

—MM Anchalia, medical superintendent, Civil hospital

ing with the telephone number and email address of a person in charge will be displayed in public. So, anyone and everyone will be able to call if they see someone smoking," he said.

Anchalia also said the hospital was ready to help chain smokers and those addicted to tobacco, provided they were ready to accept help. "We can enforce the law, but acceptance of the problem needs to come from within. They can take the assistance of the de-addiction centre to help them quit smoking," he said.

## Hospitals' services inadequate

DNA Correspondent

The weekly meeting of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation's (AMC) hospital committee took a serious turn after a Congress member commented on lack of adequate services in hospitals like Shardaben hospital, LG hospital and VS hospital which are run by civic authorities.

Congress corporators Iqbal Sheikh, Dahya Patel and Shanta Patel called attention to the dearth of 126-4th grade officials in Shardaben Hospital. Moreover, it has purchased a digital X-ray machine but does not have an operator who can help conduct the tests. This apart, while the parking rates at the hospital's premises is Rs2 per vehicle, operators there have been charging Rs5 instead.

"The AMC has purchased a digital x-ray machine worth Rs41 lakh for LG hospital as well and although the machine was bought seven months back, there is no technician to operate it. It is a sheer waste of public money," said congress corporators.

## Man approaches lawyer for custody of 'adopted' child

Sarfraz Qadri says he is ready to do whatever it takes to get her back

Vivek Vijayapalan

Sarfraz Qadri, who is fighting a legal battle for the custody of his Hindu daughter Murni, alias Varsha Patel, can have a sigh of relief as he will be able to legally adopt her by filing an application in the city civil court. Qadri has approached senior lawyer SH Iyer for advice on the matter.

"I will go through whatever procedure I have to in order to get my daughter back. I am trying to get to see her for at least an hour at the women's protection cell," said Qadri on Friday. Murni was handed over to the women's protection cell in Bharuch after the chief judicial magistrate's court there rejected an application filed by Qadri seeking her custody.

Iyer said the best course of action for Qadri would be to apply for adoption as his custody of the girl was illegal and not recognised by law. "Secondly, a habeas corpus cannot be filed as the custody of the girl has been handed over to the women's protection cell by an order of the court," he said. Noorjahan Diwan of the Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan and Ahmedabad-based advocate Anis Desai are also helping Qadri to get custody of the girl.

According to his application filed on August 25, Qadri had gone to Itarsi in Madhya Pradesh for a show in 1995. On his way home, he found the girl crying at the railway station. Qadri then decided to take her with him to his home in Tankaria village.

A few years ago, a brother-sister duo had come to learn magic from Qadri and stayed with him without informing their family. Their father registered a police complaint, who then approached Qadri. During investigations, they became suspicious of Murni and enquired about her. After learning her story, they sent her to the women's protection cell.

## Kankaria joyride hits roadblock

Toy train being imported from UK may not land in city before February

Niyati Rana

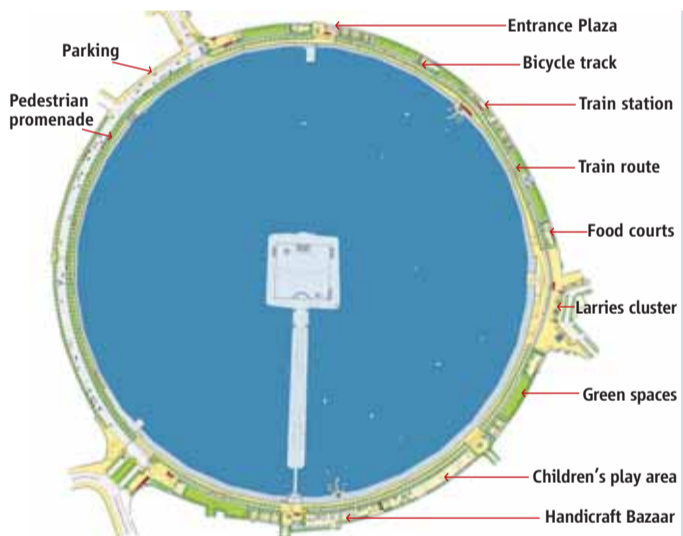
The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation is likely to inaugurate its ambitious Kankaria Lake Front Development project by Diwali without the project's USP - the joy ride in an imported toy train.

At the time of the announcement of the lake's beautification project, the civic body had said that the ride in a toy train imported from the UK will be a part of the project.

But now, when the AMC officials are burning midnight oil to inaugurate the project by Diwali, it seems the project will be inaugurated without its one time USP.

According to sources, the reasons behind the corporation's failure to fulfil its promise are: Firstly, the bosses in the state government have directed the civic body to complete the project as early as possible. Secondly, the imported toy train is not expected to arrive here from the UK before second week of December.

Municipal commissioner IP Gautam had earlier said that they will inaugurate the Kankaria lake project on October 14 but now the deadline has been postponed to Diwali. However, senior officials working on



### The Kankaria project

The Kankaria Lake Front is divided into three parts:  
 ■ Pushpakunj to Vyayam Shala  
 ■ Vyayam Shala to Balvatika,  
 ■ Balvatika to Pushpakunj  
 All three sections of the

project will have entrance plazas embedded with information kiosks, plantations, flowerbeds, benches and fountains.

The entrance gates will be developed at a cost of Rs75 lakh

the project said it is difficult to complete the work before Diwali.

"I would not say we will be able to inaugurate the project before Diwali as the deadline for the completion [of the project] is not set yet. We are trying to finish the work with all our might."

Around 90% of the work on food stalls, handicraft market, and installation of the tracks for toy train is nearly over,"

said a source.

"Giving final touches to the project to make it citizen friendly is yet to be done. The installation of the train tracks is a priority," he said.

Gautam said the work on the project is in full swing and the toy train is expected by December first week. "The consignment of the toy train - four coaches and the engine - will leave the UK on November 22 by sea-route and land in Mumbai

### The toy train

The tracks for the toy train are being installed on 4,100 metre area and will cost around 90,000 pounds. The train with four coaches and an old-fashioned steam locomotive engine will cost Rs3.10 crore. It has a capacity to accommodate 150 passengers in one round. The train will have a speed of 15 km per hour.

### The status

- Laari cluster: completed
- Pedestrian space: completed
- Ring road: completed
- Food joints: 90% of the work completed
- Parallel parking space: not yet begun
- Bicycle track: completed
- Skating ring: dropped from the plan
- Handicraft bazaar: almost over
- Toy train: yet to come

in the first week of December," he said.

However, if sources in the civic body are to be believed, Gautam may have made a statement just to save the civic body from facing another embarrassment. The AMC has already missed one deadline.

According to sources, the Kankaria project incorporating the feature of ride in a toy train may not be completed before February next year.

## Blasts heroes who risked life feted

Awards given to those who helped Ahmedabad attack victims

Paras K Jha & Jigisha Doshi

### The heroes and their kin

Sanjay Patel

A small start can lead to a great movement; this is what some of the voluntary organisations are doing in the city to bring communal harmony.

The society for the promotion of rational thinking (Sprat) took such an initiative by conferring Salaam awards to people and organisations for helping the victims of the serial bomb blast in the city in July.

In the morning, a huge 'solidarity' banner criticising the blasts was unfurled by the victims of the 2002 communal riots. The banner contained signatures of 3,000 people from Hindu and Muslim communities.

In the evening, 17 awards were given to individuals, institutes, hospitals and ambulance services for their positive contribution shown at the time of blasts that rocked the city in July.

Of the 11 citizens who were declared to have won awards in individual category, five died while helping others at the time of blasts.

Those who were awarded in the non-individual category included Jahangirpura youth circle, Asarva youth circle, Civil hospital, 108 emergency service, and bomb disposal squad for their service.

### Rekhaben Gajera

She is mother of 15-yr-old Sumit Gajera, who died in Samjuba Hospital. Sumit and his friend Ajay Chauhan ran to the hospital and distributed pouches of water to the blast victims. Both died in the hospital blast.

### Balchandrakiri Goswami

He is father of Chandan who went to Civil hospital with his 2 friends to donate blood and died in the blast. Chandan's friends Ketan Bhagora and Viralgiri Goswami also died. "If I had more sons, I would have asked them to donate their lives for others," says Goswami.

### Jitendrakumar Modi

Advocate Modi saved 2 lives despite being seriously injured in the blast at Raipur. Ignoring his injury, Modi took care of the blast victims till ambulance arrived. "It was painful but I am happy to do my duty."

## Poster campaign to create mental health awareness

DNA Correspondent

BJ Medical College at Civil hospital has organised a poster campaign beginning on the occasion of World Mental Health Day on October 10. The campaign will involve displaying of around 35 posters on mental health issues, which will promote awareness, understanding and acceptance of mental health.

Besides Civil hospital in Ahmedabad, the posters will be exhibited in 14 other cities across Gujarat, at their civil and public hospitals.

According to a study by the World Health Organisation (WHO), around 10% of the adult population and 20% of patients seen by general physicians suffer from mental disorders at some point in time.

"Mental disorders affect 25% of people at some time in

### World Mental Health Day

Besides BJ Medical College at Civil hospital in Ahmedabad, the posters will be exhibited in 14 other cities across Gujarat, at their civil and public hospitals

their lives. Around 14% of the global burden of disease can be attributed to mental, neurological and substance-abuse disorders," said Dr Rajesh Kumar, project coordinator and associate professor of psychiatry, BJ Medical College.

THE VETERAN ARTIST'S EXHIBITION WILL RUN AT MARVEL ART GALLERY FROM OCTOBER 10-16

## Art's premier sign-painter: Shanti Dave

Harmony Siganporia

Many in the art world will be familiar with the name of Shanti Dave, the veteran artist long associated with Air India's famed murals at its offices around the world. However, what few know is that this Delhi-based artist is Ahmedabad-born and bred.

Exhibiting his work in his city of birth after more than five decades, Ahmedabad's Marvel Art Gallery is currently playing host to Dave's recent artwork. Titled 'Layers of Perception', the exhibition will run from October 10-16.

This septuagenarian began his career as a sign-painter on Ahmedabad's Relief road. "I come from very humble beginnings, and started working on signage and posters on Relief road when I was barely out of school. It was there that I had occasion to work with the redoubtable R Gajjar on a number of movie posters and hoardings, which imparted in me the skills that stood me in excellent stead at art school," maintains the veteran.



Ask him what these skills are, and pat comes the response, "Working on movie hoardings made me dispel my fear of bright

"I come from very humble beginnings, and started working on signage and posters on Relief road when I was barely out of school. It was there that I had occasion to work with the redoubtable R Gajjar on a number of movie posters and hoardings,"

— Shanti Dave

and vivid colours, and large 'spaces' to fill in."

Never one to believe in fixity, which he says leads to stagnation, the artist has constantly experimented with form and style over the decades, more to keep himself satisfied than to cater to the whims of a fickle consumerist audience. His current exhibition, 'Layers of Perception', is, in a sense, a homecoming in more ways than one. Not only is it being showcased in Ahmedabad, but for its form, the artist has chosen to dab-

ble with the shapes and inferences of calligraphy - the physical form of alphabets and letters - which is a hearkening back to his beginnings as a sign-painter.

"I think the word 'abstract' is bandied about too loosely: the style my work falls into is closer to amurat or 'without defined form'. Since this style does away with imposition of form or boundary, it is open to newer and deeper interpretation each time one sees a given work," he explains.

The physical shells of shapes and structures that come together to form letters are present in his work - a part of the three-pronged Om somewhere; a curve that could turn into the Devanagari 'Ka' or 'L' elsewhere - and he shows an impeccable understanding of his acrylic medium in that, controlling viscosity and consistency, he is able to create the effect of translucence, veritably creating playful textures and inviting the observer to unravel layers of perception, much like the title of this collection promises.