

Short stories... DPS sensitising students



In 'Kalayatan' the yearly fest organised by Delhi Public School, Bopal students were sensitised on the issues of culture, environment and nature. Competitions like t-shirt painting, on-the-spot event with environmental subjects like flowers, save trees, etc. was organised to promote the creative flair of students. Inter-school competition was held on August 2 among students of Class I to X. Experts from textile industry were the judges.

MCI Guj chapter to elect prez

The voting for the president of Gujarat chapter of the Medical Council of India (MCI) is underway in the individual chapters in the state. The final counting and declaration of the president will take place on August 17, said present AMA president MC Patel. He said the ballot boxes will be kept in all the cities and districts where IMC member doctors can cast their votes.

Civic staff jailed for taking bribe

Additional sessions judge RH Sharma sent an employee of the birth and death department to 6 months of rigorous imprisonment for accepting a bribe of Rs50 to offer a death certificate. According to case details, the employee Vishaji Thakore sought money from Hemubhai Darbar for issuing a death certificate to Darbar after the death of his mother.

St Xavier's win TT tourney

St. Xavier's High School won the St. Xavier's Loyola Vadilal inter school table tennis tournament on Wednesday. The winners registered 3-0 victory over St. Xavier's primary school. Geet Panchal edged out Siddharth Raghu 5-11, 8-11, 12-10, 11-5, 11-6. Ashal Shah scored over Achal Shah with 11-4, 11-7, 11-6 scores. In the third match Honey Yagnik recorded 11-5, 11-4, 11-8 victory over B Dani. Individual events will commence from Thursday.

Nishika beats Shija in final

Nishika Bhagat of Mount Carmel School won the inter-school girls under-14 tennis competition held at Ahmedabad City Tennis Foundation. In the final the sixth standard student defeated Shija Christi of Hebron School, Maninagar by 6-2, 6-2 score.

Man robbed of Rs91,000

Chetan Shah, a resident of Vasna area lodged a complaint with Vejalpur police alleging that three unidentified men snatched his bag with cash Rs91,000 and a mobile phone on August 5 night when he was passing from the Shanti Tower road in Vasna by an auto. Shah said, they stopped the auto and snatched the bag and a mobile phone worth Rs500 along with various documents he had and drove away on a motorbike.

Articles worth Rs1,22,000 stolen

One Rajesh Agrawal resident of Shilaj area lodged a complaint with the Vastrapur police station of 13 wrist watches worth Rs1,22,000 being stolen on Tuesday night from his car. The cars window glass was broken when he found out about the theft. Agrawal added his car was parked near a medical store in the Vastrapur area when the theft took place.

Police raid informer in rape case

Police on Wednesday raided the house of Javed Hero, said to be a police informer. He lived opposite the Sonal police chowki of Vejalpur police station. While there were rumours that Hero had been detained for the serial bomb blasts case, sources in the police department said a complaint of rape had been lodged against Hero. It was in the connection of the rape case that his house was raided.

Foreigners visit Guj even in dull season

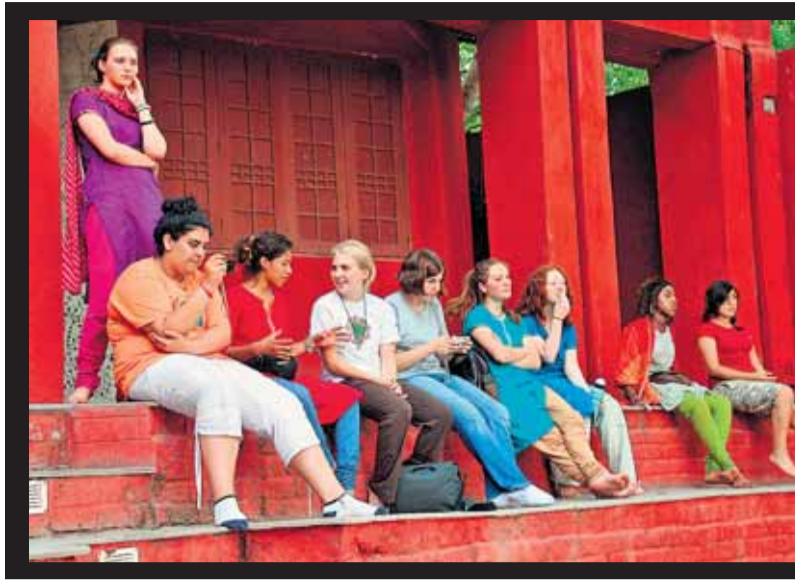
Tourist arrivals rose 7% even in the second quarter which is considered the slack season

Nija Shah

You can catch the Koreans in swanky Amdavadi cafes cracking business deals or the French sweating out in far off Kutch villages doing social work. With Gujarat shining, the number of foreign tourists to the state has increased by almost 7% in the first half of 2008.

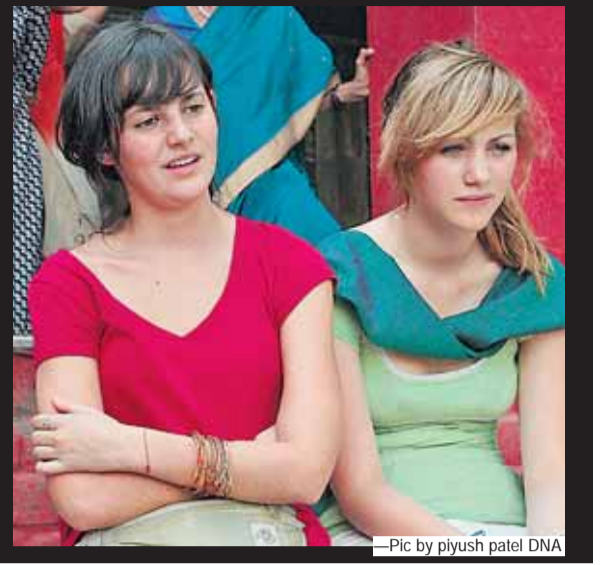
This is despite the fact that March, April, May and June are considered off season for any foreign arrivals. As per the figures of the Gujarat Industrial and Technical Consultancy Organisation (Gitco), an organisation which compiles tourist data for the government, 56,910 foreign tourists visited the state in the first six months of 2008 as compared to 53,443 for the corresponding period in 2007.

With a rise of almost 7% in the first half of the year already, the number is set to go up in the coming months.



Encouraging six months

Gujarat has all the ingredients of a perfect holiday, say tour operators. More foreigners visited Guj even in lean period of March-June 56,910 foreign tourists visited the state in the first six months of 2008. Besides guests from Europe and US, there has been an influx of tourists from Japan, Korea and Malaysia.



—Pic by piyush patel DNA

MD of Tourism Corporation Gujarat Ltd (TCGL), PD Vaghela said, "Though it is true that most of the foreigners are business travellers, there is no denying the fact that Gujarat is now being recognised as a tourist destination by the foreign markets. As compared to the 3 to 4% growth in their numbers, this year it's around 7 to 8% already."

Senior consultant of Gitco, Rohit Patel said, "There has been a good influx of foreign tourists to Gujarat this year. Period from March to June is generally considered to be a slack season in terms of foreign tourists. But this year, the number has risen significantly."

This is evident from the figures available. There is rise of

759 and 461 foreign tourists in April and May this year.

General manger at Pride Hotel, Anil Rathod said, "There is nothing like off-season for us as we have had a consistent foreign occupancy of 25 to 30% this year. Besides, they are a high paying segment for us."

"This year, besides guests from Europe and US, there has

been an added influx of guests from Japan, Korea and Malaysia," added Rathod.

A tourist from France, Caroline said, "A large number of European visitors to the state have taken up courses at the esteemed institutes in Ahmedabad or work with several non-profit organisations in the rural areas of Gujarat. You might find

a few who have made Gujarat their permanent home."

Ahmedabad, Kutch and Saurashtra are favoured tourist circuits of foreigners. Manish Sharma, MD, Akshar Travels said, "As tour operators in the state have been pitching for the state in foreign countries now, we hope this segment to grow quickly in times to come."

Iron Man cast in bronze



■ Sculptors give finishing touches to a life-size bronze statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at Vastrapur. The 350-kg statue will be installed in Bapunagar locality of the city. —Kalpit Bhachech DNA

GU's certificate courses attract professionals too

Many join short-term courses of the varsity to enhance their expertise

Jigisha Doshi

Certificate courses add value to degrees of recently passed graduates. But there are many professionals who are taking interest in these short-term courses. Gujarat University conducts many certificate courses and in each class minimum three to four professionals have enrolled.

Divya Modi, a lawyer, has joined a certificate course in taxation. This 40-year-old woman is doing this course to add a new perspective to her knowledge. "I joined the programme as it will definitely help me in my profession also. I will practise taxation after completing this course. Probably, I will set up a firm too as my daughter is also interested in this subject," says Modi.

Though company secretary Yogesh Desai has his own firm, he has joined a certificate course in taxation. "This six-month course will help me in my work and now I will not have to depend on any other person for taxation purpose," says



■ Yogesh Desai



■ Divya Modi

Desai. Angelina Patel, the woman who works as a receptionist-cum-coordinator with a private firm has joined a certificate course in office management. "It's difficult to get spare time when you are doing a regular job but somehow I am able to manage it. I am confident that this course will be beneficial to me in my job," says Patel.

"I did not want English to become a barrier between me and my children," says Sonal Shah, a homemaker has also enrolled in a certificate course in English improvement. Sonal has two children and

both study in English medium. "Now that my children are growing, I find out some time for my personal improvement too," says Shah, who passed out her graduation in 1997.

"I am really enjoying learning after so many years," says Akhtar Khan, a businessman who has enrolled himself in the certificate course on English improvement. "Moreover, it will be of great value in my work also," says Khan. Short-term courses of the university to enhance their professional life.

Prefab structures ideal for outskirts

Cept study says they are good for quake-prone areas

Vivek Vijayapalan

Imagine walking into a portable telephone booth which can be easily lifted by a crane to be placed in another part of the city. Impossible as it might seem, an ongoing study conducted by the faculty of technology at the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT) University reveals that building small prefabricated structures like shops, kiosks, cabins, offices are built using sandwich panels made from steel, aluminium, bamboo, cement and other filler materials. The project which aims to study the feasibility of prefabricated structures can be built in areas on the outskirts of the city as it is both cost-effective and durable. These structures are built using sandwich panels made from steel, aluminium, bamboo, cement and other filler materials. The project which aims to study the feasibility of prefabricated structures in the state is likely to be completed within two months. However, preliminary findings of the study reveal that although houses cannot be built using prefabricated material, it can be used in other sectors.

As a part of its local survey, the CEPT floated a questionnaire among users, including

Creative construction

The study was begun in January and will be completed in two months

Sandwich panels of steel, aluminium, bamboo, cement are used to make prefabricated structures

These structures are more effective in areas hit by disasters and where houses are to be built speedily



operators of toll plazas and others connected with the use of prefabricated structures. It was also floated among general public to study the feasibility of these structures.

Assistant professor, construction and project management at CEPT, Debasis Sarkar, says, "Prefabricated structures can be built only where there is enough land available, mainly on the city outskirts such as Bopal, Ambli and others. These structures can also be constructed on highways where there are toll booths. We have started off with Gujarat but the study can also be replicated in other states as well."

Initial findings of the study say that the construction of prefabricated structures is more effective in areas affected by various disasters and where houses have to be built speedily.

'We want to focus on healthcare, education'

Educationist from Bhutan studying teaching systems in A'bad



Harmony Sigamporia

"As we move forward and take our place in the league of world democracies, the Bhutanese government is very clear about its priorities - health and education. It is in these two sectors that we've been trying to make inroads for the last few decades, and we know that no true democracy can function without these basics in place," says Gyaltsen Pemjor, director of the Royal Education Council of Bhutan and advisor to the king of Bhutan.

Pemjor has been in Ahmedabad for the past few days to see how the nascent 'partnership' they've got going with the city's Riverside School, the model of which is going to be used to set up a number of 'beacon' or 'pilot' schools in Bhutan by 2010, can be furthered. The Bhutanese Royal Council of Education is also in talks with the country's IIMs, IITs, and other reputed institutes of higher learning.

"The 'honeymoon' phase, where we got to know each other is done with. The next phase, where we sent a number of educationists here, to understand how the school functioned and what we could take back and adapt from it is also done with. Now, we're entering the third phase - one of intense training, and it is to this end that a team of 10 educators - graduates fresh out of teacher-training - are going to spend four months at Riverside, and learn, essentially, how teaching works in this sort of an environment," he says.

sources in the police department said a complaint of rape had been lodged against Hero. It was in the connection of the rape case that his house was raided.

Online training is a hit with youth preparing for the entrance exams held in different institutes

Enter a design institute through the Internet

Forum Chhaya

A website that offers online coaching to youth keen to join one of the fashion and design institutes of the country has suddenly become very popular among Amdavadis. It is easy to understand why the website - entrance4design - is so popular with aspirants for the city: some of the best design institutes of the country are situated in Gujarat.

During online sessions, students are taught the basic principles of design whose knowledge is crucial if you wish to get through the entrance tests held by well-known institutes such as National Institute of

Design (NID), National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), and the Centre for Environment Planning and Technology (CEPT), all of which are situated in Ahmedabad. The website also offers coaching for entrance examinations held by Faculty of Fine Arts, MSU (Vadodara) and Sir JJ School of Arts, Mumbai, as also for some other design institutes outside Gujarat.

The person who launched this online coaching hub and is its only instructor is, strangely, unwilling to make his name public. Explaining how he came to start entrance4design, he said that once, while surfing the



Web, he came across a community on the social networking website, Orkut, which was created by youth who just wanted to make it to one of the top design institutes of the country. "They were consulting each other on how to prepare for the different entrance

Online classes

The creator of entrance4design, who is also its instructor, prefers to stay anonymous

His website today has communities on Orkut and Yahoo groups dedicated to its activities

tests, but all of them were amateurs," the founder of entrance4design said over phone. "As I am very interested in design and have a good idea about which design concepts are important for entrance tests, I too joined the Orkut group and started posting assignments for others." The creator of

entrance4design, who is a young man himself, said that, gradually, students began to find his assignments and his assessment of their response useful. "When they asked for online sessions specifically tailored to the needs of individual students, I began teaching through the internet. Soon thereafter I founded entrance4design," the instructor said. "I teach a newcomer free for two to three sessions. Once he is comfortable with the technology and feels that he will benefit from online instruction, I enroll him as a full-time student for the entire course."

Of the 15 students who enrolled in 2007, seven made it to NID and two to IIT-Mum-

bai's industrial design centre. Shailja Tahuja is now a student of new media design at NID. She said she enrolled for the entrance4design course because she wanted to clear the NID entrance exam on the first attempt. "The instructor's assignments on visualisation taught us to observe and explore. I was asked to sketch 500 objects in five days. Later, his criticism of the sketches helped me improve my work and think out of the box," Shailja said.

Personal coaching for 100 to 150 hours at entrance4design can cost between Rs5,000 to Rs20,000, depending on the course and the institute for which coaching is sought.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public at large is hereby notified that our client Mr. Satish Kumar Gupta and 119 other shareholders have filed a petition under sections 397 & 398 of the Companies Act, 1956 against Messrs. Rupal Laminates Limited, Kanthibhai G. Patel, Chandubhai G. Patel and Vasuben C. Patel before the Hon'ble Company Law Board, Mumbai Bench, Mumbai bearing Company Petition 70/397-398/CLB/MB/2008 wherein the following order, inter-alia, has been passed on 4th August, 2008: "Heard the mentioned matter. Company to maintain status quo of assets & liabilities of the Company. Reply by four weeks and rejoinder in two weeks thereafter. Adjudged." Public at large is notified and cautioned from dealing with any above person/company will be entirely at his own risk and responsibility. Satyan S. Israni Israni Law Chambers, Advocates (Mumbai)