

એનઆરજી ટાઈમ્સ

પાક્ષિક

પ્રકાશક: એનઆરજી ફાઉન્ડેશન, ગાંધીનગર

તા. ૩૧ માર્ચ, ૨૦૦૮ • ફાગણ વદ નોમ, સંવત ૨૦૬૪

Create Required Infrastructure for Golden Goals: CM

Chief Minister Narendra Modi has asked the Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board (GIDB) to focus on the development of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial corridor.

In its Board meeting held on Monday, Modi told GIDB to work towards creating requisite infrastructure for the 'Golden Goals' of the State, to be realised by the end of 2010. Modi informed the Board that the Government of

Japan is interested to assist the Indian Government as well as the State Government in developing 1160 km long industrial corridor between Delhi and Mumbai, out of which around 700 km would fall within Gujarat.

A multimodal dedicated freight corridor and a high speed passenger train corridor are proposed to be developed on the same belt.

(Source : The Indian Express)

Gujarat registers 10.62% growth

AHMEDABAD, MAR 8 : Gujarat finance minister Vajubhai Vala claimed that Gujarat has registered 10.62% growth rate on constant prices and taking current prices into consideration Gujarat's growth rate works out to be 15.11%.

Vela also claimed that the state government had registered 10.6% growth as compared to 10.2% target set for 10th Plan. It may be mentioned here that earlier participating in budget discussion opposition Congress party Arjun Modhwadia had stated that Gujarat Government's projection of 10.6 per cent growth rate was based on current prices. "If calculated on the basis of current prices, Gujarat's GDP growth rate would not increase beyond 8%", Modhwadia had claimed. Replying to other points made during the budget discussion, Vala informed the State Assembly that Gujarat's revenue income has increased by 100% to Rs. 32,964 crore during 2006-07 from Rs 15,938 crore during 2001-02.

Moreover, Gujarat's income from taxes were at Rs 9,142 crore during 2001-02, which has increased to Rs 20,808 crore during current fiscal, which shows an increase of more than 100%. (Source: www.financialexpress.com)

Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs had introduced a Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) in 2006, to assist Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in pursuing Under Graduate courses in Higher and Technical fields in India. Under this Programme, 67 PIO/NRI students were granted scholarship during the academic year 2006-07 while 81 students were granted scholarship in the following academic year.

The Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children - 2008 has been announced. The following are the highlights of the SPDC-2008:

- 100 scholarships are being offered for Undergraduate courses in disciplines

including Engineering/ Architecture/ Technology, Humanities/ Liberal Arts, Commerce, Management - BBA/BBM, Journalism, Hotel Management, Agriculture/ Animal Husbandry, Sciences, Law etc.

- The Programme is open only to PIOs/NRI students from the specified 40 countries having a larger concentration of Indian Diaspora.
- 50% of the scholarship would be reserved for PIOs. However, in the event of non-availability of suitable PIO candidates, the unfilled slots could be assigned to NRI candidates.
- NRI candidates would be eligible for the grant of scholarship only if their total family income does not

New Ashram walk to boost tourism

Ahmedabad: In a bid to boost tourism, the Sabarmati Ashram along with a team of nationally approved guides, will launch a tour of its premises from Monday. The initiative coincides with the 77th anniversary of the Dandi march. 'Walk in the Ashram' tours will begin at 8.30 am and continue till 1 pm everyday with three different packages.

Each tour will incorporate an audio visual slide show, said Amrut Modi, secretary of the Gandhi Ashram Memorial and Preservation Trust.

Each walk will begin at Magan Nivas and take the tourist through the Upasana Mandir, Hriday Kunj, Vinoba Kutir and Mira Kutir, Nandini, Udyog Mandir, Teachers' Nivas and the Gandhi Sangrahalaya.

The walk has been conceptualised by Girish Gupta, western region guide, approved by the ministry of

tourism, India, and managing trustee of National Heritage Volunteers, an organisation that provides central government-approved guides.

"We have brought in approved guides whose services the Ashram can use everyday," he said. Till about five years ago, the Sabarmati Ashram conducted a light and sound show for the sake of tourists. "We are reviving this.

The 15-minute slide show will provide more details," he said. Tourists will not be charged for the tour, said Modi. "We get around 500 to 1,000 visitors in a day, depending on the season.

A good day sees around 200 foreign tourists," he added. Gupta said that the state tourism department has welcomed the initiative and is likely to help in promoting the walk by distributing brochures and posters in the days to come. (Source: The Times of India)



કેન્યા નિવાસી મૂળ વતન પડાણા (જિ. જામનગર)ના શ્રી રૂપસિ મેઘજી શાહ તરફથી તેમના વતનમાં હાઈસ્કૂલ બાંધવા માટે દાન કરેલ છે.

વતનની વાટે...

Chitra - Vichitra Mela

This fair, one of the largest, purely Adivasi (tribal) fairs attended by around 60,000 to 70,000 tribal people. It takes place every year at Poshina village of Gunbhakhari in Sabarkantha district, very near the borders of Rajasthan. It is held a fortnight after Holi, the festival of colours.

The site of the fair is attractive as the temple overlooks the rivers Sabarmati, Akul and Vyakul. The name of the fair is derived from Chitravirya and Vichitraviraya, the sons of King Shantanu, who are believed to have lived here and been cured of diseases which afflicted them.

The fair attracts large numbers of Bhils (tribals) who come from all the surrounding districts using every imaginable form of transport. The Garasis and Bhil tribals

dress in their customary colourful costumes. The costume of the men generally consists of a blue shirt, dhoti and a red or saffron turban.

Women don ghaghras (embroidered skirts) which have a circumference of as much as 20 yards, and are covered from head to foot with ornate and heavy silver jewellery. They use liquid kumkum (vermilion) to colour their cheeks and lips a brilliant red, while their eyes are outlined with kajal (kohl).

Every group that comes to the fair carries its own drum making the atmosphere come alive with the incessant beat of numerous drums. The fair also acts as a venue for betrothals, as tribal youth use this opportunity to find their future spouses.

(www.gujarattourism.com)



Tourist Place : Hazira and Tithal

The industrial capital of South Gujarat, Hajira is situated 28 kms. from Surat. The pleasant Hajira beach is fringed by feathery casurina trees and has a comfortable holiday home for the visitors. This place is home to the biggest industrial powerhouses in the nation. Tithal is situated 108 kms. from Surat and 5 kms. from Valsad. It is a beautiful sandy beach with palm-sheltered cottages. Ubharat is another fine sandy beach situated 42 kms from Surat. (www.gujarattourism.com)

Air :

Various domestic airlines connect Mumbai and Bhavnagar to Surat.

Rail :

Surat is a main junction on the Mumbai - Delhi - Ahmedabad broad gauge line.

Road :

State transport buses and private luxury coaches connects various centres of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Rajasthan. Surat is 262 kms. from Mumbai, 129 kms. from Baroda and 230 kms. from Ahmedabad.

PRESIDENT BUSH NOMINATES NEIL PATEL AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY

President George W Bush has nominated Indian American Neil Suryakant Patel to the position of Assistant Secretary for Communications Information at the Department of Commerce. Bush has sent the nomination to the Senate as Neil needs Senate confirmation before he starts working at his new position. Neil is currently working as Assistant to the Vice President for Domestic and Economic Policy. In the past, he has served as Staff Secretary to the Vice President. (source: www.gopio.net)

V S H R I K H A N D I

- To prepare 12 kg Shrikhand take double quantity of milk, i.e. 2 liters of milk. Warm the milk and allow it to cool. Take 2 tbsp. of curd (it should not be sour). Start it through a sieve and mix well with the milk. If the milk it set for curds in the night, it will set by morning (if warm milk is set the curd will be watery and therefore for Shrikhand the milk should be cool). Whole milk gives good result.



- Take a large thali and spreads a thick cloth and carefully take the curd from its vessel with a large spoon and place the chunks of dahi on the cloth. Put the thali at a slope so that all the water drains out, cover it with another cloth and leave for 1-1/2 hours. After the water is drained out gather all the curd on the cloth and put some weight – a wooden board on a thali and leave for another hour or so, so that all the extra water is drained out. This is called Maska.
- Take 350 grams of sugar and mix it to the Maska and leave aside so that all the sugar will get dissolved and then strain it through a fine stainless steel sieve or a thin muslin cloth.

Sprinkle elaichi, jaiphal powder and mix well for dressing put charoli and rose petals. If coloured shrikhand is to be served you can mix saffron. Saffron should be pre-dissolved in 1 tbsp. of hot milk and mix well. Serve it with hot puris. By adding fresh fruit pieces it can be served as fruit shrikhand-fruits like, pineapple, apple, mango, grapes, etc. (www.gujarattourism.com)

Scholarship Programme...

- exceed an amount equivalent to US \$ One thousand and five hundred (US \$ 1, 500).
 - Children of NRIs should have pursued at least three years of education inclusive of 11th & 12th or equivalent (not beyond), in a foreign country during the last six years, and have passed the qualifying examination abroad.
 - The last date for receipt of duly filled in prescribed application form by Ed.CIL is **4th April 2008**.
 - Candidates would be selected on the basis of a common entrance test to be conducted by Ed.CIL on **18th May, 2008** at your Mission/Post. Exact timings would be intimated by Ed.CIL. The candidates would also have to fulfill the entire criterion prescribed for the purpose.
 - The amount of scholarship admissible would be 75% of Institutional Economic Cost (IEC) or US \$ three thousand six hundred (US \$ 3,600), whichever is less. IEC includes Tuition fee, Hostel fee & other institutional charges.
- For more information about the scholarship, contact the nearest Indian Embassy, High Commission or the Consulate (Source: The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs)