

READERS' RESPONSES

# Foreigners more informed about walled city

Do you think foreigners appreciate Ahmedabad's heritage more than Amdavadis?

### Heritage sites main attraction for foreign tourists

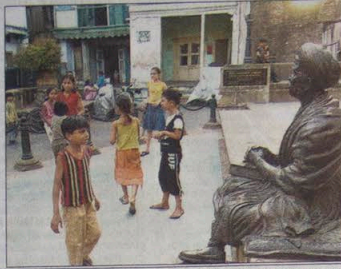
- Foreigners in general appreciate heritage sites. Probably that is the main attraction for them to visit India. For us, such a site is just another building in the neighbourhood. However, foreigners don't like poor maintenance of such structures. These places are neither properly cleaned nor lit at night. I WOOD SANJAN
- Recently, I visited the old city and found more foreigners with

complete knowledge about the place and its history. They are more interested to know about our heritage while residents don't even care to visit it. POOLA SAVALIA

• Yes, foreigners appreciate Ahmedabad's heritage more. Residents here take it for granted and don't give it the required attention. I HIMANSHU

• It is a hundred percent correct. Foreigners value the rich heritage. I VISHNU PAROH

• India's fantastic heritage has many takers across the world. I VIA SMS



### MY TIMES MY VOICE

Rich heritage but Amdavadis not bothered

• This is true. Why aren't we giving it prime importance when most of the rich heritage is around us? I BHAVAI OZA

Amdavadis have never cared for the treasure they inherited while it has received rave reviews from foreigners. I TEJ MEHTA

With time, attitude has changed

I don't agree. Nowadays people respect and appreciate their heritage. I VIA SMS

Responses were received via SMS (5888), email (mytimesmyvoice@timesgroup.com) and blog (www.mytimesmyvoice.com)

# 'Missing' sadhvi found in Mehsana

## Ojasvinibai Had Eloped To Marry Lover

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: When Kiran Pandya got his sister's call from Mehsana, he could not believe his ears. Pandya, who had stormed the Jain fraternity in the city along with police, was shocked to know that his beloved sister, who had taken to Jainism and got diksha at the age of 9, shunned monk's life to marry to a youth from the community.

According to sources, Pandya was in the city for last three days, searching for his 'missing' sister. Talking to TOI on about the safety and whereabouts of Mahasathi Ojasvinibai, 28. "In the wake of strange incidents happening with sadhus and sadhvis of Jainism, I fear that she might have been abducted."

However, the twist came on Wednesday when she contacted him to reveal her location. "She had left a note while leaving the upshraya in Vasna informing that she was shunning monk's life by her will and was safe. This information was kept under wraps to protect the prestige of the institution. But, when allegations were levelled against us, we had to disclose the truth," said a member of Jain community.

The Jain sangh members told TOI that Ojasvinibai met Ashish Bhavsar, a youth from Viramgam while on Chaturmas (four months of stay at one place for monks) at Mehsana. It was mutual attraction, according to duo, who decided to get married. As per plan, she left the upshraya and world of religion behind and donned the new identity of Archana. The duo then went to Balli in Rajasthan for a civil marriage in front of marriage registrar.

The news did not go down well with her brother. "When Pandya went to Mehsana, he got enraged and attacked Bhavsar and alleged him of influencing to take a wrong decision. The matter went out of control and nearby police personnel had to rush to the spot. When police came to know that it was a matter of two adults having married with consent, they let them go and warned Pandya," said a police official.

Frankhchand Shah, president of Darpanet, Sthanakvasi Jain Sangh, told TOI that earlier sadhvis' was warned of 'unacceptable practices' such

### Sadhvi deaths accused undergoes lie detection test

Ahmedabad: The driver accused in death of four sadhvis near Mehsana underwent a lie-detection test at Directorate of Forensic Science (DFS), Gandhinagar on Wednesday.

Investigating officials, including CID (crime), want to know whether it was an accident or planned killing. Officials say, the probe can answer many doubts raised by the Jain community about the killings. Qps say Manoj Bishnoi, truck driver arrested by Mehsana, was questioned by the officials. However, they refused to divulge in the details. Bishnoi was driving a loading truck on Mehsana-Umri highway, a 70-feet wide road where four sadhvis were passing from near Soneriya Patiya last week.

Investigations gained momentum after three other sadhvis were killed in a road mishap. CID (crime) officials have compiled details for deaths of sadhvis in last three years.

Team of IGP's formed for probe: A team of three Inspector Generals of Police (IGP) was formed by CID (crime) officials on Wednesday. It consists of Pravin Gondia, CR Parmar, IGP's of CID (crime) and range IGP of Gandhinagar AK Sharma. The team will be headed by VV Rabari, additional director general of police, CID (crime). The team has already approached the leading Jain leaders and listened to their pleas.

as using mobile phone. "However, the restrictions were termed as harsh behaviour by her brothers. She had also given us a written apology. We just want to say that she has no grudge against the treatment she got or her life as a monk till she was in the city," he said.

Manoj Bishnoi at DFS in Gandhinagar

# City in for fusion dance treat

Veronica Gautam

### Thursday events

#### FLAMENCO PERFORMANCE

A folk dance by Spanish group, including dancer, actress and choreographer Monica De La Fuente, guitarist Raul Olivar and singer, percussionist Jose Salinas

#### BHAVA!

Performance by Archan Trivedi, story telling of the old city through music and dance

#### BHARATANATYAM

Performance by Chandan Takore

#### GUJARATI FOLK MUSIC

Performance by Chetan Dave

Entry Free of cost

Venue Open Air Theatre at Vastrapur Lake

Time 7pm onwards



Monica de la Fuente

Ahmedabad: The streets are painted confetti with people, street paraphernalia and chaos—not to forget the buses and restless auto-rickshaw drivers amid its 600-year-old heritage. That's what has left the three Spaniard artists in town awestruck. Monica de la Fuente, Raul Olivar and Jose Salinas exclaimed 'Maravillosa' (marvellous) the moment they entered the city. The artists are in the city to perform a fusion of traditional Spanish Flamenco, a south-Spaniard folk dance with Bharatanatyam on Thursday evening at Vastrapur lake. The event is part of the heritage week festival anchored by the Ahmedabad Heritage Foundation (AHF) in collaboration with Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC).

"Flamenco is a 200-year-old folk dance which has been influenced by the Muslim invaders, the Indian immigrants who had settled in southern Spain and Spaniards themselves. It is a part of our lives and has been ingrained in our culture since then," says Jose Salinas, Flamenco singer. He also plays a traditional instrument. "It is very important to preserve one's heritage buildings, and more important is the preservation of music, dance, food and traditions," says Monica de la Fuente. She has been a Flamenco dancer since she was eight, and has received her ICR Scholarship from Kalkatshetra, Chennai in Bharatanatyam under the tutelage of Ms. Meena Raman. She has also learnt Kathakali from

Kala Mandalam, Thiruvananthapuram. Flamenco guitarist Raul Olivar, along with Jose Salinas and Monica de la Fuente, was approached for this event through The Casa de la India in Spain. With its head office in Valladolid, this organization works as an innovative platform to promote cultural and social relationship between the two countries. "Our art is integral to our lives," says Raul Olivar, who has been performing for 21 years now.

### ASI photo exhibition at Patan



TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)'s Vadodra circle will start the celebration of World Heritage Week at Rani ki Vav at Patan from Thursday.

According to ASI, senior officials will exhibit some rare photographs of monuments and rich heritage of the state. The function will be presided by Bhat Raval, district collector, at the vav at 11 am.

"It will help us connect to the public and give a glimpse of the past," said a senior ASI official.

# Jeweller accuses artisan of Rs 15-lakh fraud

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: A city-based jeweller has accused an artisan of duping him by siphoning off the material worth Rs 15 lakh he had provided him to make gold ornaments. The jeweller has filed a complaint with Navrangpura police station.

A city-based jeweller has accused an artisan from West Bengal of duping him by siphoning off 603 gm of gold and 30 carats of diamonds worth Rs 15 lakh given him to make gold ornaments

Arvind Patel, a resident of Gold Roof, Chitrarath Building, Navrangpura, said he had given 603 gm of gold and 30 carats of diamonds to Sanjay Bhagol, a native of West Bengal who resides in the city at Baga surchandan pol near Manekchowk. The material was given between September 21 and October 5 in instalments.

"Patel had provided the material as per an arrangement between him and Bhagol, an expert artisan, who had come to the city with his team, to design gold jewellery with diamonds. Patel had dealt earlier with Bhagol and felt confident of a larger stock this time. Thus, he had provided him with the material,"

said PM Parmar, inspector of Navrangpura police station. However, Bhagol returned to his native place with the material. Patel got to know about this from Bhagol's co-workers. He tried to contact him but in vain. Realizing that he was duped, Patel then approached police officials with the complaint.

Parmar said that they are investigating Bhagol's local contacts and locate his native place. He added that most of the jewellery is designed by the city by jewellers is designed by Bengali artisans and the jewellers have to trust them for getting the designs done.

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# 5 rly ticket counters to be shifted to reservation centre

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: The railways has decided to shift five counters issuing unreserved tickets at Kalupur station to the AC reservation centre.

Officials in the railways said there are 22 counters for



AVOIDING RUSH

issuing unreserved and platform tickets. Of these, six windows are kept in reserve and remained unused. Of the 16 which are functioning, five windows will be shifted to the reservation centre. This centre has 24 windows of which only 10 were put to use. Officials said that gradually all the 16 windows would be shifted to the centre.

They added that the railways has also started issuing platform tickets from the four-wheeler parking counters situated at the station. Officials said that on an average, 30,000 unreserved and platform tickets are issued daily from these 16 windows situated just outside the platform one. Officials said the railways has decided to fix arrival and departure of important trains like Rajdhani and Shatabdi on and from platform one. As soon as people come out of the platform, they encounter huge crowd and hence, the railways has plans to shift all the windows to the reservation centre.

Senior divisional manager Uday Jha said the railways has also decided to open a gate which leads the passengers directly to the reservation centre and hence, one can take the ticket from these counters and enter the station through the foot overbridge and avoid the rush on platform one.

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