

Personal Messages

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



**SHREYA, WISH** You Many Many Happy Returns of the Day. From - Jhaveri Family.

# Keshubhai plays community card

In Poll Year, Exhorts Leuva Patels To ‘Fight Injustice’

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Ahmedabad:** “Don’t be a mute spectator to injustice.” This was the piece of advice that the grand old man of Gujarat BJP and veteran Patel leader **Keshubhai Patel** gave his politically influential Leuva Patels on Tuesday. It was second time in two months that Keshubhai has exhorted his community to wake up and fight “injustice.”

Barely two days after empty chairs greeted chief minister Narendra Modi at a function organized by a group of Leuva Patels in Surat, Keshubhai gave a clarion call to his community that it is high time to show de-

tractors that “might is right”, that too addressing a nearly 60,000-strong crowd.

“Till when will Patels live in fear? Why should we tolerate injustice to our community?,” Patel said, addressing the gathering at Jamkandorna where he attended a mass marriages function on Tuesday.

“There are 1.10 crore Leuva Patels and its high time you realize your might. Hand holding is enough now” he said.

Keshubhai also praised Congress MP Vitthal Radadia saying that he was doing a yeoman’s service to the Patel community. “We need leaders like him,” he said.

Jodiya Congress MLA Raghavji Patel likened Keshubhai to Bhisma Pitamah and said that time has come for him to don the role of Krishna.

In January too, Keshubhai had told 9 lakh Leuvas at a massive congregation at Khodaldham near Rajkot, “Mahatma Gandhi told us that if someone slaps you, be ready for another slap. Even I agree, but when you are right and someone slaps you, give back two slaps.”

On Monday, Keshubhai even met several BJP men, including some MLAs and party office bearers, in Sodhvadi village of Junagadh district. “If you can’t speak out, quit your positions or find out some way,” he is reported to have told them.

Meanwhile, a secret meeting between MahaGujarat Janta Party president Gordhan Zadhaphia, Keshubhai and Naresh Patel, the organizer of Leuva Patel meet at Khodaldham, was also held on Monday.

# Both BJP and Cong claim victory

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Ahmedabad:** While the BJP refrained from making figurative claims about their fate in the Panchayat elections that were held on Sunday, Congress party staked claim to victory. Congress workers claimed that the party has come to power in 75 per cent of the gram panchayats in the state.

BJP spokesperson said of the 1,738 gram panchayats, 421 were declared Samras gram panchayat. “Of the remaining 1,317 panchayats where elections were held, we have come to power in a majority of

them,” said a BJP leader.

Congress leaders reinforced their claims by saying that the party’s supporters had come to power in the strong-hold-village of BJP MLA from Amreli, Kalubhai Virani. Congress leaders also pointed out that Babbuji Thakore, the brother of BJP’s Member of Parliament Natuji Thakore also has lost the election in Vadvi village in Kadi Taluka.

A Congress spokesperson claimed that Kala Purohit, brother of BJP Dhane-ra MLA Mafathbhai Purohit lost the gram panchayat elections. Congress leaders also claimed that in Gandhinagar panchayat where elections to 90 gram pan-

chayats had been held, the party’s supporters had been elected to power in 87 gram panchayats, while BJP managed to hold on to power only in three.

Meanwhile a BJP spokesperson without going into the figures has said that majority of the panchayats were bagged by the BJP supporters. He said in majority of the villages it was the Congress which had stopped the villages from opting to become samras villages.

In Surat and Tapi districts too, where election for three and four gram panchayats were held, the Congress managed to come to power in all the seven gram panchayats.

Congress leaders also claimed that of the 421 village panchayats that were declared as samras villages, 387 panchayats had Congress supporters coming to power even in samras panchayats



GRAM PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS

# 184 custodial deaths in Guj and still counting...

Radha Sharma | TNN

**Ahmedabad:** The spate of police encounters in Gujarat which saw 23 police officials being pushed behind bars made activist Kantilal Parmar wonder how many lives were lost while being in police or judicial custody. There was no easy access to information and Parmar filed Right to Information (RTI) applications with individual district police seeking data of custodial deaths in the state from year 1990 to 2007. He got information from 15 districts and Vadodara jail which revealed that a good 184 people who were in police and judicial custody died between these 17 years.

Parmar, however, has not got information from the rest 10 districts and has been doggedly pursuing the application to get the entire picture of custodial deaths

in the state. Parmar’s basic objective to file the RTI was to aid the Supreme Court appointed Special Investigating Team (SIT) investigating fake encounters in Gujarat with the information.

The RTI application has revealed that 184 people died while in police or judicial custody from 1990-2007. Interestingly, nine were killed in police firing and three were murdered while they were in the security of either police lock-up or the jail.

Heart failure was common-place with 28 custodial deaths reported due to heart failure. For instance, Rajnikant Kachiya has been recorded to have died of heart failure while he was being investigated by the police in 2006.

Curiously, 28 people killed themselves while in police custody. Vasant Savjibhai Vankar of Chandkheda killed himself by

## GRIM DATA

Total custodial casualties	184
Police firing	9
Death due to illness	128
Murders	3
Suicides	28

hanging himself by his shirt in 2003. Kantilal Vallabhbhai too hanged himself by his shirt in 2004 in Amreli.

Many prisoners got murdered while in custody. Taiyab Umarbhai was murdered while under police escort in 2001. Haji Jusab Dafer of Amreli was killed in police firing.

Parmar says that encounter is violation of the Right to Life and he believes that this basic right should not be violated. “In many cases, I feel that there is more to the death than what meets the eye. I wish that all these custodial deaths should also be investigated along with fake encounters to know what is really happening”, the activist said.

# SIT too challenges acquittal of 31 persons in Sardarpura case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Ahmedabad:** After the state government challenged the acquittal order in the Sardarpura massacre case, the Supreme Court-appointed SIT has also followed suit, challenging the special court’s decision before Gujarat high court.

On November 9, designated judge S C Srivastava in Mehsana convicted 31 to life imprisonment, exonerated 11 persons for want of evidence against them, while letting go of 31 others by giving them benefit of doubt. Thirty-three persons were killed in this post-Godhra rioting incident in the north Gujarat village on March 1, 2002.

The state government as well as the SIT has not questioned the special court’s order in connection with those 11 persons, who were acquitted for complete lack of evidence against them.

Like the state government, the SIT has also not sought enhancement in punishment for 31 convicts, who have been condemned to life imprisonment. In another case of 2002 riots – the Godhra carnage case – the SIT has sought death penalty against 20 persons, who



were convicted to life imprisonment by a special court last year.

Meanwhile, some of the victims in the Sardarpura case have also challenged the trial court’s order of acquittal, but their plea was limited to the case of 14 accused persons. They claim that there was evidence against those 14 persons, yet they were acquitted.

The government had sought the HC pardon for the delay in filing appeals, which the court granted on Tuesday. The bench of justices Jayant Patel and Presh Upadhyay has kept the cases for further hearing on April 27.

# GU surrenders vacancies to government

**Ahmedabad:** The Gujarat University (GU) has surrendered the recruitment on 74 vacancies granted by the state government as it does not wish to court controversy following the procedures directed to be followed by the education government.

Controversy has erupted over the vacant positions in the GU colleges in the run up to National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) inspection which is expected shortly. The GU had requested government to give permission to fill 75 teaching positions and 140 non-teaching positions lying vacant in the GU as vacant positions would adversely impact the NAAC rating.

The state government granted permission to appoint recruit personnel on 37 teaching vacancies as well as 37 non-teaching vacancies. The government directed that advertisement for recruitment on all these positions be given and teaching and non-teaching staff recruited.

However, the GU officials found that 20 positions each in both the category had to be filled through promotions as per GU rules and regulations and only 17 positions in both categories could be advertised and staff recruited. However, when the education department insisted that recruitment on all positions be done by giving advertisements and following procedure as laid out by the government.

The GU is already reeling under 164 non-teaching employees threatening to go on strike if they are not made permanent despite working in the GU for years. If the GU follows government directives, it would mean appointing head clerks over the existing administrative staff which would create unrest. TNN



# DAIICT design opens Microsoft window

Dayananda Yumlembam | TNN

**Ahmedabad:** A software designed to assist physiotherapy by the students of Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Technology (DAIICT) has got the attention of Microsoft officials. The students who designed the software as a part of a software design competition by Microsoft called ‘Microsoft Imagine Cup’ has been selected to among the top seven in the country.

The students Yash Soni (22) and Sonali Dubey (21) studying in final year of



A screenshot of the game designed by DAIICT students to assist physiotherapy sessions to improve hand stability

Bachelor of Technology in Information and Communication Technology have designed a set of five video games. The games, which the students have designed in consultation of doctors, are aimed to assist and improve the exercise of patients suffering from motor disorder, post stroke syndromes and cerebral palsy and so on.

All the games have been designed by using a three di-

mensional motion sensing device from Microsoft called ‘Kinect’.

In one of the games, which has been designed for improving hand stability, the patient has to stand in front of the video screen which shows small balloons floating around.

Kinect picks up the movements of the patient and a three-dimensional human model in the screen moves in

synchrony with the movement of the patient. The patient has to raise his hands and point to a particular balloon and hold a few seconds to break it. In this way the patient can continue to break the rest of the balloons.

“The performances of the patients are constantly recorded by the software. These logs of patients’ performances can be later analyzed by the doctors. The difficulty level of the games can also be set accordingly by the doctors,” said Soni.

The students will compete with six other teams at the national level at Delhi on April 24. One winning team will later take part in the international level of the competition in Australia in July.

Mark D’Souza, director of Student Programs at Microsoft India said, “The competition is an initiative to encourage students to ideate towards solving social issues. The competition was started ten years ago.”




**FLY TO THE HILLS THIS SUMMER.**  
Thomas Cook brings you Air Inclusive holidays to the Northeast, Ladakh and Bhutan.




Package Name	Duration	Visit	Published Price (Ex-Delhi)	Offer Price (Ex-Delhi)
Magical Ladakh	6N / 7D	Leh-Nubra-Pangong	₹ 29900/-	₹ 25999/-
Delights of Eastern Himalaya	7N / 8D	Darjeeling-Lachung-Gangtok	₹ 36500/-	₹ 34999/-
Highlights of North East	7N / 8D	Darjeeling-Pelling-Gangtok	₹ 34000/-	₹ 32999/-
Himachal Experience	7N / 8D	Nalagarh-Shimla-Manali-Chandigarh	₹ 21900/-	₹ 19999/-
Majestic Bhutan with Taj Tashi	4N / 5D	Thimpu-Paro-Punakha	₹ 53599/-	₹ 51999/-

Above holidays are available ex Mumbai/Bangalore/Hyderabad/Chennai/Kolkata with confirmed air seats at attractive prices



**Common Inclusions:** Above prices are per person inclusive of return airfare (Ex-Delhi) | Himachal Experience is without Airfare | Accommodation on Twin Sharing | Transfers and sightseeing in AC Vehicle | Meals as specified | Travel Insurance, GST @ 3.09% additional, Conditions apply. Also Available: Various packages for Kashmir / Uttarakhand available starting from ₹ 19999/-

**Toll Free:** 1-800-2099-100  
**Tel:** 022 6768 6970, **SMS:** ‘Holidays’ to 56767100,  
**Mail:** domestic@in.thomascook.com **Web:** www.thomascook.in



TRAVEL SMOOTH

HOLIDAYS • BUSINESS TRAVEL • FOREIGN EXCHANGE • VISAS • PASSPORTS • TRAVEL INSURANCE

**Ahmedabad (079):** C.G. Road 26409191/1337, Science City Road: 65530215/40082021 **Satellite** 65124709/65131191, **Maninagar** 25462959/965 **Ambawadi:** 26569557, **Vastrapur:** 40301500, **Anand** : 9909002511, **Mehsana** (02762): 244099 **Kutch**(02836): 226099,230607, 8980094922, **Jamnagar:** 8758226202 / 9824949884 **Nadiad:** (0268) 6547788 **Rajkot** (0281)Kalawad Road 6450208-09, **Surat**(0261) **Ghod-dod Road:** 2651017-18 **Adajan** : 6004600, **Vadodara**(0265): **Race Course Road** 6634705/706,2320801, **Vapi**(0260): 2422277



**EXPERIENCE THIS AD WITH AUGMENTED REALITY (AR).**  
First, download Times inARact for free on your mobile from <http://intARact.mobi/toi> or SMS TOIAR to 58888. Then, scan any of the images in the ad above.

1238.2012