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## DIGEST

### Postponed

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 26.** A function scheduled to be held here tomorrow to mark the conclusion of the golden jubilee celebrations of the Indian republic has been postponed in the wake of heavy loss of life and property in Friday's earthquake, a Lok Sabha press release said.

The President, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, the Vice-President, Mr. Krishan Kant, and the Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, were to attend the celebrations in the Central Hall of Parliament. — PTI

### Army camp attacked

**SRINAGAR, JAN. 26.** Two army personnel were killed when 'fidayeen' (suicide squad) stormed an army camp, 200 yards from the venue of the Republic Day function in Baramulla today, official sources said. Earlier in the day, militants fired four rifle grenades within 20 minutes in the Main Chowk of Baramulla town. The grenade exploded on a bridge while another injured a policeman. —

### Taliban closes offices in Pak.

**ISLAMABAD, JAN. 26.** Afghanistan's Taliban today closed down its three offices in Pakistan, the private Afghan Islamic Press reported.

The AIP quoted the Taliban Ambassador in Islamabad, Mr. Abdul Salam Zaeef, as having said that the non-diplomatic offices in Peshawar, Quetta and Karachi have been closed in view of the sanctions imposed by the U.N. on January 19. — DPA

### Ministers resign

**JHARKHAND, JAN. 26.** All the five Ministers of the BJP representing the Santhalpargana areas in Jharkhand today resigned from the Cabinet paving the way for the Chief Minister, Mr. Babulal Marandi, to contest the Assembly elections from any of the segments in the area.

Mr. Marandi said he would send the resignation letters to the party high command. — UNI

### 25 feared drowned

**PATNA, JAN. 26.** Twenty-five people were feared drowned when an overcrowded boat capsized in the Ganga at Delva in Bihar's Munger district yesterday, police said today. Ten passengers swam to safety. — PTI

### PM, Advani for Gwalior

**GWALIOR, JAN. 26.** The Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, and four Chief Ministers would attend tomorrow's funeral of the senior BJP leader, Vijayaraje Scindia, who passed away in New Delhi yesterday. — PTI

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**KERALA**
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**YOUNG WORLD**
- Power of restraint — *Page I*

## AHMEDABAD, BHUJ WORST-HIT; THOUSANDS TRAPPED; 'VIBRATIONS' REACH SOUTH

# 1,500 feared killed in Gujarat quake

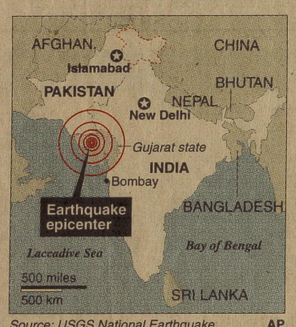
By Manas Dasgupta

**AHMEDABAD, JAN. 26.** At least 1,000 people were feared killed, including about 300 in Ahmedabad city, and several thousands injured in an earthquake which struck Gujarat this morning. Several hundreds were also rendered homeless. The Army was called in to assist civic authorities in the rescue and relief operations in Ahmedabad and some other parts. (A PTI report said the toll was over 1,500.)

An official spokesman said the toll was expected to go up further as thousands were still trapped under the debris of fallen buildings in several towns.

(According to PTI, the entire northern belt experienced tremors while "vibrations" from the severe quake were felt even as far south as Chennai. Mild tremors were also felt in Kolkata, Shillong, Agartala and Nepal.)

The quake, said to be the second strongest in the last 50 years in any part of India, measured 6.9 on the Richter scale, with its epicentre about 20 km northeast of Bhuj, district headquarters of Kutch, lasted several seconds.




Source: USGS National Earthquake Information Center AP

The Union Home Minister, Mr. L. K. Advani, who arrived here this evening for an on-the-spot study, told mediapersons that the number of casualties could be "in four figures". He said almost the entire belt from Bhuj to Rajkot was very severely affected but no immediate information was available about the extent of damage. The Defence Minister, Mr. George Fernandes, rushed to Bhuj to assess the situation, particularly the defence installations in the border district. (A UNI report from New Delhi quoted the Prime Minister, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee, as saying the Government might consider declaring the quake a national calamity, if needed.)

**More reports, photos of earthquake on Pages 13 and 14.**

### Communications hit

The Kutch and Saurashtra regions were said to be the worst affected and with the communication network badly hit, only sketchy reports reached the State headquarters. According to initial reports, at least 160 persons were killed in Bhuj, about 155 in Rajkot, 100 in Morbi, 87 in Jamnagar, 55 in Surendranagar, 25 in Porbandar, 30 in Wankaner, about 40 in Palanpur, 28 in Patan and about 10 each in Broach and Navsari. No information was available from rural regions.

Though the intensity was less severe than in the central and southern regions, Surat suffered extensive damage with 33 deaths reported from the city.

At least 10 students of the Morbi Engineering college in Rajkot district were killed when a hostel building collapsed. The town, main centre for manufacturing scientific clocks and virtually rebuilt after the 1979 Machhu-II dam disaster in which 2,000 people were killed, was again very badly affected.

### Bridge develops cracks

At least 150 buildings, including about a dozen high-rise structures, collapsed in different parts of Ahmedabad. By evening, 247 bodies had been recovered. The Nehru bridge, one of the six major bridges over the Sabarmati linking the old city with new Ahmedabad, developed a major crack in the middle.

It took several seconds for the people to realise what was happening as buildings began shaking around 8.50 a.m. and soon millions of people rushed out of their houses onto the roads. The entire city was hit by power failure. Most of the telephones remained dead. Mobile phones were also badly affected. Timely action by authorities averted a collapse of the western power grid after several power plants in the State collapsed.

Besides Mr. Advani and Mr. Fernandes, the Union Textiles Minister, Mr. Kashiram Rana, the BJP national general secretary, Mr. Narendra Modi, and several other senior Central Government leaders reached here. The Chief Minister, Mr. Keshubhai Patel, asking the Government officials to immediately report back to duty (in view of the Republic Day, it was a holiday today), also appealed to the people to have patience and cooperate with the authorities.

The Republic Day parade could not be held and a get-together at the Raj Bhavan this evening was cancelled. The Chief Minister, who visited the civil hospital to console the family members of the deceased, ordered an inquiry to ascertain the causes of the quake and declared a state of alert in view of the fears that the quake might hit any part of the State again during the next fortnight.

According to an official spokesman, today's quake was more intense than the 1993 Latur quake, which measured 6.3 on the Richter scale.




**BLACK FRIDAY: People gather in front of a collapsed building in Ahmedabad in the aftermath of an earthquake on Friday.** — Reuters

# N-might takes a backseat at R-Day parade

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 26.** Unlike the last two years, the "show of strength" on the Raj Path today was a sober affair.

In the equipment displayed, there was no sense of urgency in demonstrating India's nuclear status. Two years ago, the limelight at the Republic Day parade was hogged by the display of the nuclear-capable Agni missile. Last year, it was celebrated in the backdrop of the Kargil war.

Ironically, the Agni was not on display even though it has now become a battle-worthy weapon system. There is speculation that the decision not to display the missile is to send a positive signal to China that India's nuclear deterrence capability is not directed against it. In fact, India waited for the departure of Mr. Li Peng, the number two man in the Chinese political hierarchy, to leave before testing the Agni-II earlier this month.

The Prithvi, which can carry a nuclear warhead up to 300 km, was on show. India, however, may not deploy Prithvi as a tactical nuclear missile, choosing the Agni and aircraft such as the TU-22, which are likely to be imported from Russia, as the principal nuclear delivery systems. The ambiguity associated with Prithvi, therefore, does not necessarily symbolise India's nuclear status.



**The Prithvi missile on display at the 52nd Republic Day parade in New Delhi on Friday. The President, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, took the salute and the Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, led the nation in paying homage to martyrs on the memorable day when the Algerian President, Mr. Abdelaziz Boutefilika, was the chief guest.** — Reuters (Report on Page 15)

The equipment display, however, did project India's capacity to strike indepth with conventional weapons. Not surprisingly, the SU-30s and the Jaguar planes acquired a high profile during the show. Both these planes can strike key high value targets across its western borders. However, their utility is still Pakistan-centric. The SU-30s will acquire greater relevance against China only after their range is fully exploited. That would depend on the still-awaited acquisition of air-to-air refuelling tankers.

For the first time, India's capacity to credibly strike far away land targets from sea was on show. Both the Sindhushastra submarine and the Talwar class ship, whose models were on show, are being equipped with Klub missiles. There was no noticeable change in the rest of the equipment which rolled down Raj Path. The parade displayed the OSA-AK mobile systems for countering hostile aircraft.

**Other reports on Pages 9, 15**

# Relief on a war-footing

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 26.** The Union Cabinet held an emergency meeting this evening to take stock of the situation arising out of the earthquake in Gujarat earlier in the day and decided to launch relief on a war footing.

The Cabinet meeting, presided over by the Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, directed the armed forces, public sector undertakings and the different departments of the Central Government to render all assistance to the Gujarat Government.

On the request of the Cabinet, the Speaker of Lok Sabha, Mr. G.M.C. Balayogi, postponed the special meeting of MPs scheduled tomorrow to mark the conclusion of the 50th anniversary of the republic.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister and spokesperson of the Cabinet, Mr. Pramod Mahajan, said top priority was being accorded to ensure adequate availability of food and medicines and restoration of the communication links.

In addition, efforts were on to rush tents and blankets in large quantities as temperatures in several parts of the affected areas were reported to be going down, to about seven to eight degrees celsius.The Army's help was being taken to mobilise tents and blankets.

Mr. Mahajan also said a 20-member team of specialists from the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences here and two battalions of Armed Forces from Pune left for Gujarat.

Fortunately, he said, the Army's hospital at Bhuj was intact and it was providing relief. Mr. Mahajan said though there had been aftershocks, 18 till evening, their intensity appeared to be going down.

The Cabinet adopted a resolution expressing a deep sense of grief at the heavy loss of life and the magnitude of destruction and observed two minutes silence.

Earlier, the Cabinet Secretary, Mr. T.R.Prasad, held a meeting of senior officials of various Ministries and of the Armed Forces to chalk out emergency relief measures. Mr. Prasad also spoke to Gujarat Chief Secretary to assess the relief requirements and asked Chief Secretaries of Rajasthan and Maharashtra to provide all assistance.

KERALA / 'EXPLOIT POTENTIAL OF STATE'

# Governor calls for steps to restore peace

By Our Special Correspondent

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN. 26.** The Governor, Mr. Sukhdev Singh Kang, on Friday called for serious heart-searching, systematic creative work and police action to stem violence at Nadapuram and other places.

Addressing the Republic Day Parade at the Central Stadium here, the Governor said that efforts should begin from the grassroots level to disabuse the people's minds. Simultaneously, the long arm of the law should, without fear or favour, effectively deter anyone who is insensitive to the society's urge for peace and tranquility.

"In my Republic Day speech last year, I pointedly referred to the absurd killing of our innocent fellow citizens in certain parts of the State; we all heaved a sigh of relief when peace returned. Although calm prevailed there for a long time, violence erupted again, resulting in loss of precious lives. Why do these meaningless killings recur in this enlightened land?" Mr. Kang asked.

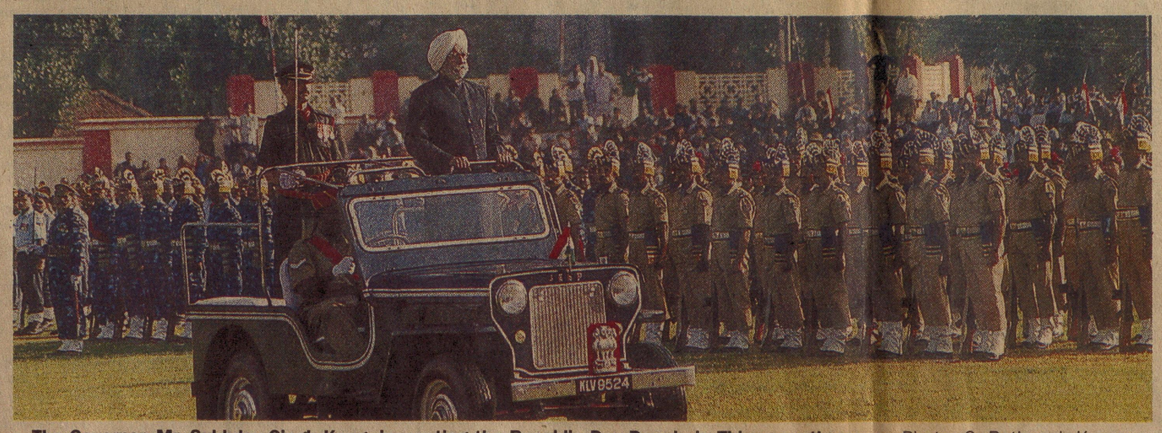
The commitment to peaceful resolution of conflicting interests, he said, is a sine qua non for any successful democracy. There should be no place for violence in this tolerant country of Gautama Buddha, Sree Sankara, Sree Narayana Guru and Mahatma Gandhi. "Let us on this auspicious day resolve to rededicate ourselves to the overall development of our State, which has all the pre-conditions for a take off into a front-ranking State."

On the political front, the recent local self-government elections once again proved that in spite of the strong political rivalries, Keralites could take the election in a spirit of healthy competition, another indicator of a vibrant democracy.

He said that though the Malayalis were by far hard working and enterprising outside the State and abroad, the state of affairs in Kerala required a revamping, a reorientation or even a rejuvenation. "What pains me is the wide gap between the splendid potential and the real performance of our State."

Mr. Kang commended the work of Ms. K.V. Rabia of Tirurangadi in Malappuram district. Though inflicted with polio, and now cancer, she moves in a wheel chair, teaching the hapless women in her neighbourhood.

The Governor said the unilateral declaration of ceasefire by the Union Government in Jammu and Kashmir, the country's readiness to open talks with Pakistan and the secessionists within the country and meaningful initiatives taken to restart dialogue with China, all augured well for the nation. "Let us hope to move from confrontation and conflicts to peace and progress."



**The Governor, Mr. Sukhdev Singh Kang, inspecting the Republic Day Parade in Thiruvananthapuram.** Photo: C. Ratheesh Kumar.

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## BRIEFS

### Railmen abducted

**Agartala:** For the first time in Tripura's history of militancy, tribal guerillas on Sunday abducted 9 officials of the North East Frontier Railway on Sunday.

The police said that the officials, including engineers and supervisors, were abducted from Sindhu Kumar Para under Manu police station • UNI

### Burnt alive

**Kanpur:** At least 12 people were burnt alive when a gas tanker exploded after colliding with a stationary truck near Bara village in Kanpur Dehat district on Sunday • UNI

### Haj website

**New Delhi:** Haj Committee (India) has gone online with the launch of its website - www.hajcommittee.com. The website contains a complete record of Haj pilgrimage, including

# Tremors rock many districts again

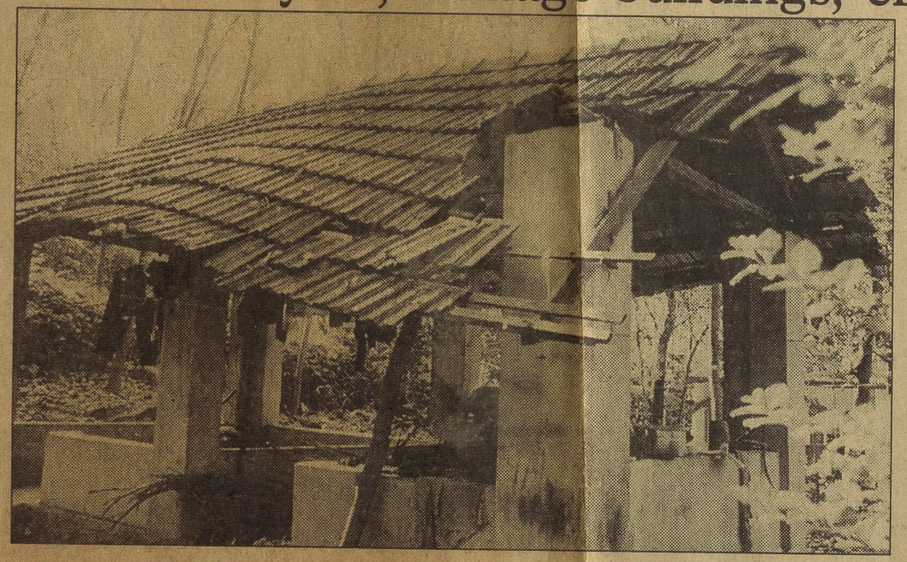
## Claim one life in Kottayam, damage buildings, create widespread panic

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

**Thiruvananthapuram/Kottayam, Jan 7:** Several districts in the State were today rocked by yet another series of tremors of moderate intensity that claimed one life, damaged buildings and caused widespread panic among the people.

Several parts of Idukki, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Kollam, Thiruvananthapuram, Malappuram and Kozhikode districts experienced the tremors, the first of which was at 8.26 am which recorded 4.8 in the Richter Scale. This was followed by more tremors of lower intensity till 10 a.m. The latest tremors claimed a life when a panick-stricken man, 68-year-old Vasu of Ericad in Kottayam district, who was at the lavatory at that time, suffered a massive heart attack.

Meteorological Department, here, recorded two of today's tremors which were of highest intensity. The first tremor was recorded at 8.26 a.m. and the next at 8.57 a.m., with an intensity of 3.3 on the Richter scale. Both the tremor continued for 2 to 10 seconds.



The cattleshed at Pala Kizhaparayar which was damaged in the earthquake on Sunday

Meteorological Centre director V K Gangadharan said the latest tremors were after-shocks of the December 12 tremor that recorded 5 on the Richter scale. The epicentre of the tremors lay near latitude 9.7 degree north and longitude 76.8 degree east (somewhere near Peerumedu in Idukki district).

The quake sent panic among thousands of Ayyappa devotees at Pampa and Sannidhanam of the Sabarimala hill shrine as the pilgrims chanted "Swamiye Saranam Ayyappa."

The floor of the police barrack developed fissures while the asbestos roof of the Government hospital at Sannidhanam fell down.

Minor cracks developed in several houses in and around Ranni, Seethathodu and Konni. In Tiruvalla, a house was burnt reportedly due to a short circuit developed when the first tremor hit the area.

According to sources in the KSEB research station, Vazhathope, Idukki, the second strong tremor in less than a month is believed to have its epicentre in the area between Vandiperiyar and Mundakkyam, stretching even upto Manimala near Kanjirappally.

The area is southeast to Idukki dam and west of Mullaperiyar dam. If the tremor that rocked the State in December had an epicentre 45 kilometres away from Idukki dam in the south-west direction, today's tremor is located around only 32 kilometres from it, but in a different direction.

One person was admitted to a hospital in Adimali and another at Upputhara, in Idukki district, after they fell unconscious in the aftermath of the tremor. Four persons were also brought unconscious to the Government hospital at Kurichy, near here, after the tremor.

The intensity of the tremor was such that faithfuls who were attending service at churches in Pala, ran out in panic. Six persons were injured when a huge cross broke and eventually brought down the asbestos sheets of the St George's Church, Vayala, on those assembled for the Holy Mass. There were nearly 500 persons attending the service.

At Kumily, patients staying in the first floor of a hilltop hospital rushed out for cover. Residents of Vandiperiyar, Chottupara and Upputhara saw in disbelief their houses developing cracks and utensils and

▶ to P 4, Col 4

## TN areas rocked, child dies in wall collapse

**Madurai, Jan 7:** A two-year-old girl was killed and two others were injured as tremors were experienced in Tirunelveli, Theni, Coimbatore and Virudhunagar districts of Tamil Nadu, this morning.

The child succumbed to injuries sustained when the wall of a hut collapsed at Mayirulanoor near Kadayam in Tirunelveli district, reports received here said. The girl's mother and a seven-year-old girl, who was playing nearby, were also injured.

The Western Ghats areas in Tirunelveli, Theni and Virudhunagar experienced moderate tremors, which read three on the Richter scale between 8.20 am and 8.23 am, official sources said.

The tremors lasted a few seconds in these places, including the Vaigai dam area. However, the dam was safe, the sources added.

A Coimbatore report said several parts of the district also experienced tremors.

However, there were no reports of damage to property from these places • UNI

2001 ജനുവരി 8 തിങ്കൾ T 3

# ഭൂചലനം:വീടുകൾക്കു വിള്ളൽ

തിരുവനന്തപുരം: തലസ്ഥാന ജില്ലയുടെ മിക്ക ഭാഗത്തും ഇന്നലെ രാവിലെ ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടതു ജനങ്ങളെ പരിഭ്രാന്തരാക്കി. സംസ്ഥാനത്തു നാലു തവണ ഭൂചലനമുണ്ടായെങ്കിലും തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തും പരിസര പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലും ഒരു തവണയേ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടുള്ളൂ.

ചില വീടുകളുടെ ഭിത്തിയിൽ നേരിയ വിള്ളലുകൾ പ്രത്യക്ഷപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. കഴിഞ്ഞ തവണത്തെ അനുഭവം മൂലം ഭൂരിപക്ഷംപേരും പെട്ടന്നുതന്നെ ഭൂചലനം തിരിച്ചറിഞ്ഞു. ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ട സമയത്തെക്കുറിച്ചു വ്യത്യസ്ത അഭിപ്രായമുണ്ടെങ്കിലും രാവിലെ എട്ട രയ്ക്കു മുമ്പാണു ചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടതെന്ന് എല്ലാവരും സമ്മതിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.

മാർ ഈവാനിയോസ് കോളജ് അധ്യാപകൻ ഡോ. കെ. എസ്. മാത്യുവിന്റെ എൽ. ഐ. സി. ലെയിനിലുള്ള വീടിന്റെ ഭിത്തിയിൽ പൊട്ടലുകൾ പ്രത്യക്ഷപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്.

രാവിലെ കട്ടിലിൽ കിടന്നു പത്രം വായിക്കുമ്പോഴാണ് ആരോ പിടിച്ചു കുലുക്കുന്നതു പോലെ ഡോ. മാത്യുവിനു തോന്നിയത്. ഇതിനിടെ വീടിന്റെ രണ്ടാം നിലയിലിരുന്ന ഗോദ്റെജ് അലമാര മുന്നോട്ടും പിന്നോട്ടും ആടി. നിറയെ സാധനങ്ങളുള്ള അലമാര ആടുന്നതു കണ്ടപ്പോഴാണു ഭൂചലനമാണെന്നു ബോധ്യമായത്. മൂന്നു നാലു സെക്കൻഡുകളോളം ഇത് അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടതായി അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞു.

മലയാള മനോരമയുടെ എ. കെ. ജി. നഗർ ഏജന്റ് ശശിധരൻ നായരുടെ വീടിന്റെ ചുവരിലും വിള്ളലുകൾ പ്രത്യക്ഷപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. മുക്കോല നെട്ടയം ചെക്കക്കോണം സന്തോഷിന്റെ മോട്ടോർ ഭൂചലന സമയത്തുനിന്നു പോയി. യൂത്ത് ഫ്രണ്ട്(ബി)സംസ്ഥാന സെക്രട്ടറി സനിൽകുമാറിന്റെ കയ്യിൽ നിന്നു ടെലിഫോൺ റിസീവർ താഴെ വീണു.

തിരുവനന്തപുരം നഗരത്തിനു പുറമേ ആറ്റിങ്ങൽ, നെടുമങ്ങാട്, കണിയാപുരം, പോത്തൻകോട്, പ്രാവച്ചമ്പലം, ചിറയിൻകീഴ്, ആലംകോട് തുടങ്ങിയ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടതായി റിപ്പോർട്ടുണ്ട്. പരിഭ്രാന്തരായ ജനങ്ങൾ പത്രം ഓഫിസുകളിലും മറ്റും വിളിച്ച് അപകടമില്ലെന്ന് ഉറപ്പു വരുത്തി.

രാവിലെ കസേരയിലിരുന്ന പലരും ആരോ പിടിച്ചു കുലുക്കുന്നതായി തോന്നിയപ്പോഴാണു ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചത്. എന്നാൽ വീടിനു പുറത്തു നടക്കുകയായിരുന്ന പലർക്കും ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടില്ല.

ഭൂചലന സമയത്തു നേരിയ മൂളൽ പോലെ തോന്നിയതായി ചിലർ അറിയിച്ചു. അടുക്കളയിലെ അലമാരയ്ക്കുള്ളിൽ എന്തോ തട്ടുകയോ മുട്ടുകയോ ചെയ്യുന്നതായി തോന്നി എലിയാണെന്നു സംശയിക്കുമ്പോഴാണു ഭൂചലനമാണെന്നു ഗൃഹനാഥൻ അറിയിച്ചതെന്നു വട്ടിയൂർക്കാവിലുള്ള വീട്ടമ്മ പറഞ്ഞു.

രാവിലെ എട്ടേകാലിനു മുമ്പാണു ചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടതെന്ന് ആറ്റിങ്ങലിലുള്ള ഒരാൾ അറിയിച്ചു. ഒരു തവണയേ ചലനം ഉണ്ടായുള്ളൂ. ആലംകോട്ട് ഒരു വീടിന്റെ ഭിത്തിയിൽ വിള്ളലുണ്ടായി. വലിയതുറ പോലുള്ള കടലോര മേഖലയിലും വ്യാപകമായി ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടു.

കോട്ടയത്തും സമീപത്തുമാണു ഭൂചലനം കൂടുതലായി അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടതെന്ന വിവരമറിഞ്ഞതിനെ തുടർന്നു പലരും ആ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലുള്ള ബന്ധുക്കളെ വിളിച്ചു കുഴപ്പമില്ലെന്ന് ഉറപ്പു വരുത്തുകയായിരുന്നു.

# State ill-prepared to tackle disasters

By Roy Mathew

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN. 21.** The State is ill-prepared to handle a disaster arising from a major leak of hazardous chemicals, earthquakes or dam failure. This is especially true of Idukki district where chances of natural calamities are high.

Kerala has several zones where risks of major accidents and natural calamities exist. The Aluva industrial belt has several industries which use or produce hazardous chemicals.

The Indian Rare Earth there handles radioactive materials. The ammonia storage in Kochi is considered a potential risk. Release of effluents has caused fish kills in the backwaters of Vembanad. Major fires have occurred several times at the Cochin Refinery and associated structures.

Kuttanad is prone to floods and the probability of floods has increased over the years with filling up of paddy fields and construction of roads.

In Kollam district, gas leaks have occurred from the Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited. In Thiruvananthapuram, the armed forces and the units of Indian Space Research Organisation handle hazardous materials. Several districts such Palakkad and Kozhikode have LPG bottling units where major fires can occur.

Idukki and its surrounding areas house as many as a dozen large reservoirs and double that number of dams. The district has been considered to be an earthquake prone area. Several of the dams are in fact sitting over geographical faultlines, increasing the risk of dam failure from seismicity.

The Pampa and some of the other dams of the Sabarigiri Project in Pathanamthitta district are suffering from poor maintenance.

As far as the districts in general are concerned, the District Collectors are required to coordinate and oversee preparation of emergency action plans by the departments concerned.

However, an emergency action plan exists at least in paper only in Ernakulam district. A plan had been prepared to deal with chemical emergencies there. However, the preparedness and warning mechanisms are not sufficient.

Only people drilled in emergency would be able to carry out such plans successfully. The district's plan does not cover the emergencies arising from the failure of a dam such as Idukki.

The chances of failures of dams at Idukki are not low now. The design of the dam had taken care of only floods much lower than the probable maximum flood owing to an underestimation of probable maximum flood in the Mullaperiyar basin.

Subsequent diversion of water courses into the reservoir added to this problem. This, combined with chances of failure of the Mullaperiyar dam itself, worsens the situation further.

Failure of the Mullaperiyar dam can also lead to failure of Idukki dam if the reservoir levels are high. Though seismicity of the area is not a serious threat to the Idukki dams, the same cannot be said about the Mullaperiyar dam.

The lack of proper instrumentation for monitoring of the dams and the absence of timely compilation and analysis of the data from available instruments accentuate the risk.

Besides, several of the drains of these dams are choked. This can increase pore pressures and lead to the damage of the dams.

According to international practices, the Kerala State Electricity Board and Irrigation Department are required to do dam inundation studies and prepare emergency plans. (Such plans would detail the criteria required to "trigger" an emergency situation, and the required emergency measures. In the case of Mullaperiyar, Tamil Nadu's cooperation would also be required for preparing the plan.)

However, they have defaulted on this. Floods maps indicating area and level of flooding in the event of a dam failure and time required for the water to reach different zones are required for establishing alarm mechanisms and taking emergency measures.

In the absence of dam inundation studies, only guess- estimates are possible about the impact of dam failures in the State. The technical committee of Kerala Government, which examined the condition of the Mullaperiyar dam, had said that the failure of the idukki dams (Idukki, Kulamavu and Cheruthoni) would inundate many parts of Idukki, Ernakulam and Kottayam district.

The failure of Mullaperiyar can hit the Vandiperiyar town. Failure of Idukki dams would be catastrophic. The failure of Kulamavu dam can wipe out Thodupuzha town and flood Muvattupzha. The failure of Cheruthoni or Idukki would devastate long stretch of land along the course of the Periyar river up to Aluva and Vaikom.

Practically, no rescue efforts would be possible in Idukki district. Waters from Mullaperiyar would reach Idukki within an hour. If both Cheruthoni and Kulamavu fail, the district headquarters would be cut off from the rest of the district. The devastation of important towns like Thodupuzha would mean that no organised rescue efforts would be possible.

Though evacuation and other measures would be possible for Aluva, the level of flood and other parameters are not known.

The 33-year-old Pampa dam is perhaps in a worse condition compared to the 105-year-old Mullaperiyar dam in terms of seepage and maintenance.

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## DIGEST

### PM's plane develops snag

**GWALIOR, JAN. 27.** The Prime Minister, Mr. A.B.Vajpayee, left for New Delhi, three hours behind schedule, tonight by a special plane which was rushed from New Delhi after his plane developed a technical snag.He was here to attend funeral of the senior BJP leader, Vijayaraje Scindia. The District Collector, Mr. Prabhanshu Kamal, told PTI that another special plane was flown from New Delhi to pick up the Prime Minister and his entourage.

### Cargo craft docks with Mir

**KOROLYOV, JAN. 27.** A Russian cargo craft successfully docked with the aging space station Mir today, officials at the Russian mission control said. The Progress M1-5 craft, carrying some 2.7 tonnes of fuel, docked at 8:33 a.m. Moscow time, slightly behind schedule, officials said. In late February, the craft is due to lower Mir's orbit to 80 Km. — AFP

*— Picture on Page 12*

### Charges framed

**JODHPUR, JAN. 27.** A local court today framed charges against the film actor, Salman Khan, for allegedly poaching protected wild animals using illegal arms. The Jodhpur Judicial Magistrate, Mr. Ajay Singh, framed the charges under the Arms Act, thus formally launching prosecution against the accused in the case of hunting two black bucks near Moja Kankani of Jodhpur district in October 1998. — PTI

### G. P. Hinduja interrogated

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 27.** The CBI today interrogated the third of the Hinduja brothers, Mr. G. P. Hinduja, in connection with his alleged role in the Bofors payoff case. and blocking the transfer of documents from Switzerland. The CBI spokesman, Mr. S. M. Khan, told reporters that Mr. G. P Hinduja would be again interrogated by the special investigation group of the agency tomorrow. — PTI


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AFTERSHOCKS CONTINUE; RESCUE WORK HAMPERED

# Quake toll crosses 10,000

By Manas Dasgupta

**AHMEDABAD, JAN. 27.** The toll in the earthquake, which rocked Gujarat on the Republic Day, reached a staggering 10,902 today, with another 35,000 injured and about 1.5 lakh people still trapped in debris across Bhuj and other towns in Kutch district. Their fate is unknown. (According to UNI, an estimated 16,000 people died.)

The border district of Kutch, which bore the brunt of the fury, was almost completely devastated with the old city areas of Bhuj, district headquarters, Anjar, Rapar, and Bhachau totally ruined, while the situation in rural Kutch still could not be ascertained. (According to a PTI report, 1,501 bodies have so far been recovered from the debris of the collapsed houses in Kutch district).

### 400 children buried

**About 400 school children, who were participating in a procession on the occasion of the Republic Day, were trapped under the debris of falling houses in Anjar taluk of Kutch district in yesterday's earthquake.**

**The Chief Minister said only a few children escaped from the falling debris of houses, which collapsed at the time of earthquake, when they were passing through a lane.**

**He said operations were on to rescue the children. About 50 children were buried when their school building collapsed even as they were participating in a republic day function in Ahmedabad. Operations were on to bring them out.**

Considering the situation in the old city areas, still inaccessible with nearly 1.50 lakh people trapped there, official sources did not rule out the possibility of the casualties crossing the one lakh-mark. The Chief Minister, Mr. Keshubhai Patel, who along with the BJP president, Mr. Bangaru Laxman, and the general secretary, Mr. Narendra Modi, visited Kutch and Morvi town in Rajkot district, said the entire walled city areas of Bhuj with a population of about 75,000 had caved in and debris blocked access from all sides, rendering relief and rescue operations impossible. The situation was the same in the old city areas of Anjar with a population of over 25,000 people, Bhachau with over 20,000 people and Rapar with about 15,000 people. No relief and rescue operations could still be taken up there.

The Bhuj hospital with over 100 patients, doctors and nurses has been totally destroyed with no information about their fate.

The destruction of the civil hospital in Bhuj also made relief work difficult in the absence of other major medical installations and because of an acute shortage of equipment. Makeshift arrangements were made in the open to provide medical treatment. At the instance of the Chief Minister, the IAF deputed a special aircraft to rush the emergency cases from Bhuj to the Rajkot and Jamnagar civil hospitals. In addition, 10 operation tables with equipment had been sent to Bhuj.

The entire Kutch district remained without supply of power and water, and faced an acute shortage of essential supplies, medical aid and other necessities. However, the Surajbari bridge, linking the district with the rest of the world, which developed cracks, was repaired and traffic restored this afternoon to transport relief and rescue equipment.

While the toll in the district alone was put at over 10,000, the number of dead in Ahmedabad, next worst-hit, rose to 380 with over 500 people still feared trapped under the debris of the 150-odd fallen buildings.

The fate of at least 40 more students of the Sacred Flower Higher Secondary School in the Maninagar locality was still not known. The school building collapsed when about 80 students were taking a science practical examination. While about 20 students escaped, jumping from the second floor, rescue workers extricated 20 bodies and the rest were still under the wreckage. An official spokesman put at 226 the toll in Rajkot, excluding Morvi town, which alone accounted for over 100 deaths. More than 32,000 people were injured in Kutch district alone, while the number of injured in the rest of the State was about 3,000.

### Sonia cavalcade stoned

The Congress president, Ms. Sonia Gandhi, who flew in here today to visit the affected areas, had to face the wrath of the suffering people, even as the relief and rescue operations continued at a very slow pace due to shortage of both manpower and equipment. In the Paldi locality, the security forces had to resort to a lathicharge when some persons began pelting stones at Ms. Gandhi's cavalcade protesting that the authorities had failed to rise to the occasion and mitigate their sufferings.

Shortage of essential equipment including gas-cutters, and even torches badly hampered the rescue work, putting the firebrigade personnel, assisted by the RAF, home guards and other para-military forces, at a great disadvantage. Ahmedabad city and surrounding areas continued to experience mild tremors, making restoration work difficult. An official spokesman said the city suffered 83 mild tremors yesterday and another 188 since this morning. Most people spent almost the whole of last night outside their houses despite the temperature dipping to 11 degree Celsius. Several residents of high-rise buildings, considered the most vulnerable to the after- shocks, deserted their houses to stay with friends or relatives in low-rise apartments.

### 190 prisoners flee

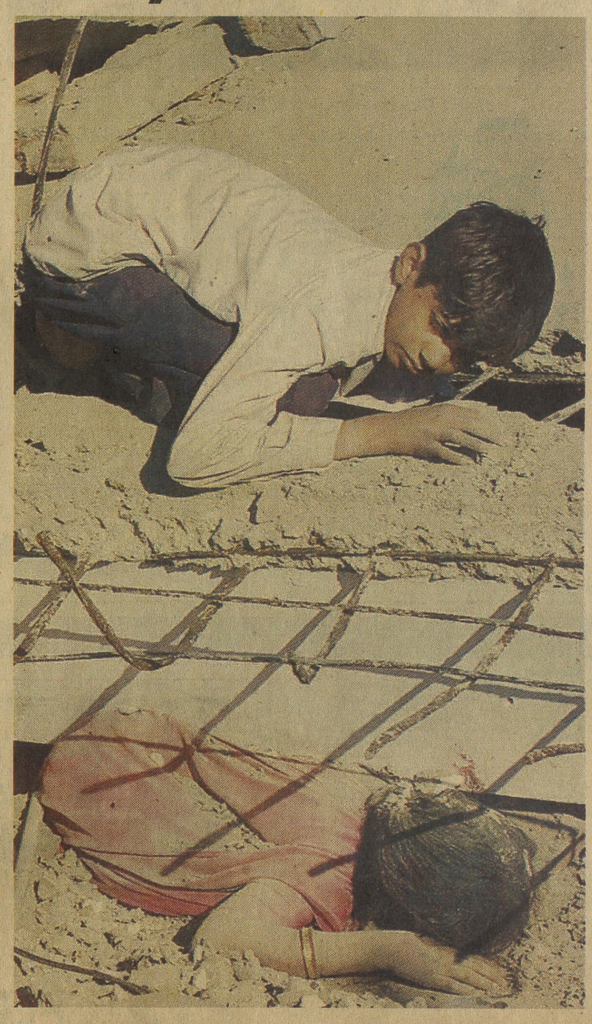
**While yesterday's earthquake in Gujarat claimed thousands of lives, it also meant freedom for about 190 prisoners who escaped taking advantage of a wall collapse in their jail in Bhuj.**

**The Home Minister, Mr. Haren Pandya, today said that of those who escaped, about 50 were hardcore criminals. There were 268 prisoners lodged in the jail.**

### PM, Advani for Gujarat tomorrow

UNI, PTI report from New Delhi:

The Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, and the Union Home Minister, Mr. L. K. Advani, would tour the quake-hit areas on Monday to assess the situation, official sources said today. Meanwhile, the Government announced full excise duty exemption for goods donated or purchased with cash donations for relief and rehabilitation. Exemption from customs duty was also provided for imported goods intended for donation.



**A boy tries to pull out the body of his mother from underneath their collapsed house in Bhuj on Saturday.** — Reuters

## Five relief trains for Ahmedabad

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 27.** Despite grappling with extensive damage to tracks, bridges and its staff quarters and buildings in the earthquake belt in Gujarat, the Railways has joined the civic relief efforts in a big way. All goods sheds in the quake-hit areas have been converted into shelters and five earthquake specials flagged off for Ahmedabad from different parts of the country for NGOs and relatives of the affected people. It was decided to waive the fare for transporting voluntary rescue workers, relatives of the quake-hit and relief material to Gujarat.

Orders have been issued to the field staff to commandeer all wagons loaded with GI sheets anywhere on the network and direct them towards Ahmedabad. The Railways has got in touch with the local civic authorities in order to ease the pressure on local hospitals, rushing medical relief trains as well as ambulance cars to rush the injured to other hospitals in the country. Staffed with railway doctors and paramedical staff, these trains are being sent to Ahmedabad and Palanpur. The details were read out by the Minister of State for Railways, Mr. O. Rajgopal, in the absence of the Railway Minister, Ms. Mamata Banerjee, away in West Bengal.

Speaking from Siliguri, Ms. Banerjee said if the need arose, more specials would be run and passengers and NGO representatives transported free of cost. At 4 p.m. today, special trains departed from Chennai, Bangalore, Howrah, Mumbai and New Delhi. In anticipation of an exodus of officials from the Centre, a 18-coach rake was being readied for stabling at Bhuj/Gandhidham for their stay. Efforts were on to restore the link to Bhuj and Gandhidham, affected by shifting of girders and cracks in piers.

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**Cars covered with the debris of apartments which collapsed in Ahmedabad after the devastating earthquake on Friday.** — PTI

# PM sanctions Rs. 10 cr. for immediate relief

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 27.** Mr. A.B. Vajpayee has given an immediate assistance of Rs. 10 crores from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund to the Gujarat Government for speedy relief and rescue operations in quake-hit areas. The Centre has also assured the State that there will be no holding back in provision of any further aid.

Briefing mediapersons, the Agriculture Secretary, Mr. Bhaskar Barua, said the Government accepted a Switzerland offer to send a squad of specially trained sniffer dogs for smelling out human beings trapped under rubble and of German heavy equipment to lift up to 40 tonnes of concrete slab to clear debris. The Government has also said 'yes' to the U.S.' offer to send communication equipment and helicopters. The International Red Cross is sending a self-contained mobile hospital and medical team.

A team of 60 doctors was rushed from Delhi to Bhuj and Ahmedabad, while the Indian Red Cross has been asked to supply blood and medicines. The Indian Airlines today operated one flight to the Bhuj civil airport, which is said to be functional. The airline and its subsidiary have decided to carry free of cost all relief materials to the quake-hit areas, as well as operate additional flights. It operated to Ahmedabad and Jamnagar from Delhi and Mumbai today. The Crisis Management Group chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, Mr. T. S. R. Prasad, which met here twice today, has focussed its attention on the worst-hit Bhuj which is scarce in resources. "The priority is to clear the rubble and rescue, if possible, the people trapped. For those who are safe but homeless, we are providing blankets and tarpaulin against biting cold," he said.

The Prime Minister has directed that any of the quake victims who want to be taken out of Bhuj to Mumbai, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Jamnagar or Rajkot be flown free of cost aboard the IAF aircraft.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Krishan Kant, and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Mr. Balayogi, have today jointly appealed to members of Parliament to donate Rs. 10 lakhs each from their constituency fund and also one-day's salary for relief and rehabilitation of the quake victims. An official spokesperson here denied that the Beating Retreat function to be held here on January 29 had been cancelled.

KERALA /EARTHQUAKE IN GUJARAT

# Govt. to send team to help Malayalis

By Our Special Correspondent

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN. 27.** The State Government has decided to sent a team headed by the Principal Secretary (Social Welfare), Dr. Satyanarayana Dash, to Gujarat to enquire about the Keralites hit by the earthquake and provide relief. A medical team will also be deputed to Gujarat.

The Chief Minister, Mr. E.K. Nayanar, announced a relief of Rs. 1 crore to the Gujarat Government to assist the people affected by the quake. This would be the first instalment of assistance proposed by the Government.

A release issued by the Chief Minister's office said that the official team to Gujarat comprises the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Venugopal K. Nair, and the State Protocol Officer, Mr. K. Unnikrishnan, besides Mr. Satyanarayana Dash. A five-member medical team would be headed by the Deputy Director of the Health Department, Dr. Radhakrishnan.

A control room has been set up at the Secretariat under the charge of Additional Secretary (Revenue), Mr. C.K. Viswanathan, to coordinate collection of information about Keralites hit by the quake in Gujarat and elsewhere in the country. This control room, which can be contacted on phone no.s 0471-333198, 518700 and 447456 (Res.), will function throughout day and night. Those who wish to contact the Gujarat authorities directly can use the following numbers. Control Room: (2712) 49256 and 46330; Mr. P. Paneervel, Relief Commissioner, Gujarat: (2712) 51506, Fax: (2712) 21989 and 20232; District Collector, Bhuj: (2832) 50020 (Office), 50350 (Res.), Fax (2832) 50430 and District Collector, Ahmedabad: (79) 5508989.

An official release said that many Malayalis were feared to have been hit by the earthquake in Gujarat and various parts of the country. Information about them could be obtained from the control room.

The Health Minister, Mr. V.C. Kabeer, said that the medical team from Kerala, consisting of doctors as well as paramedical staff, would be provide treatment and medicines to the victims.

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. A.K. Antony, expressed sorrow over the death of thousands of people and loss of property worth crores of rupees in the earthquake. He urged all to contribute to the Gujarat Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The BJP general secretary, Mr. P. P. Mukundan, also called upon people to rush assistance.

The Kerala branch of the Indian Medical Association said that they would provide medicines, equipment and funds to the quake- affected people through the Gujarat unit of the association. If necessary, a team of doctors too would go to Gujarat.

The association president, Dr. R.V. Asokan, and the secretary, Dr. T. Suresh Kumar, said the branch had sent Rs. 25,000 to the Gujarat unit as first instalment.

The organising committee of the Flower Show 2001 here decided to contribute Rs. 1 lakh for relief works.

## Kuttiyadi power project commissioned

By Our Staff Reporter

**KOZHIKODE, JAN. 27.** The Chief Minister, Mr. E.K. Nayanar, has said that self-sufficiency in the energy sector will greatly benefit the State in moving ahead with its industrialisation proposals.

The Chief Minister was speaking after commissioning the Rs. 160-crore 50 MW Kuttiyadi Extension Project near here today.

Mr. Nayanar also laid the foundation stone for the 100 MW Additional Extension Project. Mr. Nayanar said that his Government had achieved tremendous progress in the power sector. He said that what was achieved by the State was 72 per cent above the national average achievement.

Since the Pallivasal project set up in 1940, more than 12 projects had been implemented in the State in the last 56 years. However, the pace of development in the energy sector has been phenomenal in the last five years. The progress of 500 MW projects are in the different stages. This was besides the Chinese model 107 MW small projects.

The other projects being completed are the 100 MW Kuttiyadi Additional Extension Project, 163 MW Athirapally project, 70 MW Thotiyar project and the like.

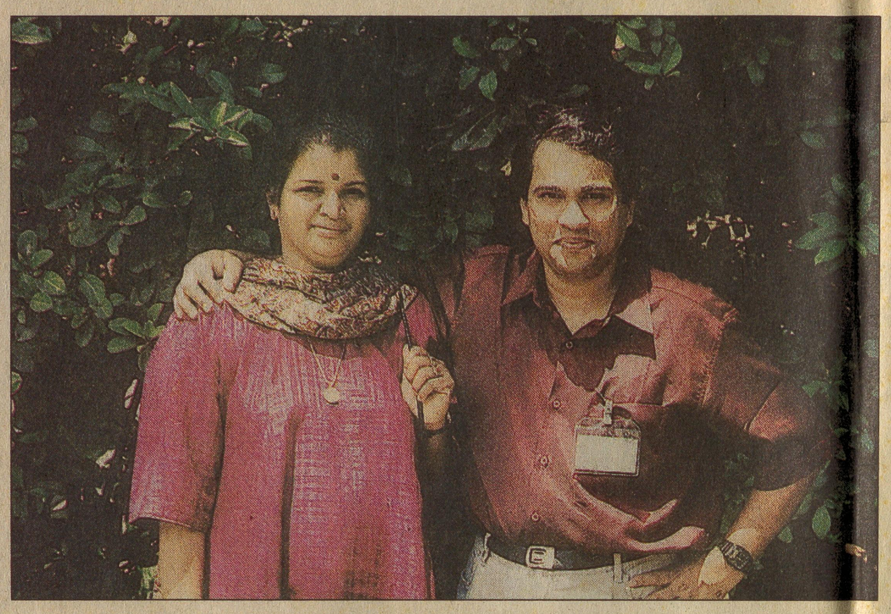
All efforts are being made to make available power to the common man at a nominal price. By March, three lakh more persons would be provided power connections. Since the LDF Government came to power, more than 15.40 lakh connections have been given.

The Electricity Minister, Mr. S. Sarma, who presided, said the Kuttiyadi project had been completed in a record time. The switch-on of the 110 KV switch yard was performed by the Transport Minister Mr. C.K. Nanu. Ms. M.K. Premajam, MP, Ms. N.K. Radha and Mr. Satyan Mokeri, MLAs, and others were present.




# Chasing the faultline

**DIVYA.R. BABU** *meets the geo-scientist couple whose job is to decode seismic messages from the heart of the planet.*



Dr. C.P.Rajendran and Dr.Kusala Rajendran

THE NEXT time you get thrown off the bed and feel your windowpanes vibrate, remember that it is business time elsewhere. A house in Vattiyoorkavu wakes up, even in the pitch of the night, to be at office.

Dr. C. P. Rajendran and Dr. Kusala Rajendran, two of the most famous geo-scientists in town, live here with their ears to the ground. When the earth trembles under our feet we look up to them for answers. They are tied together not only by a nuptial knot but also by a sense of commitment towards a common cause.

They have been after earthquakes for almost two decades and are still not fed up with the kind of 'ground work' they have to do in Center for Earth Science Studies (CESS). The geologist- seismologist wedlock is, even in modest terms, working wonders in the field.

During his school days, Dr. Rajendran, who was considered 'average', never dreamt of becoming a geologist. He was born in Ottapalam as the son of Pavanan (renowned writer in Malayalam) and Parvathy. His family was more close to literature and journalism than to the world of science. But Rajendran chose to be a fish out of water and nursed big dreams for the future.

"That was a big decision I took," he says. But earthquake was not in his field of vision when he joined the CESS. "I was focusing on the evolution of sedimentary basins of Kerala then," says Rajendran. A couple of years later he met Dr. Kusala, who was pursuing reservoir-induced earthquakes with similar earnestness.

When they decided to hold hands in profession and in life, not many ripples were created in both the families, "even though we belonged to different castes," says Kusala. The union of a geologist with a seismologist was more than a marriage. Dr. Kusala is the daughter of K. R. Narayanan ( a former MLA and also secretary of SNDP) and Devaki Narayanan. After completing her degree course in St. Theresas College, she went to Rourkey to continue her studies. "I wanted to take chemistry as my subject, but was offered the option of geophysics," says Kusala.

Dr. Kusala chose the latter and found herself the only girl in the Institute pursuing the subject. "Girls stayed away from it as it was a field-oriented subject," she laughs. After completing her course she was asked to join the CESS. She got both a career and a family from the institution.

Dr. Rajendran is not impressed with the contribution of Indian geo-scientists to the study of earthquakes. " It is the same in all walks of life. We have gone down in every field. Look at sports. Look at our technology. Except in literature (and beauty contests) we cannot spare a good word for ourselves these days."

And he finds reasons for that. "It started around 1965. To begin with, our poor technological advancement lamed us. There was no proper guidance in the field of science. Moreover, the lack of coordination between the institutions and various universities had a telling effect in the long run."

" Experts went to the institutions and the young generation who went to the universities lost contact with bigwigs in the field", he says.

The couple agree that scientists in general have a problem with effective communication. Their sentiments and problems go well above the head of laymen as well as the authorities. "And the situation is made worse by the media who need to sensationalise almost everything," says Kusala.

When asked about the reasons for employing their talents in a region where the terrain is not fertile for earthquakes, the couple replied that they were actually focusing on the whole country. Whenever an earthquake occurs in some place they rush to the spot to collect the details. In fact they have given up a bright future in USA to spend their life in India, as the subject is more field-oriented. "And we don't regret that decision now," says Dr. Rajendran.

"To educate the local people is a major task", says Kusala. "To a layman, a piece of rock sitting precariously at the edge of a mound near the road is just another piece of stone. But to us it is a message. We predict things from that." She finds earthquakes challenging, but certainly not 'romantic', as it involves the lives of so many innocent people.

"Thiruvananthapuram is safe," she says confidently. When asked to speculate on the possible impact of an earthquake with its epi-centre right under the Secretariat, Kusala laughs, "Good construction would see almost all the buildings in the city through the game." And the maximum intensity of such an earthquake is not expected to go beyond five in the Richter scale.

But the frequency of tremors happening in the state is increasing. Will there be a major showdown in the near future? The geologist in Rajendran is confident that the terrain is so strong that no massive tremor is likely to occur in the near future.

The couple is trying hard to keep pace with the growing number of tremors in the state. They do not get enough time to spend with the family. Their only son, Rahul Rajendran, is a 1st year engineering student in Thiruvananthapuram.

Even though the husband-wife duo are in the same field, their views and outlook are not constricted. The husband is a good speaker and the wife, a writer, who has had to keep away the pen because of the pressures of the job. (She had won a gold medal in journalism from the Press Club.)

Natural disasters like earthquakes cannot be averted and sometimes predictions also gfo awry. But there is a steady effort from man's part to map some of the secrets of nature.

Those who lead such pursuits from the front are the pride of neighbours. Dr. C. P. Rajendran and Dr. Kusala feel that their vocation also has a spiritual dimension. "My work is my homage to God," smiles Kusala.

# His master's voice

**B. UMA MAHESWARI** *talks to Prahalad Acharya, the master ventriloquist, and finds out more about the art of the proxy voice.*

IF WE explore our myths and legends, we will find that they are full of miracles- thieves were kept off the golden sands of River Pactolus in Lydia by stones that spoke. We also have tales of saints like Dhyaneshwar who made a buffalo recite the Vedas.

Were these real miracles, or excellent ventriloquial performances?

Ventriloquism is an ancient art. It is referred to in a Chaldean book of prophecies supposed to have been authored by King Solomon II.

"Ventriloquism is a vocal-visual illusion", says Prahalad Acharya, a magician-cum-ventriloquist. "Here, the source of the voice is cleverly disguised. To the listener, it seems as if the voice is coming from elsewhere, not from the real speaker", he says.

How is the sound produced then?

"It is produced with the usual organs, though the method is different ", Prahalad says.

Does the ventriloquist speak while breathing in?

"No. We speak when we exhale. While speaking, the inhalation time is reduced according to the length of the spoken sentence. For a ventriloquist, breathing economy and control are very essential. After taking a deep breath, the ventriloquist keeps the diaphragm depressed and lets the breath escape slowly while speaking. This makes the sound high-pitched, forced and muffled. The tongue is drawn backward in a special way. The upper palate is raised to the maximum, producing a falsetto.

All ventriloquists have 'partners'. When they speak for their 'partner', their lip movement should not be detected by the audience. To achieve this, the ventriloquist looks to the point from where the voice is supposed to come from. This diverts the audience's attention. A dummy is used as the 'partner'. The ventriloquist pretends that his 'partner' is alive.

"We inject a lot of comedy into the dialogues of the partner dummy. That helps us carry off the show with greater ease", says Prahalada. To give an illusion of voice coming from another room, the artist releases the stress on consonants. To give an illusion of a great distance, he diffuses the sound. We have to practice at least an hour a day to achieve perfection," he says.

It is said that animals also posses the capacity of ventriloquism. Some birds like doves can produce voice diffusion. We know how difficult it is to locate a chirping cicada or cricket. Even though dogs have a very keen sense of hearing, they are misled by rabbits. The rabbit makes its voice appear to come from elsewhere.

According to Prahalada, ventriloquism and shadow play are allied arts. "People enjoy these two if they are performed for half an hour. They cannot tolerate more".

."I do these two along with my magic show. Teachers, and advocates who talk for a long time can very well try and practice ventriloquism. It will be more easy for them", he says.

Prahalada has twice performed escape acts. Once he "escaped" from Bellari jail in eight seconds. He has also performed an underwater escape act in Jog falls.




HISTORICITY

# In search of Kantaloor

***Thiruvananthapuram is the only South Indian city which can boast of having more than one thousand years of unbroken history. The city built atop seven hills like the ancient city of Rome, has a long story in store for the pilgrim of history. Travel back in time with*** **M.G. SASIBHOOSHAN** ***and*** **BINDHU SASIBHOOSHAN.**

THIS CITY derived its name from the ancient temple of Sree Padmanabha. The abode of Sree Padmanabha (the tutelary deity of the Travancore dynasty) or Ananda became 'Thiruananda-puram'. There are scores of other temples both big and small in this historic city, but none excel the Padmanabha Swami Temple in its architectural grandeur or historical antiquity.

Valiasala, which is one-and-a-half kilometers to the north east of the Sree Padmanabha Swami Temple, also has a very ancient place of worship. But the name of this temple of Trimoorthis rarely finds a place in the travel itinerary of the pilgrims who flow into this city during the Sabarimala season or otherwise. It is one of the few temples in the city which has not lost the ambience of solemnity and tranquility.

For the pilgrim of history, however, the stone-paved perambulatory paths around the temple seem to echo the footfalls of time.

This was once the hub of a great 'Salai' or institution of learning. The Kantaloor Salai was renowned throughout the country. It was one of the earliest universities of South India, imparting education (to young men of the Brahmin community) on the Vedas, in grammar, painting, singing, dancing, playacting, in various 'darsanas' like Buddhism, Samkhya philosophy, Mimamsa, Pasupata Saivism and Lokayata. In addition to this, there were subjects like yoga, astrology and various methods of healing and cure. The 'Salai' also trained its students in marital arts and on all aspect of warfare. The Brahmin youths, who received military training, were referred to as 'Chatan' or 'Chattar' in old epigraphic records. The 'Salai' was called the Nalanda of South India.

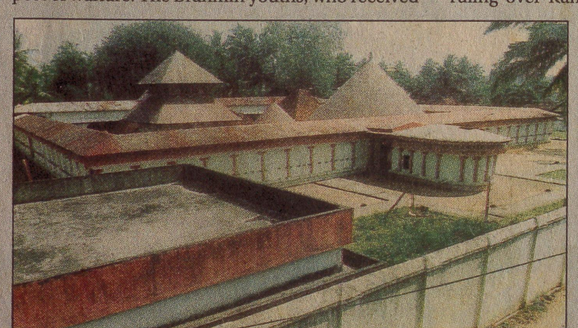
By the time of the Chola-Chera conflict, in the 10th century, Kantaloor Salai had grown into a great military centre of the Cheras. The fact that the Cholas destroyed the 'Salai' several times is reflected in one of the epithets proudly prefixed to the names of a few great Chola Kings - Raja Raja Chola I, Rajendra Chola, Rajadhi Raja and Kulothunga Cholas as well as Parantaka Pandyan.

The epithet so proudly affixed- 'Kantaloor Salai Kalamaruthu Arulina'- has given rise to much conjecture and controversy.

Did it imply the use of force in capturing the 'Salai'? Early scholars were of the view that 'Kalam' implied a sailing vessel. They traced its meaning to an old Tamil word, 'marakkalam', which meant ship. According to them, the phrase suggests the heroic feat of the Chola rulers in defeating the Chera fleet at Kantaloor Salai. It also implies that the 'Salai' was situated somewhere on the sea coast. This theory was further corroborated by evidence set forth to prove that the 'Salai' was first established at Vizhinjam near the sea coast.

Later researchers have proved beyond doubt that the reputed medieval university was located at a place in Thiruvananthapuram near the Makaraakara river identified as the present Karamana river. These historians have, however, conceded that the Kantaloor Salai did exist at Vizhinjam for a period before being shifted to Valiasalai on the banks of the Killiyaar, a tributary of the Karamana river. However, they do not agree to the theory that the victorious Cholas commemorated their victory over the Cheras through their title. They believe that 'Kalam' meant feeding bowl and that the title was only meant to announce that the Cholas discontinued the practice of providing free food to the inmates of the great Kantaloor Salai.

However, on the basis of new insights, it can be argued that the controversial epithet only implied new religious practices introduced by the Chola Kings or more specifically the replacement of the non-vedic Saivite practice with the rituals of Vedic Saivism. 'Kalams' therefore can denote small vessels used in purification rites of the vedic religion. The phrase may quite simply signify the practice of 'ruling over Kantaloor Salai after performing the necessary purification rites'.



Kantaloor Salai

Literary allusions to the nature and functioning of this medieval South Indian University have also been painstakingly studied. A Prakrit work of 8th century AD, 'Kavalayamala', authored by Udyotana Suri, a Jain who lived in Rajasthan, dwells in detail upon a unique university and its paramilitary force that existed in a big city called Vijayapuri on the western part of South India. The narrative describes a young prince who wanders in search of this beloved. He enters a country through a gap in the Sahya mountains and is fascinated by the rich vegetation he finds there. Traveling through dense forests, hills and valleys, he reaches a great city and a 'Sarva Chattanam Madam' guarded by sentinels on the northern banks of the Makarakara river. The 'madam' has been identified as Kantaloor Salai.

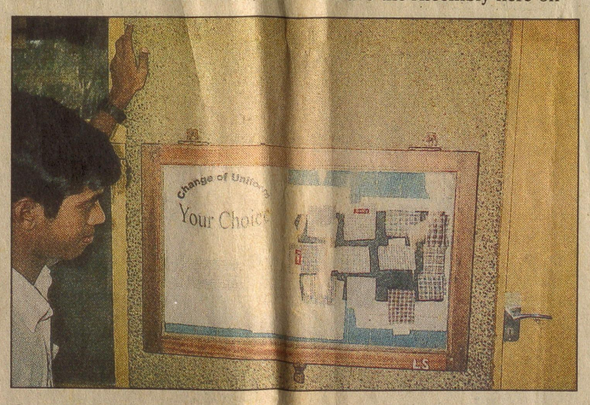
In 'Anantapuri Varnanam', a fourteenth century Malayalam poem by an anonymous author, there is a passing reference to Kantaloor Salai, as being located to the north-east of the Padmanabha Swami Temple. It is spoken of as a place of fame and beauty and the abode of the Hindu Trinity- Brahma, Vishnu and Maheswara. Incidentally, Valiasalai temple contains three separate shrines of the divine trio. Apart from these monuments, nothing else remains here to show that this was once a great centre of learning.

# A Day at Loyola

**ARUN ANDREWS** *and* **VISHNU GOPAL** *take you on a stroll around the Loyola campus, where education is a creative venture.*

HITCH A ride to Sreekariyam, roll a leg in the right direction, and you come to a fork in the road. Turn right, and you are on your way down a bright road with trees on one side. The road opens up a bit further down. Pause here a moment, for you are in Loyola, and we are going to show you around.

You look around you and see the lush greenery. What immediately strikes you is the calmness and serenity of the place. The beauty of the Loyola campus always leaves a distinct impression on any student who has ever studied here. In fact, all the students who have passed out, share an intimate relationship with their alma-mater.




Loyola Old Boys Association (LOBA), the ever present alumni is witness to this fact. Ever since Loyola School, Thiruvananthapuram was established in 1961 by the Society of Jesus, it has been imparting Jesuit values of education as set by its patron saint, St. Ignatius of Loyola (Established in 1540, the Society of Jesus founded schools in India as far back as 1545).

Walk around a bit... you could go right down the road, but we'll take you up to your right. The hockey court looms ahead, and your right we have the college hostel. Climb up a few steps, and to your left is the Loyola Family Counselling Centre.

Passing the Loyola College by, we come to the Auditorium. Often littered with relics of fiery events and the smell of enthusiasm, the auditorium becomes a sweaty mass, when we have the Assembly here on the rainy days. The Youth Festival and the regular Karate classes are also held in the hall. It is here that the Loyolites learn their first skills in showmanship.

The Loyola calendar is regularly punctuated with events like the Youth Festival and the 'LA' Fest or the Loyola Arts festival, which assures that almost all the children get opportunities. Jesuit education is not restricted to a few. Self-dependence is encouraged.

Further down to your left we come to a flight of stairs. Up on the horizon, the main buildings await you. After that long trip up the stairs you would be exhausted, so we take you to the canteen.

You glance at the chubby children industriously chewing up puffs, buns, cakes, ice-sticks and what not. After a refreshing drink we take you right up through the lobby and into the principal's office.

Fr. Varghese Anikuzhy smiles at you, and calls you inside. We discreetly wait outside, and wonder what's going on in there, but are assured it is quite all right when you come back with a beaming smile.

You tell me something that Fr. Principal just said and what you will remember for the rest of your life: "Physical comfort is secondary. We will give our students the best possible furniture and facilities. But basically we want them to feel they are wanted and that they are the most important element of the school." Even Fr. Rector has something to say when asked "What is so special about education in Loyola?".

"Loyola is quite clear about what it wants to achieve through education. What we want is to prepare well-rounded, responsible and creative human beings out of our boys, who will be concerned about other human beings. Just producing splendid examination results does not satisfy us, though we do that quite routinely."



We resume our tour - through the orderly office and into the corridor. As we make our way to the classes, you and I start chatting. I tell you that Loyola is one of the few schools where students advise the principal. You look bewildered and I slowly unravel the plot to you.

It all began a year back when Fr. Kuruvilla was the principal. He introduced the system of a suggestion box. The idea caught on and soon the entire school has something to say.

Valid suggestions were read out in the Assembly and steps were taken to resolve important student-related issues. Like I said, we govern ourselves. Such a system helps to develop leadership qualities. That is why we even developed LA Fest - an event we plan, organise and make a success... You tap me on the back and I realise I'd been daydreaming. I apologize and then lead you all the way up.

We have climbed two sets of stairs and are now making our way to the classrooms. You peek inside one of the classrooms. The students apparently don't notice you. After a while you are amazed at something in the class, at first you can't quite get hold of what it is, then it comes to you - you've never seen a classroom so neat before.

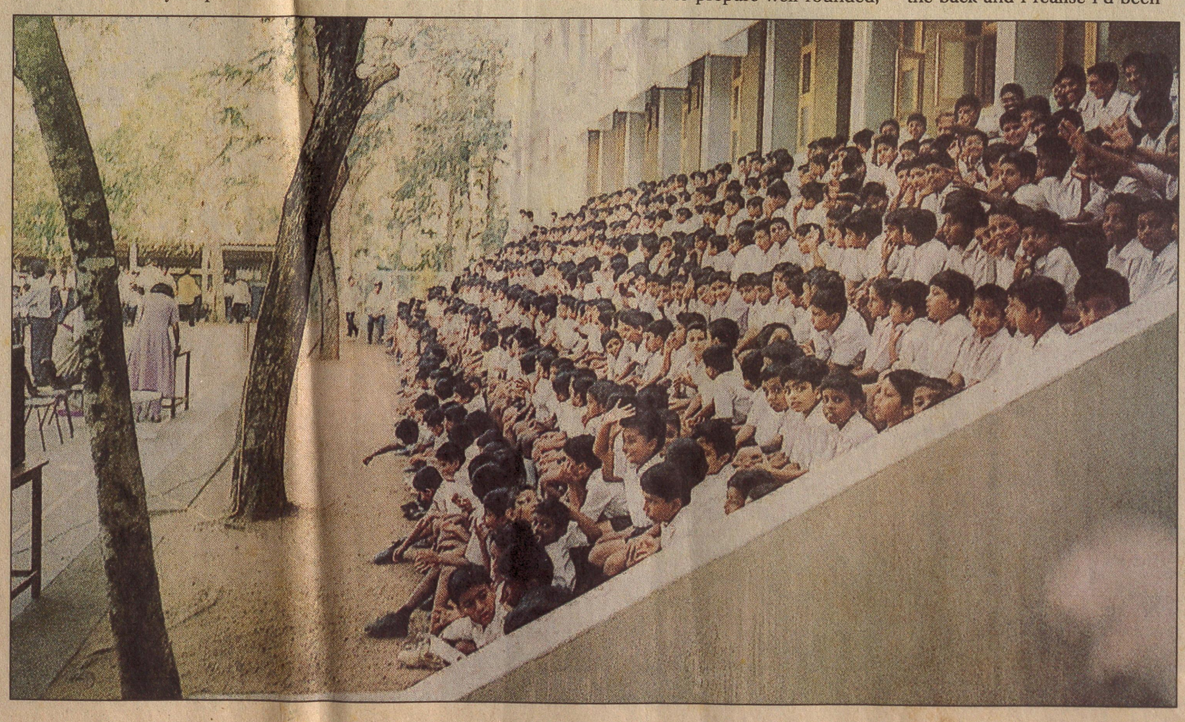
At Loyola, the students themselves clean their class rooms at the end of the day. Self-reliance is stressed from day one, and individual attention is emphasized. Perhaps Loyola has an advantage in that since it has a lesser number of students than most other school - everybody knows everybody else.

Such a learning mechanism inspires and fosters children to be together. An example is the TCS Quiz which recently came to Thiruvananthapuram, and where Loyola despite not having a single contender for any prize won the Best Cheering School Award. The student-teacher relationship in Loyola is very informal.

Traditional methods of learning require the student to be always in awe of the teacher. Such a system is totally ineffective in breaking the barriers between the student and the teacher; in Loyola, often you can see teachers and students playing the ball-game together, or a harried English teacher running after some boy or the other to get him to write something or the other.

Such behaviour from the students could even be considered derogatory by people who are schooled in traditional methods. But, Fr. Rector says " The philosophy of education in this school, the mind-set of teachers and on-teaching staff, the approach of the management etc. are geared to challenging the students to high academic performance as well as to development of high intellectual, ethical and cultural values."

Mrs. Deepa Pillai, who teaches English, says, "It is our task to inform and challenge them, and their task to question and challenge us."



— N V Davies medical service in Plymouth, England

Jan 6 2001 IE

# Conflicting views creating confusion on tremors

By Mathew A.Thomas

**Kottayam, Jan 7:** The different views aired by scientific agencies with regard to the magnitude and epicentre of the tremors have started confusing people.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) says that the epicentre of today's tremor is somewhere between Vandiperiyar and Mundakkayam or even on a stretch upto Manimala, near Kanjirappally. However, the scientists of the Geological Survey of India (Hyderabad) differ. C B K Sastri, senior scientist of the GSI, leading a three-member team, visited Pala today and after analysing the [illegible] installed seismic [illegible] said that the epicentre is somewhere between Pala and Erattupettah.

GSI scientists have also taken queue from the epicentre of the tremor that struck on December 12. The epicentre point of the tremor was in the Adukkam to Meladukkam hill ranges, down to Painavu, it was reported.

The KSEB too confirm the findings of the IMD. Today's Richter scale readings of the IMD is 4.8. The KSEB seismic stations at Pallom, Moolamattam and Vazhathope have recorded readings from 4.8 to 5.2.

***Though there is no uniformity in the Richter Scale readings and assessments, all agree that the tremor was severe this time***

The estimations are based on the improvised Lattur formula. But the GSI readings on the Richter scale are 4.3.

Though there is no uniformity in the Richter scale readings and assessments, everyone agrees that the tremor was severe this time. Vazhathope KSEB research station deputy director K Gopalakrishnan said that the hyper centre of today's tremor was not far below the surface. Hence the severity and more damage to buildings. If the hyper centre is not much below the surface, even a low intense tremor may prove disastrous.

Scientists from the IMD are camping at Idukki and conducting studies ever since the first tremor rocked the area. The Hyderabad-based National Geophysical Research Institute also is closely involved in the studies. NGRI director B K Rastogi had already indicated that intensity and duration of the tremors are likely to increase in the lineament. The settlement of the secondary waves of tremors by way of refractions is a long-drawn process.

Scientists from the Centre for Earth Sciences (CES) have also conducted their studies on the nature and intensity of the tremors. Conflicting assessments apart, the fact remains that none is particular to see a villain in the huge number of hydel reservoirs in Idukki for causing the earthquakes.

# Tremors rock many districts in State again

▶ from P 1

other household items falling down in the jerk. The tremor caused extensive damage to houses in the eastern parts of Kottayam district including Pala, Eerattupettah, Mundakkayam, Kanjirappally, Ponkunnam and its inner village pockets. In Pala and around, many high-tombed churches suffered damage. Not less than 25 houses are also in a bad shape now.

The Meenachil St Antony's Church, Mundupalam St. Thomas Church, Edappadi St. Joseph's Church, Mundukad St. George Church, Vayala St. George Church, Kizhaparayar St. Gregorious Church, Aruvithara St. George Church suffered damages of varying nature. The cross of the famous St. Mary's Jacobite Old Church, Manaracad, fell in the shock. The walls of Kuttiyakunnel St. Joseph's CSI church near Manarcad were seen broken apart. The mosque at Peringalam, near Poonjar and the Mattakara Sree Ramakrishna Ashram were also badly damaged.

The police station building at Pala developed severe cracks. Heavy damage was visible in the nearby four quarters' also. At Kadappattoor, Suma, 26, of Girija Bhavan was admitted to a hospital with grievous injuries after rooftiles fell on her. The tremors also brought gushing springs from an abandoned borewell in a rubber estate at Kizhaparayar, Pala. At Kootickal, off Mundakkayam, the floorings of a few houses went down further after the tremors.

The panic-gripped people have started taking precautions and at a few places, many have begun to stay outdoors at night in open tents.

It may be recalled that a severe tremor had shook the same stretch on December 12 at 6.50 a.m. Though there were aftershocks of the tremors now and then afterward, nobody took it so seriously. But today's strong tremor has really confused people and all are in the grip of fear now. The assurances and findings of scientists, who are still conducting studies, is no solace to them.

# Aftershocks may continue, say experts

**Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 7:** Aftershocks of the December 12 tremor, which was recorded 5 in the Richter Scale, can continue for 3 to 4 months, seismologist C P Rajendran of Centre for Earth Science Studies said here today.

When contacted, Rajendran told NIE that today's tremors were clear aftershocks. "Normally aftershocks continue to 3 to 4 months." Rajendran dismissed the contention that the tremors could be preshocks of a coming major shock.

Today's main tremor that recorded 4.8 in the Richter scale was felt more severe at some places than the December 12 quake that was recorded 5 in the scale, probably to the reason that it occurred closer to earth's surface.

According to him, the ongoing studies by CESS, Indian Meteorological Department, Geological Survey of India, and other agencies would bring out more facts regarding the tremors. Besides other things, spatial pattern of the tremors were being analysed. Rajendran said that CESS had also received sanction for seismological study using Global Positioning System (GPS), which would soon be taken up.

There was nothing to establish that the current tremors were induced by Idukki dam as the epicentres was kilometers away from the dam. The epicentre of today's tremors was 4 kms off Erattupetta in Kottaym district, he said.

Meteorological Centre director V K Gangadharan said that regions lying closer to the Western Ghats in the State were identified as seismic-prone (mild or moderate variety). "Though the present series of earth quakes were not induced by any dam, dams are seen triggering the effect of the quakes," he opined.

# 'Economic policies need swadeshi grounding'

Express News Service

**Kozhikode, Jan 7:** Swadeshi Jagran Manch joint convenor S Gurumurthy has stressed the need for giving a thorough swadeshi grounding to the country's economic policies.

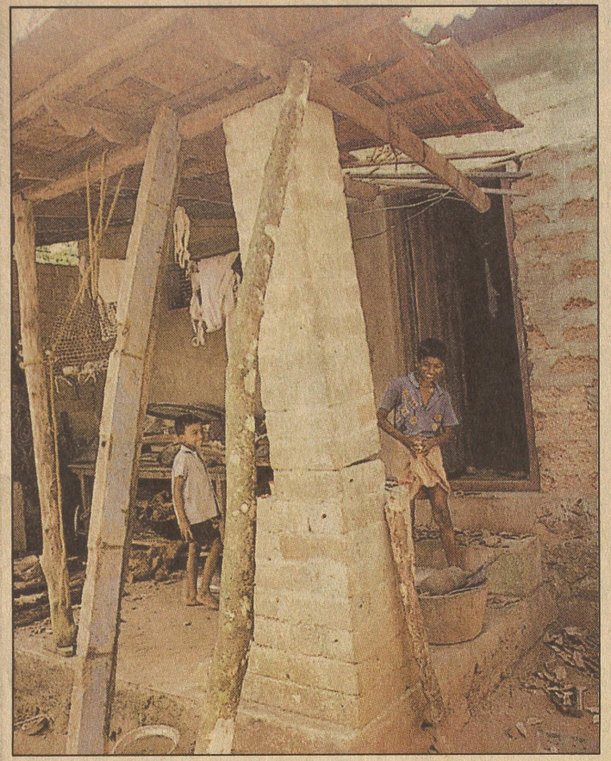
Inaugurating the 22nd State convention of the Kerala NGO Sangh here today, he said that blindly adopting the Western economic models, unmindful of India's infinite diversities would prove suicidal. He criticised the new economic reform programme for being unduly loaded in favour of the corporate sector.

Lamenting the Government's neglect of the country's agricultural sector, he pointed out that the much trumpeted corporate sector is contributing only twelve per cent to the country's gross domestic product.

The flawed reform programmes are spelling the doom for the country's agricultural sector which accounts for the two third of the country's GDP, he said.

7/11/01

# വിശ്വാസങ്ങൾക്ക് വിള്ളൽ; കേരളവും ഭൂചലനമേഖല



മനോരമ

ഭൂചലനത്തെത്തുടർന്നു കോട്ടയം പുവത്തിളപ്പ് മണലുങ്കൽ ഇട്ടിക്കൽ സുകുമാരന്റെ വീടിന്റെ ഒരുഭാഗം ഇടിഞ്ഞ നിലയിൽ.

**ആർ. പ്രസന്നൻ**

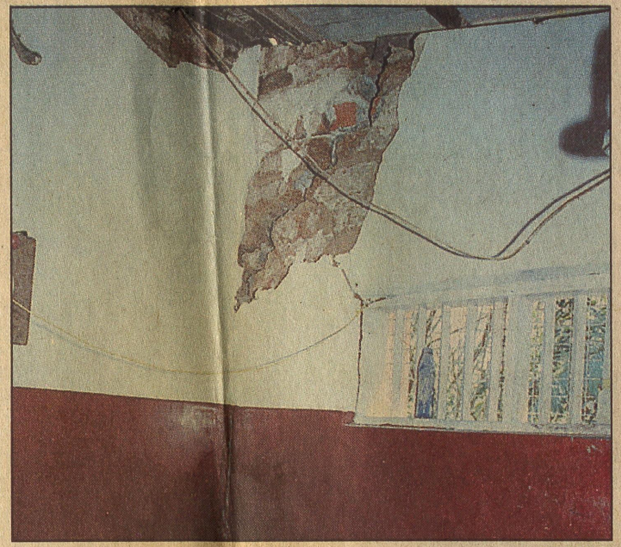
ന്യൂഡൽഹി: കേരളം ഉൾപ്പെടുന്ന ഇന്ത്യയുടെ ഉപദ്വീപ് ഭാഗം ഭൂകമ്പസാധ്യതയില്ലാത്ത പ്രദേശമാണ് എന്ന അനുമാനം ഇന്നു പല ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞന്മാരും അംഗീകരിക്കുന്നില്ല. 1993-ൽ ലത്തൂരിൽ ഭൂമികുലുക്കമുണ്ടായത് ഈ അനുമാനത്തെ പിടിച്ചുകുലുക്കിയിരുന്നു. ലത്തൂർ ഭൂകമ്പത്തിനു വളരെ മുൻപുതന്നെ ഇന്ത്യൻ ഉപദ്വീപിൽ ഭൂകമ്പമുണ്ടാകാമെന്ന സാധ്യതയിലേക്ക് പല ഭൂഗർഭശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞന്മാരും വിരൽ ചൂണ്ടിയിരുന്നു.

വളരെ ഉറപ്പുള്ള ടെക്ടോണിക് ഘടനയാണ് ഉപദ്വീപിന് എന്നായിരുന്നു നേരത്തെയുണ്ടായിരുന്ന വിശ്വാസം. എന്നാൽ ഉപദ്വീപിന്റെ പടിഞ്ഞാറൻ ഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ കഴിഞ്ഞ 600 കൊല്ലത്തിൽ അനവധി പ്രകമ്പനങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായതായിട്ടാണ് കാലിഫോർണിയ ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട് ഓഫ് ടെക്നോളജിയിലെ ഡി. ഇ. ഹഡ്സൺ വാദിക്കുന്നത്. ഉപദ്വീപിലെ ടെക്ടോണിക് ഘടനയ്ക്ക് അത്രവലിയ ഉറപ്പൊന്നുമില്ലെന്നാണ് ഇതു കാണിക്കുന്നതെന്നാണു ഹഡ്സന്റെ വാദം.

ഉപദ്വീപിന്റെ തെക്കുപടിഞ്ഞാറു ഭാഗത്താണു കേരളം. 1984-ൽ ജിയോളജിക്കൽ സർവേ ഓഫ് ഇന്ത്യയിലെ ഡി. കെ. ഘോഷ് തയാറാക്കിയ പേപ്പർ അനുസരിച്ച് ഉപദ്വീപിന്റെ പടിഞ്ഞാറു ഭാഗത്ത് പ്രാദേശിക ചുളുങ്ങിവളയലുകളും മടക്കുകളും പൊട്ടലുകവും മേലോട്ടുള്ള ചലനവും ടെക്ടോണിക് ചെരിവിനെ ബാധിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഉപഭൂഖണ്ഡത്തിന്റെ മേലോട്ടുള്ള നീക്കത്തോടൊപ്പം അതുമൂലമുണ്ടാകുന്ന ടെക്ടോണിക് വീഴ്ചയും പടിഞ്ഞാറൻ തീരത്ത് ഭൂകമ്പഘടനകൾക്കു രൂപം കൊടുക്കുകയാണ്.

കഴിഞ്ഞ 20 കൊല്ലമായി നടത്തിയ ചില പഠനങ്ങൾ ഉപദ്വീപ് ഭാഗത്തെ ഭൂഗർഘടനയിലേക്കു വെളിച്ചം വീശിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. പടിഞ്ഞാറൻ തീരത്ത് പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു മുംബൈ തീരത്തെ എണ്ണ പര്യവേഷണത്തിനുവേണ്ടി നടത്തിയ പരിശോധനകളാണ് ഉപദ്വീപ് ഭാഗത്തെ ചില ടെക്ടോണിക് വിള്ളലുകളെ വെളിച്ചത്താക്കിയതെന്നു പറയാം. ചില ഘടനാപരമായ ഫോൾട് ലൈനുകളുടെ രൂപരേഖയും ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞന്മാർ തയാറാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. 1986-ൽ റൂർക്കി യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റിയിലെ ഒരു സംഘം നടത്തിയ പഠനങ്ങളിൽനിന്ന് അവർ തയാറാക്കിയ രൂപരേഖ അനുസരിച്ച് അറബിക്കടലിൽ പടിഞ്ഞാറൻ തീരത്തിനു സമാന്തരമായി ഒരു ഫോൾട് ലൈൻ കടന്നുപോകുന്നുണ്ട്.

ഇതിനേക്കാൾ പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട മറ്റൊരു ഫോൾട് ലൈൻ ലക്ഷദ്വീപിനു പടിഞ്ഞാറുനിന്നാരംഭിച്ചു കേരളതീരം കടന്നു തമിഴ്നാട്ടിലെ ആർക്കോട്ട് പ്രദേശത്തുകൂടി കടന്നു വടക്കോട്ടു വളഞ്ഞ് കോറമാണ്ടൽ തീരത്തുകൂടി കടന്നുപോകുന്നുണ്ട്. കൊങ്കൺ പ്രദേശത്തുനിന്നാരംഭിച്ചു തെക്കോട്ടു ശ്രീലങ്ക ഭാഗത്തേക്കു പോകുന്നതാണു മറ്റൊരു ഫോൾട് ലൈൻ.



മനോരമ

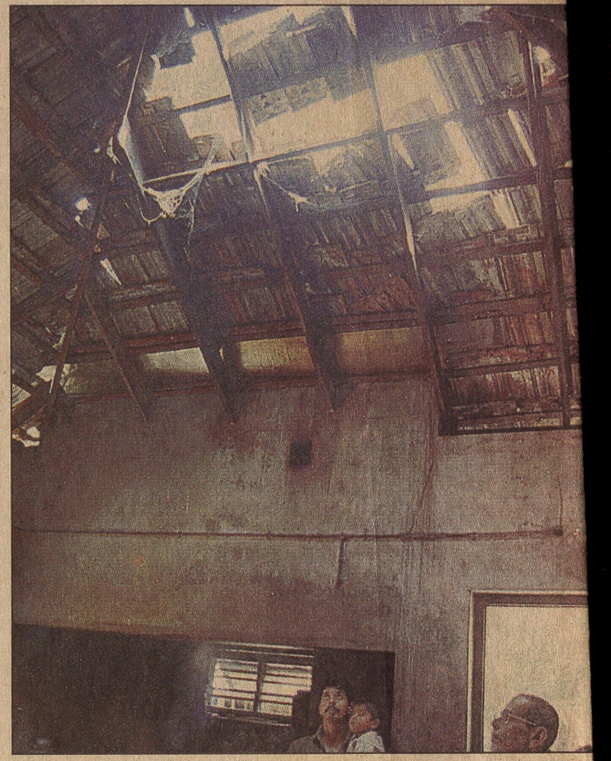
പാലാ ചെത്തിമറ്റം പുളിക്കൽ ലാലപ്പന്റെ വീടിന്റെ ഒരുഭാഗം ഭൂചലനത്തിൽ തകർന്നനിലയിൽ

കൊങ്കൺ പ്രദേശത്തുനിന്നു തെക്കോട്ടുള്ള കരഭാഗത്ത് അനവധി ഹോട് സ്പ്രിങ്ങുകളും, പാറകളിലെ പിളർപ്പുകളിൽ അടിഞ്ഞുകയറി ചുവർപോലെ ആയിത്തീർന്നിട്ടുള്ള തീക്കല്ലുകളുടെ നിരയും ഭൂഗർഭത്തിലെ ഘടനാപരമായ ചില വിള്ളലുകളിലേക്ക് കൈചൂണ്ടുന്നവയാണെന്നാണു ഘോഷ് ഉൾപ്പെടെയുള്ള ചില ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞന്മാർ വിലയിരുത്തിയത്.

ഒരു ഫോൾട്ടിൽ ഒരു വൻ കമ്പനം ഉണ്ടായിക്കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ പിന്നെ കുറെ നാളത്തേക്ക് അവിടെ ശാന്തമായിരിക്കുമെന്ന വാദവും ഇന്നു ചോദ്യം ചെയ്യപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കയാണ്.

ഭൂമിയുടെ ക്രസ്റ്റിൽ ഉണ്ടായ മർദം ഒരിക്കൽ പുറത്തേക്കു വിട്ടുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ പിന്നെ വീണ്ടും അത്രയും മർദം ഉണ്ടായിവരാൻ കാലമെടുക്കുമെന്നതായിരുന്നു ഇതുവരെ കരുതിയിരുന്നത്.

എന്നാൽ അതല്ല, മൃദുവൻ മർദവും പുറത്തേക്കു വിടുന്നതിനുപകരം അടുത്തുള്ള പ്ലേറ്റുകളിലേക്കു മർദത്തെ കടത്തിവിടുന്നുണ്ടെന്നും അവയിലും അതോടൊപ്പം ഫോൾട്ടുകൾ രൂപപ്പെടുന്നുവെന്നും അങ്ങനെ അവയും അപകടകാരികളാകുന്നുവെന്നും അടുത്ത കാലത്തായി ചില ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞന്മാർ വാദിച്ചു തുടങ്ങിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.



മനോര

കോട്ടയം ജില്ലയിലെ ഇടപ്പാടി കുഴിമറ്റത്തിൽ കെ.കെ.സെബാസ്റ്റ്യന്റെ വ
ടിന്റെ മേൽക്കൂര ഭൂചലനത്തിൽ തകർന്നനിലയിൽ.

# തിരുവനന്തപുരത്ത് ഭൂചലനം നേരിയ തോതിൽ

7/11/01

**സ്വന്തം ലേഖകൻ**

തിരുവനന്തപുരം: ജില്ലയിൽ ഭൂചലനം നേരിയ തോതിലേ അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടുള്ളൂ. ചില വീടുകൾക്കു ചെറിയ തോതിൽ വിള്ളലുണ്ടായതൊഴിച്ചാൽ കാര്യമായ നാശനഷ്ടമില്ല.

കൊല്ലം ജില്ലയിൽ നാൽപതോളം വീടുകൾക്കു ചെറിയ തോതിലുള്ള വിള്ളൽ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ചക്കുവള്ളി ഭാഗത്താണു ഭൂചലനം കൂടുതലായി അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടത്. ആര്യങ്കാവ് ധർമശാസ്താക്ഷേത്രംവക കെട്ടിടത്തിൽ വിള്ളലുണ്ടായി.

പത്തനംതിട്ട ജില്ലയിലെ മല്ലപ്പള്ളിയിൽ ഭൂചലനത്തിനിടെ വൈദ്യുതി ഷോർട്ട് സർക്യൂട്ട് മൂലം പുതുശേരി മഠത്തുംഭാഗത്ത് ഇലവനാകുഴിയിൽ കോശി കുരുവിള(കുട്ടി)യുടെ വീടിനു തീപിടിച്ചു.

ആലപ്പുഴ ജില്ലയിൽ ഭൂചലനം നേരത്തേയുണ്ടായ അത്രയും ശക്തമായിരുന്നില്ല. എങ്കിലും എല്ലായിടത്തും അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടു. നാശനഷ്ടങ്ങളില്ല.

എറണാകുളം ജില്ലയുടെ കിഴക്കൻ മേഖലയിലാണു ഭൂചലനം ശക്തമായി അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടത്. മൂവാറ്റുപുഴയിലും കൂത്താട്ടുകുളത്തും ഒട്ടേറെ വീടുകൾക്കു കേടുപാടുകളുണ്ടായി.

തൃശൂർ ജില്ലയിലെ ചില പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ രാവിലെ എട്ടരയോടെ നേരിയ ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടു. നാശനഷ്ടങ്ങളൊന്നും റിപ്പോർട്ട് ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല. മറ്റത്തൂർ, കൊടകര പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ രാവിലെ 8.25ന് ഇടിമുഴക്കത്തോടെയാണു ഭൂചലനമുണ്ടായത്. ഇതേസമയം, ജില്ലയിലെ സ്ഥിരം 'ഭൂചലനകേന്ദ്ര'മായ ദേശമംഗലം, വരവൂർ മേഖലയിൽ ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടിട്ടില്ല.

പാലക്കാട് ജില്ലയിൽ പലഭാഗത്തും നേരിയ തോതിൽ ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടു. അപകടങ്ങളൊന്നും ഉണ്ടായതായി റിപ്പോർട്ടില്ല.

കോഴിക്കോട്ട് വർഷങ്ങൾക്കുമുമ്പു ഭൂചലനമുണ്ടായ കോട്ടൂളിക്കുപുറമേ പാലാഴി, മലാപ്പറമ്പ്, കുറ്റിച്ചിറ, കുണ്ടുങ്ങൽ, മാങ്കാവ്, പുതിയറ തുടങ്ങിയ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലും കക്കയം ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടു. കട്ടിലുകളും മേശകളും പാത്രങ്ങളും മറ്റും വിറയ്ക്കുന്നതായി അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടു.

കണ്ണൂർ ജില്ലയിലെ തളിപ്പറമ്പിലും നേരിയ തോതിൽ ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടു. ടൗണിന്റെ പലഭാഗങ്ങളിലും ഇന്നലെ രാവിലെ 8.15നു ഭൂചലനമുണ്ടായതായി ജനങ്ങൾ പറയുന്നു. കട്ടിലുകൾ, പാത്രങ്ങൾ, ടെലിവിഷൻ ഉൾപ്പെടെയുള്ള മറ്റു വീട്ടുപകരണങ്ങൾ എന്നിവ വിറച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നതായി ഞാറ്റുവയലിലെ റിട്ട. സബ്ഡ്രൈ ഓഫിസർ എം. എൻ. മീര പറഞ്ഞു. എന്നാൽ, അധികൃതർ ഭൂചലനവാർത്ത സ്ഥിരീകരിച്ചിട്ടില്ല.

വയനാട് ജില്ലയിൽ കൽപറ്റ, അമ്പലവയൽ ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും ഇന്നലെ നേരിയ ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടു. ജില്ലയിൽ ഒരിടത്തും അപകടങ്ങൾ റിപ്പോർട്ട് ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല.



● ഞായറാഴ്ച സന്ധ്യക്ക് 7.10-നുണ്ടായ ഭൂചലനത്തിൽ തകർന്നു വീണ ചിറക്കുഴി കോലോത്ത് ശ്രീധരിയുടെ വീട്. വീടിനടിയിൽപ്പെട്ടു പരുക്കേറ്റ ശ്രീധരിയെ കരിമണ്ണൂർ ആശുപത്രിയിൽ പ്രവേശിപ്പിച്ചു.

7/1/01

# മുല്ലപ്പെരിയാറിലെ ജലനിരപ്പ് താഴ്ത്താൻ ആവശ്യപ്പെടും: മന്ത്രി

തേക്കടി: ഞായറാഴ്ചയുണ്ടായ ഭൂചലനം മുല്ലപ്പെരിയാർ അണക്കെട്ടിന് വിള്ളൽ വീഴ്ത്തിയ സാഹചര്യത്തിൽ ഡാമിലെ ജലനിരപ്പ് 136 അടിയിൽ നിന്ന് താഴ്ത്താൻ സംസ്ഥാന സർക്കാർ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുമെന്ന് ജലസേചന മന്ത്രി വി.പി. രാമകൃഷ്ണപിള്ള.

ഡാമിന്റെ നിലവിലുള്ള സുരക്ഷിതത്വ പ്രശ്നങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ചു പഠിക്കാൻ സംസ്ഥാന സർക്കാർ സാങ്കേതിക വിദഗ്ധ സംഘത്തെ മുല്ലപ്പെരിയാറിലേക്ക് ഉടൻ അയക്കുമെന്ന് മന്ത്രി പറഞ്ഞു.

മുല്ലപ്പെരിയാർ അണക്കെട്ട് സന്ദർശിച്ച ശേഷം തേക്കടിയിൽ പത്രപ്രതിനിധികളോട് സംസാരിക്കുകയായിരുന്നു രാമകൃഷ്ണപിള്ള. യുവജനക്ഷേമ വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി കെ. രാധാകൃഷ്ണനും ജലസേചന മന്ത്രിക്കൊപ്പം അണക്കെട്ട് സന്ദർശിച്ചു. ജലസേചന സെക്രട്ടറി അടക്കം ഉന്നത ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥരുമായി ചർച്ച നടത്തിയ ശേഷം ഇന്ന് ഭൂചലനത്തിനു ശേഷമുള്ള സ്ഥിതിഗതി ചൂണ്ടിക്കാട്ടി മുഖ്യമന്ത്രിക്ക് റിപ്പോർട്ട് നൽകുമെന്ന് ജലസേചന മന്ത്രി അറിയിച്ചു.

ജലസേചന വകുപ്പിന്റെ സബ് ഡിവിഷൻ ഓഫിസ് തേക്കടിയിൽ സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ആലോചിച്ചുവരുകയാണ്. മുല്ലപ്പെരിയാർ പ്രശ്നത്തിൽ സംസ്ഥാന ഗവൺമെന്റിന്റെ നിലപാട് വികാരപരമല്ല. മറിച്ച് വിവേകപരമായിരിക്കുമെന്ന് മന്ത്രി വ്യക്തമാക്കി. സാങ്കേതിക വൈദഗ്ധ്യമില്ലെങ്കിലും ഭൂചലനം ഡാമിൽ പ്രത്യാഘാതമുളവാക്കിയതായി ബോധ്യപ്പെട്ടെന്ന് മന്ത്രിമാർ പറഞ്ഞു.

ജലസേചന വകുപ്പ് സെക്രട്ടറി ഏലിയാസ് ജോർജ്, ജില്ലാ കലക്ടർ രാജൻ ഖൊബ്രഗഡേ തുടങ്ങിയവർ മന്ത്രിമാരെ അനുഗമിച്ചിരുന്നു.

ബേബി ഡാമിന്റെ ചില ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും നേരിയ തോതിൽ വിള്ളൽ ഉണ്ട്. ഒന്നാം ബ്ലോക്കിൽ ഓടയുടെ സമീപം മൂന്നുഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ വെള്ളം താഴേക്ക് ഒലിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. വാച്ച് ടവറിലടക്കം ഉണ്ടായ വിള്ളലുകൾ മന്ത്രിമാരും ഉന്നത ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥരും വിശദമായി പരിശോധിച്ചു. മന്ത്രി രാമകൃഷ്ണപിള്ളയും കെ. രാധാകൃഷ്ണനും ഡാമിലെത്താൻ വൈകിയതിനാൽ മുഴുവൻ ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും സഞ്ചരിക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞില്ല.

ഇരുട്ട് പടർന്നതിനാൽ ജലസേചന മന്ത്രിക്ക് ഡാമിന്റെ അടിവശത്തേക്ക് ഇറങ്ങാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞില്ല. തേക്കടിയിൽ നിന്ന് ബോട്ട് മാർഗം മന്ത്രിമാർ അണക്കെട്ടിൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ വൈകുന്നേരം 6.30 കഴിഞ്ഞിരുന്നു. മന്ത്രിമാരും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥ സംഘവും 40 മിനിട്ട് അണക്കെട്ടിൽ ചെലവഴിച്ചു.

# ഭൂചലനം ഇനിയും ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നു മുന്നറിയിപ്പ്

7/1/01

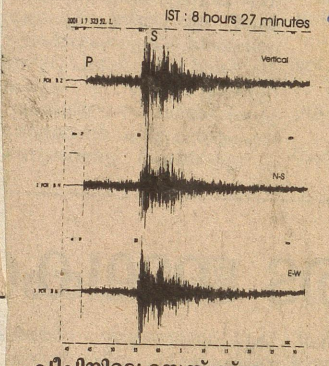
**തോമസ് ഡൊമിനിക്**

ന്യൂഡൽഹി: കേരളത്തിൽ മാത്രമല്ല, ഡൽഹിയിലും കൊങ്കൺ തീരത്തും ദക്ഷിണേന്ത്യയിലും വടക്കു കിഴക്കൻ മേഖലയിലും ജനുവരിയിൽ ഇനിയും ഭൂചലന സാധ്യതയുണ്ടെന്നു മുന്നറിയിപ്പ്. നാസയിൽനിന്നു ലഭിച്ച സൂര്യകളങ്കങ്ങളുടെ ചിത്രം വിശകലനം ചെയ്ത ഡോ. എസ്. മുഖർജിയുടെ അഭിപ്രായത്തിൽ മലയാളികൾ 10 ദിവസത്തിനകം മറ്റൊരു ഭൂചലനംകൂടി നേരിടേണ്ടിവന്നേക്കാം.

ജവാഹർലാൽ നെഹ്റു സർവകലാശാലയിൽ അസോഷ്യേറ്റ് പ്രഫസറായ ഡോ. മുഖർജി, സൂര്യനിൽനിന്ന് ഊർജം ക്രമം വിട്ടു പുറത്തേക്കു വമിക്കുന്നതു കാണുന്നു. ഭൂമിയിലെ സർവസൃഷ്ടികളുടെയും നിലനിൽപ്പിനു കാരണക്കാരനായ സൂര്യന്റെ സ്വഭാവവൈചിത്ര്യം, ഭൂമിയിൽ ഒട്ടേറെ ക്രമക്കേടുകൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കും, ഭൂകമ്പവും ലാവാ പ്രവാഹവുമടക്കം. ഇന്ത്യയിലെ പല സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും ഭൂചലന ഭീഷണി ഉണ്ടാകുമ്പോൾ ഇന്തൊനീഷ്യയിൽ അഗ്നിപർവതങ്ങൾ ഉണർന്നേക്കാം.

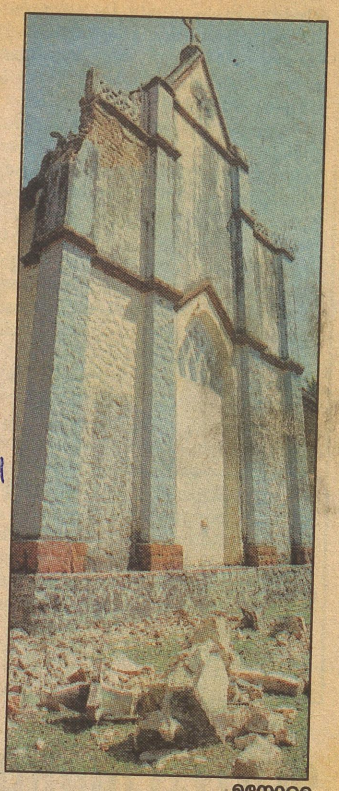
ജനുവരിക്കുശേഷം ഭൂചലന സാധ്യത കുറവാണെന്ന് ഇതുവരെ ലഭ്യമായ സ്ഥിതിവിവരക്കണക്കുകളുടെ വെളിച്ചത്തിൽ മുഖർജി പറയുന്നു. ആദ്യ ചലനം, ഭൗമാന്തർഭാഗത്ത് ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന തകരാറുകൾക്ക് ആനുപാതികമായാണു പിന്നീടുള്ള ചലനങ്ങൾ നാശനഷ്ടമുണ്ടാക്കുക. ആദ്യ ചലനത്തെക്കാൾ ശക്തി കുറഞ്ഞതാണു പിന്നീടുണ്ടാവുക.

അകന്നുമാറുന്ന ഭൗമപാളികൾ ദക്ഷിണേന്ത്യയെയും ഉത്തരേന്ത്യയെയും തമ്മിൽ അകറ്റുകയാണ്. ഡൽഹിയിൽ ഭൂചലനങ്ങൾ ഇത്രനാൾ ഏറെ നാശനഷ്ടമുണ്ടാക്കാതിരുന്നത്, ഭൗമകേന്ദ്രം അകലെ ആയിരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണ്.




പീച്ചിയിലെ സെസ് സ്റ്റേഷനിൽ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിയ ഭൂചലന തോത്.

7/1/01



മനോരമ

**ഭീതി നിറച്ച്...** ഭൂചലനത്തിന്റെ ആഘാതത്തിൽ മുണ്ടുപാലം സെയ്ന്റ് തോമസ് ചാപ്പലിന്റെ മുൻഭാഗത്തെ കല്ലും മറ്റും അടർന്നുവീണ നിലയിൽ.

# മുല്ലപ്പെരിയാറിൽ ഭൂചലനം ശക്തം; വിള്ളലും ചോർച്ചയും വീണ്ടും

7/1/01

**സ്വന്തം ലേഖകൻ**

മുല്ലപ്പെരിയാർ: ഞായറാഴ്ച രാവിലെ ഉണ്ടായ ഭൂചലനം മുല്ലപ്പെരിയാർ അണക്കെട്ടിന്റെ പ്രധാന വാച്ച്ടവറിൽ വിള്ളൽ വീഴ്ത്തി. തമിഴ്നാട്ടിലും ശക്തമായ ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടു. ഡാമിനു പടിഞ്ഞാറ് 15 കിലോമീറ്റർ ചുറ്റളവാണു ഭൂചലനകേന്ദ്രമെന്ന് ആദ്യസൂചന. ഇതു വണ്ടിപ്പെരിയാറിനും മുണ്ടക്കയത്തിനും ഇടയിലാണ്.

അണക്കെട്ടിന്റെ പ്രധാന വാച്ച്ടവറിന്റെ വലതുവശത്തു താഴെയായി പുതിയ വിള്ളലുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇവിടെ സിമന്റ് ഇളകിവീണതായും കാണാം. പാരപ്പെറ്റിൽ പലയിടത്തും പൊട്ടലുകൾ സംഭവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.

ഇടതുവശത്തെ ഒന്നാം ബ്ലോക്കിനു താഴെയുണ്ടായ ചോർച്ച ഇപ്പോൾ കൂടുതൽ ശക്തമാണ്. ഒന്ന്, രണ്ട് ബ്ലോക്കുകളിൽ പലയിടത്തും പുതുതായി ചോർച്ച രൂപപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്.

തമിഴ്നാട് അധികൃതർ സിമന്റ് തേച്ചും കുമ്മായം പൂശിയും അടയ്ക്കാൻ ശ്രമിച്ച വിള്ളലുകൾ ഇപ്പോൾ ശരിക്കും തെളിഞ്ഞുകാണാം. ഡാം പരിസരത്തു ശക്തമായ ഇടിമുഴക്കം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടതിനെത്തുടർന്നു വാച്ച്ടവറിൽ കാവൽനിന്ന പൊലീസുകാർ ഭയപ്പാടോടെ ഓടിമാറി. ഡാം പരിസരത്തെ തമിഴ്നാട് തൊഴിലാളികളും ഭൂചലനം ശക്തമായി അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു.

## ഭൂചലനം: വിദഗ്ധർ ഇന്നെത്തും

10/1/01

കോട്ടയം: ഭൂചലനം സംബന്ധിച്ചു കോട്ടയം, ഇടുക്കി ജില്ലകളിൽ പഠനം നടത്തുന്ന കേന്ദ്ര കാലാവസ്ഥാ നിരീക്ഷണകേന്ദ്രം ഡയറക്ടർ ഡോ. ദത്താത്രെ, മെറ്റീരിയോളജിസ്റ്റ് ഐ.ഡി. ശർമ എന്നിവർ ഇന്നു കേരളത്തിലെത്തും. ഡൽഹിയിൽനിന്ന് ഉച്ചയോടെ നെടുമ്പാശേരിയിലെത്തുന്ന ഇവർ ഭൂചലന ബാധിത പ്രദേശങ്ങൾ സന്ദർശിക്കും. മൂന്നുദിവസം ഇവർ കേരളത്തിലുണ്ടാകുമെന്ന് ഐ.എം. ഡി. ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞൻ ബി.ആർ. വിനോദ് പറഞ്ഞു.

അതേസമയം, ഇന്നലെയും മുഴക്കത്തോടൊപ്പം നേരിയ ചലനങ്ങൾ ഈ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടു. രാവിലെ 7.46, 8.28, 8.45, 10.44 എന്നീ സമയങ്ങളിലാണു മുഴക്കത്തോടൊപ്പം നേരിയ ചലനങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായത്. തിങ്കളാഴ്ച വൈകിട്ടു തുടർച്ചയായി ഉണ്ടായ ഭൂചലനങ്ങളെല്ലാം റിക്ടർ സ്കെയിലിൽ രണ്ടിൽ കൂടുതൽ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തി. 7.33നുണ്ടായ ആദ്യചലനം 2.6, 7.58നു 2.5, 8.12നു 2.78, 8.25നു 2.2 എന്നിങ്ങനെയാണു മേലുകാവ് ഷാലോം പോളിയോ ഹോമിൽ സ്ഥാപിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള മൈക്രോ എർത്ത്കേക്ക് റിക്കോർഡറിൽ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിയത്. തിങ്കളാഴ്ച രാവിലെ മുതൽ ചൊവ്വാഴ്ച രാവിലെ വരെ 12 ചലനങ്ങൾ പക്ഷേ, റിക്കോർഡറിൽ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിയിരുന്നു.

# ഭൂചലനം തുടരും

7/1/01

*(ഒന്നാംപേജ് തുടർച്ച)*

അപകടമാവുമെന്നും അവർ പറഞ്ഞു.

ഭൂമിക്കടിയിലുള്ള രണ്ടു പാളികൾക്കിടയിൽ ജലമർദം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതാണ് പുതിയ ഉറവകളുണ്ടാവാൻ കാരണം. ഞായറാഴ്ച ഉണ്ടായ ഭൂചലനം ഡിസംബർ 12-ന് ഉണ്ടായതിനേക്കാൾ ചെറുതായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ നാശനഷ്ടങ്ങൾ കൂടുതലുണ്ടാവാൻ കാരണം ഉപരിതലത്തിൽനിന്നും 8.5 കിലോമീറ്റർ താഴെയായിരുന്നതിനാലാണ്.

ആദ്യം ഉണ്ടായത് 12 കിലോമീറ്ററോളം താഴെയായിരുന്നു. ഉപരിതലത്തിലേക്ക് കൂടുതൽ അടുക്കുംതോറും മുഴക്കത്തിന്റെ ശക്തികൂടിവരുമെന്നും അവർ പറഞ്ഞു.

ഇപ്പോഴുണ്ടാകുന്ന ഭൂചലനത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് ആശങ്ക വേണ്ടെന്ന് അവർ പറഞ്ഞു. ഇതുവരെ സംഭവിച്ച ഭൂചലനങ്ങൾ പരിശോധിച്ചാൽ ആദ്യം ഉണ്ടായതിനേക്കാൾ കുറഞ്ഞുവരികയേ ഉള്ളൂ. ലാത്തൂരിൽ ഉണ്ടായ ഭൂചലനവും കേരളത്തിൽ ഈയിടെ ഉണ്ടായതും ഏകദേശം ഒരേ അളവിലായിരുന്നു.

എന്നാൽ ലാത്തൂരിൽ കെട്ടിടങ്ങളുടെ ബലക്ഷയമാണ് അത്യാഹിതം ഉണ്ടാകാൻ കാരണമായത്. വരുന്ന രണ്ടുമാസത്തേക്ക് ചെറിയ ചലനങ്ങളും മുഴക്കങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടാകാൻ സാധ്യതയുണ്ട്. ഭൂമി പൂർവസ്ഥിതിയിലായിക്കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ മുഴക്കങ്ങൾ നിലയ്ക്കും.

ഭൂചലനത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് ജനങ്ങളെ ബോധവൽക്കരിക്കുന്നതിന് 15-ന് പാലായിൽ സെമിനാർ സംഘടിപ്പിക്കുമെന്ന് തഹസീൽദാർ സി. ചന്ദ്രശേഖരൻ അറിയിച്ചു. ജനങ്ങളിലുള്ള അജ്ഞതയാണ് ഭീതി ഉളവാക്കാൻ കാരണമെന്ന് അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞു.

ഭൂചലനബാധിതപ്രദേശമല്ലാതിരുന്ന കേരളത്തിൽ ഇതുവരെ നിർമിച്ചിരുന്ന കെട്ടിടങ്ങൾ ഭൂചലനത്തെ അതിജീവിക്കാൻ കഴിവുള്ളവയായിരുന്നില്ലെന്നും ഇനി നിർമിക്കുന്ന കെട്ടിടങ്ങൾ ഭൂചലനത്തെ അതിജീവിക്കാൻ കഴിവുള്ളവയാകണമെന്നും ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടു. ഭൂചലനത്തെപ്പറ്റി മുൻകൂട്ടി പ്രവചിക്കുക സാധ്യമല്ലെന്നും 1960 മുതലുള്ള പഠനങ്ങളുടെ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ മാത്രമേ കാര്യങ്ങൾ വിശദീകരിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കൂ എന്നും ഡോ. രാജേന്ദ്രൻ പറഞ്ഞു.

# ഭൂചലനം തുടരും; ശക്തി കുറയും: വിദഗ്ധസംഘം

7/1/01

**സ്വന്തം ലേഖകൻ**

പാലാ: ഡിസംബർ 12-ന് ഉണ്ടായ ശക്തമായ ഭൂചലനത്തിന്റെ തുടർച്ചയാണ് ഞായറാഴ്ച രാവിലെ 8.25-നുണ്ടായ ഭൂമികുലുക്കമെന്ന് വിദഗ്ധസംഘം. ഇപ്പോഴും അനുഭവപ്പെടുന്ന ചെറിയ കുടുക്കവും മുഴക്കവും കുറെ ദിവസത്തേക്കുകൂടി തുടരാമെന്നും എന്നാൽ ശക്തികൂടിയ കുലുക്കത്തിനു സാധ്യതയില്ലെന്നും സംഘം അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടു.

ഉരുൾപൊട്ടൽ മേഖലകളിലും മലയോരമേഖലകളിലും ഭൂചലനത്തിന് സാധ്യത കൂടുതലാണെന്നും തിരുവനന്തപുരം ഭൗമശാസ്ത്ര പഠനകേന്ദ്രത്തിലെ ഡോ. രാജേന്ദ്രൻ, ഡോ. കുശല രാജേന്ദ്രൻ എന്നിവർ വ്യക്തമാക്കി. നദീതീരങ്ങളിലും ജലത്തിന്റെ മർദം കൂടുതൽ ഉണ്ടാകാൻ സാധ്യതയുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും ഭൂചലനം ഉണ്ടാകാം. മുല്ലപ്പെരിയാർ ഡാമിൽ ജലനിരപ്പുയർത്തുന്നത് കൂടുതൽ

*(ശേഷം പേജ് 7 കോളം 5)*

# ഭൂചലനം കഴിഞ്ഞമാസം ഉണ്ടായതിന്റെ തുടർച്ച

7/1/01

കോട്ടയം: സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ പല ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും ഞായറാഴ്ച അനുഭവപ്പെട്ട ഭൂചലനങ്ങൾ കഴിഞ്ഞ മാസം ഉണ്ടായ ഭൂചലനങ്ങളുടെ തുടർച്ചമാത്രമാണെന്നു ഹൈദരാബാദിലെ ജിയോളജിക്കൽ സർവേ ഓഫ് ഇന്ത്യയിലെ മുതിർന്ന ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞൻ സി.ബി.കെ. ശാസ്ത്രി ഈരാറ്റുപേട്ടയിൽ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടു.

കഴിഞ്ഞ ദിവസമുണ്ടായ ഭൂചലനത്തിന്റെ പ്രഭവകേന്ദ്രം പാലായിൽനിന്നു നാലഞ്ചു കിലോമീറ്റർ തെക്കുകിഴക്കേ ദിശയിലാണെന്നും കഴിഞ്ഞമാസം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ട ഭൂചലനത്തിന്റെ പ്രഭവകേന്ദ്രവുമായി ഇതിനു വലിയ ദൂരവ്യത്യാസമില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ രണ്ടു ഭൂകമ്പങ്ങളുടെയും കേന്ദ്രബിന്ദു ഒന്നുതന്നെയാണെന്നു വ്യക്തമാണെന്നും അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞു.

ഇതേസമയം, ഈരാറ്റുപേട്ടയ്ക്കടുത്ത കൊണ്ടൂർ ആണു ഭൂചലനത്തിന്റെ പുതിയ പ്രഭവകേന്ദ്രമെന്നു കെ. എസ്. ഇ. ബി. റിസർച്ച് ഡപ്യൂട്ടി ഡയറക്ടർ കെ.ആർ. ഗോപാലകൃഷ്ണൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടു.

കഴിഞ്ഞ മാസം 12ന് ഉണ്ടായ ഭൂകമ്പത്തെപ്പറ്റി പഠിക്കാൻ സി.ബി.കെ. ശാസ്ത്രിയുടെ നേതൃത്വത്തിലുള്ള വിദഗ്ധസംഘം ഭൂകമ്പബാധിത പ്രദേശങ്ങൾ സന്ദർശിച്ചുവരികയായിരുന്നു.

ഫെബ്രുവരി 12 വരെയുള്ള കാലത്തിനിടയിൽ ചെറിയ ഭൂചലനങ്ങൾ ഇനിയും ഉണ്ടാകാമെന്നാണ് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

എന്നാൽ, ഭൂചലനത്തിന്റെ പ്രഭവകേന്ദ്രം നടയ്ക്കലാണെന്നു തിരുവനന്തപുരം സെസിലെ ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞർ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടു.

# തമിഴ്നാട്ടിലും ഭൂചലനം: ഒരു കുട്ടി മരിച്ചു

7/1/01

കോയമ്പത്തൂർ: തമിഴ്നാടിന്റെയും കേരളത്തിന്റെയും പല ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും ഇന്നലെ രാവിലെ ഉണ്ടായ ഭൂചലനത്തിൽ തിരുനൽവേലി ജില്ലയിലെ കടയം പട്ടണത്തിനടുത്തു വീടു തകർന്നുവീണു മാരിയമ്മാൾ എന്ന രണ്ടു വയസുകാരി മരിച്ചു. അമ്മ ഇന്ദിര കുഞ്ഞിനെ അരികിലിരുത്തി ബീഡി ചുരുട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്നപ്പോൾ ഭൂചലനത്തിൽ ചുമർ ഇടിഞ്ഞുവീഴുകയായിരുന്നു.

ഇന്ദിരയ്ക്കും മാരിയമ്മാളിനും വീട്ടിൽ കളിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്ന സത്യ (ഏഴ്) എന്ന ബാലികയ്ക്കും പരുക്കേറ്റു. മാരിയമ്മാൾ ആശുപത്രിയിലേക്കു കൊണ്ടുപോകും വഴിയാണു മരിച്ചത്.രാത്രിയിലുണ്ടായ കനത്ത മഴയെ തുടർന്നു വീടിന്റെ ഭിത്തി ഇന്നു രാവിലെ തകർന്നു വീഴുകയായിരുന്നു. കാരണം ഭൂചലനമാണോ എന്ന് അന്വേഷിക്കുകയാണെന്നു ജില്ലാ കലക്ടർ കെ. ധനവേൽ പറഞ്ഞു.

തേനി, വിരുദുനഗർ ജില്ലകളിലും ഭൂചലനമുണ്ടായി. പാത്രങ്ങളും പൂച്ചെട്ടികളും മറ്റും വീണുടഞ്ഞു.

# ഭൂചലനത്തിനു ശേഷം മുല്ലപ്പെരിയാർ ഡാമിലെ ചോർച്ച വർധിച്ചു

മുല്ലപ്പെരിയാർ: ഞായറാഴ്ചത്തെ ഭൂചലനത്തിനു ശേഷം മുല്ലപ്പെരിയാർ അണക്കെട്ടിന്റെ സപ്പോർട്ടിങ് ഡാമിലും ചോർച്ച ശക്തമായി. അണക്കെട്ടിനുള്ളിലെ ചോർച്ചയും ക്രമാതീതമായി വർധിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞു. സപ്പോർട്ടിങ് ഡാമിന്റെ പല ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും പുതിയ വിള്ളലുകൾ പ്രത്യക്ഷപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്.

ഡാമിന്റെ പിൻവശത്തെ ഓടയുടെ മുകളിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ജലകണങ്ങൾ കൂടുതലായി കാണപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ഡാമിലെ ചോർച്ചകളും ഗാലറികളിലൂടെയുള്ള ഒഴുക്കും നിയന്ത്രിതതോതിലാണെന്ന വാദത്തിലാണ് അണക്കെട്ടിലെ തമിഴ്നാട് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥർ. ഒന്നാം ബ്ലോക്കിന്റെ പ്രവേശന കവാടത്തിന്റെ വലതുവശത്ത് വിള്ളൽ ആശങ്കയുണർത്തുന്ന തരത്തിലായി കഴിഞ്ഞു. വീണ്ടും ഭൂചലനം ഉണ്ടായ സാഹചര്യത്തിൽ ഡാമിന്റെ പരിശോധനയ്ക്കായി സംസ്ഥാന സർക്കാർ നിയോഗിച്ച വിദഗ്ധ സംഘം ഇന്നോ നാളെയോ മുല്ലപ്പെരിയാറിൽ എത്തും. ഭൂചലനങ്ങളെ തുടർന്ന് ഭീതിയിലായിരിക്കുന്ന പെരിയാർ നദീതീരത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾ രൂപീകരിച്ച ആക്ഷൻ കമ്മിറ്റിയോടൊപ്പം നിയമസഭാ ഡപ്യൂട്ടി സ്പീക്കർ സി.എ. കുര്യൻ, പി.സി. തോമസ് എം.പി, പി.പി. സുലൈമാൻ റാവുത്തർ എം.എൽ.എ. എന്നിവരും ഗ്രാമ - ബ്ലോക്ക് പഞ്ചായത്ത് ഭാരവാഹികളും ചൊവ്വാഴ്ച മുല്ലപ്പെരിയാർ സന്ദർശിച്ചു.

ഭൂചലനങ്ങൾ അണക്കെട്ടിനെ ബാധിച്ച സാഹചര്യത്തിൽ പ്രശ്നത്തെ വളരെ ഗൗരവത്തോടെ തന്നെ കാണേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്ന് സി.എ. കുര്യൻ, പി.സി. തോമസ്, പി.പി. സുലൈമാൻ റാവുത്തർ എന്നിവർ ഡാം സന്ദർശനത്തിനു ശേഷം പറഞ്ഞു. മുല്ലപ്പെരിയാർ പ്രശ്നത്തിൽ കേരള ജനതയുടെ ആശങ്കയും ഉത്കണ്ഠയും പ്രധാനമന്ത്രിയെ നേരിൽകണ്ടു ധരിപ്പിക്കുമെന്ന് എം.പി. പറഞ്ഞു. പെരിയാർ നദീതീരത്തെ ആളുകളുടെ നിവേദനം പ്രധാനമന്ത്രിക്ക് കൈമാറുമെന്നും അദ്ദേഹം അറിയിച്ചു. മുല്ലപ്പെരിയാറ്റിൽ പുതിയ അണക്കെട്ട് നിർമിക്കണമെന്ന ആവശ്യം സംസ്ഥാനം മുന്നോട്ടു വയ്ക്കണമെന്ന് ഡപ്യൂട്ടി സ്പീക്കർ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടു.

# നെടുമങ്ങാട്ട് ഭൂചലനം, കെട്ടിടങ്ങൾക്ക് വിള്ളൽ

**സ്വന്തം ലേഖകൻ**

നെടുമങ്ങാട് : പൂവത്തൂർ നാലുമുക്കിൽ ചൊവ്വാഴ്ച ഉച്ചയ്ക്ക് നേരിയ തോതിൽ ഭൂചലനമുണ്ടായി. ഏഴു വീടുകളുടെ ചുമരുകൾക്ക് വിള്ളൽ ഉണ്ടാവുകയും ഒരു വീടിന്റെ മേൽക്കൂരയിൽ നിന്ന് ഓടുകൾ അടർന്നു വീഴുകയും ചെയ്തു. സമീപത്തെ ഹൈസ്കൂളിന്റെ ജനാലയുടെ രണ്ടു ഗ്ലാസുകൾ ഇളകി വീണു.

പൂവത്തൂർ ശുഭാ മന്ദിരത്തിൽ കെ. കരുണാകരന്റെ രണ്ടു വർഷം പഴക്കമുള്ള വാർത്ത വീടിന്റെ ഉൾമുറിയിലെ മേൽക്കൂരയിൽ പതിച്ചിരുന്ന ഡിസൈൻ ഓടുകളാണ് അടർന്നു വീണത്. മറ്റു മുറികളുടെ ചുമരുകൾക്കും പൊട്ടൽ വീണിട്ടുണ്ട്.

കരുണാകരന്റെ ഭാര്യ സുശീലയും മാതാവ് എൽസമ്മയും മാത്രമേ ഈ സമയം വീട്ടിലുണ്ടായിരുന്നുള്ളു. ''ഒരു മുഴക്കം കേട്ടു, ദേഹമാസകലം ഒരു വിറയൽ പോലെ തോന്നി. കുറച്ചു സമയം ഒന്നും ശബ്ദിക്കാൻ കഴിയാത്ത പോലെയായിരുന്നു.'' - സുശീല പറഞ്ഞു.

ഇതിനു സമീപം താമസിക്കുന്ന , കരുണാകരന്റെ അനുജൻ രാജ് ഭവനിൽ രാജേന്ദ്രന്റെ വീട്ടിലെ ചുമരുകൾക്കും പൊട്ടൽ ഉണ്ടായി. ഇതിനു പുറമെ ഇതിനടുത്തായി അടഞ്ഞു കിടക്കുകയായിരുന്ന ഭാസ്ക്കരന്റെ വീട്, ശശിധരന്റെ വീട്, തെക്കേവീട്ടിൽ ശ്രീധരൻ പിള്ള, കുമാരൻ, പാറപൊറ്റയിൽ വിക്രമൻ എന്നിവരുടെ വീടുകൾക്കാണ് ചുമരുകളിൽ വിള്ളൽ ഉണ്ടായത്. പൂവത്തൂർ ബാലവാടിയിൽ നിന്നു വീട്ടിലേക്കു വരുകയായിരുന്ന ദേവകി അമ്മ ഭൂചലന സമയത്ത് വഴിയിൽ മറിഞ്ഞു വീണു.

നെടുമങ്ങാട് തഹസീൽദാർ, കൗൺസിലർ, ബി. ബി. സുശീല എന്നിവർ എത്തി വിവരങ്ങൾ ശേഖരിച്ചു. നെടുമങ്ങാട് എസ്. ഐ.: എൽ, തുളസീധരന്റെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ പൊലീസ് എത്തിയിരുന്നു.

ഞായറാഴ്ചയും ഈ പ്രദേശത്ത് ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടതായി പറയുന്നു.

# നെടുമങ്ങാട്ട് ഭൂചലനം, കെട്ടിടങ്ങൾക്ക് വിള്ളൽ

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നെടുമങ്ങാട് : പൂവത്തൂർ നാലുമുക്കിൽ ചൊവ്വാഴ്ച ഉച്ചയ്ക്ക് നേരിയ തോതിൽ ഭൂചലനമുണ്ടായി. ഏഴു വീടുകളുടെ ചുമരുകൾക്ക് വിള്ളൽ ഉണ്ടാവുകയും ഒരു വീടിന്റെ മേൽക്കൂരയിൽ നിന്ന് ഓടുകൾ അടർന്നു വീഴുകയും ചെയ്തു. സമീപത്തെ ഹൈസ്കൂളിന്റെ ജനാലയുടെ രണ്ടു ഗ്ലാസുകൾ ഇളകി വീണു.

പൂവത്തൂർ ശുഭാ മന്ദിരത്തിൽ കെ. കരുണാകരന്റെ രണ്ടു വർഷം പഴക്കമുള്ള വാർത്ത വീടിന്റെ ഉൾമുറിയിലെ മേൽക്കൂരയിൽ പതിച്ചിരുന്ന ഡിസൈൻ ഓടുകളാണ് അടർന്നു വീണത്. മറ്റു മുറികളുടെ ചുമരുകൾക്കും പൊട്ടൽ വീണിട്ടുണ്ട്.

കരുണാകരന്റെ ഭാര്യ സുശീലയും മാതാവ് എൽസമ്മയും മാത്രമേ ഈ സമയം വീട്ടിലുണ്ടായിരുന്നുള്ളു. ''ഒരു മുഴക്കം കേട്ടു, ദേഹമാസകലം ഒരു വിറയൽ പോലെ തോന്നി. കുറച്ചു സമയം ഒന്നും ശബ്ദിക്കാൻ കഴിയാത്ത പോലെയായിരുന്നു.'' - സുശീല പറഞ്ഞു.

ഇതിനു സമീപം താമസിക്കുന്ന , കരുണാകരന്റെ അനുജൻ രാജ് ഭവനിൽ രാജേന്ദ്രന്റെ വീട്ടിലെ ചുമരുകൾക്കും പൊട്ടൽ ഉണ്ടായി. ഇതിനു പുറമെ ഇതിനടുത്തായി അടഞ്ഞു കിടക്കുകയായിരുന്ന ഭാസ്ക്കരന്റെ വീട്, ശശിധരന്റെ വീട്, തെക്കേവീട്ടിൽ ശ്രീധരൻ പിള്ള, കുമാരൻ, പാറപൊറ്റയിൽ വിക്രമൻ എന്നിവരുടെ വീടുകൾക്കാണ് ചുമരുകളിൽ വിള്ളൽ ഉണ്ടായത്.

പൂവത്തൂർ ബാലവാടിയിൽ നിന്നു വീട്ടിലേക്കു വരുകയായിരുന്ന ദേവകി അമ്മ ഭൂചലന സമയത്ത് വഴിയിൽ മറിഞ്ഞു വീണു.

നെടുമങ്ങാട് തഹസീൽദാർ, കൗൺസിലർ, ബി. ബി. സുശീല എന്നിവർ എത്തി വിവരങ്ങൾ ശേഖരിച്ചു. നെടുമങ്ങാട് എസ്. ഐ.: എൽ, തുളസീധരന്റെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ പൊലീസ് എത്തിയിരുന്നു.

ഞായറാഴ്ചയും ചൊവ്വാഴ്ചയും ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടതായി പറയുന്നു. ചൊവ്വാഴ്ചയും ഭൂചലനം ഉണ്ടായതോടെ ഇവിടത്തുകാർ സംഭീതരാണ്.

Feb 3- 2001





**Eleven-year-old Anand Dayaram receiving treatment for his injuries, in a makeshift hospital at Anjar town, 48 kms east of Bhuj.** — Photo: AP

# 'Thank God, I am alive'

**BERHAMPUR (Orissa), FEB. 2.** His face haunted by fear and fatigue, Bapu got down from the train and slumped on a bench. "It is God's grace that I am alive. I have never seen anything like that before," said the 35-year-old quake survivor.

He had gone to Ahmedabad on a routine trip to purchase garments and was scheduled to return home on January 27."I decided to go and see the Republic Day parade there. While I was on my way, the ground shook violently raising dust for about a

a pile of rubble with my belongings buried."

The platform here was swarming with people, mostly Oriyas from Ganjam district, who were returning from Gujarat after the killer earthquake struck. And there were others who had come from the villages of Ganjam district to enquire about their kith and kin.

"There was swirling dust everywhere as the earth shook and structures collapsed. But we got out unscathed," Mr. Pratap Jena of Hinjili said. A diamond cutter at Rajkot,

Aska, was reminiscent of the plague which struck Surat a few years ago. In Kalahandi district, women were seen mourning for relatives killed in the quake. In Gurjung and Dangapakhan villages too, people were in a state of shock and mourning.

Villagers said people from Gurjung and Dangapakhan had migrated to Gujarat about two months ago following severe drought in the district.

## Exodus continues

While the city administration in Bhuj has

the rubble, the business community has either sent or is sending families to safer places. "What will we do here. Our shops are totally destroyed," says a textile merchant, Mr. Bharatbhai Shah.

"I have sent my family to Mumbai and I will join my uncle there. I may return after some time when things improve here," he said.

The chief executive of the Gujarat Maritime Board, Mr. P. N. Roychoudhary, said four of the 12 ports under the board have been damaged to

# Quake ra he

**BHUJ, FEB. 2.** Thousands of col ful mirror pieces, billed emb dery materials, accessories gift articles lie scattered in verandah of Raniben Furia's stroyed single-storey buildin Dhamadka village in Bhuj.

This very village which several national awards for i cate embroidery, mirror w and gift articles, today stand duced to rubble with almo per cent of the artisans fear be dead.

In the entire Kutch re more than 3000 artisans feared dead and the ind seems to be in trouble.

"With this erosion of the heritage, the future of all o in question," Ms. Rani Furi PTI.

Many artisans of this had business arrangement international and do handicraft organisations fo and display of the famous work the world over.

"I have lost my entire earning and my daughter, was an expert in the mirror

# Bad weathe adds to their woes

**BHUJ (KUTCH), FEB. 2.** The plig lakhs of homeless victim quake in Kutch has further compounded in the absenc temporary shelters as they relentless hot sun during the and biting cold at nights.

"Where do we live. We hav homes, no tents. How do we vive the chill of the night and of the day.

There are no toilets, whe our women and girls go," a cries of people heard in Bhu other devasated areas.

"We need at least a hun thousand tents. We have sen requisition to authorities... have receive

# ഭൂകമ്പം: റിപ്പോർട്ട് ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടു

Feb 2001

തിരുവനന്തപുരം : കടയ്ക്കാവൂർ, നെല്ലനാട് പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ ഭൂകമ്പം മൂലം വീടുകൾക്ക് വിള്ളലുണ്ടായ സംഭവത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് അന്വേഷിച്ച് റിപ്പോർട്ട് നൽകാൻ കലക്ടർ എസ്. ശ്രീനിവാസൻ ''സെസ്'' അധികൃതർക്ക് നിർദേശം നൽകി.

ഗുജറാത്തിലുണ്ടായ ഭൂകമ്പത്തിന്റെ തുടർ കമ്പങ്ങൾ മൂലമാണ് റിച്ചർ സ്കെയിലിൽ രേഖപ്പെടുത്താത്ത ഈ പ്രതിഭാസമെന്നു വിദഗ്ധർ അറിയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇത്തരം സംഭവങ്ങൾ യഥാസമയം റിപ്പോർട്ട് ചെയ്യാനും അവശ്യ നടപടികൾ സ്വീകരിക്കാനും തഹസിൽദാർമാർക്ക് നിർദേശം നൽകിയതായും കലക്ടർ പറഞ്ഞു.

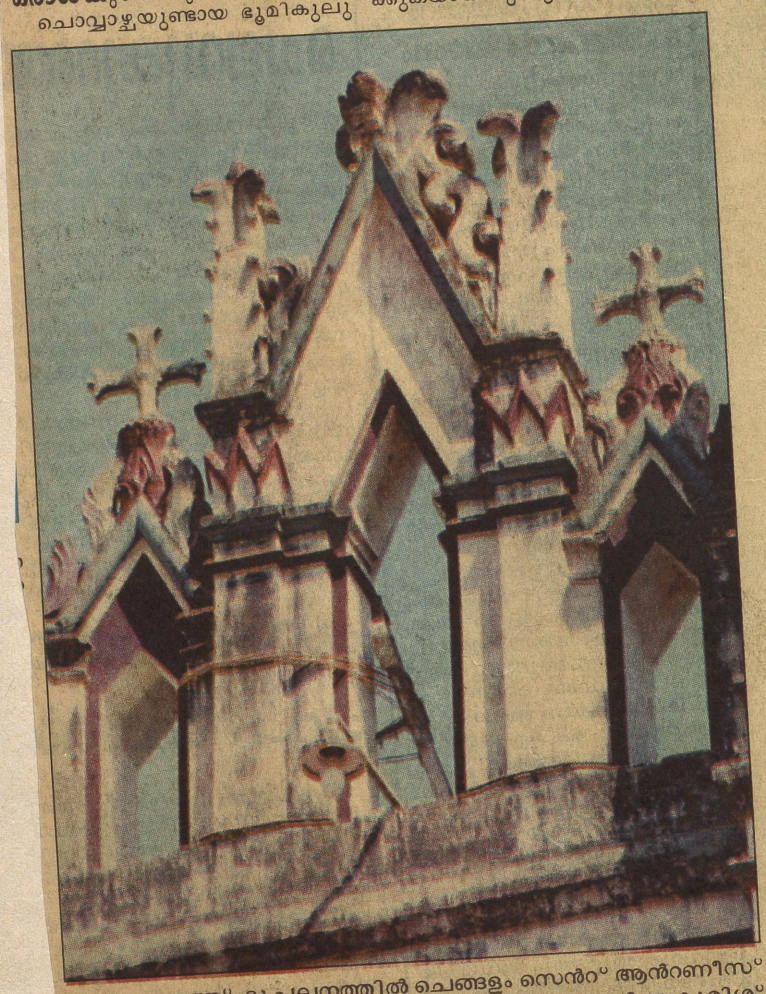
ഹിതം മാർച്ച് ഏഴിനകം ജില്ലാ മെഡിക്കൽ ഓഫിസർക്ക് നേരിട്ടോ രജിസ്റ്റേർഡ് തപാലിലോ നൽകണം.

## ഒരാൾ കുഴഞ്ഞുവീണ് മരിച്ചു

ചൊവ്വാഴ്ചയുണ്ടായ ഭൂമികുലു

ത്തിൽ പരിഭ്രമിച്ച് കോട്ടയം ജി
യിലെ ഈരാറ്റുപേട്ടയിൽ ഒരാൾ
ുഴഞ്ഞുവീണ് മരിച്ചു. പാതാ
ുഴ മങ്കരയിൽ ദേവസ്യ (42) ആ
ന് മരിച്ചത്.

പുലർച്ചെ ഭൂമികുലുക്കം ഉണ്ടാ
യപ്പോൾ ദേവസ്യ വീട്ടുവരാന്ത
യിൽ ചായ കുടിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരി
ക്കുകയായിരുന്നു.



കോട്ടയത്ത് ഭൂചലനത്തിൽ ചെങ്ങളം സെൻറ് ആൻറണീസ് പള്ളിയുടെ മുഖവാരത്തിൽ നിന്ന് അടർന്നു വീണ കുരിശ് കെട്ടിവച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു ഫോട്ടോ: ടി.കെ. പ്രദീപ്കുമാർ

# ഭൂചലനം: മുൻകരുതൽ റിപ്പോർട്ട് സർക്കാരുകൾ അവഗണിച്ചു

7/1/01

എ.ബി.ജിജിമോൻ

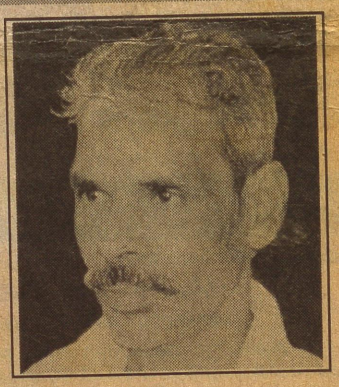
തിരുവനന്തപുരം: കേരളത്തിൽ ഭൂചലനമുണ്ടായാലും നാശനഷ്ടം സംഭവിക്കാതിരിക്കാൻ സ്വീകരിക്കേണ്ട മുൻകരുതലുകൾ നിർദേശിക്കുന്ന പഠന റിപ്പോർട്ട് സംസ്ഥാന സർക്കാരുകൾ അവഗണിച്ചു. സർക്കാർ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടതനുസരിച്ച് സെന്റർ ഫോർ എർത്ത് സയൻസ് സ്റ്റഡീസ് (സെസ്സ്)നടത്തിയ പഠനത്തിലെ വിലപ്പെട്ട ശുപാർശകളാണ് നടപ്പിലാകാതെ പോയത്.

വടക്കാഞ്ചേരിയിൽ 1994 നവംബറിലും ഡിസംബറിലുമുണ്ടായ ഭൂകമ്പത്തെതുടർന്ന് റവന്യൂ വകുപ്പ് സെസ്സിനോട് പഠനം നടത്താൻ നിർദേശിക്കുകയായിരുന്നു. ഭൂകമ്പമുണ്ടാകാൻ സാധ്യതയുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ വീടു നിർമിക്കുമ്പോൾ പാലിക്കേണ്ട ചട്ടങ്ങൾ (ബിൽഡിങ് കോഡ്) നിർബന്ധമായും പാലിക്കണമെന്നതായിരുന്നു റിപ്പോർട്ടിലെ പ്രധാന ശുപാർശ. ഇത് കർശനമായി പാലിക്കാത്തവർക്ക് വീടു നിർമിക്കാൻ അനുമതി നൽകരുത്. ഈ വീടുകൾക്ക് ഗ്രൂപ്പ് ഇൻഷുറൻസ് കവറേജ് ഏർപ്പെടുത്തണം.

ഭൂകമ്പ സാധ്യതാ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലെ വീടുകൾ നിർമിക്കേണ്ട പ്രത്യക എൻജിനീയറിങ് രീതിയാണ് ബിൽഡിങ് കോഡ് നിഷ്കർഷിക്കുന്നത്. ഓരോ പ്രദേശത്തെയും റിക്ടർ സ്കെയിൽ തോത് അനുമാനിച്ചാണ് രീതി തീരുമാനിക്കുക. ഇപ്പോൾ ഭൂകമ്പത്തിന്റെ പ്രഭവ കേന്ദ്രമായ മധ്യകേരളം ഇങ്ങനെ സാധ്യതാ പ്രദേശമായി കണ്ടെത്തിയിരുന്നു. പാലക്കാട് , തൃശൂർ, ജില്ലകളുടെ ചില ഭാഗങ്ങൾ, ഇടമലയാർ, പെരിയാർ മേഖല എന്നിവയാണ് മറ്റു സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ. തീരപ്രദേശത്തെ ചില സ്ഥലങ്ങളും ഭൂകമ്പ സാധ്യതയുള്ളതായി കണ്ടെത്തിയിരുന്നു.

കേരളത്തിൽ റിക്ടർ സ്കെയിലിൽ പരമാവധി ആറുവരെ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തുന്ന ഭൂകമ്പമേ ഉണ്ടാകൂ എന്നും ഇതിനെ നേരിടാൻ ബലവത്തായ കെട്ടിടങ്ങൾ പണിയാൻ കഴിയണമെന്നും പഠനം ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിച്ചു. പഠനം നടത്തിയ സെസ്സിലെ ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞർ കുശലാ രാജേന്ദ്രനും രാജേന്ദ്രനും റിപ്പോർട്ട് താമസിയാതെ റവന്യൂ വകുപ്പിനു നൽകുകയും ചെയ്തു. പക്ഷേ ഇതിന്മേൽ നടപടിയെടുക്കാൻ അന്നത്തെ സർക്കാരോ പിന്നീടുവന്ന സർക്കാരോ തുനിഞ്ഞില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ തുടരെ ഭൂകമ്പമുണ്ടാകുമ്പോൾ സെസ്സിന്റെ ശുപാർശകൾക്ക് വീണ്ടും പ്രാധാന്യം കൈവരുന്നു. ഭൂകമ്പം അളക്കാനുള്ള സംവിധാനം മുമ്പത്തേക്കാൾ മെച്ചപ്പെട്ടു എന്നതാണ് ഈ രംഗത്തെ ഏക പുരോഗതി.

* കൂടുതൽ നാശനഷ്ടം കോട്ടയം, ഇടുക്കി ജില്ലകളിൽ
* റിക്ടർ സ്കെയിലിൽ 4.8 രേഖപ്പെടുത്തി



ഭൂചലനത്തിന്റെ ആഘാതത്തിൽ മരിച്ച പുതുപ്പള്ളി വെട്ടത്തുകവല കാരുവള്ളിൽ കെ. എസ്. വാസു (67).

# കൊല്ലം, കോട്ടയം ജില്ലകളിൽ വീണ്ടും ഭൂചലനം ; 24 വീടുകൾക്കു വിള്ളൽ

13/2/01

**സ്വന്തം ലേഖകൻ**

കൊല്ലം: ജനങ്ങളിൽ ഭീതി പരത്തി കൊല്ലം ജില്ലയുടെ വിവിധ ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും കോട്ടയം ജില്ലയുടെ കിഴക്കൻ മേഖലയിലും ഇന്നലെയും ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടു.

ഒരാഴ്ചയായി ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെടുന്ന കുണ്ടറയിലെ നെടുമ്പന പഞ്ചായത്തിൽ പുലിയില, കരീപ്ര, മുളവന, കിഴക്കേകല്ലട തുടങ്ങിയ ഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ രാവിലേയും ഉച്ചയ്ക്കും ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടു. തുടർന്ന് ഇവിടെ നിരവധി കിണറുകളിൽ തിരയിളക്കം ദൃശ്യമായി. 24 വീടുകൾക്ക് വിള്ളൽ വീണിട്ടുണ്ട്.

കൊട്ടാരക്കരയിലെ പുത്തൂർ ഭാഗത്ത് തുടർച്ചയായി രണ്ടാം ദിവസവും ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടു. രാവിലെ ഏഴുമണിയോടെ ഇരുമ്പനങ്ങാട്, ചിറ്റാക്കോട്, വട്ടൺകാവ്, കാഞ്ഞിരവിളമുക്ക് എന്നിവിടങ്ങളിൽ ഉണ്ടായ ഭൂചലനത്തിൽ പതിനഞ്ചോളം വീടുകൾക്ക് കേടുപാടുണ്ടായി.

വട്ടമൺകാവിൽ നിന്നും ഇരുമ്പനങ്ങാട്ടേക്കുള്ള റോഡിന്റെ ഇരുവശത്തെ വീടുകൾക്കാണ് വിള്ളൽ. ഒരു മണിയോടെയാണ് പുത്തൂർ, ചെപ്ര പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ ഭൂചലനമുണ്ടായത്. പത്തോളം വീടുകൾക്കും അഞ്ചിലേറെ കടകൾക്കും ഭിത്തിയിൽ വിള്ളലുണ്ടായി.

പോസ്റ്റ് ഓഫിസന്റെ ഭിത്തികൾ വിണ്ടുകീറി. ഇവിടെയും കിണറുകളിൽ തിരയിളക്കം അനുഭവപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ട്.

പത്തനാപുരത്ത് തലവൂർ, നടുത്തേരി, പാണ്ടിത്തിട്ട എന്നിവിടങ്ങളിലാണ് ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടത്. പത്തോളം വീടുകൾക്ക് കേടുപറ്റി. പഞ്ചായത്ത് ഓഫിസിന്റെ ഭിത്തികളിൽ വിള്ളലുണ്ട്.

അഞ്ചലിലെ ഇടമുളയ്ക്കലിൽ അറയ്ക്കൽ ഭാഗത്തു മുപ്പതോളം വീടുകൾക്കും നിരവധികടകൾക്കും വിള്ളലുണ്ടായി. രാവിലെ 10.30നായിരുന്നു ഭൂചലനം. ഇരമ്പലോടെയുണ്ടായ ഭൂചലനത്തിൽ വീട്ടുപകരണങ്ങൾ പലതും താഴെ വീണതായി പറയുന്നു. കരുനാഗപ്പള്ളിയിൽ നേരത്തെ തിരയിളക്കം ദൃശ്യമായിരുന്ന രണ്ടു വീടുകളിൽ വിള്ളൽ വീണു.

കൊല്ലത്ത് അയത്തിൽ രണ്ടാം നമ്പർ ജംക്ഷന് സമീപം നാലിടത്ത് ഭൂമിയിൽ നിന്നും ഉറവ പൊട്ടി ജലം വരുന്ന പ്രതിഭാസം കാണപ്പെട്ടു. ശാസ്താംകോട്ടയിലും അഞ്ചലിലും കിണറുകളിൽ തിരയിളക്കം ദൃശ്യമായി.

കോട്ടയം ജില്ലയുടെ കിഴക്കൻ മേഖലയായ പാലാ, ഈരാറ്റുപേട്ട, പൊൻകുന്നം, ചിറക്കടവ്, പൈക, ഉരുളികുന്നം പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലാണു നേരിയ ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടത്. രാവിലെ 8.30നും 10.10നുമാണ് പാലായിലും സമീപപ്രദേശങ്ങളിലും ചലനമുണ്ടായത്. പൊൻകുന്നത്തും പരിസരത്തും പുലർച്ചെ 2.30നു നേരിയ ചലനമുണ്ടായതായി നാട്ടുകാർ പറഞ്ഞു.

ഒരു മാസത്തെ ഇടവേളയ്ക്കു ശേഷമാണു നേരിയ കുലുക്കം ഈ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നത്.

## കൊല്ലത്ത് വീണ്ടും ഭൂചലനം, ഇരുപതു വീടുകൾക്ക് വിള്ളൽ

Feb 12, 2001

കൊല്ലം: ജില്ലയുടെ പലഭാഗത്തും ഇന്നലെ പകൽ ഇടവിട്ട് ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടു. രാവിലെ എട്ടരയോടെ മാറനാട് പൊരീക്കൽ ഭാഗത്ത് ഉണ്ടായ ഭൂചലനത്തിൽ നാലു വീടുകൾ വിണ്ടുകീറി. ഒരു വീടിന്റെ മേൽക്കൂരയുടെ ഭാഗം തകർന്നു വീണു. ഉച്ചയ്ക്ക് ഒന്നരയോടെ സമീപപ്രദേശമായ പുത്തൂർ പവിത്രേശ്വരത്ത് ഭൂചലനത്തിൽ പതിനഞ്ചോളം വീടുകൾക്ക് വിള്ളൽ സംഭവിച്ചു. പത്തോളം കടകളുടെ ഭിത്തി പൊട്ടി. വിളയിൽ ദേവീക്ഷേത്രത്തിനു കേടുപാടുകൾ സംഭവിച്ചു. ഭിത്തിയിൽ പലയിടത്തും വിള്ളലുകൾ രൂപപ്പെട്ടു. പവിത്രേശ്വരം സർവീസ് സഹകരണ ബാങ്കിന്റെ വളം ഡിപ്പോയുടെ ഭിത്തികൾ വിണ്ടുകീറി.

## കൊല്ലം ജില്ലയിൽ ചെറു ഭൂചലനം തുടരുന്നു

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കൊല്ലം : നാലാം ദിവസമായ ഇന്നലെയും ജില്ലയുടെ വിവിധ ഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ ചെറു ഭൂചലനമുണ്ടായി. വീടുകളുടെയും കെട്ടിടങ്ങളുടെയും ഭിത്തികൾക്കു വിള്ളലുകൾ ഉണ്ടായതിനൊപ്പം കിണറുകളിൽ ജലനിരപ്പിൽ വ്യത്യാസവും തിരയിളക്കവുമുണ്ടായി.

പത്തനാപുരം പുന്നലയിൽ ഒരു വീട്ടിലെ കിണറ്റിൽ ജലനിരപ്പ് താഴ്ന്നപ്പോൾ അടുത്ത വീട്ടിലെ കിണറ്റിൽ ജലനിരപ്പ് ഉയർന്നു. കടയ്ക്കലിൽ 15 വീടുകൾക്കും തെന്മല ആനപെട്ട കോങ്കലിൽ അഞ്ചും കുന്നത്തൂരിൽ 15 ഉം കുണ്ടറയിൽ 20ഉം അഞ്ചലിലും പരിസരപ്രദേശങ്ങളിലും 18ഉം കാരുവേലിൽ വാർഡിലും പരിസരത്തും പത്തോളംവീടുകൾക്കുംവിള്ളലുണ്ടായി.

## ഭൂചലനം: വീടുകൾക്കു വിള്ളൽ

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പാങ്ങോട്: ചിതറ പാങ്ങോട് പഞ്ചായത്തുകളിലെ അയിരൂർ, പൂലോട്, പാങ്ങോട്, പുതുശ്ശേരി എന്നിവിടങ്ങളിൽ വെള്ളിയാഴ്ച രാവിലെ ഉണ്ടായ ഭൂചലനത്തിൽ ഇരുപതോളം വീടുകൾക്കു വിള്ളലുണ്ടായി.

കിണറുകളിൽ തിരയിളക്കവും വെള്ളത്തിന് ഉയർച്ചയും ഉണ്ടായി. പൂലോട് ഫാത്തിമാമൻസിൽ നസീമയുടെ വീടിനാണു കൂടുതൽ വിള്ളൽ. നസീമയുടെ വീട്ടിലെ കിണറ്റിലാണു തിരയിളക്കവും വെള്ളത്തിന് ഉയർച്ചയും ഉണ്ടായത്. സൈനുദീൻ, ഷറഫുദീൻ, ബഷീർ, ഷംസുദീൻ, ഷാഹുൽ ഹമീദ്, ഷക്കീലാ ബീവി, സൈനുല്ലാബ്ദീൻ, ബാബു, അഹമ്മദ്കുഞ്ഞ്, ഗോപിനാഥൻ, ഹമീദ്, എം. പി. റബർ ട്രേഡേഴ്സ്, റഷീദ് എന്നിവരുടെ വീടുകൾക്കും വിള്ളൽ ഉണ്ടായി. കൊല്ലം, തിരുവനന്തപുരം അതിർത്തിയിലാണു ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടത്. കൂടുതൽ വീടുകൾക്കു കേടുപാടു പറ്റിയതു കൊല്ലം ജില്ലയിലാണ്.

നെല്ലനാട് പഞ്ചായത്തിലെ മണ്ഡപംകുന്നിൽ ഭൂചലനമുണ്ടായി. വ്യാഴാഴ്ച ഉച്ചക്ക് അനുഭവപ്പെട്ട ഭൂചലനത്തിൽ പതിനഞ്ചോളം വീടുകൾക്കു കേടുപാടു പറ്റി. കിണറുകളിൽ തിരയിളക്കവും വെള്ളത്തിന് ഉയർച്ചയും ഉണ്ടായി. ഇവടം പാറമ്പ് ബേബിയുടെ കിണർ ഇടിഞ്ഞു വീണു. അടിക്കടി ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ഭൂചലനത്തെ തുടർന്നു ജനങ്ങൾ സംഭീതരാണ്.

## വടക്കുകിഴക്കേ ഇന്ത്യയിലും ഭൂചലനം; കച്ചിൽ തുടർചലനം 268

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ന്യൂഡൽഹി: വടക്കുകിഴക്കൻ സംസ്ഥാനങ്ങളിലും ബംഗ്ലാദേശിലും ഇന്നലെ രാവിലെ 6.51ന് ഇടത്തരം ഭൂചലനമുണ്ടായി.

ബംഗ്ലാദേശ് കേന്ദ്രീകരിച്ച ചലനം റിക്ടർ സ്കെയിലിൽ 4.2 രേഖപ്പെടുത്തി. ഏതാനും സെക്കൻഡുകളേ നീണ്ടുള്ളുവെങ്കിലും ഷില്ലോങ് നഗരവാസികൾ ഭയവിഹ്വലരായി പുറത്തേക്കോടി. നാശനഷ്ടങ്ങളില്ല. വെള്ളിയാഴ്ച ബംഗാളിലും സിക്കിമിലും ഭൂട്ടാനിലും ഭൂചലനമുണ്ടായി.

ഭൂകമ്പവിധേയമായ കച്ച് പ്രദേശത്തു ശനിയാഴ്ച രാത്രിയും പിന്നീടു വെളുപ്പിനും ഇന്നലെയും മൂന്നുമുതൽ 4.7 വരെ ശക്തിയുള്ള തുടർചലനങ്ങൾ അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടു.

ഇതോടെ ജനുവരി 26നുണ്ടായ വൻഭൂകമ്പത്തെത്തുടർന്ന് അവിടെ മൊത്തം 268 ചലനങ്ങളായി. അഹമ്മദാബാദിലും മറ്റു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും പരിഭ്രാന്തരായി വീട്ടിൽനിന്നു ചാടിയും മറ്റും 40ൽപരമാളുകൾക്കു പരുക്കേറ്റിരുന്നു.

13/2/01

# കൊല്ലം ജില്ലയിൽ കൂടുതൽ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ഭൂചലനം

**സ്വന്തം ലേഖകൻ**

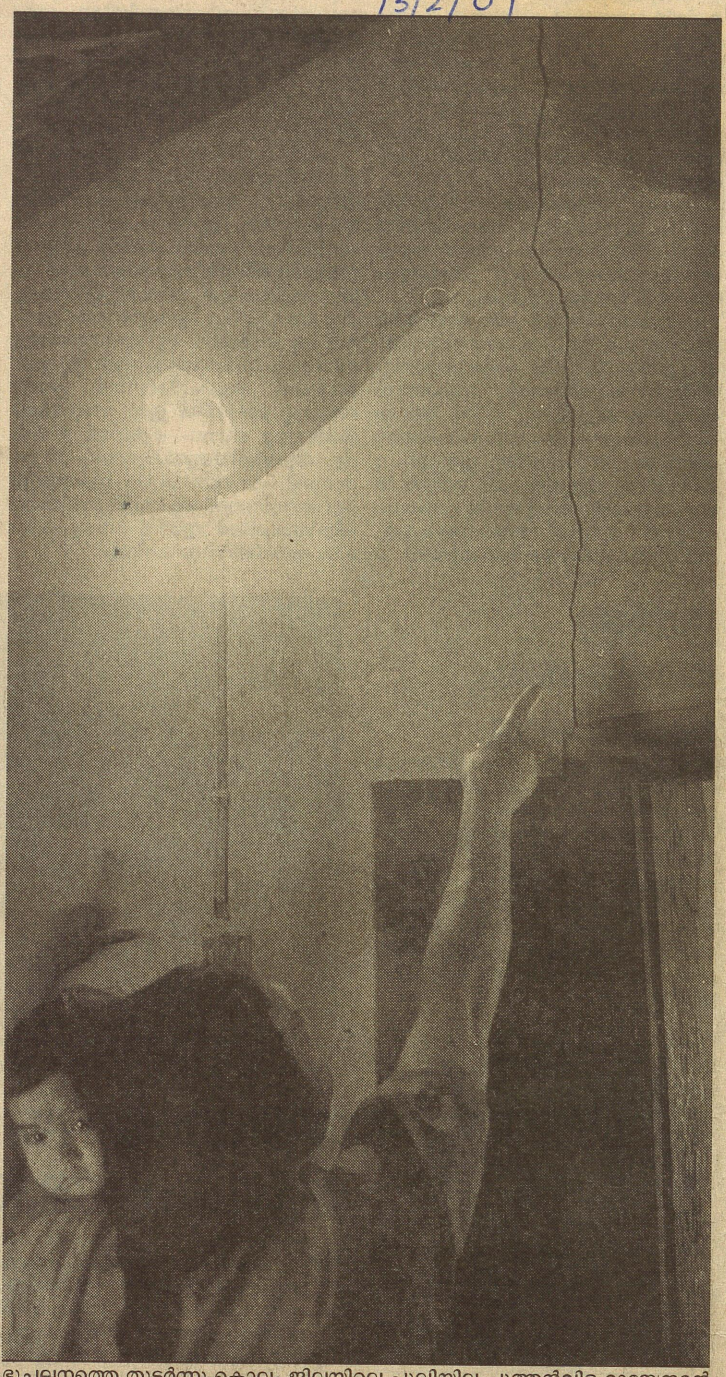
കൊല്ലം: ജില്ലയിൽ അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ചെറു ഭൂചലനങ്ങൾ കൂടുതൽ മേഖലകളിലേക്ക് വ്യാപിക്കുകയാണ്. തുടർച്ചയായ മൂന്നാം ദിവസവും ജനങ്ങളെ പരിഭ്രാന്തരാക്കി കിണറുകളിലെ തിരയിളക്കവും ഭിത്തികളിൽ വിള്ളലും വിവിധ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ വർധിക്കുന്നു.

മൈനാഗപ്പള്ളി എം.എസ്.എച്ച്.എസ്.എസിന്റെ കെട്ടിടത്തിൽ വിള്ളൽ കണ്ടെത്തിയതിനെ തുടർന്ന് ക്ലാസുകൾ നടത്തിയില്ല. നെടുവത്തൂരിലും രണ്ടു സ്കൂളുകളുടെ ഭിത്തികളിൽ പൊട്ടലുണ്ട്. നഗരത്തിന് സമീപം അയത്തിൽ ഭാഗത്ത് അഞ്ചു വീടുകൾക്ക് വിള്ളലുണ്ട്. ചാത്തിനാംകുളത്ത് കിണറുകളിൽ തിരയിളക്കം ദൃശ്യമാണ്. ആശ്രാമത്ത് നാലോളം വീടുകൾക്ക് വിള്ളൽ സംഭവിച്ചു.

ഒരാഴ്ചയായി ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടുവരുന്ന മുളവന, മാറനാട്, കിഴക്കേ കല്ലട, നെടുമ്പന, നല്ലില, പുലിയില, കരീപ്ര തുടങ്ങിയ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ വീണ്ടും നേരിയ ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടു. കൊട്ടാരക്കരയിലെ പുത്തൂർ മേഖലയിൽ ഇന്നലെ വീണ്ടും ഭൂചലനം അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടു. തേവലപ്പുറം ഭാഗത്ത് മുപ്പതോളം വീടുകളിൽ വിള്ളൽ ദൃശ്യമാണ്. ചെപ്രയ്ക്ക് സമീപത്തെ പ്രാലയിൽ നിരവധി വീടുകൾക്ക് വിള്ളലുണ്ട്. വെൺമണ്ണൂർ പ്രദേശത്തും വിള്ളലുകൾ ദൃശ്യമാണ്.

നെടുമ്പന, എഴുകോൺ, അമ്പത്തുംകാല എന്നിവിടങ്ങളിൽ നിരവധി വീടുകൾക്കും കടകൾക്കും വിള്ളലുണ്ട്. ഓയൂർ, വാക്കനാട് പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ പത്തോളം വീടുകൾ വിണ്ടുകീറി. മിക്ക വീടുകളുടെയും രണ്ടാം നിലയിലാണ് വിള്ളൽ. അഞ്ചലിൽ മാവിളയിലും അനുഭവപ്പെട്ട ഭൂചലനത്തിൽ അഞ്ചോളം വീടുകൾക്ക് വിള്ളലുണ്ടായി. ശാസ്താംകോട്ട, മൈനാഗപ്പള്ളി, കാരൂർകടവ്, പെരുവേലിക്കര തുടങ്ങിയ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും നിരവധി വീടുകൾക്ക് വിള്ളലുണ്ടായതായി കണ്ടെത്തി.

പേടിക്കേണ്ട ഭൂചലനങ്ങളല്ല ഇതെന്ന് അധികൃതർ അറിയിച്ചു.



ഭൂചലനത്തെ തുടർന്നു കൊല്ലം ജില്ലയിലെ പുലിയില പുത്തൻവിള രാജേന്ദ്രന്റെ വീടിനുണ്ടായ വിള്ളൽ.

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Searching for Earth's Secrets

# ഭൂമിയുടെ രഹസ്യങ്ങൾ തേടി

## ഇന്ത്യയിലെ പ്രമുഖ ഭൗമശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞരായ രാജേന്ദ്രനും ഭാര്യ കുശലയും

■ രാധാകൃഷ്ണൻ എം ജി



ആധുനിക കാലത്ത് ഇന്ത്യ കണ്ട ഏറ്റവും ഭീകരമായ നാശം വിതച്ച ഗുജറാത്ത് ഭൂകമ്പം ലോകത്തെ ഞെട്ടിച്ച ദിവസങ്ങൾ. ലോകത്തെങ്ങുമുള്ള ഭൗമശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞർ ഈ ഭൂകമ്പത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് പരമാവധി വിവരങ്ങൾ അറിയാൻ വേണ്ടി അന്വേഷണങ്ങളാരംഭിച്ചു. ഈ മേഖലയുടെ ഭൗമശാസ്ത്രപരമായ ചരിത്രത്തെക്കുറിച്ചു നടന്ന പഠനഗവേഷണങ്ങൾ തേടിപ്പോകുകയായിരുന്നു പ്രശസ്തമായ അന്താരാഷ്ട്ര ഭൗമശാസ്ത്രസ്ഥാപനങ്ങളുടെയൊക്കെ പ്രധാന ശ്രമം. പക്ഷേ വലിയൊരു വെല്ലുവിളി ഉയർന്നു. ഇന്ത്യയിൽ ഏറ്റവും വലിയ ഭൗമചലനമേഖലയായ ഹിമാലയൻ പ്രദേശത്തെപ്പറ്റി നടന്ന പഠനഗവേഷണങ്ങൾ ഇന്ത്യക്ക് പുറത്തും അകത്തും ധാരാളം. എന്നാൽ ഗുജറാത്തടുങ്ങുന്ന റാൻ ഓഫ് കച്ച് മേഖലയെ പറ്റി പഠിച്ചവർ കുറവ്. അമേരിക്കയിലെ പ്രശസ്തമായ നെവാഡ സർവകലാശാലയിലെ സീസ്മോളജിക്കൽ ലബോറട്ടറിയുടെ ഡയറക്ടർ ഡോക്ടർ ജോൺ ആൻറേഴ്സൺ *ഇന്ത്യൻ എക്സ്പ്രസ്* പത്രത്തിൻറെ അമേരിക്കയിലെ പ്രതിനിധി ചിദാനന്ദ് രാജഘട്ടയോട് പറഞ്ഞു: "ഹിമാലയൻ മേഖല ഒഴികെയുള്ള മറ്റ് ഇന്ത്യൻ ഭ്രംശന പ്രദേശങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി വിശദമായ പഠനങ്ങൾ ഒന്നും നടന്നിട്ടില്ല." പക്ഷേ അമേരിക്കയിലെ ജിയോളജിക്കൽ സർവേയിലെ ചീഫ് സയൻറിസ്റ്റ് ഡോക്ടർ മേരി ലൂ സൊബാക്ക് ഒരു കാര്യം ഓർത്തു. കച്ച് മേഖലയെപ്പറ്റി പഠനം നടത്തിയ അപൂർവ ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞ ദമ്പതികളെപ്പറ്റി. തന്നോടൊപ്പം ഏതാനും വർഷങ്ങൾ അമേരിക്കയിൽ പ്രവർത്തിച്ച ഈ ദമ്പതികൾ നേരെ പോയത് കച്ച് മേഖലയിലേക്കാണ് എന്ന് അവർ ഓർത്തു. മലയാളികളായ ഡോക്ടർ സി പി രാജേന്ദ്രനും ഭാര്യ ഡോക്ടർ കുശലയും ആണ് ആ ദമ്പതികൾ എന്ന് ഡോക്ടർ സൊബാക്ക് *ഇന്ത്യൻ എക്സ്പ്രസ്* ലേഖകനോട് പറഞ്ഞു.

Qutoe from Mary Lou Zobak

"അതെ. സൗത്ത് കരോലിന സർവകലാശാലയിൽ പോസ്റ്റ്-ഡോക്ടറൽ ഗവേഷണത്തിന് ഞാൻ പഠിച്ച മിസൂറി സ്റ്റേറ്റിലെ ന്യൂ മാഡ്രിസ് മേഖലയുമായി ഭൗമശാസ്ത്രപരമായ സാമ്യം ഉള്ള മേഖലയാണ് കച്ച് എന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഇവിടെ പഠനത്തിനു തെരഞ്ഞെടുത്തത്," ഡോക്ടർ രാജേന്ദ്രൻ പറയുന്നു. കഴിഞ്ഞ നൂറ്റാണ്ടിൽ ഈ മേഖലയിൽ ഒരു വമ്പൻ ഭൂകമ്പമുണ്ടായതും അവിടെ അതേത്തുടർന്ന് "അള്ളാബണ്ട്" എന്ന് പിൽക്കാലത്ത് വിളിച്ച 90 കിലോമീറ്റർ ദൈർഘ്യമുള്ള ഒരു ഭൗമ മതിൽ" തന്നെ ഉയർന്നു വന്നതും രാജേന്ദ്രൻ വെളിപ്പെടുത്തുകയുണ്ടായി.

ഇന്ന് കേരളത്തിൽ പതിവായിക്കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്ന ഭൂചലനങ്ങൾ നടക്കുമ്പോഴൊക്കെ വിശദീകരണങ്ങൾക്കായി എല്ലാവരും ആകാംക്ഷയോടെ ഓടിയെത്തുന്നത് ഈ ശാസ്ത്ര ദമ്പതികളുടെ സമീപമായിരിക്കുന്നു. തിരുവനന്തപുരത്ത് സെൻറർ ഫോർ എർത്ത് സയൻസസിൽ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്ന ഇവർ ഇരുവരും ഇന്ന് ഇന്ത്യയിലേറ്റവും പ്രമുഖ ഭൗമശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞരുടെ നിലയിലേക്ക് ഉയർന്നു കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. കേരളത്തിലും 1994-മുതൽ വടക്കാഞ്ചേരി മേഖലയിൽ തുടർച്ചയായി നടന്ന ഭൂചലനങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി പഠനം നടത്താൻ സംസ്ഥാന സർക്കാർ നിയോഗിച്ചതും ഇവരെയായിരുന്നു. "കേരളത്തിൽ ഡിസംബർ 17-ന് നടന്നത് ഇതുവരെയുള്ളതിലേറ്റവും വലിയ ഭൂചലനം തന്നെയായിരുന്നു. പക്ഷേ ഗുജറാത്തിലെപ്പോലെ വമ്പിച്ച കെടുതി വിതയ്ക്കുന്ന ഭൂകമ്പം നടക്കാനുള്ള സാധ്യത ഇവിടെ ഇല്ലെന്നാണ് ഞങ്ങളുടെ നിഗമനം," ലാത്തൂർ ഭൂകമ്പത്തെ തുടർന്ന് ആ മേഖലയിലും ഹിമാലയൻ പ്രദേശത്തുമൊക്കെ പഠനം നടത്തിയിട്ടുള്ള രാജേന്ദ്രൻ പറയുന്നു.

ഭൗമാന്തർഫലകങ്ങളുടെ അതിരുകളിൽ ഉള്ള ഇടങ്ങളാണ് ഏറ്റവും വലിയ ഭൂകമ്പസാധ്യതയുള്ളത്. ഹിമാലയൻ മേഖല ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഇടത്താണ്. ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതൽ ഭൂചലനങ്ങൾ നടക്കാനുള്ള മേഖലയെന്ന് തരംതിരിക്കപ്പെട്ട അഞ്ചാം സോണിലാണ് ഹിമാലയവും കച്ചും. കേരളം മൂന്നാം സോണിലാണെങ്കിലും ഇവിടെ വലിയൊരു ഭൂകമ്പം ഉണ്ടാകാനിടയില്ലെന്ന് രാജേന്ദ്രനും കുശലയും പറയുന്നു. കേരളം ഭൗമാന്തർഫലകങ്ങളിലെ (faults) പ്രവർത്തന രഹിതമായിക്കഴിഞ്ഞതും ഭൂകമ്പം ഉണ്ടാകുമ്പോൾ കെടുതി വിതയ്ക്കുന്ന കെട്ടിടനിർമ്മാണ മാതൃകയല്ല കേരളത്തിലെന്നതുമൊക്കെയാണ് സംസ്ഥാനത്തിൻറെ രക്ഷയ്ക്ക് നിദാനമത്രേ. അതേസമയം റിക്ടർ സ്കെയിലിൽ 7 വരെ വരാവുന്ന ഭൂചലനസാധ്യത പൂർണമായും ഇവർ തള്ളിക്കളയുന്നില്ല. "ഗുജറാത്തിലോ ലാത്തൂരിലോ ഉണ്ടായ പോലെ വ്യാപകമായ കെടുതികൾ ഇവിടെ ഉണ്ടാകില്ലെന്നതാണ് പ്രധാനം. എങ്കിലും നാം ജാഗ്രത പാലിക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്," ഇവർ പറയുന്നു.

> വ്യാപകമായ കെടുതികൾ കേരളത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടാകില്ലെങ്കിലും നാം ഏറെ ജാഗ്രത പാലിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

കൊച്ചി സർവകലാശാലയിൽ നിന്ന് മറൈൻ ജിയോളജിയിൽ ബിരുദാനന്തരബിരുദവും കേരളത്തിൻറെ തീരപ്രദേശപരിണാമത്തിൽ ഡോക്ടറേറ്റും രാജേന്ദ്രൻ (46) നേടി. കുശലയാകട്ടെ 'ജലസംഭരണികൾ ഭൂചലനത്തിന് വഴിവയ്ക്കുമോ' എന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ അമേരിക്കയിലെ സൗത്ത് കരോലിന സർവകലാശാലയിൽ നിന്നും ഡോക്ടറേറ്റ് നേടി. "ജലസംഭരണികൾ ഭൂചലനത്തിന് വഴിവയ്ക്കാം. പക്ഷേ അവ ഭൗമപരമായ പഠനങ്ങൾക്ക് ശേഷം കുഴപ്പമില്ലാത്ത മേഖലകളിൽ നിർമ്മിക്കണം." ഡോക്ടർ കുശല (47) വിശദീകരിക്കുന്നു. "കേരളത്തിൽ ആധുനികകാലത്ത് നിർമ്മിച്ച ജല വൈദ്യുതി പദ്ധതിസംഭരണികൾ-ഇടുക്കിയടക്കം-ഈ പഠനങ്ങൾക്കു ശേഷം ആണ് നിർമ്മിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. അതുകൊണ്ട് വൻകിട ഭൂകമ്പങ്ങൾ ഇവ സൃഷ്ടിക്കില്ല. ഭൂകമ്പം മൂലം അണക്കെട്ട് പൊട്ടിയ ചരിത്രവുമില്ല" അമേരിക്കൻ ജിയോഫിസിക്കൽ യൂണിയനിൽ അംഗങ്ങളായ ഇവർ പറയുന്നു.

"ഒരു കുറ്റാന്വേഷണ പ്രവർത്തനം പോലെ രസകരമാണ് ഭൗമശാസ്ത്ര ഗവേഷണം," രാജേന്ദ്രൻ പറയുന്നു. എഴുത്തുകാരൻ പവനൻറെ മകനാണ് രാജേന്ദ്രൻ. അമേരിക്കയിൽ നിന്നെത്തിയ ഒരു ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞസംഘത്തെ സഹായിക്കാൻ ഗുജറാത്തിലെ ഭൂകമ്പത്തെ തുടർന്ന് തകർന്നടിഞ്ഞ ഭുജിലാണ് ഈ ഭാര്യാഭർത്താക്കന്മാർ ഇപ്പോൾ. ■



(Regional Language Edition)

The Hindu
June 16, 2001

# Soil liquefaction, a hazard during quakes

By Our Science Correspondent

**BANGALORE, JUNE 15.** Liquefaction of the underlying soil during an earthquake, which was widespread in Gujarat during the recent quake, poses an additional hazard to buildings and other man-made structures, suggests a paper in the latest issue of the journal, *Current Science*.

In the wake of the Bhuj earthquake, the largest and the most destructive to have occurred in independent India, "understanding the nature of liquefaction features and their spatial distribution has important implications for earthquake hazard assessment in similar tectonic and geologic environments", according to the paper written by Dr. Kusala Rajendran and Dr. C.P. Rajendran of the Centre for Earth Science Studies in Thiruvananthapuram along with Dr. Mahesh Thakkar of R.R. Lalan College at Bhuj and Dr. Martitia P. Tuttle of M. Tuttle & Associates of the U.S.

During an earthquake, vulnerable soil layers can liquefy. Much of the ground failure during the Bhuj earthquake was caused by "lateral spreading" when liquefied soil or intact blocks riding on it flowed down a gentle slope. Such lateral spreading often led to failure of engineered structures, the paper says.

The potential for liquefaction during an earthquake depended on a variety of factors such as the slope of the land, depth of the water table, thickness of the top soil and availability of a liquefiable soil layer below, Dr. Rajendran told *The Hindu*. Liquefaction susceptibility maps were an important component of the U.S. Geological Survey's earthquake hazard studies, he pointed out.

According to the paper, a "hidden fault" located north of the Kutch mainland fault appeared to have generated the earthquake. A fault is a fracture left by a past earthquake. Earthquakes are more likely to occur at an active fault. Geologists identify faults by the surface features.

## Sikkim reserves 30 p.c. of Govt. jobs for women

**GANGTOK, JUNE 15.** Sikkim has reserved 30 per cent of State Government jobs for women besides already retaining 33 per cent of seats for women at the Panchayat level in conformity with its principle to ensure their true empowerment, the Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling has said.

"In line with the decision to give more representation to women who are disadvantaged in the society, we effected the reservation of seats for them at the Panchayat level in 1997," Mr. Chamling said.

"It was my Government which created history in the State by electing a woman Speaker in the Assembly, besides making a woman as Minister and a woman as zilla panchayat president," the Chief Minister said while addressing a function on 'Women's Empowerment Year 2001' here on Thursday. — PTI

# Good news is no news

## How can scientists use the media to give their side of the story to the public?

John Emsley

Talk to a chemist about the media and he or she will complain that their science gets a raw deal. And so it is, and has been for 20 years or more. A typical example in the United Kingdom is the *Daily Mail*, whose front page, one day in March 1996, shrieked "CHEMICAL TRAIN SMASH HORROR!" In fact, the chemical in question was carbon dioxide: a tank of it had ruptured and was "spewing gas all over the place", creating "a 3-ft deep mist". That was all — but it merited an alarmist headline. And there's the rub: chemical rubbish gets published while real chemistry goes unreported.

The subeditor who devised the above headline was catching the readers' attention with a carefully baited emotional hook, suggesting pollution and destruction. Pressure groups who seek to capture public notice are skilled in providing such hooks, often to publicize opinions that infuriate scientists with their misinformation and disinformation. Chemists suffer more than most. They are blamed by environmentalists for causing pollution, by alternative-health gurus for causing cancer, and by organic-food producers for contaminating crops. All these groups put out regular press releases, with excellent hooks.

Rational argument alone will not carry a message to the general public; it has to travel on the back of emotion. People will understand that medical or pharmacological advances offer a new treatment for a particular disease, but the information will be quickly forgotten unless the news has a visceral component that registers feelings such as fear for oneself or sympathy for others.

There can be various degrees of emotional involvement in a news item, ranging from the personal, through the societal to the global. A common ploy of the first type is to reveal a threat to a group we are bound to be sympathetic towards, such as babies, breast-feeding mothers or young children. Threats to pregnant women or to male fertility are likely to hook the young, while risks of heart disease and cancer hook those who are older. In the societal category the targets are broader and consist of threats to food, wealth and health, while for global hooks the emphasis is on deprived people in developing countries, or on wildlife, or on the planet as a whole.

> If we want sound science to make the headlines in a positive way, we need to think of how we package it.

There is no reason why stories from scientists should not use the same emotional hooks to get their message across. For example, advances in agrochemical fertilizers and pesticides can be justified as saving wildlife because they allow more human food to be produced on less land, thereby reducing the destruction of natural habitats. A new drug may have economic benefits, for example by reducing the need for a stay in hospital, but it would be better to say that it will transform the health of the afflicted and concentrate on their currently blighted lives.

All this may sound a bit contrived, and you may think that if people don't want to read about sound science, then it's their loss and that's the end of the matter. But the mainstream sciences will never regain the standing they once had if we continue to communicate badly. Nor is it a hopeless task. Even chemistry has had its news successes, the most notable being Viagra, which captured wide media attention in the late 1990s. There, of course, the hook was the most powerful of all: sex.

Yet I am sure that many molecular scientists will remain unconvinced by the need to be pro-active in communicating. It might help them if I draw an analogy between communication and oxidation. No matter how strong the oxidizing agent (the information) it cannot attract electrons (attention) from some atoms or molecules. What may be needed is something that starts the process by tempting an electron into an outer orbital (the hook).

Even so, putting across good news has an added energy barrier to surmount: only bad news is good news as far as the popular press is concerned. Those who demonize the products of science have become skilled in the art of writing press releases full of doom and gloom. "Babies at risk from PVC toys" is a typical example which ran in the media last Christmas, and used a well-tried hook. The publicists of organizations issuing such warnings can generally come up with skilfully contrived phrases that even enter everyday speech, such as 'gender-benders', 'Frankenstein foods', 'cancer on tap' and 'artificial fertilizers' — all highly emotive, and all misleading.

If we want sound science to make the headlines in a positive way, we need to think of how we package it. OK, you've done some brilliant research and now you want your company, university or research institute to issue a press release about it. Of course, you can simply describe what you have done, say who funded the research and what its aim was, add a brief description of yourself and give a contact number, and wait for the journalists to ring you. And wait, and wait, and wait ... what your story lacks is a good hook.

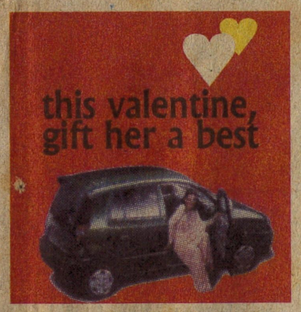



DAVID NEWTON

So what are the good hooks? The top three are sex, money and health. Link your story to one of those and you're away. The newspaper subeditors who devise headlines will have no difficulty in catching the reader's attention with SEX, CASH and CURE. Other hooks can be almost as effective. Have your research findings explained the unexplained? Or are they contrary to expectations? These make intriguing hooks with headline words such as CLUE and SHOCK. A local connection, a research first, possible job creation and even national pride are also useful areas to emphasize.

Failing any of these, you should try to suggest that your work will provoke controversy. In the United Kingdom, headline writers are wedded to the hook words of confrontation, such as FURY, FEAR, STORM, ROW and LOOMS. For example, to create a news item about this article, I would find someone who disagrees with something I have said, and then head a press release about it with the phrase: NEWS SPIN ROW LOOMS. Shock horror — it can be done. ■

*John Emsley is science writer in residence in the Department of Chemistry, Cambridge University, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1EW, UK, and author of* Nature's Building Blocks: An A–Z Guide to the Elements *(Oxford University Press).*





Fashion is more powerful than any tyrant.
— *Latin proverb*

ESTABLISHED 1838

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## NEWS DIGEST

### Constitution review panel gets extension

NEW DELHI: The government on Tuesday extended the term of Constitution Review Commission by eight months upto October 31. The term of the commission was to expire on February 21. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet here, parliamentary affairs minister Pramod Mahajan told reporters. The 10-member commission headed by Justice M N Venkatachalaiah was constituted to examine how the Constitution had in the past responded to the changing needs of governance.

### New Manipur CM

IMPHAL: Chief Minister W Nipamacha Singh on Tuesday resigned paving the way for a new coalition led by Samata Party leader Radhabinode Kojam, who broke ranks with the Opposition and joined Singh's party MSCP staking claim to form a new government. ➤ See Page 7

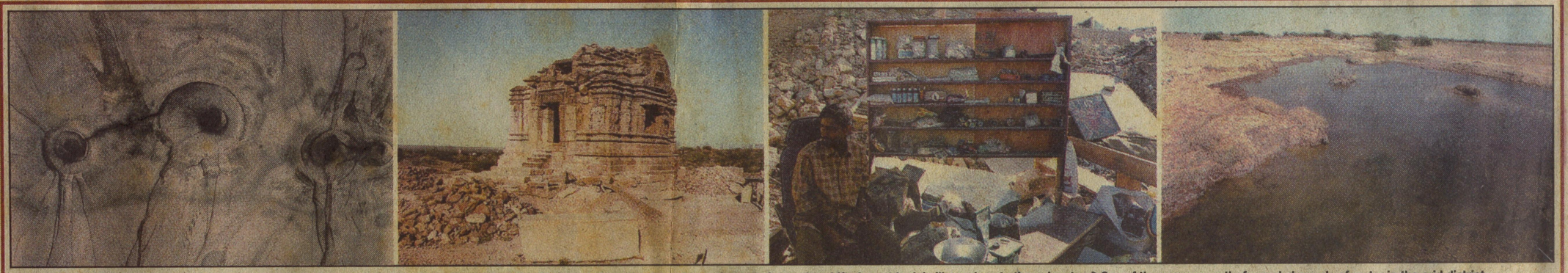
### 7 LeT men killed

JAMMU: Seven militants of Lashker-e-Toiba outfit and an Army jawan were killed in separate encounters in Rajouri and Poonch districts on Tuesday, a defence spokesman said here.

E-mail your friends around the world and request them to donate for earthquake relief online to The Times of India Relief Fund at **www.timesofindia.com**





◗ Moonscape? Such craters have appeared extensively in the Great Rann. ◗ The 11th century Sun Temple of Kottay is now a heap of stones. ◗ A make-shift shop at Ludai village close to the epicentre. ◗ One of the many recently-formed channels of water in the arid district. Pix: Pappu Soneji

## *'Moonwalk' in search of an elusive river*

*Hundreds of sq kms of swampy and sandy areas in the 35,000-odd sq kms of the Great Rann of Kutch have started resembling the lunar surface after the January 26 quake.*

*Thousands of craters formed during the quake spewed tonnes of volcanic ash and other minerals along with water which sprang to a few feet first and then higher, before drying down. Along with the craters, mounds and the white salt layers, the marks of the dried water in the Rann has changed the topography of these dry plains.*

***The Times of India** team was the first to manoeuvre the treacherous terrain to reach the interiors of the Rann and bring back an eye-witness account of the extensive post-quake changes in the area, which is believed to be holding many more surprises like a 100-km long river spotted through satellite images.*

**By Shyam Parekh**

THE GREAT RANN OF KUTCH: After lots of anxiety at the 'out of bounds' India Bridge after Khavada, where an Army jawan took one precious hour of daylight to confirm our credentials, we were looking at the endless expanses of the Rann, wondering whether it would really have anything significant in store for us or not.

A few metres further, after completing formalities at the BSF posts, we reached the Dharamshala post to be warmly greeted by the jawans.

This little island offered a breathtaking view of the Rann. However, the euphoria of being at one of the geographically most unique areas did not last long: our driver just would not dare to take his vehicle inside! After an hour's persuasion while sipping hot tea prepared with lots of love by the jawans and assurance of back-up by the BSF drivers, our driver reluctantly agreed to negotiate the impossible looking terrain.

We started and a jawan accompanied us to the last border post, which is closer to the Allah Bund, formed during the 1819 quake.

"Don't move away from the tracks and the poles, or else you will land up in Pakistan. Worst will be if you lose direction inside," warned an experienced BSF driver.

It has been reported that there are a few minor changes in the Bund after the earthquake. However, much of details are not available.

A jawan said a team of geologists had got stuck while going to Allah Bund and, therefore, we should not attempt to go there.

Nothing but the barren expanses till the horizons and at times firm ground, sand, swamps, wild grasses like 'lolar', 'luno' and prosopis juliflora greeted us for a long time. For a while we almost gave hope as the driver shook his head when he saw sand pits and the deep 'Harami Nala'.

After getting stuck on a few occasions in the sand, and driving at a snail's pace for kilometres, the photographer became restless as we saw the first tell-tale marks of nature's fury, the craters, on the pristine ground.

The endangered houbara bustards and eagles were nowhere to be seen. The mirages seen all around despite the cool afternoon breeze made everything appear taller than it was, confusing one's judgement.

However, the sight of the Tri-colour at the Vigo Kot Post pepped us up. After a welcome cup of tea and drive past the international border we set for the Biar Beyt and the Bawarla Beyt, almost feeling that we were let down by the Rann.

Immediately after the Biar Beyt suddenly the Rann appeared unfamiliar, the landscape was different from the rest. There were thousands of craters and their clusters, too, ranging from a few millimetres to a few feet.

Many a track was covered with dried thick crust of salt and a fine mix of ash and minerals. While no pools of water were seen, the signs were clear. There was a long flow of water, which must have dried up recently; it was wet below the crust.

"On that day I felt as if I was standing on a boat. It felt as if there was water down under and the land was floating. We could not stand erect. Suddenly, we saw water gushing all around. First, it was about two feet and suddenly it shot up. It continued till late evening, flooding the parched area. The force reduced after the evening and it stopped gushing out in a few days," recalled a BSF jawan who was amongst the few who witnessed nature's fury from a distance of just a few feet.

This phenomenon could be observed continuously for nearly 30 to 40 kms till Bawarla Beyt. However, the river remained elusive as it was still hours of travel away and we had to drop its pursuit as it was getting dark.

## CM moves on rehab front

### *Announces Rs 4,000-cr packages for quake-hit*

**By Our Special Correspondent**

GANDHINAGAR: The Keshubhai government on Tuesday announced four different packages worth Rs 4,000 crore, meant mainly for rehabilitating more than three lakh families rendered homeless by the quake in the state.

Chief Minister Keshubhai Patel will be placing the packages before the Centre on Friday for the final nod while demanding enhanced aid.

Passed after the longest-ever Cabinet meeting in three years of the BJP rule, lasting five hours, none of the packages cover the worst-hit Bhuj, Bhachau, Anjar and Rapar.

"A separate package for the four towns will be prepared within the next few days after taking a decision on whether to rebuild the them fully or partially at a new location. The decision will be taken after consulting the local people," Keshubhai said.

The first package takes care of 229 villages where about 70 per cent of the houses have collapsed. At the rate of nearly Rs 3 crore per village, it has earmarked Rs 30 lakh for acquiring an average of 12 hectares of land for a rural population of 1,000, Rs 70 lakh for infrastructure, Rs 180 lakh for constructing 200 pucca, quake and cyclone-resistant houses, and Rs 20 lakh for other emergency facilities. "The total money to be spent will be about Rs 700 crore," the CM said.

Pointing out that so far 138 offers had come from industrial houses and voluntary agencies to "adopt" and bear 50 per cent of the proposed expenditure per village, Keshubhai said the landless and marginal farmers would be offered plots admeasuring up to 150 sq mtr with 30 sq mtr built-up area.

Small farmers will get 250 sq mtr of plot and 40 sq mtr built-up area and big farmers having four HA and above land 400 sqm plot and 50 sq mtr of built-up area. Only landless and marginal farmers would be given all free, while others would be offered a loan for 10 per cent of the amount.

The second package is for villages with less than 70 per cent destruction and whose residents do not wish to be shifted to a new location. Here, the poor whose houses have been destroyed would get Rs 35,000. Others owning between 25-45 sq mtr land, but whose houses have been totally destroyed will receive between Rs 50,000 to Rs 90,000.

A separate package of between Rs 3,000 to Rs 30,000 will be given to those whose houses have been partially destroyed and requires 10 to 50 per cent repairs. Help would be sought from NGOs and industrial houses. The third package is for those villages which are situated far away from the epicentre but where individual houses have been destroyed. Here the aid ranges from Rs 7,000 for totally-destroyed huts to Rs 40,000 for fully destroyed semi-pucca houses. Houses suffering 50 per cent destruction would get Rs 20,000 and those having minor cracks Rs 2,000 per house or hut.

## Have movers & shakers

## Cities to get 'special' attentio

# 'Give them their livelihoods, not easy relief'

**By A Staff Reporter**

AHMEDABAD: Amidst the chaos of relief material not reaching the needy in Bhuj, one organisation is saying it is time to connect relief with making people stand on their own feet again, making them self-reliant.

The Kala Raksha Trust, a non-profit organisation started in 1993, has launched a project where families of 500 artisans in seven villages of Kutch will be given an initial grant of Rs 10,000 as seed money and to confirm a commitment to work together. Each artisan participating will receive a matching grant of 50 per cent (or 100 per cent, depending on funding raised) for every rupee she earns embroidering.

The goal of the project will be a sale at a gallery abroad, ideally in the USA, or perhaps in UK, depending on support. The villages covered are Sumrasar Sheikh, Sumrasar Jatwali, Tundavondh, Udo, Dunedo, Kukavsar and Panavali. The organisation is part of an umbrella of NGOs called Abhiyan, involved in distributing relief.

"It is time to stop giving easy hand-outs in the name of relief," says Judy Frater, the guiding force behind the organisation. "These people have lost their homes and livelihoods. Instead of making them dependent on easy relief, help should be given in a way that they value it. We believe the artisans should be made part of the rehabilitation process." Kala Raksha is hoping to collect nearly Rs 1 crore from donations for the project.

Frater, an anthropologist from the USA, has dedicated the last 10 years of her life to preserving and documenting a handicraft sitting on the edge of extinction - the unique embroidery of the Kutch region a semi-desert shrub land on the north-west border with Pakistan.

In the process, she has made a [illegible] in [illegible] lives on Kala Raksha, to give them work and supplement their meagre family incomes.

During the earthquake of January 26 she was in Bhuj and has remained there amidst the rubble and confusion helping out the artisans she loves so much. "Miraculously, there have been few deaths in the villages we work in. Even our centre, made of traditional bhungas, has not been affected."

Frater feels artisans should feel that they have been able to contribute toward their own rehabilitation. "This will help dispel the high level of anxiety that is prevailing since the earthquake. Once they are involved in an activity, they will stop running out at the slightest tremor."

Kala Raksha is also hoping they can make use of this situation to raise the value of hand work among artisans. "Even today, hand craft is valued less than manual labour. If we can find a market for these crafts, especially outside, and artisans see that they can earn more with these skills, eventually, more artisans will revert back to it. At least that is what we are hoping."

To ensure that that project is set into motion, it has given itself a March 1 deadline.

Kala Raksha is managed and run by the people of the village with Judy as project co-ordinator. The embroidery and patchwork that the women of the villages create, are turned into items of utility, like blankets, quilts, Indian shirts known as kurtas and jackets and sold at exhibitions that the organisation holds across India.

The handicrafts of the region which provide for the livelihood of a large chunk of people in the villages has been badly affected with supply chains having badly snapped and the artisans having lost their homes.

A number of fashion designers from Ahmedabad depend on ethnic designs too have been trying to [illegible] elp the artisans rebuild their [illegible] d lives.

Kalpit Bhachech



Army officers demolish Poojal Apartment in Maninagar on Tuesday after it was declared unsafe by the authorities.

# Quake-resistant model homes put on display

**By A Staff Reporter**

AHMEDABAD: Six models of earthquake-resistant homes have been put on display at the technology park at Sanskar Kendra, Paldi. A brainwave of Union minister for urban development Jagmohan, the technology park was set up to provide different technological options for construction of temporary houses for quake-affected people.

"Of the models put up here, the one that is approved by the government will be used to reconstruct homes in te devastated areas," regional chief of Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) C P Bhaskar Menon said.

HUDCO iself has set up two models — one of a house and the other of a school — in the technology park. Their model uses a combination of cement and wood, known as cement-bonded particle board, which has [illegible]k-absorbing qualities. The structure has been built using two 10 milimetre thick boards leaving space in between. Similar boards have been used for roofs.

"If we put thermocol in the hollow space between the boards, it will act as an insulator," says chief design and development officer R K Safaya, adding there is no point providing houses to people, which allows radiation.

HUDCO's model of a house consists of a multipurpose room, a kitchen and a toilet, which can be erected in just 15 hours and it costs Rs 200 per sq foot. This temporary housing arrangement can sustain up to a maximum of ten years and was jointly designed by Nagarjuna Cement Limited, Hyderabad and HUDCO.

The Indian Institute of Architecture has come up with a model, which uses bamboo sticks, bamboo mats and tarcoline for the roof. This model can be erected in 12 hours and costs about Rs 5,000 or slightly more. Their second model uses hollow concrete blocks which can be manufactured by machines at the site itself.

The blocks are made of cement and asbestos and the structure uses corrugated sheets for roofing.

The Gujarat Agriculture University set up their structure using cloth and tarcoline. The fifth model, put up by TATA steel uses hollow poles to support the structure, made up of hollow steel sectors with a canvas roof. Using corrugated galvanised iron sheets, the Centre of Public Works Department put up a structure, which has an insulating capacity and costs roughly Rs 240 per sq feet, depending upon the insulation power.

"Whichever model gets approved, its manufacturers will get the contract to build the temporary housing in the quake-affected area," informed Menon.

## Indiatimes Chat

Excerpts from a live chat with designer, **SHARBARI DUTTA**

### "My most memorable experience is when M F Hussain bought one of my pieces"



***Q:*** *What is your USP? Is it right that your designs are exclusively for men? — Sudakhina*
**A:** Designing for men is my USP. My items are truly exclusive. I can never duplicate a design. This is also one of my biggest USP.
***Q:*** *Why are you inclined towards the* Punjabi kurta*? Why not trousers or jeans? — Rakhi*
**A:** Everybody doesn't create everything!! It's true that my *kurtas* are most popular, but I've been working on other designs too. I do a lot of work in the eastern wear section. I also design shirts but they are not a part of my regular collection. I deliver them against orders.
***Q:*** *What is the most memorable moment in your life as a fashion designer? — Ajanta*
**A:** Way back when nobody was familiar with my label, M F Hussain bought one of my pieces and had appreciated it. I'd say that was a memorable experience.
***Q:*** *Can you tell me how can one become a jewellery designer? — Adi_m*
**A:** The first quality that you need in order to be a designer is originality! You have to be creative to be a designer. And you definitely have to stop cloning other designs!
***Q:*** *What is 'in' among traditional mens wear? — Misty*
**A:** For Indian men, the entire Indian fashion is 'in', be it *kurta*, shawl, *dhotis* or *sherwani*. Men's and women's fashion trends are flowing in opposite currents. It is considered hep for women to be dressed in western wear, for men it's the exact opposite. Eastern wear is now being considered as most fashionable, specially for those tired of dressing in jeans and trousers.

(For more excerpts, log on to http://chat.indiatimes.com)

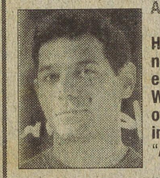
## TODAY Indiatimes Chat



**The air of innocent sensuality about her has captivated millions. She has been in news as an upcoming model and has been highly appreciated in her first release *Godmother*. She has just landed herself a lead role in a film to be directed by noted Bengali film maker Rituparna Sen. Meet this petite lass from Kolkata, the beautiful grandaughter of Suchitra Sen and daughter of Moon Moon Sen.** Chat with model and actress, Raima Sen, LIVE, 12 noon.



**According to him, he was born to the gypsies and sold off to his present parents for a portion of rice. He was chosen out of 30 contestants and proved a winner globally when he became Mr Grasim International 2000. His sensitive side, which remains slightly buried amidst the glamourous, is that he is working with Micky Mehta on a no-smoking, no-drinking campaign and a fitness project for street kids. Get to know about what took him to be where he is today.** Chat with Aryan Vaid, LIVE, 1 pm (IST)



**He is a designer, who knows just how to stay young eternally. His collections are considered trendsetters and are eagerly awaited by both - glitterati and the fashion press. What sets this brilliant couturier apart, is his unique sense of innovation.** Chat with fashion designer, Jatin Kochchar in "Ask the expert-Career"session, LIVE, 3 pm (IST)

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## CITYSCAN

### HSC science exam schedule

AHMEDABAD: The Gujarat Secondary Education Board on Monday announced schedule for XII (science) board exams to be held from April 3, 2001.

April 3: Science; April 4: Gujarati/Hindi/Marathi/Urdu/Sindhi/English (all higher level); April 5: Holiday (Muharram); April 6: Holiday (Mahavir Jayanti); April 7: Geography; April 8: Holiday (Sunday); April 9: Gujarati/Hindi/English (all lower level); April 10: Chemistry; April 11: Sanskrit (all streams); April 12: Mathematics-I; April 13: Holiday (Good Friday); April 14: Holiday (Dr Ambedkar's Birthday); April 15: Holiday (Sunday); and April 16: Mathematics-II.

### Quake relief

VADODARA: World Vision India, an international humanitarian agency, is actively involved in providing relief assistance to the earthquake survivors in the state. They have distributed materials to 72 villages of Bhachau and Anjar area. Additionally, 420 families have been provided relief assistance in Ahmedabad.

### GSFC donation

GSFC has send medical teams with ambulances and medicines along with food packets and other essential items to the quake-affected areas. Even the members of GSFC have decided to contribute from their salaries for relief work.

### Day-long workshop

Indian Institute of Materials Management is holding a one-day workshop on dangerous goods regulations on Wednesday at Hotel Yuvraj at 9.30 am.

MSU administration flayed

M S University Retired Teachers' Association (MSURTA) has flayed the MSU administration over the emergence of extra constitutional power centres in the varsity.

"These power centres are influencing the decision-making process of the MSU. The academic community is distressed the erosion of academic ...omy that is vital to the ...

# Cattle perish in Kutch as relief planning overlooks them

By Mihir Mistry

AHMEDABAD: *Two to three head of cattle die everyday in each of the 40 villages of Balasari in Rapar. Since the earthquake about 2,000 have perished , says Snehal Bhatt of Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).*

*The Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) sent a team of veterinarians who helped distribute milk to the quake affected people. The National Dairy Development Board too is chipping in, but the target is humans and not cattle.*

*The famous 'Mavo' from Banni and 'Gulabpak' from Khavda, till the other day a tourists "must buy", has become a delicacy even for the Kutchis. They have been replaced by pasteurised butter and milk powder from Anand.*

Official statistics reveal that over 17,000 head of cattle perished in the earthquake but hundreds more are perishing each day with quake-relief operations not providing for adequate cattle fodder. If the current trend continues, cattle toll could soon overtake the human death-toll.

Kutch, the land of pastoral nomads and Asia's biggest grassland, has today become one big cattle trap. A trap where hundreds of milch cattle succumb to acute starvation, resort to eating poisonous weeds and seeds.

Says Snehal Bhatt of SPCA, in the worst-hit Khavda or Rapar areas, rescue and relief of humans has employed all the machinery at the disposal of the administration leaving little for the cattle. "Hundreds of cattle are dying each day in Khavda, Rapar, parts of Anjar, Bhachau, Nani and Moti Banni", she estimates.

Bhatt and her team of volunteers have camped in Kutch since the quake and they have surveyed all the affected areas and found that villages in the Banni grassland areas are also reporting casualties. "If that is happening in Banni, cattle in no other place stands any chance", she said.

However, there is no official count on the number of cattle deaths. Assistant general manager of GCMMF (co-operative services), Dr S T Desai admitted that there has been no survey to find out casualty of animals.

"Our team, including veterinarians, went to Kutch for relief operations but we don't know how many are dying".

L Mansingh, the chief co-ordinator of relief operations, however, refuted the information coming from various voluntary agencies like the SPCA, Gujarat Jan Jagran Sangh and the Manav Kalyan Trust who are working in the dairy and animal protection sectors. "There is enough fodder for animals", Mansingh said.

Dr Desai also admitted that their team went to ensure supply of milk and milk products to the quake-affected people. But, he said, the casualty would not be high considering that *maldharis* had started to migrate from Kutch for a long time. The government has planned to send train loads of fodder, but before the operation could begin the quake paralysed the plan, he said.

The NDDB has sent Rs 50 lakh worth of milk for the affected people. Ironically this has also affected the *maldharis* as people are relying on free milk supplies from the mainland and not purchasing the same from the nomads. "Without money, they cannot even buy fodder which is available for a premium in places like Anjar", Bhatt added.

Says Mehr Nath Chopra, a volunteer working in Adhoi, "not a blade of grass has reached this village since December and the *maldharis* don't know what to do. With the cattle are already weaken by the fortnight-long starvation, they are unable to migrate to mainland Gujarat".

Says Lallubhai Desai of Gujarat Jan Jagran Sangh, "Things are very bad in the Khadir and Bela strips of Rapar taluka and Banni areas which were not affected as much by the quake. The urban-centric relief operations, therefore did not take into account the plight of the *maldharis* living in these areas", he added.

And this is bad news for Kutchis whose rehabilitation depended more on promotion of dairy farming, which is not organised today, than on anything else, says Vinay Mahajan of Sandarbh, a voluntary agency working for rehabilitation of the displaced.

"Our information is that more than 11,000 head of cattle have died but this is still to be surveyed", Mahajan says this region has a high cattle to human ratio of 5:4. If the double whammy of the drought and the quake are not handled well, the indigenous dairy farming sector will take a severe beating.

# MSU help sought in designing quake-resistant school bldgs

By Sajid Shaikh

VADODARA: State government has sought M S University's faculty of technology and engineering's (FTE) expertise to built quake-resistant schools.

Higher and technical education secretary Gauri Kumar sent a fax message to FTE on Tuesday asking it to prepare a plan for 2000 quake-proof school buildings that are to be built in quake-ravaged areas of Kutch and Saurashtra.

Other agencies like the Vadodara Urban Development Authority and couple of local schools have also approached the FTE for its suggestions on quake resistant structures.

"We have agreed to do the job. I have forwarded the intimation to architecture, and applied mechanics and structural engineering departments. These departments will work out the details and prepare a plan proposal for the government", FTE dean S G Shah told The Times of India.

The government has asked FTE to prepare plan for schools that will house 15 to 20 rooms. Sources said that most of these schools are to be set up in Kutch and other regions of North Gujarat.

Significantly most of the schools ...ged and ...

tion schools have been severely damaged. The damage is equal or more in other districts too. It can be recalled that in Ahmedabad Swaminarayan Vidyalaya in Isanpur had collapsed killing 60 children. "The science of earthquake-resistant buildings is the subject of architecture, applied mechanics and structural engineering. Professors and experts from these departments will deliberate and draft a ...

discussions were at a preliminary stage. "We have yet to decide on this. There are other organisations too that are involved. I think it will take 2-3 days more to get a clear picture", Matai said. Applied mechanics and structural engineering head S C Patodi was not available to comment on the issue.

Professor Shah however was optimistic about the proposal. He said that the FTE is also providing its engineering expertise to rectify school and other buildings in Vadodara. "The VUDA has also asked us to provide inputs on how to make buildings quake resistant", Professor Shah said.

VUDA chairman K K Shah said that though there was no significant damage to buildings here it was seeking expertise on the subject. "Like other urban development agencies we are also contemplating to adopt the science of earthquake resistant structures. We are deliberating whether we could adapt to this and incorporate in the General Development Control Regulations (GDCR). We have approached the FTE and are waiting for its inputs", Shah said. He added that FTE's expertise might influence changes in GDCR.

"May be all new buildings planned under VUDA will be built in a manner that they can with- ... At pres ...

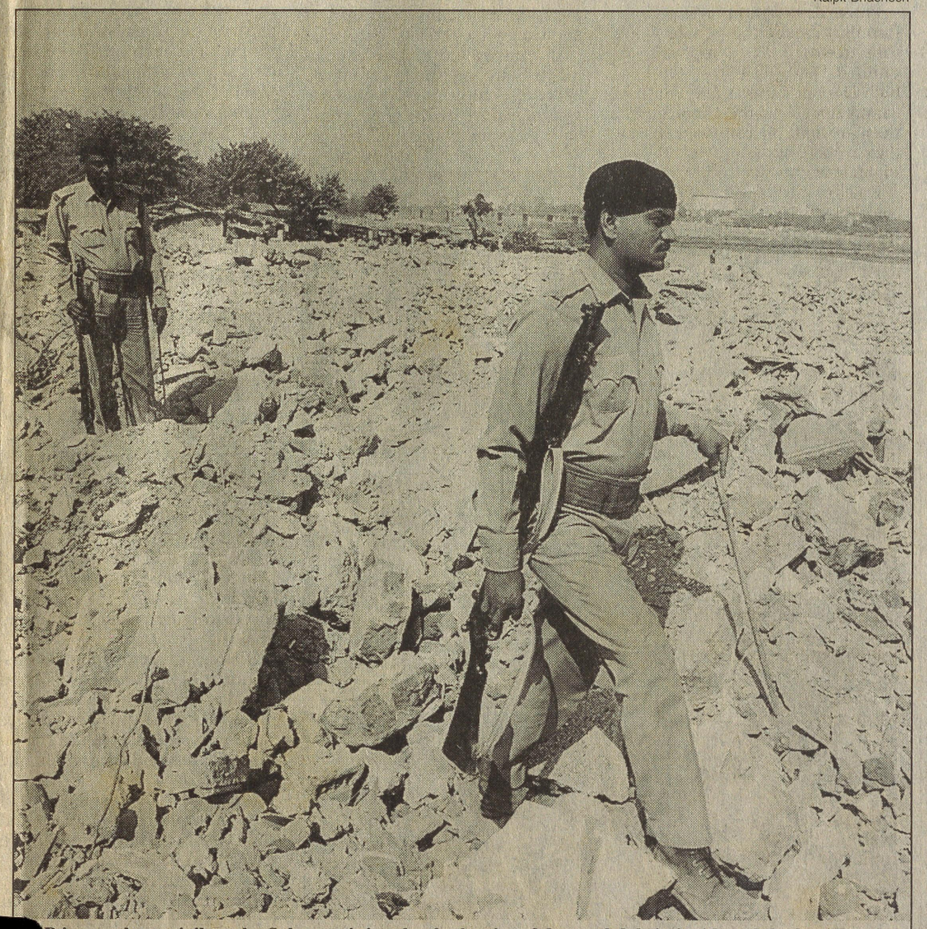
### Architects' demand

By A Staff Reporter

**VADODARA: Many city-based architects demanded an independent Central Construction Regulatory Authority (CCRA) that can form norms for registration and licensing of real estate developers, contractors, architects and engineers. There is also a growing sentiment among architect community of overhauling the General Development Control Regulations.**

**"The recommendations of CCRA should be binding on the state government and all statutory agencies concerned. The CCRA can act as a watch dog", said city-based leading architect Palamadai Rajagopalan.**

Kalpit Bhachech



**...n jawans keep vigil on the Sabarmati river bank, the site of dumped debris, in Ahmedabad on Tuesday**

# Corporation-run Panchalnagar school still closed

By A Staff Reporter

VADODARA: It's still vacation time for the 1,700 students of the Vadodara Municipal Corporation-run school in Panchalnagar. While students in other VMC schools are busy preparing for internal exams starting from February 19, classes are yet to begin for students in this four-room kitchen house which was transformed into a school 25 years ago. Post-quake, the school wears a deserted look, as the school building has been declared unsafe for seating students.

While rest of the VMC schools started functioning last week, students in this school (shala number 15 and 27) were sent home and asked to return after a week. "We received an order from the VMC schools administrative officer asking us not to start classes, till an alternate arrangement was made. This decision was taken as the building had developed several cracks and was found to be unsafe to seat students," says a teacher in the school.

According to the students of Panchalnagar school, the school has been in a bad state since long. "We have been hearing since last two years that soon we will be shifting to the new building, but yet nothing has happened. We hope they re-open the schools soon or otherwise it would be really difficult for us to take exams next week," says Arvind Pratap, a student in this school.

Even VMC schools administrative officer Jitendra Joshi agrees that the student's studies has been affected. "More than 15 days is wasted and now we are worried about the completion of course. The internal exams will start from next week and the teachers have yet to complete the course. Further, we have not been able to find an alternate place for teaching the students," says Joshi.

According to sources, as the VMC engineers has made certain adjustments to support the building. "It's a rented school and according to a legal clause the authorities can't repair the school. If they do so, it would be illegal. So on the advice of the structural engineers, they have made some adjustments and have asked the school administration to take classes in the building," says a source in the VMC. But since the school authorities have not got any reports from the VMC structural engineers, ensuring the safety of these buildings they are not willing to re-open the school.

## IN BRIEF

### BMC to adopt village in Kutch district

BHAVNAGAR: Bhavnagar Mayor Mahipatsinh Gohil on Tuesday announced the setting up of a relief fund for adoption of a village in the quake-hit Kutch district.

Bhavnagar Municipal Corporation employees and primary teachers of municipal schools have contributed Rs six lakh to the fund.

Two leading diamond traders in the city have contributed Rs one lakh.

Gohil told *The Times of India* that many other organisations had contributed generously and the fund had swollen to Rs 15 lakh in a week's time.

Meanwhile, former mayor Vibhavari Dave, who is running a senior citizen counselling centre here, added the centre would adopt 51 senior citizens affected by the earthquake.

### Ban on blasting lifted

RAJKOT: The police commissioner has on Monday lifted the ban imposed on blasting following the January 26 earthquake.

The ban was imposed in order not to scare people when blasts took place. One such blast on January 31 had brought the people of Rajkot on the streets as they felt another quake had struck.

### Held under PASA

The city police has detained Shantilal Chunilal Modi, a dismissed railway employee, under PASA for his involvement in liquor trade. He has been sent to Baroda jail. Earlier, he was also booked on charges of corruption.

### Breach repaired

The breach in water pipeline in the city's Gurukul zone has been repaired, municipal sources said on Tuesday. The breach had resulted in breakdown of the supply system and water was being distributed every third day.

### Tie-up

Ace Software Exports have tied up with CADCORP of UK for geographical information system (GIS) which merges graphics based on maps with related database.

### Liquor seized

JUNAGADH: About 80 liquor bottles and 55 beer bottles were seized from two fisher-women Kharwa Deviben Premji and Ramaben Arjan at Sutrapada.

# Kutch police to crack whip on errant builders

**The Times of India News Service**

RAJKOT: Kutch DSP Vivek Shrivastav has said that the police would collect samples of crumbled houses and send them for testing to ascertain the material used in the construction was of inferior quality.

He also assured of a thorough probe into the complaints lodged by people regarding the quality of construction in their flats.

Shrivastav said there had been numerous complaints of nexus of builders, officials and politicians in construction business and the police would investigate this.

He also said that death due to unsound or illegal construction was a crime under Section 304 of the IPC.

But, keeping in mind the widespread devastation in Kutch, any application by the people would be treated as complaint, he added.

All such complaints would be investigated and the samples of the cement and concrete would be collected from the site and sent to the Public Works Department and even to the Forensic Science Laboratory, he said.

"If it is proved that the quality of work is inferior, action would be taken and wherever necessary the police would be the complainant," he said.

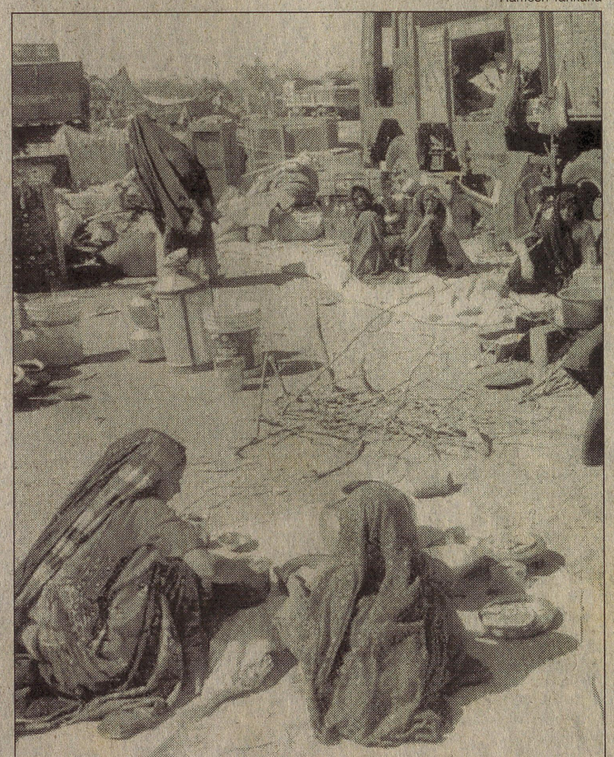
Meanwhile, 65 traders of the Bhid Bazar in Bhuj have lodged a police complaint that goods worth Rs 1.36 crore were stolen from the Bazar, which has been razed by the quake.

They have said in the complaint that goods including foodgrains, dal and masalas have been stolen from the damaged shops.

The police, however, claim that goods worth more than Rs one core could not be taken away by any smaller means of transport and would need trucks.

But since almost all tucks coming to Bhuj and Kutch were those of relief material, it would be ascertained where the goods could have gone, the police said.

Ramesh Tankaria



**The quake-affected people of Ratnal village in Kutch have made a truck their temporary home**

# New construction banned in Rajkot

**The Times of India News Service**

RAJKOT: The Rajkot Municipal Corporation authorities have imposed a ban on any new construction in Rajkot with immediate effect.

Municipal commissioner J P Gupta said on Tuesday that no building plan would be cleared till further orders.

The step has been taken keeping in mind the new construction guidelines which are to be introduced in view of the killer quake of January 26.

As a result of the ban, about 250 applications for construction of high-rise buildings and even single-storeyed houses have been put in the cold storage for the time being, the commissioner said adding only repairing work would be allowed in the city.

Sources in the town planning department told *The Times of India* that there was a big question mark on the illegal structures that would have been otherwise regularised after taking the impact fee. Most of the illegal structures were of poor construction quality.

In Rajkot alone, 270 applications for regularisation of illegal structures had been submitted.

# Majority of quake-hit in Rajkot yet to receive compensation

**The Times of India News Service**

RAJKOT: There have been complaints galore in entire Rajkot district that the next of kin of those killed in the quake have so far not received the aid promised by the state government.

As man as 422 people had died in Rajkot district and more than half of the people are yet to receive a penny from the government authorities.

The state government had promised immediate help of Rs one lakh to the next of kin of those killed in the January 26 quake.

Sources in the district administration told *The Times of India* on Tuesday that so far just 143 people had got the aid. The sources were not sure when the remaining people would be given the aid.

Meanwhile, residents of Sorathiya plot, Navyugpara and Navi Gachiwad have, in a letter to collector A K Rakesh, said that a large number of houses in these three areas have collapsed or were badly damaged in [illegible] quake.

# These samurai shed sword for salve

*After spending a day with the Japanese Red Cross team at Sukhpar, Bhuj — a quartet of doctors (a neurosurgeon, neurophysician, cardiac physician and a plastic surgeon) and an equal complement of nurses, operating out of two huge tents — **Ashok Raaj** came back hugely impressed. What follows is an account from the epicentre with a difference, a positive spin. Of reaching out across geographical divides, unbridled enthusiasm and serving with a smile, not to say the least, with tonnes of patience thrown in.*

"We've been here since January end, though we actually started work only on February 1. It took the Norwegian erection team a couple of days to put up tents and get the equipment in place," says press liaison Gemini, an expat Gujarati herself.

There are doctors and there are doctors. What sets these Japanese apart is that they go about their work with a smile on their faces and display energy levels that would put an athlete on steroids to shame.

With just a passable knowledge of English, the team depends on translators to bridge the communication divide between patient and doctor.

Jyoti Chandwani, a resident of Bhuj who performs exactly such a function along with her two sons, says, "Every morning at the stroke of 10, people begin lining up outside the tents. Most can't even speak Hindi. I listen to them list their ailments and convey the same to the doctors in as simple a manner as possible.

"Once the doctor is through with his diagnosis, for which he may require more details, I explain what needs to be done to the patient. The medicines and dosage in the prescription are dispensed by my sons rightaway with further explanations on how to take them."

The patients come in nursing every possible injury in the book — fractures and sprains to name just a few. Some come in requiring amputation, others with post-amputation septicaemia.

There are a few who have apparently escaped the quake unscathed. They can't put a finger on what ails them, save for feeling ill at ease, like the girl who came in and began bawling and just wouldn't stop. Her mother Bhartiben, chaperoning her, explained she'd been the last to come out of their home as it collapsed on January 26.

Nursing mothers and those with kids in tow are also part of the queue, diarrhoea being the most common ailment.

While quake-related injuries are the most common, there are some who come in the hope of finding a remedy at the hands of 'videshi' doctors to ailments that have defied cure for long or they've neglected to get treated. Many old people walk in looking for a panacea for a troublesome knee or a bad back.

Then there are those who're there just for kicks, to probably satisfy their curiosity about what the Japanese doctors are up to and what their brightly-coloured, state-of-the-art tents look like on the inside. They have no ailments as such and invent one upon entry.

A case in point being a woman who walked in and sought a cure for her cracked heels. Yabamo, a neurosurgeon no less, without batting an eyelid, tut-tutted in sympathy. "I have a similar problem. It's due to lack of hydration...if you wait a minute, I'll find you some vaseline."

He then proceeded to scan the medicine chest, and five minutes later, covered in sweat from head to foot, folded his hands in apology. "I'm extremely sorry...I can't seem to remember where I kept it..."

With all who walk into the tent, the doctors are a model of bedside behaviour. Serious or frivolous makes no difference to them; once in the tent all patients get their undivided attention.

Sagehashi, the plastic surgeon who just can't seem to stay put, juggles intricate skin grafting operations with diagnosing dysentery — all in a day's work for him!

Thrilled at the way a graft performed by him has healed, he almost exults: "Good, very good".

He then whips out the digital camera slung on his hip and takes a photograph which he sends back home through his notebook PC. Talk about an over-reaction!

Neurophysician Takamura, whose prescriptions are all accompanied with a quick sketch of the affected area, actually gets down to some carpentry, squatting on the floor to adjust the height of crutches for a man with a fractured foot.

Its not all serious doctor-patient stuff. Sumi, one of the nurses, is liberal with her pidgin Gujarati. "Beso" (sit), she tells patients on entry, surprising them and getting them to smile through their pain. If a follow-up check is required, she adds: "Kale aujo" (come tomorrow) or "Paramdivas Aujo" (come the day after).

To top off all the pluses, the Japanese team is humility personified. Patients they can't help, for reasons of lack of time or skill, are told in no uncertain terms to go elsewhere. No giving them placebos. But all who come seeking succour do go back with a measure of satisfaction. No doubts on that front.

# *Quake-proof colonies for state mooted*

**The Times of India News Service**

RAJKOT: The Union rural development minister M Venkaiah Naidu said here on Tuesday that the Central government was contemplating constructing quake-proof housing colonies in rural Gujarat.



Talking to reporters here before his tour of Una and Kodinar, Naidu said he would take up the issue in his meeting with Chief Minister Keshubhai Patel, after which a final decision would be taken.

When asked if the quake could be declared a national disaster, the Central minister said the issue would be brought [illegible] being carried out was as elaborate as in case of a national disaster.

The BJP leader said the worst-affected places were rural areas where houses had been razed to the ground, water supply had been disrupted and roads breached.

He informed that the rural development ministry had drawn up an extensive plan to rehabilitate the affected people. And, one of the options was to provide these people with quake-proof houses.

All houses which had collapsed would be reconstructed. All water supply lines which had been damaged would be repaired and supply started immediately.

As far as rural [illegible]

Assuring the people of Gujarat that no project would be shelved for want of funds, the Union minister said some of the grants allocated to other states would be diverted to Gujarat for rebuilding the quake-affected areas.

When asked to comment on the failure of the Keshubhai Patel ministry in mobilising relief machinery in time, Naidu said, "No government is powerful as God. So far as the state government was concerned, it had tackled the situation in the best way it could and there was truth in views that there was no co-[illegible] between vario[illegible]



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## DIGEST

### World Bank aid sought

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 28.** The World Bank today said it was talking to the Government to see where it might be of assistance and to extend its support to quake-hit Gujarat.

The Finance Minister, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, said India would be approaching the World Bank for $ 1 billion as assistance for reconstruction in Gujarat.

The World Bank President, Mr. James D. Wolfensohn, said: "...We will continue to stand by the Government and people of India as it seeks to clear the rubble of this devastating event". — UNI

### Hindujas' PR man 'gay'

By Hasan Suroor

**LONDON, JAN 28.** The British tabloids today came out with the most salacious story on the Hindujas' affair. In a disclosure with profound implications, *The Sun*, *The Daily Mail* and the *London Evening Standard* revealed that a new PR consultant hired by the Hindujas some 10 days ago was not only gay but had been a one-time "lover" of the disgraced Mr. Peter Mandelson's current Brazilian companion, Mr. Reinaldo de Silva.

— *Details on Page 14*

### 'Netaji died of injuries'

**LONDON, JAN 28.** Controversy over the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has finally "ended" with a Japanese doctor who attended on him certifying that the veteran freedom fighter and chief of the Indian National Army died on August 18, 1945, a few hours after getting injured in a plane crash.

The first-hand account of how Bose was brought in a serious condition to a military hospital in Taihoku (Formosa, Japan), how he breathed his last and where his ashes were kept were narrated by Dr. Taneyoshi Yoshimi.

— Details on Page 14

### Emergency landing

**KOLKATA, JAN. 28.** An Indian Airlines Airbus bound for Bangkok made an emergency landing at the Netaji Subash Chandra Bose International Airport after taking off from there today, airport sources said.

The pilot suspected that a snag had developed in one of its engines after taking off from the airport at around 10.40 a.m., the sources said.

### All set for royal bath

**KUMBH NAGAR, JAN. 28.** Tight security arrangements have been made for tomorrow's third and last "Shahi Snan" (royal bath) at the Mahakumbh here on the occasion of Basant Panchami.

An estimated 10 million pilgrims were likely to take the holy dip in Sangam tomorrow, the Kumbh Mela District Magistrate, Mr. Jivesh Nandan, said here. — PTI


**NATIONAL**

- BJP for probe into attack on Muslims — *Page 10*

**BUSINESS**

- Stock prices buoyant on FII buying — *Page 18*
- Financial Scene: Changing face of capital issues regulation — *Page 19*
- e-governance initiatives in A.P. — *Page 20*

**SPORT**

- Agassi claims Australian Open — *Page 23*

**KERALA**

- 14 Malayalis killed in quake
- Steps to cushion drug price rise mooted — *Page 4*

**METROPLUS**

— *4 Pages*


## 20,000 OPERATIONS CONDUCTED, AID STARTS POURING IN

# Gujarat jolted again, toll 20,000

By Manas Dasgupta

**AHMEDABAD, JAN. 28.** The people of Gujarat, yet to recover from Friday's tragedy, got another jolt when a quake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale, struck early this morning. The Chief Minister, Mr. Keshubhai Patel, claimed that there was no further loss of life or property but warned that another quake could strike in the next 48 hours.

The warning created panic among the people, who had already spent the last two days outdoors braving the cold. Meanwhile, there was no change in the toll in the Friday's quake, officially put at 10,902 yesterday including a body count of 6,072. However, Mr. Patel said the possibility of the toll going up to 20,000 or more could not be ruled out. (A PTI report quoting official sources said the toll had already touched 20,000.)

All schools and colleges have been closed till February 3 to avoid the congregation of a large number of students at one place.

Mr. Patel quoted Dr. Srivastava of the Indian Meteorological Department as saying that in view of this morning's quake, another shock with the same or even more magnitude could occur.

Urging the residents to stay away from even slightly damaged buildings, he said it was the only precautionary measure the Government could take at this stage.

He, however, denied reports in some cable television networks that the epicentre of Friday's quake, about 20 km northeast of Bhuj, had shifted towards Ahmedabad. The epicentre of this morning's quake was about 15 km further eastward bringing Ahmedabad, the State's major city, much closer to it.

At 6.32 a.m., panic-stricken people rushed out of their houses as the earth began shaking. Of the over 220 aftershocks felt since Friday, today's was the most severe. Since midnight last night, nine tremors, whose intensity ranged from 3.1 to 4.6 on the Richter scale, were felt in the region. The last occurred at 9.12 a.m.

Mr. Patel said rescue teams today began exploring the hitherto inaccessible walled city areas of Bhuj, where about 75,000 people were feared trapped, but it would be some time before the rubble was cleared and actual rescue began. A communication link with Bhuj was established through two satellite phone lines today.

### Affected towns 'adopted'

Similar efforts were being made in other affected towns of Kutch district with each one them being "adopted" by a major private sector company. The Reliance group, which adopted parts of Bhuj and Anjar towns, rushed 6,000 of its employees with necessary equipment and relief materials there, while Bhachau was taken up by Jayprakash Associates, and Rapar by Larsen and Toubro.

A team of experts from the National Building Board from Delhi would soon arrive here to examine damaged buildings, particularly in Ahmedabad, and determine whether they were safe for re-occupation.

With rescue and relief materials pouring in from all over the world, the Government has constituted an External Aid Co-ordination Cell under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister's financial adviser, Mr. S. K. Shelat, to coordinate foreign aids. Already seven flights carrying assistance from the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, Switzerland, Turkey, Germany, France, Israel, Muscat and other countries have reached the city.

### Over 20,000 operations

Mr. Patel said 110 specialist doctors and 450 general practitioners besides 780 paramedical staff with 250 medical vehicles and 200 ambulance vans had reached Bhuj to begin the operations. Despite the lack of operation theatres and adequate staff, over 20,000 seriously wounded had been operated upon in the makeshift camps in Bhuj while another 21,000 were shifted to Patan, Radhanpur, Palanpur, Deesa, Mehsana, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Baroda and even Pune through some 150 State transport buses.

Mr. Patel said the Government had demanded an immediate ad hoc assistance of at least Rs. 500 crores from the Centre, adding the Reserve Bank had agreed to clear any Government bill as overdraft in the next one month. There was no special advantage in declaring the quake a national calamity but considering the magnitude, "it is as good as a national calamity". The Centre had promised to deal with it accordingly, he said.

The Chief Minister claimed that the Sardar Sarovar dam on the Narmada river was "intact" and there was "absolutely no damage" to it.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, accompanied by the Railway Minister, Ms. Mamata Banerjee, is scheduled to arrive in Bhuj tomorrow for an aerial survey.

### PM, Advani briefed

PTI reports:

Mr. Patel was also in constant touch with Mr. Vajpayee and the Union Home Minister, Mr. L. K. Advani, on the rescue and relief operationsundertaken in Bhuj, Ahmedabad and other parts of the State.

The Chief Minister, personally overseeing and monitoring the relief operations, contacted his counterparts in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab and Tamil Nadu and sought equipment to remove debris and blankets, medicines and foodstuffs.

**More reports on Pages 13, 14, 15**

## Beating Retreat cancelled

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 28. The Central Government today decided to cancel the Beating Retreat ceremony scheduled for tomorrow in view of the massive earthquake tragedy in Gujarat. The ceremony marks the end of the Republic Day celebrations.**

**The President, Mr. K. R. Narayanan, has cancelled his three-day visit to Jaipur beginning January 30. Mr. Narayanan, who was scheduled to leave for the Rajasthan capital immediately after paying floral tributes at the Gandhi Samadhi at Rajghat here the same day, cancelled the trip in the wake of the quake in Gujarat, a Rashtrapati Bhavan spokesman said today.**

## A baby sobs amid debris

**BHUJ, JAN. 28. As rescuers pounded away at the twisted rubble of buildings looking for dead or survivors, it turned out to be the game of Russian Roulette — who survives and who dies.**

**After several hours of frantic but careful digging through the rubble, the eyes of tense Indian Air Force personnel and policemen suddenly lit up. They heard the faint sobbing of a baby amidst mounds of debris of a building in this town.**

**Hours later, rescuers pulled out Naina Badrasen and her one-and half-year-old daughter Namrata. While Namrata, her pulse weak after spending 50 hours without food and water, was rushed to a nearby hospital, her mother died before rescue workers could reach her.**

**All over quake-ravaged Gujarat, it takes quite a few hours from the moment of hearing the trapped survivors' cry for help to locating their movement and finally pulling them out alive. Each and every block of rubble has to be dug carefully so as not to unsettle the already precariously-placed debris and every second is an intense battle between life and death. — PTI**



**UNEARTHING THE TRAUMA: A schoolgirl lies trapped under the rubble of a collapsed school building in Ahmedabad on Sunday. The hopes and dreams of thousands of others, like hers, have been buried by Friday's earthquake.** — AP (More pictures on Pages 14, 15)

# A blank cheque for Gujarat Govt.

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 28.** The Central Government today stepped relief and rescue operations in earthquake-hit Gujarat and asked the Reserve Bank of India to be very liberal with the State in providing advances for relief work. It has also advised people to keep away from damaged structures, particularly in view of the aftershocks that are likely for some more days.

People should stay in the open or take shelter in tents being rushed to the affected areas, for the existing building have weakened and the aftershocks may continue for one or two more days, according to Mr. S.K. Srivastava, Additional Director-General of the Indian Meteorological Department. Briefing reporters after the meeting of the Crisis Management Group (CMG), he asserted that there was no scientifically proven method which could precisely predict an earthquake anywhere in the world.

The Agriculture Secretary, Mr. Bhaskar Barua, said there would be no cap on the ways and means advances by the RBI to the State Government for providing relief. "A blank cheque has been given to the Gujarat Government. We have informed the RBI that there should not be any cap on Gujarat for relief work," he said after the CMG meeting which reviewed the relief measures.

Mr. Barua said the Government has not asked any country for financial assistance. "That is never done."

To meet the medical needs, three ships have been provided by the Navy. Two of them would be stationed at Kandla to take on board the injured for treatment, while the third one would ferry the injured to Mumbai, where two private hospitals — Jaslok and Hindujas — have offered to provide free treatment. The IAF was also transporting the injured.

## Help us help them: PM

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 28. The Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, today appealed to his compatriots to contribute generously to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund to overcome the shortage of funds for the victims of earthquake in Gujarat.**

**Mr. Vajpayee said *the Centre* would be releasing funds from the existing schemes but feared that these would not be sufficient in the wake of the "worst earthquake independent India has seen".**

**"You can help to meet the shortage by contributing money, no matter how small the amount, to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund," he said. "I am confident that this time too, you shall come forward to lend a helping hand. Together we can overcome even this adversity."**

**Meanwhile, the entire staff of the Prime Minister's Office has donated one day's salary to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.**

KERALA / OFFICIAL TEAM FOR GUJARAT

# Uncertainty over fate of Malayalis

By S. Anil Radhakrishnan

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN. 28.** Even as a team of Government officials left for Gujarat today to extend relief for the Keralites affected by Friday's devastating earthquake, a question mark hangs over the fate of hundreds of Malayalis residing in the quake-hit areas as communication links remained severed for the third day today.

The 24-hour control room set up at the Secretariat here from Saturday, was deluged with phone calls from all over the State enquiring about the details of Malayalis residing in various parts of Gujarat. Requests for Government intervention to bring the bodies of the deceased in Gujarat are also pouring into the control room.

Till this evening, 763 addresses of Malayalis residing in Gujarat have been registered in the control room manned round-the-clock by five staff. A majority of the telephone calls are from Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam districts.

The enquiries are mainly about the Malayalis residing in the worst-affected border districts of Kutch, Bhuj, Ahmedabad and Jai Nagar. A lot of enquiries are about the well-being of Navy and Army personnel posted there.

The relatives of Mr. C. R. Nair and his family (residing at Kutch), natives of Korani near Attingal, are anxiously waiting for a call from them. The relatives of Mr. Shaji, Mr. Shaiju, Mr. Unnidas and Mr. Satheesh working in tyre retreading companies in Chottila, Rajkot and Surendra Nagar, heaved a sigh of relief when they called up Shaji's house at Chemboor, Attingal, around 7 p.m.

Mr. C. K. Vishawanathan, additional secretary, Revenue and in-charge of the control room, said: "We are yet to establish any contact as the communication lines have snapped. Even the fax is not working. We have no details about the casualties. The enquiries are mostly regarding the extent of destruction in various localities. Even information about the departure of the official team had to be routed via Delhi to Gujarat. We are also making use of HAM operators."

HAM operators in the State have established contact through the 40 metre band with their counterparts who had reached the affected areas from various States. Mr. P. Surendran, secretary of the Kollam Amateur Radio League told *The Hindu* over the telephone that HAMs were able to contact almost all areas except Khandala and Jamnagar. "We are in constant touch with them and passing on messages received since yesterday," he said.

The official team led by the Principal Secretary, Social Welfare, Dr. Satyanarayana Dash, which left for Gujarat from the State capital this evening by flight via Mumbai, comprised the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Venugopal K. Nair, and the State protocol officer, Mr. K. Unnikrishnan.

A medical team deputed by the Government and headed by the deputy director of Health Services, Dr. Radhakrishnan, and comprising Dr. Krishnakumar and Dr. Mahesh Kumar of the Government General Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram, and male nurses, Mr. T. Somasekharan Nair and Mr. T. B. Vijayakumar, has also left for the quake-hit State with medicines.

The details of the enquiries registered with the control-room till noon today have been sent with the team.

The official team is expected to reach Ahmedabad tonight or tomorrow morning from Mumbai.

The legislators of the State Assembly will donate a month's salary to the relief fund set up to provide assistance for those affected by the quake. The Assembly has condoled the deaths in the quake.

Meanwhile, the senior Congress leader, Mr. K. Karunakaran, MP, urged Malayalis and Congressmen to render immediate assistance to those affected by the quake in Gujarat.

## Thikkodiyan passes away

By Our Staff Reporter

**KOZHIKODE, JAN. 28.** Eminent Malayalam playwright and chairman of the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi, Thikkodiyan, died at his residence here this morning. He was 85 and is survived by a daughter.

Thikkodiyan had been admitted to a private hospital here following a cardiac problem in mid-December. He was discharged from the hospital last week and was taking rest at his house, 'Pushpasree', in Kottooli near here.

Starting his career as a school teacher, P. Kunhanandan Nair, whose pen-name was Thikkodiyan, had joined the All India Radio as an artist and retired as a producer in 1974. He had written many plays, novels and verses.

The most famous among his works is the autobiography, 'Arangu Kanatha Nadan', which fetched him the Kendra Sahithya Akademi, the Kerala Sahithya Akademi and the Odakuzhal awards.

**See also Page 4**


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TRANSWORLD

# Drumming up excitement



THEY LOOK all set to drum up some excitement on the jazz scene in the city. Nine young music lovers who came together to set up a rock band, Green Heart, five years ago, have now cut their first album, "Hook or Crook".

The album is a mixed one as the youngsters' tastes vary. Appropriately, there are nine songs in all, out of which the title song takes a poke at Mammon-worshippers.

Goes the lyric, "If you have the money, you are the king/ Everyone's at your service/ They are on their knees/ Feels like the world's fake/ Money you wanna make/ Get into the race, get rich/ By hook or by crook..."

The song, "Give us back...." is a plea against the overloading of today's children and there is another as a tribute to the tourist paradise that is God's Own Country.

Penned mostly by Sunitha, eight of the songs have been sung by Girish and one by Balu.

Shibu is on the lead guitar, Balu on the bass, Jiji on the keyboard and Simon on the drum.

The album has been directed by V. R. Suresh Kumar and produced by Anil.

Green Heart has a contract with the Poovar Island Resort at present. The band, by the way, has nothing to do with nature.

Green happens to be the colour of envy, and perhaps of money too!.

*By M. Harish Govind*

# Window to the past

SOME COLOUR and black-and-white photographs, aesthetically arranged in the foyer of the Tagore Centenary Hall in Vazhuthacaud, try to recreate 50 years of the Indian Republic.

The luminaries who shaped the course of modern India and the landmarks of its history are all there in celluloid. The exhibition is being organised by the Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry under the title, "50 years of the Indian Republic".

The show traces the history of the Constitution in eight segments, their titles being, "The birth of a great Republic", "The Constitution of India", "Framing of the sovereign Constitution", "People's own governance", "The Supreme Court of India", "Democracy at the grassroots", "The head of the State & Parliament" and "The head of the executive".

Foreign domination, the scientific strides over the past 50 years, the progress achieved in the fields of agriculture, education, defence, foreign policy and sports as well as by the Railway, are brought alive in stills.

There has not been much of a public response, partly due to the obscurity of the venue. The only visitors are those who come for the programmes at the Theatre and decide to take a peep at the photographs out of curiosity.

Another reason is that it is old wine in new bottle. The cash-strapped DAVP has displayed the same set of photographs it put up at Gandhi Bhavan in March last year under the title, "India marches ahead".

# Vintage beauties



Photo: S. Gopakumar.

# A fancy for fishes

JUDGING FROM the crowd response to the makeshift aquarium at the venue of Flower Show 2001, quick-silver Goldfishes, leisurely Angels and black-beauty Mollies have flipped the hearts of pet-lovers in the city.

They may be beauties, but some are dangerous. For instance, Fighters are "anti-social" and attack other fish in the tank with a vengeance. Oscars, Giant Gouramis and Discuses also have a similar unsavoury reputation.

Of course, like most other pets, fish need care. Two-thirds of the water in the tank has to be replaced every week. The fish should not be overfed and once they lay eggs, the water should not be changed as this would endanger the eggs.

Breeders say fish are to be fed only for six days. They can remain without food for about a week, but the water has to be clean always. Bits of earthworm, blood-worms and egg can supplement fish-food bought off the shelf.

Goldfishes cost anywhere between Rs. 10 and Rs. 1,000 a pair, Angels Rs. 10 to Rs. 500, Mollies Rs. 5 to Rs. 250 and Fighters Rs. 30 to Rs. 1,500, while a pair for Discus fish costs a whopping Rs. 5,000. However, fish-breeders tell you that a simple home "aquarium" can be set with an investment of about Rs. 1,000.

The Matsyafed technical consultant, Mr. M. C. Saju, lays stress on selecting healthy fish



and choosing glass tanks of the right dimensions for setting up a home aquarium. Three or four water-plants such as Vallisneria or Amazon should be planted in a small cup inside the tank.

Four pairs of medium-sized fish can be grown in a tank approximately three feet high, 1.25 ft wide and 1.5 ft long. An aerator should also be placed in the chlorine-free water. The fish should be released into the water only slowly so that they can adjust to the temperature change.

Several buyers are cheated by pet-shop owners, says Saju. For one thing, fish may be weak due to transportation. Though male and female fish cannot be identified till the fish attains a medium size, the shop-owners keep this fact away from the buyer.

Only in the case of some varieties can the gender be made out on the basis of colour difference.

"If the fish moves fast when you tap on the sides of a glass tank or when you place your hand above the water in a cement tank, you can assume that they are healthy.

Dipping a fish in dilute potassium permanganate for a minute before releasing it in the tank or putting a pinch of salt in the tank can help check infection," says Saju.

Most of the fish are brought from breeding centres at Chennai and Madurai, says Saju. The Inland Fishermen Development and Welfare Co-operative Society (IFDWCS) has started breeding centres in nine districts in the State for the wholesale supply of ornamental fishes in Kerala.

*By Hari Sundar G.*

## A GUIDE TO TELEVISION AND RADIO



'Saaya' at 22-00 hrs. on **SONY TV**



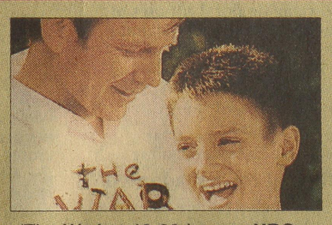
'Saans' at 20-30 hrs. on **STAR PLUS**



'Nurugukal' at 19-30 hrs. on **SURYA TV**



'Durga' at 18-30 hrs. on **ASIANET**



'The War' at 19-00 hrs. on **HBO**

### PRIMETIME MOVIES

**AXN**
17-30 In The Blue Ground
22-00 The Stranger

**STAR MOVIES**
19-30 The Truth About Juliet
22-00 The Object Of My Affection

**HBO**
21-30 The Pelican Brief

**TCM**
21-00 The Cabin In The Cotton
22-40 Daughter Courageous

**CVO**
18-30 Begunaah
22-00 Humse Badkar Kaun

**ZEE CINEMA**
18-00 Ghar Ghar Ki Kahani
22-00 Arth

**ZEE MGM**
18-30 Final Alliance
21-00 Married To The Mob
23-00 For Better Or For Worse

**VIJAY TV**
23-30 Raja Desinghu

**RAJ TV**
22-40 Deiveega Uravu

**UDAYA TV**
22-30 Gedda Maga

## DOORDARSHAN

**DD-1**
05-25 Vandemataram
06-45 Mahakumbh 2001: Report
07-15 Mahakumbh 2001: Live
08-00, 14-10 & 20-00 The News
09-02 World View India
11-02 TV Brand Show
11-30 & 02-00 Ardhangini
12-02 & 00-02 Shehnai
12-25 Kiran
12-30 Kasamm
12-55 Jeevan Rekha
13-02 & 01-00 Agni
13-28 Dopahar Aankhon Dekhi
13-33 & 01-30 Shohrat
14-20 Aap Ki Saheli
14-30 Mayajaal
15-02 Aparaajita
15-30 Farz
16-02 Virasat
16-30 Folk Dance Festival
18-30 Krishi Darshan
19-15 Serial
19-30 Kinara Dhoor Nahi
21-00 Jaanam Samjha Karo
21-30 Jai Ganga Maiya
22-00 Suraag
22-55 Mahakumbh 2001
23-02 Mirror Of The World
23-30 National Programme Of Dance
02-30 Mehfil
03-00 Geet Gata Chal
04-00 Swaranjali
04-30 Sugam Sangeet

**DD-2**
06-30 Anhad
06-45 Bhakti Sagar
07-15 Byomkesh Bakshi
07-55, 17-55 & 18-55 Cinema Cinema
08-00 Week In Business
08-30 Imaging Science
09-00 Celebrate With Music: In Celebration Of A Nation
12-00 Discovery Channel Programme
13-00 TV Brand
13-30 Dhamal No. 1
14-00 Bandhan
14-25 Nyay
15-00 United Teleshopping
15-30 Teletubbies
16-00 Circuis
16-55 Meri Marzi
18-00 Nobel Prize Series
18-30 Platform For The Young
18-35 Aankhon Dekhi
19-00 Bol Baby Bol
19-30 Meri Mrs. Chanchla
20-00 Dushman
20-30 Piyaa Binaa
21-00 Superstars
22-00 Khamosh Aawazein
22-30 Geeton Bhari Kahani
23-00 The Millennium Journey
23-30 Nobel Prize Series
00-30 Telefilm
02-00 Hemal Nagraj
02-30 Western Music
03-00 Parda Uthao Parda Girao
03-30 Light Music
04-00 Hindi Film

## BBC WORLD

**World News Every One Hour**
05-00 Asia Business Report
05-15 Asia Today
06-15 Correspondent
07-00 Asia Today
07-15 Asia Business Report
08-00 Asia Today
08-15 Correspondent
09-00 Asia Today
09-15 Asia Business Report
10-00 Earth Report
11-00 Antonio Carluccio's Italian Feast
12-00 India Business Report
13-00 Hardtalk
14-00 Correspondent
15-00 Hardtalk
16-00 Top Gear
17-00 Correspondent
18-00 Face To Face
18-45 World Business Report
19-00 Antonio Carluccio's Italian Feast
20-00 Hardtalk
21-00 Asia Today
22-00 Mastermind India
22-45 World Business Report
23-00 Click Online
00-05 World Business Report
00-15 World Sport
01-00 Hardtalk
02-00 Holiday Special
03-00 World Business Report
04-00 Asia Business Report
04-15 World Business Report

## CNN INTERNATIONAL

**World News Every One Hour**
05-00 Asia Business Morning
05-30 This Morning
05-45 Asia Business Morning
06-00 Asian Edition
06-15 Asia Business Morning
06-30 This Morning
07-00 Business Unusual
07-30 CNN & Time
09-00 World Sport
10-00 This Week In The NBA
11-00 Best Of Q & A
12-00 World Sport
14-00 Best Of Insight
14-30 CNN & Time
16-00 Biz Asia
16-30 Aisa Tonight
17-00 World Sport
17-45 Asian Edition
18-00 Biz Asia
19-00 Hotspots
19-30 Asia Tonight
20-00 World Sport
21-00 Dot.COM
22-00 Biz Asia
23-00 Q & A South Asia
00-30 India Dotcom
01-00 World Business Today
02-00 Q & A
02-30 World News Europe
03-00 Newsroom

## STAR NEWS

**English/Hindi News On The Hour**
06-00 Ravivaar
07-00 Breakfast News
18-30 Bazaar
19-00 Saat Baje
19-30 Sawaal Aapke
20-00 Tonight At 8
20-30 Nationwide
21-30 Business News
21-50 Sports Tonight
22-00 Newshour
23-00 News At 11

## ZEE NEWS

**News On The Half Hour**
06-00 Religious Sermons
07-30 Morning Zee
09-35 Cyber Zee
10-30 Special Correspondent
11-30 Inside Story
12-30 Premier Show
13-00 Beyond Headlines
20-00 NRI Eyes
21-00 News At 9
22-00 Encounter
23-00 Premier Show
01-00 Special Correspondent
02-00 Religious Sermons
03-30 Business News

**Doordarshan News And Current Affairs**
05-00, 22-30 & 23-02 Sports Time
05-30 Mind, Body And Soul
06-00 & 12-30 Earth Matters
06-30 Darasal
07-15 7 To 9 Show
08-00, 14-10 & 21-00 The News
09-02 & 19-15 Khabrein Khabardar
09-30 Darpan
10-02 Two's Company
11-00 Question Hour
11-02 Pakistan Reporter
12-02 Tainaat
13-02 Ghoomta Aaina
13-30 Rozana
14-20 Satya
14-50 Urdu Khabarein
15-02 World View India
15-30 Desh Duniya
16-30 The News And Discussion
17-30 Cool Talk Cafe
18-02 Face The Nation
18-30 India Online
20-00 Nishan
22-00 Talk Back
23-30 Follow Up

## AXN ACTION TV

05-00 Total Recall
06-00 Movie: Gunshy
08-00 Walker's World
09-00 Pensacola
10-00 Amazon
11-00 Total Recall
12-00 Walker's World
13-00 Pensacola
14-00 Movie: The Silencers
16-00 The Series
16-30 Charlie's Angels: Angels In The Backfield
17-30 Movie: In The Blue Ground
19-30 The Series
20-00 Who Dares Wins
21-00 Farscape
22-00 Movie: The Stranger
00-00 Charlie's Angels
01-00 Total Recall
02-00 Amazon
03-00 Superstars Of Action
03-30 The Series
04-00 Dark Skies

## WORLD

05-00 Mork And Mindy
05-30 Murder Call
06-30 58th Annual Golden Globe Awards
09-00 Whose Line Is It Anyway
09-30 Nash Bridges
10-30 The Oprah Winfrey Show
11-30 Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman
12-30 Grace Under Fire
13-00 The Bold And The Beautiful
13-30 Mork And Mindy
14-00 Happy Days
14-30 Baywatch
15-30 Hollywood Squares
16-00 Home Improvement
16-30 Star News Asia
17-00 Friends
17-30 That 70's Show
18-00 Everybody Loves Raymond
18-25 Star News Asia
18-30 Dharma And Greg
19-00 Frasier
19-30 Chicago Hope
20-30 Friends
21-00 News
21-30 That 70's Show
22-00 Dharma And Greg
22-30 Everybody Loves Payment
23-00 Frasier
23-30 Chicago Hope
00-30 That 70's Show
01-00 Dharma And Greg
01-30 Everybody Loves Raymond
02-00 Frasier
02-30 Creflo Dollar Daily
03-00 Kenneth Copeland Ministries
03-30 Life In The Word With Joyce Meyer
04-00 World News
04-30 Grace Under Fire

## MOVIES

05-30 Drama: Jungle Boy
07-00 Animation: Who Framed Roger Rabbit
09-00 Action: Mortal Kombat
11-00 Romance: Notting Hill
13-30 Midday Movie: There's Something About Mary
15-30 Thriller: Forbidden Beauty
17-15 Adventure: Shipwrecked
19-30 Comedy: The Truth About Juliet
21-30 Mysteries And Scandals
22-00 Monday Comedy: The Object Of My Affection
00-00 Night Of Laughter: Father Of The Bride II
02-30 Adventure: Shipwrecked
04-00 ECP: Patricia Richardson

## HBO

06-30 Deadly Voyage
08-30 Heartbreak Ridge
11-15 Hostile Waters
13-15 Black Magic
15-15 Woo
17-00 Every Mother's Worst Fear
19-00 The War
21-30 The Pelican Brief
00-30 The Paper
02-45 Hostile Waters
04-45 Woo

## ASIANET

05-00 Face To Face
07-00 Pappyland
08-00 Opensesame
09-00 He-Man/Wishbone
10-00 Deliverance Of Elaine
12-00 Shattered Vows
14-00 Waiting For Michaelangelo
16-00 Mopatop's/Pappyland
17-00 Opensesame
18-00 He-Man/Wishbone
19-00 Danger Bay
19-30 A Place For Annie
21-30 The River Kings
23-30 Shadow Of A Doubt
01-15 Shattered Vows
03-15 A Place For Annie

## NICKELODEON

06-00 Hey Arnold
06-30 Aah! Real Monsters
07-00 Rugrats
07-30 Figure It Out
08-00 Double Dare 2000
08-30 All That
09-00 Kenan And Kel
09-30 Rugrats
10-00 Aah Real Monsters
10-30 Hey Arnold
11-00 Rocket Power
11-30 Global Guts
12-00 Figure It Out
12-30 Double Dare 2000
13-00 The Adventures Of Pete And Pete
13-30 Clarissa
14-00 All That
14-30 Kenan And Kel
15-00 Rugrats
15-30 Gullah Gullah Island
16-00 Allegra's Window
16-30 Clarissa
17-00 The Adventures Of Pete And Pete
17-30 Rocket Power
18-00 Kablam
18-30 Double Dare 2000
19-00 Figure It Out
19-30 Rugrats
20-00 Aah Real Monsters
20-30 Hey Arnold
21-00 Rocko's Modern Life
21-30 The Ren And Stimpy Show
22-00 Clarissa
22-30 Legends Of The Hidden Temple
23-00 Global Guts
23-30 Rugrats
00-00 Hey Arnold
00-30 Aah Real Monsters
01-00 Rocko's Modern Life
01-30 The Adventures Of Pete And Pete
02-00 Rugrats
02-30 Allegra's Window
03-00 Gullah Gullah Island
03-30 Eurekha's Castle
04-00 Clarissa
04-30 Rocko's Modern Life

## TNT & CARTOON NETWORK

05-00 The New Scooby Doo Movies
06-00 The Road Runner Show
06-30 The Smurfs
07-00 The Popeye Show
07-30 Dexters Laboratory
08-00 I Am Weasel
08-30 The Powerpuff Girls
09-00 Batman The Animated Series
09-30 Sylvester And Tweety Mysteries
10-00 Ninja Robots
10-30 Tiny Toon Adventures
11-00 Tom And Jerry Kids
11-30 The Little Lulu Show
12-00 Scooby Doo Where Are You?
12-30 The Smurfs
13-00 The Road Runner Show
13-30 Tiny Toon Adventures
14-00 Garfield And Friends
14-30 The Little Lulu Show
15-00 Flintstones
15-30 The Mask
16-00 Swat Cats
16-30 Scooby And Scrappy Doo
17-00 Dexter's Laboratory
17-30 I Am Weasel
18-00 The Powerpuff Girls
18-30 The Popeye Show
19-00 Batman The Animated Series
19-30 Sysvester And Tweety Mysteries
20-00 Garfield And Friends
20-30 The Road Runner Show
22-00 Loveline
22-30 Classics
23-30 The Grind
00-00 Lili
00-15 Non-Stop Hits
00-30 Beavis And Butthead
01-00 Non-Stop Hits
01-30 Lili
01-45 Non-Stop Hits

## TCM

21-00 The Cabin In The Cotton
22-40 Daughters Courageous
00-45 Les Girls
02-50 Two Girls And A Sailor

## CVO CABLE VIDEO OPERA

09-00 Box Office
09-30 Aurat Teri Yahi Kahani: Feature Film
12-30 Telebrands
13-00 Box Office
13-30 Aaj Ka Daur: Feature Film
16-30 Box Office
17-00 Mamla Choice Ka
17-30 Aamne Samne
18-00 Silver Screen
18-30 Begunaah: Feature Film
21-30 Box Office
22-00 Humse Badkar Kaun: Feature Film
01-00 Box Office
02-00 Aurat Teri Yahi Kahani: Feature Film
04-00 Telebrands
04-30 Box Office

## V

06-00 So Long Gone
07-00 Jump Start
09-00 Hit Machine
12-00 Jungli Jukebox
12-30 FDFS
13-00 Hit Machine
16-00 Hotline
17-00 Very [V]
19-00 Hit Machine
20-30 Jungli Jukebox
21-00 FDFS
21-30 Hit Machine
23-00 Late Night
00-00 Hit Machine

## MTV MUSIC TELEVISION

06-00 Non-Stop Hits
07-45 Lili
08-00 Classics
09-00 Lili
09-15 Non-Stop Hits
09-30 Baar Baar Dekho
10-00 Non-Stop Hits
11-00 Lili
11-15 Non-Stop Hits
12-00 Hit Film Music
12-30 House Full
13-00 India Hit List
14-00 Lili
14-15 Non-Stop Hits
15-00 Loveline
15-30 Bakra
15-45 Non-Stop Hits
16-00 Select
17-00 Most Wanted
18-00 Non-Stop Hits
18-45 U Pop
19-00 Ek Do Teen
20-00 Bakra
20-15 Non-Stop Hits
21-00 Bolti Bund
21-30 House Full

## DISCOVERY CHANNEL

05-00 21st Century Medicine
06-00 Animal Survivors
06-30 In Care Of Nature
07-00 Outer Bonds
07-30 Without Warning
08-00 Lonely Planet
09-00 Beyond 2000
09-30 Next Step
10-00 Go For It
11-00 Inntimate Escapes
12-00 Wild Discovery
13-00 Medical Detectives
14-00 Vital Breakthroughs
15-00 Animal Survivors
15-30 ESPU
16-00 Outer Bonds
16-30 Without Warning
17-00 Lonely Planet
18-00 Crocodile Hunter's Croc Files
18-30 Splat
19-00 Wild Discovery
20-00 Wild Asia
21-00 Medical Detectives
21-30 Ultrascience
22-00 Amazing Worlds
23-00 Profile Series
00-00 Wild Discovery
01-00 Wild Asia
02-00 Medical Detectives
02-30 Ultrascience
03-00 Amazing Worlds
04-00 Profile Series

## ANIMAL PLANET

05-00 Animal X
05-30 Twisted Tales
06-00 Wild On The Set
06-30 Animal Encounters
07-00 Extreme Contact
07-30 Wildlife Series
08-30 Pet Connection
09-00 Rolf's Amazing World Of Animals
09-30 Horse Tales
10-00 Battersea Dogs Home
10-30 Breed All About It
11-00 Safari
12-00 Petsburg USA
12-30 Zoo Life With Jack Hanna
13-00 Skippy
13-30 Animal Hospital
14-00 Vet's School
14-30 Emergency Vets
15-00 In The Wild
16-00 Madison's Adventures
16-30 Amazing Tales
17-00 The Aquanauts
17-30 Really Wild Show
18-00 Animals A-Z
18-30 Animal Hospital
19-00 Vets In Practice
19-30 Mad Monday
21-00 Crocodile Hunter
22-00 Safari
23-00 Natural World
00-00 Vets In Practice
00-30 Mad Monday
02-00 Crocodile Hunter
03-00 Safari
04-00 Natural World

## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL

05-30 Arctic Survivors
06-30 Family Hour: Clentist, Shark And Showman
07-00 Family Hour: A Rare Move
07-30 The Ivory Pigs
08-30 Family Hour: Savage Seas: Lifre In The Balance
09-30 Wild: Drinker's Dilemma
10-30 Adventure One: Ben Dark: A Breed Of Their Own
11-30 People And Places: Lost Worlds
12-30 Wild: Cheetah Chase
13-00 Wild: An Owl's Song
13-30 About Asia: The Land Of Mercy
14-30 Planet Green: Bison Chasen
15-30 Desert Shores Of Corte
16-30 Family Hour: Savage Skies: Riders On The Storm
17-30 Wild: The Tides Kirawira
18-30 Adventure One: Ben Dark: Death In The Desert
19-30 People And Places: Lost Worlds
20-30 Tomorrow's World
21-00 Wild: Little Pandas: A New Breed
22-00 Adventure One: Ben Dark: Death In The Desert
23-00 People And Places: Lost Worlds
00-00 Wild: The Tides Kirawira
01-00 Desert Shores Of Corte
02-00 Family Hour: Savage Skies: Riders On The Storm
03-00 Tomorrow's World
03-30 Wild: The Tides Kirawira
04-00 On The Edge: Beyond Limits: A Matter Of Life

## KERMIT

05-00 Blackstar
05-30 Bravestarr
06-00 The Lone Ranger
06-30 He-Man
07-00 Mopatop's Shop
07-30 Open Sesame
08-30 Pappyland
09-00 Jim Henson's Animal Show
09-30 Encyclopaedia
10-00 David Copperfield Part 2: Movie
12-00 Brats Of The Lost Nebula
13-00 Road To Avonlea
14-00 Bravestarr
15-00 The Lone Ranger
15-30 He-Man
16-00 Mopatop's Shop
16-30 Open Sesame
17-30 Pappyland
18-30 Encyclopaedia
19-00 Alex Mack
20-00 Tarzan
20-30 Zorro
21-00 Tarzan
21-30 Zorro
22-00 Road To Avonlea
23-00 Finding Buck McHenry: Movie
01-00 Road To Avonlea
02-00 Alex Mack
03-00 Tarzan
03-30 Zorro
04-00 Hero High
04-30 My Favourite Martians

## STAR PLUS

**News Headlines Every One Hour From Noon**
05-00 Meri Saheli
05-30 Tu Tu Mein Mein
06-00 Geetmala
07-00 Hit Ya Fit
07-30 Chhupa Rustom
08-00 Good Morning India
09-00 Hirasat: Feature Film
12-00 Hit Ya Fit
12-30 TSN
13-00 Small Wonder
13-30 Meri Saheli
14-00 Saans
14-30 Shagun
15-00 Kalash
15-30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
16-00 Cine Jharoka
16-30 Hit Ya Fit
17-00 Shrimati Sharma Na Kehti Thi
17-30 Small Wonder
18-00 Fox Kids
19-00 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki
19-30 Tu Tu Main Main
20-00 Gharwali Uparwali
20-30 Saans
21-00 Kaun Banega Crorepati
22-00 Kahain Ghar Ghar Ki
22-30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
23-00 Aaj Ki Baat
23-30 Shagun
00-00 Telebrands
00-30 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki
01-00 Hirasat: Feature Film
04-00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
04-30 Saans

## SONY

06-00 Sparsh
06-30 Aurat
07-00 Amrit Varsha
07-30 Sant Asaram Wani
08-00 Music Mantra
08-30 Good Morning Disney
09-30 Chartbusters
10-00 Hum Sub Ek Hein
10-30 Milan
11-00 Imtihaan
11-30 Itihaas
12-00 Hum Sub Ek Hain
12-30 Movers And Shakers
13-00 Boogie Woogie
14-00 Imitihan
14-30 Aurat
15-00 Ghar Ek Mandir
15-30 Nazdeekiyan
16-00 Itihaas
16-30 Junoon
17-00 Chartbusters
17-30 Music Mantra
18-00 Disney Hour
19-00 Boogie Woogie
19-30 Yeh Duniya Hai Rangeen
20-00 Ghar Ek Mandhir
20-40 Choodiyaan
21-20 Lata
22-00 Saaya
22-40 Movers And Shakers
23-30 Nazdeekiyan
00-00 CID
00-30 Boogie Woogie
01-30 Family No. 1
02-00 Movers And Shakers
02-30 Rang Brangee
03-00 Karwa Chouth: Feature Film

## ZEE CINEMA

06-00 Woh Mili Thi
10-00 Shandaar
13-30 Clerk
18-00 Ghar Ghar Ki Kahani
22-00 Arth
02-00 Nai Imarat

## ZEE ENGLISH

05-00 Music Zone
05-30 Roseanne Show
06-30 Would You Believe It
07-00 Music Zone
07-30 Late Show With David Letterman
08-30 Royal Canadian Air Farce
09-00 Would You Believe It
09-30 Music Zone
10-00 Heartbreak High
11-00 Central Park West
12-00 All My Children
13-00 Capitol
13-30 Three's Company
14-00 Friends
14-30 Jesse
15-00 Would You Believe It
15-30 Royal Canadian Air Force
16-00 Heartbreak High
17-00 All My Children
18-00 Central Park West
19-00 Heartbreak High
20-00 Friends
20-30 Out Of This World
21-00 Late Show With David Letterman
22-00 The Sopranos
23-30 La Femme Nikita
00-00 Friends
00-30 Late Show With David Letterman
01-30 Heartbreak High
02-30 Life On The Street
03-30 Roseanne Show
04-30 OST

## ZEE TV

05-15 News
05-45 Yaadon Ke Pal
06-15 Old Is Gold
06-30 Bhakti Songs
07-00 Jagran
07-25 Fitness Plus
07-35 Breakfast With Zee
08-30 Nickelodeon On Zee
09-00 Guldasta
10-00 Filmi Chakkar
10-30 Ittefaq
11-00 Ek Nazar
11-30 Aashirwad
12-10 Chust Durust Show
12-40 Dastaan
13-10 Jhalak
13-15 Hasratein
13-55 Sare Sapne Kahin Kho Gaye
14-30 Aakash
15-00 Adhikar
15-30 Babul Ki Duayen Leti Ja
16-30 Kartavya
17-00 Banegi Apni Baat
17-40 Ek Nazar
18-00 Nickelodeon On Zee
19-00 Ek Nazar
19-30 Hum Paanch
20-00 Babu Ki Duayein Leti Ja
20-30 Koshish... Ek Aasha
21-00 Best Of Suspense Hour
22-00 Sammander
22-30 Aakosh
23-00 Saath Saath
23-30 Arth
00-00 Amanat
00-40 Antakshiri
01-40 Dastaan
02-10 Ek Nazar
02-40 Shagoon: Feature Film

## ZEE ENGLISH

05-00 Music Zone
05-30 Roseanne Show
06-30 Would You Believe It
07-00 Music Zone
07-30 Late Show With David Letterman
08-30 Royal Canadian Air Force
09-00 Would You Believe It
09-30 Music Zone
10-00 Heartbreak High
11-00 Central Park West
12-00 All My Children
13-00 Capitol
13-30 Three's Company
14-00 Friends
14-30 Jesse
15-00 Would You Believe It
15-30 Royal Canadian Air Force
16-00 Heartbreak High
17-00 All My Children
18-00 Central Park West
19-00 Heartbreak High
20-00 Friends
20-30 Out Of This World
21-00 Late Show With David Letterman
22-00 The Sopranos
23-30 La Femme Nikita
00-00 Friends
00-30 Late Show With David Letterman
01-30 Heartbreak High
02-30 Life On The Street
03-30 Roseanne Show
04-30 OST

## ZEE MGM

06-00 Shangai Express
08-30 Hard Choices
11-00 Iron Warriors
13-30 Hammer Down
16-00 Bostonians
18-30 Final Alliance
21-00 Married To The Mob
23-00 For Better Or For Worse
01-00 Dangerous Love
03-30 Murder On The Orient Express

## SUN TV

06-30 Vanakkam Thamizhagam
08-00 News
08-30 Indha Naal Inniya Naal
09-00 Thirai Vimarsanam
09-30 Malarum Mottum
10-00 Ilamai Puthumai
10-30 Sigaram
11-00 Prabalangal Rasitha Kaatchi
11-30 Pallankuzhi
12-00 Kokila Enge Pogiraal
12-30 Archanai Pookkal
13-00 Amma
13-30 News
13-45 Madhiyam 1-45
14-00 Bommalattam
14-30 Sabapathy: Feature Film
17-00 Kids Time
17-30 Isai Thendral
18-00 Ananda Bhavan
18-30 Gokulam Veedu
19-00 Ganga Yamuna Saraswathi — Sangamam
19-30 Krishnadasi
20-00 News
20-30 Neengal Kaetta Paadal
21-00 Punnagai
21-30 Chithi
22-00 Vazhkai
22-30 Kula Vilakku
23-00 Nenjil Nindra Raagam
23-30 Thirai Masala

## SUN NEWS

**Tamil/ English News On The Hour**
10-00 Parak Parak
17-30 Kuzhandhaikkaga
19-00 Youth Parliament
20-00 News At 8
20-30 Mangayar Choice
21-00 Maavatta Seidhigal
21-30 Parak Parak
22-00 Pathumani Seidhigal
22-30 Nerukkuner

## VIJAY TV

05-00 Melody Mettukkal
05-30 Udhaya Geetham
06-00 Udhaya Ragam
06-15 Sakthi Medai
06-30 Calvery Kural
07-00 Thiruppumunai
07-30 News
08-00 Rasiyana Neram
08-30 Melody Mettukkal
09-00 Flashback

## RAJ TV

06-00 Vetrinamadhey
06-30 Om Sakthi
07-00 Kaalai Thendral
07-30 News
08-00 Adhirshtakkal Adhisayam
08-30 Namakkul Naam
09-00 Thirai Jaalam
09-30 Ulaga Paarvai
10-00 Pudhiya Paadal
10-30 Telebrands Show
11-00 Erattaipadai
11-30 Chinna Thirai
12-00 Bharathi
12-30 Sabash Sariyana Potti
13-00 News
13-30 Guru Dhakshinai: Feature Film
16-30 Jannal
17-00 Dial A Song
17-30 Cartoon Time
18-00 Odi Vilayadu Paapa
18-30 Vilayattu Ulagam
19-00 Super Six
19-30 News
20-00 Chinnathirai
20-30 Kanimozhi
21-00 Irandam Chanakyan
21-30 Vaithehi
22-00 Bandham
22-30 News In English
22-40 Deiveega Uravu: Feature Film
01-30 Melodies

## RAJ Digital Plus

06-30 Oru Iniya Udhayam
07-00 News
07-30 Sidha Maruthuvam
08-00 Ungal Neram
08-30 Tamil Maruthuvam
09-00 News
09-30 Meenda Sorgam: Feature Film
12-30 Super Show
13-00 Thirai Chithiram
13-30 Telebrands Show
14-00 Cinema Show
15-00 Putham Puthusu
16-15 Vetri Namadhey
16-30 Thangamana Mangai
17-00 Magalir Mandram
17-30 Ilaya Thamizhagam
18-00 Health Today
18-30 Namma Ooru
19-00 News
19-30 Nagaichuvai Neram
20-00 Cine Quiz
20-30 Sadhurangam: Feature Film
23-30 Endrum Iniyavai

## ASIANET

06-00 Ragamalika
06-30 Pulse
07-00 Suprabhatham
07-30 News
09-00 Kamadi
09-30 Nadhamaduri
10-00 Pathravishesham
10-30 Anveshanam
11-00 Nakshatra Kinnaram
11-30 Campus Talk Show
12-00 Telebrand Show
12-30 Sindhooram
13-00 News
13-30 Kudumbavilakku
14-00 Adhyayam Onnu Mudhal: Feature Film
16-30 Heartbeats
17-00 News Headlines
17-05 Mukya Manthriyodu Chothikam
17-30 Sammatham: Telefilm
18-00 Kochuvarthamanam
18-30 Durga
18-55 Munshi
19-00 News
19-30 Sthree
20-00 Puthiya Geethangal
20-30 Murappennu
21-00 Dhanyam
21-30 News Headlines
21-35 Sreeraman Sreedevi
22-00 Vajram
22-30 News
23-00 Munshi
23-05 Soorya Festival
23-30 Nattarangu
00-00 Sa Ri Ga Ma
00-30 Aaneram Alpadooram: Feature Film
03-00 Family Telequiz
03-30 Cinema Diary
04-00 Heart Beats
04-30 Cinema Geethangal

## JAYA TV

05-30 Thenkinnam
06-00 Arul Neram
06-30 Kaalai Malar
07-00 News
09-00 Thenkinnam
09-30 Thalai Mudhal Kaalvarai
10-00 Indhavara Ulagam
10-30 Teleseen
11-00 Priyamanaval
11-30 Hits
12-00 Iniya Illam
13-00 News
13-30 Kanavugal Illavasam
14-00 Mudi Sooda Mannan: Feature Film
16-30 Telebrands
17-00 News Headlines
17-05 Teleseen
17-35 Arul Neram
18-00 Kids Q
18-30 Raja Vaidhyam
19-00 Kollywood Diary
19-30 News
20-00 Neyar Neram
20-30 Thenmozhi
21-00 Chinnathirai Kadhaigal
21-30 Idhu Nyayama
22-00 News In English
22-15 News
22-30 Hari Giri Assembly
23-00 New Cinema
23-10 Teleseen
23-40 Hits
02-00 Iniya Illam
03-00 Feature Film

## SURYA TV

06-00 Music
06-30 Rasika Priya
07-00 Ponpulari
07-30 News
09-00 Aksharam
09-30 Sruti Layam
10-00 Pustakavicharam
10-30 Varantiya Lokam
11-00 Muhangal Bhavangal
11-30 Rasika Priya
12-00 Manasu
12-30 Parvathy
13-00 News
13-15 Manja Mandarangal: Feature Film
15-30 Charulatha
16-00 Rasichakram
16-30 IT.Com
17-00 Ningalude Choice
17-30 Cartoon Show
18-00 Trailor Time
18-30 Anaamika
18-55 Anchalammavan
19-00 News
19-30 Nurungukal
20-00 Koteeswaran
20-30 Paithozhiyathe
21-00 Swantham Malootty
21-25 Manya Maha Janangale
21-30 News Headlines
21-35 Thaali
22-05 Red Roses
22-30 News
23-00 Hello Hollywood
00-00 Campus Choice
00-30 Oorakkudukku
01-00 Midnight Masala

## GEMINI TV

06-00 Suprabhata Seva
06-30 Sivananda Lahari
06-55 Spoken English
07-00 Subhodayam
08-00 Yours Lovingly
09-00 Maya Bazaar
10-00 Istyle/Panchekattu Sogasu
10-30 S For Success
11-00 Ganga Yamuna Saraswathi
12-00 Mounaragam
12-30 Krishnadasi
13-00 Bommalata
13-30 Akhila
14-00 Brindhavanam
14-30 Feature Film
17-30 Yours Lovingly
18-30 Jeevitham
19-00 Oorvasi
19-30 Pinni
20-00 Oka Stree Katha
20-30 Anugraham
21-00 Hrudayam
21-30 Pavithra Bandham
22-00 News Headlines
22-05 Kalisundam Raa
22-30 Feature Film

**Telugu Satellite Channel**
06-00 Suprabham
06-30 Discourses
07-00 Prabhatha Darshini
08-00 Phone-in-Programme: Live
08-30 Health Line
09-00 Navvula Jallu
09-30 Madhurageethalu
10-00 Box Office Hit
10-30 Jothi
11-00 Oru Pada Paadalgal
11-30 Penmani
12-00 Thaiya Thaiya
12-30 Arthee
13-00 Melody Mettukkal: Vijay Hits
13-30 Balcony
14-00 TVC
14-30 Namadhu Deivam: Feature Film
17-00 Telephone Manipol
17-30 Dhool Scene Ma
18-00 Peppre Peppre Pop
18-30 Balcony
19-00 Minsara Poovae
19-30 Maha Lakshathipathi
20-00 Pudhayal
20-30 News
21-00 Janmam X
21-30 Sirithale Inikkum
22-00 Nayyandi Darbar
22-30 News
23-00 TVC
23-30 Raja Desinghu: Feature Film
02-00 Thanipiravi: Feature Film
04-30 Thaiya Thaiya

## UDAYA TV

06-30 Bhakthi Geethe
06-45 Yoga
07-00 Jyothisya
07-05 Pravachana
07-15 Classical Music
07-30 News
08-00 Interview
08-30 Vanitha
09-00 Music
10-00 Abhimana
10

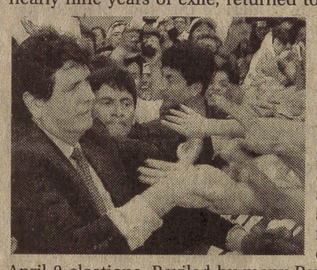
## GLOBESCAN

### Scientist vows to create human clone

**LONDON:** A fertility expert says that he will attempt to produce the first cloned human being within a year. In the week that Britain's House of Lords voted to allow scientists to clone human embryos for research purposes, Mr. Severino Antinori, who runs a fertility clinic in Rome, claimed to have 10 couples willing to take part in the experiment. If successful, it will produce a baby who will be an exact genetic replica of its father. Dr. Antinori is already notorious for enabling a mother of almost 63 to have a child to replace her adult son who died and for causing an uproar in Britain six years ago when he helped a 59-year-old unmarried woman have twins. On Thursday, he told a meeting in Lexington, Kentucky, that he was forming an "international coalition" of scientists to work on the cloning project in "a country of the Mediterranean where I had consent." The baby would be created by taking the nucleus of a man's cell, probably a skin cell, and injecting it into a human egg that had been stripped of its own genetic material. After a few days, if the embryo began to develop, this would be implanted in the womb of the "mother" in the hope of producing a healthy baby. Such an experiment would be a criminal offence in Britain, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority said on Saturday. Parliament had approved only "therapeutic cloning" for medical research. — *©Telegraph Group Limited, London, 2001.*

### Alan Garcia back from exile

**LIMA:** The former Peruvian President, Mr. Alan Garcia, ending nearly nine years of exile, returned to try to recapture the presidency of the homeland he fled facing corruption charges. Mr. Garcia, who left office in 1990 amid annual inflation topping 7,600 per cent, surging rebel violence and rampant corruption, landed at Lima's international airport shortly before sunset on Saturday and immediately hit the campaign trail ahead of the April 8 elections. Reviled by many Peruvians as a silver-tongued crook who should never have returned, Mr. Garcia was met at the airport by some 3,000 placard-waving supporters, most members of his left-leaning Aprista Party. "After nine long years, I am here to confirm for all of you my commitment, my profound belief in Peru and its youth," Mr. Garcia told a cheering crowd of tens of thousands at a rally hours later in a downtown Lima Plaza. "In this dramatic hour in which there is uncertainty, disillusion, anger and pain, I come to Peru with a proposal of hope, of work, of decentralisation and democracy." The return of Mr. Garcia, 51, from Colombia follows the downfall of his nemesis, the former President, Mr. Alberto Fujimori, who had long sought to imprison him, and a recent Supreme Court ruling that the statute of limitations had expired on the corruption charges against him. He has lived in exile since 1992. — AP



### Hijacker overpowered on flight

**DUBAI:** Flight crew overpowered a man with a knife who tried to hijack a Gulf Air plane flying between Hong Kong and Abu Dhabi, the airline said on Saturday. The plane landed at the Abu Dhabi airport and all 262 passengers disembarked safely. The two crew members who tackled the hijacker were wounded. They were the co-pilot, an Omani citizen, and the chief flight steward, a Bahraini. Gulf Air did not give the extent of their wounds and airport officials refused to comment. The hijacker was an Iraqi citizen, the airline said. There was no word on his motives. It was the second hijacking incident on the Arabian peninsula in five days. On Tuesday, a man armed with a small pistol hijacked a Yemeni plane on a domestic flight and diverted it to Djibouti, where he was overpowered by the crew. — AP

### Cuba watching Bush Govt.

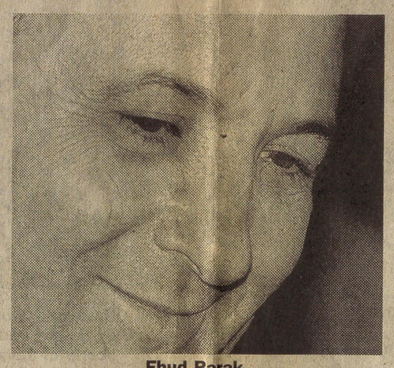


**HAVANA:** Mr. Fidel Castro has said that his Government will keep a close eye on the new administration of the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, insisting that he will not judge it beforehand, but noting that millions of Cubans are trained to handle firearms. "A new administration of a very irregular form has just been installed in the United States," Mr. Castro told more than 200,000 people gathered on Saturday in San Jose de Las Lajas, southeast of the capital. "We are not in a hurry to judge it beforehand...We will not throw the first stone," Mr. Castro said during his half-hour speech. But, he said, "we will carefully watch every step it makes and every word it pronounces." "Absolutely nothing will take us by surprise." Mr. Castro noted that "the Cuba of today is not the Cuba of 1959" — the year the revolution triumphed. Then, he said, Cuban citizens were unarmed and practically illiterate. Now "there is not a single illiterate person" on the island. "Millions of men and women have learned how to handle weapons." He said his Government would continue the "battle of ideas" launched 14 months ago against U.S. policies toward Cuba, referring to mass rallies held regularly on Saturdays in different parts of the island. — AP

**PEACE PROCESS** / BARAK'S POLL CHANCES MAY HINGE ON OUTCOME

# W. Asians 'closest' to agreement

By Kesava Menon



Ehud Barak

**MANAMA (BAHRAIN), JAN. 28.** Israel and the Palestinian Authority wound up six-day-long intensive discussions in the Egyptian resort of Taba yesterday without a final accord, but with an optimistic declaration that a comprehensive settlement of their dispute was within reach. Besides putting their signatures to this positive statement, the chief negotiators of the two sides exhibited the sort of body language that confirmed their words that progress had been achieved. Israel's Prime Minister, Mr. Ehud Barak, and the Palestinian Authority President, Mr. Yasser Arafat, could meet in Stockholm on Tuesday if a few details are sorted out.

The statement, issued jointly by the two chief negotiators — Israel's Foreign Minister, Mr. Shlomo Ben Ami, and the Speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council, Mr. Ahmed Qorei — noted that the "two sides have never before been so close to attaining an agreement." They also stated their belief that "it will be possible to bridge remaining gaps when the talks are resumed after elections in Israel." The Israeli Minister, Mr. Yossi Beilin, who was also involved in the talks, said that an agreement could be finalised within two weeks when, or if, the discussions are resumed after the Feb. 6 election for the Prime Minister's post in Israel.

While the negotiators, especially the Israelis, said that progress had been made on all the issues they also pointed out that progress was not even on all the issues. "Substantive progress" had been made on some of the issues, Mr. Ben Ami said without specifying which of the four main issues being discussed was proving the hardest to crack. According to the Israeli media, the joint committee considering the question of Jerusalem had held just one meeting but it was not clear whether it was because the two sides were more or less in agreement or whether it was because the issue was found to be too intractable.

Mr. Beilin, who was involved in the discussions on the right of refugees to return, said detailed talks had been held on the compensation, rehabilitation and/or emigration of the refugees. From Mr. Beilin's statements it appears that Israel did discuss the proposal whereby Israel would accept (at least in loosely worded language) the principle that the refugees could return while retaining the authority to administer the return and thereby delay it to the point of non-fulfilment. The question of Israel accepting the moral responsibility for creating the refugee problem in 1948 was also said to have been discussed.

On the issue of borders, the two sides seem to have gone well beyond matters of principle and are looking into such details as the precise alignment of border lines in separate sectors. In respect of the security issue, the two sides are looking into the wording of the agreements to specify what privileges, if any, Israel will enjoy in terms of permission to station armour in the Palestinian territories or overfly its air space in the event of an emergency.

If Mr. Barak and Mr. Arafat do meet in Stockholm they are expected to issue a statement that lays out all that was achieved in the discussions held at Taba. However, the summit meeting is contingent on the two sides coming to a prior agreement on the wording of the Stockholm Declaration. In recent days, Mr. Arafat has begun expressing his concerns that the peace process would come to an end if Mr. Barak lost to his rival, Mr. Ariel Sharon. In this context it is quite possible that Mr. Arafat will respond to Mr. Barak's concerns over the Stockholm declaration.

The Taba statement would probably improve Mr. Barak's electoral chances not so much for its effect on influencing the non-committed voter as in galvanising the left and Israeli Arabs to work for his campaign. Most of the Israeli Arab parties had declared that they would be boycotting the poll unless an Israel-Palestine pact was struck before election day. In letting his negotiators sign the Taba statement and strike an optimistic note Mr. Arafat has signalled to the Israeli Arabs that they must now support Mr. Barak in the elections.

# Davos protesters face water cannon

**DAVOS (SWITZERLAND), JAN. 28.** Anti-globalisation activists were doused with water cannon and sprayed with tear gas and rubber pellets on Saturday at demonstrations against the annual gathering of leaders at the World Economic Forum.

One protester was reportedly injured in the head, but no arrests were immediately reported.

With helicopters buzzing overhead and barbed wire fences erected at strategic points, Switzerland's winter tourist heartland resembled a battle zone rather than an Alpine paradise.

Police surrounded 150 protesters in the Alpine resort of Davos, Europe's highest city, where local authorities had banned protests during the forum. After making warnings over loudspeakers, police opened up with a water cannon on those who tried to get around a fence erected across the main street.

Demonstrators said that despite the ban — and heavy snowfall — they were determined to deliver their message against spreading globalisation to the corporate bosses.

"We have to fight for the right to freedom of expression," said Mr. Kees Hudig, who came from Amsterdam. Mr. Hudig — as well as many Swiss newspapers and local people — called the police response an overreaction and heavy handed. "They will have a big backlash," he said.

But after a short stand-off, demonstrators began to disperse about 1 km from the convention centre where the forum was being held. The noise of the demonstrators never reached the people inside the centre.

Some 400 demonstrators arriving back in the financial capital, Zurich, by train on Saturday evening smashed windows and set vehicles on fire, city police said. Police fired water cannon and rubber pellets. The demonstrators claimed police had met them off the train "with tear gas guns drawn."



A car burns as police officers try to prevent World Economic Forum opponents from rioting near Zurich's main station on Saturday. Heading for Davos in the afternoon, the WEF opponents were forced by the police to return to Zurich, where they threw stones, demolished windows and burnt cars. — AP

Police there said they fired tear gas and rubber pellets after a group of "extremely aggressive" demonstrators attacked security personnel at the station with sticks. — AP

# A Stern message to rich countries

**DAVOS, JAN. 28. Rich countries should unilaterally open their markets to duty-free imports from the 48 identified least developed countries (LDCs) as a "strong expression of moral imperative" to share the benefits of globalisation with the world's poor, the World Bank's chief economist, Mr. Nicolas Stern, has said.**

**Mr. Stern, who is also the Bank's senior vice- president, said yesterday at the ongoing annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) that the U.S., European Union and Japan should vie with one another to carry out this "simple" and landmark initiative.**

**Measures to enable the poor to share the benefits of rapid integration of the global economy are among the subjects being discussed by Government and corporate leaders at the WEF meeting.**

**"Offering poor nations duty-free access to markets of rich countries would be a good first step but only a start," stern said, adding that high-income economies should also remove existing non-tariff barriers and avoid imposing new ones. Changes in product standards was cited as one example. A Zero-duty regime for all products from ldcs will appeal to many people in rich countries as fair thing to do.**

**Though a small number of people in high-income countries would face adjustment costs, stern said a vast majority of people in the poor countries would benefit from wider choices and lower prices.**

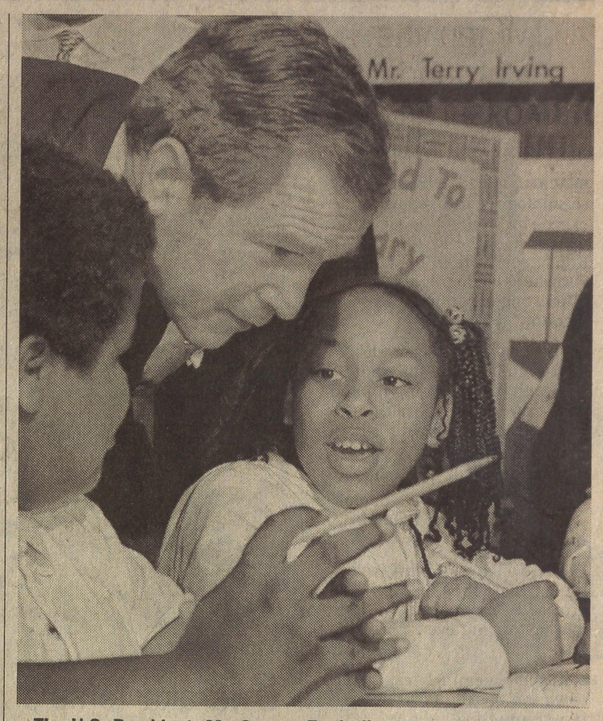
**Stern said by scrapping all tariff barriers to imports from the poorest countries, rich economies would signal their determination to dismantle other barriers like quota, spurious anti-dumping measures, subsidies to domestic producers and imposition of capricious product standards.**

**The remaining barriers in rich economies to imports from developing nations meant that the gains that poor countries experienced when they liberalised their trade regimes were smaller than would otherwise be the case, Mr. Stern said.**

**He said the recent World Bank research found that tariff and non-tariff barriers imposed by high income countries, together with agricultural subsidies, cost developing countries much more in lost export opportunities than the approximately $ 50 billions that they receive in foreign aid each year.**

**Mr. Stern regretted that too often industrialised economies discouraged imports of precisely those products that developing nations can produce more competitively. Tariffs on labour-intensive manufactured goods such as textiles, clothing and footwear ranged from 15 to 30 per cent, he said.**

**He said tariff and non-tariff barriers hit potential exporters in the poorest nations especially hard. Hindered by costly and unreliable transportation and communications, and by limited capacity of their Governments to negotiate preferential market access, producers in small, low-income countries find it extremely difficult to compete. — PTI**




The U.S. President, Mr. George Bush, listens to a child talking about her classwork during a visit to the Merritt Elementary School in Washington last week. During his first week in office, Mr. Bush stuck to the popular themes of education and bipartisanship, sidestepped an abortion landmine, tinkered with his Oval Office decor and, aided by Democrats, ended the week wearing the blush of a honeymooner. — AP

# Education reform tops Bush agenda

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

**WASHINGTON, JAN. 28.** With his first week of ceremonies and official rituals out of the way, the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, is trying to sell Congress his legislative agenda. But the going will be tough — law makers on the "other side" share his desire to improve a number of things, including the education front, but are attacking his priorities and focus.

If Mr. Bush made it known that his meeting with Democratic law makers is going to be a routine affair and that he intends to forge a bipartisan relationship, the Democrats have also told the President that they have their agendas as well.

The Democratic Party has started looking to the off year Congressional elections of 2002 hoping to get control of Congress — or at least either the House of Representatives or the Senate — and then start placing some pressure on the White House for the Presidential election of 2004.

In the Democrats' weekly radio address, the House Minority Leader, Mr. Richard Gephardt, said that while he was glad that Mr. Bush wanted to improve schools, vouchers was not the way to go about. "Vouchers drain funds from failing schools at the very moment when schools need these resources the most; this could leave children behind", the top Democrat in the House said.

And at a time when Mr. Bush himself feels the "heat" from the fellow Republican, Senator John McCain, over campaign finance reform, Mr. Gephardt added to the pressure by saying that the President should move immediately to support the Campaign Finance Bill drafted by Senator McCain and his Democratic colleague, Mr. Russ Feingold.

"Democrats believe the time has come to give our democracy back to the people. We need to reduce the power of special interests and money in the political process... If enacted this year, campaign reform would reduce the power of corporations and wealthy individuals in our politics", Mr. Gephardt has said.

The Democrats are also taking time to start attacking Mr. Bush's tax cut plans; and have been saying that the $ 1.6 trillion, 10-year package is heavily loaded in favour of the wealthy even while leaving no room for social security, education reform, prescription drugs and more funding for military personnel. But the Republicans are making a lot out of the Federal Reserve Board chief, Mr. Alan Greenspan's remarks when he cautiously favoured a tax break.

The domestic legislative agenda will get into some high gear when the House of Representatives reconvenes this week for the start of their session. For now, all eyes are on Mr. Bush's educational reform plan and his tax cut package, but the larger budget would have to be ironed out. Although the President has said that he will stay there until he has convinced everyone on the Capitol Hill about his tax cuts, the feeling is that there will be a tax cut of sorts, just that no one is sure of what the package will look like.

While the first week was heavily focussed on his domestic policy priorities and in his meetings with senior law makers from the House and the Senate of both parties, foreign policy too merited some attention. Aside from making telephone calls to some 12 world leaders of friendly nations, Mr. Bush's foreign policy schedule for the next month or so has been more or less finalised.

There will be a White House meeting with the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Jean Chretien, on February 5 and Mr. Bush will meet the Mexican President, Mr. Vicente Fox, on February 16. And in line with the U.S. pursuing the global agenda with "strength and authority", Mr. Bush is scheduled to meet the British Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair, on February 23 and 24 at the Camp David retreat.

And the Japanese Prime Minister will come calling in February or March. The Bush administration has made it amply clear that Japan will be the linchpin of American foreign policy in the Asia Pacific.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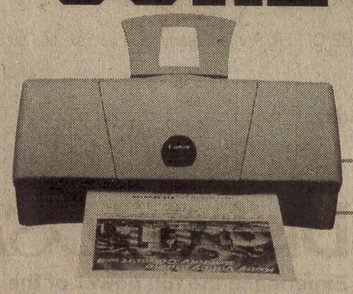

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SOON AT ANNA NAGAR & PALAKKAD

## When the ground below 'danced'

By Arunkumar Bhatt

**BRACHAU, JAN 28.** While seismologists and geologists are expressing conflicting views on the cause of the earthquake in Kutch, survivors in Bhachau and elsewhere in the region have interesting experiences to recount.

"I felt as if I were standing with each foot in a different jig and both the jigs going up and down alternatively," said Mr. Desan Harijan, a labourer here.

"I thought the ground below was dancing and had come alongside me at a wide angle," said Mr. Damjibhai Gala of Lakadiya village.

Many villagers in this worst-hit area said they found the ground below their feet rising and falling and even spinning fast.

In their seemingly exaggerated view, the quake must have lasted up to five minutes.

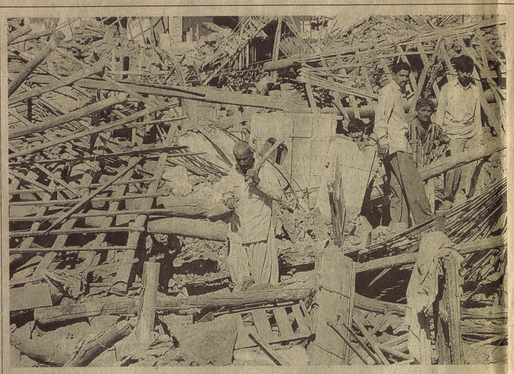
Many said they heard a rumbling sound emanating from the ground. At one place water gushed out of a ruptured portion forming a puddle.

In the neighbouring district of Patan where stray cases of death and damage were reported, farmers believed that the quake had raised the level of ground water, from over 800 feet to just 100 feet or even less.

Surprisingly, no overhead tank collapsed. Several residents of Radhanpur and other areas said they saw overhead tanks swinging like a bud stem.

"The ground water tank of my house heaved and spilt out 30 per cent of water," said Mr. Suresh Thakkar, a trader.

"We are all reborn, having survived such a calamity despite our proximity to the epicentre," Mr. Thakkar's friends said adding "now we all share our birthday. It is January 26 — the day of the disaster."







**The world around them has collapsed in a heap and they do not know how to pick up the broken threads: a scene of devastation at Retnal near Bhuj. A person carries his injured relative on a handcart in Bhuj. — Photo: Vivek Bendre. At far right above is four-year-old Deep recovering at L.G. Hospital, Ahmedabad, from the injuries suffered when the Ankur Apartments collapsed in the earthquake which killed his parents. He is cared for by his grandmother and uncle. — AP**

## Little voice brings cheer

**ANJAR, JAN. 28.** After hours of digging, soldiers heard the first encouraging sound — a small voice chanting. When the concrete slabs were removed, they found a little girl, praying in Arabic.

The girl, who looked three years old, was pulled without a scratch from the rubble of her home on Sunday, more than 52 hours after she was buried in the devastating earthquake.

The girl's name was not known and no relatives came forward to claim her, said an army officer who led the rescue. "She was totally unscathed. I don't know what she was saying but it was in Arabic. Probably something of her religion," he told the Associated Press. Like other rescue workers, he refused to give his name, saying it was not important.

The miraculous escape of the little girl provided rare good news in this town where virtually every building was shattered. When the earthquake struck, 50 teachers and 400 children were marching through Anjar's narrow streets in their own version of the grand parade that took place in New Delhi.

The soldiers used sniffer dogs to pull out bodies. A couple of dogs, however, located a sign of life in a heap of rubble in another part of the town. After three hours of digging, soldiers found a man, only his face visible under twisted and crumpled masonry. Unable to reach him, rescuers released water from a plastic pouch, drop by drop, into the mouth of the man, who was identified as Maganbhai.

Chipping slowly at the blocks so as not to unsettle the unstable mound, the soldiers removed the pieces of debris one by one. About two hours later, his torso was free, and another hour of labour freed him. A cheer went up in the crowd: "Jai siyaram!" they shouted.

Maganbhai, too weak to speak, too exhausted to smile had lived in the rubble for two days and two nights. — AP

## Dwaraka temple develops cracks

**RAJKOT, JAN. 28. The ancient temple of Dwarakadheesh at the holy town of Dwaraka in Jamnagar district developed cracks due to the devastating earthquake on Friday, a delayed report reaching here said today.**

**Situated on the shores of the Arabian Sea and adjoining the Sharadapeeth of the Shankaracharya of Dwaraka, the temple complex, a masterpiece of sandstone construction, was under the renovation plan of the Archaeological Department.**

**Thousands of devotees from India and abroad visit this temple everyday for darshan of idols of Lord Krishna and Radhe.**

**The earthquake had also damaged many buildings in the holy town and adjoining areas where two persons were killed and fifteen injured, the report said. — UNI**

# The hand of man has its share

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 28.** Unprecedented destruction of life and property in Gujarat in the wake of the earthquake which rocked several parts of the country is blamed by experts on failure of all concerned to take precautions while designing and constructing buildings. They underlined the need to follow the safety code and guidelines while undertaking constructions.

"It is not that such guidelines based on studies conducted over the years are not available. Often they are ignored, and the result is disastrous," says Prof. D.K. Paul, Head of the Earthquake Engineering Department, University of Roorkee. He said "earthquakes do not kill people, but man-made structures do."

According to Mr. Paul, the Department of Engineering has sent teams to the affected areas for studying ground motion characteristics and for a survey of the damage. It has also offered the services of its experts to the State Government to help it grade and identify the categories of damage and action required to be taken in regard to each category of the damaged buildings. This will enable the Government dispel the unfounded fears of local inhabitants besides taking decisions about repairs and retrofitting of the buildings.

On the cause of the damage and destruction, Mr. Paul and his colleagues said the area, with its geological and tectonic setting, has a mixture of building types ranging from multi-storeyed buildings in reinforced concrete to load-bearing brick masonry buildings, stone buildings, and mud buildings. The strength of such constructions against quakes were widely different and depended on the care and precautions taken during designing and construction.

Such tragedies occur either because of lack of awareness of good principles of construction or as a fall out of the failure to comply with them. For special structures it is also mandatory to carry out detailed scientific studies to estimate the forces of a major earthquake affecting a particular area during their lifetime, said Mr. Paul adding that expertise in the field is now available and several structures designed on the basis of such advice rendered by his department are performing satisfactorily.

Claiming that the department had done pioneering work in development of quake-resistant design and construction of buildings benefiting builders, he said such advice was provided for the Nuclear Power Plant at Kakrapar, the Sardar Sarovar Project, the ESSAR refinery, the Reliance refinery and Thermal Power Plants at Kawas and Gandhar in Gujarat.

The department has also undertaken study of strong ground motion effects in seismic zones of higher intensity and have deployed instruments to measures the ground motion as well as response to structures earthquake.

Multi-storey buildings instrumented for the purpose in Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and recently in Ahmedabad, would help in understanding the quake- behavior and performance of the buildings for further improvement in design methodology.

Noting that the affected region formed part of seismic zones III, IV and V — zones of moderate to highest seismicity in the country — Mr. Paul referred to the major quake in Kutch in 1819 and the one at Anjar in 1956 and said these were manifested by several active lineaments with Luni-Chamble-Jam nagar Lineament trending East-West and Lathi-Rajkot lineament trending North-South. Besides these, other seismogenic features include mainland ridge, Bani depression and Kutch mainland fault, all capable of generating earthquakes.

## Scramble for wood at crematorium

**AHMEDABAD, JAN. 28.** Even as bodies of earthquake victims continue to stockpile at the city's crematoriums, wood has suddenly become scarce as the toll in the city crossed 600.

As the rescue operation progressed at a snail's pace, distraught and wailing relatives queued up at the city's crematoriums to perform the last rites of their near and dear ones.

The sudden rush of bodies at the crematoriums has made wood a scarce commodity. With the news spreading far and wide, villagers from surrounding areas of Ahmedabad flocked the city crematoriums with wood-ladden tractors, but even that was not enough.

Several tractors carrying wood from Dhor village in Kadi taluk of Mehsana district, 100 km from here, were brought by the villagers at the main crematorium here to meet the requirement as the bodies continued to pour in.

Janak Patel from Dhor said wood was collected through donations from the villagers and we rushed here to hand over the consignment. — PTI

## History grounded

**BARODA, JAN. 28.** A 113-year-old museum in Bhuj town, containing precious Harappan age art works, diamonds, paintings and rare ammunition pieces, has been razed to the ground in the earthquake that flattened the town on January 26.

The articles destroyed included a statue of Lord Buddha belonging to the 7th century, a gun Tipu Sultan gifted to Fateh Mohammed, then ruler of Kutch, coins in circulation before World War II, centuries-old miniature paintings reflecting Kutch culture, art pieces and diamonds. The museum authorities want police deployed around the demolished structure. —PTI

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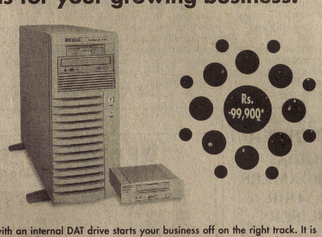

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# Exodus begins from the Kutch

By Arunkumar Bhatt

**BHUJ, JAN. 28.** The toll in the Kutch catastrophe is likely to surpass all earlier estimates as volunteers and armymen begin looking for bodies under tonnes of rubble. Unofficial sources fear the figure could be several thousands more than the 10,000 estimated by the State Government. People are leaving the region by all means, even on bus-tops, to escape the continued tremors and possible outbreak of epidemics.

No reliable statistics of the bodies retrieved and the injured rescued from under the debris, are available as the authorities are yet to fully gear up the administrative network.

Grief-stricken family members have no time for even having food and water as they pull out bodies of their dear ones and bring them out for cremation. Last evening, the entire outskirts of Bhachau town seemed ablaze as scores of funeral pyres burnt, many with more than one corpse.

A lone man pushing a handcart loaded with several bodies and some wooden logs for cremation or taking away an injured person to a roaming home is not an uncommon sight.

The Army moved in a column of its medical and engineering corps, armed with earthmoving machinery and medical equipment. The military hospital here has opened make-shift surgical wards and theatres to operate on the injured. Over two- thirds of the injured are "orthopaedic" cases, suffering from fractures, while the rest suffer from trauma and suffocation.

### Lack of medical facilities

Still, those with multiple fractures and other conditions needing major surgery are being sent to other towns of the State and also to Mumbai and Pune for want of facilities here. Most of the medical facilities, like the district's communication system, have not survived.

The Army's combat engineers, trained in clearing obstacles and opening up roads with their bulldozers and cranes, could not be deployed immediately being engaged in a tactical exercise at a faraway desert location.

The relief material and teams of doctors and rescuers, which began trickling in yesterday afternoon, became a steady stream today. One could see an endless stream of trucks, jeeps and other vehicles carrying foodstuffs, medicines, clothing, blankets and mattresses on the National Highway 15 at Radhanpur, rushing towards Bhachau, Rapar, Anjar and Bhuj — almost 36 hours after the quake struck.

But in the absence of any disaster management plan, the voluntary initiative is unlikely to provide the optimum help compared to the resources it has mobilised. "At present, the material has started flowing not on the basis of any logically estimated need of the district but only according to what the concerned citizens felt," said a senior police officer who hoped everything would be streamlined in a day or so.

### Bridges survive

The only silver lining is that all the bridges in the have survived and so have the roads, except for a few cracks — proof of the quake's intensity. While the collapse of the land- based static lines and air-based microwave telephony prevented the cries of the people reaching the rest of the country, the availability of bridges and roads helped local good samaritans mobilise their meagre resources, food and medicine.

The transport network also helped the residents move into the homes of relatives and friends elsewhere in the State. The disaster has an ecological dimension too. Most of the trees, a precious possession in the desert region, have survived and now provide shelter to the homeless in the scorching afternoons. The bereaved, however, do not have any will left to cut the trees for getting wood for cremation.

The telecommunications network is still out of reach for most except the authorities with access to radio nets or those having satellite phones. Two principal telephone exchanges in Bhuj and Gandhidham were levelled. Almost all of the 165 exchanges in the region are expected to remain either non- functional or crippled severely for months to come.

The authorities have pressed into service 4,000 lines using main base module microwave links. But the system remains rudimentary in the face of an abnormal demand for communication facilities.

### Economy in ruins

The economy lies totally shattered. The operations at Kandla port have stopped for want of supporting services, infrastructure and labour. The salt-based industrial units suffered extensive damage and look like ghost factories to conform the status of the towns and villages. No labourer has turned up at their gates and nobody was there to offer any work.

## Maharashtra offers expertise

By Mahesh Vijapurkar

**MUMBAI, JAN. 28. The Maharashtra Government has offered expertise for rehabilitation in Gujarat, based on its experience in handling the Latur earthquake in 1993. The decision to make this offer was taken at an all-party meeting chaired by the Chief Minister, Mr. Vilasrao Deshmukh.**

**The State, despite criticism, has done a good job in relief and rehabilitation at Latur. It had also adopted a district in Orissa when hit by a major flood. Now it is likely to pick up Bachchau town taluk — as badly hit as Bhuj — in Gujarat for adoption.**

**The Indian Navy has sent four ships to the Kutch coast. Two of them are converted into hospitals with operation theatres. The biggest hospital in Bhuj, headquarters of Kutch district, collapsed in the earthquake. So operations — mostly for major fractures — were being carried out in tents, and today alone 1,000 were operated upon.**



**THE REMAINS OF THE DAY: The rubble of a house at a street corner in Bhuj, Gujarat, on Sunday.** — Reuters



**A man searching for possible victims trapped under the debris of the G.K. Civil Hospital in Bhuj on Sunday.** — PTI

## Another Russian relief plane coming

By Vladimir Radyuhin

**MOSCOW, JAN. 28.** Russia is sending a second relief plane to Gujarat, where Russian rescue workers and doctors have been working since Sunday. An IL-76 transport plane loaded with thousands of warm blankets, large tents and medicines is expected to fly to Ahmedabad on Monday, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said.

The first Russian IL-76 carrying a 71-member crack rescue team with sniffer dogs and slab-moving mechanisms, a mobile hospital with a diesel generator and field kitchens arrived in Ahmedabad in the early hours of Sunday and headed straight for the worst-hit Bhuj. The flight had been delayed more than 24 hours pending approval from the Indian Government. Russian rescue teams have a rich experience of relief work at the sites of some of the world's most devastating earthquakes in Armenia in 1988, as well as in Turkey and Taiwan in 1999.

## 'Energy equal to 5.3 megaton h-bomb released'

**HYDERABAD, JAN. 28.** The Bhuj earthquake unleashed an energy equivalent to a 5.3 megaton hydrogen bomb and aftershocks of this violent force would last for months and not days, according to Dr. Harsh Gupta, director of the National Geophysical Research Institute here.

The quake was so powerful that the tremors were felt as far away as Antarctica.

The NGRI station, set up two years ago at Maitri in Antarctica, recorded the signals and transmitted them to Hyderabad, Dr. Gupta said.

He said his laboratory recorded at 6.34 a.m. today an aftershock measuring about 5.9 on the Richter scale, largest since the main quake devastated the Kutch region on Friday last.

The NGRI had recorded seven aftershocks above magnitude 5 but, Dr. Gupta said, there was no way of telling when the region would become quiet again.

"Considering that the main quake measured about 7 on the Richter scale, it can take months," he said.

Aftershocks arise not from the original fault but from segments in the neighbourhood. — PTI



**Cracks on the Surajbari bridge on the Ahmedabad-Bhuj highway.** Photo: Vivek Bendre.

# India to approach WB, ADB for assistance

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 28.** India will approach the World Bank for an assistance of $ 1 billion and the Asian Development Bank for $ 500 million aid for reconstruction in quake-hit Gujarat.

The decision was taken today at a core Group of Ministers meeting, presided over by the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, who is visiting Gujarat along with the Railway Minister, Ms. Mamata Banerjee, tomorrow.

After the meeting of the Economic Group of Ministers, the Finance Minister, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, said that the damage in Gujarat was enormous. " I have instructed my officers in Washington to approach the World Bank for $ 1 billion and in Manila the Asian Development Bank for $ 500 million as assistance for reconstruction."

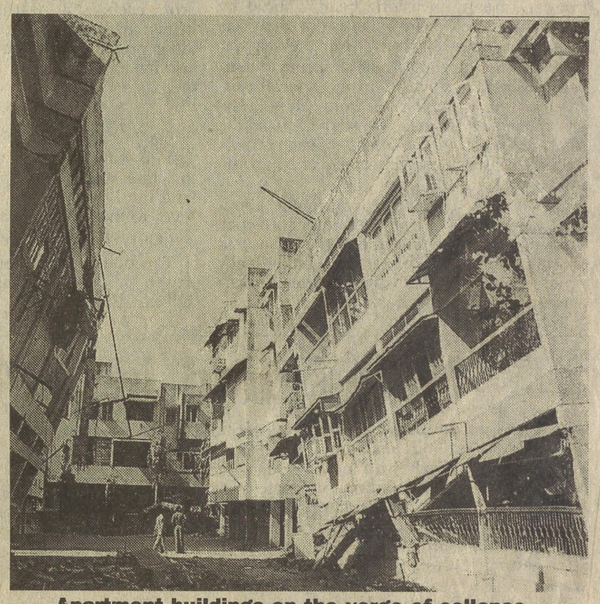
Though resources would have to be found for reconstruction, the situation will be reviewed on return of the Prime Minister. He did not think that it would have much impact on the Budget.

The Foreign Currency Regulation Act would be amended to facilitate flow of donations from abroad. The suggestion was made by the Home Minister, Mr. L. K. Advani and the Indian missions have been sounded in this regard, he added.

Mr. Sinha informed the Prime Minister about the steps taken by his ministry to provide succour to the quake victims.

Among other things, Mr. Yashwant Sinha directed the banks and financial institutions to start functioning immediately in the quake-hit areas to provide relief and rehabilitation assistance to the victims.

The instruction came following an emergency meeting he had with the Finance Secretary, the Revenue Secretary, the Banking Secretary, the Insurance Secretary, the Indian Banking Association Chairman, the CMD of National Housing Bank (NHB), the LIC Chairman and the Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes.



**Apartment buildings on the verge of collapse in Ahmedabad** — AP

### NHB schemes

The NHB has come out with two programmes for financing the repair and reconstruction of houses in Gujarat involving an amount of Rs. 500 crores — Rs. 200 crores by way of refinance to banks and housing finance institutions and Rs. 300 crores as direct finance to state housing boards and other agencies at the state level.

Similarly, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) announced various relief measures giving substantial relaxations in claiming insurance amount. It will accept the death certificate issued by any authority for settling the claims. In case of non-availability of death certificate, certification by an LIC agent would suffice for payment of claims.

According to Mr. Sinha, employees of banks from other regions should be pressed into service in Gujarat to ensure that necessary financial assistance and banking services are provided to the affected in accordance with the RBI norms. Meanwhile, an urgent meeting of the banks has been called by Banking division of Ministry of Finance for tomorrow to chalk out total relief and rehabilitation strategy. A team of senior officials of banks and financial institutions is also being sent to Gujarat.

# Chances for survival of school kids bleak

By Manas Dasgupta

**AHMEDABAD, JAN. 28.** The chances of survival of most of the 400 odd school children trapped under debris in Anjar town in Kutch district are bleak.

The Chief Minister, Mr. Keshubhai Patel, said the rescue operations could be taken up in the town, most parts of which had still remained inaccessible, at a "slow and cautious speed". But so far the teams could rescue only eight children alive and recovered four bodies. There was no definite information about the rest.

The children were trapped when they took out a rally through the streets of the town on the Republic Day when the walls from both the sides of road collapsed trapping them inside.

The chances of the survival of the remaining 30 odd students of the Sacred Flower Higher Secondary School in Maninagar in Ahmedabad too are bleak. Of the 60 odd students who got trapped under a collapsed building while taking a science practical examination, only 10 could escape by jumping collapsing walls or have been rescued alive while 20 bodies had been recovered from under the debris.

Seven persons, including two women, had a miraculous escape in Mansi complex in Satellite area, thanks to the sniffer dogs which arrived with a team of experts from Switzerland late last night. The teams with the dogs were immediately pressed into service and the canines could locate some "life" under the debris. The rescue teams created a hole through the rubble and the seven people were brought out alive.

Already 32 bodies had been recovered from a building while another about 40 people are feared trapped inside the building where some 20 flats of the multi-story building had caved in.

## Congress postpones plenary

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 28.** The Congress party's plenary session, scheduled to take place in Bangalore from February 14 to 16, has been postponed in view of the earthquake that has left more than 15,000 persons dead in Gujarat. A statement issued by the party president, Ms. Sonia Gandhi, here today said that after the unprecedented devastation and the terrible tragedy, the party's plenary was being postponed. A new date would be announced later.

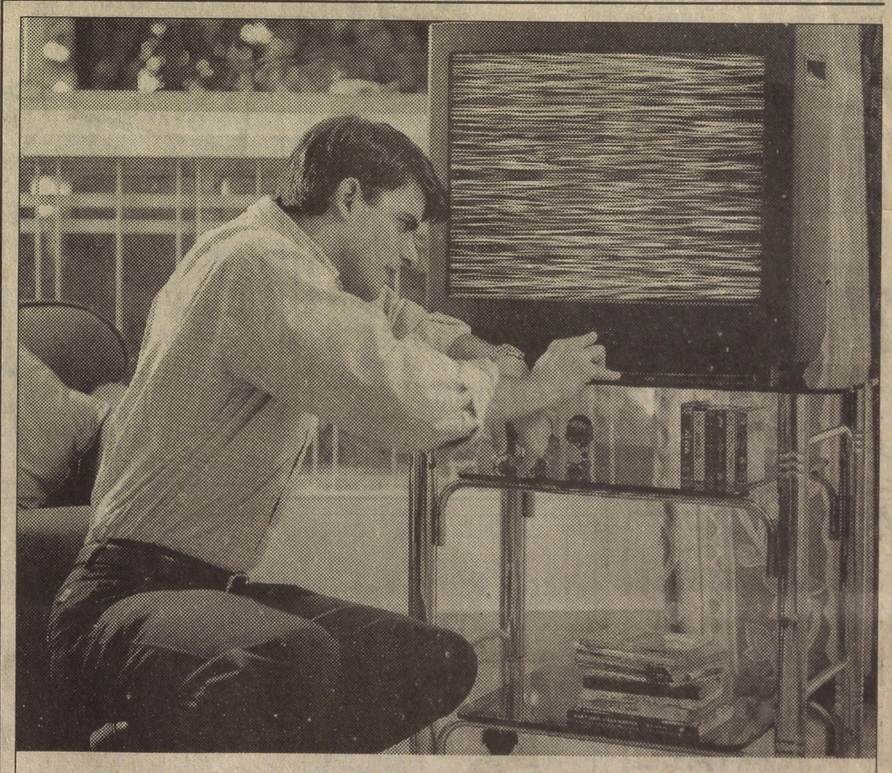
After Ms. Gandhi's election as party president, the holding of the plenary session within a specified timeframe is mandatory under the party constitution.

Normally, at the plenary the party's AICC delegates elect the Congress Working Committee members, but this time the Pradesh Congress Committees have already passed resolutions authorising Ms. Gandhi to nominate the CWC members. This exercise has not yet been completed by Ms. Gandhi.

In the statement announcing the postponement of the plenary session, Ms. Gandhi appealed to all Congress workers to contribute generously towards relief work for the earthquake victims, marking their donations to the treasurer of the All-India Congress Committee or the Rajiv Gandhi National Relief and Welfare Trust.

She also asked Congress workers to go to the affected state and provide maximum assistance in coordination with the Pradesh Congress Committee and the district committees of the party.



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# Scrapping the treaty with Nepal?

By C. Raja Mohan

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 28.** "Treaties", Napoleon said, "are observed as long as they are in harmony with interests". Agreements between nations cannot outlast the circumstances and interests that produced them in the first place.

The time is now for India to ask itself a big question about Nepal. Should we hang on to the 1950 treaty of peace and friendship that our Himalayan neighbour dislikes so intensely?

The recent explosion of anti-Indian violence in Nepal triggered by absolutely baseless rumours about film star Hrithik Roshan has only underscored what was well known. The once close relationship between the two nations is rapidly turning sour.

There is no greater symbol of the profound Nepali resentment against India than the five-decade old treaty of peace and friendship with New Delhi. There is a strong view in Nepal the treaty is an "unequal" one and reflects Indian "hegemony" over Nepal.

Nepal objects to restrictions in the treaty on procurement of arms and military equipment from sources other than India, as well as the requirement for consultations with New Delhi on projects involving non-Indian foreign aid and investment.

India has its own grievances. Many of the security gains New Delhi was supposed to get from the treaty have long been ignored by Kathmandu. New Delhi believes the treaty has become a "one-way street" over the years.

While disregarding India's security concerns, Nepal continues to expect special concessions on many issues from India. New Delhi believes that the key provision in the treaty for "national treatment" of each other's citizens is now being observed only on the Indian side.

Despite the deep disappointment about how the treaty is being implemented by Nepal, India has been hesitant to bite the bullet and proclaim the treaty a dead letter. India finally agreed in the mid-1990s to consider Nepal's demand for a review of the treaty.

The two Foreign Secretaries were assigned the task of handling the review. After a couple of meetings and exchange of some non-papers, Kathmandu believes New Delhi is a "reluctant negotiator".

The Foreign Secretary of Nepal, Mr. Narayan S. Thapa, is coming here tomorrow for consultations with his Indian counterpart, Mr. Lalit Mansingh. The review of the 1950 treaty is certainly expected to be one of the items on the agenda.

The political mood in New Delhi, however, might be changing. New Delhi, it is believed, is ready to consider all options on the treaty seriously, including its abrogation by mutual consent. The new "open mind" in New Delhi about the future of the treaty has not come a day too soon. The bilateral context as well as the international environment of the treaty

## DIPLOMATIC NOTEBOOK

between India and Nepal has radically altered over the last five decades. Instead of holding on to the treaty, India should seek a new framework for bilateral relations that is more in tune with the international situation and political sentiment in Nepal.

New Delhi must leave it to Kathmandu to define what kind of a relationship it wants. India and Nepal certainly cannot run away from each other. But any give and take between them can only be sustained if Kathmandu is prepared to claim ownership to such an arrangement and carry it with the Nepali people.

* * *

Staying with Nepal for another moment, relations between the two civil societies have reached such a sorry pass that the Congress and the BJP decided not to send representatives to the political convention of the Nepal Congress a few days ago.

The political prickliness in Nepal was believed to be so strong that the two parties were advised to avoid the occasion. Given the historic links between the Nepal Congress and the Indian political establishment the decision does not appear to have gone down well in Kathmandu.

Delegates from the Chinese Communist Party were there to grace the occasion, but no one from the mainstream Indian political parties! That sums up the Indian political dilemma in Nepal: damned if you do and damned if you don't.

* * *

The National Security Adviser, Mr. Brajesh Mishra, is travelling this week to Paris for the next round of the Indo- French strategic dialogue established after the nuclear tests in May 1998. The French connection was very handy for India in beating back much of the negative international reaction to Pokhran-II. Mr. Mishra must now try and inject some life into the dialogue that appears to have lost some of its momentum in recent months.

Mr. Mishra will also travel to Munich, Germany to attend the annual conclave of top defence officials and academics from the United States, Europe and Asia. The hot topic this year will be the controversial plans of the Bush Administration for national missile defence (NMD).

India was invited for the first time last year to attend this very important gathering. Mr. Mishra represented newly nuclear India. He will have an opportunity this year to reach out to the top officials of the Bush administration, including Mr. Donald Rumsfield, U.S. Defence Secretary, who will be present at Munich.

* * *

India is gratefully accepting offers from every part of the world for assistance in coping with the human tragedy in Gujarat. No churlish rejection of international relief this time. In being more graceful, the Government is aware that not all offers of assistance will be immediately necessary. The urgent priority is for sniffer dogs, electronic devices that can locate survivors under the rubble, equipment that can cut concrete, and mobile surgical clinics among others.

**QUAKE HAVOC** / USAID ANNOUNCES $1 MILLION

# Overseas aid for quake victims

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

**WASHINGTON, JAN. 28.** The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced that it will immediately provide $1 million in response to the major earthquake that hit India on Friday. "We have been in close contact with the Government of India and are pleased to provide this assistance. We are continuing to work with them and stand ready to respond if additional assistance is needed," the Acting Administrator of USAID, Mr. Don Pressley, has said.

The assistance will fund an emergency airlift of relief supplies, including plastic sheets, blankets, water, containers, purification and distribution kits and generators. It is said that some 8,000 families will stand to benefit as a result of the assistance. The commodities will arrive on Monday morning.

The USAID, through CARE, a non-governmental organisation, has also begun distributing 100 tonnes of food aid from Saturday. The emergency food assistance consisting of ready- to-eat food that would meet half the requirements of some 4,000 families for between 15 and 20 days, is already in India.

The agency said that in support of the efforts of the Government of India, it would provide financial assistance to support the work of relief groups that are already in Gujarat.

Meanwhile, the High Commission of India in Ottawa, Canada, has issued a press release detailing a number of things, including contact numbers in Gujarat as also where individuals and agencies could send assistance for the earthquake. "The Government of India has decided that all offers made voluntarily will be gratefully accepted," the High Commission has said.

The priority at present, according to the release, is for items required for search and rescue operations, such as sniffer dogs, electronic equipment for searching for bodies, communications equipment and mobile surgical operation theatres. If medical and rescue teams arrive without visas, instructions have been issued to the Government of Gujarat to issue them on arrival at Ahmedabad.

### Amit Baruah reports from Singapore:

Malaysia and Australia have extended their condolences to India and offered monetary support to the quake victims.

The Malaysian Prime Minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, said in a personal letter the Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee: "It is with profound sadness that I learnt of the devastating earthquake that struck the Indian State of Gujarat."

"Malaysia appreciated the tremendous efforts needed to undertake search and rescue operations. In this regard, the Government of Malaysia is happy to offer the services of its own specially-trained team to provide whatever assistance possible in such operations...." the letter said. Separately, the Malaysian Foreign Minister, Syed Hamid Albar, announced that Kuala Lumpur had announced $1,00,000 as immediate assistance for the quake victims.

Australia, meanwhile, announced a contribution of $5,50,000 for those affected.

"The Australian Government will contribute one million (Australian) dollars ($5,50,000) to assist emergency relief programmes through the United Nations and international organisations," the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. John Howard, said in a statement.

"... The Government will continue to monitor the situation in order to determine how best we can provide any further assistance," Mr. Howard added.

Reuters, PTI, AFP report:

### China offers $6,00,000

The Chinese Government had decided to provide materials worth five million yuan (about $6,00,000) to India as humanitarian aid to the quake-stricken people in Gujarat and elsewhere.

"This is to show the sympathy of the Chinese Government and people to the Indian Government and victims in the quake-stricken areas," a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Econonic Cooperation in Beijing said.

### Japanese package

Japan today said it was giving 103.5 million yen ($9,76,000) in emergency aid to help the victims of the earthquake. The aid package comprises $7,00,000 in grants-in- aid and materials worth 30 million yen.

### Irish pledge

The Irish Government has pledged upto one million Irish pounds (1.27 million euros) of emergency aid for the victims of the earthquake while Belgium has offered one million euros ($9,20,000 dollars) in disaster relief. "One quarter of that is to be made available immediately, with the rest to be distributed as a clearer picture of the country's needs emerges," a spokesman for Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

### Relief pouring in

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 28.** France has sent two field hospitals with two medical teams comprising 46 trained personnel. The teams, aboard a French Air Force aircraft C-135, are scheduled to reach Ahmedabad tonight. While extending sympathies to the victims' families, the French President, Mr. Jacques Chirac, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Lionel Jospin, expressed the readiness of France to provide all help and support to the people in Gujarat.

Germany has sent a 27-member team of the 'German Rapid Deployment Unit-Search and Rescue' to Ahmedabad today for instant assistance. Specialists from Germany, already in Ahmedabad, have brought along six sniffer dogs to trace victims buried under the debris.

In addition, their rescue equipment includes electronic location devices, a highly sophisticated search camera, chain saws for cutting through concrete and hydraulic earth moving equipment. The expert team's immediate deployment in the affected areas was crucial as the chance of finding survivors deteriorated rapidly after about 72 hours, the German Embassy said in a release.

Another specialist 69-member U.K. search and rescue team has also arrived in Ahmedabad by a Royal Air Force aircraft.

# Netaji died in 1945 aircrash: Japanese doctor

**LONDON, JAN. 28.** Controversy over the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has "ended" with a Japanese doctor, who attended on him, certifying that the Indian National Army (INA) chief died on August 18, 1945, a few hours after getting injured in a plane crash.

The first hand account of how Bose was brought in a serious condition to a military hospital in Taihoku, Formosa, Japan, how he breathed his last and where his ashes were kept was narrated by Dr. Taneyoshi Yoshimi.

Dr. Yoshimi, captain (medical) of the Imperial Japanese Army, was interviewed by British Intelligence in Hong Kong after the Japanese surrender. Narrating the event, the doctor who now resides in northern Japan, said Bose died of "extensive burns and shock."

The doctor said, "in August, 1945, I was the senior officer at Nanmon Military Hospital. At about 1700 hrs on 18th of August, a truck arrived before the hospital containing several men who had been injured in a plane-crash. Two of the men were Indians, and about five or six were Japanese. A Japanese staff officer with the rank of Lt. Colonel whose name I believe was Ishii, pointed at one of the Indians and informed me that it was Bose and that I must give him the very best of treatment."

" I personally cleaned his injuries and dressed them. He was suffering from extensive burns over the whole of his body though the most serious were those on his head, chest and thighs. There was very little left on his head in the way of hair or other identification marks. During the first four hours he was semi-conscious, and speaking quite a good deal. The first words I spoke to him were in Japanese, when he made a request for water. As Bose spoke mostly in English, a request for an interpreter was made, and one Nakamura was sent from the civil government offices. He told me that he had very often interpreted for Bose and appeared to have no doubt that the man he was speaking with was Bose," Dr. Yoshimi said.

During the treatment, the doctor said he had inquired whether Bose was in any pain, but the latter gave no reply. "After four hours, I inquired whether there was any statement, will, or such matter he wished to make. He answered 'nothing'. After the fourth hour, he went unconscious. He murmured and muttered in a state of coma. At about 2300 hrs, he died."

The other Indian was Bose's adjutant, a Colonel of INA, who was suffering from burns to the sides of his head, arms, hands and knees. "I do not remember his name, but recall that it was a very long one. He was tall, medium built, and clean shaven," Dr. Yoshimi said. "It was the wish of this Colonel and also that of the authorities that the remains of Bose be transported to Tokyo. I injected Formalin into the body and also had the coffin partly filled with lime. It was put in a box, and on August 20th, was taken to Taihoku airport for transportation to Japan, under the charge of Warrant Officer, Nishi. The officer later returned and informed me that the body could not be taken to Japan for unknown reasons, and was to be sent to crematorium."

"I, therefore, made out a death certificate, stating the causes of death to be extensive burns and shock," Dr. Yoshimi said, adding that the orders for the change of plans came from the adjutant's department, Taiwan Army.

"On the morning of August 19th, Colonel Miyata, staff officer of General Ando, came to the hospital to express mourning. The news of the death was kept a secret, and I and my staff were warned not to divulge that. The news, as far as I can remember, was published in the Public Press early in September, 1945," Dr. Yoshimi said. The aircraft carrying Bose, his adjutant and about twelve others (Japanese), took off from Taihoku airport, and after rising to a height of about 30 feet, had suddenly burst into flames and crashed to the ground. "A Major-General, Shidei, and two others were killed. The others were rescued and brought to the Nanmon Hospital. The two pilots were burnt, but after remaining in my care for about three weeks, recovered, and transferred to Hokuto Military Hospital where I later heard they had died. The Indian Colonel, adjutant to Bose, remained in my care for about 10 days, and was then sent to the hospital. The interpreter, Nakamura, went up there with him, and I have no knowledge of what became of either of them. I do know, however, that the ashes of Bose were handed over to the Indian Colonel." The ashes were subsequently kept at Tokyo's Renkoji temple, Dr. Yoshimi said. — PTI

# Jehadism negating Track-II diplomacy: Gujral

By Our Staff Reporter

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 28.** Former Prime Minister, Mr. Inder Kumar Gujral, has described terrorism as the real destabilising factor in the subcontinent that threatens the fabric of democracy and the very structure of civil society. Addressing the third session on "Tensions and Conflicts in the Indian Subcontinent" of the International Press Institute's 50th general assembly here, Mr. Gujral said the new element of "jehadism" was negating the gains of Track-II diplomacy.

Saying that the future of both India and Pakistan lay in cooperation, Mr. Gujral, however, said "positive friendship and cooperative relationships have been built and sustained in the region as a whole and this must be further strengthened through regional initiatives". The former Prime Minister said the South Asian Human Rights Initiative had been set up recently of which he was the chairman. "Despite Kargil, people-to-people relationships are also improving which is an encouraging sign," he said. Agreeing with Mr. Gujral that undercurrents of positivism could be seen in the subcontinent, Ms. Shirin Tahir Kheli, Research Professor on Foreign Policy, John Hopkins University, Washington, said the history of the region was one of missed opportunities, the latest being the non-fulfilment of the potential of the Prime Minister's visit to Lahore.

"The absence of normal relationships in this part of the world is almost legendary. Despite the promise of a free-trade zone, this again has never been fulfilled due to the underlying political tensions," Ms. Kheli said. Touching upon what he called the "elemental underpinnings of tensions in South Asia", Mr. J.N. Dixit, former Foreign Secretary, said territorial inadequacies, collective national identity, management of national resources, demographical problems, nuclearisation, internal contradictions in civil society and asymmetry between India and its neighbors were the seven reasons behind the tension and conflict in the region.

Mr. I.A. Rahman, Director, Pakistan Human Rights Commission, said the conflict in the subcontinent was a symptom of something that lies below. "It pays some people to keep tensions high in the region; it pays some people to create the stupidity of atomic bombs."

Mr. Peter Preston, Co-Director of the Guardian Foundation, said India and Pakistan should allow movement of people and cultures across the border. Ms. Barbara Crosette, U.N. Bureau Chief of *New York Times*, said cultural cooperation through the strengthening of regional institutions and investing in human development in the region can redefine security concerns as was happening the worldover. Chairing the session, Mr. H.D.S. Greenway, columnist, *The Boston Globe*, said war must give way to peace.

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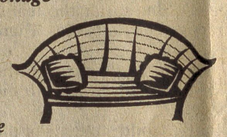

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# Vaz 'interest' in Hindujas' bank project compounds row

By Hasan Suroor

**LONDON, JAN. 28.** A question mark loomed over the political future of the Foreign Office Minister, Mr. Keith Vaz, following reports today that apart from his role in the Hindujas' passport affair he may have also lobbied for them in their bid to set up an Asian bank in Britain and that he owed his ministerial berth to the Hindujas. In another development, Home Office officials were said to have "flatly contradicted" Mr. Vaz's version of his involvement in the passport case. His "interest" in the Hindujas brothers' "banking ambitions" was reported by *The Sunday Times* quoting an unnamed former Tory Minister as saying that Mr. Vaz entered the scene after the Bank of England rejected an application from Mr. Srichand and Mr. Gopichand Hinduja in the late 1980s for a licence to offer banking services to the Asian community.

Their application, it was stated, was rejected on the advice of the Foreign Office because of their involvement in an arms deal — a reference to the Bofors kickbacks scandal. The Foreign Office advice to the Bank was that they were "not to
be touched" — in the sense of not being touched even with a barge pole.

The Hindujas' alleged role in advancing Mr. Vaz's political career was reported by *The Sunday Telegraph* which said that Mr. Srichand Hinduja — the brother whose passport application Mr. Vaz is alleged to have lobbied for — wrote to the Prime Minister Mr. Tony Blair in spring 1999 "complaining that there were no Asian MPs in ministerial positions."

"Insiders within the Hinduja empire said that the letter was intended to influence Mr. Blair into promoting Mr. Vaz," the paper said, adding that a few months later Mr. Blair "surprised MPs by making Mr. Vaz a junior minister in the Lord Chancellor's department."

Mr. Vaz has been defending his links with the Hindujas saying that as a prominent Asian political figure it is his job to take up cases of the members of the Asian community. He has said he is not apologetic about his relations with the Hindujas, and suggested that there was a hint of racism in the media coverage of the Hindujas' affair and his role in it.

Meanwhile, *The Observer* which broke the passports scandal a week ago said today that the Home Office officials have "flatly contradicted the version of events Foreign Office Minister Keith Vaz gave... last weekend about his involvement with the Hindujas."

Even as Mr. Vaz was fighting for political survival, Mr. Peter Mandelson, forced to resign last week for the same offence, was involved in a huge row with Downing Street saying that he was forced out on the basis of "summary exploration" of the facts without giving him a chance to defend himself. He also alleged that he suspected he was a victim of a "set-up".

In an article in *The Sunday Times*, he described the scene at 10, Downing Street last Wednesday, when he was summoned by the Prime Minister and advised to resign, as a "horrible drama" which led him "briefly to be persuaded that my recollection was wrong and that I had erred and that I should resign".

A "close friend" of Mr. Mandelson was quoted to say he had faced "kangaroo court" at Downing Street.

Mr. Mandelson maintained that he still had no recollection of the telephone call to a Home Office Minister on Mr. Srichand Hinduja's behalf which cost him his job. Mr. Mandelson claimed that two of his former Secretaries had since contacted him and said that his original version of the events — that he did not personally call up a minister — was correct. He vowed to fight back.

This brought an angry reaction from the Prime Minister's press officer, Mr. Alastair Campbell, who went to the extent of questioning Mr. Mandelson's mental state and said that for sometime he had been curiously "detached". "He didn't have the normal focus. He's been a little bit like that for a while. He's fed up with it. He's kind of had enough."

### Tabloids queer the pitch

By Hasan Suroor

**LONDON, JAN. 28.** Mr. Tony Blair called it "media frenzy" — and that was before the tabloids came out with arguably the most astounding story on the Hindujas' affair. The story, which had nothing to do with the passports scandal and only remotely with the Hinduja-Mandelson "connection", cost some people some pretty well-heeled jobs not to mention a lot of red faces at the Hindujas' headquarters.

In what was billed as a disclosure with presumably profound implications, *The Sun*, *The Daily Mail* and the *London Evening Standard* informed their readers in a salacious tone so typical of the tabloids, that a new PR consultant hired by the Hindujas barely 10 days ago was not only gay but had been a one-time "lover" of the disgraced Mr. Peter Mandelson's current Brazilian companion, Mr. Reinaldo de Silva.The news was not that Mr. Mandelson is gay and has a boyfriend which is well known, but that there was a gay connection involving the Hindujas' new PR man, Mr. Howell James, Mr. Mandelson and Mr. Reinaldo de Silva; or what *The Times* uncharacteristically called a "love triangle".

Calling it a 'Murky Mess', *The Sun* wanted to know the "significance of the relationship between Peter Mandelson's lover and Howell James who advises the Hindujas"; *The Daily Mail* carried the story under the headline 'Mandy and the Belfast rumba', a reference to the fact that after quitting the Government, Mr. Mandelson flew to Belfast with his boyfriend — the very same Mr. de Silva.

The story was picked up by wire agencies and apparently they started putting out photographs of Mr. de Silva walking Mr. Mandelson's dog. The effect was electric and Mr. James was put out to grass; or more correctly put himself out to grass to avoid all-round embarrassment.

Brown Lloyd James, the agency for which he worked, announced on Friday that it was pulling out of the Hindujas' payroll. In a statement it said the agency was not in a position to continue when the "media are tying to make the agency a part of the story".

"In view of today's press coverage we have decided it will not be appropriate for us to continue to represent the Hinduja group and we have therefore resigned the amount," it said. The agency was hired by the Hindujas on January 15 to handle the events in the wake of the passport controversy.

Had the Prime Minister not spoken out already, he may have had to invent a stronger term than mere "media frenzy" to describe some of the press coverage of the Hinduja-Mandelson episode which is increasingly turning into a fishing expedition with seemingly unrelated events being dragged into it to keep the story going.

### CBI to question Hindujas today

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 28.** The CBI has called all the three Hinduja brothers tomorrow for yet another round of interrogation in connection with the Bofors payoffs case.

The agency today questioned Mr. G.P.Hinduja, London- based businessman, for nearly two hours. According to the CBI spokesman, Mr. S. M. Khan, the agency has sought some clarifications on certain aspects of the commission received by the Hinduja brothers in their coded accounts in Swiss banks in the Bofors gun deal of 1986. The CBI has to submit its progress report before the Special Court on January 30 on the Hindujas' interrogation, begun on January 19. The Special Court will also hear on January 30 the applications of three Hinduja brothers for going abroad.

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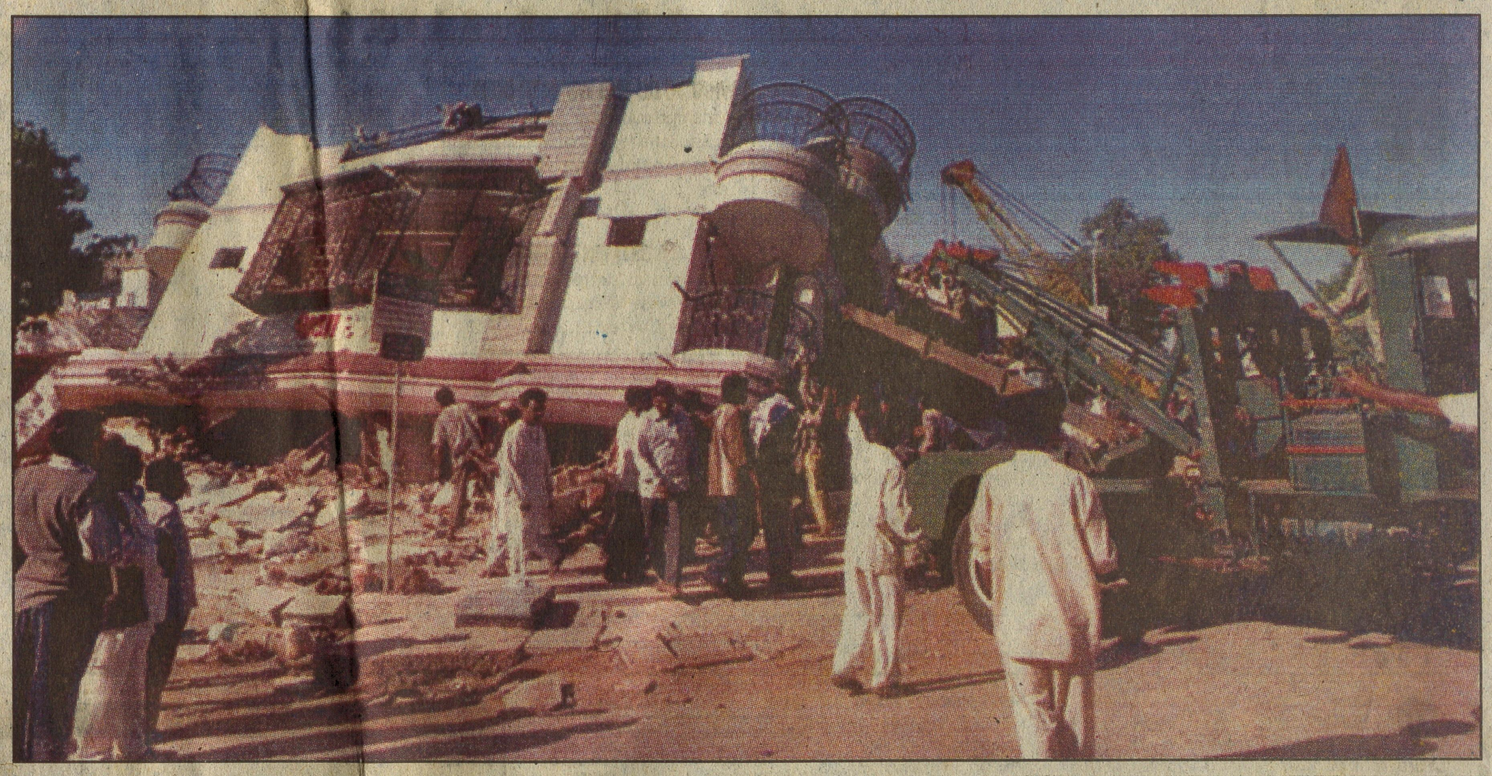
## Gujarat writhes under heaps of rubble as earth unleashes its fury

# 6,000 killed, 50,000 leave Ahmedabad

- Many towns devastated
- Nearly 200 aftershocks
- 100 IAF personnel and families dead
- 400 children buried under debris
- Gujarat Govt seeks Rs 500-crore aid
- Alert in Mumbai
- Army launches biggest-ever relief operations
- Increase in quake shocks in Koyna
- World help pouring in



People look at a quake-ravaged building in Ahmedabad on Saturday (More reports, pictures on pages 10, 11 and 12)

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In Bhuj, about 400 children going in a procession in a narrow lane in Anjhar town to take part in the Republic Day celebrations were crushed under the collapsing houses on both sides. Along with the children, 50 teachers were also feared trapped. In Ahmedabad, where the toll is reported to be around 600, at least 40 children have been trapped in the school. Already, 18 bodies have been retrieved.

A report from Bhuj said nearly 400 people were feared killed in the collapse of a hotel of Tolani College. Overall in the State, about 40,000 people have been estimated to be injured in the earthquake.

Lucky survivors in Bhuj and surrounding areas are living in the open. With the major hospitals in Bhuj town collapsing taking under its rubble 150 patients and 15 employees including doctors, open air medical camps have sprung up to provide medical aid to the injured. In the other severely affected areas of Kutch, Bachau and Rapar, people in thousands are feared trapped.

**SEA OF DEATH & DEBRIS:** A shattered Gujarat woke up the day after the killer earthquake to a sea of death and debris. While Ahmedabad was trying to pick up the pieces, the enormity of the disaster had barely begun to sink in the rest of the State.

Bhuj was where the death count was on. Hour by hour, the numbers went up, and in nearly 72 villages and towns around Bhuj, where the epicentre is estimated to be, nobody has reached to take count of the dead and trapped inside the rubble. If and when it is done, the numbers are expected to shoot up to thousands, making it one of the worst earthquakes in human history.

After nearly 24 hours, the survivors in Bhachau, Morvi, Anjhar, were still looking expectantly towards the highway which led to Bhuj for some form of relief. Since Bhuj is the largest town in the Kutch area and has an Air Force base, all relief work remained concentrated there.

The images of open-air surgeries, the doctors, the injured being air-lifted, the food packets and the paramilitary presence flashed across the country, seemed like a cruel joke on these people in the villages, completely cut off for the last two days.

Bhachau, a town with a population of nearly 30,000 and just 70 km from Bhuj, woke up this morning to a complete absence of any relief. The irony is that it is not in some remote inaccessible corner but is on the highway leading to Bhuj. "I saw a few military convoys moving towards Bhuj and I waved at them. I screamed and stopped them. They told me

▶To P 12, col 2

# Many Keralites among victims

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE



(From left) K P Mathew, Nihita, Jeffrin, Jessy, Elikutty, Joy, Triny

**Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 27:** A number of Keralites are feared to be among the victims of the earthquake which hit several parts of Gujarat yesterday. Official and family sources in Kerala confirmed the death of eight persons till late in the evening today.

A seven-member family from Pala in Kottayam district was wiped out as the 10-storeyed apartment near Ahmedabad collapsed. The deceased include Joy, 40, his wife Jessy, 36, children Johana, 10, Jaffrin, 7, Jessy's mother Elikutty, 70, and cousins Nikhita, 3, and Triny, 5.

They were occupying the ninth floor of the building. Joy had been doing business in Ahmedabad for the past 15 years. His family sources are yet to get the details about the arrival of bodies.

A pall of gloom spread in Iymuri in Kodanad, Ernakulam district, this morning as news of the death of 29-year-old K P Mathew, an Assistant Sub-Inspector in the 71 Battalion of the Border Security Force (BSF), in the earthquake spread. The message was received last night in the Kodanad police station limits in the district from Gujarat. Mathew's wife is a nurse in Gujarat. Besides his wife, he is survived by his mother, four brothers and five sisters. Mathew was stationed at Kutch, one of the worst affected areas of the quake.

Kalthilparambathil Panambada Sathi Kumari,44, of the 14 ward in Cherthala Municipality, was also killed in the quake, according to reports.

With information trickling in about casualties of Malayalees, even 36 hours after the tragedy, the State Government was not able to provide concrete information on the latest casualties. The high-level team, constituted by the government under Social Welfare Principal Secretary Satya Narayan Dash, which is scheduled to leave for Gujarat tomorrow is also clueless about its mission. "We will leave tomorrow. A senior police officer will join us in Mumbai from where we would be flying to Ahmedabad the next day," a senior official said.

Till evening, senior officials here had not been able to contact their Gujarat counterparts including the Relief Commissioner at Ahmedabad. There was no information about when consignments of medicines and relief material would be sent to Gujarat. The team comprises IG Venugopal K Nair, State Protocol Officer K Unnikrishnan and a team of medical experts headed by Deputy DMO Radhakrishnan. The

▶To P 4, col 5

# Valmiki, Vyasa: A lesson for Hindujas

**POINT OF VIEW**

T J S George

WHAT is the use of wealth if it only lands you in the kind of ess the Hindujas are in? Their name was disreputa-le in India even before Bofors. But it was considered be in good standing in Brit-. After all, Prince Charles their buddy and Tony Bla-vent to their house for i and Shrimati Blair arces gifted by them. we now know that the Hi- name is mud even in opted country. Only wi- resentment within nes of people's minds led to the MPs' rev-ed to the resignation itish Minister who e Minister Blair's man. ecause Srichand Hinduja was given British citizenship in a record six months' time due to the intervention of the Minister in "suspect" circumstances.

All this is pure Hinduja, reflecting what appears to be the family creed: Money is the root of all power. Yet, being "the richest Indians in the world" as we are constantly reminded has not helped them. Look at them trudging in and out of courts, getting jostled by policemen and lawyers and photographers, being grilled by CBI. The ancient Romans were right: a good reputation is more valuable than money.

There is one possibly negative side to reputation: Poets who have it can get away with inferior poetry, as Valmiki and Vyasa have done. There was this conscientious Sanskrit poet, Dharmakirti, who was quite sarcastic about Valmiki's idea of a bridge across the ocean built with rocks put in place by monkeys. He was equally sarcastic about Vyasa's idea of Partha filling up the ocean with his arrows. Such extravagant exaggeration and still the world thinks highly of these authors.

"On the other hand," laments Dharmakirti, "I weigh both word and sense yet the public sneers and scorns my work. Oh Reputation, I salute thee!"

Why does good reputation elude the Hinduja family's Fearsome Foursome? From the time Father Hinduja began in Bombay in 1914, and struck gold in Iran from 1919 until 1979 (60 long years), the Hinduja business has essentially been middleman business. This is a business that requires patrons (say, the Shah of Iran) and an elastic conscience: You must not balk if the commodity you trade is weapons of destruction, your clients include terrorists and the channels you use are not always legal.

It's not exactly the kind of business that wins you prizes for morals. Hinduja literature

▶To P 12, col 2



## STAR POWER: THE WEEK AHEAD

PETER VIDAL



**ARIES (March 21 - April 20)**
Mysterious aspects from Mercury and Venus are doing their best to keep you on an even keel, but not without some uncertainty. It's up to you to make sure your goals are right for the moment. That way, you'll keep partners sweet and avoid impending trouble.



**TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)**
Recent times may have been mentally and physically exhausting, especially as you've been in one of your over-sensitive phases. It's time to come down to earth and deal with real life before you lose touch completely. Cash concerns create havoc midweek, but you'll soon be back on top.



**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**
You are bound to find out that your emotions are going to be stirred up even before you get the time to think. However, your life during the week should be pleasant if you have a clear purpose and direction. Also, do have faith in your feelings, otherwise you'll drift off course. Family members need support midweek — even if they don't deserve it.



**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**
It's all too easy to cruise along, hoping that life will continue on its own cosy way, leaving you happy and undisturbed. Yet at times like this, the planets have a way of pulling the rug out from under your feet. The smart cancer will be picking up bargains, no matter what partners expect.



**LEO (July 24 - August 23)**
Your sights are set on prosperity but don't kid yourself that your financial ambitions will work out as planned unless you put in a great deal of effort. This is one of those times when the planets reward the thrifty and punish the wasteful. And about time too, I hear you say!

**VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)**
Mars is playing quite a mischievous role in your life at the moment. So much so that some sort of professional confrontation is always on the cards and never too far away. This crisis is not likely to break anytime yet. However, whenever it does, you must already be in a position to deal with all the accompanying irritating problems and side issues.





**LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)**
Current planetary impulses are generally favourable but may nevertheless be making it difficult for you to deal with certain issues of a private or personal nature. You must wait at least another two weeks before all is made clear. In the meantime, carry on and do what you do best — maintain harmony at home and see to it that everyone gets on at work.



**SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)**
Although in the final analysis your financial prospects really are quite amazing, everything depends on how skilled you are at distinguishing between all the various options. The issues may not be as clear cut as they seem. A romantic encounter lifts your spirits — thankfully.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 22)**
The combined impact of Mercury, Venus and Jupiter in your life really does make for quite a remarkable moment, even if events have been moving much slower than you would like them to. At least recent misunderstandings will soon be cleared up. Even a cash crisis will soon pass.





**CAPRICORN (December 23 - January 20)**
This is due to be a major week, with future planetary alignments already casting a helpful shadow over your affairs. Move as fast as you can to implement much needed improvements in your relationships or professional aspirations. Your emotional stars are stirring up long-forgotten desires, by the way.



**AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)**
Recent planetary aspects may have reinforced many of your traditional Aquarian qualities of courage and independence, affording you a great deal of protection and enhancing your chances of material success. A professional responsibility needs to be shifted on to other shoulders — you need a break.



**PISCES (February 20 - March 20)**
Don't be deceived by the belief that the pressure might seem to be off. Although current planetary aspects support your goals, approaching events will cause you to rethink your current strategy. It might be that you decide to treat a particular person in an entirely new way — and you may be right! ■

## IF IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY

***SUNDAY, JANUARY 28:*** It's time to dream a little. Let your mind wander wherever it likes and see where it comes down. Perhaps that's where you should make your next move. Seriously, the whole of this new year could be a time when you'd be advised to pay more attention to your imagination, even when you're pondering over strictly practical problems.

***MONDAY, JANUARY 29:*** Although tense planetary patterns linger, they are now all in the past. And that means that just as today should see declining stress levels, so will the next 12 months. There will be ups and downs of course but as long as you maintain responsibility for your own actions you won't go wrong.

***TUESDAY, JANUARY 30:*** You'll soon be taking a lively, optimistic approach in all areas and avenues, asserting your independence, yet without alienating others or disturbing your relationships. This, in itself, looks like a recipe for certain success. But never take good fortune for granted.

***WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31:*** Life is looking increasingly argumentative. You may be caught off guard if a partner makes the first move, but, rare for Pisces, you have a wonderful chance to clear the air. You can also continue to take the romantic lead, using your natural charm to win the day.

***THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1:*** There's a strong Taurean presence in your chart today, and that could mean that you're in a profoundly practical mood. In other words, far from being an idle dreamer, you'll begin to put your plans into practice. What's more, your energy and determination will pick up over the next 12 months.

***FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2:*** Your current planetary movements are imaginative, inspired and confident on the one hand and down-to-earth and practical on the other. And I'd say that's a pretty good combination. Socially and romantically you'll continue to call the shots, and that means that partners will have to shape up.

***SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3:*** Mercury and Venus have both switched signs, moving into lively, assertive Aries and poetic, passive Pisces. That all adds up to a background shift in the 'zeitgeist', or the spirit of the times. By all accounts the next month favours compromise and compassion although the next few days bring an initial high risk of misunderstandings — so think straight!

**WHAT TO DO AND WHEN TO DO IT**


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Domestic and family matters ....30
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Selling ....29
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**INVESTMENT GUIDE**


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Arrange business meetings and interviews..28
Note tips and hunches....29

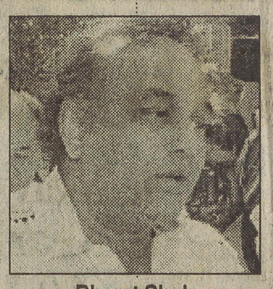

# Star Watch

WITH VEENA SANDAL

His arrest has sent Bollywood reeling, Bharat Shah has invested an estimated Rs 100 crore in the Hindi film industry. Shah is among the biggest diamond exporters, with factories in India, Thailand, Belgium, Israel, Nepal. Besides, he dabbles in enterprises like film financing, has a major stake in the B4U television channel and srkworld.com. Amidst other issues highlighted by Shah's arrest, the crux of the problem is that there is a rapidly growing international market for Indian films and film music. While this has provided a wonderful chance for the industry to raise bank funds, the mafia wants a share too. For them, routing astronomical sums via hawala transactions is a matter of minutes. Shah's rise to being the most influential film financier has a lot to do with his control over cash payments, music and distribution rights and funding.

Will Shah's arrest mark the beginning of a clean-up ? Only to a limited extent. But several significant things will happen. Influence will no longer be a bar against police scrutiny. The problem will not be restricted to producers — film stars' links will be exposed as well, and yes, star prices are likely to come crashing down. Actually, since 2001 will see fewer releases, producers who release their films by the year-end are bound to fare better at the box office.

Will the Roshans gain as Shah hasn't financed any of Rakesh Roshan's films ? Very marginally, as other tentacles will put the squeeze on them. Shah's arrest will intensify underworld competition as well as the political bitterness between Bhujbal and the Thackeray clan, who have substantial interests in show business. And there will be a somewhat double-edged ben[efit] too: investors [are] likely to be [more] careful and [not] get swayed [by] tempting pr[o]tions by film[-]panies or b[anks] ramping of[f] stock by r[ig]operators. Shah him[self] man who[se] shirts ra[ised] betwee[n] to Rs 10000, three factors ion him. One, fear among involved — remember G[ulshan] Kumar? He was gunned broad daylight, but the in closed ranks and entere[d] cy of silence, although o[f] Nadeem and Tips Music Ramesh Taurani were [not] ed. Two, funding needs get that nearly 30 films affected by the arrest. ly nurtured political con along with some politic ing, such as the Bhujb rivalry at work.



Bharat Shah

*Bharat Shah's ca[se]*

## YOUR DAY

Astrological advice by Kanippayyur Narayanan Namboodiripad

**February 4, Sunday.** 7.25 am to 9.09 am (Aquarius - Kumbham Rasi). Auspicious for wedding engagement, marriage, meeting with ministers, earthwork, namakaranam, annaprasam. Can launch industries in pharmaceuticals, health care equipments, food products (solid/liquid/powder), metallurgical products, construction materials, hardwares, ceramic/clay/pulp products, writing/printing materials, textiles/jewellery, equipments used in civil/computer/electrical/automobile engineering, minerals/metals mined out of the earth, dairy products, pooja materials, perfumes. Can construct nursing homes, educational institutions, prayer halls, dairy farms. 9.09 am to 10.53 am (Pisces - Meenam Rasi). Auspicious for wedding engagement/wedding, meeting with ministers, spiritual pursuits. Can travel for all purposes. Can launch industries in pharmaceuticals, agricultural produce, (mainly fruits and vegetables), materials produced with water as the main input, pooja materials, textiles, jewellery, perfumes, food products, industrial ancillaries, refineries/processors, freezing plants, writing materials, home appliances, equipments used in computer/civil/electrical/automobile/architectural engineering. Can construct places of worship. 10.53 am to 12.39 pm (Aries - Mesham Rasi). Can travel for all purposes but on this day do not travel east. Those born during Chitta, Swathi and first three quarters of Vishakha should not perform any shubhakarmas on 4th February.

**February 5, Monday.** 7.20 am to 7.30 am (Aries - Kumbham Rasi). Auspicious for Namakaranam. 9.05 am to 10.47 am (Pisces - Meenam Rasi). Good period for starting medical treatment.

**February 6, Tuesday.** 7.17 am to 9 am (Aquarius - Kumbham Rasi). Auspicious for earthwork, enterprises with fire as the main input. 9 am to 10.42 am (Pisces-Meenam Rasi). Auspicious for enterprises using huge quantities of water and fire. Can travel for all purposes. 10.42 am to 12.32 pm (daytime). (Aries - Mesham Rasi). Can travel for all purposes but on this day do not travel South/east. Those born during Vishakha (last qr.), Anuradha and Jyeshta should not perform any shubhakarmas on 5th and 6th of February 2001.

**February 7, Wednesday.** 7.13 am to 8.57 am (Aquarius - Kumbham Rasi). Auspicious for wedding engagement, house construction/warming, joining duty, earthwork and Namakaranam. Recommendations regarding industrial activities mentioned for Aquarius Rasi of February 4 applicable here also. 8.57 am to 10.39 am (Pisces - Meenam Rasi). Auspicious for wedding engagement, house construction/warming, spiritual affairs, transactions in properties/vehicles, opening bank accounts, computer related enterprises, utilisation of water resources, launching professional careers. Recommendations regarding industries given for Pisces Rasi of February 4 applicable here also. Can trade in the products as well. On this day do not travel south-west.

**February 8, Thursday.** 9 am to 10.35 am (Pisces - Meenam Rasi). Auspicious only for planting trees. Those born during Moola, Poorvashada and first quarter of Utharashada should not perform any shubhakarmas on 7th/8th February 2001.

**February 9, Friday.** 7.04 am to 8.48 am (Aquarius - Kumbha Rasi). Auspicious for house construction/warming, marriage. 9.10 am to 10.30 am (Pisces - Meenam Rasi). Auspicious for house construction/warming, marriage. On this day do not have any transactions in properties/vehicles/ houses/money/ foodgrains.

**February 10, Saturday.** Totally inauspicious day. Those born during Utharashada (last three qrs.), Sravana and Dhanishta (first half) should not perform any shubhakarmas on 9th and 10th of February 2001.

## WEATHER

### KERALA

Rain occurred at a few places in Kerala. Mainly dry weather prevailed over Lakshadweep. The chief amounts of rainfall in cm are: **Kochi** AP (Ernakulam district), **Chengannur** & **Mancompu** (both in Alappuzha district) **3** each, **Kottayam, Haripad** (Alappuzha district) & **Perumbavur** (Ernakulam district) **2** each and **Alappuzha, Aluva** (Ernakulam district), **Cherthala** (Alappuzha district), **Kollam, Thodupuzha** (Idukki district) & **Vaikom** (Kottayam district) **1** each.

Minimum temperature fell appreciably in Ernakulam district and it was appreciably above normal in Kozhikode district. Punalur recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 21 degree celsius.

**Forecast and farmers weather bulletin valid until the morning of 29th January 2001:**
Isolated rain will occur in Kerala and Lakshadweep.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** No significant change.

**Forecast for Thiruvananthapuram city and neighbourhood valid until the morning of 29th January 2001:**
Partly cloudy skies with a shower / thundershower in the evening / night. No significant change is expected in minimum temperature which will be around 23 degree celsius.

**LEGEND: Temp. Max., Temp. Min, Rainfall, Total rainfall from 1st October.**

**Alappuzha** 35, 23, 13, 77, **Kannur** 35, 23, 0, 0, **Karipur** AP 34, 24, 0, 0, **Kochi** AP 33, 22, 33, 33, **Kottayam** (RB) 33, 22, 16, 23, **Kozhikode** 33, 26, 0, 25. **Palakkad** xx, 23, 0, tr, **Punalur** 34, 21, 0, 100. **Thiruvananthapuram** AP 31, 24, 0, 14, **Thiruvananthapuram** City 33, 23, 0, 20. **LAKSHADWEEP: Amini Divi** 33, 25, 0, tr. **Minicoy** 29, 25, tr, 9.

### INDIA

LEGEND: Temp Max, Temp Min

**Ahmedabad** 36, 16; **Aurangabad** 32, 15; **Allahabad** 33, —; **Bhavnagar** 36, 21; **Bangalore** 27, 19; **Bhopal** 33, 16; **Baroda** 38, 18; **Bhubaneshwar** 32, 21; **Calcutta** 32, 24; **Dehra Dun** —, —; **Guwahati** 30, 19; **Gaya** 30, 18; **Hyderabad** 31, 20; **Indore** —, —; **Jaipur** 32, 19; **Jamshedpur** 30, 20; **Lucknow** 32, 19; **Mumbai** 35, 25; **Mahabaleshwar** —, 16; **Mangalore** —, —; **Nagpur** 34, 15; **New Delhi** 31, 18; **Patna** 31, 19; **Pune** 32, 14; **Rajkot** 35, 22; **Ranchi** 28, 17; **Ratnagiri** 32, 23; **Shilmla** —, —; **Shctapur** 33, 20; **Thiruvananthapuram** 33, 24; **Udaipur** 34, 14; **Visakhapatnam** 32, 25.

### WORLD

The minimum and maximum temperatures recorded on Thursday.

**LEGEND: C=** Cloudy, **PC=**Partly Cloudy, **CL=**Clear, **SH=**Showers, **T=**Thunder, **TS=**Thundershowers, **RN=**Rain, **S=**Snow, **SU** = Sunny.

**Amsterdam** 08, 12, RN; **Athens** 17, 23, PC; **Bangkok** 23, 29, PC; **Barcelona** 09, 18, PC; **Belgrade** 17, 24, PC; **Berlin** 07, 13, PC; **Boston** 05, 09, C; **Brisbane** 14, 24, PC; **Brussels** 07, 13, C; **Cairo** 15, 25, CL; **Chicago** 08, 21, PC; **Colombo** 25, 32, PC; **Dhaka** 23, 32, PC; **Dubai** 23, 32, CL; **Frankfurt** 07, 11, C; **Geneva** 07, 13, PC; **Havana** 15, 28, PC; **Hong Kong** 19, 25, PC; **Islamabad** 17, 30, CL; **Jakarta** 24, 30, PC; **Jerusalem** 10, 20, PC; **Lima** 16, 21, PC; **Lisbon** 09, 18, PC; **London** 08, 13, PC; **Los Angeles** 11, 21, CL; **Madrid** 00, 14, PC; **Manila** 24, 29, PC; **Melbourne** 16, 19, RN; **Mexico** 10, 25, PC; **Moscow** 07, 11, PC; **New York** 07, 14, PC; **Oslo** 03, 09, PC; **Paris** 07, 14, PC; **Perth** 10, 26, CL; **Rio De Janeiro** 21, 26, PC; **Rome** 16, 21, PC; **San Francisco** 08, 19, PC; **Santiago** 11, 14, C; **Seoul** 10, 16, C; **Singapore** 28, 31, PC; **Stockholm** 08, 11, PC; **Sydney** 16, 21, PC; **Tel Aviv** 16, 21, PC; **Tokyo** 12, 17, RN; **Toronto** 01, 13, CL; **Vancouver** 03, 11, PC; **Vienna** 08, 22, PC; **Warsaw** 08, 17, PC; **Washington** 04, 16, CL; **Zurich** 07, 13, PC.

## SATELLITE CHANNELS

**ASIANET**
06.00 Ragamalika
06.30 Anantham Ajnatham
07.00 Nadamaduri
07.30, 13.00, 19.00, 22.30 News
07.45 Anyonyam
08.00 Pathravisesham
08.30 Chitrajalakam
09.00 Kochuvarthamanam
09.30, 03.00 Mukhyamanthriyodu Chodikkam
10.00 Cinema Diary
10.30 Nattarangu
11.00 Brave Hearts
11.30 Movie: Ponthanmada
14.30 Music & Dance Nite
15.30 Akathalam
16.00 Movie: Santhwaham
17.00, 21.30 News Headlines
18.30 Hits of The Week
18.55, 23.00 Munshi
19.30 Kaala
20.00 Sarigama
20.30 Leader's Choice
21.00 Hukka Huwa Mikkado
21.35 Kannadi
22.00 Anveshanam
23.05 Nakshatrakinnaram
23.30 Nithyapriya
00.00 Cinemala
00.30 Movie: Onnam Kunnil Oradi Kunnil
03.30 Pattupetty
04.00 Vayanasala
04.30 Cinema Geethangal

**AXN**
06.00, 16.00 Earth: Final Conflict
07.00, 01.00 Planet Ex
08.00, 17.00 Silk Stalkings
09.00, 18.00 Farscape
10.00, 02.00 Highlander-The Raven
11.00, 19.00 Starship Troopers
12.00, 20.00 Survivor
13.00 Heart of Courage
14.00 Movie: Arabian Adventure
21.00 Movie: Darkman
23.00 Movie: Blue Thunder
03.00 Superstars of Action
03.30 AXN The Series
04.00 Dark Skies
05.00 Total Recall

**ANIMAL PLANET**
06.00 Call of The Wild
07.00 Battersea Dogs Home
07.30 Zoo
08.00 Animals A-Z
09.00 Animal Planet Safari
10.00 Natural World
11.00 Animal Hospital Roadshow
11.30 Wild Rescues
12.00 Zig & Zag: Alpha Dog Challenge
12.30 Animal Planet Zoo Venture
13.00 Hollywood Safari
14.00, 22.30, 04.30 O'Shea's Big Adventure
14.30 Wild On The Set
15.00 Twisted Tales
15.30 All Bird TV
16.00 Wildlife Series
17.00 Animal Encounters
17.30 Extreme Contact
18.00, 02.00 The Whole Story
19.00, 00.00 The Planet's Funniest Animals
19.30, 00.30 Wildlife Emergency
20.00, 01.00 Battersea Dogs Home
20.30, 01.30 Emergency Vets
21.00, 03.00 Fit For The Wild
21.30, 03.30 Living Dangerously
22.00, 04.00 Shark Gordon
23.00, 05.00 Animal X
23.30, 05.30 Twisted Tales

**BBC WORLD**
Beginning 5.30 am, BBC News, Followed By Weather, Every Hour
06.00, 14.00 This Week (r)
07.00, 23.00 Holiday (r)
08.00, 17.00, 01.00 Australian Direct (r)
09.00 Correspondent (r)
10.00 IT: India Tomorrow (r)
11.00, 22.00 India Business Report
12.00 Hospital (r)
13.00 Face To Face (r)
13.40, 17.40, 01.40 World Debate: World Economic Forum In Davos
14.00, 23.00 I, Caesar (r)
16.00 Click Online (r)
18.40 Dateline London
20.40 The Gulf War (r)
03.00 Top Gear (r)
05.15 Asia Today

**CARTOON NETWORK**
05.00 The New Scooby Doo Movies
06.00 Jetsons
06.30, 12.30 The Smurfs
07.00, 16.30 The Popeye Show
07.30, 16.00 The New Scooby & Scrappy Doo Show
08.00, 17.00 I Am Weasel
08.30, 17.30 The Powerpuff Girls
09.00, 18.00 Mike, Lu & Og
09.30, 20.30 Batman of The Future
10.00 Boomerang
11.00, 18.30 Tom & Jerry Show
11.30, 19.00 Bugs Bunny Spls.
12.00 Detective Squad
13.00, 19.30 Garfield Spl.
13.30, 20.00 Pinky & The Brain
14.00 Captain Planet
14.30 The Mask
15.00 Addams Family
15.30 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest
18.30 Tom & Jerry Show

**TCM MOVIES**
21.00 Point Blank
22.40 It Started With A Kiss
00.45 The Man Who Came To Dinner
03.00 That Forsyte Woman

**CHANNEL [V]**
06.00 So Long Gone
07.00 Best of Jumpstart
09.00, 12.30, 15.30, 18.00, 20.00 Sunday Stack
11.30, 19.00 Colossal Chaos Countdown
12.00, 19.30 PO [V]
15.00 Karaoke
17.00, 21.00 The Big [V]
22.00 Mainstage
23.00 Billboard US Countdown
00.00, 04.30 Hit Machine

**CNN**
Beginning 10.30 am, World News, Every Hour
06.00 The Artclub
06.30 World View
07.00 World Beat
07.30, 14.30 Larry King Weekend
09.00, 00.00 Style
09.30 World Report
11.00 Inside Asia
12.00 Your Health
13.00, 17.00 World Sport
14.00, 03.00 Diplomatic License
16.00, 23.00 E-Biz Asia
17.30 Perspectives: The Unfinished War
19.00 Business Unusual
20.00, 01.00 CNNdotCOM
22.00 Indiadotcom
22.30 Style-South Asia
03.00 Diplomatic License
03.30, 04.30 This Morning
04.00, 05.45 Asia Business Morning

**CINE CHANNEL**
09.30 Movie: Kasam
14.00 Movie: Dulaara
21.30 Movie: Guddi

**CVO**
13.30 Movie: Kaun
17.30 Movie: Jaan
21.00 Movie: Raju Ban Gaya Gentleman

**DISCOVERY**
06.00 Eyewitness
06.30 ESPU
07.00 Outer Bounds
07.30 Without Warning
08.00 Wings
09.00 Let's Dance/There's No Food Like My Food
09.30 Crocodile Hunter's Croc Files
10.00 Popular Mechanics For Kids
10.30 So You Want To Be?
11.00 Real Kids, Real Adventures
11.30 Splat
12.00 Lonely Planet
13.00 Discovery Profile Series
19.00, 00.00 Vital Breakthroughs
20.00, 01.00 Lifeline
21.00, 02.00 Science Frontiers
22.00, 03.00 Discovery Showcase
23.00, 04.00 Discovery Profile Series
05.00 21st Century Medicine

**ESPN**
05.00, 18.30 Sportscenter: Int'l Edition
05.30 Basketball: Virginia vs. North Carolina
07.30 The IRB's World of Rugby
08.00 Cricket: West Indies vs. Australia
08.58, 13.00 Cricket: Zimbabwe vs. Australia LIVE
12.30 Boycs and Sunny Masterclass: Wicket-Keeping
17.00 Motoworld
17.30 Pro Billiards: 2000 Women's Tournament of Champions
19.00 2000 World Pool League
20.00 Cricket: Zimbabwe vs. Australia
21.00, 04.00 Western Union World Football
21.30 Italian Serie 'A' 2000/01
23.30 Motorsport Asia
00.00 Basketball: North Carolina vs. NC State LIVE
02.00 X Games: 2000, Day 5 & 6
04.30 NFL Superbowl LIVE

**ETC**
06.00, 23.00 Golden Classic
06.30 Mahavir Ke Pravachan
06.45 Aatma
07.00 Kumbh Mela
07.30 Bhakti Sangeet
08.00, 22.30 Kahani Kismat Ki
08.30 Taal
10.00 Vaastu
11.00 Angoor
12.00, 17.00, 23.30, 01.00 Once More
13.00 Hindi Movie
16.30 Melody Time
18.00 Filmi Baatein
18.30 Maal Gaadi
19.00 Mega Dance Mix
19.30 Made In India
20.00, 04.00 Hit List
22.00 ETC News
03.00 Pop Unlimited

**ETV**
06.00 Aaradhana
06.30 Anna Data
07.00, 13.00, 18.55, 21.00 ETV News
07.30 Neti Bharatam
08.00 Pratidwani
08.30 Manoranjani
09.00 Tamasha-Tamasha
09.30 Mechata-Mechata
10.00 Super Movies
10.30 Sarigamalu
11.00 Yuvaragalu
11.30 College Life
12.00 Sunday Sandadi
13.10, 17.30, 19.05, 21.30 Eenadu Cinema
16.00 Cineranjani
16.30 Disney Sandhya
17.00 Andhravani
20.00 Hrudayanjali
20.30 Nippulantinijam

**GEMINI**
06.00 Suprabhata Seva
06.30 Prarthana Samayam
06.55 Yours Lovingly
08.30 Idandi Sangathi
09.00 Chandra Gwala
09.30 Top Ten
10.00 Dial Your Song
10.30 Sangamam
11.00 Veeranjaneya
11.30 Joke Show
12.00 Sahasam Cheyara Dimbaka
12.30 Talk of The Town
12.55, 22.00 News - Headlines
13.00 Chal Mohana Ranga
13.30 Aanandam Mee Choice
14.00, 17.00, 21.00 Movie
16.00 Jeevana Yathra
16.30 Ayyappa Mahima
20.00 Sarada
20.30 Endaro Mahanubhavalu
22.05 Movie Contd.
00.00 Bioscope
00.30 Songs

**HBO**
14.30 The Glimmer Man
18.30, 04.00 Batman Returns
21.00 The Age of Innocence

**JAYA**
16.00 En Thambi

**KAIRALI**
11.30 Orukkam
16.00 Alolam

**RAJ**
16.30 Pondatti Sonna Ketukkanum
23.00 Anandha Jyothi

**SONY**
13.00 Sau Din Saas Ke
21.00 Amar Akbar Anthony
03.00 Bhago Bhoot Aaya

**STAR GOLD**
12.00 27 Down
19.00 Anhoni
22.30, 05.00 Chalta Purza

**STAR MOVIES**
17.00 Heaven's Fire
18.45 Notting Hill

**ZEE**
15.00 Aakhri Daku
21.30 There's Something About Mary

**STAR PLUS**
14.10 Bandhan Kuchchey Dhaagon Ka
19.30 Pyaasa
01.00 Kaalchakra

**SURYA**
11.30 Inspector Balram
16.00 Kaikudanna Nilavu
23.30 Thirakal

**ZEE**
15.00 Aakhri Daku

**MTV**
10.30 Chito-Chat
10.45, 13.00, 20.45 Non Stop Hits
11.00, 14.00 Lili
12.00 Baar Baar Dekho
12.30, 21.30 House Full
15.00 Cinemascope
15.30, 20.00 Bakra
15.45 Web Watch
16.00 Ek Do Teen
17.00 India Hit List
18.00 Kya Bolti Tu
19.00 Its My Life
22.00 Fresh
22.30 Classics
23.30 The Grind

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**
06.30 Family Hour: Waterwolves
07.30 Into The Flames-Fire In The Hills
08.30 Family Hour: Taming The Wild River
09.00, Family Hour: Savage Planet
09.30 Planet Green: Wildlife Legacy
10.30 About Asia: The Art of Warrior
11.30 Violent Earth: Antarctic Trilogy-The Longest Night
12.30 Sat. Unlimited: Secret China-Last Mountain of God
13.30 Sat. Unlimited: Secret China-Descendants of The Sun
14.30 Sat. Unlimited: Secret China-The Last White Dragon Boat
15.30, 01.00, 05.30 Arctic Survivors
16.30, 02.00 Family Hour: Cientist, Shark & Showman
17.00, 02.30 Family Hour: A Rare Move
17.30, 00.00, 03.30 Planet Green: Great Bison Chase
18.30, 22.00 About Asia: The Land of Mercy
19.30, 23.00 Violent Earh. Antarctic Trilogy-Solid Water, Liquid Rock
20.30, 03.00 On Assignment: Rubbish Police
21.00 Sunday Wild: Serengeti Jigsaw
04.40 World Culture: The Hungry Ghost

**NICKELODEON**
06.00 Kenan & Kel
06.30 The Angry Beavers
07.00, 12.30 The Wild Thornberrys
08.00 Oh Yeah! Cartoons
08.30 Figure It Out/Pete & Pete
09.00, 14.00 The Journey of Allen Strange
09.30 Cousin Skeeter
10.00 The Ren & Stimpy Show
10.30, 00.30 Rugrats
11.00, 17.30 Rocket Power
11.30 CatDog
12.00, 04.30 KaBlam!
13.30, 20.30, 05.30 All That
15.00 The Adventures of Pete & Pete
16.00 Rocko's Modern Life
17.00 Kablam
19.00 The Ren & Stimpy Show
19.30, 05.00 Cousin Skeeter
22.30 Global Guts
03.00 The Angry Beavers

**RAJ**
06.00 Arul Urai
06.15 Indru Oru Nalvarthai
06.30 Palaivanacholai
07.00 Kaalai Thendral
07.30, 13.00, 19.30 Raj News
08.00 Neengalum Pechalaraagalam
08.30 Eena Meena Deeka
09.00 Mega Ten Movies
09.30 Yamma Yamma
10.00 Thangamana Neram
10.30 Super Comedy
11.00 Perfect Couple
11.30 Agada Vikadam
12.00 Raja Geetham
12.30 Movie: Rojavai Killathe; Stg: Arjun
13.30 Movie Contd.
16.00 Hollywood Spl.
16.30 Movie: Pondatti Sonna Ketukkanum; Stg: Bhanupriya
20.00 Raj Ulaga Paarvai
20.30 Jesus Calls
21.00 Narasee
21.30 Thirai Kondattam
22.00 Chennai Post Box
22.30 English News
22.40 Endenrum Anbuden
23.00 Movie: Anandha Jyothi; Stg: MGR
01.30 Raj Melodies

**RAJ DIGITAL PLUS**
06.30 Oru Iniya Udhayam
07.00, 09.00, 19.00 Tamil News
07.30 Islam Oru Iniya Markam
08.00 Aalpathi Reelpathi
08.30 Kalai Nyayiru
09.30 Movie: Aadithyan; Stg: Sarathkumar
12.30 Savale Samali
13.00 Ragamaliga
13.30 Elaya Paarvai
13.30 Cinema Show
14.30 Maraka Mudiyatha Tamil Cinema
15.00 Manam Vittu
15.30 Neeyum Naanuma
16.00 Campus
16.30 Thirai Vimarsanam
17.30 Joke O Jokes
18.00 Super Fights
18.30 Thirai Kadhambam
19.30 Pop Bazaar
20.00 Antha Naal Nyabagam
20.30 Movie: Bharathan; Stg: Vijaykanth
23.30 Endrum Iniyavai

**SAHARA**
06.00 Ret Ka Dariya
06.30, 03.30 Geeton Ki Rimjhim
07.00, 22.00, 03.00 Samachar
07.30 Sitare Sunday Spl.
08.00, 17.00, 05.30 Geetanjali
08.30, 12.30, 18.30, 05.00 Naye Gaane
08.50 Khabarnama
09.00, 17.30 Phulwary
10.00 Kagaar
11.00 Kadam
11.30 Beta Numbri Baap Dus Numbri
12.00 ADA
13.00 Chitti Aayi Hai
13.30, 04.00 Parakh
14.00, 20.00, 00.00 Hindi Movie
19.00, 04.30 The Premiere
19.30 Samachar Sandhya
22.30 Movie Contd.
23.30 Ek Din Ki Wardi

**SONY**
06.00, 19.00 The Poppadum Show
06.30 Rang Birangee
07.00 Amrit Varsha
07.30 Sant Asaram Wani
08.00 Uttar Ramayan
08.30 Shree Ganesh
09.30, 02.30 Dinosaucers
10.00 Good Morning Disney
11.00 Mere Angane Mein
11.30 Family No 1
12.00, 01.30 Hum Sub Ek Hai
12.30 Haal Kaisa Hai Janab Ka
13.00 Movie: Sau Din Saas Ke
17.00 Chartbusters
17.30 Music Mantra
18.00 Disney Hour
19.30, 02.00 Lehren
20.00 Jeeto Chappad Phaad Ke
21.00 Movie: Amar Akbar Anthony
01.00 Just Mohaabat
03.00 Movie: Bhago Bhoot Aaya

**STAR GOLD**
08.30 Movie: Navrang
12.00 Movie: 27 Down
15.30, 02.00 Movie: Teen Batti Char Raasta
19.00 Movie: Anhoni
22.30, 05.00 Movie: Chalta Purza

**STAR MOVIES**
04.45 The Truth About Juliet
06.30 Au Pair
08.30, 03.30 True Blue
10.30 Bhaskar Ghose Show
11.00, 05.30 Jungle Boy
13.00 I Want You
15.00 Who Framed Roger Rabbit
17.00 Heaven's Fire
18.45 Notting Hill
21.00 Starbiz
21.30 There's Something About Mary
23.45 Mortal Kombat
01.45 Angie

**STAR NEWS**
News In English On The Hour
News In Hindi On The Half Hour
07.00, 19.00 The Big Fight (r)
08.00 Assignment (r)
12.30 Limelight (H)
14.00, 21.00 Limelight (e)
18.00, 20.00, 00.00 English News
18.30, 21.30 Prasang
19.30 Hindi News
22.00 Ravivaar

**STAR PLUS**
06.00 Geetmala
07.00 Good Morning India
08.00 The Sword of Tipu Sultan
09.00 Fox Kids-Sunday
10.00, 23.30 Janata Ki Adalat
10.30 Chhupa Rustom
11.00 Chalti Ka Naam Antakshiri
12.00 Family Fortunes
12.30 Musafir Hoon Yaroon
13.00 Mirch Masala
13.30 Hello Cinema
14.00 Mail Milap
14.10 Movie: Bandhan Kuchchey Dhaagon Ka; Stg: Shashi Kapoor
17.30 Shrimati Sharma Na Kehti Thi

**SUN**
06.00 Arul Urai
06.15 Indru Oru Nalvarthai
06.30 Palaivanacholai
07.00 Kaalai Thendral
07.30, 13.00, 19.30 Raj News
08.00 Neengalum Pechalaraagalam
08.30 Eena Meena Deeka
09.00 Mega Ten Movies
09.30 Yamma Yamma
10.00 Thangamana Neram
10.30 Super Comedy
11.00 Perfect Couple
11.30 Agada Vikadam
12.00 Raja Geetham
12.30 Movie: Rojavai Killathe; Stg: Arjun
13.30 Movie Contd.
16.00 Hollywood Spl.
16.30 Movie: Pondatti Sonna Ketukkanum; Stg: Bhanupriya
20.00 Raj Ulaga Paarvai
20.30 Jesus Calls
21.00 Narasee
21.30 Thirai Kondattam
22.00 Chennai Post Box
22.30 English News
22.40 Endenrum Anbuden
23.00 Movie: Anandha Jyothi; Stg: MGR
01.30 Raj Melodies

**SUN MUSIC**
06.00 Spandanam
01.30 Penn Malayalam
02.00 PG yum Lokavum
02.30 Thattakam
03.00 Film Songs

**SURYA**
06.00 Sangeethika
06.30 Aerobics
07.00 Madhura Geetham
07.30 News
08.00 Varamudra
08.30 Kuttukar
09.00 Ganamela - Sankar, Mahadevan
09.30 Nattukoottam
10.00 Orma
10.30 Sallapam
11.00 Ecstasy
11.30 Film - Orukkam
13.00 News
13.30 Film Conti.
14.30 Tharkkam
15.00 Shoot & Show
15.30 Viyojippinte Shabdam
16.00 Film - Alolam
18.30 Anubhavam Jeevithami: Ali Akbar Khan.
19.00 News
19.30 Thirakal
20.00 Koottam Thettiya Sulthan
20.30 Jagapoga
21.00 Nayanarum Ayi Neril
21.30 Vijayagadha
22.00 Dialogue
22.30 News
23.00 Orma
23.30 Public Property
00.00 Neruthedal
00.30 Chithrangana
01.00 Spandanam
01.30 Penn Malayalam
02.00 PG yum Lokavum
02.30 Thattakam
03.00 Film Songs

**ZEE**
06.00 Top Secret!
08.15 The Enemy Within
10.15 Meteorites
12.00 Cinema Secrets. Cinema Super Spies
12.30 The Long Island Incident
14.30 The Glimmer Man
16.30 The Concierge
18.30, 04.00 Batman Returns
21.00 The Age of Innocence
23.45 Stormcatcher
01.45 Rear Window

**JAYA**
06.00 Arul Neram
06.30 Arul Manam
07.00, 13.00, 19.30, 22.15 Tamil News
07.30 Cinema Cope
08.00 Cinema Paarvai
08.30 Savaal
09.00 Movie No 1
09.30 Vaaname Ellai
10.00 Count Down
10.30 Cine Clip
11.00 Yes Or No
11.30 Anandha Raagam
12.00 Show Time
12.30 Irulil Oli
13.30 Vellithirai
14.00 Veera Muzhakkam
15.00 Pop Tucker
15.30 Telechoice Live
16.00 Movie: En Thambi
18.30 Vaaram Thorum Thamizhagam
19.00 Iyarkkai Maruthuvam
20.00 Nermugam
20.30 Neela Maala
21.00 Kadi TV
21.30 Anbudan Suvalakshmi
22.00 English News
22.30 Galatta Comedy
23.00 New Cinema
02.30 Hits
03.00 Jaya Melodies

Ahmedabad
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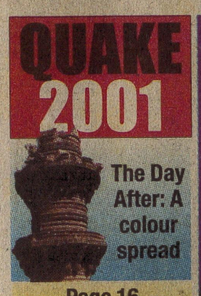


QUAKE 2001
The Day After: A colour spread
Page 16



DE IN THE LIFE OF SHOBHA
COVER • REVIEW



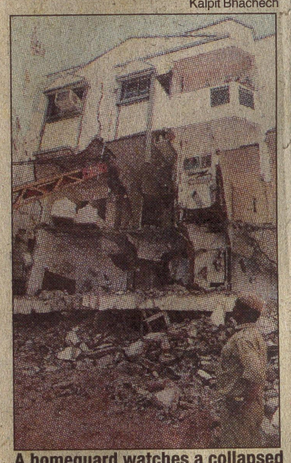
COPING WITH THE QUAKE
RE-BUILDING BHUJ
EXCLUSIVE • SPECIAL REPORT



AL-RIGHT PACINO
HEADS & TALES • COMMENT

## QUAKE TAKES

Kalpit Bhachech



A homeguard watches a collapsed Sajni Flats in Paldi, Ahmedabad.

### PM to visit on Monday
GWALIOR: Prime Minister Vajpayee will visit the quake-hit areas of Gujarat on Monday, official sources said on Saturday. (P5)

### No oil spill at Kandla
NEW DELHI: The government late on Saturday said there had been no oil spill in and around Kandla port area.

### Kakrapar plant safe
MUMBAI: The Kakrapar atomic power station, situated in Surat district, has been operating safely despite Friday's massive earthquake. All safety systems and the entire plant, which has been designed to withstand high- intensity earthquakes, continued to operate normally, according to Nuclear Power Corporation India Limited here.

### Overdraft limits
MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India has relaxed the limits on ways-and-means advances and overdraft rules for the state government till end of February to facilitate relief work.

**Pages 3, 5**
- Cries from the debris die down
- Control room number a hoax?
- Important telephone numbers
- Sonia takes a peek at quake-hit
- Gujarat caught on wrong foot
- Surat toll rises to 43
- School turns grave for 60 students at Isanpur

**EDUCATION TIMES**
Due to unavoidable circumstances, there is no issue of Education Times today.




**indiatimes.com POLL**

YESTERDAY'S POLL RESULTS
Should common people be trained to deal with disasters like earthquakes?

| Yes | No | Can't say |
|---|---|---|
| 70% | 28% | 2% |

10,791 VOTES IN ALL
• The poll reflects the opinions of Net users who chose to participate, and not necessarily of the general public.

TODAY'S QUESTION
Are you satisfied with Govt's handling of rescue and relief operations in Gujarat?
Become a Netizen. Exercise your vote every day in indiatimes Poll.
To post your view, click message board in
http://www.indiatimes.com
YOUR GATEWAY TO INDIA




# Edgy state prefers to sleep out in the open

## *Most of Bhuj flattened; no relief in sight*

By Kingshuk Nag

BHUJ: Appearances, they say, can be deceptive. As the aircraft circles over Bhuj, the entire city seems intact. But the first scene that greets us on landing is the airport building, more than half of which has been reduced to rubble.

At a distance, on the far end outside the airport, a big fire rages. "That's a mass funeral pyre," explains our Cessna pilot who is on his second trip to the city on Saturday. An estimated 10,000 of the 1.5 lakh residents of the Kutch district headquarters have perished in the quake. Most of the bodies are lying under the debris of collapsed buildings.

On the way to the city proper, 10 km away, we encounter what were once multi-storeyed apartments. While many have fallen, others have sunk partially into the earth. Many resemble the leaning tower of Pisa. There is no sign of efforts to remove the debris. The road is full of trucks, tractor-trolleys and buses, all packed with people moving out of Bhuj. Obviously, there is a mass exodus.

We reach what was the Town Hall. One cannot say what it looked like because what we see is a mass of rocks and boulders. A large portion of the district collector's office has crumbled and the administration is now operating from the lawn in front of the office.

A heart-rending scene awaits us at what was the Civil Hospital. It fell like a house of cards on the 300-odd patients and their relatives, not to forget the doctors and the nurses. A distraught man is sitting outside even as excavators try to remove the debris. His sister was undergoing treatment at the hospital. Now he is waiting for the body. This man is not alone, there are scores like him.

We run into Mahendra Thakker outside the hospital. He is escorting political bigwigs around. "When the quake came we mistook it for a big bomb explosion. We thought Pakistan had engineered trouble on Republic Day." Bhuj is a border town. "Is food available now?" we ask him. "There is no water or electricity, everybody ran out of their homes, where is the question of food," he counters. Now many have started looting grain and eatables.

Parimal Nathwani, Reliance's chief in Gujarat, is on the streets of Bhuj. He has travelled from Ahmedabad to take stock of the situation. "Now you can't see them, but in the morning people were loading bodies onto handcarts and pushing them," he says.

We chance upon zilla panchayat president Jagrutiben Shah. "There is not a single habitable building left in Bhuj. We are all on the roads," she laments. At night the temperature drops to 10 degrees Celsius.

All this while we are in the 'new' part of Kutch, so we decide to go to the older, more affected areas. On the way we pass by the Hamirsar Lake, a landmark of Bhuj. The lake is fine, but all the buildings around it have collapsed. Then we come to what was the jail. "What happened to the prisoners ?" Our escort does not know.

A massive fortress-like wall running for a few kilometres separates the new city from the old. At most places, it has given way. But still it is impossible to enter the old city. Buildings on either side of the narrow streets have been razed to the ground. So you can't move. We are told that children were marching on the roads on Republic Day when calamity struck. They went under the debris.

Bhuj is without power or telephones for the second day. Cell phones don't work either. All planes have to take off by sunset.

There is no more time left. As we wend our way back to the airport, I reflect: we have hardly seen any relief work, barring efforts by the armed forces.

The only action seems to be at the airport where the parking bay is full of small planes waiting for VVIP politicians who have come to 'study' the situation.

Sam Nariman Panthaky



FROM DUST TO DUST: Remains of what was once the Town Hall lie scattered after the earthquake hit Bhuj on Friday.

**Earthquake Relief Fund**

Several cities in Gujarat were devastated by a powerful earthquake on Friday, January 26. As in the past on such occasions, The Times Group has taken the lead to rush assistance to the affected people by setting up a relief fund. We have decided to immediately contribute an amount of Rs 5 lakh to the relief operations.

In providing material assistance and moral succour to the victims of the calamity, The Times Group wishes to join hands with its esteemed readers. Therefore, 50 paise from the sale of every copy of *The Times of India* and *The Economic Times* in Gujarat will go to this fund. Readers in Gujarat will thus be contributing directly to this social cause. Readers wishing to make a more generous contribution to this effort may send their cheques addressed to *The Times of India Relief Fund*. *The Times of India*, 139 Ashram Road, Ahmedabad - 380009. All donations above Rs 1,000 will be acknowledged in the columns of the newspaper. The donations will be exempt from tax under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

THE TIMES OF INDIA
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### Rumours run riot
**The city police and civil administration control rooms, as well as offices of newspapers, were inundated with frantic calls from all over the city following rumours that the state was in for another major earthquake at 9.30 pm. The rumours created panic amongst citizens who poured out onto the streets telling whoever was willing to listen that the ever-dependable BBC had flashed reports to the effect that two quakes were in the pipeline.** (P3)

### Prisoners escape
**Several dreaded criminals, some of them Pakistani infiltrators and RDX smugglers, escaped from the high-security district jail in Bhuj. The prison building collapsed under the impact of the earthquake and the prisoners took the opportunity to flee to freedom.**

# Over 700 killed in A'bad; nearly 100 buildings crumble

By A Staff Reporter

AHMEDABAD: Day two since the killer earthquake and Ahmedabad's topography has undergone a massive change. Roads have sunk in places, one such being in Shahibaug; the state highway seems to have a marked tilt; bridges have developed cracks and many buildings have been reduced to rubble.

Over 700 people had been declared dead by Saturday with the chances of people being recovered alive from under the debris dimming by the minute. The number of buildings that had collapsed touched the 100 mark even as panic-stricken people thronged bus stations, railway stations and clambered onto roofs of buses for a mass exodus.

**RUBBLE TROUBLE**
- AMC to use life-detector in rubble
- Hopes of rescuing people alive from debris dim
- Fear psychosis grips city as rumours abound
- Slum-dwellers scavenge debris for valuables

The fear of the unknown seemed to have overpowered denizens of the textile city as they let themselves be led by rumours and even a mild aftershock was blown out of all semblance of proportion.

Families spent sleepless nights under the stars wondering what the morrow would bring. Pavements and grassy plots turned into bedrooms with people making a beeline for virtually any open space. The more bravehearted made repeated entries into their damaged homes to gather belongings.

For most Amdavadis it was destination Gandhinagar — which, though barely 27 km away, remained unscathed. On the rescue front, limbs continued to peek out of the rubble of high-rises.

Talking about rubble, a crowd of slum-dwellers watches every tipper truck emptying its contents onto the bed of the Sabarmati under the Sardar Patel bridge with hope. No sooner does the truck leave that the scavenging begins. "They are looking out for jewellery and other usable stuff that they can find," says an onlooker.

While Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation authorities admit that Friday was a nightmare with cranes falling short, by Saturday at least 29 cranes had been acquired from various agencies and rescue operations re-started with renewed vigour with the Army and the Rapid Action Force chipping in. At least two lakh buildings in the city are reported to have developed cracks and have been evacuated.

Rescue and clearing operations continued on a war-footing with the 17 Guards battalion of the Army and the 100 BN of the RAF getting to work. "We drilled a tunnel into the Siddhi Apartments at Shahibaug to rescue families," recounts Major Jaydeep Cheena.

Screams rent the air on Friday night at Siddhi apartments as seven people were extricated by the Army from the debris of the building, over 12 hours after they were trapped. Three had given up the battle.

The children at the Sacred Flower School in Ghodasar, who were stuck while doing their practicals, were not so lucky. — Only one of the 32 survived. Contrary to presumptions, only a single high-rise building (Siddhi Apartments) in the area under AMC jurisdiction gave way, while the rest of the buildings were all low-rises, deputy municipal commissioner Vinay Vyas told TOI. According to him, "most of the buildings with hollow plinths had given way".

# Toll could go up to 20,000 as the dead surface

The Times of India News Service

AHMEDABAD: The devastation caused by Friday's earthquake centred near Bhuj could be much more than estimated as bodies continue to be found in the thousands from under debris in far-flung areas of the state, particularly in the Kutch region, which bore the brunt of the catastrophe.

Though the toll, in what is the worst-ever quake to hit the country since Independence, was officially put at "around 10,000" by Chief Minister Keshubhai Patel himself, it could go up to twice that figure, it is feared. The number of seriously injured has been put at 15,380.

Relief work in Bhuj and other smaller towns of Kutch district, which have been razed to the ground, has been badly affected as the communication systems are down and there is no electricity. All the 147 telephone exchanges in Kutch have been affected and only a handful of lines in Gandhidham and Bhuj are functional. The Department of Telecommunications has said that it would take at least two more days to restore phones in Bhuj and Gandhidham.

Apart from Bhuj, where nearly 90 per cent of buildings came crashing on hapless residents, there are reports that several towns like Rapar, Anjar, Bachhau and scores of villages had been wiped out from the face of earth. There was not a single structure standing in some of these areas, an aerial survey found.

In a horrific incident, around 400 children going in a procession through a narrow lane to take part in Republic Day celebrations were crushed under the collapsing houses on both sides. Along with the children, 50 teachers were also feared trapped.

There are also reports of massive loss of life and property in Radhanpur (Banaskantha), Mehsana and Morbi (Rajkot). The chief minister himself carried out an aerial survey of towns in Kutch and came back visibly disturbed.

The state transport corporation is rushing 150 buses to Kutch to evacuate the injured. Besides, 100 trucks mounted with plastic water tanks are also being rushed to the district.

In the absence of government machinery, it is the locals who have carried out the rescue operations in the far-flung towns of Kutch, one of the biggest districts in the country.

In Anjar around 80 per cent of structures in the town which has a population of 25,000, have crumbled. In Bachhau, which has a population of 10,000 there is hardly any structure left standing. Similar is the fate of Rapar.

All electricity towers in Kutch as also sub-stations have been destroyed and it will take a massive effort to restore electricity. Twenty big generators have been despatched to the affected areas along with large quantities of relief material, doctors and medical staff.

The chief minister said that with the help of some 2,000 Army personnel, the work of clearing the debris was on, but the work had been hampered because the collapsed structures were obstructing the path of earth-movers and cranes.

In Nadiad, the historic Mani Mandir, Durbargarh and the famous tower have alcaved in. More than 300 deaths have been reported from the town.

**Thousands feared to have perished waiting for assistance**

# *Bhachau now a mass funeral pyre*

By Shyam Parekh

AHMEDABAD: Thousands are feared to have perished in Bhachau town and the 73 villages in the taluka in the aftermath of Friday's quake with aid failing to arrive till 6.30 pm on Saturday.

Bhachau town, with a population of around 35,000, is the worst hit. Locals claim nearly 10,000 may have perished. None of the addresses exist anymore. And the bonfires and cremations exist side by side on the streets.

No senior or junior-level government officials were around to either handle the situation or comment on it. A conversation with survivors indicated that the toll could be much higher than estimated.

Neither doctors nor the relief apparatus of the government came to help the locals remove the rubble and save those trapped inside.

The very entrance to the Bhachau town on the highway reflects the scale of destruction. The Vagad Seva Samaj Hopital, one of the biggest around, has its perimeter wall intact but the hospital building itself has been flattened with beds strewn all around.

Bodies are burnt in any open space, even on roads and streets.

A local policeman confided: "We counted 500 bodies yesterday and burnt them, but lost count since then." Since Friday evening, people started burning the dead on their own with anything they could lay their hands on — wood, tyre tubes, etc.

A local advocate Ashok Mehta, who saw his wife's head being severed by a falling girder, laments the lack of immediate succour. "There is no administration...where is the government? There are no doctors, no policemen ...to help to us. While we are trying to save our family, people have already started looting."

He burnt his wife and daughter's bodies right in front of his house as there was no help available to carry them elsewhere. His neighbours have had to do likewise.

Most of the people this correspondent talked to had horrible tales to tell. There was hardly one who could claim to have an intact family.

Besides absence of help, people here are facing other problems. There is no food, water, shelter, medicine worth the name. Besides there are also the continuous tremors. All night long the survivors brave the chill and labour to save their trapped relatives.

SRP and police personnel were seen standing next to heaps of bodies near what was once Garbi Chowk even as pigs try to pounce on the bodies.

While there isn't a single man-made structure that's intact, most of the buildings have either fallen flat or sunk into the ground, making it near impossible for relatives to try and get to any survivors.

A village school where some 200 or more students had gathered to celebrate Republic Day is likely to have become a mass grave for them. "Some of the kids were shouting till the morning, but after that we have not heard anything," says a bystander.

While there is an exodus from the town, some face a difficult choices — Rafiquebhai near Dudhai Road and Kalubhai at the Harijanvas donn't how to remove their trapped kin, where to cremate the dead and where to go with the remaining members of their family.

A number of people have employed private contractors with tractors to remove rubble as the chances of either government cranes or other earth-moving machines arriving anytime soon are slim.

Irrigation minister Nitin Patel was the only VIP to have arrived here other than the 50-odd SRP jawans from Rajkot who are yet to commence work.

When surrounded by angry locals and their relatives, some of whom had driven all the way from Mumbai, Patel rushed to seek help and returned with an earth-mover.



A tale of broken dreams and wait for miracle

# Mansi tragedy brings apathy to the fore

By Aditi Guha

AHMEDABAD: The combination of blue and white on the Amco Bank sign-board catches your eye from much beyond the cordoned- off zone. The board swings occasionally as if repenting Friday's disaster which saw the 40-apartment-strong Mansi Complex Block-A littered with detritus.

Untouched, it bears mute testimony to the twist of fate: the bank, seemingly unharmed, is today a mash of wood and metal. Files twisted and thrown, lockers ripped open are all that it has to offer. No more teller-calls, no more transactions for its customers.



Grey and black remains from the 20-odd flats seemed to be everywhere. Adding to it was the black mood among residents of adjoining high-rises.

Till 1.15 p.m. on Saturday, a total of about 20 bodies were recovered from the collapse. About 60-odd have been rescued so far. About 50 to 80 bodies still lie buried under the debris, the Rapid Action Force maintained.

According to a senior police officer here, rescue work has been largely hampered by the lack of space. "There is not much area for the big cranes to operate and this automatically has hit the pace," an official said.

The remaining portion of Block-A stands in a precarious position — tilted and bruised. One and all believe that it will come down at the slightest jerk. Major cracks have already developed on the walls, the pillars and the very plinth. These could prove fatal for the 300-odd men engaged in rescue operations, with all the drilling and boring making it weaker with time.

There were complaints of apathy, of less-than-required equipment to handle the crisis. The earthmovers, pressed into service only on Saturday morning at about 11 a.m. were clearly feeble in number. The government cranes were inconspicuous by their absence. "One or two of them came, saw and did very little on Friday night," alleged residents. The three that were seen working happened to belong to private owners and the JBC, put into service mainly at the behest of the RSS volunteers. CISF group commandant N C Sood too did his part in calling some.

"The cranes here are not the 20-tonne-capacity ones that are supposed to be put into use. None of these have more than 10-tonne capacity," said a resident. Others had another tale to tell. "We were trying to make arrangements for ONGC cranes. But the answer that we got was: 'no drivers available'," said a visibly agitated Riteshbhai.

Corroborating facts, AUDA deputy engineer Manubhai said: "Attempts are on to get more than 40-tonne cranes from ONGC and the Railways. But till then we have to get the work going."

So, could we term the progress in rescue operations as painstakingly slow?

"Yes," said local residents in unison. "Practically, no work in clearing the debris was carried out on Friday. According to locals, at the present pace of progress, it would take more than four days to clear the rubble.

Braving the increasing stench, were about 200 RSS volunteers, 50 NCC cadets and local residents, along with RAF personnel, who were seen working round the clock. The RAF, which reached the spot at 4.30 p.m. on Friday evening, is to carry on operations till the entire rubble is cleared.

Lack of police personnel, however, couldn't have gone unnoticed.

# Friday's images still haunt Amdavadis

By Swati Sucharita

AHMEDABAD: It was like a city under siege. Traffic detours, RAF (Rapid Action Force) trucks, the now ubiquitous yellow crane (pressed into service from industry and municipal corporations), swarms of people, (some of them anxious relatives, the others watching out of the more morbid human curiosity) standing near tumbled-down buildings; this hardly seemed the laid-back city, with its customary 'Maja Ma?' kind of attitude.

On Saturday, a feeling of resigned grief had settled in among the worst-affected, who were mostly your typical urban, working, nuclear families. Wives and children were sent packing to their parental homes located in safer places like Vadodara, Nagpur, Mumbai and Delhi. Office files and documents laden on an open mini truck, household effects being unloaded from a multi-storied flat, affected families squatting on charpoys, and even residents of not-so-affected flats refusing to go in out of fear — some of the recurring images on a Saturday afternoon.

Spectators, volunteers, relief workers, there were veritable traffic jams on the Vejalpur streets late Saturday evening too. Relief workers were repeatedly heard exhorting the people assembled there not to light up, as there was the risk of a fire breaking out, since there had been a LPG cylinder blast on Friday afternoon, when relief work was on.

It was a day when residents of Ahmedabad were wondering if they had dreamt up what could probably be the blackest Friday, (and for that matter, the blackest Republic Day). At 8.50 am, on January 26, you would expect the usual cosy domestic scene of a family waking up lazily to what is traditionally a holiday, with watching the Republic Day parade high on most peoples' agenda.

"I was readying myself to fill up water when I suddenly felt the swaying, and before it could register, my husband just grabbed my hand and we ran out barefoot in our night suits. Even then, I had to be careful while running, as I am pregnant," recalls a still shaken-looking Pooja.

A resident of one of the blocks of the ill-fated ten-storied Shikhar Apartments in Vejalpur, Pooja and her husband are yet to come to terms with the damages, both physical (their apartment and assets) and mental, thanks to the trauma suffered. More so, because they are still in the process of repaying the bank loan on their apartment.

"Coming from North India, I am quite used to quakes as they are frequent (and pretty mild) in Delhi," says Singh, a resident of Sachin Towers. "But when I started swaying madly on the fourth floor of my apartment and when the fridge started sliding down with milk sloshing out, it was obvious that this was serious."

The sights of half-broken balcony balustrades reminded one of the half-visible deck of Titanic, as seen in the movie. "The builder should be put behind bars," angrily fumed a stander-by.

"Since there was a Republic Day function in the housing society, I was asked by the cooks to take my car out of the park. Thank God, my one month-old car was safe outside the premises," recounted Mr Das, a resident of Shikhar.

"Can you imagine, they found a still-ticking clock securely hanging on a piece of wall in the debris, showing the right time," said a spectator at the Shikhar site excitedly. Time is probably invincible, after all.

# *Firemen at work, families homeless!*

Kalpit Bhachech



**WHO'S THEIR SAVIOUR? Firemen's families have shifted out in the open on the Danapith fire station campus in Ahmedabad, after being asked to evacuate their 'risky' quarters.**

By A Staff Reporter

AHMEDABAD: Daksha Pandya is busy cooking lunch for her family out in the open. She is one of the 100-odd wives of firemen who have been rendered homeless and have had to take shelter in the backyard of Danapith fire station.

Says Daksha, "My husband Pravin reported for duty at 9 am on Friday and was still at work till 3 pm on Saturday. He must be cutting steel girders and concrete beams and rescuing people somewhere in Ahmedabad."

The staff quarters behind the Ahmedabad Fire Brigade's oldest and main fire-fighting utility, the Danapith fire station, have developed massive cracks and one of the two buildings has lost its mooring.

The staircase which goes up the building has been nearly detached and the building rendered useless.

BRAVE HEARTS

"So we are living in garages where usually the fighters and tankers are parked. With all equipment being pressed into service, the garages are empty and some families have shifted there," says Mumtaz Sandhi.

However, Bhavesh Patel has sent his wife Geeta to her village. "There is no point in her staying here in the open while I am away and working", he added.

Interestingly, Bhavesh returned from rescue operations in the Satellite area after 38 hours of continuous work and was given two hours of rest time before beginning to hammer away at some concrete mess again.

## TELEVISION tvguide.indiatimes.com



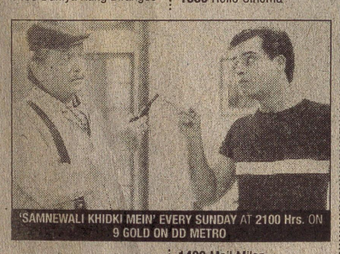

**DD I**
0900 Mukhya Samachar
0902 Jai Maha Lakxmi
1000 News Headlines
1002 Om Namah Shivay
1030 Series
1100 Mukhya Samachar
1102 Series
1130 Sreka Laka Boom Boom
1200 News Headlines
1202 Shaktimaan: Serial
1330 Mukhya Samachar
1402 Nishan
1430 Serial
1400 Samachar
1410 The News
1420 News For Hearing Impaired
1435 News In Sanskrit
1445 Vartmaan: Animated Series for Children
1500 Mukhya Samachar
1502 Business On Sunday
1530 News Makers
**Delhi And Relay Transmitters**
1600 News Headlines
1602 Feature Film in Hindi: ARPAN (Jeetendra, Reena Roy, Raj Babbar)
1800 News Headlines
1830 Samachar
1845 Haryana Diary
**Network**
1900 Portrait of a Director
**National Network**
2000 The News
2030 Samachar
2100 Surabhi: Cultural Magazine
2130 Feature Film in Hindi: ANDAAZ (Anil Kapoor, Karisma)

**DD METRO**
0800 Dum Dum Dum Baaje Shiv Ka Damaroo
0830 Tara Ki Duniya
1200 Ayur Pop Beats
1230 Music Lehrein
1300 Fashion Flare
1330 Aapki Pasand
1400 Duniya Rang Birangee
Chonch
2100 Samnewali Khidki
2130 Hum Hain Kal Aaj Aur Kal

**SONY**
0800 Uttar Ramayan
0830 Shree Ganesh
0930 Dinosaurs
1000 Good Morning Disney
1100 Mere Angane Mein
1130 Family No. 1
1200 Hum Sab Ek Hain
1230 Haal Kaisa Hai Janab Ka
1700 Chartbusters
1730 Music Mantra
1800 Disney Hour
1900 Poppadum Show
1930 Lahren

**B4U**
0800 Shot Cut
0830 Murari Bapu
0900 Trailor Junction SONGS
0930 Lets Get Physical
1000 Tasveerein
1030 Amar Chitrakatha
1100 Saas Pe Sava Saas
1130 Doube Savaari
1200 Bollywood Flash
1230 Fashion Avenue
1300 Big Picture
1330 Trailor Junction
1400 Crew Story
1430 Anupama
1500 Special
1530 Half Ticket
1900 Half Ticket
1930 Money Talkies

**STAR PLUS**
0800 The Sword of Tipu Sultan
0900 Fox Kids- Sunday
1000 Janata Ki Adalat
1030 Chhupa Rustom
1100 Chalti Ka Naam Antakshari
1200 Family Fortunes
1230 Musafir Hoon Yaaro!
1300 Mirch Masala
1330 Hello Cinema




1425 Ye Kya Hua
1450 News In Urdu
1500 Feature Film in Hindi: NEELKAMAL (Raaj Kumar, Manoj Kumar)
1730 One Cubed
1755 Cinema Cinema
1800 Brahmand
1830 Vartman
1845 Aankhon Dekhi
1855 Cinema Cinema
2200 Aashiyana

**9 GOLD ON DD METRO**
0900 To 0930 Blockbuster
1000 To 1130 Director's Cut
1900 & 1930 Superhit Muqabla




2000 Tedhe Medhe Sapney
2030 Chonch Ladi Re
1400 Mail Milap
1730 Shrimati Sharma Na Kahti Thi
1800 Jubilee Plus
1830 Star Bestsellers

**STAR WORLD**
0830 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World
0930 Ally McBeal
1030 The Practice
1130 Martial Law
1230 World C'ship Wrestling
1430 Crown and Country
1500 Travel Asia
1530 Baywatch
1630 The Simpsons
1700 3rd Rock from the Sun
1730 Star News Focus Asia
1830 The X Files
1930 Star Trek- The Next Generation
2030 TV.Com
2100 Star News Sunday
2200 The X Files

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**
0830 Family Hour: Taming the Wild River
0900 Family Hour: Savage Planet
0930 Planet Green: Wildlife Legacy
1030 About Asia: The Art of Warrior
1130 Violent Earth: Antarctic Trilogy- The Longest Night
1230 Saturday Unltd.: Secret China- Last Mountain of God
1330 Saturday Unltd.: Secret China- Descendants of the Sun
1430 Saturday Unltd.: Secret China- The Last White Dragon Boat
1530 Arctic Survivors
1630 Family Hour: Scientist, Shark & Showman
1700 Family Hour: A Rare Move
1730 Planet Green: Great Bison Chase
1830 About Asia: The Land of Mercy
1930 Violent Earth: Antarctic Trilogy- Solid Water, Liquid Rock
2030 On Assignment: Rubbish Police
2100 & 2130 Sunday Wild: Serengeti Jigsaw
2200 About Asia: The Land of Mercy

**DISCOVERY**
0800 Wings: Straight Up-Looking Up
0900 Let's Dance/There's No Food Like My Food
0930 Crocodile Hunter's Croc Files
1000 Popular Mechanics for Kids
1030 So You Want To Be?
1100 Real Kids, Real Adventures
1130 Splat
1200 Lonely Planet

**MOVIES TODAY**

**MAX**
0900 Hariyali Aur Raasta
1400 Sunny
2100 Lata - The Queen in Concert LIVE
0030 Chambal Ki Kasam

**B4U**
1600 Sapoot
2000 Lootera / Mujrim / Gora Aur Kala

**HALLMARK**
0800 Bravestarr / Archie & Sabrina
0900 Open Sesame
1000 Animal Show
1100 Cost. Site / Wubb. World
1200 Muppets Ton. / Alex Mack
1315 Children of the Dust 2
1500 Adventures of William Tell
1700 Right to Remain Silent
1900 Danger Bay
1930 Face to Face
2130 The River Kings (Pt. 1 & 2)
2330 In a Class of His Own

**HBO**
0815 The Enemy Within
1015 Meteorites!
1200 Cinema Secrets Ep. 8: Cinema Super Spies
1230 The Long Island Incident
1430 The Glimmer Man
1630 The Concierge
1830 Batman Returns
2100 The Age of the Innocence
2345 Stormcatcher

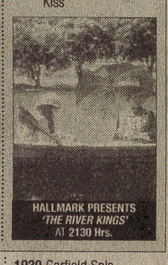
**STAR MOVIES**
0830 Drama: True Blue
1030 Bhaskar Ghose Show
1100 Sunday Best: Jungle Boy
1300 Thriller: I Want You
1500 Star Kids Club: Who Framed Roger Rabbit
1700 Thriller: Heaven's Fire
1845 Romance: Notting Hill 1999
1900 STARbiz
1930 Sunday Night Premiere: There's Something about Mary 1998
2345 Action Force: Mortal Kombat

**STAR PLUS**
1410 Bandhan Kachchey Dhaagon Ka
1930 Pyaasa

**SONY**
1300 Sau Din Saas Ke
2000 Amar Akbar Anthony

**ZEE CINEMA**
1000 Raani Aur Laal Pari
1330 Bulandi
1730 Terrorist
2200 Surya

**TCM**
2100 Point Blank
2240 It Started with a Kiss







1300-1900 Discovery Profile Series
1900 Vital Breakthroughs
2000 Lifeline
2100 Science Frontiers

**CARTOON NETWORK**
0800 I Am Weasel
0830 The Powerpuff Girls
0900 Mike, Lu & Og
0930 Batman of the Future
1000 Boomerang
1100 Tom & Jerry Show
1130 Bugs Bunny Spls.
1200 Detective Squad
1230 The Smurfs
1300 Garfield Spls.
1330 Pinky & the Brain
1400 Toon Tamasha/ Captain Planet
1430 The Mask
1500 Addams Family
1530 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest
1600 The New Scooby & Scrappy Doo Show
1630 The Popeye Show
1700 I Am Weasel
1730 The Powerpuff Girls
1800 Mike, Lu & Og
1830 Tom & Jerry Show
1900 Bugs Bunny Spls.
1930 Garfield Spls.
2000 Pinky & the Brain
2030 Batman of the Future

**MUSIC CHANNELS**

**B4U MUSIC**
0800 B4U Full Volume
0900 B4U Just Request
1000 B4U Full Volume
1100 B4U Video Active
1130 B4U Full Volume
1200 B4U First Cut
1230 B4U Scene This
1330 B4U Bollywood 20 to 1
1400 B4U Video on Call
1500 B4U Recall
1530 & 1600 B4U Kadak
1700 B4U Just Request
1800 B4U Special
1830 B4U Full Volume
1900 B4U Video Active
1930 B4U Full Volume
2000 B4U First Cut
2030 B4U Raw
2100 B4U Full Volume
2130 B4U Full Volume
2200 B4U Video on Call

**MTV**
0800 MTV Classics
0900 MTV Lili
0915 MTV Non-Stop Hits
1030 MTV Chito Chat
1045 MTV Non-Stop Hits
1100 MTV Lili
1115 MTV Non-Stop Hits
1200 MTV Baar Baar Dekho
1230 MTV House Full
1300 MTV Non-Stop Hits
1400 MTV Lili
1415 MTV Non-Stop Hits
1500 MTV Cinemascope
1530 MTV Bakra
1545 MTV Web Watch
1600 MTV Ek Do Teen
1700 MTV & Kenwood India Hitlist
1800 MTV Kya Bolti Tu
1815 MTV Non-Stop Hits
1900 MTV Its My Life
1930 MTV Non-Stop Hits
2000 MTV Bakra
2015 MTV Made in India
2045 MTV Non-Stop Hits
2130 MTV Housefull
2200 MTV Fresh

**CHANNEL V**
0700 [V] Hit Machine
1100 [V] Oye
1130 [V] Hit Machine
1200 PO [V]
1400 Face Off
1430 [V] Launch Pad
1500 [V] Karaoke
1530 [V] Hit Machine
1645 [V] Bheja Fry
1700 [V] Weekend Spl.
1800 [V] MMM
1830 [V] Hit Machine
1945 [V] Bheja Fry
2000 [V] Weekend Spl.
2100 [V] Oye
2130 [V] Hit Machine

**ZEE MUSIC**
0800 Hit Pe Hit
1000 Hit Mix
1030 Artiste of the Fortnight
1100 Zee Music Box
1130 Dial M
1230 Hit Pe Hit
1330 Jharokha
1400 Music Mag
1435 TaraRum
1530 Hit Pe Hit
1630 Zee Music Box
1700 Hit Mix
1730 Dil Se
1800 Zee Music LIVE / Best of the Best
1900 Hit Pe Hit
2000 Fillers
2030 Compact Disc
2100 Zee Music Box

**SPORTS CHANNELS**

**DD SPORTS**
0815 Indian Sports Heroes: Featuring Jyoti Randhawa
0830 Asian Sports Show
0900 Champions Trophy-Hockey: Men-2000-Korea vs. England- H/Ls
1000 Sunday Special Cricket Bonanza: India vs. Zimbabwe- R'dgs. of 2nd One-Day, Cuttack
1700 Sports News
1715 Indian Sports Heroes: Featuring Jyoti Randhawa
1730 Martial Arts: Series
1800 Hockey Hour: 4th Jr. Asia Cup Hockey- India vs. Japan
1900 Commonwealth pWeightlifting C'ship-99, Melbourne: H/Ls
2000 Champion Speaks: Featuring Bishan Singh Bedi
2030 A to Z of Sports
2130 Sports Time
2200 Sports Hour: World Under-21 Snooker C'ship-2000, Bangalore- H/Ls of 2nd S-Fnl.
2300 Sports Time
2330 Asia Cup Table Tennis C'ship-99: S-Fnls.- R'dgs.

**STAR SPORTS**
0800 Australian Domestic Cricket: Pura Milk Cup- South Australia vs. New South Wales
1000 NBA Inside Stuff 2000-01
1030 Gillette World Sports Spl.
1100 Futbol Mundial
1130 Asia Sport Show
1200 Spanish Football League 2000-01
1400 Rally Racing: On the Limit 2000
1430 WTA Tour: Adidas Int'l
1600 Australia Cricket: Carlton Series 2001- West Indies vs. Australia
1700 Soccer: Grand Canaria Int'l Football
2100 ATP Tour World Series T'ment: Qatar Open 2001

**ESPN**
0800 Australia Cricket: Carlton Series 2001- West Indies vs. Australia
0858 Australia Cricket: Carlton Series 2001- West Indies vs. Australia LIVE
1230 Cricket Talk Show: Boycs and Sunny Masterclass- Wicket-Keeping
1300 Australia Cricket: Carlton Series 2001- Zimbabwe vs. Australia LIVE
1700 Motoworld
1730 Pro-Billiards: 2000 Women's T'ment of Champions
1830 Sportscenter: Int'l Edn.
1900 Pool: 2000 World Pool League
2000 Australia Cricket: Carlton Series 2001- Zimbabwe vs. Australia
2100 Western Union World Football
2130 Italian Series A 2000-01

**NEWS CHANNELS**

**ZEE NEWS**
0730 Morning Zee
0900 News- Hindi
0930 Cyber Zee
1000-1200 News- Hindi Every Hour
1030 Special Correspondent
1130 Inside Story
1230 The Premiere Show
1300 Beyond Headlines
1400-1930 News- Hindi Every Half An Hour
2000 NR Eyes
2030-2230 News- Hindi Every Hour
2100 News At 9
2200 Encounter

**STAR NEWS**
0800 Assignment
0830-0930 Star News- Hindi and English alternatively of half an hour duration each beginning with Hindi
1000 Assignment
1030 Star News- Hindi
1100 Star News- Eng.
1130 Star Business Week
1200 Star News- Eng.
1230 Limelight Hindi
1300 Star News- Eng.
1330 Star News- Hindi
1400 Limelight English
1430-1730 Star News- Hindi & English alternatively of half an hour duration each beginning with Hindi
1800 Big Fight
1900 Star News- Eng.
1930 Star Talk: Gulzar with Vir Sanghvi
2000 Star News- Eng.
2030 Star News- Hindi
2100 Star Business Week
2130 Prasang
2200 Star News Ravivar

**BBC**
0800 Science World
0830-2230 BBC News- Every Hour
0900 Correspondent
1000 IT: India Tomorrow
1100 India Business Report
1200 Hospital
1300 Face to Face
1400 This Week
1440 I, Caesar Nero: The Power and the Madness
1600 Click Online
1700 Science World
1740 Joanna Lumley in the Kingdom of the Thunder Dragon
1840 Dateline Washington
2000 Top Gear
2040 The Gulf War: Desert Storm

**CNN**
0830 World View
0900 Style
0930 World Report
1030-1330 World News




Every Hour
1100 Inside Asia
1200 Inside Africa
1300 World Sport
1400 Diplomatic License
1430 Larry King Weekend
1530-2130 World News Every Hour
1600 ebizasia
1700 World Sport
1730 Perspectives
1900 Business Unusual
2000 CNNdotCOM
2100 World Beat

**CNBC INDIA**
0830 India Talks
0900 Trendmill
0930-1530 CNBC Executive Sports
1530 Pakistan This Week
1600 Managing Asia
1630 Asia This Week
1700 Lo & Company
1730 Stocks @ Work
1800 Managing Asia
1830 Mutual Fund Investor
1900 CNBC Asia Spl.
1930 Cutting Edge
2000 Taking Stock
2100 Dilbert
2130 Jay Leno
2230 Conan O'Brien

**SAHARA TV**
0900 Sitare Sunday Spl.
0930 Phulwari
1030 Kagaar
1130 Kadam
1200 Ada
1230 Beta Numbri Baap Dus Numbri
1300 Chitthi Aayee Hai
1330 Parakh
1700 Geetanjali
1730 Phulwari
1830 Naye Gaane
1900 The Premiere
1930 Sahara Samachar Sandhya
2000 New Year Eve Special
2200 Sahara Samachar

## CINEMA

**AHMEDABAD CINEMA**

**ENGLISH FILMS**
**BEDAZZLED:** Rajshri (G) (82-26060) 10.45 a.m.
**SPACE COWBOYS:** City Pulse No.2 (82-76256 & 82-76090 - 6.00 p.m.)



**THE SIXTH DAY:** R.World No.3 (912-71601 to 71610 - 6.00 8.00 p.m.), City Pulse No.2 (82-76256 & 82-76090 - 8.00 p.m.)

**HINDI FILMS**
**AASHIQ: (Boby Deol & Karishma Kapoor):** Relief (5507748), Galaxy (2840440), City Pulse No.1 (82-76256 & 82-76090 - 12.45, 3.45, 6.45, 9.45 p.m.), R.World No.3 (912-71601 to 71610 - 1.00, 4.00, 7.00, 10.00 p.m.), City Gold No.3 (6587780 - 12.15, 3.15, 6.15, 9.15)
**CHAMPION: (Sunny Deol & Manisha Koirala):** Amrapali (2162618)
**DEEWANE: (Ajay Devgan & Urmila):** Manglam (2871309)
**DALAL NO.1: (Shakti Kapoor & Rajni Chandra):** Shalimar (5350371), Shital (2161225), Ashish (2871869)
**FARZ: (Sunny Deol, Preity Zinta, Jackie Shroff):** Geeta (2872444), Rajshree (G) (82-26060), Relief (5507748 - 12.30 p.m.), Rajshri (G) (82-26060)
**KUCH KHATTEE KUCH MEETHI: (Sunil Shetty, Rishi Kapoor, Kajol):** City Pulse No.2 (82-76256 & 82-76090 - 12.30, 3.15, 10.15p.m.), City Pulse No.3 (82-76256 & 82-76090 - 7.00), R.World No.3 (912-71601 to 71610 - 3.15, 10.00 p.m.), City Gold No.3 (6587780 - 12.00, 3.00, 6.00, 9.00)
**KHILADI 420: (Akshay Kumar & Mahima Chaudhary):** Sapna (6820750)
**MOHABBATEIN: (Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Aishwarya Rai):** Shiv (6589973 - 12.30, 4.00, 9.15 p.m.), Drive In (7454600), R.World No.2 (912-71601 to 71610 - 6.15 p.m.)
**RAJU CHACHA: (Ajay Devgan, Kajol, Rishi Kapoor):** R.World No.2 (912-71601 to 71610 - 12.15, 3.15 p.m.), Rupam (5356787), Milan (2161276), Sangam (6821328), Golden (5711605)
**ZUBEIDA: (Rekha, Manoj Vajpayee, Karishma Kapoor):** R.World No.2 (912-71601 to 71610 - 10.30 p.m.), City Pulse No. 3 (82-76256 & 82-76090 - 1.15, 4.00, 9.45 p.m.), R.World No.3 (912-71601 to 71610 - 12.15 p.m., City Gold No.3 (6587780 - 12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30)

**GUJARATI FILMS**
**CHUNDADI NI LAAJ: (Akshay Kumar, Namrata Shirodkar, Johnny Lever):** Kamal (7506888)



**DEEKRI TO PARKI THAPAN KAHE-VAY: (Arvind Rathod, Mona Thiba, Hiten Kumar):** Shalimar (G) (12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30 p.m.)
**JESAL TORAL: (Upendra Trivedi & Anupam):** Ashok (5356598)
**KADVA CHOTH: (Arvind Trivedi & Snehlata):** Lalitamahal (7523255)

**MORNING SHOW**
**DEEWANE: (Ajay Devgan & Urmila):** Manglam (2871309) 10.00
**DHADKAN: (Akshay Kumar, Shilpa Shetty, Sunil Shetty):** Rosy (2143586), 10.00, Shiv (6589973) 10.00
**DHAI AKSHAR PREM KE: (Abhishek Bachhan & Aishwarya Rai):** Relief (5507748) 9.00
**GURU: (Mithun Chakravarti & Sridevi):** Kamal (7506888) 10.30
**KYA KEHNA: (Preeti Zinta & Saif Ali Khan):** Amber (2742192) 10.00
**KAHI PYAR NA HO JAAYE: (Salman Khan & Rani Mukherjee):** Roopale (5502516) 10.00

**RAJKOT CINEMA**
**MELA: (Amir Khan & Twinkle Khanna):** Anand (2811420) 10.30
**PYAR TO HONA HI THA: (Ajay Devgan & Kajol):** Natraj (6588400) 10.00

**HINDI CINEMA**
**AASHIQUE:** Galaxy - 12.45 p.m, Astron - 2.30, 6.00, 9.45 p.m.
**BHAIRAV:** Delux - 1.00, 4.00, 7.00, 10.00 p.m.
**CHARLIE'S ANGLES (Hindi Dubbed):** Galaxy - 6.30, 8.30, 10.30 p.m.
**FARZ:** Amrapali - 12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30 p.m.
**HASINA MAAN JAYEGI:** Dharam - 12.30 p.m.
**JUBEIDA:** Galaxy - 3.45 p.m.
**JALLAD NUMBER 1:** Neelkanth - 4.00, 7.00, 10.00 p.m.
**KUCH KATHI KUCH MITHI:** Girnar - 3.30, 6.30, 9.30 p.m.
**MOHABETTEIN:** Astron - 12.30 p.m.
**RAJU CHACHA:** Dharam - 3.30, 6.30, 9.30 p.m.



**RAAT RANI:** Girnar - 12.30 p.m.

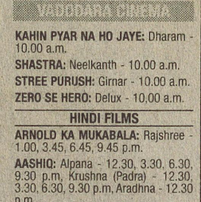
**GUJARATI FILMS**
**CHUNDI NI LAAJ:** Rajshree - 3.30, 6.30, 9.30 p.m.
**MAHIYAR MARU LAKHNU SASARIYU SAVA LAKHNU:** Rajshree - 12.45 p.m.
**PANDU LILU NE RAANG RATO:** Shri Raj - 12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30 p.m.

**MORNING SHOW**
**DHAI AKSHAR PREM KE:** Galaxy - 10.00 a.m.

**VADODARA CINEMA**
**KAHIN PYAR NA HO JAYE:** Dharam - 10.00 a.m.
**SHASTRA:** Neelkanth - 10.00 a.m.
**STREE PURUSH:** Girnar - 10.00 a.m.
**ZERO SE HERO:** Delux - 10.00 a.m.

**HINDI FILMS**
**ARNOLD KA MUKABALA:** Rajshree - 1.00, 3.45, 6.45, 9.45 p.m.
**AASHIQ:** Alpana - 12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30 p.m, Krushna (Padra) - 12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30 p.m, Aradhna - 12.30 p.m.
**DHADKAN:** Aradhna - 12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30 p.m.
**FARZ:** Vihar - 12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30 p.m.
**JWALAMUKHI: Sagar - 12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30 p.m**
**KUCH KHATTI KUCH MITHI:** Apsara - 12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30 p.m.
**MOHABBATEIN:** Pratap - 6.00, 9.30 p.m.
**RAJU CHACHA:** Sadhna - 12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30 p.m.
**ZUBEIDA:** Pratap - 12.15, 3.15 p.m.

**GUJARATI FILMS**
**DASHE DISHAYE MAA DASHA MAA:** Natraj - 12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30 p.m.



**MORNING SHOW**
**KAMINI AUR KAMDEV:** Alpana - 10.00
**KHILADI KHATROKA:** Rajshree - 11.00
**MUNNIBAI:** Sagar - 10.00
**USTADON KE USTAD:** Natraj - 10.00
**VIDHATA:** Vihar - 10.00

## AIR TIMINGS

| Fl. No | Destination | Arr. | Dep. | Days |
|---|---|---|---|---|

**FLIGHTS FROM AHMEDABAD**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Indian Airlines\Alliance Air**(domestic services) | | | | |
| IC7267 | Jaipur/Calcutta | 1750 | 1820 | 2,4,6 |
| IC7269 | Calcutta | 1910 | 1940 | 135 |
| IC818 | Delhi | | 0810 | Daily |
| IC817 | Delhi | 0725 | 0805 | Daily |
| IC862 | Delhi | | 2150 | Daily |
| IC861 | Delhi | 2110 | | Daily |
| IC614 | Mumbai | | 0730 | Daily |
| IC613 | Mumbai | 0645 | | Daily |
| IC604 | Mumbai | | 2055 | Daily |
| IC603 | Mumbai | 1800 | | Daily |
| IC609 | Mumbai/B'lore | | 1845 | Daily |
| IC610 | Mumbai/B'lore | 2015 | | Daily |
| For information on Ahmedabad Flight Arrival and Departure contact Voice Mail. 9627-011141 | | | | |
| **International services** | | | | |
| IC563 | Sharjah | 2240 | 2325 | 36 |
| IC564 | Hyderabad | 0405 | 0445 | 47 |
| IC885 | Muscat | 1825 | 1905 | 246 |
| IC886 | Delhi | 0035 | 0130 | 246 |
| IC886 | Delhi | | 0120 | 357 |
| IC981 | Kuwait | 1935 | 2015 | 47 |
| IC982 | Hyderabad | 0605 | 0715 | 15 |
| **Jet Airways** | | | | |
| 9W2408 | Mumbai | | 0445 | 123457 |
| 9W2407 | Mumbai | 0415 | 0445 | 123457 |
| 9W322 | Mumbai | | 0715 | Daily |
| 9W321 | Mumbai | 0645 | | Daily |
| 9W702 | Delhi | | 0805 | Daily |
| 9W701 | Delhi | 0735 | | Daily |
| 9W324 | Mumbai | | 2020 | Daily |
| 9W323 | Mumbai | 1950 | | Daily |
| 9W326 | Mumbai | | 1835 | Daily |
| 9W325 | Mumbai | 1805 | | Daily |

**FLIGHTS FROM VADODARA**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Indian Airlines** | | | | |
| IC690 | Mumbai | 17.15 | | Daily |
| IC416 | Delhi | 7.45 | | Daily |
| **Jet Airways** | | | | |
| 9W342 | Mumbai | | 0710 | Daily |
| 9W344 | Mumbai | | 1920 | Daily |

**FLIGHTS FROM RAJKOT**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Indian Airlines** | | | | |
| CD7146 | Mumbai | | 1920 | Daily |
| **Jet Airways** | | | | |
| 9W346 | Mumbai | | 0805 | Daily |
| (1-Mon, 2-Tue, 3-Wed, 4-Thu, 5-Fri, 6-Sat, 7-Sun) | | | | |

*Some flights are rescheduled from time to time. Please cross-check with the respective airlines offices.*

## TRAIN TIMINGS

| Train No | Name of the Train | Rajkot | Ahd. | Baroda | Surat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9130 | Ahd-Vadodara Exp. | - | 1445 | - | - |
| 9058 | Vadodara-Valsad Exp | | | 1735 | 1950 |
| 9110 | Gujarat Queen | | 1810 | 2030 | 2300 |
| 9708 | Aravali Express | | 2130 | 2333 | 0233 |
| 9018 | Saurashtra Janta Express | 1440 | 2015 | 2228 | 0050 |
| 9144 | Lokshakti Express | | 2105 | 2325 | 0125 |
| 9006 | Saurashtra Mail | 1735 | 2250 | 0052 | 0255 |
| 9022 | Flying Ranee | | | | 0525 |
| 4707 | Ranakpur Express | | 0130 | 0340 | 0615 |
| 9032 | Kutch Express | | 0310 | 0508 | 0720 |
| 9104 | Gdham-Vadodara Exp. | | 0518 | Ar 0710 | |
| 9216 | Saurashtra Express | 0050 | 0710 | 0945 | 1250 |
| 9012 | Gujarat Express | - | 0655 | 0907 | 1132 |
| 9154 | Jamnagar-Ahd Exp. | 0630 | Arr 1050 | - | - |
| 2928 | Vadodara-Mumbai Exp. | | | 2245 | 0105 |
| 2902 | Gujarat Mail | | 2210 | 0009 | 0212 |
| 2934 | Karnavati Express | | 0500 | 0657 | 0854 |
| 2964 | Sayaji Nagari Exp | | | 0720 | 0936 |
| 2010 | Shatabdi Express | | 1435 | 1615 | 1812 |
| **FROM DELHI/NORTH INDIA towards MUMBAI** | | | | | |
| 5063 | Gorakhpur-Bandra Avadh Exp. | | | 2205 | 0015 |
| 9024 | Firozepur-Mumbai Janta Exp. | | | 1140 | 1444 |
| 9020 | Dehradun-Bandra Express | | | 2040 | 2335 |
| 2904 | Golden Temple Mail | | | 2349 | 0150 |
| 2962 | Avantika Express | | | 0015 | 0224 |
| 2956 | Jaipur - Mumbai Exp | | | 0140 | 0334 |
| 2926 | Paschim Express | | | 0852 | 1055 |
| 2952 | Rajdhani Exp | | | 0349 | No Halt |
| 2954 | August Kranti Exp. | | | 0446 | 0635 |
| **TOWARDS PUNE/GOA/TVDM/B'GALORE/C'TORE/CHENNAI/HYDERABAD** | | | | | |
| 6501 | Ahd-Bangalore Exp.(Su) | | | 1800 | 2000 | 2235 |
| 1095 | Ahimsa Exp. (Mon,Sat,Sun) | | | 1605 | 1820 | 2035 |
| 1091 | G'dham-Pune Exp. (Th) | | | 1605 | 1820 | 2035 |
| 7017 | Rjt - Sec Exp. (Th) | 0500 | | 1005 | 1230 | 1440 |
| 6613 | Rjt - Coimbatore Exp

## Lack of disaster management plan, past sins come home to roost

# *Gujarat caught on wrong foot yet again*

**The Times of India News Service**

AHMEDABAD: The Kutch cyclones of 1998 and 1999, the drought of 2000 and now the earthquake of 2001. Gujarat is increasingly becoming synonymous with natural calamities.

And just when it is preparing for what will, in all probability, be one of the worst droughts ever this coming summer, the earth beneath it shook, and with disastrous consequences, on Republic Day.

For four years in succession, nature's wrath has left the state battered and bruised. Its relief machinery has been stretched to breaking point. And once again, the lack of preparedness of the state government to tackle exigencies of this nature stands thoroughly exposed. Its knee-jerk reaction on Friday has now become as common as the ravages it so periodically undergoes.

In most cases, it has been left to local volunteers to extricate bodies from beneath mounds of rubble of what were once multi-storeyed buildings.

Ample evidence of this was available on Saturday when the fire brigade of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation had 70 pending calls which it had not attended to because its hands were already full with rescue work.

The cyclones of 1998 and 1999 had left nearly 2,400 persons dead and the entire Kutch region devastated. The state government was at that time criticised for not having put in place an early warning system which could have warned fishermen against venturing out to sea.

And it was not as if the state government did not know that an earthquake was waiting to happen in Gujarat. The state lies on two seismic fault lines — one extending along the Narmada valley and the other along the coast of Saurashtra — and there have been massive earthquakes in the not-so-distant past to serve as warning.

The scores of tremors recorded in Bhavnagar in August and September last year had led many scientisists to suggest the government ought to gear up for a disaster — first in terms of providing insurance to the probable victims and also strengthening weak structures in earthquake-prone areas.

Two years ago, nearly 36,000 persons in the Pandhana area of Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh were provided life insurance of Rs 50,000 each because of frequent tremors in the area. The insurance was provided on the request of National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) scientist Dr J G Negi.

Dr Negi had suggested that the residents of Bhavnagar should also be provided with a similar en masse insurance policy so that in the event of massive devastation, there would be less pressure on the government to provide monetary relief.

Sadly, none of this was implemented in Bhavnagar or Kutch, which are the regions most vulnerable to earthquakes. Besides, virtually no effort was made by civic bodies to ensure that the scores of high-rise buildings in Ahmedabad and other cities were strong enough to withstand an earthquake of severe intensity.

Those very towers, which were in the news recently for not getting necessary clerances like installation of fire-safety systems and geting building-use permission, bore the brunt of the quake on Friday.

The state government, on its part, had bailed out most of these high-rise structures in the face of action by Gujarat High Court, legalising them by imposing an impact fee. However, structural engineers say these buildings, most of up to 10 storeys high, have not followed the ISI specifications.

# School turns a graveyard for 60 st lents

**By A Staff Reporter**

AHMEDABAD: Eyes perk up and the 50-odd men and women hold their breath as a volunteer announces the name of one more victim, a student, dug out from the Swaminarayan Vidyalaya in Isanpur.

Ritesh Thakkar, the name is announced, and a few skip their heart beats, others let out a sigh of relief while a couple cannot hold back their grief. Ritesh was their son, one of the 60 students who lay buried under the collapsed school building for almost 24 hours before their bodies could be extricated.

Says Kirti Gajjar "my son Hiten is also in there I had hopes that he was alive but something inside me tells me he is dead". The bodies lie somewhere under the tons of concrete and mangled steel of a four-storey building which was till yesterday a high school. Today it is a sandwich of brick and mortar and 60 bodies stuck in between.

Ritesh's was the 26th body out of the 60 students of class XI science and three teachers who were trapped. Five students and a teacher escaped, two later succumbed in the hospital and the rest, 34 , are still trapped. But few parents hold any hopes of a miracle.

Obviously so, considering that it is over 40 hours and the Fire Brigade, Rapid Action Force and Border Security Force jawans have just pierced the fourth floor of the building.

"We have hopes that our son Nimesh will come out breathing", says his father Suresh Panchal. "Anyway we can't but hope for the good even, we know that only the greatest of the miracles can help someone survive in that debris", Panchal said pointing at the 50 ft high building reduced to 20 ft after the quake.

The children had gone to attend a special laboratory session, despite it being a public holiday, to prepare for their examinations which were to begin next week, says Veenaben, whose house is less than 10 ft away from the doomed structure.

"But that is not our complaint", says Jayshree Panchal. "What we want to know is the whereabouts of the school's managing trustee, Ramanbhai Patra and his builder son who built this grave for our children. They have been conspicuous [illegible] absence" , she added.

The [illegible]ool is now a gory sight. One [illegible] see a leg or a hand sticking out [illegible] rubble here and there. And there is a face, buried in concrete, half of it evident, a bloodshot eye, a broken jaw. No one knows whose child it is because it is difficult to make out whether it is a boy or girl.

All looks over for sixty families who lost their children in the school. They sit outside the school, under a *shamiana* erected for them, waiting for the next announcement.

# Surat toll rises to 43; PM to visit Bhuj on Monday

**By Amarendra Jha**

SURAT: With recovery of 10 more bodies on Saturday from the Hare Krishna Apartments on Bhatar Road which collapsed on Friday, the death toll in the city has gone to 43 with three persons still feared to be trapped in the building.

Nearly half of the 138 injured people admitted to New Civil Hospital and other hospitals in the city were discharged on Saturday and those still in the hospital were reported to be out of danger, according to district administration officials.

Union minister of textiles Kashiram Rana told *The Times of India* that a high level meeting was being held on Saturday evening at the district collectorate to supervise the relief measures.

Teams of medical doctors from Surat Municipal Corporation have been rushed to the worst affected areas in Bhuj district, the epicentre of the earthquake, where around 10,000 people were feared to be killed, Rana said.

He said that the building materials used in the buildings which have collapsed would later be subjected to investigation. However, as of now the priority was to extend assistance to the victims of the worst ever earthquake in the state, Rana added.

He told this correspondent that Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee would visit Bhuj and Ahmedabad on Monday. Rana said that he had been assured by the prime minister of all kinds of help to the affected ones in the state.

Heavy industries like ONGC, Reliance Industries Ltd, KRIBHCO and others in the city have been asked to rush the cranes to Ahmedabad and other places in the state where rescue operations were going on a war footing note, said state minister for urban housing and in-charge of city Narottam Patel to this correspondent.

A number of voluntary organisations and NGOs have set up relief centres in the city to help send relief materials like food packets, clothes, blankets and tents to Bhuj, Morbi, Ahmedabad and other affected quake-hit places, he added.

At many places in the city on Friday night, people were seen offering prayers and conducting *Mritunjay japs* in the hope that the tremors do not recur again. Though Friday was a holiday, Suratis confined themselves to their houses and restaurants and other places of recreation saw a deserted look.

Around 10.30 am on Saturday, the residents of the high-rise buildings in the city rushed themselves out of their building complex following rumours that some foreign TV channel had forecast recurrence of tremors again all over the state. However, the rumour died a natural death after some time and people again got engaged to their usual routine.

Several state leaders had rushed to the city and took stock of the situation.

Local Congress corporators along with voluntary organisations of the city have set up a relief centre at Udhana for assisting needy ones, according to Opposition leader in the SMC Babu Bhai Raika.

## Tremors in Valsad but no casualties

**The Times of India News Service**

VALSAD: Just like other parts of the state, panic gripped the Valsad town and its surrounding areas on Friday morning with tremors hitting the town making the region no exception to the devastating natural calamity that rocked the entire nation. The tremors measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale reportedly hit the region at around 8.55 am sending shock waves in the area.

However, compared to the damage to property and the loss of human lives that it caused in several other parts of the state including the neighbouring Navsari district, where more than seven persons were killed, the town relatively remained safe.

Two incidents of partial house collapse in the Mota Taiwad-Umer Falia area and the Mota Parsiwad area were noticed while in several parts of the town, cracks and falling of plasters were observed. However, no casualties were reported from the region.

Taking a lead in the relief operations, district collector Pankaj Kumar arranged to transport food items, medicines and clothing worth over Rs 25 lakh to the quake-affected victims of Kutch.

## Quake leaves 9 dead in Bharuch; Golden Bridge closed to traffic

**The Times of India News Service**

BHARUCH: As many as nine people were killed and more than 100 injured in Bharuch district during the earthquake which struck the state on Republic Day.

The quake left the Golden Bridge and the historical Victoria Tower badly damaged. The water tank of the Bharuch Municipal Corporation was also damaged.

All the deaths were reported from Jambusar taluka of the district. More than 72 houses reportedly collapsed due to the quake.

More than 120 years old Golden Bridge on river Narmada was closed to traffic on Friday morning due to the crack on pole no 15 of the bridge.

Thirty-two villages in the district have been affected badly. At least 20 cattle also lost their lives in the earthquake.

Minister for law and justice Hemant Chapatwala, along with Member of Parliament Mansukh Vasava, have rushed to the affected areas.

# Getting telecom services restored in Kutch will be a long haul

**By A Staff Reporter**

AHMEDABAD: With almost all the 147 telephone exchanges in Bhuj and Gandhidham affected by the devastating quake on Friday, it may even take several weeks before normal communication is established in the sectors.

The department now claims to have established 2000 lines each at the two district headquarters, though two Main Base Module (MBM) microwave links at the two locations. The lines, however, are difficult to access.

While two main exchanges at Bhuj and Gandhidham have been completely destroyed, a large number of exchange buildings in the two districts have collapsed and equipment, batteries and other installations have been rendered defunct. Even the department has lost seven of its people including one assistant engineer (operations) in Bhuj, said the BSNL general manager (Gujarat), PK Chanda.

Chanda said the problem of the department have been further aggravated as although teams of engineers have been sent out to the affected areas to assess and attend the breakdowns they were unable to mobilise work force to rectify the faults. "We are not able to find civil contractors who could under take the restoration jobs" he added. Work force will be deployed in the region from Rajkot.

Due to fear of possible second spell of tremors, labourers have fled the area and the telecom teams which are in the area are even unable to move around in the region due to lack of taxi services or other private transport services. Even road connections to the area have been snapped due to breaches in the Surajbari bridge one of the main links to the region.

Chanda said the exchanges in the area were of E10B types which require air-conditioning units for functioning due to serious damages to the buildings, and absence of manpower the work may take long.

"For this 20 "256-Port Exchanges" are being set up with the 8 MB lines temporarily, to establish communication links with the affected areas," Chanda said. These portable exchanges will be set under tents which are being sent from location in Rajasthan.

Also 6.5 kilowatts portable generators sets are being sent to the area as the power situation in the area in bad shape. "We are getting 20 petrol operated mini gen-sets from Delhi and we already have a few diesel operated sets in the area," Chanda said.

Various agencies and government bodies are however, trying to equip the telecom team in the area with facilities to expedite the communication restoration process. While the petroleum secretary has offered stocks of fuel to run the generators, arrangements, local authorities at Bhuj Railway Station have arranged for first class compartments where the telecom staff could stay. The department was awaiting for some one to provide transport to the teams for mobility also.

Also satellite phones were being sent to the area for emergency communications. "Two have already been despatched to Bhuj on Saturday morning," Chanda said. Arrangements were being made to sent 24 sets in all for emergency message dissemination.

Bhuj and Gandhidham have exchange capacities of 19000 and 16000 lines respectively out of which 2000 each in each district were operational though microwave links. The available lines however made no difference either.

## Six injured, 14 houses collapse in Kheda district

**The Times of India News Service**

NADIAD: As many as six people were injured and 14 houses completely collapsed due to tremors in Kheda district on Friday, according to district collector Bhagyesh Jha. About other 21 houses in Kaira district developed cracks. However, no casualties were reported from the district. The tremor reportedly occurred at around 8.46 am and lasted for nearly 45 seconds.

As soon as the tremors occurred, the district administration swung into action by calling an emergency meeting of the top district officials including DGO H N Chibber and DSP Waghela.

Soon a round the clock district control room of earthquake relief committee was set up here by the collector where the Kaira RDC Manoj Daxini, Nadiad deputy collector Kamal Shah, Nadiad municipality chief officer Himmatsinh Patel and Nadiad town mamalatdar Bharat Joshi assessed the damage reported in Nadiad and other parts of the district. Inspite of the tremors, the flag hoisting ceremony on the Republic Day was held at sharp 9 am on SRP grounds in Nadiad. The transport minister Bimal Shah was present on the occasion.

Collector Jha made arrangements to provide relief measures to the worst quake-hit Bhuj district, where casualties in large numbers along with damage to property were reported.

Accordingly, 18 trucks carrying firewood including 10 of them given by local timber association, 5,000 pouches of mineral water and one tanker of mineral water were sent to Bhuj on Saturday.

The Mahant of the Santram Temple here, Narayandasji Maharaj, donated 76,170 packets of biscuits and food packets of *boondi* to the quake-affected people of Bhuj. The temple also sent a team of 17 volunteers to the affected border district.

According to DDO Chibber, 10 teams of medical officers and staff to provide medical help have left for Bhuj.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Invitation for 'Expression of Interest' in Reclaimed Land at Marine Drive, Cochin.

The Vypeen Bridges Project comprises of three bridges connecting Bolghatty, Vallarpadom and Vypeen to Ernakulam, reclamation of 25 hectares of land and road network on the reclaimed land. This is a self-supporting project where the sale proceeds of land will fund the project. Goshree Islands Development Authority has presently reclaimed 25 hectares of land from the backwaters at Cochin. This land is in continuation of the Marine Drive on its northern side in the hub of the city. Subsequently the road network and other infrastructure would be put up on this land after two years and the land will be ready for building activities towards the end of 2003.

At this point, GIDA invites the investing public to show their interest in this land by an 'Expression of Interest' offer. Prospective investors may indicate their experience, resources and vision in this field. A document containing the details of the project and information required about the prospective investors can be had from the office of Goshree Islands Development Authority, Park Avenue, Kochi-682 011 during 10:30 AM - 4:30 PM on all working days from 29/01/2001 to 26/02/2001 on payment of Rs.1100/- (Rs.1000 + Rs.100 as sales tax). Those who would like to have the 'Expression of Interest' document by post may send Rs.100/- additionally. Payment may be made by A/c Payee demand draft drawn in favour of Secretary, Goshree Islands Development Authority payable at Cochin. The 'Expression of Interest' offer will be without commitment. This will lead to a dialogue with the parties later. The last date of receipt of 'Expression of Interest' will be 28.02.2001, 5 p.m.

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To facilitate movement of passengers and transportation of relief material, Indian Airlines and Alliance Air will operate additional flights from Delhi and Mumbai to Gujarat.

Some flights scheduled for operation from 28th January to 3rd February, 2001, are as follows :

| Flight No. | Sector | Dep. | Arr. |
|---|---|---|---|
| CD 8147 | Mumbai-Bhuj | 0545 | 0650 |
| CD 8150 | Bhuj-Ahmedabad | 0720 | 0805 |
| CD 8149 | Ahmedabad-Bhuj | 0835 | 0915 |
| CD 8148 | Bhuj-Mumbai | 0945 | 1050 |

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Indian Airlines and Alliance Air have decided to carry free of cost all relief material that are being sent to Gujarat. All consignments of relief materials from State/Central Government agencies, Public Sector Units and Indian Missions abroad, will be accepted by the Cargo offices of the airline throughout the network and transported to cities in Gujarat by the first available service.

THE FOLLOWING NODAL OFFICIALS MAY BE CONTACTED FOR DESPATCH OF RELIEF MATERIAL

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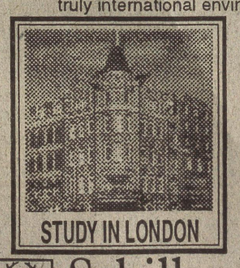
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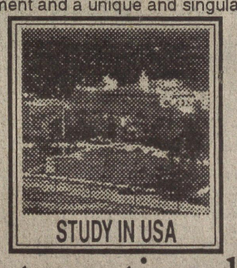
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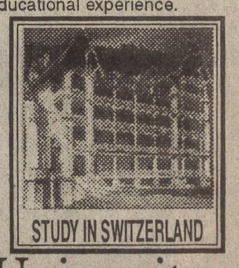
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Rashtriya

# CESS had warned about quake in Nov

The Times of India News Service

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: It is a classic instance of painstaking scientific research going waste in the country. A three-year study of the Kutch region by the Centre for Earth Sciences Studies (CESS) in Thiruvananthapuram had warned in November last that the "seismogenic fault at Kutch, a boundary fault of the rift system appears to be capable of generating larger earthquakes of 7 or more on the Richter scale".

The seismologist, C P Rajendran, on Saturday told the 'The Times of India' that the study commissioned by the Department of Science (DST) had closely scrutinised the rupture zone of 1819 earthquake in that area. Known as "Allah Band" the 90-kilometre scrap with 4.3 metre height, this "work of God" was activated by the reverse stress activated by Himalayas. A reverse stress is when a part of surface moves up relative to the footwall that makes two uneven blocks.

The 1819 quake had devastated Bhuj and caused heavy distortions in the whole terrain.

The prevailing theory of Indian subcontinent tells us that the Indian plate severed from African Gondwana region, floated around for pretty long time before colliding with the Asian mainland nearly 40 million years ago. The hit produced Himalayas and the stress or compression of the process continues. It is also a scientific conjecture that the Southern part of the country is pressing further to the North which will generate tremors of varied intensity.

According to Kusala Rajendran, senior scientist of CESS, the CESS study has documented the Kutch part well. It showed that there existed more than three slightly curvy rifts running horizontally to a 100-kilometre stretch.

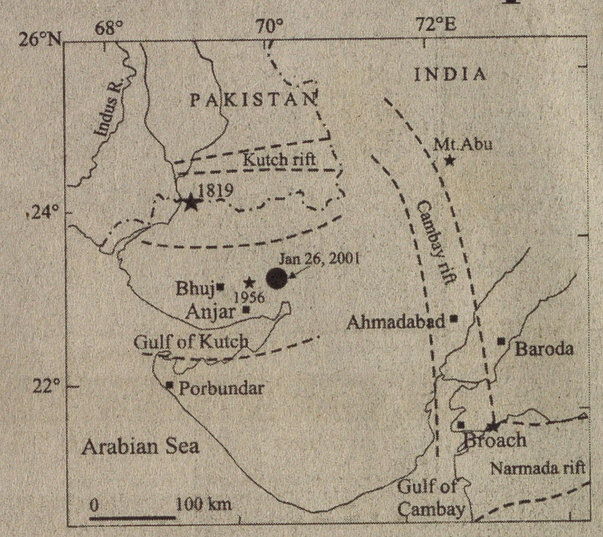
They become dormant or active according to the stress generated. Another major rift, called the Gulf of Kutch, exists, further to the south. This apart, there are two semi-vertical rifts stretching from Rajasthan to Broach.

The scientists had tried to answer why rift-related tremors in Kutch which formed the Stable Continental Regions (SCR) was in surprisingly quick frequency. The 1819 quake was followed by the 1956 Anjar tremor. The gap between 1956 and 2001, is pretty quick . The "relative proximity of the collision boundary may be a possible cause", they said and suggested a detailed geological, geophysical, and geodetic studies to determine the causes and precautionary measures.

However, the tremors in Kerala and Tamil Nadu last month, have no possible connection with the Gujarat quake, they maintained.

C PRajendran said while "human knowledge is not matured enough to forecast a quake like we can of weather, we have fairly good information of the tremors in SCRs". This made the authorities duty bound to take two precautionary measures — modification in building and sufficient medical facilities for a calamity.

It is sad that the Central Building Research Institute (CBCRI) spends millions and make building models suitable to each region goes unutilised. The CBCRI along with Indian Standard Institute could come together to make plausible model of houses suitable for places like Gujarat. But the current free-for-all scenario in building coupled with utter lack of medical and logistics support accentuate the misery of the millions, the researchers of CESS stated.




Source: Centre for Earth Science Studies. Trivandrum

# IMD sticks to its quake intensity figure

The Times of India News Service

PUNE: Notwithstanding the varying figures of earthquake intensity as recorded at China, France and the US, the Indian meteorological department has stuck to its earthquake intensity figure of 6.9 (Richter scale) as recorded by its seismographs.

IMD director general Dr R R Kelkar said that the different figures were a result of different scales being used to measure seismic activity.

"We have the best of equipment to monitor and measure earthquakes. The earthquake intensity figures are different elsewhere because of differences in scales," Dr Kelkar said, while speaking to reporters here.

**WAS IT 6.9?**

Dr Kelkar said that ever since the Latur quake, the IMD had upgraded its quake monitoring stations and linked these stations through a digital national network.

"It was because of this network that we could identify the epicentre of the quake within 20 minutes. It took a couple of hours to do this at the time of Latur," he said. The IMD Pune office recorded 85 after shocks following the massive quake yesterday, with the strongest of these aftershocks measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale.

Dr Shravan Kumar, deputy director general Regional meteorology centre (Mumbai) described the quake intensity as "very high" and said that the Bhuj quake was stronger in its intensity than Latur.

Dr Kelkar was here along with the CSIR director-general, Dr R.A. Mashelkar for the 125th anniversary function of the IMD which was cancelled in the wake of the impact of the Bhuj quake.

# *Casualties could have been lessened*

## Gujarat govt should have set up a disaster management centre: Expert

By Abhay Vaidya
The Times of India News Service

PUNE: The high casualties resulting from the Bhuj earthquake in Gujarat would perhaps have been far lesser had the Gujarat government followed the Maharashtra government's example of setting up a full-fledged disaster management centre.

Having learnt lessons from the devastating Latur quake in 1993, the Maharashtra government has established a fully- functional disaster management centre and control room at Yashda (Yeshwantrao Chavan Development Academy), Pune.

The centre has developed a comprehensive disaster management plan for Maharashtra and has created a state-wide wireless and VSAT link between the state headquarters at Mumbai and district collectors and tehesildars across Maharashtra.

The centre has also created district-wise databases listing the location of heavy earthmoving equipment, blood banks, hospitals, doctors, specialists and others, Dr Vinod Menon, professor of disaster management at Yashda's Centre for Disaster Management said while speaking to this newspaper.

"While we cannot prevent earthquakes, we can definitely minimise the impact of the disaster if we know where our resources are located and how rapidly they can be deployed," Prof Menon said while speaking to this newspaper.

**LESSONS FROM LATUR**

He said that the Maharashtra government's Centre for Disaster Management, which was located in Pune, was linked via the internet, wireless and VSATs to Mumbai and by wireless and internet to district headquarters across the state.

Using GIS (Geographical Information System technology), the centre has also created a "Disaster Management Information System for Maharashtra" which comprises digitised mapping of all tehesils.

The digitised, computer-based maps enable the "pinpointing" of location of villages, availability of disaster management facilities and alternative routes to reach the villages via the state and national highways, Prof Menon said while speaking to this paper.

Prof Menon, however, emphasised that earthquake-resistant construction techniques were extremely important to minimise the number of casualties during quakes.

"Civic authorities in urban centres located in earthquake-prone areas, have to seriously enforce building regulations and adopt earthquake-resistant techniques, such as Lintel beams, retrofitting and seismic strengthening," he said.

Prof. Menon pointed out that the loss of life in the Taiwan quake of September 1999 was far lesser than that in the Turkey quake of August, 1999 due to the strict enforcement of building code.

Prof. Menon pointed out that the use of Lintel beams in building constructions played a vital role in preventing the collapse of roofs and walls of buildings and thereby minimising casualties.

He said that while Bhuj was located in "Seismic Zone Five" — the highest level of risk-prone seismic activity, Delhi was located in "Seismic Zone Four" and needed to follow quake- resistant building regulations.

Prof. Menon said that community participation and training of NGOs in disaster management was also extremely important to minimise the impact of natural calamities and disasters.

The disaster management centre on its part has undertaken "Training and Community Preparedness Programmes" and has been conducting courses in disaster management for government officials and NGOs.

# Jaisalmer fort gate damaged

The Times of India News Service

JAIPUR: A portion of the wall of one of the gates of the 850-year-old Jaisalmer fort developed cracks in Friday morning's quake.

Stones of the Hawa Pol, the gate inside the majestic golden fort, started falling after the structure developed cracks, Jaisalmer SP Sunil Dutt said. No one was injured. Dutt said there was no major damage to the gate and barring the crack in the wall, there was no other damage. Dutt said the fort was designed in such a manner that it could withstand quakes of a very high magnitude.

"Friday's events proved that the fort is near quake-proof. The damage caused to the Hawa Pol was because the binding material had peeled off some time ago, reducing the grip of the stones inside the wall..," said Dutt.

The yellow sandstone fort saw a lot of destruction because a quarter of the city's population lives inside it.

Two years ago, the wall of one side of the fort collapsed killing three persons. It was then that the need to conserve the three walls that protect the fort was felt. World Watch Movement, an international organisation for conserving historical monuments, has now made available Rs 5 crore for conservation work to be undertaken with the help of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

# GSI team to analyse calamity

KOLKATA: A team of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) would reach Gandhinagar on Sunday to analyse whether the calamity in earthquake devastated Gujarat was over or could recur in the near future.

The four-member team would study the direct impact of the earthquake, disaster effect at the epicentre, epicentre geometry and draw iso-siesnal lines to measure the distance of impact from Bhuj, GSI deputy director general N P Choudhury said.

**WILL THE EARTHQUAKE RECUR?**

The team comprising two geophysicists from the GSI headquarters here and two from its Faridabad centre would carry out experts were on call at various centres in the country. "They will be summoned after we set up camp and study the navigability to Ahmedabad, Bhuj and other worst affected areas," Choudhury said.

Some experts were on call at various centres in the country. "They will be summoned after we set up camp and study the navigability to Ahmedabad, Bhuj and other worst affected areas," Choudhury said.

Gujarat fell under the classical 'vulnerable' tectonic belt since it was made up of newer terrains geographically and rockbeds. *(PTI)*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2/3 BHK fully furnished flat avail at CG Rd, Satellite, Drive-in for Company's & Sr.Executives 'Manibhadra' 6609820. Pager 9632450302

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RENTAL/ sale/ purchase of property. Neeta: Gupta Properties, 8 - Hasubhai Bunglow, Satellite, Abad. 6747122/ 6732015/ 6767204(R)

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ESTATES & PROPERTIES

ESTATES & PROPERTIES

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE FURNISHED & UNFURNISHED On Lease/ Sale/ Purchase, 800 to 4000 sq.ft. on Ashram Road, C. G. Rd. & Satellite like Kaur Tower, Atlanta, Satkar, Sanidhya, Saffron. etc. Contact : SAMIR CORPORATION Tel. : 6578205, 6576294 Mobile : 98250 66742

PRIME Location freehold Property over 60000 sqft. for Outright sale. 3 kms. from Hazratganj, on main road. Builder's contract might be considered. No brokers,please.. Offers invited from genuine buyers with verifiable credentials. Write Box No. LUE818K Times Of India, Lucknow-226001.

TWO new Ground floor flats, near Harinagar Water tank (Gotri Rd) Baroda, 1235 sq ft each with attached & individual garden. Rs 700 per s ft negotiable. Call 0265-341-659 Rachit, 0265-313061 Virendra.

PAYING GUESTS

PAYING GUESTS

AC/ Non AC furnished rooms avail on single occupancy for Senior executives at CG rd., Satellite, Paldi, Drive-in, Manibhadra 6609820 (After all it is we who are the pioneers)

P.G., Accomodation with full facility, single room furnished/ unfurnished flat available on rent. Contant: B.C. Jain 7470200, 7480200

PG @3000p.m. including tea, B/F, Lunch, dinner: with T.V. fridge: Aqua: Tele: For ladies/ gents/ students at Naranpura area. T.7444951

FURNISHED P.G. Accomodation available at Gurukul & Naranpura. Separate accomodation for ladies. Contact: Utkarsh Joshi 6757238

1-2-3 Bed, flat & raw house, single room & PG Accomodation available on rent in Satellite, Vastrapur. Drive-in area. Contact: Phone: 6812869

PAYING Guest facility only for girls, well furnished 2000 sq.feet. flat with T.V./ AC/ Phone/ Freeze. Judges Bunglow Road. Contact: Mng Trustee, Smt. Anakunwarba Edu. Trust. (O) 6445051, 6465050. Mobile: 9825008696

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EDUCATION

EDUCATION

ADMISSIONS

SUNSHINE School - Year 17. 27, Sunrise Park, Drive-in area. Admissions available for June 2001. PG - Nursery, Jr./ Sr.KG after Uttaran. Time: 10-12noon. T.6856444 No interviews. First come, first serve.

ALMIGHTY CONVENT SCHOOL ADMISSIONS OPEN for Play Group, Jr. KG, Sr. KG and Std I to IV (only 20 students per class) Contact at School: Suryarang Cottages, GEB Bylane, Nr. DPS, BOPAL, Ahmedabad. Ph: 079-6757741 (2 to 5 pm) TIMINGS: 9:30 AM TO 12:30 PM ONLINE ADMISSIONS also available on www.almightyschool.com TRANSPORT FACILITY AVAILABLE

ADMISSION NOTICE
- Lioness Karnawati English Medium School (Pre. Primary & Primary)
- Saurabh English Medium School (Secondary)

Admission Forms for Std. Jr. K.G. to Std. 10th are available from 1st Feb. 2001. Time: 9 am to 11 am (Mon. to Sat.)

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NEW Zealand residence visa, work permit visa, with settlement, suitable for Graduates/ Diploma holders shortest processing time. Time: (079) 7560950 (7 to 10p.m.)

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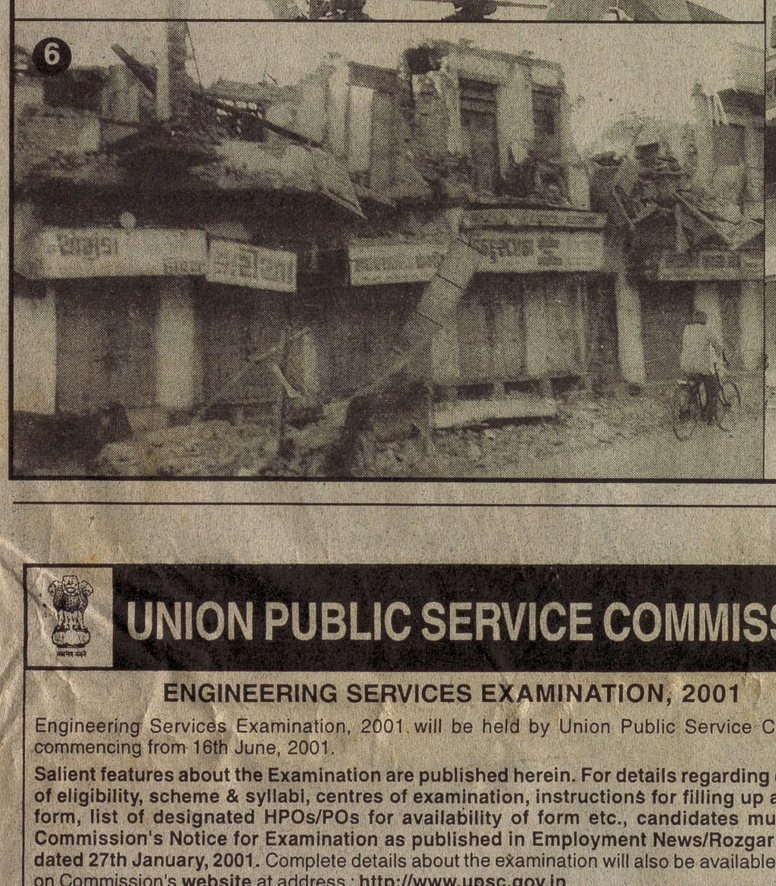
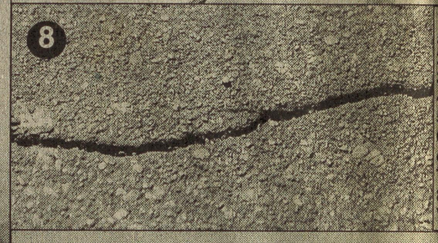
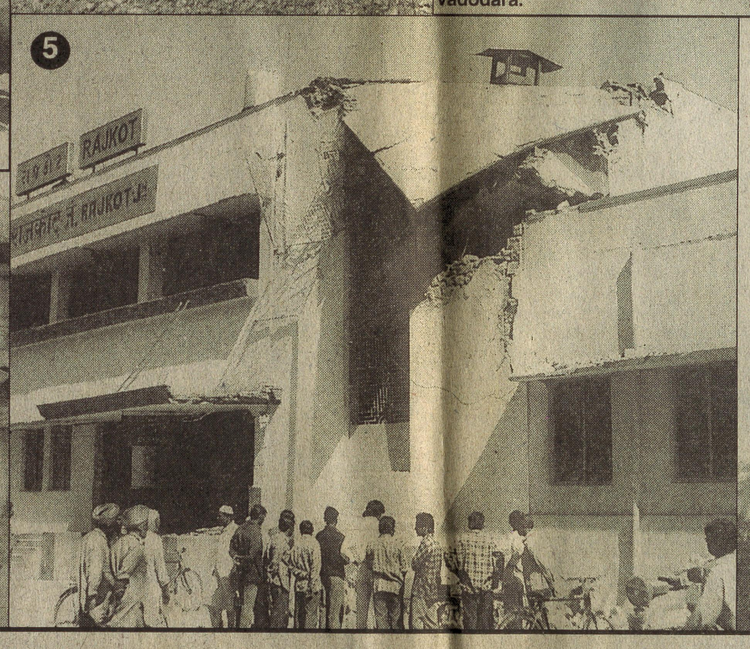




1. The historic Darbargadh in Morbi has been heavily damaged in the quake.
2. The quake left Main Bazaar in Morbi completely damaged.
3.Cracks have developed in several old houses in Vadodara.
4. A view of the Gadh-ni-Raang in Rajkot.
5.The damaged buiilding of Rajkot railway station.
6.Shops at Green Chowk in Morbi, which bore the brunt of quake.
7. The injured being shifted to a hospital in Rajkot.
8. Cracks have developed on Amadvadi pol main road in Vadodara.

*(Pix: Ramesh Tankaria/Bharat Pathak)*






# UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## ENGINEERING SERVICES EXAMINATION, 2001

Engineering Services Examination, 2001 will be held by Union Public Service Commission commencing from 16th June, 2001.

**Salient features about the Examination are published herein. For details regarding conditions of eligibility, scheme & syllabi, centres of examination, instructions for filling up application form, list of designated HPOs/POs for availability of form etc., candidates must consult Commission's Notice for Examination as published in Employment News/Rozgar Samachar dated 27th January, 2001.** Complete details about the examination will also be available on Internet on Commission's **website** at address : **http://www.upsc.gov.in**

**AVAILABILITY OF APPLICATION FORM :**

This application form, alongwith an Information Brochure containing general instructions for filling up form, an acknowledgement card and an envelope for sending application will be available from any one of **designated Head Post Offices/Post Offices** throughout country and may be purchased against cash payment of **Rupees twenty** only.

Candidates must **use only the form supplied with the Information Brochure**. The form should be purchased from a **Post Office only and not from any other agency.** Candidates must not use photocopy/reproduction/unauthorisedly printed copy of form. This will entail rejection. **Each form can be used only once and for only one examination.**

**NOTE :** In case candidates have any difficulty in obtaining Application Form/Central Recruitment Fee Stamp from any of designated Head Post Offices/Post Offices, they should immediately contact concerned Postmaster or UPSC's **"FORMS SUPPLY MONITORING CELL" over Telephone No. 011-3389366/Fax No. 011-3387310.**

**CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY :**

**(a) Age Limits :**
A candidate must have attained the age of 21 years and must not have attained the age of 30 years on 1st August, 2001 i.e. he must have been born not earlier than 2nd August, 1971 and not later than 1st August, 1980. The upper age limit is relaxable for candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes and certain other categories.

**(b) Educational Qualification :**
A candidate must hold a degree in Engineering or equivalent. M.Sc. degree or its equivalent with Wireless Communication, Electronics, Radio Physics or Radio Engineering as a special subject also acceptable for certain posts. Candidates who intend to appear at such a qualifying examination may also apply. Such candidates will be admitted to the examination, if otherwise eligible, but their admission would be deemed to be provisional and subject to cancellation, if they do not produce the proof of having passed the requisite qualifying examination alongwith the detailed applications which will be required to be submitted by the candidates who qualify on the results of the written part of the Examination.

Candidates who qualify on the results of the written part of the examination will be summoned for personality test.

**(c) Physical Standards :**
Candidates must be physically fit according to physical standards for admission to Engineering Services Examination, 2001 as per Regulations given in Appendix-II of Rules for Examination published in the Gazette of India dated 27th January, 2001.

**(d) Fee :**
Rs. 100/- (Rupees one hundred only) (No fee for SC/ST/PH candidates). No fee exemption is, however, available to OBC candidates and they are required to pay full prescribed fee.

**LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS :**

Completed applications must reach **Secretary, Union Public Service Commission, Dholpur House, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi-110011** on or before **26th February, 2001**. In respect of applications received only by post/Speed Post from candidates residing in Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, J&K State, Lahaul & Spiti District and Pangi Sub-Division of Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep or abroad, the last date for receipt of applications is **5th March, 2001**. In case of applications received by hand or courier service, benefit of extended time will not be available, regardless of the place of residence of applicant.

UPSC has a Facilitation Counter near 'C' gate of its campus. Candidates may obtain any information/clarification regarding their application/candidature on working days between 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. in person or over telephone No. 011-3385271/011-3381125 from this counter.

Candidates can also obtain information about receipt and registration of their application, venue of examination, results etc. on the Commission's website at address : **http://www.upsc.gov.in**

davp 3301(131)2000

# UPSC

Advt. No. 2

Applications on prescribed form are invited by **15th Feb., 2001 (22nd Feb. 2001** in respect of applications received only by post (by post) from candidates residing in Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Lahaul and Spiti districts and Pangi sub-division of Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh, A&N Islands or Lakshadweep or abroad). Pay Scale (Approx total emoluments excluding HRA & CCA) & upper age limits immediately follow name of the post. The date for determining eligibility of all candidates in every respect shall be the normal closing date prescribed for receipt of applications viz. **15.2.2001**

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY**

**1. Two Legal Offcrs (Gr-II) in Legal & Treaties Div. (1post resvd for OBC).** Rs. 10000-15200 (T.E. Rs. 14,100). 40 yrs. **EQ: A. Edu:** Master's deg in Law with specialisation in field of International Law and/or International Relations or International Orgns or eqv. **B: Exp:** 5yrs exp in Legal Affairs namely, Legal Practitioner, teaching or conducting or guiding res in Internationa Law and/or in law of International Orgns.

**LAW JUSTICE & C.A. MINISTRY**

**2. One Asstt Law Offcr in Law Commission *of India*, Deptt of Legal Affairs (Resvd for ST).** Rs. 10000-15200 (T.E. Rs.14100). 45 yrs. **EQ: Edu:** Master's deg in Law or eqv and possessing 5 yrs teaching and /or research exp in Law. OR Bachelor's deg in Law or eqv and possessing 7 yrs teaching and/or res exp in Law. OR Shd have been a member of State Judicial Service for 7 yrs. OR Shd be a qualified Legal Practitioner, i.e. Advocate (within the meaning of Advocates Act 1961), who has practised as such for 7 yrs. **NOTE I :** In computing the period during which a person has held an Office in State Judicial Service, there shall be included any period during which he has held any other legal posts or any period during which he has been a Legal Practitioner. **NOTE II :** In computing the period during which a person has been a qualified Legal Practitioner there shall be included any period during which he has held any Office in the State Judicial Service or has held a legal post in the Deptt or State or Central Govt. U.T., Govt Res Instts or other Res Instts or repute, Univ etc. **NOTE III:** Preference shall be given to a person having exp in Legal Res.

**HEALTH & F.W MINISTRY**

**3. One Asstt Prof of Orthopaedic Surgery, Deptt of Health.** Rs. 10000-15200+NPA (T.E. Rs. 19100) 45 yrs. **EQ: A: Edu:** (i) A recog med qual. (ii) P.G. Deg qual.in speciality i.e. MS (Orthopaedics), M.Ch. (Orthopaedics), Speciality Bd of Orthopaedics Surgery (USA) or eqv. **B: Exp :** At least 3 yrs teaching exp in concerned speciality as Lecturer/Tutor/Demonstrator/Registrar/Sr. Resident after the requisite P.G. Deg qual. **NOTE I:** The Med quals possessed by candidates shd have recognition of MCI **NOTE II :** In so far as P.G. Med quals awarded by Indian Univs are concerned they shd also find a place in Schedules to IMC Act, 1956, as amended from time to time. **NOTE III :** Holders of speciality BD of USA quals shd complete the entire requirements of the Bd concerned. **NOTE IV :** Teaching exp in any other post like post of GDMO/MO shall note be considered for eligibility purpose for rectt to teaching post.

**GOVT. OF PONDICHERRY**

**4. Two Specialists Gr. II (Junior Scale) in Microbiology, Health & Welfare Deptt (Health).** Rs. 10000-15200 (T.E. Rs.14100). 45 yrs. **EQ : A. Edu. :** (i) A recog med qual. (ii) P.G. deg in concerned speciality i.e. M.D. Microbiology or eqv. **B. Exp:** 3 yrs exp in concerned speciality after obtaining first P.G. Deg. **NOTE : I to III :** Same as NOTE : I to III in Item No. 3 above.

• Age limits as on **normal closing date i.e. 15.02.2001.** Relaxable for displaced persons, Ex-Servicemen & Commissioined Offcrs incl ECOs/SSCOs/Meritorious Sportsmen/Sportswomen/Widows, divorced women, women judicially separated from their husbands, who are not remarried as per Govt orders issued from time to time. Age relaxation of 5 yrs admissible to those who had ordinarily been domiciled in State of J&K during period from 1.1.1980 to 31.12.1989 subject to submission of certificate from District Magistrate of area or from any other authority designated by Govt in this behalf. Age is relaxable upto 5 yrs for SC & ST Candidates and upto 3 yrs for OBC candidates for posts resvd for them. For Govt Servants age is relaxable upto 5 yrs unless stated otherwise. "Age is also relaxable upto 5 yrs (i.e. total 10 yrs for SC/ST and 8 yrs for OBC for posts reserved for them) for blind, deaf-mute and orthopaedically handicapped persons for apptt to Group 'A' and Group 'B' posts/services subject to submission of certificate from competent authority from Govt Hospital/Medical Board in support to their claims, subject also to fulfilment of prescribed standards of medical fitness of candidates before apptt.

• Quals are relaxable at Commission's discretion.

• Prescribed EQs are minimum & mere possession of same does not entitle candidates to be called for interview. Where number of applications received in response to an Advt. is large & it will not be convenient or possible for Commission to interview all the candidates, Commission may restrict number of candidates to a reasonable limit by any or more of the following methods : a) On basis of either qulification and experience higher than the minimum prescribed in the advertisement, or b) On basis of experience in relevant field, or c) By counting experience before or after acquisition of essential qualifications, or d) By holding a screening test. The Candidate should, therefore, mention all the qualifications and experience in relevant field over and above the minimum qualifications and should attach attested/self certified copies of Certificates in support thereof.

• Fee is Rs. 50 payable in form of Central Rectt Fee Stamps ONLY to be affixed on application form. No other mode of payment is acceptable. No fee for SC & ST candidates. Physically handicapped pesons are also exempted from payment of fee subject to submission of prescribed medical certificate. Candidates abroad shd enclose fee receipt issued by Indian Embassy/Mission.

• Details of posts, instructions & application format in which candidates are to apply has been published with Advt in Employment News dated **27.1.2001**. Candidates are requested to go through instructions printed in Employment News carefully and satisfy themselves that they meet with all requirements mentioned therein and fill up form accordingly. Candidates may also submit applications neatly typed on white paper (foolscap size 21 cms x 30 cms) in double space and typed on only one side of paper. They shd superscribed envelope with following **"Application in response to Advt. No. 2/2001"**. Applications not conforming to format published in Employment News will not be entertained. Completed applications with enclosures together witha self-addressed post card by affixing thereon an additional postage stamps of Rs. 2.00 indicating Advt. No., Item No. & Name of post shd be sent to the **Secretary, Union Public Service Commission, Dholpur House, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi-110011,** so as to reach him on or before prescribed closing date.

• Candidates may kindly note that they need NOT apply for application forms to Union Public Service Commission.

**NOTE : "Applications must be sent in the format given in Employment News. Applications sent in any other format are liable to be rejected."**

For any query, visit the Commission's Facilitation Centre or Dial No. 3385271

***For details see Employment News/Rozgar Samachar issue dated 27.01.2001 published by the Publications Division, Ministry of I&B, Government of India, East Block IV, Level 7, R K Puram, New Delhi-110 066.***

davp 3301(128)2000

## WESTERN RAILWAY

**TENDER NOTICE**

**Sr. No. :** 1. **Tender No. :** EL/TRD/94/1/2. **Name of Work :** Provision of ratro-reflective structure number plate on Vadodara Division. **Estimated Cost :** Rs. 2,73,900/-. **Earnest Money :** Rs. 6,850/-. **Sr. No. :** 2. **Tender No. :** EL/TRD/94/1/3. **Name of Work :** Supply and application of Pestogelnon Toxic Bird Detorent. **Estimated Cost :** Rs. 2,76,250/-. **Earnest Money :** Rs. 6,910/-. **Sr. No. :** 3. **Tender No. :** EL/TRD/94/1/4. **Name of Work :** Supply & replacement of rusty number plate. **Estimated Cost :** Rs. 48,680/-. **Earnest Money :** Rs. 1,220/-. Non Transferable Tender Documents for the above work can be obtained from DRM (TRD) Pratapnagar, Vadodara on payment of Rs. 500/- and Rs. 50/- more if required by post before 12.00 hours on 19-02-2001 for each tender. Tender will be received up to 15.00 hours on dated 19-2-2001 and will be opened at 15.30 hours on the same date. The cost of tender fee may please be remitted with any Station Master of Western Railway and money receipt be produced in this office to obtain Tender Documents. **DRM (TRD) BRC, Western Railway, PRTN, Vadodara.**

## WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION

**TENDER NOTICE NO. EL 50/1/23 (2000-2001) Dtd. 22-1-2001.**

Sealed Tenders in prescribed form, non-transferable, for and on behalf of the President of India are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical Power), Pratapnagar, Vadodara-390004 for the following works : **Tender No.** : EL 50/1/T/60 (2000-2001). **Name of Work** : Maninagar : Electrical works in connection with providing computerised booking office and waiting hall. **Approximate Cost Rs.** : 1,07,440/-. **Earnest Money Deposit Rs.** : 2,700/-. **Completion Period** : 45 days. **Tender No.** : EL 50/1/T/61 (2000-2001). **Name of Work** : Maninagar : Electrical works in connection with proposed extension of platform covering shed on PF No. 1 & 2. **Approximate Cost Rs.** : 36,460/-. **Earnest Money Deposit Rs.** : 1,000/-. **Completion Period** : 45 days. The tender form costing Rs. 500/- (Rupees five hundred only) in cash, (Rs. 550/- if required by post) non-refundable, will be sold from 29/01/2001 on all working days from 12.00 hours to 16.00 hours and will be opened in the office of Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Power), Pratapnagar, Vadodara, at 15:00 hrs. on 28/02/2001 in the presence of the tenderers. Tenders shall be sold up to the previous working day of opening date and shall be received on the date of opening up to 14:30 hrs. Tender forms will be available on production of money receipt of the said amount towards the cost of tender form paid to any Station Supdt./Station Master of Western Railway.

## NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice for Manufacture and Supply of Material

Sealed tenders for and on behalf of the President of India are invited by Chief Engineer/TSP, Northern Railway, Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001 for manufacture and supply of following material : **S.No. :** 1 ; **Tender No. :** 211-S/1559/TSO/2001/1 ; **Brief Description :** Nail Chipping/Mild Steel Punching conforming to N. Rly./TPP/Lucknow's Standard Specification (Tentative 1999) ; **Qty. :** 182 (One Hundred Eighty Two) MT ; **Cost of tender per set :** Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One thousand) ; **Due date :** 08.03.2001. **S.No. :** 2 ; **Tender No. :** 211-S/1560/TSO/2001/2 ; **Brief Description :** Magnese Metal (Electrolytic) Magnese content not below 99.5% as per TPP/Lucknow's specification of May 2000 ; **Qty. :** 17 (Seventeen) MT ; **Cost of tender per set :** Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five hundred) ; **Due date :** 08.03.2001. **S.No. :** 3 ; **Tender No. :** 211-S/1561/TSO/2001/3 ; **Brief Description :** Mill Scale of Mild Steel Conforming to N. Railway TPP/Lucknow's Standard Specification ; **Qty. :** 1000 (One thousand) MT ; **Cost of tender per set :** Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One thousand) ; **Due date :** 13.03.2001. **S.No. :** 4 ; **Tender No. :** 211-S/1562/TSO/2001/4 ; **Brief Description :** Ferro Vanadium Grade 50-55% as per IS:1466 ; **Qty. :** 3.885 (Three point eight eight five) MT ; **Cost of tender per set :** Rs. 500/- (Rupees five hundred) ; **Due date :** 13.03.2001. **S.No. :** 5 ; **Tender No. :** 211-S/1563/TSO/2001/5 ; **Brief Description :** Blown aluminium powder conforming to N.RLY.TPP/Lucknow's Standard Specification (Tentative 1999) ; **Qty. :** 271.7 (Two hundred Seventy one point seven) MT ; **Cost of tender per set :** Rs. 2000/- (Rupees Two thousand) ; **Due date :** 15.03.2001. **S.No. :** 6 ; **Tender No. :** 211-S/1564/TSO/2001/6 ; **Brief Description :** Plates screw (BG) 160 mm long and 20 mm dia to RDSO Drg. No. T-10677 ; **Qty. :** 5,000 (Five Thousand) Nos. ; **Cost of tender per set :** Rs. 150/- (Rupees one hundred fifty) ; **Due date :** 15.03.2001. **1.** Consignee of above items no. 1 to 5 is Ward Keeper/TPP/Charbagh/Lucknow and for item no. 6 is DSKP/Track Depot/N.Rly./Ghaziabad. **2.** Tender forms will be available for sale in the office of Chief Engineer/TSP, Northern Railway, Baroda House, New Delhi between 11.00 hours to 17.00 hours on payment shown against the tender (non-refundable) one month before the opening of tender. **3.** The request for tender form in person will be entertained upto 12.00 noon on the due date. Tenderers desirous of getting the tender documents by post, should send an additional amount of Rs. 50/- (Rupees fifty only) per set to cover the postal charges ten days prior to opening of tender. However, no responsibility will be taken by Railway for delay/loss/non-receipt of tender documents sent by post. **4.** Tender forms will be delivered free of cost to firms which are registered as small scale industries with National Small Industries Corporation Ltd., for the concerned tender item provided Xerox copies of valid NSIC registration certificate to that effect is furnished with their requisition for tender forms. However, in case tender form is required by post, Rs. 50/- (Rupees fifty only) per set as postal charges have to be deposited. **5.** Tender forms can be had on production of : (i) Cash receipt from Divisional Cashier/Receipt, Northern Railway, Delhi Main towards the cost of tender forms. (ii) Submission of crossed bank draft from any of the scheduled banks in favour of FA & CAO/Northern Railway, Baroda House, New Delhi. (iii) Money order/cheques will not be accepted. (iv) Cost of tender forms will not be accepted in any other form. **6.** Tenders, duly filled in, should reach the office of Chief Engineer/TSP on his above quoted address before 14.00 hours on due date shown against the item. Tender will be opened at 14.30 hours on due date in the presence of authorised representatives of firms who choice to be present. If the due date happens to be a holiday, tender will be opened on the next working day at the same time and same place. Tenderers should also quote reference, due dates, brief particulars of tendered item and their full postal address in capital letters on tender requisitions, envelops and all the subsequent correspondence connected with the tender. **8.** Tender forms are not transferable and the cost of tender form is not refundable under any circumstances. **9.** Fax/telex/telegram/incomplete offers are liable to be rejected. Quotations of firms who do not purchase tender forms will not be considered and will be summarily rejected. **10.** Railway reserves the right to accept to reject any tender in, full or part or reject all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever and Chief Engineer/TSP's decision in the matter will be final and binding. **NOTE** : (i) Full and exhaustive description of above items is given in tender form. (ii) Tenderers are requested to deposit earnest money, if required @ 2.5% of the value of their offer subject to maximum of Rs. one lac. Tenders not accompanied with requisite earnest money are liable to be rejected. (iii) Tenderers should note that Railway will not provide any assistance for procurement of raw material. (iv) Firms should submit only one quotation for one tender otherwise their quotation is liable to be rejected. (v) Offer of the manufacturing firm in case of supply of P.way fittings will only be considered. (vi) The Railway reserve the right to order entire or bulk quantity from approved firms, the status of the firm shall be reckoned as on the date of tender opening and not thereafter, unless a case of downgrading/removal/suspension/banning. (vii) Item no. 06 is reserved for SSI units registered with NSIC. **No. 196-S/71/2001-2002 / Tender Notice/TSO Dated 18.1.2001.**

AD/158/2001

# Cries from the debris die down as rescue operations take long

By A Staff Reporter

AHMEDABAD: ■ Ten-year-old Prutha Patel of the Sangemarmar Apartments in Ambawadi has lost her arm. The rescuers in consultation with doctors decided amputation was the only option to save the girl crying since Friday morning after her arm was caught between a concrete beam and a crushed car.

■ Swapna Sakar: the site of dreams turned sour in Paldi. A faint voice over a mobile telephone informs that he and two others are stuck inside a lift of the four-storied building which came crashing down on Friday. RAF personnel and NGOs join hands to get the trapped persons out but a heavy concrete beam collapses right on the lift crushing the everybody's hopes. Of the 12 families residing in Swapna Sakar, only one (four members), could come out unscathed. The rest, save for a young Divya Thakkar, were buried alive.

As a stream of bodies continued to emerge from the mishap sites, incidents such as these marred rescue operations in Ahmedabad. The saviours — Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, voluntary organisations, RSS members, NCC, RAF and Army personnel — found themselves at a loss without proper equipment to deal with the situation.

"Concrete cutters is one thing which would have come in handy for such a calamity. Layers of building material covers those trapped inside the debris and without such equipment it is difficult to clear the mess and bring out those alive," said a member of the rescue operation at Swapna Sakar not wishing to be quoted. Atleast 40 bodies are trapped under the debris of Swapna Sakar.

Precious moments are being lost as the incident seems to have caught the government rescuers on the wrong foot. Localities, NGOs and organisations like the RSS have done exemplary work in almost all the sites of destruction while the official help took its time to reach the disaster-struck.

"We have been waiting since Friday and making repeated phone calls to the police and the AMC but a crane was pressed into service only 16 hours after the four-storied Chandrama Apartment collapsed trapping atleast 12 families inside it," said Jayesh Chauhan, a local resident of Paldi. Armymen from Vadodara reached Chandrama at 3 am on Saturday but even that could make little difference. Then it was Vinod Soni, managing director of Hitech Elastomers Limited's turn to offer a crane and his "experienced" staff for taking out the trapped. But there is a little chance of finding any signs of life among the 35 trapped alive.

Professor S S Shah of the Akashdeep Apartments in Ellisbridge area has little time to spare as he has got involved in the rescue operations too. Shah's wife and two daughters were caught inside the building which collapsed moments after the quake shook the city. While the bodies of his wife and one of his daughters have been taken out Shah is still frantically looking for his other child. "I was attending the Independence Day function at my workplace — the H L College when the quake started. By the time I came back here everything was over," said Shah.

At Akashdeep while the NCC cadets have joined hands to take out many bodies and rescue three, an earth mover was patiently kept waiting at a distance as the "official rescuers" deliberated whether or not to pull out the building's lift. Lieutenant H R Bharucha of the NCC said, "Any help is welcome and the officials of AMC and RAF have joined hands with us in the rescue operations." But, as atleast four others are feared to be caught inside the debris of C and D blocks of Akashdeep, the locals are far from happy about the emergency measures.

At the Himgiri Flats of Vastrapur a similar sight greets hundreds of onlookers who throng the area to see a solitary crane (called in by the RSS men) try to clear the huge mound of construction material with atleast five persons trapped underneath. As Vastrapur wore a deserted look with most shops and offices closed, the RSS workers laboured at the site way before the official rescuers could be pressed into service.

The Commissioner K Kailashnathan said, "Rescue operations, especially in collapsed flats are going ahead slowly because caution has to be taken that people trapped inside are rescued with minimum damage. Our priorities are defined and rescuing those trapped alive under the debris tops the list. Work is progressing at all disaster-struck sites with due care and diligence. With most of the resources having been diverted to Bhuj, we are doing our best with whatever equipment and machinery we can muster. People's co-operation and patience is, however, essential to help us do our duty in this period of crisis."

# *Control room number a hoax?*

By A Staff Reporter

AHMEDABAD: Kutch is cut-off from the rest of the state with just one satellite phone available for communication, but calling up the control room set up by the state government itself, turned out to be a futile exercise for many in the state.

The state government opened up four lines for the control room in Gandhinagar, i.e. 02712-51901, 2, 3 and secretary G C Murmu himself available on 51911. But that is only on paper, says Ramesh Shah, an irate caller who claimed that the control room was a hoax. For starters, the lines to Gandhinagar were just not working and when one eventually did manage to connect with the control room, a answering machine defeated the purpose.

*TOI* checked up to verify the claims and found that the control room numbers, as also that of Murmu, had indeed an answering machine which kept repeating messages like the mail box was exhausted or the extension was not valid or there was no one to take the call.

This happened again and again. No one came onto the line except once when a clerk said they were busy and asked to call back after 10 minutes. Thousands of frantic callers from all over the world have been trying to contact the control room, trying to find out about the well being of their near and dear ones, still in Kutch.

It was not only the control room at the Sachivalaya, but also the one set up by the AMC at the Tagore Hall (no 6575741) which was either engaged for hours on end or when the phone did connect, no one answered.

## Emergency telephone numbers

By Our Civic Reporter

**AHMEDABAD: For sthe hundreds rendered homeless by Friday's killer quake which brought down over a 100 multi-storeyed complexes in the city, the AMC has arranged emergency telephone numbers — 5508989, 5509960, 5508130 — to help the needy. Those in need of food packets and other relief materials are requested to call up these numbers for aid.**

**The corporation has also appealed to the citizens affected by the quake to call up either 5352828 or 5508445 for clearing off the building debris. All calls for the cleaning-up operation will be taken at these numbers and immediate measures will be taken to "restore order."**

**For further details on these measures as well as the ongoing relief and rescue operations, the affected may also call up the additional relief commissioner (Gujarat), G C Murmu, in Gandhinagar at 51911 and 51901/02/03.**

# When rumour mills started churning

By A Staff Reporter

AHMEDABAD: The city police, civil administration control rooms as well as offices of newspapers were inundated with frantic calls from all over the city following rumours that the state was in for another major earthquake at 9.30 pm.

In fact the rumour was specific, as they are, creating panic among the citizen who poured out on the streets telling each other that the ever-dependable British Broadcasting Corporation had flashed reports that two earthquakes were to come.

The rumour had it that one major seismic disturbance would occur at 9.30 pm followed by another one at 12.30 am. This was enough for the earthquake-scarred people of Gujarat to come out pouring like ants on the streets and causing another breakdown in the telephone (basic and mobile) service.

Frantic calls from Vatwa, Isanpur, Maninagar, Sarkhej, Ghatlodia, Shahibaug, old city, Satellite, Bopal-Ghuma and as far away as Gandhinagar started coming by the dozen. The city police and firebrigade control rooms reported thousands of rumour calls from the people and even bureaucrats and politicians asking if the "BBC flash" was true. But the government, for once, acted in time and asked the control rooms to calm down the irate callers and inform them that they were only rumours.

On the other hand, the announcement board at *The Times of India*, which has for years been a major attraction for citizens, had hundreds of people coming to see if the *TOI* had also "flashed" what the BBC had allegedly said. But seeing no such information displayed on the board, many came up to the office to verify the details. No amount of clarifying could stop the number of visitors.

# *Hospitals echo with cries of victims*

By A Staff Reporter

AHMEDABAD: "It's falling... it's all coming down. Please, believe me and get me out of this place.... fast," cries 35-year-old N L Hardik frantically from a stretcher parked outside the trauma ward on the fourth floor of the VS Hospital.

Having sustained multiple fractures and loss of close relatives in one of the severest quakes that hit Kutch, intense aftershocks continue to rock mental faculties of this native of Anjar taluka, making a complete paranoid out of him.

"There were 500 teachers and children taking out a rally on Republic Day, waving national flags through the town, when a row of houses collapsed, making their graves right there. Bodies of just 15-20 have been found with flags in hand.... Bipin was one of them," wails Hardik, dreading to break this shattering news to his deceased nephew's wife, expecting anytime now.

Hardik is not alone. Tales of wreckage, human loss and misery seem unending as, braving chilly winter nights and bone-shattering seven-eight hour journey by road, seriously injured natives of Bhuj, Anjar, Bhachau and other talukas of the ravaged Kutch district stream into Civil, VS, LG and other big hospitals in the city to join hundreds of local victims — some dead, some alive.

Doctors, nurses and an unprecedented sea of RSS, Swaminarayan, NGO and local volunteers were quick to embrace the arriving patients. Whether it was shifting patients around the hospitals for tests, getting medicines, food or even claiming bodies, each patient had at least six volunteers to fall upon. But the tragedy shared was solely their own.

Like Madhumita of Bhuj. Her smashed lower skull and crushed chest-bone have not distracted Madhumita's concern for her eight-year-old son, who, her husband insists, is safe in a hospital back home. "For all I know, he is lying to console me... can you find his whereabouts? He hadn't even finished drinking his milk when everything came crumbling down," she manages to utter in a voice choked with emotion and pain.

Curiously, for once, there is plenty to eat but no appetite. "We will not touch anything till our son gets all right... please don't waste your food on us," urged Sumabhai and his wife, a Rabari couple from Mindiyada, Anjar, to an insistent group of volunteers thrusting packs of biscuits and water in their hands. Squatting on the hospital corridor with two blankets and a bagful of clothes, they concede there is nothing left of Anjar. "Anjar is finished. No house, no relative, no neighbour to fall back on," rues Somabhai.

Loneliness haunts the dead, too, as a number of unclaimed bodies from Kutch and city lie wrapped in linen donated by voluntary agencies, with 'unclaimed' stickers glued to them.

At least five bodies each were reported unclaimed in VS and Civil hospitals. "In such a devastation, when complete families have been wiped out, who will claim the dead," said a police officer manning the VS morgue.

# Sonia takes a peek at quake-hit

By A Staff Reporter

AHMEDABAD: What Sonia Gandhi did to Gujarat on Saturday was what she did to Kumbhnagar a week back — try and score a point over her rivals. Like Union minister L K Advani who breezed into Ahmedabad to have a dekko a day before, she too took a peek at the V S Hospital and visited the quake-hit areas of Paldi.

Accompanied by Rajya Sabha member Ahmed Patel and senior leader Narhari Amin, Sonia's visit also included other areas of the city where she tried to ascertain the loss of lives and damage to property and inquired about ongoing relief and rescue operations from the residents.

However, she had to drop her plans of visiting Bhuj, reportedly because of "lack of co-operation" and had to make do with an aerial survey of the area instead, from where she flew to Delhi. She also dropped her plans to visit the L G Hospital and other quake-affected areas of Ahmedabad. The other high-profile visits expected within this week are those of Union defence minister George Fernandes (to Ahmedabad) and the PM.

Brushing aside the security cordon, Sonia walked down to the localities where a few buildings crashed due to impact of the earthquake on Friday. She saw the collapsed buildings and listened to the residents' grievances. They also complained about the slow operations to remove the debris since Friday. But Vardayini Flats in Paldi did not prove that lucky where residents crowded Sonia and a group of youngsters pounded her with awkward questions as she met bereaved families. When the Congress president was leaving the place, the youngsters reportedly tried to shout anti-Sonia slogans and targeted half-a-dozen vehicles. Sonia had a tough time explaining to them that "this is a natural disaster and I will tell the PM about this and he will do the needful".

The VS Hospital staff had something to brighten up their day with 'Madam's' fleeting visit "where all eyes turned from patients toward her to welcome her", say eye-witnesses.

## SNIPPETS

### Evacuees spend night out in the cold

It was a night out for the Amdavadis as thousands streamed out of their cosy high-rises and luxury apartments to spend night under the star studded sky. With dipping temperature and fears of a strong aftershock, residents huddled together around bonfires wrapped under blankets.

Some set up community kitchens, some lugged their televisions out in the open to catch up with the latest while others, like those residents of Retreat and other high-rises in Vejalpur and other parts of the city, sat out in the open discussing the day's events and sharing individual experiences. For those residing near disaster sites like the Swapna Sakar in Paldi, the night was spent hearing the cries of people trapped under the debris.

"Till 5 am of Saturday morning we could hear people calling us out for help but we were just helpless bystanders. However, as the day rolled on, the shouts dimmed," said Mayaben Desai who stays near Swapna Sakar. Similar distress calls of youngsters and children were also heard from Chandrama Apartments but help came too late for them also.

### Good Samaritans shine out

As the rescue operations progressed with state machinery pressed into emergency duty, city police had a difficult time trying to control the onlookers. Young and old turned up in huge numbers at all the quake-hit multi-storeyed building sites.

Road blocks and volunteers trying to prevent the masses from disrupting the rescue operations proved ineffective as people from all corners of the city poured in.

Cars, two-wheelers and even autorickshaws lined up the roads near the Mansi and Himgiri Apartments in Vastrapur, Swapna Sakar, Chandrama, Viral and Vardha Flats in Paldi and other multi-storeyed complexes, as people strove to catch a glimpse of the trail of destruction left behind by Friday's earthquake.

However, the day was saved as members of city NGOs, RSS, other political parties and good Samaritans pitched in to regulate traffic and keep the disaster sites free of congestion and onlookers as much was possible.

### Field day for scavengers

Wails, screams and distress calls rent the city's ambience as the collapsed high-rises continued to throw up a seemingly endless stream of bodies. But, for scavengers and rag pickers it was a field day as they dug into the debris to save anything precious.

While the AMC authorities and the state machinery faced an uphill task trying to grapple with the enormity of the relief and rescue operation, scavengers below the Sardar Patel Bridge in Paldi picked at the construction debris bricks, metal rods, mangled household items and anything was acceptable.

As scores of rag pickers frantically shifted the debris dumped below the bridge by AMC dumpers and other vehicles, an equally large number of passersby stopped to have a look at the "strange phenomenon." Relief workers at the Mansi Apartment in Vastrapur too were taken aback when dwellers from nearby slums raided the huge mound of building debris trying to get away with whatever they could lay their hands on.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The complete details are available in the prospectus. All programmes except 2 , 7(j) and 8 are offered in Calcutta whereas 3, 7(a) and 7(b) are offered in Delhi and Bangalore also. 4 is offered in Delhi also. 2 & 7(j) and 8 are offered only in Bangalore. Selection of candidates is based on academic record, written tests and interviews conducted by the Institute. Candidates who have been offered Junior Research Fellowships by the CSIR/NBHM may directly seek an interview at any time of the year for fellowships listed in 7, but for programmes 5 and 6, ISI written tests and interviews are compulsory even for candidates with valid GATE or CSIR test scores.

Limited hostel facilities are available. Selection tests for the programmes will be conducted at a number of centres in India and abroad. Candidates who are due to complete the qualifying examinations before 01 July 2001 may also apply. This date may be relaxed by the Institute in case of candidates with outstanding academic record and performance in the selection tests and interviews. Prospectus and application form can be obtained from the following offices of Indian Statistical Institute by post or in person. (a) Dean of Studies, Indian Statistical Institute, 203 Barrackpore Trunk Road, Calcutta 700 035, (b) Head, Delhi Centre, Indian Statistical Institute, 7, S.J.S. Sansanwal Marg, New Delhi 110 016, (c) Head, Bangalore Centre, Indian Statistical Institute, 8th Mile, Mysore Road, R. V. College Post, Bangalore 560 059, (d) Head, SQC Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Chateau D' Ampa (1st floor), 110 Nelson Manickam Road, Aminjikarai, Chennai 600 029, (e) Head, SQC Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Street No. 8, Habshiguda, Hyderabad 500 007, from 12 February 2001 by paying an amount of Rs. 250/- in cash (between 11.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. on working days from Monday to Friday) or by bank draft in favour of "Indian Statistical Institute" payable at Calcutta (proper). Request for application forms should have mailing address in CAPITALS. Postal orders, money orders and cheques will not be accepted.

Prospectus and Application form are available on our website http://www.isical.ac.in/~deanweb in PDF format. Candidates who want to send the downloaded application form should carefully read the instructions given in the website before filling in the application.

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Dr. Sunil M. Talwar - Father
Nisha S. Talwar - Mother
Mr. & Mrs. M. G. Talwar - Grand Father
Mr. & Mrs. O. P. Dhingra

THE HINDU

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2001

# COSTS OF RECONSTRUCTION

IN ADDITION TO the unfolding human tragedy in Gujarat is the devastation of the State economy. Rehabilitation of the survivors will require reconstructing their lost livelihoods, which in the medium-term will prove as difficult if not more so than the rescue and relief operations now taking place. While relief operations will have to continue for weeks if not months, the State and Central Governments have to start planning for the medium to long-term challenge of reconstruction. The Centre has indeed begun to identify the sources of funds that will be required for reconstructing Gujarat though some confusion exists about where all the money is going to come from.

The first estimates of the economic losses in the quake have already been made, not by Government agencies but by the chambers of commerce and industry. However, these estimates of losses of Rs. 20,000 crores to Rs. 25,000 crores in assets and production losses of between Rs. 1,000 crores and Rs. 2,000 crores are for the moment matters of complete speculation since even a general idea of the extent of destruction is yet to be had. Whatever the final estimate, there can be no two opinions that it will be colossal. A loss of social and economic assets totalling Rs. 20,000 crores is equivalent to as much as one per cent of annual GDP. Reconstruction of such assets will be broadly of two kinds. One will be of housing and the other of social and economic infrastructure. Both have suffered extensive damage though fortunately the larger industrial complexes have been spared the effects of the earthquake. While donations from individuals and firms in the country and financial help from other countries will go some way towards meeting the immediate requirements of relief, the financial demands of rebuilding housing, schools, hospitals, roads and economic infrastructure will have to be met largely by the Central and State Governments. But the disaster has been of such a magnitude that the funds available from the Calamity Relief Fund seem minuscule. The Union Finance Minister, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, has already begun discussions with multilateral agencies — the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank — for up to $1.5 billion of aid for reconstruction. The World Bank has announced the immediate release of $300 million with the promise of a larger reconstruction loan later, perhaps on concessional terms. External aid of even this size can, however, only supplement domestic efforts when the asset losses could run into tens of thousands of crores. For now, Mr. Sinha has ruled out a surcharge on direct taxes to finance reconstruction. But while a surcharge of up to 15 per cent on income tax (introduced in April 2000) already exists and a one per cent tax was recently added to the prevailing surcharge of 10 per cent on corporate tax to finance the Calamity Relief Fund there may be no escaping an additional surcharge which will be used exclusively for reconstruction of Gujarat. Yet, last year's surcharge on personal income and corporate tax was meant to cover the cost of the 1999 Kargil conflict. Since those costs have long since been incurred, there is no reason why revenue from the same surcharge cannot now be earmarked for Gujarat.

Gujarat is one of India's most industrialised States, so the destruction there will naturally cause tremors in the rest of the economy. While large industrial units have not suffered much damage, the small-scale sector has been badly affected in some parts of the State. Still, with only two months to go before the end of the financial year, the earthquake is unlikely to have an impact on the growth of either the national GDP or the Central Government's finances in 2000-01. However, the larger part of the costs of reconstruction will be borne in the next financial year which is when the burden on the economy will be felt.

# A HOLDING OPERATION

A PRE-ELECTION BUDGET, and an interim one at that, leaves policy-makers with few options. In seeking legislative nod for expenditure for the first six months of fiscal 2001-2002 through a vote-on-account, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, has not gone beyond the obvious. Yet, his Budget speech throws light on how the State has moved on the economic front, and also on what remains to be done. High on the priority list in the days ahead for Tamil Nadu would be maintaining the growth rate of 7.04 per cent in State Domestic Product (SDP) it achieved in 1999-2000. Contrasted to the modest growth during earlier years, the increase in SDP is to be seen in the backdrop of the sectoral developments. This growth rate, on the face of it, appears sustainable as it was on account of handsome increases in the secondary and tertiary sectors and was despite a marginal slide in the primary sector. The secondary sector's growth of 11.05 per cent against the tertiary sector's 7.43 per cent and the negative rate of -0.40 per cent registered by the primary sector, going by the State's estimates, are pointers for policy-makers to focus future priorities. While there is a certain justifiable pride on the part of the Government that its strategy of "economic development with a human face" has resulted in the increased SDP growth, it has also got its task cut out to ensure that this is further improved upon. Much of its growth has been bolstered by an impressive recovery on the manufacturing front, which has taken it to the group of high-performers. The challenge now is to not slip.

Constrained by the inherent inability of a vote-on-account to raise additional revenue, Mr. Karunanidhi has restricted himself to allocation of funds and announcement of development schemes. Roads and development projects — such as linking the Chennai and Ennore ports to National Highways, providing drinking water to areas and cleansing three rivers in the State — if taken to fruition, would not only contribute in substantive measure to economic and environmental improvement, but would also bring into play the case for crisply redefining the role of States from that of an economic participant to a facilitator. For the farm sector, the proposal to create marketing and other facilities requires committed follow-up to ensure that post-harvest losses are kept to the minimum. Hard decisions remain to be taken as well. In the power and transport sectors, for instance. Issues such as the continued cross-subsidisation of power to the farm sector and state-borne subsidies in public transport have, for the moment, been kept in abeyance. But for the overall health of State finances, they cannot. In commissioning international teams to suggest measures for economic reform, the Government had indicated its desire to attune the State to reforms. The time has now come to take decisions. One such would involve the recommendation by the Harvard team for a flexible unbundling model for the vital power sector.

Mr. Karunanidhi's angst over the huge financial loss from the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) is a manifestation of the concerns of the better-performing States. It is understandable, but it cannot be over-emphasised. For, the EFC decision is based on a fundamental principle of resource-sharing in a federation: transfers must be made to poorer units. When the time comes for the next Government to spell out a full Budget, there are bound to be avenues for additional resource mobilisation to bridge the uncovered deficit. Public finance is one of the more visible links between politics and economics. In balancing the two and in putting in place fiscal measures to sustain the growth path achieved by Tamil Nadu, would rest the challenge of the next Government.

# Reconstruction after the quake

**By V. R. Raghavan**

***It would be well to consider the creation of a special organisation to work the reconstruction process systematically over a few years.***

THE UNPRECEDENTED earthquake in Gujarat has led to anguished questioning of the Government's ability to manage major disasters. Some have raised the issue of the military being used as an instrument of first resort in managing the crisis. It has been argued that Governments, both at the Centre and in the States, should have a disaster management capability to deal with such challenges. Natural disasters such as an earthquake, or cyclones, floods, train accidents or landslips can occur despite all precautions and early warnings. They need a high state of readiness to cope with the consequences. The scale of such disasters has been and will remain beyond the capability of State Government machinery to manage. Government machinery which barely manage the normal and ordinary needs of a State and its people, can hardly be expected to handle the abnormal and extraordinary fallout of natural calamities. An earthquake requires a major administrative, organisational, technical, logistic and infrastructure capability which cannot be maintained permanently. That capability takes time, money and leadership to put together. In the disaster zone, such capacity is normally decimated and has to be brought in from outside. That is where the defence services have a unique capability.

In Gujarat, virtually every administrative and organisational infrastructure has been affected by the earthquake. Road, rail and telephone communications have been put out. Power, water supply, medical and food distribution systems have been disorganised. Those who operate these systems have themselves been affected by the calamity. Documents in offices and banks, and medical facilities in hospitals have been uprooted. Anti-social elements will operate as marauders to loot and steal. Law and order will be affected if not firmly and ruthlessly handled. The legal system itself will take long to recommence its work. In a condition of virtual collapse, the need is for an organisation which has a range of capabilities needed to bring succor and order in the chaos.

The defence services, and particularly the Army, are equipped with the range of skills needed because they have to be self-reliant in the battle zone, which is not much different from a disaster zone. There are casualties in men and material, dead and wounded, equipment to be recovered and repaired. There are no civilian telephone and wireless communications, no food supplies, no transport, no postal facilities and above all no one else to do the immense work involved in fighting the enemy. That is why the Army is equipped with a wide range of skills to operate on a self-contained basis in a combat zone. The military can operate without assistance for a reasonable period of time until it is resupplied. When combined with the airlift which the IAF can provide and its own helicopter fleet, the army becomes a vital element in search, rescue and humanitarian assistance in the immediate aftermath of a natural disaster. It can quickly re-establish temporary radio, telephone and satellite links, create alternative road links, build and repair bridges and even run trains if needed. It can provide information from outlying areas to Government officials and contain anti-social elements. It can restore power, put up tents for the dispossessed, provide medical and surgical treatment in field conditions, manage food distribution. Its heavy equipment can be used to clear debris and rescue people and recover bodies, and clear roads and tracks. No other organisation can match the military in its speed of response and range of skills applied in a planned manner.

Military leadership is trained to take responsibility, use the resources available, improvise with locally available material and be accountable to a functional discipline. These qualities create confidence in the populace and provide time for the Government to get the recovery and reconstruction effort organised. That is where the problems often lie with the Government machinery not being able to get its act together. In the cyclone which ravaged Orissa, the military did an outstanding job and was willing to continue doing so. The State Government, however, asked the Army to pull out of the area even as its own efforts were falling short of the ability to take over the emergency relief. Later there were many accounts of mismanagement and corrupt practices that abounded in the aftermath of the Army's pullout from the relief work. The defence services can be on site with speed and take charge until the civilian machinery comes on the scene. On the other hand, the military leadership is also been keen to disengage from the relief work as early as possible, to avoid getting involved in charges of administrative mismanagement.

In Gujarat, the scale of the disaster and its geographic spread create special challenges for the State and the Central Government. The real challenge lies ahead in the reconstruction of the vast rural, semi-urban and metropolitan clusters spread all over the State. The normal Government apparatus is unlikely to be able to cope with the challenges involved in the task. Traditional Government rules and regulations are more likely to be obstacles than facilitators in the need for speed and effective reconstruction work. The upsurge of sympathy in the nation's public would no doubt bring in some financial inflows. The national mood would be equally speedily dispelled when evidence begins to surface about mismanagement, and lack of political skill in ensuring equity in the rehabilitation and reconstruction effort. This effort cannot possibly end in a few months and would need continuing for 'some years. It would be well to consider the creation of a special organisation to work the reconstruction process systematically over a few years. The responsibility of the Central, State and district administration will need to be redefined in the reconstruction process. The Centre can help in obtaining funds from within and outside the country and have a say in its timely use by the State. The State Government would be accountable to the Centre for the aid received and expended. The district administration would be accountable for ensuring the completion of the planned reconstruction work.

The creation of a Gujarat Reconstruction Board at the Centre with affiliate offices in the State capital and the districts would be one possible way to put into effect an organisational grid. It should function on the lines of a military grid and be as responsible and capable of action as the military is. It should be equally accountable for efficiency and effectiveness. This will ensure that plans are made and executed without regard to change of political Governments in the State. It will also ensure that continuity is ensured both in plans and in implementation. It would be useful to have parliamentary control over the working of the Reconstruction Board by having its work regularly inspected by a specially-constituted, non-partisan parliamentary committee. The media can play a significant role in keeping track of the efficiency of the reconstructive process. The NGOs of the kind Ms. Medha Patkar has led can provide the public watch over the reconstruction process. They can bring their proven talents in marshalling facts, mobilising public opinion and forcing the State and Central Governments to deliver on the rehabilitation and reconstruction front. The judiciary, which has done so much to make the Governments accountable and transparent, can also be a catalyst for action and accountability.

India is justifiably proud of its humanitarian concerns and traditions. Gujarat's colossal tragedy offers the opportunity to build a new tradition of effective governance by the Centre and the State, which demonstrates concern for people's well-being. It is an opportunity to build a non-partisan framework for constructive and effective reconstruction of the State. It will need a political and social vision that goes beyond politicking and meaningless criticism. Gujarat will need a five-year plan for reconstruction, to which all of the State's endeavours will need harnessing. It will be as great a tragedy as the earthquake, to be subsumed by the usual apathy in governance.

# 'Uzhavar Santhais' — fact and fiction

**By K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty**

*"It is a capital mistake, Watson, to theorise before you have all the evidence. It biases the judgment."*

— Sherlock Holmes in "A Study in Scarlet".

IT IS a truth universally acknowledged that economics is not an exact science. In the words of John von Neumann, economics' understanding of the world is about the same as pre-Newtonian physics. While economics awaits its Newton, jokes about the shortcomings of economists are legion. Sir Winston Churchill used to jest that an economist is a person who will tell you tomorrow why the policy he recommended yesterday did not work today! This is not to deny that economics is a discipline with enormous practical import or that economists have been right on many issues. I only wish to underscore the point that, given the complexities of economic analysis and the track record of economic forecasting, the great confidence with which some economists pronounce their opinions in the media is not likely to be shared by others. They often fail to recognise the wider political and social framework within which economies operate and the practical realities and constraints faced by the decision makers. Dr. S. Ambirajan's article "Karunanidhi and Economics" (*The Hindu* dated 23-1-2001) is a case in point.

Dr. Ambirajan is a gifted writer but in this article he has committed the Holmesian fallacy of theorising in the absence of data, especially with regard to the Chief Minister's "Uzhavar Santhai" (farmers' market) scheme. He argues his entire case on a purely theoretical plane "with only logic and clarity on his side". But logic, divorced from facts, can lead one to error. It is apparent from a reading of the article that he has not investigated "Uzhavar Santhais" at all nor has he interacted with the farmers or the consumers. He states that "there is a charming naivete about a demonology where the trader who buys and sells is considered an unwanted ogre" as the trader "... is a specialist in his own job, and brings particular skills to benefit both parties to the transaction". This comment is inapplicable to the specific case of the Indian fruit and vegetable sector, which is characterised by low farm-gate prices, high retail prices, high levels of wastage and value destruction, and too many intermediaries charging too high margins but adding too little value to the produce. The growers are at the mercy of the intermediaries, which makes them reluctant to take up fruit and vegetable cultivation despite the relatively higher profit margins that this sector can offer as compared to cultivation of cereals. Mr. Ambirajan does not dwell upon this aspect at all and summarily condemns "Uzhavar Santhai" as a scheme which "flies in the face of both economic rationality and common sense". He seems to be unaware that similar initiatives such as "Apni Mandi" (in Punjab) and "Ryotu Bazaar" (in Andhra Pradesh) have also been successful.

Perhaps the only thing worse than theorising in the absence of data in theorising on the basis of wrong data. Dr. Ambirajan states erroneously that "the capital expenditure so far incurred on Uzhavar Santhais may not exceed Rs. 200 crores and the annual maintenance expenditure may stabilise at around Rs. 10 crores". But the actual capital expenditure on the 102 "Uzhavar Santhais" opened so far is only about Rs. 11 crores and the annual maintenance expenditure is only around Rs. 2 crores. He states that "in a budgeted expenditure for 2000-2001 exceeding Rs. 21,565 crores, this sum may not be substantial". But the expenditure of "Uzhavar Santhais" is being met entirely out of the funds of the District Agricultural Marketing Committees and no provision has been made for them in the State Budget. No expensive bureaucratic apparatus has been created, as mentioned by him; officers and staff have been redeployed from Agriculture, Horticulture and Rural Development Departments.

***Logic divorced from facts can lead one to error... Perhaps the only thing worse than theorising in the absence of data is theorising on the basis of wrong data.***

I would like to invite Dr. Ambirajan's kind attention to the CII-McKinsey report (1997) titled "Food & Agriculture Integrated Development Action (FAIDA)". This is a full-fledged study of the potential of the Indian food industry and the current hurdles that stand in the way of its growth. Given the peculiar nature of the Indian fruit and vegetable market, there is a pressing need for market intervention by the Government, by way of disintermediation, at least until such time as large retailers enter the fray in a big way. Although "Uzhavar Santhais" do not 'procure' anything from farmers but merely provide them a place and the facilities to interact directly with consumers, they are, in a sense, analogous to the 'large retailers' described in the CII-McKinsey report — with the difference that farmers, in this case, get 100 per cent of the retail price. This marks a quantum jump from what they were getting earlier (about 25 to 30 per cent of the retail price) — even if one takes into account the cost of their personal transportation and the opportunity cost of the time spent by the farmer or his family member in selling. Departmental studies show that there is a 25 per cent increase in income to farmers coming to "Uzhavar Santhais", and since they sell directly to the consumers, they do not have to wait for payment like when they sell to an intermediary.

It is seen from experience that the percentages of wastage, value destruction and intermediary margins are relatively higher in the case of small and marginal farmers (and consequently, they get a smaller percentage of the retail price) as compared to big farmers. By the logic of ABC analysis, the wholesaler or his agent would prefer to reduce his transaction costs by dealing with a small number of big farmers ('A' category farmers) who contribute to nearly 70 per cent of the produce than dealing with a large number of small and marginal farmers ('C' category farmers) whose individual offerings are negligible. It is in respect of the small and marginal farmers that the 3 or 4 levels of intermediaries come into the picture — to consolidate the fragmented and scattered production into bulk — with each intermediary charging his own hefty margin but adding little value to the produce. It is to protect the interests of the small growers that market intervention by the Government in the form of "Uzhavar Santhais" is necessary.

Dr. Ambirajan states: "Economists will be the first to welcome subsidies because in small doses and with well directed targets, they can stimulate economic development and augment social well-being." And yet, he does not approve of the small shift of the cost burden (due to "Uzhavar Santhais") from the small and marginal farmers to the general taxpayer — though this particular subsidy would seem to fully satisfy his criterion. Only small and marginal farmers will take the trouble of coming to "Uzhavar Santhais" and spending about 3 to 5 hours to sell their produce. There is, therefore, no danger of big farmers benefiting from this subsidy.

"Uzhavar Santhais" are not meant to supplant the existing private wholesale and retail markets for fruits and vegetables; it would be futile and even wrong to attempt such a venture. In the towns where "Uzhavar Santhais" have been started in the State, their market share typically varies from 5 to 20 per cent of the total market for fruits and vegetables. But they play a crucial role in giving a fair price for their produce not only to those farmers actually coming to "Uzhavar Santhais" but also to those farmers who may not be coming. The very fact that there is an alternative market mechanism in the form of "Uzhavar Santhais" strengthens the hands of the growers with the intermediaries.

Departmental studies show that the prices of vegetables and fruits sold in "Uzhavar Santhais" are, on an average, 20 to 30 per cent lower than their erstwhile prices in the retail markets. Once again, this benefits not just the consumers who actually buy from "Uzhavar Santhais" but also those consumers who buy from other retail shops. To ward off the competition from "Uzhavar Santhais" and to retain their customers, retailers are forced to lower their prices.

Any new scheme is bound to have teething problems and meet with resistance from the vested interests affected by it. "Uzhavar Santhais" are no exception. But this is a scheme which should be nurtured carefully as it holds the promise of heralding greater prosperity for the farmers, better nutrient security for the public and a big boost to the fruit and vegetable sector in the State. The only criticism that can possibly be made against it is that it has been introduced about 30 years too late.

*(The writer is an IAS officer posted as Secretary, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Secretariat, Chennai.)*

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Quake-proof buildings

Sir, — Heart-felt condolences for the Gujarat earthquake hit. To avoid such a tragedy in future, earthquake-proof buildings have to be constructed in Gujarat and all over India.

In India, many building and flat promoters are advertising "We are constructing houses according to *Vastu Sastra.*" But constructing buildings according to Vastu Sastra is only sentimental. Vastu Sastra is nothing but the civil construction rules and regulations of ancient India. Our modern civil construction techniques which are formulated scientifically are 1,000 times better than Vastu Sastra. But it is time that the people insisted on "earthquake-proof buildings" while going for flat purchase.

The government should reconstruct earthquake-proof buildings, with the help of Japanese knowhow (because Japan is an expert in constructing such buildings) for the victims of the Gujarat earthquake.

***N. Sugavanam,***
*New Delhi*

Sir, — The Prime Minister's appeal to the nation to contribute generously to the PM's Relief Fund to the earthquake victims of Gujarat, has to be responded wholeheartedly.

As the Prime Minister has appealed for funds no matter how small the amount is, I request the Union Government to waive MO/DD commissions, service charges by banks for clearance of cheques, and if found feasible exemption from postal charges, for a period of six months, if earmarked for the PM's Relief Fund or to any government authorised public channel.

***V. N. Gopal,***
*Chennai*

## President's reception

Sir, — This refers to the news item "President hosts reception at Mughal Gardens" (*The Hindu*, Jan. 27).

Even after knowing the earthquake disaster in Gujarat which resulted in the death of thousands of people, the President hosting his customary reception on the Republic Day smacks of insensitiveness to the human tragedy of high order. The party should have been cancelled.

Our democracy is a peculiar one and therefore we see that any one can talk out of turn without any restraint. So our President is also not an exception to this tendency. That is why he compared the points raised in the "consultative paper" presented by the Constitution review commission, with the guided democracy principle introduced by Field Marshal Ayub Khan of Pakistan.

Our President must be aware that others can also compare the mode of election of the President of India, which is not by people direct but by an electoral college only, with the very same Ayub Khan theory which has been quoted by him.

***K. Ramani,***
*Chennai*

## Sino-Indian ties

Sir, — I strongly disagree with Mr. Katyal's assertion of a "fear of irreparable damage done to mutual ties which persisted for months after Pokhran-II" ("Not yet friends", *The Hindu*, Jan. 22). It somehow alludes to the fact that Pokhran-II was responsible for strained ties between China and India.

Pokhran was a manifestation of the strained ties. It should be remembered that China was (is) responsible for providing Pakistan with the knowhow for nuclear weaponry and its delivery mechanism. China's actions were directly responsible in souring relations, and they were very sour before Pokhran-II. The rest of the article is delusional with Mr. Katyal's wishful thinking and attempts to justify Mr. Li Peng's statements and their supposedly implied meaning.

***R. Krithivas,***
*San Jose (U.S.)*

## E-learning

Sir, — I found the article on "HRD — the e-learning way" by Mr. M.S.S. Varadan (*The Hindu*, Jan. 25) extremely interesting. The examples that have been given in the article such as the initiative taken by the T.A. Pai Management Institute (TAPMI) and Aptech in offering a management course through the Internet as well as the Ministry of Information Technology's move for e-learning for the Engineering Colleges are very informative. The main strength of e-learning is that it is self-paced and suited to the individual needs of the learner. The dearth of good teachers in the rapidly expanding Engineering and Management Education in India, further necessitates e-learning to be introduced more widely for the benefit of needy learners.

However, a note of caution is needed here. A common fallacy on the part of teachers is to think that all they need is to put their notes on the net for the students to read. Nothing is farther from truth than this. While content can be provided by subject experts, it is even more important for instructional design expertise to be utilised in producing learning material which can be of real use. Interactivity is a key factor of success for e-learning; it is certainly the major challenge when designing e-learning material.

As correctly pointed out by Mr. Varadan, learning objects include, among others, self-tests, games, quiz, assessments, pointers to on-line reference material and e-mail links to subject matter experts who can provide clarification. Also the use of bulletin board for use by students is an essential tool for peer-to-peer interaction. All this requires careful thought and use of the right expertise on instructional design which is usually not given sufficient attention. I personally realised the value of this while spending a year at Teleuniversite, a leading distant education institution in Canada, a country which is in the forefront of offering e-learning programmes worldwide.

***Andre Pittet,***
*Bangalore*

## No reference to book

Sir, — This refers to Rowena Robinson's article "The great Indian middle class" *(The Hindu*, Jan. 14). It was an interesting article bringing to light 'modernity' in India or rather the lack of it. But an unfortunate feature has been that the author has failed to give credit to sociologist, Dipankar Gupta, from whose recent book *India's Mistaken Modernity: India between Worlds* (Harper Collins Publishers, India, 2000) most of her ideas seem to have been taken.

Throughout the article one felt that one was reading a summary of Dipankar Gupta's book but it was strange not to find any reference to his work. For instance, the section on marriages or how the middle class use contacts is strongly reminiscent of Dipankar Gupta's book.

***Urvashi Chandra,***
*Kaushambi (U.P.)*

## Pensioners' plight

Sir, — While the Central Government accepted all the recommendations of V Pay Commission for serving employees either by holding discussions with the unions or of its own volition, the reasonable recommendations regarding pensioners have been ruthlessly rejected. As per the present practice 1 per cent of pension is reduced for every year of service less than 33 years of service. But vice versa is not there. V CPC has recommended 1 per cent additional pension for every year above 33 years. The outgo will not be very much. Hence it is requested that the government may consider this recommendation and sanction the same as a token of appreciation of pensioners' long service to the nation.

***K. S. Srinivasan,***
*Ernakulam (Kerala)*

## Clash of exam dates

Sir, — The RBI and SBI are holding examinations for the recruitment of officers on February 11. Many have applied for both the banks and received their hall-tickets. The examination is only a chance but not an assurance of appointment. As the dates clash, many are deprived of the chance. Will the authorities concerned look into this and postpone one of the exams? ***M. A. Rawee,***
*Srikalahasti (AP)*

# 'Killer quake overdue in Himalayan region'

By N. Gopal Raj

**BANGALORE, JAN. 30.** This time it was Bhuj. But a killer quake is "overdue" in the Himalayan region. With the highly-populated Gangetic plain right below, such an earthquake would have devastating effects.

Studies have shown that 50 to 70 per cent of the Himalayan range was overdue for a great earthquake, said Dr. Roger Bilham, Professor of Geological Sciences at the University of Colorado and an expert on seismology of the region. The magnitude of the quake would be between 7.8 and 8.3 on the Richter scale, he told *The Hindu*.

It was not possible to predict when or where the earthquake would occur. However, the regions with the highest probability of undergoing a powerful earthquake were western Nepal, Kumaon and western Bhutan, Dr. Bilham said. "Although it is speculative to conclude so, it is possible to argue that we are seeing stresses tightening in the Indian plate, leading to one or more of these great earthquakes occurring in the next decade."

A paper published in the journal *Current Science* in 1998 by Dr. Bilham, Dr. Vinod Gaur (now at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics here) and others pointed out that Himalayan earthquakes tended to focus energy towards the northern plains where shaking was amplified by the soft alluvial soil.

In the past 100 years, population in northern India has quadrupled in villages and increased by an order of magnitude in the cities. Some changes in construction practices had not improved the earthquake resistance of buildings. The presence of several large dams in the southern Himalayas posed an additional risk to the people. "There is thus a substantial increase in earthquake risk from the recurrence of great and moderate Himalayan earthquakes," the article observed.

When in 1992 *Current Science* brought out a special issue devoted to seismology in India, it pointed out that several earthquake-free decades in the Himalayan region had created a sense of complacency and a lack of public concern about their destructive potential. "Prudence requires that we should be prepared to meet such hazards and take effective measures to reduce their ill-effects," it pointed out.

The magnificent Himalayan range, stretching for about 2,400 km in an arc from Nanga Parbat in the west to Namcha Barwa in the east, was created when the Indian plate collided with Eurasia. Since the Indian plate continues to push into Eurasia, it creates stresses which are periodically released in the form of earthquakes. As a result, the Himalayan belt is seismically highly active. Dr. Bilham, Dr. Gaur and others have been using GPS receivers, which can accurately compute the position of any place based on satellite signals, to study the movement of the Indian plate. The GPS measurements showed that sufficient stress had accumulated to drive a magnitude-eight earthquake along at least 50 per cent of the Himalayas, said Dr. Bilham. It took about 15 magnitude-eight earthquakes to rupture the entire length of the Himalayas, according to him.

The renewal time in the Himalayas for great quakes was 300 to 500 years. If it took 300 years to develop enough stress to drive one such quake, there should be one of them happening every 20 years. But no great earthquake had occurred in the Himalayas for 50 years, he pointed out. Obviously the earthquakes must cluster in time. "Are we approaching one of these clusters," he asked, adding, "Everything seems to point to a disastrous centur[illegible]"

## It came with a warning

By Arunkumar Bhatt

**BHUJ, JAN. 30.** The earthquake that rocked Kutch and several other parts of Gujarat, did not come without a warning.

On December 24, the Rann of Kutch was rocked by a quake that measured 4.2 on the Richter scale. Its epicentre was Allah Bandh, about 90 km north of Bhuj. A few weeks ago, Bhavnagar district of Saurashtra had experienced a series of tremors.

These prompted, Mr. P.N. Nair, a geologist based at Gandhi Nagar, to demand an immediate geological survey of Kutch. But his suggestion fell on deaf ears, regrets Mr. Kirti Khatri, editor of *Kachchh Mitra*, a Gujarati daily.

Mr. Khatri told *The Hindu* that Kutch was classified long ago as Zone V — highly prone to earthquakes — and yet nobody took any cognisance. He pointed out how repeatedly the media and others warned about the seismic profile of Kutch.

He said that in 1996, Dr. S. Shringarpura, Head of the Department of Geology of the M.S. University, Vadodara, said at a press conference that the Kutch region had four fault areas which made it quake-prone.

Mr. Khatri said construction norms in Bhuj were frequently flouted. Building of high-rise structures was allowed though the rules permitted only two-storey ones. He said most of the casualties were in multi-storey buildings.

"We in Kutch know that a quake cannot be predicted but the Government can take precautionary administrative measures to reduce its impact, Mr. Khatri said.

## SC judges' gesture

By Our Legal Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 30.** The Chief Justice of India and other Judges of the Supreme Court have decided to contribute Rs. 10,000 each towards the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund in aid of the earthquake victims in Gujarat.

The officers and staff of the Supreme Court have also decided to contribute one day's salary towards the fund. In addition, the Employees Welfare Associations of the Apex Court are jointly contributing Rs. 45,000 for the purpose, a press release from the Supreme Court said.

The Chairperson and Members of the National Human Rights Commission will contribute two days' salary and the other staff one day's salary to the relief fund.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Bar Council of India, Mr. D.V. Subba Rao, has appealed to lawyers to contribute liberally to the fund.

# Victims in the grip of trauma

**RAJKOT, JAN. 30.** Psychiatric illnesses are taking hold of many children and adults in the quake-hit regions, doctors say. Fear has sunk deep into the psyche of the affected and many are showing symptoms of trauma after witnessing death at close quarters. Headaches and fever are common. Some children are scared of any clattering sound and constantly need adults' company.

According to child specialist, Dr. Amulkh Syller, the problem was acute among children who had witnessed death or the collapse of their houses. His 12-year-old patient, Meera, saw destruction all around her and refuses to go back to her sixth floor apartment here and has been staying with her mother in a Maruti van near the building.

Dr. Syller says such children need psychiatric treatment and should be kept away from rattling sounds, including those of tractors and heavy machinery. He pointed out the case of five-year-old Sanket of Ratan Park area who closes his eyes and starts crying on hearing the slightest metallic sound.

"Not only children, even adults are undergoing trauma." Even his family members had to move out of their seventh floor apartment to a friend's house, he said.

In Anjar town of Kutch, vultures have reappeared in hundreds, sharing the skies with relief helicopters. The putrid smell of decaying bodies of human beings and cattle hangs over the region, bringing out in the open the carrion-eaters and the carpet-baggers.

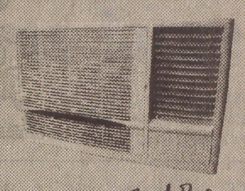
In places where rubble is cleared, people rush to salvage valuables even from the putrefying hands, ears, noses, necks or legs of their womenfolk. Vultures too swoop down every time a body is brought out.

In Bachau town in Kutch, restoration of electricity, water supply and communication lines is not high on the authorities' agenda as almost all the houses have been flattened by the earthquake.

"For whom" is their poser when asked about the restoration of civic amenities. With hardly any houses left, restoration would be an exercise in futility, says Mr. Atanu Chakraborty, in charge of the relief operations here.

So far, over 100 survivors have been rescued in the town and nearby villages. A one-month-old baby was saved on Sunday and an eight-month-old on Monday in the small town.— PTI, UNI

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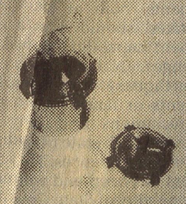
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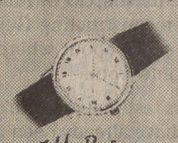
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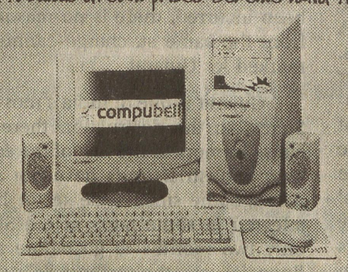


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Known for his high linguistic capabilities, he mastered languages such as Hindi and Sanskrit. A nationalist who believed in the oneness of India, he authored the first Tamil-Hindi Self Instructor. Warm and generous, and of a highly charitable disposition, he was instrumental in many healthcare initiatives, such as organising eye camps and establishing a number of hospitals. He was ahead of his time in pioneering a number of educational institutions both traditional and modern, with emphasis on technical education in rural areas.

Today on his birth centenary, we salute Sri SNN whose life continues to inspire us as we rededicate ourselves to the values he stood for.

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## Four runaway prisoners nabbed

**JAISALMER (RAJASTHAN), JAN. 30.** Four Pakistani prisoners, who escaped from a collapsed Bhuj jail, were arrested today while trying to flee to Pakistan from the Indo-Pakistan border adjoining quake devastated Gujarat, Border Security Force (BSF) sources said.

Rajasthan-Gujarat frontier BSF headquarter sources said here tonight that BSF jawans on duty at Badiabed border post managed to nab four out of the six runaway Pakistani prisoners from Bhuj jail in Gujarat following Friday's quake.

A manhunt has been launched for the rest of the two inmates, it added.

The sources said several Pakistanis terrorists and anti-nationals were among the 180 inmates who absconded from Bhuj prison.

The BSF has been keeping a close vigil on the international border, in the wake of possibility of Pakistani prisoners escaping to their country, the sources added. — UNI



**The Bhuj jail remains a breached building, in the wake of the earthquake that struck Gujarat, even as a family moves past it and out of the town.** — Photo: Vivek Bendre

# Snapshots of an arrogant quake

**By Harish Khare**

**ANJAR/BHUJ, JAN. 30.** You can't smell death at 3,000 feet up in the air. Nor can you see death at that height. You can only spot pockets of destruction. Patches of desolation.

Yes, you start realising something is amiss. Three helicopters and yet no villagers waving frantically at the flying machines. Something terribly wrong.

Dead towns, you see, do not wave, even if the helicopter happens to be ferrying the Prime Minister of the country.

Bhuj, Anjar, Bhachau, Rapar. Places which meant nothing till a week ago but now are sites of national sorrow.

Even cynical journalists, veteran chroniclers of tragedies, violence and destruction, fell silent as the helicopters flew over one dead town after another in Kutch district. Yet the enormity of the tragedy has eluded the airborne-observers.

The Prime Minister lands at the Kandla aerodrome.

The landing at Kandla was a last-minute decision. The only official at hand is the Chief Secretary, Mr. L.N.S. Mukundan. Even in this hour of tragedy, he has not forgotten his bureaucratic manners. He is correctly attired — if entirely incongruously — in a proper *bandgala* (close-neck suit).

There are not enough cars for all in the prime ministerial entourage. It seems the Gandhidam Chamber of Commerce has been asked to provide a few cars. Just when the journalists were beginning to have a sinking feeling of being stranded, a Maruti Esteem makes a belated entry. It is promptly commandeered by the reporters. We form the tail of the prime ministerial motorcade. On our way to Bhuj, via Anjar.

Our driver is Vittalbhai Anam. He assures us that he feels honoured that the Chamber of Commerce was asked to provide cars for the prime ministerial party. Vittalbhai is loquacious. Animated. He starts talking, sixteen to a dozen, about the tragedy that befell his native town, Anjar.

Only after a few minutes does the realisation dawn on us that Vittalbhai is totally traumatised, and talking to total strangers is probably working as a spot of catharsis. He could not be telling his tale to fellow-Anjarians. Not many have survived to listen to the sad tales. And those who survived, each has a similar tale.

Vittalbhai keeps his eyes on the road, keeps his emotion firmly in check, but retails heart-rending stories of death and destruction.

Vittalbhai is a hotelier. His three-storey hotel is now a pile of rubble. His son, he tells, providentially ran out of the hotel seconds before it collapsed. Then, his voice cracks as he tells his shocked listeners about the death of his sister's two sons. No word about his brother's children. Personal loss appears inconsequential compared to the collective death of the town. Vittalbhai puts the toll at 10,000 in Anjar alone.

The prime ministerial motorcade proceeds on its funereal journey. There is no security paraphernalia. Nor is the occasion for any flexing of the State's muscles. A bereaved district can hardly pose any threat to a king's safety.

Suddenly we are in Anjar. A living dead town.

Rows and rows of collapsed buildings, houses, schools, shops, stores, sheds, clinics... The VVIP cavalcade creates no stir. There is no curiosity among a few survivors, by now drained of all emotions. Blank faces tell their own tale of tragedy. Those lucky enough to survive are camped right there on the roadside, with their meagre belongings. No house is livable. The journalists stop taking notes as they try to discern the calligraphy of death so cruelly painted on both sides of the road.

We hear only the voice of Vittalbhai, who keeps telling us we have not yet seen the "real tragedy". He rattles out names of villages as sites of bigger and more total tragedies. '400 killed at Rattnal.' '900 killed at Tappovar.' Names do not mean anything to his listeners. Figures had stopped shocking hours ago.

Yet, the sight in Anjar is one of total devastation, beyond the comprehension of sane minds. Destruction, destruction, and more destruction. There are no sound-bytes to be recorded. No quotes to be pencilled in. Death is flaunting itself so flagrantly, so wantonly, so pervasively that details no longer register. Till one has seen Anjar, one has not realised how extravagant death can be.

From Anjar, to Bhuj. Via village Rattnal. Not a single house intact in the entire village. Estimate of death? Yours as good as mine. Extent of damage? Total.

The prime ministerial motorcade merely skirts Bhuj on the periphery. The Civil Hospital, "gone". The Collector's Office, "gone". The roads to the "inner city" are too narrow for the motorcade. But after Anjar who has the stomach for another face-to-face with tell-tales of an arrogant earthquake.

And after Anjar, the debate over the "final figure" seems ludicrously futile. As meaningless as survival itself.

Soon Anjar and scores of dead villages and towns in Kutch may become an artefact. After all, the region is dotted with, what the archaeologists call, a 'timba', a mount of dead.

# Centre to reassess vulnerability

**By Gargi Parsai**

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 30.** The Centre has recognised the need for a scientific reassessment of the country's vulnerability to earthquakes and evolving a policy so that the resultant destruction will not be as disastrous as it is in Gujarat.

The need for a Policy on Natural Disaster Management was also being considered, the Home Minister, Mr. L. K. Advani, said here today after chairing the first meeting of the Empowered Group of Ministers on Disaster Management.

Describing the destruction caused by the earthquake as "a complete devastation", Mr. Advani said an estimated 630 villages in Kutch and 1,000 villages in the rest of the State were hit on January 26. There were no estimates yet of the number of people buried under the rubble; hence the conflicting figures on casualties. Mr. Advani, who visited the State twice after the quake, said the destruction in Bhuj "cannot be described without seeing".

He said what was required was proper management and distribution of the relief and the aid that was pouring in. The Gujarat Government has set up an 'Authority' to deal with earthquake relief and rehabilitation. The State was also working out its projects and plans for restoration and reconstruction.

Thanking the international community for its assistance, Mr. Advani said India could adopt some of the technology used by Germans who brought small, sophisticated stone cutters, and the Swiss, whose sniffer dogs helped in saving several lives. The Border Security Force's specialised dogs would also be trained similarly.

The Home Ministry has decided to waive the formality under the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act and so the contributors would not have to seek its permission.

Mr. Advani said help in cash and kind had come in from the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, Switzerland, Russia, France, Turkey and Hungary. Pakistan had sent blankets, medicines and tents today. Israel also sent six planeloads of a four-ward mobile hospital.

Earlier, the Agriculture Secretary, Mr. Bhaskar Barua, said, after a meeting of the Crisis Management Group (CMG), that the Centre had decided to evacuate those with spinal injuries in Bhuj to Mumbai for treatment in naval hospitals. Help was being sought from NGOs in Mumbai to tend to patients whose relatives were not known or were unable to accompany them out of Gujarat. Surgeries were also being performed in hospital ships anchored off the Kandla port at the worst-affected Bhuj.

The Government sent two separate teams of Joint Secretary-level officials to Gujarat to coordinate the distribution of assistance from the Centre. A Joint Director (Health) from the Ministry of Health was posted in Ahmedabad to monitor medical aid, particularly self-contained mobile hospitals.

The priority requirement now was bleaching powder to prevent the spread of epidemic in affected areas and for orthopaedic doctors and mobile X-ray machines. Till this noon, 9,522 surgeries had been done, of which 1,522 were major.

## Group of Ministers meets

**By Our Special Correspondent**

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 30.** The Centre today announced the constitution of an Empowered Group of Ministers for Disaster Management and its terms of reference. Its first meeting was held here.

The group will be chaired by the Home Minister, Mr L. K. Advani. Its members will be the Finance Minister, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, the Defence Minister, Mr. George Fernandes, the Communications Minister, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, the Railway Minister, Ms. Mamata Banerjee, the Agriculture Minister, Mr. Nitish Kumar, the Food and Public Distribution Minister, Mr. Shanta Kumar, the Health and Family Welfare Minister, Dr. C. P. Thakur, the Power Minister, Mr. Suresh Prabhu, and the Textiles Minister, Mr. Kashiram Rana.

The Group will: (a) consider the report of the Crisis Management Group headed by the Cabinet Secretary and give such directions as are considered appropriate; (b) decide on all action necessary to provide immediate relief to victims; (c) consider measures necessary for relief and rehabilitation of affected victims for restoration of infrastructure; (d) consider long-term institutional and organisational measures necessary for management and mitigation of such natural calamities.

The Group of Ministers on Disaster Management will meet again on February 2.

## No coordination in relief efforts: Sonia

**By Our Special Correspondent**

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 30.** The Congress president, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, today said "there appears to be a lack of coordination" on the part of the State Government in carrying out relief efforts in Gujarat. However, she was quick to add that in this "hour of national calamity, the whole nation stood behind the Government".

Addressing presspersons after a special meeting of the extended steering committee, the Congress president said there was no shortage of men and material.

The problem appeared in coordinating the relief efforts underway.

Briefing newspersons after the steering committee meeting, to which even the Chief Ministers, PCC chiefs and CLP leaders were invited, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad said the committee had directed all its MPs to donate Rs. 10 lakhs from the MP Local Area Development funds as desired by the Speaker and the chairman of the Rajya Sabha.



**Members of a Hungarian team engaged in rescue operations in Anjar town of Kutch district on Tuesday.** — PTI

**RELIEF WORK** / VILLAGERS SPURN BISCUITS, ASK FOR CHAPATIS

# Now the epidemic threat looms large

**By Arunkumar Bhatt**

**BHUJ, JAN. 30.** With no appreciable progress in the rescue of the injured and the removal of the dead trapped under tonnes of rubble in towns and villages of the Kutch region, the quake-struck are now facing the prospect of outbreak of an epidemic.

Both Army and civilian rescuers feel that the chances of finding survivors under the rubble are bleak with each passing day. And the number of dead could be much more than thought earlier.

Many tend to share the worst fears of the Defence Minister, Mr. George Fernandes, that the toll could reach the frightening figure of one lakh. One does not know how many days it would take for all the bodies to be removed and cremated.

Stench emanates from the rubble heaps, suggesting that the bodies have started decaying. Not only the volunteers extricating the bodies but also relatives taking them for cremation now mask their faces to avoid the pervading smell and the possibility of infection.

Another source of stench are the half-burnt bodies left on the outskirts in mass-cremation pyres owing to shortage of firewood. The fouling up of the general ambiance is compounded by lack of water, proper food, clothing, mounting anxiety, bereavement and panic generated by continued tremors and jerks. Most of the people are living on pavements, streets and sidewalks.

The authorities, so far, have not initiated any measures to sanitise the place. The area is so vast and inaccessible because of the rubble that they will have to spray disinfectants from air, said an Army officer leading a company of rescuers using heavy equipment.

While the residents of Bhuj are migrating in search of sympathy and shelter, people from the surrounding villages are pouring in, assuming that they would get better relief and medical help in Bhuj, little realising that situation in the town they reached is as bad.

A rough estimate has it that 40 per cent of the original residents of Bhuj have already left; many more are leaving. And the villagers thronging Bhuj are only adding to the confusion. Relief workers, too, have arrived in Kutch in large numbers, but they are not backed by any organisational set-up that could harness them. And instead of being a help, they have proved to be a drag on the local administration.

An ill-motivated and inefficient administration is still struggling to understand the situation and cutting its own red tape to chalk out a relief plan. Forget ensuring the supply of essentials, bureaucrats have not been able to set up even a network of civil servants to guide the incoming relief workers and truckloads of material to the places where they are needed.

One comes across a situation where both doctor and medicines are available, but there's no clean linen or fuel for their vehicle. This correspondent saw a number of relief workers emptying their trucks among whoever asked for the supplies and left for where they came from.

In another instance, a group was seen giving away biscuit cartons and other dry eats to anybody after some villagers refused to take them. The rural folk have no taste for cookies and still prefer their simple chapatis.

The Army units stationed in the region suffered the same death and devastation but their superior training, motivation and organisational strength has enabled them to rise to the occasion — they have been able to summon personnel and material from far off places and have been sending the injured to as far away as the Command Hospital in Pune.

"Our first reaction was to save our own life and those of our families but soon we organised 10 columns of 80 persons to help the civil administration and at the same time we activated the military hospital and set up four operation theatres," said Brig. S.P. Mehla, Station Commander.

## WHO, Govt. despatch teams

**By Our Special Correspondent**

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 30.** The focus of the authorities at World Health Organisation and the Union Health Ministry is shifting towards preventing any outbreak of epidemics in quake-hit Gujarat.

The South East Asia Regional Director of WHO, Dr. Uton Muchtar Rafei, and the Union Health Minister, Dr. C.P.Thakur, told reporters that teams of epidemiologists had fanned out to the affected areas.

Experts said there was also the threat of pneumonia and other such respiratory diseases breaking out as the weather was cold and a large number of survivors have been living in the open.

Dr. Thakur said the Centre would soon revamp the disaster management system. The plan included setting up an autonomous national agency to coordinate all the aspects of disaster management in an integrated manner. The system would be equipped with gas cutters, acoustic sensors and other such equipment. To start with, these equipment would be bought from abroad but later developed indigenously.

## No tax surcharge proposal: Govt.

**By Our Special Correspondent**

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 30.** The Minister of State for Expenditure in the Finance Ministry, Mr. Balasaheb Vikhe-Patil, today clarified that at present there was no proposal before the Finance Ministry to consider a tax surcharge to cover the expenditure on relief and rehabilitation activities in Gujarat.

The Minister had on Monday expressed the view that the Government would make an assessment of the inflow of foreign aid and donations and the likely expenditure to be incurred before taking any decision. Mr. Patil had also said that the expenditure was likely to be huge and unavoidable and money would have to be generated for rehabilitation purposes.

# It could take months to clear Bhuj rubble

**By Kalpana Sharma**

**BHUJ, JAN. 30. The maximum destruction caused by the earthquake in Bhuj is inside the old, walled city. Large sections of the wall, built in 1723, have been destroyed. And within them, the crowded and narrow lanes, typical of such old towns, are a picture of destruction.**

**Despite the devastation, people maintain a sense of humour. Dineshbhai, whose shop in the old city has been destroyed, says philosophically, "Today there are no crore-patis in Bhuj, all of us have become 'road-patis'." He takes us on a guided tour of the now-destroyed city where some shops did crores of rupees of business in gold and jewellery. According to a local real estate agent, property prices in the old city were as high as Rs. 12,000 per sq.ft.**

**After the quake, not a single building is safe. Even beautiful old buildings with a gracious courtyard and stained glass windows — with the legend 'Shah Karamchand Lalchand' etched on the stone archway leading in — are in a shambles. They will all have to be pulled down.**

**The narrow lanes of the old city contributed to the high death toll. The unmistakable stench of rotting flesh is evidence of the many bodies that lie buried beneath the rubble. Dineshbhai says that on Friday morning they heard a terrifying sound as the earth began to move and parts of buildings began to fall. A huge cloud of dust covered everything. As people ran out of the lanes — many people lived above their shops — they were crushed by the falling masonry. Only the more able escaped. He says many older people died as they could not move out quickly enough.**

**According to doctors treating the wounded in Bhuj, most of the injuries are spinal and broken legs, particularly the femur. Many of the patients they have treated are older women. Without x-ray equipment, the doctors can only do a clinical diagnosis and place the broken limb in a plaster with the hope that it will mend. Usually, for a broken femur an operation is essential.**

**It is the very topography of these old cities that makes rescue operations virtually impossible. You cannot move in any heavy machinery.**

# Efficiency amid chaos

**By Kalpana Sharma**

**BHUJ, JAN. 30.** In contrast to the chaos in the rest of the city, the rescue teams that have arrived from other countries are the epitome of quiet efficiency and organisation. The U.K. Shelter and Rescue team, for instance, landed in Ahmedabad on Sunday morning and came here by road the same day. By the evening they had surveyed 17 buildings and identified eight individuals alive and trapped in them. By 9.30 p.m. they had pulled out seven-year-old Sonu and his mother, Binduben, from an apartment block.

The team manager, Mr. James Brown, says they are always ready to fly out whenever disaster strikes anywhere in the world. Following the quake on January 26, the British government offered to send the team, the Indian government accepted and within two days the team had left.

Its composition is also interesting. One-third of the 69-member group working here consists of professional fire service personnel. The rest are volunteers — plumbers, electricians and others trained in rescue work. The team put together by the UK Fire Service, and the International Rescue Corps and Rapid UK, both voluntary organisations, is paid by the British Government through its Department of International Finance and Development.

We met the crew after at the Sri Hari Niwas apartments, a five-year-old seven storey building which had sunk into the ground and only the top four floors were visible. The woman and child who were rescued were stuck on the first floor. The woman had wedged herself under a chair.

The crew activated their vibraphone, an ultra- sensitive instrument that can detect the slightest sound, even a person breathing, and heard the little boy crying. As soon as they had established the location, they carefully drilled a hole and lowered a microphone. One of the firemen who could speak Gujarati reassured the child and lowered a bottle of water.

After that, they enlarged the hole and pulled the boy out. They then located the woman and gradually pulled her out too. The entire operation took around five hours. Miraculously, neither the boy nor his mother had any serious injuries.

**Correction:** The heading for the Page 1 report carried on January 29 should read "Beating the Retreat cancelled" (not as published).

## N. K. Singh appointed OSD in PMO

**By Our Special Correspondent**

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 30.** Mr. N. K. Singh, Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), who was to retire tomorrow, has been appointed Officer on Special Duty in the PMO.

Belonging to Bihar cadre of the 1964 batch of IAS, Mr. Singh will be on a contract basis from February 1. He will continue to enjoy the rank and pay of Secretary to the Government, according to an official release here today. The Government also announced six senior level appointments of the IAS officers. Mr. N. S. Sisodia, belonging to the 1968 batch of the Rajasthan cadre, will take over as Additional Secretary in place of Mr. Pawan Chopra, who has been moved as the new Secretary, Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

Mr. Arun Kshetrapal, a 1968 batch officer from Madhya Pradesh, will takeover from Mr. Sisodia as Additional Secretary in the National Security Council Secretariat. Mr. Anil Baijal, of the 1969 batch of AGMUT cadre, has been appointed Additional Secretary in the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. He would also hold additional charge of the post of executive member, Prasar Bharati Board for a period of six months, according to an official announcement here.

Ms. Sarita Prasad, presently in her Himachal Pradesh cadre, has been appointed Chairperson of the National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention in the Cabinet Secretariat in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary. Belonging to the 1969 batch, she succeeds Mr. C. N. S. Nair. Mr. B. S. Minhas, presently in his parent Rajasthan cadre, has been appointed Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, in place of Mr. Bhagat Singh, who has been reverted prematurely to his cadre. Ms. S. Chowdhary, presently in her parent Jammu and Kashmir cadre and belonging to the 1969 batch, has been appointed Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests. She succeeds Mr. K. Roy Paul. The senior level appointments were cleared by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

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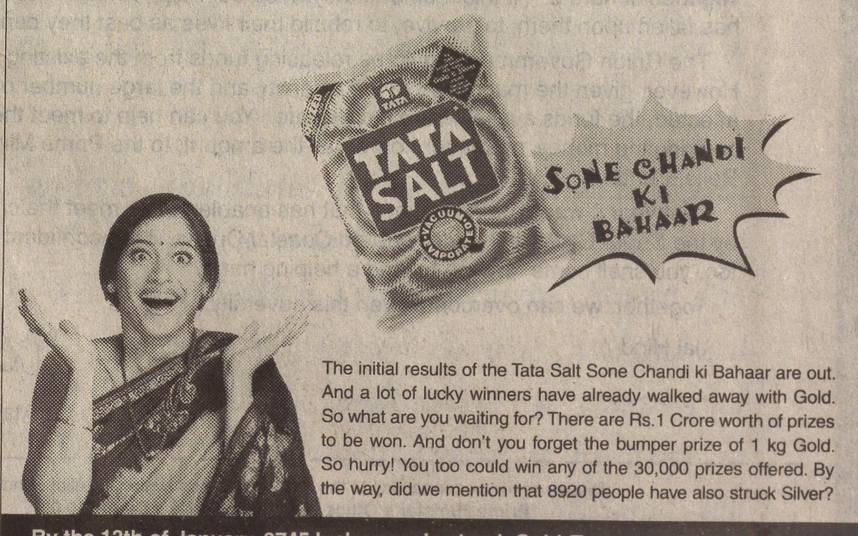


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I prefer Tata Salt because (complete in not more than 10 words) _____
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PUBLICIS TC 54 01

# CBI opposes Hindujas' plea to leave India

By J. Venkatesan

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 30.** The special court for CBI cases will pronounce orders on February 1 on the plea of the three Hinduja brothers, accused in the Rs. 64 crore Bofors payoffs case, to leave the country even as the central investigating agency opposed their applications.

The CBI maintained that the brothers were "evasive" during the interrogation and that they should not be allowed to leave. As they were foreign nationals, securing their presence during trial would prove difficult. The CBI also wanted their passports to be impounded. This was refuted by Mr. S.P. Hinduja, Mr. G.P. Hinduja and Mr. P.P. Hinduja, who asserted that they had fully cooperated with the CBI and answered all questions put to them during the nine-days of "grilling". Because of their absence from their business headquarters, their business, running into billions of dollars, had suffered, they said.

The Special Public Prosecutor for CBI, Mr. N. Natarajan, told the court, "We have done our investigation with the available materials and noted down their response in the case diary. During the interrogation, they were very evasive and did not answer to the main issue at all. The CBI has to confront them if new documents are available."

Mr. Natarajan pointed out that while Mr. Gopichand and Mr. Srichand were British nationals, Mr. Prakash was a Swiss national. Under Sec. 7 of the Federal Act on International Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters "no Swiss national may, without his written consent, be extradited or surrendered to a foreign State for prosecution or execution of sentence. The consent may be withdrawn until the time the surrender is ordered."

Therefore, if Mr. Prakash was allowed to leave, his presence could not be secured. The CBI's apprehension was that if the brothers were allowed to go out of the country, they might not return if the trial did not proceed according to their expectations, he added. On the other hand, counsel for the Hindujas said they had come to India voluntarily and had been cooperating with the investigating agency. There was no question of their running away from trial and whenever the court required them, they would make themselves available. They were ready to give any surety and meet any condition put forth by the court.

Counsel said the brothers had business roots in the country. They were among the first to avail the People of Indian Origin (PIO) scheme, which would enable them to come to India even without using their British passports.

Just before leaving the court after orders were reserved, Mr. Gopichand told the judge, "Our total family is suffering. We had come to join the investigation. We have been grilled. What more do they want?" Mr. Srichand said they had answered every question to the satisfaction of the CBI.

The Judge asked the CBI to inform by March 19 the progress in the extradition of the Italian businessman, Mr. Ottavio Quattrocchi, being pursued with the Malaysian Government and on the red corner alert issued by the Interpol to arrest the former Bofors chief, Mr. Martin Ardbo.

# Solheim coming to Sri Lanka again

By Nirupama Subramanian

**COLOMBO, JAN. 30.** The Norwegian special envoy, Mr. Erik Solheim, who on Monday met the LTTE's London representative, Mr. Anton Balasingham, is expected back here this week.

The Internet site TamilNet reported that the two discussed aspects of a Norwegian proposal for de-escalation of hostilities.

Sources said the special envoy might arrive here on Wednesday for discussions with the Government on the de-escalation proposal aimed at creating a climate for negotiations.

According to reports in the Sri Lankan media, the Norwegian proposal envisages the lifting of restrictions by the Government on the LTTE-held north, with a reciprocal assurance by the LTTE that it would not carry out attacks in southern Sri Lanka.

Mr. Balasingham is reported to have told Mr. Solheim that the LTTE had already begun to observe its side of the bargain by first calling a ceasefire and then extending it for another month till February 24. He is reported to have said that the LTTE would formally accept the proposal only if the Sri Lankan Government kept its side of the deal.

The Sri Lankan President, Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga, said earlier this week that there had been a "fair response" from the LTTE to the Norwegian-backed peace initiative which had given her hope that the conflict could be resolved peacefully soon.

Answering phone-in questions on a programme on state television on Sunday, Mrs. Kumaratunga said she would soon meet a Norwegian delegation to discuss how to take the peace process forward.

However, she reiterated that there would be no ceasefire before talks began. The Government would continue its military offensives till a lasting peace agreement had been hammered out, she said.

She called for a definite date for negotiations to begin, and emphasised that discussions had to be on substantive political issues.

A Government statement, meanwhile, accused the LTTE of carrying out a propaganda campaign through Tamil political parties, students and NGOs that the Government was hesitant about the peace process.

It said the LTTE had instigated protests against the Government through students in the north-east.

There have been a series of protests over the last two weeks in universities located in the conflict-zone urging the Government to reciprocate the ceasefire. Named by organisers as Ponku Tamil, an exhortation to the Tamil community to rise in protest, the protests have attracted representatives of civil society and religious organisations in the north and east.

In line with the LTTE's position on a political solution, the protestors have demanded a settlement on the basis of the principles of the Tamil right to self-determination and a homeland and the recognition that the Tamils were a nation.

# Relief pours in as nations hike aid

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 30.** Quake relief donations from abroad and within the country continued to pour in today with the British, German and Australian Governments raising the financial assistance in view of the severity of the disaster. Ministers and Members of Parliament also announced donations while public sector companies like the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) pitched in as well.

The British Government has increased its allocation to Rs. 70 crores (10 million pounds). It has also arranged to fly out three aircraft with tents and other shelter items from the Department for International Development. A fourth aircraft carrying trauma equipment and plastic sheeting has also been despatched.

Germany has made a commitment of Rs. 27 crores, including funds for a Red Cross mobile hospital in Bhuj, water purifying installations and housing reconstruction.

Australia also raised its emergency assistance to Rs. 6.5 crores from the original Rs. 3.9 crores. The initial assistance package of Rs. 2.57 crores is being channeled through the UNICEF to help provide safe drinking water, sanitation, medical supplies, shelter and trauma counselling.

Australia's High Commissioner, Mr. Rob Laurie, said the decision to channel assistance through UNICEF was made in view of the large number of children affected by the earthquake.

Israel will send an emergency aid mission in five air force aircraft as well as an entire field hospital to Bhuj. Greece is also sending relief materials and medical teams while the state-owned Greek Petroleum Company has offered one million Euros. The Suzuki Motor Corporation of Japan will be sending 10 million yen as voluntary contribution, collected from its 50,000 employees in group companies.

Meanwhile, several ministers and Members of Parliament have announced donation of one month's salary and Rs. 10 lakhs allocation from the MP Local Area Development (MPLAD) fund. These include the Urban Development Minister, Mr. Jagmohan, the Lok Sabha Speaker, Mr. G.M.C. Balayogi, Minister of State for Petroleum, Mr. E. Ponnuswamy, and the Rajya Sabha member, Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad. In addition, Mr. Jagmohan has announced a contribution of Rs. 25,000 from the trust constituted from the royalties of his old books.

The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Ms. Najma Heptullah, has donated Rs. 1 crore out of her MPLAD fund. She has also written to the Government to suitably amend the guidelines for the MPLAD Fund which restrict MPs from allocating the funds only in their respective constituencies. The VSNL has announced a donation of Rs. 10 crores to the PM's Relief Fund while the oil sector PSUs will be contributing Rs. 40 crores.

## Singapore sends condolences, aid

By Amit Baruah

**SINGAPORE, JAN. 30.** Singapore today offered condolences to India on the Gujarat earthquake and announced that $50,000 worth of emergency supplies would be flown to the affected area soon.

The Singapore President, Mr. S. R. Nathan, in a message to his Indian counterpart, Mr. K. R. Narayanan, said: "On behalf of the people of the Republic of Singapore, I offer you and the people of India, particularly the bereaved families, my heartfelt condolences on the national tragedy that has befallen your country."

### U.S. relief plane arrives

UNI, PTI, AFP report:

A U.S. cargo plane with 100 metric tonnes of relief supplies for the quake victims arrived in New Delhi today, a U.S. embassy spokesman said.

# 'Srichand was granted citizenship against M16 advice'

By Hasan Suroor

**LONDON, JAN 30.** The Tories gave a twist to the Hindujas passport affair today, alleging that Mr. Srichand Hinduja was investigated in 1998 by Britain's secret intelligence service MI6, who recommended that his application be turned down.

The Tories said Mr. Srichand was granted citizenship against the advice of MI6 as a favour for his £ one million donation to the Millenium Dome and following the then Dome Minister, Mr. Peter Mandelson's intervention.

The Shadow Home Secretary, Ms. Ann Widdecombe, has written to Sir Anthony Hammond, who is conducting an inquiry into the "scandal", to look into this and also whether the British High Commission in India was privy to this or helped MI6 in gathering information about Mr. Srichand's suitability for British citizenship.

According to one newspaper, Ms. Widdecombe's claim that MI6 opposed Mr. Hinduja's application was based on a "highly-placed tip-off to the Conservative HQ".

Ms. Widdecombe told a TV channel that the main point to be investigated was whether there was a link between the donation and the grant of citizenship, and if true, it was a serious case of "corruption". She was convinced Mr. Srichand was rewarded for rescuing the cash-trapped Dome.

The Tories also demanded that the scope of the Hammond inquiry be widened to include the role of the Foreign Office Minister, Mr. Keith Vaz, in view of the revelations indicating his close links with the Hindujas. The brothers are said to have played a role in Mr. Vaz becoming a Minister, and later hosted a reception to mark his promotion.

*The Times* reported that the Hammond inquiry, likely to be completed by the end of next month, was "certain to look at a letter from Mr. Vaz to the Hindujas promising to sign letters they composed to Mr. Tony Blair and Mr. Mandelson". It said that only five days after the letters, signed by Mr. Vaz, Mr. Gopichand "received his passport on November 4, 1997."

The inquiry would no longer to be restricted to the controversy over Mr. Srichand's passport but also look into the previous cases relating to the efforts of the brothers to get British citizenship, allegedly as an insurance against possible extradition to India in connection with the Bofors scandal.

Official sources did not rule out the possibility of British diplomats in India keeping the Government here informed about the Bofors investigations against the brothers, but whether MI6 played any role was not clear.

It was also pointed out that MI6 generally did not make recommendations though the tone of its reports could influence decisions. Meanwhile, Mr. Mandelson, who was forced to resign for lobbying for Mr. Srichand — was said to be firm on clearing his "name", saying he was "hustled" into quitting. While Mr. Mandelson was reported to be away on a holiday, his friends were lobbying for his case to be reopened even as the message from Downing Street was to close the chapter and get on with business.

# 'Pak. training militant groups'

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

**ISLAMABAD, JAN. 30** The Pakistani military establishment is deeply involved in the funding and training of the militant groups engaged in Kashmir operations, an article in the latest issue of *Time* magazine has claimed. In a report from Islamabad and Muzarrabad, the magazine has given concrete instances of encouragement to the military outfits from the Musharraf regime and said India's allegations of involvement of Pakistan in fomenting trouble in Kashmir 'rings a lot truer'.

"Despite a decade of denials — Islamabad insists it provides only moral and political support, not training or tangible aid — Pakistan is fuelling militant activity in Kashmir.

Of the five main militant groups operating in Kashmir, four are based in Pakistan, where open recruiting and fund- raising are commonplace. Training of militants is also done on Pakistani soil. The Pakistani military is deeply involved, especially in the smuggling of anti-Indian militants across the Line of Control", the article said.

It begins on a dramatic note containing the alleged conversation between the Lashkar militants and a Pakistani Army Colonel minutes after the Srinagar airport attack on January 16.

The magazine has said in response to a telephone query by the Colonel as soon as the Lashkar militants had wireless information about the attack the militants in Islamabad told him "why don't you find out from your side?" as they are not the only one's here to receive the radio transmission.

"Militant groups have roots all over Pakistan, from their well-equipped training centres in Muzaffarabad — the capital of Pakistan's slice of Kashmir — and the country's Northwest Frontier Province to the nice, middle class houses in Lahore and Islamabad. Those houses may look no different from their neighbours at the first glance, but what about the strange antennas on the roofs, the international phone lines and the transient occupants," with unkempt hair, camouflage jackets and hiking boots? And what of those unmarked four-wheel drive vehicles pulling up at dawn with clock work precision", the article said.

## Budget session from Feb. 19

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, JAN. 30.** The session of Parliament would start on February 19 and subject to exigencies of Government business would conclude on May 11.

It would start with an address by the President, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, to a joint sitting of the two Houses at the Central Hall of Parliament House at 11 a.m.


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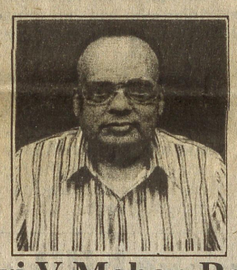

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Prime Minister

Appeal

*Dear Brothers & Sisters,*

The country woke on the morning of 26th January, 2001 to the worst earthquake independent India has seen. Thousands of people in the State of Gujarat have lost their lives and property worth crores of rupees has been damaged.

We cannot leave our brothers and sisters to the mercy of fate or the cruelty of vagaries of nature. At this moment, they need our help - to tide over the calamity that has fallen upon them, to survive, to rebuild their lives as best they can.

The Union Government would be releasing funds from the existing schemes. However, given the magnitude of the calamity and the large number of people affected, the funds available are inadequate. You can help to meet the shortage by contributing money, no matter how small the amount, to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

Last year it was your assistance that has enabled us to meet the challenge posed by the Super Cyclone that devastated Coastal Orissa. I am confident that this time too, you shall come forward to lend a helping hand.

Together, we can overcome even this adversity.

Jai Hind

(Atal Bihari Vajpayee)

Please send your donations to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund at the **Prime Minister's Office, South Block, New Delhi-110 011.**

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PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

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International Standards - Pepsico India Holdings Ltd. (Aquafina)
Indian Standards - Parle Soft Drinks Pvt. Ltd. (Bisleri)

TECHNOLOGY TO MEET QUALITY STANDARDS
Large Scale Projects - Ion Exchange (India) Ltd.
Medium/Small Projects - Shivsu Watek Private Ltd.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS
Setting up a Bottled Pure Drinking Water Project - Membrane Technologies Ltd. (Team)
Testing Lab Projects - Orbit Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

QUALITY CERTIFICATION
Quality Testing - Directorate of Public Health & Preventive Medicine
Certification and Regulations Bureau of Indian Standards

**Venue : Hotel GRT Grands Days, Chennai. Date : February 07, 2001**
**Time : 9.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.**

**Participation Fee : Rs. 2,500/- per delegate (DD in favour of ITCOT Ltd., payable at Chennai).**

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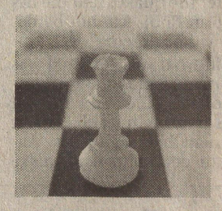

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