

# Inmate dies in jail, family blames officials

**Eshaan Patel was convicted in 1993 Surat bomb blast case**

**RISHI BANERJI, SURAT**

One of the convicts in the 1993 Surat bomb blast case died at Vadodra jail late on Sunday night. Family members of 40-year-old Eshaan Patel have alleged that negligence on the part of jail authorities led to his death, and they are planning to take legal action



Patel died after suffering a heart attack at Vadodra central prison on Sunday night. Patel was a resident of Dayadra village in Bharuch.

Patel and six others were convicted in the Surat railway station blast case of April 22, 1993 that had left 37 people injured. They were sentenced to 20 years in jail in October 2008.

Even as Patel's post-mortem was performed, family members alleged that delay in providing treatment caused his death. They said that Patel was complaining of chest pain and breathing problems for few days, but jail authorities had not taken it seriously. Patel had even written to jailor RB Damor and jail superintendent seeking medical help.

On February 16, when Pa-

tel's wife Julie met him in the jail, he narrated to her the situation and even gave one letter. His wife tried to convince the jail authorities about her husband's sickness, but to no avail.

"On Sunday, he asked for medical help after feeling heavy chest pain. Instead of being taken to hospital, he was given an injection by a constable, as there is no doctor or nurse available in the jail. Within ten minutes of being injected, he fainted and died on the spot. To hide their negligence, jail officials claim that Patel died

on the way to hospital," Julie told DNA. She alleged that jail authorities used to abuse him verbally. They used to tell Patel that TADA convicts are not allowed to be taken to hospital and so he has to die in jail only. She said she was going to file a complaint against jail authorities for her husband's murder.

Patel's death sparked anger among his friends and relatives. "There is no provision in the law which states that a TADA prisoner can't be admitted to hospital. He was deliberately not provided timely treatment, which led to his death. There are other TADA prisoners also who are facing a similar situation," Altaf Sheikh, a friend of Patel, said.

Despite repeated attempts, jail officials could not be contacted.

## KAPILA PATEL WAS TREATED FOR RINGWORMS BY DR GOVIND PATEL, WHO IS NOW 'UNTRACABLE'

# Treated for worms, dies of hep-B

**NIYATI RANA, MODASA/AHMEDABAD**

Kapila Patel, 38, a homemaker residing in Mori Dugri village in Modasa taluka, did not know that the ringworms she suffered from would lead her to acquiring the deadly hepatitis B virus.

Kapila lost her life on Monday during her treatment at Modasa general hospital. She was diagnosed with hepatitis B last week.

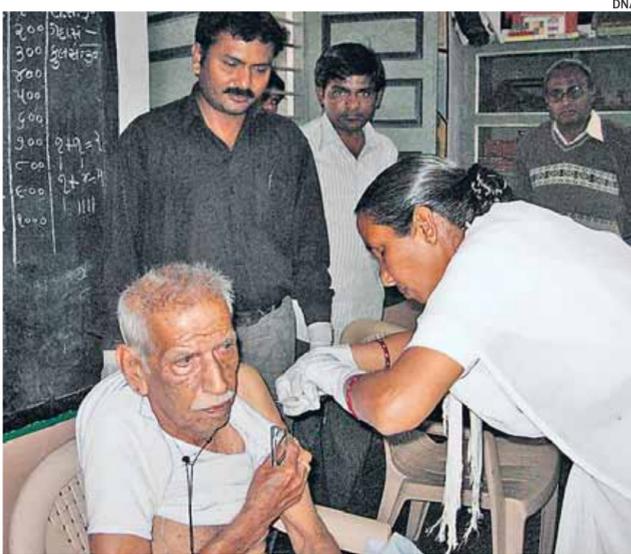
Kapila's family members claim that she had reportedly gone to Dr Govind Patel to get her ringworm treatment done. Dr Patel is now absconding.

Later she had also visited Dr Dilip Shah for treatment and she started feeling feverish. "Dr Patel was a popular doctor for skin related treatments. Villagers from surrounding areas used to visit him for dermatological related problems," said a villager.

Dr Patel and his son Dr Chetan Patel are prime suspects from a bunch of doctors who are booked for homicide. Dr Govind Patel who has been running his clinic there for more than 15 years is absconding. Investigating health officials say that majority of the cases of hepatitis B patients were from Dr Patel's clinic.

The authorities had also registered complaints against nine doctors in Modasa. Of which seven are out on bail and Dr Patel and his son are yet to be traced.

Kapila left behind her one eight-year-old daughter, seven-year-old son and her husband who is a farmer. "She was suffering from ringworm and had gone to Modasa to get treatment from Dr Patel



An old man being vaccinated against hepatitis-B at Modasa on Monday

**Dr Govind Patel and his son Dr Chetan Patel are among those doctors who have been booked for culpable homicide**

three weeks ago," said Kapila's nephew Alpesh Patel. Gradually Kapila started showing symptoms of fever, vomiting apart from others. She was admitted to the hospital and later succumbed to the disease on Monday morning, say hospital authorities in Modasa.

(Navneet Mehra contributed to this report)

## Vaccine cheaper than bottle of mineral water

**Bharat Biotech's single dose costs Rs11; lifetime protection by three doses**

**DNA CORRESPONDENT, AHMEDABAD**

Those vaccinated under the mass vaccination programme will get whole life protection against hepatitis-B, provided they complete the full course by taking three doses in 90 days.

The cost of one dose of the vaccine is just Rs11 per dose, which is among the world's best vaccine in the world, claims the Hyderabad headquartered Bharat Biotech that has despatched one lakh doses to Modasa.

"We have despatched one lakh doses of vaccines which are enough for vaccinating one lakh people. If a person com-



Used needles and syringes being destroyed

pletes the full course of the vaccine, it will give lifetime protection against hepatitis-B. The vaccine which is sold in the brand name of Revac-B is cheaper than

the bottled mineral water as it cost just Rs11 per dose. In terms of quality, it is second to none in the world and is approved by World Health Organisation," says Krishna Ella, chairman of Bharat Biotech International Limited.

Bharat Biotech is the largest producer of hepatitis-B vaccines in the world and has the capacity to manufacture 100 million doses per year. Till now the company has sold 270 million doses and enjoys market share of around 40% in India.

It is also associated with central and state government sponsored vaccination programme and has supplied 10 million doses to them.

The company has supplied the vaccine for the first time and claims that can despatch the next batch of vaccine in 48 hours of the order placed.

## Expectant woman from Dehgam loses husband

**Cursing their fate and Modasa now, the family has returned to Dehgam**

**PRAMOD PANDYA, MODASA**

When twenty something Jashoda married Bharat Prajapati last year, she was happy to have shifted to Modasa and lead a happily married life. Her happiness just doubled when Jashoda learnt that she is pregnant.

But disaster struck when she learnt that her husband Bharat was suffering from hepatitis-B. The disease took his life and he was the sole bread earner of the family.

Cursing Modasa now, the family has returned to a village-Isanpur in Dehgam in Gandhinagar district.

Bharat used to work in a store in Modasa. "Bharat was completely bed ridden



Medical personnel at the mass vaccination programme

after the doctors found he was suffering from hepatitis B. Because of critical condition doctors advised to get treated at Ahmedabad civil hospital," said a villager.

Bharat passed away while he was being treated at Civil Hospital.

Unfortunately, Jashoda's mother had passed away when she was born.

### Dhansura college student dies

A student of third year of Bachelor of Arts in ladies college of Dhansura- Harshida Rathod passed away of hepatitis B on Monday. She was admitted to Modasa general hospital after she complained of fever. Laboratory tests diagnosed Hepatitis B virus. As of now, 5 people have died in Dhansura because of Hepatitis B.

### Butal, Ramos affected by hep-B

On Monday, two villages in Dhansura taluka - Butal and Ramos - also registered hepatitis B cases. Bharat Vaghela of Butal and Khushboo Patel of Ramos have been shifted to Modasa general hospital on Monday. Laboratory tests detected hepatitis B virus.

## GOG Gujaratis outside gujarat

# Guj-origin selected to New Jersey's city council

**Mac Shah is a research and devpt scientist in Bristol-Myers Squibb, a global pharma co**

**AGENCIES, NEW JERSEY**

Mahesh 'Mac' Shah, long-time Democrat and Indian-American community leader, was recently honoured for his selection as a councilman in South Brunswick. The Township Council named Shah to fill the seat that opened up when deputy mayor Carol Barrett became a county freeholder in early January.

New council member Mac Shah would serve as the liaison to an autonomous board as council members pointed to his background in science as a positive for the position.

Shah, 53, has lived in the township for nearly 10 years and raised his family there. He is a scientist in research and development for Bris-

tol-Myers Squibb in New Brunswick. At a community honour for Shah at Chutney Manor Restaurant in South Brunswick on January 31, Shah said it would not be an easy task to accomplish without the help of so many people, coordination, collaboration and dedication to the party. "Obviously, our involvement with Democratic Party for so many years played a significant role," he said.

This process consists of rejection, election and selection. Each word has a long story and hard work behind it of the past few months. Shah has been involved with the Democratic Party since the last 20 years - has been a Democratic county committee man since 2000, and member of South Brunswick planning Board since 2002, while also having served on the board of directors for South Brunswick YMCA for several years. He is also the President and founder of the Indo-American Cul-



tural foundation of Central New Jersey (IACFNJ).

As a councilman, Shah said he would like to promote political awareness among the Indian-American community and encourage them to be a part of the political process for a better and successful future of the next generation. He said that he would like to see more Indian representation at different levels through the township, county and state level. At the local level, he said he would particularly like to

see more representation in the School Board and other township committees. Shah also committed to support policies of fiscal discipline and careful land development for the township and said his top priority was to work with the team.

Furthermore, Mac said, "this is not an easy task but I am confident that with strong commitment and my involvement in the day-to-day life in our community, I will make a difference". I strongly believe "Do not ask what community can do for you, ask what you can do for your community".

He further said he would like to be a bridge between Indian Americans and Asian Americans to bring their culture into a civic forum. Shah thanked mayor Frank Gambatese, deputy mayor Chris Killmurray, councilman Joe Camarotta, and Charlie Carley for their support. In addition, he extended his appreciation to all IACFNJ committee members for their support.

## Tracking the global Gujarati diaspora

# Guj Samaj to celebrate silver jubilee

**AGENCIES, ST LOUIS**

Gujarati Samaj of St Louis, established in 1984, will be celebrating silver jubilee this year. The Samaj was set up by the efforts of some Gujarati community leaders to preserve, protect and personify Gujarati values, and to provide platform to all Gujaratis to come together to meet, greet, entertain and celebrate its rich and versatile heritage. Gujarati Samaj arranges programmes to commemorate important Gujarati festivals and events, and invites dignitaries and artists from Gujarat and India to perform for the benefit of the members.

Many leaders of the Samaj have contributed their time to put the wheels of Samaj to the road of progress.

Members of Gujarati Samaj have elected new committee for 2009. Members of the new committee are as follows:

Harish Patel is the president, while Rakesh Bhakta has been chosen as vice-president. Sanjay Patel is the new secretary, while Jitendra Parbhu is the new treasurer. List of advisors includes Ashwin Patel, Shantubhai Bhakta and Rajiv Shah. Ajay Patel, Mahendra Patel, Natubhai Rishi, Ramesh Patel, Mahendra Patel 'Gurjari', are Members at Large in the new set up.

### US TRAINS PAK COMMANDOS

More than 70 US military advisers and technical specialists are secretly working in Pakistan to help its armed forces battle al-Qaida and the Taliban in the country's lawless tribal areas, American military officials said. The Americans are mostly Army Special Forces soldiers who are training Pak army. p12

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Duration of the E-Auction: 02.00 Hrs/minutes and is subject to automatic closing time extensions thereafter.  
Contact Person: Prashant Sagar, Sr. Branch Manager  
For details visit [www.vizagsteel.com](http://www.vizagsteel.com) Sr.BM/BSO (Ahmd)

## Boston university organises garba and raas competition

**AGENCIES, BOSTON**

A student of George Washington University, Kunal Patel had never tried dancing the traditional dances of his Indian heritage until his freshman year in college.

As one of the members of GW's Raas, one of the nine teams from seven states that competed in the longest-running intercollegiate Garba-Raas dance competition on the East Coast on Saturday night, Patel took the stage and won first prize for the activity he tried for the first time just two years ago.

"It's my culture," he said. "I just fell in love with it, and now this is all I do."

GarbaFest Paanch, a Gujarati cultural dance com-



petition, was hosted by Boston University's India Club at John Hancock Hall. Teams from all over the nation came to participate in Garba and Raas.

More than 300 attendees chanted in support of the dance teams, and although several of the dancers said they were nervous before going onstage, they said the crowd's energy ultimately compensated for their jitters.

"We loved the crowd tonight," Patel said.

The GW Raas team was selected as the winner by a board of judges gathered from across the country. They received a check for \$2001, with one extra dollar for good luck, along with an invitation to the Raas All-Stars National Championships in April.

GarbaFest Paanch has been in the works since September; BUIC President Nirav Bhavsar said. This is the fifth year of the competition.

Kunal Patel said he was glad that teams from such widespread locations as Florida, Indiana, New York and Ohio were able to come together and compete.

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### NOTICE INVITING E-AUCTION FOR CHARTER HIRE OF 54 VESSELS ON 'AS-IS-WHERE-IS' BASIS

CIWTC Ltd., Registered Office 4, Fairlie Place, Kolkata - 700001 invites E-Auction for Dry Charter without Manning of 33 Nos. Dumb Barges, 12 Nos. Pusher Tugs and 9 Nos. Self Propelled Carriers on 'As-is-where-is' basis from bonafide firms fulfilling eligibility criteria as enumerated in E-Auction catalogue which can be downloaded from the available Website: [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com) of M.S.T.C. Ltd. from 02.03.2009. However, hard copies of Terms & Conditions etc. will be available free of cost at the above address of CIWTC Ltd. from 24.02.2009 for information.

For participation in following E-auction schedule, intending bidders may also contact CIWTC Ltd. at aforesaid address for inspection of the vessels.

Schedule	Date & Time
1. Aforesaid vessels can be inspected at their respective location from	25.02.2009 to 31.03.2009
2. Date and time of Pre-bid Meeting at the Registered Office of CIWTC Ltd.	01.04.2009 at 11.00 hrs.
3. Last date of submission of Techno-Commercial Bid of E-Auction at the MSTC Ltd. at 225F, A. J. C. Bose Road, Kolkata - 700 020.	09.04.2009 at 14.00 hrs.
4. Date and time of commencement of E-auction / Price bid for 54 vessels.	11.05.2009 at 10.00 hrs.

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INVITATION FOR BIDS/NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR FOLLOWING PACKAGES/WORKS (Domestic/International Competitive Bidding) ABRIDGED NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Sl. No.	NIT No.	Description of package/works	Estimated Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Tender cost EMD cost	Sale Start Date/Sale Close Date	Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bid	Bidding Opening Date
01	9900018693	11/132 KV Switchgear Augmentation of Construction Power Switchyard for Stage-III (Package No. EED/5691)	90.17	1013/- 1,81,000/-	02.03.2009 23.03.2009	30.03.2009 Upto 3 PM	30.03.09

The bidding documents shall be issued to all the prospective bidders upon their depositing the requisite cost of bidding documents without prima-facie examination of qualification status. The tender committee shall examine the qualification status only during the process of evaluation. The qualified bidders will be considered for enlistment for 03 years. Qualified bidders who are not interested to quote for this time but intend to be enlisted for 03 years may also submit their request for issue of bid documents for enlistment.

Tender documents shall be issued to bidders on payment of tender fee by Demand Draft in favour of NTPC Ltd., payable at STATE BANK OF INDIA, RIHAND NAGAR (Code No. 7523), BIJUPUR or UNION BANK OF INDIA, RIHAND NAGAR (Code No. 550116), BIJUPUR.

Bids shall be received upto 3.00 p.m. on Bid opening date mentioned against each package and shall be opened on the same day at 3.30 p.m.

For detailed NIT please visit at [www.nptctender.com](http://www.nptctender.com), [www.ntpc.co.in](http://www.ntpc.co.in) or may contact DGM (Contracts) at his office on Phone Numbers: 05446-243094/247216-17/247219-20/247223-25 (Tele Fax: 05446-242110).

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