

# Alembic chemical unit gutted in fire

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
VADODARA, AUGUST 26

A SOLVANT recovery plant of chemical major Alembic Limited was gutted at the company's manufacturing facility in Panelav village near Halol in Panchmahals district on Sunday after a major fire broke out late on Saturday night. Three workers and a security guard sustained minor injuries in the incident.

According to company officials, the fire broke out at 11.45 pm on Monday after a boiler in the plant reportedly burst due to some technical snag. There were 133 people at work when the plant caught fire but all of them were rescued safely, General Manager (HR) of Alembic Group Prahsh Mehta said. However, three workers reportedly received bruises while running for safety even as a security man jumped from a watchtower and sustained leg injuries.

"No major injuries have been reported. All the workers were moved out of the factory safely. The security guard was given primary treatment," Mehta told *The Indian Express*.

Fire-tenders from Halol, Kalol, nearby plant of General Motors, Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC), Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (GSFC), Gujrat Refinery of Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Checkmate's Institute of



Three workers and a security guard were injured in the incident near Halol in Panchmahals.

Fire Safety and Disaster Management Studies at Navagam, Vaghodia were pressed into service.

After hours-long operation, the fire was brought under control by 4 am and was doused completely by 5:30 am, government officials present on the site said.

"We used foam to control the fire quickly. Though no casualties have been reported, the plant was gutted," factory inspector of Panchmahals district, Pragnesh Gajjar said.

Mehta admitted that the plant was damaged and operations were shut. However, the fire was put out before it could spread to nearby three other plants. The facility manufactures

active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and formulations used to prepare pharmaceutical products.

The flames sparked off with an explosion, leading to panic in Panelav, Baska and other surrounding villages. "The blast had the villagers panic stricken. However, there was no gas or chemical leakage post the fire and no evacuation was required," Halol mamlatdar Mahipalsinh Chudasama said.

The company said the cause of the fire was not known and an inquiry was going on. Later in the evening, a release from the company said the initial investigation showed that the fire might have been caused due to electrical short-circuit.



# Miles to go before their search ends

A large number of maldharis are shifting to north and central Gujarat in search of green pastures

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
AHMEDABAD, AUGUST 26

MAFABHAI Lamboria from Dhrumeth village of Dhrangadhra taluka in Surendranagar district was wandering alongside the newly built Sarkhej-Virangam highway with his 60 buffaloes and 15 cows. He has already traveled over hundred kilometres in the last three days and doesn't know how much more distance he will be covering with his herd of animals in search of green pastures.

"I can't feed my cows and buffaloes back home as the grasslands we have has all dried up. This rainy season has been the worst in past several years, so I have to wander with my herds looking for greener pastures. I can't go back unless we have enough rains back home," said Lamboria, a pastoralist in his early 20s.

Same is the case with Dayabhai and his mother Kaariben, who left their vil-



Due to deficit rainfall in Saurashtra and Kutch regions, the prices of fodder have gone up. This has also forced maldharis to leave their villages.

lage Raikhad in Morbi taluka of Rajkot district a couple of days back. They were seen near Sachana village in Virangam taluka with their fleet of donkeys who were loaded with the mother-son duo's essential stuffs to stay alive.

"We keep walking for miles throughout the day and stop at any place after

sunset, looking for open grasslands. We use our donkeys for carrying some essential things and at construction sites, we use them as carrier to load and unload raw materials that fetches us some money. We have several goats and lambs to feed them," said Kaariben, while cursing the bad monsoon

that has forced her and thousands others to move from one place to another where there is enough greenery.

In the last couple of weeks, a large number of maldharis from Saurashtra and Kutch regions have migrated towards Ahmedabad district and several other parts of central Gujarat.

"Half of the family lives at the village while the rest have left along with the animals. They will roam around in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and parts of north Gujarat where grazing land is available," said Gopabhai Bharwad, another maldhari from Dhrangadhra taluka of Surendranagar.

In the barren land of Chharodi village near Sanand, one Govindbhai Bharwad from Bharada village of Dhrangadhra has camped with 300 cows and buffaloes that belong to several maldharis in his village. Gopabhai said several maldharis who can't leave their villages would send their livestock with others.

According to estimates, a buffalo needs seven kilos of fodder everyday that costs about Rs 90 these days.

Due to deficit rainfall in Saurashtra and Kutch regions, the prices of fodder have gone up. This has also forced maldharis to leave their villages.

## SALUTE THE SOLDIER



Subedar VVK Prakasan  
9 Madras (Travancore)

All Ranks of **Travancore Terrors** pay homage to Subedar VVK Prakasan who made the supreme sacrifice while fighting terrorists in Domana (J&K) on this day in 2008. We Salute his brave deeds on the 4th anniversary of his Martyrdom. You will always remain a source of inspiration for all of us.

Commanding Officers & All Ranks  
9 Madras (Travancore)

## SALUTE THE SOLDIER

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The Indian EXPRESS  
JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

# Jewish group urges Hitler owner to change shop's name

ADAM HALLIDAY  
AHMEDABAD, AUGUST 26

A SMALL group of Jews from the local synagogue visited 'Hitler' men's garment store in Vastrapur area

of the city on Sunday and urged its proprietor to change the shop's name.

"It was a friendly meeting. We tried to convince Rajeshbhai (Rajesh Shah) to change the name of his store,

but he refused. He, however, said he does not mind changing the Nazi Swastika on the board in front of his store to a Hindu swastika," said Menasseh Solomon, secretary of the Magen Abraham

Synagogue in Ahmedabad's Khamasa neighbourhood.

"He (Rajesh) said his concept was never to hurt the community, and he feigned ignorance about Hitler... But after we left, we began

to believe that he may have been aware about all this and was just pretending to be ignorant," he added.

Shah said 10 to 12 people came to his shop in the afternoon and asked him to

change the name of his store.

Shah said he does not plan to change the name "because I have gone through a lot to get registration, license and decorations".

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A boy dives into Sabarmati river from a bridge in Ahmedabad.

JAVED RAJA

## News TRACK

### Gujarat Refinery celebrates Sadbhavana Diwas

TO commemorate birth anniversary of the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Gujarat Refinery observed Sadbhavana Diwas on 20th August. On this occasion, a pledge taking ceremony was organised where Mr. Prithwiraj Sur, Executive Director (I/c), administered the oath in Hindi for IOCIans. In their pledge, IOCIans committed themselves to the national integration and communal harmony. To promote the theme further, various activities giving message of communal harmony have been planned involving sections of employees and their dependents during the Sadbhavana Fortnight.

### ONGC Ankleshwar Asset distributes Education Kits to students of Prathamik Shala, Chhapra

ON 17th August, 2012 Education Kits comprising of Uniform, School bag, Note Book, Dictionary along with Cupboard and Sports materials were distributed among the children of Prathamik Shala, Chhapra. Shri Ashok Gupta, ED- Asset Manager was accompanied by senior officers and members of AISCSTEWA and ASTO during the ceremony. A total of 110 bags, uniforms and 300 notebooks along with other items worth Rs. 90,000/- were distributed as part of SC/ ST component plan. Shri Ashok Gupta appreciated the Principal, teachers, Sarpanch and members of AISCSTEWA for the initiative and expressed pleasure at the extension of help. Mr. Gupta also announced an award of Rs. 10,000/- for procurement of Benches to the school.

### VCCI Office Bearers for the term 2012-13 & 2013-14

VADODARA Chamber of Commerce & Industry (VCCI) has declared the Office Bearers for the term 2012-13 & 2013-14. All the members were elected unopposed to the VCCI managing Committee. Ms. Avi Sabavala is elected as the President of the Committee and Mr. Nilesh Shukla as the Sr. Vice-president. Other members of the committee includes Mr. Naresh Vadodaria as Vice-president, Mr. Hemant Vadalia as Hon.Secretary, Mr. Vinod Naik as Hon. Jt Secretary & Mr. Jaykant Nanavati as Hon. Treasurer.

CHARUSAT Student represents Gujarat at Novartis BioCamp

MR. Vishal Sahetya, MBA 3rd Semester student from CHARUSAT represented Gujarat at Novartis BioCamp. BioCamp is a pioneering three-day event organized by Novartis that brings the pharmaceutical sector closer to talented young individuals of various Universities. Novartis is world's Top ranked Global Healthcare Company with headquarter at Basel, Switzerland. It provides healthcare solutions that address the evolving needs of patients and societies.

### GACL celebrated 66th Independence Day in a grand way

GACL celebrated India's 66th Independence Day in a grand manner. On this great occasion, addressing the staff, the Managing Director of the Company, Shri M. S. Dagar, IAS, added that it was the selfless sacrifice of innumerable known and unknown martyrs that has laid the foundation for India's progress. After paying rich tribute to our freedom fighters, he also acknowledged the role of innumerable soldiers safeguarding our nations at various borders and that of the agile police force protecting the nation from within. He also highlighted the valuable initiatives taken by GACL to strengthen the society. On the concluding note, he urged that for the progress and prosperity of the nation, it was vital for all of us to work together by taking and fulfilling responsibilities.

### Matrix Announces Strategic Partnership with Drishti-Soft to offer Cost-Effective, Reliable and Value added Services in the Call-Centre Industry

DRISHTI-Soft Solution, the company behind Ameyo, the award winning IP based communication solution provider and Matrix Comsec, a leading manufacturer of VoIP products such as IP-PBX, IP-Servers, VoIP Gateways and IP Phones, jointly announced the successful interoperability testing and partnership alliance of Matrix VoIP Gateways with Drishti Call Centre Solutions. To strengthen the position in the call center industry, Matrix Comsec recently tested and integrated the range of VoIP gateways with the

contact center solutions from Drishti, India. "Matrix has developed a fine range of IP-PBX and VoIP Gateways to suit the requirements of all types of inbound, outbound and blended call centers. To increase the customer value, we have identified the need to offer more opportunities to call centers to increase their efficiency and productivity through better call center solutions," said Sajeer Nair, Manager-Product Management for Matrix Comsec.

### Shri D. N. Tripathi has taken over the charge of CGM, Gujarat Telecom Circle

SHRI D.N. Tripathi has taken over the charge of Chief General Manager, Gujarat Telecom Circle on 20.08.2012. He is an ITS Group "A" Officer of 1978 batch. He was working as Sr.General Manager Telecom District, Agra, UP (West) Telecom Circle prior to his present posting on promotion.

### State of the art Auditorium inaugurated at ONGC Ankleshwar Asset

SHRI A K Hazarika, Director (Onshore) inaugurated the ultra-modern state of the art 'Surya Auditorium' at ONGC Ankleshwar Asset. The auditorium is a landmark structure spread over 1100 sq. m. and has a seating capacity of 328 persons. This is one of its kind in and around Ankleshwar and will serve as venue for big conferences, seminars, competitions, presentations and cultural activities. Shri A. K. Hazarika dedicated the recently constructed Auditorium at ONGC Township to the employees of Ankleshwar Asset in the presence of Shri Ashok Gupta, ED-Asset Manager, Ankleshwar Asset and other senior officers.