

# Earthquakes in Saurashtra may have roots in Bhuj: ISR

ADAM HALLIDAY  
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 3

THE earthquakes in Saurashtra in the last half-decade may have their roots in the Bhuj earthquake of 2001, says a report by the Institute of Seismological Research (ISR), Gandhinagar. About a year before the October 20 earthquake in Junagadh, the ISR had documented the possibility of Kutch's 2001 quake having caused new fault lines that extended to neighbouring Saurashtra.

"Seismicity in Gujarat has increased multi-fold in the first decade of the 21st century. The seismicity in Kutch was found to have

been extended first eastward and north-eastward and then in the north along newly activated faults from 2006 to 2008. Further it extended to the Saurashtra region since 2006," former ISR director BK Rastogi writes in the report.

The report, which has data till 2009, makes several references to this, pointing out that between August 2006 to October 2009, 88 earthquakes had occurred in the peninsula but only one had touched 5.0 on the Richter Scale — that was in Talala village, Junagadh, on November 6, 2007.

The ISR also explained in detail the history of this migration post-2001: it says af-

tershocks from that devastating earthquake continued at magnitudes well above 5 on the Richter Scale until 2006, when the magnitudes dropped.

In the first two years after the Bhuj earthquake, the activity concentrated along the 2001 rupture zone in a 80 km x 50 km area, and epicentres expanded towards both the west and the east, but mostly towards the east. By 2004, the epicentre area expanded to a 100 km x 75 km area, and by July 2006, to a 125 km x 75 km area.

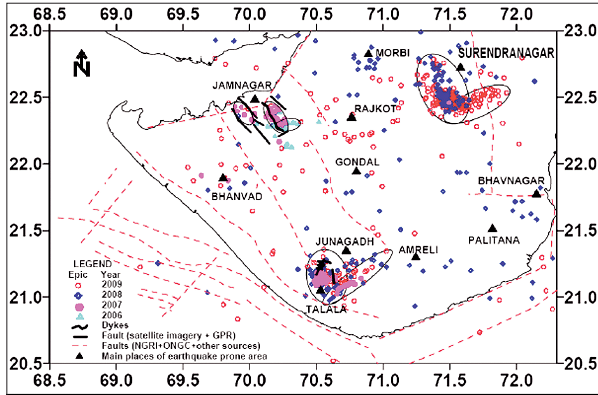
"By 2008, the most active area further expanded to 200 km x 80 km and sparsely active area expanded to 250

km by 150 km covering South Wagad, Allah Bund and Island Belt faults also of the northern Kutch," report points out.

This expansion of seismicity in the East and West was predicted using the "Coulomb stress change" — a seismic study method, but ISR said the expansion of seismicity in other directions could not be explained by this method.

"It appears that faults in the Saurashtra region have become activated by stress perturbation due to 2001 Bhuj earthquake of magnitude 7.7.

"There is an increased probability of occurrence of locally damaging earth-



A graph showing the earthquakes in the state.

quakes of magnitude 6.0 in any of these areas but especially in Talala, South of Jamnagar and south-west of Surendranagar," the report predicted.

At about 10.45 pm on Oc-

tober 20, a 5.3 magnitude earthquake had jolted Junagadh again, injuring several people and damaging houses but fortunately leaving no death in its wake.

## ISR on Sikkim quake

**AHMEDABAD:** Since 1965, there have been 94 earthquakes within a 100 km radius of the epicentre in Sikkim's September 18 earthquake. While there were 19 earthquakes in the area during the first half of the 46 year period, there were as many as 74 earthquakes big and small from 1988 onwards — an almost four-fold rise in frequency.

The Sikkim earthquake, which shook the state on September 18 "probably occurred along the NE trending Kanchen Dzonga Fault" in a "left-lateral strike slip

faulting" (meaning the tectonic plates moved sideways). India's landmass is not only moving northwards as previously known but sideways as well.

ISR's former director, B K Rastogi, however, said the sideways movement is not a new phenomenon and that it has been observed since the late 1960s when he began studying the Himalayan and north-eastern regions of India. He said earthquakes in Bhutan and Nepal had also shown this kind of movement.

ENS

## Briefly State

### Rs 1 lakh penalty slapped on MNSB

**AHMEDABAD:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed penalty of Rs 1 lakh on Mehsana Nagarik Sahakari Bank (MNSB), for violation of RBI guidelines on Anti-Money Laundering (AML). It had issued a showcause notice to the bank earlier. After considering the facts and the bank's reply, it found the violation substantiated and warranted imposition of the penalty, an official release said on Thursday. In October, RBI had imposed a penalty of Rs 5 lakh on the Vadodara based Baroda Traders Co-operative Bank Ltd for non-adherence to Know Your Customers (KYC) norms. In September, RBI had penalised two co-operative banks — Porbandar Vibhagiya Nagarik Sahakari Bank and Mansa Nagarik Sahakari Bank — for violating guidelines.

### Western railway increases trains

**AHMEDABAD:** Western Railway has increased five more trains with immediate effect till the mid of November by adding extra coaches of Rajasthan/Gujarat bound Express trains on a temporary basis for the convenience of passengers and to clear extra rush. Accordingly, one AC 2 tier and one AC 3 tier coaches have been added to 12990/12989 Dadar-Ajmer Express, one AC two tier coach to 12480/12479 Bandra T-Jodhpur Express; and one sleeper coach to 12490/12479 Dadar-Bikaner Express, 14707/14708 Bandra-Bikaner Express and 12979/12980 Bandra-Jaipur Express, an official release on Thursday said.

### MoU inked before Modi's China visit

**GANDHINAGAR:** In the wake of upcoming visit of Chief Minister Narendra Modi to China, on Thursday a MoU has been signed between the Government of Gujarat and TBEA Energy (India) Private Ltd, a Chinese firm to develop 'Green Energy Park' in Karjan near Vadodara. On behalf of the State Government, the MoU was signed by Maheshwar Sahu, Principal Secretary (Industries & Mines) and by Zhang Xin, chairman of TBEA Energy (India) Pvt. Ltd, on behalf of the Chinese firm in the presence of Union Minister for Commerce & Industries Anand Sharm and Governor of Xin Jiang province Nuer Baikeli.

ENS



## Govt plans 'Dial 104' for medical emergency services in villages

Launches 26 fully-equipped 'ICU on Wheels' for districts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
AHMEDABAD, NOV 3

THE state government has planned to start 'Dial 104' services to deal with the medical emergencies in villages across the state. The health minister Jaynarayan Vyas announced that with the help of this facility, people can dial 104 and talk to the paramedics. The paramedics will then guide them about primary action need to be taken in case of any health emergency.

The announcement came

even as Vyas declared that the state was facing a huge scarcity of experts and MBBS doctors. He also warned that the shortage of doctors and paramedical manpower could prevail for next five years.

Launching 26 fully-equipped 'ICU on Wheels' on Thursday Vyas said, "As many as 108 ambulances we are planning to introduce Telemedicine services. With the help of paramedics, villagers will be able to take primary action in the crucial one hour of some medical

emergency. We are expecting this service to begin by 2012."

The new full-equipped ambulances are first ever ambulance of the country manufactured at par with the latest and the best global technology for the districts hospitals. The launching of ambulances will focus on improving the pre-hospital and intra-hospital transfer of patients who are in critical condition.

Dr Bimal Modi, Orthopedic surgeon in Gandhinagar Civil Hospital explained in



(Top) As many as 26 ICUs on wheels were launched for civil hospitals in the state. (Above) Workers arrange instruments inside the hi-tech vehicles before dispatching them to the hospitals.

JAVED RAJA

their presentation about latest machineries used in the new ambulances and how it would benefit a patient who is in critical condition.

"The idea is taken from the military ambulances specially used by NATO troops. The ambulance will have all the life saving systems that one can see in a ICU. Basically, it is an idea to provide

all the facilities of ICU while a patient is transferred from one place to other," said Dr Modi.

The ambulances are funded by the state health department. The cost of one ambulance is around Rs 33 lakh. The Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS) plastic is used in the manufacturing of these ambulances.

## Rajkot cops suspect return of 'stoneman'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
RAJKOT, NOVEMBER 3

THE Rajkot city police suspect that the 'stoneman', who was infamous for killing people by smashing their heads with huge stones a couple of years ago, may have returned to the city.

After the body of a 30-year-old historysheeter was found on Tuesday, the Crime Branch launched a hunt for Hareesh Chunara (39), who in 2009 earned this notorious title by killing, along with his associate, two men by smashing their heads with a rock.

Based on the statement of Benita Gohel, deceased

Kishor Rodrick's sister, police said that Chunara — who was released from jail after court acquitted him in past murder cases 10 days ago — had threatened to kill her brother the way their second brother, Jacky, was killed in 2009.

Like Kishor, Jacky's body was also found with a stone injury on the head. Chunara and his associate Shivgopalsinh Thakur (39) were accused in the case. The duo had allegedly killed two persons within two days, including Jacky and one Suresh Koli. All four were friends and together formed a gang and committed several thefts and loots.

During their remand cus-

tody, the duo had told police that they wanted to break the "record" of 54 murders by Mumbai's 'stoneman' Raman Raghwan — whose gruesome crime record had inspired a movie with the same title.

Police said Kishore had 30 police cases, including theft and prohibition, registered against him. "Kishor's body was found near crematorium in Kubaliyapapar," said a Crime Branch officer, adding, "Post-mortem report revealed he was hit with some heavy substance on the head, which proved fatal." Later, Benita's statement raised suspicion of involvement of the 'stoneman' in the killing.

## VAT registration will be simpler, faster from Dec 1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
GANDHINAGAR, NOV 3

THE state government has announced on Thursday to simplify and make it faster transparent VAT registration procedure.

Giving details of the important decision, Minister of State for Finance Saurabh Patel said the new procedure would come into effect from December 1, 2011. A provisional number would be generated and issued within three days of submitting the application.

The application would be accepted in all the constituents across the state. However, special centres

would be set up in six biggest cities, namely Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Rajkot, Gandhinagar and Bhavnagar, he added.

Besides the photograph, an individual or organisation will have to submit any one of the following documents: Passport, Election Card, PAN Card, Driving Licence or UID. The Election Card will be needed for residential proof, and also the last Electricity or Landline Phone Bill.

For business, the applicant has to submit Tax Bill of Municipal Corporation, Nagarpalika or Gram Panchayat for ownership or rented premises, copy of Sub-Registrar's Document, Rent Lease

Agreement, Certificate of 'Gumastadhara', Certificate of Registrar of Companies for Private/Public Limited, related documents for Partnership/HUF, as applicable.

The Minister said that Permanent VAT number would be issued after physical verification of the workplace within 60 days of issuing the provisional number. In case, the Permanent Number could not be issued within 60 days, the Provisional Number will automatically be converted into Permanent one.

Immediate changes would be incorporated in the rules and regulations, if found necessary, he added.

## Bopal girl immolates self, dies in hospital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 3

A 15-year-old girl from Bopal village in Ahmedabad District who allegedly immolated herself at her house succumbed to burn injuries in a local hospital on Thursday.

The Bopal Police identified the victim as Nisha Thakor of Thakorvas in Bopal village. The incident took place on late on Wednesday after her younger brother refused to have lunch cooked by the victim.

The police said Nisha had prepared a lunch for her brother as their mother had gone to her parent's house at Bapunagar. The siblings were alone at home. Her 10-year-old brother refused to have lunch stating that she doesn't know how to prepare food, and left the home.

According to police, this reportedly left Nisha hurt and she poured kerosene and set herself ablaze. When the incident happened, the neighbours rushed to the spot, but at that time she had suffered 90 per cent burns, police said. However, the neighbours called the emergency services and rushed her to the hospital. Nisha's father works as a gardener at ISRO premises in Bopal. He reportedly told police that a small fight between them made her upset.

**Classifieds**  
FROM ANYTHING TO EVERYTHING.

### Furniture & Fixtures

**GOODREJ** Home Furniture: Mattresses, Navtal Locks, Home Safe Vault, Office, Computer Table, Chairs, Nikkamal Plastic furniture with reasonable rate: Indraprastha, Racecourse, Tel: 2336358.

0010031342-1

### IMPORTANT:

"Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever. Registered letters are not accepted in response to box number advertisement."

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 3

SCHOOL teachers taking tuitions may be normal, but an entire school running from the premises of a tuition class is something that has been going on in the Bapunagar area of Ahmedabad since 2007.

While Saraswati Vidyalaya, a state government-run high school, has been functioning from the premises of A B Patel tuition centre, the district education office has been ignorant of this for all these years. And this is not all; before

moving to this premises, the school had changed its address twice in the past. Initially, it was running near CTM Char Rasta where it operated till 2003. Thereafter, it was moved to the building of Satsangi Vidyalaya near Ambar talkies where it was running till 2006.

The woes of the students continued as the school was moved again to a new address (A B Patel tuition centre) in 2007 because the previous premises was handed over to some other school.

Though the school's signboard has been removed, it is

## Govt school runs from tuition centre in Ahmedabad

**While** Saraswati Vidyalaya, a state government-run high school, has been functioning from the premises of A B Patel tuition centre, the district education office has been ignorant of this for all these years.

still operating from this premises. "The school is still being run from this building, which barely has three rooms for as many classes. There are a total of 80 students," said an employee of the A B Patel tuition centre, a private limited venture.

While the school authori-

ties could not be contacted, District Education Officer R I Patel said he was aware of the fact that the school had changed its address in the past but "we did not intervene because permission to change address comes under the state government".