and 57·15 for the assembly seats-much higher than in any of the preceding elections.

In the last General Elections of 1967, the contesting parties included Congress, Swatantra and Maha Gujarat Janata Parishad, besides non-party independent candidates. The main contestants, however, belonged to the Congress and Swatantra parties. The parliamentary seat went to the Congress party, but of the six assembly seats, Congress captured four and Swatantra two. Out of the total of 370,407 electors more than 59 per cent exercised their franchise.

The following statement gives the total number of votes polled during each of the four General Elections in the Central and State legislatures.

Votes Polled in the General Elections

Election year	Total number of electors	Total votes polled	Percentage of column 3 to column 2	Total valid votes polled	Percentage of column 5 to column 2	Congress		Other parties	
						Votes polled	Percentage to total valid votes	Votes polled	Percentage to total valid votes
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
House of the People (Lok Sabha)									
1952 ..	288,400	N. A.	N. A.	119,580	41.46	78,771	65.87	40,809	34.13
1957 ..	352,326	N. A.	N. A.	150,285	42.66	83,688	55.69	66,597	44.31
1962 ..	408,740	246,520	60.31	243,047	59.46	84,189	34.64	158,858	65.36
1967 ..	370,407	219,384	59.23	207,031	55.89	106,853	51.61	100,178	48.39
State Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha)									
1952*	269,841†	N. A.	N. A.	115,404	42.77	73,213	63.44	42,191	36.56
1957 ..	292,988	N. A.	N. A.	108,550	37.05	70,276	64.74	38,274	35.26
1962 ..	340,317	196,476	57.73	194,502	57.15	65,681	33.77	128,821	66.23
1967 ..	370,407	219,454	59.25	202,813	54.75	100,103	49.36	102,710	50.64

N. A.— Not available

Source :

Based on *Reports on the General Elections in India*, Vol. II, (Statistical), 1951-52, 1957, 1962, 1967 Election Commission, India.

1952 House of People, p. 151 — State Legislative Assembly, pp. 744-45
1957 House of People, pp. 128-29 — State Legislative Assembly, p. 686
1962 House of People, p. 27 — State Legislative Assembly, p. 180
1967 House of People, p. 40 — State Legislative Assembly, p. 232

* Figures for 1952 appertain to elections to the Kutch Electoral College which was constituted when Kutch was centrally administered.

† Exclusive of electors of two constituencies-Adhoi and Bhachau-which were uncontested.

Panchayat Elections—The first election for the Kutch District Panchayat was held in February, 1964. Of the 18 seats in the District Panchayat, 7 were uncontested. In the 11 constituencies for which elections were held, the total number of voters was 172,380 of whom 55,928 or 32·44 per cent cast their votes. In the second election for the District Panchayat held in March 1968, 12 were uncontested. In the 6 constituencies for which elections were held the total number of voters was 102,000 of whom only 25,134 or 24·64 per cent exercised their franchise.

Newspapers—Of the two Gujarati daily newspapers published in the district, *Jay-Kutch*, the older of the two, was started in 1934. It has a circulation of 1700 copies. The other, *Kutch-Mitra*, started in 1952, claims to have a circulation of 3200 copies in the district. Of the three news weeklies published in the district, *Kutch Kranti* from Bhuj is published in Gujarati and *Gandhidham Samachar* and *Kandla Commercial* both from Adipur are published in Hindi and English respectively. The latter is issued in Gujarati also. While *Kutch Kranti* has a circulation of 500 copies, the other two claim to have a circulation of 1000 copies each.

Among the newspapers published outside the district, *Phoolchhab*, *Nutan Saurashtra* and *Jai Hind* of Rajkot, *Mumbai Samachar*, *Janmabhumi* and *Janshakti* of Bombay and *Sandesh*, *Gujarat Samachar* and *Jansatta* of Ahmedabad have a fairly wide circulation in the district. Among the English dailies *The Times of India* and *The Indian Express* published from Ahmedabad and *The Free Press Journal* published from Bombay are popular among the English knowing readers. The Hindi daily *Nav-Bharat Times* of Bombay is also widely read by the Hindi knowing population.

Cultural, literary and other periodicals published in the district are dealt with in Chapter XIV—Education and Culture.

Voluntary Social Service Organisations—The humanitarian urge to organise voluntary associations to meet the needs of social and cultural upliftment of the people is innate. This urge has found greater scope of expression after Independence as a result of popular awakening and State encouragement in various fields of public activity. Kutch district has a number of voluntary institutions which are serving the people in a variety of ways. They not only complement and supplement governmental efforts in many a field but also cover fields of ameliorative service which government cannot render as it is the legitimate sphere of work of social organisations and public workers. These institutions have played an important part in promoting educational, social and cultural development in the district.

Though social service institutions were not organised on any appreciable scale prior to Independence, some of them were rendering useful service to

GAZETTEER OF INDIA



GUJARAT STATE

KUTCH DISTRICT

KUTCH DISTRICT
GAZETTEER

GUJARAT STATE GAZETTEERS

118/Guj/71
NOV 1971



Government of Gujarat

KUTCH DISTRICT

Dr. G. D. PATEL
M. A., PH. D., I. E. S. (Retd.)
Chief Editor

AHMEDABAD
1971

Obtainable from the Gujarat Government Publications Depot, Azamkhan Palace, Bhadra, Ahmedabad (for orders from the mofussil); from the Government Book Depot, Rajkot, Baroda, or through the High Commissioner for India, India House, Aldwych, London, W. C. 2 or through recognised Book-seller.

GAZETTEER OF INDIA
GUJARAT STATE GAZETTEERS
KUTCH DISTRICT

G
V23623
N71

Printed in India by the Manager, Government Press and Stationery Department, Baroda, and Published by the Director, Government Printing, Stationery and Publications, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

PREFACE

The old Gazetteer of Kutch was written by Mr. James Campbell in 1880 and was included in the Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency, Volume V-Kutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha. After the publication of the Gazetteer 90 years ago, far-reaching changes have taken place in the social, economic, political and administrative conditions of the district. Kutch was a princely State ruled by the Maharao of Kutch. In view of the political conditions of the State, the socio-economic changes which were introduced in the Gujarati-speaking British districts and the Saurashtra region could not be introduced in Kutch. It had only coastal and road communications, but it had no railway connections with the rest of Gujarat. The greater portions of the northern and eastern parts of the State consisted of the Rann area. If there was any social and economic development, it was in the towns and villages bordering the sea-coast. From the point of administration, it was broadly speaking, a feudal State with predominance of jagirs. This situation continued up till May, 1948, whereafter the State merged in the Dominion of India and became a Chief Commissioner's province. The second milestone was reached when it was made a Part C State in 1950 ; on inauguration of the Republic of India. The Central Government introduced several changes in the administration and tried to introduce administrative reforms on the lines of other districts of the Bombay State. The third milestone in administration of the State was reached when as a result of reorganisation of the States, Kutch was merged on November 1, 1956 in the bigger Bombay State. Kutch ceased to be a State and was reduced to a district. When the State of Gujarat was formed on May 1, 1960, it became a district of Gujarat. Thereafter, extensive changes in the socio-economic conditions of the people have been brought about under the Five Year Plans implemented in the district.

In the series of the District Gazetteers published by the Government of Gujarat, this is the sixth Gazetteer. The work on this volume was begun in October 1965, and completed in May 1969 under the stewardship of my predecessor, Shri R. K. Trivedi. After preparing the draft, Shri Trivedi retired. I took over as Chief Editor in August 1969. Thereafter I sent the draft for approval to the Central Gazetteers Unit, Ministry of Education, Government of India, New Delhi. On scrutiny, the Central Gazetteers Unit made several suggestions for improving the draft and stressed the need for the on-the-spot study and check-up. I, therefore, visited Kutch in September 1970, and checket the data about Physical Features and Places of Interest and collected fresh data for the Revenue Administration. As a result, the concerned chapters were revised and sent to the Central Gazetteers Unit for scrutiny. Thereafter, the Unit gave approval for publication of the Gazetteer subject to certain changes suggested by them. Accordingly, the original draft was revised before it was sent to the press.

The district has certain unique features which distinguish it from other parts of Gujarat. It has a very rich historical past, as it formed the passage for the invaders from the north and north-west. It is unique in topography which is surrounded in the east and the north by the Rann and by the sea in the west and the south. It boasts of the ancient port of Mandvi and the major modern port of Kandla, which is the only port providing free trade in India. It is rich in minerals like salt, lignite, bauxite and gypsum. About 40 per cent of the salt of India is produced in Kutch. Its wild life is also famous. The Great Rann of Kutch is the only breeding place for the migratory birds like flamingoes in India. Wild asses are a rare species, which is confined to the Little Rann of Kutch. The horses of Kutch are renowned for their speed and sturdiness. It is significant to note that its cattle population is 1½ times more than the human population. Further, it is a district abounding in places of pilgrimage for the followers of different religions and sects such as Narayan Sarovar (Vaishnavism), Bhuj (Swaminarayan), Koteshvar (Shaivism), Bhadresar (Jainism), Matano Madh (Kapadis) and Haji Pir (Islam). It has produced many saints and pirs such as Jesal Toral, Menkan Dada, Haji Pir, Dhoramnath, etc. Among the old architecture, there are certain places like the Mirror Palace in Bhuj, the Jain temple at Bhadresar, the Shiv Temple at Kotay, etc. Bhuj is proud of its well-equipped museum which is one of the best museums in the State. Though a part of Gujarat, Kutch has a special dialect which is not understood in other parts of Gujarat. The dialect has no script of its own but is written in the Gujarati script. Like the Hindi language, it has no neuter gender. As regards industries, it has developed certain traditional small-scale industries. The *Bandhanis* of Bhuj are much in demand. It has developed special cloth-printing processes such as Batik, Ajrakh and Rogan which have made a name in and outside India. For centuries, it is known for its enamel work on silver. Further, it is famous for its Kamangiri art or mural painting. The people are very adventurous and are known as a very pushing commercial community not only in Bombay but in other parts of the world. For centuries, they have commercial contacts with the African and European countries. The State had a distinct currency consisting of Koris. Its weights and measures were also different from the rest of Gujarat. Thus, under the princely regime, it had a cloistered existence. The winds of change began to blow over it only after its merger in the Dominion of India in 1948. The district received special attention from Government particularly after the influx and resettlement of refugees from Sindh in the new town-ship of Gandhidham and the construction of the Kandla port. Lastly, it has a special prison at Bhuj where hardened and incorrigible prisoners and persons involved in anti-national activities of the State are kept.

My acknowledgements are due to the District Level Officers and others who gave assistance in the preparation of this Gazetteer. Among them, a few deserve special mention. The historical account of the ancient period of the district has been contributed by Prof. H. D. Sankalia, Deccan Research Institute, Poona. Amidst his pressing duties, Dr. H. G. Shastri,

Director, B. J. Institute of Learning and Research, Ahmedabad found time to go through the whole chapter on History and make useful suggestions. Shri D. J. Kotak has worked as a collaborator and furnished useful notes on the literary and cultural activities in the district.

I am indebted to Shri Hitendrabhai Desai, Chief Minister, Gujarat for his keen interest in the preparation of the District Gazetteers which has enabled me to organise the Gazetteer work on a systematic basis. I am also indebted to Chief Secretary, Shri L. R. Dalal, I. C. S. for his continuous interest and guidance. I must also acknowledge the work done by the late Shri R. B. Srivastava, Deputy Editor, and Sarvashri U. M. Chokshi, M. R. Trivedi, Dr. A. P. Bhatt and R. R. Trivedi, Research Officers and other research staff.

I wish to place on record my grateful thanks to Dr. P. N. Chopra, Editor, and the Officers of the Central Gazetteers Unit, Ministry of Education, Government of India, New Delhi for thorough scrutiny of draft chapters and for making valuable suggestions for improving the draft.

Lastly, I must thank Shri G. J. Gonsalves, Director, Government Printing and Stationery, Ahmedabad, and Shri T. S. Venkatasubramanian, Manager, Government Press and Stationery Department, Baroda, and his staff for quick and efficient printing and elegant get-up of the Gazetteer Volume.

Ahmedabad,
30th November, 1970.

G. D. PATEL,
Chief Editor.

GENERAL CONTENTS

	Pages
CHAPTER I—GENERAL	1
CHAPTER II—HISTORY	65
CHAPTER III—PEOPLE	115
CHAPTER IV—AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION	177
CHAPTER V—INDUSTRIES	227
CHAPTER VI—BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE	267
CHAPTER VII—COMMUNICATIONS	319
CHAPTER VIII—MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS AND ECONOMIC TRENDS	345
CHAPTER IX—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	399
CHAPTER X—REVENUE ADMINISTRATION	407
CHAPTER XI—LAW, ORDER AND JUSTICE	443
CHAPTER XII—OTHER DEPARTMENTS	465
CHAPTER XIII—LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT	477
CHAPTER XIV—EDUCATION AND CULTURE	499
CHAPTER XV—MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES ..	538
CHAPTER XVI—OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES	555
CHAPTER XVII—PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS	569
CHAPTER XVIII—PLACES OF INTEREST	581

CONTENTS

(Figures in brackets denote page number)

	PAGES
PREFACE	i—iii
PART I	
CHAPTER I—GENERAL	1—63
Origin (1); Boundaries and Natural Divisions (1); Population (1); Administrative History (2); Administrative Subdivisions (3); Physical Features (4); Hills (5); The Rann (6); Elevations (7); Creeks (9); Rivers (10); Lakes (15); Geological Formations (16); Useful Minerals and Rocks (22); Earthquakes (28); Flora (29); Fauna (34); Snakes (41); Fish (43); Climate (44); Appendix I (54); Appendix II (58); Appendix III (62).	
PART II	
CHAPTER II—HISTORY	65—114
Prehistoric Period (65); Ancient Period (68); From Historical Period to the coming of the Sakas (70); From Sakas to 712 A. D. (71); From Arabs to the coming of Chaulukyas and their Successors (73); Medieval Period (78); Jam Lakha and other Rulers (78); Jam Otha (78); Khengar I (80); Bharmal I and other Rulers (80); Pragmalji I (82); Godji I (82); Desalji I (83); Lakhaji (85); Godji II (87); Rayadhan II (90); Rao Prithiraj (92); Rao Rayadhan II (94); Bharmal II, (96); Modern Period (99); Desal II (99); Pragmalji II (105); Khengarji III (107); Vijayrajji (111); Madansinhji (111); Post-integration Period (112); Confliot between India and Pakistan (112).	
PART III	
CHAPTER III—PEOPLE	115—175
Introduction (115); Population (115); Density (117); Migration (118); Displaced persons (120); Rural Population (121); Urban Population (121); Age Distribution (123); Sex Ratio (124); Marital Status (125); Language (126); Kutchhi (126); Bilingualism (127); Religion (127); Castes (131); Sindhi Hindus (135); Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (139); Other Backward Classes (141); Inter-caste Relations (142); Saints and Pirs (142); Dada Menkan (143); Guru Dharamnath (143); Haji Pir (144); Jesal-Toral (144); Pachhmai Pir (144); Social Life (145); Social Customs : Hindu (145); Marriage (145); Death Ceremonies (146); Social Customs : Muslim (146); Muslim Marriage (146); Death Ceremonies (146); Marriage and Morals (147); Social Evils (149); Infanticide (149); Property and Inheritance (150); Joint Family (151); Place of Women in Society(151); Home Life (153); Housing (153); Material of Wall and Roof (154); Settlement Pattern (156); Villages (156); Towns (157); Food, Dress and Ornaments (157); Food (157); Dress (158); Ornaments (160); Furniture and Decorations (161); Decoration (162); Communal Life (162); Garba and Ras (162); Garba (163); Bhavai (163); Public Games and Recreation (163); Hindu Calendar (164); Halari Samvat (164); Jain Calendar (164); Muslim Calendar (164); Festivals (164); Hindu Festivals (165); Jain Festivals (166); Muslim Festivals (167); Pilgrim Centres (168); Fairs (169); Jakh Fair, Kakadbhit (169); Trivikramraiji Fair, Naransar (170); The new trends (175).	

CONTENTS

PART IV—ECONOMIC ORGANISATION — PAGES

CHAPTER IV—AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION .. .. 177—226

Persons Engaged in Agriculture (177); Land Utilisation (178); Land Reclamation (179); Irrigation (180); Soil Erosion (186); Soils (187); Cropping Pattern (188); Crop Calendar (194); Crop Prospects (195); Agricultural Implements and Operations (195); Manures and Fertilisers (199); Agricultural Pests and Diseases (199); Progress of Scientific Agriculture (200); State Assistance to Agriculture (201); Animal Husbandry (202); Fisheries (205); Forests (208); Famines (211).

CHAPTER V—INDUSTRIES .. .. 227—266

Old Time Industries (227); Industrialisation (228); Kandla Free Trade Zone (229); Power (230); Mining (233); Industrial Establishments (236); Household Industries (236); Trends of Industrial Development (237); Registered Factories (238); Large Scale Industries (239); Small Scale and Cottage Industries (242); Industrial Estates (242); Industrial Arts (243); Industrial Potential and Plan for Future Development (251); Labour and Employers' Organisations (255); Welfare of Industrial Labour (256).

CHAPTER VI—BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE .. .. 267—318

Banking and Finance (267); History of Indigenous Banking (267); Indebtedness (268); Licensed Money-lenders (270); Joint Stock Banks (270); Co-operative Societies and Banks (274); Small Savings (280); Private and Public Limited Companies (282); Assistance for Industrial Development (284); Currency and Coinage (287); Trade and Commerce (290); Course of Trade (290); Customs Controversy (291); Maritime Trade (293); Free Trade Zone Kandla (294); Inland Trade (298); Regulated Markets (299); Wholesale Trade (299); Trade Centres (299); Retail Trade (303); Sales Tax Statistics (304); Gujarat State Warehousing Corporation (305); Fair Price Shops (306); Fairs (306); Co-operation in Wholesale and Retail Trade (313); Trade Associations (314); Weights and Measures (317).

CHAPTER VII—COMMUNICATIONS .. .. .. 319—344

Old Time Trade Routes (319); Roads in Modern Times (320); Classification of Roads (320); Vehicles and Conveyances (323); Road Transport (324); Railways (326); Waterways, Ferries and Bridges (331); Kandla (332); Mandvi (336); Mundra (338); Jakhau (338); Other Ports (339); Air Transport (339); Rest-houses (340); Travelling Agents and Guides (340); Posts and Telegraphs (341); Telephones (341); Radio Communications (342); Rural Broadcasting (342); Labour Unions (342).

CHAPTER VIII—MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS AND ECONOMIC TRENDS .. .. 345—397

Livelihood Pattern (345); Category of Workers (347); Household and Non-household Industries (347); Principal and Secondary Work (348); Non-workers (349); Occupational Distribution (349); Miscellaneous Occupations (351); Learned Professions (352); Public Administration (354); Prices (356); Wages (363); Standard of Living (365); General Level of Employment (373); Five Year Plans (377); Community Development Programme (379); Economic Trends (383).

PART V—PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

CHAPTER IX—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION .. .. 399—406

Historical Background (399); Panchayati Raj (401); Role of the Collector (401); District Magistrate (402); The Treasury (402); Collector's Office (403); District Development Officer (404); Other District Level Officers (404); District Level Officers (405); Officers Under District Panchayat (405); Central Government Officers (406).

CONTENTS

PAGES

CHAPTER X—REVENUE ADMINISTRATION .. .. 407—441

The Land System (407); The Land Tenures (410); Village Land Records (414); The Alienations (416); Post-Independence Development (418); Tenancy Reforms (422); Survey and Settlement (425); Land Revenue Administration (427); Functions of the Land Records Department (428); Income from Land Revenue and Special Cesses connected with it (430); The Bhoodan Movement (431); Rural Wages (433); Registration (434); Stamps (436); Sales Tax (437); Taxes on Motor Vehicles (438); State Excise (439); Central Excise (440); Income Tax (440).

CHAPTER XI—LAW, ORDER AND JUSTICE .. .. 443—463

Early History (443); Functions of Police (443); Incidence of Crime (443); Police Administration (445); Police Divisions (446); Railway Police (448); Anti-Corruption and Prohibition (448); Welfare of Police (448); Kotwal Scheme (448); Village Police (449); Home Guards (449); Gram Rakshak Dal (449); Mahila Gram Rakshak Dal (450); Jails (450); Prison Discipline (451); Welfare of Prisoners (452); Treatment of Prisoners (453); Panchayat System (453); Juveniles and Beggars (453); Bombay Children Act, 1948 (454); Bombay Probation of Offenders Act, 1938 (454); School for the Blind, Bhuj, (454); Kutch Mahila Kendra, Bhuj (454); Judiciary (455); Historical Backgrounds (455); Jadeja Court (457); Pre-Independence Period (457); After Integration (457); Present set-up (458); Criminal Courts (460); Sessions Court (462); Revenue and Expenditure (462); Nyaya Panchayats (462); Bar Association (463).

CHAPTER XII—OTHER DEPARTMENTS .. .. .. 465—476

Set-up of the Department of Agriculture (465); Set-up of the Department of Animal Husbandry (466); Forest Department (466); Public Works Department (467); Co-operative Department (469); Department of Industries (472); Office of the Assistant Director of Information (475); Office of the District Statistical Officer (476).

PART VI—WELFARE DEPARTMENTS

CHAPTER XIII—LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT .. .. 477—498

Municipalities (477); Bhuj Borough Municipality (478); Mandvi Borough Municipality (480); Anjar Borough Municipality (483); Gandhidham Borough Municipality (484); Town Planning (486); District Local Board (489); Panchayats (489); The Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 (491); Progress of Panchayati Raj (497); Kandla Port Trust (497).

CHAPTER XIV—EDUCATION AND CULTURE .. .. 499—532

Historical Background (499); The Buddhist System (499); The Hindu System (499); The Jain System (500); Progress of Education after Independence (503); Growth of Literacy (503); Literacy and Education Standards (505); Literacy (505); Educational Standards (507); Spread of Education among Women (508); Spread of Education among Backward Classes and Tribes (509); General Education (510); Primary Education (511); Training Facilities for Teachers (511); School Buildings (512); Basic Schools and Lokshalas (512); Secondary Education (513); Reorientation in Education (513); Higher Education (513); Shri Ramji Ravji Lalan Arts and Science College, Bhuj (514); Gandhidham Arts and Commerce College, Adipur (514); Sheth Soorji Vallabhdas Arts and Commerce College, Mandvi (514); Professional and Technical Education (514); Co-operative Training (515); Courses in Commerce (515); Educational Societies (516); The Gandhidham Maitri Mandal, Adipur (516); Shri Kutch Lohana Kelavani Khatu, Mandvi (516); Sheth Khimji Ramdas Kanya Vidyalaya Trust, Mandvi (517); Sarswati Vidyalaya Trust, Madhapar (517); Gujarat Education Society, Gandhidham (517);

CONTENTS

PAGES

Modern Education Society, Gandhidham (517); Shri Social Service Circle Trusts, Gandhidham (517); Shri Ram Krishna Mahashala Trust, Mandvi (517); Shri Nutan Kelavani Mandal, Madhapar (518); Saraswatam (518); School for Music (519); Oriental Schools and Colleges (519); Sanskrit (519); Arabic, Urdu (520); Physical Education (520); Education for the Physically Handicapped (520); Educational Facilities for Backward Class Students (521); Culture (523); Literary Activities (524); Literary Societies (527); Drama-Music (527); Painting (528); Periodicals (529); Libraries and Museum (529); Libraries (529); District Library, Bhuj (530); Maharao Shri Vijayrajji Sarvajanik Pustakalay, Bhuj (530); Anjuman-e-Islam Free Library, Mandvi (530); Shri Madansinhji Free Library, Bhachau (530); Mandvi Nagarpalika Library, Mandvi (530); Maharao Shri Khengarji Library, Anjar (531); Maharao Shri Khengarji Library, Mundra (531); Shri Patel Abhyudaya Sarvajanik Library, Madhapar (531); Gujarati Seva Samaj Pustakalay, Adipur (531); Museum (531); Kutch Museum, Bhuj (531).

CHAPTER XV—MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES .. 533—554

Health and Medical Facilities in the Past (533); Vital Statistics (534); Common Diseases (534); Hospitals and Dispensaries (536); Public Health (544); Epidemics (545); Tuberculosis (546); Trachoma (546); Family Planning Programme (547); Primary Health Centres (547); Health Education (548); Directorate of Ayurved (549); Subsidised Medical Centres (549); Protected Water Supply (549); Rural Water Supply (552); Drainage System (553).

CHAPTER XVI—OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES .. .. .. 555—568

Introductory (555); Labour Welfare Measures (555); Labour Welfare Centres (559); Industrial Housing (559); Prohibition (559); Backward Classes (561); Public Trusts and Charitable Endowments (565).

PART VII

CHAPTER XVII—PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS .. .. 569—579

Public Life (569); Representation of the District in the State and the Union Legislature (570); Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies (570); Political Parties and Organisations (571); Votes Polled in the General Elections (572); Panchayat Elections (573); Newspapers (573); Voluntary Social Service Organisations (573); Institutions of General Welfare (574); Women's Organisations (577); Other Organisations (578).

CHAPTER XVIII—PLACES OF INTEREST .. .. .. 581—623

(The names of places are arranged in alphabatical order)

Plates .. .. After Page 624

Glossary .. .. i-vii

Bibliography .. .. i-vii

Index .. .. i-xvii

CHAPTER I

GENERAL

ORIGIN

Kutch is an ancient land possessed of great antiquity which takes its name from its geographical characteristics and topographical features resembling a tortoise. Kutch, the name by which it has been referred to in the ancient literature, has been defined by Mallinath[1] as a marshy region or waste land in *Sanjivani*,[2] his commentary on *Amarkosh*. It is also by this name that it has been referred to in the *Puranas*, in the various notes on this region by foreign travellers that visited this country in olden times, as also in stone inscriptions and copper plates and in old writings and manuscripts. Prior to the dawn of Christian era, the region lying between Sindh and Saurashtra has been described as Abhir by which name it has also been referred to in the *Mahabharata*. A Greek traveller and military commander also named this region as Abiria or Abir corrupted from its original name of Abhir during the second century before the Christ. Till the 3rd and 4th century A. D. and even thereafter, it came to be referred to by both the names Kutch as well as Abhir. First known as Abhir from its original inhabitants, the Ahirs, who resided in this area, it later on came to be known as Kutch because of its unique geographical location surrounded by water and waste land.

Boundaries and Natural Divisions—This crescent shaped region called Kutch forms part of north-west Gujarat. The district stretches roughly from 22°-44′-11″ (approx.) to 24°-41′-25″ (approx.) north latitudes and 68°-09′-46″ (approx.) and 71°-54′-47″ (approx.) east longitudes. It is bounded on the north and north-west by Sindh (Pakistan), on the north-east by Rajasthan, on the east by the districts of Banaskantha and Mehsana, on the south-east by Surendranagar district, on the south by the Gulf of Kutch and the Rajkot district and on the south-west and west by the Arabian Sea.

Population—The total population of the district according to the Census of 1961 is 696,440 souls, of whom 341,224 are males and 355,216 are females.

---

1. Mallinath was a great commentator of various literary works written in Sanskrit language. His name was Kolachal Mallinath and hailed from south India. He is said to have existed in 14th or 15th century. Being a critic he was well versed in the knowledge of figures of speech, grammar, *darshan* (philosophy), astrology, etc.

2. जल पायमनूपं स्यात् पुंसिकच्छस्तथाविधः । इत्यमरः

Administrative History

The administrative background of Kutch appears to be chequered. This domain has been settled by various races and tribes that came from the north and east since ancient times. During the period of known history it has from time to time come under the sway of various dynasties, that exercised its authority over Sindh and Gujarat. It once formed part of the Mauryan Empire; then came under the authority of Sakas, Kshatrapas, Guptas, Haihayas; and was later ruled over by the Maitrakas, Gurjaras, Chalukyas, Chavdas, Solankis, Kathis and other Gujarat Kings. Kutch has thus been closely interlinked with Gujarat, the course of whose history has greatly influenced this region. But it was the conquest of Kutch by the Sindh tribe of Samma Rajputs that marked the emergence of Kutch as a separate kingdom in the 14th century. During the period of ascendancy of the Sultans of Gujarat, Kutch though nominally subject to Ahmedabad, was virtually independent in its internal affairs. This position it continued to maintain even during the Mughal period, when as mentioned in *Mirat-I-Ahmadi* Kutch was one of the Sarkars of the Mughal Empire under Aurangzeb. The authority the Mughals exercised over Kutch was, however, limited to the payment of tribute through the Imperial Governor stationed in Gujarat. Though the Raos of Kutch maintained friendly relations with the Mughals, they missed no opportunity to challenge that authority whenever it suited them to do so.

The present line of the Maharao of Kutch started by the Samma Rajputs of Jadeja clan continued to rule over Kutch till its integration into the Indian Union in 1948. The pattern of administration in Kutch under the Maharaos, as will be seen later, differed from that in vogue in other Indian States. It was dominated by a feudal oligarchy whereunder more than half the territory was under the jurisdiction and control of lesser branches of the ruling family over whom the Maharao had little control except that of commandeering military services against alien invaders.

The administrative history of Kutch would not be complete without a reference to the Adhoi enclave consisting of seven villages, belonging to the former Morvi State. The original status of the Morvi Darbar in respect of this enclave was alleged to be that of a Jagirdar under the Jurisdiction of Kutch. While, the authority of the Kutch Darbar was generally recognised, it was not always enforced. But the treaty of 1819 favouring the Bhayats against the Rao placed this area outside the jurisdiction of the ruler of Kutch. Thereafter the dispute over this territory continued for over a century and all efforts on the part of the Maharao to solve it resulted in failure. The controversy was finally set at rest when both Morvi and Kutch joined the Indian Union after Independence.

Administrative Subdivisions

At the time of its integration into the Indian Union, the State of Kutch was for the purposes of administration divided into 11 talukas. Nine of them were under Vahivatdar, but Khavda and Khadir which were smaller in dimension and isolated, were respectively under Thandar and Avalkarkun. Kutch became a Chief Commissioner's Province on its merger into the Indian Union. But for revenue purposes, it was regarded as a district under the Collector subdivided into divisions and talukas each under a Deputy Collector and a Mamlatdar, as shown below.

STATEMENT I·1

Administrative Subdivisions, 1949

Division/Taluka/Mahal	Population (1941 Census)
1 Central Division	**249,207**
(i) Bhuj Taluka	85,789
(ii) Mandvi Taluka	99,487
(iii) Mundra Taluka	57,045
(iv) Khavda Mahal	6,286
2 Eastern Division	**141,827**
(v) Anjar Taluka	58,106
(vi) Bhachau Taluka	36,147
(vii) Rapar Taluka	46,382
(viii) Khadir Mahal	1,192
3 Western Division	**109,766**
(ix) Nakhatrana Taluka	47,924
(x) Abdasa Taluka	49,939
(xi) Lakhpat Taluka	11,903
Grand Total	**500,800**

Various territorial changes have taken place since then as shown in Appendix I. The district as at present constituted has three subdivisions, viz., Bhuj, Anjar and Nakhatrana. Anjar subdivision is for the time being subdivided into two, viz., (1) Anjar and Mundra under a Deputy Collector and (ii) Bhachau and Rapar under an Assistant Collector, both having their headquarters at Anjar. The former 11 talukas and mahals have now been reduced to 9, as Khavda and Khadir mahals have been abolished and included in Bhuj and Bhachau talukas respectively. An officer of the status of a Senior Avalkarkun is, however, placed both at Khadir and Khavda, under the direct control and supervision of the Mamlatdar.

The following statement gives the number of towns and villages, and the total, rural and urban population of various administrative divisions of Kutch district as now constituted.

STATEMENT I-2

Administrative Divisions, 1967

Sl. No.	Subdivision/taluka	No. of towns	No. of villages	Population (1961 Census)		
				Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	*Bhuj subdivision* ..	1	168	127,421	87,241	40,180
2	*Anjar subdivision*	4	312	314,367	246,118	68,249
3	Anjar ..	3	77	106,189	46,757	59,432
4	Rapar ..	..	96	85,419	85,419	..
5	Bhachau ..	..	82	68,334	68,334	..
6	Mundra ..	1	57	54,425	45,608	8,817
7	*Nakhatrana sub-division*	1	457	254,652	228,043	26,609
8	Nakhatrana ..	..	130	69,632	69,632	..
9	Abdasa ..	..	143	65,118	65,118	..
10	Lakhpat ..	..	86	18,401	18,401	..
11	Mandvi ..	1	98	101,501	74,892	26,609
	Total ..	**6**	**937**	**696,440**	**561,402**	**135,038**

Source :

The Collector, Kutch District, Bhuj

The average population per taluka in Kutch district comes to 77,382 as against 111,531 for the State as a whole. The talukas where the district average is exceeded are Lakhpat, Mundra, Abdasa, Bhachau and Nakhatrana.

Physical Features*

Configuration

Though on the whole treeless, barren and rocky, the aspect of the country is varied by ranges of hills and isolated peaks, by rugged and deeply cut river-beds and by well-tilled valleys and tracts of rich pasture land. On the south, behind a high bank of sand that lines the seacoast, lies a low, fertile, and well-cultivated plain from 32 km. to 48 km. broad. Beyond this plain, the country is broken by three hill ranges, those of Kutch proper, of Vagad in the east, and the Rann elevations in the north. The hills of

* The Section on 'Physical Features' is for the most a reproduction of what has been stated in (i) *The Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Vol. XI, Oxford, 1908, and (ii) Campbell J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, 1880.

Kutch proper spread widely in the west, but narrow towards the east, and contain one noticeable peak, Dhinodhar, about 387 metres high above the mean sea level reputed to have once been a legendary volcano. Two other peaks, Jhura and Varar, rise to nearly 274 metres. In the Vagad hills, the elevation is inconsiderable. The hilly elevations of the Rann contain their highest point in the elevation of Pachham (458 metres). The other elevations are Khadir (86·50 metres), and Bela (68·58 metres). South-west of Pachham elevation is an extensive low-lying tract known as the Banni, running almost parallel to the coast of Kutch for 104·60 km. It is apt to be covered in times of high flood, and probably owes its origin to a bar of sand from the rivers which flow north.

Hills

Its hills, though of no great height, are one of the chief natural features of Kutch. They may be divided into three groups, the hills on its mainland, of Vagad in the east, and of the Rann elevations in the north. Nearly all the ranges and many of the hills are steep, scarped on the north slope gently towards the south. Most of the beds have long southerly slopes at right-angles to three parallel lines of disturbance; one in the Rann elevations from Pachham to Pranthal, a second along the north of Kutch from Lakhpat to Vagad and a third in the central uplands from Roha to Bhachau. Except one range running north-west from the Dhola hills with long slopes upon the dip and steep slopes along the outcrop of the beds, the trap hills, particularly those formed in intrusive trap, are often sharp peaked, or cliff-girt. In Kutch proper the hills, widely spread over its western parts, gradually narrow eastwards into a single range. Though none of great height, the highest, Dhinodhar only a little over 387 metres high above the mean sea level, several of them are from some peculiarity of shape or make worthy of notice. In the south-west about 8 km. south of Narayansar is Gadipadar, a conspicuous, 30·48 metres high, flat-topped hill, a mass of lime-stone below and at the top almost entirely coral. The Garda hills, the broad west end of the central range of stratified trap, though they rise high, have no peaks of special interest. Among the Jurassic hills to the north is Gandhri, 162·76 metres above the plain, steep on all sides and faced by a bold cliff, the body of the hill of white and purple sand-stone, and its peak of basalt and softer trap. Further east about 38·62 km. north-west of Bhuj is Dhinodhar, the fabulous Kutch volcano. This, one of the highest hills in the district, 387·05 metres above the Rann, is chiefly of course and fine white sandstone with a basalt capping 54·86 metres thick. About 16·09 km. north-east is Jhura, 246·58 metres above the Rann, chiefly of shale and lime-stone, Varar about 8·05 km. south, an isolated tabular steepsided hill, rising 272·49 metres above the plain, is of sandstone with a thick capping of black columnar basalt, and 6·44 km. to the west is Vichhia, a far-seen conical peak of sandstone covered by trap. About 11·27 km. east of Bhuj is the bold sub-conical steepsided sandstone hill of Jandharia. (Jangharia)

rising about 213·36 metres above the Rann, and about 9·66 km. north of Jandharia, in the Lodai and Jhuran range. Halman, (Habo) a sandstone hill about 243·84 metres above the Rann. In the central of Chadwa hills there is in the east, Khatrod, a conical peak with a steep north escarpment rising 167·64 metres above the plain. At the west end of the range, rising 121·92 metres above the plain is Dhrabva, a steep flat-topped hill of trap-covered sandstone, and a little to the south-west Nanama, probably the source of some of the neighbouring stratified traps, a nearly circular dome-shaped mass of trap, 243·70 metres above the plain and 5·63 km. round at the base. The more regular range of the south or Dhola hills has no peak of special interest.

The Vagad hills, a broad group stretching east and west, have many separate peaks, the chief of them Adhoi, rising 82·30 metres from its base, sandstone capped with white beds striking like metamorphic quartzite.

Of the hills that rise out of the Rann some details are given under the head 'Elevations'. In Pachham, the *Kala Dungar*, 458 metres above the Rann, is the highest point in Kutch.

The Rann

The Rann of Kutch is a peculiar tract of territory, described by Lieut. Burnes in his Memoirs (1827-1828) as "a space without a counterpart in the globe". The entire expanse is covered with a thick salt layer mixed with fine sand and clay devoid of vegetation and habitation.

Derived from the Sanskrit word *irina* or 'the waste', the Rann is a salt flat. It is divided into two parts, the Great Rann to the north and the Little Rann to the east.

In appearance and general character, the two parts of the Rann differ but little. Except the four hilly elevations on the south edges of the Great Rann and plots of raised land, some of them of considerable size, the whole area is, from April to October the season of strong south winds and occasional rain, frequently flooded to the depth of from 0·30 to 0·91 metre. Most of this water is salt, either sea-water driven by the strong south-west winds up the Kori river or beyond the head of the Gulf of Kutch, or land water from the Luni and the Banas, or the brackish local streams. In spite of these yearly flooding, the bed of the Rann, except in a few isolated spots does not become soft or slimy. The flood waters, as they dry, leave a hard flat surface covered with stone, shingle, and salt. As the season wears on, and the heat grows greater, the ground, baked and blistered by the sun, shines over large tracts of salt with dazzling whiteness, and the air, dim and quivering mocks all distance by an almost ceaseless mirage. Only on some raised rocky lands is water found, and only near water is there brushwood,

grass, or any sign of growth. Except a chance bird or herd of wild asses in the Little Rann, a stray antelope, or an occasional camel caravan, no sign of life breaks the weary loneliness.

Boundaries—The lands to the west of the Rann are low-lying and swampy; to the north-west for about 80 km. stretches the level ridge of the Allah Bandh along the north are rows of sandhills; and on the north-east the high cones of the Kalingar (Karunjhar) hills. On the east, the fringes are low, and along the south, beyond the row of bluff steep elevations, a narrow belt of low alluvial land, stretching into the long low Banni, and lastly from near Nara runs west in a row of capes, cliffs, and promontories. Where the edge is not rocky the Rann stretches inland fringed sometimes by a belt of grass yielding land, and in other places passing up the sandy beds of rivers. The margin of the small Rann is low throughout, rich and wet on the south or Saurashtra side, dry and rocky on the north or Vagad side.

Bed—The level bed of the Rann is, in most places, so little lower than the land near it that it is often impossible to say where the firm ground ends and the Rann begins, and it is so near the sea level that aneroid barometers fail to show any difference. Almost perfectly flat, its surface is in four places slightly depressed in the west; along the north; in the south between Pachham and Khadir; and in the south-east near Adesar. The surface and sub-soil are regular layers of sand and clay with a large mixture of salt, which by drawing moisture from the air, in some places damps the surface. In the west when, as in 1826 and 1874, a flood comes down the Kori river, the Rann is all the year round covered with water. At other times it is flooded only during the season of strong south winds and rain. For about five months in the year (November-March) the whole is, except a few patches, dry, the parts where water has lain longest being deeply crushed with salt. In March, when strong westerly winds set in, the water in the Gulf of Kutch is heaped up and rises slowly over the Rann until in June rain falls, and almost the whole of the west is from a few inches to a few feet deep in water. Between Khadir and Pachham the depth is 2 metres, and between Adesar and Chorad still more. Most of the Rann is dry by the end of November or the middle of December, the low-lying Adesar dries in January, and some parts along the northern limit and in the basin to the west remain damp throughout the year.

Elevations

Within the limits of the Rann are four elevations beginning from the east, Chorad, Bela, Khadir, and Pachham. About 32 km. from north to south and 16 km. from east to west, Chorad elevation is low in the south, and in the north does not rise more than 46 metres. There is a belt of upper Tertiaries in the south, then a stretch of alluvium, and then sub-nummulites with near the north a narrow band of Jurassic rock.

About 6 km. west of Chorad lies Bela, stretching north-east and south-west, about 40 km. long and 16 km. broad. Low towards the south, it rises near the north into a chain of hills called Nilva, the highest point of which is 188 metres above the Rann. The rocks are sub-nummulitic towards the south and Jurassic in the north. In the Jurassic beds was found a small and fragmentary *paloeo zamia*, the only specimen met with in the east of Kutch.

Eight km. west of Bela is Khadir, sloping gradually north and ending sharply in a cliff. Some of the cliffs on the north side are very fine, their tops from 107 to 122 metres above the Rann.

About 19 km. further west lies Pachham, in the middle of the Rann, about 24 km. from north to south and 16 km. from east to west. It is from east to west crossed by two chains of hills, the black,[1] *Kala*, range on the north, and the white, *Gora*, on the south. The highest point in the black range is about 458 metres and Pachham Pir is about 433 metres. The top of the hill commands a wide view. The chief rocks in the black range are, at the foot, a fine white and light fossil-bearing flinty sandstone with bands of chalk and slightly ferruginous purple sandy beds with occasional masses of trap; further up coarser sandstone, weathered yellow or brown, with porphyritic dykes. After these are purple and grey shales and white sandstone, massive grey lime-stone and fine sandstone with a few traces of fossils, purple and greenish variegated sandy shales, white sandstone again, and overall a set of gritty orange lime-stone and chalky beds. In the south range are coarse or fine chalky sandstones with red fossil-bearing layers, flinty and shaly olive beds and hard shelly bands. On the crest and south sides of the hill are more brown and purple tins. Of objects of interest in Pachham are about 2 km. north-east of Khavda the remains of a fort built by Rao Lakha and demolished by Fateh Muhammad in 1,800 A. D. circa.

Some account may here be given of the low-lying tract, known as the Banni, that stretches to the south-west of Pachham. The Banni area which adjoins the border area extends to 2,072 sq. km. out of which approximately 777 sq. km. are superior grasslands. There are 46 Jills in Banni area which can for all practical purposes be considered to be villages. Probably a bank or bar of soil brought down by the north-flowing Kutch rivers it stretches almost parellel to the coast line of Kutch about 105 km. long and from 16 km. to 26 km. broad. Near the mainland, the Banni is so low that it can hardly be distinguished from the Rann. Further out it rises gently, but, except one narrow strip in the west, is all apt to be covered with water in times of high flood. The whole is scantily covered with coarse grass and babul trees, and supports large herds of buffaloes and other cattle, for whose use two big

1. The local story is that this range was called after a saint, whose face was blackened by the malice of a woman's evil eye. Sir A. Burnes. M. S., 1827

tanks have been built and a few wells have been dug. There is one animal dispensary and camel breeding farm. The scheme for grass development and border development is under consideration of the Government.

Routes

The Rann has always been passable whether there is a collection of water on it or not. The Rann is crossed on horse-back, camel-back or ass-back, in bullock carts or on foot. There are several beaten tracks through the Rann; stones or bones of dead animals are planted along some of the tracks to guide the travellers. A rest-house is also built on one of the bets (Gainda bet) as a halting place. There was also for quite sometime a water-way along the channel of the Kori River.[1] Without a good guide the passage is at all times dangerous, travellers being sometimes lost even in the dry season. In the hot season, from the over-powering heat, and in the cold weather to avoid the blinding salt glare, the passage is generally made at night. The travellers, guided either by beacons or by the stars, generally spend from the evening to the morning in crossing.

The Coastal Areas

The Kutch district has approximately a coastline of 352 km. with nine ports, viz., Kandla, Tuna, Jangi, Kharirohar, Mundra, Mandvi, Jakhau, Koteshwar, and Lakhpat. The coast is generally flat and broken by small and big creeks. Big creeks have been formed on account of strong currents of water received from the sea, and small creeks have been formed on account of rapid flows of rivers. In some of the creeks, the water stays permanently and some receive water only during tides. These creeks are also useful for coasting crafts and steamers when the sea is rough and stormy. In India there are very few natural creeks possessing water and depth. This district is fortunate to have creeks such as Kori, Boacha and Godia.

The Kutch coast can be divided into two stretches, viz., one from (i) Lakhpat to Mandvi called the Arabian Sea and (ii) that from Mandvi to Shikarpur (Bhachau taluka) called the Gulf of Kutch.

Creeks

The creeks on the Kutch coastline are described below :

(i) *The Kori creek*

Of all the creeks, this creek is the biggest. It is 8 km. to 10 km. in width at its entrance between Makra and Saleh. The creek is blocked by several sand

1. *Memorial of the Government of India.* Vol. I, submitted to *The Indo-Pakistan Western Boundary Case Tribunal*, June, 1966, p. 44

(Bk) H-49—2 (Lino)

banks except on the eastern side where channel leads into the creek. There are two ports on this creek, viz., Lakhpat and Koteshwar. The port of Lakhpat has declined in importance and the port of Koteshwar though not valued as a port is held in reverence because of the Koteshwar temple. The creek is in close proximity to Pakistan.

(*ii*) *The Godia creek (Jakhau port)*

The entrance to the Godia creek known locally as port Jakhau (Latitude 23° 14′ N., Longitude 68° 35′ E) can be identified by some sand hills 9 metres high on the northern side of its entrance upon which are two wooden beacons about three cables apart. The northern beacon is surmounted by Saint Andrews cross and the southern by a rectangular cage. The southern entrance is the northern extremity of a narrow sand spit which extends south-eastward from the entrance for about 18 km. where it joins the coast forming a narrow and shallow inlet between it and the coast eastward. A beacon surmounted by a triangular point up stands on the northern end of this spit and a similar beacon stands about 1·6 km. south-eastward of it, a third beacon surmounted by a diamond stands about 4 km. south-eastward of the second. About 3 km. within the entrance point on the southern side of the creek, there is an iron wharf. A light is exhibited at an elevation of 14·32 metres from a frame-work shower on masonry hut 6·7 metres in height situated on the above wharf. During the north-east monsoon from September to March, vessels load salt and salt products. Medium draft vessels anchor outside the entrance of the creek 7 km. south-westward of the southern beacon on the northern side of the entrance. The beacons on the sandspit southward of the entrance to the creek are useful to vessels approaching from southern direction. Those on the northern side of the entrance are useful for anchoring vessels. Local knowledge is necessary for entering the creek. The port Jakhau is located on Godia creek about 8 km. inside the creek on the Arabian Sea.

In addition to the abovementioned creeks, there are other creeks of lesser importance such as the Boacha creek, the Malirdi creek, the Mandvi creek, the Nakti creek, etc.

Rivers

The rivers of the district have certain characteristics. Firstly, all the rivers or streams of Kutch start from its central portion and flow towards the sea in the south and the Great Rann in the north and the Little Rann in the south-east. Broadly speaking, the rivers flow northwards or southwards because of the ranges in the central area which serve as water sheds. Secondly, there are physical contours varying from 16 km. to 32 km. which create independent flows of water. As a result, there is one river at every 24 km. in the district. Thirdly, the Kutch rivers are non-perennial. With short non-perennial rivers and scanty rainfall, there is no flood problem in the district.

They have steep gradients and are flashy. They have, therefore, formed deep cuts along their courses and rarely spill over their banks. Duration of flow of water in the rivers is a question of a few hours in monsoon. As such, there are no chances for the rivers and streams to change their original courses of flow. Lastly, all the rivers do not bear the same name throughout their courses. Some rivers are called by different names of villages by which they pass. This is particularly the case with small rivers.

I. North Flowing Rivers

Bhurud

Rising in the Nanama hills near village Mangwana in the Nakhatrana taluka, the river Bhurud flows past Mangwana and Nirona villages. A medium dam was constructed during the Second Five Year Plan on this river. The total length of the river is about 47 km. and it finally merges in the Banni area.

The Kali

The river Kali rises from the hills north-west of Matano Madh village in the Lakhpat taluka. It flows by the villages of Mindhiari, Pandhro, Sanadhro and Baiyava. Sanadhro dam was constructed on this river during the First Five Year Plan. The river is 45 km. long and meets the Arabian Sea near the Kori creek.

The Godhatad

The river Godhatad issues from the hills near Barandha village of Lakhpat taluka. It flows past the villages of Godhatad and Kaiyari. A dam is proposed to be constructed on this river. The length of the river is 42 km. The river merges in the Kori creek north-east of Koteshwar.

The Suvi (Suvai)

The river Suvi originates from the hills west of Badargadh village of Rapar taluka. It flows past the villages of Trambau, Jesda and Suvi. A dam was constructed on this river during the Second Five Year Plan period under the medium irrigation scheme. After traversing a total length of 39 km. it merges in the Great Rann of Kutch.

The Dhudud

The river Dhudud rises from Manki hills near Jadodar village in Nakhatrana taluka. It flows past Jadodar, Desalpur, Chhari and Fulay villages. It merges in the Banni area, after a course of 37 km.

The Malan

The river Malan issues from the hills near Dabhunda village in Rapar taluka and flows past Umaiya, Dabhunda and Karuda villages. A minor irrigation dam has been constructed between Karuda-Dabhunda villages of the Rapar taluka. The length of the river is 32 km. and it merges in the Great Rann of Kutch.

The Chang

The Chang river rises in the Sarsala hills near Gamdau village in the Bhachau taluka. It flows past Torania, Kanthkot, Kakarva, Manfara and Chobari villages. A minor irrigation dam was constructed on this river in First Five Year Plan. The river is 32 km. in length and merges finally in the Great Rann of Kutch.

The Nara

The Nara river originates in the hills near Matano Madh village in the Lakhpat taluka. It flows past Paneli, Gugariana and Nara villages. The river after crossing the western end of Banni, meets the Great Rann of Kutch. Its total length is about 30 km.

The Khari

The Khari starts from Chadwa hills in the Bhuj taluka, south-west of Bhuj and flows past Bhuj keeping to north for about 15 km. After receiving Mithi or Pur from the right, it flows about 12 km. more and then merges in the Banni area in the north. A medium irrigation dam was built near the Rudramata temple during the Second Five Year Plan. Its total length is about 27 km.

The Rav

The Rav river issues from Vithroi hills near Badargadh village in the Rapar taluka. It passes by Lilpur and Rav villages and turns into a lake at Lakda Vandh. The lake spills over into the Great Rann of Kutch. Two dams called Lilpur (Nilpar) 1 and Lilpur (Nilpar) 2 have been constructed on this river. Its total length is about 26 km.

The Kaila

The Kaila rises from Varar and Jhura hills. It flows by the villages of Kamaguna and Zurya of Bhuj taluka. A medium irrigation dam has been constructed on this river. The river merges in the Banni area after traversing a course of 21 km.

The Kaswati (Kans)

The river issues from the Habo hills and flows past the village Loday of Bhuj taluka. After a course of 20 km., it merges in the Banni area.

II. SOUTH FLOWING RIVERS

The Naiero

The river Naiero starts from the Manki hills near Balachod village in the Abdasa taluka. It flows past the villages of Mothala, Balachod, Sandhav and Kothara. A minor irrigation dam on this river was built at Balachod in the Abdasa taluka during the First Five Year Plan. After a course of about 55 km. it merges in the Arabian Sea.

The Kankawati

The river Kankawati rises from the Roha hills south of Gangon village in the Nakhatrana taluka. It flows by Naredi, Nundhatad, Vinzan, Sandhan, Sanosara and Hajapar villages. A medium irrigation dam was constructed on this river during the First Five Year Plan period. The course of the river is about 51 km. It merges in the Gulf of Kutch.

The Kharod

The river rises from the Nanama hills in the Nakhatrana taluka. It flows past the villages of Gadhsisa, Sherdi, Godhra and Layja Nana. A storage tank was constructed on this river during the princely Kutch regime. After a course of 50 km., it merges in the Gulf of Kutch.

The Khari

The Khari river originates in the hills near Matano Madh village of the Lakhpat taluka. After traversing a course of 39 km. the river meets the Mithi river across the Abdasa plain. The Mithi river passes by the Tera village with its course about 50 km. After their confluence at Vadsar, both the rivers flow together for about 15 km. and then fall into the Gulf of Kutch near Jakhau.

The Mithi

The river Mithi rises from the Vamoti hills in Abdasa taluka. It flows past villages of Bitta and Tera and meets the Khari river near Vadsar. A dam has been constructed on this river near Bitta. The total length of the river is about 50 km.

The Sakra

The Sakra river rises from the hills south-west of Mamuyara village of Bhuj taluka. It flows by Kanderai, Dhaneti, Makhana, Kotda, Chandrani, Tappar, Pasuda and Chirai villages. The river has a course of 48 km. and meets the Gulf of Kutch.

The Rukmavati

The river originates from the Chadwa hills in Bhuj taluka. It flows past Kojachora, Rampar, Vekra, Koday and Mandvi. The Vijaysagar Dam was constructed on this river near the village Kojachora in Mandvi taluka during the princely Kutch regime. The river flows 46 km. and meets the Gulf of Kutch near Mandvi.

The Nagmati

The river Nagmati rises from the Lanki hills, south of Naranpur village of the Bhuj taluka. It flows by Kera, Gajod, Beraja and Gelda villages. The medium irrigation dam was constructed on this river near Gajod village during the First Five Year Plan. The total length of the river is 46 km. It meets the Gulf of Kutch near Bhenslewali creek.

The Lakadiawali

The river Lakadiawali rises from the Vithroi hills near Badargadh village of the Rapar taluka. It flows past villages of Badargadh, Shivlakha, Lakadia, Chandrodi, Shikarpur and Surbari. A minor irrigation dam was constructed on this river at Badargadh village during the First Five Year Plan. After a course of 42 km. it merges in the Little Rann of Kutch.

The Bhukhi

The Bhukhi river rises from the Khatrod hills north of Jambudi village of Bhuj taluka. It flows by the villages of Reha, Jambudi, Chakar, Bandhara, Patri, Lakhapar and Mundra. A storage tank called Khengarsagar was constructed on this river by the Kutch State at Patri village of the Mundra taluka. The total length of the river is 40 km. It merges in the Gulf of Kutch near Mundra.

The Sakra

This is another Sakra river and it starts from the hills north of Vadli village of Bhuj taluka. It flows past Vadli, Makhiyan, Chandroda and Bhadresar villages. A dam for minor irrigation scheme is under construction

on this river at Bharudia village. The river is 36 km. in length and it merges in the Gulf of Kutch.

The Sang

The Sang river rises from the hills south of Sinugra village of the Anjar taluka. It flows by the villages of Nagalpur, Anjar, Galpadar and Kharirohar. A Shinay dam which provides water to Kandla has been constructed on this river. The river is 29 km. in length and it merges in the Nakti creek.

The Sai

The Sai rises near Daha village of the Abdasa taluka. It flows past Halapar and Sabharai Moti village. The total length of the river is 30 km. The river meets the Gulf of Kutch near Bambhadai village.

The Rakhdi

The Rakhdi rises in the Abdasa taluka. It flows by Vayor and Thumdi villages. A minor irrigation dam on this river was constructed during Second Five Year Plan. The river is 29 km. in length. It meets the Arabian Sea.

The Bhukhi

This is another Bhukhi river in the district. It starts from the south of Khedoi village of the Anjar taluka. It passes through Kumbharia, Bita Valadia and Naga Valadia villages. Its length is about 24 km. The river meets the Gulf of Kutch.

LAKES

Referring to lakes the old *Gazetteer* states, "Except the special depression at Sindhdi in the west of the Rann, the only lake of any size is in the east of the Charvar range."

> "To the north-west of Cutch of the time of Alexander (325 B. C.) there was a great fresh-water sea, and this, though perhaps an estuary rather than a lake, continued till about 1,300 years later the Indus left its old eastern channel and the chief part of its waters passed to the western mouths. In 1819 at the time of the earthquake over a large tract north-west of Lakhpat the land sank and became covered with water. At first the lake was salt, but in 1826 the mound that, in 1819, had formed on its north bank, was pierced by the flood waters of the Kori, and the Sindhdi became a fresh water lake. Next year (March 1827) it was a vast fresh-water lake reaching the horizon on all sides with

the Sindhdi tower standing out like a rock. In August 1827 the lake was 0·60 metres deeper but entirely salt, the fresh stream much smaller in volume, the south-west winds having blown the sea water in on the fresh. In 1834 by the stoppage of the Kori river the lagoon became much like what it was before the 1826 flood. In 1838 it was smaller and shallower, part of it dry. In 1844 the earthquake is said to have made it a salt marsh from one to four feet deep. It would seem to have kept in this state, slowly silting up, till in 1869 in the fair season but little water remained after the rest of the Rann was dry. There were miles of mud and the shape of the hollow could still be traced. In 1874 as in 1826, the Kori river sent a large volume of water through the opening in the Allah Band, and in May 1875 the whole low land from the Allah Band to Sindhdi was again an expanse of clear blue water broken only by the ruined tower of the Sindhdi fort."[1]

There are other lakes such as Hamirsar, Desalsar and Pragsar near Bhuj city, Sinay and Nigal in Anjar taluka and Chakasar in Bhachau taluka.[2] Of the various big and small reservoirs recently constructed for irrigation purposes after Independence, Gajod, Sanandhro, Kalia, Kankawati, Niruna, Suvi, Gajansar and Rudramata must be mentioned.[3]

Geological Formations*

The geological formations in Kutch range in age from Middle Jurassic to late Tertiary, with unconformities breaking the succession between the Middle Cretaceous and Supra-trappean, Supra-trappean and Middle Kirthar and finally Miocene and Pliocene. It may, therefore, be seen that in the Kutch district we have in effect an epitome of Jurassic and post-Jurassic geology of India, of great significance to Indian stratigraphy. Kutch is considered to be an eastern extension of the mobile belt then a part of the unfolded and stable peninsular fore-land of India. In this orogen, Mesozoic and Tertiary terrestrial and marine sediments and the Deccan Traps have been involved in folding movements which began in middle Tertiary time and continued intermittently into the Quaternary. The general azial trends of the anticlinal folds in Kutch are NW-SE in the western part of the district swinging to E-W in the eastern part. Moreover, along major anticlinal area the folds are segmented, *en-echelon*, attributable to oblique tear faulting or alternatively to stretching. Typically, the anticlinal folds of Kutch are asymmetrical with gentle dips on the southern flanks and steep dips on the northern

1. Campbell, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, 1880, p. 11
2. Khakhkhar, D. P., *Kutchni Laghu Bhoogol Vidya*, Rajkot, 1934
3. For details see Chapter IV-Agriculture and Irrigation

* The chart showing the statigraphic column of geological formations occurring in the district is given as Appendix III at the end of this Chapter.

flanks, which in places are bound by stike faults. Small structural domes and saddles which are commonly aligned along the anticlinal axes like brads of a string are typical of the Kutch region. The trends of *en-echelon* arrangements a symmetrical shapes of these folds suggest that the forces acted in couples against a western projection of the Indian Peninsular shield represented by the ancient crystalline rocks of Nagar Parkar along the northern margin of the Great Rann of Kutch.

Peninsular India witnessed marine transgression in the coastal regions, during Jurassic, Lower Cretaceous and Miocene times probably resulting due to drifting of the different units of the Gondwana continent and causing a temporary incursion of sea in the western portions of the present Gujarat State, Rajasthan and extending as far as the salt range in West Pakistan. These outcrops are now isolated by intervening large stretches of desert sands and alluvium. Due to the temporary incursion of the sea, the sediments were clastic in nature, moderate in thickness and dipping gently seaward, except in the Kutch district where they assume a cumulative thickness of about 2,000 metres. This may be attributed to the gradual sinking of the basin of sediments as deposition proceeded.

The Jurassic rocks occupy a large area in Kutch and are exposed in three anticlinal ridges trending east-west. The northern range which is about 160 km. long is broken up into four elevations, viz., Pachham, Khadir, Bela and Chorad in the Rann of Kutch. The middle range is about 290 km. long, trending east-south-east from Lakhpat on the west. The southern ridge, south of Bhuj, is 64 km. long and forms the Charwar and Katrol hills. The northern range abuts against the recent deposits of Rann of Kutch, the junction being a faulted one with a downthrow to the north. This fault plane is parallel to the large fault south of Bhuj which duplicates the Jurassic sequence. The downthrow of the later fault is also to the north. An isolated but large outcrop, on which Vaghura and Kanthkot stand is about 80 km. long in north-east Kutch. These anticlines show traverse undulations so that the dome like parts have been separated from each other by denudation.

The different rock formations are described below :

The Jurassic and Cretaceous sequence in Kutch comprises four main divisions, based mostly on their fossil contents, viz., Pachham series, Chari series, Katrol series and Umia (Bhuj) series.

Pachham Series—This series assumes a thickness of about 300 metres. The lowest beds exposed near Khera are clastic sandstones and yellow lime-stones with pelecypod fauna represented by *Corbula lyrata, Eomiodon, Protocardia, Trigonia*, etc. and corals. The uppermost beds are characterised by the presence of *Macrocephalities triangularis, Sivajiceras congener*, etc.

Chari Series—The Chari series, about 450 metres in thickness, may be divided into three groups, lower, middle and upper on broad lithological grounds. These three groups are further subdivided into eighteen beds, mostly on lithological basis supplemented by fossiliferous nature of beds. The lower group contains shales with thin bands of lime-stone and yellowish shales with calcareous bands of golden oolite. The middle group comprises ferruginous conglomeratic bed, shales, greenish shales, slabby sandstone and calcareous sandstone. The upper part of these groups contains fossils of *Idiocycloceras, Phylloceras, Lytoceras* and *Subkossmatia.* The upper group represented by shales, lime-stones, gypseous shales and oolitic lime-stone known as *Dhosa oolite* is very rich in fossils like *Mayaites, Epimayaites polyphemus, Perisphinctes indogermanus, Peltoceratiodes semirugosus, Paracenoceras kumagunense* and some terebratulids (Terebratula euryptycha), rhynchonellids, Gastropods and palecypods.

Katrol Series—This Katrol series, 450 metres in thickness, is composed of different types of sandstones and shales, the shales containing lenses of gypsum and tabloids of jaspar. These are characterised by *Epimayaites transiense, Prosophinctes virguloides* and *Torquatisphinctes torquatus, Taramelliceras, Glochinceras, Katroliceras, Pachysphinctes,* etc.

Umia Series—This series attaining a thickness of about 250 metres consists of fine to medium grained, brown, compact sandstones with intercalation of purplish, flaggy sandstones, ferruginous gritty, pebbly *Trigonia* beds; oolitic ammonities beds and yellow micaceous and grey gypseous shales. The fossils are represented by *Virgatosphinctes, Aulacosphinctes, Ptychophylloceras, Umiaites, Trigonia retrosa, Trigonia ventricosa* and *Trigonia crassa.*

Bhuj Series—The Bhuj formations attain a maximum thickness of about 800 metres purely on lithological characters they are grouped into five divisions. From bottom to top they are (1) medium to coarse grained, buff coloured micaceous sandstones with calcareous cement, (2) fine to medium grained greyish to cream coloured friable, current bedded felspathic sandstones, (3) gritty quartzitic ferruginous sandstones with intercalations of white felspathic sandstones, (4) gritty ferruginous sandstones with intercalations of argillaceous sandstones and plastic clay bands, the ferruginous bands containing phosphatic concretions, and (5) coarse grained white felsphathic gritty sandstones. At places the felsphathic sandstones have been metamorphosed into columnar buchites along the contacts of basic intrusions. Occurrence of fossil wood is noted in a few places.

Infra-trappean Beds—Soft, loosely granular and obscurely stratified group of earthy and sandy rocks locally rest unconformably upon the Jurassic rocks and are frequently overlain by the Deccan lava flows. They also occur as isolated patches tending for considerable distances and occasionally

contain fossils of woody fragments. The rocks often weather into greenish orange and dark earthy material. Good outcrops are noticed near Lakapur and Mundan in north-western parts of Kutch and near Bharapar, Khirai and at the base of the Katrol and Rajla hills in the Charwar-Katrol ranges.

Deccan Trap—Stratified lava flows of about 400 metres thickness rest unconformably on the Bhuj sandstones or Infra-trappean beds and form a continuous belt extending from Anjar in the east to Pandhro in the west, covering a length of about 160 km. They also form small outliers near Anjar, Ratnal, Magwana, Khombhadi and Dudhai. The Deccan traps are absent in the northern and eastern portions of Kutch district though lateritised horizons and Tertiaries are present in the region. The lava flows vary from medium grained to aphanitic types at times being porphyritic. Some of them are amygdaloidal with geodes of agate, chalcedony quartz, etc. which are scattered in the miniature valleys and *nala* sections in almost whole of the trappean region especially near Thumdi, Punadi, Makda, Poladia, Daban, etc. Ropy lavas also occur near Punadi suggesting the nearness of the place of eruption. Though horizontally bedded they occasionally show rolling dips not exceeding 5-10 degree. They dip southernly near Naredi and Vamoti, westerly near Pandhro and easterly near Anjar.

Ash Beds—A few thin cinderry-looking concretionary, cellular ash beds of variegated colour-olive to earthy green ashy or reddish are noticed near Lunava, Lakadia, Ghuneri, Pandhro, Mhurr valley, Kora, etc. Almost all of them appear to be lateritised and have undergone considerable changes obliterating their primary characters. The pyroclastic facies could be partly sub-aqueous.

Inter-trappean Beds—Fluvivatile and lacustrina deposits formed during the interval of time elapsed between two successive lava flows are termed inter-trappean beds. Local development of these beds is noticed in Kutch district and is represented by earthy calcareous beds containing a few fossils such as physaprinsepili, lymmes, etc., near Laxmipur, Lifari, Bhachau and Pasuda. Traces of baryte in lime-stone are noticed at Lifari.

Intrusives—Numerous dykes which may be genetically related to the Deccan lavas are noticed in the district but they appear to be confined to the Jurassic formation only. They include all varieties of dolerites, trachytes and basalts. Some of the larger dykes form hill ranges but they do not follow definite trends. An east-west trending dyke runs for a length of six km. between Khavda and Loriya. Two parallel dykes are noticed between the villages Vada and Taranga. A two km. long dyke trending north-west-south-east is noticed between north-west of Vadli and Madhapur. A dyke trending west-north-west—east-south-east is traced for 32 km. between

Kanthkot and Chitrod. A dolerite dyke trending north-west—south-east west of Jamthara runs for a length of 5 km. Another dolerite dyke trending north-west-south-west extends for a length of about 20 km. from Chavdka to just west of Orara. It attains the disposition of still at places. No dykes cut the Tertiary rocks.

Supra-trappean Group—The supra-trappean group of rocks rest conformably on the stratified Deccan traps and occur as narrow belt all around the upper portions of the Deccan trap from Anjar, in the east to Pandhro in the west. Further east of Anjar they appear to fringe round the Bhuj series of the upper Jurassics without conspicuous outcrops of Deccan traps. The group is unconformably overlain by different facies of the Tertiary sediments, from west to east (1) by Kirthars between Pandhro and Barandha (2) by lower Gaj between Julrai and Sherdi and (3) by Manchhars between Vandh and Adesar. The group comprises a variety of rock types, viz., (1) soft, variegated pseudo-brecciated or concretionary, unctuous aluminous rocks, (2) dark green olive-earthy green to lavender coloured cindery-looking cellular volcanic ashes with disseminations of quartz grains, (3) medium to fine-grained sandstones consisting of semi-transparent quartz grains set in argillaeous or aluminous-matrix, (4) red and brown gypseous-aluminous, and sandy shales, at time exhibiting leaf impressions, fossil wood bitumen, (5) alum-shales and (6) soft, fine, white clays. The first two are completely lateritised. The laterites exhibit relict textures resembling volcanic agglomerates, breccias, tuffs and are genetically related to bauxite. The other rock types appear to be early Tertiary sediments. The laterite near Sherdi, Thumdi, Anjar and Bhachau exhibit depositional features representing the re-worked facies of pyroclastic rocks consisting of angular bauxite pebbles set in ferruginous matrix which are subsequently bauxitised.

Tertiary System—The Tertiary rocks outcrop as a more or less continuous horizon all along the western, southern and south-eastern coast of Kutch from Lakhpat in the west to as far as Vandh on the eastern side. There are a few isolated patches of the Tertiary rocks on the northern and eastern portions of the district. The Tertiary rocks overlie the denuded edges of the Deccan traps, or at a few places the Jurassic and Cretaceous rocks. The Eocene, Oligocene and lower Miocene marine formations are more confined to the western and south-western parts of the district, while the fresh water younger rocks, equivalent to Manchhars of Sindh, occur all along the southern, eastern and western margins of the district. The Tertiary band is sometimes more than 48 km. in width. Exposures of Tertiary rocks are generally good and can be studied from bed to bed, along the dip of the beds, particularly in stream sections running parallel to dip ; the aggregate thickness being several thousand feet. The beds are occasionally horizontal, but dip gently towards the seacoast. Folding is observed in the Vindhan-Miani and Lakhpat areas. Unconformities and local faulting have also been noticed. These structural disturbances appear to be post-Middle Miocene, as the rocks of

Lower as well as Middle Miocene age have been found to be affected. A large spread of Tertiary rocks in western Kutch, commencing from near Lakhpat and passing through Sheh, Pipar, Vayor, and Rampar merges in the outcrops of Vindhan-Miani area, and extend south-eastward up to Mandvi. The rocks are highly fossiliferous. Some horizons of the Tertiaries are continuous from west to east, while others die out and reappear intermittently. Lateral changes of facies have also been observed. The Tertiary system of Kutch is divided into five different series represented by Laki, Kirthar, Nari, Gaj and Manchhar beds. They are described below : The Lakis are represented by pyritous and bituminous shales and are characterised by the fossils *Nummulites atacious, Assilina granulosa* and *Alyeolina oblonga*. They are about 60 metres in thickness. The Kirthars, about 50 metres in thickness are represented by Nummulitic lime-stones and contain *Nummulites laevigatus, N. obtuses. Assilina exponens, Nummulites complanatus*, etc. The Naris are represented by sandy beds containing *Nummulites intermedus, N. clipeus, N. Subclipeus*. They assume a thickness of about 100 metres. The Gaj bed more than 400 metres in thickness comprise shales, marls, sandstones, and nodular lime-stones with *N. borneensis, N. irregularis, Austrogrillina howchini, Lithothaminion, Turritela angulata, Clypeaster wageni, Miogypsina irregularis, Breynia Carinata*, etc. The upper Tertiary sediments referable to Manchhar series rest unconformably on the Nari and Gaj beds and are represented by conglomerates, sandstones and shales containing *Ostrea Lingna*. They attain a thickness of about 200 metres and form a continuous band running for a length of about 200 km. from west of Vindhan to east of Bhachau. Small isolated outcrops are also noticed east of Adesar.

Alluvium and Sub-Recent Deposits—Overlying the Upper Tertiary beds, a variety of Sub-Recent formations are noticed all over the district. They include (1) milliolite lime-stones noticed near Sukhpur, on the northern slopes of Khatrod range, west of Khedoi, near Ler, etc., (2) extensive patches of littoral concrete containing gastropods and univalve shells, as noticed on the northern ridge of the Pachham elevation, north of Dudhia, etc., (3) Conglomerate beds with denuded fragments or almost all the rock formations set in a calcareous matrix as noticed near Sandhan, Kotay, Kunaria, Pasuda, and Chirai, (4) fine, brownish or black silt often with saline encrustation, as noticed both in the Greater and Little Rann of Kutch, (5) agate conglomerates in the Mendhak elevation, south of Adesar. Wide alluvium plains are noticed along the northern, southern and eastern margins of the district. The alluvium is generally fine, brown, loamy and *Kankary* in nature.

All types of soil, viz., lateritic, red, black, alluvial, marshy, saline, alkaline and desert, are noticed in parts of the district. Several areas near Lakhpat, Mandvi, Mundra, Adesar, etc., are covered by small-sized sand dunes, rarely attaining a height of 10 metres. The sand dunes slowly migrate inwards and are a menace to cultivation at places.

Useful Minerals and Rocks

The important mineral deposits and useful rocks in Kutch are lime-stone, bauxite, lignite, bentonite, and building stone. Kutch is an important producer of salt from sea-water in India. The various minerals located in Kutch are :

1 Barytes
2 Bauxite
3 Coal and Lignite
4 Gypsum
5 Iron Ore
6 Lime-stone
7 Bentonite
8 White Clay
9 Glass Sand
10 Ochres
11 Salt
12 Oil and Natural Gas
13 Saline Efflorescene

(1) *Barytes*—Nodules of barytes of different shapes and sizes are scattered over gypseous shales over an area of about 13,000 sq. metres at Lifari, but none are found *in situ* and evidently they are rolled down from other sources. They are presumably segregatious in inter-trappean lime-stone found near the village. The deposits are too small for commercial exploitation.

(2) *Bauxite*—Bauxite deposits of Kutch district are confined to a zone of laterite of the Sub-Nummulitic group of rocks which occurs intervening between the Deccan traps and the Tertiary sediments, covering a length of about 50 km. and falling within the boundaries of Abdasa, Lakhpat, Nakhatrana and Mandvi talukas. A few small occurrences also occur in Anjar and Bhuj talukas.

The Geological Survey of India carried out in the year 1960-61 preliminary investigation of bauxite deposits in Kutch district. Subsequently the State Directorate of Geology and Mining undertook in the year 1963 a detailed survey of bauxite deposits of the district, which were found near Naredi, Saran, Guniasar, Vandh, Nagrecha, Ratadia, Kotda, Nandra, Khanpar, Netra, etc. A reserve of 5·85 million tonnes of bauxite has already been proved. An average composition, worked from about 65 chemical analyses of the different bauxite deposits, contains :

	Per cent
Al_2O_3	53.70
SiO_2	06.76
Fe_2O_3	05.29
TiO_2	03.79
CaO	00.90
MgO	Trace
Loss on ignition	29.66

(3) *Lignite and Coal*—Lignite deposits in Kutch have been known since long. But it was only in the year 1949-53 that it drew the attention of the Geological Survey of India and detailed drilling operations were carried out in Umarsar in Lakhpat taluka. About 90 bore holes drilled in this area have proved about 11 million tonnes of lignite. The Directorate of Geology and Mining has taken up detailed exploration of lignite since the year 1963. Reserves of 33·38 million tonnes in Matano Madh-Lifari area of Lakhpat taluka and 3·0 million tonnes at Julrai have been estimated. During the year 1965-66, the Directorate observed encouraging results in drilling operations near village Pandhro in Lakhpat taluka where about 30 million tonnes of lignite was proved. Similar occurrences of lignite are also noticed near Barandha but they are not supposed to be of economic significance. Extensive drilling programme has been undertaken by State Directorate of Geology and Mining to assess reserves of economically minable lignite deposits in Kutch district which have been estimated to be 97·76 million tonnes. Lignite occurs interbedded with grey, clayey shales of Laki age and is found in pockets with considerable laterite variation formed in minor basin-like structures. Drill holes at Umarsar have revealed the existence of 6 seams of lignite, but only the top two lenses show a maximum thickness of about 3 and 6 metres, respectively, with an approximate over-burden of 100 feet. The rest of the lenses are thin and are at relatively too great a depth to be of economic importance. The volatile and fixed carbon content is fairly uniform varying between 20 and 30 per cent. The maximum moisture content is 39 per cent and the ash about 10 per cent. The sulphur content is appreciably high varying from 1·55 to 3·18 per cent. The calorific value varies from 6,891 to 8,694 British Thermal Unit. A two metre thick lignite seam is noticed in the Nala section, 1 km. north-west of Lifari. Exploratory bore holes have proved the existence of three thin seams within 14 metres from surface.

Coal is found associated with cretaceous beds at Guneri, Bhadli and Trambau. The seams at Bhadli and Trambau are too thin to be of economic significance. The coal at Guneri is found associated with such plant impressions, as Otozamites sp., Samites sp., and Ptilophyllum Cutchense. Two small seams varying in thickness from 30 to 60 cms. are noticed on the western plunge of the Guneri dome, lying below an overburden of about 30 metres. The coal bearing area appears to be much restricted due to complicated faulting and is taken to be approximately 93,000 sq. metres. The estimated reserves are of the order of 70,000 tonnes. The coal is compact, black, shiny and non-resinous, and contains moisture : 9·43 per cent, volatile matter : 35·81 per cent, ash content : 24·59 per cent and fixed carbon : 30·16 per cent.

(4) *Gypsum*—In Kutch, gypsum occurs in three formations of different geological ages, viz., (1) with Jurassic shales near Chitrod and Badargadh, (2) with Sub-Nummulitic shales and marls near Palansava, Adesar, Umarsar,

Julrai, Kharoda, Nareda and Godthad and (3) as a constituent of saline mud of Tertiary and recent formations along the creeks near Chirai and Kandla. The estimated reserves of all the known deposits are of the order of 2 million tonnes. A representative sample from Umarsar has been found to contain.

	Per cent
SiO_2	1.16
R_2O_3	1.91
CaO	32.01
MgO	Trace
SO_3	45.36
H_2O	18.64
CO_2	0.22

The calculated calcium sulphate is 95·75 per cent which indicates that the material is of a high grade of purity.

(5) *Lime-stone*—Important lime-stone deposits of Kutch district are confined to three different geological ages, viz., (i) Gaj beds and Nummulitic lime-stones of Tertiary age, (ii) golden oolitic lime-stone of upper Jurassic age and (iii) Miliolite lime-stones of sub-recent age.

(i) *Gaj beds and Nummulitic Lime-stones*—The Geological Survey of India carried out preliminary investigation of Nummulitic lime-stone deposits of western Kutch. Extensive deposits of Nummulitic lime-stones occur forming a crescent shaped band bordering the western margins of Kutch starting from Ramania, continuing east of Narayan Sarovar and extending towards Lakhpat covering over 390 sq. km. The thickness of these lime-stones varies from place to place and ranges between 18·30 metres and 106·60 metres. The beds have gentle to moderate dips.

The average analytical results have disclosed.

	Per cent
SiO_2	0.58 to 5.86
Al_2O_3	0.90 to 4.82
CaO	38.52 to 53.31
MgO	0.38 to 10.61

The State Department of Geology and Mining has estimated an inferred reserve of over 7,500 million tonnes in the Abdasa and Lakhpat talukas.

(ii) *Golden oolitic Lime-stones*—Golden oolitic lime-stones are characterised by a structure resembling the row of fish and hence the term 'oolitic'. Individual grain is coated with a fine film of lustrous brown hematite.

Extensive development is noticed in the Jhara dome three km. south-west of Zurya village in Bhuj taluka and in the Keera dome of the Nakhatrana taluka. The total reserves of the two deposits are estimated to be about nine million tonnes with the following range in composition.

	Per cent
SiO_2	3.50 to 9.00
Al_2O_3	1.69 to 4.83
Fe_2O_3	12.99 to 31.92
CaO	26.28 to 40.01

These lime-stones might prove to be economically workable under certain conditions of benefications and cheap power in future. Enormous quantities of oolitic lime-stone occur in the Raimalro hill in the Pachham elevation and is traceable for a length of five km. in the thickness of about 15 metres. A few selected samples show the following range in chemical composition.

	Per cent
SiO_2	1.10 to 2.70
Al_2O_3	0.15 to 0.38
Fe_2O_3	1.42 to 2.29
CaO	51.65 to 53.00
MgO	0.27 to 0.79

The lime-stone bands are of chemical and metallurgical grade.

(iii) *Miliolite Lime-stones*—Miliolite lime-stones are commonly noticed near Sukhpar, Khatrod, Khedoi, Ler, Raydhanjar, etc. Chemical analysis of the average samples from Raydhanjar show CaO 41·72 per cent, SiO_2 18·96 per cent, Al_2O_3 : 1·19 per cent and MgO : 0·94 per cent.

(6) *Iron-ore*—The ferruginous laterites containing 20 to 40 per cent iron-ore are common in Kutch. Hematitic nodules in the gypseous shales and hematitic veins in the cretaceous beds are noticed near Bhachau, Lunwas, Dudhai and Matano Madh. Heaps of slag in the vicinity of village Padhar indicate probable ancient smelting. Sporadic enrichments are also noticed near Ratnal, Vandh, and Gotora hill. The ores are widely scattered and the reserves are insufficient for smelting of iron by modern methods.

(7) *Bentonite*—Bentonite deposits of Kutch have attained fame in the steel casting industry. It goes all the way to Calcutta from Kutch ports. The Geological Survey of India has carried out detailed work in Kutch in

the years 1965-66 and 1966-67 and estimated 767,200 tonnes of bentonite in Hamla area of Mandvi taluka. Bentonite mining is being carried out in Guniasar, Sherdi, Vandh and Hamla area. The biggest single deposit of this mineral is in Sherdi-Vandh area. Small occurrences are also reported in Nakhatrana and Abdasa talukas.

(8) Clays

White clay—Extensive deposits of white clays are found associated with bauxite, lignite and bentonite deposits. The quality appears to be somewhat inferior.

Other varieties of clays in enormous quantities are available from Jurassic and Tertiary sediments scattered over the entire district. The Fuller's earth is confined to traps. Most of the known deposits are confined to the upper Bhuj series and occur as lenticular pockets reaching a thickness up to four metres. The clays near Madhapar, Kali Talawadi, Adesar, Loday and Jhikadi are found to be useful for refractory purposes. Extensive quantities of clays are also noticed near Sakranadi, Dagala, Satapar in the Anjar taluka, Kotda in Nakhatrana taluka, and Asambia, Guniasar and Vandh in Mandvi taluka. They do not vitrify at 1400°C, burn white to light grey and do not show any fire shrinkage or warping. Enormous quantities of clays are noticed associated with the Sub-Nummulitic group of rocks near Matano Madh, Fulra, Lifari, Lakhpat, Mamuyara, Bhachau, etc. Facilities for levigation and systematic study of their physical properties will bring to light extensive clay deposits useful for different industries. Vast deposits of Fuller's earth, which have bleaching properties like absorption of colouring material in vegetable and mineral oils, are noticed at the foot of the Deccan trap ridges encircling the western, southern and eastern margins of the district. They are locally called "*Mung mitti*" and are used as substitute for soap by villagers. Good deposits are noticed near Julrai, Chamra, Matano Madh, Fulra in Lakhpat taluka, Bhujodi and Madhapar in Bhuj taluka and Paswadia in Anjar taluka.

(9) *Glass Sand*—Wind blown sand at Mandvi and white sand in the Bhuj beds near Mokhana in Bhuj taluka and Khambhala in Nakhatrana taluka are known occurrences of glass sand in the district. The sands are dull white to buff, medium to coarse grained and vary in silica content from 85 to 92 per cent. The reserves are supposed to be vast and are suitable for the manufacture of ordinary glass.

(10) *Ochres*—Red ochre is widely distributed in the lateritic and gypseous shale and they weather into small fragments, which when pulverised yield good red ochres. They are collected by hand picking and exported to neighbouring States. Several pockets of red, yellow, and purple colour ochres are confined to the lateritic group of rocks and are noticed near

Gaira hill, Guniasar, Sherdi, Raydhanjar, Bôha, Bhachau, Adesar, Pranpar, Julrai, Fulra, Umarsar, etc.

(11) *Salt*—In Kutch, salt is recovered from brine mainly by solar evaporation. In addition to small local salt pans, well-mechanised salt works are situated at Mundra and Kandla. The total production of salt comes to about 1 lakh metric tonnes every year.

(12) *Oil and Natural Gas*—The presence of Mesozoic and Tertiary sediments in Kutch and proved oil fields in similar rocks near Ankleshwar and Cambay in Gujarat State have increased the possibility of finding oil in Kutch district. However, the Laki and Kirthar beds, which are normally considered responsible for oil, are not thick enough in Kutch. They appear to have undergone compressional forces resulting in small folded structures which preclude the possibility of oil in Tertiary formation here. A few anticlinal structures near Lakhpat, Waghapadar, and Habo are being investigated in detail in this respect. The reported occurrence of gas in the Great Rann of Kutch, presumably in the Mesozoic formations, is indicative of the presence of oil. But a large number of basic intrusions in the folds of the Mesozoic rocks might as well indicate an indifferent prospect for the accumulation of oil. Possibilities, however, in a few Jurassic anticlines free from intrusions can not be ruled out.

(13) *Saline efflorescence*—Gypseous shales of Middle Eocene age containing lignite and clays and the lower cretaceous beds containing coal have a large amount of soluble saline matter, which dissolves in rain water during the monsoon and appears as efflorescence at the surface in summer. It is noticed near Lifari, Lakhpat, Fulra, Matano Madh, Guneri, Naredi, etc. Salt efflorescence in the alum shale at Madh is also characterised by a large amount of saline matter in the rock. When water is sprinkled over the ground rock in a pit, a thick efflorescence is formed at the surface. This was subsequently treated with potash salts to form potash alum. Alum was worked in the past and exported outside Kutch.

Ground Water—Among the different formations, the chief water bearing horizons belong to the Bhuj series. The rocks of the upper Bhuj series are predominantly sandstones with minor partings of silty shales, and siltstones which probably form no more than 10 per cent of the total thickness of the series. The sandstones are commonly of medium to coarse grained in texture and of white to buff in colour. They consist very largely of quartz grains which in most places are only slightly cemented by fine argillaceous or felspathic material so that the rocks are generally soft and friable. These sandstones have very high to moderate permeability and contain the most productive water bearing beds in much of central and eastern Kutch. A number of thick water bearing sandstones occur in the upper Bhuj series at depths ranging from 10 to 210 metres below the land surface. Most of

the wells tap water at depths of less than 18 metres. Annual recharge takes place (1) by direct infiltration from rain which falls on the land surface, (2) by infiltration from ephemeral streams while in spate and (3) by return seepage from irrigation in cultivated tracts. The water from the Bhuj series is generally of good quality useful for drinking and irrigation purposes. In the Tertiary formations in the western and southern parts of Kutch, the water is generally too brackish or salty to be used for irrigation or drinking purposes.

It was reported in 1949 that the water table in Bhirandiara (Banni area) is about 3·60 to 4·50 metres below the ground level with about 1·2 metres of water column. The wells invariably get brackish on deepening. In summer the water table drops but some potable water is available. Assuming the belief that the Banni represents a synclinal basin of Tertiary and Mesozoic formations overlain by recent Rann formations as correct, the possibilities of meeting sweet water at deeper levels, possibly under artesian conditions, cannot be altogether ruled out.

Earthquakes

The historical and disastrous earthquake of Kutch in the year 1819 placed the Kutch peninsula within the seismic tract of India. After the major shock of the 16th June, a succession of shocks lasted until the 20th November, 1819, laying all the major towns in ruins. It is said that the shock was felt over an area of a radius of 1,600 km. from Bhuj. The few geological changes brought about then are recorded as follows.

(1) River Indus, traversing the delta, found its way to sea at the western extremity of Kutch and watered the low ground north of Lakhpat, and brought sudden depression of a large portion of the Rann north of Lakhpat and caused elevation of Allah Bundh. The Rann and Banni area were simultaneously and suddenly covered with a sheet of water. The study of the earthquake revealed a belt of disturbance running somewhat sinuously through the northern part of the Rann of Kutch, for a distance of nearly 140 km., marked by a general uplift of the country to the north and of subsidence on the south. The geological formations in Kutch comprise Mesozoic, Tertiary and Quartenary non-marine and marine formations and volcanic rocks of the Deccan trap episode. The old sediments are highly faulted and folded. There are at least three major faults, (i) close to the Great Rann, (ii) close to Banni and (iii) along the central hilly-belt, trending east-west with a downthrow to the north. Structurally this area is comparatively weak and under tension and compression. From 1882 onwards, about 70 tremors of minor and major intensities were felt. Of these, 4 shocks which occurred on 15th October, 1898, on 14th January, 1903, on 31st October, 1940 and on 21st July, 1956, respectively were comparatively severe. A list of the earthquakes between 1819 and 1956 is added as Appendix II.

Flora

Forests—The district of Kutch provides the facinating study in the extremes. The constant variety of land and water, plain and hill, alluvium and rock, desert and fertile lands, trees and bare ground provides constant surprises.

As observed by *the Bombay Gazetteer*, Vol. V, in 1880 Kutch was bare with no forests and few trees. "The most striking feature of the country was its sterility, its naked rocky hills and sandy plains, while its barrenness was heightened by the scarcity of trees and general absence of anything that can be termed as jungle."[1]

The Kutch forests are characterised by thorny and non-thorny tree-growth. Due to long continued maltreatment, the wild tree-growth has become almost entirely confined to thorny species—Baval, Kher, etc. *Acacia* of many sorts ; Kai-*Mimosa* ; Kando-*Prosopis* ; Red-*Capparis* ; Boradi-*Zizyphus* ; Angario-*Balanites* ; Gugal-*Balsamodendron* ; Vingo-*Gymnosporia* ; and finally Kantalo Thor-*Euphorbia Nivulia*. These kinds now form the greater part of the forest growth in Kutch, together with some non-thorny desert trees and shrubs such as Jal-*Salvadora* ; Akdo-*Calotropis* ; Gangi-*Grewia* ; Gundi-*Cordia* ; Aval-*Cassia* ; with some Vad-*Ficus* ; Nim-*Azadirachta* ; Siras-*Albizzia* ; Lai-*Tamarix* ; Sirgvo-*Moringa* ; Khakhro-*Butea* ; Kadayo-*Sterculia* ; Mo-*Odina* ; and dwarf Rato Semlo-*Bombax* ; in many places."[2]

The observation of the author even now stands valid in the sense that the district has no forests worth mentioning.

Realising the importance of forests, Maharao Khengarji III had set aside definite areas known as rakhals or reserves wherein tree-felling and grazing were prohibited and stiff penalties were enforced for the breach by maintaining an adequate service of forest guards. This proved to be the first step towards creating block of regular forests. The policy of afforestation initiated by the former Kutch State was continued after its merger into the Indian Union. The total forest area in the district in 1966-67 was 952·52 sq. km. out of which 103·24 sq. km. were reserved forests, 202·72 sq. km. protected forests and 646·56 sq. km. unclassed forests. The forests and vegetation in the district can be classified into four distinct zones namely.

---

1. Sir Cultterbuck, P., *Report on the Possibility of Development of the Forest Areas in Kutch*, 1933, pp. 7-8
2. *Ibid.*, p. 8

(a) *The South-Western Coastal Area Joined by the Little Rann of Kutch*—This zone consists of swamps vegetated with mangroves forests on one hand and the sand flats and dunes-vegetated by grasses, etc., on the other terminating into the Little Rann of Kutch. The species that predominate are :

	Botanical name	Gujarati name	Kutchi name
1.	*Avicennia officinalis*	*Tavar, Tarvariyan*	*Cheriyan, Cherie jo Zad*
2.	*Leptadenia spartium* (Kutch broom shrubs)	*Khip*	*Khip, Dariyai Khip*
3.	*Casuarina Equisetifolia* (raised artificially)	*Saru*	*Siru*
4.	*Halopyrum mucronatum*	*Dariyai Kansdo, Dariyai Kans Ghas*	*Kans, Sari Gha, Dariyai Kans*
5.	*Melia Azadirachta*	*Limdo*	*Nim, Nim jo Zad*
6.	*Cassia auriculata*	*Aval*	*Avar*
7.	*Sporobolus Indicus*	*Velari Charchar*	*Khari Gha, Palangi Ganthiar*
8.	*Sueda maritima*	*Lano, Luno*	*Lano, Luno*
9.	*Euphorbia Tirucalli*	*Thor, Kharsani Thor, Dandalio Thor*	*Thur, Thor Dandalio Thor, Kharsani Thur*

(b) *The Central Hilly and Dry Deciduous Zone* This area comprises hills of Tertiary and Jurassic rocks of recent origin with deles and fertile flats within. The following are the main species found.

	Botanical name	Gujarati name	Kutchi name
1.	*Leucoena glauca*	*Laso Baval ; Vilayati Baval Pardeshi Baval*	*Laso Bavar Ful Bavar ; Achho Sugandhi Bavar,*
2.	*Acacia Arabica*	*Jacha Baval ; Baval*	*Bavar, Bavar jo Zad Bibar jo Zad Okhai* or *Deshan Bavar*
3.	*Prosopis spicigera*	*Shami ; Khijdo*	*Kando, Kande jo Zad, Samari*
4.	*Butea Frondosa*	*Khakhro, Kesuda nu Zad*	*Khakhar; Khakhro ; Kesude jo Zad*
5.	*Salvadora persica*	*Khari Jal, Pilu*	*Kheri Jar, Pilu*
6.	*Grewia populifolia*	*Gangeti, Ganjeti, Nagbala*	*Gangi, Gangani jo Zad*
7.	*Zizyphus Jujuba*	*Bordi, Boedi, Bordi nu Zad*	*Boedi, Ber jo Zad*
8.	*Euphorbia Tirucallis*	*Thor, Kharsani Thor, Dandalio Thor*	*Thur, Thor, Dandalio Thor, Kharsani Thor*

	Botanical name	Gujarati name	Kutchi name
9.	*Acacia Jaquemontii*	*Tal Bavari*	*Chhela Bavari, Tal Bavari*
10.	*Melia Azadirchta*	*Limdo*	*Nim, Nim jo Zad*
11.	*Phoenix Sylvestris*	*Tadi, Khalelan na Zad, Khajuri*	*Khajuri Kharadkiar*
12.	*Cassia Auriculata*	*Aval*	*Avar*
13.	*Acacia Leucophlaea*	*Harmo Baval, Harmo, Pilo Baval*	*Harmu Bavar, Harmu*
14.	*Indigofera trita*	*Adbaugali*	*Adbaugari*
15.	*Tamarindus Indicus*	*Amli, Ambli nu Zad*	*Ambli jo Zad, Ambli, Imli*
16.	*Sapindus Emarginatus*	*Aritha, Aritha nu Zad*	*Aritha, Arithe jo Zad*
17.	*Prosopis spicigera*	*Shami, Khijdo*	*Kando, Kande jo Zad, Samari*
18.	*Premna coriacea*	*Vadi Ghiteli*	*Kundher*
19.	*Adiantum Lunulatum*	*Kali Dandli no Hansraj, Hanspadi*	*Karaydo*
20.	*Leptadenia Spartium*	*Khip*	*Khip, Dariyai Khip*
21.	*Balsamodendron Mukul*	*Gugal*	*Gugal, Gugar jo Zad*
22.	*Eugenia jambolana*	*Jambu*	*Jambu*
23.	*Diospyros Tupru*	*Timbrvo, Timru, Timbru*	*Timbru jo Zad*
24.	*Ocimum sanctum*	*Tulsi*	*Tulsi*
25.	*Cactus indicus*	*Hathlo Thor, Hathlo*	*Nagphan*
26.	*Ficus religiosa*	*Piplo, Piplanu Zad*	*Pipro, Pipre jo Zad*
27.	*Physalis minima*	*Parpoti, Zinki Popti*	*Phophati : Phad, Phote ji Vad*
28.	*Salvadora oleoides*	*Mithi jal, Mitha pilu nu Zad*	*Mithi jar, Mithe pilu jo Zad*
29.	*Tamarix gallica*	*Prans, Zav, Lai*	*Lai jo Zad, Lai, Rati Lai*
30.	*Celosia Argentea*	*Lambdi*	*Lampdi*
31.	*Ficus Bengalensis*	*Vad, Vadlo, Vad nu Zad*	*Vad jo Zad*

(c) *The Northern or Banni Zone ending in the Great Rann of Kutch*—This area consists of vast sandy loam tract, flat in nature and thinly populated. It forms a semi-fertile buffer zone between the mainland of Kutch and the Great Rann ahead. The area is sparsely vegetated by plants listed below.

	Botanical name	Gujarati name	Kutchi name
1.	*Prosopis juliflora*	*Gando Baval*	*Gando Bavar*
2.	*Acacia arabica*	*Jacha Baval, Baval*	*Bavar, Bavar jo Zad, Okhai* or *Deshan Bavar*

	Botanical name	Gujarati name	Kutchi name
3.	*Capparis aphylla*	*Kerdo, Kera*	*Dora, Dore jo Zad Kera*
4.	*Salvadora Persica*	*Khari jal, Pilu*	*Khari jar, Pilu*
5.	*Prosopis spicigera*	*Shami, Khijdo*	*Kando, Kande jo Zad, Samari*
6.	*Tamarix gallica*	*Prans, Zav, Lai*	*Lai jo Zad, Lal, Rati Lai*

Grass

	Botanical name	Gujarati name	Kutchi name
1.	*Andropogon Schoeuanthus*	*Rush, Roshdo, Ronsh Ghas*	*Ronsh, Ronsh Gha*
2.	*Andropogon Sinarrossus*	*Valo, Valo Ghas, Khas Ghas*	*Vare jo Gha, Viran Khasjo Gha*
3.	*Andropogon Annulatas*	*Motu Mindadiu*	*Vadi Jinjiar*
4.	*Andropogon Contortus*	*Dabh Suriyu*	*Surio Gha, Chhuro*
5.	*Andropogon Filiformis*	*Zinu kukneru, Zinko Zinzvo*	*Sani Jinjiar*
6.	*Andropogon Halepensis*	*Baru Ghas*	*Baru, Baru Gha*
7.	*Anthistiria imberdis*	*Phuliu, Phuliu Ghas*	*Phulio Gha*
8.	*Aristida Adsenscionis*	*Lampdo, Unth Lampdo*	*Jandhar Lambh*
9.	*Aristida Hystricula*	*Lampdo, Bhony Lampdo*	*Lamp, Lamb, Lambh Gha*
10.	*Sporobolus Indicus*	*Velari Charchar*	*Khari Gha, Palangi, Gandhiar*
11.	*Cynodon Dactylon*	*Dhro, Dhrokhad*	*Chhabbar, Chhabar*
12.	*Chloris Barbata*	*Mindadiun Ghas*	*Ruchhad Gha, Muchharo Gha, Pinjaniyun Gha*
13.	*Eleusine Flagellifera*	*Ganthelo, Chamanchoto, Khevan*	*Madanu, Madanu Gha Gantharo, Madhanu*
14.	*Eleusine indica*	*Adbau Chamanchotalo Adbau Nangali*	*Adbau, Madanu*
15.	*Eleusine aristata*	*Zinko, Chamanchoto*	*Sanu Madanu, Nidho Madanu*
16.	*Phrcigmites karke*	*Narsari, Nairi, Nali*	*Anchi, Nadi*
17.	*Eragrostis ciliaris*	*Marmar, Marmar Ghas*	*Phulia chamario, Pat Chamario Gha*
18.	*Eragrostis cynosuroides*	*Dabhado, Darbh, Darbh Ghas Kush Ghas*	*Dabh, Drabh, Darbh*
19.	*Eragrostis amabilis*	*Chaki chokha*	*Phuldo Gha*

	Botanical name	Gujarati name	Kutchi name
20.	*Aeluropus villosus*	*Khariyo, Khariyo Ghas*	*Kharo Gha, Ma kapat jo Gha*
21.	*Halopyrum mucronatum*	*Dariyai kansdo, Dariyai Kans Ghas*	*Kans, Sari Gha, Dariyai kans*
22.	*Dendroclamas strictus*	*Vans, Nakor Vans*	*Vanj, Nakor Vanj*
23.	*Adiantum lunulatum*	*Kali Dandli no Hansraj, Hanspadi, Mubarkhi no palo*	*Karavado*

(d) *The Great Rann of Kutch or the Desert Zone*—This zone comprises desert area devoid of vegetation as well as human life. The main feature of the zone is that most of its area consists of salty and swampy stretches with small pockets of raised grounds. The important species found in the area though very rare are as follows.

	Botanical name	Gujarati name	Kutchi name
1.	*Sueda maritima*	*Lano, Luno*	*Lano, Luno*
2.	*Aeluropus villosus*	*Khariyo, Khariyo Ghas*	*Kharo Gha, Ma kapat jo Gha*
3.	*Prosopis spicigera*	*Shami, Khijdo*	*Kando, Kande jo Zad, Samari*
4.	*Prosopis Juliflora*	*Gando baval*	*Gando bavar*

The administration and management of wild life in the district of Kutch rests entirely with the Forest Department. The Chief Conservator of Forests of the State is also the Wild Life Preservation Officer, while the Divisional and Range Forest Officers function as *ex-officio* Wild Life Wardens and Assistant Wild Life Wardens repectively within their jurisdiction. The hunting at present in the district is controlled and regulated under the Gujarat Wild Animals and Wild Birds Protection Act, 1963. The Act prohibits unsporting methods of hunting and provides for the destruction of dangerous animals which have become a menace to human life or property. Wild life is classified into small game, big game and special big game, for each of which a separate kind of game licence has been prescribed. Game licences, which are valid for the entire State, can be obtained from the Wild Life Preservation Officer or from Wild Life Wardens on payment of requisite fees.

FRUIT TREES

Mango, coconut, *chikoo*, date and guava are the most important fruit trees, but the district is specially famous for coconut and date.

(Bk) H-49—5 (Lino)

Date—This fruit is raised in Mundra, Mandvi and Anjar talukas where the soil is salty and sandy. No special variety is in existence but research on date is going on at Khedoi (Anjar taluka) research station.

Coconut—Coconut trees are raised on a large scale in coastal areas of Mundra, Mandvi and Abdasa talukas. Coconut development scheme is in operation in this district to increase the area under this crop by regular plantation or border plantation and to improve old trees by agronomic practices.

Mango—Mangoes grow in most of the talukas except Bhachau, Rapar and Lakhpat. Though no specific variety of mango is cultivated, mangoes of Mandvi taluka are well-known. Mundra Fruit Development Farm run by the Department of Agriculture works for the improvement of local variety and distributes grafts of known varieties in the district.

Guava—Most of guava gardens are found in Anjar, Mundra and Bhuj talukas. No specific variety is raised.

Chikoo—This crop is grown in Anjar, Mandvi and Mundra talukas. Mundra is well-known for *chikoo*. *Chikoo* grafts are brought from other districts of Gujarat and distributed to the cultivators.

Banana—Bananas are grown in Mandvi, Bhuj, Mundra and Anjar talukas. The *Basarai* variety of banana is the most popular, about 6" to 7" long. They are very much in demand on account of their taste and quality.

Papaiya—The principal famous varieties of *papaiya* are *Washington* and *Honey dew*.

Citrus—Lemon is not regularly cultivated in the district. They are grown by cultivators in Bhuj, Mandvi and Mundra talukas where irrigation water is sweet. Pummelo plants are also seen where there are lime plants.

FAUNA

Domestic Animals

The chief domestic animals noticed in the district are horses, camels, oxen, cows, buffaloes, sheep, goats and asses. About horses the former Gazetteer observes,

"Cutch horses have long been held in much esteem. Generally a little over fourteen hands they are well made, spirited, and showy in action, with clean bony limbs, thin long neck, large head and cheeks, outstanding ram-like brow, full sparking eyes, and small soft ears. His chief defects are his

ill temper, the length of his cannon bone, and his ugly heavy brow. More horses are bread in Abdasa than in any other part of Cutch. Formerly (1818) they were reared by Rajputs, Molesalams, Girasias, Sindhis, and some Ahir cultivators who, when young, fed them largely on goat's milk, one colt requiring from twelve to fourteen goats."[1] Even in the time of Aurangzeb Kutchi horses were highly prized and purchased for the Emperor for breeding-purposes and sent to Delhi.[2]

These types of horses have now almost disappeared. The horses are generally put to work too young, and though strong and enduring most of them get damaged, at five years. Their ordinary food is a mixture of pulse, *math, phaseolus aconitifolius,* and millet, *bajri, penicillaria spicata.*

In the cold season and after hard work, a mess of flour, molasses, and clarified butter are also served. Before any extremely hard expedition, the old outlaw custom of giving the horse a feed of boiled goat's or sheep's flesh is said sometimes to be still kept up. During 1967-68 the price of a horse ranged between Rs. 300 to Rs. 500.

Kutch has long been famous for its camels. Somewhat slightly made but very fast, they are better fitted for riding than for burden. Camels are chiefly reared by Rajputs, Rabaris, Sindhis and Bharvads. They are used for riding, carrying burden, and turning oil-mill. Their milk is the chief article of the Rabaris' food. During 1967-68 the price of a camel varied from Rs. 600 to Rs. 1,100.

Cows, oxen, and buffaloes are found in large numbers. Of oxen, there are three breeds ; Vagadia reared in Vagad by Rabaris, Bharvads, and other cultivators ; Banniai, reared in the Banni pastures and Kutchi, reared in different villages of Kutch by Rabaris and Bharvads. The Vagadia bullock is tall, strong, and well-made, the Banniai is, except that it is smaller, much like the Vagadia : and the Kutchi, used as a pack bullock, is small and of little strength or beauty. The prices of these bullocks vary from Rs. 350 to Rs. 600. The bulls are very mischievous and cost Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000. Kankrej breed of cow is famous in Kutch. Its price varies from Rs. 300 to Rs. 400. Though this breed yields less quantity of milk in comparision to other cows of Kutchi breed, Kankrej cows are maintained purely for the good bulls they supply. The prices of cows of local breed vary from Rs. 350 to Rs. 500. The Kutchi she-buffaloes, especially of Banni area, are well-known and exported to Bombay at prices ranging between Rs. 900 and Rs. 2,500.

1. CAMPBELL, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, 1880, p. 28
2. SYED NAWAB ALI and CHARLES NORMAN SEDDON, *Mirat-I-Ahmedi*, Supplement, (Translation), Baroda, 1928, p. 128

The goat is held in high esteem among the pastoral tribes of Kutch, in particular by the Muhammadans who eat goat's flesh and live almost entirely on its milk and clarified butter. Of goats, there are two kinds, *hamia* and *deshi*, the former being shorter and of a finer breed. They are reared chiefly by the Rabaris and Bharvads. Sheep, kept chiefly for milk, from which clarified butter, *ghee*, is made, are plentiful. There are two varieties of sheep, viz., (1) *deshi* technically known as Patanwadi and (2) Kutchi Marwari. The former variety is reared by Muslims in the western parts of the district, while the latter by Bharvads in its eastern parts. The wool of Kutchi Marwari variety is of coarser quality while that of Patanwadi is good and soft. Their wool is sold to Vania and Lohana merchants, and their flesh is used to a considerable extent. A goat costs from Rs. 60 to Rs. 100 and a sheep from Rs. 35 to Rs. 60.

Asses of two sorts, Sindhi and Kutchi, are reared by Kumbhars and Ods. Small and untractable, they are used by grain merchants and potters to carry burdens. Their prices varied from Rs. 150 to Rs. 300 during 1967-68.

Wild Life

Lying as it does in the poor rainfall area of India, Kutch lacks fine forests with their richer mammalian life and is the home of desert and dry, scrub jungle loving animals, best suited to the climate of arid and open land. "At the beginning of the century, lions, tigers, and other large game were plentiful in Cutch. But of late years, tigers and lions have almost entirely disappeared."[1]

1. *Panther-Panthera Pardus* (Linnaeus) (*Dipdo*)- This species used to be fairly common but of late its numbers have dwindled considerably. Unlike the tiger which prefers heavy cover, the panther is able to live and thrive almost anywhere. In Kutch they have good and plentiful cover among the rocky hills, and except after killing a cow or goat, are difficult to trace. Its natural prey includes deer, monkeys, porcupines, etc. A panther living near human habitation preys mainly on domestic animals or even poultry and is particularly fond of lifting dogs. It invariably seizes its victim by the threat and kills it by strangulation. The Indian leopard *Panthera pardus* which was quite numerous but is now not so common in the various "rakhals" on the Kutch mainland.

2. *Indian Wolf-Canis lupus* (Linnaeus) (*Varu*)—Normally wolves are found in forests but they are known to inhabit desert and shrubby lands also. Generally they prey upon stray animals in open uninhabited areas but when driven by hunger, they even kill children and become a menace to human life.

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, 1880, p. 30

3. *Hyaena-Hyaena hyaena* (Linnaeus) (*Taras*)—The striped hyaena though not much of a common wild animal of Kutch, one does come across it in the shrubby semi-desert areas.

4. *Jackal-Canis aureus* (Linnaeus) (*Shial*)—The adaptable jackal is common everywhere. The long-drawn eerie howling of this ubiquitous canine is a very familiar nocturnal sound heard in the countryside. It mostly feeds on carrion and is a useful scavenger. Occasionally, it lifts poultry and young ones of goats and sheep. It also raids sugar-cane fields and melon patches in season.

5. *Fox-Vulpes bengalensis* (*Shaw*) (*Lonkadi*)—Three varieties found in Kutch are (i) common grey Indian fox; (ii) white with black belly and legs, and (iii) large English-like fox of a light brown colour with a white point to his brush. Known as *lonkadi* it is quite active. This animal is normally found in burrows in fields and open lands. In Kutch it is common in the shrubby open lands but not in the desert. It lives on frogs, reptiles, birds, insects, etc., also feeds on fallen fruits and berries and is a menace to melon plantations. These animals have notable speed which helps them in their defence against other animals.

6. *Wild Boar-Sus Scrofa* (Linnaeus) (*Dukkar*)—Wild boars were plentiful in the past and even today they are quite apparent on the Kala Dungar in Pachham, but elsewhere they are not as numerous as might be expected. This highly prolific species is very destructive to crops. It commonly grubs for underground roots and tubers but is omnivorous and also feeds on insects, snakes and carrion.

7. *Black Buck-Antelope Cervicapra* (Linnaeus) (*Kaliar*)—This variety of deer is to be seen occasionally on alluvial sands along the shores of the Gulf of Kutch, while the *Common Red Antelope-Gazella benettii* (*Chinkara*) is found in the same places in much larger numbers. A fine male antelope of the Indian plains has long spiral horns. The older animal becomes deep black on the upper parts, in strong contrast with its white throat, belly and legs. Sought after by sportsmen and some of the villagers, its number which was once a justifiable pride of Kutch, has sadly diminished today. Bucks were plentiful on the low lying saline flats of Banni which provide grazing for the cattle raised in this area. Bucks need to be carefully husbanded so that their number can once again be an attraction to the tourists. Black bucks can run very fast and escape enemy by swift running.

8. *Wild Ass--Equus hemionus Pallas* (*Khar Gaddha*)—Kutch is well-known for its wild ass. This interesting animal is restricted to the fringes of the Little Rann of Kutch, more so on the southern side in Surendranagar district and around Jinjuvada. According to a rough ocular estimate made by the well-known conservationist Mr. E. P. Gee in 1962,

the population of wild asses was in the neighbourhood of 870. An aerial census of their population was made in October 1969 by the State Forest Department and their number was provisionally estimated at 362.1 Wild asses have been recently bred in a couple of zoos in the country. This will ensure the species from becoming extinct.

The Rann is characterized by flat grassy expanses known as 'bets' in which coarse grasses spring up vigorously with the monsoon inundations. When the tracts get flooded, herds of wild asses keep to the higher and drier portions on the 'bets' moving freely from one elevation to another. As summer approaches and the grass in the 'bets' withers, the wild asses shift to other 'bets' which have perennial water supply and some green grass throughout the year and congregate in such places in large numbers. They are sturdy and well-built creatures and can gallop at about 50 km. per hour over considerable distances. It is difficult to catch them and more so to keep them in captivity. Young ones can be easily tamed. It is thirteen hands high, has a light brown neck and body, a black stripe down the back, and a white belly. Like the tame ass it has long ears, but its limbs are stronger and better made. Generally moving in herds of ten to fifty, it is sometimes found single or in pairs. According to the local belief, there are, in every herd of wild asses, besides young ones, several grown up animals both male and female. The former Gazetteer records that as each young male comes of age, he fights the head of the herd, and the loser is mutilated and becomes the victor's follower.2

9. *The Indian hare-Lepus nigricollis* (Guvier) (*Saslo*)—The Indian hare is an animal of open fields and plains. It prefers busy tracts alternating with cultivation. It is usually nocturnal in habit. By day, it lies up in a scooped out hollow or 'form' made in the patch of grass. In this respect, it differs from the true rabbit which lives in a burrow and does not occur in India. This animal is a great menace to cultivation. Reduced by snaring and shooting, the greatest cause for the decline in its population has been the destruction of plant cover, which is still untouched in the southern fringes of the Banni.

Birds

Kutch has attracted the attention of ornithologists, since the middle of the 19th century. The first to undertake such a survey was Dr. Ferdinand Stoliczka, whose notes were supplemented by the veteran naturalist A. O. Hume followed by Mr. Hugh Palin who wrote *Birds of Kutch* in 1878. Captain C. D. Lester revised Palin's list of 179 species in 1898 by adding 44 species not recorded by him. All the rulers of Kutch since Maharao Khengarji have been great lovers of birds and evinced keen interest in the

1. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Gujarat
2. Campbell J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, 1880, p. 31

study of birds life in their State. It was Maharao Khengarji who discovered the only known breeding grounds of the Flamingo in India and Maharao Vijayrajji wrote very illuminating notes on birds and bird-shooting in Kutch. Others, whose contribution to Kutch ornithology deserves mention are Captain Newham and Col. O' Brien, one time Resident at Rajkot. Geoffrey Archer, the famous ornithologist who has chronicled the birds of British Somaliland has also contributed to its ornithology during his stay for a number of years in Kutch. *The Book of Indian Birds*, published by the Bombay Natural History Society, and *The Birds of Kutch*, recording the results of the ornithological survey carried out by Salim Ali in 1943-44 sponsored by the Kutch Government and patronised by Maharao Vijayrajji have added considerably to the knowledge of the birds of Kutch.

The resident bird-life of Kutch more closely approximates the species found in the adjacent dry and sandy regions of north Gujarat, western Rajputana, and northern Saurashtra than to those found in Baluchistan and Sindh as the Great Rann operates as an efficient barrier to local migrations towards the north. *The resident birds of Kutch* are House Crow, Yellow Throated Sparrow, Purple Sun-Bird, Mahratta Wood-pecker, and Green-Bee-Eater, which are so common to all these regions because of the similarity of their ecological conditions.

"But the chief interest of Kutch ornithology lies in the geographical position of this narrow strip of land relative to the mighty tide of migration that sweeps into India from beyond its northern and north-western boundaries, and out again, in the autumn and spring of each year. Apart from the migrants that come to spend the winter here and in peninsular India (the wild fowl, etc.), the area is of further importance in that it lies on the extreme eastern fringe of a broad stream of through migration that flows down from Central and Northern Asia in a south-westerly direction in autumn, and *vice versa* in spring. This current passes over the North-West Frontier Province, Afghanistan, Baluchistan and Sindh beyond across the Arabian Sea and over Southern Arabia, into British Somaliland and Abyssinia. Thence it straggles down the eastern coast, even as far as South Africa. Most of these African-wintering species pass over Kutch during September and early October. They come over in great waves, as it were, "swarming" during their temporary sojourn, and are completely gone again all within the course of a few short weeks. The journey back to their breeding ground is evidently performed (*in the main*, at any rate) over a some what different route since the birds are not met with in Kutch on their return passage in spring. Outstanding examples of these Africa-bound "through passengers" by the Arabian route are the Grey-backed Warbler (*Agrobates galactodes familiaris*), Indian Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis icterops*), Kashmir Roller (*Coracias garrula semenovi*), European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus unwinii*) and Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata neumenni*).

Kutch also derives a substantial quota of its winter visitors and/or passage migrants into peninsular India from the NW and WNW, i. e., from Northern and Eastern Europe, and from countries of the so-called Middle East. The Rosy Pastor (*Pastor roseus*), Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza Melanocephala*), Grey-necked Bunting (*Emberiza buchanani*), Yarkand Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla longipennis*) and White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia ciconia*) are some of the species that travel by this route."[1]

Shore birds are particularly plentiful on the organic rich zone of the coastal flats bordering the Gulf of Kutch and the vast saline expanses of the Great Rann. There are a confusing medly of birds arriving in autumn and leaving for northern climes in March and April. Congregations on water at times are a fascinating sight as they flash low over the water or the dark mud, turning and twisting in unision in the brightly lit scene of a Kutch winter.

Palin's list as revised by Lester records a total of 223 species noticed in Kutch. Those listed by Salim Ali in *The Birds of Kutch* number 324 which include birds both resident as well as migrant. The most important among both these categories are noted below.

I *Common and Resident Birds*

1 House Crow
2 Jungle Crow
3 Jungle Babbler
4 Common Babbler
5 White-eared Bulbul
6 Central Indian Bulbul
7 White-winged Black Tit
8 Bee-eater
9 Blue Rock Pigeon
10 Sky Lark
11 Singing Bush Lark
12 Indus Lark
13 Finch Lark
14 Sunbird
15 Blue Jay
16 Kingfisher
17 Swift
18 Spotted Owlet
19 White-backed Vulture
20 Sparrow
21 Eagle
22 Brown Dove
23 Ring Dove
24 Common Peafowl
25 Grey Quail
26 Gull
27 Tern
28 Heron
29 Eastern large Egret
30 Grey Partridge
31 Common Myna
32 Brown-backed Indian Robin
33 Tailor Bird
34 Common Sandgrouse
35 Great Indian Bustard
36 Red-rumped Swallow
37 Grey Shrike
38 White-bellied Minivet
39 Indian Wren Warbler
40 Striolated Bunting
41 Rose-ringed Parakeet
42 Common Pariah Kite

1. Salim Ali, *The Birds of Kutch*, Bombay, 1945, pp. xiii-xiv

I *Common and Resident Birds*—contd.

Ducks
43 Lesser Whistling
44 Spotbilled
45 Comb Duck

II *Migrant or Winter Visitors*

1 Indian Bush Chat
2 Pied Chat
3 Desert Chat
4 Red-tailed Chat
5 Bluethroat
6 Indian Whitethroat
7 Grey-backed or Rufous Warbler
8 Desert Warbler
9 Pale Harrier
10 Spotted Sandgrouse
11 Imperial Sandgrouse
12 Brown-headed Gull
13 Green Sandpiper
14 Wood or Spotted Sandpiper
15 Grey-necked Bunting
16 European Hoopoe
17 Grey Quail
18 Demoiselle Crane
19 Eastern common Crane
20 Common Snipe
21 Kashmir Roller
22 European Nightjar
23 Spotted Flycatcher
24 Fantail Flycatcher
25 White Stork
26 (a) Flamingo (b) Lesser Flamingo
27 Haubara Bustard
28 Florikan
29 Cuckoo
30 Rosy Pastor

Ducks
31 Wigeon
32 Pintailed
33 Common Teal
34 Garganey Teal
35 Shoveler
36 Gadwall
37 Common Pochard
38 Ruddy Sheldrake or Brahminy Duck

Snakes

Different kinds of snakes found in the district may be classified under two broad categories, viz., (i) non-poisonous and (ii) poisonous.[1]

Non-Poisonous

Family : Boidae

Indian Python (*Python molurus*)—This snake is commonly called *ajgar*. It is a large snake 2·44 to 4·88 metres long and may occasionally grow to 7·62 metres. Its head and back are covered with somewhat diamond-shaped patches of a brownish or greyish colour, divided from one another by narrow buff coloured line. This type of snake is found particularly in rocky wet regions with bushes. It feeds on mammals like deer and birds.

1. Gharpurey, K. G., *The Snakes of India and Pakistan*, 1954 and Deoras, P. J. *Snakes of India*, 1965

(Bk) H-49—6 (Lino)

Sand Boa (*Eryx conicus*)—This snake is thick and round, from 0·30 to 0·75 metres long. Its tail sharply tapering and conical is short and measures 1 to 1½ inches. It is a pinkish grey snake with deep brown irregular patches all over the body. The patches are edged by black borders. The ventral side is faint yellow with brown spots on outer side. It hides itself in sandy soils and feeds on frogs, mice, lizards, etc.

FAMILY : COLUBRIDAE

Rat Snake (*Ptyas mucosus*)—Locally known as *Dhaman*, this widely distributed snake is dirty yellow coloured with tips of scales in black. It is timid, can climb a tree and lives mainly in the plains. It feeds on mammals, frogs, toads, lizards and even snakes.

Royal Snake (*Zamenis diadema*)—As in other arid parts of India, so also in Kutch, this snake has its place of abode. This snake grows to 1·50 or 1·80 metres but may have a length of 2·13 metres. Light brown in colour, it has three series of large dark spots on the back, superficially resembling those of a Russell's Viper, for which it is occasionally mistaken. It dwells in the crevices of loose stones and feeds on rats, mice and squirrels.

POISONOUS

FAMILY : ELAPIDAE

Indian Cobra (*Naja Tripudians or Naja naja*)—This snake has indeed a beautiful appearance, but it is a poisonous and dangerous reptile. Its most prominent characteristic is its well marked hood. The cobra found in the district has no such mark. It has long ribs on the neck just behind the head, with attached muscles, the ribs behind the neck being shorter and smaller. Thus, when the muscles of the neck contract, the ribs stand out sideways and the neck expands laterally forming the hood. This snake is found in the thick growth of trees in forests and in open country with or without vegetation. The poison of this snake is neurotoxic.

FAMILY : VIPERIDAE

Saw Scaled Viper (*Echis carinatus*)—This is pitless viper with broad plates on the belly and small scales on the head. It is a desert snake. It prefers a sandy arid soil and does not like to dwell in thick vegetation or jungle. It is specially abundant on the off shore "beyts" in the Great Rann of Kutch. This snake is small in size, about 0·45 metre long, though a few grow to 0·60 metre or even to 0·75 metre. The colour of the snake is brown, buff, sandy or green. It has got a pale sinuous, white line along either flank of the bank. It generally feeds on mice.

Chain Viper (*Vipera russelli*)—This snake has large plates on the belly and small scales on the head. The large black spots on the body are

arranged in three rows, one in the middle of the back and one on either side. The long rows of spots have an appearance of chain and hence the snake is also called chain viper. It does not lay eggs. The young one measure 0·15 to 0·25 metre at birth while adults are 0·91 to 1·22 metres long and may even grow up to 1·65 metres.

In 1969 the deaths due to snake bite numbered 26 in the district.

FISH

With a coast line of about 250 miles from Surbari in the east to Lakhpat in the west, the district of Kutch is rich in its fish resources and has good prospects for their development. The fisheries of the district can broadly be divided into three categories, viz., (1) Marine (2) Inland and (3) Back water fisheries.

The Gulf of Kutch influenced by the tidal waters of the Arabian Sea is one of the most productive habitat of commercially important marine fish, viz., Prawns, Bombay duck, etc. The gulf also provides potential fishing grounds for major prime fish such as Pomfrets, Palla, Surmai, Ghol, Dara, etc. The Kutch fishermen with their comparatively low range boats of 1 to 5 tons capacity usually do not venture to exploit the more productive grounds beyond 10 fathom line in the Gulf of Kutch which are considered to be good fishing grounds for big cannable Prawns, Dara, etc. The important fishing villages in the district are Surbari, Kandla, Tuna, Navinal, Sanghad, Bhadresar, Luni, Shekhadia, Mundra, Jarpara, Layji, Mandvi, Modhva, Gundiali, Jakhau, Narayan Sarovar, Koteshwar, and Lakhpat. Those of lesser importance are Bambhadai, Suthari, Katri, etc.

A large variety of fish are found in the district, the most important among them are listed below.

Sl. No.	Scientific name	English name	Local name
1	*Harpodon nehereus* ..	Bombay duck	*Bumla*
2	*Mugil dussumieri* ..	Mullet	*Chhodi*
3	*Pampus argenteus* ..	Silver Pomfret	*Vichuda*
4	*Pampus Chinensis* ..	White Pomfret	*Pathu*
5	*Perastromateus niger* ..	Black Pomfret	*Halva*
6	*Polynemus indicus* ..	Thread fin	*Dara*
7	*Eleutheronema terradactylum*	Indian Salmon	*Rawas*
8	*Pseudosciaena diacanthus* ..	Jew fish	*Ghol*
9	*Penaeus indicus* ..	Prawn	*Jinga*
10	*Metapenseus monoceros* ..	Prawn	*Jinga*

NOTE :

For further details on fish and fisheries see Chapter IV—Agriculture and Irrigation.

In order to explore the vast resources mentioned above, different types of local fishing crafts and gears are used by Kutch fishermen which differ according to the area of operation, nature of fishing ground and the kind of fish available in a particular season.

CLIMATE

Rainfall—The typical rainfall conditions in Kutch have been aptly summarised in the former Gazetteer in the following terms.

"Lying along the north parallel of the Tropic of Cancer, Cutch is almost beyond the rain-bringing influence of the south-west monsoon. Its rain generally comes against the usual winds in squalls from the north-north-west round by north and east to south. The supply is never large and sometimes fails altogether. The average annual rainfall at Bhuj for the thirty years ending 1878 is returned at fourteen inches. During this period the greatest amount registered in any one year was forty inches in 1878, and the least ten cents in 1848."[1]

Records of rainfall in the district are now available for 11 rain gauge stations for periods ranging from 29 to 83 years. The details of rainfall at these stations and for the district as a whole are given in statements appearing at the end of the Chapter. The annual rainfall in the district is 322·2 mm. (12·69"). The normal rainfall in the district ranges between 300 to 400 mm. It varies from 407·5 mm. (16·05") at Mandvi on the southern coast to 249·4 mm. (9·81") at Lakhpat on the north-west coast. Most of the annual rainfall in the district is received during the south-west monsoon season, July being the rainiest month. The variation in the annual rainfall from year to year is very large. During the 50 year period 1901 to 1950, the highest annual rainfall amounting to 266 per cent of the normal occurred in 1926, while the lowest annual rainfall which was only 19 per cent of the normal occurred in 1939. The annual rainfall in the district was less than 80 per cent of the normal in 17 years, of which eight years less than 50 per cent. Two and three consecutive years of rainfall less than 80 per cent of the normal occurred twice each in the district. Bhuj had rainfall less than 80 per cent of the normal in 2 consecutive years on five occasions. Even 4 consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred at 5 out of all the 11 stations. Naliya had four consecutive years of such rainfall on 3 occasions in the 50 year period.

Statement 1·4 shows that the annual rainfall in the district was between 200 and 500 mm. (7·87" and 19·69") in 33 years out of 50.

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, 1880, p. 17

On an average there are 14 rainy days (i. e. days with rainfall of 2·5 mm.—10 cents and more) in a year in the district. This number decreases from 17 at Mandvi and Rapar on the south coast to 9 at Lakhpat and Khadir in the north.

Records of heaviest rainfall in 24 hours are not available for some of the stations prior to 1956. From the data of stations which have records, the heaviest rainfall in 24 hours was 467·9 mm. (18·42") recorded at Bhuj in 1959 July, 15.

Temperature—There are 6 meteorological observatories in the district at Bhuj, Bhutakia Bhimasar, Kandla, Mandvi, Naliya and New Kandla. All except Bhuj and Mandvi have been started only very recently. The description which follows is mainly based on the records of the observatory at Bhuj with a long period of data supplemented by those of Mandvi available for a very much shorter period. The day temperatures in the coastal parts of the district in general are less than in the interior. This is particularly so during summer. In the cold season the interior parts are colder by a few degrees. After February temperature rapidly increases till May which is generally the hottest month. The mean daily maximum temperature in May at Bhuj is 38·3°C (100·9°F) while at Mandvi it is 32·7°C (90·9°F). In the hot season, on some days the day temperature may go above 46°C (114·8°F) in the interior and above 41°C (105·8°F) in the coastal areas. Nights are generally warmer during June and July than in May. With the onset of the south-west monsoon by about the middle of June, day temperature decreases appreciably. After about the middle of September when the south-west monsoon withdraws there is a slight increase in day temperature and a secondary maximum in day temperature is reached in October. However, night temperature decreases with the withdrawal of the monsoon. After October both day and night temperature rapidly decrease till January which is the coldest month. The mean daily maximum temperature in January is 26·2°C (79·2°F) and the mean daily minimum 11·2°C (52·2°F) at Bhuj. The corresponding figures for Mandvi are 25·6°C (78·1°F) and 14·2°C (57·6°F) respectively. In the wake of the western disturbances passing across north India in the winter season, cold waves affect the district when the minimum temperature may go down to about 1°C (33·8°F) in the interior parts of the district.

The highest maximum temperature recorded at Bhuj was 47·8°C (118·0°F) on 1886 May 26, while the lowest minimum was 1·1°C (34·0°F) recorded on 1929 February 1. At Mandvi the highest maximum temperature recorded was 42·6°C (108·7°F) on 1959 May 21 and the lowest minimum 7·8°C (46·0°F) on 1956 January 30.

Humidity—In general, humidity in the coastal parts is high throughout the year, exceeding 60 per cent on the average. During the south-west

monsoon the humidity of the air over the district in general is high with the relative humidities exceeding 80 per cent in the coastal region and over 65 per cent in the interior. In the interior of the district, during the rest of the year the air is generally dry with the afternoon relative humidities of the order of 25 per cent or less.

Cloudiness—The skies are generally heavily clouded and overcast on some days during the south-west monsoon. In the rest of the year skies are mostly clear or lightly clouded.

Winds—Winds are generally light to moderate with some increase in force during the late summer and south-west monsoon season. Coastal parts experience stronger winds especially during the monsoon season.

"From June to October the south-west monsoon winds are strongly felt, the weather being seldom calm. In the cold months, harsh east and north winds prevail, followed by strong south-westerly gales and steady winds the air being frequently loaded with dust. Along the sea coast throughout the year, the climate is agreeable, and over the whole province for nearly nine months it is cool and healthy. But in April and May burning winds and dust storms make life miserable, and during October and part of November, the climate is oppressive and sickly."[1]

During the period April to September winds blow mostly from the west or south-west especially. During the rest of the year winds blow from directions between south-west and north-west and sometimes from the north and north-east especially in the afternoons.

Special weather phenomena—Thunderstorms occur during the monsoon season. Dust storms occur occasionally during the summer particularly in the interior of the district.

Statements 1·5, 1·7 and 1·9 give the temperature and humidity, mean wind speed and special weather phenomena respectively for Bhuj and Statements 1·6, 1·8 and 1·10 give similar data for Mandvi.

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Gutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, 1880, p. 18

STATEMENTS

STATEMENT I·3

Normals and Extremes of Rainfall

Station 1		No. of years of data 2	January 3	February 4	March 5	April 6	May 7	June 8	July 9	August 10	September 11	October 12	November 13	December 14	Annual 15	Highest annual rainfall as percent of normal and year** 16	Lowest annual rainfall as percent of normal and year** 17	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours* Amount (mm.) 18			Date 19
Bhuj	..	50 (a)	2.0	5.6	2.0	0.8	7.4	26.9	150.4	83.8	48.8	10.2	1.0	1.5	340.4	346 (1926)	17 (1911)	467.9	1959	July	15
		(b)	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	1.5	5.6	4.0	2.2	0.5	0.2	0.1	15.3						
Mandvi	..	50 (a)	2.5	2.5	1.5	0.5	1.8	33.5	205.2	99.6	49.5	8.1	1.3	1.5	407.5	293 (1926)	7 (1918)	375.9	1881	July	12
		(b)	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.2	1.5	7.7	4.8	1.8	0.3	0.1	0.2	17.4						
Mundra	..	19 (a)	1.8	0.8	0.0	0.3	5.1	38.6	198.4	86.4	24.6	1.3	3.8	1.5	362.6	210 (1944)	19 (1939)	Data not available prior to 1956.			
		(b)	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	1.5	7.5	3.7	1.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	15.1						
Anjar	..	50 (a)	2.0	3.6	1.3	0.8	5.1	35.6	160.5	74.2	41.7	8.6	1.0	1.0	335.7	225 (1913)	16 (1939)	326.1	1894	July	23
		(b)	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.6	6.7	4.3	2.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	16.5						
Bhachau	..	19 (a)	1.3	2.5	0.0	0.0	8.6	50.0	161.5	77.7	29.2	1.0	6.3	2.5	340.6	188 (1944)	25 (1939)	Data not available prior to 1956.			
		(b)	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.6	6.4	4.4	1.7	0.1	0.2	0.1	14.9						
Rapar	..	50 (a)	1.0	2.5	1.0	2.8	6.1	36.3	148.6	91.7	50.3	7.4	2.3	1.3	351.3	205 (1944)	18 (1911)	197.6	1884	Sept-ember	2
		(b)	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.4	1.6	6.2	4.9	2.6	0.5	0.1	0.1	17.0						
Nakhatrana	..	19 (a)	3.6	4.3	1.0	0.3	1.8	46.7	123.9	69.1	9.4	1.0	1.5	3.3	266.2	307 (1944)	10 (1948)	Data not available prior to 1956.			
		(b)	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.5	5.7	3.2	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.3	13.2						
Naliya	..	50 (a)	2.0	5.1	1.5	0.8	1.3	27.4	131.8	76.7	38.6	7.1	1.0	1.3	294.9	319 (1913)	3 (1918)	262.9	1959	July	15
		(b)	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.1	1.2	5.4	3.6	1.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	13.2						
Lakhpat	..	19 (a)	1.8	6.1	0.3	0.3	0.0	27.7	110.5	85.9	11.9	0.5	1.3	3.1	249.4	300 (1944)	18 (1948)	Data not available prior to 1956.			
		(b)	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.9	4.3	4.3	2.5	0.4	0.1	0.3	9.5						
Khavda	..	19 (a)	1.0	3.8	1.0	0.3	7.9	34.8	146.3	113.0	22.1	0.0	0.0	1.0	331.2	191 (1935)	10 (1948)	Do.			
		(b)	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	1.1	5.5	3.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	12.0						
Khadir	..	19 (a)	0.3	1.5	0.0	0.5	2.0	47.7	122.4	54.9	31.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	262.3	215 (1937)	1 (1947)	Do.			
		(b)	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	1.2	3.5	2.4	1.1	1.0	0.0	8.9							
Kutch (District)		(a)	1.8	3.5	0.9	0.7	4.3	36.8	150.9	83.0	32.5	4.1	2.0	1.7	322.2	266 (1926)	19 (1939)				
		(b)	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.4	5.9	3.7	1.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	13.8						

(a) Normal rainfall in mm. (b) Average number of rainy days (days with rain of 2.5 mm. or more).

* Based on all available data up to 1960.

** Years given in brackets.

Daily rainfall not available, only monthly values are available.

(Bk) H-49—7 (Lino)

STATEMENT I-4

Frequency of Annual Rainfall in the District

(Data 1901-1950)

Range in mm.	No. of years	Range in mm.	No. of years
1	2	3	4
001—100 ..	4	401—500 ..	9
101—200 ..	7	501—600 ..	2
201—300 ..	11	601—700 ..	2
301—400 ..	13	701—800 ..	0
		801—900 ..	2

STATEMENT I-5

Normals of Temperature and Relative Humidity

(Bhuj)

Month	Mean daily maximum temperature	Mean daily minimum temperature	Highest maximum ever recorded		Lowest minimum ever recorded		Relative humidity 0830	Relative humidity 1730*
	°C	°C	°C	date	°C	date	percent	percent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
January	26.2	11.2	36.1	1902 Jan. 28	1.7	1935 Jan. 17	52	26
February	28.8	13.6	38.9	1953 Feb. 28	1.1	1929 Feb. 1	58	23
March	33.9	18.1	43.9	1892 Mar. 28	8.3	1905 Mar. 1	59	21
April	37.7	22.0	45.6	1893 Apr. 30	13.9	1945 Apr. 2	60	22
May	38.3	25.0	47.8	1886 May 26	16.7	1916 May 2	68	36
June	36.3	26.7	46.1	1901 Jun. 11	16.1	1902 Jun. 16	71	51
July	32.6	25.7	40.0	1902 Jul. 6	19.4	1924 Jul. 1	80	66
August	31.3	24.7	38.3	1948 Aug. 12	20.0	1956 Aug. 5	80	64
September	33.2	23.8	42.8	1951 Sep. 30	17.8	1923 Sep. 20	78	51
October	35.6	21.4	42.2	1951 Oct. 4	11.1	1949 Oct. 31	63	26
November	32.2	16.7	37.8	1901 Nov. 2	7.2	1916 Nov. 28	50	21
December	27.2	12.3	34.4	1954 Dec. 1	3.3	1917 Dec. 30	51	24
Annual	32.8	20.1						

* Hours Indian Standard Time

STATEMENT I-6

Normals of Temperature and Relative Humidity

(Kutch-Mandvi)

Month	Mean daily maximum temperature	Mean daily minimum temperature	Highest maximum ever recorded		Lowest minimum ever recorded		Relative humidity 0830	Relative humidity 1730*
	°C	°C	°C	Date	°C	Date	per cent	per cent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
January	25.6	14.2	30.7	1961 Jan. 17	7.8	1956 Jan. 30	65	59
February	26.3	14.8	35.6	1955 Feb. 27	8.9	1957 Feb. 12	69	71
March	29.8	18.6	38.1	1959 Mar. 24	11.3	1961 Mar. 6	80	77
April	32.3	22.3	41.1	1958 Apr. 28	15.0	1956 Apr. 4	79	77
May	32.7	26.2	42.6	1959 May 21	21.1	1957 May 6	84	83
June	33.0	28.4	35.0	1955 Jun. 6	22.8	1961 Jun. 22	88	85
July	31.1	26.9	37.6	1961 July 3	21.1	1956 July 4	87	86
August	30.3	26.1	34.4	1957 Aug. 24	22.8	1956 Aug. 4	89	85
September	30.5	25.4	36.4	1960 Sep. 22	20.6	1960 Sep. 30	87	82
October	31.9	22.8	38.4	1960 Oct. 1	16.7	1961 Oct. 31	77	74
November	30.5	19.2	34.4	1960 Nov. 1	13.5	1960 Nov. 29	61	64
December	26.9	15.6	31.7	1958 Dec. 2	8.2	1959 Dec. 17	64	63
Annual	30.1	21.7						

*Hours Indian Standard Time

STATEMENT I-7

Mean Wind Speed in km./hr.

(Bhuj)

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
6.4	7.2	8.7	11.9	17.5	18.8	18.7	16.4	12.1	7.1	5.3	5.6	11.3

STATEMENT 1-8

Mean Wind Speed in km./hr.

(KUTCH-MANDVI)

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
15.3	16.4	20.3	23.8	30.1	32.8	36.3	33.1	26.5	16.9	13.8	14.3	23.3

STATEMENT I-9

Special Weather Phenomena

(BHUJ)

Mean No. of days with	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Thunder	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	2.7
Hail	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dust-Storm	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	00	0.0	0.0	0.8
Squall	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0 0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fog	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	1.2

STATEMENT I-10

Special Weather Phenomena

(KUTCH-MANDVI)

Mean No. of days with	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Thunder	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.7	1.2	0.2	1.3	0.2	0.2	0 0	4.3
Hail	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dust-Storm	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.6
Squall	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fog	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.2	2.7

APPENDIX

1951 Territorial Units Constituting the Present set-up of District and each Taluka/Mahal

(Only those names/areas which have undergone changes since 1951 have been shown below)

District/Taluka/Mahal	1951 Territorial units	Details of gain in territories			Details of loss in territories			Net area gain (+)Loss(—)	
		Brief description	Area		Brief description	Area			
			Square miles	Square km.		Square miles	Square km.	Square miles	Square km.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Kutch District	**As in 1951**	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bhuj ..	As in 1951	Former Banni taluka (of 1951) entirely merged in Bhuj taluka.	828.0	2,144.5	..	..	..	+828.0	+2,144.5
Nakhatrana ..	As in 1951	..	..	..	Bherasa village (Serial No. 16) transferred to Mandvi taluka.	6.0	15.5	—6.0	—15.5
Lakhpat ..	As in 1951	..	..	..	2 villages, viz., Jagadiya (Serial No. 33) and Kervandh (Serial No. 42C) transferred to Abdasa taluka.	12.0	31.1	—12.0	—31.1
Abdasa ..	As in 1951	2 villages, viz., Jagadiya (Sl. No. 33) and Kervandh (Sl. No. 42C) transferred from Lakhpat taluka.	12.0	31.1	..	..	..	+12.0	+31.1
Mandvi ..	As in 1951	Bherasa village (Serial No. 16) transferred from Nakhatrana taluka.	6.0	15.5	..	..	..	+6.0	+15.5
Bhachau ..	As in 1951	Former Adhoi mahal (of 1951) entirely merged in Bhachau taluka.	51.0	132.1	Kuda village (Serial No. 32) transferred to Rapar taluka.	4.0	10.4	+47.0	+121.7
Rapar ..	As in 1951	Kuda village (Serial No. 32) transferred from Bhachau taluka (of 1951).	4.0	10.4	..	..	..	+4.0	+10.4

APPENDIX II

Earthquakes in Kutch

(1819 to 1956)

Sl. No.	Date	Station	Duration	Time	Direction	Intensity	Special feature	Damage caused
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	16th June, 1819					Very severe		Major towns and villages ruined. Hundreds of lives lost and many geographical changes brought about.
2	19th June, 1845					Severe		
3	30th April, 1864				(Details not available)			
4	10th June, 1882 ..	Bhachau	1 Minute	6.30 P. M.	Not known	Slight	Rumbling noise	Nil
5	28th June, 1882 ..	Chitrod, Lakadia and villages eastern part of Kutch	45 Seconds	8.42 P. M.	Not known	Slight	Rumbling noise	Shaking of tiles only.
6	15th December, 1882..	Bhuj, Anjar, Rapar, Bhachau, Lakadia	5 Seconds	6.35 P. M.	East & West	Slight	Rumbling noise	Nil
7	20th August, 1888 ..	Khavda	..	7.15 P. M.	..	Slight	Rumbling noise	Nil
8	1st June, 1890 ..	Lakhpat, Khavda, Bhuj	..	2.40 P. M.	..	Slight	Thundering sound	Nil
9	11th January, 1892 ..	Lakhpat	..	2.15 to 3.30 P. M.	..	Slight	At intervals with loud noise.	Nil
10	9th July, 1892 ..	Rapar	..	5.30 P. M.	South & North	Slight	At intervals with loud noise.	Nil
11	4th November, 1893 ..	Lakhpat	..	6.30 P. M. followed by another about 5 minutes later.	..	Slight	..	Nil
12	26th February, 1896 ..	Bhuj	..	2.45 P. M.	West & East	Slight	..	Nil
13	30th January, 1898 ..	Anjar	..	10.15 P. M.	North & South	Slight	..	Nil
14	1st April, 1898 ..	Bhuj, Anjar, Mandvi	A few seconds.	3 A. M.	North-east and South-west	Slight	..	Nil
15	13th September, 1898	Bhuj, Anjar, Mandvi, Bhachau.	..	3.30 P. M.	From South	Slight	Raining heavily at the time.	Nil
16	15th October, 1898 ..	Bhuj, Mandvi, Anjar, Mundra, Nalia	..	8.15 A. M. (At Mundra 3 shocks were felt at intervals of about 2 minutes)		Severe	Rumbling noise	Small damage to a few public buildings.
17	21st December, 1900	Rapar, Bhachau, Shikarpar	2 seconds	2.30 P. M.	South & North	Slight	..	Nil
18	13th October, 1901 ..	Bhuj, Anjar	..	11 P. M.	North & South	Slight	..	Nil
19	14th January, 1903 ..	All over Kutch	15 seconds	7.20 A. M.	West-East	Severe	..	Slight damage to buildings, a few houses tumbled down and two telephone poles between Bhuj and Anjar were damaged.

(Bk) H49—8 (Lino)

APPENDIX II—*contd.*

Sl. No.	Date	Station	Duration	Time	Direction	Intensity	Special feature	Damage caused
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
20	9th April, 1904 ..	Bhuj	..	10.08 A. M.	West-East	Slight	..	Nil
21	28th April, 1904 ..	Bhuj, Anjar, Jakhau		4.45 P. M. 10.55 P. M.	South-North	Slight rather stronger	Rumbling noise	Nil
22	30th July, 1904 ..	Khadir	..	12 Noon	West-East	Slight	Rumbling sound	Nil
23	30th November, 1904	Lakhpat	1 second	7.45 P. M.	West-East and *vice-versa*	Slight	Rumbling sound	Nil
24	10th July, 1905 ..	Bhuj	..	12 Midnight	North-South	Slight	Rumbling sound	Nil
25	11th January, 1906 ..	Khadir	..	1 P. M.		Slight	Rumbling sound	Nil
26	30th June, 1906 ..	Khavda, Lakhpat	..	8 A. M.		Slight	Rumbling sound	Nil
27	12th March, 1907 ..	Khavda ..	..	11 P. M.		Slight	Rumbling sound	Nil
28	12th July, 1907 ..	Bhuj, Bhachau, Nakhatrana, Mandvi, Anjar, Mundra, Rapar, Khavda, Khadir	5 seconds	10 P. M.	East-West	Slight	Rumbling sound	Nil
29	13th July, 1907 ..	Do.	..	2 P. M.	East-West	Slight	Rumbling noise	
30	9th October, 1907 ..	Khavda	3 seconds	3.20 A. M.	South-North	Slight	Rumbling noise	
31	18th October, 1907 ..	Lakadia, Bhachau, Rapar	..	7.45 A. M.	South-North	Slight	Rumbling noise	
32	21st October, 1907 ..	Bhachau, Lakadia	3 seconds	2 P. M.	West-East	Slight	Rumbling noise	
33	29th September, 1908	Khavda	3 seconds	3.30 P. M.	North-South	Slight	Rumbling noise	
34	21st October, 1908 ..	Khavda		9 A. M.		Slight	Rumbling noise	
35	31st November, 1908	Bhuj, Bhachau, Anjar, Khadir, Khavda, Mandvi	1 second	7.07 P. M.	North-South		Two shocks	
36	7th February, 1909 ..	Khavda		4 A. M.		Slight	Rattling noise	
37	9th April, 1909 ..	Lakadia, Rapar, Bhachau		4 A. M.		Slight	Rattling noise	
38	24th March, 1910 ..	Bhuj		3.45 A. M.	West-East	Slight	Rumbling noise	
39	1st August, 1910 ..	Khavda	6 seconds	6 A. M.	West-East	Slight	Rumbling noise	
40	13th December, 1910	Bhuj, Lakadia, Rapar, Bhachau, Anjar, Khavda		11.45 P. M.	West-East		Rumbling noise	
41	16th December, 1910	Bhachau, Lakadia, Khadir		12.30 A. M.		Very slight	Rumbling noise	
42	23rd January, 1911 ..	Lakadia	8 seconds	8.45 P. M.		Very slight	Rumbling noise	
43	11th September, 1911	Lakhpat		11 P. M.	East-West	Slight	Rumbling noise	
44	14th March, 1912 ..	Lakadia, Chitrod, Bhachau, Rapar, Khadir	..	4.5 A. M. 6 A. M.		Slight	Rumbling noise	
45	1st October, 1912 ..	Khavda		3 A. M. 8 P. M.		Slight	Rumbling noise	
46	7th November, 1912 ..	Khadir		10 A. M.	South-North	Slight	Rumbling noise	
47	26th June, 1913 ..	Khavda		4 P. M.	East-West	Slight	Rumbling noise	
48	10th June, 1918 ..	Bhachau		7 A. M.	South-North	Slight	Rumbling noise	
49	18th October, 1920 ..	Rapar		8.30 A. M.	East-West	Slight	Rumbling noise	

APPENDIX II—*concld.*

Sl. No.	Date	Station	Duration	Time	Direction	Intensity	Special feature	Damage caused
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
50	21st February, 1921 ..	Lakhpat, Khavda, Abdasa, Bhuj		Between 5 and 6 A. M.		Slight	Rumbling noise	
51	27th October, 1921 ..	Bhuj, Lakhpat, Narayan Sarovar, Nalia, Nita	2 seconds	11.45 A. M.		Slight	Rumbling noise	
52	9th February, 1922 ..	Chitrod	7 seconds	Morning	North-South	Slight	Rumbling noise	
53	13th March, 1922 ..	Bhuj, Mandvi, Anjar, Lakhpat, Bhachau	6 seconds	4.30 A. M.	North-South	Slight	Rumbling noise	
54	7th August, 1923 ..	Bhuj, Mandvi		9.40 A. M.	South-West	Slight	Rumbling noise	
55	5th March, 1924 ..	Khavda		9.15 P. M.	North-East to South	Slight	Rumbling noise	
56	25th October, 1924 ..	Matano Madh		8 A. M.	..	..	..	
57	1st October, 1925 ..	Khavda		3 A. M.	East-West	Slight	Rumbling noise	
58	13th October, 1925 ..	Shikra, Jangi	1 second	About 4 P. M.	East-West	Slight	Rumbling noise	
59	26th August, 1926 ..	Khavda	1 second) ½ second)	1.30 P. M. 1.40 P. M.	South-North West-East	Slight	Rumbling noise	
60	17th December, 1926	Khavda	2 seconds	6.45 P. M.	West-East	Slight	Rumbling noise	
61	18th November, 1927	Bhuj, Bhachau, Anjar, Rapar, Khavda	30 seconds	3.55 P. M.	South-North	Moderate	Rumbling noise	
62	30th December, 1932	Khavda	2 seconds	6.20 P. M.	West-East	Slight	Rumbling noise	
63	6th March, 1932 ..	Khadir	1 second	4 A. M.	North-South	Slight	Rainy day. Thunder storm at 9 P.M.	
64	25th January, 1935 ..	Rapar		8 P. M.	West-East	Slight		
65	23rd July, 1935 ..	Bhuj		2 A. M.	West-East	Slight		
66	12th December, 1939	Shikarpar	..	4 P. M.	South-West to North-East		Rumbling sound	
67	31st October, 1940 ..	All over Kutch	10 to 12 seconds	3.25 P. M.	North-South			Damage to some villages.
68	13th November, 1940	Anjar, Bhuj, Khavda	..	5.20 A. M.	North-South			
69	30th January, 1941 ..	Khadir	..	9.30 A. M.				
70	28th November, 1945	Bharapar	..	3.45 A. M.				
71	21st July, 1956 ..	Anjar, Central mainland between Bhachau and Bhuj	About 1 minute	9.30 P. M.	North-South	Between 8 and 9	Rumbling noise	115 lives lost, 416 injured, several hundreds of houses damaged. Fluctuations in water-levels.
72	After shocks .. 22nd July, 1956 23rd July, 1956 25th July, 1956 27th July, 1956	Do.	1 second	..	..	..	..	..

APPENDIX III

Geological Formations

The following is the stratigraphic column of the geological formations occurring in the district

GENERAL

Group 1	System 2	Series 3	Lithology 4	Events 5
QUARTERNARY	Recent	..	Wind-blown sand, soil and alluvium	Silting of shallow seas and upheaval
	Sub-Recent and Pleistocene	..	Miliolite lime-stone	Period of extensive subsidence
		.....	Unconformity	Major upheaval and extensive erosion
				Chiyasar, Banni, Katrol and Netra faults
	Pliocene	Manchar Series	Upper consolidated sand, sandy clays micaceous sandstone with Ostrea *longirostris* bed.	
			Lower-Miscaceous sandstone, clays and argillaceous and arenaceous lime-stone and Pseudo conglomerate.	
		.....	Unconformity	Temporary, near sea-level land conditions with weathering; no appreciable erosion.
TERTIARY	Miocene	Gaj Series	Upper-Nodular limestone silty and marly clays mudstone and fossiliferous lime-stone, marls, clays and Lepidocycline bed at the base.	
	Upper and Middle Eocene	Kirthar Series	Gypseous and variegated clays, chalky and marly lime-stone with Nummulites and sandstone at the base.	Commencement of Marine transgression, local estuarine conditions and bog depositions (lignite, elsewhere in the region).
		.....	Unconformity	Period of weathering and minor erosion
	Lower Eocene	Laki Series (Supra Trappeans, Sub-Nummulitic)	Laterite, aluminous laterite, bauxite, lithomarge, bentonite as base. (20-25 metres thick)	Product of alteration under tropical conditions
	Upper Cretaceous to Lower Eocene (Deccan Traps)	..	Stratified lava flows, red bole, inter-Trappean sedimentary bed with Physa prinsepil. (10-15m); dolerite dykes.	
		.....	Unconformity	Bhadli Vighodi fault
	Upper Cretaceous (Infra-trappeans)	..	Sandy rocks with fossil of woody fragments	
	Middle to Lower Cretaceous	Bhuj Series	Felspathic and ferruginous sandstone	
MESOZOIC	Upper Jurassic	Umia Series	Felspathic sandstones shales, pebble bed with Trigonia crassa and oolitic ammonite bed.	
		Katrol Series	Shale with thin sandstone, gypseous shales and lenticular hard sandstones.	
	Middle Jurassic	Chari Series	Shales, marls with oolitic lime-stone (Dhosa oolite) band at the top.	
		Pachham Series	Sandstones, yellow lime-stones, coral limestone.	

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

PREHISTORIC PERIOD

Kutch like Saurashtra and other parts of Gujarat and India was inhabited by man right from the Early Stone Age through the Middle and Late Stone Ages and through the first two to two and a half millennia before Christ. In fact, both Kutch and Saurashtra provide a much fuller and well connected prehistory than either Northern, Central or Southern Gujarat.

That man should have existed in Kutch in the distant past in the geological time scale known as the Middle Pleistocene comes as a surprise. Again according to its geological history, Kutch was long submerged under the sea, and surfaced later. However, it can now be said that this was during the Tertiary period and not later. For, in Kutch one witnesses the same phenomena of river formation and erosion as elsewhere in peninsular India. And the most important of all, the earliest traces of man, in the form of his stone tools are found in the pebbly or bouldery river deposit.[1]

These tools and implements consist of large thick flakes, made from local dyke, basalt, and were found in the Surkhi river, a few miles north-east of Nakhatrana. Later a pointed ovate hand-axe and a large chopper or scraper were also found. As elsewhere, the earliest inhabitant of Kutch must be a hunter and food gatherer, living upon fruits, edible roots and wild animals.

Whether this Early Man lived all over Kutch or only in the north-western region, now included in the Bhuj-Nakhatrana taluka, cannot be said with any degree of certainty. But the tools of his successor are found practically all over Kutch,[2] as a result of a more thorough search made for his traces. The most important reason for it being that the tools which this man used were comparatively small, so that they could be carried from place to place, or imported in regions where no suitable rock was available. These small tools indicate the change which had come over man. Though he was still a hunter and roaming from place to place after the animals, he could wield offensive weapons such as spears, the shafts of which were

---

1. This evidence was first discovered in December, 1967, when Prof. Sankalia had an opportunity to survey Kutch with Shri S. N. Rajguru and Shri J. M. Nanavati, Director of Archaeology, Gujarat State. Later the region was more fully explored by Dr. Z. D. Ansari and Dr. R. S. Pappu of the Deccan College, Poona.

2. *Indian Archaeology—A Review*, 1963-64, p. 10
These were first discovered by Shri SOUNDARA RAJAN

smoothened with small stone scrapers and hafted with small, well pointed stone flakes, as well as flat nodules themselves used as spearheads. The age of this second Stone Age man should be about 30,000 years ago, because from comparable deposits, similar Stone Age tools along with carbonised trunks of *Arjuna* tree were found in Maharashtra. The C14 date for the last mentioned tree is around this time.

A few trees of the third and the succeeding Stone Age man had been reported some thirty years ago.[1] These consists of tiny stone blades of very fine material like chert, agate, carnelian, etc. From these thin blades, the man manufactured sharp pointed arrow, harpoon heads and sickle teeth. These were inserted in the narrow groove of a bone or wooden haft and made firm by applying glue. Compound tools thus came into use. These are the precursors of copper and later iron and steel arrow-heads and sickles. With these tools and weapons, the man could cut naturally growing grasses, as well as wield a bow. Thus was taken as a major step towards an independent food-collecting-*cum*-producing life. The exact date for this stage of man in Kutch is not yet known, but in the neighbouring Gujarat tract at Langhnaj, near Ahmedabad, this culture has been placed by C14 determination at about 2500 B. C.

Proto-Historic Period

Kutch and Saurashtra, witnessed soon thereafter a leap forward. At present, the immediately preceding stages are not known even in Sindh, where a city civilization had been developed at least by 2600 B. C. The bearer of this civilization known as the Harappan (after the type site Harappa or the Indus after the great river Indus) had come to Kutch either through invaders and traders and spread all over this region both in the west, as at Desalpur, Kotada and Todis in taluka Nakhatrana, Jhangar Kotda and Pirwada Khetar in taluka Anjar in the south-east, or at Kerasi, Lakhapur, Pabumath and Surkotda in Rapar taluka in the east and at Kharika-khauda in taluka Bhachau. This was the first colonisation ante-dating the earliest historical ones so far known as the Iranian, Indo-Greek, Saka and Abhira.

Besides these ten to twelve sites, there are perhaps many more showing the occupation of the entire region by the Harappans.[2] We do not yet know whether there were any local or indigenous cultures on the higher rung of the ladder than hunting and fishing. If the future research does not reveal

1. Gorden, D. H., *Man*, 1938, p. 19

2. As opposed to this archaeologically established fact, Rathod, R. K., in his *Kachchha nu Samskriti Darshan*, (Kumar Karyalaya, Ahmedabad, 1959), p. 31, thinks that the Vedic Kachchhapas and the Panis of Patala might have been in Kutch before the Harappans. This view is at present untenable. *Indian Archaeology—A Review*, 1964-65, p. 21, and 1965-66, pp. 1-25-30.

any, then the Harappans will have to be credited for introducing civilization in the true sense of the word an organised and well-ordered life, villages and towns with laid out roads, brick-built houses with stone foundations, wheel made pottery and writing with the implied knowledge of existence of agriculture. Unlike Mohen-Jo-daro and Chanhudaro, houses in Kutch were built on stone foundation as stone was easily available. Moreover at Deshalpar, Kotda and Surkotda, we have also evidence of a stone fortification.

Though brief preliminary reports[1] are as yet available of Kutch Harappan sites, it would appear that the Harappan settlements were fairly extensive; that at Jhangar and Lakhapur being 0·80 sq. km. each, so also Kerasi with an area of 30·40 sq. m., though Deshalpar which is partially excavated is only 130 × 100 m. Deshalpar is described as a small fortified town. Its fortification wall was reinforced with corner towers and salients. There was a mud-brick platform too, though its exact purpose in this semi-arid region with little rainfall, and on a small river-Bamu-chela, an affluent of the river Dhrud, is not easily understood. The gateway possibly lay on the eastern or the southern side, which is now completely eroded. Many houses were built against the fort wall itself. A partially exposed structure showed massive walls with regular foundation offsets and spacious rooms.

Though so far no roads, lanes, or drains have been revealed, the residents enjoyed the same homely comforts as those of Mohen-Jo-daro, Harappa and Lothal. For their range of pottery is in no way inferior or less than the typical Harappan repertoire. In addition to the typical Harappan pottery, like the dish-on-stand, cylindrical perforated jars, carinated lid, handled cup, goblet, beaker, ring stand, there also occurred the rare, thin grey ware, painted in bluish-green pigment, with wavy and regular lines. These were first found in the lower levels at Mohen-Jo-daro by Mackay and described as 'glazed ware', and compared with the 'Reserved Slip Ware' of Mesopotamia.

It can be inferred that fresh blood was introduced later, as signified by the appearance of a cream-slipped bichrome ware, with paintings in blackish purple and reddish brown. There was also a new comer in grey painted black-and-red pottery in dishes and bowls. However, the lustrous red ware of Rangpur was absent. Not only in pottery, but as regards ornaments, tools and weapons of copper, stone blades and points, pestles and mortar, even polished celts, wheeled conveyance and above all seals of copper and steatite prove that the Kutch Harappan was literally an urban settlement. Contract with Gujarat Harappan sites is documented by the stud handled bowl, and the white painted black-and-red ware, though the absence of the lustrous red ware which is the characteristics of Rangpur period III should be noted.

1. *Indian Archaeology—A Review*, 1963-64, pp. 10-12; 1965-66, pp. 1-25, and Joshi, Jagatpati "Exploration in Northern Kutch" *Journal of the Oriental Institute*, Baroda, Vol. XVI, 1966, pp. 63-69

Though no C14 dates of any of these sites are available so far, it is inferred that the sites are early, because here occurs pottery with a special method of decoration known as 'Reserved Slip'. And this so far has been a feature of the early Harappan, at Mohen-Jo-daro and Lothal.[1] The sites can be reasonably dated around 2000 B. C.

How did this Harappan Civilization die out or disappear? Nothing is known. In Saurashtra at Rangpur and Somnath for instance, it was succeeded by a less developed, in fact an illiterate peasant village culture. It did not leave behind any memory so much so that the tradition as recorded in the *Bombay Gazetteer* said that Kutch before the arrival of the Indo-Greeks and Sakas was sparsely inhabited by a few wild people. Later followed forest fires which gave place to succulent rich pastures which attracted the pastoral tribts.[2] This traditional account might be true.[3] For we have no mention of the Yadavas having passed through Kutch on their way to or from Dwarka. Nor are we told of any contemporary king or people who ruled in Kutch at that time.

Ancient Period

The earliest literary reference to *Kachchha* is probably in Panini's *Astadhyayi*,[4] (though we are not quite sure whether it refers to our Kutch) and then in the *Mahabharata* and other works like the *Vayu Purana* and the Jain literature. The *Mahabharata* in *Dyuta Parva* (critical ED., Poona, II, 47, 7-10) refers to people in the north-west of India, such as Gandhara, Parada, Vangas, and Abhiras. The latter are said to be the products or inhabitants of a cardamom-like island (*Samudra-niskuta*). And this according to Dr. Shobhana Gokhale describes accurately the shape of Kutch. *Kachchha* then appears as a separate territory in the Churnis.[5] Though one could definitely say on the authority of the Saka Rudradaman's inscription (A. D. 150) at Junagadh,[6] that Kachchha, as a separate kingdom had become quite well-known as to find a mention in the list of countries conquered by him, along with Anarta, Saurashtra Svabhra, Maru and Sindhu-Sauvira. This reference should also set at rest the speculations (for

1. *Indian Archaeology– A Review*, 1965-66, P. I. 25
2. Sir Campbell, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 129
3. There are other legends and Puranic accounts which have been cited by Dvivedi, A. K., *Kachchha Desh no Itihas*, (in Gujarati), Bombay, 1876, pp. 1-5, according to which the Pandavas and Rama and Ravan are sought to be connected with Kutch. But these are evidently all late. A later writer Nayagandhi, J. J., in his *Kachchha no Brihad Itihas*, Ahmedabad, 1927, pp. 1-7, enlarges this, and even cites Jaina legends according to which both Buddha and Mahavir had visited Kutch. These have no historical validity
4. Katre, S. M., *Paninian Dictionary*, Poona, 1968, p. 158, both as name of place, and word meaning bank, shore, margh, 4.2, 126.133
5. Sandesara, B. J., *Jain-agama-Sahityama Gujarat*, Ahmedabad, 1952, p. 32
6. *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. VIII, (1905-06), p. 41

instance, Rathod, R. K. in *Kachchha-nu-Sanskriti Darshan*, p. 36) that the Abiris of the Greeks and Abhira stand for Kutch. These in fact should be identified with Lower Sindh. Megasthenes 'Island of Patala' also refers to this region and not to Kutch.

One cannot, however, be so certain of the reference to *Kachchha* or its occupation by the Iranians and later by the Indo-Greeks under Menander that is from the 5th century B. C. through the 1st-2nd century B. C., though we know that these regions—both Sindh and Kutch—were open to strong influences from the north-west and beyond. For, the references are ambiguous, though cited by the author of the *Bombay Gazetteer* and all the subsequent writers. If these are (or were) Indo-Greek (Bactrians) ruins—such as temples, altars, fortified camps,[1] and large masonry walls, they yet remain to be identified. What one can confidently aver is that Kutch's position was fairly known and described by Graeco-Roman authors.

The statement in the *Bombay Gazetteer* that Pliny's (77 A. D.) Odambaris are the people of Kutch, and this refers to their town Orbadari, situated to the east of the Indus, is no longer accepted. The first probably refers to the Udumbaras, who were in the Punjab.

The only thing we can accept from Ptolemy's description of the geography of this region is the reference to Kanthi in the expression "In Syrastrene on the Gulf of Kantha."[2] McCrindle explains this statement as referring to the Gulf of Kachh, and says that the south coast of Kachha is still called Kantha. But as the *Bombay Gazetteer* points out,[3] this name is also applicable (and applied) to the strip of land along its north shore. For, the word in truth means only the 'coastline', and nothing more. As the editor of McCrindle's *Ptolemy* says, it cannot refer to the whole Gulf of Kutch.[4]

The 'outer part' or the portion near the mouth of the Gulf is later described by the author of the *Periplus* (246 A. D.) as Barake. This stands for Dwarka (Dvaraka).[5] This view is corroborated by the recent excavations at the site, and the discussion of its antiquity in literature and archaeology.[6] Further mention in the *Periplus* to Eirinon (supposed to be derived

1. Sir Campbell, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur, and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 128
2. McCrindle, *Ancient India as described by Ptolemy*, (Ed. By S. M. Sastri), Calcutta, 1927, p. 36
3. Sir Campbell, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur, and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 130
4. McCrindle, *Ancient India as described by Ptolemy*, (Ed. by S. M. Sastri), Calcutta, 1927, p. 36
5. Sir Campbell, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur, and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 130
6. Sankalia, H. D., in Ansari Z. D., and Mate, M. S., *Excavations at Dwarka, and Poona*, 1966

from Sanskrit *Irina*), as referring to the Rann of Kutch, which was even then divisible into two parts, greater and less and described as "unexplored, dangerous to ships, shallow and with violent eddies," cannot be taken to refer to the Great and Small Rann respectively, as the *Bombay Gazetteer's* words (given above) seem to imply. For these Ranns are situated respectively to the north and east of Kutch. However, the translation by Schoff[1] makes the statement more clear and understandable. He says, "Beyond the river Sinthus there is another gulf, not navigable, running in towards the north; it is called Eirinon; its parts are called separately the small gulf and the great; in both parts the water is shallow, with shifting sandbanks occurring continually and a great way from shore so that very often when the shore is not even in sight, ships run aground, and if they attempt to hold their course they are wrecked."

This is an accurate description of the Great and Little Rann of Kutch. The conditions have changed little during the last 2,000 years.

From Historical Period to the Coming of the Sakas

The history of Kutch in the true sense begins with the Sakas, who ruled the whole of Western India, including Kutch, Saurashtra, Gujarat, Northern Maharashtra and Western Malwa for nearly three centuries and a quarter from 78 A. D. to circa 400 A. D. Their capital is supposed to be Ujjain, though most of their inscriptions have been found in Kutch and Saurashtra. The earliest records consist of memorial stones, (called *lastis*) and have been found on an artificial mound (not hill) at Andhau, and dated in the year (Saka) 52. Now a still earlier stone inscription[2] has been found at Andhau. This mentions the year 11 (Saka). Thus we can confidently say that the Sakas, also called Kardamakas, ruled in Kutch, and probably all over Gujarat, right from the beginning of the Christian era (76 A. D.) and possibly conquered Gujarat and Malwa from Kutch. It is indeed unfortunate that of this 325 year rule, we can say nothing about the system of administration, society and religion, unless we extrapolate whatever little is known from Saurashtra.

From the four or five Andhau inscriptions[3] and the one from Khavda of the time of Rudradaman[4] one can say that Buddhism and Jainism had spread to Kutch; and that the custom of erecting stones (*lastis*) in memory of the dead, called *paliyas*, so much prevalent in Kutch and Saurashtra, goes back to this period. It was suggested that this custom was introduced by

1. Schoff, W. H., *The Periplus of the Erythrean Sea*, London, 1912, p. 38
2. "Andhau Inscription of Chastana, Saka" JAIH., Vol. II, pp. 104 ff
3. Banerji, R. D., "The Andhau Inscriptions of the time of Rudradaman" *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. XVI, (1921-22), pp. 19-25
4. Nanavati, J. M., and Shastri, H. G., *Journal of the Oriental Research Institute*, Baroda, 1962, p. 238

the Sakas. The geology of the country might also be responsible for the birth of this custom. For, it is found that here as in parts of Andhra-Mysore long slabs of stone could be easily made. The four Andhau inscriptions show further that in this part, the full title of the King Rudradaman was not fully known, and he was merely called Rajan. More important, almost the entire family of the King consisting of a wife Yasodatta, daughter Simhamitra and brother Rishbhadeva seemed to have died on one day, and every one was honoured by the erection of a *lasti* (memorial stone) at Andhau, near Khavda or Pachham by one Madana. Their brother and sister belonged to *Aupassatika gotra*, while the wife Yasodatta belonged to the *Shrenika gotra*. The latter is called a *Shramaneri* (novice nun).

These few names are extremely interesting, for the light they throw on the cultural history. First, they show that the bearers of these names were (originally) Kshatriyas, or after their conversion to Jainism, they took names such as Rishabhadeva, which were popular in Jainism. Even the *gotra* name *Shrenika* reminds one of the family names of Bimbisara, the famous king of Magadha.

The Mewasa inscription[1] is still more important for it mentions the name of Hariloka and Vasura in connection with one Abhira. In both these names, the first part of the names Hari and Vasu are important for tracing the antiquity of Krishna worship though with Saka or Iranian suffixes, as in the name of Rudradaman. One should also note the absence of the reckoning by mentioning the day of the week. Only the year, and the *tithi* of the half of the month is given.

During this long rule, the Saka supremacy had been challenged from within and without. That there was a division in the family and sub-branch came into power after it has been inferred from the study of Saka coinage. Usurpation by the Abhiras had been postulated. This has been further confirmed by the discovery of a new inscription of Abhira Isvardeva from Daulatpur in Kutch.[2]

From Sakas to 712 A. D.

Both the Abhiras and Sakas were ousted from Western India by the Guptas, though their sovereignty over Kutch is to be inferred only from the circulation of the coins of Kumaragupta and Skandagupta. Direct evidence, as in Saurashtra, is not yet available, though it is bound to be there in the form of pottery[3] belonging to the Gupta as well as Saka

1. *Proceedings of V Oriental Congress*, 1930, p. 565
2. The Director of Museums, Curator of Bhuj Museum and Dr. Shobhana, Gokhale
3. A number of mounds (28) with painted potteries of the later period are mentioned in *Indian Archaeology—A Review*, 1965-66, pp. 1-30

periods (including Graeco-Roman). For even in a brief visit to Lakhpat, Dr. Shobhana Ghokhale saw extensive mounds strewn with Saka (Kshatrapa) painted potttery as well as stone circles, which look like the remnants of cairns, a form of megalithic burial monument.

Again there are no means to say anything about the other aspect of life of this period in Kutch. Saurashtra was under a Gopta, a governor, appointed by the court in Pataliputra and a temple of Vishnu was built and the same rebuilt at Girinagara. Such activities on behalf of the State must have been extended to Kutch, if it was within the direct jurisdiction of the Patna Court. However, this is a guess which needs visible corroboration.

What happened to Kutch on the disintegration of the Gupta empire? Did the foreigners like the Hunas infiltrate into it from Sindh and establish some independent States? Or did it gradually come under the sway of the Maitrakas of Valabhi? Though there is no direct documentary evidence for the Maitraka, administrative officers[1] such as *'Dhruva'* (revenue) now known as *'Dhru'*, Mahattara (Village headman) as *Metar*, and *Asvaroha* (Police on horseback) as *'Asvar'* in Kutch might imply that the region was under the Maitrakas for a considerable time. However, it should be pointed out that except *Dhruva*[2]-*Dhru* the other two officers are met with also in other ancient regimes. Maitraka King Shiladitya I of Valabhi ruled over from the Western region up to Ujjain and the Western region extended up to Kutch according to Puranic Geography.[3]

Contemporary or slightly early is the account of the Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsiang (or Yuan Chwang). He described Kutch as lying 1,600 *lis* (429·87 km.) south-west of the capital of Sindh, at that time Alor near Bhakar on the Indus.[4] The circuit of the province is given at 5,000 *lis* (1341·13 km.), and that of the capital at 30 *lis* (8·05 km.). The capital's name is Kie-tai-shi-fa-lo perhaps Koteshwar.[5] He records to have seen numerous Buddhist *viharas* and monasteries and *deva* (Hindu) temples in Kita or Kiecha. This country was 300 *lis* north-west from Malva, and from Kita he proceeded to Valabhi (Fa-la-pi) in Saurashtra. But it is doubtful whether this description refers to Kutch. Much less can we accept the earlier view of

1. Shastri, H. G., *Maitraka-Kalin Gujarat*, Ahmedabad, 1955, p. 516. Also Rathod, R. K., *Kachchha nu Samskriti Darshan*, Ahmedabad, 1959, p. 39
2. Sankalia, H. D., *The Archaeology of Gujarat*, Bombay, 1939
3. Jayaswal, K. P., *Imperial History of India*, p. 25
4. Julien's Hiouen Thsang, I, 207, 208
5. According to another part of Hiuen Tsiang's itinerary (Julien, 205-206) quoted by Mr. Burgess, "It is a Place of Kie-ch-a said to be about 3,000 *lis* (500 miles) in circuit, and with a capital 20 *lis* (3 ⅓ miles) round. The name comes closer to Kachh than that of the other passage, but the account of the country seems strangely inapplicable. Thickly peopled and rich, under Malwas, and like it in climate, produce and in the people's customs."

the Gazetteer.[1] It is impossible that this intrepid traveller could have by passed Kutch when he had long sojourned in Sindh and Gandhara, Malva, Gujarat and Saurashtra. While one may not discuss the details of Hiuen Tsiang's account, it must be emphasized that Kutch could not have escaped from the influence of Mahayana Buddhism, when it was prevalent in Sindh and Saurashtra as well as in northern, central and southern Gujarat, as the recent discoveries in all these regions show. It is the lack of trained and purposeful explorations that any records of this 'dark period' are not yet discovered. These remarks are borne out by the fact that nine years ago, a beautiful inscribed bronze image of standing Buddha was discovered in the museum at Kutch. Stylistically it belongs to the period (7th-8th century A. D.). If the image is from Kutch, then the inscription on the pedestal definitely speaks of the *Bhiksu* and *Bhiksuni-Sanghas* in Kutch as in Saurashtra.[2]

The identification of Hiuen Tsiang's Otien-po-chi-to with Alor in Sindh makes the author of the *Gazetteer* infer that Kutch at this time (*circa* 640) was part of the province of Sindh.[3] The above inference is different from the one cited by the *Bombay Gazetteer, op. cit.*, p. 130. According to this, the traveller went to Kutch from Sindh. As we have seen, the late authors, Beal and Watters, after a careful consideration of the pilgrim's itinerary, think that if Hiuen Tsiang did visit Kutch, it was from Malwa. And this, as well as the whole of Saurashtra, at this period, were under the Maitrakas of Valabhi, and hence the *Gazetteer's* inference that Kutch at this time was part of Sindh is not correct.

From Arabs to the Coming of Chaulukyas and their Successors

What the author of the *Gazetteer* suggested or thought probably took place a hundred years later. When Khalif Hasham ruled in Arabia, his governor in Sindh, Junaid, is said to have launched expeditions to Marwar, Ujjain, and several countries in Western India. An echo of these raids is found in a record of the Chaulukya king of Gujarat and Karnatak. A copper plate grant of King Pulakesi Avani Janasraya[4] dated in the Kalachuri era 480, i. e., A. D. 738-39, from Navsari states that the King drove out the Tajikas (the Arabs) who had afflicted the kingdoms of Sindhu, Kachchha, Saurashtra, Chavotkata, Maurya, and Gurjaras.

1. Beal, S., *Buddhist Records of the Western World*, London, 1906, Vol. II, p. 266 and Watters, T., *On Yuan Chwang's Travels in India*, London, 1905, Vol. II, p. 245. This reference is different from the one cited by the *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 130
2. Majmudar, M. R., "A newly discovered Buddha Bronze from Bhuj (Kutch)" *Journal of the Oriental Institute*, Baroda, Vol. VIII, 1959, p. 218
3. Sir Campbell, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 130
4. *Ibid.*, Vol. I, *History of Gujarat*, 1896, p. 109

(Bk) H-49—10 (Lino)

What is important from the historical point of view is that Kutch at this period formed a separate kingdom, and this was recognised by the then rulers of Western India, though it is probable that it was under the suzerainty of Valabhi.

The settlement of some Muslims, even if true, could not have extended over the whole of Kutch, but only to the coastal tract on the west and north. For Arab historians[1] themselves, viz., Ibn Khurdadba (A. D. 912) and Al Biladuri (A. D. 840) tell us that the Arabs had settled on Kutch coast.[2]

It is possible, that the Rashtrakutas of Gujarat and the Deccan held Kutch under them for sometime.[3] For, in the Radhanpur copper plate of Govinda III,[4] V. S. 864-A. D. 806 there is a reference to Kanthika, which was in the possession of Govinda's son Krishna. For, the coastal tract of Kutch has been known in the past and even today as Kanthi. However, Rathod's suggestion seems to be far-fetched. For, Kielhorn has shown that this *Kanthika* was truly a neck ornament and has no figurative meaning.[5]

About 714 A. D., according to the *Bombay Gazetteer*,[6] relying on Col. Tod's *Annals of Rajasthan*, Kutch was given to the *Charans*.

While the Muslims occupied parts of the coastal tracts on the West, the Kathis are said to have entered the country from Sindh, in about 750 A. D. and established themselves in the centre and south of Kutch, with their capital at Pavargadh. There is no documentary evidence for this statement first made by Burgess[7] and is based on legendry or traditional sources.

With the Muslims on the coast, Kathis in the centre, were the Chavdas who occupied Vagad, the eastern most part of the province. Their's was a small principality around Panchasar, though we have no direct documentary evidence, except an inscription on a pillar near the shrine chamber of

1. Elliot, H. M., *The History of India*, Vol. I, London, 1867, p. 14 and p. 129.
2. Sir Campbell, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. I, *History of Gujarat*, 1896, p. 131
3. Rathod, R. K., *Kachchha nu Samskriti Darshan*, Ahmedabad, 1959, p. 40
4. *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. VI. (1900-01), p. 249
5. *Ibid.*, Vol. V, (1898-99), p. 138
6. Sir Campbell, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. I, *History of Gujarat*, 1896, p. 131
7. Burgess, J., *Report on the Antiquities of Kathiawad and Kachh*, *Archaeological Survey of Western India*, London, 1876, p. 191

   This is evident from the legend cited by Atmaram Dvivedi in '*Kachha Desh no Itihas*' on p. 4, who traces the Kathi's existence to 1200 B. C. in Kutch and connects them with the Pandavas and Kauravas, particularly Karna, from whose stick (Kathi), they are supposed to have sprung up. Unfortunately we have little archaeological or other evidence to support this belief.

Bhuadeshwar temple at Bhuvad. This is dated in V. S. 1346 (A. D. 1289).[1] Their existence is vouchsafed by the Chaulukya grant cited above which calls them Chavotkatas.

It is said that the Chavdas were expert sailors and navigators and during their rule Gholaya Sarsagar (lake) was known as Patan, and there was a big port Rayapur near Mandvi. Further one of their descendants Bhuvad has been immortalized in the name of the place and the erection of a temple and memorial stone at Bhuvad on the river Ruparel, six miles from Bhuj. He is worshipped as a village deity, and it is mentioned in the *Prabandha Chintamani* that the temple of Bhuadeshwara was built by Bhuvad. This happened in between V. S. 981-90 (A. D. 925-34).[2]

This was the time when Mulraja, the first known ruler of the Chaulukya (Solanki) dynasty, is reported to have ousted the Chavdas, who were ruling at Panchasar. The latter thereupon seemed to have settled in Kutch. According to legends, one Vikram Chavda ruled at Patgarh in Kutch. His daughter was married to Lakha Dhurara, a son of Sama Lakhiar. In this family was born Lakha Phulani who came into conflict with Mulraja Solanki. After several battles, he was killed at Kapilkot,[3] though according to the official biographers of the Chaulukya dynasty, viz., Hemachandra, Lakha was killed in a battle on the river Jambumali, where he had gone to help Graharipu, the Abhira king of Saurashtra.[4]

From *circa* 950 A. D. onwards, for nearly three centuries and a half, Kutch formed a province (*mandala*) of the Chaulukya empire. For this we have excellant documentary evidence. There are some six inscription,[5] two or three of Bhima I, one of Jayasimha Siddharaja, and one each of Vaghela kings Arjunadeva and Sarangdeva. These records, though few, span almost the entire length of the Chaulukya rule in Gujarat, to be precise V. S. 1086

1. Shastri, H. G., *Kachchhana Abhilekho*, *Pathik*, July-August, 1967, p. 37
2. Rathod, R. K., *Kachchha nu Samskriti Darshan*, 1959, p. 40
3. There are many interesting legends in Kutch about the valiant warriors. Some are cited by Rathod, R. K., *Kachchha nu Samskriti Darshan*, p. 43
4. Hemchandra Acharya, *Dvyashrayakavya*, (Ed. by A. V., Kathavate), Bombay, Sanskrit and Prakrit series No. LXIX, 1915, p. 383
5. (a) Radhanpur Grant of Bhima. V. S. 1086, *Indian Antiquary*, Vol. VI, pp. 193-94
   (b) Grant of Bhima (1), Samvat 1093, Rathod, R. K., *Ibid.*, pp. 274-75
   (c) Bhadreshwar Grant, Bhatia Museum, Bhadreshwar, of Bhima I. V. S. 1117, Rathod, R. K., *Kachchh nu Samkriti Darshan*, Ahmedabad, 1959, pp. 270-73
   (d) Bhadreshwar Inscriptions of the time of Jaya Simha, V. S. 1195, *Archaeological Survey of Western India*, Vol. II, Appendix, XIII-IV
   (e) Rav Stone Inscription of the time of Arjunadeva, dated V. S. 1328 *Archaeological Survey of Western India*, Vol. II
   (f) Khokhra Stone Inscription of the time of Sarangdeva V. S. 1332, *Indian Antiquary*, Vol. XXI, pp. 276-77

to V. S. 1332, i. e., 1029 A. D. to 1257 A. D. and enable us to say that Kutch formed an integral part of the Chaulukya empire.[1] In fact from the statements in the three grants of Bhima I, it might be said that the Chaulukyas had extended their sway over Kutch almost from the beginning of their rule, whereas central and southern Gujarat and even Saurashtra were conquered later. And this is natural, for, the small fief of Panchasar of the Chapotkatas with Anahilapataka as the capital is adjacent to Kutch. Here is Kanthkot where Mulraja took refuge, when pursued by the Chaulukyas of Kalyani, i. e., modern Kalyan. This is in eastern Kutch, and indicates that already this part of Kutch was under the Chaulukyas. And it was this part that effectively remained under the Chaulukyas as the plotting and identification of the few place names from inscription indicates. Though Bhima's statement "*Svabhujyamana Kachchha mandala*" (Kutch mandala which was directly ruled by Bhima himself) would indicate that the whole of Kutch was under him and governed directly by him. And this position Kutch enjoyed till the very end of the Chaulukya suzerainty over Gujarat. Naturally the Chaulukyas would have extended to this province the same form of government, and religious patronage as they did in their home province, viz., *Sarasvata mandala*. Though none of the six grants tell us whether *Kachchha mandala* was divided into smaller units such as *vishaya* and *pathaka*, and what the various officers were, still from the expression *Samasta rajapurushan-Brahmano-attaran*, we can legitimately conclude that the head of the *Kachchha mandala*, when it was not directly under the king himself, must have been called *Mahamandaleshvara*. Further, as today and as elsewhere in the Chaulukya empire, this *mandala* should have at least four to six talukas, that is *pathakas* and *vishayas*, and this would be under a separate officer. Among other officers, there would be probably *Dandanayaka* (army chief), *Desharakshaka* (home guard), *Adhisthanaka* (Judge), *Karnapurusha Vishaya* (Head of the *vishaya*), *Pattakila* (village Patel), *Mahattara* (village elder) and *Thakkura* (perhaps a banker). Arrangements must have also been made to collect customs duties, land revenue, etc.

Brahmins were patronised by grants of land, and this was done on the occasion of a solar eclipse, on the 15th of the bright half of *Kartika*, on *Chaitra Ekadasi*, etc. Thus some days in a month or a year were regarded as auspicious.

We also learn from inscriptions that Yajurvedi Brahmins of *Vatsa gotra* were patronised. Here in Gujarat proper, the rulers were electic, patronage being given to the followers of Shiva, Vishnu, Surya and Jina. For, Bhima's grants of V. S. 1086 is made to Bhattaraka Ajapala, son of

1. A few more inscriptions from Kutch are cited by Shastri, H. G., *Kachchhna Abhilekho*, *Pathik*, July-August, 1967, pp. 36-38, to which a supplement has also been added by Shri Shastri (pp. 39.42). But these are very short records, often illegible, and do not add substantially to our knowledge of the ancient history of Kutch.

Acharya Mangalasiva, who is specifically described as a resident of Navanisaka in Kutch. This is only one instance, but there are likely to have been many more.

It is to the Chaulukya period once again that we have to look for the efflorescence of art and architecture. It is unlikely that many temples were built during the Chavda rule, which was confined only to eastern Kutch. It is, therefore, probable that the temple at Anjar (temple of Bhadresar), Bhadresar, Kerakot and Kotay, Pumragadh, and Varanu besides Kanthkot were built during this long and prosperous rule of the Chaulukyas, though the local tradition credits the temples of Kotay and Kanthkot to the Kathis! and that at Kerakot to Lakha Phulani. There is specific reference to the Shiva temples named after Kumarpala and his minister Udala in the temples of Jayasimha at Bhadresar which is specifically called a port (*Velakula*). Of course these temples must have been built later in Kumarpal's time, and the reference should also be late.

Besides temples, monuments of public utility such as wells and tanks were also constructed by the rulers as well as private citizens. For, we are told that according to the record from Rav (Abdasa taluka), a well was constructed by one Ravisimha at the cost of 1,600 *drams*, close to the temple of Ravechi Devi (named after the place), during the reign of Arjunadeva V. S. 1328 (A. D. 1272).

Bhima's successor Jayasimha seems to have penetrated further westward. For, a grant to temples, when Duda was in charge of Shri Karana (administration), has been made at Bhadresar, which was then a port (*Velakula*). The place is still called by this name and has the ruins of a Jain and Shiva temples and a well,[2] and was a flourishing port in the 13th century.

Probably before Jayasimha came to the throne, or at the time of his succession in A. D. 1094, about the close of the century, Singhar, the fourth Sumra prince of Sindh, is said to have raided the province as far as Manikbai.[3]

According to *Rasmala*, Bhima II had to wage a war with Prithviraja, in which he was supported by Balla of Kutch.[4] No epigraphical or other evidence is so far available for these two traditional accounts. Whatever be the truth, the Rav inscription of Arjunadeva's time shows that almost till the end of the Vaghela rule in Gujarat (1304 A. D.), Kutch had remained under that empire.

1. Rathod, R. K., *Kachchha nu Samskriti Darshan*, p. 114 and p. 125, 146
2. Burgess, *Archaeological Survey of Western India*, p. 205
3. Sir Campbell, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 132
4. *Ibid.*

But according to the local tradition, the Samas, who were local rulers, were biding their time. For, though they established an independent rule in Kutch only in the 14th century (1320 A. D.), small bands had infiltrated into Kutch from Sindh as early as A. D. 712. It should be recalled in this connection that according to the traditional history,[1] the same princes Mod and Manai, the sons of Lakha, had established an independent Kutch kingdom as early as 820 A. D. and this had lasted up to 1009 A. D. During this period of nearly 200 years, Jam Lakha Phulani and Puma Ra' were some of the most powerful rulers of the dynasty. This Puma Ra' is said to have been killed by the Chavda Ahivanraja and governed Kutch (western) up to 1147 A. D. In this year another tribe of the Sama came from Sindh and re-established the Sama supremacy. The founder of this second Sama dynasty was Lakha Jadeja.[2] This statement could be true only of the western and northern Kutch, for, as we have seen the central and eastern Kutch bordering on Gujarat proper was effectively governed by the Chaulukyas and their successors the Vaghelas up to A. D. 1297.

Medieval Period

Jam Lakha and other Rulers—Lakha Jadeja is said to have ruled for 15 years. As he was the son of Jada, his line came to be known as Jadejas. His reign is memorable, because it was at this time that the practice of infanticide came to be noticed in Kutch. Since none of his seven daughters could find a suitable bridegroom, they burnt themselves in fire.

Lakhaji was succeeded by his son Rata Raydhanji, who, before his death in A. D. 1215, had divided the kingdom, giving the capital Lakhia-ravira and the surrounding territory to Otha, one of the younger sons and distributed the remaining between the four other sons.

Jam Otha (1215-1255)—Jam Otha ruled for 40 years (1215-1255 A. D.) and was succeeded by his son Jam Ghaoji. Though this was a period of chaos and internecine warfare between the two Jadeja families, it is also remarkable for two things (1) the rise of Bhadresar as an important, prosperous Asian port, and (2) the famine of A. D. 1259 and the emergence of Jagadusha as saviour of Kutch. This merchant-prince by his generosity, large-heartedness and vision, not only gave food and clothing to the thousands of famine-stricken people, but built *dharmashalas*, wells, and temples in Kutch and Saurashtra and sent shiploads of foodgrains to other

1. Dvivedi, A. K., *Kachchha Desh no Itihas*, (in Gujarati), Bombay, 1876, pp. 5-16
   Nayagandhi, J. J., *Kachchha no Brihad Itihas*, Ahmedabad, 1927, pp. 33, 39-65
   Sir Campbell, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, pp. 132-133
2. Nayagandhi, J. J., *Kachchha no Brihad Itihas*, Ahmedabad, 1927, p. 66

parts of India. Around Bhadresar alone, he is credited with the construction of 50 temples.[1]

During Jam Otha's successor, Jam Vahenji's rule, the fratricidal war continued. In this Raydhan was killed at Vadesar, whereas his cousin, Abada founded Abadasa and continued to rule his fief from there. It was this Abada, who gave refuge to 140 Sumari princesses who had fled from Sindh, when it was invaded by Ala-ud-din Khilji in 1314 A. D. Instead of surrendering the refugees, he fought for five weeks and died in the unequal fight thereby acquiring immortal fame in Kutch history. Needless to say that the Kutch Rajput women and the Sumaris burnt themselves in fire.

It was about this time (1320) that according to Muslim historians one more band of the Sama Rajputs migrated to Kutch from Sindh. The Kutch tradition, however, maintains that Lakha Phulani who had his capital at Kerakot conquered the whole of Kutch but died while fighting with the Kathis in Kathiawar in A. D. 1340. According to the custom, the various Kutch kings mentioned above were the great grandsons of this Lakha Phulani, whereas Nayagandhi places this Lakha, some two centuries earlier. Whatever it is, both the sources agree that the ruling Sama tribe came to be known as Jadeja, and the custom of infanticide also began at this time.

After Lakha's death followed the division of the kingdom among the five brothers but nothing eventful happened until 1472, though previously Muzafar Shah, the founder of Ahmedabad, had defeated the Kutchi forces, though the latter outnumbered the Sultan's small force. Thus Kutch once again passed under the suzerainty of the rulers of Gujarat proper, and remained so for 73 years, that is up to A. D. 1510.

About the year 1540, the three branches of the family were represented by Jam Dadarji, Jam Hamirji and Jam Ravalji. This was again the period of internecine rivalry between the Jadeja branches; particularly severe was the one between Jam Hamirji and Jam Ravalji. Jam Ravalji murdered Jam Hamirji, whereupon Jam Hamirji's four sons took refuge in Ahmedabad. Khengarji, the second son of Jam Hamirji, showed his bravery to the king of Ahmedabad by killing a tiger in a fight, whereupon the king, in appreciation of his valour, handed over to Khengarji the territory of Morvi within his dominions and conferred upon him the title of Rao. Khengarji used Morvi as a base for operations to avenge his father's death and recover his father's possessions. He entered Kutch, killed Jam Ubra of the line of Jam Dadarji and gradually conquered first Vagad and after a long drawn out struggle, drove out and sent Jam Raval into exile to Saurashtra, where he

1. Nayagandhi, J. J., *Kachchha no Brihad Itihas*, Ahmedabad, 1927, p. 70. It is indeed strange that not a word about Jagadusha should be given in the older *Gazetteer* on page 213 except a reference to the temple at Bhadresar.

founded the kingdom of Nawanagar or Jamnagar. Khengarji assumed the sovereignty over the whole of Kutch in 1548 and became the first Rao of Kutch.

KHENGAR I (1548-1585)—Thus the credit of reviving an independent or semi-independent Kutch kingdom as well as acquisition of the title of Rao, which is to this day borne by the Kutch rulers, goes to Khengar I. Soon after his victory over Jam Raval, he occupied the old capital Lakhia-ravira, near Nakhatrana. But he had been very much impressed by Ahmedabad where he had passed the formative years of his life. So with a desire to establish similar cities in Kutch, he first founded Anjar in A. D. 1546, three years later Bhuj and in A. D. 1580 laid the foundation stone of the port of Rayanpur-Mandvi. Khengar also devoted his attention to the development of arts and crafts and agriculture. He acquired as a reward for his assistance to Gazikhan, a Sindh prince, the tract of land in Sindh from Rahim-ki-Bazar to Kutch border. At Bhuj, he also built a beautiful Jain monastery in the style of the period and appointed Manek Mirji at the first *godji* (*Guru*). These are royal bards and the hereditary custodians of Rao Khengar's spear and of the exquisite rock-crystal image of Amba Mata which Manek Mirji had brought with him when he first arrived. Each *godji* has his cap of maintenance whose shape preserves the semblance of the ears and tail of the lion which Rao Khengar slew and in the centre of the cap is still to be seen the jewel which Khengar himself presented to Manek Mirji.[1]

On the opposite coast in Saurashtra, Jam Raval, having founded a new kingdom at Jamnagar, often tried to assassinate Rao Khengar but did not succeed. However, his (Jam Raval's) son Sahibji was killed in a prestige battle with the Rana of Halvad near Malia. Further, Rao Khengar's efforts to safeguard the Sindh frontier brought him into conflict with Shah Hussain, who inflicted upon the Rao a serious defeat at Jhara, but did not occupy Kutch. With the death of this religious, popular and bold king at the ripe age of 90, Kutch in A. D. 1585 ceased to be an independent kingdom. Its ties with Ahmedabad Sultan were, however, very loose or nominal. For, the Kutch rulers were only required to serve with a cavalry force of 5,000 according to the *Mirat-i-Ahmadi*, but no annual tribute was paid.

BHARMAL I AND OTHER RULERS (1585-1631)—During the reign of Khengar's son, Bharmal, the sovereignty over Gujarat passed over from the Ahmedabad king to the Moghul Emperors, who were ruling at Delhi. Bharmal twice tried to make himself independent of the Moghuls but, after suffering two defeats, he agreed to the supremacy of the Moghul Emperors Akbar and Jehangir, who confirmed him in his position as the ruler of Kutch but required him to pay tribute.

1. RUSHBROOK WILLIAMS, L. F., *The Black Hills*, pp. 113-133

It is in this capacity that Bharmal paid his respects to Jehangir, when the latter paid a visit to Ahmedabad in A. D. 1617. Bharmal presented Jehangir with 100 Cutch horses, 100 *ashrafis*,[1] and 2,000 rupees. He was spoken of as one of the greatest Zamindars in Gujarat, who had always from 5,000 to 6,000 horses, and was able in time of war to double the number.[2] Jehangir much pleased with the old chief, gave him his own horse, a male and a female elephant, a dagger, a sword with diamond mounted hilt and four rings.[3] Jehangir may have also wished to have friendship of the Kutchi ruler, who had a navy, and could as such face the Portuguese menace. On his (Rao) agreeing to give a free passage to the pilgrims to Mecca, Jehangir freed him from the tribute and is further said to have been permitted to mint and use his coins in Kutch.[4]

Another important incidence in Rao Bharmal's reign was the unsuccessful attempt which the Jam of Nawanagar made to implicate Rao in the capture of Muzafar, the last Sultan of Gujarat.

Besides these two political events relating to Kutch, there is only a passing reference to the country by Abul Fazal (1583-1590).[5] He describes the country as largely forested and uncultivated and known for its horses, camels, and goats, and its two forts ; Bada and Kanthkot, having a standing cavalry force of 10,000 and infantry of 50,000.

The subsequent period of nearly 100 years (1631-1718) was not eventful. Though no less than six Raos : Bhojraj (1631-45), Khengar II (1645-54), Tamachi (1654-62), Rayadhan I (1662-97), Pragmal I (1697-1715) and Godji I (1715-18), succeeded one another, the country on the whole was peaceful. The Moghul prince Dara sought shelter during Tamachi's reign in 1659 (and lived in a garden house, known as 'Darawadi' even know),[6] but the latter showed his inability to help him with a large force. Rao Tamachi's short reign is also noted for the arrival of a saint (Oliya), Shah Murad from Bukhara. For several years, he lived in Mundra, where also he is buried. But he is ever remembered by the Kutchi fishermen and sailors whenever they find themselves in difficulty. He is now worshipped as a Pir.

1. These were probably gold *Ashrafis* or *Seraphs*, of which the traveller Hawkins (1609-1611) says, "Seraffins Akbari which be ten rupees a piece". THOMAS' *Pathan Kings of Delhi*, p. 425
2. *Wakiat-i-Jahangiri* in Elliot, VI, 356
3. WATSON'S *History of Gujarat*, 70. The Rao is said to have been ninety years old. He can hardly, have been so much as he went on ruling for fourteen years.
4. RUSHBROOK WILLIAMS, L. F., *The Black Hills*, p. 110, (Gujarati Ed. p. 118) NAYAGANDHI, J. J., *Kachchha no Brihad Itihas*, Ahmedabad, 1927, p. 91. There is no mention of this in the *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, pp. 136-137, nor in COMMISSIARIAT, M. S., *A History of Gujarat*, Vol. II, (1513-1758), Bombay, 1957, p. 409
5. *Ain-i-Akbari*, Ed. by GLADWIN, Vol. II, pp. 71-72
6. RUSHBROOK WILLIAMS, L. F., *The Black Hills*, p. 122; and (Gujarati Ed. 119)

It was this Pir, who was instrumental in bringing about a peaceful solution of the impending war between Rao Rayadhan and Muazzim Beg,[1] who was sent by the Nawab of Ahmedabad to extract tribute. The Pir, however, persuaded him to return after granting a fresh Farman.[2]

PRAGMALJI I (1667-1715)—Noghanji, Rayadhanji's eldest son, died young, and during his father's lifetime Pragmal, Rayadhan's third son, contrived to murder his elder brother Ravaji. Both the brothers had left sons who were entitled to succeed; but as they were young, Pragmal, on his father's death, found no difficulty in seizing the throne. He bought the favour of many Bhayats by giving them grant of land and other concessions. His accession to the throne seems to have shaken the unity of allegiance that had kept the Bhayats and the great landholders loyal to the Darbar.[3] His efforts to please the various claimants and the resultant creation of various *jagirdars* had unhappy consequences on the latter history of Kutch.

When Kanyoji, the son of Ravaji, whom Pragmalji had murdered, became of age, he left no means untried to win back his throne. On assuming power, Pragmal had placed him in command of Morvi on the southern shore of the Gulf of Kutch, a possession held by his descendants. From Morvi, Kanyoji made almost yearly raids into Kutch. But the ruler of Bhuj was too strong for him, and he was always worsted. For the help given by Pragmalji by sending an army under the Crown Prince Godji, to help his accession, the Ruler of Nawanagar gave him the fort of Balambha. Pragmalji took the title of Maharao which continued among his successors. After a successful reign of eighteen years, Pragmalji died in 1715.[4]

GODJI I (1715-1718)—Pragmalji was succeeded by his son Godji, who was a man of exceptional ability, vigour and courage. During his short rule of three years, he took steps to undo some of the damage involuntarily done by Pragmalji in winning the favour of the Bhayats. He resumed certain crown grants, e. g., the estate of Mundra given to Haloji, the son of Pragmalji's eldest brother Noghanji, and Kanthi and Anjari Chovisi. Haloji, unable to resist, retired to Abdasa and there founded the towns of Kothara, Kotri, and Nagarchi. His descendants are known as Halani Jadejas. Godji would have continued this policy, had he lived longer. He encouraged and assisted those whose grants had been resumed to found new villages and to bring hitherto untilled tracts under cultivation. This policy proved conducive to the prosperity of the region.

1. RUSHBROOK WILLIAMS, L. F., *The Black Hills*, p. 123; and its Translation in Gujarati, by V. PATTANI, Kutch, 1963, p. 123
2. NAYAGANDHI, J. J., *Kachchha no Brihad Itihas*, Ahmedabad, 1927, p. 93
3. *Op cit.*, 1958, p. 125
4. SIR CAMPBELL, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*. About 1700 A. D., Hamilton describes Cutch or Cutchnagar as admiting of some trade, and producing cotton, corn, coarse cloth, and *Chonk* a shell-fish, in shape like a perywinkle, but as large as man's arm above the elbow, which in Bengal was sawed into rings for women's ornaments.

DESALJI I (1718-1741)—Dying in 1718, Godji was, without opposition, succeeded by his son Desal (1718-1741), a man in the prime of life, handsome, and of pleasing and courteous manners. At this time the revenues of the rulers of Kutch were extremely small. Before the reign of Godji, they were chiefly derived from the trifling trade of their seaport Anjar, and the Kora subdivision, from some villages in Miyani, and from Rapar in Vagad. The lands of Mundra and Kanthi and Anjar Chovisi added during Godji's reign brought an important increase of revenue. Still the Rao's income was low, and their way of living was very frugal and simple. Among his brotherhood, the Bhayat, the Rao claimed no greater supremacy than what was due to his title and larger resources. Sheltered by the friendly feeling of his relations and servants, he lived safe and unguarded, without crippling his resources by the pay of mercenaries. The ties of relationship with the leading Jadejas had up to this time scarcely been broken, and habit and duty inclined them to obey their common chief for whom they were ready to fight when called upon. Friendly intercourse and mutual support formed a bond of union between the Rao and his nominal feudatories, in striking contrast to the rivalry and discord of later years. At this time the Halanis had not long settled in Abdasa; the Godanis or sons of Rao Godji, were in their new lands in the Kanthi; the Sahebs, including the long established Chiefs of Roha and Mothala were continued in their estates; and Tera was allotted to one of the sons of Rao Rayadhan I. Most of country not held by the Jadejas was in the hands of the Vaghela and other Rajput chiefs, who through all changes had kept to their small estates and of smaller proprietors, Miyanas and others who had earned grants of free or service land.

As a province of the Mughal Empire Kutch had for more than a century and quarter (1583-1718) been free from attack. But within three years of his accession, he had to face imperial forces under Muazzim Beg sent by the viceroy of Gujarat.[1] But this, as seen earlier, the local Kutchi historians as well as Sir Rushbrook Williams refer to the reign of Rao Rayadhanji. Another attempt was made in A. D. 1721 to demand tribute. This time Nawab Kesar Khan was sent to Kutch for the purpose. He too returned after unsuccessfully raiding Nalia, an open town in Abdasa. This was followed by a regular invasion with a large army of 50,000 under the viceroy Sarbuland Khan himself, bringing with him Kanyoji, the Morvi Chief, as a claimant to Kutch. The Rao was ill-prepared to meet him, and though the Jadejas loyally gathered at Bhuj, they and their followers were at first not in a position to oppose so strong an enemy. Rao's minister also failed him by declaring that he knew of no means for raising money or men. Sheth Devkaran was, at this juncture, made minister by the Rao, and by his power over his rich caste fellows gathered such large sums that, by offers of pay and opium, the whole fighting population of the country was quickly drawn to Bhuj. Though ill-prepared and poor as the Kutch ruler and the people,

1. SIR CAMPBELL, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 138

were they for once were united. The Rao supported by his Bhayats and the most devoted army, ably directed by himself with skill and unprecedented valour defeated the vast Moghul army, the viceroy himself escaping to Ahmedabad in great shame.

With the war over, Rao entrusted the entire administration of the State to Sheth Devkaran. And the Sheth did equally well by adopting several measures to stabilise the administration and rehabilitate the economy on a sound basis. The collection of revenue which itself increased became regular. Freed from the risk of foreign invasion, the Rao rewarded Devkaran Sheth by giving into his hands the whole management of the country. Knowing his love of wealth, the minister, letting the Rao's revenues accumulate, used all his own resources to improve the State. Commerce was encourged and the land revenue fostered by a useful system of accounts and by setting agents of the State in every town, and through them supplying the husbandmen with funds. By these means the Rao's yearly revenue was raised to £ 50,000 (18 lakhs of *koris*) and the minister's to more than £ 25,000 (10 lakhs of *koris*). He completed the building of the fort at Bhuj, and fortified Anjar, Mundra and Rapar. Further troops were stationed at all these forts, and a regular army created to protect the country. Not only were adcquate steps thus taken for the country's safety, but the Sodhas of Parkar were also checked from raiding Kutch by leaving a small force there. The pirates of Okhamandal were punished and prevented from further raids by building the fort of Kutchigad in their district. He further recovered the villages of Balambha and Halar from the traitor Kanyoji. Sheth Devkaran showed considerable foresight when he extended protection to the Jadejas in Sindh, and to secure the land he had conquered. All these measures increased the prosperity and welfare of the people of Kutch in which the feudatory chiefs shared without contributing anything towards their expenditure.

That such a capable minister, who was indeed a saviour of Kutch, should be assassinated by Rao Desal's own son, who was impatient to seize the throne and have large funds for his personal use, is indeed one of the tragedies of history. But this was what happened. Not only this unique personality was done away with, but the Rao was prevented from taking such steps as were necessary to punish the culprits, by false submission to the pressure for pardon. This laxity recoiled upon the Rao himself, for, within four years he found himself dethroned and placed under confinement. Thus ended the rule of a popular and progressive ruler, whose name is enshrined in the memory of the people and several Desalpurs named after him. For long a proverb was current in Kutch that Desal and God were the same. He was a disciple of the saint Menkan Dada who, in his younger days, had rescued people from dying of thirst in the Rann of Kutch. He also patronised other religious faiths as well as Muslim religious foundations, and was thus instrumental in forging national unity.

LAKHAJI (1741-1760)—Rao Lakha was thirty-four years old when he came to the throne in 1741. But the historians of Kutch do not date the beginning of his reign until 1752 when his dethroned father Desalji, whom he had kept in confinement, died. He had a handsome form, was intelligent and generous hearted though rather extravagant. He was a man of ability and vision. His love of show made him popular and the great wealth (one crore rupees) found in his father's treasury did much to strengthen his power. He created deliberately the institutions of a formal court at Bhuj in order to demonstrate the difference between the ruler and even the most powerful and wealthy of the Jadeja Bhayats. A great court was kept and the ceremonial *darbars* were made splendid occasions. Many of the Jadejas were displeased at Lakha's treatment of his father and one of them, Sumraji, Thakor of Tera, a rich town and fort in Abdasa, spoke with open scorn of his unnatural conduct. When firmly settled in the Government, Lakhaji determined to wipe out this affront. Collecting the Bhayats, he sent a force well supplied with artillery against Tera and as the guns were served by men drawn from British territory, the fort suffered severely. After a few days, the Bhayats thinking that on an equally slight pretext the Rao might destroy all their forts, warned the gunners that if they continued to damage the fort they should pay for it with their lives. After this the firing caused little injury and the walls could not be breached. When the Tera chief gave a formal apology for his act, the forces of Bhuj after three months siege, were withdrawn. The period of Lakha's reign up to 1760 is notable for two things. First, for the chaos and confusion which were let loose in Kutch by a weak administration-frequent change and of ministers, extortion of money, cruelty and oppression to fill up the king's coffers, and consequent revolt and bloodshed. Secondly, by the amazing progress that Kutch made in arts and crafts including manufacture of guns and cannons, just because the king-otherwise a profligate-patronised the right man, one Ramsing Malam (the navigator).

Ramsing belonged to the backward community of Vagher, and was probably born in the beginning of the 18th century in Okhamandal. As a ship wreck he managed to reach Holland and stayed in Europe for nearly 18 years. During his stay there, he became an expert in tile work, glass blowing, enamel work and also learnt clockmaking, designing of buildings, stone carving in European style, foundry work and gun-casting. After his return to his native land Saurashtra, nobody welcomed him at first. But his unique talents were immediately appreciated by the adventurous merchants of Mandvi. His reputation reached Lakha, who at once took him under his patronage. He gave him a workshop in the palace and summoned the best craftsmen in gold and silver of Kutch to learn from him the art of enamelling. Ramsing founded a school of enamel work that remained famous for more than a century and a half after his death. The art was a court luxury and patronised by it, and declined in the first half of the present century due to lack of patronage on account of changed

economic conditions. Ramsing was sent to Europe by Lakha twice to perfect his knowledge of glass making and iron foundry and on the last occasion, he took with him a number of Kutchi apprentices for higher instructions in Europe.[1] The party brought with it many skills. A glass factory was established near Mandvi and a tile factory also set-up and watches and clocks on the European model began to be made in Kutch. An iron foundry was established that turned out excellent cannons. Ramsing supervised all these activities. He has left a great impression upon Kutch architecture also. The building that he designed from the palace at Mandvi to the *chhatri* of Desal and Lakha bear testimony to his genious for design, art, decoration, love of details and craftsmanship. His great masterpiece was the Hall of Mirrors in the old palace known as *Aina Mahal*.[2] Its "Walls are of white marble covered with mirrors supported by guilded ornaments and the hall is lit by elaborate pendant candelabra, with shades of venetian glass, many of which were brought to Bhuj by Ramsing himself."[3] In the Hall of Mirrors one may behold a harmonious combination of Moghul and European art. The influence of Ramsing on Kutch, especially in the fields of Kutchi architecture, enamel work, jewellery, tile work and interior decoration has been very characteristic.

Lakhaji showed great curiosity about the outside world and happenings there. He welcomed foreigners at his court and was always hospitable to them. He was much interested in literature too. He was a poet and composed poems, and patronised poets and dancing girls. He founded the *Brij Bhasha* Institute in Bhuj, where the bards and *charans* might perfect their study of *Brij Bhasha* poetry. It was a unique institution, the only one of its kind in the country.

Lakhaji was, however, profligate and debauch. He had entrusted the affairs of government to a succession of incapable ministers, who assented to every plans of his however, disreputable, which could contribute to his profligate habits. The achievements of his regime were made at a tremendous cost and the burden of his plans were too great for the comparatively small resources of Kutch. The royal treasury was exhausted by this rapid 'industrialisation' and Rao's fast life. To get more income, Lakha tried one minister after another, creating more bitterness and enmity among the incumbents and the people. Scenes of cruelty and oppression became common and the court began to lose its character and influence. Though the wealth was squandered, it finances were flourishing. Taxation remained low, trade flourished, and the land revenue increased, e. g., Lakhpat yielded an annual sum of 8 lakh *koris* from rice cultivation alone. The policy of new settlement also proved very successful. Ultimately Lakhaji's son Godji revolted and was brought round on his being allowed

1. Rushbrook Williams, L. F., *The Black Hills*, London, 1958, p. 139
2. *Ibid.*, p. 140
3. *Ibid.*, p. 140

to keep Mundra, on the condition that he dismissed Punja, the former minister of his father.

About this time (1757), the Rao presented the Emperor Alamgir II (1754-1759) with some Kutch horses and Gujarat bullocks, and in return received the title of Mirza.[1] The following year he planned an expedition against Tatta and was promised help both by the Peshwa and the Gaekwad. But no active step would seem to have been taken.[2] Influence of the Kutch court in Sindh and Parkar was also on the decline and the posts at Virawah and Parkar were driven out in 1760, the year in which Rao Lakha died at the age of fifty-four.

Godji II (1760-1778)—It stands to the credit of the Kutchi people, that in spite of the wish of the dying Rao to appoint one of his six illegitimate sons as his successor, they insisted and succeeded in appointing the rightful heir, Godji. Much was expected of Godji, for, during his father's rule of 20 years, the administration was going from bad to worse, though the revenue had not yet fallen off sharply. But somehow he did not succeed in first getting a good minister. He tried one Jivan Sheth, and then the old Punja. Appointment of the former, and the consequent disappointment of the latter started a chain reaction in the form of invasion from Sindh, internal quarrels and breakdown of the administration.

On hearing of his accession, Punja, his old minister and supporter, had hurried from his retirement in Junagadh, confident of getting the reward of his former services. But before he had time to reach Bhuj, Jivan had persuaded the Rao that if Punja came he should be told to leave without tasting the water of the town. Meeting with this rebuff, Punja retired to Kanthkot. But as his reception gave offence to Bhuj court, the chief asked him to seek shelter elsewhere. He then went to Jatavada, here too, he was pursued, and, only by the kindness of his host, escaped a troop of cavalry sent to seize him. From Jatavada, he retired to Virawah in Parkar.

Ghulam Shah Kalhora, then reigning in Sindh had long looked for a chance of meddling in Kutch's affairs. This was not unknown to Punja, and was probably one of his reasons for retreating to Parkar. With Gidomal, the Sindh minister, a man of his own caste, Punja opened a correspondence. Hearing of this, Ghulam Shah lost no time in asking Punja to proceed to Hyderabad, sent him 1,000 *mohars* for his expenses and a palanquin with an escort of 100 men; and on his arrival, he received him with every honour. Ghulam Shah expressed his desire to invade Kutch, and gain Rao's sister in marriage. To the idea of conquering Kutch, Punja gave little encouragement, but he strongly recommended the marriage, representing at the

1. Watson's *Gujarat*, p. 148, Mr. Burgess *Arch. Sur. Rep.* (1874-75, 200) says the title of Maharao Shri and the Mahi Maratib.
2. Watson's *Gujarat*, p. 149

same time that the proposal would be entertained only if Gulam Shah appeared before Bhuj at the head of a victorious army. Meanwhile the Rao, not unaware of the combination against him, directed Jivan to summon the Abdasa and Vagad Girasias to defend the country. The whole Bhayats except the Mothala chief who was friendly to Punja, readily answered the summons and took the field under the minister. Godji remained in command at Bhuj which he garrisoned with 1,000 men from Nawanagar and a body of Radhanpur troops. Ghulam Shah and Punja, at the head of the Sindian army quitted Hyderabad accompanied by an immense body of followers, who, it is said raised the strength of the expedition to about 70,000 men. Crossing the Rann, the Sindians, after a heavy march of 27 miles found Nara deserted and wells filled with stones. So great was their distress from thirst and fatigue, that had Jivan marched against them, they would have fallen an easy prey. But the minister was no general, and, quietly encamping in a strong position close by on the Jara hills, allowed the Sindh troops to refresh themselves. After two day's rest Ghulam Shah marched to Jara and attacked the hill. The approach was defended by a large gun round which the Kutch army was gathered. At the first shot the gun burst doing much injury and causing great confusion in the Kutch ranks. Taking advantage of the disorder, the Sindians climbed the hill, sword in hand, and destroyed almost the whole army, leaving among the slain Jivan, the minister, three sons of the Thakor of Nara and many other leading chiefs. According to Kutch accounts, their total loss was less than a hundred thousand slain. From Jara, Ghulam Shah marching to Tera, levied a heavy fine and plundered and burned the country. Learning of this crushing defeat, the Rao sent a private agent to Punja, confessed his unjust conduct, stated that he had been deceived by Jivan and entreated Punja to arrange that the Sindian army should be withdrawn. He also invited him as his minister to Bhuj, and promised to ratify any agreement he should make with Ghulam Shah. His return to favour at Bhuj secured, Punja was no less anxious than the Rao to get rid of the Sindian army. To arrange this without losing credit with Ghulam Shah seemed well nigh hopeless. But the news that the wells on the straight road to Bhuj had been poisoned led Ghulam Shah to advance by a longer route. As he went, he succeeded in levying sums of money from several chiefs. But a force sent against Sandhan was repulsed. When the news of this check reached Ghulam Shah, Punja was with him. Affecting a keen alarm, he warned Ghulam Shah that there were 360 forts each as strong as Sandhan, and that Bhuj it self was guarded by the choicest troops of Nawanagar and Radhanpur. He told Ghulam Shah that if he withdrew, he would go to Bhuj and arrange the marriage with the Rao's sister. To this Ghulam Shah agreed, and taking with him Punja's son as a hostage, retired to Sindh.

At Bhuj the Rao received Punja with every sign of respect, and at once made him minister. Punja's first measure was, partly by firmness and partly by paying their arrears, to dismiss the Radhanpur army which

held the gates, and in defiance of Godji showed every wish to remain master at Bhuj. During the next two years, Punja was occupied in an expedition into Vagad where he levied a fine on Kanthkot and the chiefs of the district. All this time, though Punja never ceased urging him, the Rao had failed to give his sister in marriage to Ghulam Shah. From this constant subject to dispute, and perhaps from the manner in which he had regained his post, the Rao was never well disposed to Punja ; and, when he had repaired his forts, raised a militia, and established his power, he decided to rid himself of his minister. By his order Punja was seized, confined in irons for ten days, and by the Rao himself was presented with a cup of poison. On hearing of Punja's murder, Ghulam Shah again invaded Kutch in 1765. He gathered an army of 50,000 men, and re-entered Kutch by the Nara route, which he again found deserted. He advanced unopposed up to the limits of Bhuj. Encamping at Rudra Mata within five miles of the town, he despatched his minister, Gidomal, with some men of distinction to demand, as had before been promised, the Rao's sister in marriage. Godji, well supplied with troops and resources, received the envoys with little courtesy, and refused to give any satisfactory answer. During the night the envoys passed in Bhuj, the Rao ordered that, at the same moment every gun in the city should be fired. This caused the strangers such alarm that they took back with them most exaggerated accounts of the height of the walls, and the strength of the town. After a few days skirmishing, Ghulam Shah was induced to listen to a compromise, by which instead of Rao's sister, he received in marriage the daughter of the chief of Khakhar, a near kinsman of the Rao. After remaining for sometime inactive Ghulam Shah recrossed the Rann, leaving at Lakhpat a post of 5,000 men. Smarting under this insult he did what no previous war had done to Kutch by building a dam at Ali Bandar across the Kori mouth of the Indus. Thus the rich rice fields of Lakhpat were turned into a salt waste, causing an annual, loss of 8 lakhs of *koris*. And this is not so much a monetary loss as a great loss to the food economy of this semi-arid province.

In 1772, Ghulam Shah died, and his successor, Sarfaraz was busy with his own affairs. However, this respite was of no help to Kutch where the conditions got worse. From the battle of Jara (1762), the Rao had understood the ineffectiveness of feudal levies led by the Bhayats. He, therefore, maintained for his own use a body of paid and whole time soldiery. He began to entertain a dread of assassination, and to protect himself, he collected a body of Sidis. Their number went on increasing till the power of the Darbar rested with them. They had become very overbearing. The Bhayats became jealous of their growing influence. The ladies and principal officers of the palace assisted by the Bhayats decided to free the Rao from their power. The Rao's person was seized and he was kept in confinement till the whole body of Sidis, more than 400 in all, were driven from Kutch. Godji became very enraged at this insult and, retired in disgust to

Mandvi, where he stayed for a considerable time, building a palace there, and, not paying heed to public affairs.

The affairs of the State were falling into confusion and discredit. After Punja's death a succession of ministers had followed, most of whom were murdered and their property seized by the Rao. During these changes the Rao, without a struggle, lost Balambha in Kathiawar. There were two invasions from Sind, one in 1775 and the other in 1777, but both the time the Rao's people managed to turn them back. Soon after, this Godji fell sick, it was said, of dropsy and died in 1778 at the age of 44. He left two sons, Rayadhan, who succeeded, and Prithiraj. Godji had married one of his sisters to Damaji Gaekwad of Baroda.

Godji was an oppressive and unscrupulous ruler, small and mean in person, and jealous and cruel by temper. He was the most unpopular of Kutch rulers. Frugal in private life, he was a spendthrift in his official career. He kept an establishment of elephants and horses far beyond his means, and in spite of the many large fortunes he seized, he died leaving the treasury empty. It is indeed surprising that in spite of such a ruinous rule, Kutch had not suffered much in agriculture or in population, and was in fact in a position to supply grain to Sind. Commerce flourished and Mandvi became famous all over India for the product of its shipyards. In fact, at this time Kutch led India in ship building. In his time a ship launched from Mandvi, with an all Kutchi crew, voyaged to England and came back safely.

RAYADHAN II (1778-1786)—Rao Rayadhan, who had passed all his boyhood with the women of the palace, succeeded his father in 1778, at the early age of fifteen. Inheriting unlimited power at so early an age and surrounded by attendents sullied and debased by constant scenes of bloodshed and cruelty, he was exposed to the worst advice and example.[1] The country was most disturbed. The last war with Sind, carried on without ability or honesty, had exhausted the State revenues and so slack was the management, that some of the chiefs and other proprietors were subject to the Rao only in name. Crime was so little repressed, that there was security neither of person nor property.

In one respect the Rao was fortunate. His mother's influence secured the post of minister to Devchand, a much respected person, who, during the last reign, had more than once managed the affairs of the State. For a short time under Devchand's management things went well. But before long, a plot was hatched against him. One evening on reaching the palace he was arrested by the commander of Rao's body-guard and shortly after, his three brothers who held Anjar, Mundra and Rapar, were seized and brought to Bhuj where the whole family including Devchand were put to

1. *Bombay Government Sel.*, XV, p. 113

death and large fine levied on their relations. Shortly after this, Rao's mother died and her death, the causeof order in Kutch suffered another heavy loss. The young chief who had hitherto shown no special fondness for vice, gave himself up to debauchery, and disorder became general over the province. The district managers thought themselves more safe in open hostility to the Rao than in his service, and by degrees the outlying parts of the province were alienated from the central authority at Bhuj. The management had become so slack that the representatives of the government ignored orders from the capital and set themselves up as independent barons.[1] The chiefs tended to act as petty rulers. After Devchand's death the Rao fell into the hands of Sidi Merich, the oppressive governor of Bhuj. The Sidi chose as minister of the province, Vagha Parekh, who, greedy and overbearing, attacked the Jadeja chief of Patri and slaying him, took his fort. This severity gave great offence, and the Sidi seeing that Vagha Parekh's conduct made himself unpopular tried to assassinate him. The attempt failed and Vagha winning over the nobles and ladies of the palace procured the banishment of the whole body of Sidi mercenaries. But his success was short-lived.

About this time (1783), the Raja of Jodhpur, at the head of an army passed through Kutch on his way to Sind to restore Abdul Nabi Khan, who had been driven from his kingdom by the Talpuras. The Raja tried to persuade the Rao to help him. But affairs of Bhuj were in too great disorder to allow of ready help and before anything could be done, the Jodhpur army, after a contest with Mir Fateh Ali at Chobari, was forced to retire in disorder. In the following year (1784), when twenty years of age, Rayadhan began to show signs of mental imbalance. At first he did little harm. His attitude was an extreme zeal for Muslim faith. He therefore became more violent, attacked and imprisoned his subjects. By these and other outrages he estranged servants and the Bhayats. The Bhayats became convinced that the ruler's conduct was bringing the regime into disrepute. But Rayadhan, known as *pahelwan* or wrestler, was a man of great personal courage and as he was always surrounded by a band of Pathans, it was not easy to seize him. Vagha Parekh, the minister, suddenly brought a body of troops from Anjar into the court-yard of the Bhuj palace. Getting timely news of their arrival, the Rao sending words to his body-guard, escaped to the top of the palace, and cutting away the stair gave his Pathans time to assemble and come to his rescue. With their help the whole body of the assailants was destroyed.[2] This shows that the Rao was not quite mad otherwise he could not have shown such a presence of mind. Though

1. RUSHBROOK WILLIAMS, L. F., *The Black Hills*, London, 1958, p. 157
2. *Bombay Government Sel.* XV, *117*. According to another story the people from Anjar asked to have an interview, and the Rao suspecting that they meant to seize him summoned them to a reception room in the upper storey of the palace. Himself retiring to the roof, he gave orders that the stairs a little more than a ladder, up which the Anjar men had come, should be taken away. Caught in this trap, he destroyed the deputation by throwing large quantities of gun-powder into the room. *Bombay Government Sel.*, XV, *14*

successful for the moment, the Rao's conduct estranged all his servants, and from this time his authority was no longer acknowledged. Mandvi under Ramji Khavas, Anjar under Meghji Sheth and Mundra, Lakhpat and several other towns under other leaders became independent. The Miyanas, gathering in large bodies, entrenched themselves at Baliari and sallying out plundered on every side. So great was the disorder that the people leaving their homes fled for safety to the towns.

Meanwhile at Bhuj things went from bad to worse, and the Rao in want of funds laid hands on the wealth amassed by his favourities, Muhammad Syed and Sidi Merich, and banished them both from Bhuj. Soon after this Meghji Sheth of Anjar seized the palace gates, forced the Rao to submit and placed him under restraint (1786).

RAO PRITHIRAJ (1786-1801)—The confinement of Rayadhan was a relief to the whole country. The chief actors, the Jamadars and Meghji Sheth raising Prithiraj or Bhaiji Bava, Rayadhan's younger brother to the chiefship, appointed during his minority a council known as the Bara Bhai with Meghji Sheth and Dosal Ven as its leading members. The Council had 13 members, 3 from Bhayats, 3 from Mahajan (mercantile community), 3 from Muslims, 1 from Miyana, 1 from Girasia and 1 from the services. In this struggle between the Rao and the people, the latter succeeded. But the arrangement of a Council also reflected the breakdown of the administration. The Bhayat's role supported by others in disposing of the ruler, appointing a successor and setting up of the Council of Regency were significant departures from the established customs and usages of the time. The leading members of the Council were not Jadejas. The Council, at first, functioned well. It restored order and brought the chief of Mandvi and others to acknowledge and pay tribute to the central authority. But such a happy state of affairs did not last long. Before long a discord among its members developed. Meghji Sheth, convicted of an attempt to poison some of the members, was forced to flee. Seeking shelter in his old province of Anjar, he established himself there as an almost independent ruler. To his party belonged the chief of Mandvi and Aima Bai, the mother of Rao Bhaiji Bava, and by their secession, the power of Dosal Ven and other members of the Council was greatly reduced. To add to the confusion, two members of the Council freed Rayadhan from restraint. The rest left Bhuj and in the disorder that followed, Fateh Muhammad, a subordinate officer rose to favour. But the Rao was in no fit state to be free and one day attacked Fateh Muhammad who had to flee for his life. Strengthening himself in one of the towers of the city wall, he resisted the Rao's attacks, and with the help of Dosal Ven, defeated the Rao and again placed him under restraint.

Fateh Muhammad, a Notiar Muslim, was of great personal strength, endurance and courage, of much tact and patience, and, though illiterate,

of strong personal influence. He was the chief actor in this second revolution and was admitted a member of Bhaiji Bava's Council. For a year matters went quietly. But Dosal Ven, the head of the Council, a man of hasty and violent temper, rather too sure of his possession, neither took pains to treat the Rao with respect nor to win the regard of the Jadeja chiefs. Taking advantage of Dosal Ven's want of popularity, Fateh Muhammad withdrew for a time from Bhuj, and, finding that the Jadeja Chiefs were annoyed with Dosal Ven's treatment of the Rao, he, in Dosal Ven's absence, came back to Bhuj. Always a favourite with the troops, he had little difficulty in putting an end to Dosal Ven's supremacy, and restoring Bhaiji Bava to his proper position as the head of the State.

As a minister, Fateh Muhammad showed great prudence and judgement. He won the regard of the young Rao, Prithiraj, secured the favour of the Jadejas with pensions, and, by raising a powerful body of mercenaries, acted with such vigour against those who opposed him, that except Dosal Ven, who retired to Mundra, all the members of the Council were either banished from Kutch or placed in confinement.

He next turned his attention to the outlying parts of the province, which, during the former regime, had fallen into disorder, and became a prey to the raids of Miyana and Khosa robbers. Vagad was brought under order and made to pay revenue. The town of Sanva, whose unruly chief had refused to pay tribute, was taken and plundered, and its bands of robbers broken and driven out of the country. After Vagad only two towns, Mundra and Mandvi, resisted the Rao's authority. Mundra, in which Dosal Ven had settled, was attacked and surrendered, and Dosal Ven withdrew with a pension to Betta in Abdasa. As Mandvi was too strong to be taken by assault, Fateh Muhammad made ready a fleet of boats, and seized its trading vessels. Disgusted with their loss, the Mandvi merchants determined to quit Mandvi, whose ruler gave them no protection. Anticipating this result Fateh Muhammad came to meet them and receiving them with great kindness, restored their property. In return for this generous treatment the merchants went back to Mandvi, bought over the garrison, and delivered the place into Fateh Muhammad's hands. Besides in bringing disorderly vassals to obedience, Fateh Muhammad spread the Rao's power by recovering arrears of tribute from the Jam of Nawanagar, and obtained from the Girasias the cession of the Bhachau district in Vagad, which, under his strong and careful management, became one of the richest and most populous parts of Kutch. One of his projects of improvement was to make Lakhpat a great port. A port was built and the place prospered, its revenue doubling in a few years. With the establishment of order he introduced a system of strict and fair government long unknwon in Kutch. To each district he appointed a manager and forced them to treat the people with great consideration. At the same time, so long as they had his confidence, he placed in their hands almost unlimited power neither listening

to stories against them nor cramping them by requiring too close an adherence to rules. He thus roused an enthusiasm amongst his dependents who carried out his orders with a spirit and trust that ensured success. His example was worthy of his precepts. Though the number of mercenaries was much increased, he seldom in passing through the country, allowed any of his men to enter a village. The headmen had before hand orders for supplies and the greatest care was taken to prevent irregularities. During these years, Kutch, favoured with fruitful seasons, recovered from its misrule and probably at no time was its trade or its revenue more flourishing.

Prosperity lasted till Bhaiji Bava arrived at a mature age, when he began to view with jealousy his minister's absolute power. The rupture began in 1801. Bhaiji lost trust in Fateh Muhammad, and only waited for a favourable opportunity of separating from him. With his friends the Rao planned to escape from Bhuj, and on a day when Fateh Muhammad was absent at Lakhpat, the officer in charge of Bhachau sent troops to escort the Rao to Mandvi where Hansraj, the commandant of the town, received him, declared in his favour, and drove out the militia that continued true to Fateh Muhammad. Fateh Muhammad tried to foil the attempts of the Rao but failed when he was badly off for funds, and one of his supporters, the commandant of Lakhpat deserted him. The Rao now moved against Bhuj, and being joined by many bands of mercenaries, became so strong that Fateh Muhammad feeling resistance useless, agreed to surrender the capital, if he were given the estates of Anjar and Bhachau. Accepting these terms Bhaiji and Hansraj took possession of Bhuj. Before leaving Bhuj, however, Fateh Muhammad set free Rao Rayadhan, a step which greatly embarrassed the new government.

RAO RAYADHAN II (RESTORED-1801-1813)—Rao Rayadhan was at first most grateful for his freedom, and at last, with much trouble, was placated by a daily grant of 300 *koris*. After this the post of the minister became a subject of keen contest and Muhammad Miyan who was passed over in favour of Hansraj, was so displeased that he retired to Mundra. Scarcely were these troubles tided over, when Bhaiji Bava died at an early age of twenty-seven.

The re-instatement of Rayadhan II threw Kutch once more into a turmoil. Fortunately he was re-arrested by Hansraj when he was called by the Rao from Mandvi. Hansraj now began to rule in his own name. This started an internecine warfare between Fateh Muhammad who was ruling independently at Anjar and Bhachau taluka and one Askaran who had managed to become the minister at Bhuj. Ultimately, Fateh Muhammad won. He marched to Bhuj and in a scuffle re-arrested Rao Rayadhan. He then took the reigns of government in his hands, enforcing his authority all over Kutch : on Hansraj at Mandvi and Muhammad Muja at Mundra

and in Vagad and Abdasa. All were made to pay tribute to Bhuj. Fateh Muhammad then carried out a number of public works. He also raised a permanent army for the protection of the State and for its maintenance invaded the neighbouring States for exacting tribute. Accordingly he subdued the Nawab of Radhanpur and between 1795-1813, five times he marched on Nawanagar State, where Meru Khavas was all powerful and ruled on behalf of the Jam. He also exacted tribute from the pirates of Okhamandal, established a watch-port at Kutchigadh and freed the Kutch ships from their terror. Of course, he did not always succeed. The Thakors of Rapar, Bela, Gedi, and Pasuda could not always be kept in check, though he did defeat and imprison the Thandar of Lakhpat.

It was under Fateh Muhammad that Kutch first established relationship with the British. In A. D. 1809, four agreements were signed by Fateh Muhammad and his son Husain Miyan on behalf of Rao Rayadhan and Capt., Samuel Adam Greenwood on behalf of the Resident, Col. Walker. These agreements related to the establishment of political relationship between the British (East India Company) and Rao of Kutch, particularly with a view to stopping the piracy at the sea on the Kutch and Saurashtra coasts. Similar agreement was signed by Hansraj of Mandvi.

However, Fateh Muhammad did not strictly observe these agreements, and much against the wishes of the British, he brought Mandvi and Vagad under Bhuj's control, and established a control post at Santalpur on the border of Gujarat with the desire of ultimately exercising supremacy over both these provinces. In the testimony thereof, notwithstanding threats from Col. MacMurdo who was staying at Morvi, Fateh Muhammad held a grand *darbar*, attended by all the Bhayats and vassals of the Bhuj Court, and pleaded for the improvement of the conditions in Kutch.

Nature, however, again intervened. Locusts destroyed all the crops in 1811 and the next year a severe famine stalked the land. Hungry farmers and villagers flocked the cities, where to make matters worse, a disastrous plague broke out. This foul disease also took the life of Fateh Muhammad, who died at the age of 61. On the 25th day after his death Rao Rayadhan also expired (A. D. 1814). He had left instructions that he be buried, but the Rajputs seized his body and cremated him.

Fateh Muhammad had, on the whole served Kutch well, though the people experienced extremes of vicissitudes, constant internecine warfare, loot and pillage, oppression, and cruelty with interludes of good and orderly government, when trade and commerce, arts and crafts flourished. Above all, Fateh Muhammad, by his tact and prowess, spread the fame of Kutch not only in Saurashtra and Gujarat, but to distant Mysore. Tipu Sultan was his friend, so also other Muslim rulers. To this day he is

remembered all over Kutch and Saurashtra, as will be seen from a free translation of one of the folk songs,[1] a *duha*, saying :

"Fateh your army struck terror. City women tremble even in sleep at night. The whole of Okha (mandal) was run over, and Barada (Jamnagar) frightened. The fort of Dhoraj shakes on your arrival, and Notiya took the city. The Halas, Jhalas, and Jethvas and the Hamir (of Sind and Parkar) all were suppressed."

Just as Fateh Muhammad shone on the political firmament of Kutch and Saurashtra, so a merchant prince, Sheth Sundarji Shivaji Sodagar (originally a horse dealer) illuminated the commercial world, first by his extensive business transactions spread all over India, Gujarat (including Kutch and Saurashtra), Poona, several cities in Mysore and Malabar, and Sind and then by charitable foundations and benefactions. He was on good terms with all and respected by the British and the Indian States nominated him as their agent or administrator. He in turn helped these rulers by lending them large sums of money. The British and the States like Nawanagar had presented him several villages.

It was Sundarji Sodagar who paved with stone the footpath upto *Guru Shikhar* on mount Girnar and built the *ghat* at Damodarkund at Junagadh and at several places in Kutch and Saurashtra. This merchant prince was born at Gundiyali near Mandvi in 1764 A. D. and died at the age of 59.

BHARMAL II (1814-1819)—On the death of Fateh Muhammad, his two sons, Ibrahim Miyan and Hussain Miyan quietly succeeded to his power, under the guidance of their father's chief advisor Jagjivan Mehta. As Rayadhan had no legitimate children, these two brothers supported the claim of Mansinghji, the illegitimate son of Rayadhan. On 13th January, 1814 Mansinghji succeeded to the throne of Kutch with the title of Bharmal. But the management of the State affairs was in the hands of the party headed by Hussain Miyan and Ibrahim Miyan. The British Government continued to press for some settlement of its claims. The brothers were divided in opinion about the answer to be given ; Hussain was friendly and Ibrahim hostile, denying that the British had any claim to interfere in Kutch affairs. Hussain's view prevailed, and the British Government were asked to send an agent to Bhuj to adjust the matters in dispute. Afterwards, at Hussain Miyan's invitation MacMurdo went from Morvi to Bhuj. He found Hussain well disposed but unable to do anything as he was weakened by the disaffection of his brother Ibrahim who had gone into outlawry and seized Vagad fort of Kanthkot. Under MacMudo's advice Hussain marched to reduce Vagad to order. But his funds failed, and without doing anything

1. DWIVEDI, A. K., *Kachchha Desh no Itihas*, Bombay, 1876, p. 63

to restore order he returned to Bhuj. As the British agent was informed by him that he must do what he could by negotiations, MacMurdo returned to Morvi in July 1814. The Chobari and Bhachau chiefs proclaimed their independence and ravaged the country upto the walls of Bhuj. The Vagad robbers grew more daring and destructive. Hussain was, therefore, told that the British Government could no longer delay sending a force to restore order.

At Bhuj, the failure of Hussain's management led to a movement to place the young Rao at the head of affairs, on condition that Anjar, Bhachau, Bhadargad and Kanthkot were written over to Hussain in perpetuity. While these negotiations were going on, the British troops refrained from entering Kutch. The young Rao, left in power, chose as ministers Shivraj and Askaran, the latter very unfriendly to the British. The feelings of the Rao towards the British were not long of showing themselves. No answer was given on the subject of Vagad banditti, and the British Native Agent was dismissed from Bhuj. Not many months after, the Vagad banditti attacked MacMurdo's camp and though beaten off, several lives were lost on both sides. The Rao wished to reduce their power and lessen their possessions. But the robber raids continued more destructive then ever. To put a stop to these disorders, a British force was held in readiness to invade Kutch, and about the middle of November 1815, a letter was delivered to the Rao warning him that the troops would advance if he did not arrange to pay compensation for the loss suffered by the British and their allies ; engage to prevent the raids of banditti in future ; and give satisfaction for the affront he had committed in turning away the British Agent at Bhuj. A reply was sent twelve days later, but it made no reference to any of the British demands. Accordingly on the 14th December the force under Col. East consisting of about 4,000 fighting men, together with the Gaekwad's troops crossed the Rann at Venasa about twelve miles east of Anjar. MacMurdo, who was in charge as Political Officer, immediately issued a proclamation to the Jadeja feudatories assuring them that so long as they remained quiet, their rights and privileges would be respected. The effect of this promise was to raise the position and power of the members of the Bhayat.[1] The chief of Vanadia at once came into camp and threw himself on the mercy of Government and negotiations went on between the British Agent and the chiefs of Anjar, Mundra, Mandvi and Sisagad. The force advanced to Bhimasar, then marched on Anjar and next moved towards Bhuj. Here agents from Bhuj waited on MacMurdo and after some negotiations, on 14th January, 1816, it was finally agreed that the two Governments should be at peace and friendly ; that compensation should be made for military expenses ; that the Rao should see that no such loss as would occur in future ; that neither the subjects of the Rao nor the people of Kathiawad should cross the Rann with hostile intent ; that piracy should be repressed ; losses made good, and wrecks handed over to their owners ;

1. SIR CAMPBELL, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 190

that no foreign, European or American should pass through or live in Kutch, and that except a troop of 400 in the Rao's service, no Arabs should be allowed to settle in the province ; that the Company should restore to the Rao any estates which his vassals had unjustly taken away from him and should establish order in Vagad ; that a representative of the Company should live at the Rao's capital ; that the subjects of the Company should abstain from killing any cows or bullocks in Kutch ; and the Rao should engage to harbour no outlaw from Kathiawad. In return for the Company's help, the Rao promised to hand over the fort of Anjar, and twenty three other villages and in addition to pay an yearly sum of 2 lakhs of *koris*.

Immediately after the conclusion of this treaty, the British force was withdrawn from Bhuj and marched into Vagad, where its appearance established order. The towns of Mandvi and Sisagad were surrendered to the Rao, the fort of Kanthkot, one of the Vagad strongholds, was given up without a struggle, and on the approach of the British force, Bela, a centre of disorder, was surrendered. By the end of February, 1816 order was established and MacMurdo was left at Anjar with a small detachment. Bharmal was now for the first time in undisputed possession of Kutch. He gave himself up to drunkenness, and the lowest sensuality ; and the whole power of government fell into the hands of his profligate favourites. No man of wealth was safe ; the Jadeja chiefs, with scarcely an exception withdrew to their estates and never visited Bhuj. In June 1816, the British Government gave up the sum of Rs. 813,876 due to it on account of military charges, and in addition waived the yearly tribute of 2 lakhs of *koris*. In return for this treatment, the Rao carried out the remaining terms of the treaty. MacMurdo was appointed Resident at Bhuj and Collector of Anjar. The Rao did not show friendliness towards the envoy of Sindh Amirs proposing for a treaty hostile to the English. His treatment of the Jadeja chiefs caused a feeling of disaffection among them, and had the Resident not succeeded in persuading the Rao to give up the attempt to reduce the chiefs ; civil war might have broken out. Public feeling against the Rao was, however, strengthened by the murder of his cousin Laghubha. The Bhayats petitioned to the Resident for Bharmal's deposition. In the ensuing tussle between Bharmal and the Bhayats, the support of the British to the Jadejas was an important factor. In September, 1818 the Resident received a petition signed by eight of the leading Jadeja chiefs, asking for the help of British Government and complaining that though his only claim on them was for military services, the Rao was illtreating and fining them. On 24th March, 1819 with a British force, accompained by the leading Jadeja chiefs, the Resident encamped before the fort of Bhuj, and informed the Rao that the 1816 treaty was suspended, and that the British in concert with the Jadeja chiefs had determined to organise the government of Kutch. As the Rao did not repair to the camp as advised, Bhuj fort was escalated, and Bharmal was placed under a guard. Such hostile attitude of the British amounted to interference in the internal affairs of the State.

Modern Period

Desal II (1819-1860)—The Resident, in consultation with the Jadeja chiefs, approved of Bharmal's infant son Desal as his successor. As the Rao was minor, a Regency Council consisting of the British Resident and five other members was formed for the management of affairs. One of the matters, that most urgently called for settlement at the hands of the Regency, was the claims of the Vagad. Girasias or landed proprietors, who had fled to Parkar and Virawah on the borders of the desert, when the Rao refused to restore them to their rights in Vagad, and became the leaders of the most formidable bands of robbers. There was consequently disorder in Vagad. To put a stop to these disorders the Resident offered, under the following conditions, to restore the Vagad Girasias to their lands. They were to show no help or favour to any British or Kutch outlaws ; to allow no thieves to live on their lands and to make good any loss by theft ; to refer disputes to the arbitration of the Kutch and British Government ; to stop or give information of bands of plunderers ; to serve the Rao faithfully in time of war ; to pay yearly revenue ; and to let all forts be dismantled. To these terms the Girasias agreed and order was established. There was a great earthquake in Kutch on June 16, 1819. It caused severe damage to property and life in Bhuj, Mandvi, Anjar, Lakhpat and other places. Thousands of houses and other buildings fell in Bhuj alone. An area of 50 miles long and 10 miles broad was raised up, blocking the Indus waters flowing through Kutch and depriving Lakhpat area much of the water it had so far been getting. Practically every fortification in Kutch was seriously damaged. The Amirs of Sindh made an attempt to take advantage of the opportunity. Their agent at Bhuj was instructed to ask the Resident to give up the port of Lakhpat, which he refused to give.

During this time, the treaty between the British and Kutch Governments was concluded in October, 1819. The chief provisions of the treaty were that Bharmal should be deposed and succeeded by his infant son ; that the Company should guarantee the integrity of the Kutch dominion against foreign or domestic enemies ; that the Company should station a force in Kutch to be paid out by the Kutch government which should entertain no foreign soldiers and import no arms in foreign vessels ; that the Company should exercise no authority in the domestic concerns of the Rao or of the Jadeja chiefs ; that Kutch ports should be open to all British vessels ; that the British Government should guarantee the Jadeja chiefs their possessions ; that the Rao and the chiefs should stop infanticide, and the British Government should prevent the slaughter of cows, bullocks and peacocks.

The Treaty of 1819 indicates a circumscribing of the independence of Kutch, and admitting British influence in the territory. It gave a much better position to the Jadeja chiefs than they had right to expect. The deposition of Bharmal was made to rest upon the desire of the Bhayats and

not upon his proved incapacity to govern. The new ruler was acknowledged as Rao of Kutch, not by right of birth but by election by the Jadeja chiefs, thus explicitly setting out the right of feudal chiefs to elect their ruler. The Jadeja chiefs, at that time, being the sole depository of power, decided with Company's advice, that a Regency Council should be formed. This council had 2 Jadeja chiefs as members. The 'right' of the Jadeja, Bhayat, like that of the ruler himself, to be free from all British authority in their domestic concerns was recognised : the British undertook to guarantee by separate deeds the Jadeja Bhayat and the premier nobles (including minister) in full enjoyment of their possessions, wholly independently of the authority of the Darbar. The Company was very zealous in protecting the rights of the feudal nobles against possible encroachment by the ruler, and consequently even the article which bound the ruler to afford the British what armed assistance he could give in time of need was limited by the proviso that corresponding obligation should be imposed upon the Bhayat contrary to their established customs.[1] The Company's intervention in Kutch reversed the trend in the direction of building up the central authority of the rulers in place of separate jurisdictions of the chiefs which it had begun to displace. The authority of the Rao over the Bhayats was curtailed. He was made impotent by creating a dyarchy in Kutch.

Thus the independence of Kutch was slowly being circumscribed and the British influence admitted into the country. The treaty by recognizing the almost independent status of the Jadeja Bhayats, very much reduced the power, authority and prosperity of the Rao. It took nearly a century to recover this power by the Rao and remove the anomaly. The treaty had its effect. It reversed the wheels of progress and the constitutional development for nearly 150 years. For, the economic progress, Kutch had made with the thriving ports, e. g., of Mandvi, with its exclusive overseas trade and a considerable inland trade with Marwar and Mewar, would not have been possible, had not a central authority gradually been developing a fact which had been observed by James Tod, but missed completely by MacMurdo.

With the accession of Desalji II, Kutch entered the modern age, literally and figuratively. In every sphere-administration of police, judiciary, revenue, social reforms, education, public peace, reduction of dacoity and plundering raids and safeguarding of the frontier, particularly that with Sindh-Kutch had taken the first step. With the result that peace and prosperity returned to Kutch in spite of three severe earthquakes the first and the most severe in June 1819, the second and third in 1844 and 1845—and the great famine of A. D. 1823 when one-fifth of the population is said to have left the country.

---

1. Rushbrook Williams, L. F., *The Black Hills*, London, 1958, pp. 203-204

The first thing was to give Kutch an efficient and strong administration. This was done by establishing a Regency Council on which members were nominated from the Jadeja nobility and influential people from the public. Lakshmidas Vallabhdas was appointed the Dewan, and the President of this Council was British Resident in Kutch.

Improvement in the administration of the province was steadily pressed on. Without any collecting staff, and with no knowledge of the resources of the land, the Resident let out revenues to farmers for a term of five years. At the same time every effort was made to curtail expenditure and protect persons and property in different parts of the province. A regular system of accounts was introduced, and utmost economy consistent with the Rao's dignity was enforced.

Though order was established in Kutch, nothing had been done to put a stop to the excesses of Khosas and other desert robbers. In the beginning of 1820 the banditti's insolence became so great, that a force was made ready to act against it. This caused the Sindh Amirs much alarm. Towards the close of the year (November 1820), the Amirs, through their agents at Bombay, made an arrangement of perpetual friendship with the British Government and engaged to allow no European or American to live in Sindh, to surrender offenders, and to check the depredation if the Khosas and other robber tribes. But so little were the excesses of the robber tribes suppressed, that, to allay the feeling of utter insecurity in Vagad, a strong army of 400 was stationed in the north-east corner of the province.

In May, 1822 the district of Anjar was restored to Kutch for a yearly payment of Rs. 88,000. But owing to some technical difficulties the fort of Bhujia remained with the British. After a year or two of order and good harvests, Kutch again had to face difficult times. In 1823, the rains failed, thousands of cattle died, and villages were deserted. A fifth of its people, it was estimated, left the province. This trouble was followed by advance from Sindh of a body of plunderers, 3,000 strong, who crossed the Rann to Pachham, and took possession of a fort in the Haba hills, eighteen miles north of Bhuj. During the next year the uneasy feeling of Sindh hostility, and the disaffection of some of the Jadeja chiefs, led to the increase of the British troops in Kutch to 6,000 men. After this, except for occasional raids from Parkar, Kutch enjoyed some years of quiet.

The British policy towards the chiefs, in the earlier years, was conciliatory and it accepted unquestionably their claims as to the feudal baronage. Mount Stuart Elphinstone, the Governor of Bombay, visiting Kutch in 1821, sounded the same note in his minutes. Soon, however, certain constraints were placed on the chiefs. During the latter half (1827-34) of the period of Desalji's minority, Henry Pottinger, who acted as President of the Regency Council, adopted measures for centralizing administration in his hands.

G
V23623
N71
26238

In 1830 when Sir John Malcolm, Governor of Bombay, visited Kutch, he took advantage of the occasion to call the chiefs to account for their failure to give any help in putting down the bands of plunderers. He observed that the chiefs had made not one effort to protect Rao's town from plunder or his fields from devastation, they had saved their own estates at the price of a base, if not treacherous inactivity. There was nothing, he said, in the guarantee obligation that freed them from their allegiance to their prince and the aid they were bound to give him, and warned that any chief who was supine and did not exert himself to the utmost to oppose and destroy his prince's enemies or plunderers, should be held to have forfeited all rights to British protection

In 1832 the Parkar robbers began to give fresh trouble. A force was sent into Parkar to punish the freebooters. The Sindh Government was also asked to allow a British detachment to be posted at Parkar, whereafter there was comparative peace in Kutch owing to the cessation of desert inroads.

The amount in arrears, a little over Rs. 250,000 was struck off and a modified treaty drawn up, providing that the equivalent of the Anjar revenue should be foregone and that the Kutch State should never be charged more than £ 20,000 for the pay of the subsidiary force.

The Regency Council had also an eye on the future. The young king was given a sound western education, political science and administration. The king also responded, so much so that the British Government pleased with the young king-his behaviour and general knowledge-agreed to coronate him at the age of 18, instead of 20, and also reduce the amount of tribute from Rs. 338,000 to Rs. 88,000.

Thus Desalji became a full king in 1834, though the title of Maharaja Mirza Rao was bestowed on him when he was invested at the young age of three and a Regency Council appointed. During his rule of 26 years, three very important reforms were carried out in Kutch. Slavery was declared illegal by a proclamation in 1836, and infanticide in 1841. This was also followed by a practical step. Annual fund was raised from which any poor Jadeja was to be given 400 *koris* at the time of the marriage of his daughter. Further, *mehtas* were appointed to record births in villages where Jadejas lived. The practive of *sati* was prohibited only in 1852 after considerable persuation:

Efforts were also made to improve the civil, revenue, police and judicial administration. Reform in the revenue system was also made by introducing documents in every village and fixing the *bhag batai*, convenient to cultivators. But the pace was slow because Kutch was still a feudal State, with so many vested interests, such as Girasias, Jagirdars and Bhayats,

which was a great obstacle to the introduction of a more equitable land revenue system. It is, therefore, specifically noted by the *Bombay Gazetteer* that though condition of farmers was slightly better in the Rao's villages, elsewhere the condition of the cultivator was deplorable. In the same way trade could not be much developed because the custom and transit dues were very heavy. Some reduction in the sea customs was made in 1852 on repeated requests from the Political Agent.

The administration of justice was not yet organised as in British India. Serious cases were investigated by the Rao personally, sometimes with the help of the Political Agent, while the smaller and petty cases were decided by the feudal chiefs. In the towns and territories directly under the Rao, these were first examined by an arbitration court, two panchayats, and then disposed off by the Rao himself. However, no steps were taken to formally record the court's proceedings. Only rough notes were made. The judicial system as prevalent under the British was not introduced because it was found to be complicated for the officers as well as the public, and certainly more time-consuming and expensive, though definitely less capricious. The Rao's aim was, however, good. Justice was to be cheap and quick. So much so that a complaint could be lodged at any time of the day. In one case the Rao left his midday meal unfinished and rushed out of his palace to settle an internal quarrel in the cobbler community.[1] Rao's relationship with the various categories of feudal chiefs was becoming less tenuous, because it was agreed to by the British Government in 1819 that they had no obligations to the Rao except military service or assistance and this with the establishment of the British force, was not needed.

Rao Desalji's reign is also notable for the several good administrators—such as Lakshmidas Kamdar, Nanji Jivraj, and Munshi Biharilal Nathniram. That Kutch could have a more or less independent government without the British interference is due to the sagacity of Lakshmidas. The keeping of records in writing and the separation of the departments of Revenue, Currency and Storage was due to the vision of Nanji.

Arts and crafts and industries were well developed. Iron and zinc were smelted in Kutch and many objects made. Excellent cotton was grown and even exported after the local needs were met. The Kutchi maritime trade had been well established since long, and the *kutchis* had a monopoly of the trade with Jangbar (Zanzibar). All this received a fillip during Desalji's rule.

Efforts were also made to spread modern education. First a Gujarati school and then an English-teaching school were established. A hospital was also built, as well as several temples.

1. NAYAGANDHI, J. J., *Kachchha no Brihad Itihas*, Ahmedabad, 1927, p. 154

In 1846 the Kutch currency for the first time bore the words "*Kaiser-i-Hind*", implying the British sovereignty over Kutch. The Revolt of 1857 had its echo in Kutch too.

On the whole Kutch experienced more peace, prosperity and progress under Desalji than under any previous ruler. Desalji's notable reign would have ended bitterly had the Rao not reconciled himself to the appointment of this eldest son as his successor. And it stands to the credit of the *kutchi* people that they were not over-awed by the Rao, nor influenced by his good rule, but expressed themselves in favour of the constitutional propriety of appointing the heir-apparent as the ruler.

At first a Council was appointed consisting of the Crown Prince, the Political Agent, the Dewan and two Jadeja-Bhayats. This council functioned well for a year, but Rao did not like it, and was, therefore, dissolved, and the Crown Prince invested with full powers on June 11, 1860.

The dispute between the Thakor of Morvi and the Ruler of Kutch over the Adhoi enclave after the British guarantee of 1819 led in 1842 to the appointment by the British of a Commission under the chairmanship of Mr. Lumsden. In the enquiry Mr. Lumsden defined the Rao's rights over his Bhayats in following terms :

"It recognises a partition of jurisdiction as well as of land, but as this is incompatible with an efficient government and indeed would speedily lead to anarchy, we find it modified by circumstances and an uncertain scale of independence accompanying the possession of landed property".[1]

These remarks reflect a steady and slow turning of tide in favour of the Rao. However, disputes of various sorts, as time went on, arose between the Chiefs and the Darbar. The Political Agent, Col. Jacob, summarised the points at issue and asked for the ruling of the Bombay Government in the following matters :

(1) Was the British Government under any obligation to check the Rao's systematic acquisition of claims by purchase or mortgage ?

(2) Had the Rao, without the consent of his Bhayat, the right to promulgate laws applicable to the province at large ?

(3) Was the Rao entitled to issue billets, *mohsals* on the *vassals* of his Bhayat, and

(4) To what extent could the Bhayats enforce the power of advice reserved to them by the Treaty of 1834 ?

1. Sir Campbell, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 194

Government decided the issues in 1857 in the following manner :

The first three issues were decided in the negative for the Rao and about the fourth it was decided that the consent of the Bhayats to any law intended to have force throughout the whole of Kutch was necessary, but not binding on the Rao in matters which concerned his own prerogative.

The changes that Rao Desalji succeeded in effecting were remarkable. He had been born in an atmosphere of civil war and rebellion, but Kutch under him had made a transition from anarchy to order. He had adapted to the needs of a new era, though he did not entirely cease to belong to the old. He was, as if it were, a link between the old Kutch and the new.

Pragmalji II (1860-75)—The Crown Prince Ravaji ascended the throne bearing the name of Pragmalji II.

Pragmal belonged to the modern age. His reign saw Kutch's entry into an era of almost complete tranquility in common with the rest of India1. Kutch had now lost its strategic importance. Pragmal soon showed himself in every respect different in character from his father. He had more courtly manners, more refined and costly tastes, and a much higher idea of his power and prerogative. During the 15 years of his rule (1860-1875), he showed himself anxious to improve the management of his State. He was an efficient administrator but nearly half of Kutch being in the hands of feudal chiefs, his actions tended to be paralysed. Soon after his accession, Kutch faced a severe famine in 1861. Several relief measures were taken to ward off the evil effects of the famine. Octroi and other charges on foodgrains and grass were stopped. Shops for cheap grains were opened and several relief measures to alleviate the distress of the affected people were taken. The next year locusts destroyed the crop after a great damage was done by excessive rains to crops and property. The measures of relief taken by him earned him respect for his efficiency, intelligence and public welfare. The Rao had been able to maintain peace and economic stability in the country. Though several Dewans served under the Rao for a short period, many of them were capable administrators. One Kazi Shahbuddin did excellent work when the Rao sent him to England to plead his case against the Bhayats before the British Cabinet. Another administrator, Anandashram, a bachelor, framed constitution for the department of justice, police, revenue and municipalities. Later the Rao invited Maharashtrian experts and gave the Dewanship to Dewan Bahadur Krishnaji Tulkar, appointed Pandurang Shivram as Police Commissioner, and Vinayakrao Bhagwat as Judge. The appointment of these outsiders was not received favourably. He made improvements in every department of administration. An efficient judicial system was established. Codes were framed for the

1. Rushbrook Williams, L. F., *The Black Hills*, Londoff, 1958, p. 237

guidance of his officers in matters of civil and criminal justice. Competent persons were appointed in many *parganas* and talukas for carrying on revenue and judicial work efficiently. He encouraged trade, commerce, agriculture and art, and thus increased the prosperity of Kutch. He undertook many useful public works. He deepened and improved many tanks, built the great Pragsagar lake in the Chavada Hills, made the causeway in the Hamirsar Lake at Bhuj, and constructed the Edward Breakway and harbour work at Mandvi. He extended the road system and medical relief, and built a new hospital at Bhuj, a new jail and new stables. He was a great builder too. He built a new palace for himself in Bhuj, known as Pragmahal, at a cost of 19 lakhs of rupees on modern Italian style with a lofty clock tower. He also built the Sharad Bag.

He introduced State education in Kutch. He had understood that it was a proper time to supplement the work of existing institutions of ancient learning, like the *poshal* for bardic poetry in Bhuj and the Sanskrit College at Mandvi by schools which could train the young *kutchis* for the requirements of modern times. Due to his efforts and influence over the Bhayat, the number of schools increased from 3 (one Anglo-Vernacular and two Vernacular) in the beginning of his reign to 71 including a high school. Girls' schools were also started. Grants were given to promising students to go outside Kutch for study. Assistance and encouragement were given for the starting of libraries in Bhuj, Mandvi and Mundra. He introduced vaccination against small-pox. With comparatively slender resources of the State, Pragmalji managed to do so much in several fields largely due to a rise in the customs receipts and land revenue, and a prudent management of the finances.

Pragmalji, like his father, was averse to decentralising authority and wished to keep as much as possible of it in his hands. He took up the struggle to assert his rights over the Bhayat chiefs, and carry his prerogative further than his father. He showed himself a strong upholder of the claims put forward by his father, and pursued his aims with a tenacity and variety of tactics. He questioned the jurisdiction of the Bhayats over their own vassals, began to oust them from their estates by pecuniary accommodation, and asserted his right to impose billets not only on the Bhayats but direct on their tenants. The success of his tactics caused a good deal of concern to the Political Agent and the Government of Bombay, both of whom commented upon the advantageous position he was building up for the *darbar* through the fines which he executed, through the system of infanticide inspection of Bhayat villages upon which he insisted and through his extension of authority of the *darbar* police to take cognizance of offences outside *darbar* territory.1

1. Rushbrook Williams, L. F., *The Black Hills*, London, 1958, p. 238

Government doubted the propriety of allowing the Rao, except on very emergent occasions, to billet men on the chiefs. With a view to clarify the relations between the ruler and his feudatories, the Political Agent represented to the Government that the result of the British connection with Kutch had been immensely to increase the Rao's power. The whole controversy about the *darbar's* claim and Bhayats' right was brought to some sort of a compromise conclusion by the Settlement of 1875, to which the Rao consented but did not live long to sign. His signature, in view of his consent, was not considered necessary by the Government. Under this settlement, a list of those entitled to the guarantee was to be kept by the Kutch *darbar* and additions and alteration when necessary were to be made with the previous sanction of the Government. The guarantee holders were divided into classes according to their status and fitness to exercise jurisdiction. From this settlement there grew up a complicated Jurisdictional system which continued upto 1948. Unlike his forefathers, none of whom left Kutch, Pragmalji thrice visited Bombay in 1870, 1871 and 1875. On the last occasion when he went out to welcome the Prince of Wales, he contracted an incurable disease to which he succumbed in 1876. But before this he invited Manibhai Jasbhai from Baroda, made him the Dewan and left a will in which he suggested the appointment of governing council until the Crown Prince came of age. By his death Kutch lost a wise and benevolent ruler.

Khengarji III (1876-1942)—Khengarji, aged ten, succeeded Pragmalji in 1876. During his minority, a Council of Regency presided over by the Political Agent, including the Dewan (then Vinayakrao Bhagwat), and one Jadeja chief and a leading merchant was constituted. A reduction in the number of members from among the Jadeja chiefs, and parity between their number and those of the public was a recognition of the sign of times. The Council tightened administration in every department and undertook several reforms. Kutch was organised into subdivisions of Rapar, Bhachau, Mundra, Bhuj, Mandvi, Abdasa (with Nakhatrana) and Lakhpat, which exist even to day with some modifications. Each subdivision had a revenue and judicial officer with a separate organisation for police and village administration.1 To maintain internal order, the police, judicial, administrative and excise departments were reorganised in every taluka. A department was created for ascertaining the mineral and other resources of the State, and a survey of these resources was undertaken. Trade was encouraged and local industries were developed. Marine police was appointed for protecting sea-trade. To increase cultivation and end water scarcity, tanks were improved and 2,000 new wells were dug and 23,877 hectares of new land brought under cultivation. To protect forestry, a forest department was instituted. Coconut and date palms were planted on the coastal areas. Education was further expanded and the number of schools increased from

1. Rushbrook Williams, L. F., *The Black Hills*, London, 1958, p. 247

71 to 116. The number of hospitals and dispensaries increased from 2 to 6. Several other measures of public works were also undertaken : roads and bridges were improved and built. In the year 1877 when the crops were damaged by heavy rains, a *pucca* road between Tuna and Anjar was built to relieve the distress of the cultivators. The work of improvement of harbours including the pier and break-water at Mandvi was undertaken. The Council also put an end to the quarrel with the Bhayats, which had begun during the previous regime. Consequent upon the Settlement of 1875, the number of guarantee holders was fixed at 139, and arranged into four classes as regards the exercise of civil and criminal powers in their own estates.

A serious difference of opinion arose between the British Government and the Regency Council on the question of the amount and method of collecting the tax on salt. The bitterness caused thereby made Dewan Manibhai resign and return to Baroda. He was succeeded by the well-known educationist, Rao Bahadur Nandshanker Tuljashankar. He tried his best to curb the custom of daughter-selling (*kanya-vikraya*) and introduced Stamp, Registration and Opium Acts. The four years of his dewanship are regarded as very successful years of Rao's reign.

In 1882 when the Rao was 16 years of age he was admitted to the Regency Council, because the then Governor of Bombay, James Fergusson, was extremely pleased with the king's alround brilliance in sport, education and general knowledge. In 1884 when the Rao was eighteen years of age, he was formally invested with full powers of Government, because the British Government was satisfied with his competence, and the Regency Council was dissolved.

Khengarji was a popular and honoured ruler at home and abroad. He was a great sportsman, naturalist and ornithologist, deeply interested in animal life and in the behaviour of fauna. The Rao, after taking up the reigns of Government in his own hands, undertook many reforms. He extensively toured Kutch to acquaint himself at first hand with the condition of his people. In the year 1887, the king went to England to participate in the Jubilee Celebrations of Queen Victoria, and built the Jubilee Hospital at Bhuj in memory of this occasion. Medical relief was also extended in the State.

He took great interest in the improvement of the means of water storage. The great Khengar Sagar was constructed. Vast lands were reclaimed for ploughing. He followed the policy of afforestation and set aside certain areas known as *rakhals* where tree-cutting and grazing were prohibited under stiff penalties. He extended both the primary and secondary education, and in particular the education of girls. He endowned many scholarships and encouraged study abroad. Fully aware of the importance of

technical education, he opened an Arts School for encouraging ancient handicrafts and traditional industries. The importance of education was impressed upon his wealthy subjects whose endowments have played a notable role in the educational system of Kutch. Telegraphic communications were established ; annual administration reports of the State were published and the first railway line from Tuna port to Anjar started in 1899. There was famine all over India in the year 1900 which caused much loss in Kutch. To alleviate the sufferings of the people several relief measures were undertaken, and a crore and half of rupees spent on famine relief by the Maharao.

Though the entire State enjoyed the fruits of an organised Government and derived various benefits from the development activities undertaken by the rulers, the Rao, by treaty rights, was precluded from directly taxing the territories of the chiefs and the Bhayats. While Kutch was thus on the steady march towards progress, events such as restrictions on salt export imposed by the British Government in 1855 and the rise of Saurashtra ports brought about a gradual decline in Kutch trade. And the worst of all was the unfavourable decision in the long protracted legal dispute with Morvi which caused grievous loss to her prestige and loss of her age-old ports and customs revenue. With the dawn of the twentieth century, the demand that the State Government should do more to give their subjects education, medical relief, social services, works of public utility, easy communications and the various amenities of civilised life which the western world had developed, grew more and more insistent.[1] These demands called for an expansion of governmental activities which involved heavy expenditure beyond the limited resources of the ruler. The Maharao did his best to develop the potentialities of Kutch during the period that followed. Agriculture continued to be encouraged and every year more waste land was reclaimed for ploughing. Customs tariff was revised and lowered to encourage trade. The Maharao was a visionary and he had clearly foreseen the great potentiality of the Kandla region. He personally studied its topography and the terrain on horse and camelback. He also consulted expert engineers and entrusted the work of building a port at Kandla to a British port engineer. Arrangements were made to bring fresh water from Viri springs to the new port of Kandla by building a channel. By 1930 a customs office and two small docks were built. About 700 large steamers had berthed at Kandla upto 1940. The port of Mandvi was improved and the dredging of the main channel attended.

Though the *kutchi* people travelled far and wide, Kutch itself remained almost isolated from the main currents of political life for a pretty long time. Almost half of the total population of Kutch who lived outside the State was ready to make personal sacrifices for the nationalistic cause. The

1. Rushbrook, Williams, L. F., *The Black Hills*, London, 1958, p. 252

famous revolutioary, Shyamji Krishna Varma, born at Mandvi in 1857, was the precursor of many 'activist' elements in the Indian national movement. Educated at the Oxford University, he had been attracted by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and later on by Lala Lajpat Rai. He left India in 1897 and established the Indian Home Rule Society in London. From 1907 onwards he resided in Paris, and was one of the leading personalities in the national struggle during the period 1905-1914. When the first World War broke out, he left for Geneva where he died in 1930.

Khengarji sympathised with ideal of a self-governing India. At the same time, he saw that so long as the Indian States continued to be isolated from the rest of India by British paramountcy, their future must remain uncertain. He represented, in 1921, the Princes at the Imperial Conference, when Freedom of the Town of London and Baath were conferred upon him. After the Kutch Kathiawad Conference of 1921, activities in Kutch were separated from those in Kathiawad and the Kutch Praja Sangh was started. The Ruler's attitude towards the Sangh was not sympathetic. Mahatma Gandhi accompanied by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel visited Kutch at the invitation of the people in 1925. The Maharao had prolonged talk with the Mahatma who regarded him as a wise and sagacious ruler. This visit further inspired the people of Kutch living in Bombay to start *Shri Kutchi Prajakiya Parishad* in 1927 with its headquarters at Bombay. The *Parishad* sent a delegation to meet the Maharao and discuss certain political problems with him. But finding no tangible result, the deputationists decided to hold a meeting of the *Parishad* in Kutch itself which passed resolution demanding constitutional reforms, as an elected legislature and a Government responsible to the people. A new organisation, called the *Kutchi Praja Mandal* came into being to carry on political activities in Kutch itself. Meanwhile the events in India led to the calling of the Round Table Conference in London. Khengarji attended the Conference in 1931 as a representative of the Indian States wherein the proposal for a federal constitution in which the States could play their part was discussed. But he was disappointed when he realised that the British Government was anxious to safeguard the interests of British India and not interested in the Indian States or their development on modern lines.

The various political organisations upto now had not challenged the Darbar, but were content with passing resolutions in the form of requests. But it was Yusuf Maher Ali, who, as president of the Mundra Conference, declared in 1939 that unless responsible Government were immediately granted, direct action would be resorted to by the people. Since then the activities of the *Parishad* were organised and political agitation started at a number of places.

Khengarji after an unusually long reign of 63 years died in 1942. His long reign had created some problems at home. Crown prince Vijayrajji at

the time of his death was nearer fifty years having grown up sons of his own. The king had tried to share the administration with him, but then found it impracticable. Nor was the king blessed with able ministers, as some of his predecessors were. Fortunately, the Crown Prince was a very sensible person and he preferred to live as a private citizen so that the relation between the father and the son may not be strained. Later the administration functioned smoothly when Col. Webb became the Dewan. Khengarji, inspite of great financial difficulties, tried to put Kutch on the path of progress in several directions.[1]

VIJAYRAJJI (1942-1948)—Vijayrajji succeeded as Maharao at a fairly advanced age. He had been overshadowed by his father for a very long time. He too was sportsman and very widely travelled and capable man. He introduced some useful reforms in the administration and extended the irrigation system. The Darbar schools were thrown open for admission to the Harijan students. With the approval of the Crown Representative, an inquiry regarding the extent of landed possession of all guaranteed jurisdiction holders in the State was held in 1943-44. As a result of this inquiry the jurisdictional powers of the fourteen *jagirs* were withdrawn by the orders of the Crown Representative. Thereafter he fell so ill that he was obliged to go to Europe for treatment during the crucial period when the future of India and Princely States was on the anvil. During his absence the burden of administration used to fall on his Crown Prince Madansinhji.

A conference held at Bhuj in 1945 gave a new turn to the political activities in Kutch. The Maharao realising the needs of times, introduced several reforms. All the seven cities of Kutch were granted *nagar sabhas* in which the members of the *Parishad* were in majority. *Dharasabha* was also offered but the people considered it inadequate and rejected it. In the meantime conditions began to change rapidly. India became independent in 1947, talks about Kutch's integration with India were initiated. The *Parishad* started civil disobedience in Kutch, but on hearing of the Maharao's illness withdrew it. After Independence, Vijayrajji helped in the foundation of the township of Gandhidham where displaced persons from Sindh were settled and the Sindhu Resettlement Corporation started under the leadership of Bhai Pratap for the development of that place. Vijayrajji died in 1948.

MADANSINHJI (1948-1948)—Madansinhji assumed the rulership after his father's death in 1948. The leaders of Kutch threatened to restart the agitation, but Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel dissuaded them from doing so. In the meantime the Maharao declared grant of responsible government to his people. He remitted all the heavy debts and financial obligations which the Bhayats owed to the *darbar* and helped financially in promoting education in Kutch. Within a few months of his becoming the Maharao, Madansinhji

1. RUSHBROOK WILLIAMS, L. F., *The Black Hills*, London, 1958, p. 246

signed the Treaty of Accession to the Indian Union, to which two additional and special clauses were added. The first guaranteed him foreign exchange necessary for travel and study abroad. According to the second, the Government of India had promised to protect the maritime rights and powers of Kutch. Madansinhji has served as ambassador to Norway and is known as a first class sportsman particularly in tennis.

Post-Integration Period

After the integration of Kutch with India it was placed directly under the Central Government. Government of India appointed a Chief Commissioner. This period of eight years 1948-1956 may be divided into two, each of four years. During the first period there was an Advisory Council to assist the administration, when such spade work for modernising the administration was undertaken. The entire administration was overhauled, departments were organised and new ones started where necessary. Several administrative reforms were introduced to make Kutch fall in line with other States. These included among others the establishment of a Sachivalaya, reorganisation of Revenue and Agriculture Departments, establishment of separate divisions for roads and irrigation, improvement of public health and veterinary services, creation of the Civil Supplies Department and reorganisation of the police administration. Development of ports, particularly the Kandla port, was undertaken. The *kori* currency was discontinued and Indian currency introduced alongwith Indian weights and measures on the Bombay pattern. The old laws were examined and modified and new ones passed, where necessary.

During the second period beginning from July, 1952, when Kutch was made a part 'C' State, Advisors were appointed. *Bhagbatai* or crop share system of land revenue was done away with; higher education was encouraged; technical education was expanded; the Kandla-Deesa railway line was constructed and the Community Development Programme initiated. On the Reorganisation of States, Kutch was integrated with the Bombay State with effect from 1st November, 1956, when it was converted from a Part 'C' State into a district of that State. A special legislation was undertaken for abolition of the *jagirdari* system in Kutch. On the bifurcation of the Bombay State on 1st May, 1960, the Kutch district has become a part of the newly formed Gujarat State.

Conflict between India and Pakistan (1965)

The district of Kutch attracted pointed attention after Independence on account of the border dispute between India and Pakistan regarding the sovereignty over certain parts of the Kutch district. This dispute flared up into an armed collision in April 1965. The dispute arose in the circumstances set out below.

The Indian Independence Act of 1947, enacted by the British Parliament, established with effect from 15th August, 1947, two independent Dominions, known as India and Pakistan. The suzerainty of the British Crown over the Indian or Native States (or Estates) of Kutch, Santalpur, Tharad, Suigam, Wav and Jodhpur lapsed and they eventually acceded to and merged in the Dominion of India.

The territory allotted to Pakistan included the Province of Sindh, which formerly formed part of the British India. In course of time, the two Dominions became the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Subsequently, Pakistan put forth a claim that the border between India and Pakistan in the Gujarat-West Pakistan region was never effectively demarcated in the Rann of Kutch and that it ran roughly along the 24th parallel as mentioned in several pre-partition and post-partition documents. The dispute involved some 3,500 sq. miles of the territory. India pointed out that there was no territorial dispute, as there was the well-established boundary running roughly along the northern edge of the Rann of Kutch as shown in the pre-partition maps, which needed to be demarcated on the ground.

From July 1948 onwards, several Diplomatic Notes were exchanged between the Governments of India and Pakistan concerning the boundary between the two countries in the Gujarat-West Pakistan region. The dispute led in early 1965 to a political tension which ultimately culminated in the outbreak of hostilities in April 1965. This conflict lasted for a number of days and attracted attention of the world. On persuasion by friendly powers, India and Pakistan decided to agree to a cease-fire and to the restoration of status quo as at 1st January 1965 in the area of the Gujarat-West Pakistan region in the hope that this would also contribute to a reduction of tension along the entire Indo-Pakistan border. They also resolved to make arrangements for the determination and demarcation of the border in that area.

The troops were accordingly withdrawn and the respective sides undertook patrolling in the areas where they were doing so on 1st January 1965. It was also resolved by the parties to the dispute that in the event of no agreement being arrived at by the Ministers of the two Governments on the determination of the border within two months of the cease-fire, the two Governments should take recourse to a Tribunal as contemplated in the Joint Communique of 24th October, 1959. The Ministerial Conference did not take place. The two Governments therefore decided to refer the boundary dispute to an impartial Tribunal. On 30th June 1965, they also agreed that the decision of the Tribunal would be binding on both of them and would not be questioned on any ground whatsoever. Both Governments undertook to implement the Award of the Tribunal in full as quickly as possible. Accordingly, a Tribunal was constituted with headquarters at

Geneva. It consisted of (1) Hon. Gunnar Lagergren, President of the Court of Appeal, Western Sweden as Chairman of the Tribunal, (ii) Ambassador Aleš Bebler, Judge of the Constitutional Court of Yugoslavia (Representative of India) and (iii) Mr. Nasrollah Entezam of Iran (Representative of Pakistan), as members.

The first meeting of the Tribunal was held in February, 1966 at Geneva. The oral hearings began on 15th September, 1966 and continued with a few interruptions until 14th July, 1967. The Tribunal heard arguments of both sides, examined the documents, maps, etc., put forth by both the sides and gave an award on 19th February, 1968, which is enbodied in the Award of the Indo-Pakistan Western Boundary Case Tribunal. Accordingly, the work of demarcation of the boundary by erecting pillars on the ground was undertaken in 1968 and was completed in June 1969.

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

The composition of the people of Kutch differs much from those of other parts of Gujarat in a number of ways, as this region has been greatly influenced by geographical and historical factors working over time. Referring to the period of known history, the former *Gazetteer* wrote :

> " In early times Cutch would seem to have been held by the Kathis, Ahirs, Rabaris, and other herdsmen, till in the eighth century the province was overrun by the Chavdas, and the Kathis forced south to Kathiawar. Next, in the tenth century, from the east came the Solanki conquerors, and from the north Sammas, Sodhas, and other Sind tribes driven south partly by Musalman conquests, partly by the destruction that followed the drying of the eastern branch of the Indus. In the twelfth century came the Vaghelas from the east, and from the north Sammas and Jadejas up to their final conquest early in the fourteenth century. Of others, besides the ruling tribes, caste traditions point to a Sind, Marwar, or Gujarat origin. Almost all Brahmans and Vanias have come from Marwar and Gujarat ; Bhatias and Lohanas are from Sind and Multan ; and of craftsmen some trace their origin to Sind and others to Gujarat and Kathiawar. "[1]

POPULATION

The population of Kutch has been variously estimated at different times by different persons and authorities. Elphinstone gave the native estimate as 510,000 souls in 1821 of whom more than one-third were Musalmans ; Col. Tod estimated it at 500,000 in 1823 ; it was placed at 350,000 in 1830, and at 484,852 five years later. Still another estimate showed it to be 409,522 in 1852 of whom 300,420 were Hindus and 109,102 Musalmans. All these estimates err either on the side of over-estimation or under-estimation. More reliable figures are, however, available since 1872, when the first Indian Census showed the population of Kutch to be 487,305 souls, of whom nearly three fourths were Hindus and one fourth Musalmans.[2]

The total population of Kutch as returned by the Census of 1961 was 696,440 souls, of whom 341,224 were males and 355,216 females. To the

1. CAMPBELL, SIR J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 38
2. *Ibid.*, p. 40

population of 1951, it added 128,844 or 22·70 per cent, the highest during the last 60 years, though lower than the State average of 26·28 per cent.

The following statement compares the growth of numbers between 1901 and 1961.

STATEMENT III·1

Variation in Population, 1901-1961

Year	Population	Decade variation	Percentage decade variation
1	2	3	4
1901	488,022	..	..
1911	513,429	+ 25,407	+ 5.21
1921	484,547	— 28,882	— 5.63
1931	520,496	+ 35,949	+ 7.42
1941	507,880	— 12,616	— 2.42
1951	567,606	+ 59,726	+ 11.76
1961	696,440	+ 128,834	+ 22.70
1901 to 1961		+ 208,418	+ 42.71

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Kutch, p. 12

The growth and movement of population in this district, though following the general trend in the State, differs much from that revealed by other districts of Peninsular Gujarat. This tract has shown decrease in its population during the decades 1911-21 and 1931-41 and small increase during other periods. But the increase in numbers between 1951-61 (22·70 per cent) is not only noteworthy but a little higher than that in Kaira and Mehsana districts of the State. The overall increase during the last 60 years is, however, the least (42·71 per cent) of all the districts of Gujarat. The reasons which may be ascribed for such a tardy progress are (i) frequent recurrence of scarcity and famine and (ii) absence of adequate means of livelihood and unsettled conditions at home causing out-migration on the part of its enterprising people. Talukas which have shown increases above the State average (26·28 per cent) during 1951-61 are Lakhpat, Nakhatrana, Bhuj and Anjar, the highest being 57·1 per cent in Lakhpat taluka which is entirely rural. The highest urban increase (143·7 per cent) has, however, been recorded by Anjar taluka, where new townships like Gandhidham and Adipur have come into existence during the decade to settle displaced persons from Sindh and intensive programme of development undertaken at the major port of Kandla. The rest of the talukas fall below the State average, the percentage of increase varying from 4·2 for Mandvi to 23·8 for Bhachau.

Density—From the viewpoint of area covered, Kutch is the largest district of the State. The average density of population is 16 persons to a square km., being the lowest in the State which has 112 to a square km. The urban density is 836 persons to a square km. as against 2,799 for the State. As more than 50 per cent of the total area of the district consists of uninhabitable Rann of Kutch, the district has the lowest average density per square km. in the State. Exclusive of the Rann, it comes to 36 for the district as a whole and 29 for its rural areas, where the pressure of population is comparatively less and the average density is worked out on the basis of the entire area within the revenue limits of the village. These densities differ for different parts of the district as also for its rural and urban areas as will be seen from the table that follows.

STATEMENT III·2

Density of Population, 1961

State/District/Taluka	Total/Rural/Urban	Population	
		Per sq. mile	Per sq. km.
1	2	3	4
State	*T*	*290*	*112*
	R	*218*	*84*
	U	*7,194*	*2,799*
District	**T**	**42**	**16**
	R	**34**	**13**
	U	**2,145**	**836**
Bhuj *	T	62	23
	R	41	16
	U	12,606	5,023
Nakhatrana	R	113	43
Lakhpat	R	20	8
Abdasa	R	75	29
Mandvi	T	194	75
	R	145	56
	U	4,628	1,786
Mundra	T	162	62
	R	139	54
	U	1,101	424
Anjar	T	204	79
	R	98	38
	U	1,305	505
Bhachau†	R	144	46
Rapar	R	81	31

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Kutch

*Includes Khavda Mahal
†Includes Khadir Mahal

The highest average density per sq. km. (79) is found in Anjar taluka and the lowest (8) in Lakhpat taluka, which is one of the most undeveloped areas in the district. In rural areas, Mandvi taluka is the densest (56). Among towns, Bhuj, the former capital of Kutch and now the headquarters of the district tops the list with 5,023 persons per square km. and Kandla ranks last with 116.

Migration—According to the old *Kutch Gazetteer*, "From the uncertainty of the rainfall and from the pushing, vigorous character of the people, there is much more migration in Cutch than in most parts of the Bombay Presidency. The higher class of traders, among Hindus, Bhatias, Osval Vanias, and Lohanas, and among Musalmans, Khojas, Memans, and Bohoras, are always ready to leave their homes in search of employment. Many of them have permanently settled in Bombay. And among the young men, a very large number, both of Hindus and Musalmans, leaving their families in Cutch go to push their fortunes not only in Bombay and other parts of India, but in Persia, Arabia, Africa and China. Many of them amass considerable fortunes and return to spend their gains in jewelry, feasts, house and temple building, and the purchase of land. Besides traders a few high class Hindus leave Cutch in search of employment as clerks or in Government service. Like the traders, many of the leading artisans, masons, blacksmiths, coppersmiths and weavers find work out of Cutch, and in years of scarcity large numbers of the poor are often for the time forced to leave their homes and seek a living either in Gujarat or in Sind."[1]

Besides the permanent migration, seasonal migration within and outside the district has also been referred to as under :

> "Of the classes who in ordinary seasons move about the province, the chief are, of artisans, carpenters, blacksmiths, coppersmiths, masons, and weavers who with little capital go from town to town offering their services or selling their wares; of carriers, Ahirs, with their bullock-carts, Charans, Lohanas, and Memans with their pack bullocks, potters with their asses, and Sindis with their camels; and of the lower classes, shepherds, Ods or wandering diggers, cotton cleaners, and labourers, especially field labourers in harvest time. Of immigrants, polishers, blacksmiths, known as Gadalias, and Ods, come from Marwar and return within the year; and in the cold and hot seasons traders from Cabul and coppersmiths from Kathiawar come and sell their fruit and brass vessels, and return before the rains set in."[2]

1. According to the returns in 1862, 25,000 left; in 1863, 35,000; in 1864, 23,000; in 1865, 23,750; in 1866, 18,600; in 1867, 20,267; in 1868, 20,000; in 1870 15,000; and in 1875, 50,000, p. 103, (foot note)

2. CAMPBELL SIR, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 103

History has repeated itself also in our own times, when Kutch has, as in the past, offered asylum to a large number of its displaced neighbours from Sindh on the partition of India. This will be further evident from the statistics given below and showing the number of persons born (i) at the place of enumeration, (ii) elsewhere in the district, (iii) outside the district of enumeration but within Gujarat State and those (iv) born outside Gujarat.

STATEMENT III·3

Population by Place of Birth, 1961

Persons / Males / Females	Total population	Born in: Places of enumeration	Elsewhere in the district	Outside the district but in the State	Outside the State
1	2	3	4	5	6
Persons ..	696,440	474,545	176,878	12,793	32,224
Males ..	341,224	272,479	46,170	4,919	17,656
Females ..	355,216	202,066	130,708	7,874	14,568
Percentages					
Persons ..	100.00	68.14	25.40	1.83	4.63
Males ..	100.00	79.85	13.53	1.44	5.18
Females ..	100.00	56.89	36.79	2.22	4.10

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Kutch, p. 14

In case of 68·14 per cent of the population the place of enumeration is the same as the place of birth. This proportion rises to 79·85 per cent for males as against 56·89 per cent for females owing to birth and marriage migration which takes place mostly within the district. A little over 25 per cent were born elsewhere in the district, 4·63 per cent outside the State and 1·83 per cent outside the district but within the State.

The percentage distribution of population by place of birth and by nine categories of workers and non-workers given below shows that the migrants

are for the most part engaged in non-agricultural pursuits and mainly in other services, transport, storage and communications, manufacturing industries, trade and commerce.

STATEMENT III-4

Distribution of Population by Categories of Workers and Non-workers Classified by Place of Birth, 1961

Sl. No.	Categories of workers	Place of birth			
		District total	Born at the place of enumeration	Elsewhere in the district	Outside the district
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	As cultivator	18.50	19.39	20.20	2.47
2	As agricultural labourer	4.48	4.12	6.45	0.55
3	In mining, quarrying, etc. ..	0.61	0.62	0.67	0.21
4	At household industry	4.62	4.55	5.67	1.29
5	In manufacturing other than household industry	1.14	0.85	1.61	2.39
6	In construction	0.87	0.53	1.66	1.37
7	In trade and commerce ..	2.05	2.01	1.79	3.48
8	In transport, storage and communications	1.01	0.51	0.80	7.00
9	In other services	5.55	3.94	7.29	15.73
10	Non-workers	61.17	63.48	53.86	65.51

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Kutch, p. 15

Displaced Persons—Mass exodus from Pakistan immediately after Independence displaced vast numbers from their homeland not only geographically but also socially and economically. All these were settled in different parts of the country. Kutch received in 1947-48 as many as 10,884 persons displaced from Sindh, for whose settlement a new township was established at Gandhidham.

Rural/Urban distribution—The total population of 696,440 persons is distributed into 561,402 rural and 135,038 urban in the ratio of 80·61 per cent and 19·39 per cent.

Rural Population—The total number of villages in the district is 937 of which 32 are uninhabited. The total rural population of the district is 561,402 giving an average of 620 persons per inhabited village against 824 for the State as a whole. The proportion of rural population (80·61 per cent) to the total population in the district is higher than similar proportion in the State which is 74·23 per cent.

STATEMENT III-5

Percentage Distribution of Rural Population by Size Group of Villages, 1961

Size-group	No. of villages	Percentage to total No. of villages	Rural population	Percentage to total rural population
1	2	3	4	5
Less than 200	309	34.15	31,381	5.59
200-499	244	26.96	82,109	14.63
500-999	185	20.44	127,232	22.66
1,000-1,999	120	13.26	165,915	29.55
2,000-4,999	43	4.75	128,276	22.85
5,000-9,999	4	0.44	26,489	4.72
10,000 and above	..	..	..	..
Total	**905**	**100.00**	**561,402**	**100.00**

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Kutch, p. 13

61·11 per cent of villages in the district fall in the class range less than 500, 20·44 per cent have population varying from 500 to 999, and 18·44 per cent are villages with population 1,000 and over. It is significant to note that of the total rural population in the district, 42·88 per cent are concentrated in small size, 52·40 per cent in medium size and 4·72 per cent in large size villages. The tendency of villages to grow in size and concentration of rural population in medium size villages are the notable features of countryside in Kutch.

Urban Population—The following statement shows the number of towns classified by population.

(Bk) H-49—16 (Lino)

STATEMENT III-6

Towns Classified by Size Groups, 1901 to 1961

Year	I		II		III		IV		V		VI	
	100,000 and above		50,000 to 99,999		20,000 to 49,999		10,000 to 19,999		5,000 to 9,999		Below 5,000	
	No. of towns	Population	No. of towns	Population	No. of towns	Population	No. of towns	Population	No. of towns	Population	No. of towns	Population
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1961	..	..	..	..	4	116,604	..	..	2	18,434	..	..
1951	..	..	..	..	2	60,290	1	19,300	3	18,043	4	16,121
1941	..	..	..	..	2	50,310	1	15,468	2	14,432	4	15,129
1931	..	..	..	..	2	47,201	1	15,178	2	13,827	4	15,714
1921	..	..	..	..	1	22,638	2	32,791	1	6,053	5	18,190
1911	..	..	..	..	2	45,814	1	15,238	2	15,123	3	11,416
1901	..	..	..	..	2	51,045	2	28,614	2	11,139	2	7,888

Source : *District Census Handbook* 1961, Kutch, p. 13

19·39 per cent of the total population numbering 696,440 live in urban areas, as against 25·77 per cent in the State. The number of towns has come down from 10 in 1951 to 6 in 1961 owing to declassification of a number of them as a result of change in the definition of urban areas. According to this definition, Madhapar, Bhachau, Rapar, Jakhau and Adhoi which were treated as urban in 1951 were declassified and treated as rural in 1961. Kandla has been treated as urban in 1961 for the first time. The urban population of the district numbering 135,038 persons is spread over 6 towns of different sizes of which 4, viz., Bhuj, Mandvi, Anjar and Gandhidham, are in Class III with population varying from 20,000 to 49,999, whereas Kandla and Mundra are in Class V with population above 5,000 but below 10,000. There is no town in Class I, II, IV and VI. The average population of a town in Kutch district is 22,506 persons as compared to 29,374 for the State. The extent of urbanisation is thus found to be comparatively less than that obtaining in the State as a whole as five out of nine talukas are entirely rural.

All the six towns can be classified as non-industrial according to their predominant functional characteristics. Mandvi, Mundra and Kandla are ports ; Bhuj and Anjar are administrative towns and Gandhidham is predominantly residential. The process of urbanisation has been slow as compared to other districts of the State where the pace of industrialisation has been greater. Bhuj fell from 26,362 in 1901 to 19,281 in 1921 but rose as high as 40,180 in 1961. During the same period the population of Mandvi which was 24,653 in 1901 went up to 29,305 in 1951, but fell down to 26,609 in 1961. Mundra is a decadent town, but Anjar has succeeded in regaining its 1901 position after 50 years and returned 23,301 persons at the last Census despite heavy damage caused by the earthquake of 1953.

Age Distribution

Percentage distribution of population by sex and age 1951 and 1961 is noted below.

STATEMENT III·7

Percentage of Population by Age-groups

Age-groups	1951		1961	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5
Total all ages	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**
0-4	14.65	13.02	16.61	15.89
5-14	27.36	24.50	27.77	25.02
0-14	42.01	37.52	44.38	40.91
15-34	31.19	32.69	29.69	30.31
35-59	21.11	22.07	20.25	20.97
15-59	52.30	54.76	49.94	51.28
60 + ...	5.68	7.71	5.61	7.76
Age not stated	0.01	0.01	0.07	0.05

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Kutch, p. 16

The proportion of male and female children aged 0-14 has increased during the decade owing to a high birth rate giving an increase of 2·37 per cent in males and 3·39 per cent in females. There is a slight decline, however, in the proportion of both the sexes in the working age-groups 15-59 probably due to the migration of adult workers outside the district.

Sex Ratio

In 1961 the number of females per thousand males in the district was 1,041, higher than the similar ratio of 940 for the State as a whole. The following table compares the sex-ratios of Kutch from 1901 to 1961.

Sex Ratio During Last Sixty Years

	1961	1951	1941	1931	1921	1911	1901
Total ..	**1,041**	**1,079**	**1,095**	**1,066**	**1,059**	**1,034**	**995**
Rural ..	1,063	1,087	1,094	1,064	1,047	1,024	994
Urban ..	954	1,043	1,100	1,077	1,141	1,097	998

Source :
Census of India 1961, Gujarat, *General Population Tables*, Part II-A, p. 107

At the time of the first Census taken in 1872, the sex-ratio of the district was 918 which rose to 995 in 1901. Thereafter it continued to be increasingly favourable to women till 1941, whereafter it declined to 1,079 in 1951 and to 1,041 in 1961. The sex-ratio which was unfavourable to women at the commencement of the present century became gradually favourable owing to the operation of economic and political factors which, as noted earlier, induced the working males to move out in search of livelihood outside the State. But the reverse process is at work in towns like Bhuj, Gandhidham and Kandla, where the sex-ratio is unfavourable to females owing to the influx of males from outside, as will be seen from the following table comparing the sex-ratio of towns in 1951 and 1961.

STATEMENT III·8

Sex Ratio in Towns

State/District/Town	Sex ratio	
	1951	1961
1	2	3
State ..	*915*	*896*
District ..	**1,048**	**954**
Bhuj	994	944
Mandvi ..	1,124	1,062
Mundra ..	1,188	1,056
Anjar ..	1,050	1,043
Gandhidham ..	720	850
Kandla-port ..	..	740

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Kutch, p. 15

Marital Status—According to the Census of 1961, 357,129 persons or 51·28 per cent were never married, 278,452 or 39·98 per cent were married, 59,921 or 8·60 per cent widowed and 922 or 0·13 per cent divorced or separated. The following table shows the marital status of males and females in different age-groups classified into (i) never married, (ii) married and (iii) widowed, divorced/separated and others.

STATEMENT III·9

Age and Marital Status, 1961

Age-group	Never married		Married		Widowed, divorced/ separated and others	
	Percentage of males to total males	Percentage of females to total females	Percentage of males to total males	Percentage of females to total females	Percentage of males to total males	Percentage of females to total females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Total ..	**57.51**	**45.29**	**38.69**	**41.23**	**3.81**	**13.48**
0—9 ..	100.00	100.00	..	..	..	..
10—14 ..	99.26	97.66	0.73	2.32	0.01	0.02
15—19 ..	87.64	49.16	12.20	50.45	0.16	0.39
20—24 ..	46.74	7.66	52.32	90.93	0.94	1.41
25—29 ..	18.19	1.54	79.93	95.03	1.88	3.43
30+ ..	4.79	0.58	84.23	62.61	10.98	36.81

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Kutch, p. 16

It will be seen from the above table that no person has been reported as married in age-group 0-9 as all such persons have been treated as unmarried. Child marriages have more or less disappeared, as the age-group 10-14 has returned only 0·73 per cent of males and 2·32 per cent of females married. It is noteworthy that among males the age of marriage has shifted and risen to 20 and above, as only 12·20 per cent of males have been returned as married in the age-group 15-19, as against 52·32 per cent of females of these ages. In other words, in case of females, though the date of marriage has advanced, it has not gone up to that extent to which it has gone in the case of males. Examination of the figures of widowed, divorced and separated discloses an interesting feature of marital life in the district. This status appears to have some significance only after the age of 29. While females above 30 years account for 36·81 per cent in this category, males claim 10·98 per cent of their population. These figures reveal a state of society wherein women generally do not remarry, while males usually do.

LANGUAGE

The following table shows the distribution of speakers of each major language by rural and urban in the district.

STATEMENT III·10

Distribution of Speakers of Major Languages, 1961

Sl. No.	Major language	Percentage to total population			Percentage of each major language in	
		Total	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Total of all languages ..	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**80.61**	**19.39**
1	Gujarati	53.21	55.90	42.00	84.69	15.31
2	Marathi	0.16	0.06	0.60	29.20	70.80
3	Hindi	0.80	0.15	3.51	15.02	84.98
4	Sindhi	2.65	1.04	9.38	31.41	68.59
5	Urdu	0.14	0.07	0.45	39.74	60.26
6	Kutchhi	42.36	42.63	41.20	81.14	18.86
7	Marwari	0.27	0.10	0.95	30.74	69.26
8	Punjabi	0.10	0.01	0.49	8.10	91.90
9	Others	0.31	0.04	1.42	10.39	89.61

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Kutch, p. 18

53·21 per cent of the population in the district have Gujarati as their mother tongue. Of these 84·69 per cent live in villages and 15·31 per cent in towns. The next in order are Kutchhi speakers who claim 42·36 per cent. Of the total Kutchhi speakers, 81·14 per cent are from rural areas and 18·86 per cent from urban areas. 2·65 per cent of speakers have returned Sindhi which is the mother tongue of those displaced persons from Sindh who have settled at Gandhidham and other areas of the district. The proportion of speakers of other languages which include Hindi, Marathi, Urdu, Marwari, Punjabi and others is not significant.

Kutchhi—Kutch, situated on the border lands of Sindh, and Gujarat, has long since developed a special dialect of its own which is said to have been born from Sindhi and possesses a fair intermixture of Gujarati. Kutchhi is not a standard language recognised by the Linguistic Survey of India, but its local importance entitles it to be treated as a separate language, and has, therefore, been shown as such in the Census returns of 1961. The main

spoken language of the district, however, is Gujarati which is the language of literature, business and correspondence. Kutchhi is the home tongue of the Jadejas, Lohanas, Bhatias and of the Sindh tribes who have settled in the north of Kutch.[1] As its speakers live in close contact with speakers of Gujarati language, it is largely mixed with Gujarati words, the amount of admixture varying from place to place.

Bilingualism—The total number of persons speaking a language subsidiary to their mother tongue was 106,238 or 15·26 per cent, who have returned between themselves as many as 26 speeches as subsidiary languages. The most important among them are Gujarati (82,243), Hindi (14,896), English (7,081), Kutchhi (711), and Urdu (508), followed by Sindhi (161), Marathi (160), Arabic/Arbi (144) and Sanskrit (77). Kutchhi claims the highest proportion of bilingual speakers (82,247) of whom 80,270 are claimed by Gujarati. Others in order are Hindi, English and Urdu. Besides Kutchhi, Gujarati is the most important subsidiary language of those whose mother tongue is Urdu. For persons with Gujarati, Sindhi, Marathi, Marwari, Punjabi and Telugu as their mother tongue, the most important subsidiary language was Hindi, while those whose mother tongue was Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil and Bengali showed preference for English as a second speech.

RELIGION

The following table gives distribution of population by religion.

STATEMENT III·13

Religions, 1961

Religions	Population	Percentage of total population
1	2	3
Total	**696,440**	**100.00**
Hindu	502,796	72.20
Muslim	129,148	18.54
Jain	63,615	9.13
Sikh	261	0.04
Other religions and persuasions	620	0.09

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Kutch, p. 18

1. GRIERSON G. A., *Linguistic Survey of India*, 1908

72·20 per cent of the total population are Hindu, 18·54 per cent Muslim, and 9·13 per cent Jain, 261 are Sikh and 620 follow other religious persuasions.

Referring to the intimate contact Kutch formerly had with the various Muslim tribes in the negighbouring province of Sindh, the former *Gazetteer* observed :

> "At the beginning of the present century, so progressive was Islam, that it seemed as if another hundred years would see the last of the Hindu faith. In the worship of many local saints the tenets and practices of the two religions are still often oddly mixed. But Jadejas and other Rajputs who in 1819 freely married Musalman women, kept Musalman cooks, and in beliefs and customs were not less Musalman than Hindu have of late become more careful to keep from practices contrary to the Hindu religion."[1]

This impact is clearly visible in the Kutchhi language and folk literature as well as in the number of mosques dedicated to Muslim Pirs. The tradition of saints and *sufis* who flourished in this land and worked for the well-being of the suffering humanity is another important feature of religion practised in Kutch. The fusion of Hinduism and Islam is also seen in a number of religious fairs attended both Hindus and Muslims alike. The very fact that a Hindu temple like Kasameshvar Mahadev in Guntari constructed a long with Muslim *dargah* is looked after by a Muslim reveals the extent to which the followers of these two religions had commingled together in this district.

The influence of Jainism which had spread to this land since earlier times is evident from (i) the numerous temples dedicated to Lord Mahavir, the most important among them being the one at Bhadresar, and (ii) the relatively greater proportion (9·13 per cent) of Jains in this district.

Hinduism—Though the influence of caste is tending to diminish appreciably with the spread of modern education, the religious life of the orthodox Hindu is mainly governed by tradition and the particular sect to which he belongs. Brahmins are the followers of Shiva and almost all have household gods whose worship some members of the family must perform every day. Brahmins are expected to perform *sandhya* (twilight prayer) at least once a day in the morning, and repeat *gayatri* or sum hymn. Lohanas are followers or Vaishnavism and their family goddess is Randal Mata. Banias who are Hindu Vaishnavas are generally staunch adherents of Vallabhacharya who propounded the *bhakti* cult or the worship of Krishna by intense devotion. Men and women wear round

1. CAMPBELL SIR, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, pp. 39-40

their neck a *kanthi* or small basil or tulsi (*ocimum-basilicum*) beads. The Rajputs, though partial to the worship of Shiva, are equally devoted to Shakti, the mother Goddess. Among them, the Jadejas worship Goddess Ashapuri whose principal shrine is at Bhuj. They show great respect to their priests who are Rajgor Brahmins, and to Bhats and Charans who are their family bards and chroniclers. The agricultural and artisan castes are all god-fearing people who worship some or the other deity of the Hindu pantheon, Rama, Krishna, Mataji or Mother Goddess in her numerous forms. Belief in sorcerers, the evil eye and bad omens still prevails but is on the whole loosening.

Shaivism—The main doctrine of Shaivism is the existence of one universal soul without a second or *advaita* and of the individual soul or *jeevatma*. Adherents of Shaivism worship the deity under the name of Rudra, Shiva, Sadashiva, Shankara, Shambhu, Mahadeva, Neelkantha, etc., in their own houses, as also in the temples which are to be found in almost every village, town or city in this district. They use a transverse streak of three lines called *tripunda* on their forehead as religious mark and use *rudraksha* (*eaelocarpus ganiteus*) rosary. Shiva worship has continued from the earliest times to be the cult of the Brahmins, though this deity is the equal favourite of all other castes except the Vaishnavas and the Jains. Towards the close of the eighth century, Shiva worship was extended and popularised by Adya Shankaracharya, who established in India four *mathas* or monasteries presided over by his four principal disciples styled *acharyas* who are in their turn succeeded by their pupils to this day.

Vaishnavism—Vishnu, becomes the God of preservation and universal prosperity in the post-Vedic period. The various incarnations or *avataras* of Vishnu literally mean his descent to earth for the good of gods and men. Of these, Rama the seventh incarnation and Krishna the eighth are the most popular. Vaishnavism prevalent in this part of the country is the *pushti marg* or creed of spiritual nourishment founded by Vishnu Swami and propagated by Vallabhacharya. The philosophic doctrine it propounds is termed *shuddhadvaita* as distinguished from the *kevaladvaita* of Shankaracharya and *vishistadvaita* of Ramanuj. It teaches that god, though eternal, is endowed with celestial form and all visible phenomena emanate from him. Building on this philosophical basis, Vallabhacharya introduced elements of pleasure and enjoyment in divine worship, rejecting the austerity and hardship of the other sects. Such epicurean principles began to assume unseemly forms which caused comments and criticism from various quarters and led to the appearance of such reformist sects as Swaminarayan founded early in the 19th century by Swami Sahajanand (1781-1829).

Swaminarayan Sect—Swami Narayan the founder after whom the sect is named tried to deliver Vaishnavism of those days from some of its corrupting influences. It has a large following all over Kutch and Gujarat

drawn from all classes of people irrespective of their original creed. Bhuj is one of the important centres visited by the founder for preaching and propagating his religious teachings. When Sahajanand Swami came to Kutch it was a period of political anarchy, social disorder and laxity in matters religious created by the irresponsible administration of Rao Raydhan and his successors early in the nineteenth century. Through his preachings he rekindled their faith in religion and saved people from moral degeneration. Inspired by his teachings a large number of cultivators, labourers and artisans in Kutch became his followers. The Swaminarayan temple at Bhuj is an important centre of pilgrimage visited by a large number of devotees coming from all over Gujarat.

Jainism—Jainism has flourished on the land of Kutch since ancient times as witnessed by the shrine at Bhadresar which has been built and rebuilt a number of times and preserved intact to this day. It is an important centre of pilgrimage visited by Jains from all over Gujarat. The Jains are an important community in the district accounting for 9·13 per cent of its total population as against 1·99 per cent for the State as a whole. Jainism preaches *tapa* or austerity, control of the mind and passions, *ahimsa* and renunciation of all worldly pleasures and attachments to attain *moksha* or liberation. Jains worship the images of all the 24 *tirthankars* in their temples wherein are also found images of Hindu gods and goddesses in some side niches, at times under different names. The main followers of Jainism in Kutch are Shravak Vanias who belong to Dasha and Visha Shrimali and Kutchi Oswal castes. Shwetambar and Digambar are the two major divisions of Jainism. Shwetambar monks put on white clothes and Digambar monks having directions as their clothes wear no clothes. The major point of difference between the two is whether the injunction to renounce all worldly possessions for achieving salvation should be carried to the extreme by dispensing even with clothes and practising nudity.

Islam—The chief articles of Islamic faith are belief in the unity of God; in his Angels; in His books; in His prophets; in His Government of the world; in good and evil as coming from Him; and in the day of Resurrection. Muslims in the district constitute 18·54 per cent of the total population, the highest among all districts of Gujarat according to the Census of 1961. Among the two leading sects of Islam found in the district, Sunni and Shiah, the former are more common. The group of Shiahs known as Ismailis whose Imam or religious head is His Highness the Aga Khan belong to the Khoja community. The famous Khoja Pir well-known as Gulamali Shah, a descendant of Pir Sadrudin, who had, during 16th century attracted many Hindus of Gujarat and Kutch to embrace Islam by converting them as Ismaili Khojas, had settled at Kera in this district in 1792 A. D. After his death at Karachi in 1796 his body was brought to Kera and was ceremonially buried there. His *dargah* at Kera constructed thereafter has become a place of pilgrimage for all Khojas of Kutch.

Castes

The main communities in the district are Hindus and Muslims. Among the Hindus, Brahmin, Bania, Lohana, Kanbi, Rajput, Ahir, Bhatiya, Lohar, Suthar, Darji, Kumbhar, Bawa, Charan, Kharva and Vadha are chief castes. The Sindhi-Hindus, have settled in the district after partition of the country. Among the Muslims, the main castes are Saiyad, Shaikh, Moghul, Momna, Khoja, Samma, Meman, Khatri, Kumbhar, Sanghar, Jat, Miyana, Bhadala, Sumra and Ker.

The Brahmins have come from outside. Among them, there are several sub-castes, namely, Sarasvats, Rajgors, Pokarnas, Parajias, Nagars, Modhs, Sachoras, Shrimalis, Girnaras, Vedants, Abotis, Nandvanas, Palivals, Bhojaks, Shevaks, Guglis, Sompuras, Motalas-Deccanis, Kandolias, Jhaloras, Vaydas and Purabias. Their population is concentrated in Bhuj town but they are spread over the whole district. Generally, they have continued their traditional profession as family priests, astrologers, school teachers and public servants, though some of them have started boarding houses and hotels and entered business. In matter of birth, marriage and death, they follow the general system adopted by the traditional Hindu custom. They follow the religions of Shaivism, Vaishnavism and Swaminarayan. They worship Hindu Gods and Goddesses. They speak Gujarati.

The Banias are divided in two main classes known as Maheshwari and Shravak or Jain Banias. Among the Maheshwari Banias, there are several sub-castes such as Modhs, Vaydas, Sorathias, Jhaloras, Karads, Maheshwari Sonis, etc., while Shrimalis, Kandois and Osvals are the sub-castes of the Shravak or Jain Banias. Though they are scattered over the entire district, their concentration is in Bhuj. They are mainly merchants, traders and shop-keepers and serve as accountants, clerks, etc., except Vania Sonis, whose main occupation is of a goldsmith making ornaments and setting precious stones. They follow the social customs, as followed by the other Hindus of the district. The Maheshwari Banias follow generally Vaishnavism, while the Shravak or Jain Banias follow Jainism. The peculiar sub-caste among Banias are Shrimalis. They form two sub-castes known as Dasas and Visas. The Dasas are concentrated in Bhuj and the Visas are mainly in Mundra, Mahdvi and Anjar. Among Dasas, there are three divisions, viz., (1) Sthankvasi or Jains worshipping idols, (2) Vaishnavs and (3) Shaivs, Their family Goddess is Mahalakshmi. While the Visas are all Sthankvasi Jains or non-image worshippers with a belief in family Goddess Sachai and Chamunda. Visas speak Kutchhi and other Banias Gujarati.

Besides Banias, the Bhatias, Lohanas, Bhansalis, Depalas and Vavas fall under the head merchants, although several Lohanas and Bhansalis are good traders, Government officials, lawyers and good politicians. Agriculture is the main occupation of Bhansalis.

The Bhatias mainly inhabit the talukas of Mandvi, Mundra, Anjar and Abdasa. They are mainly shop-keepers, traders and husbandmen. They also serve as clerks in Government or private offices. They generally follow Hindu customs regarding birth, marriage and death. They are Vaishnavs and followers of the Vallabhacharya sect. Their language is Kutchhi.

Among the Lohanas, who were very successful writers, shop-keepers and grain-dealers in 1880, have now for the most part taken up business and trade along with Banias, who have continued to pursue their hereditary profession. Their concentration is in Bhuj, though they are spread all over the district. In matter of customs regarding birth, marriage and death, they do not differ from other Hindus. They are Vaishnavs of the Ramanuj sect. Their family Goddess is Randel Mata and they are the devout worshippers of the spirit of the Indus, Darya *pir*, who is said to have saved them when they fled from Multan. Several follow Vallabhacharya sect, and some follow Jalaram Bapa of Virpur (Saurashtra).

The Rajputs form two main divisions ; those who have come from Sindh and those who have come from Gujarat. The Sindh Rajputs include the Jadejas and the Samma clans and the Sodhas. The Gujarat Rajputs include, besides a number of smaller clans known locally as Gujars, representatives of the great Chavda, Solanki, Vaghela and Gohil tribes.

Among Rajputs, there are several small clans who have come from different areas. There are some Sarvaiya Rajputs who have come from Uttar Pradesh. The Kher Rajputs have come from outside. Another clan of Parmar—Barad Rajputs who migrated from the Danta State about 300 years ago have settled in Kutch.

The Jadejas are mainly found in Abdasa taluka and Kanthi (coastal) area. They are either land-holders, or labourers. Some of them are in military service. They follow the customs of both Hindus and Muslims. They are also followers of Vaishnavism and Swaminarayan. Like Hindus, they worship Vishnu, Shiv, the Sun, Goddesses like Ashapura (Matano Madh) and others and the snake. They also adore Muslim saints. They speak Kutchhi.

The Sodhas are spread over the district and form a peculiar caste having interesting blending of the Hindu and Muslim cultures. In their religious practices the impact of Islam and Hinduism is found. They are mainly cultivators. They speak Kutchhi.

The Gujarat Rajputs of Kutch belong to two main divisions ; the one composed of Chavdas, Solankis and Vaghelas and Gohils the representatives of the Anhilvada dynasty and the other including a number of tribes locally known as Gujars supposed to have settled in Kutch, when it was under the Anhilvada rule (746-1304). Among these Gujarat Rajputs, the Chavdas were the owners of small estates, *giras*, held rather as servants (*khavas*). The Solankis and the Vaghelas are also servants. The Mayda (Mahida) and Ghelda Rajputs have also come from Gujarat. Their language is Gujarati.

Among the herdsmen, the Ahirs are found in Bhuj, Anjar and Vagad. Their habitat is called Ahirpat. They are divided into five sub-castes such as Machhua, Pranthalia, Boricha, Sorathia and Chorida. The Ahirs are cattle-breeders and though poor and with little skill, except a few who are carpenters, live as cultivators. Their women help by cleaning and spinning cotton. The marriages of Ahirs take place every year on one fixed day though the rules vary in the different divisions. Among the Pranthalia Ahirs, the day is always the same Vaishakh Vad 13th (April-May). In other sub-divisions, the day varies being fixed by their priests. In matter of birth, marriage and death, they do not differ from other Hindus. They worship Goddesses, Mata and Krishna or Thakorji, and of local divinities, Habby of the Habba hill ; Menkan Dada (Dhrang) and a Rajput saint called Vachhara. They speak Gujarati.

There are four classes among the husbandmen, viz., Kanbis, Sathvaras, Malis and Kolis. Among the Kanbis, Leva and Kadva Kanbis are husbandmen. Although they are found all over the district, their concentration is in Bhuj and Nakhatrana talukas. The Kutchhi Leva Patel also settled in East Africa. The first of them landed on African soil in 1889. Others followed suit. The important and noteworthy part played in East Africa by the Kutchhi Leva Patels was in rendering services with other Asian communities in the construction of Mombasa-Nairobi railway line. They follow Hindu customs, follow the Swaminarayan religion and worship Goddess Amba Bhavani. In matter of occupation and custom, the Anjana Kanbis follow the Leva Kanbis. They are Vaishnavs in matter of religion. They speak Gujarati. The Sathvaras live upon cultivation and labour. They take building contracts. They are a hard working lot.

Among the craftsmen, there are many classes such as Sonis (gold and silversmiths); Kansaras, (coppersmiths); Suthars (carpenters); Luhars (blacksmiths); Darjis (tailors); Kumbhars (potters); Sompura (salats, masons); Bhavsars (calico-printers); Vanjas (weavers of silk-cloth, *mashru*) and Ghanchas (makers of bamboo baskets). They are spread over the entire district. Thus, Kumbhar, Soni, Luhar, Darji, etc., are the traditional village artisan castes useful to the community who still cater to the common needs of villagers and townsmen. All of them generally follow the Hindu customs regarding birth, marriage and death. In matter of religion, the goldsmiths

are the followers of Vallabhacharya cult and their family Goddess is Vagheshvari, while the Patni Sonis are the followers of Vishnu and Swaminarayan. They also believe in Matas. The Coppersmiths who have come from Rajasthan are followers of Goddesses with Mahakali as their chief divinity. Among the carpenters, some follow Shiv, some Ramanand, some Vallabhacharya and some Swaminarayan. Their different families have different Goddesses such as Verai Mata, Dhrangad Mata, etc. The Blacksmiths are worshippers of Goddess, though some of them believe in Swaminarayan. Bhavani Mata is their family Goddess who founded their caste and calling. Most of the tailors worship Goddesses but some of them follow the religions of Vallabhacharya and Swaminarayan. Hinglaj Mata is their family Goddess, whose chief place of worship is Bhuj. The potters are chiefly Ramanandis. Some of them worship at Thakor (Krishna) Mandir. Their family Goddess is Brahmani, Chavan Mata, etc. Among the Masons, most of them worship Goddesses like Amba, Chavan, Parvati, etc., except a few, who follow Swaminarayan and Ramanand. The Bhavsars are worshippers of Goddess. The Chaol Mata is their family Goddess and her weapon is a trident, *trishul*. The Ghanchas and the Vanjas are worshippers of Goddesses like Bahucharaji and Hinglaj Mata, respectively. Their language is Gujarati.

Among the bards, songsters and actors, there are two main classes, namely, Bhats and Charans, bards and genealogists. Their concentration is in Abdasa and Bhuj talukas. There are two chief classes of Kutch bards ; Bhats and Dhadis. The Bhats are Hindus (Turi). The Bhats and the Dhadis differ in this, that the Bhat recites or sings without any musical instrument and the Dhadi does in accompaniment of musical instrument. Moreover, the Dhadis are only singers, whereas besides singers, the Bhats act as genealogists and sometimes historians. Among the Charans, the Kachhelas, Marus and Tumers are the sub-classes. They are bards, holders, traders, money-lenders and agriculturists. Their births, marriages, and deaths are said not to differ much from those of other Kutch Hindus. They are the chief worshippers of Mata, such as Bhavani, Amba, Parvati, etc.

The Kharvas are excellent sailors, having a good knowledge of navigation and sail to many parts of the Persian Gulf and the Red sea and the East Africa. They claim Rajput descent, and are divided into four sub-castes such as Jelhun, Jhala, Rathod and Solanki. Most of them are Hindus by religion. As Hindus, they worship Goddesses, the guardian of the Rathods being Rhoji Mata and of the Solankis, Chamunda. On Shravan Vad 10th in Mandvi they set the image of the God Murli Manoharji in a four-wheeled chariot, *rath*, and draw it to a pond, bathe it, and bring it back. They eat with all Rajputs except those who associate with Muslims. They have a headman, *patel*, and under him a *kotval*, who calls caste meetings at the

temple of Murli Manoharji. Some Kharvas are also Muslims by religion and are found in Mandvi (Mota Salaya).

Among the other castes, Vadhas are a unique group in that they do not follow any particular religion, though in their mode of living and social customs, they closely resemble Muslims. They are exposed to mixed influences of both Muslim and Hindu traditions. By occupation, they are carpenters preparing lacquered furniture for household use of the villagers. They are also referred to in the old Gazetteer as Meols, Mevlas or Mes. The Gazetteer classified them under ' Depressed Classes '. As they do not follow the practice of circumcision, they are not admitted to the Muslim mosques. They live in houses like *bhungas* and their locality is called Mevla Vas or Vandh.[1]

Sindhi Hindus—After Independence due to partition of the country, there was steady flow of the Hindu population from Pakistan to India. The Hindus from Sindh migrated to all parts of India. When the Kutch Maharao gave land for resettlement of the refuges Bhai Pratap formed the Sindhu Resettlement Corporation. The Corporation founded the townships of Gandhidham and Adipur in the Anjar taluka. The Sindhi refuges, who were in other parts of India were attracted to Gandhidham with high hopes that Kandla will replace Karachi and Free Trade Zone will develop in the port area. As a result many rich Hindu refuges from Sindh were attracted. But when they saw that their high hopes are not likely to be realised in the near future, they have left the Gandhidham. Those who still continue there are from the middle class Hindu families from Sindh. There are thirty thousands displaced persons in Gandhidham. Few of them have settled in Bhuj and Anjar. At present they are eking out their maintenance by running small shops dealing in cloth, grossary, fruits, vegetables, hotels and motor-driving. In the Free Trade Zone no rich Sindhis have established any industry. A few persons have found employment in the port and other department of the Central Government.

The Sindhis are broadly divided into two classes, viz., the Amils and the Bhaibandhs. The Amils formed the educated, rich and progressive class. Formerly, they were landholders in Sindh. They are more westernised. They hold high posts in Government Service. They follow Vaishnavism, Shaivism and Shikhism and the Kabir panth. They are devotees of Dariyalal. They speak Sindhi but write in the Urdu-type script.

The Bhaibandhs are less educated and make a living by running small shops as mentioned above. They are devotees of Sant Kanvaram. Their script is different which is written in Vanka letters.

1. Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Part VI, No. 3 and 4, *Village Survey Monographs Bhirandiara* (Bhuj taluka, Kutch District) *and Bamanbore* (Chotila taluka, Surendranagar District), 1965, pp. 10-11

These Sindhi Hindus can be further divided into sub-castes of Lohanas, Bhatiyas, Brahmans and Brahma-kshatris. Out of them Lohanas form 92 per cent and the remainder 8 per cent. The Lohanas are merchants.

Their dress is undergoing a considerable change ; garments of foreign materials and cut are every day becoming more prevalent. The educated and official classes, more particularly among the Amils, have evolved a compromise between western and Indian dress. The Bhaibandhs put on *dhotar*, shirt and a small round cap on the head.

Their chief festivals are Mahashivratri, Holi, Chetichand, Thadri, Dassera, and Divali. The first is specially observed by the votaries of Siva, who fast and decorate the *lingam*. The Holi, or Hori as it is also called, is also observed. Chetichand, the Hindu New Year, the first day of Chet Sudh, is observed with great pomp. The Thadri in Sawan is the occasion for much gambling. The Dassera and Divali or Diari are the two most important festivals of the Hindus ; the former is celebrated and the latter with display of lamps.

The joint family system exists, but with diversification of occupations, it is gradually disintegrating. The tendency is for the sons to separate on the death of the father, and among Hindus, the family generally breaks up on the death of both parents.

Their names are usually formed by suffixing to appropriate nouns such terminations as—das, 'slave' ; mal, 'brave' ; 'ram,' an incarnation of deity ; nand, "the name of Krishna's father" ; rai, 'a king' ; and chand, 'the moon'. Thus Narayandas means 'the servant of Narayan', i. e., God : Hotchand signifies the friend of the moon. The followers of Guru Nanak and others attach the termination Singh, 'lion', to certain words, e. g., Awat Singh. Some Sikhs even use the Persian termination Bakhsh, e. g., Gobind Bakhsh. By some, the names of the days of the week are employed, though both Shukur (Friday) and Chanchar (Saturday) are avoided, being considered unlucky. Among Hindus, the descendants of a common ancestor are designated by an adjectival form of his name ; thus Gidvani from Gidu, Advani from Adu ; and a tendency is exhibiting itself in the educated ranks of the younger generation to extend the use of the cognomen with a view to introduction of the European style, but the paucity of names exposes the system to obvious disadvantages.

About the sub-divisions among the Muslims, the old *Kutch Gazetteer* made certain observations. Spread of Islam in the district was partly by conversion and partly by immigration of several Islamic groups. Some of the immigrants from Sindh and Gujarat are, more or less of foreign descent, and others purely Hindu. The local Muslim converts are from among Kutch Hindus. With a few exceptions, they speak Kutchhi. Gujarati is

spoken by a few. The castes which are numerically important among the Muslims are Khoja, Memon, Miyana and Teli. Though numerically small groups, Arabs and Balochs deserve notice. Khojas are traditional traders. Memons especially those in rural areas are mostly cultivators. Telis called Ghanchis are employed in their hereditary work of oilpressing, whereas Miyanas work as fishermen, labourers or agriculturists.

Among the Muslims, the Saiyads are teachers, cultivators and servants. They follow the same social customs like birth, marriage and death as other Muslims.

The Shaikhs are cattle-dealers and cultivators. Their social customs are the same as followed by the other Muslims in the district. They are Sunnis. They follow religious guides, *pirs*, to whom some special fees and certain small annual sums are paid.

The Moghuls who were formerly employed in the military service of the State work as servants. They are mainly found in Bhuj. In matter of custom, they do not differ from the other Muslims. They are Sunnis. While the Pathans serve as soldiers and in matters like custom and religion, they are similar to other Muslims. They speak Hindustani mixed with Kutchhi and Gujarati.

The Momnas are found in the Bhuj taluka chiefly in the Girasia villages. They are cultivators and labourers. They are converts from Hinduism, but do not associate with Muslims, do not do circumcision, offer no five daily prayers and do not keep Ramzan fast. They are Shias. Their language is Kutchhi.

The Khojas are generally found all over the district but mainly in Mandvi, Mundra and Anjar and have a large settlement in Bhuj. They are traders. In matter of chstoms, they form a distinct commhnity whose caste disputes are settled by mass meetings and have mass marriages. In matter, of religion, they are Shias of the Nazarian Ismaily sect. They follow His Highness the Agha Khan whom they worship. Their language is Kutchhi.

The Sammas are found all over the district. They are cultivators, cattle breeders and dealers. They follow the social customs similar to those followed by other Muslims. They are Sunnis by faith. The Sammas of the west keep their Hindu bards and have also spiritual guides, *pirs*. Those in the east honour the ordinary *maulvis*. They speak Kutchhi.

The Memans are mainly found in Bhuj taluka, though scattered over the district. They are cultivators, labourers and traders. In matter of customs, they do not differ from other Sunnis. They form a distinct

community, settling their caste disputes by their Panch. They are Sunnis by faith. Their language is Kutchhi.

The Khatris inhabit the areas of Bhuj and Mandvi talukas. They are dyers, carpenters, turners and cultivators. Their women are skilled in embroidery and frilling. They marry among themselves, and form a distinct community, settling disputes by persons chosen for the purpose. Their customs do not differ from those of other Sunni Muslims. They are Sunnis by faith and follow the ordinary Sunni *maulvis*. They speak the Kutchhi language.

The Kumbhars are found all over the district but are mainly found in the Bhuj taluka. The Kumbhar is one of the castes among the Muslims. They are potters and ass-breeders. In their food, dress and customs, they do not differ from the other Kutch Sunnis. They are Sunnis by faith. Besides a special *pir*, they honour Sunni *maulvis*. They speak Kutchhi.

The Sanghars are mainly found in the Nakhatrana taluka, though they are found all over the district. They are cattle-breeders, cultivators and servants. They claim Arab descent, but they appear to be of Hindu origin, as their children have Hindu names. In matter of ceremony, they perform both the rites of the Hindus and the Muslims. They bury their dead but before burial, some of them first touch the feet of the dead body with fire. As regards religion, the Sanghars of Vagad and Abdasa are Sunnis, those of the south and other parts believe in *maulvis* and have spiritual guides. *pirs*, but most of them worship *jakhs* or white horsemen. Their language is Kutchhi.

The Jats inhabit the Bhuj, Lakhpat and Abdasa talukas but particularly the Banni area, they are cattle dealers by trade. In matter of customs, they do not differ from other Muslims. They are Sunnis with a separate spiritual head, *pir*. They also give contribution to the tomb of a Jat woman Mai. Though Muslim, they believe in the Shakti puja. They speak Kutchhi mixed with Sindhi.

The Miyanas are found mainly in Bhuj and Anjar talukas, though spread all over the district. They are soldiers, sailors and cultivators. They generally marry among themselves. Except that they bury their dead, their customs are Hindu rather than Muslim. They are Sunnis by faith and have a special spiritual guide, *pir*, honouring at the same time different Sunni *maulvis*. Their language is Kutchhi.

The Bhadalas inhabit the Mandvi taluka. They are fishermen and captains. Their women sell fish and make coir ropes and palm-fans. They follow the social customs like other Muslims. They are Sunnis. They are religious and pay special reverence to Pir Murad Shah, their spiritual guide. Their language is Kutchhi.

The Sumras are mainly found in the Nakhatrana taluka but are spread all over the district. They are soldiers, sailors, grass and wood cutters and cultivators. They do not differ in matter of customs from the other Muslims. They are Sunnis. They have a spiritual guide, *pir*, whose ancestor is said to have come from Sindh. They speak Kutchhi.

The Kers inhabit mainly the Lakhpat taluka. Some have gone to the Bhuj taluka. They are cultivators and cattle-breeders. In matter of betrothals, marriages and deaths, they have many Hindu rites and their women always dress like Rajput ladies. They circumcise their sons but give their children Hindu names. They are Sunnis and honour *maulvis*. They speak the Kutchhi language.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

Scheduled Castes—The total population of Scheduled Castes according to the 1961 Census is 63,101 who form 9·06 per cent of the total population of the district. The following table gives the figures of Scheduled Castes for total/rural/urban.

STATEMENT III·14

Scheduled Castes, 1961

Total/Rural/Urban	Persons	Percentage of total population
1	2	3
Total	**63,101**	**9.06**
Rural	52,870	9.42
Urban	10,231	7.58

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Kutch, p. 19

The literate and educated among the Scheduled Castes number 5,993 and constitute 9·50 per cent of their total population in the district. Literates claim 7·60 and 19·31 per cent of their population respectively in villages and towns. The working or the economically active among them account for 27,444 or 43·49 per cent. Workers in special occupations like (i) tanning and currying of hides and skins and (ii) scavenging number 1,358 (2·15 per cent) and 431 (0·68 per cent) respectively of the total population of Scheduled Castes of the district.

Distribution of Scheduled Castes by sex in the rural/urban areas of the district is shown in the table given below.

STATEMENT III·15

Distribution of Scheduled Castes, 1961

Name of Scheduled Caste	Total population			Sex		Percentage to total population of the district			Percentage of each Scheduled Castes population	
	Total	Rural	Urban	Males	Females	Total	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Total ..	**63,101**	**52,870**	**10,231**	**31,204**	**31,897**	**9.06**	**7.59**	**1.47**	**83.79**	**16.21**
Chamar ..	1,841	1,829	12	907	934	0.27	0.27	N	99.35	0.65
Bhangi ..	1,682	551	1,131	877	805	0.24	0.08	0.16	32.76	67.24
Garoda or Garo ..	659	618	41	309	350	0.10	0.09	0.01	93.78	6.22
Meghwal	55,017	47,981	7,036	27,159	27,858	7.90	6.89	1.01	87.21	12.79
Turi-Barot	226	162	64	109	117	0.03	0.02	0.01	71.68	28.32
Turi ..	169	169	..	95	74	0.02	0.02	..	100.00	..
Unclassified ..	3,507	1,560	1,947	1,748	1,759	0.50	0.22	0.28	44.48	55.52

N = Negligible

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Kutch, p. 19

Of the total scheduled caste population 83·79 per cent live in villages and 61·21 per cent in towns. The predominant Scheduled Caste is Meghwal having 55,017 souls or 7·90 per cent of the total and 87·19 per cent of the Scheduled Caste population of the district. 87·21 per cent of Meghwals live in villages and 12·79 per cent in towns. Other Scheduled Castes in the district are Chamar, Bhangi, Garoda, Turi-Barot and Turi. Because of their occupation of scavenging which is mostly urban, 67 per cent of Bhangis live in towns. At Rapar and Bhachau talukas a few of their families are also engaged in bamboo work and harmonium or *tabla* repairing. Chamars and Meghwals are engaged in agriculture, leather work and weaving. Turis found in rural areas are mainly engaged as labourers or as barbers. Garodas do tailoring and carpentry besides agriculture. Many of the Scheduled Caste persons are also found in Government and Panchayat services. The Scheduled Castes, spread all over the district, are more concentrated in Anjar, Bhuj, Rapar, Mandvi, Mundra and Nakhatrana talukas.

Scheduled Tribes—Scheduled Tribes claim 32,471 or only 4·66 per cent of the total population of the district and 1·18 per cent of the Scheduled Tribes of the State.

The following table gives the figures of Scheduled Tribes in the district.

STATEMENT III·16

Population of Scheduled Tribes, 1961

Total/Rural/Urban	Population	Percentage of total population
1	2	3
Total	**32,471**	**4.66**
Rural	28,503	5.08
Urban	3,968	2.94

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Kutch, p. 19

Among Scheduled Tribes 5·08 per cent live in rural areas and 2·94 per cent in urban areas. The literate and educated among them number 1,084 or 3·34 per cent of whom 794 are returned from rural areas and 290 from urban areas. Scheduled Tribes returned in the district are Koli, Vaghri, Paradhi, Bhil and Dhodia, of whom Kolis account for 22,879 or 70·28 per cent. Vaghri, Paradhi, Bhil and Dhodia number 4,327 ; 2,846 ; 791 and 22 respectively. These tribes are mostly confined to rural areas. Kolis are concentrated in Bhachau and Rapar talukas ; Bhil in Bhuj ; Vaghri in Bhuj, Anjar and Mandvi talukas and Paradhi in Anjar, Mandvi and Mundra talukas. In Rapar taluka alone there are 25 villages mostly populated by Kolis who live in huts and mud houses distributed in different *vandhs* or localities. Most of them are engaged in agriculture either as cultivators or as labourers. Vaghris live in mud houses or hutments built in their own locality known as *Vaghrivad* usually located at the outskirt of the town or village. Backward economically and socially those in rural areas cultivate land, while those in urban areas sell vegetables, *datan*, etc. Bhils and Paradhis are engaged in agricultural labour, construction and other services.

Other Backward Classes—There are "Other Backward Classes" besides Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Classified as Denotified Tribes, they include Higora, Bafan, Miyana, Theba, Me, Meta and Kakal.

They are concentrated in Bhuj, Anjar, Abdasa and Lakhpat talukas and are mainly engaged in cultivation and cattle-breeding.

Inter-caste Relations—Observance of inter-caste restrictions in Kutch has not been strict due to its geographical situation and historical background. Being on the border of Sindh, the influence of Islam was most profound on certain castes and classes of this region. The usual orthodoxy in inter-caste relations prevalent in many other districts of Gujarat was, if not totally absent, found to be certainly less in extent. This was more so after the entry of Jadeja Rajputs of Samma tribe who continued to observe both Hindu and Muslim customs for a very long period eating food cooked by Muslim cooks and marrying outside their caste. In the worship of many local saints and *pirs*, the tenets and practices of Hindu and Muslim religion were curiously inter-mixed. There was general laxity in the matters of partaking food and entering into wedlock with other castes. The old Gazetteer (1880) mentions some Brahmins eating with Kshatris, Lohanas and Bhansalis.[1] Similarly Kutchhi Lohanas, a large number of whom became Musalmans of the Meman sect after their arrival in Kutch from Sindh, are quoted to be "openly eating flesh and drinking spirits."[2] Certain other Hindu castes as Patni Sonis revered Muslim saints and buried their dead according to Muslim rites.[3] Ahirs have also been mentioned as associating themselves with Musalmans with whom "almost all flesh-eating Hindu Castes dine."[4] There were many castes and sub-castes, however, which lived in water-tight compartments in respect of inter-dining and inter-caste marriages.

The picture has been changing considerably, particularly after Independence. Caste barriers in matters of food have almost broken. Inter-dining is no longer looked upon with disapproval by Hindus, though this restriction still persists in a diluted form in rural areas. Inter-caste marriages, though not very common, are certainly more frequent than ever before and many of the traditional bans on marriage based on caste are gradually melting away as a result of the spread of education and influence of western culture.

Saints and Pirs

Kutch has been fortunate in having a number of saintly persons who served the people of this land irrespective of caste or creed. Motivated by service to humanity, they moved from place to place or established their *maths* or monasteries and impressed the people by their preachings and saintly character. Their followers included people from all strata of society including Harijans and Muslims. Saints and Pirs have worked for the

1. Campbell Sir, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 43
2. *Ibid.*, p. 55
3. *Ibid.*, p. 71
4. *Ibid.*, pp. 78-79

welfare of the suffering humanity of Kutch and helped the needy and the poor in distress. The most notable among them were Dada Menkan, Guru Dharamnath, Haji Pir, Pachhmai Pir, and Jesal-Toral.

Dada Menkan—Dada Menkan, a local saint, was born in village Nani Khombhadi in Nakhatrana taluka of this district. He left his parents at a young age and roamed in many parts of Sindh and Saurashtra performing penance before settling at Dhrang in Bhuj taluka. He soon became well-known as a saint and was accepted by Rao Deshalji as his *guru*. He influenced the people of Kutch not merely by his preachings but by practising a simple and devoted life. His religious and philosophical teachings are aptly conveyed in the numerous couplets he composed in Kutchhi dialect. His *ashram* provided food to the hungry and shelter to those who had none. During the entire span of his useful life he had thus helped large number of persons and saved them from miseries and hard-ships. He used to keep with him a dog and a donkey laden with water bags and roam about in the hot desert area in search of persons who were in need of water. He had in this way saved a number of human lives from dying without water. Menkan Dada is said to have taken *samadhi* along with his disciples including the dog Moti and the donkey Laliyo at Dhrang on Aso Vad 14 of V. S. 1786 (A. D. 1842). A fair is held near his shrine at Dhrang on Magh Vad 14.

Guru Dharamnath—Guru Dharamnath or Dhoramnath came to Kutch probably during the 12th century and propagated Nath Sampradaya. He is well-known as the founder of the *Kanphata* (slit-eared) order or monastery which is still famous in Kutch. According to a legend, Dharam-nath came to Kutch in search of a secluded place to practice austerities and decided to make his home under a tree near Raipur on the borders of Mandvi creek. After performing penance for 12 years at this place he continued his penance for another period of 12 years on the hill of Dhinodhar where a small and simple temple is still to be found. The legend says that shortly thereafter, Dharamnath came down the hill, built the monastery at Dhinodhar and founded the order of *Kanphatas*.

The order of *Kanphatas* is celibate and new comers are recruited either from orphans or from boys who enter the monastery from an early age. The *pir* as the head is called usually associates with himself two monks, one of whom is chosen as his successor. In former times the *pir* was always invested with his robe of honour by the ruler of Kutch, but under the new regime his succession is recognised by the local authorities. At Dhinodhar even now, hospitality is never refused and both in the morning and in the evening at stipulated hours, wayfarers can find food and shelter. In memory of Dharamnath a fair is held on Shravan Vad 8 at Lakhiar Vira where about 2,000 persons belonging to all communities assemble.

Haji Pir—Haji Pir, whose original name was Ali Akbar, had come to India with the army of Shahbuddin Ghori in the twelth century. Though he came as a soldier, he could not continue as such due to his spiritual bent of mind and benevolent temperament which made him surrender his post and accept *fakiri*. Revered as a saint, he came to Nara in Kutch after passing through the Punjab and Sindh. He selected this place as his permanent abode and passed all his time in the service of mankind, attending to the sick and the travellers alike. He roamed through Banni, Pachham and Garada regions and preached the tenets of Islam, as a result of which some Solanki Rajputs embraced that faith. As he undertook the *haj* or pilgrimage to Mecca, he was known as Haji Pir. He then maintained a herd of about 15 cows and buffaloes and lived on the bank of Sodarana tank about 8 km. from Nara.

Once when some notorious Ker Rajputs forcibly drove away the cattle of Nara village, Haji Pir ordered his Solanki disciples to regain the cows from them. In the fierce encounter that followed, the Solankis who were few in number were slain by the Ker Rajputs. Thereafter Haji Pir, also known as Zinda Pir, himself took up the pursuit and laid down his life fighting valiantly. His body was interred on the bank of Sodarana pond as desired by him. A fair is held in his memory at Haji Pir's *dargah* on 1st Monday of Chaitra.

Jesal-Toral—Jesal-Toral also known as Jessar and Turi were a saintly couple who have become very famous in Kutch and other parts of Gujarat. Jesal of Anjar was a hardened dacoit, whom Toral, a virtuous Kathi girl of Saurashtra, reformed and later married. They are the subject of many legends in Gujarati folklore. She, by her good deeds and miracles changed him into a real ascetic. Settling at Anjar, Jessar died and Turi was buried alive by his tomb. To commemorate their memory, Jesal-Toral fair is held on Chaitra Sud 14 and 15 at their shrine in Anjar, where about 7,000 to 10,000 persons of all communities congregate.

Pachhmai Pir—Pachhmai Pir, so called from the Pachham area was associated with the early rulers of Kutch. He came from Sindh and settled on Kalo Dungar or black hill, the tallest in Kutch. He is identified with Dattatraya, because like Dattatraya he had with him a jackal who was his constant companion in his mission of serving the people. His foot-prints are still worshipped on the top of Kalo Dungar. This Hindu Pir is worshipped both by Hindus and Muslims. According to a curious custom, jackals are offered sweets by the temple priest on a particular day and if they do not appear it is considered an ill-omen. As there are no roads, pilgrims visit the shrine on camel. The lamp lighted daily on the hill can be seen from Khavda, a long distance away. Before partition people from Sindh also used to come to pay their respects to the Pir.

Social Life

Social Customs : Hindu

Important customs observed by all Hindus are those relating to *simanta* (pregnancy), *upanayana* (thread-girding), *vivaha* (marriage) and *svarga-rohana* (death or heaven-climbing).

Simanta which corresponds to the *vedic samskara* of *simantonayana* is popularly known as *agharani* or *kholo bharvo* (lap filling) and is performed to celebrate the first pregnancy of a wife. After the *simanta* ceremony the expectant mother generally goes to her parent's house for her first confinement. On the birth of a child the midwife cuts its navel cord and buries it in a corner of the compound in front of the house. On the night of the sixth day after birth, the *chhatthi pujan* is performed, when Vidhata or the Goddess of Destiny writes the child's future. Generally on the twelfth or on some other suitable day, the child's naming ceremony takes place. On some auspicious day, usually in the third month of the birth, the mother returns to her husband's house with clothes, ornaments and cradle presented to her and the grandchild by her parents.

The *upanayana* or *janoi* (sacred thread ceremony) is a *vedic samskara* performed to invest the *batuk* (boy) with the sacred thread. For the *dwijas* (twice-born), *upanayana* is an essential *samskara* or purificatory rite which formally initiates one to *brahmacharyashrama* or the stage of celibacy and studenthood. Besides Brahmins, Lohanas, Bhatias and Rajputs also are entitled to the performance of these rites.

Marriage

Hindu *shastras* consider marriage as a *samskara* or a sacrament which calls for the performance of elaborate rites and ceremonies prescribed in the *gruhyasutras*, to enable a person to enter *gruhasthashrama* or the householder's stage.

The marriage rites and ceremonies to be performed at the *vivaha* or wedding are generally the same among all Hindus, though they may vary in some minor details according to caste and region. The principal rites commonly in vogue are in order *kanyadana, vivaha homa, panigrahana, lajjahoma* and *saptapadi*. Brahmins and Nagars perform the *charubhaksana* or *charubhaksa* ceremony (eating of cooked rice) when the couple sit in a booth called *chori* and the priest lighting the sacred fire performs the sacrifice. The couple then feed each other with *kansar*. The bridegroom's relatives are then presented with cash and cloth by the bride's father. The communities which practised dowry had to pay to the bridegroom a very heavy price by way of *pehramani* (dowry).

The bridal couple is received ceremonially at the groom's house, where they offer worship to the *matrakas, gotraj, ramade* or other nuptial deity installed in the household at the commencement of the marriage festivity which is concluded after thanks giving at the temple of the village deity.

Death Ceremonies—Hindus perform *shradha* or afterdeath ceremonies for the salvation of the departed soul from the tenth to thirteenth day after death. On the twelfth day is performed what is called *sapindikarana* whereby the dead severs all earthly connections and joins the *pitrakas* (manes). On the thirteenth day, various utility articles in use by the departed soul are gifted to the family priest and relatives, so that the deceased may enjoy them in another world. During the first year, *masio* (monthly), *chhamasi* (half yearly) and *varsi* (yearly) *shradhas* are also performed.

Social Customs : Muslim

The chief Muslim rites and ceremonies relate to pregnancy and birth, initiation, and marriage. The first pregnancy ceremony performed in the seventh or ninth month takes place at the husband's house. Thereafter the expectant mother goes to her father's. On the seventh, fourteenth or twenty-first day after child birth comes the purely Muslim rite of *akika* which has two parts, namely, the shaving of child's head and the killing of one or two goats.

Bismillah ceremony which consists of taking the name of God, is performed when a child completes four years, four months and four days. The child is made to repeat, after the priest, the opening chapter of the *Kuran* and the relatives are feasted to commemorate the occasion. The *khatna* (circumcision) takes place when the boy is six or seven years old.

Muslim Marriage—A Muslim marriage lasts for two to three days. Arriving at the bride's house, the bridegroom is led to his seat. Then the *kazi* asks the bride's agent whether he accepts so and so as her husband in consideration of *meher* (dower) as decided. If she assents, he records the declaration of two other witnesses. He then follows the same procedure in case of the bridegroom.

Death Ceremonies—The duty of helping at the funeral and praying for the departed soul is solemnly enjoined on all Muslims and is carefully observed by them. *Ziarat* is performed on the morning of the third day. Relatives are also feasted on the tenth and fortieth day. The relatives of the deceased abstain from taking part in any festivity for 40 days after death, the period and intensity of mourning depending on the person's relationship with the deceased.

MARRIAGE AND MORALS

The Hindu *shastras* ordain that a person should not marry in his own *gotra* and within seven degrees of relationship on the father's side and five on the mother's side. Usually the *gotra* of the father alone and not that of the mother is considered when a marriage alliance is contemplated. Even this restriction has been showing signs of relaxation in recent times. Moreover, a Hindu is supposed to marry within the same caste or sub-caste as a general rule. Any marriage outside is considered contrary to the caste custom. These restrictions are gradually loosening and marriages outside the caste and sub-caste are on the increase particularly among the advanced and educated classes.

The Hindu scriptures enjoin that the bride be given as a gift, i. e., *kanyadana* to a suitable bridegroom. In course of time it came to be associated with the giving of a dowry to the bridegroom called *paheramani* and cash bride's price to the bride's father. These practices caused acute hardship to the poor. In response to a strong agitation against the continuance of this social evil, an Act abolishing the giving or taking of dowry at the time of marriage was passed by the Indian Parliament in 1960, and any contravention of the law was made penal.

Marriage between cousins, both parallel and cross, is not prohibited among Muslims, that with the first cousin being preferred. However, sister's daughter is under incest taboo. A Muslim cannot marry his foster-mother or foster-sister, unless the foster-brother and sister were nursed by the same woman at intervals widely separated. Polygamy is restricted to four wives, but is not very common these days. A man may not marry his wife's sister during his wife's lifetime unless she has been divorced. Widow remarriage is practised, but avoided by many as mark of social superiority. A widow can marry her deceased husband's brother or relative and a widower his deceased wife's sister or relative. *Talaq* (divorce) as recognised by Muslim Law is practised at the option of the husband, but is resorted to only as the last resort among higher classes.

The social outlook of the people on marriage has considerably changed in recent times with the spread of education assisted by social legislation and economic stress. A number of undesirable social practices which were strictly observed in the past are freely departed from under the changed circumstances and in the atmosphere of freedom and independence which have set people thinking on fresh lines. The practice of child marriage which was common in former times has well-nigh disappeared and the age of marriage has substantially advanced. In the case of males it has gone beyond 20 and in the case of females beyond 15. Child marriage has been declared unlawful. Most of the restrictions which were accepted as a matter of course and scrupulously observed in the past are being modified

and relaxed to suit the modern trends of thought and ways of living. Civil marriages which were unknown in the past are now-a-days on the increase. Inter-caste marriages have also started taking place among the younger generations especially in towns. Bigamy which was till recently prevalent among certain castes, is prohibited by law and made penal. Though the law does not affect Muslims who are governed by the Mahommedan Law which permits four wives at a time, in practice an average Muslim usually prefers to have only one wife. *Talaq*, though recognised as a very easy device for a Muslim husband to obtain divorce, the higher classes do not ordinarily resort to it. Among Hindus, divorce is now permitted by law. It is freely practised by some of the lower castes which permit it by tradition and custom. But its extent among the higher castes is comparatively much less and resorted to only under special circumstances. Even in cases where divorce is obtained by having recourse to a court of law as provided under the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955, the divorcee who remarries is generally the male member and not the female who prefers to remain single. Remarriages are, however, common among the lower castes where the custom known as *natra* is prevalent.

Widowhood is still considered mark of social superiority and universally practised by the advanced classes. Widow remarriage in the form of *diyarvatu* or levirate, is permitted and practised among some of the lower castes, among whom a widow of an elder brother marries the younger brother of the deceased husband irrespective of difference in their ages.

The following statement gives details about never married, married, widowed and divorced persons in the district according to 1961 Census.

STATEMENT III·17

Marital Status

	Total		Rural		Urban	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Total population	**241,224**	**255,216**	**272,100**	**239,302**	**69,124**	**65,914**
Never married ..	196,238	160,891	155,689	129,781	40,549	31,110
Married ..	132,012	146,440	105,278	121,172	26,734	25,268
Widowed ..	12,551	47,370	10,793	37,975	1,758	9,395
Divorced or separated ..	410	512	327	371	83	141
Status unspecified	13	3	13	3	..	..

Source :
District Censu. Handbook 1961, Kutch, p. 110

Social Evils—The district is free from such social evils as drinking, prostitution, etc., thanks to the policy of complete prohibition enforced in the State. Sporadic cases of drinking, however, occur most of which are brought to book. The evil of gambling exists, though on a very small scale.

Infanticide—Child murder was from very early times practised by certain Rajput clans. And Kutch had a bad name for female infanticide which was most commonly practised by Jadeja Rajputs and some of the smaller Rajput and Musalman clans. Among the Jadejas no female infants were allowed to live. Several circumstances combined to make the custom universal. When the Samma tribe in lower Sindh embraced the orthodox Mohammedan faith, the Jadejas who had settled in Kutch adopted a mixture of Hinduism and Mohammedanism. This fact avowedly influenced their prestige and lowered them in the eyes of stauncher Rajputs from whom they were soon isolated. On their returning to Hinduism, they found that they could get wives for their sons, but no one of proper position would take their daughters in marriage. Since then, their loneliness, their pride, and their poverty made others hold aloof, who might otherwise have married with them. Frustrated in their attempts to get suitable match for their daughters, Jadejas resorted the gruesome practice of murdering their daughters soon after their birth, which in course of time grew to an alarming extent. As time passed the Jadejas considered it their right to destroy their daughters and as Col. Walker recorded in 1805 this right grew into a privilege which they regarded as a distinction peculiar to their caste. Commenting on this practice, the former *Gazetteer* wrote : "The child's life was generally taken by giving it milk drugged with opium, or it was smothered by drawing the umbilical cord over the face, or it was left to die of weakness or of want of care. When a girl was born the father was seldom told, all he heard was that his wife had been delivered and that the child was in heaven. On this he bathed and nothing more was said. Sometimes the mother refused to take the babe's life. Then the father was called, and unless, which was rare, his heart softened he vowed neither to enter the house nor eat till the child was dead. Shrinking from it at first, women soon approved of the custom and when old were keener than the men that no girl's life should be spared. According to Hindu custom the body of the child was privately buried."[1]

The commonness of child murder in Kutch was first brought to the notice of Government in 1804 by Captain Seton, then on a political mission at the Rao's court. In 1807 Colonel Walker tried to bring Fateh Muhammad to exert himself to put down this evil practice. But he pleaded that infanticide was a long standing custom sanctioned by religion and should not be interfered with. The subject was prominently discussed from time to time since 1816, and various estimates made about the extent of it

1. Campbell Sir, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpu and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 185

prevalence. In 1819 Captain Mac Murdo described female infanticide as universal among the Jadejas. He estimated that among that tribe about 1,000 girls were killed every year, and that in the whole province there were not sixty, probably not more than thirty, girls alive. The few that had been spared belonged to Vaishnavite or Muslman families. Rao Bharmal promised that in his family the custom should cease, and the Bhayats entered into a written agreement that any case of infanticide in their families should be punished jointly by the British Government and the Rao. This agreement and others that followed remained almost a dead letter. Except Rao Desalji not one of the Jadejas had any wish that the practice should cease. In the year 1839 a case was proved and the offender fined. The fines went to form a fund in aid of the marriage of poor Jadejas, initially established by an yearly contribution of Rs. 4,000 from the Rao and an equal amount from the British. In 1844 the Jadeja chiefs, summoned by the Political Agent, acknowledged their failure to keep their promise and entered into a further agreement, afterwards renewed in 1846, engaging to entertain midwives, to report and keep birth and death registers, to take notice of all premature births, and if an infant dies, to have the cause certified by two or three respectable persons. These stricter rules were not without some result. Persistent efforts made during the latter half of the nineteenth century brought down the rate of female infanticide, though in some villages child murder was still unchecked. Progress made since 1874 was steady and continuous. The 1877 Census showed among the whole Jadeja population 8,672 males and 8,042 females, a proportion of one female to 1·07 males, and under the age of twenty a return so nearly equal as 105 males to 100 females. Stray cases of suspicious female infanticides, however, continued to occur for long. The *Administration Report of Kutch State* for the year 1900-1901 records as under :

> " There were 85 cases of breaches of infanticide rules inquired into and punished during the year of report against 57 last year. There were 4 cases of suspicious deaths brought to the notice of the District Nyayadhishes against 5 last year. None of these cases was found deserving of criminal prosecution. They were therefore dealt with under the ordinary infanticide rules. "

After a lapse of 45 years the report for the year 1944-45 stated that 89 cases that occurred related to minor breaches of infanticide regulations, fines of various amounts imposed and decovered but no case involved any suspicion of murder.

Property and Inheritance—As regards inheritance and succession, Hindus are governed by Hindu Law and the Muslims by Mohammedan Law. The system of Hindu Law which is followed in Gujarat is *Mitakshara* is general and *Vyavhar Mayukha* in particular. The main principle of inheritance is that the property of a Hindu is never held in obeyance, but

devolves on the sons on the death of the father. Under the coparcenary law in force in Gujarat, the son acquires a right in the ancestral property as soon as he is conceived. But the self-acquired property can be disposed of by a person as he wills, as the son or daughter does not get any inherent right in such property. The Hindu Succession Act passed in 1956, while breaking violently with the past, lays down uniform system of inheritance and provides for equal treatment of male and female heirs. When a Hindu male dies intestate, his property devolves in equal shares upon his sons, daughters, widow and mother. In actual practice, however, these legal provisions do not appear to be fully implemented, and the former practice of excluding females continues without much change.

Joint Family—The Hindu family is from ancient times joint in food, worship and estate. But with the passage of time, the old bonds which bound the family together have begun to relax. The desire for individual liberty has necessiated a change in the concept of the family as an economic unit. The increasing need for higher and specialised education separates the younger members from the family, while studying at high schools and colleges located in towns and cities. On the completion of their studies, many have a tendency to settle in towns and establish a separate household, as villages offer little prospects of employment in profitable pursuits. An important factor affecting the joint family system and ultimately working towards its disintegration is the migratory tendency of the people who move outside and settle either on a permanent or a semi-permanent basis in far and distant parts of the country. The individualistic tendencies are also gaining ground day by day, and the former ties which bound the family together are gradually disintegrating. The younger generation prefers to live separate rather than continue joint and is naturally anxious to provide its own needs and comforts in preference to those of other members of the family. Despite these changes, the joint family system still survives though in a diluted form without the former adhesion brought about by the spirit of sacrifice and regard for common welfare.

Place of Women in Society—In Kutch, the total female population according to the 1961 Census was 355,216 of whom one-fourth were workers and the rest non-workers. In the total working population females accounted for one-third. The lesser number of women workers compared to males is due to the traditional social structure which has assigned a definite role to women as makers of the household. The proportion of women engaged in work was higher (35·69 per cent) in rural areas than in urban areas (14·21 per cent) where such factors as better income, social prestige and urban way of life act as a deterrent to women seeking work. Moreover, the villages have such activities as agriculture and livestock which offer greater scope of participation on the part of the female members of the household. Due to different conditions of work prevailing in urban and rural areas, it is not possible for urban women to give that helping hand

which rural females can by attending to household duties and at the same time working on the field.

The distribution of 1,000 females among the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors of industry and non-workers in 1961 Census shows that 190 females were engaged in the primary sector, 31 in the secondary, 27 in the tertiary sector and 752 were returned as non-workers. The proportion of non-working women is somewhat higher in this district than the State average of 721, as certain land-holding castes like Rajputs, Kathis, etc., do not permit their women-folk to take part in any economic activity. The participation of females as workers was the highest in the primary sector consisting of agriculture and allied activities like agricultural labour wherein females (15,982) outnumbered males (15,246).

Commenting on the participation of women in the economic activities of the State the 1961 *Census Report* observes :1

> "The role of women in the social structure is well-defined and confined primarily to the management of the household. Whereas it is the men who are the bread-winners, women do offer a helping hand, the extent of which varies among different classes of population and sectors of industry. The primary sector which is for the most part confined to rural areas and is essentially concerned with the cultivation of land draws female workers to a much larger extent than any other sector, their participation rate being high in those tracts which are economically and agriculturally backward. Those who are materially better off because of their having better returns from the cultivation of land, disfavour the participation of their women-folk in the one and only industry which the countryside has, as a mark of social superiority. Women do participate in secondary as well as tertiary sectors, but not to that extent to which they do in the primary. Both these sectors have greater female participation in urban areas, as industrial categories to which they relate are those which are for the most part to be found in towns. The secondary sector.....draws its strength of female participation from the lower strata of society coming from outside the place where they are located. In the tertiary sector, women workers are mostly drawn from the middle and higher middle classes which are feeling the pinch of economic stress and rising level of prices more acutely than the other strata of society. Educated women belonging to middle and higher classes are nowadays coming forward in increasing numbers to supplement the family income either in the parental household before marriage or in the household of the husband after marriage."

1. TRIVEDI, R. K., Census of India 1961, Gujarat, *General Report on the Census*, Part I-A (ii)b, p. 313

The position of women in society has been held high ever since ancient times. It was only after the Mohammadan invasions of India that seclusion of women and *pardah* system came into vogue as a measure of safety and self-protection. This practice continued for long particularly among Rajputs and other Girasdars in the Kutch district, as a mark of social superiority. Later on, difficulty of finding a suitable husband for a daughter and demand of a large amount in dowry gave birth to the cruel practice of female infanticide which was universal among the Jadejas of Kutch. The practice no longer exists now. And the position of women has changed for the better after Independence.

Women, in rural areas of the Kutch district, play an important role in economic activity and manage both outside and indoor works. They are engaged in agriculture, labour and some kind of handicrafts. Among Rabaris, so often, sale transactions of cattle depend upon the decision of their women-folk. Though not educated, they are simple, hard-working, and practical. In a way though engaged in outside economic activities, they attend to household duties. An interesting fact about work-oriented women is found at Madhapar village (the Bhuj taluka), where most of the men-folk have gone to the foreign countries like United Kingdom and Africa and economically they are better off. Inspite of their well-to-do condition they undertake economic activity. There are some cases where women possessing cars do not hesitate to go in for manual labour. Naturally, because of this, women in the rural areas are respected particularly among Kanbis, Rabaris and Ayars.

Generally women in Kutch do not have right of inheritance but among Nagar Brahmins, the right is recognised.

HOME LIFE

Housing—The following table gives the distribution of different types of Census houses and the uses to which they are put.

STATEMENT III-18

Census Houses and the uses to which they are put, 1961

Sl. No.	Type of Census houses	Percentage to total No. of Census houses
1	2	3
	Total No. of Census houses	**100.00**
1	Vacant houses	18.46
2	Dwellings, shop-*cum*-dwellings, workshop-*cum*-dwellings ..	64.72
3	Shop and business houses	3.72
4	Factories, workshops and worksheds	1.13
5	Schools, places of entertainment, medical and social institutions ..	0.77
6	Hotels, restaurants and other miscellaneous houses	11.20

Source :
District Census Handbook, 1961, Kutch, p. 20

Out of a total of 237,779 houses, 64·72 per cent were used as dwellings, 18·46 per cent were vacant and the rest were used for non-residential purposes such as shops and business houses (3·72 per cent), factories and workshops (1·13 per cent), schools, places of entertainments, medical and other social institutions (0·77 per cent), and miscellaneous uses like hotels, restaurants and other places, etc., (11·20 per cent). 72·80 per cent of the households lived in owned houses and the rest (27·20 per cent) in rented premises. In urban areas only 32·74 per cent of the households had houses of their own and 67·26 per cent lived in rented houses. The higher proportion of rented houses in urban areas indicates the increasing demand for accommodation on the part of those attracted to towns for earning their livelihood.

The district average of vacant houses was exceeded by the talukas of Mundra, Mandvi and Anjar where it rose to 26·89, 24·31 and 18·95 respectively due to the greater extent of out-migration from these areas. The lowest ratio of vacant houses was, however, recorded in Khavda mahal now merged into Bhuj taluka where the percentage of such houses fell to 5·69. Houses appear to remain vacant for a variety of causes, the principal amongst them being the desire of the house-owners not to give them on rent. For, persons who have settled elsewhere for economic reasons, pay periodical visits to their native place on social occasions and during vacation and, therefore, prefer to keep them vacant.

Material of Wall and Roof—The following statement compares the proportion of houses in Kutch according to the material of wall and roof in 1872 and 1961.

STATEMENT III·19

Material of Wall and Roof

Census year	Material of wall					Material of roof			
	Mud	Bricks	Stone	Cement concrete	All other materials (Timber, metal sheets, grass, etc.)	Grass, leaves, reeds, etc.	Tiles, etc.	Concrete and stone slabs	All other material
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1872 ..	79.52	20.48*	..	..	..	79.52	20.48	..	..
1961 ..	7.99	6.45	76.49	5.30	3.77	8.26	83.75	5.28	2.71

Source :
Census of India 1961, Gujarat, *Report on Housing and Establishments*, Part, IV-A, pp. 284-285

*Includes stone or fire-baked bricks.

The above statement shows that while in 1872 a large majority of houses had walls of mud or sun-dried bricks and roofs covered with thatch or leaves, in 1961 they were mostly built of stone and covered with tiles revealing a marked improvement in housing conditions in Kutch during the interim period.

The total number of occupied residential houses in the district in 1961 was 144,128 and that of households 147,983. The average number of persons per occupied census house in total, rural and urban areas of the State and district is given below.

Average Number of Persons per Occupied Census House, 1961

Total/Rural/Urban	State	District
1	2	3
Total	5.53	4.83
Rural	5.54	4.83
Urban	5.52	4.85

The average number of persons per occupied census house in the district is found to be less than that in the State for its total, rural and urban areas.

Classification by the number of rooms in the houses occupied by sample households is given in the following table.

STATEMENT III·20

Households Classified by Number of Members and Number of Rooms Occupied, 1961

(Based on 20% Sample)

No. of rooms	Percentage to total households	Percentage to total members
1	2	3
Total	**100.00**	**100.00**
No regular room	0.49	0.36
1 room	42.92	38.57
2 rooms	34.26	34.83
3 rooms	12.99	14.68
4 rooms	5.31	6.26
5 rooms or more	4.03	5.30

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Kutch, p. 20

42·92 per cent of the households lived in houses with one room, 34·26 per cent in houses with two rooms, 12·99 per cent in houses with three rooms, 5·31 per cent in houses with four rooms and 4·03 per cent in houses with

5 rooms and more. The population in the first two classes jointly accounts for 73·40 per cent. The number of members per room in households occupying houses with one room was 4, while that for households living in houses with 2 rooms was 2. These figures reflect growing overcrowding and inadequate housing facilities in the district as in the State as a whole.

Settlement Pattern

Villages—In Kutch, there is one inhabited village for every 21·65 sq. km. of area, each village containing on an average 128 residential houses and 620 inhabitants. Originally every village in Kutch was fortified "some of them presenting most formidable and almost insurmountable obstacles to troops unprovided with guns." But the earthquake of 1819 threw down almost every fortification and in 1828 there was scarcely a tenable fort in Kutch. Referring to the settlement pattern in villages the former *Gazetteer* states :

> "Cutch villages are, as a rule, small and fenced by thorn hedges with one or two openings facing the east. The gates, made of thorns and moving on wooden hinges, are during harvest time closed at night. Some villages have high round watch-towers, *kothas*, generally out of repair. Outside the gate is a Hanuman, a large shapeless stone, a Mahadev's, and sometimes a Shitladevi's temple, and a pond generally dry in the hot season.....At the entrance gate are the houses of the Meghval, the Kathodia, the Pinjara, the Kumbhar, and other low caste non-cultivating classes. Then follow, in the case of large villages, the houses of the barber, the tailor, the carpenter, the blacksmith, and the cultivators. In the centre are the houses of the village shopkeeper, the Brahman, the devotee, *atit* or *gorji* in Jain villages, a temple generally dedicated to Ram or Krishna, and sometimes a Musalman mosque."[1]

This description holds good, more or less, even to this day. But the villages now offer a new look by the addition, near the entrance, of a school building, a Government dispensary and the village panchayat building. In the centre of the village there is a *chora* or meeting place for the villagers. Every village has a temple dedicated to Lord Shiv or Ram and sometimes a Muslim *idgah*. The *paliyas* or memorial stones erected in memory of the brave who died for a public cause are also found outside the village gate. The larger villages have localities earmarked for different castes particularly Kanbi, Rajput, Bharwad, etc. The house of a Rajput or Girasdar or the village yeoman for example, has a huge gateway or *delo* on either side of which is *bethak* or raised platform used as a meeting place separated from the main house by an open courtyard. There are separate apartments for males and females as women of the household do

1. Campbell, Sir, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 101

not appear in public. The houses of traders or artisans are usually shop-*cum*-dwellings or workshop-*cum*-dwellings. A Brahmin's house is generally provided with a separate kitchen, a water-room with a corner reserved for worshipping the household deity and a *tulsi-kyaro*. Most of the houses have an open courtyard in front or at the back enclosed by a wall where the agriculturists keep their cattle and the village artisans ply their household industry. The houses being for the most part single room tenements, separate rooms for storing or sleeping are unknown, though these facilities do exist in houses owned by the higher classes. Ventilation and sanitation facilities are meagre, but the new structures that are now built are airy and well-lighted. The houses of the Backward Classes are mostly mud hutments with a verandah in front, those in Anjar and Bhuj talukas and Banni area known as *bhungas* being conical in shape. With the increasing efforts now made by Government to improve living conditions of the Backward Classes and Scheduled Tribes and Castes their newly constructed houses are much better planned and provided with greater comforts.

Towns—The general layout of towns in this district appears to be the same, particularly with regard to the functional distribution of houses by caste. Bhuj, the principal town and the district headquarters of Kutch was built as the State capital by Maharao Khengar in Vikram Samvat 1605 (1548-49 A. D.) in the vicinity of Bhujia hill. It is pleasantly situated on a plain between two streams each about 3 km. distant from the fortwall. The town is surrounded by a well-kept stone wall with towers at irregular intervals formerly armed with fifty-one guns. The fortwall around the town which has five gates named Mahadev, Patwadi, Sarpat, Bhid and Vaniawad was constructed between 1719 and 1752 A. D., during the reign of Maharao Desalji I. Inside the walls the streets are narrow and crooked, baffling all attempts at their improvement by systematic town planning. The main roads which are narrow and irregular pass across the central area and branch off into sub-roads leading to residential quarters distributed according to the functional characteristics of castes. In the centre of the town is Darbargadh with the Ayna Mahal built by Ramsing Malam. Nearer the Darbargadh are the houses of the higher castes like Rajputs, Brahmins, Nagars, Banias, etc., followed by other castes on the periphery. A number of new houses have been constructed outside the fortwall by co-operative housing societies. The offices of the Collector, District Panchayat, Divisional office of the Post and Telegraph Department, Government offices and residential quarters, the College, Town Hall, All-India Radio Station, etc., are also located outside the fortwall.

Food, Dress and Ornaments

Food—The food habits of the people are simple. Those of the rural folk have not changed much over time. Their main food still consists of *rotla* or loaf of *jowar* or *bajri*, *khichadi*—mixed/rice and pulse, whey and

gur or pulse at times. Rice, *dal* or curry, vegetable and sweets form the menu on special occasions. The food habits of the urban folk have, however, changed appreciably in recent times. They generally take *rotli* or wheat bread, rice, *dal* and vegetables with some *ghee* or clarified butter in the morning. The well-to-do-in towns add such ancillary items as *kachumbar* (salad), *chutney*, *murabba*, pickles and some extra vegetable. The evening meals usually consist of *bhakhari* or *rotla*, milk and vegetable. Some of the upper classes repeat *dal* and *bhat* also at night. Tea which was unknown sixty years ago is the universal drink among all classes of people, taken twice a day, morning and afternoon. It now occupies the place once enjoyed by *kasumba* or opium and opium water which was very popular among the Rajputs and other Girasadars. In 1880, the former *Gazetteer* observed, "Many drink liquor, and almost all take opium and and opium water, *kasumba*.....Among Rajputs, when a quarrel is settled the parties drink opium-water in token that all cause of offence is forgotten."[1] Persons of higher castes generally take two meals a day but agriculturists, cattle breeders, field workers and village artisans and labourers and artisans in urban areas take three meals, the first in the morning, the second at noon and the third at night. A majority of the people are vegetarian, though Rajput, Koli, Bhil, Chamar, Bhangi, etc., among Hindus and the Muslims also take non-vegetarian diet. The non-vegetarians take food prepared from flesh of smaller animals like sheep, goats and young ones of buffaloes, and of poultry and birds like partridges. Muslims avoid pork on religious grounds.

In Bhirandiara (taluka Bhuj) there is peculiar custom among the Vadhas who use flesh of *sandhas* in their diet. The *sandhas*, Uromastix or pangolin belonging to the edentate class resembles a ground lizard or chameleon. Its oil is sometimes used as a liniment on rheumatism. It lives in holes 1 to 2 feet deep in the ground, and subsists on grass and insects. The *sandha* may be cooked or pickled in butter-milk.[2]

Dress—People's dress during the latter part of the 19th century has been described thus by the *Gazetteer* under revision :

> "Most men in Cutch, both Hindus and Musalmans, wear loose trousers, a long-sleeved under-jacket, a short coat reaching a little below the waist, a plain or silk-bordered cloth wound round the waist and falling eight or nine inches below the knees, and over it a waistband, *bheth*. Among Hindus the most noticeable turbans are, the Rajput's large and loosely rolled, the Bhatia's close fitting and peaked, and the Nagar priest's a little bigger than a Bohora's. Excepting Bohoras,

1. CAMPBELL, SIR J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 39
2. Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Part VI, No. 3 and 4, *Village Survey Monographs, Bhirandiara* (Bhuj taluka, Kutch District) *and Bamanbore* (Chotila taluka, Surendranagar District), 1965, p. 15

> Musalmans wear the large Rajput turbans, red, black or white. The ordinary pointed Gujarat shoe is worn by all classes. Instead of loose trousers, most Brahmans, Bhatias, Sonis, Vayda and Maheshri Vanias, and other Vaishnavas, wear the waistcloth, and the Gujarat long coat and shoulder cloth. Some young men have of late taken to wear tight English trousers. Except Bhatia, Lohana, Sarasvat and Kshatri women, whose robe, *chorso*, is five cubits long and about four broad. Brahman, Vania and most Hindu women wear the Gujarat robe, *sallo*, nine cubits long and four broad, a petticoat five cubits round, and a bodice, *kamkho*, looser and longer sleeved than the Gujarat *kanchli*, but like it open-backed. The Girasia Rajput and Khavas women's robe is a square coloured *chorso*, five cubits long by five broad; their petticoat is twelve cubits round, and their bodice, *kamkho*, long-sleeved. Except some Memon, Khoja, and Bhadala women who wear the Musalman shirt, bodice, frock and trousers, the Musalman women's dress differs little from that of the Girasia Rajputanis."[1]

Some of the former items of dress have almost disappeared, but many are still in vogue in a modified form. The loose trousers (*chorno*) and *kediyu* worn by the cultivating classes and waistcloth (*dhotiyu*) by those of the higher classes continue unchanged. The long-sleeved under-jacket, the waistband, *bheth* and "the plain or silk or bordered cloth wound round the waist" have been almost discarded. Similarly the use of turbans which distinguished one class from others in the past are fast disappearing. Except in case of the agricultural classes and some orthodox and elderly persons, traders in particular, who still put on turbans, people in general prefer to put on a cap preferably white Gandhi cap or go bare-headed. The general tendency nowadays in the matter of dress is simplicity and economy in cloth used.

The cultivating classes wear loose cotton trousers called (*chorno*) lesser in width than the one used before and a short *kediyu* to cover the upper part of the body. Some also have a shoulder cloth. Others put on either *payjama* or trousers and *paheran* or shirt. Elderly males of higher classes both in rural and urban areas put on *dhoti*, while younger folks especially those going to schools and colleges or serving in offices put on trousers with shirt or bush-shirt. Male children of all classes wear shorts and shirts.

Sari or *salla*, blouse and petticoat are the main garments of a woman's dress. While those in use in rural areas are of coarser variety and generally darker in colour, the garments put on by urban women are of finer variety and lighter in shade. Women belonging to Rabari, Bharvad, Ahir and agricultural classes put on petticoats embroidered with glass pieces (*abhlas*).

1. CAMPBELL SIR, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 39

Instead of the *salla* they put on a red or dark coloured cloth called *odhani*. Girls in urban areas put on frocks or skirts, while those in villages wear *ghaghri* and *polka*. Nylon, terrylin and other synthetic fibres have also found their way in the district, as in other parts of Gujarat.

The mode and material of dress have changed appreciably during the course of the last few decades, partly due to rise in prices, spread of education, their suitability to altered conditions and ways of life and partly due to the introduction of new varieties of cloth which have now come into fashion.

Ornaments—Used mainly for emphasising one's outward appearance, ornaments change from time to time according to the prevailing fashion and also differ from one community to another. The change is effected not only in their style, design and form but also in their size, weight and contents. The ornaments used in the past were generally simple, solid and heavy used to serve the purpose of economic safety and insurance in times of distress and difficulty. But those in vogue at present are much lighter, refined and sophisticated in designs. Moreover, with the spread of modern banking and other facilities and the prohibitive prices of precious metals, the tendency is more towards refinement and lightness than solidity. In former times certain ornaments were commonly used both by males and females. These included *kanthi* round the neck, ear-rings, a silver *kandora* round the waist and a *vinti* (ring) on one or more of the fingers. The men in general have now ceased using all these ornaments except the ring, which is the only ornament common to both the sexes. The use of wrist watch is getting more popular than ever before, both in villages and towns. Ornaments are either of gold or silver, the poor preferring the latter, besides baser metals, and glass beads. The use of ivory is extensively found among Bharwads and Rabaris. Kutch is since long well-known for its traditional silver ornaments which are often sold outside the district.

Female Ornaments—The traditional ornaments in regular use by women in rural areas include *tholiya* and *vedhla* in ears, *sali*, *nath* or *chunk* in nose, *har* of gold or silver and *hansdi* or *varlo* round the neck, *Chudi*, *chudla* or *khadak* of silver or ivory plated with gold or silver strips on the wrists and *sankala* or *kadla* on the anklets. All these ornaments are mostly of silver and heavier in weight. Women of Rabari, Bharwad, Ahir and other castes put on heavy ivory *chuddla* or silver *balaiyas* covering the entire forearms, and wear heavy silver rings on fingers of both the feet. Tattooing is also popular.

Women in urban areas generally prefer finer and lighter ornaments mostly of gold. Jewellery is worn only by those among the well-to-do who can afford it. Women in urban areas wear ear-rings or *butti*, and *nath* or *chunk* studded with pearls or precious stone set in gold. Around their neck they

put on a necklace or chain with a pendant in the middle, a *hansadi* or a *mangal sutra*, if married. While bangles of gold and glass are the most common ornaments for a married woman, gold rings either simple in design or set with precious or immitation stones, and silver *zanzar* or *sankala* worn on the anklets are some of the commonest ornaments.

Male Ornaments—Males in rural areas generally wear a gold or silver ring and silver buttons attached to a heavy chain on their upper garment. Bharwad and Rabari males usually put on a *dokiyu* made of beads of coloured glass and gold round their neck and thick silver *kada* on their wrists. The ring is equally popular among both the sexes in towns and villages. Some males still put on *kanthi* or gold chain round their neck.

The extent of silver and gold used in the making of ornaments is mostly determined by the social and economic status of the household and the class of society to which it belongs. Those who cannot afford to have ornaments of gold rest content with simpler and cheaper ornaments made of silver or even of alloy and inferior metals. Moreover, the use of precious metals has been considerably affected by the soaring prices of gold and silver, the use of the former being further restricted by the enforcement of Gold Control Order of 1963 which restricts the use of gold in the making of ornaments to 14 carats. This has resulted in the revival of some of the traditional silver ornaments and in the making of all those ornaments in silver which were formerly made of gold.

Furniture and Decorations—With the passage of time people are becoming more solicitous of their personal comforts than ever in the past, more in towns than in villages. Various types of furniture are in use in towns. A well-to-do family usually has a sofa set, chairs, teapoys, study tables, bedsteads and cupboards made of wood or steel each according to his need, taste, status, and capacity. A radio set, preferably a transistor, mirrors, attractive wall clocks, ceiling or table fans, etc., are no longer articles of luxury but of comforts and necessities enjoined by modern ways of living. An educated middle class household will have all these pieces, though on a moderate scale. Others would rest content with a chair or two of ordinary type, a simple cot, a stool and a rack to keep clothes, utensils, etc. The *jhoola* (*hinchko*) or swing continues to be the favourite furniture with all classes of people, the one used by the poorer classes being cheaper, made of a simple wooden plank.

The villagers at large have not yet become furniture minded except in the case of the village gentry which is coming up as a result of greater gains now derived from the pursuit of agriculture. An average agriculturist has a few bedsteads as the only item of furniture, but those who have the means to do so go in for a chair or two, a *pat*, a swing, a mirror, a wall clock and wooden cupboard or a *patara* to store their valuables and a sofa set at times.

Decoration—The people of Kutch though living in a barren tract of land devoid of any vegetation and lying in a remote corner of the country possessed an innate artistic sense, as evidenced by the interior decoration of their household and the paintings drawn on the walls of their dwellings, temples and palaces.

Kutch was once well-known for the skill of its indigenous artists known as Kamangar whose style of wall-paintings popularly famous as *kamangiri* had produced superb specimens of this art. The artistic taste of the people is also visible in the interior decoration of their houses which they try to beautify in a variety of ways. The arrangement of wooden chests called *pataras*, household utensils, and other belongings in one of the interior rooms of the house is at once attractive and pleasing in appearance. The clay work done by Rabaris on *kothlas* as also on the walls and door frames of their houses decorated with designs worked in clay and studded with *abhlas* or tiny pieces of mirror, show the innate artistic taste of this pastoral community. Walls are also decorated with photographs and pictures of Gods and Goddesses available in plenty from the profusion of calendars published these days. In some of the houses the doorways not infrequently have *torans* embroidered or made of beads, while *chaklas* or square pieces of cloth similarly worked in beautiful traditional designs are the most popular mode of wall decoration.

Urban houses of the well-to-do are decorated with window curtains and other trappings, antiques, flower pots, photographs, pictures and artistic pieces of wood, clay or metal. Others rest content with a picture or two or a calendar to adorn the walls.

Communal Life

Garba and Ras—Among the various cultural activities and forms of entertainment in vogue in this district, mention must be made of folk dance called *garba* and *ras* which had their origin in certain religious observances of the people, and later came to be associated with social occasions as a form of recreation and merriment.

Ras is a form of folk dance played by females in rural areas. They are more popular among Koli, Charan, Ahir and Rabari staying in Banni and Vagad areas of this district. *Dholi*—a male drum player, sits in the centre and beats the *dhol* rhythmically, while a group of women move round in circle singing some folk song keeping time with rhythmic claps of hands and steps of feet. Legend has it that a *dholi* (drummer) of village Vrajvani in Rapar taluka was such an adept in the art of drumming that Ahir women, on hearing the sonorous beating of his drum, left aside their work to play to the rhythmic tunes of his drum. Once while the drummer was playing on his drum, a young Ahir out of jealousy struck

him on his head with a staff and killed him. Grieved at his death, all the 120 Ahir women who were deeply engrossed in dancing to the tunes of the drum, struck their ivory bangles against their foreheads and fell dead on the spot. Their *palias* along with that of the drummer are found even today at this place. *Ras* is usually performed at night and sometimes lasts till early next morning. Parties from this district which have participated in State level competitions have been praised for their performance and won prizes.

Garba—Garbas are primarily devotional songs in praise of Mother Goddess or Lord Krishna sung by a group of ladies particularly during Navratri festival. The participants while singing the *garba* move round in a circle, in pairs or groups intervening. The song is generally led by one or two of the participants, the rest following in chorus. Time is generally kept by the clapping of hands and movement of steps, sometimes to the accompaniment of the snapping of fingers. The movements and the formations of *ras* and *garba* are the same.

Bhavai—It is a kind of folk drama performed during Navratri festival and has as its theme some religious or social anecdotes of moral and entertainment value. Such performances are given by the *bhavai mandlis* which move about in villages during the festival. The Ravals of village Bhuvad in Anjar taluka excel in this art. Efforts are being made after Independence to revive and encourage *bhavai* by State aid as a popular form of entertainment by including it as one of the items of the Annual Drama Festival organised in Gujarat.

Public Games and Recreation—While a good number of indigenous outdoor games has been replaced by western games, many of them have still retained their popularity. For example, the old games of *hu-tu-tu, kho-kho* and *langadi* are still played both in towns and villages with almost the same zeal and interest. But in towns games like *itta-itti* or *gilli-danda, ata-pata*, etc., are being forgotton and their place taken up by cricket, football, tennis, volley ball, badminton, etc. A cricket association has been recently started at Bhuj. Facilities for playing modern games are provided in colleges and schools. Inter-school and inter-collegiate game competitions are regularly organised. A large number of students and adults are participating in Taluka and District Sports Competitions organised every year in the district. Indoor games like carrom, draught, snake-ladder, etc., are popular among the youngsters, while playing cards, bridge and rummy is a favourite pastime with the adults. Those of the higher and middle classes prefer to go to clubs in the evening, whereas the younger people studying at high schools and colleges have their own sports clubs, gymkhanas and associations. The towns of Bhuj, Mandvi and Anjar have got gymkhana, clubs and branches of the Rotary Club. But a majority of the people have hardly the time and the money to spend after such pursuits. These rest

content with visiting some temple either to hear *katha* or religious discourse or have a *darshan* of the deity or an occasional visit to a picture house.

Villages have their own forms of entertainment and recreation. Children play such traditional games as *hu-tu-tu* and *kho-kho*. *Bhajan Mandalis* provide rest and recreation to the adults, who assemble at the village *chora* at night and pass their time in singing devotional songs-*bhajan* and *kirtan*. With the impact of community development programme, new forms of recreations are also coming up. These are youth clubs and *mahila mandals* which provide the younger generation with entertainment coupled with constructive activities of rural welfare.

Hindu Calendar—The celebration of various festivals by different religious communities is closely associated with the different system of time reckoning or calendar in vogue in different parts of the country. Hindus of Kutch generally follow the Vikram Samvat (era) which precedes the Christian era by fifty-six years. The year begins with the month of Kartik, gets divided into three seasons, namely, winter consisting of the months of Kartik, Margashirsh, Paush and Magha ; summer extending over the months of Phalgun, Chaitra, Vaishakh and Jyeshtha and monsoon spread over Ashadh, Shravan, Bhadrapad and Ashvin. Each month is divided into two fortnights, *shukla paksha*, the bright fortnight, when the moon is waxing and *krishna paksha*, the dark half, when the moon is waning. Dates are reckoned by the day of the fortnight of each month.

Halari Samvat—Kutch had its own calendar called Halari Samvat, which is still followed in some parts of the district. Also known as Ashadhi New Year, it is a form of Vikram era commencing from Ashadh Sud 1 marking the beginning of the agricultural season.

Jain Calendar—Jains generally follow Vir (Nirvan) Samvatsara which commenced in 527 B. C. from the day when Mahavir, the last of the twenty-four Jain Tirthankars, attained *nirvan* for the observance of their religious practices and events.

Muslim Calendar—Muslims in Kutch generally follow the Hijri era, though it is the Vikram era which is followed for accounting and commercial purposes. This era is Arabic in origin. The Hijri era came into being from 15th July, 622 A. D. in the 42nd year of the life of prophet Mohammad to commemorate his *hijrat* from Mecca to Madina. A year according to this era is divided into 12 months named 1. Muharram, 2. Safar, 3. Rabi-ul-Awwal, 4. Rabi-us-Sani, 5. Jamadi-ul-Awwal, 6. Jamadi-us-Sani, 7. Rajab, 8. Shaaban, 9. Ramzan, 10. Shawwal, 11. Zilqaad, 12. Zilhijja.

Festivals—Festivals as they are celebrated in this country symbolise people's cultural, social and religious aspirations which besides helping

them to lead a fuller and better life also remove its monotomy by providing physical diversion and mental recreation. Though principally associated with religion, there is a number of occasions when the social aspect predominates. In fact, festivals are special days, periods of time and seasons which are so designed as to ensure individual joy by practising religion commingled with social joy and domestic happiness.

Hindu Festivals—The principal Hindu festivals which are observed by almost all castes and classes in the district include Divali and New Year's Day, Makara Sankranti, Holi, Balev, Navratri and Dassera. Mahashivratri, Ram Navami and Janmashtami are mainly observed by the followers of the respective sects. A number of other festivals such as Bhai-Bij, Dev Divali, Vasant Panchami, Nag Panchami, Rushi Panchami, Shitla Satam, Ganesh Chaturthi, etc., are also popular in the district. The festival of Nag Panchami which is observed on the fifth of the bright half of Shravan has a special significance for the citizens of Bhuj. On this day a large number of people from the town go to the Bhujia hill situated nearby and worship devotedly the idol of *Bhujang Nag* consecrated in a small temple on the hill. The legends about this Bhujang or Bhujia Nag who is said to have freed Kutch from many miseries are known to every household in Kutch. The sight of a live cobra is considered lucky on that day and living cobras are taken by snake charmers from house to house, to be worshipped and fed on milk. The Akhatrij or Akshaya Tritiya falling on Vaishakh Sud 3 has a special significance for the agriculturists, as it is considered auspicious for the beginning of agricultural operations for the next monsoon. The agriculturists worship their bullocks and implements and adore them with *kumkum* and flower.

To a devout Hindu, every *ekadashi* is a religious festival to be celebrated by observing fast and worship. Of all the *ekadashis* those falling on Kartak Sud 11 (*Dev-uthi ekadashi*), Jyeshtha Sud 11 (*Nirjala* or Bhim *ekadashi*) and Ashadh Sud 11 (*Dev-podhi ekadashi*) are specially sacred. There are certain religious festivals which have special significance for ladies. These include Aluna Vrata during the month of Chaitra when women take saltless diet ; Vat-Savitri Purnima (Jyeshtha Sud 15) when married women worship a banyan tree and keep awake the whole night for marital bliss and long life of their husband ; Gauri Vratra or Jaya-Parvati Vrata observed for five days from Ashadh Sud 11 to 15 by married women as well as maidens and dedicated to the worship of Goddess Gauri or Parvati ; and Divaso falling on the last day of Ashadh when Hindu women observe fast and keep awake the whole night to please Goddess Parvati for marital bliss. Randhan Chhath (Shravan Vad 6) is an important day for ladies, devoted to cooking food for the day following which is sacred to Shitla Mata or the Goddess of small-pox. Artificial heat by kindling the fire in the oven or hearth is avoided on that day for fear of annoying the Goddess.[1]

1. The important Hindu festivals are described at length in the *Bhavnagar District Gazetteer*, Ahmedabad, 1969, pp. 161-173

Jain Festivals—Jain festivals are generally associated with severe austerities and fasting and always with worship. The devotee is required to avoid, in addition to roots which are prohibited on ordinary days, leafy vegetables, dry fruits, tasty food preparations, milk and curd and in some cases even water, when severe austerities and penance are enjoined. For, Jainism lays great emphasis on *tap* or penance as a means of earning religious merit. The principal Jain festivals are Paryushan, Oli (Siddhachakra Puja), Kartik Purnima, and Mahavir Jayanti.

Paryushan or Pajusan, the most sacred of the Jain festivals is the occasion of continuous religious activities and strict austerities. It is observed by all, high and low. The Shwetambars observe it from Shravan Vad 12 to Bhadrapad Sud 4, the Digambars from Bhadrapad Sud 5 to Sud 14. Complete fasts are enjoined to be undertaken during Paryushan. Those who cannot fast on all the days undertake fast atleast for some days during this *parva*. Everybody fasts on the last day popularly known as *samvatsari*, considered to be the most sacred of all. *Samvatsari* denotes the annual *pratikraman* or expiration of sins, directed to be performed during Paryushan. On this day, as an atonement of his sins, every Jain asks forgiveness of others for any offence that he might have given during the year gone by. This is known as *khamavayun* or pardon.

Oli-Siddhachakra Puja (Chaitra and Ashvin Sud 7 to 15)—The two Olis observed by Shwetambar Jains are called Shashvati Parvas as they are believed to have been observed eternally in the same form during the times of all *tirthankars*. Shwetambars consider it next in importance only to Paryushan and celebrate it for nine days from Sud 7 to Purnima twice a year in Chaitra and Ashvin. During these days Navpadas, nine steps represented on the Siddhachakra or Saint's wheel are worshipped in every Shwetambar temple. The austerities of Oli are observed for nine days, each of which is assigned to one of the nine *padas* in the Siddhachakra, which is worshipped on that day. Partial fast is observed on all these days.

Kartik Purnima (Kartik Sud 15) marks the close of the austerities of Chaturmas or the four monsoon months starting from Ashadh Sud 15. It has particular significance for the holy mount Shatrunjaya situated near Palitana in the Bhavnagar district, as it reopens on this day for pilgrimage after remaining closed for the four monsoon months. Devout Jains who practised austerities during the Chaturmas (four months) end them on this day. The day is also observed as the birthday of Shri Hemchandracharya, the well-known learned Jain saint and grammarian who was born this day of Vikram Samvat 1145.

Mahavir Jayanti (Chaitra Sud 13) is the birth anniversary of Mahavir Swami, the 24th and the last Jain *tirthankar* (born in 599 B. C.). Besides

religious ceremonies at the temple, processions are taken out with the idol of Mahavir. Digambar Jains also celebrate Virshasan Jayanti on Shravan Vad 1, the day on which Mahavir after achieving omniscience, gave his first religious sermon.

Jains also observe the Nirvan Kalyanak or the holy anniversary of the Nirvan of Mahavir on the Divali day (Ashwin Vad 30).

Muslim Festivals—The two sects, Sunnis and Shiahs, have different holidays except Muharram, Ramzan and Bakri-Id festivals which are common to both. Muharram is held by Shiahs in special veneration as being the month in which Imam Hussain, the son of Ali, was killed. His death is the subject of public mourning during the first ten days when fasting and self-denial are also enjoyed. An interesting feature of the Muharram is the *taziahs* or *tabuts* made of bamboo and tinsel after the model of the shrine of the Imam at Karbala. These shrines are taken round in procession on the tenth day and submerged into water of a river or lake. Sweet bread and sugared water are distributed among friends in the evening. Shiahs, unlike Sunnis, keep Muharram for forty days. Of these, the first ten are time of special mourning.

The thirteenth of Safar is known as Tera Tezi or Talan Tezi and kept by Sunnis in memory of the Prophet's recovery from a severe sickness. Another important day is the twelfth of the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal, the *wafat* or day of the Prophet's death. This day is called Id-e-Milad as it is also the day of the birth of the Prophet, *Id* meaning happiness and *milad* meaning birth. It is celebrated more as the birth anniversary than as the day of death of the Prophet. The *gyarvi* festival falls on the eleventh day of Rabi-ul-Sani on which Sunnis celebrate the birth of Saiyad Abdul Kadir Jilani. On the first eleven nights of Rabi-ul-Awwal in honour of the Prophet's birth *waazes* (sermons) are preached. The Shab-e-Barat which falls on the night of the fourteenth day of Shaaban is among Sunnis characterised by the preparations of special dishes, which are distributed to the poor after the recitation of the *fatiha* (opening chapter of the *Kuran*) and by feasting of friends and relations. Greater than this festival is the Id-ul-Fitr commonly known as Ramzan Id which falls on the first day of the Shawwal. Throughout the preceding month of Ramzan a general fast is observed daily from sunrise to sunset. Ramzan Id marks the close of the fast and in consequence Musalmans-Sunnis and Shiahs of all ages and both sexes bathe, put on new clothes, perfume themselves, repair to the mosque, and thereafter foregather with friends and relations and bid them God speed. The Id-e-Baqr falls on the tenth day of Zilhijja and is characterised, like Ramzan Id, by prayers in mosques. The eighteenth of Zilhijja is a great Shiah holiday known as Id-e-Ghadir or the lake holiday. On this day the Prophet seated by a lake proclaimed in a joyous moment that Ali was his own flesh and body. Shiahs also observe the

twenty-eighth of Zilhijja as a festival for three days in memory of Baba Shuja-ud-din, a fire worshipping convert to Islam, who on this day murdered the Khalifah Umar.

PILGRIM CENTRES—The two important pilgrim centres in the district are (i) Narayan Sarovar in Lakhpat taluka for Hindus and (ii) Bhadresar in Mundra taluka for Jains.

Narayan Sarovar or Naransar as it is popularly called is a sacred lake situated on the western border of the district about 160 km. from Bhuj, the district headquarters and 62 km. from Lakhpat, the taluka headquarters. The village Naransar named after the lake is about 38 km. from the nearest Railway Station of Anjar, and is situated on the Kori Nal creek which is said to have been one of the mouths of the Indus in olden times. The Narayan Sarovar is one of the five holy lakes in India,[1] whose importance is narrated in the Hindu scriptures *Shrimad Bhagvat* and *Brahma Vaivarta* as also in *Vayu Puran, Vishnu Puran,* etc. The principal temples of Trikamraiji, as also the temples of Laxminarayan, Goverdhannath, Adi Narayan, Dwarkanath, Ranchhodraiji and Laxmiji, were constructed during the 18th century. The other temples include those of Kalyanraiji, Shri Nathji, Bhaweshwar, Ramnath, etc. The sacred caves called *Ramgufa, Laxmangufa* and *Shesh gufa* are situated nearby. All these places attract a large number of devotees to this distant place which is visited every year by persons coming from far and near including Saurashtra, Sind, Marwad, Punjab and Central India. Every *sanyasi* desires to visit this place without which his *sanyasta* is considered to be incomplete. About 3 km. from Narayan Sarovar is the famous Mahadev temple of Koteshvar also mentioned in the *Puranas*.

Bhadresar situated about 22 km. from Mundra contains the remains of the ancient Bhadravati Nagari of King Yuvnashva mentioned in *Mahabharat*. It is an important centre of Jain pilgrimage where temples of Vasahi were renovated and repaired by Jagdu Shah, a wealthy merchant and philanthropist during the thirteenth century A. D. The general plan of the Bhadresar temples resembles that of the Jain temples of Delwada on Mount Abu.

Among centres of local importance mention must be made of Madh or Mata-no-madh as it is popularly known. Jadeja Rajputs from various parts of Kutch visit this famous temple of their *kuldevi* Goddess Hingalaj or Ashapuri. The Jadejas being the ruling classes of Kutch, Goddess Ashapuri was regarded as *Deshdevi* or Goddess of the land.

1. These are (1) Man Sarovar at Kailas in the north, (2) Pampa Sarovar in the south, (3) Bindu Sarovar at Bhuvneshwar in the east, (4) Narayan Sarovar in the west and (5) Pushkar Sarovar in central India.

Pir Gulamali Shah's *dargah* at Kera is an important place of pilgrimage for Khojas.

FAIRS

Fairs are generally associated with deities and religious observances. A Statement III·21 giving the names of deities to which the fairs are sacred, months in which they are held and the number of persons participating appears at the end of the Chapter.

As the statement indicates the total number of fairs held every year in Kutch comes to 144. Of these, 44 are held in September/Bhadrapad, 31 in April, 29 in August, 10 in February and the rest numbering 30 during other months. The congregation at fairs varies from 400 to 40,000 according to the importance of the place and occasion, the season and exigencies of agricultural operations. The biggest fair is one held in the month of Bhadrapad at Kakadbhit in memory of Jakh. The largest number of fairs (42) is held in reverence to Muslim Pirs, which attract 104,025 devotees. Next in order (19) are fairs dedicated to Mataji with a total congregation of 57,975. Other fairs are dedicated to Krishna, Shiva, Shitla Mata, Ramdev Pir, Serpent-God, Ganesh, Hanuman, Dattatraya and local saints, deities and local heroes.

The fairs which deserve specific mention are the Jakh fair at Kakadbhit in Nakhatrana taluka and the Trivikramraiji fair at Narayansar in Lakhpat taluka. Apart from the usual religious practices of having a dip in the holy waters of the river or lake and reverence to the deity, cultural activities are also organised by the local authorities, who arrange seminars, cinema shows, lectures and exhibitions for the visiting public.

Jakh Fair, Kakadbhit—The fair is held on the second Monday of Bhadrapad at the village Kakadbhit (known as Jakh) about 34 km. west of Bhuj in Nakhatrana taluka. An interesting legend is associated with the fair which is held to pay homage to certain foreigners from Anatolia and Syria, who killed the tyrant king Punvar or Punvaro in the 13th century and delivered the people from his tyranny. It is not definitely known who exactly these Jakhs or Yakshas were except that they were white skinned foreigners. The place where the tyrant king Punvar was killed by the Jakhs is near the village Sanyara 34 km. from Bhuj, near which there is a hillock called Jakh's Tekra or the hillock of the Jakhs which is known as Kakadbhit after their leader Kakad, *bhit* meaning a hillock in Kutchhi dialect. A large section of the people was discontented with the oppressive rule of Jam Punvaro. As the legend goes, seven saintly persons renowned for their virtues and miracles came from Rum-Sham (Anatolia and Syria) and settled on a nearby hill. They helped the oppressed people, did all they could to alleviate their sufferings, nursed the

(Bk) H-49—22 (Lino)

sick and thereby won the hearts of the people. The Jakhs came to be regarded as helpers of the poor and known as Pakshas or Jakhs, i. e., messengers of gods.

Punvaro who was far-sighted saw that on account of the sympathy of the people for the Jakhs who were foreigners, the culture and religion of Kutch would suffer. He, therefore, tried to check their activities in various ways. To save themselves from the excessive torture to which they were subjected, Jakhs invoked the assistance of their god. Seventy-two horsemen, thereupon came and established themselves on a hill five km. from Paddhargadh or Punvaranogadh, took the fort and killed the chief. Their images were installed on a platform on Punvaranogadh with their faces towards the south. A fair to commemorate this event is held every year in the month of Bhadrapad (September-October).

The Jakh fair was formerly held only at Kakadbhit within the limits of the Roha estate. As the fair was big and yielded good income to the jagir in the form of offerings, Maharao Khengarji of Bhuj got a shrine built on the hillock lying between Bhuj and Madhapar and arranged to hold a fair on the same day on which it was held at Kakadbhit, i. e., on the first Monday of Bhadrapad. The *Jagirdar* of Roha thereupon changed the date to the second Monday of Bhadrapad.

About 40,000 persons from all over Kutch of all castes and creeds participate in the fair. Visitors from outside Kutch include Banias, Lohanas as well as Muslims. The fair is organised by the Sanghars through a committee formed for the purpose. About 200 shops are opened at the fair. Toys, vessels, iron articles of household use, cots, gold and silver ornaments, bead work, bangles and *venis* or braids of hair for women and cutlery are the products of household and small scale industry brought for sale not only from surrounding villages but also from distant parts of Kutch and even beyond. The Taluka Development Officer organises races of horses, donkeys, camels, slow and fast cycling, running, etc. Prizes are awarded to the winners.

Trivikramraiji Fair, Naransar—Narayan Sarovar, popularly called Naransar, is a lake situated on the western end of Kutch, and is one of the five holy lakes of India, believed to have been formed in the time of *Varah avtar*, the third incarnation of Vishnu in the form of a boar, to provide sweet water for the maintenance of life.

A fair held at this holy place every year for five successive days from Kartik Sud 11 to 15 attracts about 5,000 persons. The number of visitors, however, depends upon the preceding agricultural season and the availability of water at the time of the fair. It is attended by Hindus from Kutch, Saurashtra and other parts of Gujarat, besides some from Sindh, Marwad,

Punjab and Central India. Over and above pilgrims, *sadhus* and *sanyasis* from all over the country also attend it. The fair is held outside the shrine of Trikamraiji which is the principal shrine at Naransar dedicated to Lord Vishnu. The pilgrims take a holy bath in the waters of Narayansar and offer coconut and flowers to the deities installed in all the seven temples.

The fair is organised by the Naransar Gram Panchayat and the *Brahmachari Mahant* of Narayansar *jagir*. About 15 stalls of sweetmeats, toys, cutlery, coconut, rosaries, religious books, flowers, etc., are set up at the fair. Harijans attend the fair and sell shoes, slippers, etc., made by them. Other activities include *bhajan mandlis* from different places and discourses on religious topics arranged on the night of the Kartiki Purnima day. Panchayat authorities put up an exhibition of charts, posters, etc., about improvement of agriculture.

STATEMENT III-21

Fairs According to Deity, Months and Size of Congregation

(In descending order of congregation)

Deity	Month	Total		Below 5,000		5,000 to 9,999		10,000 to 24,999		25,000 to 49,999		50,000 and above	
		No. of fairs	Congregation	No. of fairs	Congregation	No. of fairs	Congregation	No. of fairs	Congregation	No. of fairs	Congregation	No. of fairs	Congregation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Total		**144**	**452,850**	**115**	**168,750**	**19**	**123,100**	**9**	**121,000**	**1**	**40,000**	..	..
Muslim Pirs	*Total*	*42*	*104,025*	*36*	*54,425*	*3*	*18,100*	*3*	*31,500*	..	..	..	..
	March	4	8,600	4	8,600	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	April	11	47,575	7	9,075	1	7,000	3	31,500	..	..	..	..
	May	7	12,325	7	12,325	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	August	1	1,250	1	1,250	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	September	14	24,925	12	13,825	2	11,100	..	..	..	..	..	..
	November	1	900	1	900	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	December	2	950	2	950	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rabi-ul-Awaal	1	4,500	1	4,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Shawwal	1	3,000	1	3,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Local Saints	*Total*	*17*	*74,850*	*12*	*15,850*	*3*	*24,000*	*2*	*35,000*	..	..	..	..
	February	1	9,500	..	..	1	9,500	..	..	..	..	..	..
	April	6	13,975	5	5,475	1	8,500	..	..	..	..	..	..
	July	1	1,000	1	1,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	August	3	24,700	2	2,200	..	..	1	22,500	..	..	..	..
	September	5	23,425	3	4,925	1	6,000	1	12,500	..	..	..	..
	Shawwal	1	2,250	1	2,250	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mataji	*Total*	*19*	*57,975*	*15*	*25,475*	*3*	*20,000*	*1*	*12,500*	..	..	..	..
	February	2	5,000	2	5,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	April	1	600	1	600	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	July	1	500	1	500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	September	11	37,875	8	11,875	2	13,500	1	12,500	..	..	..	..
	October	4	14,000	3	7,500	1	6,500	..	..	..	..	..	..
Krishna	*Total*	*8*	*52,100*	*3*	*2,600*	*3*	*17,500*	*2*	*32,000*	..	..	..	..
	August	7	47,100	3	2,600	2	12,500	2	32,000	..	..	..	..
	November	1	5,000	..	..	1	5,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
Jakh	*Total*	*5*	*50,650*	*3*	*5,650*	*1*	*5,000*	..	..	*1*	*40,000*	..	..
	January	1	3,000	1	3,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	August	1	2,250	1	2,250	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	September	3	45,400	1	400	1	5,000	..	..	1	40,000	..	..
Shiva	*Total*	*17*	*32,725*	*16*	*25,225*	*1*	*7,500*	..	..	..	..	..	..
	February	2	7,500	2	7,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	August	12	16,625	12	16,625	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	September	3	8,600	2	1,100	1	7,500	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shitla Mata	*Total*	*9*	*27,250*	*7*	*12,250*	*1*	*5,000*	*1*	*10,000*	..	..	..	..
	April	7	26,675	5	11,675	1	5,000	1	10,000	..	..	..	..
	August	2	575	2	575	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ramdev Pir	*Total*	*5*	*14,700*	*3*	*1,700*	*2*	*13,000*	..	..	..	..	..	..
	August	1	900	1	900	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	September	4	13,800	2	800	2	13,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
Local Heroes	*Total*	*6*	*12,650*	*5*	*6,650*	*1*	*6,000*	..	..	..	..	..	..
	March	1	1,750	1	1,750	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	April	1	1,650	1	1,650	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	July	1	1,750	1	1,750	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	September	2	1,500	2	1,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	December	1	6,000	..	..	1	6,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
Serpent-God	August	1	7,000	..	..	1	7,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ganesh	April	3	5,125	3	5,125	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sati	*Total*	*3*	*3,650*	*3*	*3,650*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	February	2	1,650	2	1,650	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	April	1	2,000	1	2,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Local Deities	*Total*	*3*	*2,600*	*3*	*2,600*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	February	2	1,500	2	1,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	August	1	1,100	1	1,100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

STATEMENT III-21—*concld.*

Deity	Month	Total		Below 5,000		5,000 to 9,999		10,000 to 24,999		25,000 to 49,999		50,000 and above	
		No. of fairs	Congregation	No. of fairs	Congregation	No. of fairs	Congregation	No. of fairs	Congregation	No. of fairs	Congregation	No. of fairs	Congregation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
DATTATREYA	February	1	2,250	1	2,250	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
JAIN	March	1	2,000	1	2,000	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NAKE-TIRTHA	November	1	1,400	1	1,400	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
HANUMAN	April	1	1,250	1	1,250	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
MYTHOLOGICAL PERSONAGES	September	2	650	2	650	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Source : Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part VII-B, *Fairs and Festivals*, (Part-II, Tables), pp. 244 245

The New Trends—Far reaching changes in every walk of life have been taking place in different parts of the country after Independence. Kutch which was hitherto secluded and cut off as it were from the rest of the country broke through its isolation and had its full share of development in the various fields of life and economic activity. As already seen transformation in matters of dress, ornaments, social customs, habits of the people, their mode of living, their religious beliefs and practices has been complete and all-pervading. Despite economic inequalities the former distinctions between one class and the other have begun to disappear. The social superiority and other privileges that the feudal and moneyed classes once enjoyed and the humiliating treatment that the disadvantageous classes received at their hands no longer persist. The evils of untouchability have begun to disappear slowly and gradually. Scope of higher education and entry into Government service has opened new vistas of economic advancement. Women are taking their rightful place in the society, as equal partners both in political as well as economic activities. In the field of female education, this district is now marching at a pace unknown in the past. The civil and inter-caste marriages which were unheard of before are gradually on the increase. People have become politically conscious and aware of their rights and responsibilities. Even an illiterate agriculturist takes keen interest in the day-to-day development of the country. He is eager as never before to take advantage of the benefits which the democratic form of Government offers.

Agricultural condition in Kutch prior to Independence was far from satisfactory. There were over 24,000 Jamindars or Inamdars who held nearly 2/3 of the cultivated area in Kutch. The cultivators were subject to the payment of numerous *lagas* and cesses which reduced the profits of cultivation and left little in the hands of cultivators. The age old *bhag batai* system of land revenue made their condition still worse. To start with, all these *lagas* were abolished by the Government in 1949. In 1952 the *bhag batai* was removed and *vighoti* system or cash assessment was introduced. The cultivators were granted *butta* rights. Measures of agrarian reforms introduced by passing such laws as (1) the Bombay Inams (Kutch Area) Abolition Act, 1958, (2) The Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Loans (Vidarbha Region and Kutch Area) Act, 1958, and (3) The Gujarat Surveying Alienation Abolition Act, 1963 has improved the condition of the cultivators to an appreciable extent. Other facilities such as easy availability of loans, distribution of improved seeds, implements, fertilizers, etc., and the better prices for their field produce have gone a long way in bettering the economic condition of the peasantry in Kutch. The cultivator whose status has now been changed from a mere tenant at will to that of the occupant has begun to take greater interest in his occupation. The security of tenure and fixity of land revenue together with a guarantee of a reasonable reward from his labour have contributed in a large measure to the improvement of the economic conditions of the cultivating classes as a whole.

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

In Kutch, as in other districts of Gujarat, agriculture happens to be the main source of subsistence for the majority of people. According to the 1961 Census, 59·18 per cent of the total working population of the district was engaged in agriculture, as against 68·09 per cent in the State as a whole. The table that follows gives the number of persons working as cultivators and agricultural labourers in 1961.

	Total	Males	Females
As cultivators	128,823	77,718	51,105
As agricultural labourers ..	31,228	15,246	15,982
Total	**160,051**	**92,964**	**67,087**

Of the total number of persons actively engaged in agriculture 128,823 or 80·49 per cent were cultivators of land and 19·51 were agricultural labourers. Among cultivators, 77,718 or 60·33 per cent were males, against 48·82 per cent among agricultural labourers. The agriculturists come mainly from Kanbi, Oswal Jain, Bhansali, Rajput, Ahir, Harijan and Khoja communities. The talukawise break-up of persons engaged in agriculture both as cultivators and as labourers is given in the following statement.

STATEMENT IV·1

Persons engaged in Agriculture, 1961

Taluka	Cultivators	Agricultural labourers	Total agricultural population
1	2	3	4
Kutch District	**128,823**	**31,228**	**160,051**
1 Bhuj	17,148 (a)	4,303 (a)	21,451 (a)
2 Nakhatrana	14,003	3,512	17,515
3 Lakhpat	3,854	545	4,399
4 Abdasa	14,555	3,211	17,766
5 Mandvi	15,692	5,531	21,223
6 Mundra	9,127	3,676	12,803
7 Anjar	13,778	3,480	17,258
8 Bhachau	14,405 (b)	3,711 (b)	18,116 (b)
9 Rapar	26,261	3,259	29,520

NOTE : (a) This includes figures of Khavda Mahal (b) This includes figures of Khadir Mahal

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Kutch

The statement shows that the proportion of agricultural labourers was the highest (40·28 per cent) in Mundra taluka and the lowest (12·41 per cent) in Rapar taluka. Besides cultivation, a number of allied occupations such as livestock, forestry, fishing, plantations, etc., provided livelihood to a large number of people as shown below.

Sl. No.	Allied agricultural occupations	Total	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5
1	Field produce and plantation crops ..	166	109	57
2	Forestry and logging	517	279	238
3	Fishing	498	440	58
4	Livestock and hunting	18,556	14,606	3,950

Source:
District Census Handbook 1961, Kutch

Land Utilisation

The total area in the district for land utilisation purposes reported by Director of Agriculture is 44 lakh hectares, of which 72·53 per cent is barren and uncultivable, 4·00 per cent cultivable waste, 5·62 per cent fallow and 3·70 per cent under forest, permanent pastures and grazing land. The area of about 6 lakh hectares or 13·55 per cent is under cultivation. Due to uncertainty of rainfall, the area under cultivation fluctuates to a considerable extent year after year. Area under cultivation which was 4 lakh hectares in the 1953-54 rose to 5 lakh hectares in 1960-61 but fell down again to 4 lakh hectares in 1963-64 and again rose to 5 lakh hectares in 1965-66. Kutch which accounts for the largest geographical area in the State, thus has the smallest proportion of its land under cultivation, because of its topographical features and vast desert areas.

The following are the figures of land utilisation in Kutch during the year 1965-66.

STATEMENT IV·2

Land Utilisation

(FIGURES IN HUNDRED HECTARES)

	1965-66	
1	Area 2	Percentage to total 3
Total area for land utilisation purposes ..	**44,908**	**100.00**
1 Forests	946	2.14
2 Barren and unculturable land	32,060	72.53
3 Land put to non-agricultural uses	228	0.51

STATEMENT IV·2—*contd.*

(FIGURES IN HUNDRED HECTARES)

	1965-66	
1	Area 2	Percentage to total 3
4 Culturable waste	1,767	4.00
5 Permanent pastures and other grazing lands ..	690	1.56
6 Land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves not included in area sown	39	0.09
7 Current fallows	865	1.96
8 Other fallows	1,617	3.66
9 Net area sown	5,991	13.55
10 Area sown more than once	98	(0.22)
11 Total cropped area	6,089	(13.77)

Source :
Director of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

Land Reclamation

As seen earlier the district has the largest area of uncultivable and barren land in the Rann which, it is believed, is encroaching upon cultivable land both in Kutch and outside.[1] The salt particles carried by wind from this region are deposited on good agricultural soil, thus rendering it unfit for cultivation. Of these areas, a large area in the Rann can be reclaimed at least for pastoral purposes, as in Banni which at one time formed part of the Rann. Banni extending over nearly 2,144 sq. km. derives its name from the vernacular *banai* or *baneli* which means "reclaimed", as it has been by the operation of the natural forces. It has been estimated by Dr. Satyanarayan that about three lakh acres of land could be reclaimed from the Little Rann if the bridge on the National Highway between Surabari and Maliya is constructed with valvular openings.

Under a scheme worked by the Forest Department over 2,428 hectares of land in the Rann area has been reclaimed during the Three Plan periods by creating green belts for protecting fertile land from the Rann. Similarly, nearly 809 hectares of land near coastal areas were recovered during the same period under "Scheme for plantation on coastal border". The details about these schemes are given on page 210 of this Chapter.

1. Premjibhai Thacker, *Kutch and its Economy*, Ahmedabad, 1960, p. 6

IRRIGATION

For a district like Kutch, so unfavourably placed with regard to rainfall, irrigation is a fundamental necessity for the development of its agriculture. The rains are inadequate and irregular averaging 30 to 40 cms. a year with a recorded minimum of 3·5 cms. only. The rivers all of them, are disappointing as none seems to be perennial. For this reason the little rain which the monsoon brings has to be properly stored and well preserved. Throughout the nineteenth century successive rulers of Kutch experimented with dams, tanks and storage works; but it was Maharao Khengarji III (1884-1942) who devoted much personal energy to the task of improving the means of water storage. However, his efforts to formulate a comprehensive plan for water storage did not achieve much inspite of his employing the best experts from India and Europe to advise him.[1] But he could get prepared designs of a number of practical projects which could take shape during the years that followed. He also constructed the first biggest irrigation project in Kutch, named after him as Khengarsagar, in Mundra. The construction of the reservoir was started in 1935 and completed in 1937 at a total cost of Rs. 3 lakhs. It is 2,451 feet long, having a maximum height of 57·80 feet and a top width of 12 feet, with a gross storage capacity of 346·10 million cubic feet of water. It has an irrigation potential of 4,458 acres during the year of normal rainfall. The catchment area of the project is 58·50 sq. miles. Another big reservoir, Vijaysagar in Mandvi taluka, was constructed in 1948 with an irrigation capacity of nearly 4,047 hectares. Soon after integration, the Central Water, Power, Irrigation and Navigation Commission of the Government of India deputed its exports in 1948 who laid down a five year plan for the development of irrigation facilities in Kutch at an estimated expenditure of two and a half crore of rupees.

Before 1951, there were 31 dams with an irrigation potential of 17,968 hectares, their approximate cost being Rs. 53·24 lakhs. Between 1951 and 1956 as many as 32 dams were constructed involving an expenditure of about Rs. 96 lakhs as a result of which the number of tanks increased to 63 raising the irrigation potential to 32,584 hectares. But the scheme gathered real momentum during the Second Five Year Plan period when some of the bigger projects of irrigation were executed. The office of the Principal Engineering Officer was formed into a separate Irrigation Division for Kutch with sub-divisions at Bhuj, Nalia and Rapar. Two important medium projects, Rudramata and Nirona, were started in 1959 when a second division was created to cope with the increased irrigation activities in the district. This newly created division called Kutch Irrigation Project Division, was placed in charge of four medium projects, namely, (i) Rudramata, (ii) Nirona, (iii) Gajansar and (iv) Suvi which were started during the Second Plan period and continued as spill-over work in the Third Plan.

1. RUSHBROOK WILLIAMS, L. F., *The Black Hills*, London, 1958, p. 17

Increase in work-load necessitated the bifurcation of work during the Second Plan period into two divisions called (i) Eastern and (ii) Western. After the introduction of the Panchayati Raj in 1963, minor irrigation schemes were handed over to Kutch Panchayat and the medium schemes were looked after by the Western Kutch Irrigation Division.

The number of minor irrigation projects increased from 63 to 82 during the Second Plan and further rose to 97 during the Third creating an estimated irrigation potential of 49,194 hectares by incurring a total expenditure of about Rs. 3·56 crores.[1] The following statement gives a summary of the progress made in irrigation facilities till the end of January, 1965.

STATEMENT IV·3

Irrigation Programme, 1951-65

Period	Catchment area in sq. km.	Cost incurred in Rs.	Gross capacity added in m. c. m.	Irrigation potential in hectares (full fillings)
1	2	3	4	5
Before 1951	1,138	5,324,310	93	17,968
During First Five Year Plan ..	876	9,620,965	74	14,616
During Second Five Year Plan	504	11,998,561	46	12,906
During Third Five Year Plan (up to 31-1-1965) ..	274	8,677,736	23	3,704
Total	**2,792**	**35,621,572**	**236**	**49,194**

Source :
Executive Engineer, Western Kutch Irrigation Division, Bhuj

Medium Irrigation Projects

The following is a brief description of the medium irrigation projects in the district. Of these the first four were implemented during the First Five Year Plan while the other four were included in the Second Plan and taken over as spill-over work in the Third Plan.

1. The names of these minor irrigation projects are given in Appendix 1 at the end of this Chapter.

Sanandro or Sanadhro—The project was included in the First Five Year Plan and completed during the year 1956. At the dam site the river has a catchment area of 148 sq. km. A dam about 1,097 metres long and 12 metres high having a top width of 4 metres has been constructed across the river Kali near village Sanadhro in Lakhpat taluka. The canal 20 km. in length provides irrigation to an area of about 1,214 hectares during the year of normal rainfall. The project has been executed at a total cost of about Rs. 11·50 lakhs.

Kankavati—An earthen dam across the river Kankavati near village Nundhatad in Abdasa taluka was constructed during the First Plan period The construction of the dam was started in 1952 and completed in 1956. The dam is 2,164 metres long with a maximum height of 18 metres and a top width of 4 metres. The canal 20 km. in length covers an area of about 1,619 hectares in a normal year. The construction cost of the dam and canals came to about Rs. 19 lakhs.

Gajod—The construction of a dam on the river Narmati near village Gajod in Bhuj taluka was included in the First Plan period, but the actual construction started in 1959 and continued till 1962. The length of the dam is about 549 metres. The canals 12 km. in length, provide irrigation to an area of about 2,023 hectares. The total cost of the project amounted to Rs. 12 lakhs.

Kaila—Under this scheme an earthen dam across the river Kaila in Bhuj taluka was constructed during the First Plan period. At the dam site the river has a catchment area of 168 sq. km. The earthen dam is 853 metres long, 23 metres high and 4 metres wide at the top. There were two waste weirs provided on both the flanks, but the one on the left was closed as it was badly damaged during the monsoon of 1959. The 16 km. long canal from this dam can irrigate 2,784 hectares of land. The project cost about Rs. 22 lakhs.

Rudramata—The Rudramata project has been named after the temple of Rudramata, situated near the dam site about 14 km. north of Bhuj on the left bank of the river Pur that flows past the temple. The project comprises an earthen dam across the river Pur to provide a catchment area of 572 sq. km. The scheme was included in the First Plan but the head works were started in the year 1959 and completed in 1962. The construction work of the main canal is now completed. The earthen dam is 875 metres long with a maximum height of 27 metres and a top width of 4 metres. Two waste weirs, one 137 metres long and the other 299 metres, are provided on the right flank. The length of the canals will be 16 km. which when completed will irrigate about 2,307 hectares of land in Kutch. The project on completion will cost about Rs. 95 lakhs.

Nirona—The project envisages construction of one earthen dam and canal across the river Bhurud about 5 km. south of Nirona village in Nakhatrana taluka. The work was commenced during the year 1959-60 and completed in 1966-67. At the dam site the river has a catchment area of 388 sq. km. The earthen dam is 2,037 metres long, 22 metres high, and 4 metres wide at the top. A waste weir 274 metres long is provided on the left flank. An area of about 1,942 hectares will be benefited by this project which is estimated to cost nearly Rs. 50 lakhs.

Gajansar—The Gajansar dam on river Panjora is about one km. south of the village of that name in Nakhatrana taluka. The river has a catchment area of 166 sq. km. The scheme was executed during the Second Plan. The earthen dam is 594 metres long and 18 metres high with a top width of four metres. One weir 427 metres long is provided on the left flank. The canals will be about three km. long and when completed will cover about 1,012 hectares of land near village Gajansar, Ludbay, etc., of Nakhatrana taluka. The project is estimated to cost about Rs. 17 lakhs.

Suvi—Suvi irrigation project was undertaken in the Second Five Year Plan period and completed in 1963-64. The project comprised construction of an earthen dam across the river Suvi in Rapar taluka. The construction of the dam intercepts a catchment area of about 161 sq. km. The earthen dam is 1,661 metres long and 14 metres high with a gross storage capacity of 14 m. c. metres of water. The canals about 10 km. long provide irrigation to 2,084 hectares of land of villages Suvi, Wandh, Jesda, etc., of Rapar taluka.

Tube Wells—In addition to the provision of irrigation facilities by surface water, a number of tube wells have been bored in the district, four each in 1957-58 and 1960-61 and 154 during the Third Five Year Plan period as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Taluka	Number of tube wells	Sl. No.	Taluka	Number of tube wells
1	2	3	1	2	3
1	Anjar	13	6	Bhachau	10
2	Mandvi	21	7	Rapar	10
3	Nakhatrana ..	34	8	Lakhpat	2
4	Bhuj	57		Total	154
5	Mundra	7			

Out of 154 tube wells drilled, 129 have proved successful. 39 of them have been installed with pumps and engines. When all the tube wells start working, they will irrigate about 10,441 hectares of land.

Wells still remain the main source of irrigation supplemented by canals and tanks wherever available. Canal irrigation takes place mostly by gravitational flow, while in the case of wells, *kos* and other water lifting devices are for the most part manually operated with the aid of bullocks. Increasing use of oil and electric power is being made by the cultivators in the district for lifting and pumping water from the wells for irrigation purposes. These devices are proving more economical and easy to handle in the long run, though the initial capital expenditure involved in the purchase of oil-engine, electric motor and pump is quite large.

Area Irrigated

The total gross area of crops irrigated in 1965-66 was 49,097 hectares which formed 8·19 per cent of the net area under cultivation. The following statement gives the figures of area irrigated by different sources of water supply in the district between 1950-51 and 1965-66.

Area Irrigated by Sources

(AREA IN '00 HECTARES)

Sources	1950-51*	1955-56*	1960-61*	1965-66+
Government canals	54	70	150	66
Private canals	..	..	6	..
Tanks	21	12	9	10
Wells	268	268	460	327
Other sources	..	..	165	..
Total area irrigated	*343*	*350*	*790*	*403*
Total gross area irrigated	**343**	**492**	**970**	**491**

Source :

* *Basic Agricultural Statistics*, Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad, 1968, pp. 42, 65

\+ Director of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

Well irrigation claims 81·30 per cent and Government canals follow with 16·26 per cent of the net area under irrigation in the year 1965-66. Reduction in the area under irrigation is due to very scanty and inadequate rainfall during 1965-66.

Irrigation facilities available during 1965-66 are given below for each of the talukas of the district.

STATEMENT IV·4

Sources of Water Supply and Area Irrigated, 1965-66

Sl. No.	Taluka	Canals in number		Wells in number				
				Government		Private		
		Government	Private	Masonry	Non-Masonry	Masonry	Non-Masonry	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	District Total	**80**	**9**	**313**	**60**	**17,805**	**2,826**	**21,004**
1	Abdasa ..	14	1	..	..	1,480	456	1,936
2	Anjar ..	2	..	..	..	2,160	390	2,550
3	Bhachau ..	4	..	..	..	1,695	437	2,132
4	Bhuj ..	12	3	50	..	2,286	813	3,149
5	Lakhpat ..	4	5	..	..	401	..	401
6	Mandvi ..	25	..	255	58	1,760	25	2,098
7	Mundra ..	4	..	..	..	1,550	286	1,836
8	Nakhatrana	5	..	8	2	2,879	227	3,116
9	Rapar ..	10	..	..	..	3,594	192	3,786

Sl. No.	Taluka	Government tube wells in number	Tanks in number	Number of oil-engines	Net area in hectares irrigated by				
					Government canals	Private canals	Tanks	Wells	Total
1	2	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	District Total	**25**	**876**	**4,067**	**6,548**	**8**	**974**	**32,782**	**40,262**
1	Abdasa	300	32	798	8	..	381	1,187	
2	Anjar	150	290	256	..	..	8,864	9,120	
3	Bhachau .. 1	2	126	53	..	..	1,957	2,010	
4	Bhuj .. 12	108	1,104	664	..	..	4,333	4,997	
5	Lakhpat	60	129	220	..	..	545	765	
6	Mandvi .. 1	16	884	2,013	..	847	5,546	8,406	
7	Mundra .. 1	230	39	1,922	..	93	3,632	5,647	
8	Nakhatrana 8	..	1,373	416	..	34	5,301	5,751	
9	Rapar .. 2	10	110	206	..	..	2,174	2,380	

Source :

Director of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

Of the total cultivated area of over 5.99 lakh hectares, nearly 49,000 hectares or 8.19 per cent of land were under irrigation in 1965-66, 32,733 hectares under well irrigation and 6,556 hectares under canal irrigation. Anjar taluka had the largest area (9,120 hectares) and Lakhpat the least under irrigation (765 hectares). Canal irrigation claimed the maximum area in Mandvi and Mundra, but well irrigation was maximum in Anjar and Mandvi talukas.

Area Irrigated by Crop

The following statement compares area of (a) food crops and (b) non-food crops irrigated between 1950-51 and 1965-66.

STATEMENT IV·5

Area under Irrigated Crops

(IN '00 HECTARES)

Crops	1950-51*	1955-56*	1960-61*	1965-66**
1	2	3	4	5
Total food crops	*340*	*369*	*416*	*314*
Wheat	73	121	79	95
Jowar	26	58	46	55
Bajri	162	139	232	144
Barley	21	15	6	4
Other cereals	1	..	..	..
Total cereals	283	333	363	298
Total pulses	..	..	40	..
Sugar-cane	2	2	2	3
Other food crops	55	34	11	13
Total non-food crops	*3*	*123*	*554*	*177*
Cotton	1	17	294	92
Groundnut	..	..	202	68
Other non-food crops	2	106	58	17
Total gross area under irrigated crops	**343**	**492**	**970**	**491**

Source :
Basic Agricultural Statistics, Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad, 1968, pp. 62,65
**Director of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

The principal food crops irrigated in the district are wheat, *jowar*, *bajri*, barley and sugar-cane. Non-food crops include cotton, groundnut and fodder. The talukawise figures are given in Statement IV·6 at the end of the Chapter.

Soil Erosion

Water and wind are very active forces in erosion of land. Erosion by wind occurs in coastal areas, if there is no protective vegetation. Denudation of forest areas due to ruthless cutting and grazing also leads to soil erosion. The physical configuration of land in Kutch is such that a rainfall of about 500 millimetres results in floods carrying away valuable top soil. Moreover, due to the existence of two hill ranges, the land being undulating is subjected to heavy erosion also by wind and rain.

To prevent soil erosion, conservation scheme is being systematically implemented in this district since 1958-59 by bunding slopy and unlevelled fields to retain and conserve rain water. This process of contour bunding not only prevents the fine layer of good soils being washed away but also improves the moisture content of the soil by holding and allowing water to sink into the ground. By conservation of water and regulation of the run-off, the top soil which is otherwise washed away is retained. This system of soil conservation has been found most suitable in Kutch where the soil is sandy and light. Due to the undulating topography in Kutch, there is scope for soil conservation all over the district, except Banni and parts along the Rann which are flat and saline and would not lend themselves to contour bunding. Out of about 2·31 lakh hectares that can be covered under this scheme, 66,796 hectares have been bunded between 1958-1967 by spending over Rs. 80 lakhs as shown below.

Contour Bunding, 1958-59 to 1967-68

Year	Areas of land bunded in hectares	Cost incurred in Rs.
1958-59	101	19,428
1959-60	1,373	196,741
1960-61	5,011	416,344
1961-62	3,147	341,930
1962-63	4,349	575,737
1963-64	7,211	820,104
1964-65	8,356	865,464
1965-66	10,128	1,556,882
1966-67	16,519	2,056,281
1967-68 (up to December 1967)	10,601	1,248,097
Total	**66,796**	**8,097,008**

Source :
Superintending Agricultural Officer, Gujarat State, Rajkot

Soils

The soils of Kutch can be mainly classified into (1) desert, (2) alluvial sandy, (3) medium black and (4) saline alkaline, though other types such as loamy, silty and clayey are also found at certain places. The northern part of the district is dominated by desert and sandy soils which are mostly salt affected soils. Proceeding southwards, the interior area is composed of either sandy or medium black soils. The southern part of the district

comprising the coastal area around Mandvi and Mundra has saline soils, suitable for cultivation. The eastern part is mostly plain with some rocky patches where the soil is sandy with clay and alluvial loam in some parts. The central portion is hilly and rocky with strips of cultivable lands along the lower slopes. The soil is poor but due to better underground water currents in this part the irrigation facilities are adequate. In the western part, the soils are mostly sandy with patches of fine sandy loams having no scope for well irrigation. The soils in Kutch are generally poor in plant nutrients and the lime content in most of them is quite high. Detailed soil survey has not been undertaken so far in Kutch.

Cropping Pattern

The total area under cultivation in 1965-66 was 608,916 hectares of which food crops claimed 58 per cent and non-food crops 42 per cent. There is thus a preponderance of food crops over non-food crops as in the rest of the State, though there has been a marked increase in recent years in the growth of cash crops the area under which has risen from 29·41 per cent to 41·83 per cent between 1950-51 and 1960-61.

Food crops can be divided into cereals and pulses. Among cereals the main crops are *jowar*, *bajri* and wheat, while among pulses *mag* and *math* constitute the principal varieties. Among non-food crops cotton and groundnut predominate. Cultivation of such crops as rice, gram, *tur*, sugar-cane, tobacco, chilli, garlic, etc., is either totally absent or negligible due to inadequacy of rains and poor soils. In 1965-66 these crops together occupied a total of less than 656 hectares in the whole district.

Area under different crops during 1950-51, 1955-56, 1960-61 and 1965-66 is given in the statement that follows.

STATEMENT IV·7

Area under Different Crops for the Years 1950-51, 1955-56, 1960-61 and 1965-66

(IN '00 HECTARES)

Sl. No.	Crops	1950-51*	1955-56*	1960-61†	1965-66†
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Wheat	73	121	79	96
2	*Jowar*	615	1,204	902	1,022
3	*Bajri*	1,101	561	1,105	1,469
4	Other cereals	22	15	8	5

STATEMENT IV·7—*contd.*

(IN '00 HECTARES)

Sl. No.	Crops	1950-51*	1955-56*	1960-61†	1965-66†
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Total cereals	*1,811* (55.60)	*1,901* (43.91)	*2,094* (37.25)	*2,592* (42.57)
5	*Mag*	227	375	596	495
6	*Math*	214	477	501	414
7	Other pulses	..	..	3	16
	Total pulses	*441* (13.54)	*852* (19.68)	*1,100* 19.57)	*925* (15.19)
8	Sugar-cane	2	3	3	2
9	Total fruits and vegetables ..	40	28	42	12
10	Condiments and spices	5	3	4	1
11	Other food crops	..	..	27	..
	Total food crops	*2,299* (70.59)	*2,787* (64.38)	*3,270* (58.17)	*3,532* (58.01)
12	Groundnut	10	41	260	507
13	Sesamum	44	105	86	118
14	Castor seeds	4	63	65	63
15	Other oil-seeds	2	6	4	2
	Total oil-seeds	*60* (1.84)	*215* (4.97)	*415* (7.38)	*690* (11.33)
16	Cotton and other fibres	89	518	772	746
	Total fibers	*89* (2.73)	*518* (11.98)	*772* (13.73)	*746* (12.25)
17	Total fodder crops	809 (24.84)	809 (18.69)	1,164 (20.71)	1,121 (18.41)
18	Other non-food crops	..	..	1	..
	Total non-food crops	*958* (29.41)	*1,542* (35.62)	*2,352* (41.83)	*2,557* (41.99)
	Total area under crops	**3,257**	**4,329**	**5,622**	**6,089**

NOTE : Bracketed figures show percentages.

Source :

**Statistical Handbook of Kutch*, 1955-56, Government of Kutch, Bhuj, 1956, pp. 102-103

†Director of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

Out-turn of Crops

The out-turn of principal crops in the district during the period 1950-51 to 1965-66 is given in the following statement.

STATEMENT IV-9

Out-turn of Principal Crops

(IN '00 TONNES)

Sl. No.	Crops	1950-51*	1955-56*	1960-61†	1965-66†
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Wheat	30	120	86	80
2	*Jowar*	60	93	21	130
3	*Bajri*	180	119	405	533
4	Other cereals	13	14	5	4
5	Pulses	50	42	248	214
	Total food-grains	*333*	*388*	*766*	*962*
6	Groundnut	11	27	67	215
7	Sesamum	5	11	12	25
8	Castor seeds	N	13	23	16
9	Cotton	40	161	350	577

N = Negligible

NOTES : Production of cotton is in hundred bales of 178 kg. each.

Source :

**Statistical Handbook of Kutch*, 1955-56, Government of Kutch, Bhuj, 1956, p.104

†Director of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

The principal crops in which the out-turn during the last two decades is noteworthy are groundnut, cotton, sesamum, *bajri* and *jowar*. In the rest of the crops there is no significant change except for minor fluctuations owing to the vagaries of monsoon.

Kharif and Rabi Crops—The crops, food and non-food, grown in the district can be grouped under two main heads, Kharif and Rabi. The Kharif or the rain-fed crops are sown in June-July and harvested in October-November. The Rabi or irrigated crops are sown in September-October and harvested in February-March. The cropping pattern in Kutch is necessarily Kharif as no important crops are grown in Rabi season in the absence of adequate irrigation facilities. The most important Kharif crops

are *jowar* and *bajri* which covered 41 per cent of the cultivated area in the district in 1965-66. The eastern and southern areas which have better soils and usually a slightly higher rainfall have a large area under cotton which is an important cash crop of the district. Other important Kharif crops besides *jowar*, *bajri* and cotton are *math* and *mag* among food crops and groundnut among cash crops. The main Rabi crops grown in the district are wheat and *adad*. The pluvial dependency of different crops is reflected in the fact that about 98 per cent of the area sown is under Kharif and only two per cent under Rabi crops. Another noteworthy feature of the crop structure in Kutch is the preponderance of food crops over non-food crops.

Cereals

Jowar—Jowar is the most important cereal crop occupying 102,179 hectares with an out-turn of 13,000 tonnes in 1965-66 in the district. It is grown all over Kutch but more extensively in Abdasa, Anjar and Rapar talukas which accounted for nearly half of the total area under this crop. Cultivation of *jowar* has gradually increased in recent years from 61,512 hectares in 1950-51 to 102,179 hectares in 1965-66, when it occupied about 29 per cent of the area under food crops and about 17 per cent of the total cropped area. It is mainly a Kharif crop but is grown also in the Rabi season. *Jowar* is grown for a dual purpose, i. e., for grain and fodder. As fodder it is grown mainly in Mandvi and Bhachau talukas. For Kharif sowing the field is prepared during April or May. Sowing operations start just after the first rainfall which is usually in June or July. Flowering and grain formation start in the beginning of September and harvesting takes place generally from the second week of October and may sometimes continue till November. Its yield per hectare on an average varies from 115 kg. to 125 kg. which compares unfavourably with the State average of 225 kg. to 235 kg. *Jowar* as a Rabi crop is cultivated mainly in Mandvi and to some extent in Mundra, Abdasa and Nakhatrana. Varieties popular in Kutch are *Gundari*, E. 56 and S. 213.

Bajri—Bajri is another important cereal grown throughout the district. It covered 56,089 heactares in 1955-56, which increased to 146,938 hectares in 1965-66. Its out-turn similarly increased from 11,888 tonnes in 1955-56 to 53,300 tonnes in 1965-66. Bhachau, Abdasa and Rapar, however, constitute the major area for *bajri* cultivation which among themselves account for more than half the total areas under *bajri* in Kutch. It occupied nearly 42 per cent of the land under food crops and about 24 per cent of the total cropped area of the district in 1965-66. The timings of various agricultural operatoins for *bajri* are the same as those for *jowar*. The important varieties in use are hybrid and 28-15-2. *Bajri* is also grown during summer on experimental basis in areas where irrigation facilities are available, especially for seed purposes.

Wheat—Wheat is a Rabi crop raised by irrigation. The total area under wheat crop in 1965-66 was 9,565 hectares of which 40·16 per cent were concentrated in Nakhatrana and Rapar talukas where soil conditions are conducive to its growth. Its out-turn during the same period was 8,000 tonnes. Wheat is sown usually after Dessera in the third week of October and the sowing operations continue till the first week of November. The crop is harvested in February or March. Wheat gives an average yield of about 1,000 kg. rising to about 1,500 kg. per hectare in good seasons. The main varieties grown are N. P. 710 and N. P. 824.

PULSES

Pulses occupy a very important place in Kutch as the area they commanded was the largest compared to other districts of Gujarat during the entire decade 1952-53 to 1961-62. But because of poor yield, it occupies a sixth place in the overall production of pulses.

The pulses grown in Kutch include *mag, math, adad, kalthi* (horse gram), gram, *chola* and *val*. Of these, the first two are the most important and occupy 98 per cent of the area under pulses.

Mag occupies the largest area (49,538 hectares) which was 54 per cent of the total area under pulses in 1965-66. Its out-turn during the year was 11,786 tonnes. Grown all over the district, its cultivation is extensive in Bhuj, Nakhatrana, Rapar and Bhachau which accounted for more than half the area under this crop. The average yield of *mag* comes to about 110 to 125 kg. per hectare.

Math gives an average yield of about 75 to 100 kg. per hectare. Grown all over the district it comes next occupying 41,366 hectares or 44·72 per cent of the area under pulses. The out-turn of *math* in 1965-66 was 9,246 tonnes. Its cultivation is mainly concentrated in Anjar, Rapar, Nakhatrana and Bhuj talukas which accounted for 70·56 per cent of the area under this crop. *Math, mag* and other pulses are Kharif crops mostly grown as mixed crops with *jowar* and *bajri*.

OIL-SEEDS

The oil-seeds grown in the district are groundnut, sesamum, mustard, rape and coconut among edibles and castor and linseed among non-edibles. Those which are important are groundnut, sesamum and castor. The total area nuder oil-seeds in 1965-66 was 68,984 hectares of which 90·91 per cent were under edible and 9·09 per cent under non-edible oil-seeds. Of the edibles, groundnut claimed a major portion covering 50,659 hectares or 73·43 per cent, sesamum 17·13 per cent and all others only 235 hectares. Castor among non-edibles was grown over 6,272 hectares.

Area and production of oil-seeds have gradually increased especially during the last two decades due to their higher prices and greater demand. In 1949-50 the area under oil-seeds was about 4,573 hectares which rose to 68,984 hectares in 1965-66. Their production likewise increased from 1,219 tonnes to 25,706 tonnes during the same period.

Groundnut—Next to cotton, groundnut is the most important cash crop which is extensively grown in Nakhatrana and Mandvi talukas of the district. It is a Kharif crop sown in July harvested in November. It gives an average yield of 656 kg. per hectare depending upon weather conditions. The varieties mostly used in the district are Samarala 1. A. H. 32 and S. B. 11.

Sesamum—Unlike groundnut, *til* or sesamum is generally grown as a mixed crop along with castor or *bajri*. It is grown all over the district, though its cultivation is extensive in Vagad area comprising Bhachau and Rapar talukas. Its average yield per hectare varies from 16 kg. to 40 kg. depending upon the rainfall during the year.

Castor—Castor, another important oil-seed, is mostly cultivated in Vagad. Grown as a mixed crop with cotton, *til* or *mag*, it gives an average yield of 40 to 50 kg. per hectare in good season.

Cotton—Cotton is the most important cash crop of Kutch, which at one time claimed about one lakh acres under cultivation. It was after 1930 that the area under cotton began to decline. There were definite indications after 1930 of a considerable falling off both in its quantity and quality. The area under cotton which stood at 36,826 hectares in 1930-31 came down gradually to about 14,973 in 1937-38, then to 10,117 hectares in 1949-50 and ultimately as low as 6,839 hectares in 1952-53 when food prices were very high. This was due to low prices of cotton prevailing during the period as also to deficient and irregular rains in cotton growing tracts, resulting in a preference being given by the cultivators to the cultivation of grain and fodder crops. During the First Plan period the Government of Kutch introduced new varieties of cotton which induced farmers to increase its cultivation. A Cotton Research Station was also started at Bhachau to improve the quality and yield of cotton. Cotton growing also became more remunerative as it fetched better price than before. In the result, cultivation of cotton increased gradually and rose to 77,214 hectares in 1960-61. Its decline to 74,567 hectares in 1965-66 was, however, due to inadequate rainfall.

Cotton cultivation in Kutch is mainly concentrated in the eastern talukas of Bhachau and Rapar which constitute the tract known as Vagad producing 70 to 90 per cent of the total produce. As one proceeds westwards, the area under cotton diminishes rapidly and becomes practically nil in the western talukas of the district. The intensity of cotton cultivation also falls off from south to north.

(Bk) H-49—25 (Lino)

Cultivation of cotton is carried on in both Kharif and Rabi seasons. It is sown in the months of July-August after food and fodder crops are sown. The picking or harvesting of *kala* (cotton balls) starts in December-January. Kalyan and Gujarat 67 are the main varieties cultivated in the district. The average yield varies from 16 to 28 kg. per hectare depending upon the rainfall and irrigation facilities.

Sugar-cane - Grown in some scattered areas near Bhuj, Mandvi and Nakhatrana, sugar-cane crop does not have any importance in Kutch as the soil and climatic conditions are not suited to its growth. Its cultivation which was never extensive in this district has dwindled down from 324 hectares in 1949-50 to 237 hectares in 1965-66.

Fruits and Vegetables - Area under fruits and vegetables is not extensive in Kutch and is confined to Mandvi, Anjar and Abdasa talukas, where mango, banana, *papaya*, *chiku*, *jambu*, guava, coconut and dates are grown. In 1965-66 the total area under all fruits was 285 hectares. Dates grown in Kutch are well-known since olden days though they are now grown only on a small scale. As recorded by the former *Gazetteer*, "Inferior to those from Arabia, Persia and Sind, the Cutch date is better than any other grown in western India."[1] The district has a Fruit Research Station at Khedoi and a Fruit Development Farm at Mundra which evolve and supply better grafts and seedlings to cultivators.

Vegetables include carrot, onion, potato, brinjal, *bhinda* (lady's finger), tomato, cabbage and others which accounted for 885 hectares in 1965-66.

Condiments and Spices - Kutch does not grow condiments and spices to any appreciable extent. In 1965-66, they were grown in 151 hectares only of which 108 were under chilli.

Crop Calendar

The calendar of agricultural operations for important crops in the district is given in the statement that follows.

Sl. No.	Crops	Sowing months	Harvesting months
1	2	3	4
1	*Bajri*	June-July	October
2	*Jowar*	August	December
3	Wheat	October-November	February-March-April
4	Cotton	June-July	January-February-March
5	Groundnut	June-July	October
6	*Mag* and *math* ..	June-July	September-October

Source :

District Statistical Abstract, Kutch District, 1960-61, p. 3

1. Campbell Sir, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 107

Crop Prospects—Kutch which was at one time surplus in food-grains owing to the inundation of the Indus suddenly became a deficit area after the earthquake of 1819 which diverted the course of its waters by raising the well-known Allah-Bundh. The yield of principal crops in Kutch has always remained much lower than in other parts of Gujarat due to unfavourable factors like scanty rainfall, unfertile soil and absence of irrigation facilities. The average yield of food-grains during the year 1963-64 was 159 kg. per hectare in Kutch as against 568 kg. in Gujarat as a whole. Handicapped as it is by natural factors, Kutch has to strive hard for the maximum conservation of rain water by bunding, construction of storage dams and reclamation of additional area to improve its crop prospects.

Agricultural Implements and Operations

Implements of agriculture and methods of cultivation have not changed much and have for the most part remained the same as will appear from the following extract from the former *Gazetteer*.

> "The ordinary field tools are; the plough, *hal*; the weeding plough or hoe, *kalia* or *ramp*; and seed drill, *dantal*; the weeder, *vikhedo* or *dhundiu*; the hoe, *kodali*; the scythe, *datardu*; the hand hoe, *kharpi*; the rake, *dantali*; the scraping hoe, *pavdo*; the leather water bag and lift, *kos*;[1] and for harvest work, a high stool; a leather covered cane or iron winnowing fan, *supdu*; and a leather or leather-covered bamboo basket. Though its value is best understood in garden-land villages manure is carefully preserved throughout the country. In the dry weather, sheep and cattle are fed, stalled in the fields, and litter is laid about them and afterwards stored. House and yard sweepings are in most places carefully gathered. In the hot weather they are spread on the land, and the field ploughed or worked with the hand hoe, *kodali*. Less commonly, the soil is first loosened and then manured, an acre of watered land getting on an average from 30 to 40 cart-loads (11 to 15 tons) of manure.
>
> "After spreading his fields with manure the husbandman ploughs it once or twice. The plough, drawn by one pair of bullocks, does not go more than three inches deep. A skilled cultivator rakes off roots, weeds, and dry sticks, and levels the ground. A less careful worker uses only the hoe, *kalia*, or in poor lands, fit only for pulse, does nothing till the rainfalls. After the first rainfall (June-July) millet, *bajri*, is sown, the seed being mostly covered by the harrow. After the millet is in, comes the sowing of cotton and of *guvar* and *korad*, two kinds of

1. The chief parts of the water lift are, besides the leather bag, *kos*, two untanned leather ropes, a larger, *varat*, and a smaller, *varatdi*; two uprights supporting a wheel one foot nine inches in diameter and with a one foot long iron or wood axle, and close to the ground a wheel two feet two inches long and about six inches in diameter on which the smaller rope works.

early pulse. When millet, *bajri*, and pulse, *guvar* and *korad*, are about a foot high the space between the rows is loosened by weeder, *vikhedo*. Millet is sometimes weeded by the hoe, both before and after the loosening, and is occasionally more than once loosened with the weeder, but for pulse one loosening is thought enough. When cotton plants are about a foot high, the earth about them is loosened by the weeder, hoed and weeded a second time, and after the second weeding, to wither the surface roots and drive down the main roots the best husbandmen again plough and level the field. In garden lands, *vadis*, millet, *bajri*, is chiefly grown. Cotton and Indian millet, *juvar*, are seldom raised as garden crops. If the rainfall is timely, millet wants no water in the beginning of the season. But if there are no signs of rain before the end of June, the field is ploughed and levelled, divided into beds, *kyaras*, and the seed sown and watered. When the plants are about a foot high, the soil is twice weeded by the hand hoe, *kharpi*.

"The harvest operations are : for cotton three pickings about the end of February, at intervals of ten or fifteen days ; for millet about the beginning of October, first the cutting of the heads and afterwards of the stalks ; for Indian millet, also early in October, either the cutting of the heads and afterwards the rooting up of the stalks or the cutting of heads and stalks together about a foot from the ground ; for early pulse, *mag* and *guvar*, in October, the close cutting over by a shovel, and for *korad*, almost at the same time, the digging out by the hoe, *kharpi*."

Under the changed conditions created after Independence improved implements like iron ploughs and tractors and mechanical devices such as oil-engines and pumps have been growing in popularity as a result of encouragement given by Government. Implements recommended by the Agriculture Department are sold to the cultivators by approved agents at subsidised rates being 50 per cent of the cost or Rs. 50 whichever is less. By the end of the Third Plan period nearly 1,800 implements were supplied to cultivators under this scheme.

The following statement compares some of the important implements in use in the district according to the Livestock Census of 1951, 1956, 1961 and 1966.

STATEMENT IV·10

Agricultural Implements in use during 1951, 1956, 1961 and 1966

	1951*	1956*	1961*	1966†
Plough	28,564	33,064	33,962	33,643
(i) Wooden	28,474	32,917	33,594	33,143
(ii) Iron	90	147	368	500

STATEMENT IV·10—*contd.*

	1951*	1956*	1961*	1966†
Carts	30,919	33,722	32,664	32,545
Sugar-cane crushers	60	95	371	62
(i) Power	5	26	142	29
(ii) Bullocks	55	69	229	33
Oil-engines	732	1,494	2,463	3,446
Electric pumps	57	19	266	734
Tractors	14	34	33	75
Ghanis	197	286	127	118
Persian wheels or Rahats	..	..	20	101

Source :

* *District Census Handbook* 1961, Kutch

† *Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. IX, No. 1, Published by Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Gujarat, Ahmedabad, 1969, pp. 206-207

Increase in the use of ploughs, oil-engines, pumps and tractors is significant.

Seed Supply

As a general practice most of the cultivators keep a reserve stock of the farm produce and use it for sowing in the next season. Others obtain them from co-operative societies which supply improved varieties of seeds recommended by the Department of Agriculture. A few of the cultivators obtain their requirements from the well-to-do cultivators or from local merchants. Before 1948, improved varieties of seeds were unknown in Kutch in the absence of seed multiplication farms. When Kutch became a Part C State after merger, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture sent their experts to study the agricultural conditions of the State. Pursuant to their recommendation a separate Department of Agriculture was created under an Agricultural Officer in 1951 and improved varieties of paddy, *jowar*, *bajri*, cotton and groundnut were introduced.

The local variety of wheat known as *vajiya* was highly susceptible to rust and had poor yield. It was replaced by introducing such improved and rust resistant varieties as C-591, Kanphad, N. P. 718, etc.

To dispel the prevalent belief that paddy cannot be grown in Kutch, the department soon induced a few cultivators to grow Basmati variety with very encouraging results in areas where irrigation facilities were available. The

yield recorded was as high as 45 B. Mds. per acre in Sukhpar, Rapar and Bhuj. Wagad cotton which was cultivated extensively was gradually disappearing and had fallen from about 18,000 bales in the thirtiees to 1,100 bales in 1947-48. The popular belief that long staple American cotton cannot be grown in Kutch was removed by growing 134 CO_2 and 170 Co_2 on Government farms. The cultivation of this variety has now been introduced in different parts of the district where irrigation facilities exist. Other varieties like Laxmi, Vijay, Kalyan and 216 F have also been tried successfully. As a result of the introduction of these and other high yielding varieties, the production of cotton increased to 16,000 bales in 1955-56 and further to 35,000 bales in 1960-61 though it came down to 14,000 bales in 1963-64 due to inadequate rainfall. Kutch has at present six seed multiplication farms one each at Mundra, Rapar, Nakhatrana, Anjar, Kothara and Shirva (Mandvi) which evolved and distributed improved seeds as shown below.

Distribution of and Area Covered by Improved Seeds, 1962-63 to 1965-66

Sl. No.	Year	Wheat		Cotton		Groundnut	
		Distribution in m. tons	Area covered in hectares	Distribution in m. tons	Area covered in hectares	Distribution in m. tons	Area covered in hectares
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Total ..	**296.7**	**3,486**	**591.5**	**65,954**	**433.6**	**4,157**
1	1962-63 ..	1.3	18	..	..	11.2	124
2	1963-64 ..	109.5	1,201	57.9	4,092	52.0	528
3	1964-65 ..	91.3	1,232	109.3	8,828	175.8	1,779
4	1965-66 ..	94.6	1,035	424.3	52,434	194.6	1,726

Source :
District Agricultural Officer, Kutch

The largest area under improved seeds is claimed by cotton, an important cash crop of the district followed by groundnut and wheat.

Rotation of Crops

The rotations followed in this district are as under.

A. Two years rotation

1 *Bajri* and groundnut
2 *Jowar* and cotton
3 *Bajri* and pulses
4 *Bajri* in Kharif and wheat in Rabi
5 Groundnut and vegetables

B. Three years rotation

1 *Bajri*, groundnut and cotton
2 *Jowar*, cotton and pulses

Manures and Fertilisers

Local Manures —The livestock population in Kutch is large enough to produce farm yard manure required for agricultural purposes. Wherever there are large flocks of sheep, the farmers bargain with the shepherds and feed and keep them on their fields for a few days to get the land manured with urine and excreta. The land being infertile its requirements of manure is very great. The cultivators supplement their local supply by collecting cattle dung manure from the Banni area and refuse from surrounding towns and villages. The municipalities and bigger panchayats also supply town compost and rural compost. About 6,096 tonnes of rural compost and an equal quantity of town compost were thus made available to cultivators in 1967-68.

Fertilisers Of late, the importance of chemical fertilisers has been realised by the cultivators because of the relatively higher yield accruing from their use. Only a few years back, fertilisers were not used anywhere in Kutch. Chemical analysis has shown that soils of Kutch contain less percentage of nitrogen and phosphoric acid which affect their fertility. The Government of India, therefore, made a free supply of 20,155 kg. of sulphate of ammonia to make cultivators fertiliser-minded, when Kutch was Part C State. Cultivators who were first hesitant to use chemical fertilisers were impressed by their results and started using them. Super phosphate was thereafter introduced which also became equally popular as seen from the following figures.

Fertilisers Sold, 1961-65

(QUANTITY IN M. TONS)

Year	Ammonium sulphate	Urea	Super phosphate	Fertiliser mixtures
1	2	3	4	5
1961-62	148	37	43	N. A.
1962-63	158	1	87	N. A.
1963-64	239	23	119	21
1964-65	261	24	76	37
1965-66	793	58	95	44

N. A. = Not available

Source :
District Agricultural Officer, Kutch

Agricultural Pests and Diseases

Various factors neutralise the good effects of a favourable crop production. They are : (1) natural forces, (2) inroads by birds and animals, (3) pests

and diseases. Crop damages caused by natural calamities like floods, storms and severe draughts are occasional. Stray cattle that cause damage can be prevented by proper fencing. But pests and diseases are responsible for an appreciable loss of agricultural produce which must be controlled by scientific methods to relieve the acute shortage of food in the country. Locusts have been an ancient menace to agriculture in Kutch. Field rats also abound in large numbers. No effective steps were taken to combat their ravages in the past. The menace of wild animals was also great. The prohibition against hunting crop destroying wild animals was removed only after the death of Maharao Khengarji in 1942.

Those pests which are commonly found in the district are stem borer and blister beetle which damage cereal crops like *jowar*, *bajri*, wheat, etc., aphids which affect *jowar*, cotton, groundnut and vegetables ; pink boll worms which are widely spread in cotton crops ; thrips and fruit borers which destroy fruit and vegetable crops, and mango stem borers which affect mango trees. Dusting or spraying with D. D. T., benzene hexachloride or nicotine sulphate helps in protecting the plants from such pests. Among crop diseases the most widely prevalent is *jowar* smut which affect *jowar* crop after the formation of the ear heads and ultimately destroys the grain seeds. The disease is controlled by sulphur treatment. To combat these pests Government makes approved insecticides and pesticides available to cultivators at subsidised rates which are 50 per cent of the cost price.

Progress of Scientific Agriculture

In the absence of systematic attempts for the development of agriculture on scientific lines, the use of improved seeds and chemical fertilisers was unknown in Kutch before 1947. Improved implements were not employed. Scientific experiments and research could not be undertaken without a regular department of agriculture. The first attempt in this direction was made in 1949, when the Government supplied chemical fertilisers to cultivators for improving the yield per acre. Pest resistant varieties of seeds were also introduced. A separate Department of Agriculture opened in 1951 started a number of activities for the development of agriculture, organised campaigns to destroy locusts and fight other pests and diseases of crops, advised cultivators on measures of crop protection and supplied them with insecticides and pesticides at subsidised rates. To educate the cultivators in modern farming practices an Agriculture School was established at Vandhay in 1951, where the trainees are given practical training in the use of improved implements, chemical fertilisers, pesticides, etc.

During the First Plan period three Government Farms were opened one each at Nakhatrana, Bhachau and Mundra. The farm at Nakhatrana conducts agronomical and soil conservation research ; the Bhachau farm carries on crop improvement experiments and the farm at Mundra experiments in fruit development. For advising the cultivators about the suitability of soil and water for different crops a laboratory has also been opened at Bhuj where samples of soil and water are tested.

The Agriculture Research Centre opened at Kothara in 1957-58 works at evolving high yielding and better varieties of crops which can grow under low and uncertain rainfall conditions of the district. Various experiments conducted at the Centre have shown that the use of sulphate of ammonia in a fixed proportion helps increase the yield per acre even under precarious rainfall conditions. In 1962-63, a research sub-station was started at the centre to evolve high yielding varieties of *bajri*. The research carried out there has proved that hybrid *bajri* gives the maximum yield. A fruit research station opened in 1962 at Khedoi in Anjar taluka conducts experiments on increasing the yield of dates, *papaya*, grapes and other fruits. There are six seed multiplication farms in the district where the improved varieties of seeds selected and evolved by the research farms are multiplied and distributed to the cultivators through co-operative societies. All these measures coupled with the schemes of supplying improved implements, oil-engines, tractors, insectides and pesticides at concessional rates have induced the cultivators to adopt scientific and better methods of farming hitherto unknown in Kutch.

State Assistance to Agriculture

Kutch did not have any special agency for State assistance to agriculture till its merger with Bombay State in 1957 when a branch of the Saurashtra Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank, Rajkot, was opened at Bhuj. After the formation of the Gujarat State from 1st May, 1960 the Land Mortgage Bank was redesignated as Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank which took over the entire work of financing the agricuturists in the State. The advances made by the Bank to Kutch cultivators from 1957 to 30th June, 1967 totalled over Rs. 93 lakhs as detailed below.

	Purpose	Amount advanced (1957 to June 1967) (in Rs.)
1	Sinking of new wells and repairs to old wells	3,653,725
2	Oil-engines, electric motors, pumping sets, etc.	4,194,629
3	Purchase of tractors	557,986
4	Contour bunding	167,405
5	Farm houses and machine rooms	183,530
6	Redemption of old debt and other unclassified purposes	592,394
	Total	**9,349,669**

Source :

Annual Report, 1966-67, Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank Limited, Ahmedabad, pp. XXIV-XXV

(Bk) H-49—26 (Lino)

The statement given above shows that more than 90 per cent of the advances given by the Bank were utilised for increasing irrigational facilities like purchase of oil-engines, electric motors, pumping sets, etc., and construction of new wells or repairs of old ones.

Animal Husbandry

Since olden times Kutch is known for its livestock as seen from a reference to the Kutchhi cows, काच्छो गौ : in Panini (600 B. C.). Even today there are nearly 1½ times as many animals as there are people in Kutch. The rural population, therefore, finds the pursuit of cattle breeding better adapted to the erratic and uncertain rainfall conditions which constantly recur this area. The Kutch cow has long been one of the best dual purpose strains in India. The Kankrej and Thani breeds of cows have long been famous. Vast grazing areas in Banni have provided ideal conditions for the maintenance and raising of cattle in Kutch. Inhabited mostly by *maldharis* or cattle breeders, this area produces high quality milk and *ghee*. Milk was at one time in such abundance that it was never sold giving rise to a popular saying ' ખીર ને પુતર ફેર વિકાગે ! ' (who will sell milk and son ?) Banni *ghee* used to be exported on camel back to Gujarat, Rajasthan and Sind. But the conditions are different these days as cattle breeding is resorted to mainly for sale of cattle in North Gujarat, Bombay and other places.

At the end of the last century the total heads of cattle in Kutch numbered 206,441 due to heavy losses inflicited by the *chhapna* famine which have since risen to 981,792 in 1966, registering more than fourfold rise in 60 years. The following statement gives population of livestock in Kutch according to the last four censuses.

STATEMENT IV·11

Livestock Population from 1951 to 1966 in Kutch District

Category of livestock	Population according to 1951 Census*	Population according to 1956 Census*	Population according to 1961 Census*	Population according to 1966 Census†
Total livestock	**817,560**	**911,433**	**940,223**	**981,792**
1 Bullocks and cows ..	277,816	370,689	460,280	389,272
(a) Males over 3 years ..	83,328	89,172	94,294	90,374
(b) Females over 3 years	106,487	142,344	201,705	158,481
(in milk) ..	(70,039)	(81,695)	(116,019)	(98,018)
(c) Young stock ..	88,001	139,173	164,290	140,417

STATEMENT IV·11—*contd.*

Category of livestock	Population according to 1951 Census*	Population according to 1956 Census*	Population according to 1961 Census*	Population according to 1966 Census†
2 Buffaloes	57,385	59,500	80,489	75,510
(a) Males over 3 years ..	841	788	1,327	890
(b) Females over 3 years	36,423	36,033	49,406	44,912
(in milk) ..	(20,051)	(19,758)	(28,059)	(24,467)
(c) Young stock ..	20,121	22,679	29,756	29,708
3 Sheep	217,611	225,682	180,707	214,764
4 Goats	247,098	234,120	200,147	285,205
5 Horses and ponies ..	2,823	3,550	6,307	3,068
6 Mules	9	..	26	45
7 Donkeys	5,700	7,990	5,420	6,217
8 Camels	9,088	9,854	6,658	7,688
9 Pigs	30	48	180	23
Total Poultry	**4,697**	**9,374**	**17,047**	**16,911**

Source :

* *District Census Handbook* 1961, Kutch

† *Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. IX, No. 1, Published by Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Gujarat, Ahmedabad, 1969, pp. 102-105

The livestock population returned at the Census of 1966 accounted for 389,772 cows and bullocks, 75,510 buffaloes, 214,764 sheep and 285,205 goats. Camels numbered 7,688, donkeys 6,217 and horses and ponies 3,068. The pastoral nature of its rural economy is apparent from its having 39·65 per cent of cows and bullocks and 50·92 per cent of sheep and goats in the total cattle wealth of Kutch. The livestock population of the district has registered a steady increase from one quinquennium to another between 1951-61, and has risen from 817,560 in 1951 to 981,792 in 1966 registering an overall increase of 20 per cent in 15 years. This increase is noticed in most of the categories of livestock. Cows have increased by 49 per cent, bullocks by 8 per cent, buffaloes (in milk) by 22 per cent, goats by 15 per cent, horses and ponies by nine per cent and donkeys by nine per cent. But the camel population which is the highest in this district decreased by 15 per cent and sheep by one per cent during the same period.

As cattle play a vital role in the economy of this district, improvement in the quality of their breed is a matter of great importance. For this

purpose Government runs a cattle breeding farm at Bhuj, a sheep breeding farm at Nakhatrana, and a camel breeding farm at Dhori.

Fodder Crops—As animal husbandry happens to be one of the main occupations of the people fodder crops are grown all over the district. In 1951, about 25 per cent of the land under cultivation grew fodder. The proportion declined to 18·70 per cent in 1955-56 but rose to 20·71 per cent in 1960-61. In 1965-66, it occupied 112,149 hectares forming 18·42 per cent of the cultivated area.

Poultry—Poultry raising has shown substantial progress since 1951 and increased from 4,697 to 16,211 in 1966. However, there are no poultry farms—public or private—in the district.

Animal Diseases The prevalence of cattle diseases is one of the most serious obstacles to the improvement of cattle. No programme of cattle development can be successful unless effective steps are taken to prevent cattle population from the ravages of diseases. The commonly prevalent animal diseases in the district are rinder-pest or *balia mata*, anthrax or *kalio tav*, black quarter or *ganthio tav*, and foot and mouth diseases or *kharvaso* and *movaso*. To control these diseases, veterinary hospitals and centres located at different places in the district inject preventive vaccinations to animals, which numbered over 71,000 in 1966-67. Inspite of this, 1,689 animals were affected by various diseases which claimed a toll of 572 lives. As the following statement shows, while foot and mouth disease is the most widespread among all diseases, the black quarter and anthrax have proved to be the most fatal.

STATEMENT IV·12

Animal Diseases Recorded, 1966-67

Name of the disease	Cattle		Buffaloes		Sheep		Goats		Total	
	Attacks	Deaths	Attacks	Deaths	Attacks	Deaths	Attacks	Deaths	Attacks	Deaths
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1 Rinderpest ..	74	30	34	4	..	..	..	..	108	34
2 Foot and mouth disease ..	643	52	386	1	..	..	..	..	1,029	53
3 Anthrax ..	..	..	..	..	63	58	360	305	423	363
4 Black quarter	129	122	..	..	..	..	..	..	129	122
Total ..	**846**	**204**	**420**	**5**	**63**	**58**	**360**	**305**	**1,689**	**572**

Source :
District Animal Husbandry Officer, Bhuj

FISHERIES

One of the most prominent gulfs of India, the Gulf of Kutch, surrounds this district providing it with some of the richest fishing grounds containing such important species as pomfrets, prawns, Bombay Ducks, etc. Simultaneously it presents optimum conditions for the growth and sustenance of some of the most valuable species of fish like Pearl-oysters, Window pane oysters, Chanks and other Shell fish.1

This district has the advantage of possessing a vast seacoast extending over nearly 300 km. having 20 fishing villages actively engaging about 500 persons in fishing. No systematic attempts for the development of fisheries, however, were made till 1951, when a separate department for fisheries was opened by the Government of the Part C State of Kutch. It introduced various schemes to provide facilities to fishermen. Improved implements were made available at concessional rates, fish curing yards were established and co-operative societies were organised to provide the necessary finance.2 An ice plant was also established at Kandla for cold storage and preservation of fish in the year 1962.

The fisheries of Kutch can be broadly divided into three categories, viz., (1) Marine, (2) Inland, and (3) Backwater Fisheries.

1. *Marine Fisheries*—The Gulf of Kutch with its long coast line of 290 km. extending from Surabari to Jakhau and influenced by the tidal waters of the Arabian Sea is one of the most productive habitat of commercially important marine fishes, viz., Prawns, Bombay Ducks, etc. The gulf also provides potential fishing grounds for major fishes such as Pomfrets, Palla, Surmai, Ghol, Dara, etc. The Kutch fishermen with their comparatively low range boats of 1 to 5 tonnes capacity usually do not venture to exploit the more productive grounds beyond 10 fathom line and confine themselves only to inshore fisheries. Unexplored and unexploited virgin fishing grounds beyond 10 fathom line in the Gulf of Kutch are considered to be good fishing grounds for big Prawns, Dara, etc.

2. *Inland Fisheries*—Kutch now has vast areas of water sheets in the form of irrigation and other dams which can be profitably utilised for fish culture by stocking them with quick growing carp fry. The exact idea and scope of development of inland fisheries could be had only during the Second Five Year Plan, when all the available water sheets such as dams, reservoirs, etc., were surveyed and the flora and fauna and hydrological data about areas suitable for fish culture ascertained.

1. *Souvenir on Fisheries of Gujarat (1961)*, Published by Director of Fisheries, Ahmedabad

2. "આપણું કચ્છ—વિકાસનાં તેર વર્ષ" કચ્છ કોંગ્રેસ પ્રકાશન, ૧૯૬૨, પાન ૧૩૭–૧૩૮

3. *Backwater Fisheries*—The backwater fisheries in Kutch district are mainly confined to the Maliya-Surabari area where during the rainy season, the sea-water and the Banas river water intermix due to floods. Prawn fisheries is the main fishery in this area which yields heavy landings of this species during the season starting from July and extending up to the end of September.

Various types of local fishing crafts and gears are used by Kutch fishermen which differ according to the area of operation, nature of fishing ground and the kind of fish available in a particular season.

As seen earlier, Surabari, Kandla, Tuna, Sanghad, Bhadresar, Luni, Shekhadia, Mundra, Jarpara, Navinal, Layja, Mandvi, Modhva, Gundiali, Jakhau, Narayan Sarovar, Koteshwar and Lakhpat are important fishing centres besides Bambhadai, Suthari, etc., which are of minor importance.

The commercially important marine fish of the district comprises the following varieties.

(1) *Harpodan nehereus* locally known as *bumla* and popularly known as Bombay Ducks is available in Tuna, Luni, Bhadresar, Modhva and Layja during November to March. It is consumed in fresh as well as dried form. Dried Bombay Ducks is mainly exported to Bombay by sea.

(2) *Mugil dussumeri* locally known as *chhodi* and commonly called Mullet is available in plenty in the Gulf of Kutch. The season starts from October and extends up to December. The fresh fish is generally consumed locally and dry one exported to Bombay.

(3) *Silver and Black pomfrets* are landed in appreciable quantities during the period November to March, mainly at Kandla, Tuna, Bhadresar, etc. They are consumed locally, fresh as well as dry and hence not exported.

(4) *Hilsa ilisha and Hilsa toli* are available in Kutch waters from July to September near Surabari and from January to March near Layja. Salt cured fish is exported to Bombay, but is consumed fresh locally.

(5) *Polynemus indicus*, locally called *dara*, is caught between February and April near Layja by the South Gujarat fishermen.

(6) *Polynemus tetradactylum* locally called *rawas* is also caught during the above season.

(7) *Psuedosciaena dicanthus* locally called *ghol*, is landed in good quantity between February and April. This fish is also being exploited by

the South Gujarat fishermen camping at places like Modhva and Nana Layja. It is generally salt cured and exported to Bombay market.

Besides the afore-mentioned marine fishes, species of Prawns are also exploited from Kutch waters. However, as stated earlier the existing resources are not fully explored by the local fishermen. Commercially important fisheries like Pomfrets, Ghol, Dara, and Prawns in off-shore and deep-sea regions have vast scope for the development of marine fisheries in Kutch.

Fishing Crafts—The Kutch fishermen with their low range crafts are exploiting the above resources up to the limit of 10 fathom line only. Different types of crafts are used by fishermen depending mainly on the area of the operational ground. These local boats are either mechanised or non-mechanised. Mechanisation is not much popular among Kutch fishermen mostly due to their poverty and inability to produce adequate surety required for getting financial aid for the purpose from the department. Their adherence to superstitious beliefs and ignorance and backwardness also make the programme of mechanisation very slow.

Fishing Gears—The fishermen of different villages of Kutch are operating with various types of nets at different fishing centres. The types of gears used in each centre vary according to the area of operation and types of fish caught. As compared to the gears of old, the famous synthetic twine nylon has become much popular among fishermen during recent years. But due to poverty and financial stringency, some of them still use old cotton twine and coir ropes in making gear.

The department has established a 12 tonne ice plant at Kandla during the year 1962-63 with the facility of cold storage. The fish traders' co-operative societies as well as fishermen are supplied ice at cheaper rates, as and when required. Facilities for cold storage of fish are also extended to traders in fish. In addition to all the above facilities an insulated road van is also kept ready at the disposal of fishermen and fish merchants to supply ice at different fishing villages whenever required. Efforts are still in progress by the Department of Fisheries for the construction of ice factories as well as for providing other preservation facilities in the district preferably in the co-operative sector on loan-*cum*-subsidy basis.

Important schemes for the development of fisheries in operation in this district include (a) mechanisation of fishing crafts, (b) supply of fishery requisites, (c) grant of financial assistance for improvement of fishing boats, (d) development of co-operative societies, (e) facilities for preservation, marketing and transport of fish, etc., for which a total expenditure of over Rs. 2·95 lakhs was incurred during the Third Plan period.

The following statement gives information about the production, export and local consumption of fish from 1961-62 to 1963-64 in Kutch.

Production, Export and Local Consumption of Fish, 1961-62 to 1963-64

Year	Total production		Local consumption		Export	
	Quantity in kg.	Value in Rs.	Quantity in kg.	Value in Rs.	Quantity in kg.	Value in Rs.
1961-62	2,004,018	392,072	206,942	66,506	1,797,076	325,566
1962-63	1,857,094	378,685	83,283	42,131	1,773,811	336,554
1963-64	1,725,807	410,453	56,088	29,381	1,669,719	381,072

Source :

Annual Administration Reports of the Department of Fisheries, 1961-62, 1962-63 and 1963-64, Ahmedabad

Administrative set-up of the Fisheries Department

The Superintendent of Fisheries with his headquarters at Kandla works under the Assistant Director of Fisheries, Rajkot. He implements the various development schemes at the district level and is assisted in his work by four Fisheries Officers and other technical staff. The Research Officer, posted at Jamnagar looks after the research and investigation of Pearl and Chank fisheries, sea-weed, etc., in the Gulf of Kutch. He has under him two Senior Research Assistants, one Fisheries Officer and other technical staff.

Forests

The importance of forests in a region like Kutch can never be minimised. They are a valuable source of revenue to the Government and provide various types of timber for building purposes and fuel for domestic use. They prevent soil erosion and provide grazing grass in times of scarcity. The effects of forest on climate are also well-known.

From a far remote period in the past until about 1880 the tree growth on the lands of Kutch was subjected to denudation and excessive destruction by men and beasts. In 1880, the old *Gazetteer* described Kutch as a bare country with no forests and few trees. "In the first half of the last century nothing impressed English visitor to Kutch so unfavourably as the barenness of the counrtyside, and the complete absence both of trees and anything that could be considered jungle. This state of affairs was the combined result of centuries of denudation of the soil caused by destructive torrents during the rains and of the merciless cropping of everything green by the

large herds of camels, and especially of goats which roamed everywhere and grazed at will." No attempts were made till the beginning of this century to preserve and protect precious vegetation of the district. Maharao Khengarji was the first ruler of Kutch to initiate definite steps for the protection of certain areas known as Rakhals wherein tree felling and grazing were prohibited. Another noteworthy step taken by him was to invite, in 1932, Sir Peter Clutterbuck, once Inspector General of Forests, India to study and report on the possibilities of developing forests in Kutch State. He observed that there were great possibilities of developing forests in Kutch provided suitable measures as suggested by him were taken. During the course of his study tour, Sir Clutterbuck found that the tree growth and the lands of Kutch were subjected to excessive destruction both by men and beasts, which required to be stopped by closing the Rakhals for grazing.

Sir Clutterbuck made the following suggestions for the improvement of forestry in Kutch in the "Report on the possibility of Development of the Forest Areas in Kutch" submitted by him and published by the Darbar in 1933 : (1) demarcations and mapping of Rakhals, (2) experimental plantations in nurseries for introducing better species of trees, (3) planting of trees singly or in groups enclosed by a stiff thorn fence, (4) regular water supply in Rakhals by constructing irrigation dams for watering during dry climate, (5) planting of catchment areas below irrigation dam and along water canals, (6) roadside planting and (7) encouragement of forest industries.

As a result of the policy pursued by Maharao Khengarji the area under Rakhals began to increase gradually and in 1942, at the end of Khengarji's reign, it stood at 518 sq. km.[1]

Even at present there are no regular forest areas in Kutch but only scrub jungles or 'Rakhals' covering 48,562 hectares. As the climate of the district is dry and the rainfall scanty, the Government lays great stress on the preservation of trees. Out of 56 Rakhals admeasuring 48,562 hectares, 41 Rakhals have been declared protected forests and the rest thrown open to surrounding villages for grazing cattle, free of any charge.

The total forest area in Kutch during 1966-67 was 952·52 sq. kilometres.

Reserved forest	....	...	103·24 sq. km.
Protected forest	...	...	202·72 -do-
Unclassed forest	...	...	646·56 -do-
Total	...	...	**952·52 sq. km.**

Source :
Divisional Forest Officer, Kutch division, Bhuj

1. Rushbrook Williams, L. F., *The Black Hills*, London, 1958, p. 28

(Bk) H-49—27 (Lino)

Before 1948 there was a small department known as Grass Department which looked after the collection, storage and sale of grass. The Government of India after it took over charge of Kutch State closed the Grass Department and opened a Forest Department in 1948 which implemented a number of schemes for the development of forests. These are at present executed by the Divisional Forest Officer, Kutch, with headquarters at Bhuj.

Firewood and charcoal, grass, *padola fal* (*prosopis juliflora*), *kharek fal* (*phoenix sylvestris*), *gugal* (*balsamodendrona mukul*) and minor-minerals are the important forest produce which yielded a revenue of Rs. 1·25 lakhs during the period between 1964 and 1967.

The following are the schemes executed for the improvement of forest and grass lands in the district.

1. *Plantation on Coastal Border*—The object of this scheme is to afforest and stabilise large tracts of coastal areas. It was introduced during the First Five Year Plan and was known as "Scheme for the fixation of sand dunes." During the Third Five Year Plan it was renamed "Scheme for the plantation on coastal border." The areas covered under the scheme during the first three plans totalled 809 hectares.

2. *Afforestation on Desert Border*—The object of this scheme is to provide for afforestation of desert border by creating green belts for protecting fertile land from the advancing Rann area. It was introduced during the First Five Year Plan and was known as the "Scheme for immobolisation of Kutch and Rajasthan deserts." A total of 2,571 hectares of land have been afforested at a cost of Rs. 918,615 during the three plan periods.

3. *Improvement of Mangrove Forests*—This scheme is being implemented since the First Five Year Plan with a view to protecting harbours and port areas against siltation by planting mangroves. During the three plan periods an area of 1,498 hectares has been covered at a total cost of Rs. 109,558.

4. *Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests*—This scheme was introduced during the Third Five Year Plan. Due to improper treatment some of the forest areas have become devoid of tree growth. Measures were taken to plant these areas with trees and protect them from erosion and further deterioration. Between 1961-66 an area of 486 hectares was covered under the scheme at a cost of Rs. 89,562.

5. *Afforestation of Forest Area*—Introduced during the Second Five Year Plan, the scheme aims at afforesting arid and blank areas in the district. 337 hectares of such areas were covered under the scheme at a cost of Rs. 74,968.

6. *Improvement of Grazing*—This scheme was worked during the Second Five Year Plan to improve the quality of fodder by introducing suitable nutritious grasses and by elimination of coarse and unpalatable varieties. An area of 304 hectares has been covered.

7. *Agave Plantation*—The object of this scheme is to raise a strong agave hedge along forest boundaries which would prevent cattle and fire from entering the forest areas. Introduced during the Third Five Year Plan it covered the forest boundary extending over about 12·8 km.

8. *Fuel Plantation*—This scheme was started in 1966-67. It aims at raising fuel plantation in suitable areas in the vicinity of towns and villages to remove acute shortage of fuel at places where there is complete absence of forests. The area covered during the year was 162 hectares and the cost Rs. 52,286.

FAMINES

Rains in Kutch are scanty. They begin in July and by the end of August generally yield on an average about 305 to 330 millimetres of rain. But this average hides wide annual fluctuations. It is estimated that out of ten years, only three years in Kutch are generally good, two are famine years and five are lean years.

Early Famines—Referring to the early famines the former *Gazetteer* (1880) observed :

> "As the Cutch water-supply depends almost wholly on the rainfall, and as the rainfall is most uncertain, droughts are common. The saying is that a famine comes once every ten years. Blights are rare, but much damage is often done by locusts, and sometimes a little by frost. Of the early famines very little is known. In 1577 Cutch passed through a time of much distress. The well-to-do were ruined, and even large landlords, Jaghirdars, were forced to seek help from the Rao. During the latter half of the eighteenth century there were seven famine years 1746, 1757, 1766, 1774, 1782, 1784 and 1791. The 1746 famine was severe. To relieve the poor the Rao had large quantities of food cooked near the Bid or grain market gate of Bhuj, and allowed all who came to eat what they liked, and take home enough for one other person. In 1791 the rains failed and the country swarmed with black ants which were eaten in large quantities by the cattle. During the present century there have been many bad years. In 1803 a scarcity caused by locusts was in the next season followed by a failure of rain. Jamadar Fateh Muhammad, then at the head of the state, opened shops in Bhuj and sold grain at about twenty-six pounds the rupee (4 *patis* the *kori*). Large numbers migrated to Sind and returned after rain fell. Nine

years later (1813) came the fiercest and most destructive famine on record. Destitute and unruly bands passing to Sind plundered the villages, and grain was sold only in well guarded stores. Prices once rose to ten pounds the rupee (1½ *patis* the *kori*). To relieve the distress, work was offered on the Desalsar lake at Bhuj, on a daily wage of four-fifths of a pound (½ *pati*) of grain. Well guarded grain shops were also opened in Bhuj, Mandvi, Mundra, and Anjar, and private charity helped by giving daily doles of food. The distress, increased by bands of destitute wanderers on their way to Sind, was most severe. Many sold their children for food. A cat or dog was a delicacy and even human flesh was eaten. In 1815 still known as *underiu* or the rat year, a promising early harvest was destroyed by rats, which swarming over the fields carried off the ears of corn and stored them in their holes. In 1820 heavy rain rotted the grain and Indian millet and wheat were frostbitten, grain prices rising to about thirty-nine pounds the rupee (6 *patis* the *kori*). In 1825 the failure of rain caused great scarcity. To relieve the distress a large number of wells were dug, the Hamirsar lake was deepended, the workers receiving a daily wage of four-fifths of a pound (½ *pati*) of grain, and food was distributed both by the state and by private persons. In 1826 rats again appeared, but did less damage than in 1815. In 1834 the promise of a good harvest was destroyed by locusts, who ate every green thing, crops, grass, and tree leaves. One flight swept through Bhuj filling some of the houses so thickly as to put a stop to all cooking. Grain rose to twenty-six pounds the rupee (4 *patis* the *kori*). 1839, 1841 and 1842 were years of want. Rao Desalji employed the destitute in building several palaces and in working at the Hamirsar and Desalsar lakes. Between two and three thousand workers were employed, the daily wages being at the rate of 1 3/5 pounds (1 *pati*) of grain for a man and four-fifths of a pound (½ *pati*) for a boy. 1846, 1849, and 1858 were years of short rainfall and failure of crops, with grain at from twenty-six to thirty-nine pounds the rupee (4 to 6 *patis* the *kori*). In 1861 an almost complete failure of rain caused much distress. Work was offered on the Desalsar and Hamirsar lakes, the labourers being paid a daily wage of 1 3/5 pounds (1 *pati*) for a man and 4/5 of a pound (½ *pati*) for a boy. Grain duties were remitted and at state stores grain was sold at from thirty-three to thirty-nine pounds the rupee (5 to 6 *patis* the *kori*). Between 1862 and 1877 came a succession of unfavourable seasons. In 1868 the state opened a store, *pedhi* and sold grain at the rate of twenty-six pounds the rupee (4 *patis* the *kori*). In 1869 the promise of a good harvest was destroyed by locusts, and in the two following years the rain was scanty and the crops bad. The 1872 crops were damaged by locusts, and from scanty and unseasonable rain those of the next three years were so poor that many people were forced to leave Cutch. In 1877 the rain, though abundant, was unseasonable, the early crops failed and the scarcity pressed hard on

the poorer classes. A kind of lark, *banda*, did much damage scraping the seed out of the fields. To relieve the distress half the grain import dues were remitted, wells were dug and works opened, chiefly the Tuna-Anjar and Mandvi-Bhuj roads. Local subscriptions were collected; some rich merchants sold grain at low prices; and supplies were forwarded for distribution by Cutch residents in Bombay."[1]

The famines which followed in subsequent years are dealt with below.

The total rainfall of the year 1891-92 was less, unseasonable and unfavourable to crops. Scarcity of grain and fodder was felt to be unusually pressing. Inhabitants of Jakhau, Lakhpat, Nakhatrana, Khadir and Khavda were temporarily removed to Sindh and Gujarat. The areas around Mandvi and Anjar were visited by a flight of locusts which added to the hardship of the people.

The famine of 1899-1900 popularly known as *chhapana* famine as it occurred in Samvat year 1956 of the Vikram era was severe beyond any precedent. Kutch suffered from famine owing to the short rainfall, which was only two inches, or one-sixth of the average. Cultivators lost the seeds sown by them and monsoon crops failed. By the end of September acute scarcity of grain and grass, and in some parts of water also, began to be felt. The prices of food grains went up by about 50 per cent and those of fodder by 200 to 300 per cent. A number of cattle died for want of grass. A fair price shop was opened by the State at Bhuj for the sale of grain at cheap rates and private charity was stimulated to give relief in other parts of Kutch. A number of wealthy Kutchi merchants of Bombay opened grain shops in their native villages and towns. The State opened relief works at various places. 369 new wells were sunk. Taccavi advances were made to the extent of 57,110 *koris* and a sum of 70,000 *koris* was sanctioned for constructing wells and bunds. During the year, the State gave employment to 49,000 persons in various relief works besides providing gratuitous relief to about 5,000 persons. The total cost of relief works exceeded Rs. 24 lakhs, and Rs. 3,755 contributed by the Bombay Relief Committe was distributed in charitable relief.

20th Century—The 20th century opened in Kutch with a series of famine years. The famine of 1899-1900 was followed by a succession of bad years. The relief works opened in 1899-1900 had to be continued in 1900-1901 till new crops were grown. The year 1901-1902 again proved a failure as the rainfall was only one-fourth of the normal. New relief works costing about 67,000 *koris* to the State were, therefore, opened. Before the end of the decade two more lean years followed in 1904-1905 and 1905-06. The year 1911-1912 was again a total failure. Recurring famines over a

1. Sir Campbell J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, pp. 107-109

decade led to increasing migration of the people outside Kutch. Rainfall in 1911 was uneven to the extent that in some parts not an inch of rain fell. Those cultivators who had the means, were able to raise certain amount of Kharif crops by irrigation, but the poorer ones and several of the labouring classes migrated to Sindh. The State opened relief works and spent a total of 91,041 *koris* during the year. The second decade was not as difficult as the one which preceded it, though the lean years of 1918-19 and 1919-20 hit the people hard as they followed in succession. In the third and the fourth decades there were no severe famines but scarcity conditions prevailed in certain parts of Kutch in 1920-21, 1931-32, and 1932-33. The year 1939-40, however, brought a very severe famine. The average rainfall amounted to only 1 inch 37 cents. The Kharif crops were a total failure. Cultivators were encouraged to take up irrigated crops but the prospects were none the brighter mostly due to scarcity of water and want of bullock power. The tendency to migrate to other parts during famine was considerably checked during this year, as relief works were organised on an extensive scale. A Famine Relief Committee was formed by the State which organised relief measures and spent nearly 23 lakh *koris* during the year. Various other measures were also taken by the State to mitigate the effects of famine. Grains intended for distribution to the poor and feed and fodder for the cattle were exempted from customs duty. Animals were allowed to be taken out of Kutch without permit. Permission to cut sea-shrubs, like *cher* to feed the cattle was freely granted. The State's share of the fodder crops was foregone and grass stored in the State reserves supplied to the public. Permits to import oil-engines and pumps for irrigation purposes and motor lorries for transportation of grain and fodder were granted liberally. Boring, repairing and deepening of wells and tanks were undertaken all over the State.

The decade 1941-1950 again saw two lean years and a year of severe famine. The distribution of rainfall during the year 1940-41 and 1942-43 was uneven throughout and in some parts the early rains were below half the normal. The average rainfall reported during the year 1942-43 was 7·60 inches (193 millimetres). The talukas of Bhuj, Anjar, Mandvi, Nakhatrana, Abdasa, Lakhpat, Rapar and Bhachau were the hardest hit. Several relief measures were, therefore, undertaken by the State in the affected areas.

1948-49 proved to be a famine year. Rainfall was extremely inadequate and uneven. The whole district was declared a famine affected area and Rs. 61 lakhs were earmarked by the Government for the relief measures which consisted of constructing irrigation dams, providing loans to *maldharis* and agriculturists, extending financial assistance to *panjarapols* and giving free doles to the disabled. The Kutch Famine Relief Committee was formed by Kutchi traders in Bombay with a view to helping the Government in the distribution of food-grains and fodder and in other relief measures. It collected Rs. 5·60 lakhs of which Rs. 2 lakhs were loaned to the Government for

starting relief works. A Central Famine Relief Committee consisting of five Government members and 36 members from the public was formed in Kutch to co-ordinate public and governmental measures and provide speedy relief to the victims. Public and State relief measures were supplemented by private charity which came in form of free transportation of goods by sea and free loading and unloading of food-grains at the ports, etc.

The year 1950 witnessed heavy floods. A heavy downpour on 13th and 14th of July inundated vast areas in the district. Bhuj received over 457 millimetres of rain in two days ; it was 229 mm. in Nakhatrana, 254 mm. in Mundra and 381 mm. in Anjar. Flooded rivers destroyed a number of houses and damaged many bridges and dams. A sum of Rs. 12 lakhs was spent by the Government to provide relief in flood affected areas. Scarcity and famine conditions again prevailed in different parts of Kutch during 1952-53, 1957-58, 1960-61, 1961-62, 1962-63, 1963-64, 1965-66 and 1966-67. The conditions were more severe during 1957-58 and 1960-61 when scarcity affected as many as 811 and 665 villages respectively. The expenditure incurred by the Government for providing relief to the affected areas amounted Rs. 11 lakhs in 1957-58, Rs. 7 lakhs in 1960-61, Rs. 39·51 lakhs in 1963-64 and Rs. 12·94 lakhs in 1966-67.

Weak monsoons coming in succession during the last few years adversely affected the sustaining power of the people especially the agriculturists and cattle breeders. The *maldharis* sought Government assistance, which was promptly given by rushing train loads of grass, fodder and food. A large number of free fodder centres was opened all over the district to give relief to scarcity affected animals resulting in saving of lives of lakhs of cattle. In 1964 over Rs. 3 lakhs were spent in providing gratuitous relief to the destitutes in scarcity affected areas of Kutch. For the able bodied persons relief works were started in addition to the normal works of the Public Works Department and the District Panchayat. Government also provided facilities of drinking water in a number of villages either by water-tankers, carts or by giving them subsidy for digging wells, etc.

Scarcity Affected Areas- The Government of Bombay set-up a Fact Finding Committee in 1958-59, with a view to collecting full data regarding the famine and scarcity conditions in the State and making recommendations as to preventive and ameliorative measures to be taken in future. The Committee visited the district in 1959 and demarcated areas which suffered from chronic scarcity. It so graded the scarcity areas that those which suffered intensely due to failures of rainfall at frequent intervals could be distinguished from others where the failures were less frequent or less severe. It divided the scarcity areas into three categories, A, B and C according as there had been a total or almost total failure of crop once every (a) three years, (b) six years or (c) ten years respectively. Accordingly, (1) Anjar, Nakhatrana, Abdasa, Lakhpat, Rapar, Khavda, (now in Bhuj taluka) and

Khadir (now in Bhachau taluka) were declared as precarious areas of class A, (2) Mundra and Bhachau as scarcity areas of class B and (3) Bhuj and Mandvi as scarcity areas of class C. In other words, the entire district was recognised as an area "affected by chronic scarcity" to a varying extent.

The Committee felt that the scope of harnessing the rivers in Kutch for irrigation was limited, as there were no perennial rivers. It, however, recommended construction of medium and minor irrigation works, wherever possible. It also observed that due to its undulating topography there was scope for soil conservation all over the district, except Banni and parts along the Rann. The Committee observed that "the development of forests in this district where the average annual rainfall is hardly 12 inches is difficult". It, therefore, recommended that large areas which were not under crops and were open for grazing should be enclosed and developed for raising grass under the control of the Forest Department. As seen earlier measures to implement these recommendations have been taken up by Government by implementing schemes of irrigation, grassland improvement, soil conservation, water supply, etc.

STATEMENTS

(Bk) M-49—28 (Lino)

STATEMENT IV-6

Area of Principal Crops Irrigated by Taluka, 1965-66

(AREA IN HECTARES)

Sl. No.	Crops	Abdasa	Anjar	Bhachau	Bhuj	Lakhpat	Mandvi	Mundra	Nakhatrana	Rapar	District Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Total food crops ..	*1,941*	*4,713*	*2,478*	*5,758*	*743*	*4,528*	*2,360*	*5,423*	*3,488*	*31,432*
1	Wheat	999	632	722	2,365	366	629	11	1,663	2,078	9,465
2	*Jowar*	405	1,957	139	189	5	1,267	732	644	176	5,514
3	*Bajri*	269	1,865	1,484	2,897	294	2,252	1,434	2,726	1,129	14,350
4	Sugar-cane	..	15	1	152	..	40	..	27	2	237
5	Chillies	18	..	33	1	..	27	..	3	26	108
6	Other food crops ..	250	244	99	154	78	313	183	360	77	1,758
	Total non-food crops ..	*246*	*4,406*	*408*	*1,987*	*93*	*4,549*	*3,303*	*2,434*	*237*	*17,665*
7	Cotton	78	2,790	329	500	1	1,996	3,294	..	221	9,209
8	Groundnut	89	1,618	..	868	89	1,867	..	2,229	..	6,760
9	Fodder crops	78	..	79	619	..	470	9	188	16	1,459
10	Other non-food crops ..	1	..	..	..	3	216	..	17	..	237
	Total area under Irrigated crops	**2,187**	**9,121**	**2,886**	**7,745**	**836**	**9,077**	**5,663**	**7,857**	**3,725**	**49,097**

Source :
Director of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

STATEMENT IV-8

Area under Principal Crops by Taluka, 1965-66

(AREA IN HECTARES)

Sl. No.	Crops	Abdasa	Anjar	Bhachau	Bhuj	Lakhpat	Mandvi	Mundra	Nakhatrana	Rapar	District Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Total food crops ..	*45,801*	*37,740*	*52,215*	*45,492*	*12,565*	*32,130*	*22,451*	*27,264*	*77,358*	*353,216*
1	Wheat ..	999	632	722	2,365	366	629	11	1,663	2,178	9,565
2	*Jowar* ..	14,821	18,313	12,139	10,077	1,733	14,199	12,297	3,170	15,430	102,179
3	*Bajri* ..	24,741	8,746	27,252	12,675	5,429	10,583	3,278	7,812	46,422	146,938
4	Other cereals ..	46	..	..	50	..	20	..	355	2	472
	Total cereals ..	*40,607*	*27,691*	*40,113*	*25,167*	*7,528*	*25,431*	*15,586*	*13,000*	*64,031*	*259,154*
5	*Mag* ..	2,421	5,191	7,754	7,825	2,091	4,146	5,239	6,386	8,485	49,538
6	*Math* ..	2,001	4,599	4,214	12,236	2,492	2,037	1,433	7,603	4,751	41,366
7	Other pulses ..	550	..	..	3	376	187	94	205	186	1,601
	Total pulses ..	*4,972*	*9,790*	*11,968*	*20,064*	*4,959*	*6,370*	*6,766*	*14,194*	*13,422*	*92,505*
8	Sugar-cane ..	..	15	1	152	..	40	..	27	2	237
9	Condiments and spices ..	18	..	33	1	..	27	..	5	67	151
10	Brinjal ..	30	..	30	..	..	23	..	17	17	117
11	Other vegetables ..	168	244	59	105	76	87	4	11	19	768
12	Banana ..	2	..	..	..	..	27	26	10	..	65
13	Mangoes ..	4	..	..	..	..	81	45	..	..	130
14	Other fruits ..	5	..	11	3	2	44	24	..	..	89
	Total fruits and vegetables	*204*	*244*	*100*	*108*	*78*	*262*	*99*	*38*	*36*	*1,169*
	Total non-food crops ..	*17,257*	*31,459*	*42,442*	*35,925*	*6,939*	*33,402*	*22,694*	*25,548*	*40,034*	*255,700*
15	Groundnut ..	3,178	2,824	1,390	7,679	893	16,229	1,708	14,792	1,966	50,659
16	Sesamum ..	1,639	465	3,190	689	1,215	763	187	204	3,467	11,819
17	Other edible oil-seeds ..	..	..	..	..	..	216	..	17	2	235
18	Castor ..	155	444	2,815	265	162	268	72	8	2,063	6,272
	Total oil-seeds ..	*4,972*	*3,733*	*7,394*	*8,633*	*2,270*	*17,476*	*1,967*	*15,021*	*7,518*	*68,984*
19	Cotton ..	177	16,739	16,790	3,407	1	7,556	13,742	828	15,327	74,567
	Total fodder crops ..	12,108	10,987	18,258	23,885	4,668	8,370	6,985	9,699	17,189	112,149
	Total area under food and non-food crops ..	**63,058**	**69,199**	**94,557**	**81,417**	**19,504**	**65,532**	**45,145**	**52,812**	**117,592**	**608,916**

Source :
Director of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

APPENDIX

APPENDIX I

Minor Irrigation Projects in Kutch

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Sl. No.	Name of the project
	Projects Completed before the First Five Year Plan		
1	Lor	17	Rajda
2	Kalyanapur (Rapar)	18	Vijayasagar
3	Edmund Lake	19	Vanothi
4	Jhuran	20	Wandh
5	Bhuj	21	Khengarsagar
6	Fakirwadi	22	Serai
7	Wandh (Mandvi)	23	Satpur
8	Samatra	24	Varsa Modi
9	Mamuyara	25	Lunava
10	Madhapar	26	Kadoli
11	Zikdi 1 and 2	27	Kupadhar
12	Jamara	28	Ustia
13	Ratia	29	Kanoj
14	Naranpur	30	Tara
15	Dhrang	31	Lilpur 1
16	Kharod		
	Projects Executed in the First Five Year Plan		
32	Dhaneti	48	Jatawada
33	Lotia	49	Mauana
34	Padhar	50	Kalayanpur (Bhuj)
35	Babach	51	Jana
36	Kotay	52	Adhochpani
37	Vengdi	53	Vigodi
38	Dedhiya	54	Chavadka
39	Guniasar	55	Rasliya
40	Chhasara	56	Balapur-Budadro
41	Phot	57	Balachor
42	Kumbharia	58	Nalia
43	Bhuvad	59	Sarguja
44	Chang	60	Kapadisar
45	Lilpur 2	61	Kharuva
46	Badaragadh	62	Fulra
47	Mewasa	63	Gopalwadiwandh

(Bk) H-49—29 (Lino)

APPENDIX I—*contd.*

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Sl. No.	Name of the project
	Projects Executed in the Second Five Year Plan		
64	Faradi	74	Bela
65	Kotdi	75	Jadavas
66	Pundi	76	Sanva
67	Hatadi	77	Rakhadi
68	Kanajara	78	Barandha
69	Ratadiya	79	Burkhan
70	Surkhan	80	Waior
71	Rapar	81	Bhadra
72	Vastva	82	Bandia
73	Vamka		
	Projects Executed in the Third Five Year Plan		
83	Dhanoi	91	Dedrani
84	Adhoi	92	Khekda
85	Bambhanka	93	Gadaputha
86	Karuda dabhunda	94	Facharia
87	Wade tharawada	95	Khavda
88	Khodasar	96	Lodrani
89	Devalia	97	Jatavada 2
90	Koteshwar		

CHAPTER V

INDUSTRIES

Old Time Industries

Kutch is the home-land of many handicrafts carried on extensively from generation to generation. The entrepot trade of Kutch led to the natural development of several industries which were mostly in the form of crafts. The old *Gazetteer* of Kutch lists a number of industries which flourished in those days, when industrialisation as understood in the modern sense of the term was altogether absent. Some of the industries plied as traditional crafts still have their sway in the district. The important industries listed by the former *Gazetteer* are gold and silver, copper work, iron work, gilding, polishing, mason work, carpentry, cotton spinning and weaving, embroidery, dyeing, silk weaving, silk printing, shield making, oil pressing, bracelet making, tanning, etc. Cotton spinning and weaving occupied the pride of place in as much as "dark-blue and black cotton cloth used to be woven in large quantities for export to Zanzibar. Three varieties known as *jodi, sadiamu,* and *bungan* were much valued for the fastness of the dye."[1] Embroidery was another important craft in which the families of *Mochi* caste residing at Mandvi and Bhuj were engaged. Their skill was so highly valued that Kathiawar and other chiefs employed them and their work was in great demand all over India and abroad.[2] Alike embroidery, silk weaving and printing also engaged the attention of the artisans of Kutch. Silk weaving was carried on to a large extent only in Mandvi. Raw silk was imported from China, Bengal and Bokhara. The artisans of Khatri caste both Hindu and Muslim engaged themselves in weaving and dyeing. The silk fabrics were dyed by Khatris in pits dug on the banks of the dry river Rukamavati, because of the special quality of its water which made the colours fast and lasting. The printing of silk was also carried on by the Khatris of Mandvi to a small extent. In 1880, oil pressing industry engaged about 300 families of oil pressers of Ghanchi, Chaki and Bohora castes in extracting oil from sesamum, rape seed, castor seed and coconut kernels. Another important industry which flourished was tanning and shoe making. Bracelet making, shield making and confectionery were other industries of note.

An attempt was made to establish a candle and match factory at Bhuj in 1877 with some help from the State, but did not pay and the unit had to be closed. Kutch crafts received impetus in the reign of Maharao

1. Campbell J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 125
2. *Ibid.*, p. 126

Lakhpatji who exhibited keen interest in knowing what was happening in the outside world. Fortunately he got considerable help from a versatile genius Ramsingh Malam, who seems to have been born at Okhamandal about the beginning of the eighteenth century. He frequented the sea since his early days. During the course of his voyage to Africa, while he was still a lad, he suffered shipwreck. He was, however, rescued by a Dutch ship which was heading for Netherlands. While he stayed in Europe for eighteen years he acquired proficiency in several crafts. He became an expert in tile work, glass-blowing and enamel work for which the Dutch craftsmen were famous. He also acquired knowledge of clock-making, designing of buildings, stone-carving, and elements of foundry work and gun-casting after the European fashion. After his return to India he sought patron among the princes of Kathiawar and Kutch. Maharao Lakhpatji extended his patronage to Ramsingh who was provided with a workshop in the palace itself. The best craftsmen in gold and silver from all over Kutch were summoned to Bhuj to learn the art of enamelling. For more than a century and half after Ramsingh's death, the school of enamel work which he founded remained famous all over India.[1] He introduced several industries in Kutch including a glass factory at Mandvi where suitable sand was found. Watches and clocks were manufactured on the European model and an iron foundary established at Bhuj turned out excellent cannon. In appreciation of his services, the Maharao granted him village Kalyanpur in Bhuj taluka.[2]

INDUSTRIALISATION

Industrialisation is quite a recent phase in the economic development of the country and its various regions. Industrial activity as now understood was started in Kutch during the first half of the present century. The first step in the direction of mechanisation was taken in the textile industry as cotton happened to be an important raw material grown in this region. It had three ginning factories and one cotton press in 1903-1904. In 1941-42 there were nine ginning factories and three hydraulic presses, of which one ginning and pressing factory at Anjar was under State management. The pace of industrialisation, however, was slow and large scale establishments did not exist before 1930. During the reign of Maharao Shri Khengarji, Sir Geoffery Archer was granted monopoly for the manufacture of salt at Kandla. The construction of " Kutch Salt Works " later known as the United Salt Works and Industries Ltd., Kandla, was started in 1934 and completed in 1937. A cotton spinning and weaving mill also came into existence during this period. After the commencement of the Second World War, some more factories were added. Metal works engaged in manufacturing brass and copper utensils were started at Merau near Mandvi. A match factory was established in 1944-45 by Messrs Tejoo Kaya and Company near Mandvi

1. For details see L. F. RUSHBROOK WILLIAMS, *The Black Hills*, 1938, p. 139.
2. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 143

which was offered certain concessions and facilities by the Kutch Darbar to enable it to withstand foreign competition. An oil mill was also started by Seth Jiwandas of Mandvi.

An entirely new situation was created after Independence, when the administration of the State of Kutch was taken over by the Government of India and various schemes for the development of this isolated area were taken in hand. Plans for the development of the major port of Kandla, establishment of the modern township of Gandhidham and the construction of metre gauge rail link between Kandla and Deesa were initiated. The Sindhu Resettlement Corporation, established in 1949 at Adipur for the settlement of displaced persons, promoted a number of structural and utility industries. The Corporation installed a Besser plant for the manufacture of cement concrete blocks, a hume pipe factory for the manufacture of R. C. C. pipes and a pole factory for manufacturing electric poles. In 1949 an oil mill was established by the Kutch Oil and Allied Industries at Mandvi. In 1951 one more oil mill was added at Lakdia, Kutch Salt and Allied Industries Ltd. was started at Jakhau ; and Bharat Salt and Chemical Industries Ltd. at Mundra. More ginning and pressing factories were established at Mundra and Anjar in 1954 and 1955 respectively, followed by a big ginning and pressing factory and an oil mill at Anjar in 1959 under the auspices of M/s. Gulabchand and Company. With the establishment of Atul Drug House Ltd. at Kandla (1962) and Gandhidham Spinning and Weaving Mills at Gandhidham (1965), the total number of large scale establishments in the district according to the Annual Survey of Industries in 1965 rose to 19. Further impetus to industrialisation was given by the declaration of Free Trade Zone at Kandla which augurs well for the growth and development of a number of industries large and small, in this region which was hitherto backward.

KANDLA FREE TRADE ZONE

The country's first Free Trade Zone has been set-up in 1965 about 9·6 km. from Kandla and about 6 km. from Gandhidham on the Kandla-Ahmedabad National Highway. The Zone was declared open for allotment of plots and commencement of construction of factories on 7th March, 1965 by the late Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri. The main objective of a Free Trade Zone is to make merchandise competitive, eliminate overhead coasts, simulate re-processing industries for exports, and overcome inadequacies involved in the system of bonded warehouse. As no customs or central excise duty is to be paid on imported or excisable raw materials and component parts, the mechanism of Free Trade Zone results in reduction of investment expenditure. The Kandla Free Trade Zone will promote Indian exports, earn foreign exchange, effect fuller utilisation of the facilities at Kandla port and increase the employment potential of Kandla-Gandhidham area by promoting export—based industries.

The plan for the establishment of the Free Trade Zone provides for the following.

	Area (in square metres)
Plots	793,784
Industrial sheds	45,756
Marshalling yard	161,874
Park avenue	75,400
Roads and railway tracks	218,186
Total	1,295,000

Developed plots are available at a nominal ground rate of fifty paise per square metre per year on 30 years' lease. More than 100 parties have been approved for setting up industries. The Zone provides all the facilities that are available in a well-developed industrial estate. Besides ample and assured supply of power and water, it is well served by a net work of internal service roads, railway siding, fire fighting equipment and canteen facilities. The Zone enjoys favourable communication facilities in the major port of Kandla, which is well connected by air, rail and road. The Zone operator would be granted exemption from payment of customs duty on capital equipments, components, machinery, raw material, and consumable stores imported for installation or production of the goods within the Zone. The central excise commodities taken inside the Zone for production of goods for export are also exempted from payment of duty. Branches opened by two well-known scheduled banks provide banking facilities to the industries operating in this area. Till 9th August, 1968 four industrial units have been established in the Zone. Two industries are engaged in the manufacture of domestic electric appliances, stainless steel utensils, cutlery, pharmaceutical products, etc., the remaining other two are engaged in weaving, printing, dyeing of pure silk fabricks and embroidery on cloth of all types. 16 industrial units meant for small scale industries, having a floor area of 18 x 19 sq. m. with an open space of 18 x 9 sq. m. have been completed and are ready for occupation. The provisional yearly rent of each unit is Rs. 3,000.

Power

The development and economic prosperity of a region can be judged from its industrial and agricultural growth, both of which are dependent upon power. Prior to integration electricity was supplied to three towns only, viz., Bhuj, Mandvi and Anjar. The power stations at Bhuj and Mandvi, were owned by the Kutch Development Co., and that at Anjar by Shah Spinning and Weaving Mills. The total installed capacity of two D. C. power houses at Bhuj was 240 kW. and that of A. C. power house of Mandvi was 600 kW. The power station at Anjar had an installed capacity of 308 kW. After integration, it was felt that the Kutch Development Co. was not able to meet the needs of Bhuj and Mandvi as both these power stations generated about 521,344 units of energy (kW.) and could supply power to about 1,000 consumers. As there was persistent demand from the public for

extension of power supply, the Government of Kutch took over the electric undertakings at Bhuj and Mandvi under its control from 1st April, 1952. Meanwhile temporary licence was granted to Sindhu Resettlement Corporation which started the power house at Adipur with an installed capacity of 258 kW. for the supply of power to Gandhidham and Adipur.

Till 1948-49, there were about 9·66 km. of high voltage lines and 64·37 km. of low voltage lines, in the district. The Government of the Part C State of Kutch took steps to augment the existing supply of power and made a provision of Rs. 60·5 lakhs under the First Five Year Plan. As a result of the implementation of this scheme, a new power station was set-up at Bhuj in 1953 with an installed capacity of 300 kW. and a change over from D. C. to A. C. The capacity of the station was further augmented with the installation of a 75 kW. diesel generating set. A diesel power station was also constructed at Mundra with an installed capacity of 200 kW. at a total cost of Rs. 4 lakhs.

Power requirements of Kandla port next claimed the attention of Kutch Government during the Second Five Year Plan. Schemes for a Central Thermal Power Station at Kandla with an installed capacity of 6,000 kW. and extension of 33 kW. grid lines to principal towns in Kutch to curtail the cost of diesel generation were implemented at an estimated cost of Rs. 68·49 lakhs. To meet the anticipated demand of Kandla Port Trust and the industries to be established in the Free Trade Zone the generating capacity of the station is being increased by installing two 5,000 kW. sets. This work was completed and station was commissioned in September, 1969. In addition to this to interconnect the Kutch system with Gujarat grid system 132 kV. transmission line from Wankaner to Bhuj via Anjar is being erected with the associated 132 kV. sub-stations at Bhuj and Anjar. This will enable to meet the growing demand of power of Kutch area.

Statement V·1 given below compares the consumption of electricity by purpose in million kW. in 1955-56, 1960-61 and 1965-66.

STATEMENT V·I

Consumption of Electricity by Purpose

(IN MILLION KWH.)

Year 1	Domestic consumption 2	Commercial light and small power 3	Industrial power 4	Other purposes 5	Total utilisation of electricity 6
1955-56 ..	0.671	0.396	0.821	0.386	2.274
1960-61 ..	0.757	1.339	4.950	2.663	9.709
1965-66 ..	1.880	1.230	5.550	6.620	15.280

Source :

1. Census of India, 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part I-A(iii), *General Report on the Census, Economic Trends and Projections*
2. The Secretary, Gujarat Electricity Board, Baroda.

The figures of consumption show a rapid rise in the use of electric power for various purposes from one quinquennium to another, that is to say seven times between 1955-56 to 1965-66. Barring the year 1965-66, the main consumer of electical energy was the industrial sector where consumption had increased from 0·821 million kWh. in 1955-56 to 4·950 million kWh. in 1960-61. But in 1965-66, other purposes claimed 43·32 per cent of the total power consumed against 36·32 per cent by the industrial sector.

Factories and Workshops Classified by Kind of Power and no Power used—The use or otherwise of power helps obtain a proper perspective of the trend of mechanisation in industry and also reveals the relative importance of traditional crafts in the industrial structure of the district. In every 1,000 establishments that are in operation, 201 are worked by various forms of power and 799 without power. The following statement shows the distribution of establishments and persons employed according to kind of power or fuel used in 1961 as returned by Housing and Establishment Census.

STATEMENT V·2

Distribution of Establishments and Persons Employed According to Kind of Power or Fuel used, 1961

Total rural/urban	Kind of power or fuel used	No. of units	No. of persons employed	No. of persons employed per unit
1	2	3	4	5
Total	**Electricity**	**143**	**1,204**	**8.60**
	Liquid fuel	**215**	**654**	**3.90**
	Coal, wood and bagasse ..	**241**	**678**	**3.16**
	Other power	**1**	**1**	**1.00**
	No power	**2,392**	**5,570**	**2.79**
Rural	Electricity	11	135	12.30
	Liquid fuel	186	519	2.15
	Coal, wood and bagasse ..	183	490	2.12
	Other power	..	..	..
	No power	1,457	3,132	2.22
Urban	Electricity	132	1,069	8.13
	Liquid fuel	29	135	4.19
	Coal, wood and bagasse ..	58	388	6.40
	Other power	1	1	1.00
	No power	935	2,438	2.57

Source :
Census of India, 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part IV-B, (E Series Tables) *Housing and Establishment Tables*

Of the total number of 2,992 establishments worked by various forms of power 2,392 or 79·95 per cent do not use any power or fuel. Of the rest, 143 are worked by electricity, 215 by liquid fuel, 241 by coal, wood and bagasse and 1 by other power. The statement further goes to show that among the various types of power used, electricity is the least in use and liquid fuel the most in rural areas. But in towns it is electricity which takes precedence over other forms of power followed by coal, wood and bagasse and liquid fuel in order. The same order is revealed also in the extent of employment offered by establishments operated by the different categories of power or fuel in towns. Units worked without power claim the maximum number both in rural and urban areas. Their predominance in the economy of the district reflects the persistence of traditional crafts both in villages and towns, though comparatively greater in the former than in the latter. Though increasing use is made of electricity, the proportion of other fuels is observed to be comparatively higher, as large scale establishments are not many and traditional crafts and indigenous industries are mostly worked by liquid fuel or coal, wood and bagasse.

Rural Electrification—The table given below shows the progress made in rural electrification.

(NUMBER)

Year	Towns	Villages	Total
1950-51	.. 3	1	4
1961-62	.. 5	69	74
1965-66	.. 6	96	102

Source :
1. Government of Kutch, *Eight Years of Independence*, 1956
2. TRIVEDI R. K., Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part I-A (iii) *General Report on the Census, Economic Trends and Projections*
3. The Secretary, Gujarat Electricity Board, Baroda

While in 1950-51 it was the urban areas which alone were electrified, increasing attention has been paid to rural electrification during the Second and Third Five Year Plans raising the total number of villages to 96.

MINING

Exploitation of the mineral wealth of Kutch was not possible in the past on any appreciable scale owing to the paucity of financial resources required to tap them. Systematic surveys have, however, been made after Independence, both by the Geological Survey of India as well as by the State Directorate of Geology and Mining to assess the existence, extent of

(Bk) H-49—30 (Lino)

occurrence, composition and location of various minerals described in detail in Chapter I. This section, therefore, examines the possibility of their extraction for industrial use on a commercial basis. The known mineral wealth of Kutch is substantial and includes such important minerals as lignite, bauxite, salt, gypsum, lime-stone, fuller's earth, china clay, agate, bentonite, white clay, building material, red ochre, alum and aluminous shales, iron-ore, etc. The minerals which are important from the view point of industrial possibilities in the district are : (1) lignite, (2) bauxite, (3) gypsum, (4) salt, (5) lime-stone, (6) clay and (7) alum.

Lignite—The interest in lignite in the district is essentially related to its potential use for thermal power generation. Lignite is also used by locomotives and for cosmetic purposes in the form of briquette. It burns with little smoke when briquetted. The present day tendency is to carbonise lignite into such valuable constituents as slid carbon, gas, ammonia, oils and tars which are released for use in their appropriate fields.

Bauxite—Bauxite, the most widely used ore of aluminium is another important mineral available in the district. Excellent scope exists for calcining it, and manufacturing high alumina refractories, abrasives and alumina. Several aluminous chemicals, most prominent among them being alumina sulphate and alum, are produced from bauxite. Activated bauxite is used for decolourising, oil cleaning and many catalytic applications.

Gypsum—Next in importance to bauxite is gypsum. Deposits of gypsum are known to occur in the district on a substantial scale. Uncalcinated gypsum is used as a retarder in the manufacture of cement, while calcinated gypsum can be used for the manufacture of plaster of Paris. Gypsum is used in the manufacture of paints, crayon and paper and also as a natural fertiliser.

Salt—Being on the seacoast, the district abounds in salt, which is recovered at present from sea brine either in artificial pans or in open natural pans. There are in all 13 salt works in the district, of which 12 are major, six located at Kandla, two at Chirai and one each at Jakhau, Mundra, Padana and Shikarpur. The one at Adesar is run on a small scale basis. The production of salt in the district during 1967 was 3·16 lakh metric tonnes, as against 24·87 lakh metric tonnes for the State as a whole. In terms of percentage this district accounted for 12·71 per cent of the total production of salt in Gujarat.

Most of the rocks in the district are impregnated with salt found (i) between Sahera and Mundhan, (ii) near Haji pir and Luna, (iii) between Pachham elevation and Kuar Bet and (iv) between Khadir elevation and Chobari. Bitterns which are left over after the recovery of salt are a valuable source of chemicals such as sodium chloride, potassium chloride, etc.

Lime-stone is one of the main natural resources which the western part of Kutch is endowed with. Its uses are varied. The utilization of lime-stone for a specific purpose depends entirely on its physical and chemical properties. It is mainly used in the manufacture of cement. Its use as a building stone is well-known. It is employed as flux in the metallurgy industry. It is used also for the manufacture of calcium carbide and calcium cynamide.

In addition to these minerals, Kutch also possesses different types of clays such as bentonite, fuller's earth, etc. Alum shales found near Mata no Madh were extensively worked in the past for the manufacture of alum which was superior in quality to that of imported from England and China owing to its higher purity.

The foregoing description of minerals shows that a number of mineral-based industries described later in this Chapter can be established in the district.

The sub-joined Statement V.3 giving tonnage and value of minerals extracted in 1961 and 1965 shows substantial increases in the extraction of bentonite and building materials.

STATEMENT V·3

Quantity and Value of Minerals Extracted, 1961 and 1965

Sl. No.	Minerals	Production in Tonnes		Value in Rs.	
		1961	1965	1961	1965
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Gypsum	30	622	3,000	29,000
2	China clay	7	..	560	..
3	Agate	10	..	10,000	..
4	Bentonite	725	11,309	39,875	226,190
5	White clay	540	..	32,400	..
6	Other clay	20	563	1,000	11,250
7	Building materials including *kankar*, and sand murrum	25,000	89,850	..	77,196
	Total	**26,332**	**102,344**	**86,835**	**343,636**

Sources :

1. Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Gujarat, *District Statistical Abstract*, Kutch, 1961-62
2. Government of Gujarat : *Annual Administration Report, Directorate of Geology and Mining for the year* 1965-66

Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.—The Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. has been set-up by the Government of Gujarat as a State undertaking in 1963 and registered as a private limited company under the Companies Act, 1956 with the object of exploiting the mineral resources of Gujarat. It started with an initial authorised capital of Rs. 50 lakhs which has now been raised to Rs. 200 lakhs. The issued capital amounting to Rs. 74 lakhs has been fully subscribed by the Government of Gujarat. Its primary aim is to set-up and regulate some of the mineral-based industries to ensure maximum benefits to the public. So far as the Corporation's activities in Kutch are concerned, it proposes to undertake an integrated scheme of mining of bauxite, production of alumina, smelting of aluminium and fabrication of aluminium products on the basis of bauxite deposits available in the district.

Industrial Establishments—The 1961 Census has made available important data relating to industrial establishments by undertaking for the first time a complete Census of all such units in the country. According to this Census, Kutch district has returned a total number of 2,992 establishments engaged in the production of goods and employing 8,445 persons in the various branches of industry operated on household as well as non-household basis.

Statement V·4 given at the end of the Chapter shows the importance of establishments engaged in the manufacture of other wood and allied products ; of jwellery, silver wares and wares using gold and other precious metals of sundry hard-wares ; making of textile garments including production of rice, *atta*, flour, etc., manufacture of shoes and other footwear, etc. Other industries worthy of note are production of sweetmeat and condiments, cotton weaving in handlooms ; currying, tanning and finishing of hides and skins and preparation of finished leather, manufacture of brass and metal products, manufacture of *bidi*, repairing of bicycles and tricycles, etc. All these are industries, wherein traditional artisans and craftsmen like carpenters, blacksmiths, tailors, goldsmiths, food processers, weavers, shoemakers, etc., are for the most part engaged.

According to the 1961 Census, the workers employed in all the industrial divisions other than cultivation of land number 110,403 of whom 32,208 or 29·18 per cent work on household basis and 78,195 or 70·82 per cent on non-household basis. Manufacturing industries claim 24,297, of whom 16,347 or 67·27 per cent are workers at household industries.

Household Industries

Of the households engaged only in household industries 53·03 per cent work at manufacturing industries, textile cotton being the most important among them, followed by leather and leather products and manufacture

of wood and wooden products. Agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishing and hunting engage 46·76 per cent of the households of whom 97·60 per cent work at livestock and animal husbandry including hunting which is one of the most important economic activities of this region. The household basis of work is all the more important in traditional crafts wherein the village artisans and craftmen like weavers, carpenters, shoemakers, blacksmiths, potters, etc., are engaged. Another important feature of household industries is the extent of employment offered by them. While a majority of them are single member establishments, the strength of those wherein two to five persons are engaged is fairly large and those employing more than five persons much less. The greater concentration of household industries in rural areas as compared to towns where the number of such household is relatively less is significant. For the traditional artisans are more in demand in villages than in towns, where the gradual mechanisation of industry has been eliminating them to a far greater extent than in the countryside.

Trends of Industrial Development—The trends of industrial development during the last decade 1956-65 are reflected in the number of factories and workers compared in Statement V·5 given at the end of this Chapter. The total number of factories have increased from 29 in 1956 to 40 in 1960 and to 46 in 1965. During the period 1956 to 1960, total employment of industrial workers in the district has more than doubled. Between 1960 and 1965 employment rose but slightly from 3,751 in 1960 to 4,038 in 1965. Reviewing the progress made during 1956-60, it is noticed that there was noteworthy increase both in the number of factories and employment in the large scale sector. But in the small scale sector, although the number of factories increased by about 40 per cent, that of workers showed a slight decline during the same period.

Agro-based Industries—Among the numerous crops raised cotton and oil-seeds, as seen from the table given below, are of major industrial importance and have been conducive to the growth of ginning and pressing factories, textile mills and oil mills in the district.

Name of the crops	Year 1965-66	
	Area (in '00 hectares)	(Yield in '00 tonnes)
1 Cotton	746	578*
2 Groundnuts	507	215
3 Sesamum	118	25
4 Castor-seeds	63	16
5 Sugar-cane	2	8

*Production of cotton is in hundred bales of 178 kg. each.

Source :
Director of Agriculture, Ahmedabad

Registered Factories—The total number of registered factories according to the returns furnished by the Chief Inspector of Factories for the year 1966 is found to be 57, 11 in the public sector and 46 in the private sector of which 5 were closed. Their break-up according to the prescribed industrial classification is given in the statement that follows.

STATEMENT V·6

Registered Factories and Workers, 1966

Sl. No.	Name of the Industry	Total No. of factories	Total No. of working factories	No. of working factories submitting returns	Average No. of workers employed daily in working factories
1	2	3	4	5	6
	I—Public Sector				
1	Transport equipment	5	5	4	233
2	Electricity, gas and steam	5	5	5	152
3	Products of petroleum and coal ..	1	1	1	71
	Total ..	*11*	*11*	*10*	*456*
	II—Private Sector				
1	Processes allied to agriculture (gins and presses)	14	13	11	557
2	Food except beverages	14	11	9	1,793
3	Textiles	1	1	..	200
4	Printing, publishing and allied industries	1	1	..	20
5	Chemicals and chemical products ..	1	1	1	77
6	Products of petroleum and coal ..	3	3	2	239
7	Non-metallic mineral products (except products of petroleum and coal)	7	7	4	361
8	Basic metal industries	1	..	..	Closed
9	Metal products (except machinery and transport equipment)	3	3	..	45
10	Machinery (except electrical machinery)	1	1	..	15
	Total	*46*	*41*	*27*	*3,367*
	Grand total	**57**	**52**	**37**	**3,768**

Note : Average number of workers employed daily is shown in col. 6 for the working factories.

Source :
The Chief Inspector of Factories, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

The most important units registered in the private sector both from the view point of employment and number are gins and presses, food industries, salt works, non-metallic mineral products, products of petroleum and coal and cotton textiles. Establishments in the public sector include products of transport equipments and electricity, gas and steam. The industries in operation cover a fairly wide range of products based either on local raw materials like cotton, groundnut, salt, etc., or on metals like iron and chemicals imported from outside. The extensive growth of groundnut in recent times is responsible for a number of oil mills located at certain favourable centres like Bhuj, Mandvi, Anjar, Bhachau, Lakadia and Gandhidham. Salt industry has also shown commendable progress and accounts for 12 major salt works in the district. Cotton cultivation has contributed to the growth of textile industry which has besides 14 ginning and pressing factories, a cotton spinning and manufacturing mills established at Gandhidham. The sphere of chemical industry has also been tapped by M/s. Atul Drug House Limited by setting up a formaldehyde plant at Kandla since 1962. Among other industries, the Besser Plant for manufacturing blocks and R. C. C. pipes and poles factory run by the Sindhu Resettlement Corporation deserve mention.

Large Scale Industries—The progress made by large scale industrial units in the district is reflected in the following statistics of Annual Survey of Industries, 1965 covering factories employing 50 or more workers using power and 100 or more workers without power.

Large Scale Factories, 1965

Sl. No.	Items	Units	Kutch district
1	Number of factories	Number	19
2	Productive capital	Rs. in ('000)	34,262
3	Persons employed	Number	3,119
4	Output	Rs. in ('000)	25,543
5	Net value added by manufacture ..	Rs. in ('000)	9,445

Source :
Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Vol. VIII, No. 1, January-March, 1968, Ahmedabad, p. 116

The major large scale industries are confined to food including oil, spinning and weaving of textiles, cotton ginning and pressing, chemicals and chemical products and salt.

The most important among the large scale industries started in Kutch are described below.

The Sindhu Resettlement Corporation, Adipur—On the partition of India in 1947, the minority community from Pakistan started migrating to

India in large numbers. The vast majority of them had no shelter, hardly any means of livelihood and no plans for the future. The port of Kandla in the extremity of the Gulf of Kutch drew the attention of the Sindhi community for the location of a new township. The scheme for its rehabilitation was submitted to Mahatma Gandhi who conferred his blessings upon it. A joint stock company called "The Sindhu Resettlement Corporation Limited" was started to give the scheme a practical and concrete shape. Besides the construction of township of Gandhidham, the Corporation has also engaged itself in various industrial activities.

Registered in 1948 with an authorised capital of Rs. 2½ crores divided into 25,000 shares of Rs. 1,000 each the Corporation had on 31st October, 1967 the subscribed capital of Rs. 1·52 crores of which a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs was contributed by the Government of India and the rest by private parties. It has invested a total amount of Rs. 1,642,397 as fixed capital in the various industries run by it, employed 73 persons and paid wages and salaries to the tune of Rs. 505,491 in 1966-67. The following are the industries promoted by the Corporation.

1. *R. C. C. Pipe and Pole Factory*—This factory is engaged in manufacturing R. C. C. pipes and poles of various sizes. The annual production capacity of pipes is 65,105 metres in length and of poles 1,500 in number. In 1967 the unit manufactured 43,342 metres of hume pipes valued at Rs. 167,606.

2. *Besser Plant*—The unit manufactures cement concrete blocks required for the construction of buildings. All the tenements constructed for staff, labour and general public at Adipur and Gandhidham have been constructed from these blocks, which have been used also by the Government for the construction of their colonies and railway station. The factory has a capacity of manufacturing 2,880,000 blocks annually. It manufactured 142,155 blocks valued at Rs. 99,106 in 1967.

In addition to these plants, the Corporation has two subsidiaries working under it. They are (i) *Sindhu Hochief (India) Ltd.* which worked in collaboration with a German firm for the construction of the new port of Kandla and went into voluntary liquidation on completing the work, and (ii) *Gandhidham Spinning and Manufacturing Co. Ltd.* Incorporated on 21st December, 1962 with an authorised capital of Rs. one crore, the company had a subscribed capital of Rs. 3,498,960 as on 31st June, 1967. Trial production was started with 4,000 spindles from 1st October, 1965, which has now risen to 11,200 spindles by working in three shifts. After commissioning all the 12,000 spindles, the company proposes to increase the total spindlage to 25,000. The mills at present manufactures cotton yarn from the sale of which a sum of Rs. 1,781,872 was realised in 1966-67.

The United Salt Works and Industries Limited, Kandla—The early history of the salt works is interesting. During the period of Maharao Khengarji, Sir Geofferey Archer ex-Governor of Sudan was granted monopoly for the manufacture of salt at Kandla. The construction of works then known as 'Kutch Salt Works' was started in 1934 and completed by 1937. During 1939 the Works faced financial crisis, and were taken over by "The United Salt Works and Industries Ltd." which came into being with a share capital of Rs. 30 lakhs. Since then the concern has been making steady progress in manufacturing salt and allied products. The Works are located to the north of Kandla port. In 1966-67 the total share capital of the company was Rs. 50 lakhs, and fixed capital Rs. 3,438,948. The total number of persons employed during that year was 716 and the total wages and salaries disbursed Rs. 1,007,321. The annual production of different products was valued at Rs. 3,316,000.

	Products	Tonnes
1	Salt	132,567
2	Mixed salt	927
3	Potassium chloride	11
4	Epsom salt	79

The salt is sent to Utter Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Bengal and Orissa and is also exported to Japan outside India.

The Kutch Salt and Allied Industries Limited, Jakhau—The company was started in 1951, and is equipped with modern machinery required for the manufacture of crushed and uncrushed salt. The salt work covers an area of about 2,625 acres lying near Bhit, a new port developed at Jakhau. The fixed capital of the company was Rs. 9·64 lakhs in 1966-67. The total number of persons employed was 250 and wages and salaries disbursed Rs. 1·37 lakhs. It manufactures salt and gypsum. The production of salt was 31,680 tonnes valued at Rs. 3·80 lakhs. The salt is sent to Bombay and Cochin and is also exported to Japan.

Atul Drug House Limited, Kandla—An important step in the direction of industrialisation was taken when Atul Drug House Ltd. established their factory at Kandla in 1962 to manufacture organic chemicals. Formaldehyde and hexamine manufactured by it form a highly important group of organic chemicals. The formaldehyde plant set-up at Kandla is the first one of its kind in India and has planned capacity of 40 tonnes per day. The hexamine plant has a capacity of two tonnes a day. The fixed capital of the company was Rs. 6,100,000 the total number of persons employed 84 and the total wages and salaries disbursed Rs. 223,984 in the year 1967 when it produced 9,784 tonnes of formaldehyde valued at Rs. 121·81 lakhs, marketed all over India.

(Bk) H-49—31 (Lino)

Cutch Oil and Allied Industries (1949) Private Limited, Mandvi—The concern was started in 1949. It had a fixed capital of Rs. 10 lakhs and paid-up capital of Rs. 6 lakhs in 1965-66, when it employed 64 persons, disbursed Rs. 89,635 as wages and salaries, and manufactured groundnut oil, oilcake, cotton seed oil, cotton seed cake, nimb oil and nimb cake valued at Rs. 3,130,528. Its production capacity is about 600 tonnes of oil per year.

Gins and Presses—Cotton being the most important commercial crop in the district there were 14 ginning and pressing factories in operation during 1966, of which the Lakadia Ginning and Pressing Factory, and the Mandvi Ginning and Pressing Factory were important.

Small Scale and Cottage Industries—Since complete data regarding the distribution of small scale industries in the district are not available the results of the sample survey of 16 selected industries carried out by the Bureau of Economics and Statistics during 1959-61 are summarised below.

An establishment was classified as cottage industry, if the number of persons engaged in it on any day during the year was nine or less. If the number was 10 or more and the unit was not registered under the Factories Act, the establishment was classified as a small scale establishment, whether it was power operated or not. However, if at the time of the inquiry such a unit was not registered it was included in the survey.[1]

In Kutch district there were in all 5,422 establishments in sixteen industries taken up for survey. All the establishments were in the cottage sector and not a single establishment was in the small scale sector. Industries important in the district are as already seen earlier, leather working and tanning, carpentry, potteries, blacksmithy, weaving and metal works in order. Of these establishments, only 49 or 0·91 per cent were operated with power and 5,373 or 99·09 per cent without power. The cottage industries sector engaged 10,486 persons of whom 10,092 or 96·25 per cent were members of household and 394 or 3·75 per cent were others giving an average of 1·93 persons per establishment.

Small scale industrial units registered with the Commissioner of Industries also show an appreciable increase from 17 in 1961 to 56 in 1966. The process of industrialisation which has started in Kutch since Independence is thus seen to be making significant headway by starting small and large scale units in diverse fields.

Industrial Estates—Industrial estates accord requisite facilities for the development of small scale industries whereby entrepreneurs with small means can obtain built-up sheds or developed plots with all the ancillary

1. *Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, Vo. II No. 1, January-March, 1962

facilities of roads, water supply, drainage, electric power, etc., and can also avail of the common facility of other services on spot. It relieves them from the difficulties and delays incidental to the purchase or hire of land at higher rates which are at times prohibitive. The scheme of establishing industrial estates has thus served the small industrialists in good stead by dispensing with certain essential preliminaries which are taken in hand in advance and made available on a common basis.

There are two industrial estates in the district, viz., (1) Industrial Estate, Gandhidham and (2) Rural Industrial Estate, Madhapar.

Industrial Estate, Gandhidham—This is a Government estate at Gandhidham, a fast developing township near the major port of Kandla. It is situated in the western portion of the sector reserved for light industries. It has an area of 3·642 hectares and is 1·2 km. away from Kandla-Ahmedabad National Highway, 2·5 km. away from the main Gandhidham Railway Station and about 13 km. from Kandla port. 52 sheds each of 60′ × 30′ have been constructed. The construction work which was started on 2nd February, 1959 through the agency of the Kandla port administration was completed on 30th November, 1961. However, from 1st July, 1965 the estate is being looked after by the office of the Assistant Director of Industries, Adipur, Kutch. Out of 52 sheds constructed, 49 have been allotted to 35 industrial units such as printing press, saw mills, and others engaged in the manufacture of wire nails, biscuits, tin containers, plastic buttons, trays, etc. The total expenditure to the tune of Rs. 12 lakhs was incurred after the estate till March 1966.

Rural Industrial Estate at Madhapar—This estate is situated at a distance of 6·4 km. from Bhuj. 4 sheds have so far been constructed. The electrification work is in progress. The total capital invested in the estate by the Government of Gujarat amounts to Rs. 109,256.

Industrial Arts

Bandhani—Bandhani, popularly known as 'tye and dye', is the process of resist printing. It is a common wear among the Kutchis, its dazzling colours providing a sharp contrast to the barren landscape of this region. It is one of the most important crafts of Kutch which gives whole or part time employment to 4,000 persons particularly at Bhuj, Mandvi, Anjar, Mundra and Naliya. Khatris—both Hindus and Muslim—are engaged in this craft.

The raw materials required are cloth, colours and thread procured from the local market. The process of *bandhani* production is simple but laborious and time consuming. The cloth which may be silk, georgette, voile or mulmul is spread on a table or wooden plank and designs are marked on it with the help of wooden blocks or by hand. It is then tied

in tiny knots with thread, whereafter the cloth is dyed in appropriate colours. On completion of this process, when the ties are removed, the finished product presents a repeat design in dots covering a large variety of motifs. The colours which are generally used in Kutch are red, green, blue and black. The only tools and equipment needed are utensils for dyeing, and wooden blocks for printing designs.

Bandhani is very popular in Kutch and Saurashtra where it is customary to present it to the bride at the time of marriage. Beside sarees, *odhani*, *ghaghra* and *rumal* are the other articles produced. Kutch *bandhani* is normally of fast colours and available in a variety of designs, viz. *bar bag*, *bawan bag*, *mor*, *putli*, etc. The price of *bandhani* varies widely depending on the type of cloth used, the intricacies of designs chosen and the number of colours used. For a cotton *bandhani* the price varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 50 and for georgette between Rs. 50 to Rs. 250, but those interwoven with *jari* thread cost more. Though the demand for *bandhani* has not declined, this traditional craft has now a rival in screen and roller printing. The latter process being mechanised the output is greater and the finished product cheaper. The average annual value of *bandhanis* manufactured in Kutch is estimated at Rs. 5 to 6 lakhs.

Embroidery[1]—A rich variety of embroidery varying in techniques and style are to be found in Kutch. It is a traditional craft, handed down from generation to generation. The craft is reported to have its origin in Sindh. It is said that 250 years ago, a *fakir* called Thathathi, an exponent of embroidery migrated from Sindh to Kutch, and initiated some shoe-maker families at Bhuj and Mandvi in the craft of embroidery. The Kutch embroidery like that of its neighbour Saurashtra, covers within its ambit a number of schools, each distinct from the other. The more important among them are represented by Mochis of Mandvi and Bhuj, Lohanas of Khavda and the Jats and Matuwas of Banni, Kanbis, Ahirs, Rabaris and Mahajans also deserve attention.

Mochi Bharat—The needle work of this important school in Kutch is generally known as *mochi bharat* otherwise called *aari bharat* from the *aar* or Indian crochet used in working the chain stitch. Mochis or the members of the shoe-maker community work in silk, with a hooked needle like a broad awl on silk cloth, *mashru*, broadcloth, net, and canvas. With a silk thread in one hand, the artist works with the other without any design sketched on the cloth or even placed before him, and with wonderful speed forms letters, leaves, fruits, flowers, animals, and human figures. "So highly is their skill valued that Kathiawar and other chiefs employ them, and their work is in great demand all over India and is sent to Zanzibar."[2]

1. All India Handicrafts Board (Planning and Research Section), *Rapid Survey of Handicrafts in the District of Kutch*, 1961
2. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, 1880, p. 126

The most common motif is *buttis* in a large number of varieties originally derived from Persian or Mughal stock. Some of the *buttis* have a pair of parakeets or *bulbuls*, often alternated with peacocks in beautiful form. In some instances peacocks are replaced by the figure of a damsel (*putli*). The articles embroidered are petticoat, *choli*, (bodice) sari-border, cap, wall hanging, and *toran*. The embroidered *picchavais* in the Vaishnav Havelis are also notable pieces of *mochi* embroidery. The influence of *mochi* school is at present on wane. A single family inheriting the older tradition in its pristine purity now survives where about fifty were on the royal working list in the last century. The market for this craft had declined even prior to World War Second because of prohibitive cost. The old pieces are prized much and are preserved in the museum and private collections.

Another type of embroidery called *'kanbi bharat'* is extensively practised by the cultivating caste of Kanbi. By and large Kanbis of Kutch being immigrants from Saurashtra, there is close resemblance between their work and that of their brethren in Saurashtra. Kanbi embroidery consists almost exclusively of *sankli* or chain stitch. Decorative household articles such as table cloth and *toran* and utility articles such as *ghaghra*, blouses, etc., are usually embroidered.

Like Kanbis the Ahirs of Kotai and Lodai area and Rabaris of Ratnal near Anjar are famous for their gorgeous and very impressive embroidery that is indicative of their pastoral life. The background is usually dark maroon or black *khaddar* with a subtle shade which is perfectly in harmony with the correct display of motifs. Another important feature of this type of embroidery is profuse use of tiny pieces of mirror of various sizes. The articles of daily use such as blouse, children's jacket, *pyjama*, cap and petticoat are the articles embroidered.

Banni bharat with its intricate minute designs in gorgeous colours, is considered to be the most outstanding and exquisite among the different types of Kutch embroidery. This school derives its name from that vast stretch of semi-desert land called Banni. It is represented by the Lohanas of Khavda and the Jats and Matuwas of Banni villages. The Lohanas of Khavda specialize in skirt work and coverlets. The embroidery of Jats is extremely refined. The principal article is the *aaba* or *kajari*, a sort of women's frock having embroidered part only in front interwoven with small mirrors. As *Banni bharat* is time-consuming, the embroidered articles are charged high and cost Re. 1 to 1·50 per square inch depending upon the material and design. Few women in Bhuj who take embroidery for sale practise *Banni bharat* as it is so minute, intricate and strenuous that it affects the eye sight of the worker.

Machine Embroidery—This type of embroidery is not widespread in the district and is of recent origin. The designs employed are simple as

intricate and minute designs are not suitable for machine work undertaken with commercial motive. It is resorted to because of its greater output and cheapness.

Gold and Silver—Closely vying with *bandhani* for the first place among the crafts of the district is that of gold and silver, particularly the latter and popularly known as "Kutch work". "Cutch has long been famous for the superior design and workmanship of its gold and silver ware. The ornaments most in demand are cups, flagons, flower vases, cigar cases, egg stands, tea and coffee services, muffineers, rose water sprinklers and salvers".[1] Originally confined to Bhuj, the craft has gradually spread to other parts of the district such as Mandvi and Anjar and the new townships of Kandla and Gandhidham. Traditionally, the craft owes much of its magnitude and importance to royal patronage coupled with hereditary skill and workmanship. Another factor which contributed to the growth of silver craft in Kutch was the policy followed by former Kutch State of importing bullion and exporting silver goods without paying much of customs duty. With the advent of Independence and the disappearance of the patronage of princely State, the craft has suffered a set back. But the intrinsic merit as also the constant demand for silver jewellery of traditional designs by the local population have come to the rescue of the craft whose fate otherwise would have been much worse.

The craftsmen are called *salatos*. Based on conditions of work, they can be classified into (i) independent craftsmen, (ii) those engaged by others and (iii) those who are members of a co-operative society. The independent craftsmen are more common in rural areas and work against orders placed by customers who sometimes themselves supply gold or silver. The craftsmen working in dealers shops are wage-earners paid on time-basis or on piece-basis. There is only one co-operative society of silver/goldsmiths in the district called the Soni Udyogi Sahakari Mandli Ltd. at Mandvi. The society supplies raw material to member-artisans who turn it into the requisite finished articles and deliver them to the society which shoulders the responsibility of marketing them. The number of craftsmen engaged in the craft is estimated to be around 200. The tools employed by the craftsmen are holders, files, moulds, hammers, brushes, cutters, etc. Drilling machines and in some cases wire-drawing machines are also used. The cost of the equipment varies from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 10,000. Gold, silver and *meena* are the required raw material. Gold and silver are available locally, while *meena* is mainly imported from Switzerland and costs about Rs. 6 to 7 per tola. The *meena* manufactured at Calcutta available at almost half the price is not considered to be a proper substitute.

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, 1880, p. 124

Two main categories of work are (i) Kutch work and (ii) *Meena* or enamelling.

"Kutch Work" is a speciality of the district. Known since long for its superior design and exquisite workmanship, it is described as under in the former *Gazetteer*. "The workmanship, whatever be the nature of the article, is much the same and varies only with the skill and patience of the artist. Some of them amuse themselves with eccentricities in the shape of animals; others copy European patterns, entirely unsuited to their style of art. The best eschew novelties, and keep to old favourite shapes and traceries. All work on the same plant. Moulded into the required shape, the silver plate is filled with a wax called *kil*; the design is traced on the surface of the silver and worked by driving it in from outside by a small nail and hammer. This work over, the plate is softened by fire, the molten wax poured out, fresh wax filled in, and the design again worked on it. Sometimes the operation is repeated a third time. When the design is properly executed, the wax is taken out, and the outside of the vessel polished. The rough inner surface is sometimes covered by a coating of polished silver. It is then ready for sale. The sharper and deeper cut the tracery, the better is the work."[1]

Meena-kam or *Enamelling*—As noticed previously it was Ramsing Malam who introduced enamelling in Kutch. Gold and silver articles are very often embellished with enamel, called *meena-kam*. Enamel colours are obtained in vitreous lumps. They are cleaned in solution of sulphuric acid and thereafter ground with pestle and mortar mixed with water. While grinding, the milky substance that comes out is taken out. Water is then added and the substance again pounded till it becomes just like a pith, which is cleaned in distilled water. During this process, coloured powder is washed about 30 to 40 times. Nitric and hydrochloric acid are also used for cleaning. Enamel thus prepared is heated and then laid over the design engraved on ornaments with the help of a brush, much in the same way as a picture is painted. Colours are applied in the order of their hardness or power of resisting fire. The sales are brisk during Diwali and marriage season. The wages earned by an artisan vary from Rs. 1·50 to Rs. 12 depending upon the design of the article and skill of the workman. The value of annual production of enamelled articles in Kutch is estimated at Rs. 15 lakhs.

Gilding—A reference must also be made to the craft of gilding which formed an important branch of gold and silver industry in the past. As observed by the former *Gazetteer*. "There are eight families of the gilders said to have come from Delhi to Bhuj. Of these seven are Musalman and belong to the blacksmith class. They cover brass ornaments and sometimes

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur, and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, 1880, p. 123

copper and brass pots either with gold or silver. In gilding or silvering, Delhi made gold or silver leaves, or Cutch-made wire is pressed into the lines of a pattern, cut by a sharp pointed iron tool into the face of a metal vessel and then polished.[1]" Unfortunately gilding as an industry as practised in the past has disappeared, as there is not a single artisan at present engaged in gilding.

Hand-printing of Textiles

Batik- Hand-printing of textiles is one of the important traditional crafts still pursued in Kutch with certain degree of specialisation. *Batik* printing now confined to coastal villages was developed probably very early. *Batik* textiles were exported to the East Indies in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, where at present the craft thrives on its own. *Batik* dyeing is done on thin white or light coloured cotton, silk or linen fabrics with a colour resisting material like wax. The process of *batik* dyeing is as follows. The design is applied to the white fabric by dipping blocks in melted wax. Sometimes designs are drawn or traced carefully on cloth and melted wax is applied with a brush. The fabric is then immersed in a cold dye bath which dyes the background but is unable to dye the protected areas where wax is applied. Multi-colour effects are possible by immersing the fabric in a succession of dye baths of different colours. Between each bath and the next the material is left to dry out and additional areas of wax are applied. In order to remove wax, the fabric is boiled in soft water. If the wax breaks during the course of dyeing the design does not emerge completely white as colour enters through cracks. This produces cobweb effect in white portion. Bees' wax or paraffin wax is used in *batik*. The choice of wax, however, depends on the design and the effect sought to be produced. If the brittle wax like paraffin is used, the coating of wax breaks into an irregular net work of hair cracks like cobweb while handling the fabric for dyeing. A mixture of four parts rosin and one part paraffin is less brittle. The traditional motifs used in *batik* printing are elephant, *putli*, peacock, flowers, *buttas* and geometrical designs such as triangles, circles, squares, rectangles, hexagons, etc

Ajrakh Printing Ajrakh is another popular variety in hand-printing of textiles in Kutch. Ajrakh printing originally came from Sindh and got concentrated where extra soft water was available. The word 'Ajrakh' means "keep it to-day" and has probably been used as a means of publicity. It also means "beautifying". Ajrakh textiles in the past as also in the present have been very popular with the muslim population of the district. The process and designs of Ajrakh printing are common to Sindh (now in Pakistan), Kutch and Barmer district of Rajasthan. It is indigenous

1. Campbell, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kgntha*, Bombay, 1880, p. 124

and time-honoured having been practised from generation to generation. Briefly stated the process is as follows.

First, the white cloth of requisite size treated with emulsion of castor oil is dipped in the solution of *harda* powder (*Terminalia chebula*) and cold water. The cloth when dried, gets a crude cream colour. Thereafter the cloth is spread on a wooden plank with padding. Blocks of desired designs are then dipped in alum solution mixed with some mild washable colour. After block printing the designs, a solution of Alizarine powder manufactured by I. C. I., *padvas* powder prepared from the nuts of a tree found on river banks and cowdung, is prepared and the cloth is dipped into it. When taken out the printed portion is found to have turned into red. Thereafter the printed portion is covered with mud with the help of blocks and the cloth is again dipped in the solution added with indigo, with the result that the portion not covered with mud gets blue colour.

The designs in vogue are those which have been developed under Muslim influence. Some of the designs such as *Kori, Adhia, Pachio* are based on coins. Border designs are *haso, butto, mundhagulo, tavij*, etc., while the designs used in the body of the Ajrakh print are *kakkal, rial, gini, kori, phulada, mefuli*, etc.

Rogan Printing - The third type of printing in the district is called 'Rogan printing'. On account of their decorative value, Rogan printed articles are mostly used as table-cloth, curtain cloth, etc. These articles derive beauty from informality of designs and contrasting colour combinations In Rogan printing colours are mixed in castor oil or double boiled linseed oil and pastes of different colours are prepared. Designs are drawn on cloth, white or coloured, with the help of crude brushes dipped in these pastes. Generally geometrical designs are preferred, though floral designs are not excluded altogether. The total value of cloth used by the various branches of printing industry is estimated at about Rs. 2 lakhs. The dyes and colours commonly used are alizarine, naphthal, indigosols, acid and basic colours such as red, blue and yellow besides a wide range of chemicals like nitric acid, sulphuric acid, caustic soda, soda ash, alum, glycerene, gum, tinopol, etc. valued at about Rs. 50,000 per year. The artisans work on piece rate basis. The average earnings of skilled artisans range from Rs. 3 to 5 and that of unskilled artisans Rs. 1·50 to Rs. 2·50 per day. The printed articles include *odhani, sari, lungi, shawl*, table-cloth, curtain cloth, bed spreads, etc. Though marketed mostly in the district, they are sometimes exported to Banaskantha and Sabarkantha districts of the State.

Penknives, Nut Crackers and Scissors—Penknives, nut crackers and scissors of Kutch are famous all over India. The exact origin of the craft is not traceable. According to a local legend the present Muslim luhars inhabiting the district and pursuing this craft were formerly cultivating land.

As agriculture did not provide them continuous employment, they remained without work for nearly 6 to 7 months in a year. On seeing them passing away their time idly, their religious preceptor advised them to engage themselves in a side industry which would supplement their income. According to another account the industry seems to have been started in 1860 by one of the ancestors of the present artisans who exclusively devoted himself to the task of manufacturing State armaments. His son Junas, however, started manufacturing penknives and nut crackers which in course of time assumed great importance. Sumar Junas in collaboration with another concern owned by one Ajani, an inhabitant of Kothara village of the district, developed the market and labelled the products with the trade name of Ajani. Wide publicity of the goods produced earned him a reputation for good quality and made his penknives and nut crackers popular. Excepting a few, as many as 100 artisans engaged at present in the craft and spread over different places such as Bhuj, Mandvi, Anjar, Reha, etc., are the great grandsons of Junas. The main products are nut crackers, penknives and scissors. It is very difficult to assess the value of finished products as small units hardly maintain any account. However, it is estimated that articles valued at Rs. 3½ lakhs are produced annually. The prices of these articles vary according to size and workmanship. The average earnings of a worker vary from Rs. 3 to Rs. 6 per day. The goods are marketed at Bhuj, Anjar, Mandvi, and other towns of the district and also exported to various parts of India.

Other Crafts—Other crafts which deserve mention are making of woollen blankets, *mojadi*, lacquer-ware, clay toys and ivory work. 800 weavers engaged in the manufacture of woollen blankets produce 15,000 pieces annually, *mojadi* or slippers are made by a few among the local cobblers of Banni area who are Harijan by caste. *Mojadi* combines artistary with utility. The silver wire designs worked on *mojadi* though simple in execution are beautiful in appearance. The article is worn mostly on ceremonial occasions and lends an air of sophistication to the wearer. Lacquer work is practised by a primitive community known as 'Vandah' living in Banni area. They mostly make articles of daily use like *velan* (a roller pin), spoons, wool-spinners, churners, oil-containers, legs for cots, etc. Potters who are normally engaged in manufacturing bricks, tiles, and earthen pots make toys like elephants, peacocks, small utensils, etc. at the time of Dassera and Diwali festivals. Ivory work in the district is more or less confined to making of plain and simple bangles which are in demand among women of all classes.

The old *Gazetteer* of Kutch has listed some of the industrial arts which were then practised but have now disappeared. These are: polishing, shield making and painting and braid weaving. Those which are still practised are embroidery and silk weaving and printing, the latter engaging 300 persons in the district.

INUDSTRIAL POTENTIAL AND PLAN FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT[1]

The potentiality of industrial development in the district is essentially co-related to the existence of primary resources such as agricultural, marine, mineral and forest produce and availability of basic raw materials required for manufacturing finished products. The principal industries which have so far been developed in this district which was till recently backward are groundnut oil, textiles, salt, chemicals, machine spare parts, small engineering works, electrical goods, etc. Possibilities of further progress exist in the following branches of industries.

Mineral-based Industries—From the view point of industrial development minerals are the most important natural resources of Kutch. The district has by now large proven reserves of lignite, bauxite, lime-stone, gypsum and glass sand which can be profitably exploited to start a number of mineral-based industries. These are :

1. *Generation of Power*—As a result of concentrated efforts made by the State Directorate of Geology and Mining in the recent years, new fields of lignite were discovered and a very promising picture of lignite deposits in Kutch has emerged. The reserves of lignite proved so far is of the order of 172·88 million tonnes distributed in the fields of (i) Matano Madh (ii) Umarsar (iii) Julrai (iv) Panandhro and (v) Akari Moti. The work of development of this lignite has been entrusted to the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. The best possible use of this lignite may be made in the power generation. However, the Central Fuel Reserach Institute, Dhanbad has been assigned the work of preparation of techno-economic feasibility report so as to find out the possibility of exploring the optimum use of this lignite.

2. *Manufacture of Alumina*—Bauxite, the most widely used ore of aluminium is found to occur in Mandvi, Nakhatrana, Lakhpat, Bhuj and Anjar talukas of the district. The reserve of bauxite in Kutch district, as per the investigations conducted upto the field season 1967-68 are of the order of 14·15 million tonnes of all grades which includes 8.12 million tonnes. The Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation is actively considering an integrated scheme of mining of bauxite for the production of alumina, smelting of aluminium and fabrication of aluminium products on the basis of bauxite deposits available in the district.

3. *Cement*—The essential raw materials such as lime and gypsum required for the manufacture of cement are available in abundance in the western part of Kutch particularly near Umarsar in Lakhpat taluka and Adesar area Rapar taluka.

1. For details refer to "*A Report on the basic resources, prspects and potentialities of Industrialisation of Kutch*", Gandhidham, 1965

4. *Chemically Pure Salt*—Along with the manufacture of soda ash and caustic soda, arrangements can also be made to increase the supply of chemically pure salt. As the marine salt produce in the region has high purity a plant for production of 25 tonnes of chemically pure salt per day can be set up at Kandla.

5. *Bye Products of Salt and Bitterns*—After the recovery of salt, the bitterns left over contain chemicals like potassium chloride and magnesium chloride in addition to some quantity of salt. Bitterns are, therefore, a valuable source of these chemicals, potassium chloride in particular, which can be used as a fertiliser and also utilised in the manufacture of potassium salts. Complete utilisation of bitterns of existing salt works is estimated to produce 5,000 tonnes of potassium chloride, 12,000 tonnes of epsom salt and 6,000 tonnes of sodium sulphate every year. Potassium chemicals and bromine can also be manufactured from bitterns and mixed salt.

6. *Alums* Aluminous shales or alum shales are found near Matano Madh in the district. The aluminium sulphate which is present in the shales can be used for manufacturing alum. This mineral was extensively worked in the past, and was well-known for its excellence. Chemical analysis carried out in 1878 showed that Kutch alum was better than either the English or the Chinese varieties, containing only thirteen per cent of impurities and yielding to analysis 10·73 per cent of alumina, or only 0·12 per cent less than the theoratic quantity.[1] It may, however, be said that though the alum shales deposits were known at one stage, reserve estimates, however, are not available. It is, therefore, very difficult to say anything about the manufacture of alum on extensive scale.

Other connected industries based upon minerals, which can be established in the district are the manufacture of sulphuric acid, phosphatic fertilisers,[2] alums, hydraulic lime, solid carbon dioxide, sanitary-wares stone-wares, roofing tiles and plaster of Paris.

1. CAMPBELL, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, 1880, p. 20

2. *Two-unit fertiliser complex.*

Recently a two unit fertiliser complex is being set-up at Kandla (Kutch district) and Kalol (Mehsana district). More than 8,00,000 tonnes of high analysis fertiliser will be produced annually by the complex. The fertiliser is proposed to be supplied directly to the farmers in 10 different States through 40,000 co-operative societies of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operatives (IFFCO).

The United States co-operatives, through Co-operative Fertilisers International (CFI) have provided $ 1 million (Rs. 75 lakhs) for the plants.

The Kandla-Kalol fertiliser complex, the first venture in fertiliser production in India to be run and operated entirely by Co-operatives, is expected to begin production in 1973.

The units at the two sites will be interdependent. The plant at Kalol will produce urea and ammonia and will be the largest such facility in India.

The Kandla unit will use the excess of ammonia produced at Kalol. Phosphoric acid needed for the fertiliser will be imported initially, but later it will be locally manufactured.

Metal-based and Engineering Industries—The establishment of the first Free Trade Zone of India at Kandla has added new dimensions to the industrial and commercial development of the Kandla-Gandhidham region. The following are the metal-based and engineering industries which have good prospects of development at Gandhidham.

1. *Electric Motors, Transformers and Control Switch Gears*—A composite plant manufacturing electric motors, 1200 KVA transformers and switch gears.

Structural Fabrication—A structural fabrication unit with a capacity of about 4,000 tonnes per year.

3. *Industrial Machinery*—A fair-sized plant for the manufacture of industrial machinery to cater to the needs of small, medium and heavy industries.

4. *Structural Workshops for Manufacture of Railway Wagons*—An average size unit fabricating 50 railway wagons per month.

5. *Internal Combustion (Diesel Engines)*—A plant with an annual capacity of 600 engines of 5 to 20 H. P. for the manufacture of air/water cooled single and multiple cylinder engines for export to middle-east and south-east Asian countries.

Agro-Based Industries

1. *Cotton Seed Oil*—The present practice of using cotton seed as cattle feed is wasteful. The seed contains 14 to 18 per cent of oil, which, if extracted could add substantially to the supply of vegetable oil in the country. A combined delinting, decorticating and solvent extraction plant to process 50 tonnes of cotton seed per day could be set up in the cotton growing talukas of the district.

2. *Solvent Extraction of Groundnut Oilcake*—The oilcake obtained as a bye-product from oil milling is generally used either as cattle feed or as manure. The cake still contains an appreciable percentage of residual oil. Solvent extraction of oilcake can, therefore, be an important additional source of vegetable oil. One solvent extraction plant to process 50 to 80 tonnes of groundnut cake per day can be set up at Gandhidham.

3. *Surgical Cotton*—Surgical cotton, also known as absorbent is used for medical purposes. In view of a number of ginning and pressing factories in the district, Gandhidham would be suitable for installing a one-tonne per day plant for the manufacture of surgical cotton.

4. *Fish-based Industries*—The Gulf of Kutch contains large-sized prawns which are suitable for freezing. Besides pompfrets, Indian salmons, Jew fish, and other varieties are available in large quantities and sold at low prices in flush seasons. A freezing plant with a daily capacity of five tonnes set up at Kandla would facilitate prawn exports in ships with refrigerated holds. There is a good export market for canned fish, especially prawns, in the U. S. A. and Australia. One cannery with a capacity to process two-third tonne of raw material can be established at Kandla[1] where a fish meal or fish manure plant with a capacity of about 2 tonnes a day can also be set up.

Industries Based on Livestock

Tanning and Leather Industry—The cattle population of Kutch according to 1966 Census is estimated at 981,792 besides plenty of wild life existing in the district. The estimated production of hides and skins numbered about 80,000 pieces per annum. About 270 tonnes of hides and skins are exported from the district every year. On account of availability of these resources, it is possible to have a big size tannery which can be located somewhere in the Banni area near Bhuj, where water of Rudramata reservoir will be available in plenty. Further, an important plant *cassia auriculata* is widely spread in Kutch and is common almost everywhere. As it yields very valuable tanning material, it will greatly help operation of tanning industry in Kutch.

Other industries which can be started because of its large cattle wealth are dairy, bones and bone meals.

Forest-based Industries

1. *Sailing Vessels* - In view of the traditional skill in ship building and nevigation of the people of Kutch, it is desirable to have a ship repair yard for minor repairs at Kandla. Mandvi, another important port in the district, was well-known in the past for building country crafts. A small yard can also be set up at this place to manufacture country crafts and steam launches.

2. *Acacia Farnesiana (kali bavli) Plant*[2]—This plant is very common at many places in the district and is fairly widely spread. The scent made from its flowers is very valuable. It is said to have been the foundation of most of the best scents made in France. The only difficulty is that scent can be collected and exported only in animal fat or bee's wax. The process

1. National Council of Applied Economic Research, *Techno-Economic Survey of Gujarat*, New Delhi, 1963, p. 88
2. Sir Peter Cluttebuck, *Report on the Possibility of Development of the Forest Areas in Kutch*, Lahore, 1933

is not generally known and is a closely guarded secret. Some expert industrial chemist of the country should be able to evolve a suitable process for the manufacture of scent from this plant which is a valuable asset to Kutch.

3. *Calotropis Procers (Akdo) Plant*—This common and widely distributed shrub yields a very valuable floss, from which very fine cloth with silky texture was manufactured in olden days. The possibility of setting up a small manufacturing unit deserves to be investigated.

Development of Small Scale and Cottage Industries

A number of small scale industries which do not depend upon the local availability of raw materials can be set up at Gandhidham. A list of such industries appears at the end of this Chapter as Annexure I. The district also offers considerable scope for the production of automobile components and other ancillary units which can undertake the manufacture of components required for switch gears and switch boards and also feed the requirements of manufacture of pumps and turbines.[1] The Government has been taking concerted measures to promote the development of small scale and cottage industries by helping them in various ways. A scheme to grant subsidy for electric power consumed by cottage and small scale industries is being implemented by the Commissioner of Industries. The quantum of subsidy admissible is the difference between the actual rate paid per unit consumed and (i) 3 paise per unit subject to a maximum of 12 paise, if the industry is situated in an area with a population up to 20,000 ; (ii) 6 paise per unit subject to a maximum of 9 paise per unit, if the industry is situated in a municipal area with a population between 20,000 and 1,00,000, or (iii) 9 paise per unit subject to a maximum of 6 paise per unit if the industry is situated in a municipal area with a population above 1,00,000.

Labour and Employers' Organisations

1. *Labour Organisations*—The trade union movement signifies a collective effort on the part of labourers to increase their bargaining power in the labour market and thereby improve their social and economic conditions. This activity was completely absent in the former State of Kutch and did not register any significant progress even when it became a Part C State. It was from 1960 onwards that the trade union movement has shown substantial progress in the district. Unions such as Kandla Salt Works Mazdoor Sangh and Kandla Port Karmachari Sangh have been conducting various activities for the welfare of labour. The former has started a library, a reading room and an adult literacy class, whereas a family planning centre and a consumer's stores and co-operative credit society are run by the latter.

1. For details refer to '*A Report on the basic resources, prospects and potentialitie of Industrialisation of Kutch*', Gandhidham, 1965

The statement given below reviews the progress of labour unions in the district.

Year	Number of unions	Number of members
1953-54	1	419
1959-60	10	658
1966*	18	9,041

*Figures for the year 1966 are from January to December.

Source :

1. *Statistical Handbook of Kutch*, 1955-56, Statistical Department, Government of Kutch-Bhuj
2. The Commissioner of Labour, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

2. *Employers' Organisations*—Activities of some of the important associations of which several large and small concerns are members are described below.

The Kutch Oil Mills Association, Bhuj—The Association was started by the oil mills industry of Kutch in 1963 with a view (i) to undertake all necessary activities for the promotion and development of industries related to oil, oilseeds, oil cakes and meal and (ii) to collect, preserve and circulate statistics and other information pertaining to the industry. It had a membership of 13 in 1967.

Kutch Ginning and Pressing Factories Association, Mandvi—This Association was established in 1959 by the owners of ginning and pressing factories of the district. The Association was formed primarily for the purpose of securing co-ordinated action in respect of the problems affecting the industry. It had a total membership of 14 in 1967.

Other Organisations—Apart from these two associations, there are some registered at places such as Bombay and Jamnagar of which some of the large scale units of the district are members. The Indian Salt Manufacturers' Association registered at Bombay has three members, the Kutch Saurashtra Salt Manufacturers' Association registered at Jamnagar has one, and the Saurashtra Oil Mills' Association registered at Jamnagar has 12 members from this district.

Welfare of Industrial Labour

Prior to integration, there was complete absence of labour welfare measures in the district. There was regulation neither of hours of work nor

of rates of wages. Statutory compensation was also not prescribed. The Government after its integration into the Indian Union initiated certain measures for the welfare of industrial labour in the State. The Indian Factories Act of 1948 was made applicable and the Executive Engineer, Kutch, was appointed *ex-officio* Chief Inspector of Factories. Acts such as Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, Payment of Wages Act, 1929, and Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952, were applied when Kutch was Part C State[1].

The Indian Factories Act, 1948—This is a basic Act which covers all industrial establishments employing 10 or more workers where power is used and 20 or more workers in other cases. It lays down minimum requirements for the health, safety and general welfare of workers and contains a number of obligatory provisions relating to the disposal of waste and effluence, ventilation and temperature, provision of cool water during hot weather, etc. To avoid overcrowding, the Act provides for a minimum space of 500 cubic feet for each worker in a factory built after the commencement of the Act and 350 cubic feet in the existing factories. It embodies a number of safety measures relating to the use of new machinery, prescribes precautions to be taken against dangerous fumes, explosives and inflammable dust or gas and provides for specific welfare measures such as washing facilities, first-aid appliances, canteen, rest shelters, etc. The working hours for adults have been fixed at 48 a week and 9 a day. Women and adolescents are not allowed to work at night. Timing and duration of rests have also been laid down.

The Inspector of Factories, Rajkot, is responsible for the administration of Factories Act and other labour laws, viz., The Payment of Wages Act, 1936 so far as it relates to the Factories Act, 1948, (2) The Employment of Children Act (XXXI of 1938) and (3) The Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, 1925 (Section 9) in Kutch District.

Subsidised Industrial Housing—The Government has formulated various schemes for execution through the State Housing Board to provide adequate and sanitary housing to industrial labour. The subsidised industrial housing scheme is one of them. Under this scheme an industrial worker covered by the Factories Act, 1948 whose monthly income does not exceed Rs. 500 is eligible for a tenement at a subsidised rent. The ceiling for the construction of such tenements ranges from Rs. 3,300 to Rs. 3,700 towards which the Central Government grants 50 per cent by way of loan and 50 per cent as subsidy to the State Government. During 1969-70 the Gujarat Housing Board proposes to construct 48 tenements at Gandhidham and 64 at Kandla.

1. These Acts which promote the Welfare of Industrial Labour have been described in Chapter XVI—Other Social Services.

(Bk) H-49—33 (Lino)

Wages

During the Maharao's regime as well as during the time when Kutch was Part C State, minimum wages were not fixed for any industry. But after it formed part of the composite State of Bombay and thereafter of Gujarat State, minimum wage rates were fixed for rice mills, flour mills, *dal* mills, oil mills, etc. These rates are compared below for the years 1959 and 1965 for oil mills and 1959 and 1967 for rice mills, flour mills or *dal* mills.

STATEMENT V·7

Minimum Wage Rates

Rice Mills, Flour Mills or Dal Mills

	Zones	1959 (with effect from 1-9-1959) Skilled (per month)	Semi-skilled (per month)	Unskilled (per month)
I	Bhuj, Anjar, Mandvi, Mundra and Gandhidham	56.25	48.75	45.00
II	The areas of the district not included in Zone I	50.00	43.25	40.00

	Zones	Revised rates 1967 (with effect from 1-4-1967) Skilled (per month)	Semi-skilled (per month)	Unskilled (per month)
II	Bhuj	90.00	80.00	72.00
III	Anjar, Mandvi and Gandhidham ..	85.00	75.00	67.00
IV	The areas of the district other than those included in Zone II and III ..	80.00	70.00	62.00

Oil Mills

	Zones	1959 (with effect from 1-9-1959) Skilled (per day)	Semi-skilled (per day)	Unskilled (per day)
I	Bhuj, Anjar, Mandvi, Mundra and Gandhidham	2.41	2.08	1.75
II	The areas of the district not included in Zone I	2.16	1.87	1.60

	Zones	Revised rates 1965 (with effect from 1-6-1965) Skilled (per day)	Semi-skilled (per day)	Unskilled (per day)
III	Bhuj (including Military area), Anjar, Mandvi and Gandhidham	3.15	2.80	2.50
IV	The areas of district other than those included in Zone III	3.00	2.70	2.40

Source :
The Commissioner of Labour, Government of Gujarat, Ahmedabad

Textile Industry—There is one textile mill in the district, viz., the Gandhidham Spinning and Manufacturing Company Ltd., Adipur. It pays Rs. 78·00 to Rs. 156 per month as total emoluments to skilled workers and Rs. 59·80 to Rs. 71·50 to unskilled workers.

Other Industries—The United Salt Works and Industries Ltd., Kandla, pays wages at the rate of Rs. 2·75 per day to skilled workers and Rs. 2·12 per day to unskilled workers. The Kutch Salt and Allied Industries Ltd., Jakhau, pays Rs. 70 per month to skilled workers and Rs. 1·75 per day to unskilled workers. Atul Drug House Ltd., Kandla, pays Rs. 120 per month to skilled workers and Rs. 92 per month to unskilled workers.

Amenities—Apart from Government, many large scale establishments such as United Salt Works and Industries, Kandla Salt and Allied Industries and Gulabchand and Company appreciating the necessity of taking welfare measures started providing such amenities as medical aid, clubs with facilities for indoor and outdoor games, canteens, co-operative stores, etc.

Almost all the factories in the district have now provided First Aid boxes and dispensaries for workers. Recreational facilities have been made available by some of them. The United Salt Works and Industries Ltd. has provided a reading room and library, club rooms, indoor and outdoor games, an open air theatre and a cinema projector. The Gandhidham Spinning and Manufacturing Company has arranged for outdoor games and a reading room, and Gulabchand and Company has supplied indoor games, daily papers and magazines. Some of the large factories have canteen and refreshment rooms.

Labour Welfare Centres—One 'D' type labour welfare centre with part-time nursery school is functioning in old Kandla. The amenities provided at the centre include a library, a reading room, indoor and outdoor games, a radio and musical instruments.

STATEMENTS

STATEMENT V·4

Industries Arranged in Descending Order of Establishments, 1961

Sl. No.	Description	No. of units	Percentage to total
1	2	3	4
1	Manufacture of other wood and allied products	428	14.31
2	Manufacture of jewellery, silverware and wares using gold and other precious metals	346	11.59
3	Manufacture of sundry hardwares such as G. I. pipe, wire net, bolt, screw, bucket, cutlery (This will also include the manufacture of sundry ferrous engineering products done by jobbing engineering concerns which cannot be classified in major groups 36, 37, 38 and 39)	342	11.44
4	Making of textile garments including raincoats and headgear	312	10.43
5	Production of rice, *atta*, flour, etc., by milling, dehusking and processing of crops and foodgrains	238	7.96
6	Manufacture of shoes and other leather footwear	209	6.98
7	Production of other food products such as sweetmeat and condiments, muri, murki, chira, khoi, cocoa, chocolate, toffee, lozenge	196	6.56
8	Cotton weaving in handlooms	188	6.29
9	Currying, tanning and finishing of hides and skins and preparation of finished leather	87	2.91
10	Manufacture of brass and bell metal products	79	2.65
11	Manufacture of *bidi*	65	2.18
12	Repairing of bicycles and tricycles	54	1.81
13	Assembling and repairing of watches and clocks	37	1.24
14	Manufacture of earthenware and earthen pottery	35	1.17
15	Manufacture of wooden furniture and fixtures	33	1.11
16	Production of bread, biscuits, cake and other bakery products	29	.97
17	Repairing and servicing of motor vehicles	27	.91
18	Production of edible fats and oils (other than hydrogenated oil)	25	.84
19	Manufacture of leather products (expect those covered by code, Nos. 311, 312), such as leather upholstery, suit cases, pocket books, cigaratte and key cases, purses, saddlery, whip and other articles	25	.84
20	Manufacture and assembling of machinery (other than electrical) except textile machinery	21	.71
21	Cotton dyeing, bleaching	20	.67
22	Manufacture of metal products (other than of iron, brass, bell metal and aluminium) such as tin can	20	.67
23	All other types of printing including lithography, engraving, etching, block making and other work connected with printing industry	16	.54
24	Manufacture of electronic equipment such as radio, microphone	12	.41
25	Sawing and planing of wood	12	.41
26	Wool weaving in handloom	11	.37
27	Repair of all other leather products except footwear ..	9	.31
28	Manufacture of soap and other washing and cleaning compounds	9	.31
29	Manufacture of motor vehicles, engines parts and accessories	9	.31
	Total (1 to 29)	*2,894*	*96.88*
	Others	98	3.12
	Grand Total	2,992	100

Source :

Census of India, 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part IV-B, *Housing and Establishment Tables, (E Series Tables)*

STATEMENT V-5

Number of Factories and Workers for all Industries in 1956, 1960 and 1965

Sl. No.	Name of Industry	1956						1960			
		Large scale		Small scale		All factories		Large scale		Small Scale	
		Factories	Workers	Factories	Workers	Factories	Workers	Factories	Workers	Factories	Workers
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Gins and presses	2	136	9	261	11	397	6	701	10	218
2	Manufacture of miscellaneous food preparations	2	184	2	46	4	230	4	1756	4	48
3	Spinning, weaving and finishing of textiles ..	1	105	..	..	1	105	1	89	..	..
4	Manufacture of grain mill products ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	Printing, book binding, etc.	..	..	1	33	1	33	..	..	2	38
6	Basic chemicals including fertilizers ..	..	..	1	45	1	45	..	..	..	..
7	Petroleum refineries	1	159	2	67	3	226	2	344	1	48
8	Manufacture of structural clay products ..	3	423	..	..	3	423	1	154	1	20
9	Manufacture of non-metallic mineral products not elsewhere classified	..	..	1	29	1	29	..	..	..	..
10	Manufacture of metal products (except machinery and transport equipment) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5
11	Manufacture of machinery except electrical machinery	1	77	..	..	1	77	..	..	..	..
12	Ship buildings	1	55	..	..	1	55	..	..	1	42
13	Manufacture of motor vehicles and cycles ..	1	116	..	..	1	116	1	93	..	..
14	Electric light and power	..	..	1	30	1	30	1	117	4	78
	Grand Total	12	1,255	17	511	29	1,766	16	3,254	24	497

STATEMENT V-5—*contd.*

Sl. No.	Name of Industry	1960		1965					
		All factories		Large scale		Small scale		All factories	
		Factories	Workers	Factories	Workers	Factories	Workers	Factories	Workers
	1	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1	Gins and presses	16	919	5	432	6	176	11	608
2	Manufacture of miscellaneous food preparation	8	1,804	6	2,128	4	90	10	2,218
3	Spinning, weaving and finishing of textiles ..	1	89	1	90	..	..	1	90
4	Manufacture of grain mill products ..	..	..	..	..	1	18	1	18
5	Printing, book binding, etc.	2	38	..	..	1	16	1	16
6	Basic chemicals including fertilizers ..	..	..	1	94	..	..	1	94
7	Petroleum refineries	3	392	3	270	1	22	4	292
8	Manufacture of structural clay products ..	2	174	1	121	2	32	3	153
9	Manufacture of non-metallic mineral products not elsewhere classified	..	..	..	..	4	108	4	108
10	Manufacture of metal products (except machinery and transport equipment)	1	5	..	..	1	17	1	17
11	Manufacture of machinery except electrical machinery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12	Ship buildings	1	42	1	100	..	..	1	100
13	Manufacture of motor vehicles and cycles ..	1	93	1	62	2	51	3	113
14	Electric light and power	5	195	1	150	4	61	5	211
	Grand Total	40	3,751	20	3,447	26	591	46	4,038

Source :

1. *Monograph on Location of Industries in Gujarat State, 1956-1960*, Published by the State Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Ahmedabad
2. Data for 1965 obtained from Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Ahmedabad

ANNEXURE I

List of Small Scale Units which can be Established at Gandhidham

1	Hurricane lanterns	16	Sewing thread balls
2	Sand paper	17	Horn combs and toys
3	Buttons	18	Building fittings
4	Carbon paper	19	Ink
5	Stainless steel utensils	20	Wood, screws and wire nails
6	Conduit pipes	21	Clips and pins
7	Aluminium utensils and wares	22	Soap
8	Bakelite switches and plugs	23	Leather belting
9	Guilded glass beads	24	Cycle parts
10	Rivets	25	Scissors and razors
11	Torches	26	Hosiery
12	Fountain pens	27	Carpets
13	Match boxes	28	Dori and navar
14	Suit case fittings	29	Durries
15	Locks of all kinds	30	Candles, etc., etc.

Source :

Ad hoc Committee, Conference of Industrialists and Allied Agencies, (under the auspices of Gandhidham Chamber of Commerce and Kutch Vikas Mandal), *A Report on the basic resources, prospects and potentialities of Industrialisation of Kutch*, Gandhidham, 1965

CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

Banking and Finance

History of Indigenous Banking

The oldest institution engaged in the disbursement of finance is that of the indigenous bankers who played a pivotal role in meeting the financial requirements of local inhabitants. Before the advent of the modern banking system this institution was the only source of credit to which people looked in times of distress or social occasions. In the absence of any alternative means of securing finance, the indigenous money-lender played and still plays a very important role in the rural economy of the country. Though the modern banking system was established very late in Kutch, the fame of *Kutchi* bankers spread far and wide in the country and abroad. Along with their main profession of trade and commerce, merchants of means received deposits and advanced money to the Garasias and estate holders against the security of their Giras. Even the rulers of Kutch borrowed money from such *sahukars* in times of distress. The land of Kutch had produced many reputed *sahukars* among whom the name of Sheth Sundarji Shivji Sodagar, who had helped the rulers in Kutch and Saurashtra in their critical times and also acted as their adviser, stands prominent. In respect of money-lending business in the former State, the *Gazetteer* on Kutch wrote as under in 1880.

> "Except the fortunes made by traders settled in foreign parts there is not much saving in Cutch. Townsmen spend their surplus income in making ornaments, house building, trading and money-lending. Villagers invest their savings in lending money or grain. ... ... Money-lending is a branch of most merchants' business. In towns the chief money-lenders are, of Hindus, Vanias, Bhatias, Atits, Brahmans, and Lohanas and of Musalmans, Bohoras, Memans and Khojas. In villages the chief money-lenders are, of Hindus, Rajputs, Vanias, Lohanas, Bhatias, and Kanbis and of Musalmans, Memans and Khojas. Small traders add to their capital by borrowing money at interest, using the advances partly in trade and partly in lending at higher rates."[1]

As regards the rate of interest prevalent in those days, the *Gazetteer* observes; "on loans a common craftsman has, on personal security, to

1. Campbell J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 110

pay yearly interest varying from nine to twelve per cent, a cultivator from six to twelve per cent, and a day labourer twelve to fifteen per cent."[1]

Because of its extensive maritime and inland trade in the past, *hundi* or the bill of exchange was the most popular form of negotiable instrument which played an important role in the banking system of Kutch before the introduction of the modern system of banking. Bills for sums varying from Rs. 10 to Rs. 7,000 were freely issued and taken generally at a discount of 1/8 to 1/4 per cent. They were of two types, i. e., *namjog* wherein the payee's name and *shahjog* in which some distinguishing mark of the payee's were entered, and were issued for periods ranging from one to ninety-one days.

General Credit Facilities in the District—In modern times finance is an important factor in the agro-industrial growth of an area, a broad idea of which can be had by reviewing the work of agencies providing credit to farmers, traders, industrialists and others in the district. These are indigenous money-lenders, co-operative credit societies and banks, joint stock banks and corporations formed by Government. Their function is two-fold ; to mobilise the savings of the public and to canalise them into different productive activities. There are also the insurance companies whose main business is to collect the savings of the people in the form of premia and invest them in interest yielding securities or contribute to the capital requirements of industries by investing money in shares or debentures. Private and public limited companies also attract savings of the public in the form of share capital and deposits and utilise them in different productive activities. The State also plays a significant role in the financial sphere by floating loans and promoting small savings for financing developmental plans and other Governmental activities. Life Insurance Corporation and various other corporations both in the public and private sectors have been playing an important part in developing the financial structure of the State and the country. The part played by each of these agencies will be reviewed in the pages that follow.

Indebtedness—Very little interest seems to have been taken in the past in regulating the activities of money-lenders. Due to their unrivalled position, money-lenders resorted to a number of fraudulent practices such as charging high rate of interest, forging of accounts and manipulation of amounts borrowed which were shown to be far in excess of the money actually lent. This situation continued more or less unabated till Independence and resulted in heavy indebtedness of the agriculturists. The newly formed Government of Kutch became alive to the alarming problem of agrarian indebtedness, and adapted and applied two well-known acts, viz.,

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha* 1880, p. 111

the Bombay Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act, 1939 and the Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946 with a view to lessen the burden of indebtedness and to check the malpractices of money-lenders. The Bombay Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act came as a great boon to the cultivators as it helped in scaling down their past debts and provided considerable relief to the debtors. Between 1951 and 1967, 59,254 applications of cultivator debtors were disposed of under this Act and the total amount by which debts were reduced came to Rs. 7,857,103.

In order to find out the extent of rural indebtedness, a socio-economic survey was undertaken by the 1961 Census wherein a Banni village named Bhirandiara in Bhuj taluka inhabited largely by *maldhari* community was selected. The survey disclosed that 43·13 per cent of the debt incurred was borrowed for maintenance of livestock, i. e., for productive purpose and 25·54 per cent for home consumption. The survey also disclosed that the local traders were the main source of obtaining money, who accounted for 43·70 per cent of the borrowings, co-operative societies and Government providing 19·71 and 16·29 per cent respectively.[1]

The legislative measures adopted by the Government did provide some relief to the debtor *kheduts* but they did not cure the disease. The former malpractices still continued. The need for regulating them was keenly felt since long. It was with this end in view that the Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946 was adapted and applied with effect from February 1950. The main provisions of the Act are :. licensing and registration of money-lenders, maintenance of accounts in prescribed forms, furnishing of receipts and statements of accounts to the debtor and fixation of rates of interest on secured and unsecured loans. While the money-leader, under the scheme of regulated credit, is expected to dispense credit on the principle of social justice, so far as the debtor is concerned, the main object being to protect him from the consequences of his reckless borrowing. With his account periodically before him, the debtor, it is expected, will be more vigilant about incurring further liabilities and will also have an opportunity of taking stock of his liabilities from time to time. The maximum rate of interest chargeable by money-lenders is fixed at 12 per cent on secured loans and 15 per cent on unsecured loans. Most of the loans for agricultural purposes being unsecured, agriculturists usually pay interest up to the prescribed rate of 15 per cent per annum ; whereas those pertaining to non-agricultural purposes, mostly being secured, the rate of interest does not exceed 12 per cent. Due to the strict enforcement of the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, money-lenders cannot take possession of land in satisfaction of their outstanding dues from the agriculturists. They have since then shifted their business from unsecured to secured advances on standing crops or on advance sale of seasonal crops.

1. TRIVEDI R. K., *Census of India* 1961, *Village Survey Monograph, Bhirandiara*, 1964, pp. 41-44

pay yearly interest varying from nine to twelve per cent, a cultivator from six to twelve per cent, and a day labourer twelve to fifteen per cent."[1]

Because of its extensive maritime and inland trade in the past, *hundi* or the bill of exchange was the most popular form of negotiable instrument which played an important role in the banking system of Kutch before the introduction of the modern system of banking. Bills for sums varying from Rs. 10 to Rs. 7,000 were freely issued and taken generally at a discount of 1/8 to 1/4 per cent. They were of two types, i. e., *namjog* wherein the payee's name and *shahjog* in which some distinguishing mark of the payee's were entered, and were issued for periods ranging from one to ninety-one days.

General Credit Facilities in the District—In modern times finance is an important factor in the agro-industrial growth of an area, a broad idea of which can be had by reviewing the work of agencies providing credit to farmers, traders, industrialists and others in the district. These are indigenous money-lenders, co-operative credit societies and banks, joint stock banks and corporations formed by Government. Their function is two-fold ; to mobilise the savings of the public and to canalise them into different productive activities. There are also the insurance companies whose main business is to collect the savings of the people in the form of premia and invest them in interest yielding securities or contribute to the capital requirements of industries by investing money in shares or debentures. Private and public limited companies also attract savings of the public in the form of share capital and deposits and utilise them in different productive activities. The State also plays a significant role in the financial sphere by floating loans and promoting small savings for financing developmental plans and other Governmental activities. Life Insurance Corporation and various other corporations both in the public and private sectors have been playing an important part in developing the financial structure of the State and the country. The part played by each of these agencies will be reviewed in the pages that follow.

Indebtedness—Very little interest seems to have been taken in the past in regulating the activities of money-lenders. Due to their unrivalled position, money-lenders resorted to a number of fraudulent practices such as charging high rate of interest, forging of accounts and manipulation of amounts borrowed which were shown to be far in excess of the money actually lent. This situation continued more or less unabated till Independence and resulted in heavy indebtedness of the agriculturists. The newly formed Government of Kutch became alive to the alarming problem of agrarian indebtedness, and adapted and applied two well-known acts, viz.,

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha* 1880, p. 111

the Bombay Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act, 1939 and the Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946 with a view to lessen the burden of indebtedness and to check the malpractices of money-lenders. The Bombay Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act came as a great boon to the cultivators as it helped in scaling down their past debts and provided considerable relief to the debtors. Between 1951 and 1967, 59,254 applications of cultivator debtors were disposed of under this Act and the total amount by which debts were reduced came to Rs. 7,857,103.

In order to find out the extent of rural indebtedness, a socio-economic survey was undertaken by the 1961 Census wherein a Banni village named Bhirandiara in Bhuj taluka inhabited largely by *maldhari* community was selected. The survey disclosed that 43·13 per cent of the debt incurred was borrowed for maintenance of livestock, i. e., for productive purpose and 25·54 per cent for home consumption. The survey also disclosed that the local traders were the main source of obtaining money, who accounted for 43·70 per cent of the borrowings, co-operative societies and Government providing 19·71 and 16·29 per cent respectively.[1]

The legislative measures adopted by the Government did provide some relief to the debtor *kheduts* but they did not cure the disease. The former malpractices still continued. The need for regulating them was keenly felt since long. It was with this end in view that the Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946 was adapted and applied with effect from February 1950. The main provisions of the Act are : licensing and registration of money-lenders, maintenance of accounts in prescribed forms, furnishing of receipts and statements of accounts to the debtor and fixation of rates of interest on secured and unsecured loans. While the money-lender, under the scheme of regulated credit, is expected to dispense credit on the principle of social justice, so far as the debtor is concerned, the main object being to protect him from the consequences of his reckless borrowing. With his account periodically before him, the debtor, it is expected, will be more vigilant about incurring further liabilities and will also have an opportunity of taking stock of his liabilities from time to time. The maximum rate of interest chargeable by money-lenders is fixed at 12 per cent on secured loans and 15 per cent on unsecured loans. Most of the loans for agricultural purposes being unsecured, agriculturists usually pay interest up to the prescribed rate of 15 per cent per annum ; whereas those pertaining to non-agricultural purposes, mostly being secured, the rate of interest does not exceed 12 per cent. Due to the strict enforcement of the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, money-lenders cannot take possession of land in satisfaction of their outstanding dues from the agriculturists. They have since then shifted their business from unsecured to secured advances on standing crops or on advance sale of seasonal crops.

1. TRIVEDI R. K., *Census of India* 1961, *Village Survey Monograph, Bhirandiara*, 1964, pp. 41-44

Licensed Money-lenders—The following table shows the number of licensed money-lenders and their loan transactions in the district.

Licensed Money-lenders and Loan Transactions

Period	No. of licences issued for the first time	No. of licences renewed	No. of money-lenders holding valid licences	Loans to		
				Traders	Non-traders	Total
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1960-61 ..	51	21	72	..	358,727	358,727
1961-62 ..	42	55	97	264,486	400,941	665,427
1962-63 ..	12	66	78	264,335	265,350	529,685
1963-64* ..	5	83	88	..	1,180,364	1,180,364
1965 ..	6	73	79	..	921,299	921,299
1966 ..	5	65	70	..	925,822	925,822

Source :

Annual Administration Reports on the Working of the Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946, 1960-61 to 1966

* Figures for 1963-64 relate to the period from August 1963 to December, 1964.

It can be seen from the above statement that the number of new licences granted has progressively declined year after year. The total number of valid licencees has been fluctuating, showing on the whole a downward trend. This is probably due to the fact that money-lenders did not like to work within the strict frame-work of legislation which has tended to curb their undesirable practices. While advances to traders have almost disappeared in recent years, those to non-traders have increased considerably, revealing the fact that for non-trading classes, money-lenders are still the most important source of finance. From Rs. 358,727 in 1960-61, these advances rose to Rs. 925,822 in 1966. Larger amount in 1963-64 is brought about by the fact that the figures given in this year cover the period from August 1963 to December 1964. Money-lenders advanced loans to almost all the classes of people, i. e., agriculturists, traders, labourers, etc., both for productive as well as unproductive purposes. Despite many other agencies like co-operative societies providing finance at a cheaper rate, money-lenders still retain their former utility and popularity with the people. Loans are recovered at the convenience of customers mostly in instalments. Landed property in the form of buildings, ornaments and personal integrity of the borrowers are accepted by money-lenders as security for the loans advanced.

Joint Stock Banks

Joint stock banks, scheduled, and non-scheduled, nowadays play an important part in the development of trade and industry. In fact, they constitute one of the most important sectors of the organised capital market

In Kutch district, there were 13 branch offices of joint stock banks in 1965. All of them have their head offices registered outside the district. Due to the backwardness of the region, banking institutions seem to have entered very late in this part of Gujarat State. The branch of the Bank of India, established at Bhuj in 1943, was the first commercial bank to start banking business in the former Kutch State. The statement given below shows the growth of commercial banking in the district.

Sl. No.	Bank	Location	Year of establishment
1	2	3	4
1	The Bank of India Ltd.	Bhuj	1943
2	The Punjab National Bank Ltd.	Mandvi	1949
3	State Bank of India	Bhuj	1953
4	Central Bank of India Ltd.	Anjar	1953
5	The Bank of India Ltd.	Gandhidham	1953
6	State Bank of India	Gandhidham	1955
7	State Bank of India	Mandvi	1957
8	The Punjab National Bank Ltd.	Gandhidham	1957
9	Central Bank of India Ltd.	Gandhidham	1957
10	Mercantile Bank Ltd.	Gandhidham	1958
11	The District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd.* ..	Bhuj	1959
12	State Bank of India	Anjar	1960
13	Central Bank of India Ltd.	Bhuj	1960
14	State Bank of India	Bhachau	1965

* For details see pp. 277-279.

It can be seen from the above statement that till the merger of Kutch into the Indian Union, there was only one branch started by the Bank of India Ltd. The township of Gandhidham, which has become the pivot of commerce and industry due to the development of the major port Kandla and location of the Free Trade Zone in its vicinity, has the largest number of branches. Out of a total of 13 branch offices in 1965, five were branches of the State Bank of India alone. Four out of nine talukas/mahals in the district viz., Bhuj, Bhachau, Anjar and Mandvi were served by commercial banks till 1965.1

Table VI·1 that follows shows the amount of deposits collected by these banks in the district in 1962 and 1965.

1. State Bank of India opened its branch office at Nalia-Abdasa in 1966

STATEMENT VI-1

Deposits of Joint Stock Banks, 1962 and 1965 (Ending on 31st December)

(IN THOUSAND RUPEES)

Particulars		Fixed Deposits		Current Deposits		Savings Deposits		Other Deposits		Total Deposits	
		No. of accounts	Amount Rs.	No. of accounts	Amount Rs.	No. of accounts	Amount Rs.	No. of accounts	Amount Rs.	No. of accounts	Amount Rs.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1 Manufacturing Concerns	1962	..	..	20	339	..	..	..	..	20	339
	1965	..	..	31	1,338	..	..	..	..	31	1,338
2 Trading Concerns	1962	..	..	949	4,031	..	..	19	426	968	4,457
	1965	..	..	1,307	3,674	..	..	69	496	1,376	4,169
3 Banking Companies	1962	..	..	19	789	..	..	1	400	20	1,189
	1965	..	..	20	1,521	..	..	..	..	20	1,521
4 Business	1962	8	164	..	..	..	..	6	81	8	164
	1965	29	605	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	686
5 Public Institutions and Trusts..	1962	18	589	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	589
	1965	67	23,111	..	..	..	..	..	..	67	23,111
6 Personal	1962	1,743	9,554	1,183	2,889	5,218	5,609	332	1,172	8,476	19,224
	1965	4,226	25,796	809	1,998	10,435	10,955	465	1,676	15,935	40,425
7 Others	1962	25	494	193	1,005	22	26	4	15	244	1,530
	1965	61	829	273	2,543	36	81	7	943	377	4,396
Total	1962	1,794	10,791	2,364	9,053	5,240	5,635	362	2,013	9,784	27,692
	1965	4,383	50,861	2,440	11,074	10,471	11,036	547	3,135	17,941	76,646

Source :
Compiled from the information furnished by the Joint Stock Banks in Kutch District.

The foregoing statement reveals a large increase in the number of depositors (82·91 per cent) as also in the amount of deposits collected (175·15 per cent) in 1965 as compared to 1962. It also discloses that both in 1962 and 1965, the largest amount was deposited by individual depositors which amounted to 69·93 per cent in 1962 and 53·44 per cent in 1965. Preponderance of fixed deposits over other types of deposits is also clearly visible in that they accounted for 39·25 and 66·54 per cent of the total deposits in 1962 and 1965 respectively. It is obvious that the people of the district are getting increasingly banking minded by resorting to modern means of deposits and borrowing.

ADVANCES

Loan Advances of Joint Stock Banks, 1962 and 1965

(IN THOUSAND RUPEES)

Sector		1962			1965		
		Number of Accounts	Amount Rs.	Percentage to total Advances	Number of Accounts	Amount Rs.	Percentage to total Advances
I	Industry	11	583	20.30	66	676	12.88
II	Commerce	88	1,281	44.60	136	2,821	53.73
III	Agriculture ..	1	20	0.70	..	..	..
IV	Personal and professional	161	651	22.67	162	1,486	28.30
V	All others ..	7	337	11.73	19	267	5.9
	Total	268	2,872	100.00	383	5,250	100.00

Source. :
Joint Stock Banks in Kutch District

The statistics given above show that the amount advanced increased by 82·80 per cent in 1965. The total advances of all the joint stock banks in the district amounted to Rs. 2,872,000 in 1962 and rose to Rs. 5,250,000 in 1965 with corresponding increase in the number of accounts and advances under each head. In 1965, trade and commerce claimed the largest share 53·73 per cent, personal and professional 28·30 per cent and industries 12·88 per cent. Of the total deposits collected by commercial banks, 6·95 per cent only were advanced in the district.

Banks and Social Control—The advances of commercial banks have so far been mainly utilised by commerce and industries. In order to achieve a balanced growth of country's economy, the Government of India has decided to impose effective social control over these banks with a view to channelising the huge resources at their disposal on priority basis in various sectors of the economy and diverting them also towards the development

of agriculture and cottage and small scale industries. To bring about the necessary changes in the pattern of lending by banks, a National Credit Council with the Deputy Prime Minister as Chairman and the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India as the Vice-Chairman has been formed from December 1967. The Council also includes representatives of commercial and co-operative banks, large, medium and small-scale industries, agriculture, trade including export trade and professional group including economists. It is felt that the advice of the Council will help the Government, the Reserve Bank and the banking system as a whole in the discharge of their respective responsibilities in the development of the country's economy.

Co-operative Societies and Banks

Co-operative movement was very little known in Kutch State before 1947. The first society was registered in the State in May 1948. Even after Independence, the movement did not make much headway till the First Five Year Plan was framed. Owing to its peculiar geographical condition, it was difficult to bring the illiterate agriculturists within the co-operative fold in a region where vast tracts were sparsely and thinly populated. The Bombay Co-operative Societies Act, 1925 was applied to Kutch from 1949. The Co-operative Department started functioning from 1953. A body called the Kutch Central Co-operative Financing Board was constituted after integration to discharge the functions of an apex institution to finance the credit requirements of the co-operative societies. The First Plan period was thus utilised for preparing the proper background for the future development of the movement. Towards its end, there were as many as 123 co-operative societies of all types functioning in the State.

When Kutch was merged with the bilingual Bombay State in November 1956, on the reorganisation of States, schemes for the development of co-operative societies in force in Bombay State were also made applicable to Kutch. The movement witnessed rapid expansion during the period of Second Plan. A number of new activities were brought within the co-operative sphere during this period, when the services of the Saurashtra Central Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank were made available to Kutch district. Taluka purchase and sales unions were formed and the District Central Co-operative Bank was established. Due to all these measures, the number of the co-operative societies grew very rapidly from 123 at the end of the First Plan to 416 by the end of the Second and to 499 at the end of the Third Plan.

The following are the details of working of different types of societies in the district.

Agricultural Credit Societies—As in other districts of the State, agricultural credit societies occupy a predominant place in the co-operative

movement. Out of 499 different types of societies functioning in the district in 1965-66, as many as 305 or nearly 61 per cent were agricultural credit societies. This is as it should be in view of the fact that agriculture still remains the mainstay of the economy of the country. Moreover agriculture being risky, commercial banks are yet reluctant to provide the necessary finance to this sector of economy. Restrictions placed by legislation on the activities of money-lenders also operate as a check in the former ease with which money could be had from them. Co-operative credit societies, therefore, remain the major source of finance for agricultural needs. With a view to make these societies more useful to the cultivators and to revitalise the stagnant ones, service co-operatives have been introduced since 1959 which, besides disbursing credit, also undertake the distribution of seeds and fertilisers, supply tools and implements and also run consumer stores. Out of a total of 305 agricultural credit societies in the district in 1965-66, 161 were service co-operatives.

Statement VI·2 that follows discloses that the number of societies, their membership, and paid-up share capital have increased between 1960-61 and 1962-63 and fluctuated thereafter without showing any significant improvement. Working capital also increased considerably till 1963-64 but declined in the following years. Kutch being a backward region affected by frequent recurrence of scarcity and famine, there is not much saving on the part of agriculturists. *Per contra* they have to resort to large scale borrowing which rose as high as Rs. 13,305,000 in 1964-65, resulting in heavy overdues and consequent restriction on advances by the societies.

Non-agricultural Credit Societies—These societies, which include urban co-operative banks, are usually situated in towns and cater to the credit requirements of their members such as traders, artisans, factory workers, salary earners, etc. Urban Co-operative banks, urban credit societies, factory workers' societies, thrift and credit societies, mill hands' societies, etc., are included in this group. There does not seem to be much difference between the constitution and management of urban credit societies and urban banks. Only those urban credit societies which are allowed to do banking business according to the standard and criteria laid down are allowed to use the word 'bank' as part of their name. Working of these societies including the Gandhidham Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., which is the only urban co-operative bank in the district, is given in the statement that follows.

STATEMENT VI-2

Operations of Agricultural/Non-agricultural/Credit Societies, 1960-61 to 1965-66

Year 1	No. of societies 2	No. of members 3	Paid-up share capital 4	Working capital 5	Loans advanced 6	Overdues 7	Deposits 8	Reserve and other funds 9
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
			A—Agricultural Credit Societies					
1960-61	276	25,875	1,612,000	5,893,013	3,983,000	2,112,000	105,000	83,000
1961-62	296	27,573	2,209,000	7,820,324	5,403,000	2,085,000	110,500	143,000
1962-63	305	34,851	2,758,000	10,524,260	7,596,000	4,362,000	143,000	201,000
1963-64	296	32,495	2,904,000	13,817,000	10,225,000	5,748,000	150,000	272,000
1964-65	303	34,960	2,966,000	11,910,000	13,305,000	5,632,000	202,000	348,000
1965-66	305	32,443	3,078,116	9,527,114	1,529,225	4,951,502	150,210	405,200
			B—Non-agricultural Credit Societies					
1960-61	25	6,420	265,000	708,000	446,000	91,000	316,000	51,000
1961-62	32	5,189	303,000	762,600	613,000	188,000	309,000	54,000
1962-63	33	6,409	360,000	835,800	730,000	197,000	335,000	92,000
1963-64	34	5,711	389,000	919,000	762,000	196,000	325,000	74,100
1964-65	32	6,069	420,000	968,000	724,000	133,000	380,000	80,000
1965-66	32	5,497	457,374	1,007,609	919,462	61,707	457,671	99,598

Source : Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Kutch

The table reveals a steady increase in the paid-up share capital, deposits and working capital of these societies, reflecting the growing interest of the people in the co-operative movement. The amount of loans advanced has also shown a similar trend, which is not noticeable in the number of societies and their membership.

The Gandhidham Urban Co-operative Bank was registered in the year 1951. Its working capital in 1965-66 was Rs. 542,103 and membership 2,122. It advanced loans to the tune of Rs. 374,000 in the same year. The Bank is expected to expand its activities in course of time owing to its advantageous position in the vicinity of the major port Kandla and the Free Trade Zone established in 1965.

Non-credit Societies—This sector covers both agricultural and non-agricultural non-credit societies. The former includes such important societies as marketing, cattle breeding, milk supply, ginning and pressing, etc. Those important in the non-agricultural sector are housing, consumers' co-operatives, fisheries, weavers, forest labour and labour contract, industrial, etc. Out of 41 agricultural non-credit societies in the district in 1965-66, 17 were farming societies which had a membership of 356 and paid-up capital to the tune of Rs. 106,700. There were nine purchase and sale unions including the district union at Bhuj. They undertake sale of articles of daily necessities such as cereals, pulses, *gur*, dry fruits, cement, improved seeds and fertilisers. Their paid-up capital was Rs. 134,165 in 1965-66.

There were 121 non-agricultural non-credit societies in 1965-66. Of these, consumers' co-operatives numbered 22, housing 22, labour contract 15, weavers' co-operatives 14, and leather goods 12. Their paid-up capital in 1965-66 was Rs. 52,290, Rs. 436,072, Rs. 62,850, Rs. 33,667 and Rs. 17,883 respectively. Consumers' co-operatives have been organised in recent times to give relief from the inflationary spiral of prices by supplying essential consumer goods of daily use at fair and reasonable prices. The value of goods sold by them during 1965-66 amounted to Rs. 1,705,073. Another noteworthy feature of the co-operative movement is the emergence of housing societies in recent times. The scarcity of living accommodation has accelerated the tempo of house building activities in urban areas and helped in the organisation of as many as 22 housing societies which constructed a total of 430 houses till June 1967. Though the growth of co-operative movement in this region is comparatively recent, as many as 43 industrial co-operatives of weavers, tanners, makers of leather goods, oil millers, etc., have been organised.

Kutch District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd.—Before 1956, short term financial requirements of co-operative societies were met by a board called the Kutch Central Financing Board which functioned as the central

financing agency. This Board ceased to function after the merger when the Saurashtra Central Co-operative Bank extended its operations and established its branches in Kutch by providing short and medium turm finance to the co-operative societies in this district. In pursuance of the policy of the Reserve Bank to establish a central financing agency in each district, the Kutch District Central Co-operative Bank was registered in March, 1959, though its operations started a little later after the assests and liabilities of the branch offices of the Saurashtra Central Co-operative Bank functioning in Kutch district were transferred. With the formation of Gujarat State in 1960, the Gujarat State Co-operative Bank functions as the apex bank in the State.

The Kutch District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., had branch offices in eight out of nine talukas till August 1962 followed by two more branches, one at Gadhuli in Lakhpat taluka and another at Gandhidham in Anjar taluka established in the same year. The bank thus serves the district through a net work of ten branches and meets financial requirements of the societies. It makes available short term loans to primary agricultural credit societies for raising crops and medium term loans for the purchase of bullocks, milch cattle, carts and other implements. It also offers credit facilities against general assets of salary earners' societies, primary agricultural credit societies, transport societies, cattle owners' societies and urban district since 1960-61.

Statement VI·3 gives an idea about the working of the bank in the district since 1960-61.

STATEMENT VI·3

Operations of the Kutch District Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd., 1960-61 to 1966-67

(RUPEES IN LAKHS)

	Particulars	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67
1	No. of Members							
	(*a*) Individuals ..	15	20	20	18	17	16	17
	(*b*) Societies ..	304	340	367	394	398	412	419
2	Paid-up share capital (Rs.) ..	13.14	17.87	19.49	26.29	26.22	26.53	26.64
3	Reserve and other funds (Rs.) ..	0.78	0.96	1.75	3.55	6.95	8.82	9.61
4	Total deposits (Rs.)	30.94	25.71	25.60	38.55	29.16	25.69	31.97
5	Working capital (Rs.)	74.28	91.87	108.83	168.89	131.62	108.96	104.31
6	Investment including Fixed deposits (Rs.)	12.01	8.60	7.42	7.42	7.52	7.62	7.52
7	Total loans advanced (Rs.) ..	53.53	70.01	63.74	39.58	22.89	13.09	8.42
8	Loans outstanding (Rs.)	44.80	57.96	81.63	125.63	100.20	80.34	74.48
9	Recoveries (Rs.) ..	20.25	34.82	37.42	7.43	40.25	28.67	16.76
10	Overdues (Rs.) ..	7.07	27.23	12.25	10.85	71.26	58.23	54.80

Source :
The Manager, District Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd., Bhuj

STATEMENT VI·3—*contd.*

(RUPEES IN LAKHS)

Particulars	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67
5 Working capital (Rs.)	74.28	91.87	108.83	168.89	131.62	108.96	104.31
6 Investment including Fixed deposits (Rs.)	12.01	8.60	7.42	7.42	7.52	7.62	7.52
7 Total loans advanced (Rs.) ..	53.53	70.01	63.74	39.58	22.89	13.09	8.42
8 Loans outstanding (Rs.)	44.80	57.96	81.63	125.63	100.20	80.34	74.48
9 Recoveries (Rs.) ..	20.25	34.82	37.42	7.43	40.25	28.67	16.76
10 Overdues (Rs.) ..	7.07	27.23	12.25	10.85	71.26	58.23	54.80

Source :
The Manager, District Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd., Bhuj

The statement makes it clear that membership, paid-up share capital, reserve and other funds, etc., of the bank have risen steadily. However, the total amount of loans advanced show considerable decline after 1962-63, which could be attributed to the fact that in the years 1963-64 and 1964-65 there was severe famine in the district which affected the recovery operations of the bank, resulted in heavy overdues and reduced loan advances.

Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank—Finance has always remained an acute problem for agriculture and this is more so in respect of Kutch district which has been traditionally backward because of its age old isolation and scanty rainfall. Besides short and medium term finance supplied by the District Central Co-operative Bank through the net work of agricultural credit societies, the farmers also require long term credit to effect improvement of a permanent nature in the land they till. Purchase of costly appliances like tractors, installation of electric motors and pumping sets, digging new wells and repairing old ones are beyond their individual means. The agency entrusted with providing long term finance is the Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank, which has nine branch offices in this district at Bhuj, Mandvi, Bhachau, Anjar, Mundra, Rapar, Nakhatrana, Nalia and Gadhuli.

Before Independence financial assistance was provided to the indigent agriculturists by the rulers of Kutch State in the form of *tagavi* advances. But looking to the magnitude of their requirements, the assistance touched only the fringe of the problem. When Kutch became part 'C' State in 1948, the State Government made *tagavi* advances to the farmers under the

Agriculturists' Loans Act and the Land Improvement Loans Act. Between 1948-49 and 1955-56, the *tagavi* advances by the State Government amounted to Rs. 5,594,185. On its merger with Bombay State, the area of operation of the Saurashtra Central Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank, functioning in Saurashtra since 1951, was extended to Kutch and Amreli districts. The Bank opened its first branch at Bhuj in 1957 and advanced Rs. 636,050 to the agriculturists for different purposes till 1960. On the formation of Gujarat State from May, 1960, the Saurashtra Central Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank was converted into the Gujarat State Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank functioning as an apex institution for providing long term finance for developmental activities undertaken under the Five Year Plans. The Bank was renamed the Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank in 1964. The activities of the Bank in the district have steadily expanded since 1960 as revealed by the amount of loans advanced which stood at Rs. 8.713,610 at the end of 1966-67. Of these, Rs. 2,079,775 were advanced in the year 1966-67 alone. Membership of the Bank in the district rose from 1,100 in 1960-61 to 6,480 in 1966-67 and share capital from Rs. 71,810 to Rs. 602,910 during the same period.

Other Sources

Small Savings—Small Savings Schemes have been devised by Government mainly with a view to mobilise public savings and to raise funds for financing development projects and at the same time encourage the habit of thrift among the people. The scheme dates back to the First World War, 1914-18, when the Government of India introduced the postal cash certificates for the first time. During World War II, the Government of India started in 1943 the post office National Savings Certificates scheme with a view to withdraw excess purchasing power of the people, generated on account of increased War expenditure and also to check the inflationary spiral created by War conditions.

During the post-Independence period, the Government of India introduced a wide range of securities under the small savings scheme at attractive rates of interest as it saw great potentialities for developing them to finance its diverse activities including the schemes under the Five Year Plans. The securities offered are 12-Year National Defence Certificates, 10-Year Defence Deposit Certificates,[1] 15-Year Annuity Certificates and the Cumulative Time Deposit Scheme. Yet another important source of small savings is the Post Office Savings Banks. On account of their wide net work extending into the rural areas, they have proved very useful in augmenting the savings of the public.

1. National Defence Certificates and Defence Deposit Certificates were introduced from 1st November, 1962 in the wake of Chinese aggression replacing the old National Plan series and the Treasury Savings Deposit Certificates respectively.

The statement that follows illustrates the extent of investment attracted by the various small savings schemes between 1962-63 and 1966-67.

Small Savings, 1962-63 to 1966-67

(Gross Collection)

(IN THOUSAND RUPEES)

Year	12-Year National Defence Certificates	10-Year Defence Deposit Certificates	15-Year Annuity Certificates	Cumulative Time Deposit Scheme	Post Office Savings Banks	Grand Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1962-63	2,837	391	6	63	4,571	7,868
1963-64	2,389	433	..	95	3,983	6,900
1964-65	5,345	1,466	..	97	5,083	11,991
1965-66	4,947	670	..	179	7,016	12,812
1966-67	3,819	312	8	259	5,866	10,264
Total	19,337	3,272	14	693	26,519	49,835

Source :
Regional Director of Small Savings, Ahmedabad

During the five year period beginning from 1962-63, a total of Rs. 49,835,000 was invested by the people of the district under the different small savings securities and the post office savings banks. The latter account for Rs. 26,519,000 or 53·21 per cent and the National Defence Certificates for Rs. 19,337,000 or 38·80 per cent. The amounts deposited during this period have shown progressive increase except for a slight decline in lean years.

Unit Trust—The Unit Trust of India has been created under the Unit Trust of India Act, 1963 to afford the small investor means of acquiring a share in the widening prosperity, based on steady industrial growth of the country. The scheme combines the advantages of a minimum risk with a reasonable return. It helps in the mobilisation of resources and their channelling into investments by increasing the overall productivity of capital and providing funds required for the development plans. The face value of each unit is kept at Rs. 10 with a view to attract a large number of small investors. The Trust pools savings of the community and invests thme in different types of securities such as Government securities, industrial debentures, preference shares and equities in a manner which offers to the

individual investor reasonable return on his savings. Being always ready both to sell and to buy its units at stated prices, the Trust offers an additional advantage of liquidity of investment. The Unit Trust has been provided with an initial capital of Rs. 5 crores contributed by the Reserve Bank of India, Life Insurance Corporation, State Bank of India and its subsidiaries, scheduled banks and other specified financial institutions. Its management is vested in a Board of Trustees with the Chairman appointed by the Reserve Bank of India. One of the important concessions provided by the Unit Trust Act is exemption from income tax on dividend up to Rs. 1,000.

Insurance—Agencies doing insurance business play an important role in tapping a portion of the public savings in the form of insurance premia. With the nationalisation of life insurance business in 1956, the Life Insurance Corporation of India has become the foremost and the largest single agency doing life insurance business in India. The Corporation was constituted by a Parliamentary enactment in 1956 and was officially constituted on 1st September, 1956. From this date all insurance companies-Indian and foreign-ceased to carry on life insurance business anywhere in India. However, general insurance business which includes fire, marine, accident, etc., was kept open to private enterprise. From April 1964, the Life Insurance Corporation has also opened its General Insurance Department which competes with private agencies in the field of general insurance.

In the organisational and administrative set up of the Life Insurance Corporation, Kutch district is placed under the territorial jurisdiction of the Rajkot division. The sub-office of the Corporation at Bhuj covers the entire district. The number of agents canvassing life and general insurance business in the district numbered 185 in 1967. From 1965 to 1967 the Corporation issued in the district 4,341 life insurance policies valued at Rs. 1·95 crores, the total premia collected till 31st December, 1967 amounting to Rs. 4,609,932. The General Insurance Department of the Corporation also collected premium of Rs. 41,678 between 1965-66 and 1967-68 on general insurance policies which include fire, marine, motor, accident, etc.

Private and Public Limited Companies—Besides insurance establishments and banks, limited companies, private and public, play an important role in attracting savings to finance diverse economic activities such as manufacturing, trading, transport and the like. Company finance thus constitutes an important aspect in the study of financial resources in the economic structure of a district.

Private Limited Companies—The growth of large manufacturing concerns in Kutch is of very recent orgin. Private limited companies in the district, none of which was registered before Independence, numbered 13 at the end of March 1968. Their classification according to the nature of

business transacted together with their paid-up capital as on 31st March, 1968 is shown below.

Sl. No.	Type of companies	No. of concerns	Paid-up capital
			Rs.
1	2	3	4
1	Oil-mills	2	1,100,000
2	Chemicals and drugs	4	426,000
3	Salt works	2	418,000
4	Financing agencies	2	62,000
5	Others	3	117,500
	Total	**13**	**2,123,500**

Source : Registrar of Companies, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

Public Limited Companies—Public limited companies have an advantage over private limited companies in that whereas private companies sometimes suffer from the paucity of funds, the public limited concerns invite the public at large to invest their savings in shares or debentures issued by them. This distinction makes their investment spread widely. In 1967-68 there were five such companies all of which were registered after Independence. These companies are classified below according to the nature of business transacted and their paid-up share capital as on 31st March, 1968.

Sl. No.	Type of companies	No. of concerns	Paid-up capital
			Rs.
1	2	3	4
1	Chemicals and drugs	2	3,395,565
2	Spinning mills	2	4,013,185
3	Sindhu Resettlement Corporation ..	1	15,225,550
	Total	**5**	**22,634,300**

Source : Registrar of Companies, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

The total paid-up share capital both of private and public limited companies registered in the district amounted to Rs. 24,757,800. Of these, public limited companies alone accounted for Rs. 22,634,300 or 91·42 per cent. Among private limited companies, oil-mills claimed over 50 per cent, whereas the paid-up share capital of the Sindhu Resettlement Corporation exceeded 60 per cent of the total capital of all public limited companies

in the district. Though the strength of public limited companies was small as compared to the private limited companies, the average paid-up capital of the former was Rs. 4,526,860 as compared to only Rs. 92,326 of the latter.

In addition to the companies which are registered in the district classified above there are a number of others operating in Kutch but having their places of registration outside the district, e. g., Brooke Bond and Lipton Tea companies.

Assistance for Industrial Development

Prior to Independence, very little attention was paid towards the industrial development of Kutch. After its merger into the Indian Union in 1948 various efforts were made to stimulate industrial growth in this region. The Kutch Cottage Industries Board was formed in 1953 to provide financial assistance to the small-scale and cottage industries. After its merger into Bombay State in November 1956, such assistance came to be given under the State Aid to Small-Scale and Cottage Industries Rules, 1935. Since 1960, the State of Gujarat has evinced keen interest in the development of industries in this area and taken concerted measures for promoting their growth and expansion in the State. The aims and activities of various corporations set up for the purpose are reviewed below.

Gujarat Small Industries Corporation—This Corporation was incorporated as a public limited company in 1962 with an authorised capital of Rs. 50 lakhs. Its aim is to assist, protect and promote interests of small-scale industries in the State and provide technical and managerial assistance and help in the procurement of raw materials, machinery, equipment, tools and appliances. It assists small industries by (1) providing raw materials, (ii) importing in bulk against actual users' import licences held by small scale units, (iii) supplying machinery on hire purchase basis and (iv) marketing their products. No small-scale unit has so far applied for any such assistance from the Corporation.

Gujarat State Financial Corporation—The Gujarat State Financial Corporation was established in 1960 by the Government of Gujarat with the object of providing financial accommodation to small, medium and large industries for acquiring capital and productive assets like land, building, plant and machinery for expansion, renovation or modernisation. Such loans are granted usually for a period of 7 to 10 years. The Corporation also acts as an agent to the State Government and is delegated powers to receive, consider, sanction and disburse loans beyond Rs. 10,000 up to a maximum of Rs. 25,000 under the State Aid to Cottage and Small-Scale Industries Rules from the funds placed at its disposal by the Government. Loans above Rs. 25,000 but below Rs. 10 lakhs are granted to industrial

concerns other than public limited companies or registered co-operative societies eligible for loans up to Rs. 20 lakhs. These loans the Corporation sanctions from its own funds and under its own rules and regulations. The total amount thus advanced by it to ten industrial units in the district till June, 1968 comes to Rs. 1,145,000. A loan of Rs. 10,000 has also been sanctioned to an industrial concern under the Agency Agreement[1] with the Government.

Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation—This Corporation came into existence in 1962 to establish and manage industrial estates, to develop industrial areas and to undertake schemes of Industrial development either jointly with the State Government or local bodies or on agency basis. No industrial estate has so far been established in the district.

Financial Assistance by Government—Small-scale and cottage industries in the State also receive financial assistance from the State Directorate of Industries and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. The former grants a loan up to Rs. 10,000 under the State Aid to Small-Scale and Cottage Industries Rules, 1935. A sum of Rs. 38,000 was provided by the Co-operative Department between 1963-64 and 1967-68. The District Panchayat too provides financial assistance for running sales depots for the benefit of weavers, by giving rebate on the sale of finished handloom cloth and in the celebration of handloom week. A sum of Rs. 23,588 was expended for the purposes cited above during the Third Five Year Plan period.

Looking to the comparative backwardness of the region, the Planning Commission has also started a Rural Industries Project in Kutch district since 1962 alongwith other selected backward regions in the country to bring about development of agriculture, irrigation, communications, small-scale industries, etc. The project is, however, confined for the present to the development of agro-based industries, and implemented in five talukas of the district, viz., Bhuj (excluding Bhuj town), Mandvi, Mundra, Anjar and Nakhatrana. The amount of loans actually disbursed and utilised under this project came to Rs. 944-345 between 1963-64 and 1967-68. Besides providing financial assistance, the project also arranges for the training of artisans in blacksmithy, electro-plating, wool knitting and weaving, tanning of leather, etc.

Gujarat State Industrial Investment Corporation—The latest among the corporations promoted by the Government of Gujarat for furthering industrialisation in the State is the Gujarat State Industrial Investment Corporation which came into existence in August, 1968, with a share capital of Rs. 10 crores. Its management is vested in a Board of Directors consisting

1. The system of advances under the Agency Agreement has been discontinued from 1968-69.

of Chairman, Managing Director, Secretary, Finance Department, Secretary, Industries Department, Commissioner of Industries, and other non-official members. The main object of the Corporation is to channelise investments of various financing agencies and help new industries in the State which are in need of finance. The establishment of the corporation would go a long way for stepping up industrial progress in the State.

With a view to achieve further expansion of industries in the country, the Government of India has created (i) Industrial Finance Corporation of India, (ii) National Industrial Development Corporation, and (iii) Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India. These institutions advance medium and long term loans to industries in public and private sectors. The purposes for which they are established and the extent of finance provided by them to the industrial units in the district are narrated below.

Industrial Finance Corporation of India—The Corporation was created in 1948 to provide medium and long term finance to industries promoted by public limited companies and co-operative societies. Industries engaged in the manufacture, preservation or processing of goods, or in shipping, mining and generation or distribution of electricity or any other form of power are eligible for financial assistance from the Corporation. The Corporation had underwritten a sum of Rs. 6·25 lakhs towards the equity capital of salt works situated in Kutch till March, 1968.

Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India—Established in 1955 as a privately owned financial institution to encourage and assist industrial investment in India, it advances loans to industries in the private sector. These loans are secured either against the assests of the company or guaranteed by banks or insurance companies. Its authorised capital is Rs. 25 crores. The investment of the Corporation in the district was of the order of Rs. 41·2 lakhs till June 1968, the beneficiaries being textile mill and salt works.

The National Industrial Development Corporation—This Corporation was started by the Government of India as a Government owned private limited company in 1954. It is authorised to start new industries with Government money in spheres where the size of capital required or the risks involved deter private capital. It also secures foreign technical collaboration in preparing project reports concerning new industries. No assistance was provided by this Corporation in the district till 1967.

Banking institutions like the State Bank of India and its subsidiaries, the Industrial Development Bank and the Saurashtra Small Industries Co-operative Bank Ltd., also provide financial aid to large, medium and small industries.

The Industrial Development Bank—The Industrial Development Bank of India was established in 1964 an appex all-India institution to co-ordinate the activities of other financial institutions, to provide direct financial assistance to industrial units and to bridge the gap between the supply of and demand for medium and long term finance. As a subsidary to the Reserve Bank of India, the Industrial Development Bank took over the functions of the Refinance Corporation for Industry Ltd., from September 1964. It provides (a) refinance to a large number of financial institutions and (b) direct financial assistance to industrial concerns in the form of loans and advances, subscribing, purchasing or underwriting issues of stocks, shares, bonds or debentures, guaranteeing deferred payments due from industrial concerns to third parties and loans raised by them in the open market or from other financial institutions. No industry in this district has so far obtained financial assistance from the Bank.

Pilot Scheme—State Bank of India under its Pilot Scheme provides financial accommodation to small-scale industrial units in the State. The scheme has been in operation since 1956, whereunder credit facilities are provided for the purchase of raw materials and stores including those in the process of production and the finance required for holding the products pending sale. Under this scheme, the Bank has sanctioned credit to the extent of Rs. 366,000 to ten small-scale units manufacturing soap, electric goods, confectionary, knives, wires, nails and retreading tyres, etc.

Saurashtra Small Industries Co-operative Bank Ltd. Rajkot—The bank was registered at Rajkot on May 14, 1956 to advance short, medium and long term loans to the urban co-operative banks, industrial co-operatives and individual artisans in Saurashtra to enable them to purchase raw materials, machinery and other appliances, build workshops and also provides finance for working capital. It thus helps establish new industries or develop and expand existing units on individual or co-operative basis. The area of its operation was also extended to Kutch from 1957-58. Till 1966-67, the bank advanced a sum of Rs. 146,000 to 16 units in Kutch district which included industrial co-operatives and individual artisans.

Currency and Coinage

Not much is known about the currency and coinage in circulation in Kutch in ancient times. However, coins known as *gadhaiya*[1] were excavated from the place known as Riyan or Raipur near Mandvi. Similarly gold and silver coins were also found near Bhadresar, called Bhadravati in ancient times. From this it can be surmised that the Gupta empire extended even up to Kutch. However, Kutch was never under a single sovereign until

1. These were probably the coins of the time of Gupta ruler Gadhesinh, the father of famous king Vikramaditya.

the first half of the 16th century when it was divided into small principalities. Rao Khengarji I brought Kutch under his control and established his sovereignty over it. Even during his regime coins of the Sultan of Gujarat were legal tender in Kutch. At the time of Jehangir's visit to Gujarat in 1617, Rao Bharmalji presented the Moghul Emperor with many valuable articles. Pleased with this, the emperor granted him the right to establish an independent mint in Kutch. The *kori* currency thus came into existence in the early part of the 17th century. In the beginning the *kori* currency was both in gold and silver. Gold *kori* was equal to 26½ silver *koris*. It seems to have remained in circulation only up to the reign of Rao Pragmalji, whereafter on account of variations in the prices of gold, the State ceased minting gold *koris*. Besides gold and silver coins, copper coins such *as dhingala, dhabu, trambia,* etc., were also minted by the State Exchange ratio between the silver and copper coins is shown below.

Copper coins				*Silver coins*			
1 *dhabu*	=	2 *dhingalas*		1 *panchiya*	=	5 silver *koris*	
1 *dhingala*	=	1½ *dokdas*		1 *ardhiya*	=	2½ silver *koris*	
1 *dokda*	=	2 *trambias*		1 *adhiya*	=	½ *kori*	
(∴1 *kori*	=	8 *dhabus*		1 *kori*	=	8 *dhabus*	
= 16 *dhingalas*	=	24				(copper)	
dokdas	=	48 *trambias*)					

Up to 1860, the *kori* coins bore the name of the Moghul emperor in Persian on one side and the name of the Rao in *Devnagari* on the other. Since 1860 the name of Queen Victoria was inserted in place of the emperor. *Kori* currency was confined to internal transactions only. For external trade i. e., exports and imports, rupee currency of British India was used. However, the exchange rate between *koris* and rupees had never remained steady. There was a time when Rs. 100 were exchanged for 175 *koris*, while at other times Rs. 100 yielded 620 *koris*. The fluctuating exchange ratio affected the commodity prices and created chaos in the economy of the State. To put an end to this situation the Government of India, demonetised *kori* currency after Independence with effect from 26th April, 1949 and introduced the rupee currency in terms of rupees, annas and pies. While withdrawing the *kori* currency, the exchange rate fixed by the Government was three *koris* for a rupee. Thus 16,762,230 *koris* were exchanged for Rs. 5,587,410 in 1949.

Decimal Coinage—In 1957, the Government of India introduced the 'Decimal Coinage' in terms of rupees and paise throughout the country. For sometime, both old and new coins remained in circulation till the old coins were progressively withdrawn. The present coinage is issued in the denominations of 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, and 50 paise, one rupee being equivalent to 100 paise. Currency notes are issued in the denominations of

1, 2, 5, 10, 100 and 1,000 rupees. The conversion ratio of the old and new coins is shown in the statement attached.

Conversion Ratio of Old and New Coins

Old coinage

3	pies	=	1	paisa
6	,,	=	½	anna, 2 paisa
12	,,	=	1	anna, 4 paisa
4	paisa	=	1	anna
8	,,	=	2	annas
12	,,	=	3	annas
16	,,	=	4	annas
32	,,	=	8	annas
64	,,	=	1	rupee

Old		New*		Old		New*	
1	pie	= 1	paisa	1	anna (12 pies)	= 6	*paise*
2	pies	= 2	paisa	2	annas	= 12	*paise*
3	pies	= 2	*paise*	3	,,	= 19	,,
4	,,	= 2	,,	4	,,	= 25	,,
5	,,	= 3	,,	5	,,	= 31	,,
6	,,	= 3	,,	6	,,	= 37	,,
7	,,	= 4	,,	7	,,	= 44	,,
8	,,	= 4	,,	8	,,	= 50	,,
9	,,	= 5	,,	9	,,	= 56	,,
10	,,	= 5	,,	10	,,	= 62	,,
11	,,	= 6	,,	11	,,	= 69	,,
				12	,,	= 75	,,
				13	,,	= 81	,,
				14	,,	= 87	,,
				15	,,	= 94	,,
				16	,,	= 100	,,

*These were called '*naye paise*' till June 1964 and '*paise*' only thereafter.

(Bk) H-49—37 (Lino)

Trade and Commerce

The State of Kutch had many characteristics of its own. The policy pursued by Maharaos for furthering maritime trade and commerce by developing ports in their territory as also the customs controversy which lasted till the end of the British domination in India are briefly stated below to give a true perspective of the conditions prevalent at that time.

Course of Trade

Being a maritime State with a long coastline, Kutch had two-fold advantages of establishing trade routes both by land and sea. Overseas trade in particular has been the basis of Kutch's former prosperity which it enjoyed on account of the commercial aptitude and the adventurous nature of her people. Kutch was not connected in the past by rail routes and good made roads with the rest of the country, with the result that the port of Mandvi was the main lifeline for the people of Kutch as it helped in maintaining contact with the outside world. Its land trade which was the Sindh Marwar and even up to Kashmir was carried through caravans. Kutch exported alum, dates, sugar, silk, *gur*, embroidered and coloured cloth and ivory by land routes to these places and brought gold and silver thread and woollen blankets in exchange. Kutch traded in the past with the ports on the Malabar coast - Daman, Bombay and Cochin in India, with Zanzibar in East Africa, with Basrah and Maskat in the Persian Gulf and with Ceylon. *Kutchi* vessels brought dates, ivory, wheat, rice, dry fruits, coconuts, silk, spices, *ghee*, etc., and carried salt, opium, coarse cotton cloth, shields, shoes, etc., to these places. In course of time the prosperity of Kutch disappeared with the decline in the importance of Mandvi port due to siltation.

As for the internal trade, pulses, cloth, cotton seed and garlic, the Vania or Bohora merchants generally purchased from the cultivators and sold them to one of the wholesale traders in port towns or other centres like Bombay. Most of the leading merchants from Kutch had their agents, branches or houses in Bombay. Importers were generally the wealthy Bhatias, Lohanas and Khojas who had their agents or branch houses in Bombay and Zanzibar. The internal trade centres were Mandvi, Mundra, Anjar, Jakhau and Nalia. The system of retail trade prevailed to a great extent. People generally went to port towns to make large purchases required for occasions like marriage.

Till 1944-45--Kutch carried on land and sea trade from very early times. Its vast coastline possessing ports like Mandvi, Mundra, Lakhpat, Jakhau, Koteshwar, etc., gave it a distinct place in the maritime world. It is said that Bhadravati was very famous as a port and that its trade and shipping had developed extensively. Its wealthy merchant Jagdu Shah who lived in the 13th century had trade relations with many countries. Kutch attained a stable rule under Khengarji I, who encouraged trade and

commerce by bringing pirates under control. He invited Topan Sheth of Nagar Thatta and built Mandvi port in the 16th century. Rao Bharmalji built Mundra port but it does not seem to have flourished much.

Rao Godji was a great patron of traders and greatly encouraged the ship-building industry. He built a palace at Mandvi for personal supervision and spent large sums of money for port improvement.

With the advent of Independence a new era was opened for Kutch. The construction of Deesa-Kandla metre gauge line in 1952 provided the much needed impetus to the development of its trade by expanding its hinterland and bringing Kutch into contact with the rest of the metre gauge railway system of the country. Though Mandvi lost much of its former importance, Kandla was developed as a major port from 1955. The Government has also taken up the construction of an important Jhund-Kandla[1] broad gauge rail link which has reduced the existing distance between Kandla and Ahmedabad by 55·38 km. The Kandla-Ahmedabad National Highway joined by a network of roads has greatly helped the expansion of internal markets by developing Bhuj, Mandvi, Anjar, Gandhidham and Nakhatrana as important centres of wholesale trade. The trade of Kutch has become more variegated and diversified through Kandla, as steamers from overseas countries now call at that port. Present day articles of import into Kutch are foodgrains, fertilisers, machinery, mineral oils, iron and steel, building materials, cement, *gur*, jute and jute products, dates and other miscellaneous articles. Exports consist of salt, cotton, gypsum, groundnut oil and cake, alcohol, mineral ores, sugar, fertilisers and foodgrains, bones and hides, raw wool, etc. Kutch ports now have trade with the U. K., U. S. A., U. S. S. R., Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Yugoslavia and the Persian Gulf countries. Inland trade is carried on with Kolhapur, Bombay, Ahmedabad, Kanpur, Porbandar, Jamnagar, Samlaya, Cochin and Calcutta.

Customs Controversy—Kutch has a long coastline stretching over 320 km. with famous ports like Mandvi, Lakhpat, Jakhau, Koteshwar, etc., which in the past carried on profitable inland and overseas trade from very early times. The people of Kutch possess a remarkably well developed tradition of commercial enterprise particularly in relation to trading overseas. *Kutchi* merchants had long established themselves in every sea-port of India, Red Sea, Persian Gulf, Middle East and the coastal towns of Zanzibar and East and West Africa. It had, therefore, evolved some system of collection of customs duties on the goods imported or exported through these ports. Though exact details are not available as to when the customs duties were first introduced, it can certainly be said that they were collected from very

1. The construction of this strategic broad gauge rail link has been completed and the movement of both goods and passengers traffic has commenced from the months of September and December 1969, respectively. More details about the railway are given in the following Chapter on Communications.

early times at all these ports. It is possible that during the reign of Rao Desalji I, his minister Devakaran Sheth might have imposed these duties to meet the expenditure of the war with the Suba of Gujarat. Even during the political anarchy in the times of Raos Rayadhanji and Bharmalji, the trade of Mandvi port remained uninterrupted and a large amount of customs revenue was collected.

Till the time of Rao Desalji II, the customs administration was not systematic and contained many irregularities as customs dues were collected by issuing licences annually to contractors. It was Rao Desalji II who systematised the collection of customs revenue by fixing rates of customs duty in consultation with the leading citizens of Kutch. After the intervention of the East India Company in the internal affairs of Indian States that it entered into treaty agreements with the rulers. Clause 15 of the Treaty of 1819 concluded by the Company with the Rao of Kutch provided, "The Kutch ports shall be open to British vessels in like manner as British ports shall be free to all vessels of Kutch, in order that the most friendly intercourse may be carried on between the Governments". The Treaty of 1851 also provided that vessels belonging to the ports of Bombay or those under the Gaekwar, Junagadh, Nawanagar, Bhavnagar, Porbandar, Jafrabad and Mangrol trading with ports under the Company driven by stress of weather into Mandvi or any other ports of Kutch were exempted from the payment of customs duty. The Company was, however, not content with these clauses and pressed Kutch rulers to join the Customs Union. But Kutch refused and the former could not impose clauses which were against the letter and spirit of the treaties formerly concluded with Kutch. Strange as it might appear, the rulers of Kutch do not seem to have allowed any change in the customs administration and continued to collect revenues at the rates imposed earlier even though the customs tariff was enhanced in British India. In spite of the pressure of Lord Curzon, the then Viceroy, Kutch remained outside the Customs Union. It was, therefore, treated as a foreign territory and full customs duty was levied on goods imported into British India from Kutch. Goods belonging to passengers from Kutch were subjected to detailed checking at Viramgam and other posts. Similarly a check post was also established on the Vagad border to collect duties on goods going out of Kutch.

When Kandla was not on the seaboard, Mandvi was the chief port. It received goods transhipped to Kutch without the payment of requisite customs duties from Colombo, Maskat and Marmagoa which were outside British jurisdiction. Thereafter the British Government enhanced customs duties at its ports with the result that steamships from Europe and Japan anchored directly at the ports of Kutch. But merchandise imported in bulk at Kutch ports could not enter British India due to enhanced customs rates resulting in a large decline in the trade of Kutch. Kutch Government objected to the customs policy of British Government on the plea that it

went against the terms and conditions of the Treaty of 1819. But the British Government did not accept the legitimate claims of the Kutch Darbar on the pretext that the provision related only to vessels and did not apply to steamers. During the time of Khengarji III, when Kandla appeared as a port on the west coast of India in 1930, the Maharao thought of breaking the isolation of Kutch by linking Kandla with Deesa on the Indian mainland by constructing a metre gauge railway line. But the Government of India refused permission to do so as Kutch was outside the Customs Union and tightened its customs cordons by placing further obstacles in the way of trade of Kutch. But all these measures failed to deter Kutch in pursuing its policy of remaining outside the Customs Union which it continued till the lapse of paramountcy in 1947 when Kutch was integrated with the rest of India and customs rates prevalent in the rest of the country introduced.

The trade returns of the State available from the year 1884 disclose a fluctuating tendency on account of the prevalence of scarcity conditions when fodder and grains had to be brought in large quantities. From Rs. 93·56 lakhs in 1884, its total trade rose to Rs. 1·03 crores in 1890 but declined to Rs. 92·93 lakhs in 1899. The period 1901-02 onwards is marked by an unprecedented rise in the total land and sea trade which was of the order of Rs. 1·67 crores in that year. During the Second World War, in spite of several restrictions and prohibitions imposed by the Government of India, the trade rose in terms of value because of general rise in prices of all commodities. From Rs. 2·23 crores in 1938-39, it rose to Rs. 3·50 crores in 1944-45.

Since 1947 figures of trade available in terms of tonnage of goods imported or exported serve as a proper criterion to assess the rise or decline in the volume of trade rather than in terms of value which do not form a correct basis of comparison owing to fluctuation in prices and devaluation of the rupee. A major development after integration is the emergence of Kandla on the maritime map of India. It has been fully developed now and its contribution to the total trade of the district appears to be the largest. The volume of trade handled by Kandla port alone amounted to 42·70 per cent of the total trade of all the ports in the State and about 5 per cent of all the six major ports in the country.

Maritime Trade—The total maritime trade of Kutch has risen enormously from 169,149 tons in 1953-54 to 2,803,785 tonnes in 1966-67. The total foreign trade handled by these ports has likewise risen from 1,269,900 tonnes in 1963-64 to 2,066,282 tonnes in 1966-67. Of these, imports from foreign countries were the largest and rose from 1,017,266 tonnes to 1,843,593 tonnes during the same period, Kandla handling the maximum imports mostly of foodgrains from the U. S. A. and Canada. Mundra and Jakhau are notable for their export trade in salt with Japan.

Kandla—Kandla, which became one of the six major ports of the country from 1955, plays a very important role in the maritime trade of the district. Trade of the port which ranged between 119,535 tons in 1950-51 and 152,593 tons in 1954-55 expanded enormously year after year till it rose to 2,661,330 tonnes valued at Rs. 109·37 crores in 1966-67 on account of provision of various facilities at the port so very essential for the development of trade.

The chief items of imports are foodgrains, mineral oils, iron and steel, building materials, machinery, fertilisers and jute and jute products. Rapid expansion in imports is noticed when the tonnage rose from 205,890 in 1955-56 to 2,423,890 in 1966-67. Value of imports likewise rose from Rs. 4·64 crores to Rs. 102·63 crores during the same period. Imports from foreign countries accounted for 77·83 per cent of total imports in 1966-67. Foodgrains which alone contributed over 50 per cent both in 1965-66 and 1966-67 were brought from U. S. A. under P. L. 480 Aid Programme as also from Canada and Australia. Fertilisers came from U. S. A., machinery from U. K., France, Yugoslavia and Japan and mineral oils from U. S. A., U. S. S. R. and the Persian Gulf countries. Main items of exports are salt, alcohol, mineral ores, sugar, fertilisers and foodgrains. Export trade reveals on the whole a fluctuating trend. From 84,262 tons in 1953-54 it more or less rose continuously to 235,277 tons in 1957-58. The declining trend that set in thereafter reduced it from 341,610 tonnes in 1960-61 to 168,519 in 1965-66, but improved slightly the next year. The total exports in 1966-67 were 237,440 tonnes of which 63·54 per cent were carried to foreign countries, salt to Japan and United Kingdom, alcohol to U. S. A. and U. K., and mineral ores to Japan and Germany and sugar to U. S. A.

Free Trade Zone, Kandla

Trade will get further impetus in Kutch by the creation of the Kandla Free Trade Zone. It is designed to serve the main objectives of promoting India's exports and earn more foreign exchange, to bring about fuller utilisation of the facilities already developed at the port, and to increase the employment potential of Kandla-Gandhidham area. It was declared open by late Lal Bahadur Shastri, the then Prime Minister of India on 7th March, 1965. It is located on the Kandla-Ahmedabad National Highway at a distance of 9·6 km. from the Kandla port and about 5 km. from Gandhidham. Railway siding right up to the zone and internal service roads have been constructed to facilitate movement of goods. Of the 700 acres acquired for the Zone, 320 acres have been fully developed and fenced for setting up of industries, 328 acres earmarked for future extension, 38 acres for administrative office and staff quarters and 14 acres utilised for railway siding. Special concessions such as exemption from the payment of customs duty on import of machinery, component parts and raw materials from abroad are offered to the industrialists to enable their products to compete

in the foreign markets. The indigenous components required for production are also allowed free entry in the Zone. Imports into the Zone intended for re-export as 'entrepot trade' will not be debarred. Stock-piling of important items of imports for subsequent distribution into the country may also be permitted in special cases. Though industries established in the Zone are expected to export their entire production, a certain percentage will be allowed as wastage in deserving cases. Goods diverted for internal consumption will be distributed by a body nominated by Government after payment of customs duty. While no quota restrictions will normally apply, it will, however, be necessary to maintain proper accounts and submit periodical returns of stock lying with licensees to the Customs authorities in the Zone.

Government has made necessary arrangements for the supply of power and water at reasonable rate to the industries in the Zone. Plots of land are to be allotted to industries concerned with the manufacture of synthetic oil, perfumes, water coolers, textiles including cotton, woollen, art silk, carpets, rayons and synthetic fibres, electrical appliances, stainless steel utensils, bicycles and motor vehicles' parts and accessories, dyes and chemicals, pharmaceutical products, etc. The proceeds of all exports from the Zone will be credited to India's foreign exchange pool. Import of raw materials or semi-processed or fully manufactured goods into the Zone will be permitted on the understanding that they are paid for from the foreign exchange holdings abroad or exchange borrowed from banks or nationals of the country of origin. Indian businessmen settled abroad either acting on their own or in conjunction with Indian partners residing in India can set up industries here.

The Free Trade Zone thus provides a unique opportunity for the progressive manufacturers to participate in a new enterprise. Industrialists intending to set up industries here have to apply giving all particulars about their industries to the Administrator who will issue necessary licence after proper scrutiny. Investment Corporations like the National Small Industries Corporation, the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation and the Industrial Finance Corporation will help small and large industries in obtaining necessary foreign exchange. Many commercial banks have also established their branch offices in the Zone as also at Gandhidham to cater to the needs of industry and trade.

Administration—The Zone functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, which has set up a high level body to advise Government on matters of policy and administration of the Zone. An Administrator has been appointed by the Government to look after the development and maintenance of the various facilities in the Zone, issue of licences for industries, allotment of plots, industrial sheds, etc., execution of leases on behalf of Government, movement of goods into and out of the Zone and for the general supervision of the

overall activities in the Zone. In order to avoid malpractices, reasonable safeguards have been provided to ensure (a) that all imports into the Zone do reach the Zone, (b) that exports from the zone are really exported from the country, (c) that all foreign exchange earnings are credited to the country's foreign exchange pool and (d) that nothing goes into the customs territory for home consumption without a valid import licence and payment of customs duty.

Mandvi—Mandvi formerly called Raipur or Riyan was a port of great importance in the past. In the absence of any rail lines connecting Kutch with the Indian mainland, Mandvi was the main and true life-line for the people of Kutch. Constructed in the 16th century, the port was developed by subsequent rulers of Kutch and attained much fame during the reign of Rao Godji. It is said that merchants of Mandvi were enterprising and had established their branch offices at Zanzibar and Maskat. They were so much trusted that the Sultans of Maskat took advice of *kutchi* merchants who also acted as money-lenders. When Zanzibar was conquered by the Sultan of Maskat in the 18th century, he invited *kutchi* merchants to settle there with a view to develop trade of the conquered territory. As the Sultan knew very little about financial matters, he sought counsel from these merchants who were well versed in the ways of increasing financial resources. They advised the ruler to impose customs duties for augmenting his revenues, the administration of which was also entrusted to them. The prosperous position which Mandvi enjoyed in the maritime trade of former Kutch State, will be apparent from what follows.

In 1813 Mandvi had considerable inland trade with Marwar and Malwa and brisk sea trade with Arabia, Bombay and Malabar. The chief articles of exports were cotton, silk, coarse piece-goods, alum and butter. Imports were coconuts, grain and timber from Daman and Malabar, dates from Persian Gulf and ivory and rhinoceros hides and horns from Africa. By 1823 trade had become extensive: sugar and oil were additional items of exports while lead, copper, cardamoms, ginger, pepper, bamboos, teakwood, *kasturi*, dyes and drugs, coconuts, and spices were other items of imports. The prosperity of Mandvi, however, began to decline as the creek became shallow and large ocean going vessels lay at a distance of about five km. off shore where there was good anchorage. Country crafts, however, carried on extensive trade with Zanzibar, Arabia, Maskat, Sindh and Bombay. In 1823 the creek was much obstructed with sandbanks which left only a small passage for boats of moderate burden to pass. Powerful impact of steamers was being felt from 1870 and Mandvi was no exception. Though steamers began to call from 1872-73, prosperity of Mandvi declined and the number of vessels went down from 400 in 1780 to 260 in 1873. At present, Mandvi is classified as an intermediate port open both for inland and foreign trade. The statistics of imports and exports available from the year 1953-54 onwards, reveal an overall declining trend.

From 28,134 tons in 1953-54 its total trade rose to 36,051 tons in 1956-57, but declined to 25,845 tons in 1959-60 and to 23,647 tonnes in 1966-67. This was due to substantial decrease in exports of oilcakes, foodgrains, etc. Traffic by steamers has also declined in recent years and was completely absent in 1966-67 when all maritime trade was carried only through sailing vessels.

Main items of the present day imports are building materials, cement, timber, foodgrains, jaggery, dates, iron and steel, lubricating oil, etc. The overall trend of import trade is one of decline, the only item from foreign ports being dates brought in sailing vessels from the Persian Gulf ports. Cement was brought in sailing vessels from Saurashtra ports and coconuts from the Malabar coast.

Clay, building materials, oilcakes, cotton seeds and foodgrains, raw cotton and other miscellaneous articles constitute the main items of exports, which have more or less maintained a favourable upward trend since 1953-54, except in the year 1966-67 which showed a substantial decrease on account of fall in the exports of clay, oilcakes, foodgrains and cotton seeds.

Mundra—This is also a historical port which was declared open for both inland and foreign trade in 1954. It is now an important minor port under Mandvi group of ports, where import traffic is negligible. Exports consist mainly of salt manufactured by the salt works, established here since 1953.

The total volume of trade at the port reveals a continuously rising trend, from 6,964 tonnes in 1953-54 to 84,964 tonnes in 1965-66, with a slight decline to 82,725 tonnes in 1966-67 owing to the decrease in the exports of salt and gypsum. The present day imports consist of cement, building materials, wood and timber, jaggery and other miscellaneous articles. Salt, gypsum, cotton seeds, clay and other miscellaneous articles are the main articles of export. Export trade has risen continuously from 3,063 tonnes in 1953-54 to 83,480 tonnes in 1965-66 but declined slightly to 78,109 tonnes in 1966-67 on account of lesser exports of salt and gypsum. Salt is sent chiefly to Japan and other countries. The export of gypsum to the extent of 752 tonnes was the highest in the whole of Gujarat.

Jakhau—A sub-port of Mandvi group declared open both for foreign and inland traffic, Jakhau deals mainly with the export of salt manufactured by the Kutch Salt and Allied Industries Ltd., established in 1951. Main items of imports are cement, wood and timber. Exports from the port have been very much substantial. While exports increased from 16,517 tons in 1954-55 to 47,028 tons in 1957-58 and further to 83,989 tonnes in 1963-64, imports have declined from 891 tons to 50 tonnes during the same period.

(Bk) H-49—38 (Lino)

During the years 1965-66 and 1966-67 Jakhau exported 12,150 tonnes and 14,817 tonnes of salt to Japan and other countries.

Other Ports—Koteshwar and Lakhpat are other minor ports in the district administered by the Mandvi group of ports. Traffic handled by the ports was only through country crafts. Whereas the port Lakhpat has totally disappeared from the maritime map of Kutch in recent years. Koteshwar does not seem to have handled any trade after 1962-63.

STATEMENT VI-4

Tonnage of Imports and Exports at Kutch Ports, 1953-54 to 1966-67

Year	Kandla		Mandvi		Mundra		Jakhau	
	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports
1953-54	84,859	84,262	25,526	2,608	3,901	3,063	336	13,038
1954-55	40,021	112,572	32,684	5,057	4,451	13,323	891	16,517
1955-56	205,390	102,512	30,100	3,407	4,930	33,637	958	40,903
1956-57	327,829	144,657	30,560	5,491	4,478	42,984	1,081	41,387
1957-58	608,978	235,277	23,937	3,789	3,523	33,694	370	43,264
1958-59	882,314	187,863	16,434	6,587	2,240	37,207	144	47,028
1959-60	828,018	295,409	18,848	6,997	1,613	29,419	504	24,690
1960-61	1,220,565	341,610	23,763	7,025	2,130	33,785	30	40,009
1961-62	1,113,692	272,542	22,335	10,780	1,475	45,323	124	45,817
1962-63	1,409,100	333,674	19,674	11,180	1,080	59,776	223	48,068
1963-64	1,491,392	288,098	17,826	11,042	1,331	45,923	..	83,989
1964-65	2,053,826	258,248	12,001	13,406	1,336	83,209	88	40,467
1965-66	2,336,375	168,519	13,947	14,970	1,484	83,480	50	28,251
1966-67	2,423,890	237,440	14,739	8,908	4,616	78,190	..	36,083

NOTE : Figures from 1958-59 onwards are in Metric tonnes.

Source :
1. Traffic Manager, Kandla Port Trust, Kandla
2. The Deputy Engineer (Civil) and Port Officer, Mandvi Group of Ports, Mandvi

Inland Trade—Inland trade is being carried on by rail which helps in the despatch of goods from one destination to another as also through important trade centres. During the year 1966 the total tonnage of goods originating from the railway stations in Kutch district amounted to 728,256. Of these Adesar accounted for 298,200 tonnes (40.94 per cent). New Kandla 142,311 tonnes (19·54 per cent) and Chirai 130,621 tonnes (17·54 per cent). Adesar has been noted for its large deposits of agate stones and gypsum, where salt is also manufactured. New Kandla has emerged as one of the most important major ports of the country which handles sizeable import and export cargo. Large quantities of foodgrains and other commodities are imported from overseas for despatch to different destinations through rail and road. With the construction of the metre gauge rail link between Gandhidham and New Kandla, Gandhidham is rapidly becoming a growing commercial and industrial centre, which transported 53,797 tonnes of goods in 1966. Another important railway station is Chitrod which transported 58,165 tonnes of goods.

Regulated Markets—Regulated markets have been established only recently in 1967-68 in four important trade centres, viz., Bhuj, Mandvi, Anjar and Bhachau to regularise the trading of agricultural produce. They have not started functioning yet.

Employment in Trade and Commerce—The 1961 Census has returned 14,290 persons (males 13,723 and females 567), as engaged in trade and commerce—46·07 per cent from urban areas and the rest from the rural. The statistics further reveal that workers engaged in wholesale trade numbered 739 only, while retail trade claimed as many as 12,989 persons. Predominance of retail traders among those engaged in this economic activity is obvious. Even among retailers, dealers in essential commodities like food and clothing wherein over 60 per cent of persons are engaged predominate. Retail traders in goods unspecified numbered 1,693, those dealing in *pan, bidi*, cigarettes and other tobacco products numbered 728, trade and commerce miscellaneous 562 and retail trading in other household equipment 549.

Wholesale Trade—Wholesale trade is usually concentrated in large towns or nearby ports which facilitate direct import and export and thus avoid transhipment and the resultant loss of time and money. Inland trade is carried through important trade centres like Bhuj, the district headquarter town, and taluka centres like Anjar, Mundra, Mandvi, Nakhatrana and Gandhidham which are also centres of retail trade. At all these centres, the practice of charging brokerage, quality allowance, weighing, etc., is in vogue at rates which vary from one place to another.

TRADE CENTRES

Bhuj—Once the capital of the Maharao's of Kutch, Bhuj is now the headquarters and an important trade centre in the district. It is connected by a metre gauge railway running through Palanpur in Banaskantha district on the mainland of India. It is well connected by good made roads with other taluka centres of the district. With the completion of the Jhund-Kandla rail project by 1970 the distance of Bhuj with Ahmedabad has been

further curtailed. There were approximately 250 merchants in Bhuj in 1967. Commodities like wheat, *bajri*, groundnut, tea, sugar, *gur* and vegetable *ghee* were the chief commodities of wholesale trade, valued as under in 1967.

Commodity	Transactions in Rs.
Wheat	5,000,000
Bajri	5,000,000
Groundnut	10,000,000
Tea	5,000,000
Sugar	20,000,000
Gur	15,000,000
Vanaspati *ghee*	30,000 (Tins)

Sugar and *gur* are brought from Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, vegetable *ghee* from Samlaya, Porbandar and Bhavnagar and tea from Cochin and Calcutta. Cloth is imported from Bombay and Ahmedabad while groundnut is sent out to Saurashtra. Bhuj is the main receiving and distributing centre for the whole of the district.

Mandvi—The intermediate port of Mandvi is also the headquarters of the taluka of the same name and an important trading centre. Sea-borne trade handled by the port has been described earlier in the Chapter. Its importance as a centre of wholesale trade is also considerable. Cotton, groundnut, sesamum, foodgrains and pulses are the chief commodities of wholesale trade at Mandvi. There were 18 wholesale merchants at Mandvi in 1966-67. Following are the details of transactions at the centre.

Commodity	Quantity in quintals	Value in Rs.
Cotton	11,100	2,000,000
Groundnut	60,000	4,400,000
Bajri	13,000	1,200,000
Mug	10,000	1,000,000
Sesamum	6,000	800,000
Math	3,500	300,000

Merchants store their commodities in hired godowns. Foodgrains including pulses, groundnut and sesamum are charged on an average at the rate of Re. 0·25 per quintal per month and cotton at Re. 0.50 per bale per month. The business community of Mandvi maintained inland trade links

with various destinations in the country and transport their goods through motor trucks and by sea route. Cotton is sent to Bombay and Ahmedabad, groundnut to Porbandar, Jamnagar and Rajkot, *bajri* to Jamnagar, Veraval, Okha and Porbandar, *mug* to Bombay, Jamnagar, Porbandar and Calicut and sesamum to Calicut and Cochin.

Anjar—Anjar, formerly called the gateway to the Vagad area of Kutch State, is an important centre for wholesale trade in commodities like cotton, salt, wool, groundnut, sesamum and foodgrains. It was the only taluka centre connected with Bhuj by railway line before Independence. It is now connected with other parts of the country through Deesa-Kandla metre gauge line. There were fifty wholesale merchants at Anjar in 1966-67.

Following are the details of transactions in the local market.

Commodity	Quantity		Value in Rs.
Cotton	40,000	bales	30,000,000
Wool	4,000	bales	4,000,000
Sugar	35,000	quintals	12,500,000
Groundnut and Sesamum	400,000	,,	40,000,000
Foodgrains and Pulses	350,000	,,	73,000,000

Gandhidham—Gandhidham, the township for the major port of Kandla, has come into existence only after Independence. It is growing as an important industrial and commercial centre. Textiles, oil milling, engineering, printing, manufacture of tin cans, etc., are the industries that have come into existence at Gandhidham. Its commercial importance will be further enhanced as a result of the development of the Free Trade Zone at Kandla. There were thirty wholesale merchants at Gandhidham, where wholesale transactions of the following order were transacted.

Commodity	Quantity (in tonnes)	Value in Rs.
Salt	240,000	4,500,000
Groundnut	10,000	10,000,000
Foodgrains	5,000	5,000,000

The commodities are transported by rail, sea and land to different centres. Salt is sent to Bombay, Calcutta, Cochin and as far as Japan through Kandla port. Cotton is transported to Bombay and Ahmedabad and wool and groundnut to Jamnagar. The Gujarat State Warehousing Corporation has also provided warehousing facility by hiring godowns at Anjar and Gandhidham for which the merchants have to pay the following charges : Cotton and wool Re. 0·50 per bale per month and groundnut and sesamum Re. 0·25 per quintal.

26238

Nakhatrana—Nakhatrana is the taluka headquarters town and is connected by road with Bhuj. It is an important market for groundnut, wheat, *bajri*, wool and cotton. There were approximately 25 wholesale merchants in Nakhatrana, whose turnover in these commodities amounted to :

Commodity	Quantity in quintals	Value in Rs.
Wool	95	7,500,000
Cotton	130	1,000,000
Groundnut	18,600	3,000,000
Foodgrains	5,000	1,040,000

These commodities are transported to different destinations by road in the absence of any rail link with other parts of the districts. Wool is despatched to Jamnagar, cotton to Bombay and Ahmedabad, groundnut to Jamnagar and other places in Saurashtra and foodgrains to other areas of the district. Merchants store their produce in private godowns for which they are charged monthly rent at the rate of Re. 1·00 per local maund.

Rapar—Rapar is another taluka centre for wholesale trade in foodgrains, cotton, groundnut, sesamum and castor seeds. It is connected by road communication with Bhuj as also with other parts of Kutch. There were 10 wholesale merchants in Rapar. Followins are the details of wholesale trade.

Commodity	Quantity in tonnes	Value in Rs.
Cotton	1,250	2,500,000
Groundnut	1,000	1,000,000
Castor seeds	1,000	1,200,000
Sesamum	1,000	1,500,000
Wheat	2,500	2,500,000
Milo	8,000	6,000,000

These goods are transported to places in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Kerala and Madras. The Gujarat State Warehousing Corporation has extended the facility of storage by hiring private godowns for

which cotton is charged at the rate of Re. 0·60 per bale per month, while groundnut, sesamum and foodgrains at the rate of Re. 1·00 per quintal per month.

Bhachau—Bhachau is another wholesale trade centre in salt, cotton, groundnut, *bajri*, *mug* and sesamum. It had 40 wholesale merchants. It is connected by rail with the rest of the country through metre gauge railway line *via* Palanpur. The turnover of commodities amounted to :

Commodity	Quantity in tonnes	Value in Rs.
Cotton	1,500	3,000,000
Salt	2,000	50,000
Groundnut	10	10,000
Bajri	1,000	750,000
Mug	1,000	1,000,000
Sesamum	100	100,000

Salt is transported to Bombay and Calcutta while cotton is sent to Bombay and Ahmedabad. Facility for storing goods is provided also by the Gujarat State Wareshousing Corporation at Bhachau by hiring private godowns for which monthly rent at the rate of Re. 0·30 per bag is charged.

Retail Trade—Retail trade is carried on by a large number of establishments located in the various towns and villages in the district which cater to the needs of their respective localities. Retail traders usually obtain their goods from local wholesalers. Their stock in trade is limited and generally depends upon their financial condition and local demand. It is rapidly replenished as and when the old stocks are sold out. Whereas the capacity of retailers in rural and semi-urban areas for keeping large stocks of goods is, in most cases, limited, they maintained stocks sufficient for their normal sales. But their counterparts in cities and towns, because of their better financial position, are capable of keeping stocks in large quantities. Retail traders obtain their goods on credit from the wholesalers and settle bills during the specified time limit, on the expiry of which interest is generally charged on the amount of credit provided. The brisk season for retail trade generally lasts from October to June as July to September which are monsoon months are comparatively dull, when celebration of social occasions like marriage is generally avoided. Shops selling *pan*, *bidi*, tobacco, etc., normally carry on business throughout the year and sales are reported to be brisk on festivals and on holidays. Transactions in retail trade particularly reach maximum during such festivals as Holi, Dassera, Diwali and marriage season. Retail sales are usually on cash basis, but where customers are well acquainted with the traders, running accounts are opened and settled periodically.

According to the data furnished by the 1961 Census, 12,989 persons were engaged in retail trade in the district. Of these 6,584 were from towns and the rest from villages. Retail trading in cereals, pulses, fruits, sugar, spices, oil, fish, dairy products, foodstuffs, sweetmeats, condiments and spices, cakes, biscuits, etc., employed 7,500 or 57.74 per cent; trading in fibres, yarns, *dhoti*, ready made garments of cotton, wool, silk, nylon, terylene, etc., 1,023 and trade in goods unspecified 1,693. The Census data further show that 4,489 persons or 35·60 per cent were employers, 2,321 or 18·90 per cent employees, 3,099 or 24·75 per cent single workers and 2,525 or 20·75 per cent family members.

Retail trade is generally distributed in the following groups : (i) grocery shops which stock and sell cereals, pulses, spices, *gur*, groundnut and sesamum oil, *ghee*, tea, coffee, condiments, dry fruits, baking soda, menthol crystals, saffron, catechu, *agarbatti*, etc., (ii) *pan-bidi* and tobacco shops, which are generally one-man establishments, selling *pan* (betel leaves), *bidi*, cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, betel-nuts, catechu, menthol crystals, wax candles, match boxes and aerated waters, (iii) cloth and hosiery shops which deal in all kinds of textiles, cotton, woollen, silk, nylon, terylene, orlon, etc., having a wide range of clothing such as shirting, coating, *sarees*, *dhotis*, *malmal*, *chhint*, voiles and hosiery articles of all sorts, (iv) fuel and charcoal shops, (v) stationery and cutlery shops, (vi) fruits and vegetables shops, (vii) shops selling household utensils of brass, copper, aluminium, German Silver and stainless steel, (viii) hardware and building materials, (ix) chemists, (x) sweetmeat and *farsan* shops and (xi) leather goods and footwear.

Retail marketing centres are situated in almost all urban areas. As the population has increased and communications made easy, retail shops have sprung up in rural areas also. In the urban areas wholesale trade centres also function as retail marketing centres, important among them being Bhuj, Anjar, Mandvi, Gandhidham, Mundra and Bhachau.

One of the major developments of modern times is the organisation of co-operative purchase and sale unions which undertake substantial retail sales in foodgrains, seeds and fertilisers, agricultural tools and implements, sugar, salt and other articles at fair and reasonable prices and compete with the traditional retail traders whose monopolistic position has been greatly affected by the increasing importance of co-operative purchase and sales unions. There are taluka purchase and sales unions in all the talukas/ mahals of the district. The aggregate value of goods sold by them amounted to Rs. 62·74 lakhs in 1964-65.

Sales Tax Statistics—Sales tax statistics are useful in giving an idea about the volume of business transacted by registered dealers in different commodities. Though a number of shops, the turnover of which does not reach the minimum prescribed for registration under the Sales Tax Act, is outside the scope of the statement that follows, such as they are, the statistics give a fair indication of the extent of turnover in different commodities.

STATEMENT VI-5

Registered Dealers and their Turnover, 1966-67

Foodstuffs and hotels		Clothing and consumer goods		Building materials		Transport and vehicles	
No. of registered dealers	Gross turnover	No. of registered dealers	Gross turnover	No. of registered dealers	Gross turnover	No. of registered dealers	Gross turnover
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
160	8,322,205	59	6,163,166	50	3,189,952	26	6,138,434

Machinery		Fuel and power		Miscellaneous commodities		Total of all commodities	
No. of regis-tered dealers	Gross turnover	No. of regis-tered dealers	Gross turnover	No. of regis-tered dealers	Gross turnover	No. of regis-tered dealers	Gross turnover
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
36	4 704 905	39	62,468,462	1,832	242,980,019	2,202	334,057,143

Source :
Sales Tax Officer, Bhuj

There were 2,202 registered dealers in the district in 1966-67 whose combined turnover amounted to Rs. 334,057,143. The statement reveals that traders dealing in miscellaneous commodities had the largest turnover accounting for 72·70 per cent, followed at great distance by fuel and power claiming 18·70 per cent.

The Gujarat State Warehousing Corporation—As a result of the bifurcation of the Bombay State Warehousing Corporation, the Gujarat State Warehousing Corporation was set up in December, 1960 to provide (i) facilities of scientific storage for agricultural produce, (ii) easy credit to the producers and (iii) prevention of distress sale by the producers in the State. The Corporation, however, started working from February, 1961. Its paid-up share capital consists of Rs. 20 lakhs, contributed equally by the State Government and the Central Warehousing Corporation. It purchases land and constructs godowns. Though the Corporation has not so far constructed godowns in Kutch district, facility of warehousing is provided by it at Bhuj and Anjar since 1962 by hiring private godowns.

(Bk) H-49—39 (Lino)

Other places to which this facility has been extended are Mundra, Gandhidham, Bhachau and Rapar.

Fair Price Shops—On account of the exigencies of the Second World War there was an abnormal rise in the prices of essential commodities like cereals, pulses, cloth, sugar, *gur*, kerosene, etc. The Kutch State had, therefore, to control the supply of these commodities by introducing rationing regulating the distribution of consumer goods, prohibiting hoarding, profiteering, etc., by issuing necessary orders in 1944-45 to check rising prices. Foodgrains were distributed through State controlled shops, cheap grain shops, fair price shops and community stores. An Advisory Board consisting of officials and non-officials was constituted to deal with questions relating to policy, prices and distribution of foodgrains. Poor sections of the people were given foodgrains like *bajri* and *jowar* at subsidised rates.

To check the spiral of rising prices in the present time, Government has opened fair price shops for selling essential commodities at reasonable rates. Foodgrains are distributed on family ration cards which are registered with fair price shops authorised by Government. There are ten Government godowns at Bhuj, Mandvi, Anjar, Rapar, Bhachau, Nakhatrana, Nalia, Mundra, Khavda and Khadir for storage. A total of 505 fair price shops in the district undertakes distribution of controlled commodities. The total quantity of wheat, *jowar*, *bajri* and groundnut oil sold through these shops amounted to 401,229 quintals valued at Rs. 23,772,934 in 1965-66.

Fairs—Fairs which are generally associated with important deities and religious festivals attract people from all social classes and afford ample opportunities for social, cultural and religious contacts. Their economic importance in modern times is, however, on the decline owing to the availability of commodities of daily needs in the village or town itself. Quick mode of transport, spread of education, decreasing influence of religion and alternative means of recreation and entertainment at home have made fairs less popular and attractive than before. Articles such as sweets, *farsan*, toys, tea, coffee, cold-drinks and aerated waters, cutlery, vegetables, fruits, *pan-bidi* and cigarettes, utensils, bangles, ornaments, hosiery, cloth, ready made garments, printed cloth, furnitures, shoes and *chappals*, earthen wares, iron implements as also handicrafts, products such as knives, nutcrackers and embroidery articles are brought and sold at the fairs. Cultural activities include *ras*, *garbas*, *bhajans*, *dandia ras*, religious preachings, agricultural exhibitions, film shows, cattle races, wrestling, sports competitions, etc. Another attraction at some of the fairs is programmes in *qawwali* and *kafee* by local Muslims. *Bhajan Mandlis* by singing devotional songs in praise of deities or saints also attract large numbers.

Of the 144 fairs held at different places in the district, 32 organised in honour of deities and saints—both Hindus and Muslims—deserve mention

and listed below as they are attended by a large number of persons varying from 10,000 to 40,000. The Jakh fair at Kakadbhit in Nakhatrana taluka and Trivikramraiji fair at Naransar, which are outstanding, have been described in the following pages.

Jakh Fair, Kakadbhit—Jakh fair at Kakadbhit which is organised on the second Monday of Bhadrapad is held to pay homage to certain foreigners who had settled in Punvaranogadh and freed the discontended people by killing the tyrant king Punvaro in the 13th century. These foreigners, it is said, came from Anatolia Syria and were known as Jakh or Yaksha, who were white in complexion. Different stories are told about the victory of these Yakshas over the oppressive king. He captivated seven Jakhs, who had encamped on a nearby hill and had become very popular among the people by their saintly qualities and miraculous powers. Two of these were secretly invited by Rajbai, the childless wife of Punvaro, to offer some sacrifice to expiate the sins committed by the king. A barber managed to get one of the Jakhs released from the prison, who invoked the assistance of their God in West Asia. This God appeared with seventy-one brothers and a sister named Sanyari and asked Punvaro to surrender the imprisoned Jakhs. On his refusal, the entire town was destroyed by earthquake. According to another story, the king Punvaro was killed by seventy-two horsemen whom Sanghars, oppressed by Punvaro, had invited. Yet another legend says this Punvaro had a miraculous talisman which made him immortal so long as it remained on his body. The sister of Jakhs, Sanyari, who possessed supernatural powers and the minute details about the fort, assumed the form of a mosquito and stung the bathing king in his chest with the result that he had to remove the talisman from his body. Just then the Jakhs rolled down a boulder from the hillock which crushed Punvaro. Since then the Jakhs are worshipped by the people as God. Their 72 images on horseback are installed on a high platform and worshipped with incense of *loban* (*Olibanam*). A silver *chhatra* (canopy), yellow silken cloth and coconuts are also offered.

About 40,000 persons from Kutch belonging to Hindu and Muslim communities participate in the fair. About 200 stalls are opened at the fair. Those of copper and brassware are *pucca* structurers with tiled roofs and are given to the merchants on permanent lease. Others made of bamboos and gunny cloth, deal in sweetmeats, *farsan*, fruits, sugar-cane, cloth, etc. Toys, vessels, iron articles of household use, cots, gold and silver ornaments, bead work, bangles, *venis*, cutlery and products of household and small scale industries are brought for sale not only from the nearby villages but also from distant parts of Kutch and beyond. An agricultural exhibition held on this occasion acquaints the people with various developmental activities and displays improved tools and equipments, seeds, manures, etc. Documentary films are also shown by the District Information Officer. For the purpose of entertainment, races of camels, horses, donkeys and fast

cycling are organised and prizes awarded to the winners. Roving dramatic companies also provide entertainment by arranging popular shows. The fair is organised by Sanghars through a committee formed for the purpose.

Chlorination of drinking water and disinfection of the site by spraying of D. D. T. are arranged by the Health Department. The mobile van of the primary health centre is also kept in attendance for the treatment of minor ailments.

Trivikramraiji Fair, Naransar---A fair organised at Naransar village, situated near the famous Narayan Sarovar of great sanctity on the western end of Kutch, is one of the important fairs held in this district. Narayan Sarovar popularly called Narayansar is believed to have emanated from the toe of Lord Vishnu during the Varah *avatar*. It is one of the five holy lakes in India. *Sanakadi rishis*, sons of *Brahma*, the Creator, are believed to have taken a bath in this holy lake on *Somavati amas*. Its name is also to be found in Shrimad Bhagvat and Brahma Vaivarta. It is thus a very ancient and holy place which every *sanyasi* desires to visit at least once without which his *sanyasta* is considered to be incomplete.

The principal shrine at Naransar is of Trivikramraiji or Trikamraiji, which is a form of Lord Vishnu. It was built by Rajmata Mahakunvarba in V. S. 1790 with a staunch desire to have a temple within her own State which may resemble the temple of Dwarkadhish at Dwarka. Other minor shrines are dedicated to Kalyanrai, Bhaveshwar and other deities. The famous temple of Koteshwar Mahadev is situated at a distance of 3·2 km. from this place.

The fair is held outside the temple of Trikamraiji from Kartik Sud 11 to 15. It attracts about five thousand persons who are mostly Hindus from Kutch, Saurashtra, and other parts of Gujarat as also from Sindh, Marwar and Central India. *Sadhus* and *Sanyasis* from all over the country attend the fair. *Bhajans* or devotional songs are sung by *Bhajan Mandlis* and discussions on various religious topics are arranged on the last night of the fair, i. e., Kartiki Purnima. People attending the fair take a dip in holy Narayan Sarovar, offer prayers and visit the shrines.

Sweetmeats, toys, cutlery, coconut, rosaries, religious books, etc., are usually brought from Bhuj and Nakhatrana for sale. Harijans also attend the fair and sell shoes and slippers made by them. The fair is organised by the Naransar Gram Panchayat and the Mahant of the Narayansar Jagir.

As the water of Narayan Sarovar is used only for bathing purposes, potable water is brought from a distance of 3 km. Besides a boarding house, there are two *dharmashalas* in the village where the pilgrims stay.

An exhibition organised at the fair displays charts, posters, etc., pertaining to agricultural activities in the district.

STATEMENT VI·7

Fairs, their Occasion, and Other Particulars

Sl. No.	Name / occasion	Place where held	Remarks
1	2	3	4
	BHUJ TALUKA		
1	Shitla Saptami, Janmashtami	Bhuj	The fair is held near Hamirsar tank and Kalyaneshwar temple, a large Mahadev temple at present under Government management. People who come to participate in the fair also have the *darshan* of Mahadev. The birthday of Shri Krishna is celebrated at midnight in Dwarkanath temple where, however, only a few people congregate. Though the fair is an ancient one, it is being celebrated with pomp only for the last 50 years or so. During the time of the princely regime, a royal procession was taken out on this day, which also coincided with the birthday of Maharao Vijayrajji, a former ruler of Kutch. The fair thus acquired added importance, Municipality levies ground rent for stalls.
2	Haji Pir fair ..	Haji Pir (Banni)	Haji Pir was a Muslim saint believed to have originally come to India as a soldier in the army of Shahbuddin Ghori. His original name was Ali Akbar. After giving up the service he settled near village Nara and spent his days in the service of people. He laid down his life while trying to recover cows driven away by dacoits. He was known as Haji Pir after performing Haj and is also known as Zinda Pir. People worship at Haji Pir Dargah and then proceed to Karol Pir Dargah 5 miles away.
3	Dada Menkan fair ..	Dhrang	Samadhi of Menkan Dada, a local saint, believed to be Lakshamanji's incarnation. Organised by Development Committee. Attended by people from neighbouring localities especially Banni area.
4	Gulam Ali Shah Pir fair	Kera	Worship of Gulam Ali Shah Pir, a saint hailing from Sindh but settled here, served the people and showed miracles. Organised by Gram Panchayat and Trustees. Started 15 years ago.
5	Bhujia fair ..	Bhuj	Held at Bhujia hill. There is a shrine of Bhujia *Nag* (Snake God) at the top of the hill which is fortified. During the regime of the former Kutch State, the Maharao went in a procession to the temple and performed *puja*. Municipality levies shop tax.
6	Mamai Mata fair ..	Chakar	Worship of Mamai Mata at the temple on the hill. Attended by people from surrounding 20-22 villages.

STATEMENT VI-7—*contd.*

Sl. No.	Name/occasion	Place where held	Remarks
1	2	3	4
7	Nanna Jakh fair ..	Madhapar	The original shrine of Jakh is situated in Nakhatrana taluka where the Jakhs, a band of foreigners, are said to have killed king Punv Ra, an oppresive king about 700 years ago. Jakhs who had fair looks and helped the Public became legendry deities in Kutch. Since the income from the original fair went to a Jagir, Maharao Khengarji of Kutch built this shrine between Bhuj and Madhapar and instituted the fair. Attended by people from Bhuj, Madhapar, etc.
	NAKHATRANA TALUKA		
1	Jakh fair ..	Kakadbhit	According to a very interesting legend, Jakhs were a band of fair skinned foreigners who came to Kutch, served the people and freed them from the atrocities of an oppressive ruler, *viz.*, Punv Ra Jam. Organised by Gram Mela Samiti, Jakh and Group Panchayat. Attended People from Lakhpat, Abdasa and Bhuj talukas.
2	Karol Pir fair ..	Amara	Organised by Gram Panchayat which levies tax. Government levies ground rent for shops. Worship of Karol Pir. The fair beginning on Sunday lasts for 3 days.
3	Ramdev Pir fair ..	Nakhatrana	Worship of Ramdev Pir. Organised by Gram Panchayat. Prizes awarded to best cattle. Attended by people from surrounding villages.
	LAKHPAT TALUKA		
1	Ashapuri Mata fair	Matano Madh	Worship of Ashapuri Mata who is the family Goddess of the Maharao of Kutch. Organised by the Raja, i. e., the *mahant* of the temple. Attended by people from the whole district.
2	Shri Trivikramraiji fair	Narayan Sarovar (Naranasar)	Worship of Trivikramraiji, a form of Vishnu. Organised by the *mahant* Brahmachariji of Narayansar Jagir. Attended by people from various parts of India. Narayansar and the nearby temple of Kotesbwar are very holy places mentioned in *Puranas*.
	ABDASA TALUKA		
1	Lakhaji Raj fair ..	Vinzan	In memory of Lakhaji, a warrior who gave away his life in a battle with rulers of Sindh.
2	Langa Pir fair ..	Fulay	In memory of Saiyad Langa Pir. (Saiyad). Attended by people from villages of the taluka.
3	Shitla Mata fair, Shitla Terash	Kothara	Attended by people from neighbouring villages.

STATEMENT VI-7—*contd.*

Sl. No.	Name/occasion	Place where held	Remarks
1	2	3	4
4	Shitla Mata fair, Shitla Terash	Tera	Attended by people from surrounding villages of the taluka.
5	Mahashivratri ..	Piyoni	Attended by people from surrounding villages.
	MANDVI TALUKA		
1	Ravadi (Rath-yatra) fair, Janmashtami	Mandvi	Worship of Shri Murli Manohar. Procession of idol of Murli Manohar in chariot pulled by the people through the town. Organised by Kharva samaj.
2	Rukansha Pir fair ..	Talvana	Gram Panchayat levies tax.
3	Shitla Mata fair, Shitla Terash	Mandvi	Organised by the Sarasvat Samaj. Attended by people from neighbouring villages.
4	Bhutthisha Pir fair	Gadhsisa	Organised by committee of Hindus and Muslims. The fair is better organised for 15-20 years past. Attended by people from surrounding 10-15 villages.
5	Bileshwer Mahadev fair, Janmashtami	Bheraia	God Shiva is led in procession in a palanquin on this day. The temple is about 400 years old. Organised by *pujari* of the temple. Attended by people from surrounding 10-15 villages.
	ANJAR TALUKA		
1	Dahada fair ..	Anjar	In memory of Shri Menkan *dada*, a local saint who did social service for removal of untouchability, etc. Original shrine is at Dhran, but there is also a shrine at Anjar where this fair is held. Organised by the people. Limited to Anjar town.
2	Kuber Pir fair ..	Pantia	In memory of a saint who is believed to protect the people and their cattle. Organised by the *pujari*. Attended by people from the taluka.
3	Jesal-Toral fair ..	Anjar	Jesal-Toral were a saintly couple in the middle ages who have become very famous. Jesal was a hardened dacoit whom Toral, a virtuous Kathi girl reformed and later married. They are the subject of many legends in Gujarati folklore. After marriage they lived a pious life. Their *samadhis* are in Anjar. Organised by the people. Limited to Anjar town.
4	Makaleshwer fair ..	Anjar	Organised by the people. Limited to Anjar town. Started 20 years ago.

STATEMENT VI·7—*contd.*

Sl. No.	Name/occasion	Place where held	Remarks
1	2	3	4
5	Ajepal fair Shitla Saptami, Janmashtami	Anjar	A pir from Ajmer who gave his life for protection of Hindus. He is associated with some legends and is believed to have attained *siddhi*. Akhand dip or lamp buring continuously is kept at his shrine at Anjar. Organised by the people. Limited to Anjar town.
6	Hasansha pir fair ..	Moti Nagalpar	Organised by the leaders of Khoja community.
	BHACHAU TALUKA		
1	Ramdev Pir fair ..	Chhadwala	Organised by the *pujari* and a Panchayat. Attended by people from estern Kutch *viz.*, Anjar, Rapar and Bhachau talukas.
2	Garibdasji fair ..	Pankadsar	The death anniversary of Dada Garibdasji. Organised by the *mahant* of Pankdsar jagir. Attended by people from neighbouring villages.
	RAPAR TALUKA		
1	Ravechi Mata fair ..	Nani Rav	Health Department looks after the sanitary arrangements. Attended by people from district.
2	Momaymora Mata fair, Dassera	Momay mora	Attended by people from the taluka.

Fairs Commanding Considerable Congregation

Sl. No.	Name/occasion	Place where held	Date of fair	Estimated congregation
1	2	3	4	5
	BHUJ TALUKA			
1	Shitla Saptami, Janmashtami ..	Bhuj	Shravan Vad 7, 8	10,000
2	Haji Pir fair	Haji Pir (Banni)	1st Monday of Chaitra	10,000
3	Dada Monkan fair	Dhrang	Magh Vad 14	9,000 10,000
	NAKHATRANA TALUKA			
1	Jakh fair	Kakadbhit	Bhadrapad Sud 15	40,000
2	Karol Pir fair	Amara	1st Monday of Chaitra	10,000

STATEMENT VI·7—*concld.*

Sl. No.	Name/occasion	Place where held	Date of fair	Estimated congregation
1	2	3	4	5
	MANDVI TALUKA			
1	Ravadi (Rath-yatra) fair, Janmashtami	Mandvi	Shravan Vad 8-10	22,000
2	Ruhansha Pir fair	Talvana	2nd Monday of Chaitra	11,000–12,000
3	Shitla Mata fair, Shitala Terash	Mandvi	Chaitra Vad 13	10,000
	ANJAR TALUKA			
1	Dabada fair	Anjar	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	20,000–25,000
2	Kuber Pir fair	Pantia	Bhadrapad Sud 14 Vad 1	10,000–15,000
	RAPAR TALUKA			
1	Ravechi Mata fair	Nani Rav	Bhadrapad Sud 8	12,000–13,000

Co-operation in Wholesale and Retail Trade—The inflationary spiral which was generated since World War-II continues with the same velocity causing thereby considerable hardship to the weaker sections of the community and the middle classes. The co-operative movement has, therefore, been broad based in recent times and has taken up the important work of providing articles of daily needs at fair and reasonable prices to the consumers. A number of consumer stores have been opened in the district to supply to the consumers such articles as foodgrains, sugar and stationery articles including books at reasonable rates. There are 22 consumers' co-operative stores of which two are located in Bhuj and the rest in other urban areas of the district. The following figures illustrate the progress of consumers' co-operatives in the district.

Particulars	Year 1964-65	Year 1965-66
1	2	3
Membership'	2,218	2,175
Share Capital (Rs.)	48,610	52,200
Working Capital (Rs.).. ..	164,686	197,580
Value of goods sold (Rs.) ..	1,543,783	1,702,073

Source : The District Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Bhuj

(Bk) H-49—40 (Lino)

Trade Associations

The old *Gazetteer* on Kutch vividly describes the existence of merchants' guild in Kutch in the following terms. "In most Cutch towns there is a merchants' guild, mahajan. At the port some of its members are appointed by the State to fix, in insurance questions, the amount to be paid for damage to the ship or cargo. Their awards are respected by both parties. The guild derives an income from a tax known by the name of *dharmo lago*. This is levied by the State along with the excise duties and its proceeds are handed over to the guild manager. The income is spent partly in offerings to the Vallabhacharya Maharajas and partly in the support of animal homes. Most of the leading members of the guilds are Vanias and Bhatias."[1]

Trade and Commerce being one of the principal economic activities of modern times, associations and organisations of manufacturers and merchants have come into existence to safeguard the interests of trade and industry. Recognising their utility and importance the Central and State Governments nominate their representatives on the various committees and sub-committees appointed by them so that they can ventilate their views in matters affecting the mercantile community. The growth of trade associations in this district is comparatively recent. The Bhuj Chamber of Commerce, and the Gandhidham Chamber of Commerce are the principal organisations to which the associations listed below are affiliated.

1 *Industry*	2 *Trade and Commerce*	3 *Others*
1 Kutch Oil Mills Association, Bhuj	1 The Bhuj Chamber of Commerce, Bhuj	1 Kandla Custom House Agents' Association, Gandhidham
2 Gandhidham Grain Seeds and Oil Merchants' Association, Gandhidham	2 The Bhuj Seeds and Wholesale Merchants' Association, Bhuj	2 Kandla Steamship Owners' Association, Gandhidham
3 Kandla Salt Manufacturers' Association, Gandhidham	3 The Bhuj Cloth Merchants' Association, Bhuj	3 Kandla Stevedores' Association, Gandhidham
	4 The Bhuj Medicine Merchants' Association, Bhuj	
	5 The Grain Raskas Association, Bhuj	
	6 The Bhuj Metal Merchants' Association, Bhuj	
	7 The Bhuj Cutlery and Stationery Merchants' Association, Bhuj	
	8 The Bhuj Gold and Silver Merchants' Association, Bhuj	
	9 The Bhuj Milk Merchants' Association, Bhuj	
	10 The Bhuj Sweets and Farsan Merchants' Association, Bhuj	
	11 Mandvi Merchants' Association, Mandvi	
	12 Gandhidham Chamber of Commerce, Gandhidham	
	13 Anjar Merchants' Association, Anjar	
	14 Mundra Merchants' Association, Mundra	
	15 Bhachau Merchants' Association, Bhachau	
	16 Rapar Merchants' Association, Rapar	
	17 Nakhatrana Merchants' Association, Nakhatrana	
	18 Abdasa Merchants' Association, Abdasa	

1. Campbell J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 122

Their aims and objects generally are : (1) to look after the interests of trade and commerce of the region and help create harmonious relations among members, (2) arbitrate whenever possible in trade disputes and study legislation affecting trade, commerce and industry and present its views to Government, (3) to watch developments at home and abroad and introduce, if necessary, suitable changes in the existing pattern of trade and industry, (4) to maintain liaison between different associations and merchants in the interests of trade and industry, (5) to co-operate with other industrial and commercial associations for the furtherence of their aims and objects and (6) to publish annual reports and other literature giving useful information regarding trade and commerce and industry for the use of members.

The Bhuj Chamber of Commerce, Bhuj—Though the Chamber of Commerce at Bhuj was organised before Independence, it could not develop as an effective association on account of the limited trade of Kutch and inadequate membership. The trading community of Bhuj, however, realised the necessity of having such an association functioning effectively when Bhuj was linked by a metre gauge railway with the mainland, and had other modern means of communications in recent times. The Chamber was, therefore, reorganised in October 1960. Its membership has now reached over 400 and includes individual traders as well as associations. It prepared and published a telephone directory for the city of Bhuj which was

distributed free to the telephone subscribers. It submitted a memorandum indicating the difficulties experienced by traders in Kutch to the representatives of Gujarat Vepari Mahamandal who visited Bhuj in 1964. With a view to increase investment for developing industrial potential in Kutch, the Chamber arranged a meeting with the delegation headed by the Chairman of the Gujarat State Financial Corporation and sought its guidance in respect of channelling industrial investment and called upon those concerned to take advantage of their advice. The chamber also strove for other facilities so very essential for the advancement of industry and trade. The chamber is represented on the (1) Divisional Advisory Committee of the Gujarat Electricity Board, Jamnagar Circle and the (2) Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee, Ajmer Division. It maintains liaison with agencies connected with air, rail and road transport.

Gandhidham Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Gandhidham—The Gandhidham Chamber of Commerce and Industry is the outcome of the necessity to form a powerful association which could effectively deal with problems of expanding trade and industry at the new township of Gandhidham consequent upon the development of Kandla as a major port. The association was registered in the year 1953 with a membership of eleven which has risen to 190 in 1966. Since its inception the chamber has contributed much to the development of trade and industry of Kandla-Gandhidham area. Realising the important work done by the chamber and the necessity of industrial development in this area on account of the establishment of the Free Trade Zone and the industrial estate at Gandhidham, the Government of Gujarat has started an Information Centre under the auspices of the chamber for the dissemination of information useful to all interested in setting up small industries. A committee of management consisting of the president of the Gandhidham Chamber of Commerce as Chairman and fourteen others including the Industries Officer at Adipur has been constituted for the purpose of giving necessary guidance to the entrepreneurs. It receives valuable information from the Directorate of Industries of Gujarat State and other departments of the Government of India.

The chamber is represented on the following committees, *viz.*, (a) Kandla Port Trust, (b) Gandhidham Development Authority, (c) Divisional Posts and Telegraphs Advisory Committee, (d) District Food Advisory Committee, (e) District Defence Committee, (f) Gujarat Electricity Board, Jamnagar Circle Advisory Committee, Jamnagar, (g) Gandhidham Co-ordination Council, (h) Gandhidham Industrial Estate Advisory Committee, (i) Gujarat Chamber of Commerce, Executive Committee, Ahmedabad, (j) Gujarat Small Industries Federation, Executive Committee, Ahmedabad and (k) Gandhidham Railway Station Consultative Committee. The chamber has constituted eleven sub-committees, important among them being (i) air, shipping and port, (ii) rail and road transport committee, (iii) taxation committee, (iv) posts, telegraphs and telephones committee.

The chamber issues certificates of origin required for the export of sugar and other articles of Indian origin. It also declares every year the charter party holidays to be observed at the Kandla port by the shipping agents and labour and helps outsider in the execution and registration of lease deeds on payment of nominal fees.

Mundra Merchants' Association, Mundra—This association was established in the year 1945 with the sole intention of furthering the trade and commerce of Mundra. Its constitution was framed in the year 1951. It studies Government legislation affecting the mercantile community and helps solve the difficulties experienced by members. It has thirty-six members representing salt, ginning, pressing and oil-mill industries.

Shree Bhuj Cutlery and Stationery Merchants' Association, Bhuj—Established in the year 1954 to promote local industries and trade, it helps remove the difficulties experienced by stationery and cutlery merchants, studies Government legislation affecting trade and presents its views thereon to the Government. The Association gives valuable guidance to the members in furthering the trade of stationery and cutlery.

Weights and Measures

Of weights and measures used in the State, the Kutch *Gazetteer* published in 1880 mentions the following details. Precious metals like gold and silver were weighed as follows :

4	*mags*	=	1 *rati*
3	*ratis*	=	1 *val*
16	*vals*	=	1 *gadiana*

Groceries, spices, alum and metals excepting gold and silver were weighed according to the following scale :

4	*paisabhars*	=	1 *navtank*
2	*Navtanks*	=	1 *paser*
2	*pasers*	=	1 *ardhser*
2	*ardhsers*	=	1 *ser*
6	*sers*	=	1 *pakiseri*
2	*pakiseris*	=	1 *dassero*
2	*dasseras*	=	1 *adhmani*
2	*adhmans*	=	1 *manki*
20	*mans*	=	1 *khandi*

Precious stones and pearls were sold both by weight and number. Grain was sold by cylinder shaped capacity measures. Cloth was sold by the *gaj* called *lakhasai gaj*, divided into twenty-four parts called *tasus*. Wood

was sold by measuring its length and thickness by the *hisabi gaj*, which measured 29 inches. Weights and measures made and stamped by the Darbar were used all over Kutch. This practice continued up to the merger of the State in the Indian Union. The Bombay Weights and Measures Act of 1932 which introduced Bengali maund and seer was, however, adapted and applied to Kutch from 1950, which remained in vogue even after the State's merger in the bilingual Bombay State. There still remained a baffling multiplicity of weights and measures used in different parts of the country which affected the smooth flow of internal and external trade. The Government of India, therefore, decided to introduce the decimal system called the Metric System of Weights and Measures, whereby the weight measures and linear measures have been reduced to a multiple of ten on a uniform basis, thus mitigating the difficulties of calculation and conversion. The salient features of the system are mentioned below :

1 Length is measured in metres instead of in yards.

1 metre = 1·09 yards

2 Distance is measured in kilometres instead of in miles.

1 km. = 0·62 miles

3 Weight is measured into kilograms instead of in pound (lb.) or seer.

1 kg. = 2·2 lbs. or 1·07 seer and quintal instead of a maund.

1 quintal = 5·38 mds.

4 Area of land is now measured in hectares instead of in acres.

1 hectare = 2·47 acres

5 Tola weights have been replaced by grams.

1 gram which is one-thousandth part of a kilogram is equal to 0·086 tolas.

6 Unit for valuable stones is carat.

1 carat which is one-fifth of the gram equals 0·017 tolas.

The use of metric weights and measures has been made compulsory in Gujarat State from April 1962 and its implementation is looked after by the Commissioner of Industries.

OFFICE OF THE STATE EDITOR
30 NOV 1971
GAZETTEER UNIT, MADRAS-8

CHAPTER II

COMMUNICATIONS

Old Time Trade Routes

Importance of good made roads was realised very late in many parts of the country including Kutch. Till the first half of the 19th century, there were hardly any made roads in Kutch State. The road construction was started in the latter half of that century. The former *Gazetteer* published in 1880 observes as under about the state of communications in the former State of Kutch : "The only metalled roads in Cutch are thirty-six miles between Bhuj and Mandvi, and ten miles between Anjar and Tuna. Of fair weather tracks there are in all sixteen extending over a total distance of 762 miles. Except in the Ran, where there is the risk of a chance plundering party, the roads may at all times, by day and night, be safely travelled."[1]

Regarding the old land routes, the *Gazetteer* further observes :

> "The Cutch land trade is chiefly across the Ran to Sind, and Thar and Parkar. As noticed in the account of the Ran, the chief lines are ; one in the west from Nara in Kutch to Luna at the west end of the Banni and from there pretty straight north to Rahim-ki-Bazar near Ali Bandar on the Kori river ; and other further east from Sumrasar in Cutch north across the middle of the Banni along the west of Pachham to Baliari in Thar. A third route lies from the island of Bela north to Nagar. Though sometimes crossed even when flooded, these routes are little used except in the fair season between September and March. The traffic is almost entirely by camels, the centres of trade to which Cutch caravans go being Umarkot in Sind and Thar. Besides these routes, there are across the little Ran in the east several tracts fit in the fair season for the passage of carts. Along these trade passes chiefly to Palanpur, Ahmedabad, and by pack bullocks to Ujain and Marwar."[2]

It is evident from the above extract that most of the roads that existed in Kutch State were, prior to 1880, unmetalled and fit only for the passage of carts. Camels and bullocks were then the principal means of transport by land as most of her land trade was with the north-across the Rann of Kutch. Towards the close of the 19th century, there were 246·24 km. of roads in Kutch State.

1. Campbell, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 115
2. *Ibid.*, p. 120

Roads in Modern Times

Progress in the construction of roads appears to have been slow during the rule of the Maharaos, as in other Princely States. At the time of integration into the Indian Union, Kutch State had only 427·20 km. of metalled roads. Of these, 33·60 km. were National Highways, 180·80 km. State Highways, 168 km. Major District Roads and 44·80 km. Other District Roads and Village Roads. If the desert area were excluded, the road length per square km. of area and per lakh of population were 0·02 km. and 78·40 km. respectively. These compare very unfavourably with the corresponding figures for India as a whole which respectively were 0·14 km. per sq. km. of area and 142·40 km. per lakh of population.

After Independence when Kutch integrated with the Indian Union, it was first made a Chief Commissioner's province and then a Part 'C' State. The use of automobiles had increased appreciably by this time necessitating the construction of good made roads. Railway link with the Indian mainland did not then exist. The Government, therefore, thought it necessary to break the age old isolation and to connect it with other parts of the country to ensure the economic growth of this undeveloped region. Repairs to old roads were immediately undertaken; some of the important water bound macadam roads were upgraded to tar surfaces; and causeways were constructed on a number of roads. Kutch was in the grip of serious famines in 1948-49 and 1951-52. With a view to provide relief to the people of the famine stricken area, road construction was started as a relief measure and considerable amount of money spent for the purpose. From April, 1950, the administrative control of roads in Part 'C' States was taken over by the Roads Organisation of the Ministry of Transport at the Centre which initiated schemes for planned development of roads. The First Five Year Plan envisaged construction of 576 km. of new roads in Kutch at an estimated cost of Rs. 58·62 lakhs.

The combined effect of the relief works and the implementation of the First Plan was to raise the total road length in Kutch from 427 km. in 1948 to 1,072 km. in 1956. The pace of construction was further accelerated during the Second Five Year Plan at the end of which the total roads stood at 1,744 km. but fell short of 922 km. to come up to the target fixed by the Nagpur Plan. At the end of the Third Five Year Plan roads in the district were 2,173 km. of which 546 km. had metalled surface and 1,627 km. unmetalled. To meet the deficiency and shortfall in the construction of roads a '20-Year Road Development Plan (1961-1981)' has been prepared by the State Government which envisages the construction of a total of 4,040 km. of roads in the district by the end of 1981.

Classification of Roads—The present classification of roads is based on the resolution of the Indian Road Congress passed at its Nagpur

Session in 1943. It broadly classifies roads into two types, (1) main roads consisting of National Highways, State Highways and Major District Roads passing throughout the length and breadth of the country and (2) other roads consisting of other district roads and village roads.

National Highways (N. H.) have been defined as main highways serving predominantly national as distinct from State purposes, running through the length and breadth of India, which together form a system connecting by routes as direct as practicable major ports, foreign highways, capitals of States, and also include those of strategic importance required for the defence of the country. National Highways are maintained by the State Public Works Department from funds provided by the Central Government. These are generally tar roads with a minimum width of 38 feet or 11·58 metres.

State Highways (S. H.) have been defined as all other main, trunk or arterial roads of a State connecting with National Highways, or State Highways of adjacent States, district headquarters and important cities within the State and serving as main arteries of traffic to and from district roads. These roads are maintained by the Public Works Department of the State. They have a tar surface and minimum width of 32 feet or 9·75 metres and are completely motorable throughout the year, except at those places having causeways or submersible bridges where traffic may be interrupted in monsoon for very short periods. The State Highways are usually connected with National Highways.

Major District Roads (M. D. R.) are roughly of the same specifications as State Highways with this difference that their minimum width is 7·4 metres. They connect important marketing centres with railways, State Highways and National Highways. There are 'Other District Roads' (O. D. R.) also which are of the same type as Major District Roads except that they are subject to more interruptions of traffic during the rainy season. Village Roads are generally unmetalled approach roads from main roads to villages. Major District Roads, Other District Roads and Village Roads in the district are maintained by the District Panchayat.

Length of Roads in the District, 1968

Sl. No.	Type of Roads	Length as in August, 1968 (in km.)
1	National Highway	91.31
2	State Highways	581.60
3	Major District Roads	720.75
4	Other District Roads	529.66
5	Village Roads	291.49
	Total	2,214.81

Source :
Superintending Engineer, Roads and Buildings Circle, Kutch

(Bk) H-49—41 (Lino)

National Highways

Ahmedabad-Kandla National Highway (No. 8A)—This is the only National Highway passing through the district. The total length of the road in the district is 91·31 km. of which a length of 14·80 km. from Kandla to Gandhidham is in the charge of the Kandla Port Trust. The entire length of the road in the district is metalled and fully bridged. It is motorable throughout the year. It starts from Ahmedabad and after passing through the Surendranagar and Rajkot districts enters Kutch district near the village Surajbari, touches in its course Limbdi, Chotila, Wankaner, Morvi and Maliya. It branches off at a village called Bamanbore on the Bamanbore-Porbandar National Highway and traverses onwards towards Porbandar. This National Highway has great economic importance, as it links the major port of Kandla with the principal towns and cities in the State.

State Highways

1 *Bhuj-Khavda Road*—This State Highway starts from Bhuj and terminates at Khavda. The entire length of 68·19 km. of this road has a metalled surface and is motorable throughout the year. It has been recently upgraded to National Highways standard. Beyond Khavda, it covers a further distance of 16·80 km. of black topped surface.

2 *Bhuj-Anjar-Gandhidham Road*—This is another State Highway emanating from Bhuj. The road between Bhuj and Anjar was constructed during the former Kutch State regime. From Gandhidham this road meets the Kandla-Ahmedabad National Highway near village Khari Rohar. Its entire length of 54 km. has a black topped surface and is motorable throughout the year.

3 *Bhuj-Lakhpat Road*—Starting from Bhuj, it terminates at the north-west corner of Kutch near Lakhpat, a taluka headquarter town and a minor port in the district. The total length of the road is 131·20 km. and has a black topped surface. The road crosses many rivers and *nullahs* on its way with the result that traffic is sometimes interrupted during monsoon. The road touches Mata-no-Madh, a place of pilgrimage, where the famous temple of Ashapura Mata is situated.

4 *Bhuj-Mandvi Road*—Covering a distance of 54·20 km., this Highway has black topped surface and links two important centres in the district, i. e., Bhuj, the district headquarters and Mandvi, an intermediate port and taluka headquarters. The road is fully bridged and is motorable throughout the year.

5 *Bhuj-Deshalpar-Roha-Nalia-Jakhau Port Road*—This road shares a common surface for the first 25·60 km. with Bhuj-Lakhpat State Highway. Bifurcating near the village Deshalpar, it terminates at Jakhau port on the western shore of Kutch. The total length of the road inclusive of the

Bhuj-Deshalpar section up to Jakhau is 102·80 km., of which a portion of 12·80 km. has a black topped surface, 4 km. water bound macadam and the remaining unmetalled. The road is partly bridged with culverts, causeways and bridges. It is a fair weather road.

6 *Chitrod-Rapar-Lodrani-Gadhada Road*—It bifurcates from the Samkhiyali-Chitrod-Adesar-Piparala State Highway from 20·80 km. near village Chitrod and runs up to Gadhada, a village in Khadir mahal. The road between Chitrod and Gadhada admeasures 89·92 km., of which the initial length of 20·80 km. has metalled surface, motorable throughout the year and the remaining 69·12 km. unmetalled motorable only in fair weather.

7 *Samkhiyali-Adesar-Piparala Road*—This is an inter-district road which has been recently upgraded to National Highway standard. Starting from Samkhiyali, a village on the Kandla-Ahmedabad National Highway, it links Kutch with the neighbouring district of Banaskantha. After covering a distance of 74·08 km. it enters Banaskantha district where it touches the villages Piparala, Radhanpur, Bhabhar, Suigam, etc.

Major District Roads, Other District Roads and Village Roads—Details about these roads are given at the end of the Chapter.

Municipal Roads—Bhuj, Anjar, Gandhidham and Mandvi are the four municipalities in the district, the total length of roads maintained by them in the year 1967 being 185·06 km. Of these 110·36 km. were metalled and 74·79 km. unmetalled.

Vehicles and Conveyances—In Kutch, bullock carts, donkeys, ponies, horses and camels were the main means of transport before the mechanisation of the mode of conveyance. Despite the extension of railways and expansion of bus traffic for both passengers and goods which now traverse the length and breadth of the district, these pristine modes of transport still retain much of their former utility and importance. The following statement gives talukawise distribution of bullock carts in the district in the year 1965-66.

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	No. of bullock carts	Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	No. of bullock carts
1	2	3	1	2	3
1	Bhuj ..	3,949	6	Rapar ..	5,942
2	Mandvi ..	3,082	7	Nakhatrana ..	4,304
3	Mundra ..	842	8	Abdasa ..	5,228
4	Anjar ..	3,506	9	Lakhpat ..	599
5	Bhachau ..	7,500		Total ..	35,554

Source :
The Collector, Kutch District, Bhuj

Beasts of Burden—The following are the beasts of burden and their strength in the district was 107,392 according to the Livestock Census, 1966.

Sl. No.	Category	No.
1	2	3
1	Bullocks	90,374
2	Horses and ponies	3,068
3	Mules	45
4	Donkeys	6,217
5	Camels	7,688
	Total	107,392

Source :
Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Ahmedabad

Among the beasts of burden, bullocks rank first in the district followed by camels, donkeys and horses and ponies in order. Donkeys are useful for transportation of materials required in the construction of dams, roads and buildings. Camels, horses and ponies help movement of persons from one place to another, the animal first named being the most useful for transportation across the desert.

Other Vehicles—Other vehicles in the district are motor cycles, motor cars and jeeps, taxis, private and public carriers, trailers and tractors. Their strength as on 31st October, 1967 was as under.

Sl. No.	Name of vehicles	Number
1	Motor cycles	627
2	Motor cars and jeeps	771
3	Taxis	165
4	Government carriers	105
5	Public carriers	861
6	Trailers	84
7	Tractors	123
8	Others	100
	Total	2,836

Source :
Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Bhuj

Road Transport

With the change of times the former modes of transport are gradually giving place to mechanised means of communications sub-divided into its four main branches, viz., road water, rail and air. Road transport buses were introduced for the first time in Kutch, when the State gave a monopoly for operating bus service between Bhuj and Mandvi in 1921. Bus services were later on extended to routes between Mundra-Anjar, Bhuj-Mundra, Bhachau-Rapar, Bhuj-Narayan Sarovar and

Bhuj-Khavda. In 1942, the Maharao took over the Bhuj-Mandvi bus service and created the Kutch State Motor Service Board which initially managed the Bhuj-Mandvi route. The remaining routes were taken over between 1942 and 1945. Rapid progress was, however, made after the State's integration into the Indian Union in 1948. With the formation of the Kutch State Road Transport Corporation in 1954, road transport in the entire State was nationalised. Villages with a population of 500 or more were covered and the number of routes, daily route mileage and the fleet of vehicles increased rapidly. The number of routes rose from 15 in 1948 to 56 in 1955, daily route mileage from 1,270 to 4,140 and the number of vehicles from 23 to 78 during the same period.

The Kutch States Road Transport Corporation maintained its separate existence even after the formation of the bilingual Bombay State into which Kutch merged in 1956. After the formation of Gujarat State, the Kutch State Road Transport Corporation and the Saurashtra State Road Transport Corporation were amalgamated into a single corporation for the whole State called the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation with headquarters at Ahmedabad. It maintains separate division at Kutch with headquarters at Bhuj, six depots located at Bhuj, Mandvi, Mundra, Anjar, Rapar and Bhachau and three controlling centres at Gandhidham, Nakhatrana and Nalia.

The Corporation fixes the routes and frequency of trips according to the convenience of the public and availability of vehicles. Some of the routes operated in fair weather are altered or suspended during the rainy season, when the monsoon time-table comes into operation. Kutch district was served by 132 routes covering a distance of 9,926 km. till March, 1968. A direct bus service also operates between Bhuj and Ahmedabad. The number of passengers travelled on an average amounted to 11,628 per day per single trip in the month of March, 1968, which speaks highly for the popularity of the State transport bus services plying throughout the length and breadth of the district and the ever increasing use made of this means of public transport.

The Kutch division has *pucca* built station at Bhuj, nine temporary bus stations at Mandvi, Anjar, Gandhidham, Mundra, Bhachau, Rapar, Nalia, Kera and Nakhatrana and forty-eight pick-up sheds in the villages. Cloak room facility is provided at Bhuj bus station. There are seven retiring rooms one each at Bhuj, Mandvi, Mundra, Bhachau, Rapar, Nakhatrana and Nalia, where drinking water facilities are also provided to the travelling public.

A Staff Welfare Committee has been organised at Bhuj by the employees of the State Transport Corporation. Employees take advantage of equipments like hot-water bag, ice bags, thermometer, etc., supplied by the

Committee. A dispensary has also been set-up by the Corporation at the headquarters of the division for the benefit of employees. A co-operative credit and thrift society provides facility of financial advances to its members. Indoor and outdoor games are also provided at the headquarters and the various depots and film shows occasionally organised for the recreation of employees.

RAILWAYS

History—Prior to Independence, Kutch was very poorly served in respect of the railways. Tuna to Anjar narrow gauge railway, which was opened for traffic in the year 1905, was the first railway line constructed in the State. This line which was about 30 km. in length, was further extended up to Bhuj and was declared open for traffic in February, 1909. The total length of railways constructed by the State before 1948 was 184·31 km. as shown below.

Sl. No.	Name of the section	Length in km.
1	2	3
1	Tuna to Anjar	29.95
2	Anjar to Varsa Medi	9.47
3	Varsa Medi to Kandla	9.70
4	Anjar to Bhuj	64.25
5	Varsa Medi to Bhachau	50.94
	Total	184.31

Kutch State remained isolated from other parts of the Indian mainland for many years. After Independence, the Government of India made strenuous efforts to remove this age-old isolation by linking Kutch by rail routes and roads with other parts of the country. The West Coast Major Port Development Committee appointed by the Government of India in 1948 to consider location of a major port on the west coast suggested that Kandla, the new major port, should be linked with the rest of India by metre and broad gauge railway lines by two rail connections, viz., (i) broad gauge from Jhund to Kandla; 219·20 km. with a bridge over the Little Rann of Kutch and (ii) metre gauge railway 278·40 km. from Deesa to Kandla. In pursuance of these recommendations, the construction of Deesa-Kandla line was started in January, 1950 and declared open to traffic on 2nd October, 1952 by late Dr. Rajendra Prasad, then President of India. Subsequently Bhuj-Gandhidham narrow gauge railway was also converted into metre gauge in April, 1956. Bhuj was thus linked directly with Deesa and through Deesa with other parts of the country. The construction of this rail link was a landmark in the economic history of Kutch as it extended its hinterland up to Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Delhi.

Jhund-Kandla Railway

Another landmark in the history of railway in Kutch is the construction of the Jhund-Kandla broad gauge line. It has added a new dimension to the railway net-work in the Western Zone. It links the Kandla major port with its vast hinterland comprising Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Western Uttar Pradesh and also provides a much-needed direct access to the western frontiers with Pakistan. The laying down of this important line commenced on June 17, 1964 and was completed and opened both for goods traffic in September 1969 and for passengers traffic in December, 1969. This is the first broad gauge line in the district which has brought the major port of Kandla nearer to Ahmedabad. The railway line has been constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 16·30 crores and has a total length of 234·11 km.

The proposal for the broad guage extension into the north dates back to the year 1879 when a reconnaissance survey was carried out for the two routes for a broad gauge link with Sindh, viz., (1) Palanpur to Hyderabad (Sindh) and (2) the southern route through the former Kutch State. This was followed by a detailed survey for a broad gauge line from Viramgam to Maliya in 1904. Two years later, another survey of the proposed two routes was conducted, and it was recommended that the southern route should be constructed through Kutch. This proposal was dropped on account of the opposition from the then ruler of Kutch who did not like a railway line to pass through his territory.

With the loss of Karachi, on account of the partition of the country in 1947, the need for having another major port on the West Coast became all the more imperative. The Government of India appointed the West Coast Major Port Development Committee in 1948 which recommended the setting up of a major port between Karachi and Bombay at Kandla and that this new major port should be linked by both the metre and broad gauge lines. Accordingly the Deesa-Kandla metre gauge line was constructed and opened in the year 1952. The traffic survey of the broad gauge line between Jhund and Kandla was carried out in 1960 and 1963 for collecting detailed information about the topography of the rail route, engineering and other details, and time and cost of construction. The project was then sanctioned in June, 1964 and completed by stages in September, 1969. It passes through the districts of Ahmedabad, Surendranagar, Rajkot and Kutch and connects the important towns of Dhrangadhra, Halvad and Maliya. The alignment for the new link involved conversion of existing metre gauge section between Dhrangadhra and Halvad into broad gauge and the crossing of the marshy Little Rann of Kutch at its narrowest neck of about 8 km. between Maliya in Saurashtra and Samakhiali in Kutch. From Samakhiali, the alignment runs parallel to the existing metre gauge track up to the Kandla port. It involved construction of 45 major and

188 minor bridges. The longest bridge No. 137 has 62 spans of 60 feet each across the Little Rann of Kutch costing Rs. 1·70 crores approximately. It has been designed to withstand earthquake effects and has been founded on 22 feet diameter single circular wells taken to a maximum depth of 90 feet below the bed level. Some of the wells have been partly filled with water to keep their weight to the minimum. On account of the treacherous nature of the soil extending to a great depth in the Rann of Kutch, the foundation of this bridge was a challenge to the engineers. The work of designing and construction of embankment on the approach of this bridge was by itself a unique engineering feat. The embankment had to be raised across the tidal swamps of the Little Rann of Kutch for a distance of 20,000 feet where the soil was compressible and had a very low sheer strength. The tidal water almost always remained over the soil which was too soft even to support the weight of a man. Another noteworthy feature of this project is the provision of telecommunication system, viz., the control and telegraph block wires required for working and controlling the trains, was for the first time undertaken by the Railway Department, instead of by the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

The construction of this rail-link has necessitated certain structural changes. A total of 25 stations have been provided on this rail-link with necessary passenger amenities. A 3-line crossing station with 800 feet long rail level platform has been provided at the Jhund station. Additional island platform and a foot over-bridge, have been provided at the Dhrangadhra station. At Gandhidham, the existing metre gauge passenger platform has been converted into a broad gauge passenger platform. A 260 feet long goods platform with 100′ × 20′ covered shade in addition to 20′ × 10′ covered lock-up accommodation has also been provided at Gandhidham. A broad gauge loco-shed and carriage and washing facilities have also been provided there.

At the Kandla port, maximum facilities have been provided in order to avoid difficulties due to the break of gauge during the course of movement of traffic from and to the port area. The yards at new Kandla and Sarva in the port area have been provided with gauntletted track with adequate broad gauge and metre gauge lines to ensure smooth and efficient handling of the traffic to various destinations.

This broad gauge link opens another outlet to the industrial area of Ahmedabad and Baroda and the trading centres further afield. Incidentally, the line provides the longest broad gauge link in the country. It will facilitate full utilisation of the capacity of the Kandla port and also help make the scheme of Free Trade Zone a success. It will also contribute substantially to the development of Kutch and Saurashtra regions which were not hitherto served by broad gauge railway. This will also benefit large areas of Kutch which hitherto experienced acute shortage of rainfall

resulting in recurring scarcity. Huge quantities of hay from the South Gujarat areas will be easily moved through this broad gauge link to meet fodder scarcity.

The opening of the Jhund-Kandla line has led to the reduction in the existing distance between Kandla and Ahmedabad by 140 km. The passengers from Kandla will now be able to reach Ahmedabad and Baroda in a short time then before. Moreover Kandla will no longer remain an isolated point in the wilderness of the Rann of Kutch. It is expected that this new link will not only develop the Kandla port but will also usher in a new era of prosperity for the people of Kutch.

Considerable improvement has thus taken place in respect of development of railway communications in Kutch after Independence. All the narrow gauge lines which existed in the district prior to Independence were converted into metre gauge before 1955. At present the total length of railways in the district is 202·13 km.* which passes through 24 stations in the district and serves four out of nine taluka/mahals in the district, viz., Bhuj, Anjar, Bhachau and Rapar.

Railway Stations by Taluka, 1966

Bhuj	Anjar	Bhachau	Rapar
1	2	3	4
1 Kukma	1 Bhimasar	1 Shivlakha	1 Lakhpat
2 Madhapar	2 Gandhidham	2 Lakadia	2 Adesar
3 Bhuj	3 Shirva	3 Samakhiali	3 Bhutakia-Bhimasar
	4 New-Kandla	4 Vondh	4 Padampur
	5 Gopalpuri	5 Bhachau	5 Kidianagar
	6 Adipur	6 Chirai	6 Chitrod
	7 Anjar		
	8 Sapada		
	9 Ratnal		

More than half the taluka/mahals are still without a railway. Even the intermediate port of Mandvi yet remains unconnected by rail with Bhuj or with any other important town in the district. The inadequacy of rail connection will be evident from the fact that in terms of kilometres the railway length per hundred sq km. of area and per lakh of population in the district respectively were 1·24 km. and 28·80 km.

A short description of each of the railway lines serving the district is given below.

1. *Jhund-Kandla*—The Jhund-Kandla rail link is the first broadgauge line in the district covering 88 km. between Surbari and Kandla. It has 8 stations on the line, of which Surbari and Kataria are new. Starting from

*This does not include the distance of the broad gauge Jhund-Kandla line which was constructed and opened for traffic towards the close of 1966.

(Bk) H-49—42 (Lino)

Surbari the line terminates at Kandla. From Samakhiali this line runs parallel to the existing metre gauge line up to Kandla. It holds out good prospects for developing the goods traffic from and to the major port of Kandla.

2 *Bhuj-Anjar-Gandhidham*—It is a metre gauge line covering a distance of 57 km. Starting from Bhuj, the district headquarters and passing through Bhuj and Anjar talukas, it terminates at Gandhidham, the new township of the major port of Kandla. This line is of great economic significance as considerable quantity of goods either imported into or exported from Kandla is routed through Gandhidham.

3 *Palanpur-Deesa-Radhanpur-Gandhidham*—This line, which covers a total distance of 301 km., enters Kutch district near Lakhpat station of Rapar taluka at km. No. 183, passes through Rapar, Bhachau and Anjar talukas and terminates at Gandhidham which is the starting point for another line for Bhuj. It thus connects Palanpur, the district headquarters of Banaskantha, with Bhuj, the district headquarters of Kutch.

4 *Gandhidham New Kandla*—From Gandhidham runs another metre gauge line up to New Kandla covering a distance of 12 km. The importance of this line lies in the fact that it links Kandla directly with Gandhidham and through it with other parts of the district and the State. It also helps transhipment of goods to and from Kandla port.

Important stations in the district are Bhuj, Anjar, Gandhidham and New Kandla.

1 *Bhuj*—Lying at the foot of Bhujia hill. Bhuj was the capital of the Maharaos who ruled over Kutch till Independence. It is now the headquarters of Kutch district and an important wholesale and retail trade centre. Deposits of minerals like bauxite and bentonite have been found from Bhuj taluka.

2 *Anjar*—Known as the gateway to Vagad in the past, Anjar is an important trade centre for cotton. It is the headquarters of the taluka of that name where deposits of bauxite have been found. Anjar is also famous for the products of its handicrafts-knives and nut-crackers and dyeing and printing of textiles.

3 *Gandhidham*—Constructed on the most modern lines of town planning, Gandhidham is the township serving the major port of Kandla, 12 km. away. It is an important railway station both on Bhuj-Anjar-Gandhidham and Deesa-Kandla railway lines. A Free Trade Zone, the only one of its kind in the country, has been recently constituted at Kandla

where a number of industries for the manufacture of various articles for export are being established. It has its own Chamber of Commerce and the offices of the Chairman, Kandla Port Trust and the Administrator, Kandla Free Trade Zone.

STATEMENT VII·1

Passenger and Goods Traffic, 1966

Name of the Section		Stations	Passengers booked	Tonnage of goods hauled
1		2	3	4
Bhuj-Anjar-Gandhidham-New Kandla	1	Bhuj ..	259,404	15,716
	2	Madhapur Road	476	..
	3	Kukma ..	21,226	..
	4	Ratnal ..	35,136	..
	5	Sapada ..	9,747	..
	6	Anjar ..	217,427	55,629
	7	Adipur ..	107,697	..
	8	Gopalpuri ..	17,256	..
	9	Gandhidham ..	361,146	53,797
	10	Shirva ..	170,670	..
	11	New Kandla ..	120,792	142,311
		Total for the Section ..	1,320,977	267,453
Palanpur-Deesa-Radhanpur-Gandhidham	1	Lakhpat ..	1,308	..
	2	Adesar ..	43,731	298,200
	3	Bhutakia-Bhimasar	30,453	306
	4	Padampur ..	3,603	..
	5	Kidianagar ..	23,935	151
	6	Chitrod ..	47,532	58,165
	7	Shivlakha ..	1,653	..
	8	Lakadia ..	35,599	16,031
	9	Samakhiali ..	363,338	4,567
	10	Vondh ..	2,706	..
	11	Bhachau ..	55,181	3,460
	12	Chirai ..	8,734	130,621
	13	Bhimasar ..	10,700	4,375
		Total for the Section ..	628,473	515,876

Source:
Chief Public Relations Officer, Western Railway, Bombay

WATERWAYS, FERRIES AND BRIDGES

Ports—As seen from the foregoing pages, Kutch was neither linked with rail nor with good made roads with other parts of the country before Independence. It was, however, connected with other parts of the country and maritime States outside India through its ports which had had a very

thriving trade in the past. Its long coastline extending over nearly 352 km. had ancient ports and a number of minor ports having extensive maritime trade with the Malabar coast and ports on the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf, Middle East and the coastal towns of Zanzibar and East and West Africa. Across the oceans of Asia and Africa the mighty country crafts of Kutch oscillated. The adventurous trading community of Kutch brought glory and prosperity to their land. "The sea-going tradition of the Kutchi people no doubt explains why it is that Kutch has no fewer than five ancient ports-Mandvi, Mundra, Jakhau, Lakhpat and Koteshwar-all of which have long history of overseas trade which spans the centuries. There is hardly another area in the world where port facilities have been so extensively developed in proportion to the population."[1]

But its former prosperity soon disappeared due to the decision of the rulers of Kutch to stay outside the Indian Customs Union and the consequent tightening of the customs cordon by the British India Government. On the other hand the gradual siltation of its ports had an adverse effect on its maritime trade which declined gradually and what remained were only shadowy traces of its glorious past. However, with the development of Kandla as a major port, Kutch is once again regaining its former position in the maritime trade of India.

On its long coastline Kutch has ports of Kandla, Tuna, Jhangi, Khari Rohar, Mandvi, Mundra, Jakhau, Lakhpat and Koteshwar. Of these, Kandla was taken over by the Central Government in 1950 for its development as a major port, whereas Mandvi, Jakhau, Mundra, Koteshwar and Lakhpat are administered by the State Government. Mandvi, Mundra and Jakhau are open both for coastal and foreign traffic, but Lakhpat and Koteshwar have coastal traffic only. The minor ports of Tuna, Jhangi and Rohar are mere roadsteads under the jurisdiction of the Kandla Port Authorities.

Port Administration—For administrative convenience, the Port Officer and Deputy Engineer, Mandvi, is in charge of Mandvi Group of Ports comprising Mandvi, Mundra, Jakhau, Lakhpat and Koteshwar, while Kandla is administered by a Port Trust constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963. A brief description of these ports is given in the pages that follow.

Kandla Kandla appeared on the maritime map of the country in 1931, when the then ruler Maharao Khengarji III of Kutch decided to have a port in his State in the early thirties of this century where ocean going ships could conveniently call. Realising that Mandvi was unsuitable to accommodate large ships, his choice fell on Kandla as the creek offered the advantages of well defined banks, deep water close to the shore and ample

1. L. F. Rushbrook Williams, *The Black Hills*, 1958, pp. 39-40

depth for ocean going steamers. Unlike Mandvi, a port in Kandla creek would be sheltered from the south-west monsoon and located quite near the mainland of India. The hopes of the ruler, however, for a larger expansion of trade at the port remained unrealised, because the railway link with the Indian mainland could not be constructed as Kutch was outside the Indian Customs Union. This proved an insuperable obstacle. Yet within his own lifetime, his choice was vindicated as both farsighted and correct. Between 1930 when this small port came into operation and 1940, Kandla was visited by a large number of ocean going steamers and the original jetty constructed by him now forms the core of the new oil port and an essential part of the layout of India's sixth major harbour.[1]

The earliest known marine survey of Kandla creek was conducted by the Royal Navy in 1851. However, Capt. Barry of the Royal Navy conducted a detailed survey in the year 1922. On the strength of his recommendations the Maharao constructed the Kandla port which comprised a 300' long R. C. C. jetty, reclaimed area for the location of transit sheds, approach causeway, office building, etc.

After the partition of the Indian subcontinent in 1947, Karachi formed part of Pakistan and the necessity of constructing a major port to substitute Karachi became imperative. The Government of India, therefore, appointed in 1948 the West Coast Major Port Development committee with Shri Kasturbhai Lalbhai, an industrialist of Ahmedabad, as its Chairman to examine the facilities available at the ports of Saurashtra and Kutch and to make recommendations about the location of a new major port in that area. Pursuant to its recommendations, the Government of India decided to develop Kandla as a major port. The actual construction of the jetties commenced from 1953 and Kandla was declared a major port from the year 1955 when oil traffic was started. The first berth on the cargo jetty was commissioned in 1957.

Kandla is the nearest port to many of the regions of northern and central India. It is located about 15 miles inside the Kandla creek and is completely protected from south-west monsoon and foul weather. The average tidal range is 5·89 metres which enables ships of deeper draught to come inside the harbour and unload its merchandise. Besides the Deesa-Kandla rail line, which brought Kandla on the metre gauge map of the railway system of the country, the Jhund-Kandla broad gauge rail communication provides direct access to the strategic area of Kutch which has international boundary with Pakistan. Constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 16·30 crores, this rail line is 234·11 km. long. It has recently been commissioned for goods and passengers traffic between September and December 1969. It has reduced the existing distance between Ahmedabad and Kandla by about 140 km. The hinterland served by the port is very

1. L. F. Rushbrook Williams, *The Black Hills*, 1958; p. 48

large and comprises north Gujarat, Rajasthan, Western Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Western Uttar Pradesh and Jammu and Kasmir. The rich mineral deposits of Rajasthan and the agricultural produce of northern India will find an easy outlet through this port, which is at a shorter distance as compared to Bombay and will result in obvious economies to the exporters as it will curtail transport cost and time. The Kandla-Ahmedabad National Highway will also reduce the distance between Kandla and Ahmedabad by nearly 320 km.

Kandla Port Trust—Kandla port is administered under the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963, by a Board of Trustees consisting of the chairman appointed by the Government of India and others representing commerce, railways, defence, State Government, chambers of commerce at Gandhidham, Ahmedabad and Rajasthan, steamship association, sailing vessels and labour. The administration of the port is divided into five principal departments, (i) the Deputy Conservator's Department looks after the navigation and conservancy of navigational approaches, floating crafts and hydrographic survey works; (ii) the Engineering Department looks after the maintenance of the jetty, warehouses and other assets of the port besides attending to the maintenance and repairs of machinery and plants; (iii) the Traffic Department supervises the loading, unloading and storage of cargo and its despatch to various destinations; (iv) the Accounts Department is in charge of accounts and (v) the General Administration Department is responsible for the administration and co-ordination of work among the various departments of the Port Trust.

Facilities at the Port—Apart from natural advantages, the port has been constructed on most modern lines and provides the following facilities.

1 *Jetty*—A cargo jetty provides four alongside berths with a total quayage of 2,700 feet which can accommodate five liberty size ships of 28′ draft. The fifth berth which will add 1,250 ft. of quayage has lately been constructed for dredging and other ancillary work.

2 *Mooring Berths*—Three mooring berths are available near the cargo jetty, besides separate and special mooring facilities for ships loading salt and those drawing 36 ft. draft.

3 *Bunder Basin*—The bunder basin has three wharves each with a transit shed. The south wharf is served with four quay electric level luffing cranes of 3 to 10 tons capacity for handling cargo from the lighters. The north wharf has been provided with sets of steps for working sailing vessels manually. The west wharf has an electric gantry crane with 60 tons capacity.

4 *Oil Jetties*—An R. C. C. pier is available for berthing mineral oil tankers. Separate pipelines for white and black oils have been provided from

the pier right up to the oil installations, about 9·60 kms. away. Booster pumps have also been provided on the pipelines which increase the output of oil tankers considerably. Another pipeline which has also been laid at the port will shortly be commissioned.

5 *Passenger Jetties*—Two loading stages on floating pontoons are provided for passenger launches. These enable passengers to embark and disembark conveniently at all stages of the tide.

6 *Vegetable Oil Tanks*—There are three vegetable oil tanks with a total capacity of 650 tonnes with pumping arrangements and pipeline for the export of vegetable oil in bulk.

Dangerous Cargo Shed—This shed with a capacity of 320 tonnes and calcium carbide shed of 48 tonnes capacity are available at the port. Fumigation facilities with a capacity of 800 bales per day have also been provided, together with quarantine arrangements for receiving them.

Dry Dock and Ship Repair Facilities—There is one floating dry dock having a capacity of 800 tons capable of docking all the port vessels including three tugs of 1,000, 900 and 1,000 h. p. A small workshop at the dock provides facilities for carrying out repairs to the port craft.

Workshop Facilities—The port has its own workshop equipped with various machines which undertake normal repairs to all port crafts, plants and other equipments. An auto-workshop carries ordinary repairs to fire brigade vehicles and other motor vehicles.

Port Equipments—The port possesses 26 electric cranes of varying capacity, 4 mobile cranes, 5 fork lift trucks, 2 auto-trucks, 4 tractors and 4 trailers. A complete harbour control radar and very high frequency communications unit have been installed at the port for communications with the Tekra Light House and launches and for navigational aids. A water barge of 90 tons capacity caters to the water requirements of ships moored at the mid-stream. It is also utilised for lifting and fixing buoys wherever required. Another water barge of 200 tons capacity has also been purchased by the port authorities. Other equipments include three shipping tugs, two harbour tugs, one motor yacht, four general purpose launches, two vessels for pilotage, two survey launches, two mooring launches, one open boat for diving operations and two dredgers. Kandla port will soon be equipped with the facilities required for navigation by night. Requisite machinery for the purpose has already been purchased.

Air, Rail and Road Connections—Systematic efforts have been made to provide Kandla with rail, road and air connections so as to link it with major cities and industrial centres in the country. It possesses an airport,

metre gauge rail link through Palanpur and Deesa, and a National Highway linking it with Ahmedabad and Bombay besides Jhund-Kandla broad gauge line which has helped curtail the existing distance between Ahmedabad and Kandla and provide direct communications between Saurashtra and Kutch for the movement of goods and passengers.

Mandvi—Situated on the coastline of the Gulf of Kutch just below the entrance to the Gulf from the Arabian Sea, Mandvi, called Raipur or Riyan in olden times, is an important intermediate port in the district. Describing this port, the old *Cutch Gazetteer* observes : "At the Kantha gate the bed of the Bhukhi creek is about 400 yards wide. But, except in times of flood, the part next the town is dry, sandy, and hard, easily crossed by carts. Though the ordinary channel does not cover more than one half of the bed of the creek, at spring tides, it is deep enough to allow vessels of seventy tons (200 *khandis*) to come within 500 yards of the town. Near its mouth the creek narrows to 100 yards, and the entrance is difficult, stopped by a troublesome and shifting bar, except for a few months after a flood. During the fair season, August to May, though square-rigged vessels and steamers have to lie and discharge in the roadstead about two miles from the shore, native craft up to about 107 tons (300 *khandis*) enter the creek. During the stormy season the port is entirely closed."[1]

The former rulers of Kutch took keen interest in the development of Mandvi port. Rao Khengarji established this port in the 16th century. An estimated expenditure of Rs. 8 lakhs was sanctioned by Rao Pragmalji in 1875 for the construction of Prince of Wales Breakwater. The port has played a notable part in the economic and cultural life of Kutch, being its main and only life line in the absence of any rail and road communications with the outside world. It was chiefly through this port that Kutch had important trade links with other ports of India on the Malabar coast, Bombay and Cochin and outside India with East Africa and ports in the Persian Gulf, Red Sea, etc. The port proved to be a good source of revenue to the State. And yet it could not become a good port, as drifting sand slowly and steadily filled the creek and from the latter half of the 18th century Mandvi became unnavigable. No serious attention was paid thereafter for improving the port. Immediately after Independence, Government of India decided to survey the port area. It sought advice from the dredging experts of the United Nations who suggested measures for its improvement. Dredging and other means calculated to improve the harbour were taken. The total expenditure incurred for developing the port during the three Five Year Plans comes to Rs. 41·33 lakhs.

Mandvi is a lighterage port. A fleet is, therefore, maintained by the port authorities for serving steamers berthed at the anchorage consisting

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 238

of 3 tugs, one launch, 21 barges and one crane. Other facilities at the port include (i) five godowns of 1,250 tonnes capacity, (2) transit area of 11,500 sq. ft. for general cargo and 97,500 sq. ft. of open space for the storage of timber cargo, (3) gridiron, (4) slipway and winch for repairs of tugs and barges and (5) a small workshop equipped with lathe drilling and steel bend-saw machines.

Mandvi port is not so far connected by any rail route. At present it is only a fair weather intermediate port open both to foreign and coastal traffic. The main items of imports are cement, timber and tiles from Calicut, Cochin and Gujarat ports, and consumer goods mainly from Bombay and Cochin. The chief commodities of exports are : clay to Bombay, bentonite to Calcutta, oil cake to Bombay and Calicut, castor and other seeds and agricultural produce to Calicut.

The port of Mandvi is, however, important in respect of its passenger traffic, which is recorded to be the maximum in the whole of Gujarat till 1964-65. But after the hostilities with Pakistan which broke out in the year 1965, passenger service between Mandvi and Karachi operated by M/s. Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Bombay, has been suspended, adversely affecting the volume of passenger traffic at this port.

Mention should also be made of the ship building industry for which Mandvi was once famous not only in India but also outside. Boat builders of Mandvi were in a position to construct boats of different types such as the *kotia* with a capacity ranging from 80 to 100 tons. They could construct 25 to 30 sailing vessels of all types per year. One such ship with three masts constructed in Mandvi dock sailed safely to England and back after visiting Malabar coast. There was a decline in this industry after 1942 though it still retains a good standard in constructing mechanised barges and sailing vessels having a capacity varying from 3 to 80 tons. All possible efforts are being made to revive this ancient industry for which a plot of land has been allotted to M/s. Kokan Shipping Vessels Co-operative Society Ltd. Bombay. One mechanised sailing vessel named M. S. V. Bhagwati of capacity 315-21 net registered tonnage has been constructed by the society. The former *Gazetteer* on Kutch gives a vivid description of the different types of vessels used in trade, fishing and carrying passengers. These were the *kotia*, the chief trading vessel of Kutch, canoes (*hodi*), fishing and ferry boats and deep-sea trading vessels called the *padav*, *navdi*, *ganjo*, *bagala* and *batela*. Canoes rowed by paddles generally by a crew of three to four were used for fishing and carrying passengers to and from ships; jolly boats with a crew of four to seven took sailors from one ship to another; small fishing boats worked by two to four men used for carrying passengers and sometimes for fishing and larger ones worked by four to five moved between Kutch and Sindh ports to bring mangrove and other sea-growing

(Bk) H-49—43 (Lino)

timber. The deep-sea boats with one to three masts and crew varying from four to twenty-four traded with Kathiawar, Konkan and Malabar ports and with Zanzibar, Maskat, Basrah and other distant ports.[1]

Mundra—This is an important sub-port of Mandvi Group of Ports, open both to foreign and coastal traffic. Though it is only a fair weather port, it remains open throughout the year for sailing vessels. Like Mandvi it is also an old historical port which had played an important part in the economic growth of the region. It is said that Devkaran Sheth, the Dewan of Rao Desalji I, built a strong fort in 1728. Fateh Muhammad Jamadar gave Mundra to Jamadar Dosal Ven in 1801. It was a tidal port then and small crafts could visit it only when there was a high tide. The port had in past considerable traffic with East Africa and Persian Gulf ports.

Situated on the Gulf of Kutch, the creek at Mundra had silted up considerably rendering the port unserviceable. After Independence the Government of India constructed a new jetty at the Bocha creek and also linked it with Mundra town by a *pucca* road. During the period of three Five Year Plans an amount of Rs. 345,000 has been spent for the development of this port. Being a lighterage port, one tug and six barges are sent from the Mandvi port during the fair season to attend to steamers anchored at some distance. There is also a transit shed. Mundra, which is famous on account of its salt works, does not enjoy any rail communications linking it with other parts of Kutch.

The main items of imports are cement, wood and timber, jaggery, spices, etc. Salt and gypsum are the main articles of export. While salt is sent mainly to Japan, gypsum is transported to other ports in the State for use in the manufacture of cement. The export of gypsum from Mundra port was the highest in the whole of Gujarat in 1966-67. An Assistant Conservator working under the Deputy Engineer and Port Officer, Mandvi, is posted at Mundra to look after the port.

Jakhau—This is also an old port of Kutch. Gradual siltation had made the port unnavigable. After integration the Government of India has constructed a new jetty near Godia creek about 8 km. inside the creek on the Arabian Sea to revive the port. Other works like reclamation of land, construction of godowns and staff quarters were also undertaken and the port linked with Jakhau town by a *pucca* road.

This is a fair weather port open to coastal and foreign traffic. The facilities now made available at the port have helped establish salt manufacturing industries at Jakhau. Being a lighterage port, arrangements for

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, pp. 114-115

despatching one tug and 6 barges are made from Mandvi port during the working season. 36,083 tonnes of salt which is its main item of export were handled at this port during the year 1966-67. The port is not linked with railways with any other parts of the district. An Assistant Conservator working under the Deputy Engineer and Port Officer, Mandvi Group of Ports, is stationed here to look after the port.

Other Ports—Two minor ports in the district are Lakhpat and Koteshwar. Lakhpat was an old riverine port on the river Indus during the past centuries. Fateh Muhammad Jamadar explored the possibilities of improving the port but nature was against it and from 1851 A. D. traffic considerably declined. Lakhpat has been declared as a closed port by the Government since 1963 as there was no traffic on the port after 1958-59. Koteshwar, open for coastal traffic only, is also losing its importance, as exports and imports at this port are totally absent since 1962-63.

Ferry Service—Since many years ferry services are run on the creeks of the Gulf of Kutch for the facility of passengers travelling from Kutch to Saurashtra and back. Two ferry services operating in the district are (i) Kandla-Navlakhi and (ii) Mandvi-Okha. The former which is operated by motor launches and run by the State Directorate of Ports is extensively utilised by passengers who are charged at the rate of Rs. 6 and Rs. 2·50 per trip for the upper and lower classes. The latter service is operated by private shipowners only in fair weather by mechanised vessels and charges Rs. 3·50 per passenger.

Bridges—Almost all the important roads in the district are provided with bridges which numbered forty-four in 1967-68.

AIR TRANSPORT

There are two airports in the district, viz., Bhuj and Kandla. Of these, the former was constructed during the Kutch Darbar, whereas Kandla was constructed by the Civil Aviation Department of the Government of India in 1959 at an initial cost of Rs. 12 lakhs. Till May, 1945, the Tata Air Lines Limited were permitted to make a halt at Bhuj airport under the scheme of annual subsidy paid by the State. As the Colombo-Karachi service had to be speeded up owing to the exigencies of the Second World War, the halt at Bhuj was suspended from May, 1945. M/s. Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited, which acquired the managing agency of M/s. Air Services of India Limited in 1943, started the Bombay-Jamnagar-Bhuj daily service from May, 1946. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation assumed the responsibility of maintenance of civil aerodromes in the country from April, 1950. The civil aviation in India was nationalised in 1953 and two autonomous corporations created to operate the internal and external air services. The Indian Airlines Corporation to which the internal services were

entrusted operates the following services linking Kutch with Bombay and Saurashtra.

	Route	Frequency
	1	2
1	Bombay-Rajkot-Bhuj	Thrice a week
2	Bombay-Jamnagar-Bhuj	Four times a week
3	Bombay-Rajkot-Kandla	,,
4	Bombay-Jamnagar-Kandla	Thrice a week

Rest-houses

The State Government maintains at different places in the district three types of rest-houses, viz., *Atithi Grih*, *Vishram Grih*, and *Aram Grih*. *Atithi Grih*, formerly known as Circuit House, is a rest-house of the first rank; *Vishram Grih*, formerly called guest-house, is a rest-house of the second category; while *Aram Grih* formerly known as rest-house is a rest-house of the third category. Lodging facilities are provided mainly for officers of various Government departments touring the district in the course of their duties. Some of these are also open to the public, preference being given to Government servants on duty. All types of rest-houses are generally well furnished with cots, fans, crockery, mattresses, tables, chairs and other articles. Besides tea and breakfast, meals are also provided in the *Atithi Grih* and *Vishram Grih* on payment. Details about the location of rest-houses in the district are given below.

Circuit House	Rest-houses	Inspection Bungalows
(Under P.W.D.)	(Under Panchayat)	(Under P.W.D.)
Bhuj	Bhuj, Mandvi, Anjar, Bhachau, Rapar, Nakhatrana, Nalia, Mundra, Khavda.	Mandvi, Bhachau, Khavda

Dharamshalas and *choras* in many villages and towns are the old time rest-houses where a traveller could rest for a temporary period. *Dharamshalas*, often attached to temples, are built from donations by philanthropic persons. In Kutch district there were approximately 107 *dharamshalas* and 14 *sarais* in 1967-68.

Travelling Agents and Guides—The following are the travelling agencies working in the district.

Bhuj	Mandvi	Nalia
1 Vagji V. Patel	1 M/s. Jayabhai Abhubhai & Co.	1 Lalji K. Thakker
2 Manubhai N. Patel	2 Keshavdas S. Thakker	
3 Jamnadas V. Thakker	3 Tapishankar P. Joshi	
4 M/s. Swaminarayan Travel Agency		
5 Ravji B. Patel		
6 Premsang K. Purbia		

Posts and Telegraphs

There were 147 posts and telegraphs offices, which included 1 head Office, 13 sub-offices and 121 branch-offices besides 12 telegraph offices operating in the former State of Kutch.

The postal facilities were thus inadequate. Attempts were, therefore, made to expand the same after Independence. In the year 1950-51, Kutch district had one Head Post Office, 16 sub-Offices and 157 branch Offices. By 1960-61 there were 24 sub-offices and 224 branch offices besides the Head Office serving the people of the district.

The post offices in Kutch district are working under the Superintendent of Post Offices, Kutch Division, Bhuj. The following are the posts and telegraphs offices functioning in the district.

Posts and Telegraphs Offices (as on 31-3-1967)

Sl. No.	Taluka/mahal	No. of Posts and Telegraphs offices	No. of Postmen	No. of letter boxes	No. of villages/towns with Post offices*	No. of villages without post offices
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Bhuj ..	75	28	126	61	108
2	Abdasa ..	40	23	59	37	106
3	Anjar ..	41	18	68	29	48
4	Nakhatrana ..	46	9	87	44	86
5	Bhachau ..	43	8	60	39	43
6	Mandvi ..	62	16	101	58	41
7	Mundra ..	35	9	61	34	24
8	Rapar	36	5	77	35	61
9	Lakhpat ..	12	1	19	11	75
	Total ..	390	117	658	351	592

Source :
Superintendent of Post offices, Bhuj
*Inclusive of Post offices in towns.

Besides its normal functions which include sale of postage stamps, post-cards, envelopes and remittance of money-orders, savings bank facilities are also offered to the public at the head and sub-post offices. A combined office (C. O.) renders normal postal services alongwith telegraph services. Those villages which do not have either a post office or a sub-office are served by the nearby branch offices which deliver the post either daily or periodically. Out of a total of 937 villages in the district, 592 are still without the facility of post offices.

Telephones—There are nine telephone exchanges in the district working at Bhuj, Anjar, Bhachau, Mandvi, Mundra, Gandhidham, Nakhatrana, Kandla and Adipur.

Radio Communications—The Bhuj station of the All India Radio came on the air from October, 1965. It has 1 kw. medium wave transmitter which will be increased to 10 kw. in the near future. It operates on 232 meters or 1290 kilo cycles per second. The studios, receiving centre, transmitter and the administrative office are located in the Palace Club building. The station is in charge of a Station Director. The Assistant Station Engineer controls the engineering wing and the Programme Executives are responsible for planning and presentation of various types of programmes. Besides relaying news bulletions in English, Hindi, Gujarati and Sindhi from the Delhi Station and some common programmes from Ahmedabad-Baroda and Rajkot, this station broadcasts plays, talks, literary programmes and programmes for women and children besides folk music in Gujarati and Kutchi. To cater to the needs of Sindhi speaking people at Adipur and Gandhidham, the station broadcasts programmes in Sindhi at regular intervals.

Radio receiving sets which began to be used from the early thirties of this century in the district, as in other parts of the country, are becoming increasingly popular day by day. Radio licences issued in the district till March, 1967 numbered 17,332.

Rural Broadcasting—Rural Broadcasting Scheme is operated by the Rural Broadcasting Division of the Directorate of Information, Government of Gujarat, which instals and maintains radio sets and takes out necessary licences for their use under a scheme known as the "Contributory Scheme". The Central Government contributes 50 per cent or Rs. 125 per radio set whichever is less, and the rest of the cost is borne by the participating villages. The number of such sets installed in the district under this scheme was 105 till December, 1967.

Labour Unions

There are six organisations in the field of transport and communications, registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 and carrying on trade union activities in the district for the benefit of workers. Details regarding their names, addresses, dates of registration and membership are given below.

	Name of the Union	Date of registration	Membership (No.)
1	State Transport Kamdar Union, Bhuj ..	1st February, 1965	250
2	Kandla Port Karmachari Sangh, Gopalpuri, Gandhidham	31st October, 1957	58
3	Kandla Port and Dock Mazdoor Sangh, Gandhidham	24th June, 1963	1,582
4	Transport and Dock Workers' Union, New Kandla	7th November, 1963	110
5	Kandla Port Workers' Union, Gandhidham ..	18th August, 1960	2,207
6	Kandla Stevedores' and Dock Workers' Union, Gandhidham	30th March, 1965	1,461

Gandhidham has the largest number of workers' associations while New Kandla and Bhuj have one each. No organisation of employers has so far been registered in the district.

STATEMENT VII·2

Major District Roads, 1968

Sl. No.	Name	Length in km.
1	Narayan Sarovar-Nalia Road	64.80
2	Nalia-Mandvi Road	73.39
3	Mundra-Anjar Road	43.20
4	Anjar-Chirai Road	21.79
5	Bhachau-Adesar Road	87.30
6	Kukma-Dudhai-Bhachau Road	68.32
7	Talawana-Adipur Road	75.39
8	Bhuj-Mundra Road	61.41
9	Mandvi-Gadhsisa-Jakh Road	50.00
10	Kera-Kotda Road	40.80
11	Deshalpar-Hajipir Road	31.52
12	Samkhiyali-Ramvav Road	28.80
13	Mata-no-Madh-Baranda Road	27.04
14	Gadhada-Dhora Vira Road	19.20
15	Anjar-Tuna Road	15.81
16	Anjar-Adipur Link Road	2.93
17	Gandhidham Aerodrome approach Road	2.19
18	Others	30.13
	Total	**744.02**

Source :
Executive Engineer, Panchayat Division, Kutch, Bhuj

STATEMENT VII-3

Other District Roads, 1967-68

Sl. No.	Name	Length in km.
1	Jakhau-Kothara-Mothala	47.20
2	Kotda-Vamoti-Bitta	23.55
3	Netra-Tera-Bitiyari	40.61
4	Rampar-Goyla	26.14
5	Anjar-Dudhai	25.80
6	Kukma-Sinugra	41.19
7	Bhuj-Loday-Loriya	29.80
8	Loriya-Nirona-Nakhatrana-Roha-Kotda	59.15
9	Balasar-Movana	23.90
10	Rapar-Fatehgad-Hamirpar-Bhimasar	48.40
11	Ludva-Kojachora-Thumdi-Babia-Gundala	43.23
12	Halapar-Fotdi-Devpar	27.71
13	Beraja-Deshalpar-Khakhar	17.20
14	Others	75.78
	Total	529.66

Source :
Executive Engineer, Panchayat Division, Kutch, Bhuj

STATEMENT VII-4

Village Roads, 1967-68

Sl. No.	Name	Length in km.
1	Anjar-Roha-Bharapar Road	22.38
2	Chakar-Mokha Road	20.80
3	Mothala-Jaday Road	15.39
4	Habay-Dhaneti Road	14.21
5	Nundhatad-Vinzan-Sandhan Road	13.39
6	Suthari-Kothara Road	11.39
7	Kanaiyabe-Jawaharnagar Road	10.80
8	Ramvav-Vagoth Road	10.40
9	Ranol-Dhaneti Road	8.61
10	Bidada-Bhadia Road	8.06
11	Others	156.05
	Total	291.48

Source :
Executive Engineer, Panchayat Division, Bhuj

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS AND ECONOMIC TRENDS

Livelihood Pattern

The livelihood pursuits of the people of any region, the nature and variety of occupations followed, as also the economic development of the area are closely related to the stages of economic development and the extent to which available resources are exploited for the industrial and agronomic advancement of that region. In the study of economic growth, manpower plays a vital role. The peninsula of Kutch which is almost beyond the rain-bringing influence of the south-west monsoon, and which was comparatively isolated from the rest of India prior to Independence in 1947, is one of the relatively economically backward districts of Gujarat State. Its economy and the livelihood pattern of its people are generally agro-based. 80·61 per cent of its population live in rural areas. Out of 38·83 per cent of its population engaged in gainful pursuits, 23·59 per cent are engaged in agriculture and other allied primary activities. The general population has been, on the basis of work, divided into two broad categories, viz., workers and non-workers by the Census of 1961. Out of a total population of 696,440 persons in the district, the number of persons engaged in some kind of economic activity or gainful work was 270,454, while the number of non-workers was 425,986. The ratio of workers to non-workers in the district was 38·83 to 61·17, the corresponding ratio for the Gujarat State being 41·07 to 58·93. These figures indicate that the proportion of economically inactive population in the district was higher than that in the State as a whole. The workers were, on the basis of economic activities pursued, classified into the following nine industrial categories in the Census of 1961.

STATEMENT VIII-1

Category of Workers and Percentage to Total Workers, 1961

Sl. No.	Category of workers	Working population			Percentage to total workers
		Males	Females	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	As cultivators	77,718	51,105	128,823	47.63
2	As agricultural labourers	15,246	15,982	31,228	11.55
3	In mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantation, orchards and allied activities	3,652	586	4,238	1.57

STATEMENT VIII·1—*contd.*

Sl. No.	Category of workers	Working population			Percentage to total workers
		Males	Females	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6
4	At household industry	23,426	8,782	32,208	11.91
5	In manufacturing other than household industry	7,088	862	7,950	2.94
6	In construction	4,750	1,287	6,037	2.23
7	In trade and commerce ..	13,723	567	14,290	5.28
8	In transport, storage and communications ..	6,864	149	7,013	2.59
9	In other services	30,011	8,656	38,667	14.30
	Total workers	*182,478*	*87,976*	*270,454*	*38.83*
	Non-workers	*158,746*	*267,240*	*425,986*	*61.17*
	Grand Total	**341,224**	**355,216**	**696,440**	**100.00**

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Kutch

These figures reveal that males predominate in the working population, the proportion of women workers being far less than the percentage of males. It is only in the category of agricultural labourers that they out-number men. 59·18 per cent of the working population are engaged in agricultural pursuits as against 68·09 per cent in the State as a whole. The proportion of workers engaged in agricultural pursuits is appreciably less than that in the State due to low and erratic rainfall and poor soil in the district. However, the general economic pattern of the district, as elsewhere in the State, shows predominance of agriculture. Mining, quarrying, livestock, etc., accounted for only 1·57 per cent. Non-agricultural pursuits including mining, etc., account for 40·82 per cent of the workers among whom 'Other services' was the most important category which accounted for 14·30 per cent, followed by household industry 11·91 per cent and manufacturing other than household industry 2·94 per cent. These figures reveal a comparative absence of industrialisation in the modern sense of the term and lesser utilisation of the potentialities in the district. 'Trade and Commerce', 'Transport, Storage and Communications', and 'Construction' accounted for 5·28, 2·59 and 2·23 per cent of the workers respectively.

The following statement shows the distribution of workers in 1961 under different categories in the rural and urban areas of Kutch.

STATEMENT VIII·2

Category of Workers, Rural, Urban Distribution

Category of workers	Percentage of population		
	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4
Total workers	**38.83**	**41.07**	**29.58**
AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS	22.98	28.21	1.24
(1) As cultivators	18.50	22.75	0.62
(2) As agricultural labourers	4.48	5.46	0.42
NON-AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS	15.85	12.86	28.29
(1) In mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantation, orchards and allied activities	0.61	0.67	0.34
(2) At household industry	4.62	5.42	1.32
(3) In manufacturing other than household industry ..	1.14	0.34	4.46
(4) In construction	0.87	0.83	1.04
(5) In trade and commerce	2.05	1.37	4.88
(6) In transport, storage and communications ..	1.01	0.34	3.78
(7) In other services	5.55	3.89	12.47

These figures bring out the fact that agricultural pursuits preponderate in the rural areas where cultivation of land has been the prime economic activity of the people. But in urban areas it is the non-agricultural pursuits which claim a very large percentage of workers engaged in 'other services' followed in order by 'trade and commerce', 'manufacturing other than household industry' and 'transport, storage and communications.'

Household and Non-household Industries—A household industry is an industry not run on the scale of a registered factory, and is conducted by the head of the household himself and/or mainly members of the household at home or within the village in the rural areas and only at home in the urban areas, the need for keeping employees on salary or wages being negligible. Among those engaged in non-agricultural pursuits, 32,208 or 4·62 per cent were engaged at household industry and 78,195 or 11·23 per cent in non-household industries. Workers engaged in household industry were classified as follows according to their employment status into (a) employees and (b) others at the Census of 1961.

Out of a total 32,208 persons engaged in household industry, 1,208 or 3·75 per cent were employees and 31,000 or 96·25 per cent others. The predominance of others, that is to say, self-employed persons and their family members and a relatively low strength of hired labour and employees are the salient features of household employment in this district.

The permanent nature of employment household industries offer is evident from the fact that 80·42 per cent of the households work for a period of 10 months to 1 year, while 9·29 per cent work for 7 to 9 months, 4·48 per cent for 4 to 6 months, 1·01 per cent for 1 to 3 months and 4·80 per cent for unspecified period.

Principal and Secondary Work There are some persons in the working population, who are engaged in more than one productive activity, one being the principal work on which such persons spent most time, and the other secondary, being next in importance to the principal work.

Persons doing secondary work, 1961.

(1) Persons working principally as cultivators and doing secondary work :

(a)	at household industry	2,904
(b)	as agricultural labourers	4,096

Persons working principally as agricultural labourers and doing secondary work :

(a)	at household industry	170
(b)	as cultivators	1,604

Persons working principally at household industry and doing secondary work :

(a)	as cultivators	2,398
(b)	as agricultural labourers	338

(2) Persons working in non-household industry, trade, business, profession or service who were also engaged in household industry 130

Out of a total of 128,823 persons engaged in cultivation, 7,000 or 5·43 per cent did some secondary work—3·18 per cent as agricultural labourers and 2·25 per cent in household industry. Agricultural labourers as well as those engaged in household industry preferred to take up cultivation to supplement their earnings. The complimentary nature of cultivation, agricultural labour and household industry, particularly in the rural areas is firmly established by the above analysis. Very few persons engaged in non-household industries, trade, business, profession or service took up household industry as secondary work.

Non-workers The number of non-workers, i. e., those not engaged in any economic activity was 425,986 (158,746 males, and 267,240 females) according to the 1961 Census.

The distribution pattern of non-workers according to the type of activity among males and females is very dissimilar. Males had the largest percentage among 'Dependents, Infants and Disabled' (65·40 per cent), followed by 'Full-time Students' (28·90 per cent). These two categories jointly account for 94·30 per cent as against 51·07 per cent for females distributed into 'Dependants, Infants and Disabled' 42·80 per cent, and 'Full-time Students' 8·27 per cent. Relatively higher percentage of male dependents is brought about by the general absence of household duties among the stronger sex claiming only 0·44 per cent in this category as against 46·20 per cent females. Females engaged in household duties are proportionately higher in towns than in villages where women-folk in addition to their attending to household chores also participate in agriculture and household industry. The higher percentage of 'Full-time Students' in urban areas bespeaks the greater consciousness and opportunity the urbanites have in receiving education. Male students outnumber females which is obviously the result of age old social conditions and beliefs which differentiate the two sexes in the matter of imparting education. While for one it is an economic necessity, it is an acquisition for the other. The percentage of unemployed persons seeking work is found to be very small for males and practically nil for females.

Occupational Distribution

The two concepts, viz., industry and occupation are quite distinct. 'Industry' connotes that sector of economic activity in which the earner is engaged, e. g., textile industry, automobile industry, etc., whereas 'Occupation' describes the exact function that an individual performs in that economic activity, e. g., fitter, carpenter, mechanic, salesman, etc.

STATEMENT VIII·3

Occupational Classification of Persons, by Sex at Work Other Than Cultivation, 1961

Sl. No.	Category	Total			Urban			Rural		
		Persons	Percentage	Males	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Total ..	110,402	100.00	93,514	38,902	33,955	4,948	72,000	59,559	15,941
1	Professional, Technical and related workers ..	5,617	5.09	4,506	1,943	1,582	361	3,674	2,924	750
2	Administrative, Executive and Managerial workers	2,744	2.49	2,705	1,394	1,379	15	1,350	1,326	24
3	Clerical and related workers	6,608	5.99	6,442	5,425	5,300	125	1,183	1,142	41
4	Sales workers ..	13,586	12.30	13,077	5,900	5,643	257	7,686	7,424	262
5	Farmers, Fishermen, Hunters, Loggers and related workers ..	20,152	18.25	15,793	1,125	930	295	19,027	14,963	4,064
6	Miners, Quarrymen and related workers ..	355	0.32	346	13	12	1	342	234	108
7	Workers in Transport, Storage and Communication Occupations ..	4,851	4.39	4,788	3,619	3,562	57	1,232	1,226	6
8	Craftsmen, Production, Process workers and labourers not elsewhere classified ..	47,385	42.92	34,485	13,299	10,650	2,649	34,086	23,835	10,251
9	Service, Sports and recreation workers ..	9,076	8.22	7,448	5,474	4,290	1,184	3,602	3,158	444
10	Workers not classified by Occupation ..	29	0.03	24	11	7	4	18	17	1

Source : District Census Handbook, Kutch, 1961

The statement given above shows that the most important category of occupations besides agriculture is "craftsmen, production process workers and labourers not elsewhere classified" (42·92 per cent), followed in order by "farmers, fishermen, hunters, loggers and related workers" (18·25 per cent), "sales workers" (12·30 per cent), "service, sport and recreation workers" (8·22 per cent), "clerical and related workers" (5·99 per cent), and "professional, technical and related workers" (5·09 per cent). The rest of the categories which are relatively insignificant account for less than 4·4 per cent each.

The Housing and Establishments Census conducted for the first time in 1960 has given some very interesting and instructive statistics about the industrial establishments and the number of persons employed. From Statement VIII·4 given at the end of the Chapter it will be seen that the total number of industrial establishments distributed between the rural and urban areas of the district was 2,992 and provided employment to 8,445 persons. The most important industry from the point of view of employment offered related to the manufacture of other wood and allied products which accounted for 428 units employing 918 persons. Traditional occupations and crafts like manufacture of sundry hardwares, jewellery, etc., production of rice, *atta*, flour, etc., making of textile garments, cotton weaving in handlooms, manufacture of shoes, etc., still provide employment to a relatively large number of persons. With the advent of mechanisation new industries operated on small and medium scales have also made their appearance. Industries like printing presses, making of bread and biscuits, etc., repair of watches, clocks, bicycles, motor cars, manufacture of soap, chemicals, etc., which did not exist in the past have also come into existence in recent times.

Miscellaneous Occupations

The number of persons engaged in certain miscellaneous occupations, selected from among those other than cultivation in 1961 are given in Statement VIII·5 appended at the end of the Chapter.

Persons working as tailors, cutters, furriers and related workers (2,471), those engaged in arts, letters and science (2,323), teachers (2,152) and millers, bakers, brew-masters and related workers and food and beverage workers (2,014) claim the largest number followed by those working as housekeepers, cooks, maids and related workers (1,671), and barbers, hairdressers, beauticians and related workers (1,198). Among teachers, those engaged in middle and primary schools numbered 1,887 whereas among arts, letters and science those engaged as other professional, technical and related workers numbered 1,477. Other occupations worthy of note which provided employment to a sizeable number are hawkers, pedlars and street vendors (1,111), jewellers, goldsmiths and silversmiths

(1,109), dairy workers (953) and administrators and executive officials (809).

Analysing the sex ratio of workers it is found that females preponderate in such occupations as dairy workers (*non-farm*), house-keepers, cooks, maids and related workers where they are usually in greater demand than males. It also indicates the limited scope women have for employment in other gainful pursuits.

Learned Professions

Teachers—There were 2,152 persons engaged in the teaching profession in the district according to the 1961 Census. Their break up is as follows : 1887 in middle and primary schools, 127 in Secondary schools, 22 in nursery and kindergarten schools, 41 in collegiate branch and 75 were others who were not employed in any of the institutions specified above. The teaching profession claimed 1,567 males and 585 females, the strength of women teachers being relatively higher in the primary and middle schools and comparatively insignificant in higher educational institutions.

Legal—There were 130 legal practitioners and advisers in 1961 as against 113 lawyers distributed as under in various towns of the district on 31st March, 1966.

Lawyers

Sl. No.	Name of place	Number of lawyers
1	2	3
1	Bhuj	56
2	Mandvi	11
3	Mundra	5
4	Anjar	9
5	Rapar	9
6	Bhachau	3
7	Nakhatrana	8
8	Nalia	5
9	Gandhidham	7
	Total	**113**

Medicine—972 persons (638 men and 334 women) were engaged in medical and other health services. The break-up of these services is given below.

Sl. No.	Groups	Males	Females	Total
1	Physicians, Surgeons and Dentists	301	8	309
2	Nurses, Pharmacists and other Medical and Health Technicians	337	326	663

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Kutch

Arts, Letters and Science—Persons returned under "Arts, Letters, and Science" were engaged in the following occupations.

STATEMENT VIII-6

Persons Engaged in Arts, Letters and Science

Sl. No.	Occupations	Males	Females	Total
1	Architects, Engineers and Surveyors	324	..	324
2	Biologists, Veterinarians, Agronomists and related Scientists	89	..	89
3	Social Scientists and related workers	97	32	129
4	Arts, Writers and related workers	227	7	234
	(a) Authors	..	..	..
	(b) Editors, Journalists and related workers ..	6	..	6
	(c) Translators, Interpreters and Language specialists	6	..	6
	(d) Painters, Decorators and Commercial Artists ..	22	..	22
	(e) Sculptors and Modellers	2	..	2
	(f) Actors and related workers	85	4	89
	(g) Musician and related workers	106	3	109
	(h) Dancers and related workers	..	..	..
	(i) Artists, Writers and related workers not elsewhere classified	..	..	..
5	Draughtsmen and Science and Engineering Technicians	60	..	60
6	Other Professional, Technical and related workers (including Ordained and Non-ordained Religious Workers, Astrologers, Palmists and related workers, etc.)	1,324	153	1,477
	Total	**2,268**	**199**	**2,567**

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Kutch

Among those pursuing learned professions, architects, engineers and surveyors accounted for 324; artists, writers and related workers 234; draughtsmen and science and engineering technicians 60 and social scientists and related workers 129. The largest number is, however, claimed by other professional, technical and related workers including ordained and non-ordained religious workers, astrologers, palmists, etc., numbering 1,477. Increasing building activities and extensive construction of works of public utility during the successive Five Year Plans have considerably raised the

demand for the services of architects, engineers, draughtsmen, etc., in irrigation works, transport and communications. Technical professions which attract females are limited to those of actors, social scientists related workers and occupations which cannot be described.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Jobs in public administration are highly valued both by the educated and the uneducated, because of the security of employment and other amenities they provide. The 1961 Census has returned a fairly large number of persons (809) engaged in various branches of public administration distributed as under :

Number of Persons Engaged in Administrative Services, 1961

Sl. No.	Occupations	Males	Females	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1	Administrators and executive officials	782	27	809
2	Administrators and executive officials, Central Government	211	1	212
3	Administrators and executive officials, State Government	160	3	163
4	Village officials	393	23	416
5	Others	18	..	18

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Kutch

Amenities to Public Servants—Besides providing for such allowances as dearness, house rent, etc., the State Government has made provisions for the granting of festival advances as also loans for constructing residential buildings. Facility of residential accommodation is provided in deserving cases. Government considers loan applications from its employees for the purchase of vehicles. Besides travel concessions, Government servants and members of their families enjoy free medical treatment at Government hospitals or other institutions authorised by Government in this behalf, reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with treatment and concessions of leave on average pay to a Government servant suffering from tuberculosis for a period of one year, extra-ordinary leave for twelve months, and sanatorium charges which includes charges for accommodation and ordinary diet. In addition, charges for special diet, specialised medicines, injections recommended by medical authorities as also those for laboratory examinations are also made available to the Government servants subject to the limits prescribed during the period of convalescence.

Central Government employees, employees of the corporations like the Life Insurance Corporation have their own schemes of allowances, leave, medical relief and provident fund and graduity.

Employees' Organisations—Since the inauguration of the Five Year Plans there has been great expansion in the public service at the Central Government, State Government and the local bodies, i. e., Municipalities, Panchayats, etc. These employees have formed their respective unions with a view to get redress to their grievances. The State Government employees have formed a union called " Gujarat Rajya Karmachari Mahamandal " with branches in the districts affiliated to the Mahamandal. Employees of the local bodies and Panchayats have similar organizations. There were two unions of the municipal employees of Bhuj and Gandhidham municipalities. Their names are "Bhuj Nagarpalika Karmachari Mandal" and "The Gandhidham Nagarpalika Karmachari Sangh". There were also "Kutch Jilla Talati Mandal" and the " Kutch Jilla Pashupalan Madadnish Mandal " both formed in 1966.

The statement that follows gives some idea of certain selected miscellaneous occupations in Bhuj town.

STATEMENT VIII-7

Persons Engaged in Certain Selected Occupations in Bhuj Town, 1966

Sl. No.	Occupations	Number of establishments	Percentage to total number of establishments	Persons employed inclusive of employers				Percentage to total number of persons employed
				Males	Females	Children	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Bakeries	19	2.46	40	..	..	40	2.24
2	Lodging and boarding houses	38	4.92	141	2	..	143	8.00
3	Sweets and *farsans* ..	49	6.34	112	..	..	112	6.27
4	*Pan-bidi*	154	19.92	224	..	..	224	12.53
5	Hair-cutting saloons ..	70	9.06	147	..	..	147	8.23
6	Flour mills	26	3.36	91	1	..	92	5.15
7	Goldsmiths	57	7.37	139	..	..	139	7.78
8	Laundries	59	7.63	127	6	..	133	7.44
9	Cycle repairing ..	57	7.36	114	..	14	128	7.16
10	Tailoring	96	12.42	188	..	15	203	11.36
11	Mattresses and pillows makers	6	0.78	16	..	..	16	0.90
12	Dyeing and printing ..	15	1.95	24	..	..	24	1.34
13	Hotels and restaurants ..	119	15.39	296	..	61	357	19.98
14	Manufacture of aerated waters	8	1.04	27	..	2	29	1.62
	Total	773	100.00	1,666	9	92	1,767	100.00

Source :
Chief Officer, Bhuj Borough Municipality, Bhuj

There were 773 establishments engaged in selected occupations employing a total of 1,787 persons in the town of Bhuj in 1966. Of these, hotels and restaurants, lodging and boarding houses and manufactures of aerated waters (21·35 per cent), *pan-bidi* shops (19·92 per cent) and tailoring establishments (12·42 per cent) were most popular. They jointly claimed the largest percentage (53·69) and provided employment to 956 persons. Other establishments which are important as engaging a sizeable number, i. e., more than 5 per cent but less than 10 per cent are in order hair-cutting saloons, laundries, goldsmithy, cycle repairing and sweetmeats and *farsan* shops. Women and children were engaged only in such establishments as lodging and boarding houses, laundries, cycle repairing, tailoring, hotels and restaurants and manufacture of aerated waters.

Prices

The *movement of prices* over time indicates their effect for good or bad on the economy by revealing changes in the level of living of society of a region. Their role is not merely passive that is of an index, reflecting changes in the economic system, but also active that is of causing changes in the economic activity of the people. Prior to Independence, Kutch with its rather secluded entity and other causes, geographic and administrative, had maintained a price and wage structure that was somewhat distinct from other parts of the country.

The trend of prices of important foodgrains in Kutch are discussed below for selected and representative periods of time.

1745-1878

Prices of important foodgrains, during the period 1745-1878 as given in the old *Gazetteer of Cutch* are reproduced in the statement that follows.

STATEMENT VIII-8

Prices of Important Foodgrains During 1745-1878

(PRICES IN POUNDS FOR A RUPEE)

Produce	Year	1745	1746	1747	1755	1756	1757	1764	1765	1766	1772	1773	1774	1781	1782	1790	1801	1804	1811
Bajri	..	83	32	42	50	48	75	97	94	65	167	77	66	120	87	35	24	49	48
Kurad	..	94	..	..	54	50	100	125	..	98	25	94	91	120	107	53	..	57	55
Rice (Red)	..	82	40	59	45	45	48	31	53	42	42	34	42	44	44	30	45	38	45

Produce	Year	1812	1813	1822	1824	1825	1832	1837	1838	1839	1840	1841	1844	1845	1847	1848	1852	1853	1860
Bajri	..	17	20	39	23	34	33	50	27	50	57	38	58	37	50	57	54	44	22
Kurad	..	16	19	58	28	32	50	68	37	53	40	29	38	45	58	60	100	62	29
Rice (Red)	..	20	19	42	23	34	34	45	22	..	29	26	34	31	36	37	36	39	23

Produce	Year	1861	1862	1863	1864	1865	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878
Bajri	..	21	30	16	15½	22	27½	22	21½	18	22½	24½	29½	32½	34	33½	32½	17	17
Kurad	..	26	33	48	34	15	22	26	25	23	18	20	25	38	37	38	33	24	23
Rice (Red)	..	19	28	29	14	16	19	29	27	22	17	21	25	31	33	37	25	24	19

Source :
Campbell J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, 1880, p. 113

It can be seen from the above figures that there were wide fluctuations in the price level of foodgrains over the years mainly due to low and irregular rainfall. There was a rising price trend during the 18th and subsequent century when they were significantly affected by the American Civil War (1863-65).

During the period 1745-1878, price of *bajri* for which details are most complete show that there were two years of unusually low prices, viz., 1764 when it sold at 97 lbs. a rupee and 1781 when it sold at 121 lbs. a rupee. It has never been so cheap again. On the other hand there were years of high prices when a rupee could not buy more than 20 lbs. of *bajri*, which was sold at 15½ lbs. in 1864.

1879-1915-16

In Bhuj market in 1879 a rupee could purchase 17½ lbs. of *bajri*, 23 lbs. of *jowar*, 15 lbs. of wheat, 15 lbs. of Sindhi red rice and 13 lbs. of white rice, 22 lbs. of *mag*, and 28 lbs. of *korad*. Prices of important foodgrains in certain important markets from 1883 to 1915-16 are given in Statement VIII·9 appended at the end of the Chapter.

During the latter part of the 19th century prices in general in the different markets continued to exhibit a rising trend. At Bhuj wheat that sold at 15 lbs. a rupee in 1879 sold at 10 $\frac{19}{32}$ lbs. in 1900. During the same period, the price of *bajri* rose from 23 lbs. to 12 $\frac{31}{32}$ lbs., of *jowar* from 23 to 12 $\frac{31}{32}$ lbs., and *korad* from 28 to 10 $\frac{29}{32}$ lbs. per rupee. Prices in the markets of Mandvi, Anjar and Mundra also showed a similar trend. The main causes responsible for this upward trend in prices were irregularity of monsoon and frequent interludes of scarcity and famines adversely affecting production of food crops. The *Chhappanio* famine of 1900, caused widespread misery to the people. The Darbar dispensed relief to the poor and needy by selling grains at cheap rates, sinking new wells and constructing dams or *bandhs* in the fields of cultivators. Some private individuals also started relief measures. (For details see Chapter IV—Agriculture and Irrigation).

During the beginning of the 20th century prior to the First World War, prices as usual continued to be influenced by the vagaries of monsoon. Up to 1910-11, they were on the whole within limits steady, 1911-12 was a year of famine that pushed the prices up, but 1912-13 and 1913-14 being years of average rainfall, the prevailing prices of foodgrains were lower than what they were before.

As the prices of important foodgrains during 1914-15 and 1915-16 reveal, the First World War (1914-18) did not have any significant impact on the economy of the district in the beginning. No information about

prices of important foodgrains for the subsequent years up to 1938 is available, but local inquiries have disclosed that the price trends in Kutch during that period were more or less similar to those observed in the neighbouring regions. As the First World War proceeded, prices began to show rather an abnormal rise due to greater allocation of goods for War purposes, restriction on imports and sympathetic rise in prices due to a general rise in world prices. After the First World War, prices of foodgrains began to ease and a downward trend manifested itself from 1926-27. Years 1929 to 1939 are important in the history of price fluctuations all over the world as it was a period of depression followed by recovery. A rapid fall in prices commenced from 1929 due to the Great Depression of 1929, the worst effects of which began to lessen after 1931-32. The Second World War which started in 1939 had a profound impact on prices which registered an upward trend after 1941, when the War escalated after the entry of Japan, Russia and the U. S. A. This will be evident from the table that follows.

STATEMENT VIII-10

Prices of Important Foodgrains, 1939-45

(PRICES IN POUNDS PER RUPEE)

Year	Wheat				Bajri				Kodra				Gowar				Jowar			
	Bhuj	Mandvi	Anjar	Mundra	Bhuj	Mandvi	Anjar	Mundra	Bhuj	Mandvi	Anjar	Mundra	Bhuj	Mandvi	Anjar	Mundra	Bhuj	Mandvi	Anjar	Mundra
1939	.. 17	18	17½	18½	20	21	21	22	24	29	30	30	24	26	25	27	23	24	25	28
1940	.. 11	11½	11½	12	10	10½	10½	11	11	11	10½	11	13	13	13	14	12	13	14½	15
1941	.. 12	12½	12½	12½	14	14½	14½	15	11	11	10	11	14	14	14	14	14	14½	14½	15
1942	.. 12½	12½	12½	13	13	12½	12½	14	10½	10½	10	10½	13½	13½	13½	13½	14	14½	14½	15
1943	.. 4½	4½	5	5	7	7	8	8	9	9	8½	8½	10	10	10½	10	9	9	9½	9½
1944	.. 4½	4½	5½	5	6½	6½	7	7	8	8	8	8	9½	9½	9½	9½	6½	7	7½	7
1945	.. 5½	5½	5½	6	7	7	6½	6½	9	9	9	9	12	12	12	12	7	4	6	4

Source :
Reports on the Administration of the Kutch State, 1939-40 to 1944-45

The rise in prices was accentuated by the scarcity of consumer goods, increase in public demand due to increase in income, inflationary trends, increased industrial activity and the activities of speculators and hoarders making the shortage of goods more acute. The Kutch Government fell in line with other States of India and initiated various price control measures. A Committee was appointed for the purpose. The 'Grow More Food' campaign was vigorously undertaken.[1] Food and Civil Supplies Department was organised under two officers, one for food, sugar and *gur*, and another for civil supplies. Foodgrains were distributed at controlled prices through State fair price shops, cheap grain shops (*pidis*), and community stores. Supply of standard cloth, kerosene, sugar, and drugs was also controlled and arranged through licensed dealers.

This upward trend in prices continued even after the Second World War and accentuated further by the events that followed. To the usual factor of failure of rains were added others due to the partition of the country, and the introduction of administrative, economic and social reforms after the integration of Kutch into the Indian Union in 1948. The situation, however, eased somewhat during the beginning of the nineteen fifties as can be seen from the following figures of average wholesale prices of important agricultural commodities in the markets of Bhuj, Mandvi and Anjar during 1955.

Prices of Important Agricultural Commodities, 1955

(PRICES IN RUPEES PER QUINTAL)

Commodity	Prices		
	Bhuj	Mandvi	Anjar
1	2	3	4
Wheat (Red)	43.35	41.82	38.16
Wheat (White)	45.69	46.63	44.24
Jowar	23.19	20.77	23.46
Bajri	30.53	27.98	27.95
Mug	27.95	28.41	26.47
Udid	41.44	30.29	46.38

Source :
Statistical Handbook of Kutch, 1955-56, Statistical Department, Secretariat, Government of Kutch, Bhuj, pp. 223-45

1. *Report on the Administration of the Kutch State*, 1941-42, p. 5

From 1959 onwards, the prices again showed an upward trend as disclosed by prices of foodgrains ruling the market between 1959 and 1967.

STATEMENT VIII·11

(PRICES IN RUPEES PER QUINTAL)

Commodity	Prices								
	Bhuj			Mandvi			Anjar		
	1959	1961	1967	1959	1961	1967	1959	1961	1967
Rice fine ..	91.59	139.53	N.A.	95.78	119.86	290.00	105.48	107.96	N.A.
Rice medium	87.34	93.52	270.00	77.93	94.57	262.50	79.95	87.59	N.A.
Rice coarse ..	N.A.	61.36	245.00	47.03	64.12	228.67	N.A.	65.23	N.A.
Wheat *kharbati* ..	N.A.	54.06	130.00	N.A.	56.06	116.25	72.24	53.94	111.00
Wheat red ..	81.70	44.07	100.00	70.54	44.07	78.16	44.69	44.87	98.00
Jowar ..	44.80	39.86	78.00	41.84	43.48	82.83	35.96	45.06	84.00
Bajri ..	48.94	47.65	99.00	50.79	45.39	99.37	43.32	44.42	94.00
Mag ..	47.86	64.85	195.00	49.48	65.90	155.17	56.57	67.72	138.00
Udid ..	N.A.	53.88	N.A.	N.A.	68.13	N.A.	94.06	64.50	N.A.
Groundnut oil ..	N.A.	210.54	450.00	N.A.	205.19	463.75	N.A.	207.99	450.00

N. A.—Not available

Source :
District Statistical Officer, Bhuj

Increased Plan outlay, growing taxation consequent upon the expansion of developmental activities, continued inflation, irregularity of rains and inadequacy of available food supplies and other essential commodities,

holding back of stocks to boost prices, closer linking of Kutch with India after Independence and a general rise in world prices had full play on the economy of Kutch as in the rest of country.

Wholesale prices of important agricultural commodities for the period 1959-67 ruling the markets of Bhuj, Mandvi and Anjar for which information is available are given in Statement VIII·12 appended at the end of the Chapter.

WAGES

Wages generally signify all remuneration capable of being expressed in terms of money and paid to a person for the labour done. The level of wages paid to different categories of workers throws good light on the economy of a region and the living condition of its people. Fluctuations in prices generally influence that level of wages. In the early days the mode of payment of wages, especially in the agricultural sector, was governed and determined by custom and tradition. The agricultural labourers used to be paid in cash or in kind or in both. Skilled workers, however, were paid in cash. Wages paid to certain categories of workers during the period of twenty-five years preceding 1879 are referred to as under in the *Kutch Gazetteer*. "Twenty-five years ago carpenters and masons used to get 6d. (4 annas) a day, and ordinary day labourers 3d (2 annas). The present daily wage of a carpenter or mason is 1s. 3d. (10 annas) and of a labourer 6d. (4 annas). As a rule labourers are paid in cash."[1]

The daily wages paid in 1900 were for the tailor between 5 to 6 annas, carpenter 8 to 12 annas, mason or bricklayer 8 to 11 annas, and a labourer 4 to 6 annas.[2]

Like prices the wages also continued to show an upward trend during the second part of the 19th century. Till the beginning of the First World War in 1914 wages of skilled and unskilled workers fluctuated within narrow limits, and were on the whole steady. The daily rate of wages for that year was for tailor 6 to 7 annas, carpenter 8 to 10 annas, mason or bricklayer 8 to 11 annas, and labourer 4 to 6 annas. During the initial years of the War there was no marked change in the rate of wages, which began to rise as the War advanced. The Second World War (1939-45) further raised the wage level. After the integration, the wage trends gradually began to exhibit features akin to those prevailing in other parts of India. The average daily agricultural wages in the Bhuj, Rapar,

1. CAMPBELL, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 111

2. *Report on the Administration of the Kutch State*, 1900-01, p. 28

Nakhatrana and Abdasa talukas for certain categories of workers in 1955 (January to December) were as follows.

STATEMENT VIII-13

Average Daily Agricultural Wages, 1955

(IN RUPEES)

Sl. No.	Type of labour	Average daily wages			
		Bhuj	Rapar	Nakhatrana	Abdasa
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	SKILLED LABOUR				
	Carpenter	4.50	5.00	4.05	4.67
	Blacksmith	5.00	3.50	4.02	4.67
	Cobbler	5.00	3.00	3.00	3.58
2	FIELD LABOUR				
	Men	2.67	3.00	1.55	1.46
	Women	1.33	1.50	1.02	0.96
	Children	0.67	0.75	0.74	0.56
3	OTHER AGRICULTURAL LABOUR				
	Men	2.06	2.50	1.50	1.23
	Women	1.06	1.25	1.02	0.79
	Children	0.58	0.75	0.67	0.49
4	HERDSMEN				
	Men	2.00	1.50	1.27	1.90
	Women	1.15	1.00	..	1.27
	Children	0.56	0.50	0.63	0.72

Source :
Statistical Handbook of Kutch, 1956-56, Statistical Department, Government of Kutch, Bhuj, pp. 40-43

Like prices, wages, have on the whole, exhibited a tendency to rise from one period to another. The remuneration paid to different categories of workers is seen to have been governed by the general law of supply and demand, nature of work done and skill required. The average daily wages paid to workers in Kutch during 1960 (July to December) were as follows.

(IN RUPEES)

Sl. No.	Type of labour	Average daily wage
1	2	3
1	SKILLED LABOUR	
	Carpenter	4.53
	Blacksmith	3.99
	Cobbler	3.67
2	FIELD LABOUR	2.52
3	Other agricultural labour ..	2.42
4	Herdsmen	2.00

Source :
Season and Crop Report, Gujarat State, 1960-61, pp. 230-35

The average daily wages for different categories of workers for certain selected places in the district during 1961-67 for certain selected months (as available) are given in Statement VIII-14 at the end of the Chapter. The statistics given therein show that fluctuations in wages of skilled workers were comparatively less than in the case of field labour and other agricultural labour. The wage level, in general, except in certain categories, has shown a rising trend, reflecting a rise in the price of commodities and the effects of inflactionary pressure generated by increased industrial and developmental activities in the country.

STANDARD OF LIVING

The general economic and social well-being of the people of any region is reflected in the level of income and material benefits derived therefrom as reflected in their expenditure pattern. A knowledge of the prevalent standard of living of the various strata of society is, therefore, very useful in understanding the general economic condition of the people and planning for their progress and prosperity. A study of the family budgets of the different sections of society supplemented by personal observations and impressions gathered at the time of survey was, therefore, undertaken in Bhuj town and selected villages of the district in May 1967. Families surveyed were selected on a representative basis.

Urban Sector—The total urban population of the district according to the 1961 Census was 135,038 or 19·39 per cent of the total as against 25·77 per cent for the State. Of the 6 towns in the district, Bhuj town with a population of 40,180 or 29·76 per cent of the urban population is the largest. This town has been selected for urban survey because of its (i) pronounced urban characteristics, (ii) importance as a centre of industry, trade and commerce and (iii) position as an educational and administrative

centre. For the purpose of investigation, a household has been taken to be the unit. To get a broad idea of the living conditions the urban society of Bhuj is classified into three income groups, viz., Group I—families having an annual income of Rs. 1,500, Group II—families having an annual income of Rs. 1,501 to Rs. 3,000, and Group III—families having an annual income of Rs. 3,001 and above. In the selection of families care was taken to make the survey as representative as possible by including most of the important occupations and different strata of urban society which covered 47 families of Bhuj.

Lower Income Group : Group I (Below Rs. 1,500)—This group represents the lowermost stratum of the urban population and includes a vast majority of urban dwellers composed of unskilled and semi-skilled labourers, shop assistants and clerical staff in commercial establishments, peons, petty artisans, etc., 15 families from this group were surveyed. The average annual income per family was estimated at Rs. 1,135 and the average annual expenditure per family Rs. 1,413 showing a deficit of Rs. 278. Bulk of the expenditure, 69·71 per cent of the total, was spent on food, which was inferior in quality. Clothing accounted for 6·23 per cent, fuel and lighting 4·03 per cent and housing 5·38 per cent. Miscellaneous expenditure incurred on *bidi*, tobacco, etc., which have become as much a necessity of life as food and clothing, soap and oil, social occasions, medicine, entertainment, etc., claimed 14·65 per cent. Many of the families in this group were in debt. One of the ways adopted for bridging the gap between their meagre earnings and expenditure was to postpone the payment of a part or whole of the bills in turn. Borrowings from relatives and friends which represented a substantial portion of their debt was generally interest-free. In a few instances where money-lenders were resorted to for petty loans, a high rate of interest was charged. The housing condition was far from satisfactory. A few owned a house either in Bhuj or in their native places, where they resided in a single or double room tenements. Their household belongings consisted of a few utensils, in many cases earthen or aluminium and other cheap miscellaneous articles.

Middle Income Group : Group II (Between Rs. 1,501 and Rs. 3,000)—This group represents what may commonly be termed as the middle income group. It is composed of semi-skilled and skilled workers, school teachers, small traders, mechanics, bus conductors and drivers, petty-shopkeepers, and others self-employed in small or independent vocations. The survey covered 19 families. The average annual income of a family was estimated to be Rs. 2,258 and the average annual expenditure Rs. 2,601 showing an average deficit of Rs. 343 per family. Though the total earnings of these families were not much, their economic condition was found to be appreciably better than that of the preceding group. But the pattern of their expenditure differed but little. On an average 64·14 per cent of the total expenditure was spent on food alone. A family in this income group could

afford expenditure on milk, *ghee*, edible oils, vegetables, etc. Clothing accounted for 8·54 per cent, fuel and lighting 6·04 per cent, housing 5·18 per cent and miscellaneous expenditure 16·12 per cent. A slight variation in expenditure under different heads represents the difference in the level of living of these two groups. Expenditure exceeded the income in a majority of cases. The deficit was met either by sale of ornaments or by disposing off the property and/or by incurring debt. Loans, generally interest-free, could be had from relatives and friends who constituted the chief source of borrowing. Other sources were co-operative societies and money-lenders. Much of the debt incurred was for productive purposes such as investment in business, education and the rest for maintenance, marriage, medical treatment, etc. Salary earners could make some compulsory saving by contributing to the provident fund, insurance premia, etc. A few who had surplus budget held their savings in saving certificates, shares, bank deposits or other assets. Nearly forty per cent of the families lived in their own houses which had three rooms on an average. Their household equipments consisted of metal utensils, bedding, some pieces of furniture like chairs, wrist-watch, bicycle, radio, etc. Many of them also had some gold and silver ornaments. A few of the families employed domestic servants usually working part-time.

Upper Income Group : Group III (Income above Rs. 3,000)—This group of people is composed of government servants of the higher grade, proprietors of industrial establishments, college lecturers, merchants, technicians, mechanics, medical practitioners, pleaders, etc., who were economically well off and led a fairly comfortable life : 13 families were surveyed in this group. The average annual income of a household was estimated to be Rs. 5,412 and the average annual expenditure Rs. 4,482 leaving an average annual saving of Rs. 930. A majority of the families in this group had either surplus or balanced budgets. With a higher income the percentage expenditure on articles of comfort and luxury had shown an upward trend. On an average 57·88 per cent of the total expenditure was spent on food. Expenditure on milk, *ghee*, edible oils, vegetables, sugar eggs, mutton, etc., was fairly high. Expenditure on clothing was 8·33 per cent, on fuel and lighting 5·45 per cent and on housing 2·30 per cent. Miscellaneous items accounted for 26·04 per cent as a result of growing desire of this group to lead a comparatively better life. Members of this class can be easily distinguished from others by the type of houses they live in and the extent of household equipment they possess. Many owned houses and others resided either in quarters provided by their employers or in rented premises. The average number of rooms varied from 4 to 5. A few families incurred debts usually for investment in business and capital expenditure as also for providing education, medical treatment or meeting social and religious obligations, etc. Important sources of borrowing were banks, friends, relatives and government. This group had assets in the form of buildings, ornaments, shares and securities, furniture, clothing of superior variety and

articles of comfort and luxury. Most of the families possessed watches, bicycle, radio set, electric fans, electric iron, etc. A few also owned a car, but most of them employed domestic servants.

Rural Sector—Owing to their predominantly agricultural character, the occupational structure, levels of income, expenditure pattern and the cost of living in rual areas differ from those found in the urban areas. Rural population according to the 1961 Census constituted 80·61 per cent of the total population as against 74·23 per cent for the State. In the assessment of the standard of living in the rural areas, several difficulties are encountered. The first and the foremost is the difficulty of gauging fully the economic significance of the barter transactions. Secondly, those engaged in agriculture often supplement their income either by following some ancillary occupation and/or by receiving financial help from the members of the household employed in urban areas. Thirdly, being cultivators, most of them consume foodgrains they produce. Fourthly, since field labourers receive their remuneration also in kind, correct assessment of their income and expenditure become rather difficult. The absence of keeping accounts on the one hand and the ignorance and hesitance of the villagers to give correct information on the other are other handicaps. Against such a background an attempt has been made to give a broad and representative picture of the standard of living of the countryside. For the purpose of this study, various categories of rural households are classified into the broad categories : (1) Agriculturists—Subdivided into (i) small, (ii) medium, and (iii) large according to the size of land holdings, (2) Agricultural labourers, (3) Village artisans, and (4) Persons following miscellaneous occupations like retail traders, grocers, teachers, ayurvedic practitioners, cattle breeders, government employees, and salaried people.

(1) *Agriculturists*—The size of land holding and the number of land holders provide a useful data for the study of the agrarian problem in the district. The number of holders and the area of land held by them in various size-groups as on 31st March, 1967 are given in the following table.

Size of Land Holdings, 31st March, 1967

Size of holding (in acres)	Number of holders	Percentage to total holders	Area held (in acres)	Percentage to total area held
1	2	3	4	5
Total	88,113	100.00	1,532,007	100.00
0 to 5	20,811	23.62	66,118	4.32
6 to 25	50,721	57.56	646,206	42.18
Over 25 ..	16,581	18.82	819,773	53.50

Source :
Collector, Bhuj

Size-group 0 to 5 acres accounted for 23·62 per cent of the total holders and 4·32 per cent of the total area. Size-group 6 to 25 acres claimed 57·56 per cent of the holders holding 42·18 per cent of land. Those holding over 25 acres of land numbered 16,581 or 18·82 per cent and held 53·50 per cent of the total area. The distribution of land holdings by size shows concentration of land in the middle and higher categories and a relatively lesser number having small holdings, owing to infertile and poor quality of land in Kutch.

Agriculturists were considered under three groups according to their holdings and income, viz., (a) small cultivators holding up to 5 acres of land and/or those whose annual income was up to Rs. 1,500, (b) medium cultivators holding between 6 to 25 acres of land, and/or those whose annual income was between Rs. 1,501 and Rs. 3,000, and (c) large cultivators holding more than 25 acres of land and/or those whose annual income was above Rs. 3,000. These three groups claimed 23·62, 57·56, and 18·82 per cent respectively of the total landholders. The respective number of families surveyed from each of these groups was 12, 13, and 12. It was found as a result of the survey that the average holding of a small cultivator was 3·88 acres, that of a medium cultivator 13·69 acres, and that of a large cultivator 41·86 acres of land. There were periods of enforced idleness for the small cultivators as their holdings could not provide them adequate employment all the year round. A majority of large cultivators employed hired labour to supplement family labour. As stated earlier, it was difficult to calculate the exact income and expenditure of the agriculturists as they themselves being producers of cereals, vegetables, cattle products like milk, butter-milk, *ghee*, etc., were also consumers of their own products. Their average annual income and expenditure had, therefore, to be computed without taking these items into account. The average annual income per family accordingly came to Rs. 1,320, Rs. 2,391 and Rs. 6,358 respectively for the three categories aforementioned. The main source of their income was farming. The small cultivators supplemented their income from agricultural labour, animal husbandry, etc. Some of the medium cultivators derived subsidiary income also from livestock. The large cultivators augmented their income by raising cash crops, sale of cattle produce, interest on investments, etc. The estimated average annual expenditure of a family came to Rs. 1,707 resulting in a deficit of Rs. 387 in the case of small cultivators, Rs. 2,612 with an average annual deficit of Rs. 221 in case of medium cultivators, and Rs. 5,351 with an average annual surplus of Rs. 1,007 for large cultivators. Among the families surveyed, most of the small cultivating households showed deficit budgets, among medium cultivators 7 families showed surplus budgets, 2 more or less balanced budgets, and 4 deficit budgets ; and among large cultivators 9 showed surplus budgets, and 3 deficit budgets. Many of the medium and large cultivators were able to make some savings which were profitably invested

(Bk) H-49—47 (Lino)

in bank deposits, securities, insurance premia, precious metals, ornaments and cash. Debt had to be incurred to bridge the gap between income and expenditure as also for productive purposes. Small cultivators incurred debt mostly for meeting their day-to-day requirements and in a few cases for social purposes. A fair part of the debt of medium cultivators was for the improvement of agriculture, and the rest generally for miscellaneous purposes like social and religious occasions, medical treatment, etc. The debt incurred by large cultivators was usually for productive purposes. Loans were generally taken from relatives, friends and co-operative societies. Expenditure pattern shows that food alone accounted for 74·82, 69·68, and 64·10 per cent respectively of the total expenditure incurred by the three groups. The percentage expenditure on food tended to decrease as income increased. Besides foodgrains, butter-milk, *gur*, edible oil, etc., common to all the categories of agriculturists, consumption of vegetables and milk by the small cultivators was comparatively much less. *Ghee* was taken only by medium and large cultivators. Fuel accounted for 3·98 per cent, 3·06 per cent and 3·42 per cent respectively of the total expenditure. Expenditure on housing accommodation had to be incurred only by small cultivators (0·41 per cent) and medium cultivators (0·50 per cent). Large cultivators did not spend anything by way of rent, as they lived in their own houses. Clothing accounted for 9·02, 8·31 and 8·02 per cent respectively, indicating a declining trend as in the case of food, though the total amount spent increased with the rise in income. Poor cultivators generally used coarse varieties of cotton cloth, but those in the higher income group put on clothes of a superior quality. Miscellaneous expenditure went on increasing from lower to higher categories and accounted for 11·77, 18·45 and 24·46 per cent respectively. This expenditure was incurred mostly on social and religious occasions, medical treatment, entertainment, etc. A relatively larger amount spent on items of miscellaneous expenditure, by higher income groups reveals their desire for comforts and ostentation commensurate with their social status and improved economic condition. Besides landed property, most of the small and medium cultivators and all the large cultivators owned houses. The houses are for the most part built of stone, and covered with tiles. Those of small cultivators were small in size having a room with a *parsal*, but the houses of the medium and large cultivators were spacious and comfortable and had more rooms.

Most of the small and medium and all the large cultivators had cattle. The average number per family came to 3, 4 and 8 respectively. Some of the small cultivators did not have any bullock and obtained them on hire whenever required, but all in this category usually had a cow and a calf. One family also reported keeping a buffalo. Many of the medium cultivators had at least a pair of bullocks, 2 cows, and 1 calf on an average. Most of the large cultivators had more than one pair of bullocks besides 2 cows, 2 calves and a buffalo. One family also kept 10 asses and another a mare.

The agricultural implements of the small cultivators were the minimum necessary but the medium and large cultivators had all the usual implements of agriculture. One of the large cultivators reported keeping a tractor, while a few had oil-engines for irrigation purposes.

Household belongings varied with the income earned. Small cultivators possessed the barest minimum of silver and in a few cases gold ornaments, some earthen and brass vessels, and other miscellaneous articles. Medium cultivators had them in a greater measure besides a cycle kept by a few. The large cultivators on the other hand had a good number of brass and metal utensils, furniture, luxury articles like cycle, radio set, silver and gold ornaments, and other household equipment necessary for a comfortable living. In fine, the economic condition of small cultivators was, by and large, far from satisfactory, that of medium cultivators fairly satisfactory and that of large cultivators good.

(2) *Agricultural Labourers*—An agricultural labourer's family generally consisted of about 6 persons. Their employment was more or less seasonal in character depending upon the nature of the monsoon, which is for the most part irregular and erratic in Kutch. The position of this class becomes very vulnerable during times of scarcity and famine. Days of good employment which bring them fair satisfaction are not many and punctuated by frequent periods of enforced idleness. Grown up family members help the head of the family in earning their bread. Agricultural labourers receive wages in cash and kind. The estimated money income of the families surveyed varied on an average from Rs. 700 to Rs. 1,420 per annum. With such a limited income it was but natural that most of the families were not in a position to satisfy even their basic needs and consequently suffered from mal-nutrition and heavy indebtedness. About 68·96 per cent of their expenditure was incurred on food. Fuel and lighting, accounted for 9·66 per cent, housing 2·16 per cent, clothing 8·80 per cent and miscellaneous expenditure 19·42 per cent. They lived in huts or small houses, where sanitation was bad and ventilation poor. Some of them were provided free boarding by their employers. They possessed the barest minimum of traditional ornaments, generally of brass and in some cases of silver. Their household equipment consisted of a few earthen utensils besides a wooden cot or two. Some had milch cattle, a goat or a cow.

(3) *Village Artisans*—The village artisans form an important section of the village community and provide miscellaneous services to it. The main categories included in this group are *suthar* (carpenter), *luhar* (blacksmith), *mochi* (cobbler), *darji* (tailor), *hajam* (barber), etc. The average size of a family was about 6 persons and the average number of earners per family about 2. Most of the members of this class followed their hereditary professions. The traditional system of offering services to the rural folk still

continues to function effectively. The period of employment in these occupations was not continuous all the year round, and for some period of the year they either remained unemployed or under-employed, when they had to hire out their labour for agricultural purposes. They received part payment for their services in the form of foodgrains from the farmers. The average annual income of a family was estimated at Rs. 2,312. Carpenters and tailors were better off economically than other artisans. The average annual expenditure of a family was computed to be Rs. 2,434 showing a deficit of Rs. 122. Out of 10 families surveyed, 6 showed deficit budgets and 4 surplus budgets. The level of income in many cases was barely sufficient to make both ends meet, though carpenters, blacksmiths and tailors lived a comparatively comfortable life. The debt was usually incurred for unproductive purposes like maintenance, social occasions, sickness, etc. Relatives and friends and in a few cases co-operative societies were their main source of credit. About 65·16 per cent of expenditure was incurred on food, 3·25 per cent on fuel including lighting, 1·92 per cent on housing, 7·68 per cent on clothing, and 22·14 per cent as miscellaneous expense. Nearly fifty per cent of the families lived in their own houses. Some of them also possessed land. The houses were generally big enough to provide room for their workshop. Besides tools and equipment necessary for their craft, they had ornaments of silver and of gold in some cases. Articles of ordinary domestic use were neither in plenty nor in short supply. While some kept milch cattle like cow, buffalo or goat, many had a bicycle and a few had a radio.

(4) *Other Classes*—Besides the classes mentioned above there were others in rural areas engaged in various other occupations that can be broadly dealt with under main heads of (a) traders and (b) salaried persons.

(a) *Traders*—Traders represent a distinct social group. The volume of their business varies largely according to the population and economic condition of the peasantry inhabiting the village. While at one end of the scale was the small village grocer whose monthly business turnover was about Rs. 200, at the other end were those fortunate ones whose turnover was comparable to that of an urban trader. The typical village trader was often a trinity of buyer, seller and money-lender, a unique combination of functions brought about by the agricultural bias of the rural economy. As a money-lender he lent money to cultivators for agricultural purposes as well as for meeting his day-to-day needs. He realised the sum lent from the cultivators at the harvest time either in cash or in kind. The annual income of a trader ranged between Rs. 1,800 and Rs. 3,000. His income and expenditure more or less balanced each other without leaving much margin for extra expenditure on comforts and other contingencies. Most of the families lived in their own houses.

(b) *Salaried People*—This group includes such persons as school teachers, petty government servants, village level functionaries, Ayurvedic practitioners, etc. The average annual income of a family was estimated to be about Rs. 2,170. Many of them had a deficit budget. However, there was one noteworthy feature, viz., that on account of the fixity of income they had by long usage so adjusted their expenditure to their income that the indebtedness was less marked than in the case of others. Relatives and friends were the main source of credit. Many of the salaried persons came from outside and lived either in rented premises or rent-free quarters provided by their employers.

General—The standard of living in Kutch as in other parts of the State has been changing for the better after its integration into the Indian Union, implementation of Five Year Plans, and improved means of communications linking Kutch with the rest of India. Analysis of the family budgets made in the preceding pages gives, though not in accurate statistical terms, a broad and representative perspective of the levels of living obtaining in this region which shows uneven distribution both in the levels of income and pattern of expenditure. Expenditure on food was the highest in all sections of the community. Consumption of milk and butter-milk was fairly common, and drinking of tea well nigh universal. Increase in income was accompanied by a corresponding rise in the expenditure incurred on clothing, articles of comfort and luxury, medical care, education, means of entertainment, etc. The standard of living of the low income groups, small cultivators and agricultural labourers left much to be desired. The level of living of the medium cultivators has improved due to the implementation of various development schemes but this benefit has been partially neutralised by the rising trend of prices that has put greater strain on their budgets. Increased agricultural production and a more favourable atmosphere created by tenancy and agrarian reforms have resulted in a definite improvement in the former standard of living of the people both in the rural and urban areas. The condition of large cultivators has considerably improved. In fine, as compared to the past, there is now a better climate for improving the standard of living, as the incubus which the people felt and the inertia from which they suffered no longer exist under the changed circumstances offering new and equal opportunities to all.

General Level of Employment

Utilisation of human resources as determined by its working force engaged in different economic activities and their distribution into different sectors of economy are helpful in assessing the progress made in various sectors. The following statement gives the percentage distribution of working force in different sectors between 1951 and 1961 as disclosed by the last two censuses

STATEMENT VIII·15

Percentage Distribution of Working Force by Sectors between 1951 and 1961

PRIMARY SECTOR

Total		As cultivators		As agricultural labourers		In mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting and plantations, orchards and allied activities	
1951	1961	1951	1961	1951	1961	1951	1961
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
54.93	60.75	33.87	47.63	13.81	11.55	7.25	1.57

SECONDARY SECTOR

Total		At household industry and in manufacturing other than household industry		In construction	
1951	1961	1951	1961	1951	1961
9	10	11	12	13	14
11.48	17.08	9.89	14.85	1.59	2.23

TERTIARY SECTOR

Total		In trade and commerce		In transport, storage and communications		In other services	
1951	1961	1951	1961	1951	1961	1951	1961
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
33.59	22.17	7.40	5.28	2.26	2.59	23.93	14.30

Source :
Census of India, 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part I-A(iii), *General Report on the Census Economic Trends and Projections*, 1965

During the period 1951-61, the largest percentage of working force has continued to be employed in the primary sector and that too in the cultivation of land. The percentage of total workers engaged in the primary sector increased from 54·93 to 60·75 per cent during the decade with a corresponding decline in the tertiary sector. Workers engaged in cultivation increased from 33·87 per cent in 1951 to 47·63 per cent in 1961, whereas those employed as agricultural labourers and in animal husbandary, mining, quarrying, forestry, fishery, etc., have decreased from 13·81 per cent to 11·55 per cent and from 7·25 per cent to 1·57 per cent respectively during the same period. Workers in the secondary sector comprising manufacturing and construction work increased from 11·48 per cent to 17·08 per cent reflecting increasing pace of industrialisation and non-agricultural activities in the

district. The percentage of those engaged in the tertiary sector declined from 33·59 per cent to 22·17 per cent. The greatest decline was witnessed by the category of 'Other Services' from 23·93 per cent to 14·30 per cent, followed by trade and commerce from 7·40 per cent to 5·28 per cent. There was a slight increase in the number of workers engaged in transport, storage and communications from 2·26 per cent to 2·59 per cent as a result of enhanced activity at Kandla port.

The following statement gives variations in the employment of the working population in different industrial categories during the period 1951-61.

STATEMENT VIII·16

Variation in Working Population by Industrial Sectors between 1951 and 1961

Sectors	District				Gujarat State
	Working population 1951	Working population 1961	Increase or decrease 1951-61	Percentage increase or decrease 1951-61	Percentage increase or decrease 1951-61
1	2	3	4	5	6
All Sectors	**229,840**	**270,454**	**+40,614**	**+17.67**	**+28.91**
Primary Sector	*126,243*	*164,289*	*+38,046*	*+30.13*	*+33.13*
As cultivators	77,838	128,823	+50,985	+65.50	+53.09
As agricultural labourers ..	31,741	31,228	—513	—1.62	+ 2.17
In mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting and plantation, orchards and allied activities	16,664	4,238	—12,426	—74.57	—55.62
Secondary Sector ..	*26,396*	*46,195*	*+19,799*	*+75.01*	*+63.07*
At household industry and in manufacturing other than household industry ..	22,744	40,158	+17,414	+76.57	+61.87
In construction	3,652	6,037	+2,385	+65.31	+79.21
Tertiary Sector	*77,201*	*59,970*	*—17,201*	*—22.28*	*—1.30*
In trade and commerce ..	17,005	14,290	—2,715	—15.97	+0.40
In transport, storage and communications ..	5,198	7,013	+1,815	+34.91	+59.30
In other services	54,998	38,667	—16,331	—29.19	—8.59

Source :
Census of India, 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part I-A(iii), *General Report on the Census, Economic Trends and Projections, 1965*

The total working force increased from 229,840 in 1951 to 270,454 in 1961 that is by 17·67 per cent, as against 28·91 per cent in the State as a whole. In the primary sector, the increase in the working force was 30·14 per cent, as compared to 75·01 per cent in the secondary sector which offered greater scope of employment with corresponding relief in other sectors. Decline of 22·28 per cent in the tertiary sector was considerably in excess of that in the State where it was 1·30 per cent. In the primary sector persons engaged as cultivators increased by 65·50 per cent due to the implementation of land reforms and tenancy legislations in the district which enabled several workers in other categories to acquire the higher status of a landholder. In the secondary sector workers engaged in manufacturing industries have increased by 76·67 per cent and those in construction by 65·31 per cent revealing a great advance in the manufacturing and construction activities in the district. In the tertiary sector those employed in transport, storage and communications have increased by 34·91 per cent as a result of expansion of transport and communication services due to development of roads and ports. Workers engaged in trade and commerce and other services have declined owing to greater opportunities of profitable employment in other categories.

Employment Status—For a proper assessment of the employment status of workers it will be convenient to study them under the categories of those engaged in agricultural and those engaged in non-agricultural pursuits. Among those engaged in agriculture the most important status is that of self-employed persons, who work with the help of family labour, the role of retained and hired labour in the existing state of cultivation which is not yet commercialised and mechanised being relatively less important. Those engaged in non-agricultural pursuits may be classified into employer, employee, single worker, and family worker and those engaged in household industry into employees and others. Of 78,195 persons at work in non-household industry, trade, business, profession or service 8,558 or 10·95 per cent were returned as employers, 34,101 or 43·61 per cent as employees, 30,294 or 38·74 per cent as single workers and 5,242 or 6·70 per cent as family workers. The preponderance of employees in manufacturing industries and small enterprises is quite noteworthy. Relatively larger numbers of those returned as single workers evidence the important role the traditional artisans and craftsmen still play in the economy of the district.

Employment Exchange—The State Directorate of Employment runs employment exchanges in the districts with a view to determine the type of personnel in short supply, find out the employment opportunities likely to arise and asses man-power requirements of professional, scientific, skilled and technical workers. The Employment Exchange in Kutch district was first opened in Bhuj in February, 1959. With the passing of "The Employment Exchange (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Rules, 1960" establishments in the public sector and establishments formally employing

25 or more persons in the private sector are required to notify their vacancies to the Employment Exchange before recruitment. The activities of the Bhuj Employment Exchange were further expanded by opening the Employment Information and Assistance Bureau at Mandvi in March, 1962. A vocational guidance unit was also formed in February, 1964 to help young people in the choosing of vocations and giving relevant information.

The following statement gives Employment Exchange statistics of the district for the period 1959-67.

STATEMENT VIII·17

Employment Exchange Statistics, 1959-67

Year	Number of registrations	Number placed in employment	Number on live register at the end of each period	Number of employers using exchange	Number of vacancies notified
1	2	3	4	5	6
1959 ..	2,995	319	1,164	202	1,100
1960 ..	4,009	597	1,505	258	992
1961 ..	4,498	534	1,531	276	1,079
1962 ..	4,434	505	1,615	270	1,184
1963 ..	4,512	800	1,866	276	1,230
1964 ..	4,309	451	1,756	270	1,279
1965 ..	6,335	849	2,510	343	2,300
1966 ..	5,930	687	2,447	333	1,816
1967 ..	5,956	635	2,347	327	1,400

Source : District Employment Officer, Bhuj

The number of registrations, persons placed in employment, employers using the Exchange, and vacancies notified, have been on the increase between 1959-67, revealing its growing popularity and utility in finding suitable employment and recruitment of right type of personnel. But the jobs created by various developmental activities are not found to be commensurate with the increase in the number of job seekers.

Five Year Plans

Planning is a very important means for achieving the economic and social advancement of the people by formulating definite schemes, setting up of targets of progress in various sectors of economy and achieving them within a stipulated period of time. With a view to raise the standard of living of the people, by opening new avenues of gainful employment and

(Bk) H-49—48 (Lino)

ensuring a richer and fuller life to the society, a comprehensive programme of planned economic development has been undertaken in India after Independence. On the integration of Kutch into the Indian Union in 1948, various Five Year Plans have been framed and implemented for its growth and development, as will be seen from the following statement of expenditure incurred under various 'heads' between 1951-66.

STATEMENT VIII·18

Expenditure Under Different 'Heads' During Three Five Year Plans, 1951-66

(EXPENDITURE IN LAKH OF RUPEES)

Name of the Head	First Plan		Second Plan		Third Plan		Total expenditure during three Plans Rs.	Percentage of expenditure to the total of three Plans
	Expenditure Rs.	Percentage of total expenditure	Expenditure Rs.	Percentage of total expenditure	Expenditure Rs.	Percentage of total expenditure		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1 Agricultural programme ..	17.30	5.67	106.15	15.61	67.48	11.58	190.93	12.18
2 Community development and Panchayats ..	3.50	1.15	64.45	9.48	45.93	7.88	136.68	8.72
3 Co-operation			12.48	1.83	10.32	1.77		
4 Irrigation ..	141.00	46.18	77.20	11.36	205.10	35.20	423.30	27.00
5 Electrification ..	23.00	7.53	164.15	24.15	20.55	3.53	207.70	13.25
6 Industries and mining ..	3.50	1.15	10.61	1.56	9.65	1.66	23.76	1.51
7 Transport and communications ..	71.70	23.48	141.16	20.77	114.19	19.59	327.05	20.86
8 Social services ..	45.30	14.84	83.69	12.31	100.04	17.16	229.03	14.41
(a) Education ..	6.80	2.23	27.90	4.10	23.05	3.95	57.75	3.68
(b) Health ..	36.00	11.79	37.96	5.58	67.36	11.56	141.32	9.01
(c) Housing ..	..	..	..	..	6.34	1.09	6.34	0.41
(d) Labour and labour welfare	..	..	1.53	0.23	..	..	1.53	0.10
(e) Welfare of Backward Classes	2.50	0.82	16.30	2.40	3.29	0.56	22.09	1.41
9 Miscellaneous ..	..	..	19.90	2.93	9.47	1.63	29.37	1.87
Total ..	**305.30**	**100.00**	**679.79**	**100.00**	**582.73**	**100.00**	**1,567.82**	**100.00**

Source :
Collector, Kutch
District Development Officer, Kutch

Owing to the isolation of Kutch and paucity of means required for developing its material and human resources, this region was not in a position to undertake any programme aiming at improving the economic condition of the people, before Independence. Special attention had, therefore, to be given to the development of this area which had for long suffered from inertia and inactivity. Systematic efforts were made after integration for the removal of various handicaps from which it suffered by undertaking planned programmes of development in the successive Five Year Plans between 1951-66. Out of a total outlay of Rs. 1,567·82 lakhs during this period, the First Plan accounted for Rs. 305·30 lakhs which rose to Rs. 679·79 lakhs in the Second and was Rs. 582·73 lakhs during the Third Plan Period. Irrigation received the topmost priority because of the backwardness of agriculture due to infertile soil and recurrent periods of scarcity and famine. To meet the uncertainty of rains which were irregular and ill-distributed, the construction of reservoirs at suitable places claimed the first attention of the Government which spent Rs. 423·30 lakhs to push up and sustain agriculture in Kutch. The next important programme was provision of transport and communications facilities followed by essential social services like health and education which had not made much headway during the former regime. Electrification also had its due share and accounted for 13·25 per cent of the total expenditure incurred during the last 15 years.

Irrigation together with agricultural programme accounted for Rs. 614·23 lakhs or 39·18 per cent of the total expenditure during 1951-66 due to emphasis on food production. The next important item of expenditure was provision of transport and communications facilities in which the district had been highly deficient. It accounted for 20·86 per cent of the total outlay during the last 15 years. Among social services which accounted for 14·61 per cent health claimed 9·01 per cent and education 3·68 per cent. A relatively large expenditure on electrification (13·25 per cent) shows greater stress on the supply of electric power to the public and industries. The implementation of the Plans has resulted in several physical achievements as well as structural changes in the fields of agriculture including animal husbandry and fisheries, irrigation, co-operation, electrification, industrialisation, transport and communications, and social services including education, health, housing, labour and labour welfare and welfare of Backward Classes. The progress achieved in the various fields reflects the determination and efforts of the government and the people to improve the economic and social conditions and raise the standard of living of the people.

Community Development Programme—The central purpose behind all the efforts the nation has been making as manifested in the Five Year Plans is to raise the standard of living and ensure better conditions of living for all sections of society. The directive principles of the Constitution are sought to be implemented through the integrated development programme embodied

in the Five Year Plans, whereunder all India, State level and district level plans are formulated with their specific targets and methods of achievement. These are implemented through the district administrative machinery which is reorganized and strengthened after Independence with a view to effectively implement the policies formulated. Thus the district administrative machinery is assigned a pivotal role for implementing the schemes for the peoples' benefit. It is with this end in view that the Community Development Programme has been initiated. It is altogether a unique and scientific endeavour for an integrated approach to the problems of rural development based on public participation and working through representative institutions of the people. This programme was first inaugurated in the district on 2nd October, 1952 by starting a Community Development Project at Bhuj-Nakhatrana. At first three types of development blocks known as National Extension Service, Community Development, and Post-intensive blocks were conceived. They marked three different phases of development in rural areas. The N. E. S. (National Extension Service) was a preparatory period when the area was prepared for receiving a heavy dose of development during the next stage of community development. The assumption was that thereafter it would be sufficiently developed and the people educated and conscious enough to keep up by themselves the tempo of progress already achieved. The programme since then has undergone various organisational changes as a result of the recommendations of the Balwantray Mehta Committee appointed by the Planning Commission during 1956-57 to examine the working of the community development programme and related matters and to recommend measures for improving its quality and content. In pursuance of the recommendations of this Committee the existing distinction between the N. E. S. stage, intensive development stage, and the post-intensive stage were abolished from 1st April, 1958, and all the blocks under the all-India programme except blocks in the community development stage which had then not completed 3 years were classified into Stage I and stage II blocks, with revised financial patterns and periods of operation. The community development blocks on completing Stage I period would enter Stage II. A Stage I block has a five year period of operation with a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 12 lakhs for this period. It is the intensive development phase in which the peoples' participation is to be promoted as the means of community development by closer association of gram panchayats with the formulation of plans for their respective areas. The degree of success attained during the first stage will be the evidence of the growth and functioning of self-reliant rural communities which is the basic objective of the programme. After completing Stage I, the blocks will enter Stage II of the programme with a total provision of Rs. 5 lakhs for 5 years during which period the process of community development will be intensified. On 31st March, 1967 there were 9 community development blocks in the district of which 2 were Stage I blocks at Lakhpat and Mundra, 2 Stage II blocks at Anjar and Bhuj, and 5 Post-Stage II blocks at Abdasa, Bhachau, Mandvi, Nakhatrana and Rapar. Detailed particulars of the blocks of each Stage, number of villages and

population covered, expenditure incurred, and people's contribution up to 31st March, 1967 are given in the following statement.

STATEMENT VIII·19

Community Development Programme, Kutch District, up to 31st March, 1967

Sl. No.	Name of the Block	Number of villages covered	Area covered (sq. km.)	Population covered (1961)	Date of starting of the Block	Total expenditure incurred up to 31st March, 1967	Total contribution by the people up to 31st March, 1967
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
						Rs.	Rs.
	STAGE I BLOCKS						
1	Lakhpat ..	86	2,369.90	18,401	2-10-1956	756,368	13,712
2	Mundra ..	57	851.56	45,555	1-4-1959	769,739	268,050
	Total of Stage I Blocks ..	*143*	*3,221.46*	*63,956*		*1,526,107*	*281,762*
	STAGE II BLOCKS						
3	Anjar ..	77	1,230.56	46,704	1-4-1957	1,117,136	767,313
4	Bhuj ..	168	5,576.00	87,241	1-4-1958	815,712	330,605
	Total of Stage II Blocks ..	*245*	*6,806.56*	*133,945*		*1,932,848*	*1,097,918*
	POST STAGE II BLOCKS						
5	Abdasa ..	143	2,244.80	65,118	1-10-1954	1,023,251	644,840
6	Bhachau ..	82	1,488.00	68,334	2-10-1956	1,085,607	211,632
7	Mandvi ..	98	1,337.91	74,892	1-4-1955	3,525,084	596,898
8	Nakhatrana ..	130	1,601.70	69,632	1-10-1952	2,107,490	1,109,200
9	Rapar ..	96	2,737.60	85,419	2-10-1953	2,043,382	1,632,976
	Total of Post Stage II Blocks ..	*549*	*9,410.01*	*363,395*		*9,784,814*	*4,185,546*
	Grand Total ..	**937**	**19,438.03**	**571,296**		**13,243,769**	**5,575,226**

Source :
District Development Officer, Kutch

Between 1952-1959, the entire district was covered by the community development programme which includes activities like agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation, land reclamation and improvement, health and rural sanitation, education, communications, rural arts and crafts, etc. The total expenditure incurred on the various projects up to 31st March, 1967, for which figures are available, was Rs. 13,243,769, people's contribution being Rs. 5,575,226 or 42·17 per cent. These figures together with the details about physical achievements up to 31st March, 1967 given in Statement VIII·20 go to illustrate the fact that the Community Development Programme

has created in the countryside a growing consciousness of felt needs and a faith in the people's ability to fulfil them through their own efforts and resources.

STATEMENT VIII·20

Physical Achievements of the Community Development Blocks (since their inception) up to the end of March, 1967

Sl. No.	Name of the item	Unit	Achievement
1	2	3	4
I	AGRICULTURE		
	(a) Distribution of improved seeds ..	Quintals	29,202
	(b) Distribution of chemical fertilisers ..	,,	16,706
	(c) Compost pits dug	Number	2,700
	(d) Additional area brought under vegetables and fruit trees	Hectares	21,010
II	IRRIGATION AND RECLAMATION		
	(a) Area brought under irrigation ..	Hectares	24,614
	(b) Area reclaimed	,,	49,680
III	ANIMAL HUSBANDRY		
	(a) Pedigree bulls supplied	Number	149
	(b) Pedigree birds supplied	,,	0
	(c) Cattle innoculated	,,	102,806
IV	HEALTH AND SANITATION		
	(a) Drinking water wells constructed or repaired	Number	802
	(b) Drainage constructed	Metres	452
	(c) Soakage pits constructed	Number	314
V	EDUCATION		
	(a) Schools converted into basic type ..	Number	56
	(b) School buildings constructed	,,	159
	(c) Adults made literate	,,	25,893
VI	COMMUNICATION		
	(a) *Kachha* roads constructed	Km.	31.858
VII	RURAL ARTS AND CRAFTS		
	(a) Persons trained in training-*cum*-production centres	Number	870
	(b) Additional members of co-operative societies made	,,	33,732
	(c) Women's clubs started	,,	96
	(d) Youth clubs started	,,	118
	(e) Farmer's unions started	,,	98

Source :
District Development Officer, Kutch

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Economic progress of a region depends on several factors, important among them being its natural resources, opportunities for their exploitation, availability of finance, political structure and social set-up obtaining at a particular period of time. Kutch had been a prosperous region till the end of the 18th century, but its economy began to deteriorate thereafter and suffered a severe set back owing to certain seismic changes which diverted the course of the Indus which till 1819 discharged its water in and irrigated the land of the Rann. Prior to integration, Kutch remained more or less isolated from the rest of India. Its maritime trade had suffered a great deal and good roads and rail link connecting it with other parts of the country were utterly lacking. Low rainfall accompanied by recurrent periods of scarcity and famine acted as a serious deterrent to agricultural production. Exodus of people from Kutch after the great earthquake of 1819 and the famine 1900 further affected the course of its agriculture and trade. Multiplicity of cesses, obnoxious levies, recovery of assessment in kind, insecurity of tenure, and above all its Bhayati system came in the way of adopting improved farming practices. The currency system, customs, weights and measures of Kutch being different from those prevailing in the adjoining areas served as barriers to a proper development of its trade and commerce. Growth of ports like Bombay and Karachi had also affected its maritime trade. The cumulative effect of all these factors was to check the pace of progress in Kutch, whose economic structure remained predominantly agricultural. After integration, several measures of reforms were initiated with a view to bring it in line with other parts of India. Its administration was reorganised. The multiplicity of cesses and the Jagirdari system were done away with, and a bold land policy aiming at the introduction of various agrarian reforms initiated. As a result of the implementation of these measures, details of which have been reviewed later in Chapter X—Revenue Administration—the cultivator has been enabled to become the occupant of the land held by him on payment of a fixed annual assessment in case of *khalsa* lands and reasonable compensation in other cases. The peasantry has realised the necessity and utility of improved farming practices which are being extensively adopted with the financial and other aids made available by the government. All these measures have had their inevitable impact on the general improvement in the economic condition of the agricultural classes by bringing the means and opportunity of increased production within their reach.

Measures to promote and develop the nin-agricultural sector have been taken simultaneously. The former currency, customs dues, and weights and measures have now been replaced by those prevalent in other parts of the Indian Union. A Free Trade Zone at Kandla has been established to stimulate international trade, and bring about fuller utilisation of the facilities already developed at Kandla port. Various facilities and special

concessions are being offered by the government for establishing new industries, as a result of which, industrial activities have begun to gain momentum. A number of new industries like a drug-house and a salt and chemical works at Kandla, ginning factory at Anjar, a spinning and weaving mill at Gandhidham, etc., have come up and those like salt and allied industries, oil and allied industries, etc., already in existence, have expanded. Trade and commerce have also been expanding consequent upon the development of the major port of Kandla and the extension of transport system by road and rail linking Kutch with the rest of India. Fisheries, mining, etc., which were hitherto unexplored are being developed and hold promise of further development and progress in the near future. New avenues of augmenting production and services and tapping latent resources have thus been opened up in Kutch which was hitherto secluded and cut off from the mainland.

STATEMENTS

(Bk) H-49—49 (Lino)

STATEMENT VIII·4

Industrial Establishments, 1961

Sl. No.	Description	Total number of units	Number of persons employed
1	2	3	4
1	Manufacture of other wood and allied products not covered above	428	918
2	Manufacture of sundry hardwares such as G. I. pipe, wire net, bolt, screw, bucket, cutlery and manufacture of sundry ferrous engineering products	342	878
3	Manufacture of jewellry, silver ware and wares using gold and other precious metals	346	721
4	Production of rice, *atta*, flour, etc., by milling, dehusking, and processing of crops and foodgrains	338	667
5	Making of textile garments including rain coats and headgear	312	643
6	Production of other food products such as sweatmeat and condiments, muri, murki, chira, khoi, cocoa, chocolate, toffee, lozenge	196	506
7	Cotton weaving in handlooms	188	458
8	Manufacture of shoes and other leather footwear ..	209	391
9	Manufacture of wagons, coaches, tramways and other rail-road equipment	6	331
10	Manufacture of *bidi*	65	262
11	Manufacture and assembling of prime mover and boilers, other than electrical equipment, such as diesel engines, road rollers, tractors	2	225
12	Manufacture of brass and bell metal products	79	195
13	Manufacture of cement and cement products	3	193
14	Manufacture of metal products (other than of iron, brass, bell metal and aluminium) such as tin can ..	20	190
15	Production of edible fats and oils (other than hydrogenated oil)	25	170
16	Curing, tanning and finishing of hides and skins and preparation of finished leather	87	162
17	Repairing and servicing of motor vehicles	27	142
18	Repairing of bicycles and tricycles	54	120

STATEMENT VIII·4—*contd.*

Sl. No.	Description	Total number of units	Number of persons employed
1	2	3	4
19	Manufacture and assembling of machinery (other than electrical) except textile machinery	21	113
20	All other types of printing including lithography, engraving, stitching, block making and other work connected with printing industry	16	113
21	Manufacture of wooden furniture and fixtures	33	94
22	Production of bread, biscuits, cake and other bakery products	29	94
23	Manufacture of earthenware and earthen pottery ..	35	93
24	Manufacture, assembling and repairing of locomotives ..	1	75
25	Manufacture of leather products such as leather upholstery, suit-cases, pocket books, cigarette and key cases, purses, saddlery, whip and other articles	25	60
26	Cotton dyeing, bleaching	20	58
27	Sawing and planing of wood	12	56
28	Production of ice	5	50
29	Assembling and repairing of watches and clocks ..	37	42
30	Wool weaving in handloom	11	31
31	Manufacture of motor vehicles engines parts and accessories	9	30
32	Manufacture of structural clay products such as bricks, tiles	4	30
33	Manufacture of electronic equipment such as radio, microphone	12	28
34	Manufacture of soap and other washing and cleaning compounds	9	28
35	Weaving of silk textile by handloom	8	25
36	Repair of all other leather products except foot-wear ..	9	24
37	Production of other beverages	5	22
38	Production of aerated and mineral water	7	20
39	Cotton weaving in powerlooms	3	20
40	Manufacturing of *khadi* textile in handlooms	5	18
41	Production of other animal husbandry products such as skin, bone, ivory and teeth	7	17
42	Manufacture of structural steel products such as joist, rail, sheet, plate	1	15
43	Enamelling, galvanising, plating (including electroplating) polishing and welding of metal products	3	15

STATEMENT VIII·4—*concld.*

Sl. No.	Description	Total number of units	Number of persons employed
1	2	3	4
44	Cotton, ginning, cleaning, pressing and bailing	2	12
45	Manufacture of tyres and tubes	4	9
46	Production of butter, *ghee*, cheese and other dairy products	2	8
47	Embroidery and making of crepe-lace and fringes ..	2	8
48	Manufacture and repair of work goods not assignable to any other group	1	8
49	Repair of shoes and other leather footwear	4	7
50	Manufacture of structural wooden goods (including treated timber) such as beams, posts, doors, windows ..	2	7
51	Others	21	45
	Grand Total	**2,992**	**8,445**

Source :
Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part IV-A, *Report on Housing and Establishment*, pp. 238-240

STATEMENT VIII-5

Number of Persons Engaged in Selected Occupations, 1961

Sl. No.	Name of the occupation	Total			Urban			Rural		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Physicians, Surgeons and Dentists ..	309	301	8	124	119	5	185	182	3
2	Nurses, Pharmacists and other Medical and Health Technicians.. ..	663	337	326	279	171	108	384	166	218
3	Teachers	2,152	1,567	585	722	505	217	1,430	1,062	368
	(a) Teachers, University ..	41	39	2	41	39	2	..	..	..
	(b) Teachers, Secondary Schools ..	127	122	5	126	121	5	1	1	..
	(c) Teachers, Middle and Primary Schools	1,887	1,356	531	506	316	190	1,381	1,040	341
	(d) Teachers, Nursery and Kindergarten Schools	22	7	15	18	7	11	4	..	4
	(e) Teachers, n. e. c.	75	43	32	31	22	9	44	21	23
4	Jurists	157	157	..	103	103	..	54	54	..
5	Arts, Letters and Science	2,313	2,121	192	699	668	31	1,614	1,453	161
	(a) Architects, Engineers, Surveyors	324	324	..	229	229	..	95	95	..
	(b) Biologists, Veterinarians, Agronomists and related Scientists	89	89	..	5	5	..	84	84	..
	(c) Social Scientists and related workers ..	129	97	32	80	68	12	49	29	20
	(d) Artists, Writers and related workers	234	227	7	60	59	1	174	168	6
	(e) Draughtsmen and Science and Engineering Technicians, n. e. c.	60	60	..	60	60	..	..	..	..
	(f) Other Professional, Technical and related workers (including ordained and non-ordained religious workers; astrologers palmists and related workers, etc.) ..	1,477	1,324	153	265	247	18	1,212	1,077	135
6	Administrators and Executive Officials Governments	809	782	27	318	313	5	491	469	22
7	Hawkers, Pedlars and Street Vendors	1,111	1,005	106	771	708	63	340	297	43
8	Tailors, Cutters, Furriers and related workers	2,471	1,691	780	729	563	166	1,742	1,128	614
9	Jewellers, Goldsmiths and Silversmiths	1,109	1,105	4	428	428	..	681	677	4
10	Dairy workers (non-farm) ..	953	310	643	4	3	1	949	307	642
11	Millers, Bakers, Brewmasters and related Food and Beverage workers ..	2,041	1,218	823	339	300	39	1,702	918	784
12	Housekeepers, cooks, Maids and related workers	1,671	480	1,191	1,114	293	821	557	187	370
13	Barbers, Hairdressers, Beauticians and related workers	1,198	1,195	3	245	245	..	953	950	3
14	Launderers, Dry Cleaners and Pressers	293	177	116	249	140	109	44	37	7

NOTE : n. e. c.=Not elsewhere classified

Source :
District Census Handbook Kutch, 1961

STATEMENT VIII-9

Prices of Important Foodgrains, 1883 to 1915-16

(PRICES IN LBS. PER RUPEE)

Year	Wheat				*Bajri*				*Korad*			
	Bhuj	Mandvi	Anjar	Mundra	Bhuj	Mandvi	Anjar	Mundra	Bhuj	Mandvi	Anjar	Mundra
1883-84	24	24	26	26	27	26	26	26	37	36	26	26
1884-85	27	29	28	28	29	27	26	25	43	34	28	24
1885-86	24 1/2	29	30	26 1/2	24	25	25	25	39 1/2	35 1/2	29 1/2	28
1886-87	25 1/2	22 1/2	26 1/2	25	24 1/4	33 1/4	23 1/4	25 1/2	28	34 1/4	26	28
1889	20	19	20 1/2	20	20	21 1/4	21 3/4	21 3/4	22	23 3/4	22 1/4	28
1890	21	22 1/4	23	19 1/2	24	20 3/4	21 3/4	20	25 1/4	25	24	21 1/2
1891	23 1/2	22 1/2	27	23 1/2	27 1/2	22	28 1/2	24 1/2	28 1/4	23 1/2	26 3/4	28
1892	21 1/4	22 1/2	28	32	20 1/2	18 3/4	31	27	25 1/4	22 1/2	28	30
1893	24	23	27 1/2	20 1/2	26 1/2	26	28	19 1/4	43 1/2	38	31	25
1894	26 1/4	25	22	21 1/2	29	26 1/4	29 1/4	34 1/4	34 1/2	38 1/2	35 1/2	43 1/2
1895	27 1/2	27 1/4	27	26 1/2	24	21	34 3/4	30	45 3/4	35	49 1/4	48
1896	22 1/4	26	27 1/4	27	24	21	29 1/2	33	25 1/2	24 1/2	43 1/2	46 3/4
1897	19 3/16	18 1/2	34 1/4	27	22 5 16	22 1/4	24 1/4	26	24	26 1/4	25 15/16	40
1898	20	21 1/4	20 1/4	24	26 3/4	21 1/4	22 3/8	29	32	35	26 1/16	40 1/4
1899	24 5/8	..	22	27	30	23 1/2	26 13/16	24 3/4	27 3/8	31 3/4	32 1/4	31 3/4
1900	10 29/32	14	14 3/4	15	10	11 1/2	13	15	10 29/32	14	15 1/4	16 1/2
1901	18 1/4	15 1/2	11 1/4	14 1/2	16 1/2	19	11 1/4	16 1/2	17	20	..	17 1/2
1902	14 1/8	31 1/2	..	15 1/2	16	20	15 3/4	14 1/2	12	15	18	16 1/2
1902-03	18 3/4	13 1/4	14	16	17 1/4	19 3/4	16 3/8	19 3/4	16 1/4	21 1/2	13 1/4	16
1903-04	26 21/32	21 1/2	20 1/2	24	29 3 32	28	17	20	41 3/4	26 1/2	26 1/2	14 3/4
1904-05	13 1/2	21 1/4	28 1/2	14 1/2	14	21	31 1/2	20	19	30 3/4	36 3/4	36 1/2
1905-06	15 1/4	..	15 1/4	14 1/2	15 3/4	16	17 1/2	20 3/4	20 3/4	..	21 1/4	17 1/2
1906-07	19	18 1/2	30	22 1/2	37 1/2	29	30	35	39	32 3/4	32	39
1907-08	16	17	26 1/4	16 1/2	20	29	28 1/4	31 1/4	32	36 1/2	31 1/4	32 3/4
1908-09	15	15	16 1/4	15 1/2	19 1/4	16	19 3/4	19 3/4	31	32	29 3/4	28 1/4
1910-11	15	17 3/4	20 1/2	22	19	17	25	28	29	28	33	28
1911-12	14	17 1/4	18	15	14 1/2	16	14 1/2	16	16	..	20	16
1912-13	21 3/4	16	19	23	19 1/4	16	14	20	28 3/4	20 1/2	23	28
1913-14	22 3/4	..	17	22	20 3/4	18	16	20	34 1 4	21	22	30
1914-15	17 1/4	23 1/2	21	17	21 3/4	23 1/4	21	20	28 1 4	30 3/4	24 1/2	28
1915-16	21 1/2	..	20	20	20	23	21 3/4	20	21	28	29 3/4	22

STATEMENT VIII-9—*concld.*

Year	*Gowar*				*Jowar*			
	Bhuj	Mandvi	Anjar	Mundra	Bhuj	Mandvi	Anjar	Mundra
1883-84	31	31	31	31 1/2	33	36	40	37
1884-85	33	33	31	34	31	35	38	36
1885-86	33	30 1/2	33	34	33	32 1/2	38	36 1/2
1886-87	30 3/4	29	32 1/2	29 1/2	33	33	34 1/4	27
1889	21	31	23 1/4	28	25	30	27 1/4	30 1/4
1890	32	26	28 1/4	24	32	32	31	24
1891	34 1/4	26	33 3/4	32	34 3/4	30 1/4	24 1/4	35 3/4
1892	27	23 3/4	35 3/4	33	25 1/4	28	24 1/4	33
1893	39	31 1/2	35	25 1/4	37 1/2	35	30	26 1/2
1894	34 1/4	39	38 3/4	42 1/4	37	35	42 3/4	47 3/4
1895	32	28 1/4	43	48	34 1/4	30	41 1/2	48
1896	25 1/2	21	30 3/4	42	28 1/4	26 1/4	41 1/2	47
1897	28 1/4	28 3/4	25 1/4	33	24	24 3/4	31 7/16	39
1898	35 1/2	32	33 1/2	40 1/4	26 3/4	31 1/2	24 1/16	36 1/4
1899	30	31 3/4	40 1/4	31 3/4	32	31 3/4	32	34
1900	12 31/32	14	16 1/4	16 1/2	12 31/32	14	15 1/2	15 1/2
1901	26	27	13 1/4	28	24	32	13 3/4	20 1/2
1902	14 1/8	31	26 1/2	18	16	33 1/2	24 1/4	20 1/2
1902-03	18 3/4	21 1/4	14 1/2	22 1/2	24	14 3/4	19 1/4	26 1/4
1903-04	31 1/2	24	19 1/4	24	41 3/4	29	23 1/2	30
1904-05	18 1/4	24 1/2	36 1/4	26	17 3/4	31	38	30
1905-06	20 3/4	19 1/2	19 1/2	23 1/2	17 1/4	19 1/2	21 3/4	24 1/2
1906-07	28 3/4	26 1/2	30 3/4	29 3/4	19	18 1/2	30	22 1/2
1907-08	26 3/4	29	35	28 1/4	..	28 3/4	40	24 3/4
1908-09	30	28	27 3/4	29	15	15	16 1/4	15 1/2
1910-11	29	25 1/2	30	28	21 3/4	22 1/2	25 1/2	28
1911-12	17 3/4	14 3/4	29	19	21 3/4	18 1/2	18	21
1912-13	23 1/2	15 1/4	..	24	25 3/4	25 1/2	17	38
1913-14	30 3/4	20	..	30	32	20	18	30
1914-15	26 1/2	27	..	28	26 1/2	30 3/4	25	28
1915-16	23	21	28 3/4	24	25 1/2	32	28	28

Source : *Reports on the Administration of the Kutch State*, 1890 to 1915-16

STATEMENT VIII·12

Wholesale Prices of Important Agriculture Commodities, 1959-66

(PRICES IN RUPEES PER QUINTAL)

Sl. No.	Name of commodities	Year 1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
					BHUJ				
1	Rice fine ..	91.59	149.61	159.53	125.34	106.66	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
2	Rice medium ..	87.34	110.18	93.52	86.94	92.10	114.40	N.A.	215.00
3	Rice coarse ..	..	..	75.25	61.36	56.34	65.70	81.77	N.A.	N.A.
4	Wheat *sharbati* ..	..	..	60.01	54.02	54.62	N.A.	46.13	118.88	103.74
5	Wheat red ..	81.70	51.06	44.07	41.19	41.00	N.A.	51.00	51.83
6	*Jowar* ..	44.80	43.45	39.86	44.42	35.93	58.96	63.39	68.20
7	*Bajri* ..	48.94	48.59	47.65	48.35	43.64	57.45	67.44	75.69
8	*Mug* ..	47.86	64.50	64.85	57.18	53.59	110.57	118.87	106.08
9	*Udid* ..	..	87.80	53.88	57.97	60.01	70.00	60.64	125.00
10	Groundnut oil ..	N.A.	191.70	210.54	196.98	188.25	207.41	232.94	305.47
					MANDVI				
1	Rice fine ..	95.78	151.79	119.86	80.00	N.A.	110.00	Control	230.00
2	Rice medium ..	77.93	107.18	94.57	75.00	87.50	80.00	,,	215.00
3	Rice coarse ..	47.03	75.20	64.12	58.00	63.85	..	,,	..
4	Wheat *sharbati* ..	..	..	..	56.03	55.00	54.82	77.00	100.00	95.00
5	Wheat red ..	70.54	60.28	44.07	40.00	43.09	72.00	85.00	82.00
6	*Jowar* ..	41.84	41.60	43.48	56.00	39.65	..	50.00	55.00
7	*Bajri* ..	50.79	46.41	45.39	57.00	48.84	57.00	67.00	76.00
8	*Mug* ..	49.48	54.34	65.90	50.00	55.27	92.00	107.00	110.00
9	*Udid* ..	..	..	85.89	68.13	65.00	90.54	80.00	110.00	115.00
10	Groundnut oil ..	N.A.	196.02	205.19	210.00	196.31	..	..	..
					ANJAR				
1	Rice fine ..	105.48	143.19	107.96	102.43	100.03	115.00	Control	..
2	Rice medium ..	79.95	108.09	87.59	101.35	94.15	105.50	,,	..
3	Rice coarse ..	..	75.92	65.23	63.37	63.47	..	,,	..
4	Wheat *sharbati* ..	72.24	53.56	53.94	51.57	51.40	67.00	75.50	..
5	Wheat red ..	44.69	56.70	44.87	46.25	48.04	60.00	59.50	..
6	*Jowar* ..	35.96	45.12	45.03	39.54	35.11	49.00	59.75	..
7	*Bajri* ..	43.32	31.08	44.42	40.17	37.87	47.00	64.75	..
8	*Mug* ..	56.57	36.70	67.72	63.45	54.34	87.00	100.00	..
9	*Udid* ..	94.06	80.27	64.30	61.32	75.00	N.A.	80.00	..
10	Groundnut oil ..	N.A.	202.66	207.99	200.30	167.40	34.00 (per tin)	45.00 (per tin)	..

N. A.=Not available

Source :
District Statistical Officer, Bhuj

STATEMENT VIII·14

Average Daily Wages of Workers, 1961-67

Sl. No.	Type of labour	January 1961	July 1961	January 1962	August 1962	January 1963	July 1963	January 1964
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				BHUJ				
1	SKILLED LABOUR							
	(a) Carpenters ..	4.50	5.00	N.A.	5.00	5.00	N.A.	5.00
	(b) Blacksmiths ..	4.50	5.00	,,	5.00	5.00	,,	5.00
	(c) Cobblers ..	4.50	5.00	,,	4.50	4.50	,,	3.00
2	FIELD LABOUR							
	(a) Men ..	2.50	3.00	,,	4.00	4.00	,,	2.00
	(b) Women ..	1.50	2.00	,,	3.00	3.00	,,	1.75
	(c) Children ..	0.75	1.50	,,	1.75	1.75	,,	1.00
3	OTHER AGRICULTURAL LABOUR							
	(a) Men ..	2.00	3.00	,,	4.00	4.00	,,	2.00
	(b) Women ..	1.25	2.00	,,	2.50	2.50	,,	1.75
	(c) Children ..	0.50	1.50	,,	1.25	1.75	,,	1.00
4	HERDSMEN							
	(a) Men ..	1.50	5.00	,,	2.00	2.00	,,	1.75
	(b) Women ..	1.00	3.00	,,	1.50	1.50	,,	1.25
	(c) Children ..	1.00	2.00	,,	1.25	1.25	,,	0.75

Sl. No.	Type of labour	July 1964	January 1965	July 1965	January 1966	July 1966	January 1967	July 1967
1	2	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
				BHUJ				
1	SKILLED LABOUR							
	(a) Carpenters ..	5.00	N.A.	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.50	5.50
	(b) Blacksmiths ..	5.00	,,	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
	(c) Cobblers ..	2.00	,,	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
2	FIELD LABOUR							
	(a) Men ..	2.00	,,	2.00	3.50	4.50	4.50	4.50
	(b) Women ..	1.75	,,	1.75	2.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
	(c) Children ..	1.00	,,	1.00	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
3	OTHER AGRICULTURAL LABOUR							
	(a) Men ..	2.00	,,	2.00	3.50	4.50	4.50	4.50
	(b) Women ..	1.75	,,	1.75	2.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
	(c) Children ..	1.00	,,	1.00	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
4	HERDSMEN							
	(a) Men ..	1.25	,,	1.25	1.25	1.50	1.50	1.50
	(b) Women ..	1.25	,,	1.25	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
	(c) Children ..	0.75	,,	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75

N. A.=Not available

Source :
Gujarat Labour Gazette

STATEMENT VIII·14—*contd.*

Sl. No.	Type of labour	January 1961	July 1961	January 1962	August 1962	January 1963	July 1963	January 1964
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			RAPAR					
1	SKILLED LABOUR							
	(a) Carpenters ..	N.A.	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.25	4.25	4.00
	(b) Blacksmiths ..	,,	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.25	4.25	4.00
	(c) Cobblers ..	,,	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	FIELD LABOUR							
	(a) Men ..	,,	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	1.75
	(b) Women ..	,,	2.00	2.50	2.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
	(c) Children ..	,,	1.50	1.00	1.50	1.00	1.00	1.00
3	OTHER AGRICULTURAL LABOUR							
	(a) Men ..	,,	3.00	3.00	3.50	2.75	2.50	2.00
	(b) Women ..	,,	2.00	2.00	2.50	1.75	1.75	1.50
	(c) Children ..	,,	1.50	..	1.50	1.00	1.00	..
4	HERDSMEN							
	(a) Men ..	,,	3.00	..	3.00	2.00	2.00	..
	(b) Women ..	,,	2.00	..	2.00	1.50	1.00	..
	(c) Children ..	,,	1.50	..	1.50	1.00	1.00	..

Sl. No.	Type of labour	July 1964	January 1965	July 1965	January 1966	July 1966	January 1967	July 1967
1	2	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			RAPAR					
1	SKILLED LABOUR							
	(a) Carpenters ..	6.00	5.00	5.00	4.75	5.00	5.50	5.75
	(b) Blacksmiths ..	6.00	4.00	4.50	..	..	..	..
	(c) Cobblers ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	FIELD LABOUR							
	(a) Men ..	2.00	2.00	2.25	1.75	2.00	2.37	2.50
	(b) Women ..	1.50	1.75	1.75	1.50	1.50	2.00	2.25
	(c) Children ..	1.00	1.25	1.25	1.00	1.00	1.50	1.50
3	OTHER AGRICULTURAL LABOUR							
	(a) Men ..	2.00	2.50	2.25	1.75	2.00	2.12	2.25
	(b) Women ..	1.50	2.00	2.00	1.37	1.00	1.75	1.95
	(c) Children ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	HERDSMEN							
4	(a) Men ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(b) Women ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(c) Children ..	..	..	..	...	..	..	..

STATEMENT VIII·14—*concld.*

Average Daily Wages of Workers, 1964-67

Sl. No.	Type of labour	Jan. 1964	July 1964	Jan. 1965	July 1965	Jan. 1966	July 1966	Jan. 1967	July 1967
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				ABDASA					
1	SKILLED LABOUR								
	(a) Carpenters ..	5.00	4.50	4.00	5.50	5.00	6.00	6.00	7.00
	(b) Blacksmiths ..	5.00	4.25	3.50	5.00	5.50	5.00	5.00	6.00
	(c) Cobblers ..	4.00	4.25	3.00	3.50	4.00	4.00	5.00	5.00
2	FIELD LABOUR								
	(a) Men ..	2.25	2.00	2.50	3.00	2.50	3.00	3.00	3.00
	(b) Women ..	1.50	1.50	1.50	2.00	1.75	2.50	2.50	2.50
	(c) Children ..	1.00	1.00	0.87	1.50	1.00	1.50	1.50	1.50
3	OTHER AGRICULTURAL LABOUR								
	(a) Men ..	2.25	1.75	2.00	3.00	2.00	3.00	3.00	2.50
	(b) Women ..	1.50	1.25	1.50	2.00	1.50	2.00	2.50	2.00
	(c) Children ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
				MUNDRA					
1	SKILLED LABOUR								
	(a) Carpenters ..	N. A.	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	N. A.	7.00
	(b) Blacksmiths ..	,,	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	,,	5.50
	(c) Cobblers ..	,,	4.00	4.00	..	5.00	5.00	,,	5.00
2	FIELD LABOUR								
	(a) Men ..	,,	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	,,	3.00
	(b) Women ..	,,	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	,,	2.00
	(c) Children ..	,,	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	,,	1.00
3	OTHER AGRICULTURAL LABOUR								
	(a) Men ..	,,	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	,,	..
	(b) Women ..	,,	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	,,	..
	(c) Children ..	,,	..	..	..	..	..	,,	

Source :
Gujarat Labour Gazette

CHAPTER IX

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Public administration, as understood today was not evolved before Independence, when the functions of Government were mostly limited to the management of land and preservation of law and order. Land revenue and police administration were the only important departments in most of the princely areas of Gujarat under the conditions prevailing there prior to 1947. The machinery of administration, however, differed in different States and estates according to their size, powers of the rulers, financial resources of the State and the type or character of the administration. Since the form of Government was essentially monarchial, the ruler was the repository of all powers, legislative, executive and judicial.

The district of Kutch has seen various administrative changes. During pre-Independence period it was a first class State under the ruler called the Maharao who was the final authority in all matters. It became a Chief Commissioner's province on its merger into the Indian Union on June 1st 1948 and a Part C State on the inauguration of the Republic of India in 1950. It became a district of the bilingual Bombay State in 1956 on its reorganisation and now forms part of Gujarat on its formation as a separate State.

Kutch, however, differed much from other princely areas because of its unique background—political, historical, and geographical. Unlike other States the region of Kutch was in effect under a sort of dual sovereignty which divided it into two separate compartments. Nearly half of Kutch was held by a number of Bhayats who claimed themselves to be Independent of the Maharao and disowned any liability either for its development or for the safety of the person and property of the people. Whatever the administrative set-up evolved under these circumstances was in the main confined to the *khalsa* area under the Maharao. The situation worsened further when the East India Company under the Treaty of 1819 guaranteed to the Bhayats the special status claimed by them. This full enjoyment of possessions included not only the revenue rights but seigniorial rights and even jurisdictional rights giving complete immunity from any interference with the full administration of their Jagirs.[1] The Government of India later realised their mistake in siding with the Bhayats against the Maharao and were later of the view that the maintenance of the guarantee given by it should be compatible with efficient administration and welfare of the community.[2] During the latter part of the 19th and the earlier half of

1. *Report on the Jagirdari System of Kutch*, Government of India, 1951, p. 41
2. *Ibid.*, p. 40

the current century the successive Maharaos applied themselves to the task of consolidating their position and organising the administrative machinery.

At the time of integration the Diwanet system was in vogue. In the exercise of powers over certain specified departments, the Diwan was assisted by a Naib-Diwan, Secretary, Deputy Secretary and other subordinate staff. There were, however, departments like the Private Department, Railway Department, Steamer and Motor Department, etc., which functioned under separate officers under the direct control and supervision of the Maharao. The departments under the Diwan were styled (i) Political, (ii) Justice, (iii) Revenue and (iv) English. The Political Department dealt with the management of Jagirs and Giras lands in the event of minority, all correspondence with Jagirdars and Bhayats, abolition of female infanticide, issue of permits to foreigners, etc. The Judicial Department had under it jails, the nazir and the police. The Judicial Department proper was sub-divided into *khalsa* and *bhayat*, all matters relating to the latter being under the jurisdiction of the Jadeja Court specially constituted for the purpose in 1873. The Nazar gave effect to the decrees and orders passed by the ordinary courts and the Jadeja court. Besides maintenance of law and order, the Police Department had under it the water police, opium and the Rasaldar of Bhuj. The two main sections of the Revenue Department were (i) *Mulki* and (ii) Revenue Proper. The head of the former was styled Revenue Shirastedar and that of the latter the Revenue Commissioner with Vahivatdar and other subordinate staff under him. The *Mulki* section included such subjects as Mint, Medical, Government Press, Forests, Public Works Department, Education, Treasury and Accounts. The Revenue proper included among other items registration of boats and steamers, *Chithhi-Khatu*, *Kothar*, *Ghodar*, survey, agriculture, records, customs and the *kotwali* of Bhuj. The *Angreji* or English Department was under the direct authority of the Diwan and was concerned with the maintenance of good relations with the British Government as well as other Indian States.

Integration of Kutch into the Union of India was, however, a very important event in the administrative history of Kutch, as it opened a new era for the people of this land by offering avenues of popular participation in the Government of the State which were hitherto lacking. The first step the Government of India took was the appointment of a Chief Commissioner and organisation of the administrative set-up on modern lines. On the executive side, the Chief Commissioner's office functioned as the provincial Secretariat, and the Court of the Judicial Commissioner on the judicial side, with the District and Session Courts and other Courts of Civil and Criminal jurisdiction under him. At the district level the Collector who was also the District Magistrate co-ordinated the work of various district level officers.

With a view to ensure public participation in the affairs of Government, a Advisory Council was constituted at the Central level and Advisory committees at the departmental level. The next important step towards democratisation was taken when the Republic of India was proclaimed on January 26th, 1950, and the Province of Kutch became a Part C State. Popular voice was given effective share in the public administration by appointing two representatives of the people as advisors in charge of certain departments of the State. This arrangement continued till 1st November, 1956, when the States reorganisation Act of 1956 was implemented by the formation of bilingual Bombay State. From this date onwards, the administrative set-up of Kutch has been organised on a district basis, whereunder the Collector became the key functionary of the district performing manifold duties besides management of land and maintenance of law and order.

Panchayati Raj

Kutch witnessed yet another phase in the evolution of its administrative structure on democratic lines, when the Gujarat Panchayats Act of 1961 was implemented in 1963. The Act aims at streamlining the administration at the lower levels in tune with the popular institution at the centre (Lok Sabha and Raj Sabha) and in the State (Vidhan Sabha) by transferring important nation-building activities to the elected representatives of the people functioning at the village, taluka and district levels endowed with necessary powers, administrative personnel and adequate financial resources. This revolutionary change in the administrative set-up led to the bifurcation of functions and responsibilities of the Collector, who now retains certain powers in respect of land revenue administration, those relating to the maintenance of law and order, and others not transferred to the Panchayats. All the development activities which were formerly within his charge as well as some of the functions under the Land Revenue Code, have, as will be seen later in the Chapter on 'Local Self-Government' been transferred to the Panchayats constituted under the Gujarat Panchayats Act. Under this set-up there are 3 elected bodies, namely, the Jilla Panchayat, Taluka Panchayat and the Village or Nagar Panchayat. The principal Executive Officer of the District Panchayat is the District Development Officer, drawn either from the Indian Administrative Service or selected from amongst those suitable for this office. The Taluka Development Officer is likewise the principal officer at the level of Taluka Panchayat and the Gram Panchayat Secretary at the village level.

Role of the Collector

The Collector used to be the pivot of the district administration. Because of the overriding importance of his role as well as his proximity to the people, he was considered to be the measuring rod of efficiency in

the administration. Besides superintending the realisation of land revenue, the duties of administering the collection of excise and other special taxes and of supervising the stamp revenue also devolved upon the Collector as the executive head of the district. Before the Gujarat Panchayat Act of 1961 came into force he coordinated the work of the different departments and ensured implementation of the development schemes in the district. Being the principal revenue authority in the district all revenue functions were exercised by the Collector prior to the implementation of that Act. But on the introduction of the Panchayati Raj in 1963, the collection of land revenue has been entrusted to the Panchayats. The Collector is further responsible for the collection of fees, dues, etc., recoverable under various Acts, such as the Bombay Irrigation Act, the Bombay Entertainment Duty Act, the Bombay Electricity Duty Act and the Gujarat Education Cess Act. There are also other Revenue Acts which provide for the recovery of certain dues as arrears of land revenue. Under the Prohibition Act, the Collector is empowered to issue permits to liquor and drug addicts and recover assessment fees from shops permitted to sell liquor and drugs. He is also the Chairman of the Prohibition Committee of the district.

District Magistrate—The Collector is also the District Magistrate. Under Section 17 (i) of the Bombay Police Act (XXII of 1951), the Superintendent of Police and the Police force of the district are under the control of the District Magistrate. The Superintendent of Police, who is the executive head of the police, exercises general powers subject to his orders. Besides being in control of the Police, the District Magistrate has extensive powers under the Criminal Procedure Code, the Bombay Police Act and other Acts for the maintenance of law and order. He is responsible for the prevention of nuisance and other allied matters under the Criminal Procedure Code and for proper administration of jails and sub-jails to a certain extent. In his capacity as District Magistrate he is concerned with the issue of licences and permits under the Arms Acts, the Petroleum Act, the Explosives Act and the Poisons Act. Under the Factories Act of 1948, he is an Inspector exercising powers of inspection and supervision of factories, magazines, etc., within his district.

The Treasury—Prior to 1962 the District Treasury was under the overall charge of the Collector to whom the District Treasury Officer was subordinate. He was responsible for all the cash, stamps, etc., received in the treasury as also for the proper maintenance of accounts. The Sub-treasury establishments at the taluka and mahal headquarters formed part of the Revenue establishment in the district. From 1st April, 1962, the Sub-treasury establishments were separated from the Revenue administration and placed under the administrative control of the Director of Accounts and Treasuries working under the Finance Department. The Collector, however, continues to exercise general powers and functions as the Head of the local administration as required under the Bombay Treasury Rules.

Among the quasi-judicial functions of the Collector, over and above the hearing of appeals from the Prant Officers under the Land Revenue Code and various other revenue laws, the following may be mentioned : (1) revisional powers under Section 23 of the Mamlatdars' Courts Act which are delegated to an Assistant or Deputy Collector ; (2) functions which the Collector performs in connection with the execution of Civil Court decrees ; (3) proceedings and awards under Section of the Land Acquisition Act ; (4) cases under the Bombay Government Premises (Eviction) Act ; (5) powers exercised as District Magistrate under the Preventive Detention Act.

Besides land revenue, tenancy reforms and magisterial work, the Collector is in charge of various important duties connected with civil supplies, small savings, land acquisition, elections to the State Legislature and Lok Sabha, Census, etc. As a District Registrar he controls the administration and work of registration of documents within the district and supervises the works of Sub-Registrars at the taluka and mahal levels and ensures proper performance of their duties as per Indian Registration Act. Under the Famine Relief Code, 1951, the Collector is required to keep himself at all times informed about the agricultural conditions within the district, organise relief measures and create as far as possible a permanent Famine Relief Fund on a charitable basis for the relief of the needy persons. With a view to accelerate the tempo of development of industries in the district and to achieve more effective co-ordination in providing infrastructure facilities to industries, Government has designated Collectors as Ex-officio Deputy Commissioners of Industries and delegated to them certain functions and powers for the allotment of factory sheds and open plots in the Government industrial estates, formulation of the District Master Plans and Co-ordination of activities of various heads of offices and departments.

Collector's Office—The various branches in the Collector's office work under the supervision of a Deputy Collector who is Resident Deputy Collector and Personal Assistant to the Collector. For the purposes of administration, the district is divided into three sub-divisions, viz., (a) Bhuj sub-division comprising Bhuj taluka (b) Nakhatrana sub-division consisting of (i) Nakhatrana, (ii) Abdasa, (iii) Lakhpat and (iv) Mundra talukas and (c) Anjar sub-division comprising (i) Anjar, (ii) Bhachau, (iii) Rapar and (iv) Mundra talukas. The Bhuj sub-division is in charge of the Resident Deputy Collector with headquarters at Bhuj. The head of the Nakhatrana sub-division is designated as Deputy Collector and has his headquarters at Nakhatrana. At present the Anjar sub-division is further divided into two, viz., one consisting of Anjar and Mundra in charge of a Deputy Collector and the other comprising Bhachau and Rapar under an Assistant Collector, both having their headquarters at Anjar. The taluka heads are Mamlatdars who work under the Assistant/Deputy Collector of the sub-division.

The Assistant/Deputy Collector is also the sub-divisional Magistrate for his sub-division, and the Mamlatdar the Taluka Magistrate. They do not try any criminal cases. The only powers they exercise relate to certain proceedings under the Criminal Procedure Code. The separation of judiciary from the executive exists in Kutch since the time of the Maharao. The Mamlatdar is the head of the revenue administration at the taluka level. He is for his charge what the Collector is for the district. By virtue of his office he is also the Superintendent of the Taluka Sub-Jail and the Assistant Custodian of the Evacuee property under the Bombay Evacuee (Administration of Property) Act of 1949.

District Development Officer

The office of the District Development Officer has come into existence for the first time on the introduction of the Gujarat Panchayats Act in 1963, when the entire machinery at the district level was democratised by transferring the powers and functions of various departments to elected bodies at the district, taluka and village levels. The District Development Officer is the Chief Executive Officer and ex-officio Secretary to the District Panchayat. As his name indicates he is responsible for the proper execution of the development programme in the district, the details of which will be found in Chapter XIII—Local Self-Government.

Other District Level Officers

The general tenor of administration has been completely transformed after Independence. A number of new departments which did not exist in the past have been brought into being to subserve the objectives of a welfare State. Besides Revenue, Judiciary and Police which were the principal departments in Indian States, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Co-operation, Rural Development, Panchayats, Public Works, Social Welfare, and Education in all its phases, are now functioning with enlarged powers and resources having their functionaries at various levels of administration.

In former times there was no department other than Revenue, Judiciary and Police which had its functionary at taluka level much less at the village level. In view, however, of the increasing importance of implementing various development schemes executed under each successive Five Year Plan the need for providing corresponding functionaries at taluka and village levels has resulted in the creation of a number of new posts which did not exist in the past. The departments which now have taluka level officers are (1) Panchayat (Taluka Development Officer), (2) Education, (3) Agriculture, (4) Public Works Department, (5) Police, (6) Finance/ Treasury, (7) Industries, (8) Forests and (9) Prohibition. The *Gramsevak* and the Social Worker are some of the new additions provided at the village level for extension work in agriculture, animal husbandry, social welfare, etc.

The following is the list of district officers functioning at the district level.

District Level Officers

1 Collector
2 District and Sessions Judge
3 District Superintendent of Police
4 Civil Surgeon
5 Superintending Engineer, Roads and Buildings
6 Executive Engineer, Roads and Buildings
7 Executive Engineer, Irrigation
8 Educational Inspector
9 District Treasury Officer
10 District Registrar, Co-operative Societies
11 District Employment Officer
12 Assistant Regional Transport Officer
13 Sub-Divisional Soil Conservation Officer
14 District Inspector, Prohibition and Excise
15 Assistant Examiner, Local Funds
16 Divisional Forest Officer
17 Assistant Director of Information
18 District Inspector of Land Records
19 Sales Tax Officer
20 District Commandant, Home Guards
21 District Commandant, N. C. C.
22 Executive Engineer, Public Health
23 Medical Officer, Mental Hospital
24 Unit Officer, Malaria
25 Industries Officer, (Adipur)
26 District Organiser, National Small Savings
27 Superintendent, Fisheries Department, (New Kandla)
28 Port Officer, (Mandvi)
29 Superintendent, District Jail
30 Curator, Museum
31 Assistant Director, Geology and Mining Department

Officers under District Panchayat

1 District Agriculture Officer
2 Administrative Officer (Education)
3 Project Officer for Rural Industries
4 District Health Officer
5 District Animal Husbandry Officer
6 District Social Welfare Officer
7 Executive Engineer, Panchayat
8 Deputy Collector, Revenue
9 Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies
10 District Statistical Officer

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

1 Aerodrome Officer
2 Assistant Central Intelligence Officer
3 Field Publicity Officer
4 Income Tax Officer
5 Locust Warning Officer
6 Superintendent of Post Offices
7 Assistant Garrison Engineer
8 Barrack and Stores Officer
9 Civilian Administrative Officer
10 Station Director, All India Radio, Bhuj
11 Sub-Divisional Officer, Telephones and Telegraphs
12 Assistant Operating Superintendent Officer, Western Railway, (Gandhidham)
13 Administrator, Kandla Free Trade Zone, (Gandhidham)

All these offices except those district level offices mentioned at items 25, 27, 28 and Central Government Offices at items 12 and 13 have their headquarters at Bhuj.

CHAPTER X

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

THE LAND SYSTEM*

The land system in the Kutch State was of a feudal character. There was a neither survey nor settlement introduced in the villages. Two-thirds of the State area was in possession and enjoyment of the Jagirdars and Inamdars and only one-third of the area was held directly by the Kutch Darbar. The revenues of the State were mostly derived from the *khalsa* villages. The non-*khalsa* villages contributed next to nothing towards the cost of general administration. The Jagiri or non-*khalsa* lands were interspersed with the *khalsa* lands of Kutch Darbar with the result that measures for tenancy and other reforms could not be introduced.

According to Shri B. M. Buch's Report on the Jagirdari System in Kutch (1951), the Jagiri, Dharmada and Chakriyat or Service inam villages were unsurveyed. There were about 399 surveyed villages, the survey records of which required to be brought up to date. The *pasa patrakas* or records of alienated lands in *khalsa* villages were not corrected for years and, therefore, did not reflect the latest position about the land titles. Attempt was neither made at classification of lands in the *khalsa* villages nor introduction of survey and settlement in non-*khalsa* or alienated lands.

The system of *bhagbatai* called *rajbhog*, i. e., crop-sharing of crude and harassing nature prevailed. The crop-sharing was based on the *rasam* or revenue custom of each village. The absentee landlordism was the order of the day. Businessmen trading in all parts of India and Africa held lands as proprietors or usufructuary mortgagees. Their lands were managed by third parties. Many alienated lands were lawfully or unlawfully transferred. Alienations were never inquired into.

The revenue administration was headed by the Revenue Commissioner with three Assistants for three sub-divisions which comprised nine talukas and two thanas. Each taluka had a sub-treasury and was in charge of a Vahivatdar. Each taluka was divided into several groups or sezas of villages. Each seza was placed under a Dhru or a Talati. He maintained certain village records.

The record of Dhru, i. e., Talati was checked by Circle Inspecor called Tajvijdar. The Vahivatdar, Revenue Commissioner and even Diwan Saheb

* This section is based on the Government of India's *Report on Jagirdari System in Kutch* (1951)

used to check it. Thus, *bhagbatai*, i. e., *rajbhog* record was properly maintained by Dhru.

Since the *bhagbatai* system with several *lagas* and letries was found oppressive, the question was investigated by the Kutch State Khedut Committee in 1939. The committee favoured the Bighoti system under which payment of *rajbhog* was made in cash. Thereafter, the Revenue Commissioner devised an *ad hoc* method for fixing assessment in cash called *sukhdi* payable on a voluntary basis as an *interim* measure. The cash assessment under this method was fixed for a period of five years. The cultivators accepted it because it saved them from much harassment.

Jagirs*

As stated before, two-thirds of the State area was non-*khalsa* and was held by Jagirdars and other Inamdars. Most of the alienated or non-*khalsa* villages were held by Jagirdars who were given a guarantee under the Articles 16 and 18 of the Treaty of Cutch with the British East India Company dated 13th October, 1819. The operative provisions of the Treaty of 1819 were as follows :

> "The British Government with the approbation of that of Kutch, engages to guarantee by separate deeds the Jadeja chiefs of the Bhayad and generally all Rajput chiefs in Kutch and Wagad, in full enjoyment of their "Possessions" etc. According to this promise about 200 guarantee deeds were prepared but it is not known how many were issued. About 70 are now lying in the Agency records."

This Treaty guaranteed to the Jagirdars full enjoyment of Jagir villages including the right of outright sale even to a private person. But this guarantee was confined only to chiefship or Jagirdar and was not available to the vendees.

The Jagirs were divided into five categories mentioned below.

(1) The villages which were given in appanage to the cadets or other members of the family in *jivai* of the ruling family after 1819 A. D. and up to 1st June, 1948.

(2) The villages or parts of villages of persons who were considered guaranteed chiefs before the Independence Act, 1947.

(3) The *girassias* who had either lost their guarantees or who had no guarantees as they were younger offshoots of the family of the chiefs of the Bhayat or other *girassia* chiefs.

* This portion is based on the Government of India's *Report on Jagirdari System in Kutch*, (1951).

(4) Those who held lands even before 1819 A. D. but were not chiefs or offshoots of the Jadeja or other Rajput families falling within the category of Article 16 of the Kutch Treaty of 1819 A. D.

(5) Money-lenders, who had purchased *giras* lands or had acquired usufructuary or other interest on *girassia* lands of the above mentioned categories.

Those Jagirs were not subject to the rule of primogeniture and therefore they were divisible. As a result, most of the Jagirs were heavily mortgaged with possession to money-lenders. In these circumstances, the Jagirdars were not much interested in the development of their Jagir villages.

In para 64 of his Report, Shri B. M. Buch has detailed circumstances in which the Jagirdar or Bhayats came to acquire guarantee for full enjoyment of their possession. This full enjoyment of possession included not only revenue rights but seignorial rights and even jurisdictional rights and complete immunity from any interference with the full administration of the Jagirs specially of the chiefs who got guarantees in 1819.

It is alleged that the affairs of Kutch between 1816 and 1819 became disorderly owing to the unfriendly attitude of the Maharao Shri Bharmalji towards the East India Company and that the Bhayats sided with the Honourable Company.

The Board of Directors of the East India Company were averse to this guarantee which caused considerable inconvenience to the Kutch Darbar in administration of the State. The Treaty, however, stipulated that Jagirdars would enjoy rights in their Jagirs subject to the service to the Kutch Darbar. (Para 75 and 76 of Buch's Report). Thus, the *Girassia* and Rajput chieftains who held these Jagirs were enjoined to contribute towards the administration of the State.

Since the Jagirdars did not contribute to the cost of administration, the Kutch Darbar was compelled to introduce a system of import, export and town duties which strangled trade and retarded the progress of the State.

In order to fix financial liabilities of the Jagirs, the Bombay Government appointed Mr. Pestonji Jehangir in 1889. He was directed to suggest measures by which the Jagirs would contribute to the cost of administration of the State. On the basis of Mr. Pestonji's Report, Government of Bombay issued orders in 1892 which affirmed that the Jagirdars were liable to render personal services to the Kutch Darbar.

Government also decided that the Jagir lands might be made to contribute to the general administration through taxation. It was also made clear that the benefit of the guarantee of 1819 was not meant to benefit the outsider.

From 1892 to 1942 the position of the Jagirdars did not undergo any change.

In 1943, Rao Bahadur Indravadan Mehta, the retired Chief Presidency Magistrate of Bombay was appointed to investigate the question of the rights of the 14 guarantee holders of Kutch who enjoyed jurisdictional powers. As a result of his inquiries the jurisdiction of all guarantee holders was withdrawn with the sanction of the Resident of Western India States Agency and a cash contribution towards the cost of administration was ordered to be levied in 1947 (The Government Kutch Notification No. 394, dated 24th March, 1947). But this Notification was annulled by a subsequent Notification No. 49 of 26th March, 1948. This was predictably done because of the impending merger of the Kutch State into the Indian Union.

The Land Tenures

In the Kutch State there were 901 villages. They were divided into four categories, e. g., (1) *khalsa* (2) *khalsa*-majmu (3) Jagirs under management and (4) *inam* villages. Out of 901 villages, the *khalsa* villages numbered 153, the *khalsa*-majmu villages 128, and the non-*khalsa* villages 620 (inclusive of Jagirs under management and *inam* villages).

(1) *The Khalsa Villages*

The *khalsa* villages were owned by the State which was entitled to *bhog*, a right to collect land revenue. In these villages, the State had granted *buta haks* to the cultivators on payment of the *bhog* to the Kutch Ruler. In addition to the *bhog*, the *butadars* had to pay *butakad*, a tax, in some villages.

In *khalsa* villages, the State had given *buta hak* in order to attract cultivators from outside the State. The *buta hak* gave absolute proprietary rights. It was hereditary, permanent and transferable subject to the payment of *bhog* to the Kutch Ruler. Such *buta* rights were given in about 281 *khalsa* and *khalsa*-majmu villages. In *inam* or non-*khalsa* villages *buta haks* were not granted by the Inamdars.

The *buta* was of two kinds, viz., Chas *buta* and Gokharu *buta*. Chas *buta* was granted in respect of cultivable lands, whereas the Gokharu *buta* was granted in respect of the virgin lands or waste or forest lands which required to be cleared and reclaimed in effect, the Gokharu *buta* amounted to a reclamation lease. It was given without charging any occupancy price and was heritable but transferable with the permission of State or Jagirdar, on payment of a premium called *aghat taka*.

On every transfer of the Gokharu *buta* lands, a fresh premium was payable to the State or Jagirdar. Thus, it had the characteristics of the lands on New Tenture.

In the *khalsa* villages in 1953 *buta haks* were given to cultivators subject to the following conditions :

(1) The *buta hak* was granted to a person cultivating land for ten years without charging occupancy price.

(2) Such *haks* were granted also to a person cultivating land from 5 to 10 years but on payment of occupancy price equal to one assessment.

(3) Such rights were also granted to a person cultivating land for less than 5 years on payment of two assessments as occupancy price.

Under the Inams Abolition Act of 1958, the holders of Gokharu *buta* are given occupancy rights without charging any occupancy price. The holders of Chas *buta* have been treated as ret-butadars and granted occupancy price on payment of three times the assessment of the lands.

In the remaining non-butadar lands, the Kutch Ruler gave leases to tenants for cultivation. All such cultivators were tenants-at-will. The rent payable by the tenant to the Ruler varied from one-third to one-sixth of the crop-share. In addition to rent, they had to pay *butakad* to the Ruler.

(2) *The Khalsa-Majmu Villages*

These villages were called *khalsa*-majmu because the revenue of these villages was shared in definite proportions by the Ruler and the Inamdars. They were in effect co-shared villages. They were originally independent of the Kutch Ruler but subsequently the Kutch Ruler acquired revenue rights on advance of loans or on the ground of managing the villages. The revenue *vahivat* was the same as in the *khalsa* villages, but a fixed shared (*panti*) was payable to the Jagirdar or Inamdar from the produce of these villages.

(3) *The Jagirs under State Management*

The Jagirs were taken under the State management under three circumstances, viz.,

(i) mismanagement,

(ii) on the death of a holder and

(iii) at the sweet will of the Ruler.

Such Jagirs were mainly Dharamada Jagirs. After assumption of management by the State, the *vahivat* was carried on according to the custom

(*rasam*) of the *khalsa* villages. The Jagirdar was paid his crop-share after deducting the management charges generally equal to one-tenth of the crop-share. The State management was continued till the holder became fit for management or till a suitable heir was recognised by the State.

(4) *The Inam Villages*

The Inamdars of Kutch were a class by themselves as they were distinguishable in certain respects from the Inamdars in other districts of Gujarat. Firstly, the Jagirdars or Inamdars of Kutch were not under the Ruler of Kutch but they were independent of him. They paid no tribute or any other amount indicating their subordination to the Ruler. In this context, the Kutch Darbar was the biggest Jagirdar. Secondly, instead of the Kutch Darbar, the Inamdar took the *bhog* and paid nothing to the Darbar. Thirdly, if an Inamdar sold one-fourth of his share of *bhog* to a non-Inamdar, the holder of one-fourth *bhog-inam* would also be called an Inamdar, even though he did not originally belong to the Inamdar's family. Thus, there would be two Inamdars in respect of one *inam*. His son would also inherit the *inam* rights. This was in contrast to the system which obtained in other parts of Gujarat.

THE BHAGBATAI SYSTEM

During the State regime *bhagbatai* system was in vogue. The dry crop lands (*kapit*) were liable to one-fourth share to the State and the irrigated lands were liable to one-fifth of crop-share. In the case of *khalsa* villages, the State was not entitled to any share from grazing areas. The land revenue was called *bhog* and was payable in kind (*Janasma*). It was recovered according to the revenue custom of the village. The custom varied from village to village but the land revenue generally was ¼th and ⅕th of the crop-share for the dry crop and irrigated lands, respectively.

Before harvesting the crop the Dhru or Talati made crop inspection. For harvesting the crop, prior permission of Dhru was imperative. After harvesting the crop, it was deposited in the Government Khalvad. After the entire crop of the village was harvested and threshed in the Khalvad, the Dhru reported the matter to the Vahivatdar. Then the Khala Adhikari would note in the Bhogvahi survey-number-wise the crop yields of each cultivator and he would direct them to make four shares or heaps of the crop. One share (¼th) would be the *rajbhag* or the royal share. Thereafter the *rajbhag* or ¼th share of all the cultivators was transported to the Government godown (*kothar*) in their carts.

In addition to *rajbhag* certain *lagas* and *letries* or cesses which varied from village to village were recovered from the remaining three-fourth produce such as *hawaldari, talot, kangari, kamdar, buta bhag, devasthan,*

dharmada lagas, etc., Government recovered the *hawaldari laga* and the remaining cesses were levied by the persons concerned. After deduction of the *rajbhag* and the *lagas*, the cultivator could carry his crop home. Thereafter he was given permit to carry his crop-share (remaining ¾th shares) to his place. If there was any Government due outstanding against the cultivator, the crop of that value was recovered by the State before granting the permission to carry it home.

These recoveries were based on different customs, (*rasams*). For example the custom or *rasam* of Dayapar village of Lakhpat taluka which was an entire *khalsa* village is given below by way of illustration.

In Dayapar village, the *bhagbatai* system was in vogue. One-fourth and one-fifth crop-shares were recovered from the dry and irrigated lands, respectively. No share was given from the *bajari* stalks or wheat stalks. But *laga, lagams* were deducted from the produce. If one *kalsi* crop (10 Bengali maunds) was produced, it was divided into 64 parts (*map*) for the purpose of determining the quantity of produce payable for the *lagas*. One *map* was equal to 8 *palis*. On this basis, in one *kalsi* crop, the *talot* would take one weight measure (*map*). The *talot laga* was a cess for weighing the crop and octroi. The *hawaldar* would get one weight measure (*map*) per every *khata*. The *dharmada laga* varied from one and a half to two measures. The *dharmada laga* was distributed among different temples of the village. Besides this crop-share, *rokad kangari* or grain cess equal to one kori (3 kories = 1 rupee) was also recovered from the cultivator. This grain cess (*kangari*) was levied at five annas per *kalsi* or 10 Bengali maunds. In some villages, one kori was recovered as *shedhavar*.

In *inam* or non-*khalsa* villages the custom or *rasam* or recovery of land revenue was on the lines of the *khalsa* villages. But the crop-share varied from village to village and Inamdar to Inamdar. There was no fixed *rasam*, as was the case in the *khalsa* villages. In addition to the land revenue, the *lagas* and *letries* were also recovered in the non-*khlasa* villages. In addition, unlike the system in the *khalsa* villages, the Inamdars used to recover the share from the grass grown in the lands.

The Dhru or Talati enjoyed wide powers in the former Kutch State. In addition to his power to recover crop-share under the *bhagbatai* system, he exercised powers under the Cattle Trespass Act. He was also empowered to grant waste lands for cultivation and permission to put up doors and windows to old houses and to construct new houses in owned lands.

As observed earlier, the crop-share system of land revenue was in vogue both in *khalsa* and non-*khalsa* villages before merger. About half

Map = Weight measure.

the villages, which were non-*khalsa* and which were held by *girasdars*, paid nothing to the State. The Maharao had in 1939 appointed a committee called the Kutch State Khedut Committee with eminent non-officials as members. The Committee studied the problem in detail and after an extensive survey, recommended the introduction of cash assessment to relieve the cultivator from the evils of *bhagbatai*.

Village Land Records

The Land Administration was carried on according to the provisions in the Desh Sirasta Sangrah (A Digest of local customs in the Province of Kutch) published in 1885. Accordingly, in every *khalsa* village, there was a *Rasamvahi*. In every village there were registers as mentioned below.

These records were maintained by Dhru or Talatis.

(1) *Bhogvahi*—This register was equivalent to the Village Form No. VIII-A prevalent in the former Bombay State. The gist and substance of the form is as follows :

V. F. VIII-A (*Register of Holdings*)—The form records all holdings of alienated and unalienated lands and the land revenue-agricultural or non-agricultural payable to Government by its occupant or holder. It also provides for the local fund cess. The assessment and the local fund cess make the consolidated land revenue of a village. As it shows the liabilities of a landholder, it has to be kept up to date in order that no legitimate Government dues escape notice and recovery.

The form is decennial and requires correction when the V. F. VII is re-written.

The Talati has to be careful in recording the date from which the liability to pay land revenue commences or ends in respect of a particular land. Generally, such liability commences on the 1st August, in any revenue year. When land is sold and possession obtained before the 31st July, the liability commences on the 1st August, following. If any land is resigned before the 31st March, the change and the liability begins on the 1st August, following. But if it is resigned after the 31st March, the holding continues to be liable for the revenue of the following revenue year. Further, when land is taken up on a Kabulayat before the 31st July, the occupant is liable for revenue of the following revenue year commencing on the 1st August, unless otherwise permitted by the Collector. When the land is permitted to be used for non-agricultural purpose or is so used without permission, the liability for non-agricultural assessment commences on the 1st August, following the date of permission or the date of commencement of the use. But in the case of temporary uses, it may be collected for the current year.

The revenue for broken period is treated as miscellaneous land revenue. In the case of the resumption of the inams, the watans and the non-ryotwari tenures, the liability commences generally with effect from the date of enforcement of the Land Tenures Abolition Acts.

All mutations affecting liability to pay land revenue are to be first posted in V. F. VII and then in this form.

The form divides Khatas (holdings) into three sections, viz., *khalsa*, *inam* and non-agricultural with a separate total for each. Such separate treatment is necessary in order to supply information required for the Taluka and District forms.

(2) *Dakhlavahi*—This register was equal to the Bombay Village Form VIII-B relating to the posting entries of receipt of land revenue in kind. It may be noted that receipt was not given for payment of land revenue in kind or crop-share.

(3) *Kotharvahi*—The account of the crop-share received in the Government godown from cultivators was kept in this register.

(4) *Nila Sedha ni Vahi* (*Tapsani*)—The register related to crop-inspection and was equivalent to V. F. VII-XII. All the standing crops in the village were recorded therein.

(5) *Bharvahi*—In this register, an account of the bundles of crop initially despatched from the field and deposited in Khalvad was kept.

(6) *Dana Kala Vahi*—This register was maintained to keep accounts of foodgrains (*dana*) and cotton pods (*kalas*). It recorded details about the foodgrains stored up or sold from the threshing ground to merchants. The total produce realised from the village was also recorded therein.

(7) *Pagchalvahi*—This was equivalent to the cattle-pound register. It recorded the details about heads of cattle impounded and fees recovered.

(8) *Rojmel Khatavahi*—It was a daily cash book of actual cash realised by selling food and grass. It was equivalent to V. F. IX.

(9) *Khatavahi*—It served the purpose of a ledger of cash realisation.

(10) *Rukko*—It was equivalent to a Chalan of the treasury.

(11) *Khalabandh*—It was a register maintained to record fixed and fluctuating revenue and was equivalent to V. F. V-Tharavbandh. This was a very important village record showing basic revenue facts of the village.

(12) *Panchari*—It was meant to record the details about the grazing fees leviable and recovered annually. The cess was leviable on all heads of cattle of Maldharis such as buffaloes, cows, sheep, goats and camels. No such fee was leviable on the milch cattle and cattle owned by cultivators and used in agricultural operations. For recovery of the grazing fees, a cattle census was taken on one date in the whole district under a programme fixed by the Collector. The Mamlatdars used to report the heads of cattle in their talukas to the Deputy Collector and the Deputy Collector to the Collector. In *khalsa* villages, the grazing fees was recovered by Government and in the non-*khalsa* villages by the Inamdars.

In 1942-43, the Revenue Commissioner, found the village records in a chaotic condition because their maintenance was haphazard and there was no adequate inspection.

The Alienations

In the Kutch State, the following were the main categories of the alienations either of land or land revenue or both.

(1) The Jagiri villages and lands such as Giras, Vaghela, etc.

(2) The Chakariyat inams.

(3) The Dharmada inams.

(4) The Danodi inams.

(5) The Varduka inams.

(6) The Kamipasa inams and

(7) The Privy purse villages.

Their salient features are explained below.

(1) *Jagirs*—The main features of the Kutch Jagirs were that they were independent of the Ruler. Further, they were not governed by the rule of primogeniture. They were also not governed by any life interest of Encumbered Estates Rules.[1] They were divisible. As a result, the holders of Jagirs either sold away their lands or created usufructuary mortgages on the Jagirs; with the result that several Jagirs passed into the hands of Dhaniks (money-lenders). Thus, the Jagirs came to be fragmented into

1. Government of India, *Report on Jagirdari System in Kutch* (1951), p. 35

very small shares for which there was no regular records. Shri Buch's remarks[1] about the Kutch Jagirs are relevant and therefore, cited below.

> "In Kutch the problem of Jagirs in short is the problem of lands held by other people than by Girassias on payment of large amounts much in excess in several and numerous cases of the value of the land on the assumption that it was altogether private property not subject to any tax as it was so guaranteed."

In the Kutch State, on the death of the Ruler, the eldest son succeeded to the *gadi* and the younger ones called Maharaj Kumars were given villages as *giras* as part of their patrimony. Such villages were called *girasdari* villages and were held wholly free from payment of assessment. The holders had proprietary rights in these villages. The Vaghela Jagirs consisted of villages or a portion thereof or of lands and were wholly or partially free from payment of land revenue. However, thereafter, Jagirdars independently used to enjoy revenue powers.

(2) *Chakariyat Inams*—Chakariyat villages were those villages which were held by the Rajputs and Samma Muslims before the rule of Rao Khengarji I (1548-1585 A. D.). These villages were called Prayak Prajiya and were granted for rendering service to the State and were held wholly exempt from payment of assessment. Their number was 83.

(3) *The Dharmada Inams*—The Dharmada *inams* consisted of villages and lands given for maintenance and upkeep of the religious and charitable institutions. They were held wholly exempt from payment of assessment.

(4) *The Danodi Inams*—The Danodi villages were given as *dan* or gift for the benefit of Charans, Bhats, Bards, or Brahmans by the Ruler of Kutch. They were absolute grants to the donees.

The Dharmada and Danodi villages numbered 107 approximately.

(5) *The Varduka Inams*—The Maldharis were given lands for settlement in *khalsa* and non-*khalsa* villages, called Varduka *inams*. The Varduka *inams* consisted of lands held by the Rabaris or Maldharis on payment of a fixed sum (*Uddhad*) as land revenue (*Virad*) to the State. The holders of Varduka *inams* were called Vardukas. The Mukhi of the village called Bhopa was responsible for payment of *Virad* annually for all Varduka lands in the village. He, therefore, recorded *Virad* amounts from individual holders of the Varduka *inams*. In addition to *Virad*, *panchari* or grazing fees and *Makhani* (butter) for one day in a year were recovered from the holders. They had a right to enjoy the produce of the lands. They held

1. Buch B. M., (Officer on Special Duty), *Report on Jagirdari System in Kutch*, Simla, 1951, p. 37

lands subject to the condition that the lands would revert to the grantor or on the failure of male heirs or on the happening of a definite event. The Maldharis were expected to cultivate lands personally and could not lease out land for cultivation. As they had no right of transfer, they could neither sell nor mortgage lands in these villages.

(6) *The Kamipasa Lands*—Kamipasa lands were found in both *khalsa* and non-*khalsa* villages. They were granted to carpenters, blacksmiths and village servants for service to Government or community. These *inams* did not include the service *inam* lands granted to the revenue and Police Patels. They were held wholly exempt from payment of land revenue. But one Kori was recovered annually as *laga* on these lands. Their rights were heritable but not transferable. These lands did not cover the Kamipasa lands given for service of revenue or Police Patel.

(7) *The Privy Purse Villages*—The privy purse villages were those villages of the Ruler which were decided as the private property of the Ruler at the time of integration of the State in 1948.

All these *inams* came to be abolished by the Bombay Inams (Kutch Area) Abolition Act, 1958.

Post-Independence Development

After merger of the Kutch State in the Indian Union on 1st June, 1948, Kutch became a Part C State and was placed under the Chief Commissioner. The revenue officers were redesignated as under :

Old designations	Designations after merger
1 Revenue Commissioner . .	. . Collector
2 Assistant Revenue Commissioner . .	. . Deputy Collector
3 Vahivatdar	. . Mamlatdar
4 Thandar	. . Mahalkari
5 Tajvijdar	. . Circle Inspector
6 Dhru	. . Talati
7 Havaldar	. . Kotwal

Over the Revenue Commissioner, there was the Diwan of the Kutch State. He functioned under the orders of the Maharao of Kutch. After

integration the Diwan and the Maharao were eliminated from the administration.

Abolition of Lagas—The Khedut Sammelan of Kutch passed resolutions specifying the *lagas* which Jagirdars could recover and the *hakumati lagas* the Jagirdars could levy. The Sammelan recommended that the land revenue rates should be fixed on a uniform system. As a result, the Chief Commissioner issued orders under his No. P. 276-49, dated 21st October, 1949 prohibiting levy of *hakumati lagas* and abolished the *Tehawar* (festival) *lagas* such as Tehawar, Gher, Satam, Holi, Nazarana, etc. Similarly *talot* and other *lagas* were also abolished. The bejar or forced labour was abolished. But the Inamdars were allowed to levy the *panchari* or Masvadi fee and Khura dana, *butakad*, etc. This order was hailed by the cultivators because it relieved them from the oppressive and obnoxious cesses levied for centuries.

Application of the Bombay Laws—Under the Government of India, Ministry of States Notification No. 29-P, dated 10th May, 1950 the following Bombay laws were applied to Kutch from the date of this Notification (10th May, 1950).

(1) The Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879 and Land Revenue Rules, 1921,

(2) The Mamlatdars' Courts Act, 1906,

(3) The Bombay Revenue Tribunal, 1938 and

(4) The Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948.

The above Acts were applied with amendments made up to 1950. No clear provision was made for applying to Kutch automatically the subsequent amendments to these laws.

Besides application of the Bombay laws to Kutch, changes were made for strengthening and streamlining the revenue administration. To begin with in 1951, in place of Dhrus, Talatis were appointed in *inam* villages and their sezas were formed.

Secondly, in 1952 the Revenue Department was reorganized and the taluka and Talati headquarters were fixed up.

Introduction of Bighoti System—Thirdly, in the same year (1952) the *bhagbatai* system was abolished from the *khalsa* villages and the land revenue began to be recovered in cash. Instead of multiplicity of rates of land revenue in the same village prior to the merger of Kutch into the Indian Union, the principle of single rate of land revenue for the entire village

was applied. The system of revenue accounts based on the Bombay Revenue Accounts Manual was introduced, i. e., the Village Forms Nos. I to XVIII were introduced.

The lands were neither measured nor classified according to any scientific system. The numberkhardas which were equivalent to V. F. I were prepared in consultation with the leading persons of the villages. The Committee and the Talatis decided the classification of the lands for preparing the numberkhardas. On the basis of this classification, the Chief Commissioner approved the classification made by the Talatis by suitable amendments to the Land Revenue Rules, 1921. He then determined the land revenue payable in cash in *khalsa* villages in accordance with the provisions of Section 52 of the Land Revenue Code, for a period of five years (Chief Commissioner's Order of 20th July, 1952). On this basis V. F. VIII-A (*khatavahi*) was prepared and *khatas* were read out to each cultivator who signed it in token of its correctness.

After abolition of the *bhagbatai*, the Bighoti system was introduced and, the land revenue was made payable in cash. It led to the abolition of the practice of Khalvad and the farmers became free to raise any crop. Further, the land revenue rates fixed under the Bighoti system were much less than those under the *bhagbatai* system. As a result, the Bighoti system was very much welcomed by cultivators.

In September 1952, the practice of maintaining *Nila sedha ni vahi* was replaced by V. F. VII-XII and thereafter the village land records came to be introduced according to the Revenue Accounts Manual. The Tharavbands (VF-V) were also prepared for each village.

In 1953, the Collector ordered that numberkhardas should be prepared for *inam* villages also. This order was opposed by the Inamdars in general and by the Inamdars of the Rapar taluka in particular. They were afraid that taxes might be levied on the basis of survey numbers. After preparation of the numberkhardas, Talatis were appointed in the *inam* villages. They classified the lands in *inam* villages on an *ad hoc* basis and due to ignorance, they (Inamdars) got their lands classified at a level lower than its proper class.

Although the *bhagbatai* system was abolished in the *khalsa* villages, it was continued in the *inam* villages. In order to introduce the cash rates under the Bighoti system, Bighoti or cash rents were fixed under Section 8 of the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948 vide Order No. P/106/, dated 6th October, 1953. As a result, the Bighoti system covered the entire *khalsa* and non-*khalsa* villages of Kutch district and the farmers were freed from the oppression and harassment inherent in the *bhagbatai* system.

For the purpose of fixing cash assessment, lands were classified into A, B and C, i. e., good, medium and inferior, and the rates of assessment fixed as under on an *ad hoc* basis per acre.

	For Rapar taluka	*For the remaining talukas*
	Dry Lands	(except Lakhpat taluka)
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
A	4 8 0	3 8 0
B	3 8 0	2 8 0
C	2 8 0	1 8 0
		For Lakhpat taluka
B		2 4 0
C		1 8 0

	Irrigation Lands (except Lakhpat and Abdasa talukas)	*Lakhpat and Abdasa talukas*
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
A	25 0 0	..
B	15 0 0	15 0 0
C	8 0 0	8 0 0

In *khalsa* villages VF VIII-A (*khatavahi*) was introduced in 1952-53; but in *inam* villages, V. F. VII-XII and VIII A were introduced in 1953-54.

In 1954, steps were initiated to abolish the Jagir system in the district. Special staff was appointed to assist Talati to prepare the *inam* registers. On the basis of the numberkhardas and V. F. VII-XII the different *inam* holders such as Varduka, and Kamipasa holders were classified. The work regarding *inam* abolition of the State gained momentum after the merger of the Kutch State into the bigger Bombay State on November 1, 1956.

The five year rates of land revenue were to expire in 1957-58. In order to introduce land revenue rates on an uniform basis, the Land Revenue Rule 19-U was framed for the Kutch district and lands were classified accordingly by the District Inspector of Land Records. In 1958-59, new rates of assessment were introduced. They were very much lower than the old rates.

TENANCY REFORMS

After the formation of Kutch as a Part C State in 1948, an attempt was made to regulate the tenancy conditions by the Central Government. In 1950, the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948 was extended to the State but the subsequent amendments to the Bombay Act could not be extended to that area after the merger of Kutch in the billingual State of Bombay in 1956. Since all tenants in Kutch were tenants-at-will, the need for regulating tenancies was felt. The Bombay Government, therefore, undertook legislation called the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands (Vidarbha Region and Kutch Area) Act, 1958. It was brought into force on 30th December, 1958, the day on which the Kutch Inam Abolition Act was enforced.

The Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands (Vidarbha Region and Kutch Area) Act, 1958—The Act provides for regulation of rent, security of tenure, resumption of land, conferment of ownership on teanants, ceiling on land holdings, etc.

Regulation of Rent—The maximum rent payable by a tenant has been prescribed as (a) four times the full assessment levied or leviable under the Code in respect of the land ; or (b) the existing rent in respect of the land ; whichever is less.

Security of Tenure—A family holding varies from 36 to 45 acres in unirrigated land whereas in case of irrigated land it ranges from 12 to 15 acres. A landlord owning and cultivating personally less than one-third of a family holding can resume the entire area leased. In other cases a landlord can resume land up to 3 family holdings after leaving half the leased land with his tenants. He could resume the land within a period of two years from 30th December, 1958. Thus the right of resumption which was available up to 30th December, 1960, has expired except in the case of disabled persons. The tenant is entitled to restoration if the landlord does not cultivate personally within one year or ceases to do so within 12 years.

Right of Ownership—The tenants have an optional right of purchase up to 3 family holdings subject to the condition that the landlord is left with one family holding. A provision has been made for transfer of ownership to tenants with effect from 1st April, 1961 in respect of lands which the tenants are entitled to purchase.

Provision is also made for compulsory transfer of ownership of lands held by tenants which they are entitled to purchase from their landlords. Accordingly, the tenants as on 1st April, 1961 were declared deemed purchasers. Provision is also made for determination of the extent of land to be transferred to the tenants and the purchase price by the Tribunal.

The Bombay Inams (Kutch Area) Abolition Act, 1958—This Act has been brought into force with effect from 30th December, 1958. It abolishes all types of *inams* which existed in the former Kutch State. The term *'inam'* covers *Girasdari, Mulgiras*, Jagiri, Bhayati, Chakariyat, Danodi, Dharmada, Kherati, Varduka, Kamipasa, or any other *inams* granted by the Ruler of the Kutch. The Act does not apply to the service *inams* granted as Kamipasa to the revenue and Police Patel.

On abolition of the *inams*, all public roads, lanes, paths, all unbuilt village-site lands, all waste lands, all uncutivated lands excluding lands used for building or for other non-agricultural purposes, all pasture lands, mines and minerals, etc., are vested in Government.

The rights to trees specially reserved under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or any other law in force shall vest in Government, except those the ownership of which has been transferred by the State Government under any contract, grant or law.

Occupancy rights are conferred on the Inamdars, the sub-Inamdars, the butadars the ret-butadars and tenants with or without occupancy price. Inamdars are granted occupancy rights in respect of this *gharkhed* land without charging occupancy price. Sub-Inamdars—viz., Kamipasa and Varduka have to pay to the Inamdars occupancy price equal to six times the assessment and the cost of improvement. The butadars are recognised as occupants in respect of lands held by them without charging occupancy price but the ret-butadars have to pay to the Inamdars occupancy price equal to three times the assessment and cost of improvement in respect of the lands held by them. Lastly, tenants are also given occupancy rights on payment to the Inamdars occupancy price equal to six times the assessment and cost of improvement. The occupancy price was payable either in lump or in annual instalments within five years. If the occupancy price is not paid within the prescribed period, it is recoverable as an arrear of land revenue.

In the case of the Varduka *inam*, the service *inam* or the Kamipasa *inams*, occupancy rights are granted to the holders on payment to Government of the occupancy price equal to six times the assessment of the land. But if such land is cultivated by another person continuously for a period of three years before the commencement of the Act, such person is entitled to occupancy right on payment of a sum equal to six times the assessment to Government and six times assessment *plus* the cost of improvement to the Inamdar.

The Inamdars, the butadars and the ret-butadars, who are granted occupancy rights will hold the land on old tenure and will have permanent, heritable and transferable rights. But the occupancy rights granted to the sub-Inamdars of Kamipasa (except section 7) will be on new tenure and

shall not be transferable or partible without the previous sanction of the Collector and except on payment of a premium to Government, Varduka holders are given land on the old tenure.

For abolition of the *inams*, the law provides for payment of compensation by Government to (a) the Inamdars, (b) the holders of the Dharmada and Danodi *inams* and (c) the widows, minors and disabled persons. The Inamdars in respect of *buta* lands will get compensation equal to three times the assessment of the *inam* land, for the waste lands up to three times the assessment for easement rights, one assessment, for trees or structures on the lands, the market value and for minerals average of annual income received during the previous three years. In the case of the Dharmada lands, compensation is payable in the form of perpetual cash annuity equal to full assessment of the lands. In the case of a widow or a disabled person, a sum equal to the full assessment of the land is given as compensation for their life-time. Such compensation is given to a minor for seven years or till he attains the age of 21 years, which ever is later.

Progress of Implementation—On the abolition of the *inams*, lands admeasuring 1,330,000 acres assessed for about Rs. 1,400,000 and held by 45,000 Inamdars have now been converted in to the ryotwari tenure. There were 15,000 tenants, 19,000 ret-butadars and 14,000 butadars holding agricultural land entitled to get occupancy rights under the Act.

A sum of about Rs. 1,237,234 has been realised by Government by way of occupancy price from the land holders, and Rs. 45 lacs still remained unpaid. The last date for the payment of occupancy price as prescribed under the Act is 30th September, 1971.

About 27,726 applications have been received so far for claiming compensation under the Act. Of these, about 24,845 applications have been disposed of by August 1969 and 2,881 are still pending. A sum of Rs. 239,415 have been paid per year as cash annuity and compensation to the Inamdars, etc., and Rs. 3,19,857 have been paid to Inamdars in bonds and Rs. 1,30,517 in cash.

Several difficulties were encountered in the implementation of the Act. The first step in this direction was to build up village records for *inam* villages and *inam* lands. The Kutch Rajput Sabha had protested vehemently against its implementation. Because of its agitation, local workers and village people refrained from giving any co-operation. The Revenue Officers had, therefore, to base their data on the basis of information available from the records of the former State. The difficulty was enhanced further due to the incomplete records during the State regime. Some of the Inamdars and sub-Inamdars, who had maintained records joined hands with the Kutch Rajput Sabha and withheld them (records). The village records had, therefore, to be prepared afresh on the basis of the information collected from other available sources.

Besides the Acts mentioned above, other Acts made applicable to Kutch are the Gujarat Agricultural Lands Ceiling Act, 1960, the Bombay Prevention of Fragmentation and Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1947 and the Gujarat Surviving Alienations Abolition Act, 1963. The implementation of the Gujarat Agricultural Lands Ceiling Act, 1960 and the Bombay Prevention of Fragmentation and Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1947 is tardy. The standard areas under the Act of 1947 have been fixed, but the work of consolidation of holdings is yet to be started. Substantial progress has, however, been registered under the Gujarat Surviving Alienations Abolition Act, 1963. The Act was brought into force with a view to doing away with the surviving inams which were not abolished by any of the tenure abolition laws of the former Saurashtra and Bombay States. Such inams were of various types, viz., *jat inam*, giras, community service *inams*, watans, cash grants, *afar haks*, *chav*, etc. All the 24 recipients of cash allowances who applied for compensation under section 13 of the Act, have been awarded compensation.

Survey and Settlement

Prior to integration, the lands of some of the *khalsa* and non-*khalsa* villages of the district were surveyed during the regime of former Kutch State. As seen earlier, the survey records were not maintained up-to-date. Out of 957 villages and 39 timbas or uninhabited or depopulated villages in the region there were 554 unsurveyed villages of which 194 were *khalsa* villages. As the major portion of Kutch was unsurveyed, and as it was not, therefore, possible to undertake classification and settlement of land. This was made amply clear by an Officer on Special Duty who was appointed to investigate how the two-thirds of the total land in Kutch which did not contribute to the finances of the State could be made to do so. In February 1950, a Settlement Department was created to undertake survey and settlement operations in the district. The traverse survey was a difficult job and in the absence of trained staff, the work was entrusted to the Survey of India. The traverse survey of 651 villages out of a total number of 989 was carried out by it till 1st November, 1956, and detailed survey of 290 villages by the Government of Part C State of Kutch. The work of survey which was originally outside the Plan subsequently formed part of the Second and Third Five Year Plans and is still in operation. Till January 1970, the theodolite survey of 1,064 villages and detailed survey of 898 villages were completed. The subjoined statement gives comprehensive idea of the progress of survey and classification work done in the district till 31st January, 1970.

(Bk) H-49—54 (Lino)

STATEMENT X-1

Progress of Survey and Classification in the District of Kutch

Sl. No.	Taluka	Total No. of villages	Work done up to the end of 31-1-1970					Work to be done from 1-2-1970				
			Theodolite survey	Detailed survey	Erection of boundary marks	Classification of soil	Preparation of Akarbandh	Theodolite survey	Detailed survey	Erection of boundary marks	Classification of soil	Preparation of Akarbandh
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Abdasa ..	174	174	174	174	174	174	..	..	..	..	..
2	Nakhatrana ..	143	143	143	143	143	143	..	..	..	..	..
3	Lakhpat ..	110	110	35	19	19	19	..	75	91	91	91
4	Bhuj ..	192	192	102	98	63	22	..	90	94	129	170
5	Bhachau ..	82	82	81	54	66	13	..	1	28	16	69
6	Rapar ..	114	114	114	104	106	62	..	..	10	8	52
7	Anjar ..	83	83	83	83	83	83	..	..	..	..	..
8	Mandvi ..	102	102	102	102	102	102	..	..	..	..	..
9	Mundra ..	64	64	64	64	64	64	..	..	..	..	..
	Total ..	**1.064**	**1.064**	**898**	**841**	**820**	**682**	..	**166**	**223**	**244**	**382**

Source :
The Settlement Commissioner and Director of Land Records, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

The statement goes to show that the classification of land which has been started under the supervision of two Survey Mamlatdars stationed at Bhuj and Anjar has made considerable progress and it was completed in Mundra, Mandvi, Abdasa, Nakhatrana and Anjar and partly in Rapar, Bhachau, Bhuj and Lakhpat talukas. Erection of boundary marks has been completed in five talukas, viz., Mundra, Mandvi, Rapar, Abdasa and Nakhatrana and is making brisk progress in others. After the erection of boundary marks, maintenance and repairs are to be carried out by the Taluka Development Officer according to a decennial programme. This programme has already been chalked out by the Taluka Development Officers of Mundra, Mandvi, Nakhatrana and Abdasa talukas. Substantial progress has also been recorded in respect of detailed measurements and Akarbandhs.

Assessment of Land—No regular settlement had been attempted during the time of the former Kutch State, which used to recover land revenue in kind under a system called *bhaybatai* or crop-share. Cash assessment was, however, introduced later in 1952. The rates were comparatively higher as they were fixed *ad hoc* on the basis of the average of land revenue recovered during the previous ten years, from 1941 to 1951. As a result of strong agitation by the Kutch Congress, the Government of Kutch declared 25 per cent reduction in the rates fixed for all the talukas except Rapar, where the reduction was to the extent of 37½ per cent. As these rates were also higher than those obtaining in the adjoining States, they were brought on a par with those prevailing in the comparable settled areas of the former Bombay State after merger.

Classification of land by the Revenue Department in Kutch was not based on the principles laid down in the Survey and Settlement Manual of the former Bombay State. The land was, therefore, classified into two categories, viz., irrigated (*bagayat*) and non-irrigated (*jirayat*) each of which was further sub-divided into three parts, A, B and C. Maximum rates per acre for each of these parts have been fixed and Akarbandhs of all the villages have been prepared accordingly. The rates thus fixed are in force at present in all the villages of the district excepting those of the Mundra taluka for which the Akarbandhs are rewritten on the basis of actual soil classification as per Survey and Settlement Manual. Similar work for other talukas is also in the progress.

Land Revenue Administration

The work of the land revenue administration is at present distributed between the Collector and the District Development Officer at the district level. Prior to the introduction of the Panchayati Raj under the Gujarat Panchayats Act in 1963, the hierarchy of the revenue administration under the Collector consisted of the Prant Officer or Deputy Collector in charge of a sub-division, Mamlatdar or Mahalkari in charge of a taluka/mahal, with Circle

Inspectors and Talatis functioning at the circle and village levels. After the introduction of the Panchayati Raj the functions relating to the collection of land revenue including cesses and dues recoverable as arrears of land revenue as also maintenance of land records pertaining to the collection of land revenue have been entrusted to gram and nagar panchayats. The Taluka Development Officer is invested with all the powers of a Mamlatdar in the matter of revenue collection. The Circle Inspectors placed under his charge work under his direct control and are also responsible for the work of the Talati-*cum*-Mantri whose primary duty is collection of revenue and maintenance of village records. There are 28 Circle Inspectors in the district. Out of them 14 work under the Collector and the remaining 14 under the District Development Officer. In matters relating to maintenance and repairs to boundary marks, crop inspection and Government waste lands, their work is supervised by District Inspector of Land Records.

Functions of the Land Records Department -The Settlement Department was organised for the first time in 1950 after its merger into the Indian Union. On the formation of the composite State of Bombay in 1956, it was integrated with the Land Records Department of that State headed by the Settlement Commissioner and Director of Land Records. The same administrative set-up continues to function in the newly formed Gujarat State, which is divided into circles each in charge of a Superintendent of Land Records, with Inspectors of Land Records at the district level.

The functions of the Department of Survey and Settlement are (1) to maintain all survey, classification and settlement records up to date by keeping careful notes of all changes, and for this purpose to carry out field, operations preliminary to incorporation of the changes in the survey records, (2) to collect and provide statistics necessary for the sound administration of all matters connected with land, (3) to help reduce, simplify and cheapen litigation in revenue and civil courts by providing reliable survey and other records, (4) to supervise the preparation and maintenance of Record of Rights and of the periodical inspection of boundary marks, (5) to conduct periodical revision and settlement operations, (6) to organise and carry out village site and city surveys on an extensive scale and arrange for their proper maintenance, (7) to undertake special surveys for private individuals and public bodies (such as survey of *inam* and other non-*khalsa* villages and lands), surveys in connection with railways, municipal and local projects, town planning schemes, as also for the Defence and other Government departments, (8) to maintain up to date village, taluka and district maps, reprint them and arrange for their distribution to various Government departments for administrative purpose and sale to the public and (9) to train revenue officers in survey and settlement matters.

The District Inspector of Land Records, Kutch, is the principal officer in charge of the Land Records Department in the district. He is a gazetted

officer of a Mamlatdar's rank appointed by and under the administrative control of the Settlement Commissioner and Director of Land Records, Ahmedabad and is directly subordinate to and under the technical control of the Superintendent of Land Records, Rajkot Circle, Rajkot. He is also subordinate to the Collector of Kutch and has to carry out all administrative orders of the Collector in the matters of survey and land records. He is assisted by one District Surveyor and ten Cadastral Surveyors and other administrative staff. In addition to the normal set-up of the department, there is a separate staff for the original survey and classification of soils working in the district under two Survey Mamlatdars posted at Bhuj and Anjar.

City and Village Site Surveys—These surveys have not been taken up so far in this district. Introduction of city survey at Bhuj and Mandvi is under consideration.

Record of Rights The Record of Rights has been introduced in all the villages of the district. The Land Records Department supplied the *mapni* or survey register and map to the revenue officials for compilation of Record of Rights, after the survey operations are carried out. section 135 B (1) of the Land Revenue Code provides that the Record of Rights should contain the following particulars :

(a) names of all persons who are holders, occupants, owners, or mortgagees of the land or assignees of the land or assignees of the rent or revenue thereof ; (b) the nature and extent of the respective interest of such persons and conditions or liabilities attached thereto ; (c) rent or revenue, if any, payable by or to any such persons ; and (d) such other particulars as the State Government may prescribe under rules made in this behalf.

The State Government has now applied these provisions to all tenancies by Notification under section 135 B (2) of the Code, whereunder any acquisition of right in land is to be reported to the village officer within 3 months by the person acquiring it, unless the right is acquired under a registered document.

Village maps are drawn for all the surveyed villages showing survey numbers, their boundary marks and other topographical details such as roads, rivers, *nullahs*, forests, hills, etc., from the detailed *lippans* of individual survey numbers. They are generally drawn on a scale of 1" = 20 chains = 1 furlong or 201·17 metres. From these village maps, taluka and district maps are constructed either on a scale of 1" = 2 miles or 1" = 4 miles. A district map requires frequent revision due to territorial changes and construction of new roads, canals, railways, hospitals, *bandharas*, dams, etc., undertaken under various schemes of development in the successive Five Year Plans.

INCOME FROM LAND REVENUE AND SPECIAL CESSES CONNECTED WITH IT

Land revenue is one of the important sources of income in the district. Statement X·2 shows the demand and collection of land revenue for the years 1962-63, 1963-64 and 1964-65.

STATEMENT X·2

Land Revenue, Demand, Collection, etc., for the Years, 1962-63, 1963-64 and 1964-65

(IN RUPEES)

		1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
1	Demand			
	(a) Current ..	2,854,784.29	2,717,837.47	2,879,409.00
	(b) Arrears ..	7,502,078.80	8,116,728.95	10,398,219.76
	(c) Total ..	10,356,863.09	10,834,566.42	13,277,628.76
2	Collection ..	2,227,194.76	423,407.28	3,737,400.00
3	Remission ..	12,939.38	12,939.38	386,938.00
4	Suspension ..	396,455.48	1,844,400.00	374,107.00
5	Percentage of collection ..	21.50 per cent	3.90 per cent	28.14 per cent

Source :
Government of Gujarat, Revenue Department, *Land Revenue Annual Administration Reports, 1962-63 to 1964-65*

The statement shows a general trend towards increase in demand. This increase is attributable to grant of cultivation of waste land. The low percentage of collection is due to frequent appearance of scarcity conditions in the district which makes it necessary for Government to grant remission and suspensions on a large scale.

LOCAL FUND AND OTHER CESSES

Local Fund Cess—The local fund was levied during the time when Kutch was Part C State. The Bombay Local Boards Act, 1923 was adapted by it in 1951 and the cess was levied on *khalsa* as well as non-*khalsa* lands under section 93 of the Act at the rate of 3 annas a rupee of land revenue. But the rate was reduced to one anna in November, 1953. The cess was collected by the Government along with land revenue. But after the implementation of the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961, it is now levied by the panchayats, as the functions of collecting land revenue and local fund cess have been transferred to them since 1963. This cess which was at first levied at the rate of 20 paise per rupee of land revenue is now recovered at the enhanced rate of 50 paise since 1st July, 1966 under section 169 of the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961. The total amount realised in the district was Rs. 401,975·07 in 1966-67.

The gram/nagar panchayat also levies a cess which is different from the local fund cess at a rate not exceeding 25 paise in a rupee payable

as land revenue to the State Government. This cess can be increased up to 100 paise under certain circumstances for undertaking certain specified works or projects for the benefit of the community under sub-section 2 of section 181 of the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961.

Irrigation Cess—An irrigation cess was hitherto collected only on the areas actually irrigated. But since the application of the Irrigation Act, irrigation cess at the rate of Rs. 2·50 per acre is being levied from the year 1964-65 on all lands in irrigable command irrespective of the fact whether water is taken or not with a view to induce recalcitrant cultivators to take up irrigation. The total collection of this cess in the district was Rs. 49,439·60 in 1964-65 which rose to Rs. 60,124·99 in 1965-66.

Education Cess—In order to provide for increasing expenditure on education, it was considered necessary to raise additional resources and provide for carrying the proceeds thereof to a separate fund created for the purpose. The Gujarat Education Cess Act, 1962 was, therefore, enacted and brought into force from 1st August, 1962. Under this Act, the cess is levied as follows :

(1) A surcharge at the rate of 20 paise on every rupee of land revenue on all lands assessed or held for the purpose of agriculture.

(2) Surcharge at rates varying from 12½ per cent to 75 per cent on all unalienated and alienated lands used for non-agricultural purposes.

(3) Tax on lands and buildings in urban areas at varying rates based on their letting value.

The surcharge levied on agricultural as well as non-agricultural land is transferred at the end of the year to the State Education Cess Fund and utilised on schemes for promotion of education in the State. During 1963-64 Government has directed that one-third of the tax collected on lands and buildings within the municipal area should be given to the municipalities as grant with effect from 1st August, 1962, the date from which the tax has been levied. Against a total demand of Rs. 908,160 a sum of Rs. 301,770 was collected as education cess in 1965-66 in the district.

The Bhoodan Movement—The Bhoodan or voluntary land gift movement was conceived by Acharya Vinoba Bhave early in 1951 when he was touring Telegana region in the State of Andhra Pradesh, where acute agrarian unrest was caused by land hunger on the part of the cultivators. In appealing to the landlords for donations of land, Acharya Vinobaji has been applying the Gandhian principle of peaceful persuation. Describing the aims of the movement the Acharya observed, "In a just and equitable order of society land must belong to all. That is why I do not beg for

gifts but demand a share to which the poor are rightly entitled."[1] The main objective of the movement is to "propogate the right thought by which social and economic maladjustment can be corrected without serious conflicts." He describes the Bhoodan movement as a kind of *satyagraha* or peaceful revolution.

Distribution of Donated Lands

Since the distribution of the donated lands is vital to the success of the movement, it is necessary to know the main rules for the land distribution, which are stated below and generally followed :

(1) The date on which the land is to be distributed is announced by beat of drum or leaflets in the village.

(2) The revenue officers from Talati to the Collector and the village panchayat members may attend the function.

(3) As far as possible, one-third of the land is given to the Harijans.

(4) As far as practicable, the land is given to the landless of that very village. After distribution to the landless, the excess land may be distributed amongst the landless of the adjacent villages. Such lands are to be given to persons who are capable and willing to cultivate land personally.

(5) For a family of 5 persons, 1 acre of irrigated land or 2½ acres of dry land should be granted. Under special circumstances, land exceeding 5 acres may also be given.

(6) Attempt should be made to consolidate the scattered lands into the compact block. If small parcels of land can not be given for cultivation, they may be assigned for manure pits, public latrines, etc.

(7) The lands, which are cultivable, should be liable to payment of land revenue to Government from the day of grant.

(8) If such lands remain uncultivated for a period of 2 years, it will be open to Government to grant them to other landless persons.

(9) Three-year period is fixed for making cultivable virgin lands, waste lands or khar lands, so donated.

These are the main principles of distribution of lands in the Bhoodan movement. The movement has made some headway in this region where

1. Vinoba Bhave, *Bhoodan Yagna*, p. 20

till 1965-66, 13,382-25 acres were donated of which 2,887-11 acres have so far been distributed to the cultivators.

Rural Wages—There are a large number of persons in the district who possess no land of their own, but depend upon agriculture for their livelihood. They are labourers who are employed to work on the field either casually during harvesting season or throughout the year as *sathi* or annual workers. According to the 1961 Census 128,823 persons in the district were returned as cultivators and 31,228 as agricultural labourers, the latter constituting 24·25 per cent of the former. This section analyses the difference in the wages earned for different operations in which they are engaged.

Most of the landholders employ casual field labourers only when there is rush of work on the farm and pay them on the basis of daily wages usually in cash and some time in kind. Agricultural operations such as ploughing which entail more strenuous labour commands a higher wage rate. While much of the heavy work is done by men, women and children are employed in such work as weeding, winnowing, watering, etc. The wage rates in the district vary according to demand and supply of labour and the proximity of the place to urban marketing centres. Labourers who are nearer the towns prefer to go and work there instead of bargaining for a low wage in their own village. This tendency is, however, confined to male labourers only, as females rest content with whatever little they get at their own place. The wage rates in the district vary significantly in different talukas. This is evident from the sub-joined Statement X·3 which shows that the wage rates are comparatively lower in Anjar, Nakhatrana and Mundra talukas as compared to other talukas of the district. Another significant feature of the wage structure is the compartively higher rates earned at harvest time when paucity of labour is keenly felt.

STATEMENT X·3

Wages of Agricultural Operations (for males), 1965-66

Sl. No.	Taluka	Ploughing, harrowing, carting, etc.	Harvesting	Threshing
1	2	3	4	5
1	Abdasa	3.50	3.00	3.00
2	Anjar	2.50	3.50	2.50
3	Nakhatrana	2.50	3.00	2.50
4	Bhachau	3.00	3.50	2.50
5	Bhuj	3.50	4.00	3.00
6	Mandvi	3.00	3.50	3.00
7	Mundra	2.50	2.50	3.00
8	Rapar	3.50	4.00	3.50
9	Lakhpat	3.00	3.50	3.00

Source : District Agricultural Officer, Kutch District

Causal labourers work from sunrise to sunset with a break of about two hours for lunch at noon. The main source of supply is the village itself, though labourers from the surrounding villages are also called to meet local shortage at the time of harvesting. During the agricultural season, artisans, cowherds, shepherds, Harijans, Koli and other non-agricultural labourers as well as small cultivators, who do not find sufficient employment on their farms, offer themselves for work as field labourers. Moreover, field labour being seasonal, they have to seek alternate employment during the off season.

Harvesting of crops like *bajri*, *jowar*, groundnut and wheat is sometimes given on contract basis. The system is known as *udhad* wherein labourers are paid a certain quantity of grain varying from 4 to 6 kg. for harvesting a particular piece of land.

Those cultivators whose holdings are large enough to provide continuous and regular employment for the whole year engage a *sathi* who binds himself to do all type of farm work. The contract is entered into generally for one year and renewed year after year with the consent of the parties. In addition to cash remuneration, a *sathi* is provided with other facilities such as food, clothing, shoes and residential accommodation. Payment to *sathi* is normally made at the end of the year, but when necessity arises, he is given small amounts of money occasionally by way of part payment. The annual wages paid to a *sathi* varied from Rs. 500 to 700 in 1965-66. The wages were generally paid in cash. Clothes and shoes were given in addition to the wages, if agreed to by the parties.

Artisans—Such village artisans as blacksmiths, carpenters, potters, cobblers, etc., are closely and actively connected with the cultivators at various stages of agricultural operations. *Valand* (barber) and others also render certain personal services to them. All these are paid annually in kind at the harvest time, though the former system of payment in kind is generally disappearing and many farmers now pay in cash. The commodities given by way of wages include foodgrains, pulses and sometimes a bundle of fodder and seasonal vegetables.[1]

REGISTRATION

Prior to the merger of Kutch into the Indian Union; Kutch Registration Act of 1883 was in force in that State. But the Indian Registration Act of 1908 was applied to it after it became Part C State. The Kutch Registration Rules were framed and brought into the district on 16th January, 1951. The work of registration was then done by the Judicial Department. The Judicial Commissioner functioned as Inspector General of Registration, the District Judge as the District Registrar and the Sub-Judges as Sub-Registrars.

1. The details of wage rates prevelent in the district from 1961 to 1967 are given in Statement VIII.11 in Chapter VIII—Economic Trends.

Registration of Documents—Under section 17 of the Indian Registration Act (XVI of 1908), the registration of instruments of immovable property is compulsory.

These documents are divided into four categories, viz.,

(1) instruments of gift of immovable property,

(2) other non-testamentary instruments which purport or operate to create, declare, assign, limit or extinguish any right, title or interest of the value of Rs. 100 or upwards and receipt or payment of any consideration of such documents,

(3) leases of immovable property from year to year or for any term exceeding one year or reserving a yearly rent,

(4) non-testamentary instruments transferring or assigning any decrees, order of a court or any award when such decree or order or award purports or operates to create, declare, assign, limit, or extinguish any right, title or interest of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards.

There are certain documents, however, the registration of which is optional under section 18 of the Act. These are documents of immovable property valued at less than Rs. 100, leases exempted under section 17, wills, notices of pending suits or proceedings referred to in section 52 of the Transfer of Property Act, and all other documents not required to be registered under section 17. As a rule, fees are levied for the registration of all documents, but the State Government has exempted co-operative societies registered under the Gujarat Co-operative Societies Act, 1961 from the payment of such fees. Certain types of societies enjoy restricted exemption in respect of certain documents involving consideration up to a prescribed limit, registration fees being charged on documents with higher consideration.

Registry Offices—There are six Sub-Registries in the district, viz., Bhuj, Mandvi, Anjar, Bhachau, Rapar and Nakhatrana. The Sub-Registrar, Mandvi visits Mundra on the first and third Monday of every month throughout the year. The Sub-Registrar, Nakhatrana, visits Nalia on the first and third Monday from November to June and on the first Monday from July to October. He also visits Lakhpat on the first Thursday of January, April, July and December. The Sub-Registrar, Anjar, visits Gandhidham every Monday throughout the year.

District Registrar—The Collector is the *ex-officio* District Registrar. He exercises powers of supervision and inspection over the entire registration staff in the district. Though the Sub-Registrars are appointed by the

Inspector General of Registration, the District Registrar has powers to fill in temporary vacancies. He hears appeals and applications preferred to him under sections 72 and 73 of the Indian Registration Act, 1908 against refusals to register documents by the Sub-Registrars subordinate to him. Under sections 25 and 34 of the Act, he is also empowered to condone delays in presentation of documents and appearance of executants provided the delay does not exceed four months, and direct such documents to be registered on a payment of a fine, not exceeding ten times the prescribed registration fees. He is also competent to order refund in case of surcharges and to grant full or partial remission of safe custody fees in suitable cases. Under section 42 of the Act a Will or codicil may be deposited in a sealed cover and it may be got registered at the cost of the party desiring it after the depositor's death. He is also authorised to record and register births and deaths under the births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act (VI of 1886).

Sub-Registrar—The main functions of the Sub-Registrar are to register documents, keep a record of all documents registered and to send to officers concerned extracts from documents affecting immovable property in respect of which a record of rights is maintained. Every Sub-Registrar is an *ex-officio* Sub-Registrar for the registration of births and deaths. He is also *ex-officio* Registrar under the Parsee Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936. The Sub-Registrar working as Headquarters Sub-Registrar at Bhuj is also the Marriage Officer for the Kutch district and is vested with the powers of solemnising and registering marriages under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 The Bombay Registration of Marriages Act, 1953 is also in operation in municipal areas of the district. The marriages under this Act are registered by Sub-Registrars.

The Headquarters, Sub-Registrar, Bhuj, assists the Collector in adjudication of documents impounded under section 33 of the Bombay Stamp Act, 1958 (IX of 1958) and also in the adjudication of cases under section 31 of the Bombay Stamp Act, 1958.

In the year 1966 the annual income of the Registration Department in the district was Rs. 93,579 and the annual expenditure Rs. 36,105. Copying of documents is done by hand in all offices. Out of 8,389 documents registered in the district, 8,121 documents falling under compulsory registration were of the aggregate value of Rs. 14,705,298. Eleven documents falling under optional registration were of the aggregate value of Rs. 17,118 . 110 documents affecting movable property were of the aggregate value of Rs. 189,840 and 147 were wills.

Stamps

The Indian Stamp Act, 1889 was made applicable to Kutch, while it was Part C State. Even after its merger into Bombay, the Act continued

to be applied to the district till 10th February, 1959, when the Bombay Stamp Act, 1958 was made applicable to the district by repealing the Indian Stamp Act, 1889.

The Superintendent of Stamps, Ahmedabad, is the authority controlling the supply and sale of non-postal stamps. The Collector as the administrative head of the district is in charge of the entire work relating to stamps. As there is no independent officer in charge of the stamp work, the sale of stamps to vendors and to the public is done by the Stamp Head Clerk under the direct supervision of the Treasury Officer, Kutch. Both are jointly in charge of the local depot at Bhuj and responsible for the maintenance of the stock of stamps, their distribution to the branch depots in the district and also for their sale to the public. Refund of value of unused, spoiled and obsolete stamps is not ordered by the Treasury Officer, as these powers are not delegated to him after the separation of the Treasury from Revenue. This power is exercised by the Collector, Deputy Collectors, and Mamlatdars. A branch depot is located at every taluka headquarters and is in charge of a Sub-Treasury Officer, the Mamlatdar.

For the convenience of the public, stamps are sold not only at the district depot and branch depots but also at various other centres by licensed stamp vendors who are appointed by the Collector. There are 14 such stamp vendors in the district. The non-judicial stamps in case of instruments requiring stamp duty of the value exceeding Rs. 150 and the court fee stamps exceeding Rs. 125 are sold directly to the public by the treasuries and sub-treasuries. Stamps below these denominations are sold by authorised stamp vendors. The Taluka Aval Karkun of the sub-treasury concerned acts as *ex-officio* stamp vendor by virtue of his post. From 5th June, 1965, non-judicial stamps up to Rs. 250 are being sold by the stamp vendors.

The total income realised from the sale of stamps in Kutch district in the year 1966-67 was Rs. 518,250 for non-judicial stamps and Rs. 216,613 judicial stamps. The vendors were allowed a small discount which in the year 1966-67 amounted to Rs. 12,489 for non-judicial stamps and Rs. 1,159 for judicial stamps.

Other Sources of Revenue

In order to meet the growing expenditure on developmental activities, the State and the Central Governments have to augment their financial resources by tapping additional sources of revenue, besides land revenue. The most important in these days are income-tax, sales tax, tax on motor vehicles, state and central excise, etc. These will be examined below in brief.

Sales Tax—The Central Provinces and Berar Sales Tax Act, 1947 (No. XXI of 1947) was made applicable to the Kutch district with certain

modifications in 1952. However, on account of various administrative difficulties the law was not actually enforced until January 1955. The list of exempted goods was considerably larger than Madhya Pradesh. The rate of tax in Kutch was 6 pies in the rupee. The limit of registration was Rs. 30,000 instead of Rs. 25,000 in Madhya Pradesh. The Act remained in force up to 31st December, 1959 even after the reorganisation of Bombay State. As different systems of sales tax existed in different regions of that State, it was thought desirable to evolve a uniform system applicable to all the parts alike. The Government of Bombay, therefore, appointed a Sales Tax Advisory Committee which recommended a composite system of sales tax. The Bombay Sales Tax Act, 1959 which was enacted in pursuance of its recommendations came into force from 1st January, 1960. It is this Act, which is at present adapted and implemented by the State of Gujarat in the Kutch area.

The Government of Gujarat constituted in 1967 a committee consisting of 11 members to examine the present system of sales tax, review its working, and make recommendations for the rationalisation of the structure, simplification of the procedure, and suggest measures to be taken for removing hardships to dealers and improvement in the quality of the administrative system and personnel. The committee has submitted its Report which is under the consideration of Government.

The total collection of sales tax under the Bombay Sales Tax Act, 1959, Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, and Motor Spirit Taxation Act, 1958 in Kutch district, came to Rs. 4,598,827 in 1965-66.

Taxes on Motor Vehicles—Tax on motor vehicles constitutes one of the important sources of State revenue. The Motor Vehicles Department is responsible for the proper administration of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 and Rules made thereunder. It also collects taxes on motor vehicles and passengers and goods carried by road under (1) the Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 1958, (2) the Bombay Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers) Act, 1958 and (3) the Gujarat Carriage of Goods Taxation Act, 1962. It also carries out in general the duties and responsibilities cast on it under the provisions of the said Acts and Rules made thereunder.

Administrative Set-up—The department is headed by the Director of Transport with headquarters at Ahmedabad. From October 1963, the State has been divided into three Regional Offices each under a Regional Transport Officer. The Regional Transport Authority, Rajkot, Ahmedabad and Baroda exercise their powers and functions over Rajkot, Ahmedabad and Baroda regions respectively. The jurisdiction of Regional Transport Officer, Rajkot, extendeds over the districts of Jamnagar, Rajkot, Surendranagar, Bhavnagar, Amreli, Junagadh and Kutch. There are two sub-regional offices under Assistant Regional Transport Officers (i) at Bhuj for the district of

Kutch and (ii) at Bhavnagar for the districts of Surendranagar, Bhavnagar and Amreli.

The net collections of revenue realised for the district during the year 1965-66 were as under.

	Act	Amount in Rs.
1	The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 1958	1,042,638.00
2	Bombay Motor Vehicles Act, 1958 (Taxation of Passengers) ..	2,285.30
3	Gujarat Carriage of Goods Taxation Act, 1962	253,284.63
4	Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1939	44,497.50
5	Fees and other receipts	771.70
	Total	**1,343,477.13**

State Excise—Excise or *abkari* revenue is not an important source of State income, in view of the policy of total prohibition adopted by the Government of Gujarat. The department is headed by the Director of Prohibition and Excise, Gujarat State, with headquarters at Ahmedabad. The officer-in-charge for the administration of this department in Kutch district is the Collector. He is invested with various powers under the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949 and also exercises powers under the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930, the Bombay Opium Smoking Act, 1936, the Bombay Drugs (Control) Act, 1959, the Spirituous Preparations (Inter-State Trade and Commerce) Control Act, 1955 and the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955.

The District Inspector of Prohibition and Excise, who works under the supervision and control of the Collector is in actual charge of the work of the department in the district. He has under him two Sub-Inspectors, one stationed at Bhuj and the other at Anjar.

The State Government levies duty on following commodities under section 105 of the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949.

1 Any alcoholic preparation for human consumption

2 Any intoxicating drug and hemp

3 Opium

4 Any other excisable articles as defined in clause 13 of section 2 of the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949.

In addition to the above articles, excise duty on medicinal and toilet preparations containing alcohol, opium and narcotics is levied under the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955 by the Central Government but collected by the Prohibition and Excise Department of the State and retained by the State Government.

The excise duty on various alcoholic preparations brought to the district a total revenue of Rs. 14,505 in 1964-65 and Rs. 12,214 in 1965-66.

Central Excise—The Central Excise administration in the district is carried on by the Central Excise, Bhuj Circle and Mandvi Customs Sub-Circle. The Central Excise administration in Kutch excluding ports is vested in the Superintendent of Central Excise, Bhuj, who is under the control of the Assistant Collector of Central Excise Division, Viramgam. The Superintendent has under him four Central Excise Ranges and two land customs stations in charge of Inspectors besides an Oil Installation Range. The Inspectors are stationed at Bhuj, Anjar, Mandvi, Mundra and Kharirohar. The Oil Installation Range is under a Junior Superintendent, Central Excise, Kharirohar. This circle also looks after sea customs work of Kandla port through Inspector of Central Excise, Anjar.

Sea Customs—The Mandvi Customs Sub-Circle is under a Superintendent who is working under the Assistant Collector of Customs, Rajkot. The Superintendent is in charge of sea customs administration of all the ports except Kandla port. He has under him at Mundra a Sub-Inspector and an Inspector. The latter attends to the customs work at the port besides the central excise work in his charge.

The Central Excise Department deals with excise duties mainly levied on tobacco, cotton yarn and mineral oils such as refined diesel oil, light diesel oil, furnace oil and kerosene which yielded a total revenue of Rs. 1,955·86 lakhs in the year 1964-65 and Rs. 2,011·92 lakhs in the year 1965-66.

Customs duty is levied mainly on imported commodities which brought a total revenue of Rs. 56,809 in the year 1964-65. A duty on ship stores and baggages yielded Rs. 19,775 in 1964-65 and Rs. 9,331 in 1965-66.

Income-Tax—This is one of the direct taxes levied and collected by the Central Government. There is one Inspecting Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax stationed at Jamnagar who is also in charge of the Kutch district. Under him are two Income-tax Officers functioning at Bhuj.

The details of realisation of income-tax in Kutch district for the years 1952-53, 1955-56 and 1965-66 are given below :

Year	Under Rs. 5,000		Over Rs. 5,000		Total	
	No. of assessees	Amount of tax (Rs. in thousand)	No. of assessees	Amount of tax (Rs. in thousand)	No. of assessees	Amount of tax (Rs. in thousand)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1952-53 ..	273	89	544	223	817	312
1955-56 ..	449	113	689	344	1,138	457
1965-66 ..	971	335	1,561	1,565	2,532	1,900

The foregoing statement shows a progressive increase in the number of assessees and the amount of income-tax realised in the district.

(Bk) H-49—56 (Lino)

CHAPTER XI

LAW, ORDER AND JUSTICE

EARLY HISTORY[1]

Towards the middle of the last century when the British entered Kutch, only the district of Vagad had a systematic police force in 1854. The Assistant Political Agent stationed at Vagad had under him a troop comprising *jamadars*, *dafedars*, horsemen, messengers and others. Complaints and proceedings were regularly forwarded to the Rao of Kutch by the Assistant Political Agent with his endorsement. The presence of this troop and its readiness to help any party in want ensured safety of both person and property. In 1872 a special officer was appointed by the Rao to reorganise the police on the recommendations of the Assistant Political Agent and in the following year all State villages were provided with police patels invested with powers and privileges of village headmen. Simple rules were laid down for their guidance and *pasaitas* were made liable for duty as village police. The police force was headed by the Police Commissioner. Each district had rural chief constable, *faujdar*, and each chief town a city chief constable, kotwal, working under the direct supervision of the Police Commissioner. A small body of water police was organised in 1877 for preventing and detecting sea crime and maintaining discipline of merchant vessels. Kutch had, owing to the presence of British troops, no regular military force, as there was no fear of foreign foe or unruly subject. It consisted of a small body of Musalman horse and an Arab militia 500 strong.

FUNCTIONS OF POLICE

The primary functions of the police are prevention and detection of crime, maintenance of law and order, apprehension of offenders, escorting and guarding of prisoners, protecting Government treasuries and private or public property and prosecution of criminals. They have, however, certain other duties to perform such as inspection of shops selling explosives and poisonous drugs, extinguishing fires, giving aid to displaced persons and pilgrims, verification of character, and passports and naturalisation inquiries. These functions are incorporated in the Bombay Police Act, 1951, as adapted and applied to Gujarat State.

Incidence of Crime—The following statement shows the incidence of crime in the district in 1961 and 1965. There has been an increase in the

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, pp. 182-83

total number of offences committed between 1961-65, but it is in the main restricted to offences against public tranquility and crimes committed under special and other local laws. There is a noteworthy decline in the number of other offences among which those against person and property are of common occurrence. Not a single crime relating to (i) Government stamps, (ii) weights and measures and (iii) extortion was reported during the period under review.

STATEMENT XI·1

Incidence of Crime

Sl. No.	Description of offence	No. of offences 1961	1965
1	2	3	4
1	Against the State	2	—
2	Relating to the army and navy	1	6
3	Public tranquility	19	840
4	Relating to public servant	..	12
5	Contempt of the lawful authority of public servant	55	33
6	False evidence	10	10
7	Relating to coins	1	2
8	Relating to Government Stamps	..	..
9	Relating to weights and measures	..	..
10	Affecting the public health, safety, convenience, decency and morals	16	16
11	Relating to religion	3	..
12	Affecting life	43	45
13	Causing of miscarriage, etc.	—	1
14	Hurt	264	255
15	Wrongful restraint and confinement	28	18
16	Criminal force	22	22
17	Kidnapping, etc.	10	6
18	Rape	3	..
19	Unnatural offence	2	—
20	Theft	185	220
21	Extortion	..	..
22	Robbery	12	4
23	Criminal misappropriation	1	5
24	Breach of trust	35	48
25	Stolen property	1	6
26	Cheating	22	49
27	Fraudulent deeds, etc.	2	5
28	Mischief	51	74

STATEMENT XI·1—*contd.*

Sl. No.	Description of offence	No. of offences 1961	1965
1	2	3	4
29	Criminal trespass	194	85
30	Offence relating to documents, trade or property marks	4	1
31	Breach of contract	..	5
32	Offences relating to marriage	2	..
33	Defamation	28	31
34	Criminal intimidation, insult and annoyance	50	45
35	Under special and other local laws	3,026	4,579
	Total	**4,092**	**6,423**

Source :
District and Sessions Judge, Bhuj

Police Administration

Prior to integration, the Police organisation in Kutch State was headed by the Commissioner of Police. The sanctioned strength of the police force for the State was 849 Foot Police, 185 Mounted Police, 49 Water Police, and 15 C. I. D., besides 70 civic guards and a Punitive Police force of 10. The Kutch State also maintained a cavalry known as His Highnesses' body guards and an infantry under a commandant of the rank of a Major.

Soon after the merger of Kutch into the Indian Union, steps were taken to reorganise its police force under the District Superintendent of Police. The State was divided into Eastern and Western subdivisions, each under the control and supervision of a Deputy Superintendent of Police. To ensure efficiency in the working of the Police Department all rules and regulations under the Bombay Police Act were made applicable to the Kutch police force. Kutch Penal Code was repealed and replaced by the Indian Penal Code. Criminal Procedure Code and various other Acts of the Government of India were also promulgated.

The Rann of Kutch lying between Kutch and Pakistan offered easy opportunities to criminals and other undesirable elements trying to enter Kutch without requisite passport and permit. With a view to ensure defence of this territory, a border police force under the control and supervision of an Inspector of Police was created and provided with necessary equipments and strengthened from time to time for maintaining constant vigil on the border. Coastal Security Scheme was also implemented by creating Water Police stations at Mandvi and Kandla and out-posts at Jakhau, Narayan Sarovar, Koteshwar, Bhachau, Dumra, Vijay Vilas, Mundra, Bhadresar, Tuna and Jhangi. A launch was placed at its disposal for patrolling the coastal areas. A local intelligence branch was also created and the Wireless branch reorganised.

For the purposes of administration, Gujarat State has been divided into two Police Ranges, each under a Deputy Inspector-General of Police. Kutch district has been placed under the Police Range, Rajkot. Under the existing set-up, the District Magistrate exercises control over the District Superintendent of Police and the police force of the district. In exercising this control he may call for from the District Superintendent of Police reports on any matter connected with crimes, habitual offenders, prevention of disorder, regulation of assemblies and amusements, distribution of police force, conduct and character of any police officer subordinate to the District Superintendent, the utilisation of auxiliary means and all other matters in furtherance of his control of the police force and the maintenance of order. He decides questions of policy and matters relating to the administration of law within the district, but does not interfere with such matters as recruitment, internal economy and organisation of the district force. The District Superintendent of Police is the executive head of the police force in the district. His primary duties are to keep the force under his control properly trained, efficient and contented and to ensure by constant supervision that the prevention, investigation and detection of crimes in the district are properly and efficiently dealt with by the police force.

At the district headquarters, the Superintendent of Police is assisted by an Inspector who is termed Home Inspector and works as his personal assistant. He supervises the work of the office at the headquarters during the former's absence. In bigger districts there are separate Inspectors for different crime branches. In Kutch district, there is an officer of the rank of Sub-Inspector of Police for the local crime branch and an Inspector of Police for the local intelligence branch. The district is divided into a number of police stations, each in charge of a Sub-Inspector of Police, who has under him Head Constables and Constables.

Police Divisions

Kutch district is divided into two Police Subdivisions with their headquarters at Bhuj and Anjar, each in charge of a Deputy Superintendent of Police. He is responsible for all crime work within his subdivision and carries out the general orders of the Superintendent. He is also responsible for the efficiency and discipline of the officers and men in his subdivision and for detailed inspection of police stations and outposts in his charge at regular intervals. Each subdivision has one or more Inspectors to look after crime work and supervision of bad characters and gangs in their circles. They also supervise and co-ordinate the crime work of different police stations within their circles.

In addition to the Police headquarters at Bhuj, there are in all 15 police stations and 46 outposts in the district. Bhuj, Mandvi and Anjar are town police stations and the rest are taluka/mahal police stations.

STATEMENT XI·2

Police Stations and Outposts

Sl. No.	Taluka/ Mahal	Police Stations	Outposts
1	2	3	4
1	Bhuj	Bhuj City	—
		Bhuj Taluka	1 Mankuva
			2 Kera
			3 Tharavada
			4 Padhar
			5 Loday
	Khadir	Khadir	1 Dhora Vira
2	Mandvi	Mandvi Town	1 Gadhsisa
			2 Bidada
			3 Bayath
		Mandvi (Water)	4 Asambia
3	Mundra	Mundra	1 Bhadresar
			2 Bhujpar
			3 Karagoga
4	Lakhpat	Lakhpat	1 Dayapar
			2 Narayan Sarovar
			3 Barandha
5	Nalia	Abdasa	1 Jakhau
			2 Dumra
			3 Vayor
			4 Bitta
			5 Kothara
			6 Khirsara
6	Nakhatrana	Nakhatrana	1 Manjal
			2 Gadani
			3 Rasliya
			4 Nirona
			5 Rohataleti
			6 Kotada
			7 Mangwana
7	Anjar	Anjar	1 Tuna
			2 Ajapar
		Gandhidham	1 Ratnal
			2 Bhuvad
			3 Dudhoi
		Kandla	
8	Bhachau	Bhachau	1 Shikarpar
			2 Adhoi
			3 Amardi
			4 Chobari
	Khavda	Khavda	1 Kuran
			2 Kunaria
9	Rapar	Rapar	1 Chitrod
			2 Gagodar
			3 Fatehgadh
			4 Bela
			5 Rav
			6 Amrapar

Railway Police—The control and administration of the Railway Police is vested in a Superintendent of Police who has a parallel organisation on the lines of the District Superintendent of Police. He functions under the supervision and control of the State Deputy Inspector General of Police and the Inspector General of Police.

Anti-Corruption and Prohibition—With a view to eradicate the evil of corruption and for a more effective implementation of the prohibition policy of Government, the Anti-Corruption and Prohibition Intelligence Force has been created under the direct control of the Inspector General of Police, Gujarat State. Every district has at least one Sub-Inspector of Police from this force.

The district has a fleet of 30 Police Vehicles and two D. V. cars. A fleet of 10 vessels is also maintained for water police. Wireless communications have also been provided at suitable places.

Welfare of Police 588 (permanent and temporary) and 33 Sub-Inspectors are housed in Government quarters. Other facilities and amenities which are provided at the police headquarters, Bhuj, include mess and canteen services where articles of daily use are sold, a projector for showing films and a radio set. Besides indoor games like draft, carrom, etc., there is a children's park provided with necessary equipments for play. A vegetable garden supplies vegetables to the members of the force at reasonable rates.

Kotwal Scheme The kotwal scheme has been adopted since 1st September 1955. Kotwal is a Government servant appointed at the village by the Mamlatdar for performing duties prescribed from time to time by Government in this behalf. The number of kotwals to be appointed in each village is determined by the Collector in accordance with the scale and rules prescribed. They are paid a fixed remuneration of Rs. 37 p. m. The kotwals who were allowed to continue in the post which they held prior to 1st November 1965, were provided in the scale of Rs. 18-½-25 plus Rs. 28 as dearness allowance. The appointment of a kotwal who is recruited on 1st November 1965 and thereafter is for the period up to the end of March following the date of appointment. Though it is purely temporary, it is renewed from year to year so long as the holder of the appointment continues to be fit for service. His service does not qualify for leave, gratuity or pension. In February every year, Talati of the village has to submit a report to the Mamlatdar in the form prescribed in duplicate. He sends it direct to the Mamlatdar and forwards the duplicate to him through the Sub-Inspector of Police. As a kotwal has to handle government money he has to furnish security worth Rs. 100 in Form 'F' signed by two sureties. The Police Patel, is primarily responsible for the general supervision and control over the work of the kotwal of his village. The sanctioned strength of kotwals in the district is 500.

Village Police—Under the Bombay Village Police Act (VIII of 1867), the control over the village police is vested in the District Magistrate. Each village or if the village is small, a group of villages generally has a Police Patel, who is required to collect information about suspicious characters and send it to the police station. He has to keep a strict watch over the movements of notorious characters under surveillance of the police and give all the information he possesses about what is happening in the village when the patrolling policemen visit the village.

Prior to the introduction of Panchayati Raj, in all villages there were two posts, one of Revenue Patel and another of Police Patel appointed by the Prant Officer or Subdivisional Magistrate in accordance with the provisions of the Hereditary Offices Act. In smaller villages, the Police Patel carried out both the revenue and police functions, while in larger ones there were separate posts of Revenue Patel and Police Patel. However, after the inauguration of Panchayati Raj from 1st April 1963, the work of collection of revenue has been transferred to the Panchayat and so the Police Patels now look after only the maintenance of law and order in the villages.

Home Guards—Home guards organisation functions under the District Commandant, Home Guards, who has his headquarters at Bhuj. It was organised for the first time at Bhuj in the year 1959 and later extended to the entire district. The organisation is non-political and non-communal. All members on enrolment sign a pledge to the effect that they will well and truly serve the people without fear and affection, malice or ill will for the maintenance of peace and prevention of crime against person and property. The ten units operating in this district are Bhuj, Anjar, Gandhidham, Adipur, Mandvi, Mundra, Nakhatrana, Nalia, Bhachau and Kandla. The unit at Bhuj is considered a city unit, those at Anjar, Mundra, Nakhatrana, Bhachau, Mandvi and Nalia are taluka units, whereas Kandla, Adipur, Gandhidham and Madhapar have sub-units. Home guards are imparted training in squad drill, *lathi* drill, arms drill, firing, use of bayonet, physical exercises, wireless training, heavy vehicles driving, first aid to the injured, etc. As regards duties and functions of the Home guards they are now entrusted with Civil Defence duties which include fire fighting services, rescue operations, motor driving, etc., which assume more importance specially in view of the fact that Kutch district is a border district. And as such more stress is given to training of home guards in these subjects in this district so that the services of the home guards can be most useful in times of emergency. When called on duty, they enjoy the same powers and protection as those by the members of the regular police force. Their functions consist mainly of guarding public buildings, patrolling, prevention of crime and assisting the police in their duties.

Gram Rakshak Dal—Another organisation established by the Government for the protection of rural areas is the Gram Rakshak Dal. It is

a body of men primarily organised for the defence of the village against dacoits, other anti-social elements, protection of person and safety and security of public property in a village. During times of emergency, Gram Rakshak Dal functions as an adjunct to and works in close co-operation with the police in maintaining internal security. Every person between the ages of 20 and 50 residing in a village, possessing good health and character, antecedents and civic sense and educated up to third standard vernacular, is eligible for appointment as a member of the Gram Rakshak Dal. The District Superintendent of Police is the appointing authority. Every member of the Gram Rakshak Dal is invested with the powers, privileges and protection of a Police Officer when called for duty. The members of the Gram Rakshak Dal are given, by the Police Head Constable appointed specially for this purpose, training in elementary squad drill, *lathi* drill, physical exercises, arms drill, use of rifle, organising *naka bandis* in the village, combating dacoits and robbers and first aid to the injured. They are also encouraged to do night patrolling in their respective villages, both on their own as well as with the police. They are mobilised for service when the village faces dangers like floods, fire or is attacked by dacoits robbers, etc. In Kutch district the villages where Gram Rakshak Dals were organised numbered 356 and had membership of 10,272 in 1966, which included 580 Naiks and Up-Naiks. Members of the Dal are recommended for arms licences in deserving cases.

Mahila Gram Rakshak Dal—Similar organisation for women was started in the wake of Pakistani aggression in 1965. The objective of organising this separate wing is to inculcate a spirit of defence among women and to induce them to take part in protecting life and property in the village. During such emergencies as floods, fire, earthquake, etc., they are required to give first aid to the injured and prepare food for the affected. Help in saving ladies from the clutches of anti-social elements is one of the main functions of the Mahila Gram Rakshak Dal. Any woman, between the ages of 18 and 50 possessing good health, character and education up to IVth Standard is eligible for recruitment. The District Superintendent of Police is the appointing authority in which work he is assisted by the Honorary Women organisers of the district. Members are trained in elementary drill, use of rifle and cane, elementary knowledge of law, first aid to the injured, collection of intelligence about anti-social elements and freeing harassed people from the clutches of such persons. The Mahila Gram Rakshak Dal in this district had 103 members at the end of 1966.

Jails

Organisation

Prisons in Gujarat State are constituted under the Prisons Act, IX of 1894. The Inspector General of Prisons, Ahmedabad, is the head of the

Jail Department appointed under Section 5 of the Prisons Act and exercises, subject to the orders of the State Government, general control and superintendence over all prisons, Jails and the head-quarters sub-Jails in the State. The Jail Department functions under the Home Department.

There is a special prison at Bhuj, where hardened and incorrigible prisoners from all over the State are kept. Undertrial prisoners, from the district are also sent here. A full time Superintendent assisted by one Jailor (Grade II), one Senior Clerk, two Junior Clerks and Jail Guards is responsible for the management of the prison.

The special prison at Bhuj has a capacity to accommodate 122 prisoners. The total number of convicts and undertrials in the jails during 1967 was 561.

Convicts			Undertrials			Detenues			Total	
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
202	..	202	352	7	359	..	..	..	554	7

Source :
The Superintendent, Special Prison, Bhuj

All the convicts and all the undertrial persons excluding 7 women were males.

There are nine lock-ups in the district at Mandvi, Anjar, Rapar, Mundra, Nakhatrana, Nalia, Lakhpat, Bhachau and Khavda which are managed by the Revenue Department. The Mamlatdar of the taluka in which the lock-up is situated is the Superintendent of the lock-up and a clerk from his office functions as the Jailor. There are no sub-jails in the district.

Prison Discipline—Prison life is well organised. Prisoners behave in a disciplined manner and any breach of discipline is punished with (1) cut in remission, (ii) separate confinement, (iii) stoppage of canteen facilities, etc., under the Prisons Act, 1894.

The Bhuj Special prison is meant for prisoners [illegible] hardened criminals. Their activities are watched carefully and are [illegible] normal lines by individual counselling by the Jail authorities. Any improvement in their behaviour results in their transfer to other prisons in the State.

The statement given below shows the nature and number of Jail offences reported during the year 1967.

	Nature of offence	Number
1	Offences relating to work	1
2	Offences relating to assault	3
3	Offences relating to other breaches of jail discipline	10
	Total	**14**

After Independence, Government has taken serveral steps on the reformative side. The first phase of Jail reforms started with the improvement in the treatment to the inmates of jails. Hard labour which broke down even the most able bodied persons was removed. One of the important aspects of Jail reforms is the introduction of cottage and small scale industries in jails. Prisoners are given an opportunity to learn some important profession or craft which would enable them earn their livelihood after their release from Jails. A small factory is run in the prison for the manufacture articles like carpets, *chadders* (bed-sheets), towels, *pattis* for wooden cots, etc. Prisoners receive wages according to the work done at prescribed rates. A special type of carpet called the *panja* carpet manufactured in this prison is strong and durable. The total value of the goods manufactured in the special prison during the year 1965 amounted to Rs. 5,977 bringing a profit of Rs. 3,488 to the jail authorities.

Welfare of Prisoners—Though jails are considered penal institutions they are now a days regarded more or less as institutions for the reformation and rehabilitation of those men and women who find themselves in jails for a variety of reasons. Whatever may be the cause of a prisoner's entry into jails, it is the duty of jail administration to equip him with such training as will enable him to settle down as an honest, decent and useful citizen of the community after his release. With this end in view Government has introduced several jail reforms in which the welfare of prisoners occupy an important place. These are (i) remission of sentence for good behaviour, (ii) granting of furlough and parole, (iii) supply of newspapers, (iv) literacy classes for the benefit of prisoners, (v) canteen facilities with permission to spend up to Rs. 10 per month from the money earned by prisoners in jail on items like tea, milk, cigarettes, match boxes, soap, etc., (vi) film shows arranged by the District Information Officer, (vii) cultural activities in the form of *bhajans*, songs, etc., (viii) permission to prosecute their studies and get school books in addition to religious books from relatives and Jail library, and (ix) installation of radio set in the Jail premises.

Treatment of Prisoners—Prisoners are classified into undertrial prisoners, civil prisoners and prisoners undergoing simple and rigorous imprisonment. Those convicted are given reformatory treatment in Jail during the period of their confinements. Juveniles between the ages of 17 and 23 years from all over the State are kept in District Prison at Junagadh. Prisoners detained under the Preventive Detention Act, 1950 (as amended in 1961) and the Defence of India Act, 1962 are governed by the rules made under these Acts. They are classified as class I and II detenues and provided with additional facilities like table, chair, cot and extra interviews. They are also allowed to contest elections. Convicts are allowed to write one letter every month, whereas undertrial prisoners can do so once a week at Government cost. Interview with outside persons including relatives are allowed once a month to convicted persons, while such interviews can be arranged once a week in case of undertrial prisoners. Additional interviews are also granted to undertrial prisoners in special cases.

Panchayat System—Another important step deserving mention is the constitution of Prisoners' Panchayat, Panchayat system has been introduced in the Jail to implement the programme and activities undertaken for the welfare of prisoners. Panchayat members are elected from amongst themselves. This institution plays an important role in bringing to the notice of the administration urgent requirements of prisoners and training them in democratic form of Government. It has also been helpful in maintaining good discipline in the Jail as also in building up the character of the prisoners.

Juveniles and Beggars—The Directorate of Social Welfare of Gujarat State, which has its headquarters at Ahmedabad, looks after a number of social welfare activities in the State involved in the implementation of the Bombay Children Act of 1948, Saurashtra Children Act of 1956, Bombay Probation of Offenders Act, 1938, Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959, (Bombay Borstal Schools Act, 1929, Bombay Habitual Offenders Act, 1959) and Women's and Children's Institutions Licencing Act, 1956. The Directorate deals with non-institutional activities in the field of welfare of women and children which include running of Juvenile Guidance Centres, Family Counselling Centres, Youth Clubs, etc. As a part of the social and moral hygiene and after-care services, five reception centres for women at Ahmedabad, Surendranagar, Palanpur, Godhra and Broach and two State Homes at Baroda and Surat have been started to admit women who are deserted or have family troubles as also those released from correctional institutions like jails, remand homes, certified schools, etc. During their stay in the institutions, they are trained in some craft to make them economically independent. The Superintendent of the Home tries to rehabilitate them either by reconciliation with their relatives or get them married to suitable persons or help them in getting employed.

The State Home for Men at Rajkot and the District Shelter Home at Ahmedabad admit young boys above the age of 16 but below 21 years, adult males below 45 years released from correctional institutions, and destitute persons. The Superintendent of the Home helps them get some job or are trained in some industrial craft. Inmates are allowed to leave the institution, if they desire to go to their relatives only on their submitting a written application to the Superintendent of the Home.

The Directorate also undertakes welfare services for the physically handicapped, i. e., blind, deaf, crippled and mentally retarded children and runs a school for the blind at Bhuj.

Bombay Children Act, 1948 - The Bombay Children Act, 1948 was made applicable to Kutch from May 1966. The Juveniles Court and the Remand Home have been started at Bhuj for the protection of the neglected, destitute, victimised and uncontrollable children and delinquents. The Probation Officer of the Remand Home submits a report to the Juveniles Court on the basis of inquiry conducted by him regarding the home condition and other antecedents of such children. On the basis of the report submitted by the Probation Officer for the child on remand, the Juveniles Court decides whether the child is to be restored to his parents or guardian or kept under the supervision of the Probation Officer or ordered to be committed to a certified school established by Government under the Act.

Bombay Probation of Offenders Act, 1938 - This Act has been brought into force in this district from the year 1959. A Chief Officer has been appointed at Bhuj to organise the work under this Act. He visits the courts of Judicial Magistrates, and makes preliminary inquiries into the home conditions, antecedents and character of the offenders whose cases are referred to him by the court. After trial offenders are released after admonition or kept on probation under the supervision of the Chief Officer.

School for the Blind, Bhuj - One such school is run by the Directorate of Social Welfare at Bhuj where blind children are taught up to fourth standard through *Braille* system and also music and cane work.

School for the Blind, Deaf, Dumb and Crippled Children, Mandvi - This school is run by a voluntary agency on grant-in-aid basis and teaches tailoring, embroidery and photography.

Kutch Mahila Kendra, Bhuj—This voluntary institution was started in the year 1954 by Shri Badrinath Shukla, a philanthropist of Uttar Pradesh.

Vikas Grih—This home where destitute, deserted and women exposed to moral danger are admitted and efforts are made for their rehabilitation. The Home is given preventive and rescue grant by the Directorate.

A composite programme of family and child welfare is also run by the State Social Welfare Advisory Board and Taluka Panchayat, Bhuj under the overall technical supervision of State Directorate of Social Welfare. One such project was set up in 1967-68 for Bhuj-Banni-Khavda.

Judiciary

Historical Backgrounds*

A dual system of administration prevailed in Kutch giving rise to two separate jurisdictions. The Rao had control over the *khalsa* territory, while the Bhayats or Jadeja chieftains exercised jurisdiction over the estates held by them. The institution of Bhayat or brotherhood originated from the convention followed by the Rajputs in Kutch that all the sons of a chief must be provided for out of the family estate. Thus nearly one-third or one-half of the entire State had passed into the hands of the Jadeja chiefs or cadets of the ruling family whose rights and independence were guaranteed by the British following the anarchy that prevailed in this region during reign of Rao Rayadhan. The British, it appears, followed a policy of appeasement towards the Jadeja chiefs and issued a proclamation by which the Jadeja feudatories were assured that so long as they remained quiet their rights and privileges would be respected. The effect of this guarantee was to raise the power and position of Bhayats who became so powerful that even the question of succession to the Rao was settled in consultation with them. The various provisions of the Treaty of 1819 made the Jadeja chiefs almost independent in their estates. Though the treaty made the Rao, his heirs and successors absolute masters of their territories, it also guaranteed the Jadeja feudatories full enjoyment of their possessions. The result was that the utmost advantage of British intervention in Kutch was secured to the Jadeja chiefs while the burdens inseparable therefrom were heaped on the Rao who could summon the Jadejas to serve him in war but must pay them so long as they were within his army. The British later realised their mistake and steadily pursued a policy of centralisation. Powers likely to interfere with a good and strong government were firmly but quietly taken out of their hands. Against this background it would be interesting to know the manner in which the administration of justice was carried on in Kutch and the stages by which the civil and criminal courts were established and brought in line with those functioning in the adjoining districts of British India.

* Campbell J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, pp. 180-83

Before 1854 the petty chiefs, who exercised jurisdiction within their estates, took cognizance of disputes, theft and other minor offences. However, quarrels between the proprietors and serious crimes as murder went before the Darbar. In Vagad, however, grave offences were first inquired into by the Agency Police and then handed over to the Darbar. In *khalsa* villages belonging to the Rao, the revenue officers took cognizance of petty offences, reporting the serious ones to the Darbar, where they were personally dealt with by the Rao. Civil cases were either heard in the Rao's presence or investigated by one of his courts, panchayats, of which there were two, composed of the members of the Bhayat and other respectable officials. For most offences the usual punishment was fine or imprisonment in lieu of fine. Improvement in the administration of justice was made when Civil and Criminal Procedure Codes on the model of those in force in British districts were introduced in 1869.

By 1879 there were three classes of courts in Kutch, those with jurisdiction in the Rao's domain only, those with jurisdiction in the estates of petty chiefs, and those whose power extended over the whole State. Revenue and judicial powers were, to a certain extent, separated in the Rao's villages. For administrative purposes and proper supervision, the State was divided into eight sub-divisions, each under the charge of a subordinate judge, called Nyayadhish, who exercised both civil and criminal powers. Of these, Bhachau, Mundra and Lakhpat had revenue powers in addition. The Nyayadhishes were divided into two classes. Those in class I were empowered to pass sentence of imprisonment for one year and inflict fine up to Rs. 250 in criminal matters and to try civil suits up to Rs. 1,250. Those in class II were empowered to try civil suits up to Rs. 500 and award three months' imprisonment and fine up to Rs. 60 in criminal matters. Of the eight subordinate judges, five at Rapar, Anjar, Bhuj, Mandvi and Abdasa were first class and three at Bhachau, Mundra and Lakhpat were second class. Besides the sub-judges, the thandars at Khadir, Khavda and Nakhatrana exercised second class powers. These courts functioned under a High Court called Varistha Adalat presided over by the Naib Diwan assisted by an Assistant Judge. It heard appeals from, and original cases beyond the powers of the district courts and also the cases of guarantee holders according to the Settlement of 1872. Thus the Varistha Adalat had practically two sides, viz., *khalsa* on the one hand and Jadeja on the other. It exercised full civil and criminal jurisdiction throughout the State. Sentence of death, transportation for life and imprisonment for fourteen years were subject to confirmation by the Council of Regency. The first judge presided over the Jadeja court, besides attending to more important work on the *khalsa* side, of which the lighter work devolved on the Assistant Judge. The courts in the territory under subordinate chiefs were the landholders' courts. Appeals from the decisions of the Varistha Adalat were heard by the Diwan's Court, presided over by the Diwan. Cases considered by him of special importance were reserved for disposal by the Council Regency.

Jadeja Court—This special institution of Kutch owes its origin to the guarantee given by the British Government to the Jadeja chiefs under the terms of Treaty of 1819. Its business was conducted under the presidency of the Naib Diwan by a bench of four Jadeja Bhayats chosen by the Rao. The Jadeja chiefs were classified into four classes according to the varied degrees of civil and criminal powers enjoyed by them.

The Jadeja court heard civil and criminal cases arising on the estates of guarantee holders and cases in which a guarantee holder was concerned, or in which one or both of the parties lived on a guarantee holders' estate. Appeals from the decisions of jurisdiction holders lay to the Jadeja court. From the Jadeja court an appeal lay to the Rao, and from him to the Political Agent, if the matter in dispute related to the land or revenue of a guarantee holder. Boundary disputes in which a guarantee holder was a party were also decided by the Jadeja court with an appeal to the Rao and a further appeal to the Political Agent, if the party dissatisfied was a guarantee holder. Boundary cases in which the Rao was a party were decided by the Jadeja court, in which case an appeal lay to the Political Agent.

Pre-Independence Period—The following was the judicial set-up in Kutch State[1] at the time of Independence.

The Huzur Court was the court of second appeal both on the *Khalsa* and Jadeja sides. The Varistha *Khalsa* Adalat and the Varistha Jadeja Adalat were the courts of first appeal and also exercised original jurisdiction both in civil and criminal matters. Subordinate to the Varistha *Khalsa* Adalat there were nine taluka civil and criminal courts having first class powers and three more having second class powers. The former were also empowered to take cognizance of Jagir cases beyond the jurisdiction of Jagirdars' courts. Appeals from their decisions lay to the Varistha Jadeja Adalat. There were seven small causes courts located at Bhuj, Anjar, Mandvi, Mundra, Bhachau, Rapar and Abdasa. The small causes work at Bhuj was attended to by the Assistant Judge, Varistha Court and by the taluka Nyayadhishes at other places.

There was seperation of judiciary and executive in the State. The High Court established in 1944-45 brought about complete separation of judiciary from the executive. Three courts were, however, presided over by Revenue Officers exercising second class powers, as their size and isolation rendered separation costly and inadvisable.

After Integration—After the Government of India took over the administration of Kutch State from June 1948, Kutch Courts Order, 1948 was promulgated and the Court of the Judicial Commissioner was consti-

1. *Kutch State, Annual Administration Report*, 1944-45, p. 19

tuted in place of the Kutch High Court. This Court which started functioning from December 1948 heard both appeals and revision applications. Under the said Order, as Kutch was treated as a district, a District Court was constituted under a District Judge and an Additional District Judge to deal with special civil suits and to function as an appellate court. They also tried criminal cases as the Sessions Judge and the Additional Sessions Judge respectively. For the purpose of judicial administration, Kutch was divided into nine talukas and two mahals. There were taluka Sub-Judges and First Class Magistrates in each taluka. The Mahalkaris of two mahals, where complete separation of the judiciary and the executive was not possible, were designated as Second Class Magistrates. The judicial system was thus reorganised on the pattern obtaining in Bombay State, and the Civil and Criminal Manuals of the Bombay High Court were followed by the Kutch Courts. Kutch had its own Civil and Criminal Codes. These were replaced by the Acts of Central Government in accordance with the Merged State Laws Act, 1949. The Bombay Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act, 1939 was also applied.

When Kutch was merged with the bilingual Bombay State on the Reorganisation of States in 1956, it became one of the districts of that State. The Court of the Judicial Cimmissioner ceased to function and the District and Sessions Court for Kutch at Bhuj came under the jurisdiction of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay. The judicial administration which was then brought in line with that existing in the Bombay State has been continued in Gujarat on its formation as a separate State from 1st May, 1960.

PRESENT SET-UP

The District Judge is the highest judicial authority in the district and presides over the District Court which has its headquarters at Bhuj. It is the principal court of original jurisdiction in the district. It is also a court of appeal from all decrees and orders passed by the subordinate courts, in suits valued at Rs. 10,000 or less. The District Judge exercises general control over all the civil courts and their establishments, inspects their proceedings and exercises jurisdiction under the Special Acts like the Bombay Motor Vehicles Act, Land Acquisition Act, Public Trusts Act, Bombay District Municipalities Act, Bombay Municipal Boroughs Act, Bombay Rent Act, etc., as adapted and applied to Gujarat State as also under the Indian Electricity Act, Indian Telegraphs Act, Indian Railways Act, Representation of People Act, etc. The District Judge, Kutch is also the President of Board of Appeals under the Gandhidham Development (Control on Erection of Buildings) Act, 1958 and for this purpose he holds sittings at Gandhidham at intervals. He is assisted in matters civil and criminal by an Assistant Judge who is also the Additional Sessions Judge. The Assistant Judge can try original cases the value of which does not exceed Rs. 15,000 and hears appeals from the decrees and orders of the subordinate

courts, filed in the District Court and referred to him by the District Judge. The post is generally lying vacant and is filled in only when the exigencies of work so demand.

Subordinate to the District Judge are the Courts of the Civil Judges, Senior Division, and Civil Judges, Junior Division. The jurisdiction of the former extends to all original suits and proceedings of a civil nature, irrespective of the value of the subject matter, and that of the latter to all original suits and proceedings the subject matter of which does not exceed Rs. 10,000 in value. The Civil Judge, Senior Division, Bhuj, is also empowered to entertain petitions in respect of marriages under the Hindu Marriage Act, Muslim Marriage Act, Parsee Marriage Act, Indian Christian Marriage Act and the Special Marriage Act, insolvency matters under Indian Insolvency Act and probate, letter of administration and succession certificates under the Indian Succession Act.

Besides the District Court there are at Bhuj courts of (i) Civil Judge, Senior Division and Judicial Magistrate first class and (ii) Civil Judge, Junior Division and Judicial Magistrate first class. As Small Cause Judges, the Civil Judges, Senior and Junior Divisions try cases up to prescribed pecuniary limits as per powers vested in them by the High Court. The Civil Judge, Senior Division and Judicial Magistrate first class, Bhuj, is also the *ex-officio* Commissioner for workmen's compensation for Kutch district. The Civil Judge, Junior Division and Judicial Magistrate first class at Bhuj also presides over the Children's Court constituted under the Bombay Children Act. Other courts in the district are those of Civil Judges, Junior Division and Judicial Magistrates first class located at Anjar, Gandhidham, Mandvi, Bhachau, Rapar and Nakhatrana. Mundra, Lakhpat, Nalia and Khavda talukas are served by linked courts as shown below.

Linked Courts

1	Mundra ...	... The Civil Judge, Junior Division, Bhuj holds court for ten days in a month.
2	Nalia-Lakhpat	... The Civil Judge, Junior Division, Nakhatrana holds court for ten days in a month at Nalia and at Lakhpat for a day every month.
3	Khavda ...	... The Civil Judge, Senior Division, Bhuj holds court for three days at the interval of two months.

Whenever there is any vacancy in any of these courts, arrangements for the disposal of work are made by keeping charge with the presiding

officer of a court of the neighbouring taluka/mahal as may be convenient who visits such courts according to the exigencies of work.

Criminal Courts—The District Judge is also the Sessions Judge of the district. He tries criminal cases committed to his court by the Judicial Magistrates after preliminary inquiries and hears appeals against the decisions of the subordinate magistrates. He is also the Special Judge empowered to try cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947.

The Assistant Judge exercises the powers of the Additional Sessions Judge on the criminal side for the trial of sessions cases, criminal appeals and miscellaneous criminal applications transferred to him for disposal by the Sessions Judge. If the Assistant Judge is not invested with powers of a Sessions Judge, he works as an Assistant Sessions Judge only. The Sessions Judge and the Additional Sessions Judge may pass any sentence authorised by law, but any sentence of death passed by them is subject to confirmation by the High Court. They also hear appeals and revision applications from the decisions of the Magistrates. The Assistant Sessions Judge can impose a sentence of imprisonment up to ten years and has no power to hear criminal appeals and revision applications. The appointment of Assistant Sessions Judge or the Additional Sessions Judge is made whenever necessary to cope with the volume of work in the Sessions Court.

The Bombay Separation of Judicial and Executive Functions (Extension) Act and the Code of Criminal Procedure (Provisions for Uniformity) classify Magistrates into two categories, viz., (1) Judicial and (ii) Executive. All Judicial Magistrates in the district are first class. They are subordinate to the Sessions Judge, who may, from time to time, make rules or give special orders as to the distribution of business among them. Executive Magistrates fall under the following classes, viz., (1) District Magistrate, (2) Subdivisional Magistrates and (3) Taluka Magistrates. All subdivisional magistrates are subordinate to the District Magistrate and the Taluka Magistrates to the Subdivisional Magistrates concerned, subject to the general control of the District Magistrate. They exercise powers and functions detailed in paras III-A, IV and V of Schedule III of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Appeals from orders of executive magistrates requiring security for keeping peace lie to the Sessions Court.

The Law Officer of the Government functioning in Kutch District is the District Government Pleader who is also the Public Prosecutor.

Civil Cases—The following statement shows the number of Civil cases classified according to (A) the nature of suits and (B) the amount involved during the year 1966.

STATEMENT XI·3

(A) Civil Cases Classified According to Nature of Suits, 1966

Sl. No.	Particulars	Number of cases
1	2	3
1	Cases pending at the end of the year 1965 ..	799
2	New cases instituted during the year, 1966 ..	1,721
	Cases relating to :	
	(a) Money and movable property ..	1,142
	(b) Immovable property	277
	(c) Specific Relief	156
	(d) Mortgage	125
	(e) Others	21
3	Cases revived and received otherwise ..	24
4	Suits disposed of during the year ..	1,719
5	Cases pending at the end of the year, 1966	825
	Total of all cases	2,544

(B) Civil Cases Classified According to Amount Involved, 1966

Sl. No.	Amount	Number of cases
1	2	3
1	Over Rs. 10 but not exceeding Rs. 50 ..	138
2	Over Rs. 50 but not exceeding Rs. 100 ..	229
3	Over Rs. 100 but not exceeding Rs. 500 ..	799
4	Over Rs. 500 but not exceeding Rs. 1,000 ..	211
5	Over Rs. 1,000 but not exceeding Rs. 5,000	184
6	Over Rs. 5,000 but not exceeding Rs. 10,000	21
	Over Rs. 10,000	22
8	Cases the monetary value of which could not be estimated	117
	Total	1,721

Out of 1,721 cases registered in the year 1966, those relating to money and movable property numbered 1,142 or 66·35 per cent. Those relating to immovable property, specific relief and mortgage accounted for 558 or 32·43 per cent. Cases involving an amount up to Rs. 500 numbered 1,156 or 67·16 per cent; those valued at Rs. 501 to Rs. 5,000 accounted for 395 and the rest were 43. The monetary value could not be estimated in 117 cases.

Out of 1,719 suits disposed of, 341 were disposed of without trial, 240 were ex-parte, 86 were decided by admission of claim; 556 by compromise and 382 after full trial. One suit was disposed of by reference to arbitration. 113 suits were transferred. To 196 appeals pending at the end of 1965, 159 were added during the year 1966 bringing the total to 355. Of these, 231 were disposed of leaving 124 appeals pending at the end of 1966. Of 231 appeals disposed of, 12 were either dismissed or not prosecuted; decrees of lower courts were confirmed in 146; modified in 14 and reversed in 44. The rest numbering 50 were remanded for trial by the lower Court.

Criminal Cases—In the year 1966, 7,679 offences were tried in the Criminal Courts of Kutch and 12,794 persons were put to trial. Out of 10,773 persons, whose cases were disposed of, 5,349 were discharged or acquitted, 5,359 convicted, 59 committed to sessions and 6 died or escaped.

Sessions Court—80 persons inclusive of those mentioned above were tried in the Sessions Court. Of these, 45 were acquitted or discharged, 21 convicted, two awarded life imprisonment, 14 sentenced to various terms of imprisonment and 5 ordered to pay fine.

Revenue and Expenditure—The total revenue derived in 1966-67 from the sale proceeds of unclaimed or escheated property, general fees, fines and forfeiture, cash receipts of the record room and miscellaneous receipts amounted to Rs. 53,440 as against the total expenditure on salaries, allowances, contingencies, etc., which amounted to Rs. 431,801.

Nyaya Panchayats—Over and above the judicial courts, Panchayat Courts are also established in villages covered by Gram Panchayats to try minor offences with a view to avoid undue hardship and expenditure to the village people. The Nyaya Panchayats were first formed in Kutch under the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1958 which provided for the constitution of a Nyaya Panchayat for a group of five or more villages. After the enactment of the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961, Nyaya Panchayats can be established also at places where there are Nagar Panchayats. The Act further provides for the creation of conciliation panch, whose main duty is to settle disputes between the parties. Nyaya Panchayats take cognizance of and try suits in respect of money due on contracts, recovery of

movable property and other suits the value of which does not exceed Rs. 250. They also try certain complaints under the Indian Penal Code, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, Bombay District Vaccination Act and Bombay Primary Education Act. The Nyaya Panchayats are empowered to inflict maximum penalty in respect of offences triable by it. In August 1968 there were 107 Nyaya Panchayats in this district constituted in accordance with Section 212 of the Gujarat Panchayats Act covering five to seven Panchayats under each Nyaya Panchayat.

Bar Association—Bar Associations are formed at Bhuj, Mandvi, Anjar, Rapar, Gandhidham, Mundra, Bhachau, Nakhatrana and Nalia. None of them is registered. Their total membership at the end of the year 1966 was 111.

CHAPTER XII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The role of public administration has been increasingly expanding in recent times to meet the exigencies of planning for a welfare State. The activities now undertaken by Government are so diverse that a number of departments which did not exist or play any significant part in the past have come up since Independence to give effect to and keep pace with the growing tempo of development work generated by the various nation-building activities implemented in each successive Five Year Plans. Revenue, judiciary and police were the only important departments in Kutch prior to Independence. Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Forest, Public Works, Industries, Co-operation, etc., have expanded enormously since then. Their administrative set-up is dealt with in the following pages.

Set-up of the Department of Agriculture

The officer in charge of agricultural activities at the district level is the District Agricultural Officer. He is responsible technically to the Superintending Agricultural Officer, Rajkot, working under the Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad and administratively to the District Development Officer, Kutch. There are three Agricultural Officers under him in his office, namely, (i) Assistant District Agricultural Officer, (ii) Agricultural Officer, Plant Protection and (iii) Agricultural Officer, Taluka Seed Multiplication Farms who supervise the different agricultural activities in the district under the instructions of the District Agricultural Officer. Nine Extension Officers (Agriculture), one in each taluka, also work under the technical guidance of the District Agricultural Officer.

The duties and functions of the District Agricultural Officer include the following :

(i) Organising agricultural demonstration centres and holding field demonstration of important activities related to agriculture, horticulture, etc.

(ii) Organisation of crop protection services.

(iii) Supervision of crop cutting experiments.

(iv) Inspection of taluka offices and depots.

(v) Submission of season and crop reports.

(Bk) H-49—59 (Lino)

(vi) Organisation of crop competitions at district-level.

(vii) Production and distribution of improved seeds.

(viii) Issue licences under :

(1) Fertiliser Control Order, 1957.

(2) Subsidised distribution of improved insecticides.

(ix) Locust control work.

The work relating to soil conservation is carried out by three Subdivisional Soil Conservation Officers having their headquarters at Bhuj, Anjar and Rapar. They are under the control of the Divisional Soil Conservation Officer, Rajkot.

Set-up of the Department of Animal Husbandry

The officer at the district level in charge of Animal Husbandry activities is the District Animal Husbandry Officer. He is responsible technically to the Director of Animal Husbandry, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad and administratively to the District Development Officer, District Panchayat, Kutch. The main functions of the District Animal Husbandry Officer are to carry out schemes relating to the improvement of the breed of cattle, protection of cattle against contagious diseases, treatment of sick animals in veterinary dispensaries, castration of scrub animals and other animal husbandry schemes. He is assisted in his work by two Veterinary Officers posted at Mandvi and Anjar and 28 Stockmen posted at various places in the district. The district has 10 Veterinary Hospitals one in each taluka (Bhuj having two) and 28 Veterinary Centres. The Veterinary Hospitals at Mandvi and Anjar are looked after by the respective Veterinary Officers, while those at other places are in charge of the Stockmen. There are 4 breeding farms in the district one each at Bhuj, Dhori, Nalia and Nakhatrana. While the breeding farm at Bhuj is in charge of a Superintendent (Class II), others are under Managers (Class III) all working under the direct control of the Regional Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry, Rajkot region.

Forest Department

The Chief Conservator of Forests with headquarters at Baroda is the head of the Forest Department of Gujarat State. Under him are three territorial circles (1) Baroda Circle, Baroda, (2) Junagadh Circle, Junagadh and (3) Surat Circle Surat and two more for special work, each under a

Conservator of Forests. Special circles relate to (1) Kotar Afforestation and Reclamation and (2) Research and Working plan. Both are located at Baroda. Conservators have under them Divisional Forest Officers to look after the administration of divisions under their charge. They belong to Gujarat Forest Service Class I. They are assisted by Subdivisional Forest Officers who belong to Gujarat Forest Service Class II. Kutch Division having its jurisdiction over the entire district functions directly under the control of the Conservator of Forests, Junagadh.

A division is subdivided into smaller executive charges called ranges supervised by Range Forest Officers who are non-gazetted subordinate officers (Class III) usually trained at one of the forest colleges in India at Dehra Dun or at Coimbatore. Each range is further subdivided into rounds, each under a Round Officer or a Forester, usually trained at the forest classes held in the State at Chhota Udepur in Baroda district. Finally each round is subdivided into beats each under a Beat Guard also called a Forest Guard. A training class for Guards at Junagadh trains Guards from all the circles.

The total forest area in Kutch district in 1966-67 was 952·52 sq. km. under the Divisional Forest Officer, Kutch Division, Bhuj. To keep the forest preserved, protected and improved, it is subdivided into five ranges, viz., Bhuj, Anjar, Nakhatrana, Mandvi and Bhachau. Under each Range Forest Officer there are 4 to 5 Round Forest Officers or Foresters. The Kutch Forest Division had 21 Foresters and 90 Forest Guards in the year 1966-67.

Public Works Department

The Public Works Department deals with (1) roads and buildings, (2) irrigation, (3) electricity, (4) ports. The spheres of activity of each of these branches are independent of each other. The first two branches work under a separate Superintending Engineer. While the work relating to electricity is placed under the charge of the Electrical Engineer to the Government, the ports organisation is headed by the Director of Ports, who has his headquarters at Ahmedabad.

Roads and Buildings—The Kutch Roads and Buildings Circle comprising the revenue limits of Kutch district is under the control of a Superintending Engineer. He has under him four divisions, namely, (1) Bridge division, Adipur, (2) Roads and Buildings division, Bhuj, (3) Bhachau Roads and Buildings division, Bhachau and (4) Nakhatrana Roads and Buildings division, Bhuj each under an Executive Engineer. There are twelve Civil and one Mechanical subdivisions each under a Deputy Engineer.

The Superintendent Engineer and the Executive Engineers belong to the Gujarat Service of Engineers Class I and the Deputy Engineers to the

Gujarat Service of Engineers Class II. The subdivisions are further divided into sections, each in charge of either a Junior Engineer, Supervisor or an Overseer.

With the inauguaration of the Panchayati Raj in Gujarat from 1st April, 1963, Major District Roads, Other District Roads and Village Roads have been transferred to the district panchayat and are in charge of the Executive Engineer, (Panchayat). Four subdivisions functioning under him are (1) Bhuj, (2) Mandvi, (3) Nakhatrana, and (4) Bhachau, each under a Deputy Engineer.

In Kutch district, the Public Works Department maintained a total of 284·97 km. of roads till March, 1966. Of these 175·49 km. had asphalt surface and the rest water bound macadam. Roads maintained by the district panchayat totalled 1,519·84 km., of which 235·06 km. were metalled and the rest unmetalled.

Irrigation—The Executive Engineer, West Kutch Irrigation Division, looks after the irrigation works in the district. He works under the Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Project Circle, Ahmedabad. There are three irrigation subdivisions in the district headed by Deputy Engineers, who have their headquarters at Bhuj. After the introduction of the Panchayati Raj from 1st April, 1963, major and medium irrigation schemes are dealt with at the State level, while minor irrigation schemes have been transferred to the district panchayat. The construction and maintenance of tube-wells is also looked after by the Panchayat Division.

Electrical Circle—For carrying out advisory, administrative and executive duties pertaining to the generation and use of electricity in the State there is an electrical wing in the Public Works Department headed by the Electrical Engineer to the Government. There are three electrical divisions in the State, each under an Executive Engineer with headquarters at Ahmedabad, Baroda and Rajkot. Kutch district has been placed under the jurisdiction of the Electrical Division, Rajkot. The Executive Engineer of this division arranges for electrical installations in government buildings and performs the duties of the Electrical Inspector for Saurashtra and Kutch regions under the Indian Electricity Act of 1910. The inspection of Medium Pressure and High Tension electrical installations, power houses, mills, cinemas, etc., are also carried out by the staff of this division.

The Gujarat Electricity Board has installed a steam station at Kandla, the capacity of which has been increased from 6 MW to 16 MW. This station together with four small diesel stations provides electricity to the diartict, which has about 256 km. of 33 kV. transmission lines and 720 km. of 11 kV. lines. About 110 villages have so far been electrified.

Ports—The administration of all Gujarat ports is vested in the central office at Ahmedabad, known as the office of the Director of Ports, functioning under the Public Works Department at the State level. For the purpose of administration, all the ports in Gujarat State are divided into eight groups, each headed by a Port Officer or Assistant Port Officer with his headquarters at the most important port of the group. There is a State Port Advisory Board with representatives of Central Government, State Government, Chambers of Commerce, Sailing Vessels' Association, etc. Local Port Advisory Committees representing interests like shipping, customs, import-export trade, chamber of commerce, sailing vessels, etc., are also constituted to advise the government on matters connected with Ports Act and Rules, standardisation of port charges, etc. They also advise the Port Officers at the respective ports on matters connected with trade and development of ports.

In Kutch district, the Mandvi group of ports comprises Mandvi, an intermediate port and Jakhau, Koteshwar and Lakhpat which are minor ports. The major port of Kandla is administered by the Central Government. The Mandvi group of ports is in charge of Deputy Engineer and Port Officer who has his headquarters at Mandvi. Kandla port, which is a major port on the western sea board of India, is administered under the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963. The Government of India has appointed a Board of Trustees consisting of the Chairman and various interests representing trade, commerce, industries, transport, etc., for the administration of the port. All these ports are declared open to foreign and coastal traffic under the Sea Customs Act, 1908.

Co-operative Department

The Co-operative Department in the State is headed by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies who has his headquarters at Ahmedabad. This department is working under the Agriculture and Co-operation Department at the State level. He also functions as the Registrar General of Money-lenders, the Director of Cottage Industries and the Director of Agricultural Marketing. He is assisted by Deputy and Assistant Registrars working at the headquarters. Before the reorganisation of the Co-operative Department in 1968, there were three Divisional Deputy Registrars with headquarters at Ahmedabad, Baroda and Rajkot and District Registrars in each of the districts. Kutch district was placed under the Deputy Registrar, Rajkot Division, who had jurisdiction over Rajkot, Jamnagar, Junagadh, Bhavnagar, Amreli, Surendranagar and Kutch districts. At the district level, the District Registrars carried out the functions of all the four wings of the Co-operative Department, viz., (i) co-operation, (ii) industrial co-operatives, (iii) agricultural marketing, and (iv) money-lending.

On the inauguration of the Panchayati Raj from April, 1963 certain powers and functions of the co-operative sector were transferred to the

panchayats. The services of the District Registrars were transferred to the district panchayats, though they continued to hold the charge of subjects dealt with by Government. They ceased to function for the panchayats with effect from 1st September 1964 as the services of Assistant District Registrars were placed at their disposal to look after the subjects transferred to the panchayats.

With a view to achieve greater efficiency and economy in expenditure, the Department was reorganised in 1968. The offices of the three Divisional Deputy Registrars with headquarters at Ahmedabad, Baroda and Rajkot have been closed and the powers exercised and duties performed by them have been readjusted between the office of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies at the State level and the District Registrars at the district level. The deputation of one Assistant District Registrar to each district panchayat has been continued.

According to the revised set-up, the Co-operative Department is grouped in four sections, viz., (i) Co-operation and Marketing, (ii) Industrial Co-operatives and Cottage Industries, (iii) Money-lending and (iv) Audit.

Besides the performance of various duties and functions relating to the promotion of co-operative activities, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies also functions as the Registrar General of Money-lenders and enforces the Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946, which provides for the regulation and control of the transactions of money-lenders. In his capacity as the Director of Agricultural Marketing, he enforces the Gujarat Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1963 and performs the functions of oragnisation and constitution of regulated markets, assessment of adequate scale of licence fees, rates of commission and gives technical guidance as regards the manner in which the accounts of the market committees shall be maintained. As the Director of Cottage Industries and Industrial Co-operatives, he is assisted at his headquarters by (1) a Deputy Registrar, (2) a Deputy Development Officer for Handicrafts, (3) an Engineer for Cottage Industries, (4) a Technical Officer for Leather Industries, (5) an Assistant Director for Industrial Co-operatives and Village Industries (Khadi and Village Industries) and (6) a Textile Officer.

District Registrars

Co-operation and Marketing—According to the revised set-up a District Registrar, Class I Officer with headquarters at Rajkot deals with co-operation and marketing sections and exercises jurisdiction over Rajkot, Jamnagar and Kutch districts. He is assisted by two Co-operative Officers, five Assistant Co-operative Officers and other staff. The District Registrar also functions as the Deputy Director of Agricultural Marketing and Rural Finance. He exercised powers in respect of all types of societies excluding

federal societies having jurisdiction beyond the district as also in respect of subjects not transferred to the panchayats. He initiates proposals for the establishment of regulated markets and the declaration of market yards.

The District Registrar, Rajkot, is assisted by an Assistant District Registrar, Class II, one Co-operative Officer, four Assistant Co-operative Officers and other staff posted at Bhuj. The Assistant District Registar exercises all the powers of the District Registrar in the district in respect of co-operative societies except the federal societies at the district level.

Assistant District Registrar (Panchayat)—One Assistant District Registrar deputed to the district panchayat deals with subjects transferred to the panchayats. These relate to the (i) registration of societies, (ii) maintenance of prescribed registers, (iii) powers to decide questions relating to the formation, registration or continuation of societies and their membership, (iv) amendment of bye-laws, (v) change of name, (vi) disposal of surplus assets of societies in the event of their closure and (vii) holding annual general and special meetings of societies. The societies in respect of which these powers are delegated to the panchayats are agricultural credit, multi-purpose and service co-operatives, consumers' stores, labour contract and industrial co-operatives, etc.

Cottage Industries—For dealing with this work, Kutch district is placed under another District Registrar, Class I who has his headquarters at Rajkot with jurisdiction over Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Junagadh, Surendranagar, Amreli and Kutch districts. His functions are : (1) organisation of industrial co-operatives and their inspection and supervision, (2) scrutiny of loan applications of industrial co-operatives and artisans, (3) inquiry into complaints relating to malpractices, (4) guidance to industrial societies and individual artisans and (5) maintenance of close contact with the working of societies and artisans for the progress and development of cottage industries. He is assisted by one Co-operative Officer, two Junior Supervisors and other staff at his headquarters. One Co-operative Officer, one Junior Supervisor and two Industrial Supervisors also work at Bhuj.

The Department conducts training classes for developing and popularising art of Kutchi embroidery at Bhuj.

Money-lending—The District Registrar of Money-lenders Class I with headquarters at Rajkot exercises jurisdiction over Rajkot, Jamnagar, Junagadh, Bhavnagar, Amreli, Surendranagar and Kutch districts. An Assistant District Registrar of Money-lenders, one each, is posted at Bhavnagar and Junagadh to assist him in his work. The Assistant District Registrar of Junagadh exercises jurisdiction over Kutch district, at the district level, Co-operative Officers (one for each district) work as Inspectors of Money-lenders.

The Registrar is responsible for the proper implementation of the Bombay Money-lenders Act in the district and grants or refuses licences to money-lenders under the Act. In cases of breach of law, he is empowered to compound offences under Section 35 (c) of the Bombay Money-lenders Act. It is also his duty to take final decision in the cases of illicit money-lending detected by the Co-operative Officers. The Assistant District Registrars conduct inquiries into applications for licences for money-lending and forward them with their reports to the District Registrar of Money-lenders who may grant or refuse them after scrutiny on merits. The Co-operative Officers attached to him detect the cases of illegal money-lending which the Assistant District Registrar forwards to the District Registrar for final disposal.

Audit—Section 84 of the Gujarat Co-operative Societies Act, 1961, provides for the statutory audit of every society once a year. For the purpose of audit, Kutch district is placed under the Special Auditor Class I at Rajkot who holds jurisdiction over seven districts. He is assisted by Auditor (grade I) and Auditors and sub-Auditors of lower rank working at the headquarters.

District Co-operative Board—Education and training in co-operation and propaganda for the development of the co-operative movement in the district are being carried out by the District Co-operative Board which is affiliated to the Gujarat State Co-operative Union, Ahmedabad. At the district level, Training Inspectors attached to the District Co-operative Board arrange for holding training classes for secretaries of co-operative societies, managing committee members and other members.

Supervision—The work of supervision of societies which was carried out by the supervising unions prior to April, 1964 has been now transferred to the District Central Co-operative Banks which look into the working of the societies, inspect books of account and see to the proper maintenance of registers and other records.

Department of Industries

The department is headed by the Commissioner of Industries who has his office at Ahmedabad. He is also the Controller of Weights and Measures, Controller of Coal and Coke and Controller of Molasses. The Commissioner of Industries is the agency through which the industrial policy of the State Government is implemented. He looks after the large scale as well as organised small scale industries. In conformity with the Government policy, the department assists industrialists in securing land, water, raw materials, power and other requirements, gives them technical advice, furnishes information in respect of raw materials, processes of manufacture and industrial potentialities, and conducts investigation and research in

technical problems relating to industries. Grant of financial assistance, purchase of stores for Government departments, enforcement of the Bombay Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1958, and administration of controls regarding distribution of raw materials to industries are some of its other activities. For this purpose, the Commissioner of Industries has a network of four regional offices at Ahmedabad, Baroda, Rajkot and Surat. For administrative purposes all the districts of Gujarat State are distributed under these regions. The Deputy Director of Industries, Rajkot, a Class I Officer of the Gujarat Industry Service, is in charge of industrial development activities in the districts of Saurashtra and Kutch. A separate Industries Officer functions at the district level. In the district of Kutch, he has his office at Adipur. The regional head is also the Deputy Controller of Weights and Measures and is assigned duties under the Bombay Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1958. One Deputy Director (Metric system) of Industries attached to the office of the Industries Commissioner is in charge of the metric branch and is responsible for the smooth enforcement of the Weights and Measures Act in the State.

Deputy Director of Industries

The Deputy Director plays an important part in the promotion and development of industries and executes the industrial policy of the State Government as per the directives issued by the Commissioner of Industries. He is charged with the responsibility of promoting growth and development of oganised small scale industry in his region. The Deputy Director examines the applications received for grants of loans under State Aid to Small Scale and Cottage Industries Rules, 1935 and sends his recommendations to the head office after necessary investigation and scrutiny. Small scale units require certain imported machinery, components, spares, raw materials, accessories and iron and steel. Among the important functions carried out by the Deputy Director, the issue of essentiality certificates for the import of raw material as well as capital goods is the foremost. The limit of essentiality certificates extends up to Rs. two lakhs in each individual case annually. The Deputy Director also recommends to the Commissioner of Industries applications seeking aid in implementing the hire-purchase schemes worked by the National Small Industries Corporation, New Delhi, investigates applications of small scale units for registration with that Corporation, and with the Director General, Supplies and Disposals, New Delhi and forwards them with necessary recommendations to the authorities concerned. The Deputy Director also looks after industrial estates in his region. Other Acts under which the Deputy Director exercises certain powers are the Bombay Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1958 and the Rules made thereunder and the Industrial Undertakings (Collection of Statistics and Information) Rules, 1959. As regards weights and measures, Industries Inspectors collect fees for verification and reverification of instruments of weights and measures, stamp them if found correct and sanction prosecutions

(Bk) H-49—60 (Lino)

for breaches of the Act. The Deputy Director looks after the quarterly production statistics under the Industrial Undertakings (Collection of Statistics and Information) Rules, 1959, the operation of which is limited to registered factories not employing more than 50 workers, if using power, and not more than 100 workers, if worked without power.

With a view to quickening the tempo of development of industries in the district and to achieve more effective co-ordination in providing infra-structure facilities to industries, the Collector of the district has been designated as *ex-officio* Deputy Commissioner of Industries since October, 1967. The functions and powers assigned to him are :

(1) allotment of factory sheds and plots in the Government Industrial Estates.

(2) holding of seminars connected with industries.

(3) formulation of District Master Plans and publishing them.

(4) co-ordination of activities of various heads of offices/departments with regard to infra-structure facilities.

(5) correspondence with all authorities in or outside the State directly with regard to the difficulties of industries in the district.

(6) supervision over the information centres functioning in the district.

Industries Officer—The Industries Officer being a local officer in charge of the district has been entrusted with a number of functions which are more or less analogous to those assigned to the Deputy Director at the regional level. The most important function assigned to the Indusrties Officer is to look after the promotional aspect of industrial development in the district. He has to render all possible help to the parties approaching him for industrial guidance by supplying data on infra-structure facilities such as water, power, land, etc. He also assists them in getting required raw materials, loans, machinery on hire purchase system, etc. In order to accelerate the pace of industrialisation, he makes approaches to local organisations so as to enthuse them for starting new industries. Other functions besides these relate to the proper enforcement of Weights and Measures Act and rules framed thereunder. In this task he is assisted by Inspectors who are required to visit centres allotted to them. The distirct of Kutch is divided into three Inspectorial units for the administration of weights and measures each under an Inspector stationed at Bhuj, Mandvi and Adipur. In addition to the work of weights and measures, they assist the Industries Officer in the investigation of applications for the import of scarce and controlled raw materials, power subsidies, registration of small scale industries, telephone priority,

collection of industrial statistics and information relating to industrial activities in the district. These applications are first investigated by the Inspectors and their reports submitted to the Industries Officer, who after ascertaining their genuineness, forwards them to the Deputy Director, Rajkot, with his recommendations. The Deputy Director thereafter issues necessary permits or essentiality certificates, as the case may be, in deserving cases. Similar procedure is also followed in respect of applications for loans under the State Aid to Small Scale and Cottage Industries Rules, 1935 or under the scheme operated by the State Bank of India or Gujarat State Financial Corporation, or for the hire purchase of machinery. There is also a Salt Inspector attached to the Industries Officer who collects royalty on salt despatches and gathers necessary information and statistics from various salt works in the district.

The Industries Officer is empowered to register small industries and grant power subsidy to the units registered with him and eligible to receive it under the rules. Under the rehabilitation scheme, he grants loans to goldsmiths as well as to Burmese and Portugese repatriates to the extent of Rs. 2,000 per applicant. He is also in charge of the management of industrial estate at Gandhidham and Rural Industrial Estate at Madhapar.

Office of the Assistant Director of Information—The office of the District Information Officer, Kutch, has been upgraded from January, 1966, into that of Assistant Director of Information, stationed at Bhuj. He is in charge of all work relating to information, publicity and public relations in the district. The Assistant Director acts as a link between Government offices of various departments and the press. He collects and makes available information regarding the various developmental activities carried out by Government in the State and the district. He helps tourists and others visiting the district and gives them necessary information. He keeps the authorities at the district level and Government departments at the State level through the Director of Information, well-posted with the important trends of events as viewed in newspapers. He issues regular press notes and news items giving factual information about schemes and activities of Government and also contradicts incorrect newspaper reports in consultation with the departments concerned. He organises visits of journalists to various development works as and when necessary and calls press conferences on behalf of Government departments. A telex line between the offices of the Assistant Director of Information, Bhuj, and the Director of Information, Ahmedabad has been established for the speedy exchange of news and messages. He organises cultural programmes and helps popularise various campaigns undertaken by the Government, and arranges exhibitions and display shows at important fairs and festivals in the district.

As in every other district of the State a mobile publicity van placed at his disposal is equipped with 16 mm. film projector and other accessories

for field publicity. It moves round the district giving film shows and talks on various nation-building activities which are both instructive and entertaining. He keeps the rural folk informed of the various concessions and facilities offered to them by the State and Central Governments, distributes booklets, leaflets, pamphlets, posters, etc., to the public. An information centre has been started at Bhuj where books, periodicals, charts, etc., bearing on the Five Year Plans and other Government publications are displayed and sold.

Rural Broadcasting—To provide entertainment and information to the rural population, the Directorate of Information has undertaken a scheme of installing radio sets in the villages on a contributory basis. The village joining the scheme has to pay an 'installation contribution' amounting to Rs. 175 if the set is operated by battery and Rs. 150 if it is operated by electricity *plus* Rs. 60 annually as 'maintenance contribution'. These sets are installed by the Government of Gujarat and are their property. The sets are supplied to the State Government by the Government of India which shares 50 per cent of the cost or Rs. 125 whichever is less. Till 31st December, 1967 the Government had installed 105 sets in the villages of the district. The sets are maintained and repaired by the Technician-in-charge of Rural Broadcasting stationed at Bhuj.

Office of the District Statistical Officer

The Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Ahmedabad, is the apex office concerned with the collection and compilation of statistical data so very essential for planning and development programmes of the State. It has in each district a District Statistical Officer who is responsible for improving the quality of the basic statistics at the district level. Some of the important activities carried out by the District Statistical Officer are publication of District Statistical Abstract, collection of data pertaining to prices, progress of Community Development Programme, plan statistics and conduct of socio-economic surveys. The District Statistical Officer functions under the District Development Officer, Bhuj, after the introduction of the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961.

CHAPTER XIII

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

For the successful working of many of the developmental activities and public utility services a welfare state is called upon to undertake, the units of local self-government like panchayats and municipalities which offer the widest possible opportunities for their execution at lower levels down to the village and town by educating public opinion and enlisting popular support. A comprehensive and well organised system of local self-government, therefore, constitutes an essential pre-requisite for the successful functioning of a democracy.

In the former State of Kutch prior to integration, development of local self-governing institutions was confined to the establishment of municipalities in a few important towns. It was only after the merger of Kutch into the Indian Union, that such bodies as panchayats and District Local Board came into existence.

Municipalities

The municipal administration in Kutch dates back to the year 1871, when the first municipality was established at Bhuj, followed by those of Mandvi and Anjar in 1876 and 1881 respectively. By 1887 the municipal administration was extended to three more towns, viz., Mundra, Jakhau and Nalia.[1] In 1914-15 municipal administration existed in seven towns of the present district, viz., Bhuj, Mandvi, Mundra, Anjar, Bhachau, Rapar and Jakhau. However, these municipalities were not under popular control. The president of the Bhuj municipality was the Police Commissioner of the State. Other municipalities were managed by Vahivatdars of the respective talukas. In 1942 the State promulgated a new constitution whereby municipalities were called *nagarsabhas*. Such *nagarsabhas* were established at Bhuj, Mandvi, Mundra and Anjar. 50 per cent of its members were elected and 50 per cent nominated by the Darbar who also appointed its president. This constitution which lasted for three years was amended in 1945. It provided that 15 out of 22 members should be elected and 7 nominated.

The development of local self-governing institutions received real impetus in Kutch after the merger of that State into the Indian Union. In 1951, the Bombay Municipal Boroughs Act, 1925 was applied to the district. The Act as applied to Kutch provided for four municipalities in Kutch for the towns of Bhuj, Mundra, Anjar and Mandvi. Later on in 1959 the municipality at Gandhidhan was established. Thus, prior to the implementation

1. The Municipality at Nalia was abolished in 1895-96.

of Gujarat Panchayats Act in 1963 there were five municipalities in the district. The Democratic Decentralisation Committee appointed by the State Government recommended formation of gram panchayats at places having population of 10,000 and below and nagar panchayats at places having population between 10,000 and 20,000. This recommendation was accepted and on the introduction of the Gujarat Panchayats Act of 1961 in 1963, the number of municipalities was reduced to four, namely, Bhuj, Mandvi, Anjar and Gandhidham. The municipality of Mundra was converted into gram panchayat. These municipalities are governed at present by the Gujarat Municipalities Act, 1963, which came into force from 1st January, 1965. It provides for elected councillors and reservation of seats for women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Every municipality constituted under this Act is vested with functions relating to establishing and maintaining primary schools, regulating or abating offensive or dangerous trades or practices, securing or removing dangerous buildings or places, arranging water supply or augmenting existing supply, drainage, public vaccination, cleaning and watering public streets, disposal of night-soil and rubbish, medical aid, care of the sick at the time of outbreak of epidemics, establishing and maintaining public hospitals, acquiring and maintaining places for the disposal of dead bodies, naming of streets and numbering of premises, constructing, altering and maintaining public streets, slaughter houses, markets, etc., lighting public streets, places and buildings, extinguishing fires, protection of life and property of the people and registration of vital statistics.

The Act empowers a municipality to levy taxes on buildings, lands, vehicles, water supply and drainage, lighting, etc., octroi on animals or goods, sanitary cess and a special cess on education.

Bhuj Borough Municipality

The Bhuj Borough Municipality was established in 1871 during the time of the former State. After the merger of Kutch State into the Indian Union, the Bombay Municipal Boroughs Act, 1925 was applied to Kutch and the municipality was declared Borough Municipality in 1951. But it is now governed by the Gujarat Municipalities Act, 1963. The present area within municipal limits admeasures 17·79 sq. km. According to the Census of 1961 it has a population of 38,747 persons. The municipal board consists of 25 elected members. Of these two seats are reserved for women and two for Scheduled Castes.

The municipality discharges its functions through committees mentioned below :

1 Standing Committee
2 Sanitation Committee

3 Rules Committee
4 Audit Committee
5 Land Lease Committee
6 Market and Garden Committee
7 Roads and Light Committee

The Chief Officer is the executive head of the municipality.

Income and Expenditure—The total income of the municipality exclusive of the opening balance of Rs. 67,354 in 1966-67 was Rs. 673,422 and the total expenditure Rs. 774,149 as seen from the following table.

STATEMENT XIII·1

Income and Expenditure of Bhuj Borough Municipality for the Year, 1966-67

Sl. No.	Income source	Amount (in Rs.)	Sl. No.	Expenditure	Amount (in Rs.)
	2	3	4	5	6
1	Rates and Taxes	413,871.78	1	General administration and collection charges ..	97,891.14
2	Realisation under special Act	..	2	Public safety	39,835.50
3	Revenue derived from municipal property and power ..	58,594.15	3	Public health and convenience	187,639.18
4	Grants and contribution for general and special purposes	125,062.48	4	Public instruction ..	29,295.34
5	Miscellaneous	75,893.94	5	Contribution for general purposes	408,951.30
6	**Total income for the year excluding opening balance ..**	**673,422.35**	6	Miscellaneous ..	10,536.68
			7	**Total**	**774,149.14**
	Incidence of taxation per head of population	16.85		Expenditure per head of population	19.36

Source :
The Chief Officer, Bhuj Borough Municipality, Bhuj

The major activities of the municipality are described below :

Water Supply—The residents of Bhuj receive their water supply from wells in Hamirsar lake, whose total capacity when full is 41 M. cft. A scheme estimated to cost Rs. 25 lakhs for the supply of drinking water to the people of Bhuj by boring two tube wells outside the municipal limit at Bhujodi and Tapakeshwari has been approved by the State Government and is awaiting the sanction of the Government of India.[1] The Government has sanctioned the scheme of Rs. 2,592,730 vide resolution No. WST-1067/1835/KH, dated 2nd May, 1968.

1. For details refer to Chapter XV—Medical and Public Health Services.

Roads—The total length of roads maintained by the municipality in the year 1965-66 was 15·80 km. of which 10·80 km. were metalled, 2·40 km. stone slabes and 2·60 km. unmetalled.

Conservancy—Roads are cleaned twice every day on five days of the week and on the remaining days they are cleaned once. The total number of sweepers employed in 1965-66 was 65 and the dust-bins for the collection of refuse numbered 171. The refuse is used for preparing compost manure. The compost depot was established in 1957-58.

Drainage—There is no underground drainage system in the town. The sullage water is collected in pits and is disposed of by bullock carts.

Public Safety—The municipality has one petrol engine and water trailer for extinguishing fire. Municipality has purchased one fire fighter in 1966-67.

Street-lighting—There were 902 lights in 1966-67 out of which 852 were ordinary lights. 30 tube-lights and 20 mercury lights. The annual expenditure on street lighting incurred by the municipality in 1966-67 was Rs. 38,241-08. Electricity is supplied by Gujarat Electricity Board.

Gardens—The municipality maintains five gardens, viz., (1) Khengarji Park, (2) Rajendra Baug, (3) Nazar Baug, (4) Purshottam Park and (5) Indrabai Park. A radio set has been installed at Nazar Baug.

Markets—The municipality maintains two markets constructed during the time of the former State, viz., (1) Vegetable Market and (2) Meat market. The vegetable market having 97 stalls was constructed for the sale of vegetables and fruits. Income realised from the rent of the market was Rs. 17,798 in 1966-67. The meat market which has 15 stalls brought an income of Rs. 1,851 by way of rent in 1966-67. The municipality has constructed New Vegetable Market at Vaniavad Gate in 1968-69.

Education—The municipality is not shouldering the responsibility of primary education which is at present managed by the district panchayat.

Housing—The municipality has in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department provided loans to Harijans for the construction of houses. At present municipality has constructed 24 tenements for sweeper employees under Slum Clearance Scheme.

Mandvi Borough Municipality

The Mandvi Municipality was established in 1876 by the former State of Kutch. The present area within municipal limits admeasures 14·89 sq. km. According to the Census of 1961 it has a population of 26,609 persons. Out

of 25 elected members, two seats are reserved for women and two for Scheduled Castes.

The municipality discharges its functions through the following committees :

1 Executive Committee
2 Sanitary and Market Committee
3 Roads, Light and Gardens Committee
4 Library Committee
5 Finance Committee

The Chief Officer is the executive head of the municipality.

Income and Expenditure—The total income of the municipality exclusive of the opening balance of Rs. 112,641 was Rs. 302,606 and the total expenditure Rs. 280,309 in 1966-67 as seen from the statement that follows :

STATEMENT XIII·2

Income and Expenditure of Mandvi Borough Municipality for the Year, 1966-67

Sl. No.	Income source	Amount (in Rs.)	Sl. No.	Expenditure	Amount (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Rates and taxes	180,022	1	General administration and collection charges ..	47,547
2	Realisation under special Act and Revenue derived from municipal property and power	57,909	2	Public safety	21,626
3	Grants and contribution for general and special purposes	49,888	3	Public health and convenience	159,092
4	Miscellaneous	14,787	4	Public instruction ..	12,276
5	**Total income for the year excluding opening balance ..**	**302,606**	5	Miscellaneous ..	39,768
	Incidence of taxation per head of population	11.45	6	**Total .. ..**	**280,309**
				Expenditure per head of population	10.60

Source :
The Chief Officer, Mandvi Borough Municipality, Mandvi

The major activities of the municipality may be considered as under :

Water Supply—The main sources of water supply for the people of Mandvi town are river Rukmavati and Topansar tank. Eighteen wells have

been struck in the river bed. As the town has been experiencing acute shortage of water, tentative plans and estimates for a scheme likely to cost Rs. 6·40 lakhs have been prepared.[1]

Roads—The total length of roads maintained by the municipality in 1967-68 was 25·12 km. of which 12·87 km. were cement concrete, 5·82 km. asphalted, 5·02 water bound macadam and 1·41 km. unmetalled.

Conservancy and Drainage—The surface area of the roads is cleaned twice every day. The total number of sweepers employed was 50 in 1966. The refuse is collected in 37 dust-bins kept at various places in the twon. As there is no drainage system in the town, water is collected in cess pools.

Public Safety—Municipality has 24 fire extinguishers and 20 fire fighting pumps.

Street-lighting—There were 585 lights in 1967-68 out of which 543 were ordinary lights, 37 tube-lights and 5 mercury lights. The annual expenditure on street-lighting incurred by the municipality in that year came to Rs. 22,942.

Gardens—The municipality maintains four gardens, viz., (1) Jaikrishna Indraji Garden, (2) Municipal Mahila Garden (For females only), (3) Shree Ravindra Balvatika and (4) Lala Lajpatrai Balvatika.

Markets—The municipality has constructed a number of markets in different localities, important among them are vegetable market, grain market, and a mutton market.

Vegetable Market—This market is situated in the heart of the town and was constructed for the sale of vegetables and fruits in 1943 at a cost of Rs. 50,000. Its annual income realised from the rent was Rs. 16,657 in 1967-68. It provides 103 stalls.

Grain Market—This market came under municipal control in 1953. The market has 19 stalls. Its annual income by way of rent in 1967-68 was Rs. 630.

Mutton Market—This market was constructed in 1939 at a total cost of Rs. 6,600. Its annual income by way of rent was Rs. 360 in 1967-68 and has 10 stalls.

Grass Market—Constructed in 1956 at the cost of Rs. 4,153, it had in 1967-68 an annual income of Rs. 3,922 which was collected by way of rent.

1. For further details see Chapter XV—Medical and Public Health Services.

Recreation—A radio set has been installed in the garden near Bhimani Clock Tower in the heart of the town. The municipality has constructed an Open Air Theatre which is named as Tagore Rang Bhavan at the cost of Rs. 53,579, from which government's share amounts to Rs. 24,418. This amount has been sanctioned as grant from the prize of small savings campaign. The municipality is also running a library since 1946-47.

Housing—The municipality has spent Rs. 52,400 for construction of a sweeper's colony of 38 houses.

Anjar Borough Municipality

The Anjar Borough Municipality was established by the former State in 1881. It had an area of 19·4 sq. km. in 1967-68 and a population of 23,301 persons according to the Census of 1961. The municipality has 15 elected members : two seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes and one for women.

Income and Expenditure—The total income of the municipality exclusive of the opening balance of Rs. 33,519 was Rs. 543,940 and the total expenditure Rs. 314,193 in 1966-67.

STATEMENT XIII·3

Income and Expenditure of Anjar Borough Municipality for the Year, 1966-67

Sl. No.	Income source	Amount (in Rs.)	Sl. No.	Expenditure	Amount (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Rates and taxes	212,069	1	General administration and collection charges ..	61,894
2	Realisation under special Act	2,345	2	Public safety	35,282
3	Revenue derived from municipal property and power ..	35,209	3	Public health and convenience	178,883
4	Grants and contribution for general and special purposes	62,643	4	Public instruction ..	8,261
5	Miscellaneous	231,674	5	Miscellaneous.. ..	29,873
6	**Total income for the year excluding the opening balance**	**543,940**	6	**Total**	**314,193**
	Incidence of taxation per head of population	23.34		Expenditure per head of population ..	13.48

Source :
The Chief Officer, Anjar Borough Municipality, Anjar

Following are the major activities of the municipality :

Water Supply—Water to the residents of Anjar is supplied from wells fitted with electric pumps. The daily requirement of 431,250 gallons of water is reinforced by a tube-well situated at a distance of 4 km. from Anjar. The plans and estimates of a scheme to augment the existing supply have been estimated to cost Rs. 8·41 laks.[1]

Roads—The total length of roads maintained by the municipality was 15·80 km. in 1967-68 of which 3 km. were asphalted and 12·80 metalled.

Conservancy—The total length of the roads cleaned twice every day was 10 km. in 1966-67 and the number of sweepers employed 55. The refuse is collected in 65 dust-bins and is used for making compost manure. The annual expenditure incurred on collection and removal of refuse was Rs. 617·63 in 1966-67.

Drainage—Sullage water is collected in cess pools. A scheme estimated to cost Rs. 12 lakhs for an underground drainage is under consideration.

Public Safety—The municipality maintains two tractors and a water tanker to extinguish fire.

Street-lighting—There were 754 lights in 1966-67 out of which 697 were ordinary lights, 32 tube-lights and 25 mercury lights. The annual expenditure on street-lighting incurred by the municipality during that year was Rs. 32,639.

Gardens—Gardens maintained by the municipality are (1) Public Park and (2) Mahila Park.

Markets—The municipality has constructed a vegetable market in 1953 at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 31,400. In all there are 10 shops and 144 stalls.

Education—The municipality has not undertaken the responsibility of primary education but runs a library and a Balmandir.

Gandhidham Borough Municipality

The Gandhidham Borough Municipality was established on 17th April, 1959. Prior to the existence of this municipality, municipal functions were looked after by Palika Samiti under the supervision of Sindhu Resettlement Corporation Ltd. The municipality was under supersession from 5th January,

1. The details of the scheme appear in Chapter XV—Medical and Public Health Services.

1963 to 30th June, 1967. The municipality had 30 elected members and out of whom 3 seats were reserved for women. The area of Gandhidham municipality was 70·07 sq. km. in 1967-68 and its population according to the Census of 1961 was 26,448. In 1967-68 the municipality had 25 elected seats out of which 4 seats were reserved for Scheduled Castes and 2 for women. The Chief Officer is the executive head of the municipality.

Income and Expenditure—The total income of the municipality exclusive of the opening balance of Rs. 50,559 was Rs. 615,900, and the total expenditure Rs. 637,600 in 1966-67 as seen from the following statement.

STATEMENT XIII·4

Income and Expenditure of Gandhidham Borough Municipality for the Year, 1966-67

Sl. No.	Income source	Amount (in Rs.)	Sl. No.	Expenditure	Amount (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Rates and taxes	511,563	1	General administration and collection charges ..	130,892
2	Realisation under special Act	1,772	2	Public safety	50,148
3	Revenue derived from municipal property and power ..	1,284	3	Public health and convenience	425,123
4	Grants and contribution for general and special purposes	87,967	4	Public instruction ..	3,816
5	Miscellaneous	13,314	5	Contribution for general purposes	26,700
6	**Total income for the year excluding opening balance** ..	**615,900**	6	Miscellaneous	1,221
	Incidence of taxation per head of population	23.29	7	**Total**	**637,600**
				Expenditure per head of population	24.11

Source :
The Chief Officer, Gandhidham Borough Municipality, Gandhidham

Following are the major activities of the municipality :

Water Supply—Water is supplied by Kandla Port Trust from Viri and Nagalpur tube-wells for which the municipality is the distributing agent.

Roads—The total length of roads, under the municipal jurisdiction is 113·09 km. of which asphalted roads claim 38·82 km., water bound macadam 27·21 km. and unmetalled 47·06 km.

Conservancy—The municipality employs 120 sweepers to clean the surface area of the roads.

Drainage—Barring a few localities where open drainage system exists, the town of Gandhidham is served by underground drainage system.

Markets—The municipality maintains two markets, viz., Lala Lajpatrai Vegetable Market and Meat Market. These two markets were constructed by Sindhu Resettlement Corporation in 1957.

Gardens—The municipality looks after four gardens, viz., (1) Shiv Mandir Park, (2) Samadhi Park, (3) Nursery Garden and (4) Rambaug.

Housing—Facilities have been provided to the sweepers through quarters constructed by the Sindhu Resettlement Corporation.

Education—The municipality has not so far undertaken the responsibility of primary education. It runs one public reading room at Adipur.

Town Planning

The former State of Kutch had town planning schemes for the four principal towns of Bhuj, Mandvi, Anjar and Mundra. Under these schemes, areas outside the existing town limits were plotted out and sold to the public. Village extension schemes for the villages of Bidada, Talvana, Gundala, Kapaya, Gadhsisa and Devpar were simultaneously taken in hand. Areas outside the existing village site were plotted out and sold. On account of abnormal prices of building materials, it was stipulated that houses may be built within three years after the cessation of the Second World War. When Kutch became Part C State, the planning of the township of Gandhidham was undertaken on scientific lines to settle the displaced persons from Pakistan.

The Bombay Town Planning Act, 1954 and the Saurashtra Town Planning Act, 1955 with practically similar provisions were in force in the Gujarat State till May, 1968. These Acts were not applicable to the region of Kutch. The Bombay Town Planning Act, 1954, however, was amended in May, 1968 so as to extend it to the rest of the State of Gujarat. This Act which is now called the Bombay Town Planning (Gujarat Extension and Amendment) Act, 1967, has come into force from 1st June, 1968 and is applicable to the entire State of Gujarat including Kutch district. The Saurashtra Town Planning Act, 1955, however, has been repealed.

Township of Gandhidham—The township of Gandhidham owes its origin to the partition of the country in 1947 when the minority community of Pakistan started migrating to India. Scattered all over India, vast majority of them had no shelter, hardly any means of livelihood and without any plans for the future. This catastrophe inspired Pratap Dialdas, a great educationist and social worker of Sindh, to search for a place where Sindhi Hindus could

settle and preserve their cultural heritage. Under the inspiration of Mahatma Gandhi and the benevolent attitude of the Maharao of Kutch, the present site was chosen for the location of a new township near what was then a small port of Kandla in the extremity of the Gulf of Kutch. The scheme for its construction was submitted to the Mahatma who endorsed it and gave it his blessings. Steps were immediately taken to float a joint stock company called 'The Sindhu Resettlement Corporation Limited' to give the scheme a practical and concrete shape. The corporation which played a pioneer's role in the development of Gandhidham township was floated with an authorised capital of Rs. 2½ crores and issued capital of Rs. 2 crores, Government of India subscribing shares worth rupees fifty lacs. The Maharao of Kutch also sanctioned a grant of about 15,000 acres of land on a nominal rent and permitted the sources of water supply to be tapped at Viri and Shinay. On the 12th February, 1948, when a portion of Mahatma's sacred *asthi* was immersed in the Kandla creek by Acharya Kripalani, the then Chairman of the Sindhu Resettlement Corporation Ltd., the foundation of the township may be said to have been truly laid. The township consists in effect of three main settlements : Adipur or 'Original town' Sardarganj, so named in memory of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and Gopalpuri named after the late Shri Gopalaswamy Ayyengar, who, as Minister of States, took keen interest in their settlement at Gandhidham and Kandla. Gopalpuri is purely a residential township and accommodates the staff of the Kandla Port Trust; Adipur is an industrial centre and Sardarganj is a commercial centre.

Master Plan—Gandhidham from its very inception was fortunate enough to be planned on scientific lines. The first outline of its Master Plan was prepared by an Italian architect, Mario Baccheocci in 1948-49 and some initial development works like the construction of a link road and some structures in District Centre No. 1 were carried out on the basis of that plan. As this plan was, not considered appropriate, the subsequent town planning work was handled by a team of architects under the guidance of Dr. Koenigsberger, the then Director of Health Services, Ministry of Health, Government of India. The final Master Plan, however, which has since been approved by the Government of India, was prepared by an American firm of town planning consultants, Messrs. Adams Howrd and Greeley, whose services were acquired under President Truman's Point Four Programme.

The new town adopted the name of Gandhidham in memory of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation. It is situated about 12 kilometers west of the Port of Kandla. This long distance between the port and the town has been necessitated by the existence of vast stretches of marshy tidal land around the immediate vicinity of the port. The boundaries of the Master Plan as fixed by Messrs Adams Horward and Greeley confine about 7,000 acres in the first phase, with scope for further expansion. The town is divided into 6 District Centres, each surrounded by 4 to 6 residential neighbourhood units of about 1,000 families, each unit having a population of 5 to 6 thousand

persons within an area of 160 to 200 acres. Each unit has its own central core of day-to-day convenience-shops, pre-primary and primary schools, health centre, club, play fields, etc., to facilitate growth of social spirit within a limited radius. All the public utility facilities within this core are within ten minutes' walking distance from the farthest residence in the neighbourhood. The district centre which caters to the needs of 5 to 6 such neighbourhoods has larger shops, high schools, cinemas, community hall, library, banks, fire-station, police station, post and telegraph offices, vegetables-fruits-meat-fish-poultry markets, places for religious worship, taxi stands, recreation park, etc. A district covers 640 to 1,000 acres and accommodates 25,000 to 40,000 persons. Besides residential neighbourhoods, adequate space has been laid out in the Master Plan for business centres including commercial establishments and offices for light and heavy industries and godowns, an educational centre and the main civic centre.

The actual construction at the site was started in 1949. It was located about 16 km. from Kandla Port, because the port authorities at first stipulated that no construction should take place within that distance of the port. Accordingly the Sindhu Resettlement Corporation Ltd. which had undertaken the building of the township started construction of their power house station, plants for the manufacture of cement concrete blocks and other factories at Adipur, a point in the township farthest away from the site of the port. Later on the restriction was narrowed to 8 km. radius and the second settlement of Sardarganj was built about 7 km. nearer the port than the Adipur settlement. Thus, Adipur and Sardarganj form the two ends of the township connected by 8 km. of link road. By 1956, over 7,000 tenements were constructed accommodating over 40,000 persons. Of these, shops and residential houses numbering 5,197 were built out of Government loan and sold to displaced persons under hire-purchase schemes. Later on, when compensation for properties left in West Pakistan was paid to displaced persons by the Government of India, most of those who had settled in Kutch got it adjusted against the claims payable by them for the property purchased in Gandhidham. Properties worth Rs. 120 lakhs were thus acquired by the displaced persons in Kutch.

Cities and towns, under normal circumstances grow gradually. However, Gandhidham, within the last few years has already become a model township with modern buildings, wide arterial roads, planned open spaces and well-tended gardens, a barren land transformed into a prosperous town. The development of township of Gandhidham is at present looked after by the Gandhidham Development Authority.

Preparation of Development Plan for Bhuj

With a view to ensure a systematic and orderly development of towns and villages, plans are prepared by the Town Planning and Valuation Department which has, so far as this district is concerned, made one for the town of Bhuj during the Third Five Year Plan.

District Local Board

The District Local Board was established in Kutch in 1952 consequent upon the application of the Bombay District Local Boards Act, 1923 on 14th December, 1952. The Board consisted of 30 members elected by general constituencies, of whom 4 were elected on reserved seats. The total income and expenditure of the Board during 1960-61 was Rs. 433,191 and Rs. 421,788 respectively. The main sources of income were local rates and land revenue and the major heads of expenditure were civil and public works, medical services and education. The Board ceased to function on the introduction of the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 in 1963.

Panchayats

If the attainment of political freedom has any meaning for the rural areas, it should provide them with the means and opportunities for their economic and social regeneration. To achieve these objectives, the people must have their own organisations for evolving and implementing rural development programmes, which cannot be better fulfilled than through the institution of village panchayats. The Planning Commission has, therefore, assigned a place of pride to the panchayats in the task of decentralising the local administration and in giving them the necessary scope for initiative, planning and execution of schemes aiming at the welfare of the people and development of the village economy.

Democratic Decentralisation—The First Five Year Plan stressed the role of local bodies in the implementation of development programmes and indicated that the general policy of Government should be to encourage them in assuming responsibility for as large a portion of administrative and social services within their areas as may be possible. As these local bodies depended mostly upon Government grants which were subjected to various conditions and restrictions their activities were too limited to produce any noticeable impact in rural areas, and the real object underlying the formation of local self-governing institution was frustrated. The proposals of the Planning Commission for the Second Five Year Plan, as accepted by the Parliament, therefore, stressed " the need for creating within the district a well organised democratic structure of administration in which the village panchayats will be organically linked with popular organisations at a higher level. In such a structure the functions of the popular body would include the entire general administration and development of the area, other than such functions as law and order, administration of justice and certain functions pertaining to the revenue administration. With this background before it the Balvantray Mehta Committee appointed to go into the question of the working of Community

Projects and National Extension Service held that community development cannot progress without responsibility and power which would be possible only under a process of democratic decentralisation from village to district level. They further held that community development can be real only when the community understands its problems, realises its responsibilities, exercises its necessary powers through its chosen representatives and maintains a constant and intelligent vigilance on local administration. With this object in view, they recommended an early establishment of statutory elective local bodies which alone could lead to effective rural development. They also recommended that necessary resources, powers and authority should be vested in such bodies. In effect the Balvantray Mehta Committee recommended that if the experiment of democratic decentralisation were to yield maximum results, it was necessary that all the three tiers of the scheme, viz., Village Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Jilla Parishad should be started at the same time and operated simultaneously in the whole district."[1]

In May 1958 the National Development Council accepted the recommendation of the Committee with regard to "democratic decentralisation" and resolved that State Governments should accelerate the process for the establishment of democratic institutions functioning either at the village level or at the block or taluka level or district level. The process of democratisation should be completed as speedily as possible. As agreed in the meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Development council in January 1958, the pattern of democratisation would be worked out by the State Governments in the light of their own conditions and requirements. As a consequence of this decision, the Government of Gujarat appointed a Committee in July 1960 under the chairmanship of the Revenue Minister to study this question and to make recommendations for its implementation. While recording its findings, the committee stressed the need of introducing democratic institutions up to the village level and observed in the report it submitted on 31st December, 1960 that "While operating through the people's local organisations, the programme simultaneously strengthens the foundations of democracy on which our constitution stands by making the villager understand the significance of development, and it makes him realise his position in this vast democracy."[2] Convinced of the fact that the establishment of village panchayats is indispensable for achieving alround economic development and growth of a democracy, the Government of Gujarat gave immediate effect to the recommendations of the Committee which were incorporated in the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961. It provided for a three tier system, viz., the gram panchayats which were already in existence at the lowest level, taluka panchayats at the taluka level and district panchayats at the district level.

1. Trivedi R. K., Census of India, 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part I-A(i), *General Report on the Census*, Delhi, 1965, pp. 128-129
2. Government of Gujarat, *Report of the Democratic Decentralisation Committee*, Part I, Ahmedabad, 1960, p. 1

The Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961—Panchayati Raj was ushered in the districts of Gujarat (except Kutch[1] and the Dangs) on April, 1, 1963 when taluka and district panchayats providing the middle tier of the democratic decentralisation scheme were formally inaugurated. The introduction of the scheme which vests the elected bodies at all levels with wide powers and provides them with necessary funds and trained administrative personnel was completed with the formation of the State Panchayat Council on May 1, 1963.

Gram Panchayat—All adult persons whose names appear on the electoral roll of the State Legislative Assembly and are residents of an area comprising a revenue village or a group of revenue villages or hamlets forming part of a revenue village constitute the gram sabha. A gram sabha holds at least two ordinary meetings every year, provided that the Sarpanch may, at his option and shall if required by the taluka panchayat or district panchayat call an extra ordinary meeting of the gram sabha. It considers annual statement of accounts, administration report, development and other programme of works and the audit notes and replies thereto and any other matter which the taluka panchayat or district panchayat requires to be placed before the meeting of the said gram sabha.

The gram sabha is required to carry out such other functions including development and other programmes of works for the ensuing year as prescribed in the Gujarat Gram Panchayats (Gram Sabha Meeting and Functions) Rules, 1964. The gram sabha elects from among its members the executive body which is called gram panchayat when the population of the village does not exceed 10,000. When the population of the local area exceeds 10,000 but does not exceed 20,000 nagar panchayat is formed. Also when such area (i. e., gram panchayat) has urban characteristics, nagar panchayat could be given to it even though its population does not exceed 10,000 persons. The number of members of a gram panchayat varies from 9 to 15 including a Sarpanch and an Upa-Sarpanch and that of a nagar panchayat from 15 to 31 including a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman. Provision has been made to reserve at least two seats for women and one seat for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Duties of a gram/nagar panchayat as scheduled in the Act relate to a variety of subjects covering sanitation, health, public works, primary education, law and order, planning, community development, cultural activities, etc. Collection of land revenue, maintenance of land records, and duties and functions of a village accountant are also transferred to the gram/nagar panchayats. Provided its funds permit, it has the discretion to take up certain other activities such as education, medical relief, promotion of social, economic and cultural well-being of the inhabitants of its area and arranging public receptions, ceremonies or entertainments within its jurisdiction.

1. In Kutch district Panchayati Raj was introduced on 15th April, 1963.

Taluka Panchayat—The taluka panchayat has as its members Sarpanchas of all gram panchayats/Chairmen of all nagar panchayats within the taluka as ex-officio members. It co-opts as members two women interested in welfare activities pertaining to women and children, two representatives of Scheduled Castes, two of Scheduled Tribes (if the population of Scheduled Tribes is more than 5 per cent of the total population of the taluka) and two social workers of the area having practical experience of matters pertaining to rural development. Local members of the Legislative Assembly, Mamlatdar or Mahalkari of the taluka or mahal, Presidents of municipalities in the taluka and elected members of the district panchayat ordinarily residing in the taluka are its associate members.

Functions of the taluka panchayat as scheduled in the Act range from subjects relating to sanitation, health, education, culture, social education, community development, agriculture, irrigation, animal husbandry, village and small scale industries, co-operation, women's welfare, social welfare, rural housing, pastures and relief against natural calamities. As in the case of gram/nagar panchayats a number of discretionary functions has been vested in taluka panchayats also.

District Panchayat—The district panchayat consists of (a) *ex-officio* members (Presidents of all taluka panchayats in the district) and (b) elected members. The latter include (i) one member elected by each constituent taluka panchayat and (ii) those elected directly. The number of directly elected members cannot exceed the total number of *ex-officio* members and members elected by the constituent taluka panchayats. The nature of direct election to the district panchayat is as follows:

For the purpose of election of members to a district panchayat under clause (iii) of sub-section (b) of Section 15 of Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961, the State Government shall divide each district into as many single-member territorial constituencies as there are seats determined under that clause and delimit their extent. Two of the seats intended for directly elected members are reserved for women, one or more seats for Scheduled Castes and one or more seats for Scheduled Tribes, according to population, if it is not less than five per cent. Associate members will include (1) local members of Parliament, (2) local members of Legislative Assembly, (3) the district Collector and (4) Presidents of all municipalities in the district, (5) one of the Directors of the Managing Board of the District Co-operative Bank as may be nominated by the Board, (6) a representative of the District Co-operative Union. The President and Vice-President of the district panchayat are elected by its elected, *ex-officio* and co-opted members.

The district panchayat is vested with administrative and executive powers. It is responsible for various developmental activities in the district, such as establishing and maintaining dispensaries, public health centres and

allied institutions. It has been entrusted with a wide range of educational activities. It manages primary education and uses the agency of taluka panchayats to supervise it. It co-ordinates and integrates community development schemes and looks after the development of irrigation, agriculture, animal husbandry, public health and medical relief, social welfare, cottage and small scale industries, collection and maintenance of statistics, etc. All these functions have been transferred on an agency basis to the district panchayat. A large number of executive functions such as registration of co-operative societies, approval of amendment to their bye-laws, calling of or extending the period for the calling of annual general meeting of co-operative societies, and such other functions as under the Co-operative Societies Act were exercised by the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, have also been transferred to the district panchayat.

Administrative Machinery—In order to carry out various duties and functions entrusted to the district and taluka panchayats under the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 and other Acts, a hierarchy of administrative machinery has been devised and experienced personnel transferred to man it. The District Development Officer is the chief executive officer for the district panchayat and so is the Taluka Development Officer at the taluka level. In order to enable them to discharge their executive functions efficiently, these officers are given certain powers which are laid down in sections 123 and 143 of the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961.

With the transfer of many of the departmental schemes and activities, a large number of district level functionaries have also been transferred to the district panchayat. These are : Executive Engineer, District Health Officer, Deputy Collector (Revenue), District Village Panchayat Officer, District Agricultural Officer, District Animal Husbandry Officer, District Statistical Officer, Assistant District Registrar, Co-operative Societies, District Backward Class Welfare Officer, Administrative Officer (Education) and Accounts Officer.

At the taluka level, the Taluka Development Officer is assisted by Extension Officers in various fields, viz., agriculture, co-operation, industries, social education, etc. At the village level there is a Talati-*cum*-Secretary who looks after the collection of land revenue and maintenance of records of the gram panchayat.

Progress in the Establishment of Panchayats—Prior to the merger of Kutch into the Indian Union, panchayats did not exist in this district. With a view to further the development of local self-government in rural areas and in the administration of civil and criminal justice, the Bombay Village Panchayat Act, 1933 was applied to Kutch in 1950 and the Bombay Village Panchayat Act, 1958 was introduced in June, 1959. Prior to 1951 village panchayats did not exist in this district. During the year 1952, ten village

panchayats were established for the first time, and the number went on increasing year after year till it rose 30 in 1955-56 to 278 in 1960-61. At the end of the year 1967-68 the total number of gram panchayats in the district was 586 and that of taluka panchayats 9. Thus after the introduction of Panchayati Raj, the entire district has been covered by panchayats.

Cultural and Social Activities of the Panchayats—A number of social and cultural activities such as libraries, night classes for social education, Balmandirs, etc., are conducted by panchayats. In 1965-66, 49 panchayats conducted night classes for social education and 17 panchayats had set-up both reading rooms and libraries. Balmandirs and Bal-kridangans were provided by 12 panchayats, while one panchayat organised Ras and Bhajan Mandalis.

Sources of Income—The panchayats at various levels have been given necessary funds to execute all schemes transferred to them. The Act also provides for the levy of taxes and fees by the various tiers of panchayats. The gram and nagar panchayats are empowered to levy octroi, fair and entertainment tax, shops and hotel tax, cycle and animal driven vehicle tax, etc. Similarly the taluka panchayats can levy education cess, impose taxation to the extent of 15 per cent of the taxes levied by the gram and nagar panchayats and with a request to the Government collect a surcharge not exceeding 15 per cent of the stamp duty on sales, mortgages or leases executed within their jurisdiction. The district panchayat can levy taxes on all or any of the items included in the schedule for the gram or nagar panchayats, but the same should not exceed 10 per cent of the taxes levied or leviable by the latter. The district panchayat also, as in the case of taluka panchayat, can request Government to levy a surcharge of 10 per cent of the stamp duty.

In addition to grants for schemes transferred to the panchayats, the most important source of panchayat income is land revenue. The share of land revenue payable to them is determined by the Government on an average of land revenue collected or recovered in the village during the preceeding 3 years. 25 per cent of this amount is reserved for expenditure on pay, training, etc., of panchayat Secretaries and 5 per cent for the State Equalisation Fund. From the balance, 50 per cent are paid to village panchayats 25 per cent to taluka panchayats, 10 per cent to the district panchayat, 7½ per cent to the District Equalisation Fund and 7½ per cent to the District Gram Encouragement Fund. The Act empowers the State Government to levy cess on land revenue for the benefit of the panchayats. At the rate of 50 paise per rupee of land revenue, this amount came to Rs. 401,995·07 in 1966-67.

Income and Expenditure of Gram, Taluka and District Panchayats—Statement XIII·5 goes to show that the total income of gram panchayats,

taluka panchayats and district panchayat in 1966-67 was Rs. 1,096,137·66, Rs. 6,965,121·50 and Rs. 6,333,996·88 respectively.

STATEMENT XIII·5

Income of Gram Panchayats, Taluka Panchayats and District Panchayat for the Year, 1966-67

Sl. No.	Gram Panchayats	Rs.	Taluka Panchayats	Rs.	District Panchayat	Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Government Grants (Land Revenue)	593,478.79	1 Government Grants	6,229,894.35	1 Government Grants	6,008,154.80
2	Gifts and Donations	205,298.78	2 Statutory Grants as Land Revenue grants	568,986.03	2 Statutory Grants (Education and Medical)	..
3	Taxes and Fees, etc.	297,360.09	3 From District Panchayat's own fund	166,241.12	3 Land Revenue	138,131.00
					4 Local Fund Cess (Cess on Land)	187,711.08
Total		**1,096,137.66**	**Total** ..	**6,965,121.50**	**Total** ..	**6,333,996.88**

Source :
The District Development Officer, Kutch District Panchayat, Bhuj

Statement XIII·6 shows items on which expenditure is incurred by gram panchayats, taluka panchayats and district panchayat.

STATEMENT XIII-6

Expenditure of Gram Panchayats, Taluka Panchayats and District Panchayat for the Year, 1966-67

Sl. No.	Gram Panchayats	Rs.	Taluka Panchayats	Rs.	District Panchayat	Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(1)	Sanitation and Health ..	273,672.28	(1) Sanitation and Health ..	553,325.01	(1) Sanitation and Health ..	369,634.02
(2)	Public Works ..	308,807.32	(2) Public Works ..	110,286.22	(2) Public Works ..	5,127,367.94
(3)	Education and Culture ..	76,487.58	(3) Education and Culture ..	2,755,027.72	(3) Education and Culture ..	230,385.12
(4)	Administration ..	152,766.78	(4) Administration ..	1,095,912.97	(4) Administration ..	516,973.92
(5)	Welfare of People ..	111,051.40	(5) Welfare of People ..	112,353.96	(5) Welfare of People ..	107,483.44
(6)	Agriculture, Preservation of Forests and Animal Husbandry	38,376.83	(6) Agriculture, Preservation of Forests and Animal Husbandry ..	488,341.76	(6) Agriculture, Preservation of Forests and Animal Husbandry ..	233,545.85
(7)	Village and Cottage Industries ..	10,473.43	(7) Village and Cottage Industries ..	70,074.05	(7) Village and Cottage Industries ..	687,545.97
(8)	Collection of Land Revenue and maintenance of Land Records ..	94,507.15	(8) Collection of Land Revenue and maintenance of Land Records ..	392,356.70	(8) Collection of Land Revenue and maintenance of Land Records ..	21,215.41
	Total ..	**1,065,691.21**	**Total** ..	**5,577,678.39**	**Total** ..	**7,294,151.67**

Source :
The District Development Officer, Kutch District Panchayat, Bhuj

Progress of Panchayati Raj—The foregoing account of the three-tier system of Panchayati Raj which was introduced in the district on 15th April, 1963 at the village, taluka and district levels shows that the administration of panchayats has been well organised and that the panchayats have successfully discharged their responsibilities in respect of development schemes, welfare works and social services, the execution of which has been transferred to them by *Government*. The institutions of Panchayati Raj have shown skill and zeal in striving to achieve the targets of agricultural production by implementing several schemes for the development of agriculture. Nor have they lagged behind in performing their regulatory functions in the sphere of collection of land revenue. The performance of the Panchayati institutions in the successful implementation of the Rabi campaign has been exemplary in the district. In 1964-65 the district panchayat in its effort to boost Rabi crop campaign had awarded a Silver Rolling Shield to Bhuj Taluka Panchayat for its outstanding performance. The panchayats have actively participated in the formulation of the district level schemes to be included in the Fourth Plan of the State, which the Kutch District Panchayat finalised in consultation with gram and taluka panchayats. The record of the panchayats in the district in the implementation of plan and non-plan schemes has been on the whole satisfactory.

Kandla Port Trust—The constitution and working of the Kandla Port Trust merit notice as this is the only port trust in the district and the State. The Kandla Port Trust came into being with effect from 29th February, 1964, when the first Board of Trustees was constituted by the Government of India under sub-section (1) of Section 4 of the Major Port Trust Act, 1963. A regular Board of Trustees as provided in sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Act was, however, constituted from 1st April, 1964. It is a corporate body having perpetual succession and a common seal with power, subject to the provisions of the Act, to acquire, hold or dispose of property. The Act provides for a Board of Trustees consisting of 22 members, besides the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, of whom not more than 10 persons will be appointed by the Central Government representing (1) labour employed in the port, (2) representative of the State Government in which port is situated, (3) Mercantile Marine Department, (4) Customs Department, (5) the Defence Services, (6) the Indian Railways, and (7) such other interests as in the opinion of the Government ought to be represented on the Board and 12 persons elected by such State or local bodies representing commercial, shipping or local interests, as the Central Government may specify from time to time by notification in the gazette.

The Board of Trustees of the Kandla Port Trust for the years 1968 to 1970 has 16 members including the Chairman as stated below :

1 Chairman
2 Administrator, Kandla Free Trade Zone
(representing the Ministry of Commerce)

3 Assistant Collector of Customs, Kandla
(representing the Customs Department)

4 Divisional Superintendent, Western Railway, Ajmer
(representing the Indian Railways)

5 Chief Staff Officer to the Flag Officer, Bombay
(representing the Defence Services)

6 Director of Ports, Gujarat State
(representing the State Government)

7 Administrator, Gandhidham Borough Municipality,
(representing Municipality)

8 One representative of Gandhidham Chamber of Commerce and Industry

9 One representative of Gujarat Chamber of Commerce

10 One representative of Rajasthan Chamber of Commerce

11 One representative of Indian National Steamship Owners' Association

12 One representative of All India Sailing Vessels Industries' Association

13 One representative of Northern India Chamber of Commerce

14 & 15 Two representatives of Labour

16 Surveyor-in-charge, (representing the Mercantile Marine Department.)

During 1966-67 the Board held 13 meetings including the statutory special meeting for considering the budget estimates of the port. The Act provides that the Board may execute such works within or without the limits of the port and provide such appliances as it may deem necessary or expedient. Board may also undertake to carry out on behalf of any person any works or services or any class of works or services, on such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between the Board and the person concerned.1

1. The details about the administration of Kandla Port Trust appear in Chapter VI—Banking, Trade and Commerce.

CHAPTER XIV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Historical Background

Information about the educational system in the ancient and mediaeval periods is not available. But evidence about the early educational system prevalent in this region is available from the copper plate grants of the Maitraka period which go to establish that Valabhi had once been a celebrated seat of learning. The Buddhist, the Hindu and the Jain institutions were patronised alike by the Maitraka rulers.

The Buddhist System

Buddhist studies at Valabhi, however, had acquired unique fame at that time and vied with the sister university of Nalanda in the north. According to Hiuen Tsiang, there were at Valabhi 100 Buddhist monasteries with 6,000 brethren adherents of the Hinayana Sammatiya.1 Such was the fame of the Valabhi university as a seat of advanced Buddhist studies that students from far and wide, went thereafter studying at Nalanda for 2 to 3 years. Famous monks like Acharya Sthirmati and Gunamati, pupils of Vasubandhu, the well-known pandit from Nalanda, came to Valabhi and resided there in a monastery outside the town.2 The method of teaching was tutorial as well as professorial. The former prevailed in the primary and secondary stages and the latter in the higher stages of studies. Training was imparted on diverse subjects.

The secondary education consisted of such subjects as arts, metaphysics, logic, medicine, etc., which were continued at the university stage, which, in addition Buddhist *shatras*, imparted training in the four Vedas, works on astronomy, geography, medicine and arithmetic. The medium of instruction was Sanskrit and Prakrit. Education was free. There were equal opportunities of studies for the rich and the poor in the Buddhist Viharas, where the students lived a simple, disciplined, peaceful and intellectual life.

The Hindu System

Though not a single copper plate grant in favour of any Hindu institution is so far available, there is ample evidence to show that Valabhi, the capital of a Hindu Kingdom, was also an important seat of Hindu learning.

1. Thomas Watters, *On Yuan Chwang's Travels in India*, p. 246
2. Beal S., *The life of Hiuen Tsiang*, London, 1914, pp. 266-268

A number of copper plates giving grants of villages, lands, etc., to learned Brahmins goes to show the great esteem in which the *pandits* well-versed in the religious scriptures were held by the Maitraka rulers. Its great reputation as the seat of Hindu learning attracted a Brahmin youth from Antarvedi on the banks of the Ganges to Valabhi for higher studies, even though Benaras and Taxila were nearer home.[1] Mayursarman, the founder of the Kadamba dynasty, went all the way to Valabhi and brought with him some of the learned Brahmins presumably to assist him at a sacrifice.[2] Under the Hindu system of education, primary education was probably in the hands of the village school-master who taught in the *pathshala*, whereas higher studies were imparted at the *gurukulas*.

The Jain System

Valabhi was also the traditional place of Jainism where Shwetambar canon was collected and published. Since the beginning of the Maitraka rule, it had been the seat of great spiritual activity and become a centre of the Jain savants. One of them, Dhanesvarasuri, who described himself as the tutor of prince Siladitya, wrote the famous Shatrunjaya-Mahatmya and defeated the Buddhists by resorting to Syadveds.[3] It was here again where Jitayasas and Yaksa the brothers of the famous Malla lived and wrote Visranta Visyadharavara and Nimittastangabodhini. Malla himself wrote his famous treatise on the Jain philosophy called the Nyayachackra. The two agencies of the Jain educational system were the Art schools and the monasteries. The Art schools were concerned with primary and secondary education, where subjects like three R's, fine arts, military training, academic and scientific studies were taught. This course of training extending over a period of 7 years was adapted to the physical, mental and emotional needs of the scholars from boy-hood to early adolescence. Thereafter, students joined the monasteries which were prototype of the Buddhist *viharas* where the learned *acharyas* imparted training in higher studies.[4] The method of studies, pursued in the Jain monasteries was both comprehensive and rational and it extended over a wide range of subjects like the Vedas, the Vedangas, History, Philosophy, Higher Mathematics, Astronomy, Astrology, Medicine, Mineralogy, Lexicography, Politics, Grammar, etc., together with the Brahmanical and Buddhist works. Jains, however, were the first to make use of a vernacular language as the medium of instruction in place of Sanskrit and Prakrit.

The conditions of education in Kutch during the eighteen fifties has been described thus in the older *Gazetteer*.

1. Somadeva, *Kathā Saritsagara*, Taranga, 32
2. Saletore B. A., *An Ancient Karnataka*, I, pp. 324-325, note 1
3. *Shatrunjaya-Mahatmya*, p. 769
4. Das Gupta D. C., *Jaina System of Education*, Calcutta, 1944, p. 2.

> "In 1854 there was only one vernacular school at Bhuj, its cost, when more was spent than the amount received in school fees, being borne by the Rao. Neither the Rao nor his people took any interest in education. In 1860 there were three schools, one Anglo-vernacular and two vernacular, with 450 boys on the rolls and an average daily attendance of 328 pupils."[1]

It was Pragmalji II (1860-1875) who laid the foundation of a system of State education throughout Kutch. "In 1870-71 there were fourteen schools, nine in the Rao's territory and five in the villages of the smaller chiefs. Of these two were for girls. In 1875-76, there were 43 schools and 2,944 students. In 1878-79 there were under an Educational Inspector, seventy-one schools with, on the rolls, 3,969 pupils, and an average attendance of 3,251. The total expenditure on these schools amounted to £3.169 10s. (Rs. 31,695), and the receipts from fees to £242 12s. (Rs. 2,426). Of the seventy-one schools one was a high school with forty-one pupils teaching up to the Bombay University entrance test standard; two were Anglo-vernacular schools with 99 pupils; fifty-eight were primary schools with 3,427 pupils; six were girls schools with 300 pupils, and four with 102 pupils, were working men's night schools. Besides these there is at Bhuj a *poshal* or school for teaching Hindu poetry, the students being maintained by the Darbar, and at Mandvi under a well trained teacher and in a fair condition, a Sanskrit college established and fairly well endowed by Gosai Suklal Gir, a Cutch banker. In July, 1877 an art school was opened and supplied with a competent teacher from the Bombay Sir Jamsetji Jijibhai School of Art. At the end of March, 1878 it had on its rolls fifty-five pupils.....In 1870 at a cost of £15,000 (Rs. 1,50,000) he (Pragmalji II) founded a high school and named it the Alfred High School in honour of His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh. In 1872 a sum of £2,000 (Rs. 20,000) being raised to commemorate His Highness' visit to Bombay, he added £2,500 (Rs. 25,000) to it, out of which £3,000 (Rs. 30,000) were offered to the Bombay University, and two scholarships, tenable for three years at any of the recognized colleges, were established, to be awarded every year to the two Cutchi students who passed the Matriculation Examination with the highest number of marks. Scholarships are also held out by the Darbar as an encouragement to students to leave Cutch and study in distant schools and colleges."[2]

Thus between 1854 and 1878-79 education made rapid progress in Kutch. The number of institutions and pupils increased appreciably during this period and rose to 71 and 3,969 respectively.

1. Campbell Sir, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 205
2. *Ibid*, pp. 205-206

Education of girls and adults was simultaneously attended to by opening girl's schools and night schools. The necessity of technical education was appreciated and a School of Arts was established by Khengarji III. His efforts for promoting education were worthily supplemented by private endowments which later on played a great part in the educational system of Kutch.[1] As the twentieth century advanced, the demand that Government should do more to provide facilities for education and other amenities of civilized life, grew more insistent. The number of educational institutions and pupils studying in them began to increase at a more rapid pace. Physical education by opening gymnasia was also encouraged.

Primary and secondary education in Kutch had been free not only in Government schools but also in a large number of private schools. But the meagre financial resources of the State, the feudal set-up in the region, a large population living outside Kutch for seeking its livelihood, lack of proper communications, and above all the insular position of Kutch acted as a serious handicap to the development of education to the extent desired. Nevertheless education made noteworthy progress in Kutch between 1886-87 and 1944-45 as seen from the increase in the number of institutions of all types and students given below.

Number of Institutions and Pupils, 1886-87 to 1944-45

Year	Number of Institutions	Number of Pupils	Year	Number of Institutions	Number of Pupils
1	2	3	1	2	3
1886-87 ..	230	11,557	1911-12 ..	333	14,655
1895-96 ..	257	12,818	1915-16 ..	466	18,147
1900-01 ..	240	10,318	1939-40 ..	655	27,676
1905-06 ..	274	12,615	1944-45 ..	746	34,077

Source :
Reports on the Administration of the Kutch State

The rise in the number of institutions and students during 1939-40 to 1944-45 was quite noteworthy. The number of State and recognised institutions increased from 123 in 1886-87 to 203 in 1944-45, whereas the number of private and indigenous institutions increased by about five times during the same period. The number of students in the former category likewise increased from 7,322 to 12,706, and from 4,235 to 21,371 in the latter. These figures bring out the useful role played by individuals and private bodies in the spread of education in Kutch. Of 746 schools in the State in the year 1944-45, 90 were State schools, 113 recognised schools and 543 private schools. Of these 3 were high schools, 116 middle schools, 522 primary

1. Rushbrook Williams, L. F., *The Black Hills*, London, p. 251, 1958

schools, 48 Koran schools, 4 Sanskrit *pathshalas*, 1 Magadhi school, 1 Brij Bhasha Poshal, and 1 School of Arts. These had on their roll 34,077 pupils, 6,612 in the State, 6,094 in recognised schools and 21,371 in private schools.

The following are the particulars of schools maintained by the State in 1944-45 :

Sl. No.	Type of school	Number of schools	Number of students	Sl. No.	Type of school	Number of schools	Number of students
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1	High schools ..	2	461	6	Special schools	4	113
2	Secondary schools	8	941		(a) School of Art, Bhuj		29
3	Primary Day schools	59	4,016		(b) Sanskrit Pathshala		13
4	Primary Night schools	7	159		(c) Brij Bhasha Poshal		4
					(d) Mohammadan schools		67
5	Primary Girls' schools	10	922		**Total**	**90**	**6,612**

Source :
Report on the Administration of the Kutch State, from 1st April, 1944 to 31st October, 1945

Progress of Education after Independence--After the integration of Kutch with the Indian Union on 1st June, 1948, education in the region took rapid strides, as can be seen from the following table.

Sl. No.	Year	Primary schools (including basic schools)	Pupils	Secondary schools	Pupils	Colleges and Technical institutions	Pupils
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	1948 ..	239	15,217	N. A.	N. A.	..	..
2	1951 ..	398	19,438	12	2,936	..	..
3	1956 ..	462	38,216	16	5,303	1	268
4	1961 ..	744	66,025	25	8,135	3	411
5	1966 ..	812	76,856	34	9,782	5	837

N. A. = Not available

Source :
1. Educational Inspector, Kutch
2. Administrative Officer, (Education), Kutch

The number of institutions increased from 410 in 1951 to 851 in 1966 and that of pupils in still greater proportion. While primary education including basic schools has shown considerable expansion since 1948, secondary, higher and technical education has registered appreciable progress during the last two decades.

Growth of Literacy

Refering to the extent of literacy in the former Kutch State, the former *Gazetteer* on Kutch observes : "The 1872 Census returns give, for the two

chief races of the district, the following proportion of persons able to read and write. Of 67,608 the total Hindu male population not over twelve years, 4,537 or 6·71 per cent ; of 33,364 above twelve and not over twenty, 4,731 or 14·18 per cent ; and of 91,346 over twenty, 15,307 or 16·76 per cent were able to, or were being taught to, read and write. Of 61,564, the total Hindu female population not over twelve years, 43 or 0·06 per cent of 29,816 above twelve and not more than twenty, 65 or 0·22 per cent ; and of the 85,486, over twenty, 127 or 0·15 per cent were able to, or were being taught to, read and write."

"Of 23,046 the total Musalman male population of not more than twelve years, 757 or 3·28 per cent ; of 10,469 above twelve and not more than twenty, 584 or 5·58 per cent ; and of 28,348 over twenty, 1,546 or 5·45 per cent were able to, or were being taught to read and write. Of 20,335 the total Musalman female population of not more than twelve, 74 or 0·37 per cent ; of 9,352 above twelve and not more than twenty years, 55 or 0·59 per cent ; and of 26,513 over twenty, 137 or 0·52 per cent were able to, or were being taught to, read and write."[1]

Figures of population, literates and literacy per cent as recorded by the past Census 1872-1961 are reproduced in the statement given below :

Literates during Census of 1872-1961

Year	Total population (Number)			Total Literates (Number)			Percentage of Literacy		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1872 ..	487,305	254,211	233,094	29,002	27,482	1,520	5.95	10.81	0.65
1881 ..	512,084	260,251	251,833	35,342	33,755	1,587	6.90	12.97	0.63
1891 ..	558,415	278,441	279,974	46,877	43,938	2,939	8.40	15.78	1.05
1901 ..	488,022	244,643	243,379	39,448	36,579	2,869	8.08	14.95	1.18
1911 ..	513,429	252,453	260,976	42,088	37,333	4,755	8.20	14.79	1.82
1921 ..	484,547	235,363	249,184	41,660	35,781	5,879	8.60	15.20	2.36
1931 ..	520,496	251,909	268,587	49,267	40,622	8,645	9.46	16.13	3.22
1941 ..	507,880	242,421	265,459	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	..	..	..
1951 ..	567,606	272,977	294,629	87,886	59,567	28,319	15.48	21.82	9.61
1961 ...	696,440	341,224	355,216	174,088	114,056	60,032	25.00	33.43	16.90

N. A. = Not available

Source :
Census Reports

1. Campbell Sir, J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, 1880, p. 206

It is evident from the above statement that the percentage of literacy that stood at 5·95 per cent was quite low at the time of the first enumeration in 1872. After a small increase in 1881 and 1891, it remained more or less stationary around 8 per cent till 1921. Growth of literacy was, however, rapid after Independence when it rose to 15·48 per cent in 1951 and to 25·00 per cent in 1961. The same trend is also reflected in the distribution of literacy by sex, male literacy being much higher than female.

Literacy and Educational Standards

Literacy

The following statement gives details of literacy for the total, rural and urban areas of the talukas/mahals of the district, as revealed by the Census taken in 1961.

STATEMENT XIV·1

Rural/Urban Literacy by Sex, 1961

District / Taluka / Mahal	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Literates (number)	Percentage of total population	Literate males (number)	Percentage of total male population	Literate females (number)	Percentage of total female population
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Kutch ..	T	174,088	25.00	114,056	33.43	60,032	16.90
	R	112,085	19.97	75,085	27.59	37,000	12.79
	U	62,003	45.92	38,971	56.38	23,032	34.94
Bhuj * ..	T	35,747	28.05	23,915	37.72	11,832	18.48
	R	15,463	17.72	11,243	26.30	4,220	9.48
	U	20,284	50.48	12,672	61.32	7,612	39.01
Nakhatrana ..	R	15,687	22.53	11,191	34.70	4,496	12.03
Lakhpat ..	R	2,702	14.68	2,039	21.82	663	7.32
Abdasa ..	R	14,617	22.45	9,226	29.89	5,391	15.74
Mandvi ..	T	35,598	35.07	20,449	43.27	15,149	27.93
	R	22,447	29.97	12,880	37.49	9,567	28.60
	U	13,151	49.42	7,569	58.67	5,582	40.72
Mundra ..	T	18,023	33.12	9,861	39.65	8,162	27.61
	R	14,182	31.10	7,493	36.41	6,689	26.73
	U	3,841	43.56	2,368	55.22	1,473	32.52
Anjar ..	T	32,170	30.30	21,780	39.93	10,390?	20.12
	R	7,443	15.92	5,418	23.28	2,025	8.62
	U	24,727	41.61	16,362	52.33	8,365	29.70
Bhachau ** ..	R	10,365	15.17	8,023	23.20	2,342	6.94
Rapar ..	R	9,179	10.75	7,572	17.17	1,607	3.89

Note : * Includes Khavda merged in it.
** Includes Khadir merged in it.

Source :
District Census Handbook, Kutch, 1961, p. 17

As is to be expected, the percentage of literacy was quite pronounced in the urban areas. The highest percentage of general literacy was recorded in the Mandvi taluka (35·07 per cent) and the lowest in Rapar taluka (10·75 per cent). In the urban areas the highest percentage of literacy was found in Bhuj (50·48) and the lowest in Anjar (41·61), corresponding figures for the rural areas being 31·10 and 10·75 per cent in Mundra and Rapar respectively. Backward though it is, Kutch has two talukas, Mundra and Mandvi, where rural literacy goes beyond the State average by having 31·10 and 29·97 per cent respectivey of their village-folk literate. In other talukas rural literacy is below the rural average for the State. The highest percentage of literacy in Mandvi taluka was distributed in the proportion of 43·27 per cent for males and 27·93 per cent for females and the lowest percentage in Rapar taluka into 17·17 per cent for males and 3·89 per cent for females. Urban literacy was the highest for males in Bhuj taluka 61·32 per cent and for females in Mandvi taluka 40·72 per cent. It was the lowest for Anjar which returned 52·33 per cent males and 29·70 per cent females. In the rural areas Mandvi taluka showed the highest percentage of literacy for both the sexes 37·49 per cent for males and 28·60 per cent for females the lowest being Rapar with 17·17 per cent and 3·89 per cent respectively.

The percentage of literates to total population by age and sex for the rural and urban areas was as follows.

STATEMENT XIV·2

Literacy by Age Groups, 1961

Age groups	Total			Rural			Urban		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All ages	25.00	33.43	16.90	19.97	27.59	12.79	45.92	56.38	34.94
5—14	32.02	38.52	25.09	27.36	34.60	19.64	52.24	55.50	48.76
15—34	34.16	45.04	23.91	26.68	35.82	18.57	59.85	72.89	44.84
35—59	24.86	37.24	13.37	19.26	30.03	9.51	49.76	67.28	31.67
60+	17.44	32.05	7.27	13.73	26.66	4.42	37.68	65.82	21.53
Age not stated	15.42	20.50	8.52	17.56	22.84	10.07	6.33	9.52	2.70

Source :
District Census Handbook, Kutch, 1961, p. 17

Literacy was the highest in the age-group 15-34 both for the general as well as the urban population. But in the rural areas the school going ages 5-14 showed the highest literacy, owing to the expansion of literacy in recent times. Among males, literacy was the highest in the working age-group 15-34, but among females it was so in the age-group 5-14. The overall percentage of literacy in the district was 25·00 which meant that three-fourths of the population in the district was illiterate, distributed in the proportion of 54·08 and 80·03 per cent for the urban and rural population respectively.

Educational Standards

The different levels of education, and the number of persons returned during the 1961 Census are given below by sex for the rural and urban areas of the district.

STATEMENT XIV·3

Educational Levels in Urban and Rural Areas, 1961

Sl. No.	Educational levels	Urban			Rural		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Total	**135,038**	**69,124**	**65,914**	**561,402**	**272,100**	**289,302**
1	Illiterate	73,035	30,153	42,882	449,317	197,015	252,302
2	Literate (without educational level)	27,992	17,176	10,816	62,832	41,717	21,115
3	Primary or Junior Basic ..	28,337	17,000	11,337	48,074	32,253	15,821
4	Matriculation or Higher Secondary	4,520	3,770	750	1,179	1,115	64
5	Technical diploma not equal to degree	178	162	16	..	..	..
6	Non-technical diploma not equal to degree	35	15	20	..	..	..
7	University degree or post-graduate degree other than technical degree	664	594	70	..	..	..
8	Technical degree or diploma equal to degree or post-graduate degree	277	254	23	..	..	..
	(i) Engineering ..	62	62	..	..	..	..
	(ii) Medicine ..	55	53	2	..	..	..
	(iii) Agriculture ..	7	7	..	..	..	..
	(iv) Veterinary and dairying	5	5	..	..	..	..
	(v) Technology ..	3	3	..	..	..	..
	(vi) Teaching	37	27	10	..	..	..
	(vii) Others	108	97	11	..	..	..

Source :
District Census Handbook, Kutch, pp. 23-24

These figures are an index to the educational progress in the district. An important characteristic of the pattern of education as revealed by the statement, was a very low standard of literacy in the countryside as compared to towns. As many as 80·03 per cent of the total rural population were illiterate, as against 54·08 per cent for the urban areas. These statistics

indicate greater facilities for education in towns than in villages. Another significant characteristic of education in the urban areas was that the literates (without educational level) numbered less than those with primary or junior basic qualifications, whereas in the rural areas it was the former that predominated.

In recent times, the district has been making appreciable headway in the field of university and technical education and has returned 664 persons with university degree or post-graduate degree other than technical degree, and 277 persons with technical qualifications. All the higher and technical education was, however, confined to towns as not a single person beyond the secondary stage or with technical qualifications was recorded in the countryside. The number of persons with technical qualifications forming nearly 42 per cent of those with university degree or post-graduate degree other than technical degree shows the increasing demand for technical education in recent times. Among technical courses, 'Engineering', 'Medicine' and 'Teaching' are preferred. Females who hardly received any education in the past have also started taking benefits of higher and technical education. Medicine and teaching are the two branches of studies generally opted by them.

Spread of Education Among Women—Education of girls and women did not make much progress in pre-Independence days. It was Pragmal II and then Khengar III who paid particular attention to the education of girls and awarded scholarships to deserving girl students. People and private bodies also made handsome contribution to the cause of women's education in Kutch. As years passed the number of such schools and students went on increasing. In the earlier periods, separate schools for girls were started only in the primary schools. Except for a few, by and large, girls generally discontinued their studies after the primary stage, mostly due to the prevailing social custom of marrying them at an early age. The few, desirous of taking higher education studied in the secondary schools along with boys. Conditions, however, began to change during the twentieth century. As the demand for education became more insistent, the number of private institutions increased more rapidly than the State and recognised institutions. In 1878-79 there were only 6 girls' schools with 300 pupils. But in 1944-45 the number had risen to 148 (10 State, 12 recognised and 126 private schoools) besides 22 schools for teaching Koran where the girls were also taught Arabic, Persian, Urdu and Sindhi. Expansion of girls education became very rapid after the integration of Kutch State into the Indian Union. The first high school for girls named the 'Indrabai Girls' High School' was started at Bhuj by the munificence of Shri Dosabhai Lalchand who donated one lakh of rupees in 1949 for the construction of a school building in the memory of his mother Indrabai. Prior to that he had started a primary school for girls called the 'Indrabai Kanya Vidyalaya'. Students in this school are given free tuition, a facility which has been a source of

great relief to the poor parents. A second high school was started in 1950 by Sheth Khimji Ramdas at Mandvi, and a third named the K. K. M. S. Girls' High School in 1954 from the donation given by Sheth Khatau Mavji Shethiya. Two other high schools one at Adipur managed by the Gandhidham Maitri Mandal, and the other at Mundra managed by the R. T. Trust were also added. The number of girls' schools and students went on rapidly increasing. In 1966-67 there were five high schools, and 68 recognised and State primary schools in the district. The number of students on the roll was 56,237. Quite a significant number of girls have started taking university and technical education also. Many of them have come out as graduates in various branches of higher education and are working as teachers, doctors and lawyers.

Spread of Education among Backward Classes and Tribes—Prior to the reign of Vijayrajji, no steps were taken for the education of Backward Classes, though Harijan children were admitted to Darbar school. After Independence, the Government of Kutch spent large sums of money after their education. Special schools were opened for the children of Backward Classes. A basic school was started in 1952-53 at Valabhpur for the children of Scheduled Tribes and 4 primary schools for the children of ex-criminal tribes in 1954-55. These facilities were continued after 1956 when Kutch merged with the Bombay State and later became a district of Gujarat State. The extent of literacy and education among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the rural and urban areas of the district as returned by the 1961 Census will be seen from the table that follows.

STATEMENT XIV·4

Literacy among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Rural and Urban Areas, 1961

Category	Total population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes			Rural			Urban		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Total ..	**95,572**	**48,124**	**47,448**	**81,373**	**40,969**	**40,404**	**14,199**	**7,155**	**7,044**
Illiterate ..	88,495	41,960	46,535	76,562	36,522	40,040	11,933	5,438	6,495
Literate and educated ..	7,077	6,164	913	4,811	4,447	364	2,266	1,717	549
(a) Literate without educational level ..	4,858	4,096	762	3,206	2,923	283	1,652	1,173	479
(b) Primary or Junior Basic	2,194	2,043	151	1,598	1,517	81	596	526	70
(c) Matriculation and above and technical ..	25	25	..	7	7	..	18	18	..

Source :
1. *District Census Handbook*, Kutch, 1961, pp. 121-122
2. Census of India, 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part V-A, *Tables on Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes*, pp. 230-31, 242-43 ; 257 ; 266.

The following statement compares the percentages of literacy and educational standards among the gerenral population and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the rural and urban areas as returned by the Census of 1961.

Category	Rural		Urban	
	Percentage of General Population	Per cent of total Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	Percentage of General Population	Per cent of total Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
1	2	3	4	5
Total	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**
Illiterate	80.04	94.09	54.08	84.04
Literate (without educational level)	11.19	3.94	20.73	11.68
Primary or Junior Basic ..	8.56	1.96	20.99	4.20
Matriculation and above and technical	0.21	0.01	4.20	0.18

Source :
Based on Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part V-A, *Tables on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes*, pp. 230 and 257

These figures reveal a low level of literacy among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which was lower still in rural areas. Their womenfolk are mostly illiterate, as out of a total female population of 47,448 souls, only 913 were literate most of whom were without any educational level. Those who have passed matriculation and above or acquired some technical training constitute a small percentage of their total population. The extent of literacy among the Scheduled Castes was relatively higher than among the Scheduled Tribes.

General Education

Pre-primary classes of the Balmandir pattern are of a recent origin in Kutch. Prior to the starting of such institutions, primary schools conducted two pre-primary classes known as the 'Talim Varg' and 'Bal Varg' each of 6 months' duration. In the beginning of the third decade of the present century some teachers went to Bhavnagar and attended the Daxina Murti Bal Bhavan started by Shri Gijubhai Badheka and Taraben Modak. After receiving training there, they returned to Bhuj and opened Balmandirs and Balvadis. As the number of Balmandirs went on increasing, the two pre-primary classes hitherto conducted in the primary schools, were, by an order of the Government, discontinued from 1962. This helped increase the number of Balmandirs and Balvadis in the district. Even the Village Panchayats and several educational organisations have shown keen interest in the opening of Balmandirs, whose number in 1966-67 rose to 16.

Primary Education

A number of primary schools had been opened by the State since the latter half of the nineteenth century. Individuals and private bodies had also taken an increasing interest in promoting primary education and started many such schools. The number of primary schools increased further during the twentieth century. Night schools for the education of adults were also opened by the State. A Five Year Plan was drawn up by the Kutch Darbar in 1944-45 to extend facilities for primary education to villages having a population of 500 souls or more. The number of primary schools in that year was 572, of which 76 were State schools, 87 recognised schools and 409 private schools. The total number of pupils on their rolls was 28,307. Among State schools, 59 were day schools, 7 night schools and 10 girls' schools. There were also several Koran schools and Sanskrit *pathshalas* run by the State and private agencies. After Independence the increase in primary education was very remarkable. Grant-in-aid by the Education Department, the programme of National Extension Scheme, and private donations have put primary education on a sound footing and given a fillip to its expansion in the district. In 1948-49 there were 239 primary schools including basic schools with 15,217 students on the rolls. These numbers rose to 398 and 19,438 respectively in 1951-52 and stood at 812 and 78,632 in 1966-67. Between 1948-49 and 1966-67, while the number of primary schools rose to a little less than three and a half times its former number, that of pupils went up to a little more than five times its former number. The number of teachers also increased *pari pasu* to cope with the increase in schools and students. Of 812 primary schools in existence in 1966, 683 were run by the Jilla Panchayat and 129 by private agencies. To circumvent the difficulties experienced in opening primary schools on account of the lack of sufficient number of pupils in smaller villages with populations below 200, situated at a distance of 5 to 10 miles from each other, a special experiment by way of opening *jnan shalas*, was undertaken by the District Local Board of Kutch in 1955. Either retired school teachers or local Brahmins were appointed in such institutions. They taught reading and writing to the pupils and prepared them for their simple village professions. The number of such *jnan shalas* increased from 75 in 1955 to 450 in 1960. As and when the *jnan shalas* attained the position of a normal primary school, they were taken over by the Education Department. Compulsory primary education has been introduced in the district for children aged 7-8 since the year 1961-62, and for those aged 8-9 from the year 1962-63. Since 1963 primary education in the district has been transferred to the District Panchayat. By 1965-66, only 295 villages in the district were without schools.

Training Facilities for Teachers—The expansion of primary education necessitated corresponding expansion of training facilities for teacher to improve the quality of teaching in primary and basic schools. No such

facility existed in the district till 1945, as the former State Government used to depute senior primary teachers to the training college at Baroda for the Junior P. T. C. course. In 1946, during the reign of Maharao Vijayrajji, the first training college for primary teachers, named the Government Adhyapan Mandir was established at Bhuj, and in the first year 12 pupil-teachers joined it. The college was shifted to Mundra in 1955. It was meant exclusively for training male teachers only. During the Second Five Year Plan period, another college was started at Bhuj in 1959. It is a co-educational institution. Kutch thus has at present two colleges for training primary school teachers.

The following statement shows the progress of training institutions between 1961 and 1966.

Training Institutions and Pupil-Teachers 1961-62 to 1965-66

Sl. No.	Name of the Institution	Number of pupil-teachers trained		
		1961-62	1963-64	1965-66
1	2	3	4	5
1	Primary Teachers Training College, Bhuj	161	128	136
2	Government Adhyapan Mandir, Mundra	29	36	40
	Total	**190**	**164**	**176**

Source :
Educational Inspector, Kutch

School Buildings—Akin to the problem of trained teachers was the provision of buildings to house the increasing number of pupils in the village schools. An intensified programme of construction of buildings for primary schools was initiated during the First Five Year Plan and continued in the Second and Third Plan periods with much success. The number of school buildings increased from 398 in 1951 to 594 in 1967.

Basic Schools and Lokshalas—The ideology of basic education has influenced the educational activities of the district. The main idea behind such an education is that education should centre round some form of manual productive work. Children should not get merely book knowledge, but also learn some simple craft to inculcate in them a sense of self-reliance, responsibility, initiative, enterprise and resourcefulness. The basis of learning should be productive work. Under this scheme basic schools began to be established, and their number in the year 1965 was 90. The basic school at Patri in Mundra taluka has an agricultural bias.

There is no Lok Shala in the district. There is, however, an 'Ashram Shala' started at village Lilpar in Rapar taluka, where children of the Backward Classes stay and receive education.

Secondary Education

The beginning of secondary education in Kutch may be traced to the year 1870, when the first high school in the region, the Alfred High School, was established at Bhuj. Impressed by the importance of education, wealthy merchants of the State started private endowments, which played later on an important role in the spread of education in Kutch. A number of schools imparting secondary education began to be established in different parts of the State. A high school in Mandvi was started in 1890. A few other schools were also opened subsequently. These high schools, during the former State regime, prepared students for the Matriculation Examination. The total number of secondary schools in 1944-45 was 119, of which 3 were high schools and 116 middle schools. Of 3 high schools, 2 were State high schools and 1 private. Of 116 middle schools, 8 were State, 25 recognised and 83 private schools. Pupils studying in them numbered 4,216. There was no separate high school for girls. They studied with boys. As in the case of boys, their number too went on increasing with the passage of time. After Independence, growth of secondary education became very rapid and remarkable. The number of schools began to increase and a number of girls' high schools was started. With the establishment of the Secondary Schools Certificate Examination Board in 1949, Secondary School Certificate Examination began to be held from that year instead of the former Matriculation. A separate board was constituted for the State after the formation of Gujarat State in May, 1960, for conducting these examinations. Separate girls high schools were established at Bhuj in 1949 and at Mandvi in 1950. In Gandhidham, especially constructed to rehabilitate the displaced persons from Pakistan, 3 boys' high schools and one girls' high school were started between 1951 and 1958. During the Second Five Year Plan period, the Government of Kutch started high schools at Rapar, Bhachau, Nalia, Nakhatrana, Bidada and Patri in addition to three which were started by individuals and private bodies. The number of high schools that was 8 in 1947 went up to 34 in 1966, and that of pupils from 2,196 to 9,782 during the same period. 13 of them are run by Government and the rest by private agencies.

Reorientation in Education—The need for introducing changes in the existing system of education has been responsible for its reorientation in recent times. Multi-purpose schools providing training courses in crafts, technical, commercial and other subjects have been opened. There were 5 multi-purpose secondary schools including the Alfred High School at Bhuj conducting technical and commercial courses, and the girls' high schools at Bhuj and Mandvi teaching Home Science.

Higher Education

As there was no institution for higher education in Kutch, the former State Government helped deserving students by awarding scholarships and

other incentives in various courses. The first college started in the district by Government was the R. R. Lalan College opened at Bhuj in 1953, followed by a college at Adipur in 1962 and another at Mandvi in 1966. The first was an arts and science college, the second arts, and the third arts and commerce. A brief description of each of them is given in the following paragraphs.

Shri R. R. Lalan Arts and Science College, Bhuj—This was the first Government college in the district established at Bhuj in 1953 with a view to bring higher education to the doors of the rural people. It is named after Shri Ramji Ravji Lalan who donated rupees two lakhs for the purpose. At first it was an Intermediate College sitting in the palace of the Maharao paying a token rent. Foundation stone of its building was laid on 15th January, 1954 by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, then Vice-President of India, and it was formally declared open on 8th November, 1959 by Smt. Indira Gandhi, now the Prime Minister of India. It conducts classes up to Third B. A. and B. Sc. and post-graduate classes in several subjects on behalf of the Gujarat University with which it is affiliated. It has a good building and hostel arrangements for boys and girls.

Gandhidham Arts College, Adipur—Established in 1962, the college imparts education up to the Third B. A. stage. It is managed by Shri Gandhidham Maitri Mandal, Adipur.

Sheth Soorji Vallabhdas Arts and Commerce College, Mandvi—The college was founded in 1966 by Shri Kutch Lohana Kelvani Khatu. Housed in its own building, it conducts classes up to the Third B. A. and B. Com. courses.

Professional and Technical Education

The importance of professional and technical education in reducing the imbalance between agricultural and non-agricultural pursuits, and accelerating the tempo of economic development is quite apparent. It trains persons in the technical know-how of various specialised avocations, and is helpful in the increase of quantity and improvement in the quality of goods produced. Such an education makes education more meaningful and purposeful in the modern economy which is becoming more complex day by day owing to the diversification of industries and professions, and paves the way for an alround economic progress. Before the advent of mechanisation the necessary training required in the operation of the traditional crafts used to be imparted through a system of apprenticeship, as there was hardly any need for a separate institution of professional and technical education in the economic structure of the time.

Maharao Khengarji III was the first ruler of Kutch to appreciate the necessity for technical education. In July 1877, he established a School

of Arts in Bhuj to inject new life into Kutch's ancient handicrafts and traditional industries. It was headed by a competent teacher from the Sir Jamsetji Jijibhai School of Art, Bombay. The school taught modelling, wood carving, pottery, painting and drawing. The number of students studying in the school was, however, not large. With the adoption of modern and mechanised means of production the need for technical education and professional training began to be keenly felt. Such facilities were provided in the successive Five Year Plans at the following institutions in the district :

1 Industrial Training Institute, Gandhidham

2 Gandhidham Polytechnic, Adipur

3 Alfred High School, Bhuj

The Industrial Training Institute, established at Gandhidham in the year 1957 under the Craftsmen Training Scheme sponsored by the Government of India, is the first of its kind in the district. It provides training for craftsmen in various occupations including (1) Draughtsman (Civil), (2) Draughtsman (Mechanical), (3) Electrician, (4) Fitter, (5) Turner, (6) Sheet Metal Worker, (7) Welder and (8) Motor Mechanic. Passing of S. S. C., Examination is the minimum qualification required for admission to the first three courses and Standard IX for the remaining courses. The period of training is 2 years for the first five and one year for other courses.

The Gandhidham Polytechnic, Adipur, was established in the year 1961 by the Gandhidham Maitri Mandal. In the initial stages diploma courses in Civil Engineering alone were conducted, and Mechanical and Electrical courses were introduced later from June, 1967. It is housed in its own building.

Alfread High School, Bhuj provides training in essential technical subjects along with general academic subjects from 1958.

Co-operative Training—There was one co-operative training institution in the district run by the District Co-operative Board. It conducts peripatetic training classes of 5 days' duration for the members of the managing committee, and of 28 days' duration for the secretaries of co-operative societies. Every trainee is given a stipend of Rs. 1·50 per day by the Gujarat State Co-operative Board, Ahmedabad. During the year 1966-67, 472 members of various managing committees and 58 secretaries of co-operative societies were trained by this institution.

Courses in Commerce—Courses in commerce have been gaining in popularity and are provided in the curriculum of some of the institutions.

Other institutions teaching commercial subjects have also been started. The Sheth S. V. Arts and Commerce College, Mandvi, described earlier in this Chapter conducts classes up to the Third B. Com. standard. The Alfred High School, Bhuj, is the only school that has commerce cources extending over four years from standard VIII to standard XI. Subjects taught are book-keeping, accounts, elements of commerce, type writing and short-hand. The number of students opting for such courses is not very encouraging. There are also the problems of a heavy initial expenditure on equipment, and the paucity of full-time instructors for conducting these courses. Despite these handicaps such courses are gradually becoming popular day by day. Besides the Alfred High School, there are three other institutions, viz., the National Type-writing Institute and the Dipy Type-writing Institute at Bhuj, and the Gandhidham Type-writing Institute at Gandhidham conducting courses in type-writing.

Educational Societies

The Gandhidham Maitri Mandal, Adipur—The Sindhu Resettlement Corporation, Ltd., at first supervised and organised education as one of its activities. But as higher classes began to be started and the number of students increased, a separate body called "The Education Society of Gandhidham" later named Gandhidham Maitri Mandal was started in 1955. This is one of the most important institutions in Kutch, which promotes educational and cultural activities among the people of Gandhidham. The following are the institutions it conducts at Gandhidham.

Institutions			Year of establishment
(i) Kala Hotchand Balmandir	...	....	1950
(ii) Adarsh Maha Vidyalaya	...	...	1952
(iii) Maitri Maha Vidyalaya	...	...	1952
(iv) Kanya Maha Vidyalaya	...	...	1952
(v) Gandhidham Polytechnic	...	...	1961
(vi) Gandhidham Arts College	...	...	1962

Shri Kutch Lohana Kelvani Khatu, Mandvi—Shri Kutch Lohana Kelavani Khatu is the oldest existing educational society in Kutch established in 1931. During the State regime when a large number of villages had no school, this institution opened and managed schools at 115 villages of the district. The society started Bhuj Sarvajanik High School at Bhuj in 1965 and Matushri Dhirabai Tejpal High School and Sheth Shoorji Vallabhdas

Arts and Commerce College in 1965 and 1966 respectively at Mandvi. The society also runs Raghuvanshi Balashram in which 41 students were provided lodging and boarding facilities in 1967-68.

Sheth Khimji Ramdas Kanya Vidyalaya Trust, Mandvi—The trust, established in 1950, started a girls' high school at Mandvi during the same year. The institution also runs a girls' hostel for the students of the Kanya Vidyalaya.

Saraswati Vidyalaya Trust, Madhapur—The trust was established in 1962. It runs the following institutions :

(i) Shri Saraswati Vidyalaya

(ii) Shri Bhudiya Ravji Kanji Balmandir

(iii) Shri M. S. V. High School

Shri Saraswati Vidyalaya functioning since 1950 is now run by this trust. Shri Bhudiya Ravji Kanji Balmandir and M. S. V. High School were started in 1962.

Gujarat Education Society, Gandhidham—Established in 1956, the society has been responsible for starting a net-work of educational institutions ranging from pre-primary to high school level. It started a Balmandir and a primary school in 1963, took over a middle school functioning since 1954, and opened a high school in 1962 besides conducting a *mahila mandal* at Adipur and a children's library at Gandhidham.

Modern Education Society, Gandhidham—The society was established in 1958. It runs the Modern School at Gandhidham, which is a secondary school for boys and girls with English medium. It provides instruction from pre-primary classes to Std. XI.

Shri Social Service Circle Trust, Gandhidham—The trust was founded in 1958 for the advancement of education by running schools and Balmandirs. It runs the following institutions : (1) Dr. C. G. High School at Gandhidham, (2) Dr. C. G. Primary School at Gandhidham, (3) Sindhi Model School at Adipur, (4) Nehru Balmandir at Adipur and (5) Jawahar Balmandir at Gandhidham. Dr. C. G. Primary School and High School were started in the year 1958 and Sindhi Model School and Nehru Balmandir in 1964.

Shri Ram Krishna Mahashala Trust, Mandvi—In the year of its establishment in 1957 the trust started Shri Ram Krishna High School at Mandvi.

Shri Nutan Kelavani Mandal, Madhapar—Established in 1940, the mandal manages the following institutions.

	Name of the Institution			Year of establishment
1	Shri Kumbharia Balwadi	...	...	1946
2	Shri Mandhapar Kanya Shala	...	...	1950
3	Shri Kukma Balwadi	...	...	1951
4	Shri Rajabhai Balwadi	...	...	1954
5	Shri Sinogara Balwadi	...	...	1956
6	Shri Madhapar Balwadi	...	...	1962

Saraswatam

In order to spread the secondary education in outlying villages, social workers of the district formed an organisation called saraswatam. The aim of the institution is to organise and promote educational activities in the district by starting educational institutions in the rural area. It started a high school at Bhadresar (June 1969). Thereafter in the same year high schools were established at Adesar and Bhimasar (Rapar) Netra (Nakhatrana) and at Dayapar (Lakhpat). In the year 1970, it started 15 more high schools at various places in the district.

To provide trained teachers in the secondary schools, a college of Education (Secondary Teachers Training College) at Mundra was started.

A list of the high schools conducted by the institution are given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Institution	Location	Taluka	Year of establishment
1	Shrimati Purbai Kanji Rajgaur High School	Bhadresar	Mundra	1969
2	Shri Saraswati High School	Bhimasar Bhutakia	Rapar	1969
3	Shr Adesar High School	Adesar	Rapar	1969
4	Shri Netra High School	Netra	Nakhatrana	1969
5	Shri Dayapar High School	Dayapar	Lakhpat	1969
6	Shri Suthari High School	Suthari	Abdasa	1970
7	Shri Bitta High School	Bitta	Abdasa	1970
8	Shri Manjal High School	Manjal	Nakhatrana	1970
9	Shri Rav High School	Rav	Rapar	1970
10	Shri Adhoi High School	Adhoi	Bhachau	1970
11	Shri Khavda High School	Khavda	Bhuj	1970

Sl. No.	Name of the Institution	Location	Taluka	Year of establishment
12	Shri Kukma High School	Kukma	Bhuj	1970
13	Shri Kotda High School	Kotda-Chakar	Bhuj	1970
14	Shri Narsi Tejpal and Ramji Ganpat Patel High School	Chhashara	Mundra	1970
15	Shri Gundala High School	Gundala	Mundra	1970
16	Smt. Ramabai Hemraj Premji High School	Maska	Mandvi	1970
17	Shri Shirva High School	Shirva	,,	1970
18	Shri Darshadi High School	Darshadi	,,	1970
19	Shri Kotdi High School	Kotdi-Mahadev-puri	,,	1970
20	Shri Dudhai High School	Dudhai	Anjar	1970

The data of above high schools are not included in the number of high schools given in the section of Secondary Education on page 513.

Schools for Music

The Shastriya Sangit Vidyalaya established at Bhuj by Shri Kalayaneshvar Meghanani has trained a number of students in vocal and instrumental music.

Oriental Schools and Colleges

Sanskrit—There were institutions in the former State that imparted instruction in Sanskrit. The Sukhalgirji's Sanskrit Pathshala established at Mandvi and fairly well endowed by Gosai Sukhalgirji, a Kutch banker, was run under a well trained teacher. Government had also started a Sanskrit *pathshala* named the Maharanee Shree Naniba Sahiba Sanskrit Pathshala. Besides these institutions, among the indigenous schools there were three Sanskrit schools also. In the year 1944-45 there were 4 Sanskrit *pathshalas* with 45 students including those studying in the Magadhi School. The oriental schools and colleges have become non-existent now. Two Sanskrit *Pathshalas*, viz., the Laxmi-Narayan Pathshala at Bhuj, and the Shri Arya Rakshit Jain Tatwa Jnan Vidyapith at Merau in Mandvi taluka which were subsequently established, are functioning at present. The Laxmi-Narayan Sanskrit Pathshala prepares students for the various Sanskrit examinations, conducted by the Brihad Gujarat Parishad, Ahmedabad. It is also recognised as a centre for these examinations. Instruction in Sanskrit taught

in colleges and schools is also given on a voluntary basis. The Arya Rakshit Jain Tatwa Jnan Vidyapith was started in 1962 for the study of classical scriptures and imparts religious education. It conducts classes up to the Ratna and Shastri standards and prepares students for the examinations of the Brihad Gujarat Parishad, Ahmedabad, and Saurashtra Vedanta Parishad, Jamnagar.

Arabic, Urdu, etc.—There were in the former State institutions that imparted instruction also in Arabic, Urdu, Persian and Sindhi. A Government school at Bhuj taught Koran and Urdu to the Muslims. In 1944-45 there were besides this school 48 Koran schools of which 26 were for boys and 22 for girls with a total of 1,476 pupils on the roll.

Other Institutions—The Brij Bhasha or the *poshal*, the most important specialised institution set up at Bhuj, was started by Pragmalji II (1860-75). Bardic poetry was taught in this institution. Bhats and Charans from remote places of India came for study in the Brij Bhasha poetry. The students were maintained by the Darbar. The number of students sent for examination, after training, was 30 in 1893-94, but it was reduced to 4 in 1944-45. This institution has since been closed. A Magadhi school was also functioning in the State.

Physical Education—The former State of Kutch encouraged physical education by starting gymnasia at suitable places. They numbered 5 in 1886-87 and rose to 12 in 1944-45. The State encouraged outdoor games and supplied appliances and equipment for physical training to a number of schools.

Education for the Physically Handicapped—Welfare of the physically handicapped has now become one of the important activities of the Directorate of Social Welfare. Attempts are being made to train them in such a way that they are able to stand on their own legs and live as useful members of society. At present there is one school for the deaf and dumb at Mandvi and another school for the blind at Bhuj.

School for the Blind, Deaf, Dumb and Crippled Children, Mandvi—This institution was opened at Mandvi in 1959 under the auspices of the Mandvi Rotary Club by the efforts of late Dr. Chhotalal Mehta. Boys and girls aged 7 to 18 years are admitted free of charge for tuition, lodging and boarding. The subjects taught at the school include drawing, painting, making paper flowers, tailoring, knitting, etc. The number of students on its roll was 25 in the year 1966-67.

Government School for the Blind, Bhuj—The School for the Blind was established by the Government at Bhuj in 1951. Admission is granted to boys between the ages of 7 to 18 years. Education from Std. I to V is

free. Crafts and music are also taught in addition. The school has hostel facilities where food, clothes, etc., are provided free of charge. During the year 1966-67 there were 24 students on its roll with 3 teachers on the teaching staff.

Adult literacy and Social Education—Adult literacy was encouraged in the former State of Kutch by opening night schools for the purpose. In 1884-85 there were 10 such schools with 263 students. Their number fell down to 7 and 159 respectively in 1944-45. After Independence when Kutch became a Part C State, the work of adult literacy was speeded up and the number of adult education centres rose to 43 in 1953-54. A number of night schools were sanctioned. Social education centres in the form of night schools numbered 32 in 1963-64. The teachers are paid honorarium at the rate of Rs. 4 per candidate passing the examination. The work of adult literacy is now looked after by the District Education Committee of the Jilla Panchayat.

The extent of headway made in social education will be evident from the following statement which gives the number of social education classes and adults made literate from 1951-52 to 1965-66.

Sl. No.	Year	Social education classes	Adults made literate
1	2	3	4
1	1951-52	12	237
2	1955-56	83	1,490
3	1961-62	48	870
4	1965-66	37	756

Source :
1. Administrative Officer, District Panchayat, Bhuj
2. Educational Inspector, Kutch, Bhuj

This statement shows rapid progress in social education in the initial years after Independence. But the tempo generated seems to have declined after 1955-56.

Educational Facilities for Backward Class Students

During the regime of the former Kutch State no concessions were offered for the education of the Backward Classes. A hostel for Harijan children was, however, built at Mandvi in 1926 by Shri Gandhi Harijan Balashram Trust, Mandvi. After integration, a Backward Classes Welfare Department was opened in April 1951. This department took up the work of welfare of Backward Classes by introducing several schemes to better

their economic condition and spent large sums of money to encourage education among them. Backward Classes children were exempted from payment of fees in Government and private schools and given Rs. 10 for clothes and Rs. 2 for books every year while studying at primary and secondary schools. Scholarships ranging from Rs. 5 to 10 per month were offered to Backward Classes students studying in Standards V to XI as also to those taking technical courses. During the First Five Year Plan two *chhatralayas*, one at Nalia and the other at Vallabhpur, with a total number of 70 seats were opened by the Backward Classes Welfare Department. Lodging and boarding facilities were free and so were books and clothes to the poor and deserving students.

Voluntary agencies running *chhatralayas* for Backward Classes were paid grant-in-aid to the extent of 75 per cent of total expenditure. Special schools were also opened. A basic school was started at Vallabhpur for Scheduled Tribes children in 1952-53 and four primary schools for the children of ex-criminal tribes in 1954-55 at Vallabhpur. All these facilities and concessions were continued after 1956 when Kutch merged with the Bombay State.

A brief description of some of the important schemes designed to promote literacy and education among these disadvantageous classes is given below :

Primary and Secondary Education--Primary education is free to all classes of people. But Backward Classes pupils receiving secondary education were given tuition fees irrespecitve of income till 1962-63, when the Government introduced *income limit* according to which full tuition fees are paid to those the total annual income of whose parents, is less than Rs. 3,600 and half tuition fees to those whose parents earn between Rs. 3,601 to 4,800. Merit-*cum*-poverty scholarships are awarded to Backward Class students studying in Standards V to XI and other technical and professional courses, who have secured 40 per cent marks or more in the last annual examination, and total annual income of whose parents does not exceed Rs. 6,000.

Higher Education—For the post S. S. C. E. courses, the Government of India scholarships are awarded by the Directorate of Social Welfare. The rates of scholarships range from Rs. 27 to Rs. 75 per month per student. To facilitate their admission in various courses Government has reserved a certain percentage of seats for them in various educational institutions, higher and technical.

Cosmopolitan Hostels--With a view to remove the evil of untouchability and to facilitate easy assimilation of Harijans and Backward Classes with others at the early formative stage, voluntary agencies are encouraged

to run hostels where students from the above communities reside, study and mix with other students more easily and freely. These hostels are known as cosmopolitan hostels. There are two kinds of such hostels, viz., (1) hostels mainly meant for Backward Class students where non-Backward Class students are admitted, and (2) hostels meant for non-Backward Class students admitting those of Backward Classes. Voluntary agencies are paid grant-in-aid in respect of such hostels also. In respect of the first category, the rate of grant-in-aid is Rs. 25 per month per boy and Rs. 30 per month per girl, whereas for the second category, the rate is Rs. 30 to 40 per inmate.

There are eight hostels for students of Backward Classes distributed as under.

Sl. No.	Name of Hostel	Date of establishment
1	2	3
1	Shri Gandhi Harijan Balashram, Mandvi ..	.. 1926
2	Shri Thakkar Bapa Vidyarthi Ashram, Anjar	.. 1949
3	Shri Sardar Kumar Chhatralaya, Vallabhpur	.. 1951-52
4	Shri Sarvajanik Kumar Chhatralaya, Bhuj	.. 1952-53
5	Government Kumar Chhatralaya, Nalia ..	.. 1955-56
6	Government Kumar Chhatralaya, Mundra	.. 1956-57
7	Government Ladies Hostel, Bhuj ..	.. 1958-59
8	Government Ladies Hostel, Vallabhpur ..	.. 1962-63

Cultural Activities--For the promotion of social and cultural activities among the Backward Classes Government has opened during the Second Five Year Plan, eight centres for Harijans, 4 for nomadic tribes and 2 for Scheduled Tribes. Besides organising entertainment programmes, these centres conduct adult literacy classes also.

CULTURE

Culture is the heritage of a people assiduously cultivated and built up through ages. It permeates every stratum of society and moulds consciously and unconsciously the behaviour of the people in every walk of life. It reflects their aspirations and achievements and represents as well the moral, material and spiritual values of life that go to make the life of the individual and the community fuller and richer. Culture, thus evolved, is reflected in the mode of living, approach to the problems of life and various activities in the fields of religion, fine arts and literature.

The culture of Kutch has been considerably influenced by geographical factors and political conditions of that region, as also by the currents of

migrations from the neighbouring tracts to the north and east with which it came into intimate contact. In Kutch, therefore, there was thus a fusion of culture imbibed from north-Gujarat, Saurashtra and Sindh. Then followed a period of complete isolation broken only by the advent of Independence and the integration of Kutch into the Indian Union. Kutch has thus evolved a culture in no way different from the rest of Gujarat and the country, bearing the stamp of its own individuality which distinguishes it from other parts of the State. Philosophical and intellectual in character, Kutch culture has permeated every stratum of society and made a unique contribution to moulding the life of the common man.

Literary Activities

Literary activities have been carried out in both the languages Kutchi and Gujarati. Besides Gujarati, Kutchi is the language spoken by the majority of the people (42·36 per cent). Written in Gujarati script it is influenced by Sindhi, Punjabi and Gujarati. Where as the influence of Sindhi is predominant in the north and west, the impact of Gujarati is clearly discernible in the east. The Kutchi dialect has charm, vigour and like, all its own.

Literary activity in the initial stages was confined to bards, Charans, priests and saints, who have given birth to extensive and varied form of folk-literature, which has proved to be a valuable source of inspiration and practical wisdom. It took the form of folk-songs, folk-tales, *duhas, bhajans, kafis*, popular sayings, etc. Folk-stories are in prose and verse. They depict incidents of love and heroism and present a vivid picture of the life and history of this land. A series of saints and *sufis* like Menkan Dada, Bhakarsha, Jakh, Mamai, Raval Pir, Ramdepir, Dhoramnath, Modapir, etc., have put an indelible stamp on the life of the people. *Bhajans* and *kafis* are replete with *vedants* and *sufism*, religious fervour, devotion, and renunciation. The contribution of such popular figures as Shah Abdul Latif, Jesal Toral, Menkan Dada, Bhan Saheb, Ravi Saheb, Khim Saheb, Trikam Saheb and Morar Saheb is outstanding indeed.

Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai excelleed in *kafis* and *bahets* composed mainly in Sindhi which are sung even today in every village of Kutch. Though a Muslim born in Sindh (1689), he is held in great veneration alike by the Hindus and Muslims. His monumental work *Shah-Jo-Rasalo* has been published both in Sindhi and English. Sufi Bhakarsha and his disciple *sufiani* Ratanbai known as the Mirabai of Kutch composed poems and *kafis* in Kutch full of spiritual sentiments and pathos. Menkan Dada, a saint and philosopher, was a contemporary of Maharao Desalji who was his disciple. The saint was a great reformer who believed in the liberation of women and worked for the welfare of the lower strata of society. His *bhajans padas* and *sukhis* are popular among all the sections of the people.

literate and illiterate. He had the art of saying much in the fewest of words and explained the significance of religion in a simple and effective language.

Saints of the Ravi Bhan sect like Bhan Saheb, Ravi Saheb, Khim Saheb, Vikram Saheb and Morar Saheb composed *bhajans, sakhis* and *padas* in Gujarati. Simple and lucid they were easily understood by the common people. Ravi Saheb had many works to his credit, important among them being *Bodh-Chintamani, Atma Laksha Chintamani* and *Ram Gunjar Chintamani*. Devotees and *bhajaniks* like Hari Saheb, Biharidasji, Ishvarramji, Deva Saheb and others have enriched the *bhajnik* literature of Kutch by their devotional songs. Folk-stories and *bhajans, kafis* and *duhas* also have a special place in the folk-literature of this region. They are meaningful and melodious and popular in the villages of Kutch.

The trend of literary activity began to change in the middle of the 18th century when it received State patronage during the reign of Lakhaji, who was a great lover of literature and art. He started a school of Brij Bhasha for the study of prosody in the middle of the 18th century. Literary persons aspiring to be poets from Kutch, Kathiawar, Gujarat and Rajasthan used to come to this school where free boarding, lodging and other facilities were provided by the State. This institution was quite unique in the country and was the crowning glory for the ruler of Kutch. It brought about complete transformation in poetry which up to now followed the Charani pattern, but now began to be composed in meters in accordance with the rules of prosody. Lakhaji who himself was a literary person, wrote *Shringar Shatak*.

A large proportion of the literature of Kutch produced during the mediaeval period has remained unpublished. It was generally in verse and hardly in prose, written in Dev Nagri or Gujarati script. Important among the poets of the time were those of royal blood, which include Jadeja poet Visoji who wrote poems in Brij Bhasha and Kutchi. He translated in Brij Bhasha from Sanskrit the work *Samudrik Shastra*. Unnadji who wrote in Brij Bhasha was the author of *Khushbu Kumari* in verse. He wrote *Meghadamber* and translated some portions of the Mahabharat in Brij Bhasha. Hamirji was an eminent poet who wrote *Vans Prabha* and poet Deshalji wrote *Devanubhav Diwakar*. The Charani poets have also made a valuable contribution to Kutchi literature, a majority of whom wrote verses in Kutchi, Gujarati and Hindi. Important among them were Ranmal Gadhvi, Halu Barot, Ladhaji who wrote *Sujash Shangar*, Lakhdhirji his son, Jhalansinhji, Bhagan Bhat, Hamirji, Keshavji Devidanji, Punja Barot and Patro.

Devotees like Keshav Raghav who wrote *Kheta Bavni*, Swami Trivikramanad Saraswati, the author of *Vyas Vanj Ratnakar*, Sajan Bhagat, the author of *Sajan Bavni* and a number of other poets flourished towards

the close of the nineteenth century, Lalji Kavi has written 72 dramas, poems and a grammar and dictionary of Kutchi language. Murari Vyas, writing under the pen-name 'Niranjan', was a poet and lyricist who composed *bhajans* and poems in Kutchi and Hindi which reflect high sentiments of patriotism. His poem *Munji Matri Bhumi Ke Naman* and *Tipe Minj Maheraman Mayo* have been translated in many languages. Muhammad Hasan was an Urdu poet writing under the pen-name 'Chaman' whose collection of *ghazals* entitled *Diwane Chaman* and *Bahare Chaman* have been published.

With the spread of education and the employment of some of the eminent men of letters in responsible positions in the State after the advent of British power, Kutch came into increasing contact with Gujarat. Facilities for publication of books became more readily available. Poems began to be written in Gujarati and the trend of writing poems in Hindi declined. Prose in Kutchi and Gujarati languages covering a variety of subjects was now attempted. Research in the traditional folk-literature was also undertaken with a view to their publication. The pace of literary activity increased still further after the commencement of the twentieth century. Prose and poetry, novels and story writing, research and scientific study had their votaries among the people of this district. But they had to choose a broader field outside for the cultivation of their literary talent. Haji Muhammad Alarkha Shivji, who was the first to present Gujarat with the pictorial magazine *Vismi Sadi* published from Bombay, was born in Kutch. He was an eminent journalist of his time who was also the author of such novels as *Maherunissa, Rashida*, etc. He encouraged men with literary and artistic talent through his magazine and wide circle of his friends. Narayanji Visanji Thakur was a writer of historical novels on Kutch, such as *Kutch No Kartikeya* or *Jadeja Vir Khengar, Kutchni Padmini* or *Punaro ane Rajai, Kutch Kesri Ghogho ane Chanesar, Padmini* or *Bhasmibhut Chitod, Hammir Hath*, etc. Jivram Ajramar Gor was the first to carry out research in folk-literature of Kutch. Dungarshi Dharamshi Sampat wrote *Kutch Deshni Juni Vartao* and *Sahsik Sodagaro*. Dulerai Karani is a great student and research scholar of Kutchi literature and published *Kutchnu Lok Sahitya, Kutchna Santo ane Kaviyo* and *Dada Menkan's Jivan ane Kavan*. His heroic poem *Jhara Jo Yudh* and poem *Garvi Kutch Dhara Gunvant* are well-known. Chandrashankar Buch, a poet, critic and research scholar, contributed a new type of sea-stories, and was also the co-editor of a quarterly, *Nagrik*, published from Karachi. *Hadkiwali Aai, Sagvannu Hayyu, Fatah ul Bari, Dhudakiyo Ban, Devo Dhadhal* and *Kolni Ben* are some of his popular works in Gujarati literature. Bhavanishankar Vyas was the co-editor of the magazine *Urmi ane Navrachana*, published from Karachi. He also worked as the co-editor of the *Vani* from Vallabh Vidyanagar. Ramsinhji Rathod has carried out researches in the antiquities of Kutch. His work *Kutch nu Sanskriti Darshan* was adjudged the best work in Gujarati by Sahitya Akadamy, New Delhi and awarded a cash prize of Rs. 5,000 in the year 1964.

He was also awarded the Ranjitram Gold Medal for 1962 by the Gujarati Sahitya Parishad. Dr. Jayant Khatri adopted a new style in writing short stories, and was also a good artist. The collections of his stories are styled *Foran, Vaheta Jharana* and *Khara Bapor*. Prataprai Trivedi, a poet and a profound scholar of Kutchi dialect, has written *Kutchi Madhyam Vyakaran*. Gautam Sharma has been awarded the late Hirendra Dholakia Gold Medal for 1967 for his novel *Kokaj Shamna Fale*.

Mention must also be made of an excellent treatise on '*Plants of Cutch and their utility*' compiled by Shri Jaikrishna Indraji Thakar and published in 1926. Besides medicinal plants, it deals with garden plants afforestation, plantation of Tanners' cassia (*cassia auriculata*), babul, white mangroves, casuarina on shifting sand-dunes, coconut and reclamation of saline or Reh-land. As many as 511 plants grouped into 75 natural orders have been fully described with their names given in Kutchi, Gujarati, English, Hindi, Sanskrit, Latin, etc., and profusely illustrated by line drawings.

Literary Societies—Apart from individuals, a number of institutions are carrying on literary activities in Kutch. Important among them are (1) Shri Kalam Mandal, Bhuj which undertakes literary activities with a view to encourage budding authors, (2) Aradhana, Bhuj, which sponsors *Kavi milans and mushairas*, (3) Sahitya Sanshodhan Mandal, Bhuj, which conducts research on poetry, drama, grammar, history, etc., has collected by now 800 manuscripts and undertaken survey of languages spoken by the people of different castes living on the border of Kutch adjoining Gujarat, Saurashtra and Rajasthan and (4) Sansmriti (Dr. Jayant Khatri Smarak Sahitya Sabha, Mandvi). It was established in the year 1968 to perpetuate the memory of late Dr. Jayant Khatri, a leading writer and artist of Kutch. Its objective is to assist the development of Gujarati literature and art. It honours artists and authors by awarding the "Dr. Jayant Khatri Prize" and arranges seminars, debates, exhibitions, etc., with a view to promote progressive outlook towards art and literature.

Drama—Dramatic art did not develop in this region in the past. Dramatic companies from Gujarat visited Kutch from time to time. A beginning of amateur stage was, however, made in Kutch in 1930 by the Amateur Dramatic Society. The stage began to develop thereafter on modern lines from 1944. The Kutch Kala Kendra started in Bhuj in 1953 arranges dramas and musical programmes every year and has been making good contribution to their development in Kutch.

Music—Duhas, Bhajans and *kafis* are the speciality of folk-music in Kutch. They are meaningful melodious and very popular with the masses. Kutchi music is ordinarily not accompanied by any instrument. But the melody of the *rag* is at times enhanced by an *ektara* and *dholak* which add to the beauty of lilt and cadence.

Music in Kutch enjoyed royal patronage. Lakhaji II was fond of music, dancing and other fine arts which he and his successors encouraged. He invited expert musicians from different parts of northern India and patronised them. Saints and devotees have also contributed to music through the popularisation and development of devotional songs they composed with time and rhythm that distinguish them from other *tals* prevalent in Indian music. The leading theme of Kutchi music is devotion to God. Kutchi music has as many as 36 tunes which also have their counterpart in classical music. Sung in their original form and rendered with traditional technique they have their own charm and grace. But it has not been so far able to get the recognition it deserves in the music world as it has not been transcribed into notation.

The Langha community of Kutch is traditionally known for singing and playing on musical instruments. Their music was very popular till the end of the 19th century. *Dhrupad* style of rendering music is their speciality, over and above their skill in other forms of music. They are expert players on the *shehnai* and the *noubat* that keep the audience spell-bound by the lilt and rhythm thereof. Of the many musicians this community has produced, Ajo, Hasim and Lal Mahomed were professional drum-players and Lalbhai Modh an amateur drum-player. Ranochhodji Maharaj and Laxmidas Bhat were amateur vocalists. Shastriya Sangit Vidyalaya has been recently established at Bhuj for giving instruction in music.[1]

Painting—Kutch has its own style of painting, known as Kamangari. It was developed during the time of Lakhaji II. Old and modern specimens of Kamangari work are found everywhere in Kutch. Kamangars have produced the best specimens of mural decorations preserved in the Ayna Palace in Bhuj, in the bungalow of MacMurdo in Anjar, in the Bhandara of Dhoramnath at Moti Rayan, in the Akhada of Jangi at Dhrang and in Bhuj Museum. Animals, birds, leaves, flowers and creepers, incidents of every day life, scenes from the *Ramayan* and *Maha Bharata*, elephant fights and deer hunting have been painted with extraordinary grace and charm giving full play to their imagination. Horses, camels, elephants in a royal procession painted in Sujaba's residence, and a picture of a mother and child in the Ayna Palace are life-like. Influence of the Rajput and Moghul styles of painting is noticeable in the paintings in Ayna Palace. These colourful mural paintings dating back to about 150 years give a good idea of the classical art of Kamangars of Kutch.

Source :

1. કચ્છનું સંગીત, કચ્છી સંગીતકારોના સંસ્મરણો, લેખક આચાર્યશ્રી નાનાલાલ વૈદ્યરાય વોરા

Periodicals—Two dailies, four weeklies and two monthlies, particulars of which are given below, were published in the district in 1968.

Sl. No.	Periodical	Language	Name
1	Daily	Gujarati	*Kutch Mitra*
2	Daily	Gujarati	*Jai Kutch*
3	Weekly	Gujarati	*Kutch Mitra*
4	Weekly	Hindi	*Gandhidham Samachar*
5	Weekly	Gujarati Hindi and English	*Laxmi Prasad*
6	Weekly	English	*Kandla Commercial*
7	Monthly	Sindhi	*Dhartimata*
8	Monthly	Gujarati	*Gam Vikas*

In addition to these periodicals, magazine "*Pathik*" published from Ahmedabad publishes literature relating to Kutch.

Libraries and Museums

Libraries—Library activity in Kutch had started about a century ago. Prior to that there was no public library in this district. The rulers of Kutch were fond of collecting manuscripts to encourage education and learned people. The first library in the region was established in Mandvi in 1864. It had its own building erected in 1870 by public donations. Another was started at Bhuj in 1868 and the third at Mundra in 1874. Two reading rooms, one each at Jakhau and Nalia, were subsequently opened. With the gradual spread of education, this activity gathered momentum and new libraries, mostly with the aid of public donations, came into existence. The Government also encourages the library movement by giving grant-in-aid under the rules framed for the purpose.

In 1966, there were 18 libraries including 2 city libraries, 7 town libraries and 9 village libraries of which the important ones are :-

1 District Library, Bhuj

2 Maharao Shri Vijayrajji Sarvajanik Pustakalay, Bhuj

3 Anjuman-e-Islam Free Library, Mandvi

4 Shri Madansinhji Free Library, Bhachau

(Bk) H-49—67 (Lino)

5 Mandvi Nagarpalika Library, Mandvi

6 Maharao Shri Khengarji Library, Anjar

7 Maharao Shri Khengarji Library, Mundra

8 Shri Patel Abhyudaya Sarvajanik Library, Madhapar

9 Gujarati Seva Samaj Pustakalay, Adipur

District Library, Bhuj—A Central Library was started at Bhuj by the Government of India after integration and housed in its own building constructed at an estimated cost of about one lakh of rupees. It was renamed District Library, Kutch, in 1961. It has a special section for children. In 1966-67 the library had a collection of 19,800 books classified broadly into English 2,273, Gujarati 13,895, Hindi 3,276, Sanskrit 347 and Marathi 9. The total number of periodicals received was 207, books issued 67,400 and visitors 178,900. Average daily attendance of readers was 750.

Maharao Shri Vijayrajji Sarvajanik Pustakalay, Bhuj—It is an old library established by Maharao Shri Vijayrajji, a former ruler of Kutch, in the year 1883. It is housed in its own building. The library had, in August 1967, a collection of 12,701 books in different languages classified into Gujarati 6,625, Hindi 776 and English 5,300. The number of daily newspapers, weeklies, fortnightlies and magazines received was 57. It has a total membership of 542, and its reading section was visited by about 200 readers every day.

Anjuman-e-Islam Free Library, Mandvi—This library was established in 1909 by the Kutch-Anjuman-e-Islam of Mandvi. It is housed in its own building. In the year 1967 it had a collection of 1,081 books in different languages. The periodicals received numbered 50, and the total membership 41. Its reading section was visited by about 200 persons a day.

Shri Madansinhji Free Library, Bhachau—It was established by the Bhachau Municipality in the year 1936, but is now managed by Bhachau Gram Panchayat. It has its own building. In the year 1967, the library had a collection of 5,300 books in different languages. The number of daily newspapers and periodicals received was 50. It had a total membership of 200, and its reading section had a daily attendance of about 150 readers.

Mandvi Nagarpalika Library, Mandvi—Situated in Mandvi town, it is one of the oldest libraries in Kutch. It was started by Bhatia Karsandas Nensi Dhola in 1893. It has separate reading sections for ladies and children. In 1967 it had a collection of 16,282 books in different languages, classified into Gujarati 10,573, Hindi 3,202, English 2,321, Sanskrit 95 and Marathi 86.

The number of daily newspapers, weeklies, fortnightlies, periodical and magazines it received was 124. It had a total membership of 629, and the reading section was on an average visited by about 500 readers per day.

Maharao Shri Khengarji Library, Anjar—This library was established by the former Kutch State in 1937. It has been transferred to the Anjar Municipality since 1953. It is housed in its own building. In 1966-67 it had a collection of 7,868 books—Gujarati 6,307, English 1,227, Hindi 330 and others 4. The number of daily newspapers and periodicals received was 62. It had a total membership of 80, and the reading section had an average attendance of about 110 persons per day.

Maharao Shri Khengarji Library, Mundra—The library was started by the former ruler of Kutch in 1880. It has its own building. In the year 1967 it had a collection of 3,503 books in different languages—Gujarati 3,010, English 383 and Hindi 110. The number of daily newspapers and periodicals received was 37. It had a total membership of 200 and a daily average of about 250 readers.

Shri Patel Abhyudaya Sarvajanik Library, Madhapar—The library was opened in 1957. It had a collection of 1,431 books in different languages and received 20 dailies and periodicals during 1967. It had a total membership of 237. Its reading room section was on an average visited by about 100 persons daily.

Gujarati Seva Samaj Pustakalay, Adipur—The library was established in 1956. In the year 1967 it had a collection of 1,427 books in different languages, besides daily newspapers, and periodicals numbering 31. It had a total membership of 250, the average of readers per day being about 40.

MUSEUM

Kutch Museum, Bhuj—The museum, one of the few old museums, came into existence in the reign of Khengarji III in the year 1877. Its original name was Fergusson Museum, but the public know it by its popular name Kutch Museum, which also is its official name at present. It has been developed by the former rulers of Kutch, who have enriched it by a variety of specimens of artistic beauty purchased and presented by them. Its building built of red stone by Italian sculptors on the bank of Lake Hamirsar is now being remodelled on modern lines. The Fourth Five Year Plan proposes to add a new wing to house children's gallery, Kutch history section and a theatre hall equipped with an R. C. A. projector. About 2,500 persons visit it annually. It displays about 4,900 exhibits in different sections such as archaeology, geology, natural history, arts, crafts, etc. The Kutch Museum has good collection of inscriptions of the Ksatrap period, sixteen from Gujarat State of which nine are from Kutch. It has a rare collection

of 18,000 coins which include Indo-Greek, Indo-Roman, Parthian, Ksatrap, Hun, Gupta, Indo-Sassanian, Mediaeval, Moghul, Maratha, British, Kutchi and foreign coins. The Arts and Crafts section displays pictures of former rulers of Kutch, royal processions, evolution of earth and frescoes depicting the life of the people besides artistic specimens of silver ware, enamel ware and embroidery worked by Kutch artists. Typical dress and ornaments of various communities like Rabari, sailors, businessmen, farmers, etc., are vividly portrayed with the help of life-like models. Earthenwares from Deshalpar dating back to Harappan civilization are also exhibited along with shields, swords, handles, used in former times.

CHAPTER XV

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Health and Medical Facilities in the Past

Prior to the introduction of modern allopathic system of medicine, Ayurved, the indigenous system of medicine, was the only mode of treatment in this part of the country as elsewhere. The Unani system which the Muslims brought with them to India does not seem to have become popular in this region. The use of certain local herbs and antedotes was the common property of the people who resorted to Vaidyas and Sadhus only when the disease was uncommon or not easily curable. Those in the lower strata, however, depended much upon deities whose intervention they sought in each and every matter affecting their well-being. Being mostly ignorant and superstitious, such calamities as failure of crops or spread of epidemics like cholera, small-pox, etc., were attributed to the evil influence or wrath of some deity or spirit whom they tried to pacify.

With the advent of the British in India, the western system of medicine or allopathy was gradually introduced and became increasingly popular with the people due to the scientific nature of the treatment and quick relief it provided. Medical relief in Kutch State started with the opening of the first dispensary in 1849 which was converted into a ten-bedded hospital in 1860. The hospital was further expanded at the time of the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887, when it was named Jubilee Hospital, Bhuj. Dispensaries/hospitals were also opened at eight important centres like Mandvi, Anjar, Mundra, Rapar, Nalia, Bhachau, Nakhatrana and Mata-no-Madh. Since the existing medical facilities provided by the State were not adequate, philanthropic persons from Kutch who had settled outside came forward with handsome donations and opened private dispensaries at Vanku, Tera, Sandho, Bhujpur, Bhadresar and other places. A T. B. Sanatorium was also started by Sheth Vallabhdas Karsandas at Bharapar.

The work of providing medical relief was greatly accelerated after Independence. Preventive measures which were hitherto unknown received equal attention. The Civil Hospital at Bhuj was expanded and equipped with a pathological laboratory, an X-ray Unit and a separate clinic for T. B. patients. A mental hospital was also started at Bhuj. With the addition of a well equipped unit called the Bhuj General Hospital erected from the munificent donation given by Shri Gordhandas Khetsey Trust and others, very rapid progress has been made in the treatment of diseases in in Kutch

during the last eighteen years as evidenced by the statistics given below :

Institutions	Year 1948	1966
Hospitals	8	16
Dispensaries	14	64
Maternity Homes	1	10
Beds	186	483
T. B. Clinic	1	2

As against Rs. 204,854 spent in 1944-45, the State Government had spent Rs. 1,068,685 on medical relief in Kutch during the year 1966-67.

Vital Statistics

Birth, death and survival rates given below give broad indication of general trends and natural increase in population in the district between 1959-66.

Year	Birth-rate per thousand	Death-rate per thousand	Natural increase in population	Death rate for infants per thousand live births
1	2	3	4	5
1959	11.6	5.2	6.4	83
1961	17.9	7.9	10.0	60
1963	17.7	7.1	10.7	67
1965	25.0	11.2	13.8	77
1966	25.3	7.8	17.5	69

Source :
Directorate of Health and Medical Services, Ahmedabad for the Statistics of 1959 to 1966.

These statistics disclose an appreciable improvement in the registration of vital statistics and expansion of medical and public health facilities in recent times.

Common Diseases

Plague and cholera are the two epidemics which are reported to have worked havoc in Kutch in the past. Plague broke out in about 1815. Starting from Kanthkot it spread to Vagad causing much loss of life in the early months of 1816. It then crossed over to Kathiawar and returned in August within 16 km. of Bhuj. Towards the close of the 19th century

Mandvi was again attacked by plague which affected about a hundred villages. It was last reported to have occurred in Vagad in 1927-28 when people had to migrate to safer places. No serious outbreak of plague has been reported thereafter.

Till 1875 cholera was not much known in Kutch. Appearing suddenly in 1876 in virulent form it caused a number of deaths. The epidemic that followed in 1878 was more serious. Coming from Vagad in summer it affected different parts of Kutch and raged there till monsoon. Bhuj too was not spared. Medicines were distributed to suppress the epidemic. It abated for a short period and again reappeared with malarious fever attacking every village and hamlet in the province. It was so furious that in Bhuj alone for a period of two months nearly forty deaths occurred every day. Efforts were made by the State to control the epidemic by opening additional dispensaries and special agents were employed to distribute medicine. A body of men was also employed to visit houses of destitutes to supply cots, beds and medicine. The effects of malaria were equally disastrous. Agriculturists abandoned work in the fields, and schools, offices and workshops had to be closed.

Some idea about the diseases at present common in the district can be had from the statistics given below :

Diseases and Deaths, 1966

Sl. No.	Cause of death	No. of deaths
1	2	3
1	Cholera	1
2	Small-pox	10
3	Plague	..
4	Fevers	2,360
5	Dysentery and Diarrhoea	147
6	Respiratory Disease	561
7	Wild beasts	2
8	Snake bite	29
9	Rabies	2
10	All other causes	2,765
	Total	5,877

Source :
Directorate of Health and Medical Services, Ahmedabad

Exclusive of 'all other causes' (2,765), deaths due to fevers under which most of the diseases go were the most common and claimed by far the largest number of lives (2,360) in the district in 1966. Other diseases commonly reported were those of the respiratory system and dysentery and diarrhoea, jointly accounting for 708 lives.

Plague has totally disappeared and diseases like small-pox and malaria have been brought under control as a result of various preventive and prophylectic measures taken by Government for improving health of the people under the National Small-pox Eradication Programme and the National Malaria Eradication Programme. Diseases like tuberculosis have been sought to be brought under control by giving B. C. G. vaccination to the people. These have been dealt with in detail later in the Chapter.

Hospitals and Dispensaries

Organisational set-up of the Medical Department—The Directorate of Health and Medical Services is divided into two sections—medical and health. On the medical side, the Director is assisted by a Deputy Director of Medical Services under whom are various sections dealing with medical colleges, hospitals, nursing schools, mental hospitals, cancer hospital, opthalmic institute, etc. On the health side, there is a Deputy Director of Public Health at the headquarters to look after all the activities of the Department except Family Planning and Malaria-Filaria Eradication Programmes. He is assisted by the functional Assistant Directors of Public Health in charge of different health programmes implemented through the District Health Officers. There is also a Joint Director of Public Health Services at the headquarters in charge of the Family Planning Programme and Maternal and Child Health Services implemented through the District Family Planning Officers at the district level. A full-time Deputy Director of Public Health looks after Malaria-Filaria eradication scheme at the State headquarters. He functions through the Regional Malaria Officers and Unit Officers working in the district.

The Civil Surgeon, Bhuj, who is also the Superintendent of the G. K. General Hospital and the Jubilee Hospital, is the administrative head of the Medical organisation in the district. He is directly subordinate to the Director of Health and Medical Services (Medical), Ahmedabad. He exercises control over subordinate Medical Officers in the district, and is also responsible for their efficiency, discipline and proper performance of duties.

On the preventive side, the District Health Officer looks after public health activities in the district. He is assisted by Medical Officers, Sanitary Inspectors, Vaccinators, and other staff. He also exercises control over the hospitals and dispensaries transferred to the District Panchayat on the

inauguration of the Panchayati Raj from April, 1963. The hospitals and dispensaries controlled by the Civil Surgeon and the District Health Officer, Bhuj, are listed below :

Government Hospitals and Dispensaries under the Civil Surgeon	Hospitals and Dispensaries transferred to the District Panchayat under the District Health Officer
1 The G. K. General Hospital and the Jubilee Hospital, Bhuj	1 Sandhav Hospital, Sandhav
2 Government Hospital and Maternity Home, Bhachau	2 Dumra Hospital, Dumra
3 G. K. Eye Hospital, Mandvi	3 Khavda Hospital, Khavda
4 S. K. B. K. Maternity Home, Mandvi	4 Mobile Dispensaries at Mandvi and Bhuj
5 Mental Hospital, Bhuj	5 Dispensaries at Kukma, Hajapar, Kera, Dhori, Bhadai, Bidada, Don, Kotdi, Koday, Halapar, Godhra, Sheradi, Devpar, Bhujpar, Bhadresar, Vadala, Patri, Ratadia, Dudhai, Bhimasar, Chakasar, Ratnal, Manfara, Adhoi, Amaradi, Samakhiali, Bhimasar, Bhutakia, Gadodar, Adesar, Suvai, Chirai, Fatehgadh, Bela, Vithon, Netra, Manjal, Nirona, Ravapar, Deshalpar, Narayansarovar, Lakhpat, Gaduli, Vinzan, Varadia, Vanku, Bitta, Vayor, Tera, Jangadi, Nundhatod, Nani Thumdi
6 Government Hospital, Gandhidham	
7 Government Hospital, Adipur	
8 Civil Hospital, Mandvi	
9 Branch Dispensaries at Bhuj and Mandvi	
10 City Dispensary, Anjar	
11 Sardarganj Dispensary, Gandhidham	
12 Referral Hospital, Anjar	
13 T. B. Sanatorium, Bharapar	
14 T. B. Clinic, Bhuj	

Curative and preventive health services are rendered in the rural areas through 10 Primary Health Centres which are under the control and supervision of the District Health Officer.

The Public Health Laboratory at Bhuj which serves the needs of Kutch district carries out bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples and also checks samples of food under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. The trachoma control unit carries out trachoma control work under the National Trachoma Control Programme. A District T. B. Centre has been recently sanctioned by Government under the National Tuberculosis Control Programme. A full-fledged Malaria Unit established at Bhuj under the National Malaria Eradication Programme functions for freeing the people from the menace of malaria.

Important hospitals in the district are described below.

Jubilee Hospital—The foundation of the present Jubilee Hospital was laid in the year 1887 at the time of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Queen

Victoria. It then had a capacity of 40 beds. The hospital went on expanding since then. In 1940 it had 50 beds, an X-ray machine, a separate Eye Department and a small laboratory. An ambulance van was added in 1948. In 1942, the number of beds in the hospital was raised to 100. However, with the advancement of medical science, the existing facilities became inadequate. It was, therefore, decided to build a modern hospital equipped with more beds and apparatus for surgical operations. In the year 1963, this hospital was transferred to the more equipped G. K. General Hospital after retaining 26 beds for specialised treatment. Following are the statistics of indoor and outdoor patients treated in the hospital between 1956 and 1967.

Year		Indoor	Outdoor
1		2	3
1956	..	3,008	50,372
1960	..	2,840	51,800
1965	..	725	37,794
1967	..	778	30,144

G. K. General Hospital—As the facilities provided by the Jubilee hospital were inadequate on account of expansion of medical science it was decided to build a hospital equipped with all the modern facilities. The trustees of Sheth Gordhandas Khetsey Trust came forward and made a munificent donation amounting to Rs. 5 lakhs for the construction of new hospital, which was named after the donor. This hospital started functioning from 1956. A new maternity home, eye section, out-patients' department and administrative blocks were added during the Second Five Year Plan at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 15 lakhs. It now has a capacity of 175 beds which is proposed to be increased to 300 during the Fourth Five Year Plan. The hospital now has all the essential departments such as surgical, pathological, medical, infectious diseases, eye, X-ray and maternity, besides a medico-legal section and a laboratory.

The hospital is headed by a Superintendent, who is also the Civil Surgeon of Kutch district. He is assisted by 9 medical Officers of Gujarat Medical Service Class II, 5 Medical Officers of Gujarat Medical Service Class III, a radiologist, a pathologist, a Blood Transfussion Officer, an anaesthetist and a dentist besides nursing personnel consisting of a matron, a tutor, 8 sisters, 12 nurses and other staff.

The hospital offers special facilities for treatment in diathermy, electro-therapy and electro-cardio therapy. It has such equipments as 150 M. A. X-ray machine, portable X-ray machine, diathermy machine, equipment for cardiograms, Boyles apparatus, sterilisers, three operation tables, laboratory equipments, shadow free lamps, etc. A Blood Transfussion Centre started during the Third Plan is provided with equipments worth Rs. 30,000. An

Auxiliary and Midwifery Training School for training nurses, midwives, etc., was started in 1957. The number of seats which was 20 initially has now risen to 53.

The number of indoor and outdoor patients treated in the hospital between 1958-1967 is shown below :

Year		Indoor	Outdoor
1958	..	3,486	41,631
1961	..	5,461	55,623
1964	..	7,364	94,081
1967	..	9,942	92,962

There has been a steady growth in the number of indoor patients treated in the hospital. Except for a slight decline during the year 1967, the number of outdoor patients too has steadily risen. Chief diseases treated are diphtheria, diarrhoea, dysentery, enteric fever, pneumonia, tuberculosis, tumors, trachoma, cataract, diabetes, diseases of the generative system, nephrities, diseases of liver, ear, nose and throat and eye The total expenditure incurred amounted to Rs. 879,178 in 1967.

T. B. Clinic, Bhuj—The Kutch Tuberculosis Association, Bhuj, conducted a T. B. Clinic at the Jubilee Hospital, Bhuj, for about four years with the help of honorary services of qualified doctors. But the need for a separate clinic was keenly felt. A full-fledged T. B. clinic was, therefore, started from December 1955. It treats outdoor patients only. The Clinic has treated 9,681 patients during the last two years. The clinic provides A. P. and P. P. treatment to T. B. patients besides dispensing essential drugs. It is also equipped with a laboratory for blood tests. The total expenditure incurred during 1967 amounted to Rs. 27,630.

Mental Hospital, Bhuj—Before the Mental Hospital was started at Bhuj in 1956, the patients were kept in Bhuj Central Prison. A special room was also set apart in the Jubilee Hospital to meet the contingency arising from increase in the number of lunatics. A separate hospital functioning since 1956 has a capacity of 16 beds. The statement below gives the number of persons admitted to the hospital between 1960-66 :

Year		Males	Females	Total
1		2	3	4
1960	..	21	6	27
1962	..	25	3	28
1964	..	26	7	33
1966	..	25	12	37

The hospital gives treatment to indoor patients only based on modern researches including electric and chemical convulsive therapy. The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 37,293 in 1967-68.

G. K. Eye Hospital, Mandvi—The Eye Hospital building was built out of a donation received from Sheth Gordhandas Khetsey Trust, and declared open in October 1956. It provides treatment of all eye diseases and performs all types of major and minor eye operations except keratoplating and detachment of retina. It has been provided with all modern and up-to-date apparatuses, besides sixteen beds, eight each for males and females. The number of indoor patients treated increased from 4,119 in 1957 to 4,902 in 1966, and that of outdoor patients from 39,342 to 80,275 during the same period. Major and minor operations performed during 1966 numbered 922. The expenditure incurred by the hospital increased from Rs. 17,927 in 1957 to Rs. 27,668 in 1966.

Civil Hospital, Mandvi—The Civil Hospital at Mandvi started functioning during the time of former Kutch State. It was built in the year 1939 at a cost of 100,000 *koris* to the State. As the hospital building was badly damaged by the earthquake of 1956 a new building was constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 2 lakhs. It started functioning from 1963.

The hospital has 36 beds distributed into (i) special room-8 beds, (ii) septic ward-3 beds, (iii) females and children-13 beds, and (iv) males-12 beds. It is headed by a Medical Officer of Gujarat Medical Service Class II who is assisted by one Medical Officer Class III, one nurse and X-ray and laboratory technicians. The hospital is equipped with an X-ray department and a clinical laboratory working for the last five years, where blood, urine, stool and sputum investigations are carried out. Besides anti-rabic treatment and treatment of cancer, the hospital also attends to post-mortem and medico-legal work.

The patients treated in 1939 when the hospital was started are compared below with those in 1966 :

Year	Indoor	Outdoor
1	2	3
1939 ..	5,229	85,559
1966 ..	10,534	250,597

The hospital provides for the treatment of diarrhoea, dysentery, fever, trachoma, tetanus, etc., and performs all types of surgical work. The expenditure incurred increased from Rs. 39,634 in 1950 to Rs. 65,392 in 1966.

Shri S. K. B. K. Maternity Hospital, Mandvi—The Maternity Hospital at Mandvi was started in the year 1952 from a donation of Rs. 99,700 made

by late revolutionary Shri Shyamji Krishna Varma and named Shyamji Krishna Varma and Bhanumati Krishna Varma Maternity Hospital. It has a general ward with eight beds and a special ward with four beds. Patients in general ward are given free treatment besides free diet. Those in the special ward pay according to the rates prescribed. The hospital is looked after by one lady Medical Officer, one nurse, two midwives, one compounder and other staff. It is equipped with all modern and up-to-date apparatuses. The indoor department is meant for maternity cases only, while the outdoor department treats besides the usual female diseases, cases of malaria, influenza, dysentery, diarrhoea, etc.

The following are the figures of patients treated at the hospital in 1955 and 1967 :

Year	Indoor	Outdoor
1	2	3
1955	3,017	33,501
1967	7,531	108,919

There has been great increase in the number of patients treated and the expenditure incurred which rose from Rs. 14,193 in 1956 to Rs. 29,905 in 1967.

Referral Hospital, Anjar—Referral Hospital at Anjar was originally started as "Gangabai Premji Harji Hindu General Hospital" in the year 1956 and converted into a referral hospital in 1963. The hospital building along with class four servants' quarters and *dharmashala* attached to it were built from donations worth Rs. 5 lakhs received from philanthropic persons. It has two wards and a separate maternity ward. It has a total capacity of 44 beds including 16 beds in the latter and two beds each in the special and septic wards.

The hospital is looked after by a Chief Medical Officer, who belongs to the Gujarat Medical Service Class II, one lady Medical Officer Class II, one Medical Officer Class II, One Medical Officer Class III, ten nurses, X-ray and laboratory technicians, ward boys and other staff. All medical and surgical cases including orthopaedic are treated at the hospital. Vasectomy and tubectomy operations are also performed. Besides X-ray and screeing facility, it possesses a diathermy machine, an X-ray machine and a fully-equipped operation theatre fitted with shadow free lamps. Equipments like refrigerator, shadow free lamps, wheeled stretcher, operation table, suction pump, instrument table, etc., were received from the UNICEF after it was converted into a referral hospital. The hospital also possesses a clinical laboratory where blood, urine, sputum and stool examinations are carried out.

The number of indoor and outdoor patients treated in 1961-62 are compared below with those in 1965-66 :

Year	Indoor	Outdoor
1	2	3
1961-62 ..	9,657	25,901
1965-66 ..	10,022	34,009

The total expenditure incurred amounted to Rs. 71,809 in 1967.

Mehta Raichand Motichand General Hospital, Mundra—In the year 1954, late Mehta Raichand Motichand donated a sum of Rs. 45,000 for the construction of an eight bedded hospital at Mundra. It was named after him and is managed by the Government. It has a screening machine, a refrigerator and instruments for surgery, and runs a T. B. sub-centre for the treatment of tuberculosis.

Indoor and outdoor patients treated in the hospital in 1962 and 1966 are show below :

Year	Indoor	Outdoor
1	2	3
1962 ..	2,388	27,473
1966 ..	1,541	180,571

The hospital is headed by a Medical Officer of the Gujarat Medical Service Class II assisted by other staff. The expenditure incurred on the hospital increased from Rs. 21,156 in 1963 to Rs. 35,738 in 1967.

Government Hospital, Adipur Government hospital at Adipur was started in 1959 with six beds. The hospital provides treatment for routine diseases and performs minor surgical operations. It is headed by a Medical Officer of Gujarat Medical Service Class II and has under him one compounder, one staff nurse, two ward boys, one dresser and other staff. In 1966 it treated patients 2,006 indoor and 49,692 outdoor.

Government Hospital, Gandhidham Gandhidham Hospital started in 1966 has an accommodation for ten beds. The hospital is headed by a Medical Officer of Gujarat Medical Service Class II. He has under him two compounders, one X-ray technician, one eye assistant, two staff nurses, five ward boys and other staff. It provides facilities of X-ray and treatment of eye and treated 3,103 patients during 1966-67.

Bhachau Hospital—The hospital at Bhachau was originally started as a dispensary by the former Kutch State in the year 1884. It was converted into an Eye Hospital in 1945 and worked under an Eye Surgeon till 1959. Since then it functions as a General Hospital with eight beds in addition to four in the septic ward. It is housed in a separate building constructed for the purpose by the Bhachau Gram Panchayat in 1963. The hospital is headed by a Medical Officer of Gujarat Medical Service Class II, assisted by one compounder, one *ayah*, one nurse, a ward boy and other staff. The hospital is provided with an X-ray plant and an anti-rabic centre. Besides other surgical work, vesectomy and tubectomy operations are also performed in the hospital. It treated 4,600 indoor and 54,037 outdoor patients in 1967.

Maternity Home A Maternity Home with ten beds was started at Bhachau in the year 1950. It is looked after by a lady Medical Officer, one nurse and two *ayahs*. Its present capacity is 12 beds. It is fully equipped and carries out ante-natal work and performs minor operations also. It treated 1,574 indoor and 10,173 outdoor patients in 1967.

T. B. Sanatorium, Bharapar As there was no facility for the treatment of tuberculosis in Kutch, a sanatorium was constructed at Bharapar in 1940 and named Sheth Vallabhdas Karsandas Natha T. B. Sanatorium after the donor who contributed Rs. 250,000. The total funds thus raised amounted to Rs. 500,000 and included donations from the philanthropists of Kutch and the Maharaos Khengarji and Vijayrajji who donated Rs. One lakh and gifted all the land required for the institution. The sanatorium has been taken over by Government since 1954 and has facility for admitting 65 patients. It also runs a separate outdoor department and provides facilities for X-ray and laboratory investigations to the patients suffering from tuberculosis, who are also given A. P. and P. P. treatment. The sanatorium is headed by a Medical Superintendent of Gujarat Medical Service Class II, assisted by 1 Medical Officer belonging to the Gujarat Medical Service Class II, 2 Medical Officers Class III, one matron, 17 nurses, X-ray and laboratory technicians, compounders, clerks, and other staff.

Being the only institution of its kind in the district, the number of persons taking advantage of the treatment given has continuously increased and risen from 97 in 1957 to 245 in 1966 indoor and 515 to 3,936 outdoor.

Sheth Liladhar Moorarjee Bhimani Maternity Home and Dispensary, Mandvi—Sheth Liladhar Moorarjee Bhimani Charitable Maternity Home and Dispensary, Mandvi, was established in the year 1929. It has two wards, of which one is reserved for members of the Bhatia community and another a general ward for Hindus. It is a private institution managed by the trustees of Sheth Liladhar Moorarjee Bhimani Trust. It started initially with six beds but ten more were added in 1942 raising the total number of beds to 16.

Women patients admitted to the maternity home get certain concessions in medicines and delivery charges. The hospital is looked after by a qualified lady doctor, one nurse, 7 *ayahs*, one compounder, one supervisor and other staff.

The number of patients who took advantage of the maternity home is shown below :

Year	No. of Patients
1930	11,668
1940	17,336
1950	22,561
1960	21,225
1966	24,261

Number of Doctors

The total number of doctors in the district according to the Census of 1951 was 253 of whom 245 were males and 8 females. The 1961 Census returned 309 (301 males and 8 females) persons following medical profession of whom 124 (119 males and 5 females) were working in the urban areas and the rest in the rural areas in the district. In terms of population served, there was one doctor for every 2,254 persons in 1961 as against 2,244 in 1951. 107 *vaidyas* were found working in Kutch district in June, 1967.

Public Health

Administrative set-up—For the administration of public health, each district has a full-time District Health Officer who is assisted by a team of workers consisting of a Family Planning Officer, an Epidemic Medical Officer, a Sanitary Inspector, a Vaccination Inspector, an Office Superintendent, Statistical Assistants, a Public Health Nurse, social and field workers and a sanitary squad of Mukadams and *maidoors*. The District Health Officer organises measures to ensure public sanitation and hygiene at fairs and festivals and also investigates the causes of origin and spread of infectious diseases such as cholera, small-pox, whooping cough, plague, etc., and organises preventive and control measures. He advises the municipal authorities in matters connected with health, sanitation, drainage and water supply, inspects primary health centres, family planning programmes and looks after the working of the National Malaria Eradication Programme. The sanitary squads are employed for cleaning villages, disinfection of drinking water, construction of soak pits and latrines suitable for rural areas and removal of manure heaps from the inhabited localities. Vaccinations and revaccinations on a large scale are also arranged, whenever there is sudden outbreak of epidemic.

The main activities of the Public Health Department are (1) preventive and curative measures, (2) vaccination, (3) control of T. B., (4) eradication of Malaria, (5) improvement of vital statistics, (6) maternal and child welfare, (7) primary health centres and (8) family planning.

Preventive and Curative Measures—Several deaths occurred in the past due to small-pox, malaria, etc., in the absence of integrated public health activities which have been systematically organised since Independence. Government has taken concerted measures for vaccination and revaccination, spraying of D. D. T., collection of blood smears and survey of affected and threatened areas on a mass scale. All these have substantially improved the health of the people and reduced the death rate which claimed a heavy toll of lives some years back.

Epidemics

Malaria—The Malaria Unit for Kutch with headquarters at Bhuj was started in 1953 during the First Five Year Plan under the National Malaria Eradication Programme. In the beginning the unit functioned as a control unit and carried out D. D. T. spraying in selected areas and supplied anti-malaria drugs through Government hospitals and dispensaries, whenever there was an outbreak of malaria. In addition, anti-larval measures and mosquito collection for assessing vector density were carried out and cumulative infant parasite rate and rate of enlargement of the spleen among children, etc., were ascertained through annual assessment surveys. The Unit is headed by the Malaria Officer who has under him an Assistant Malaria Officer, four Malaria Supervisors, four Inspectors, eight Technicians, four superior Field Workers, 13 Field Workers, seven drivers and seven cleaners. Additional superior field workers and field workers are also engaged for temporary periods to cope up with the increase in work when the epidemic appears in a virulent form.

The Malaria Eradication Programme is divided into four phases, viz., attack phase, pre-consolidation phase, consolidation phase and maintenance phase. Kutch district is placed in pre-consolidation phase as frequent occurrence of malaria is reported in the district.

The measures taken by Government to combat the epidemic are (i) spraying of D. D. T. in two rounds every year and (ii) starting of surveillance work since 1963. By 1966 two rounds of D. D. T. spray in addition to a special round in 1965 were completed. Surveillance Investigators make a house-to-house visit every fortnight to inquire about cases of fever and collect blood smears which are sent to the unit laboratory

(Bk) H-49—69 (Lino)

for microscopic examination. During the year 1967 when a sudden flare up of malaria was reported, the entire field staff was employed to bring the epidemic under control by fresh D. D. T. spray and distribution of anti-malaria drugs.

Small-pox—Small-pox claimed a heavy toll of life in the past. The Vaccination Department functioned under the Chief Medical Officer of the State who had under him Vaccination Superintendent, two Assistant Superintendents and a band of vaccinators to carry out vaccination and revaccination. In 1895-96, out of 1,097 cases reported, 93 proved fatal, and 21,736 persons were vaccinated. Thereafter it continued to occur frequently resulting in loss of life. The epidemic was at its worst in 1938-39, when 609 lives were lost out of a total of 738 cases reported from Anjar, Bhuj, Mandvi, Rapar, Bhachau, Abdasa and Mundra. To bring the disease under control, 17,676 persons were vaccinated and 106 revaccinated in the entire State.

On the organisation of a separate Public Health Department after integration, regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 were enforced and measures like mass vaccination, propaganda, prompt notification of small-pox cases in affected areas were taken. In Gujarat State, the National Small-pox Eradication Programme was started from 1962. Wide publicity, film shows and distribution of pamphlets have made people health conscious who report promptly for vaccination. Since the commencement of the programme in 1962, 440,096 persons have been vaccinated and revaccinated in the district till 1966. The cumulative effect of all these measures has been that small-pox epidemic has been effectively brought under control by reducing the number of deaths from 890 in 1961 to 10 in 1966.

Tuberculosis—This district has two institutions which provide treatment of tuberculosis. These are (1) Shri S. V. K. N. T. B. Sanatorium at Bharapar and (2) T. B. Clinc at Bhuj. The scheme of B. C. G. inoculation which makes it possible to detect T. B. germs in a body and gives immunity from the disease for a considerable period, is implemented in the State by an Assistant Director of Public Health in charge of B. C. G. Vaccination and T. B. Control Scheme. Under this scheme 527,052 persons in the district were tested between 1961 and 1966. Of these 181,125 have been vaccinated.

Trachoma—Trachoma is a serious disease in Saurashtra, North Gujarat and Kutch areas of the State. Government has, therefore, started four centres in the State to control this disease. In Kutch district, the Trachoma Control Unit with headquarters at Bhuj was started in March 1961. A survey carried out by the Indian Council of Medical Research in the year 1965 revealed that the incidence of trachoma in Kutch was as high as 57·5 per cent.

The activity of the unit is divided into two phases, viz., (1) the attack phase and (ii) maintenance or consolidation phase. In the first phase, children

below the age of ten years are given mass application with Tetracycline Hydrochloride 1 per cent eye ointment twice a day continuously for five days in a week. This treatment is repeated regularly at an interval of 1½ months. After the completion of six such cycles the attack phase is treated as completed. Persons above the age of ten who suffer from sore eyes are also given this treatment for five days. In the consolidation phase the tetracycline eye ointment is made available to the people through staff workers at subsidised rate of Re. 0·40 per tube who distribute them to the people during their house visits. Poor people are given this drug free of any charge. In the area under consolidation phase, the staff workers clean the eyes of all persons having conjunctivitis and treat them with eye ointment. They also advise them to purchase the tubes for regular use and distribute pamphlets on trachoma control. In this district the attack phase has been completed by the unit in Nakhatrana, Nalia, Mandvi and Bhuj blocks which are now placed under consolidation phase. In the Mundra block the work of attack phase is reported to have made sufficient progress.

Family Planning Programme—Population explosion which has been going on in the country since 1931 has been causing serious concern to the Government. Whatever the gains which accrue from the implementation of the Five Year Development Plans, are wiped out by the menacing growth of numbers which is 2·6 per cent in Gujarat. With a view to arrest this abnormal growth, family planning programme is being vigorously pursued all over the State. It now forms a very important plank of the district health programme. The District Family Planning Officer is responsible for its proper implementation in the district. He is assisted by two Assistant Surgeons, one male and another female, District Health Educator and other staff. Camps for the popularisation of contraceptive devices are organised and workers move from house-to-house for free distribution of contraceptives, explain the benefits of planned parenthood and persuade married males and females to undergo vasectomy and tubectomy operations. The district has two urban centres, 9 rural centres and 26 sub-centres where facilities for performing vasectomy and tubectomy operations are provided. Males and females undergoing operations are respectively paid Rs. 15 and Rs. 25 each. The progress achieved in the field of family planning in Kutch shows that between 1956-57 and 1967-68, 1,266 sterilisations operations have been performed and 4,656 I. U. C. D. inserted, besides free distribution of other contraceptives to the public.

Primary Health Centres

Because of non-availability of trained nurses and midwives, the health of women was seriously impaired during pregnancy and delivery as the work was performed by untrained *ayahs* and indigenous *dais*, with the result that death rate among women and infants was comparatively higher. With the initiation and implementation of Five Year Plans, increasing

attention is being paid to the establishment of primary health centres and maternity and child health centres and training of nurses. Primary Health Centres and sub-centres provide basic health services in rural areas as well as maternity and child health services in an integrated manner and also carry out multipurpose functions, preventive and curative. Every primary health centre in the district is provided with a Class II Medical Officer, one health visitor, four midwives, one Sanitary Inspector, one driver, four Class IV servants and one compounder. The main services provided at these centres are : (1) medical relief, (2) family planning, (3) health education, (4) control of communicable diseases with priority for malaria and (5) improvement of vital statistics. Nine health centres and 26 sub-centres functioning in district are located at Dhaneti, Khedoi, Lakdia, Darsadi, Nalia, Rapar, Nakhatrana, Vanki and Dayapar.

Mention must be made of UNICEF, one of the agencies of the United Nations Organisation, which helps in protecting health of expectant and nursing mothers by supplying expert advice and skimmed milk powder which is distributed free through the health centres established at different places in the district.

Health Education—The success or otherwise of any health programme depends upon the whole hearted co-operation and participation of the people for whom it is meant. Health education has, therefore, been regarded as an essential part of this programme. Health propaganda is carried out through group talks amongst the village people. The Government has started a Health Education Bureau at the State level under an Assistant Director of Public Health who functions through the District Health Officer at the district level, assisted in this work by the Family Planning Officer and staff of the health centres in carrying out propoganda, demonstrations, dissemination of information pertaining to health problems, eradication of epidemics, and explaining the advantages of planned parenthood. In Kutch district the Health Education Unit has arranged 1,500 film shows, 408 exhibitions and 1,500 health talks.

Public Health Laboratory, Bhuj—Public Health Laboratory was established at Bhuj in the year 1958 with a view to prevent adulteration of food, water, etc., under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. It is headed by a Chief Chemist who has under him two principal laboratory assistants and other staff. The laboratory carries out chemical and bacteriological analysis of water to determine its potability, of sewage to prevent its harmful effects to human or aquatic animal life before it enters river or sea and of food samples for determining the presence or absence of adulteration and its extent and epidemiological investigations. The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 was enforced from the year 1962-63, whereunder local bodies are required to send samples of food for examination by the laboratory. Out of 143 and 139 water samples examined by the laboratory during the years 1966 and 1967, 50 and 20 respectively were for bacteriological examination and 93 and 119 for chemical analysis. Food samples examined during the same period numbered 1,185 and 1,141 respectively of which 461 and 579 turned out to be defective.

Directorate of Ayurved

After the formation of Gujarat State, a separate Directorate of Ayurved has been established with headquarters of the Director at Ahmedabad. He is in charge of all Ayurvedic institutions in the State including colleges and hospitals. The principal activities of the Directorate are (1) provision of medical relief to the public in Ayurvedic way through hospitals and dispensaries and medicinal chests to treat minor ailments in villages, (2) to impart education in Ayurved, (3) conduct research at Ayurvedic colleges and hospitals and (4) standardisation of Ayurvedic preparations.

Government Ayurvedic Hospital, Bhuj—The Government Ayurvedic Hospital at Bhuj with a capacity of 15 beds was started in the year 1965 and is housed in the Jubilee Hospital, Bhuj. Ayurvedic medicines are supplied free of charge to indoor and outdoor patients. It is looked after by a Resident Medical Officer Class II, one *vaidya*, one sister, two nurses, one *ayah*, two ward boys and other staff. Chief diseases treated at the hospital are *shwasa roga, hrid roga, shir shoola, jalodara*, dysentery, paralysis, and diseases of women. The expenditure incurred was Rs. 40,349 and the number of patients treated indoor 2,634 and outdoor 51,663 in 1967-68.

Subsidised Medical Centres—Subsidised medical centres were started for giving medical aid to the people in villages for treating minor ailments. From 1951 to 1958 six such centres were established at Lakadia, Ramvav, Gadhada, Rampar Vekra, Vallabhpur and Chandiya, later on shifted to Baranda. The Medical Practitioner of the centre is paid Rs. 120 per month by way of honorarium and Rs. 300 annually for purchase of medicines, etc. No new centre has been established in the district after 1958. But twenty medicinal chests containing Ayurvedic medicines and instructions for their use were distributed in the district during the Second and Third Five Year Plans.

Protected Water Supply

Kutch is known for its semi-desert condition and scarcity of water supply in rural areas is a frequent occurrence. Among a number of public health activities taken in hand after Independence, provision of drinking water, the most essential human need, has received topmost priority. Important water supply schemes which are being executed in the district are mentioned below.

Kandla Water Supply Scheme—The scheme aims at providing water to Kandla port, Kandla Free Trade Zone and Gandhidham-Adipur townships. It is executed by the Executive Engineer, Public Health Circle, Jamnagar, and is designed to supply nearly 150 lakh gallons of water every day from the following sources.

	Sources of water	Capacity in lakh gallons
1	Tube-wells in Viri Nagalpur area	15
2	Four Tube-wells in Dudhai area	15
3	Tapar reservoir on river Sakra	20
4	Macchu dam near Morvi ..	100
	Total	**150**

The first part of the scheme which is estimated to cost Rs. 92.28 lakhs is being executed since 1962. Various works relating to the construction of four tube-wells, pump house, collection chamber, junction chamber, pipeline from tube-well to Rambag, an underground water sump, R. C. C. elevated reservoirs of 1·50 lakh and 0·50 lakh gallons capacity, staff quarters and service roads have been completed and water at the rate of 30 gallons per head is supplied. Water from the tube-wells is pumped into a collection chamber of 1,875 gallons capacity and passed through gravity by main pipeline 18" to 24" in diameter and stored in the underground sump near Rambag which has a capacity of 8 lakh gallons. It is then pumped into an elevated reservoir of 1·50 lakh gallons capacity and supplied to the Port authorities at the rate of Rs. 1·50 per 1,000 gallons. A total sum of Rs. 55 lakhs has been spent by Government till November, 1967.

Part two of the scheme envisages filtering of water brought from Tapar reservoir to the junction chamber at an estimated cost of Rs. 18·51 lakhs. Part three provides for the construction of a dam across river Sakra near village Tapar by the Irrigation Wing of the Public Works Department. In order to meet future exigencies of water for the Kandla Free Trade Zone, a scheme to draw water from the Macchu dam near Morvi has been prepared. 100 lakh gallons of water will be reserved and brought in 42" diameter pipeline from Macchu dam to Kandla covering a distance of 132·80 km.

Other schemes for urban areas are :

1 Bhuj Water Supply Scheme,

2 Anjar Water Supply Scheme,

3 Mundra Water Supply Scheme, and

4 Mandvi Water Supply Scheme.

1. *Bhuj Water Supply Scheme*—At present the people of Bhuj get drinking water from wells situated on the Hamirsar Tank which has a capacity of 41 m. c. ft. Pumps have been installed on some of the wells and stand posts and storage tanks constructed in some parts of the town, for the benefit of people of those localities. Plans and estimates for the water supply scheme estimated to cost Rs. 25·92 lakhs have been approved by State Government and are awaiting Government of India's sanction. Under this scheme one tube-well near Tapkeshwari and another near Bhujodi have been adopted as the sources of water supply. The scheme envisages the construction of (i) two pump houses, (ii) installation of 40 and 50 b. h. p. electric motors coupled with deep well turbine pumps, each capable of discharging over 30,000 gallons of water per hour, (iii) a collection chamber, 16′ × 10′ and (iv) a ground level reservoir measuring 70′ × 46′ and capable of storing 2 lakh gallons. Water from the Tapakeshwari and Bhujodi tube-wells will be stored in the ground level reservoir through 12" and 9" diameter pipelines, the length of which would be 915 and 700 metres from the tube-wells. Drinking water from the reservoir will be brought to 14 standposts each provided with seven taps constructed in different localities in the town in consultation with the Bhuj municipality. The scheme also includes plans for chlorination and purificantion of water and construction of transmission lines, staff quarters, etc.

2. *Anjar Water Supply Scheme*—The people of Anjar at present get water from the wells fitted with electric motor pumps. The plans and estimates of the water supply scheme, which is proposed to be executed at an estimated cost of Rs. 8·41 lakhs, have been prepared and will be constructed in consultation with the municipality. In order to meet the daily requirements of 431,250 gallons of water for the people, one tube-well alongwith a pump house at a distance of about 4 km. from Anjar town has been constructed by the Panchayat Irrigation Division, Bhuj. A 55 h. p. electric motor coupled with deep well turbine pump capable of discharging 34,500 gallons per hour will be installed on the tube-well. Another pump has also been kept as a standby to avoid any breakdown. An R. C. C. elevated tank with one lakh gallons capacity is proposed to be constructed and water from the tube-well brought into it through 200 ft. long rising main of 9" diameter. Drinking water at the rate of 15 gallons per head per day in the initial stages and 30 gallons thereafter will be distributed through pipelines varying from 3" to 18" in diameter. Purification of water and construction of staff quarters, wire fencing, etc., have also been included in the scheme.

3. *Mundra Water Supply Scheme*—At present the people of Mundra town draw water from the wells situated in the river bed as also in the town. Tentative plans and estimates for the water supply scheme estimated to cost Rs. 4·11 lakhs have been prepared. They provide for the construction

of head works, an R. C. C. elevated reservoir of 150,000 gallons capacity, installation of electric motor pumps of 25 b. h. p. coupled with deep water turbine pump and rising main from wells to the elevated reservoir. Piped water at the rate of 15 gallons per head per day will be provided through 12" and 9" diameter pipelines. Staff and chowkidars' quarters have also been provided.

4. *Mandvi Water Supply Scheme*—The main source of water supply for the people of Mandvi is the river Rukmavati. Eighteen wells have been constructed in the river bed. There is one reservoir in the town which has a capacity of 4,000 gallons. Public water works for purposes of bathing and drawing water have also been constructed. One such water works is named after its donor Shri Muljibhai Khengar Vayada who donated a sum of Rs. 10,000 to the municipality.

Tentative plans and estimates for the water supply scheme estimated to cost Rs. 6·40 lakhs have been prepared. It provides for the construction of two wells 25′ and 46′ deep joined by 9" diameter pipeline and fitted with 25 b. h. p. electric motor coupled with deep well turbine pump capable of discharging 30,000 gallons per hour. An R. C. C. elevated reservoir of 50,000 gallons capacity, a pump house 12′ × 15′ and 18" diameter rising main 5,000 ft. long from head works to the elevated reservoir are also proposed to be constructed under the Scheme. Piped water will be supplied to the people at the rate of 20 gallons per head per day in the immediate stage and 30 gallons per day in the ultimate stage when the entire scheme will be fully executed.

Rural Water Supply

The following are the rural water supply schemes implemented by the Public Health Circle, Jamnagar, in Kutch district :

(1) *Shivlakha Group of 15 Villages*—Construction of (i) head works comprising tank, clear water sump and staff quarters, (ii) setting up slow sand filtration plants and (iii) laying of gravity main, stand posts, etc., has been commenced from December, 1966. Excavation of trenches, laying and jointing of pipelines and construction of cistern are in progress. The rest of the works provided in the scheme have been constructed. The scheme is likely to cost an aggregate of Rs. 21·80 lakhs and will supply 15 gallons per head per day.

(2) *Tera Water Supply Scheme for 10 Villages*—The construction of (a) head works comprising underground sump, cistern and stand posts at all the ten villages and (b) laying of gravity main have commenced from April, 1967. Except for a small portion of the pipelines, major portion of

the programme has been completed. It will supply 15 gallons of drinking water per head per day. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 12·50 lakhs on completion.

(3) *Reha Nana Water Supply Scheme*—The work consisting of construction of a sump, standposts and pipeline was started in August, 1967 and completed in February 1968 at a total cost of Rs. 46,230. It supplies 15 gallons of drinking water per head per day.

(4) *Modsar Group of 5 Villages*—The work consists of construction of a sump well, gravity main, elevated tank, engine room, cistern, stand posts, wire fencing, etc. Construction was started in October 1967. The work of sump well is completed and that of laying pipelines and construction of engine room and elevated tank will be completed shortly. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 2·54 lakhs and will supply 15 gallons of drinking water per day on completion.

Future Plans—In order to assess the exact magnitude of the problem of drinking water in the rural areas of the State, the Rural Water Supply Investigation Division, Rajkot, made use of the data collected by the State Bureau of Economics and Statistics in 1962-63 and 1964-65 and classified villages of the district in four broad categories, viz., (1) difficult and scarcity areas, (2) specially backward clas areas, (3) areas with unsafe and unwholesome water supply and (4) areas with inadequate water supply to be raised to the maximum standard. On the basis of this classification, Government proposes to make arrangements for the supply of drinking water to the following villages. (1) 85 villages of Bhuj, Rapar, Bhachau, Abdasa and Anjar talukas classified as difficult and scarcity areas at an estimated cost of Rs. 76 lakhs ; (ii) 2 villages of Anjar and Rapar talukas, declared as specially backward class areas, at an estimated cost of Rs. 0·23 lakh ; (iii) 30 villages of Rapar, Anjar, Bhachau, Nakhatrana, Bhuj, Lakhpat, Abdasa, Mandvi, Mundra and Khavda talukas, where unsafe and unwholesome water supply will be set right at an estimated cost of Rs. 10·67 lakhs ; and (iv) 237 villages of Bhuj, Anjar, Mundra, Mandvi, Bhachau, Nakhatrana, Rapar, Lakphat and Abdasa talukas which have inadequate water supply, drinking water will be provided at an approximate cost of Rs. 123 lakhs.

Drainage System

There is no drainage system in the important towns of the district but waste water is collected in the cess pools or pits and then disposed of (For details see Chapter XIII—Local Self-Government).

(Bk) H-49—70 (Lino)

CHAPTER XVI

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

In view of the geo-political conditions of Kutch, certain social services of modern types were almost unknown. As the present century progressed the demand that Government should do more to provide services in the form of education, medical relief, social welfare, etc., and provide amenities of a civilised life became insistent. This required expansion of governmental activities involving heavy expenditure which the limited resources of the State could not meet in full.[1] Still, however, it resulted in the foundation of a modern system of education, provision of medical relief, measures for providing greater facilities in agriculture and irrigation, etc., which have been already discussed in the earlier chapters. In the field of other social services including labour welfare, welfare of Backward Classes, prohibition, etc., which are the subject matter of this chapter, nothing important was done. There was no labour legislation in the State. No efforts were made for the welfare of Backward Classes nor for the introduction of prohibition in Kutch. Welfare measures in these fields were implemented only after Independence.

Labour Welfare Measures

The Government of Kutch as constituted in 1948 applied itself to the task of organising social services on a uniform basis. In the first instance the provisions of the following important labour laws were made applicable to the State : (1) Workmen's Compensation Act, (2) Factories Act, (3) Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, (4) Minimum Wages Act and (5) Payment of Wages Act. Other important enactments applied subsequently included : (1) Industrial Disputes Act, (2) Indian Trade Unions Act, (3) Shops and Establishments Act, (4) Maternity Benefit Act and (5) Employees' Provident Fund Act. All these enactments brought about important changes in the sphere of industrial relations, wages and social security.

Workmen's Compensation—The Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923 was applied to Kutch after its formation as a Part 'C' State. The Act assures the disabled worker as well as the dependents of the employee who sustained injuries and died while on duty payment of monetary compensation according to the nature of accident and the average monthly wages earned by the worker. The following statement shows the number of cases registered,

---

1. Williams Rushbrook L. F., *The Black Hills*, (1958), p. 259

decided and pending under the Workmen's Compensation Act between 1962 and 1966.

Year	Cases instituted	Cases disposed of	Cases pending	Amount of compensation (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
1962	14	14	2	N.A.
1963	14	15	1	13,350.00
1964 ..	26	26	1	7,850.00
1965	17	13	5	17,337.71
1966	52	44	13	84,146.00

N. A. : Not available

Source :
Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, Kutch, and Civil Judge, Senior Division, Kutch-Bhuj

Indian Factories Act and other Enactments—The Factories Act of 1948 was applied to Kutch in 1949. The Act lays down the minimum requirements regarding the health, safety and general welfare of workers and fixes their working hours besides providing for specific welfare measures such as washing facilities, canteens, first aid appliances, etc. The Indian Trade Unions Act of 1926 as amended by the Amendment Act of 1964 gives a legal status to the registered trade unions and prescribes their rights and liabilities. Both these Acts are dealt with at length in Chapter V--Industries.

The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 which provides for the settlement of labour disputes through conciliation, adjudication or arbitration was applied to Kutch in 1948. The Conciliation Officers appointed under the Act try to settle industrial disputes arising in their jurisdiction and where a settlement by conciliation is not possible, the dispute is referred to a Court of Enquiry or Industrial Tribunal for adjudication. The Act also imposes restrictions on strikes and lockouts declared during the pendency of conciliation or adjudication proceedings. The number of complaints registered in the district under this Act was 6 in 1966.

Minimum Wages—Wages and social security are the other important spheres where labour legislation has made notable contribution towards the welfare of working classes. After 1948, steps were taken for the first time to improve the standard of living of workers by applying the Minimum Wages Act of 1948. In 1951, minimum rates of wages were fixed by the State Government for employment of agricultural labourers. Thereafter, in 1959, during the time of the Bombay State, workers in oil mills, tanneries and leather manufacture, public motor transport, stone-breaking or stone-crushing, road construction, building operations, tobacco (including *bidi*

making), local authorities, shops or commercial establishments, rice mills, flour mills, etc., were brought under the purview of this Act. In 1965, the Gujarat Government applied the provisions of this Act to hotels, restaurants and printing presses. The details about the application of this Act are already discussed in Chapter V--Industries.

Shops and Establishments Act—The provisions of the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1948 were brought into force in Kutch district in 1963. The Act limits the hours of work in shops and commercial establishments and provides for a paid weekly holiday besides prohibiting employment of any child below 12. The provisions of this Act are made applicable to the municipal areas of the district.

Maternity Benefit—The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 was made applicable in 1964. The Act as amended subsequently regulates the employment of women for certain periods before and after child birth and provides maternity benefit on the basis of average wage for a fixed period of 12 weeks of which not more than 6 weeks should precede delivery. The number of factories covered under this Act was 52 in 1965.

Provident Fund—The Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952 was applied to Kutch in 1952 which covered (till 31st December, 1967), 10 establishments employing 1,330 persons, 1,163 of whom contributed to the Provident Fund. The statement that follows gives distribution of establishments, employees and subscribers by industry.

STATEMENT XVI·1

Provident Fund Scheme, 1967

Sl. No.	Industry	No. of establishments	No. of employees	No. of subscribers
1	2	3	4	5
1	Electrical Manufacturing and General Engineering	2	298	195
2	Salt	3	864	812
3	Edible Oils and Fats	2	49	46
4	Newspapers	1	33	27
5	Petrolium	1	7	7
6	Heavy and Fine Chemicals	1	79	76
	Total	10	1,330	1,163

Source :
Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Ahmedabad

Existing Enactments—Inclusive of the seven enactments discussed earlier, the following is a comprehensive list of important labour laws in force in Kutch : (1) The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, (2) The Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, (3) The Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929, (4) The Payment of Wages Act, 1936, (5) The Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946, (6) The Industrial Employment (standing orders) Act, 1946, (7) The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, (8) The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, (9) The Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1948, (10) The Factories Act, 1948, (11) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948, (12) The Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952, (13) The Working Journalists' (Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1955, (14) The Gujarat Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1961, (15) The Motor Transport Workers' Act, 1961, (16) The Gujarat Smoke Nuisances Act, 1963 and (17) The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965.

Administrative Set-up—All matters dealing with labour in the State fall within the administrative control of the Education and Labour Department of the Government of Gujarat. The Commissioner of Labour, Ahmedabad, looks after the machinery functioning at various centres in the State. He has under him one Deputy Commissioner of Labour, 10 Assistant Commissioners (8 at Ahmedabad, and 1 each at Baroda and Rajkot) and 25 Government Labour Officers, 13 at Ahmedabad, 2 each at Surat and Rajkot and 1 each at Bulsar, Baroda, Nadiad, Mehsana, Jamnagar, Porbandar, Bhavnagar and Ukai. Kutch has no separate Labour Officer for the distirct. The Labour Officer at Jamnagar looks after the Kutch district and ensures that provisions of various labour laws are properly enforced.

The Assistant Commissioner of Labour at Rajkot has also been notified as Conciliation Officer under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and Conciliator under the Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946 for the Saurashtra and Kutch areas of the State. His main functions under these Acts are to deal with industrial disputes and to bring about their settlement as far as possible.

The Factories Inspection Officers are responsible for the administration of the following Acts : (1) The Factories Act, (2) The Payment of Wages Act, (3) The Maternity Benefit Act, (4) The Employment of Children Act and (5) The Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act. There is no separate office of the Junior Inspector of Factories in Kutch, but the one at Rajkot has jurisdiction over Kutch district. The Assistant Commissioner of Labour Welfare at Rajkot looks after the welfare activities in this district under the supervision of the Welfare Commissioner, Gujarat Labour Welfare Board, Ahmedabad.

The Industrial Tribunal with headquarters at Ahmedabad has been constituted after the formation of the State of Gujarat. It deals with various cases arising out of Industrial Relations Act and Industrial Disputes Act, as well as under other statutory labour acts. The Civil Judge, Senior Division, Bhuj works as Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation in Kutch district and decides compensation payable to those workers who have sustained injuries while on duty. The Employees' Provident Fund Act is being administered by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Ahmedabad, appointed by the Central Government.

Labour Welfare Centres—Labour Welfare Centres are established in the labour localities with a view to providing healthy recreation to the workers in their leisure hours. There is one 'D' type centre at Kandla which provides various recreational and instructional facilities to the workers and their dependents.

Industrial Housing—The Gujarat Housing Board builds houses for industrial workers. The construction of houses in Kutch district has not been taken up till 1966-67. The Board has, however, made provision for the construction of 48 tenements in Gandhidham and 64 in Kandla. The work of acquiring land for buildings has already been initiated.

PROHIBITION

There was no prohibition in any part of Kutch before Independence. The excise work was directly under the State Customs Department which was mainly responsible for the collection of the excise duty on spirits, medicines, etc. The sale and distribution of *ganja, bhang*, opium and liquor were under the Revenue Department. Prohibition was introduced in January, 1956 when the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949 was extended to Kutch with suitable modifications. As a result, the import, export, transport, purchase, possession, use, consumption and manufacture of intoxicants were prohibited in the State except under a licence or a permit. The Act, however, provides for the grant of permits for the possession, use and consumption of foreign liquor by foreigners, tourists, visitors and those requiring liquor either for medical purposes or on ground of health. The number of such permit holders was 46 in 1966-67. The manufacture, sale, consumption, etc., of country spirit is not permitted except for sacramental purposes. Permits for sacramental wine required by Jews, Christians and Parsis for religious purposes are granted in accordance with the provisions of the rules made in this behalf. Licences and permits for the possession and use of alcohol for industrial, medical and research purposes are also granted. The number of wholesale licences issued in 1966-67 in the district for commercial spirits was 4. The laws relating to prohibition in force at present in Gujarat State are : (1) The Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949, (2) The Bombay Opium Smoking Act, 1936, (3) The Bombay Drugs (Control) Act, 1959, (4) The Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930, (5) The Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955 and (6) The Spirituous Preparations (Inter-State Trade and Commerce) Control Act, 1955.

Objectives and Working of Prohibition Laws—The legislation in respect of prohibition has been brought into force primarily with a view to eliminate the drink and drug vice from the State. It aims at raising the standard of living of the people besides rehabilitating the home life of the addicts. The work of enforcement of prohibition is entrusted to the police in the district in addition to their other normal duties. After the introduction of Panchayats Act in 1963, the State Government has constituted a District Prohibition Committee to advise the district administration in the matter of grant of licences under the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949. The work relating to prohibition propaganda has also been transferred to the Panchayats. The social welfare committees of the District and Taluka Panchayats and the education committees of the Village Panchayats now look after prohibition propaganda within their respective jurisdiction.

Prohibition Offences—The number of offences detected in the district during the year 1966-67 was 347 of which 208 related to liquor, 14 to hemp-drugs and 6 to opium. The cases detected were mainly for the illicit distillation, possession, etc., of liquor. 95 cases of convicted drunkenness were recorded in the district during that year. Prohibition offences recorded in the district between 1962-63 and 1966-67 are given in the following statement.

Prohibition Offences

Liquor	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67
1	2	3	4	5	6
Illicit distillation and possession of implements	40	38	49	106	125
Illicit possession, importation, exportation and transporation	58	74	70	69	83
Unlicenced sale	1	..	..	..	..
Drunkenness	56	57	126	136	95
Others	4	5	7	13	24
Hemp Drugs	11	8	5	4	14
Opium	9	6	2	3	6
Total	**179**	**188**	**259**	**331**	**347**

Source :
Director of Prohibition and Excise, Ahmedabad

It will be seen that cases of drunkenness are on the decline. The increase in recorded offences of illicit distillation and possession of implements indicates the greater vigilance of the authorities.

Benefits of Prohibition—The beneficent effects of prohibition are now visible in the general welfare of the common man to whom it has proved a great boon. A large majority of Backward Classes who were addicted to drink have given up the habit and now lead a happier and healthier life. The efficiency and economic condition of industrial workers have improved appreciably. Prohibition has resulted in lesser family tension, better and more cordial relations at home and greater and proper care of the children. It has thus proved to be not only a social reform but an important achievement as well by bringing about social and economic betterment of the addicts who mostly belong to the backward strata of society.

Administrative Set-up—The administrative head of the Prohibition and Excise Department, Gujarat State, is designated as the Director of Prohibition and Excise, who has his office at Ahmedabad. The Inspector of Prohibition and Excise at Bhuj carries out the departmental work at the district level. His duties include administration of laws regarding prohibition and excise, issue of licences and permits and collection of excise on liquor and alcoholic medicines, besides carrying out prohibition propaganda in the municipal areas of the district.

BACKWARD CLASSES

There are certain sections of the population who for geographical, social or economic reasons have not been able to establish or maintain relations and contacts with other sections of society. In the result they could not get benefits of welfare measures. They lag in education and economic well-being. Some of the castes suffer from the bane of untouchability, some live in forest or desert areas and some lead a nomadic life, and are sometimes engaged in anti-social activities. They were thus deprived of the direct advantages of various welfare activities of the Government.

Advancement of Backward Classes—Prior to Independence, the Scheduled Classes suffered from many disabilities as in the rest of the country. The untouchability complex prevailed among caste Hindus to a large extent inspite of the efforts of social and political workers. When Mahatma Gandhi visited Kutch in 1925 and pleaded against untouchability, the orthodox element strongly protested. Some of the social workers were expelled from their castes—a punishment considered very severe during those days-for the sheer 'offence' of their accompanying Mahatma Gandhi in his tour. The social disabilities were accompanied by wide economic and cultural disabilities, each reinforcing the other. Opportunities for betterment were practically denied. Other Backward Classes, though economically and culturally backward, did not suffer from these disabilities to the same extent.

The following castes in the district are notified as Scheduled under the President's Order No. G. R. O. 2477-A, dated the 29th October, 1956 : (1) Bhangi (2) Chamar (3) Meghval (4) Garoda (5) Turi and (6) Turi Barot.

(Bk) H-49—71 (Lino)

Those classified as Scheduled Tribes are : (1) Koli (2) Vaghri (3) Paradhi and (4) Dhodia. Other Backward Classes besides Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes classified under Denotified Tribes (*Vimukta Jati*) include (1) Hingora (2) Bafan (3) Miyana (4) Theba (5) Me (Meta) and (6) Kukal.

Scheduled and Backward Classes as a rule share the benefits accruing from the general development programme of the State and the country. But in view of their backwardness and the various handicaps from which they have been suffering for long, it has been necessary to supplement the general programme by special measures for the welfare and uplift of these disadvantageous classes.

Concerted measures for ameliorating the condition of Backward Classes were taken after Independence by the Government of Kutch. It opened 6 hostels, 5 schools and 28 adult education centres for Backward Classes during the First Five Year Plan period and declared all schools run and aided by Government open for all students alike irrespective of caste or religion. It accorded priority to the Backward Classes in the allotment of waste lands for cultivation. Subsidies were granted for purchase of agricultural tools and implements and financial help was provided for the construction of their own houses.

The Government created, in 1951, a separate department for the Backward Classes. To advice this department a Backward Class Advisory Board was also constituted. It consisted of 13 members, 4 Government and 9 representatives of the public including two from Backward Classes. After the introduction of the Panchayati Raj, the Advisory Board was discontinued and a Social Welfare Committee came into existence.

Welfare Schemes—The schemes for the welfare of Backward Classes can broadly be classified into measures for (a) educational and cultural uplift, (b) economic uplift and (c) health, housing and others.

Education and Cultural Uplift—Out of a total expenditure of Rs. 2.36 lakhs incurred in the district for the welfare of Backward Classes during the Third Plan period, Rs. 94,000 were spent after educational and cultural uplift. Since education remains the sheet anchor of the progress of the people, Government has all along been giving due consideration to the need for promoting education amongst the Backward Classes. By and large, State assistance consists of payment of tuition fees, examination fees and lumpsum stipends for books and scholarships to primary, high school and post S. S. C. students. The State also gives grants for the construction of hostels for Backward Class students.[1]

1. Details of these schemes will be found in Chapter XIV—Education and Culture

Measures for Economic Uplift—Most of the Backward Class people are engaged in agriculture, animal husbandry or at household industry. The programme for the economic uplift of the Backward Classes covers the following schemes.

1 Agriculture

2 Financial assistance to cottage industries and professions

3 Financial assistance to co-operative societies

Under the schemes relating to agriculture, financial assistance consisting of 50 per cent interest free loan and 50 per cent subsidy are granted to the Backward Class people for the purchase of oil-engines and pumps, agricultural implements, bullocks, bullock carts, fertilisers, etc., and construction of wells for irrigation purposes. A grant up to Rs. 400 per acre for land reclamation and Rs. 40 per acre for contour-bunding is also offered. The Backward Class members are given high priority in the allotment of waste lands for cultivation. Between the period 1960-1965 more than 15,000 acres of land were alloted under this scheme. Under another scheme, loans and subsidies subject to a maximum limit of Rs. 500 per individual are granted for the purchase of improved implements required for their professions or for starting cottage industries like tailoring, carpentry, weaving, toy making, leather industry, etc. The amount spent for the economic uplift of Backward Classes in the district during the Third Plan period was Rs. 82,000

Health, Housing and others—Under this category there are five schemes meant for Scheduled Castes only, namely, construction of new wells and repairs of old ones, medical aid, eradication of the practive of carrying night-soil as headload, provision of house sites and subsidy for housing of sweepers and scavangers. Sweepers of Bhuj, Anjar, Mandvi and Mundra Municipalities are given interest-free loan of Rs. 900 each for the construction of their own houses. The special schemes for Scheduled Tribes include construction of roads, bridges and culverts in tribal areas and establishment of subsidiary health units. Tribal co-operatives are given financial assistance in the form of interest-free loans and subsidies for the purchase of land and construction of houses. Government land costing up to Rs. 5 per sq. yard is granted free of cost. Free legal assistance is given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in criminal and civil proceedings because of their poverty and ignorance. Total amount spent on this scheme amounted to Rs. 59,000 during the Third Plan period.

Social Equality—Before Independence, social welfare activities were restricted to some constructive workers, a few service-minded societies and missionaries, and no special efforts were made by the Government or the public at large for the amelioration of the Backward Classes. It was

Mahatma Gandhi who awakened the social conscience of this country by stressing the need and urgency of promoting the well-being of these disadvantageous classes, which had been hitherto neglected and subjected to social tyranny.

In the absence of any punitive law during the State regime before Independence, the position in general of the untouchables was far from satisfactory. Even the constitutional safeguards since Independence did not change their lot overnight. The condition of Harijans has, however, improved considerably both economically and socially in recent times as a result of various legislative measures taken by the Government to ameliorate their condition and intensive work done by social workers.

The Directive Principles of the State Policy lay down that the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in particular, and small protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. The Fundamental Rights embodied in the Constitution enjoin abolition of untouchability and forbid its practice in any form. The enforcement of any disability arising out of untouchability has been made penal. It is now amply recognised that nobody becomes an untouchable by birth or on account of his following a particular avocation. The general attitude towards Harijans has also changed for the better, more so in towns than in villages. They are treated on par with other members of society in public functions or places of entertainment. Their children are now admitted without discrimination in schools and colleges, and the highest position in the State and public bodies are open to them. They are being gradually accepted in society on the basis of equality and the former handicaps from which they suffered are slowly but surely disappearing. Whereas much progress has been made in the matter of temple entry, in the public they move about and mix freely with other members of society.

Reservation of seats for Backward Classes in Government Services—During the period 1948 and 1956 when Kutch was Part 'C' State, the Government of Kutch had reserved in all Government departments 12½ per cent and 5 per cent jobs for Harijans and tribals respectively. After the integration of Kutch into the Bombay State in 1956, the Government of Bombay fixed in 1959, the following minimum percentage for the reservation of seats for Backward Classes in all Government services in Kutch.

1	Scheduled Castes	.. 12½ per cent for each category of services for vacancies filled in by open competition. Where vacancies are filled in otherwise than by open competition, the reservation will be 16⅔ per cent.
2	Scheduled Tribes	.. 5 per cent for each category of services irrespective of the method of recruitment.

These concessions have been continued by the Government of Gujarat since its formation in 1960.

Administrative Set-up—Before the introduction of the Panchayat Raj in 1963, activities for the welfare of Backward Classes were conducted by the Social Welfare Department which had under it a special Backward Classes welfare wing. The departmental head was designated as the Director of Social Welfare who had under him in his office a Deputy Director, a Personal Assistant, one Officer-in-charge of Backward Classes and Tribal Welfare and two Social Welfare Officers in addition to District Social Welfare Officers at the district headquarters. This position was radically changed on account of the introduction of the Panchayat Raj with effect from 1st April, 1963, when almost all the welfare schemes of non-technical nature were transferred to District Panchayats with necessary staff. Thus every District Panchayat in the State (except Dangs district) was allotted the post of Social Welfare Officer to implement various welfare schemes in the Panchayat areas. As the work of implementation of welfare schemes for Backward Classes in municipal areas was not transferred to the District Panchayats, a separate machinery was created for the purpose and six offices of Welfare Officers (State) as distinguished from those under the Panchayats were opened in municipal areas of the State with headquarters at Ahmedabad, Mehsana, Surat, Baroda, Amreli and Rajkot. The Social Welfare Officer (State) at Rajkot is in charge of Rajkot, Jamnagar, Surendranagar and Kutch districts.

In January, 1965, the Backward Classes welfare wing was separated from the Directorate of Social Welfare and became an independent Directorate of Backward Classes Welfare. With effect from 1st September, 1968, the Directorates of Backward Classes Welfare and Social Welfare were again amalgamated into one and the new Directorate was named the Directorate of Social Welfare. Consequent upon these changes, the post of the Director of Backward Classes Welfare was abolished with effect from that date. The new Directorate consisted of two wings, viz., (i) the Correctional Administration Wing and (ii) the Backward Classes Wing.

In May, 1969 the Directorate of Social Welfare was again bifurcated and a new Directorate for Backward Classes was formed under the designation of Directorate of Harijan and Adivasi Welfare. From March 1970, this Directorate is re-designated as Directorate of Social Welfare. It looks after the welfare activities of Backward Classes, including the Nomadic Tribes and the Denotified Tribes in the entire State.

Public Trusts and Charitable Endowments

Prior to Independence, no legislation regarding Public Trusts was in existence in Kutch. On 15th January, 1955, the Wakf Act, 1954 was introduced

which covered Muslim public, religious and charitable trusts. On 15th November, 1963, the Kutch Wakf Board was created under the Act to look after the administration of Wakfs in Kutch. The Board consists of 11 members appointed by the Government of Gujarat for a term of five years after which fresh appointments are made. One of the members works as the Honorary Chairman of the Board. The Secretary of the Board appointed by the Government works under the instructions of the Chairman. The Charity Commissioner, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad, functions as the Commissioner of Wakfs under the Act. The Collector of Kutch works as the Additional Commissioner of Wakfs.

The Wakf Act covered Muslim trusts only. In respect of other public trusts, there was no legislation in force in Kutch till the formation of the State of Gujarat. The Government of Gujarat applied the provisions of the Bombay Public Trusts Act of 1950 to Kutch areas with effect from 1st August, 1961. Under the Act, a Public Trust has been defined as, "express or constructive trust for either a public religious or charitable purpose or both, and includes a temple, a *math*, a Wakf, a *dharmada* or any religious or charitable endowment and a society formed either for religious or charitable purpose or for both and registered under the Society's Registration Act, 1860." For the administration and management of public trusts, a special machinery has been created, headed by the Charity Commissioner at State level. The State is divided for administrative convenience into regions and sub-regions each of which is looked after by a Deputy/Assistant Charity Commissioner. Kutch district is under the administrative control of the Deputy Charity Commissioner, Rajkot region, Rajkot.

The total number of trusts registered in the district was 2,781 till 1966-67 of which 1,111 were Hindu trusts, 1,311 Muslim trusts or Wakfs and 359 other trusts. The important among them are described below.

Hindu Trusts

(1) *Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Trust, Bhuj*—This trust was created in 1961. The objects of the trust are to celebrate festivals and perform *puja* ceremonies at the temples of Bhuj and Anjar according to the tenets of the Swaminarayan sect and to provide for boarding, lodging, etc., to the *tyagis* living in the temple premises. The trust runs a hospital, boarding house, *pathshala*, etc., for the followers of the sect and provides financial assistance to needy persons and students. It has a reserve fund of Rs. 27·80 lakhs.

(2) *Shri Jain Ashram Trust, Mandvi*—The trust was established with a view to providing shelter to the physically handicapped and poor among Kutchi Jains. Training in various handicrafts is given to them and steps are also taken to make them self-dependent. It was registered as a public trust in 1966. The trust has its own land and a building valued at Rs. 1.60 lakhs.

(3) *Shri Jakhau Ratna Tunk Jain Temple and Sadharan Fund Trust, Jakhau*—This trust was registered in 1961. It looks after the management of the Jain temple at Jakhau and provides financial assistance to needy and poor Jains. It has a total reserve fund of Rs. 2.30 lakhs.

(4) *Narayan Sarovar Dharmada Jagir, Narayansar*—The temples on Narayan Sarovar were constructed in A. D. 1735 by the then ruler of Kutch and a trust was created for the purpose. The management of the trust remained till 1942 with the *Brahmacharis* appointed by the State. However, as the ruling *Brahmachari* in 1942 was found to have mismanaged the affairs of the trust he was dismissed and since then the trust is being directly managed by the State Government. The Collector of Kutch is the head of the trust and the *Brahmachari* looks after the internal management of the temples. The Jagir was registered as a public trust in 1964, and has a reserve fund of Rs. 22,500 in cash in addition to 13,255 grams of gold invested in Government Gold Bonds.

(5) *Shri Kutch Lohana Kelvani General Fund, Vanku*—Shri Kutch Lohana Kelvani General Fund was registered as a public trust in 1962. It runs schools at Vanku, Dhori and Akari. It has a reserve fund of Rs. 4.50 lakhs.

(6) *Sheth Vardhaman Kalyanji Trust, Bhadresar*—Sheth Vardhaman Kalyanji Trust is a Jain trust which works for the benefit of the followers of Jainism and manages the Jain temples at Bhadresar. It was registered as a trust in 1953. It has total assets worth Rs. 5·55 lakhs.

(7) *Shri Mata-no-Madh Jagir (Mata Rorashi Jagir), Mata-no-Madh*—The trust was registered as a Hindu trust in 1963. Its main objects are (1) to maintain the Ashapura temple and arrange for various religious celebrations in the temple, (2) to run a *sadavrat* and also to provide facilities to visitors and pilgrims, (3) to feed birds and animals and manage *gaushalas*, and (4) to help the needy at the time of famine and other calamities. It has total assets worth Rs. 1.38 lakhs.

Wakfs

(1) *The Muslim Education and Welfare Society, Bhuj*—This society was started in the year 1964 for spread of education amongst the Muslims of Kutch. It runs a hostel for Muslim students at Bhuj. The society has a total fund amounting to Rs. 37,000.

(2) *Memon Sheth Haji Abubkar Usman Musafirkhana, Bhuj*—It runs a *musafirkhana* at Bhuj since 1964 and provides boarding facilities to Muslim travellers. Its funds amount to about Rs. 71,000.

(3) *Anjuman-e-Islam, Mandvi*—It is one of the oldest institutions in Mandvi. It was established as early as 1909 with the main purpose of spreading education amongst the Muslims of Kutch. It runs several schools at Mandvi and has a total fund amounting to Rs. 29,000.

(4) *Pir Shri Gulamalishah Dharmada Trust, Kera*—Pir Shri Gulamalishah Dharmada Trust was registered as a Muslim charitable trust in 1966. It runs a *dargah* of Pir Gulamalishah at Kera. Lodging and boarding facilities are provided at the *dargah* to all travellers without distinction. The annual fair (Urs) held here is attended by a large number of persons from different parts of Kutch. The total value of its funds amounts to Rs. 1.15 lakhs.

CHAPTER XVII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Public life in this part of the country was not as organised as it is to day; nor was there any noteworthy effort on the part of the rulers to encourage public participation in the affairs of the State. The rulers were firm believers of hereditory kingship. Agencies and institutions through which the public could express their opinion and discuss their problems were, therefore, few and far between.

In the year 1786 a historical event occured in the political life of Kutch. The ruler Rao Raydhan II had begun to terrorise and oppress the citizens of Kutch by forcing them to adopt his own whims and notions on many matters including religion. But the people had courage to fight against injustice which led to an event unprecedented in those days and perhaps unparalleled in India. Leaders of people organised a united revolt against the ruler, seized the person of Rao, imprisoned him and carried on the affairs of the State by a council of 12 men. In the history of Kutch, this council rule has become well-known as '*Bar Bhai Rajya*'[1]. This event clearly shows the nature and degree of political awareness on the part of people of Kutch in times of crisis.

In 1905, a citizen of Kutch Shri Khimji Hirji Kayani drew attention of the ruler to the discontent prevailing among the people due to the inefficiency and malpractices prevailing in the state administration. He published a book entitled *Kutch Maharaone Vignapti* wherein he described the unhappy state of affairs in Kutch. The State infuriated at this attempt banned the circulation of this book and harassed the publisher who could not enter Kutch thereafter. But the public opinion began to organise itself and led to the establishment of 'Kutch Praja Sangh' and 'Kutch Prajakiya Parishad'. These organisations aimed at creating political awareness among the people and organising public opinion in Kutch. Both these organisations were established in the third decade of the present century. The Parishad in 1939 passed a resolution asking for the grant of responsible government for the people of Kutch who should resort to direct action, in case their demand was not acceded to by the Maharao.

Public opinion became better organised after Independence. The fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitution encouraged people to express their views freely on matters political and others. People began to realise

1. Premjibhai Thacker, *Kutch and its Economy*, 1960, pp. 11-12

(Bk) H-49—72 (Lino)

gradually the importance of their opinions in the democratic set-up of the State. The right to vote and appoint their own representatives in the State and the Union Legislature induced even the common men to take greater interest in the affairs and working of the government. The introduction of the Panchayat Raj in 1963 went a step further as it enabled the village people to manage their own affairs and actively participate in the implementation of various development schemes.

Representation of the District in the State and the Union Legislature—The district had two parliamentary single member constituencies named as Kutch-East and Kutch-West in the General Elections of 1952 and one parliamentary constituency in the General Elections of 1957, 1962 and 1967. As regards the State legislature the district had thirty single member constituencies in the electoral college in 1952 when Kutch was a Part C State. After its merger with Bombay, at the time of the General Elections of 1957, the district had five single member constituencies in the Bombay State Legislative Assembly. In the Bombay State Legislative Council, Kutch district had one seat filled in by a representative elected by the Kutch Electoral College. After the bifurcation of the Bombay State, at the time of the General Elections of 1962, the district was divided into five single member constituencies in the Gujarat Vidhan Sabha or the State Legislative Assembly. An additional constituency at Mundra reserved for Scheduled Castes candidates was created at the time of the General Elections of 1967. Thus at present the district has six representatives in the State Legislature and one in the Union Parliament (Lok Sabha). The details of the territorial extent of the parliamentary and assembly constituences are given below.

Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies

Sl. No.	Name of Constituency	Extent in terms of Parliamentary/Assembly Constituencies
1	2	3
	A—Parliamentary Constituency	
1	Kutch ..	.. Abdasa, Bhuj, Mandvi, Mundra, Anjar and Rapar.
	B—Assembly Constituencies : Territorial extent	
1	Abdasa ..	.. Lakhpat taluka; Nalia, Jakhau and Bitta circles in Abdasa taluka; and Todiya and Nakhtrana circles in Nakhatrana taluka.
2	Bhuj ..	.. Vithon circle in Nakhatrana taluka; and Bhuj taluka (excluding Kera and Mankuva circles).
3	Mandvi ..	.. Mandvi taluka; and Vinzan circle in Abdasa taluka.
4	Mundra (Scheduled Castes)	Mundra taluka; and Kera and Mankuva circles in Bhuj taluka; and Khedoi circle in Anjar taluka.

Sl. No.	Name of Constituency	Extent in terms of Parliamentary/Assembly Constituencies
1	2	3
5	Anjar ..	.. Anjar and Dudhai circles in Anjar taluka; and Bhachau circle and the villages in Jangi circle specified in item (i) of the Appendix in Bhachau taluka, i. e., Samkhiyari, Amliara, Laliyana, Jangi, Vandhiya, Lakhdirgadh, Amrutsar and Shikarpur.
6	Rapar ..	.. Rapar taluka; Bhachau taluka (excluding Bhachau circle and the villages in Jangi circle specified in item (I) of the Appendix, i. e., villages stated in (5) Anjar.

Source :
The Gujarat Government Gazette, Vol. VII, No. 13, Part IV-C, dated 31st March, 1966, pp. 558-561

Political Parties and Organisations—The Indian National Congress, Swatantra, and Maha Gujarat Janata Parishad are the main political parties in the district. A study of the election results of 1952, 1957, 1962 and 1967 show the relative hold of the political parties in the district. At the time of the first General Elections of 1952, Kutch being a Part C State did not have its own legislative assembly but had an electoral college instead to elect representatives to the State Advisory Council. Two organised political parties, viz., Congress and Socialist and non-party or independent candidates contested the elections. The total number of electors was 269,841 of whom 115,404 or 42·77 per cent of the voters went to the polls. The electoral college had 30 seats of which 28 were won by the Congress, and two by independent candidates. In the Union Legislature (Lok Sabha), both the seats alloted to Kutch were captured by the Congress party.

In 1957 General Elections, three political parties, viz., Congress, Maha Gujarat Janata Parishad and Hindu Maha Sabha besides independent candidates contested the elections. The aim of the newly formed Maha Gujarat Janata Parishad was to fight for formation of a separate State of Gujarat. Its area of influence was less in Kutch than in other parts of Gujarat. All the five seats in the Bombay Legislative Assembly were secured by the Congress. In the upper house called the Bombay Legislative Council, Kutch district had one seat filled in by a representative of the Congress party elected by members of the Kutch Electoral College. The parliamentary seat was retained by the Congress. The percentage of voting was 42·66 for the parliamentary seat and 37·05 for the assembly seats.

In the General Elections of 1962, four political parties, viz., Congress, Swatantra, Jan Sangh and Maha Gujarat Janata Parishad entered the field and contested the elections. The Swatantra party captured all the five seats in the Legislative Assembly as also the parliamentary seat in the Union Legislature. The percentage of voting was 59·46 for the parliamentary seat

and 57·15 for the assembly seats-much higher than in any of the preceding elections.

In the last General Elections of 1967, the contesting parties included Congress, Swatantra and Maha Gujarat Janata Parishad, besides non-party independent candidates. The main contestants, however, belonged to the Congress and Swatantra parties. The parliamentary seat went to the Congress party, but of the six assembly seats, Congress captured four and Swatantra two. Out of the total of 370,407 electors more than 59 per cent exercised their franchise.

The following statement gives the total number of votes polled during each of the four General Elections in the Central and State legislatures.

Votes Polled in the General Elections

Election year	Total number of electors	Total votes polled	Percentage of column 3 to column 2	Total valid votes polled	Percentage of column 5 to column 2	Congress		Other parties	
						Votes polled	Percentage to total valid votes	Votes polled	Percentage to total valid votes
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
House of the People (Lok Sabha)									
1952 ..	288,400	N. A.	N. A.	119,580	41.46	78,771	65.87	40,809	34.13
1957 ..	352,326	N. A.	N. A.	150,285	42.66	83,688	55.69	66,597	44.31
1962 ..	408,740	246,520	60.31	243,047	59.46	84,189	34.64	158,858	65.36
1967 ..	370,407	219,384	59.23	207,031	55.89	106,853	51.61	100,178	48.39
State Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha)									
1952*	269,841†	N. A.	N. A.	115,404	42.77	73,213	63.44	42,191	36.56
1957 ..	292,988	N. A.	N. A.	108,550	37.05	70,276	64.74	38,274	35.26
1962 ..	340,317	196,476	57.73	194,502	57.15	65,681	33.77	128,821	66.23
1967 ..	370,407	219,454	59.25	202,813	54.75	100,103	49,36	102,710	50.64

N. A.— Not available

Source :

Based on *Reports on the General Elections in India*, Vol. II, (Statistical), 1951-52, 1957, 1962, 1967 Election Commission, India.

1952 House of People, p. 151 — State Legislative Assembly, pp. 744-45
1957 House of People, pp. 128-29 — State Legislative Assembly, p. 686
1962 House of People, p. 27 — State Legislative Assembly, p. 180
1967 House of People, p. 40 — State Legislative Assembly, p. 232

* Figures for 1952 appertain to elections to the Kutch Electoral College which was constituted when Kutch was centrally administered.

† Exclusive of electors of two constituencies-Adhoi and Bhachau-which were uncontested.

Panchayat Elections—The first election for the Kutch District Panchayat was held in February, 1964. Of the 18 seats in the District Panchayat, 7 were uncontested. In the 11 constituencies for which elections were held, the total number of voters was 172,380 of whom 55,928 or 32·44 per cent cast their votes. In the second election for the District Panchayat held in March 1968, 12 were uncontested. In the 6 constituencies for which elections were held the total number of voters was 102,000 of whom only 25,134 or 24·64 per cent exercised their franchise.

Newspapers—Of the two Gujarati daily newspapers published in the district, *Jay-Kutch*, the older of the two, was started in 1934. It has a circulation of 1700 copies. The other, *Kutch-Mitra*, started in 1952, claims to have a circulation of 3200 copies in the district. Of the three news weeklies published in the district, *Kutch Kranti* from Bhuj is published in Gujarati and *Gandhidham Samachar* and *Kandla Commercial* both from Adipur are published in Hindi and English respectively. The latter is issued in Gujarati also. While *Kutch Kranti* has a circulation of 500 copies, the other two claim to have a circulation of 1000 copies each.

Among the newspapers published outside the district, *Phoolchhab*, *Nutan Saurashtra* and *Jai Hind* of Rajkot, *Mumbai Samachar*, *Janmabhumi* and *Janshakti* of Bombay and *Sandesh*, *Gujarat Samachar* and *Jansatta* of Ahmedabad have a fairly wide circulation in the district. Among the English dailies *The Times of India* and *The Indian Express* published from Ahmedabad and *The Free Press Journal* published from Bombay are popular among the English knowing readers. The Hindi daily *Nav-Bharat Times* of Bombay is also widely read by the Hindi knowing population.

Cultural, literary and other periodicals published in the district are dealt with in Chapter XIV—Education and Culture.

Voluntary Social Service Organisations—The humanitarian urge to organise voluntary associations to meet the needs of social and cultural upliftment of the people is innate. This urge has found greater scope of expression after Independence as a result of popular awakening and State encouragement in various fields of public activity. Kutch district has a number of voluntary institutions which are serving the people in a variety of ways. They not only complement and supplement governmental efforts in many a field but also cover fields of ameliorative service which government cannot render as it is the legitimate sphere of work of social organisations and public workers. These institutions have played an important part in promoting educational, social and cultural development in the district.

Though social service institutions were not organised on any appreciable scale prior to Independence, some of them were rendering useful service to

the society. Among them may be mentioned Harijan Sevak Sangh, Gandhi Balashram, Chakar Ashram and the Sarvoday Ashram. After Independence, when the Government began to take active interest in the welfare of the people such institutions began to grow in number. As a result, the welfare of the handicapped and disadvantageous sections of society like women, children, the illiterate, the diseased, the disabled and the backward strata of society has been engaging increasing attention of the State and the people.

Some of the important institutions working in the various fields of social service are described in the paragraphs that follow.

INSTITUTIONS OF GENERAL WELFARE

Bharatiya Seva Mandal, Bhuj—The institution was established in 1946 to serve the citizens of Bhuj for rendering such services as supply of medicine, first-aid appliances, financial assistance, etc., at their doors in times of need. To those who are poor, medicine and first aid appliances are provided free of charge at 11 centres established at various places in the town of Bhuj. It also runs a public library.

Bhuj Dharmarth Ayurvedic Sahaya Fund and Hiralal Lok-hitarth Deshi Aushadhalaya, Bhuj—This institution was established in 1931 with a view to providing Ayurvedic medicine to the people free of charge. The centre was started out of a donation of Rs. 10,000 given by the widow of late Shri Hiralal Karsanji Doshi of Bhuj. On an average, the Aushadhalaya supplies free medicine to about 125 patients every day.

Gandhidham Maitri Mandal, Gandhidham—With a view to mitigate the hardships caused to the displaced persons by the partition of the country in 1947, an institution known as the Education Society of Gandhidham was founded in 1955 mainly by the efforts of a leading businessman of Sindh. Later, the name of the society was changed to Gandhidham Maitri Mandal. The aims and objects of the Mandal are to promote educational, social, cultural and physical activities in Gandhidham. The Mandal has started educational and religious institutions and looks after the cultural and educational needs of persons displaced from Pakistan resident in Gandhidham area. It runs two high schools one of which is for girls, a Balmandir, a polytechnic and an arts college, besides looking after the management of four Hindu temples in Adipur. In Sardarganj, the Mandal runs two high schools including a girls' high school, a Balmandir and a commercial school. The number of students studying in these institutions was over 3000 in 1966-67. The medium of teaching in high schools and the college is Hindi. The Mandal also provides financial help to three institutions, viz., Rashtrabhasha Kendra, Nav Yuvak Group and Mahavir Vyayam Shala.

Kundordi Gramya Seva Sangh, Kundordi—The institution was established in 1943 by the leading inhabitants of village Kundordi. It conducts a Balmandir, a library and a sewing class for women, besides helping the village panchayat in implementing various schemes for the benefit of villagers.

Kutch Andh Kalyan Samiti, Bhuj—Established in 1963, the institution works for the welfare of the blind. It has conducted a survey of blind persons in Kutch and runs a school for blind girls at Bhuj.

The Kutch Tuberculosis Association, Bhuj—The Kutch Tuberculosis Association was formally inaugurated in 1945. Since then it functions for the prevention, control, treatment and relief of tuberculosis. As the district had no regular well-equipped T. B. clinics at that time, it decided to open such clinics at different centres in Kutch. Soon after it started two clinics, one each at Bhuj and Mandvi. Both these clinics possess up-to-date equipment for the treatment of T. B. patients. The association found that it was not always necessary for all such patients to take treatment at a T. B. clinic or sanatorium as proper treatment at home was sometimes equally helpful. To encourage this trend, the association has started extending medical facilities to patients at home. Such a help is given to about 1,000 patients every year. Medical help is also afforded to those patients who after receiving treatment at hospitals are convalescing at home. The association is managed by an executive committee consisting of medical practitioners and social workers. It receives grant-in-aid from the Government of Gujarat and donations from the public.

Mandvi Taluka Tuberculosis Association, Mandvi—The Mandvi Taluka Tuberculosis Association was established in 1949 on the recommendation of the Kutch Medical Union to start taluka-wise associations to combat the heavy incidence of tuberculosis in Kutch. As a first step in this direction a meeting of social workers of Mandvi was held at Mandvi on 26th June, 1949, which resolved to establish "Mandvi Taluka Tuberculosis Association" for the eradication of tuberculosis in the area. An *ad-hoc* committee was formed in the first instance. The work of enrolling members, patrons and life members for the association was soon taken up and an amount of Rs. 14,000 was collected from the public. In July, 1950 one anti-tuberculosis clinic was opened in rented premises at Mandvi. The clinic was subsequently shifted to village Maska about 2 km. from Mandvi. The clinic which was started initially with 4 wards has now been expanded into 47 wards, 17 of which are free wards reserved for poor patients. The indoor patients are provided with free medicine, milk, fruits, etc. In the general wards meals are free. The Association also provides medical facilities to those patients who receive treament at home. On an average about 200 patients are thus treated every year. The association has played a vital role as a voluntary organisation, working for the control and eradication of tuberculosis and has rendered valuable service to the citizens of Mandvi and neighbouring

areas. It has established reputation as one of the leading institutions in Kutch which is mainly run on donations from the public, grants from Government and membership fees. It is registered under the Society Registration Act and the Public Trusts Act.

Nana Bhadia Homeopathic Sahayak Dispensary, Nana Bhadia—The dispensary was established in 1959. It provides free medical aid to poor patients and treats on an average 50 to 60 patients every day.

Kutch Jilla Samaj Kalyan Mandal, Bhuj—The Kutch Jilla Samaj Kalyan Mandal was established at Bhuj in 1963 with the main object of extending social services to the people at large. It runs Balmandirs, sewing classes, adult education centres, etc., at various places in the district. The institution has, through its Balmandirs, imparted pre-primary education to nearly 1,000 children and has provided training to over 300 women in sewing. About 250 women have benefited by the adult education classes run by it.

School for Blind, Deaf, Dumb and Crippled Children, Mandvi—The School for the Blind, Deaf, Dumb and Crippled Children established at Mandvi in 1959 owes its existence to the members of the Mandvi Rotary Club and some of the social workers of Kutch. The institution imparts education to the deaf, dumb and blind as per curriculum prescribed by Government. Training through simple and vibratory touch, through vision and sound, lip-reading, and training to differentiate vowel and babling through hearing aid equipment are some of the chief features of the education imparted in the institution, besides teaching such academic subjects as history, geography, arithmetic, languages, etc. The school possesses the latest equipment such as audiometer, groups hearing aid, tuning fork, tape recorder, etc., by the help of which loss of hearing is tested, training of sound and vibration is given and speech tests are undertaken. The school was initially started with 5 deaf-dumb students, who have risen to 27 in 1966. The students are provided hostel facilities for which a separate building has been constructed. No fees are charged from any student for education or hostel accommodation. Boys and girls aged 5 to 20 are admitted without any distinction of caste, creed or religion. With a view to make the students self-supporting the institution provides them training in tailoring, embroidery, drawing, painting, photography, box-making, frame-work, toy making, etc. Some of the craft materials and photographic work done by these students were sent outside Kutch and were highly appreciated. The institution receives grants from Government and donations from the public. The public donations received till 1966 amounted to nearly Rs. 85,000. One large hearted Rotarian has donated a building worth nearly Rs. 25,000 to the school.

Sarvodaya Ashram, Lilpar—The Ashram at Lilpar was established in 1948 to spread education and culture among the Backward Classes of

nearby villages. It started in 1963 one Ashram Shala which conducts primary classes in Gujarati and provides training in agricultural operations, spinning, weaving, etc. In the beginning the number of students was 30 which rose to 70 in 1965.

Sardar Chhatralaya, Vallabhpur—Sardar Chhatralaya was started at Vallabhpur in the backward areas of Vagad in 1952. It is run mainly on Gandhian principles of Sarvodaya and self-help by the Kutch Rachnatmak Mandal. The inmates of the Chhatralaya who are mainly adult illiterates of the Koli caste are taught self-reliance, group living, social services, etc. The institution is not merely a Chhatralaya as its name indicates. It also makes the inmates literate, conducts classes in spinning and weaving, and runs a dispensary, a *gaushala*, and a training class for agriculturists. To propagate Gandhiji's ideals regarding untouchability the institution arranges group meetings and discussions in which the Harijans and non-Harijans take part with equal interest. The inmates of the Chhatralaya are taught to spin and weave their own clothes, prepare their own food, and build their own houses. The number of inmates in the Chhatralaya in the year 1968 was 68, of whom 18 were women, all belonging to Backward Classes.

WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS

Women's organisations in the past were few and not well established. These institutions mainly confined their activities to providiing opportunities to women to learn reading and writing. Organisations offering help and shelter to destitute women did not then exist. The credit for starting such welfare activities goes to a school teacher, who during the early forties did pioneer work in this field.

Anjar Mahila Mandal, Anjar—The Mandal was established in 1960 for the educational and social upliftment of women. It runs a Balmandir and a sewing centre besides one adult education class for the women of Backward Classes.

Kutch Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Bhuj—This institution was founded in 1954 at Mundra by Badrinath Shukla better known in Kutch as "Lathi Master". It was transferred to Bhuj the next year. The institution is open to all the destitute women who have no place in society. It conducts various activities such as a primary school, a Balwadi and a sewing and embroidery class. More than 500 women and 250 children had taken benefit of this institution till 1967-68.

Mandvi Bhagini Mandal, Mandvi—The Mandal, established in 1946, runs a Balmandir which was the first of its kind in Mandvi. It also conducts one sewing class and one embroidery class for women.

(Bk) H-49—73 (Lino)

Mahila Grih Udyog Sahakari Mandali, Bhuj—The institution was started in 1959 with a view to providing spare time work to women in such crafts as preparation of spices, *papad*, wafer, etc. It conducts sewing and embroidery classes in which about 700 women were trained till 1966-67.

Mahila Mandal, Bhuj—Established in 1936, the object of the Mandal is to educate the women folk and provide them training in music, sewing, embroidery, etc. It runs a sewing and embroidery class in which 55 women were trained in 1967-68. It also conducts a *shalant* class, a Balmadir, a music class and a library. During the period of national emergency caused by Pakistani aggression on the Kutch border in 1965, the Mandal provided training in nursing and first aid to 70 women trainees.

Saraswati Shivan Grih, Bhuj—The Saraswati Shivan Grih was established in Bhuj in 1955. It conducts sewing and embroidery classes besides providing training in wool work, toy making, etc. Since its establishment it has provided training to about 1,200 women.

Vikas Grih, Bhuj—Established in 1957 with the main purpose of rehabilitating the destitute women, it provides them with food and shelter. It runs classes in sewing, Hindi, S. S. C. and vernacular final. It also conducts a Balmandir, an adult education class for women and a girls' hostel.

Youths' Organisations

Nav Yuvak Group, Gandhidham—The Nav Yuvak Group was started in 1950 with the object of promoting activities conducive to the social upliftment of the younger generation. It started in 1950 the Mahavir Vyayam Shala to provide physical training to youths, and a Yuvak Dal for organising sports competitions and tournaments. It runs a Balmandir, a Hindi class, a general education class, a public library and reading room and a sewing and embroidery class for women, besides conducting night classes for coaching college students.

Mandvi Rifle Club, Mandvi—The Club was established to give rifle training to the citizens of Mandvi during the national emergency of 1965, when a separate centre for women was also functioning.

Sarvodaya Mitra Mandal, Madhapar—Madhapar Sarvodaya Mitra Mandal was established in 1957. It conducts a sewing class for women, an adult education class and a library. The institution is mainly run on pubic donations.

Other Organisations

Gujarati Seva Samaj, Adipur—The samaj was established at Adipur in 1956 with a view to promoting educational, social and cultural activities among the people. It runs a sewing and embroidery class for women and a public library, besides conducting cultural programmes, study tours, games competitions, etc., for its members.

Harijan Sevak Sangh, Bhuj—The institution was established by the late Parikshitlal Majmudar in 1932 for an overall upliftment of Harijans. The main activity of the Sangh is to help the Harijans in various ways and put them on equal status with others. It provides educational facilities to Backward Class people and extends economic help for higher studies. It runs Balmandirs at Bhuj, Kotada and Patri. For women belonging to Backward Classes, the Sangh conducts a class where about 10 women are trained every year under an intensive training programme. The Sangh runs Thakkar Bapa Vidyarthi Ashram at Anjar since 1949 and provides boarding and lodging facilities to the Backward Class students. About 300 students have received the benefit of this Ashram since its establishment. The Sangh also runs a Sarvajanik Kumar Chhatralaya at Bhuj which provides lodging and boarding facilities to students of Scheduled Castes and imparts training in spinning, weaving, etc.

In addition to the voluntary social service organisations described above, there is a number of other organisations of national or international repute which are established elsewhere but have their branches here. These include (1) Rotary Club, (2) Theosophical Society, (3) Bharat Sevak Samaj, (4) Indian Red Cross Society and (5) Rashtrabhasha Prachar Samiti, the aims and objectives of which are too well-known to need any mention here. Kutch also has a large number of smaller organisations working in limited spheres of activities. These organisations numbering over 150 in the district, mainly comprise Youth Clubs and Mahila Mandals which conducts sewing classes for women, and run libraries, reading rooms, etc.

CHAPTER XVIII
PLACES OF INTEREST

ABBREVIATIONS

P = Persons	M = Males F = Females
G. P. = Group Panchayat	V. P. = Village Panchayat
N. P. = Nagar Panchayat	Mu. = Municipality

Adesar—Rapar Taluka (P. 2,234—M. 1,182 ; F. 1,052) ; V. P.

Adesar is a railway station on the Ahmedabad-Palanpur-Bhuj metre gauge section of the Western Railway. About 56 km. from Rapar, the taluka headquarters, Adesar has been so named after the Adishvar Mahadev. Gypsum and agate stones are found here. Salt is manufactured from the wells near the border of the Rann on the eastern boundary of the district.

Adhoi—Bhachau Taluka (P. 4,984—M. 2,398 ; F. 2,586) ; G. P.

Adhoi, which once belonged to the Morvi State, was merged in Kutch after integration in 1948. It is a walled town about 32 km. from Bhachau. About 3 km. to the north, are small hewn caves said to have once been used as a hiding place by the Kathis. The nearest railway station is Samkhiali about 13 km. away. A high school has been started in 1970.

Amara—Nakhatrana Taluka (P. 719—M. 336 ; F. 383) ; V. P.

Situated at a distance of about 88 km. west of Bhuj, Amara is known for the *dargah* of Kara Kasim, an Amir of Gazni and a Shiv temple situated nearby and worshipped both by the Hindus and the Muslims as Kasameshvar Mahadev. The Muslim *mujavar* of the *dargah* also looks after the Hindu temple and performs the *puja* ceremonies. Near the temple, there was a pool, *kund*, which the Muslims called *Kara* from which the *dargah* began to be known as Kara Kasim *dargah*. Kara Kasim, travelling in western India early in the fourteenth century was killed by the Samma Rajputs, then reigning in Kutch. A fair is held here every year for three days beginning on the first Monday of Chaitra (April-May).

Andhau—Bhuj Taluka (P. 301—M. 159 ; F. 142) ; V. P.

Andhau is situated at a distance of about 88 km. north-east of Bhuj. It is famous for the Kshatrap inscriptions which were found from the area.

So far, 9 such inscriptions have been found including the oldest inscription of Saka year 11 corresponding to 89 A. D. These inscriptions have been deposited in the Government Museum at Bhuj. Besides, the ruins of the old Andhu are found scattered all over the area. If excavations are made, the finds may throw much light on the past history of this village and the surrounding areas.

Anjar—Anjar Taluka (P. 23,301—M. 11,408 ; F. 11,893) ; Mu.

Anjar about 40 km. south-east of Bhuj and about 10 km. from the north-east shore of the Gulf of Kutch, is in point of population, the fourth in the district. Standing near a large lake called Desalsar without embankments except to the west where it is well wooded and highly tilled, the town was formerly surrounded by a wall sixteen feet high demolished later for the purpose of expanding the town. Anjar was a trading place, and Tuna, Rohar and Vavanya were important feeding trading centres. Of these, the chief was Tuna near the mouth of the Nakti creek, and Rohar was on the same creek a few kilometres further up. From Tuna, vessels of 17 to 34 tons traded not only on the Gulf, but with Bombay and other ports of the Western India.

According to local history, Anjar was in 805 (V. S. 862) founded by Ajepal, brother of the king of Ajmer, who defeated by some Musalman invaders, became an ascetic. By the middle of the twelfth century it was the centre of a group of twelve villages. It rose to importance under Khengarji (1548-1585), and was fortified by Desalji (1718-1741) early in the eighteenth century. In 1800 the town, port and dependencies of Anjar were granted to Fateh Muhammad Jamadar who busied himself in extending its trade and establishing the harbour of Tuna. On the 25th December, 1815, Anjar was invested by a force under Colonel East, and Tuna was occupied on the next day. In the years following, the fort and dependent villages were made over to the British and held by them till 1822. In 1819, the towers of the fort-wall were destroyed by the earthquake ; more than 1,500 houses were razed to the ground and many houses were damaged. Over 160 people lost their lives and many were fatally injured. Thereafter, Anjar experienced earthquakes in 1844, 1845, 1874, 1941 and lastly in 1956 when the loss of life and property was colossal. In the earthquake of 1956, 107 persons died and over 3,257 houses in Anjar were either destroyed or damaged. The damaged portion of Anjar was rebuilt. A new township popularly known as Naya Anjar was established by the joint efforts of Government and the people.

Important fairs are held at Anjar. A fair commemorating Menkan Dada, a local saint who dedicated his life in the service of the people of Kutch, is held on the last day of the month of the Shravan, when about 25,000 people congregate. His original shrine is at Dhrang in Bhuj taluka.

Another fair called Ajepal and Shitala Mata fair is held in memory of a *pir* from Ajmer, and is attended by 8,000 people. He is believed to have attained *siddhi* and a lamp is kept continuously burning at his shrine. The Jesal-Toral fair is held on Chaitra Sud 14 and 15 at the shrine of Jesal-Toral in Anjar when about 10,000 people congregate. Another fair, with congregation of about 8,000 people, is held on Bhadrapad Sud 5, at the Makaleshvar Mahadev.

Of the temples, there is a Vaishnav temple of Madhavray, 67 ft. by 64 ft. and about 62 ft. high, with a domed hall and black and white marble floor. The shrine doors, plated with silver bear an inscription dated Samvat 1869. The Mohanray's temple, smaller and plainer, with a neatly carved wooden door, is also a Vaishnav shrine, the idols being Krishna with Radha on his left and Chaturbhuj, the four armed Vishnu, on his right. According to the former *Gazetteer*, this temple was rebuilt between 1814 and 1824. Amba Mata's shrine and the monastery close by were built of remnants of older temples. Ajepal's shrine, outside the town walls, is a small-domed room, with images of Ajepal on horse back and of Ganpati. At the door is an inscription dated 1842. Kalya Mahadev's temple and Vankal Mata's temple are situated outside the town walls. The ancient Shiv temple of Bhareshvar at some distance to the south-east has some beautiful sculpture chiselled on the outer walls. To the west of the town is a temple of the Dwarkanath, and the other dedicated to the Bahucharaji. There are other two shrines dedicated to the Bhavani and the Lord Shiv.

To the east of Ajepal's monastery is a small tiled shed with tombs of Muslim pattern sacred to Jesal and Toral. The story of this shrine is that about the middle of the fourteenth century, Jesal, grandson of Jam Lakha Jadeja, becoming an outlaw pillaged fields and villages, killed people and carried off cattle. At that time, a Kathi woman, Turi or Toral by name, was famous for her devotion and her skill in making hymns, and was still more famous for her beauty. She lived with an ascetic called Savasdhir, who did not regard her as his wife but as one who would bring him salvation. The fame of her beauty reached Jesal, who tried to carry her off by force but failed. Going back in the guise of an ascetic, he was well received, and arranged to take her at a place of worship at night. His plans were found out, and on his confessing, the sect whose rule was to fulfil the wishes of the devotees gave him Turi on condition that he became an ascetic. Jesal agreed. She by arts, good deeds and other wonders, in time changed him into a model ascetic. Jesal settled at Anjar, where he died and Turi was buried alive close by his tomb. His descendents, the Jesal Rajputs have, in each of the twelve villages, a shrine of Jesal and Turi.

In 1818, Capt. MacMurdo built a bungalow with an upper storey mainly with wood on an elevated ground after the pattern of his bungalow in Scotland. On the walls on the ground floor there are mural paintings in

the *Kamangari* Kutch style. They are good specimens of art practised by the indigenous artists of Kutch known as *Kamangar*.

Anjar is an important trading centre with one textile mill and three cotton ginning and pressing factories. It is well-known for its nut-crackers, pen-knives, hand-printing of textiles, *ajarakh* printing in particular and *bandhanis*.

Baladiya—Bhuj Taluka (P. 2,851—M. 1,222 ; F. 1,629) ; V. P.

Baladiya about twenty-two km. from Bhuj derives its name from the temple of Baladeshvar Mahadev.[1] Another legend indicates that a saint named Bhagatnath, once drove his cart without bullocks (*balad*), and from that incident the place came to be known as Baladiya. Shri Abaji Bapa, an ardent devotee of the Swaminarayan sect lived here in the present century. Born at this village in Samvat year 1901 in a cultivator's family, he devoted his life to the cause of religion and performed many miracles. Shri Abaji Bapa left his mortal body here on Ashadh Sud 5 of Vikram Samvat 1985 (1929 A. D.). Two *chhatris* containing his *padukas* have been constructed by his followers on the bank of *Krishna talav* where he was cremated. This place is visited by his followers. Fairs are held at this village on Mahashivratri (Magh Vad 14) and the Janmashtami attended by local people.

It has got a branch of the Bank of India. The village is inhabited by Kanbis. Some of them have migrated to Africa and England. It is a very prosperous village inhabited by people with co-operative spirit. Within three months, the village people have constructed the water works and laid the underground pipes without Government assistance. This is an example of popular contribution and self-help. It has been commissioned in 1970.

Bankadsar—Bhachau Taluka (P. 68—M. 41 ; F. 27) ; G. P.

Bankadsar also known as Pankadsar is about 22 km. from Bhachau, the taluka headquarters and the nearest railway station. Bankadsar has a 400 year old shrine of Mahatma Garibdasji, a local saint, where a fair is held every year on Bhadrapad Vad 10. This Garibdasji was said to possess miraculous powers. Legend has it that once an Englishman had come to the lake of Bankadsar for hunting birds. Garibdasji forbade him to do so. When the Englishman persisted, Garibdasji by a miracle dried up the water of the lake as a result of which the birds flew away and the European could not do hunting.

1. The legend for Baladeshvar Mahadev is that a cultivator of the village, while ploughing his field, saw a *ling* of Mahadev which he installed near his field. As the *ling* was traced through bullocks, the temple came to be known as Baladeshvar and the village as Baladiya.

Banni

Banni is a long tract admeasuring 2,144 sq. km. in Kutch. In this tract there are about 40 villages locally called *vandh*, or *jhills* and 671 houses locally known as *bhunga* in which Maldharis (cattle breeders) of various castes like Jat, Raysipotra, Sumra, Juneja, etc., live. Bhirandiara, Bhojardo, Dumado, Gorewali and Misriado are among the bigger villages in the area. Bhirandiara, which is in the middle of the Banni is 53 km. from Bhuj. The Banni land is not suitable for cultivation as the soil is alluvial and sandy. The subsoil water is also brackish as a result of which potable water is scarce in this area. Banni, however, is a great centre of cattle-breeding, where good quality grass grows in abundance. Milk and *ghee* of Banni are well-known in Kutch. This area is also famous for its fine and colourful embroidery work which is styled as 'Kutch embroidery' on account of its special type of stitches. On the western end of the Banni, near the Sodarna hillock, is the tomb of Haji Pir who was worshipped as a saint as he was killed while rescuing a cow belonging to a poor woman.[1]

A fair is at Haji Pir on the first Monday of Chaitra (March).

Bhachau—Bhachau Taluka (P. 7,545—M. 3,945 ; F. 3,600) ; G. P.

Bhachau, situated in Vagad area at the foot of a fortified hill, is 32 km. from Anjar on the National Highway No. 8-A joining Ahmedabad with Kandla. It is a railway station on the Ahmedabad-Palanpur-Bhuj meter gauge and Viramgam-Gandhidham broad gauge lines of the Western Railway. There is one Agricultural Research Centre run by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Gujarat. It is an important centre of trade in cotton. There is one cotton ginning press. Being the taluka headquarters, all taluka offices are located here. A fair known as the Shravani fair is held on Shravan Vad 30. There is one Government High School. Recently, the Oswals have constructed a big hostel for the Oswal students. They have also started another high school at the village.

Bhadresar—Mundra Taluka (P. 2,374—M. 1,145 ; F. 1,229) ; V. P.

Bhadresar is a popular place of pilgrimage for the Jains situated on sea-shore about twenty-two km. from Mundra, the taluka headquarters. It is connected with Mundra, Anjar and Bhuj by S. T. bus services.

The remains of the ancient Bhadravati Nagari are found here. Most of the ruins have been carried away, even the foundation having been dug up for building stone. There remains a large and substantial though plain step-well known as Dudhia Vav with a lintel about seventeen feet long by

1. Details in Chapter III—People.

two square; close to the well, are found the pillars and part of the dome of an ancient Shiv temple and an old Jain temple renovated by Jagdusha and others subsequently.

No authentic record about the year of construction of the original Jain temple is available. Its construction shows that it was built and rebuilt several times after it was originally founded. "The temple is said to have been founded in the 21st year of the Vairat era and dedicated to Vasai by Siddhasen of the race of Hari. His successors were Mahasen, Narsen, Bhojraj, Vanraj, Sarangdev, Virasen and Harisen who lived in the time of Vikram (57 B. C.). Then came Kirtidhara, Dharnipal, Devdatt and Danjiraj. Then, after a time of confusion came (A. D. 156) (S. 213), Vanraj Vaghela of Munjpur, and after him Yograj, Ratnadatt, and Vijayrav. Next, after a time of misrule, the Kathis of Pavargad (Nakhatrana Taluka) seized Bhadravati and kept it for 147 years. After them, 551 A. D. (S. 608), Kanak Chavda of Patan took the country, built the temple, and in 555 (S. 612) set up the image of Ajitnath.....Kanak's successor, though invaded by the Musalmans, was followed by his son Bhuvad who lost his kingdom to the Solankis. The new rulers changed the name of the place to Bhadresar in 741 (S. 798) and continued to hold it till 1132 (1189)."[1]

In 1763, the walls of the old fort began to be pulled down and the stones used for building houses. About 1810 even the old temples were razed to supply stones to build the seaport town of Mundra. The glory of the past is reflected in the old Masjid, the Hanuman temple, the Dudhia Vav, Sol Thumbhi, the Pandav Kund, etc. Bhadresar is the birth place of Jagdusha, a wealthy merchant and philanthropist to whom goes the credit of the present plan of the famous Jain temples of Vasai as they now stand. Referring to the history of the temple, the former *Gazetteer* notes, "Perhaps the earliest historical fact is that in the twelfth century (1125), Jagdusha, a merchant who had made a fortune as a grain dealer in a time of famine, received a grant of Bhadresar and had the temple so thoroughly repaired that all traces of antiquity were removed".[2] Bhadresar considered as the pride of Kutch has been referred to in the *Jagdu Charita*.[3]

The lower part of the shrine is probably the oldest; next in age, perhaps about 1170, comes the temple and the corridors, then the outer wings, then the shrine, and last of all the front porch. The general plan of the Bhadresar temple is like that of the Jain temples of Delvada on the Mount Abu. The temple stands rather far back in a courtyard, which from the line of the

1. Campbell Sir J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, 1880, p. 214
2. *Ibid.*
3. "Like a mirror in the hand of a married woman having a large family, Bhadresar inhabited by rich and adorning Kutch is the best town on earth."

temple front, is covered by three pillared domes. The temple facing the north is entered by a flight of steps that rise from the outer door to the covered area in front of the sanctuary. Over the porch is another large dome covering an area separated by a low screen wall from the area of the entrance hall, *mandap*, between it and the front of the temple itself called *ras-mandap*. At the south-west corner and behind the cells on the left side is a raw of chambers with cellars which have been closed since 1939.

South of the temple, nearby, buried in the sand are the remains of a large mosque built of large blocks of stone, with pillars square at the base, octagonal in the middle, and round above with bracket capitals supporting massive nine feet long lintels. To the south-west is another mosque, once entered from the east but now from the north. In it is a small apparently unfinished chamber. The walls are of large most accurately jointed stones, and the roofs of flat slabs. The doors have drips over them two with semi-circular arches and the others with lintels. The architraves are carved with neat creeper patterns and with large flowers below. Pir Lal Shobah's tomb in a small walled enclosure has a square pyramid shaped dome, round in the inside and supported on eight pillars set against the wall. Inside are some Arab writings in large square Kufic characters, and in the court some graves also with Kufic inscriptions.

As early as 1875 A. D. Dr. James Burgess drew attention to the Kufic inscriptions of these mosques and tombs. Study of these inscriptions which are dated from the middle of the 12th century onwards reveals the association of the Muslim with Bhadresar. These epitaphs indicate that the Muslims had not only then arrived at Bhadresar but that they were already settled there for a long time. Dr. Z. A. Desai, Superintendent of the Persian and Arabic Inscriptions, Nagpur, observes that three of the epitaphs found here happen to be the earliest authentic Muslim records so far in India. Ranging in dates from 1159-1228 A. D., they indicate the extent of settlement of the Muslims in Gujarat and prove that the Muslims had long inhabited Kutch.[1] Almost all the epitaphs found in Bhadresar are badly damaged due to their constant exposure and as a result, the letters are not decipherable in full.

An ancient Shiv temple known as Chokhanda Mahadev situated on the sea-shore nearby and the big square step-well known as Pandav-kund, said to have been built by the Pandavas 5,000 years ago, are places of attraction for Hindu pilgrims. In the Chokhanda Mahadev, there is an inscription of 1195 V. S. (A. D. 1139) of Siddharaj Jayasinh. Near the Pandav-kund is the temple of Goddess Ashapuri. A fair with a congregation of about 2,000 people, mostly Jains, is held at Bhadresar from Phalgun Sud 3 to 5.

1. Dr. Z. A. Desai's article on *Kufi Epitaphs from Bhadresar in Gujarat*, published in *Epigraphia Indica*—Arabic and Persian Supplement, 1965, p. 2

Bhuj—Bhuj Taluka (P. 40,180—M. 20,666 ; F. 19,514) ; Mu.

Bhuj, the capital of the former native State of Kutch, is now the headquarters of Kutch district. It is the terminus on the Ahmedabad-Bhuj section of the Western Railway. Regular bus services connect it directly with all the taluka headquarters and other important places in Kutch. It is also connected by bus service with Junagadh, Jamnagar, Rajkot and Ahmedabad. It is served by a regular air service with Kandla, Jamnagar, Rajkot and Bombay.

The population of Bhuj town has increased from 23,282 in 1941 and 40,180 in 1961 to over 50,000 in 1970 mainly owing to the developments after Independence. The town is picturesquely situated. It has a beautiful backdrop of the Bhujia Fort on the hill in the east, a palace with Gothic structure in the heart of the town and the Hamirsar lake to the west. The municipal area of the town covers 8·37 sq. km. The population has become cosmopolitan due to headquartering of several Central and State Government offices.

In shape an irregular polygon, the town is surrounded by a stone-wall, thirty-five feet high and four feet thick with towers at irregular intervals formerly armed with fifty-one guns. The fort walls on the east are demolished for the expansion of the town.

Bhuj was in 1548, chosen by Rao Khengarji I as his capital. After the Rao was forced in 1590 to acknowledge Moghul supremacy, Bhuj was known to the Muslims as 'Suleiman-nagar'. The fort walls around the capital were built by Rao Godji in 1723. Bhuj was attacked six times. In two cases the defence was successful and failed in four. The hill fort of Bhujia was finally captured in 1819, by the British detachment under Sir William Koir. In the same year the great earthquake destroyed nearly 7,000 houses, killed 1,140 persons, shattered about one-third of the buildings which escaped ruin and levelled to the ground the north part of the town wall.

Bhuj contains some old historic buildings including the Jamadar Fateh Muhammad's tomb, Panna Masjid, Rao Pragmalji's palace with the noted Aina Mahal and Rao Lakha's *Chhatri*. The Desalsar and Hamirsar tanks beautify the town. On the outskirts of the town is the Bhujia hill-fort which is still in good condition and has at its top the temple of Bhujang *Naag* or Serpent, the guardian deity.

Commercial banking activities in Bhuj were started by the opening of the branch of the Bank of India, in 1943. The branches of the State Bank of India, the Central Bank of India, the Dena Bank and the Bank of Baroda were opened subsequently. The District Co-operative Bank and the Land Development Bank have also been established. Bhuj has 3 oil-mills

besides a number of cottage and small scale industries. It is known for its nut-crackers, pen-knives, embroidery, batick work and *bandhani* (tie and dye sari) which are particularly famous. Its silver and enamel work known as 'Kutch work' introduced by Ramsingh Malam is well-known to this day.

OBJECTS OF INTEREST

Rao Pragmalji's Palace—About 1865, the late Rao Pragmalji, from designs prepared by Colonel Wilkins of the Royal Engineers, began a pompous palace on a site used for stables and out-houses. It contains the great master-piece of Ramsingh Malam, known as Aina Mahal or the Hall of Mirrors. The walls of the palace are of white marble covered with mirrors separated by guilded ornaments with shades of Venetian glass, many of which were brought to Bhuj by Ramsingh from his tour of foreign countries. The entire floor of the hall is lined with the China tiles manufactured by Ramsingh. The Aina Mahal or the Hall of Mirrors is situated on the second floor of the palace also known as Darbargadh. Ramsingh devised ingenious pumps and siphons to raise water to fill the pleasure-pool containing a fountain which sprays water in an intricate variety of patterns. As a result, even in a summer afternoon the Aina Mahal is a pleasant refuge. It is said that it was in this ideal surrounding that Maharao Lakho wrote poems. The small state apartment still contains Maharao Lakho's collections including clocks, pictures, mechanical toys, etc. On the walls of the corridors which surround the interior chamber, there are a variety of paintings, both European and Indian. The cost of construction of the entire palace was enormous. The Aina Mahal alone accounted for 80 lakh *koris*. The original design of the interior of the Darbar hall was Gothic with an open roof. But the Rao was induced to have the hall decorated in the Italian style. The doors below, and the windows above, are arched, and decorated with figured plate glass. A clock tower 150 feet high is connected with the main building by covered galleries. The palace is situated in the heart of the city, and a part of it at present houses Government and other offices. In the Aina Mahal there is an exquisite piece of inlaid ivory doors prepared in 1708 A. D. by a carpenter named Madho at a cost of 400 *koris* during the reign of Pragmalji I.

The Rao's Chhatri—Outside the town walls are some memorial stones, an old fort, the cantonment and the Bhujia hill-fort. To the west of the town on the Hamirsar lake, stand the Rao's *Chhatri* built of red sandstone. The tombs are now much ruined due to the earthquake of 1819. Of these monuments, Rao Lakha's *Chhatri* built in about 1770, is the largest and finest. This monument, polygonal in form, is surrounded by a gallery with two entrances. The roof is artistically carved and is supported by a pillar at every corner. The south porch has fallen. The central dome covers an

apartment surrounded by a wall with a door on the east. In this room where the ashes of the Rao were laid, is an image of Rao Lakha on horse-back, and the memorial stones of his fifteen wives. A short way from Rao Lakha's *Chhatri* is a smaller one in honour of Rao Rayadhan (1778-1813). The monument of Rao Desalji, the father of Rao Pragmalji, though small, is impressive. Quadrangular with a *Chhatri*, the side panels depict spirited groups of men and animals admirably sculptured. Rao Pragmalji's memorial next to his father's is a fine specimen of modern carving.

Bhujia Hill Fort—At a short distance from the town is the hill fort of Bhujia, the top surrounded by a parapet wall of no great strength, entered by one gate, and enclosing an irregular area with a few scattered buildings. At one corner is a small square tower dedicated to Bhujang *Naag*, said to have been the brother of Shesh *Naag*, lord of the under-world (*patal*), who came from Than in Kathiawar and freed Kutch from the oppression of demons, *daityas* and *rakshasas*. The fort was built by Rao Godji as a sort of out-work defence for Bhuj. It was completed during Maharao Desal's reign when the hill was crowned with its snake temple and was fortified as a further aid to the defences of the capital. An annual fair is held on the fort-hill on the Naag Panchami day (Shravan Sud 5, August).

Town Hall—The Town Hall was constructed in 1967 at a cost of about Rs. 4 lakhs outside the fort-wall, near the Collectorate.

Libraries—The two important libraries in the town are (1) District Library and (ii) Maharaoshri Vijayrajji Library. (Details given in Chapter XIV—Education and Culture).

Museum—The Kutch Museum, formerly known as the Fergusson Museum, was founded by Maharao Khengarji III in 1877. It is the oldest museum in Gujarat.

Constructed in Italian style, the museum has picturesque surroundings with Hamirsar tank in front and the Nazar Bag behind. The museum has the largest collection of Kshatrap inscriptions. The oldest dated Kshatrap inscription of 89 A. D. and the only Abhir inscription of Gujarat dated 332 A. D. are the main attractions for the scholars.

Besides, it has a fine collection of Kutch silver, golden and enameling work, textiles, woodwork, coins, old utensils, archaeological objects, arms and accoutrements and a section on the communities peculiar to the district.

Temples—There are several important temples in the town including the famous Swaminarayan temple, the Hatkeshvarji's temple and the temple

of Ashapuri Mata, the family goddess of the former rulers of Kutch. There are also Jain temples known as Jin Dutt Suriswarji's Sambhavnath temples.

Parks and Gardens—The town is well served by the parks such as (1) the Rajendra Bag, (2) the Khengarji Bag, (3) the Nazar Bag, (4) the Indrabai Park and (5) the Purushottam Park.

Lakes—The Hamirsar lake is a favourite spot for the people, who visit the place in large numbers on holidays. The other lakes are the Desalsar lake outside the Bhid Gate and the Pragsar lake outside the Sarpat Gate.

The facilities for higher education are provided by the R. R. Lalan Arts and Science College run by Government, and a Commerce and a Law College run by the People's Education Society. Besides a basic Training College for primary teachers, there are six high schools. Bhuj has an aero-drome and its own Radio Station commissioned on 2nd October, 1965.

The town is adequately provided with medical facilities which include a Civil Hospital, a T. B. Hospital, a Mental Hospital and an Ayurvedic Hospital.

Bhuvad—Anjar Taluka (P. 962—M. 479 ; F. 483) ; V. P.

Bhuvad has a ruined temple of Bhuvaneshvar Mahadev whose hall, *mandap*, measuring about 32 ft. by 40 ft. inside is supported by 34 pillars and 4 pilasters. The pillars are square to about one-third their height, then octagonal, and lastly round. The walls of the temple are built with stones. On the pilasters to the right of the shrine is an inscription dated 1289-90 (V. S. 1346). Bhuvad, who gave its name to the village, is said to have been a Chavda chief, killed either by the Kathis or by Lakha Phulani Jadeja in about 1320. His headless body is said to have fought its way to Bhuvad, where a shrine with a red painted headless figure is dedicated to him. Near his shrine are tall tombstones, said to have been raised over warriors who fell in the battle in which Bhuvad was slain.[1] The village lies on the Anjar-Mundra Road about 19 km. from Anjar, the nearest railway station.

Chirai—Bhachau Taluka (P. 2,043—M. 1,055 ; F. 988) ; G. P.

Chirai is a railway station on the Palanpur-Bhuj section of the Western Railway, about 13 km. from Bhachau, the taluka headquarters. Gypsum is available here in ample quantity. There are about 15 salt works round about the village. Two fairs are held at Chirai, one at Nani Chirai and

1. Burgess' *Archl. Sur. Rep.*, 1874-75, pp. 209-210, *Bom. Govt. Sel.* CLII (*New Series*), p.17

the other at Moti Chirai. The former is held on Chaitra Sud 8 and 9 in memory of a saint called Mota Pir and the latter on Ashvin Sud 10 in honour of Chandi Mata.

Chitrod—Rapar Taluka (P. 2,346—M. 1,195 ; F. 1,151) ; V. P.

Chitrod, in the centre of Vagad (Bhachau and Rapar talukas), has about two km. to the north, the ruins of four temples and a reservoir built by the Kathis, who, about the year 1500, were settled here in large numbers. One of the temples, probably dedicated to Mahishasuri, was built of fine stone with excellent sculpture. The temples are in ruins, and most of the materials have been carried away. About a kilometre to the east are the remains of a pretty large Kathi town, with among them the ruins of a small plain temple of Mahadev bearing date 1502 (S. 1559). It is a railway station on the Ahmedabad-Bhuj section of the Western Railway.

An ancient stone inscription was found in 1898 from Mewasa near Chitrod.

Chobari—Bhachau Taluka (P. 2,702—M. 1,391 ; F. 1,311) ; V. P.

Chobari is a village in Vagad, about 84 km. east of Bhuj and 38 km. from Bhachau. It is one of the points from which the Rann is crossed in dry season.

When Mir Fateh Ali Talpur rose in revolt against Abdul Nabi Khan, the last ruler of the Kalhora line of Sindh, he fled away from Sindh and sought refuge of the Maharaja of Jodhpur. In 1783, the Maharaja advanced with his army through Randhanpur and entered Kutch to persuade the Maharao to join him. Just at that time, Mir Fateh Ali crossed the Rann and entered Kutch near Chobari. In the battle that followed the army of the Maharaja of Jodhpur was totally defeated by Mir Fateh Ali at Chobari where memorial stones of fifty-six Rajputs have been erected to commemorate the victory.

Dhinodhar—Nakhatrana Taluka

Dhinodhar hill in the north-west of Kutch has on its highest peak a small domed shrine of lime-stone and mud plastered with cement built by a Brahmakshatri Sheth Sundarji Shivji Sodagar in 1831. It is dedicated to holy Dhoramnath or Dharamnath who came to Kutch in search of a secluded place where he could practise penance. "He decided to make his home under a tree near Raipur, which is on the borders of Mandvi creek. This site, now occupied only by a hamlet, was at one time a flourishing city, as its ruins testify. Finds of Indo-Parthian coins give evidence of extensive seaborne trade, although it is now very far from any navigable water. At

the time when Dharamnath arrived, Raipur is said to have been ruled by a Chavda chieftain, from whom, no doubt, the famous ascetic expected the proper courtesies. Dharamnath began the twelve-year penance which he had set himself ; and it was the business of his disciple Gharibnath to see to his wants. But the people of Raipur were so lacking in respect for the saint that Gharibnath's hopes of alms were disappointed ; and to support his master he was obliged to cut and sell fire-wood, the proceeds of this just sufficient to purchase the grain needed to keep master and disciple alive. One poor woman, alone in all the city, took pity on them ; and without payment baked the grain into breads adding *chapatties* from her own stove when the firewood money ran short. When Dharamnath had completed his penance, he learned what had happened, and in great wrath, after bidding the charitable woman leave the town, pronounced the famous curse *pattan sub dattan*—'May all the wealthy be over thrown'. Thereupon Raipur became desolate ; its buildings fell ; and its inhabitants removed themselves to the site which is now Mandvi. In confirmation of this story, Kutchis point out the distance which the sea has retreated from what must once have been a flourishing sea port, and add that, no doubt, Dhoramnath caused an earthquake to destroy the city and dry up the creek near Raipur."[1]

Dhoramnath repented for the loss of lives in Raipur and determined to mortify himself by standing on his head on some lonely hill. As the former *Gazetteer* puts it : "Travelling to the north he began to climb the highest hill he could see, but it became *nanao* 'weighed down' by his sins. He chose another hill, but for it too the burden of guilt was too great and it became *jhurio* 'broken down'. He chose a third hill and climbing it backwards it bore him, and he called it *dhinodhar*, 'the patience bearer'. At its highest peak, resting it on a conical stone, he stood on his head for twelve years, a Charan woman feeding him with milk. Such merit and power did this penance bring that the gods took alarm, and, sending a deputation to wait on him, asked that his penance should cease. Dhoramnath said, wherever he first looked, the country would become barren. The gods arranged that he should first look at the sea. This dried up under his gaze and left the Rann. Fearing that the death of so many fish would lose him his merit, Dhoramnath moved his eyes and looking at the hill it split into two."[2] Then Dhoramnath came down, kindled his fire, built a monastery, and established the order of the *Kanphatas*, so called as the disciples of this order have to slit their ears. The *Kanphatas* have to remain celibate and new comers are recruited either from orphans or from boys who enter the monastery from an early age. The head is called *pir* who usually adopts two disciples, one of whom is chosen as his successor. In former times the *pir* was always invested with a robe of honour by the Ruler of Kutch.

1. Williams Rushbrook L. F., *The Black Hills*, (1958), pp. 95-96
2. Campbell Sir J M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, 1880, p. 220

(Bk) H-49—75 (Lino)

In the shrine dedicated to Dhoramnath is a redsmeared triangular conical stone on which Dhoramnath is said to have rested his head while performing penance. At the foot of the hill, amongst the monastery buildings is another temple of Dhoramnath on a raised platform facing the east about seven feet square and with walls about seven feet high. Inside is a three feet high marble image of Dhoramnath, some small *lings*, and other brass and stone images and a *ghee* lamp always kept burning.

A fair is held here on Shravan Vad 8 (Janmashtami).

Dhrang—Bhuj Taluka (P. 400—M. 198 ; F. 202) ; V. P.

Dhrang, about 40 km. from Bhuj, is known for the *samadhi* of the famous saint Menkan Dada who died here. Dada Menkan who was born in village Nani-Khombhadi left home at a tender age and ultimately settled down at Dhrang, where he established his *ashram*. In his *ashram* he provided food and shelter to the poor. He had a dog named Motia and a donkey named Lalia with whom he used to roam about in the Rann areas to help persons in need of food and water. He had thus saved a number of persons from dying in the desert of thirst and hunger. He is said to have taken *samadhi* alongwith his disciples including the dog, Motia and donkey, Lalia at Dhrang in V. S. 1786. He served the people of Kutch and won their devotion. He was believed to be Laxmanji's incarnation. The Ahir community considers Menkan Dada as God. The followers of Menkan Dada are spread over the districts of Kutch, Banaskantha, Saurashtra and some parts of Rajasthan. A large fair is held on Magh Vad 14 (February-March).

Dolatpar—Lakhpat Taluka (P. 521—M. 276 ; F. 245) ; V. P.

Dolatpar about 31 km. from Lakhpat and about a hundred km. from Bhuj is inhabited mainly by agriculturists. A stone image of the Sun God was found near the village. One Abhir inscription of 332 A. D. has put this village on the archaeological map of India. It is a bus station on Bhuj-Lakhpat S. T. Bus route.

Fatehgadh—Rapar Taluka (P. 2,938—M. 1,463 ; F. 1,475) ; G. P.

Fatehgadh is a prosperous village, in the north-east of Vagad. It was, early in the last century, founded by, and called after, Fateh Muhammad Jamadar (1786-1813). Partially fortifying the town he made it so secure that in a short time he drew within its walls the people of most of the villages around. Because of protection afforded from robbers in the passage across the Rann to Gujarat, traders came to settle at Fatehgadh and a few years later, in the time of the 1823 famine, many of them made large fortunes. A *vav* named Karsa Vav has old carvings. There is a Khadi Gramodyog Society. The nearest railway station is Adesar about 22 km. away.

Gadhada—Bhachau Taluka (P. 261—M. 146 ; F. 115) ; G. P.

Gadhada was once the headquarters of the Khadir mahal now merged with the Bhachau taluka. There is a perennial stream locally named 'Ghur' at a distance of about 2 km. from Gadhada, which is considered to be a holy place.

Gadhsisa—Mandvi Taluka (P. 3,253—M. 1,488 ; F. 1,765) ; G. P.

Gadhsisa is situated about 47 km. from Bhuj and about 29 km. from Mandvi, the taluka headquarters. It is connected by S. T. bus services with Mandvi, Nakhatrana and Bhuj. A fair known as 'Bhutthisha Pir Fair' is held here at the *dargah* of Bhutthisha Pir, on the third Monday of Bhadrapad.

This village is the centre of Khadi Udyog in the district. It has a high school. Recently a telegraph office is also established.

Gandhidham—Anjar Taluka (P. 26,514—M. 14,334 ; F. 12,180) Mu.

Gandhidham is a railway junction of two metre gauge sections, viz., (1) Ahmedabad-Bhuj and (2) Bhuj-New Kandla of the Western Railway. It is also a terminus of the Jhund-Kandla section of the Western Railway.

The township of Gandhidham consisting of Adipur, Sardarganj and Gopalpuri was established to provide for the rehabilitation of persons displaced from Sindh after the partition. Maharao Vijayrajji, the then ruler of Kutch, made a free gift to the new settlement of about 15,000 acres of land, sufficient for all their needs, in the immediate vicinity of the Kandla port. After the merger of Kutch State in the Indian Union, the Government of India reviewed this arrangement and granted land on a lease of 99 years. The master plan for the development of the township was prepared by the Italian and American experts, specially invited for the purpose by the Government of India. The actual construction at the site was started during 1949 and by 1956 over 7,000 tenements were constructed. The township collectively called Gandhidham is unique in the sense that it has been specially planned and built for displaced persons after partition. It consists in effect of three main settlements : Adipur or 'Original town' ; Sardarganj, so named in memory of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and Gopalpuri named after the late Shri Gopalaswamy Ayyengar, who, as Minister of States, took keen interest in the project. Gopalpuri is purely a residential township and accommodates the staff of the Kandla Port Trust ; Adipur is an industrial centre ; and Sardarganj in the heart of the township is a commercial centre. The township of Gandhidham is systematically planned and provided with a good system of public transport which links all the three settlements. Each settlement has its own shopping centre, schools, dispensaries, a post

and telegraph office and other facilities. The three townships share in common several educational and banking institutions, cinema houses, book-shops, libraries, a home for the old and infirm and a maternity hospital. The township has also become the home of a number of small industries such as tile-making, furniture-making, metal works, etc.

The office of the Development Commissioner, Kandla Port and the Osio Theatre are among the imposing buildings. Gandhidham has an Arts and Science College and a Polytechnic. The *samadhi* of Mahatma Gandhi and the temple of *Nirvasiteshvar* Mahadev are visited by many. The township gets its water supply from tube wells sunk in nearby areas. The power supply is received from the Thermal Power Station at Kandla put up by the Gujarat Electricity Board.

Gedi—Rapar Taluka (P. 2,605—M. 1,358 ; F. 1,247) ; G. P.

Gedi,[1] a village in the north of Vagad is believed to be one of the oldest towns in Kutch. One of the many towns that claim to be the Virat Nagar that gave shelter to the Pandavas (1400 B. C.), it is also said to be the capital of the mythical Raja Gadhesing, who though for a time forced to wear the form of an ass, succeeded in marrying the chief's daughter and surrounding the city with a wall of brass. Some of the ass, *gadhaya* coins have been found in the ruins. In course of time, the place passed into the hands of a Muslim named Madam. From him, it was wrested by Padaria Rajputs and from them by Vaghelas. This Vaghela chief appeared at one time to have been very powerful and to have held the title of Maharana as late as 1476 (V. S. 1533). Among objects of interest is the white lime-stone ruined temple of Mahadev Achaleshwar, built in about 1579, by a Sachora Brahman. Twenty-two feet long, eight feet broad, and twenty-two feet high, it has a domed porch and a shrine, with a four-faced Mahadev said to be taken from an old temple built by Uttara, a princess of Virat, and dedicated to Uttareshvar, but long since buried. Near the temple is the Malan well, with half buried pillars overgrown with trees. It seems to have been repaired in 1476 (S. 1533). Its brackish water is thought to have medicinal value. Mahavirji's temple is a terraced building, twenty-eight feet by twenty feet, with a large verandah in front of four shrines, and a central dome supported by sixteen pillars. In the central room, are three marble images, Mahavir in the middle, and on either side the images of Adishvar Bhagvan

1. Referring to the origin of the name Gedi, the former *Gazetteer* observed : "Gedi appears to be a corruption of *Ghritaghadya* which is found in two inscriptions : one near Rav, dated 1271 (S. 1328), where it is mentioned as a large district under Maldev, a Viceroy of Arjundev, king of Anhilvada : and the other in the inscription on the Malan well. The name would seem to mean the land, *ghadya* or *padya* of butter, *ghrit* or *ghee*. The legend is that a merchant of Anhilvada in want of clarified butter, *ghee*, stole it by magic from Malav's warehouse, and afterwards offered the value. This Malav refused as the stolen butter had been replaced by means of Malav's magic ring. On being assured that butter had been filched, he took the money, and with it built the temple, the well, and the pond." (p. 231).

and of Shantinath, the fifth Tirthankar.[1] This temple is said to have been built by a Bania named Malav, who according to the local story, owned a straw ring that had the virtue of re-filling an empty butter pail. Amassing wealth by the ring's help he built Mahavir's temple, the Malan well and the Malsar pond. The temple of Lakshminarayan, a pyramidal shrine with two domed porches, thirty-six feet long, twenty feet broad and forty feet high, was built in 1840 (V. S. 1897) on the site of an old temple said to have been buried by the earthquake of 1819. Inside, a marble image of Lakshminarayan, about 1¼ feet high replaces a handsome old four feet high image of Dasavatar, mutilated by Sarfaraz of Sindh in 1775, and now lying outside. This image with that of Suraj Narayan, now lying in one of the niches, belonged to the old temple which is said to have been built by the Pandavas. In another niche, is a sandstone image of Ganpati having an inscription dated 1618 (V. S. 1675). Under an old *jar* tree in the market place is a three feet high carved stone image of Kshetrapal. It is said to have been placed there by the Makvana Rajputs at the time of their settlement.

Gedi is about 40 km. from the nearest railway station, Bhimasar. It is connected by S. T. bus with Rapar. There are many hero-stones in this village.

Gholay—Abdasa Taluka (P. 150—M. 77 ; F. 73) ; G. P.

Gholay once known as Sarasgar Pattan, was, until superseded by Jakhau, a place of some importance. There are still some objects of interest. Among them, about one km. to the west is a domed stone and brick building, twenty-six feet square and twenty-eight feet high, said to be the tomb of Mod, the son of Jakhara, and to have been built in the fourteenth century by his son Jam Manai II.

Gundiali—Mandvi Taluka (P. 2,346—M. 1,129 ; F. 1,217) ; G. P.

Gundiali, on the coast near Mandvi, has, on elevated ground surrounded by large banian trees and seen for several km., a beautiful temple sacred to Raval Pir, rebuilt in 1819 (S. 1876) by Sheths Sundarji and Jetha Shivji. Raval, said to have been born in the fourteenth century from a blister in the palm of his mother's hand, gained a name for leading a crusade against those who troubled the devotees of Dhoramnath at Jakhau. He afterwards came to Gundiali, then in the possession of Dal Rajput named Deraj, and helped him against the Rathods. Once in a year many Muslims and Hindus visit the place, make vows, and place flower wreaths round the necks of the stone-horses in the temple.[2]

1. On the back of the side figures is a writing, that on Adishvar gives 1477 (S. 1534) that on the back of Shantinath gives 1864 (S. 1921), *Bom. Govt, Sel.*, CLII, (*New Series*), pp. 89, 98

2. *Bom. Govt. Sel.* CLII, (*New Series*), pp. 8, 48

A girl named Gundal was betrothed to Raval who was not interested in marriage and, therefore, left his native place Dhinodhar and went to Rayan. Gundal determined not to marry any one except Raval, therefore, remained unmarried, and later when she went to meet Raval in company with her brother Narayan, Raval had left the world near the sea-coast. Gundal became *sati* there. Since then she is worshipped as Gundal Mata and the light-house known as the light of Raval Pir guides the seafarers.

The nearest railway station is Bhuj about 63 km. away and the bus station is Mandvi at a distance of about 12 km. A big fair known as Raval Pir fair is held every year on the last day of the month of Shravan.

Jakhau—Abdasa Taluka (P. 3,048—M. 1,453 ; F. 1,595) ; G. P.

Jakhau, a seaport stands on the south-west coast of Kutch about 100 km. west of Bhuj. It is called Jakhau because seventy-two 'Jakhs' of Rumsam who were very religious, fair-skinned and handsome, were welcomed by the people as their benefactors. On account of service they rendered to the poor class of people and their religious preachings, they won the devotion of the people. Jakhau is one of the five places, viz., Suthari, Kothara, Jakhau, Nalia and Tera which are known as the Jain *Panch tirthi* (five places of pilgrimage) in Kutch.

The town lies in a dreary plain bare of trees but yielding good crops. Close to the landing place and along the banks of the Godia creek, though the road is at all times passable, the land is low-lying and marshy. The landing place is on Godia creek 8 km. from the sea. Several small rivers flow towards this creek, the largest of them entering it at 4 km. north of Jakhau. The mouths of some of them are affected by the tide, and south of the village of Ranvada, through a passage in the Bagtari strip called Nerani, boats of the same size as those that navigate the creek can enter it. About 3 km. south-east of the Jakhau creek, another backwater called the Siri, runs inland to the east for about 10 km.

Jakhau once carried on a large trade with Bombay, exporting field produce and importing piece-goods, groceries and timber. Vessels lying about 6 km. from the landing place discharged into small boats, and from the small boats goods were carried in carts to the neighbouring towns of Nalia, Tera and Kothara. As the former *Gazetteer* has noted, Jakhau carried on considerable trade, importing from Bombay dates, sugar and oil, and from Sindh coarse red rice. There was also a slight traffic with Maskat and Daman. At present the only item of export is salt which is sent to ports of Bombay and Calcutta and the foreign ports in Japan in particular. The light-house at Jakhau is 45 feet high. It was built at a cost of Rs. 22 lakhs in 1963. There are large salt works at Jakhau.

Janan—Bhachau Taluka (P. 309—M. 157 ; F. 152) ; V. P.

Janan is known for a spring called Bhimguda nearby which is considered holy, as it contains an idol of Ghatotkuch, the son of Bhim, born of Hidimba. Bhimsen, one of the five Pandavas, after killing the demon Hidimb, married Hidimba who gave birth to a son with the head as big as a '*Ghada*' (a pot) and hence named Ghatotkuch. He could assume any desired form and remain unseen by others. Idols of Ghatotkuch and Bhim are worshipped at the Bhimguda near Janan, where a flag bearing the emblem of vulture is hoisted just after the first shower of rains. A temple known as the Pandav temple is visited by the people.

Jangi—Bhachau Taluka (P. 1,604—M. 806 ; F. 798) ; V. P.

Jangi is about 30 km. from Bhachau. It was formerly a port but is no longer in use now. The nearest railway station is Samkhiali 13 km. away. The place is well-known for the *akhada* of the famous saint Menkan Dada, who had stayed here for twelve years. The hungry and the poor were fed by Menkan Dada at this place. Menkan Dada used to go to the Rann to help the travellers and save them from thirst and hunger by providing them food and water. He died in the village Dhrang in 1730 A. D. (V. S. 1786). A memorial stone of Menkan Dada is found in the village. A fair known as the Namansha Pir Fair, is held at Jangi on Bhadrapad Vad 2.

Jhara—Lakhpat Taluka (P. 36—M. 21 ; F. 15) ; G. P.

Jhara, a hamlet 72 km. north-west of Bhuj, is situated at the foot of a hill of the same name. It was the scene of the great battle of Jhara of 1762. When Rao Shri Godji of Kutch became the king in 1760, Punja Sheth came from Junagadh to Kutch in the hope of becoming the Diwan. Frustrated in his plan, Punja Sheth induced Mir Gulamsha Kalora of Sindh to attack Kutch. A big battle was fought between the armies of Mir Gulamsha and Kutch Rao which finally ended in a treaty.

Kandla—Anjar Taluka (P. 9,617—M. 5,526 ; F. 4,091).

The New Kandla port replacing the old and small port of Kandla is the largest port of Gujarat and one of the six major ports of India, viz., Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Vishakhapatnam, Cochin and Kandla. The work of its construction began in 1948 and it was declared open in 1955. This port is an important sea-gate for the hinterland extending up to Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, North Gujarat, Saurashtra and Kutch, handling about a million tonnes of cargo annually.

Kandla is a major port with all the modern facilities which include radars by means of which steamers moving at a distance of 48 km. from the

shore can be observed, a wireless station, a radio telephone station, a number of electrically operated cranes, depots, godowns, etc. It also has cisterns and storage tanks in which oil, kerosene, etc., are stored by means of pipelines laid for the purpose. An aerodrome has started functioning at Kandla from November, 1960. In order to meet the increasing demand for power in Kutch region, the thermal generating capacity at Kandla was augmented during the Third Plan period by installing two 5,000 K. W. T./A sets. The Kandla Free Trade Zone was declared open by late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri on 7th March, 1965. During the year 1966-67, its imports totalled about 24·23 lakh tonnes and exports about 2·37 lakh tonnes. The main items of imports at the port are food-grains, building materials, fertilizers and rock phosphate, while exports mainly consist of salt, sugar and mineral ores.[1]

Kanthkot—Bhachau Taluka (uninhabited)

Kanthkot is an old fort on the top of an isolated rocky hill about five km. in circumference. It has walls built of massive blocks repaired in many places by smaller stones.[2] It is said to have been the capital of the Kathis in the eighth century, and to have been taken from them by the Chavdas.[3] According to the local story, construction of the present fort was begun about 843 (V. S. 900). A part of the wall crossed the fire-place of the great local ascetic Kanthadnath, who in anger destroyed it. Then the builders for appeasing the ascetic, called the fort after his name, and were allowed to finish it.[4] About the middle of the tenth century, under the name Kanthadurg, it appears as the place to which Mulraj of Anhilvada fled when pressed (950) by Tailap of Kalyan Ketah.[5] In the eleventh century (1024) it is believed to be the fort Khandaba, between Somnath and the desert, where Bhimdev sought shelter from Mahmud of Ghazni.[6] About the middle of the twelfth century (1143) the Raja of Kanthagam, probably Kanthakot, from the west is mentioned as joining the Nagor chief against Kumar Pal Solanki (1143-1174) of Anhilvada. In the thirteenth century, it was the capital of the Vaghelas, from whom, about the close of the century (1270), it was taken by Mod and Manai Samma. In the beginning of the fifteenth century (1410), it was besieged by Sultan Muzaffar Shah of Gujarat (1390-1411). It afterwards passed to the Deda branch of the Jadejas, and at the close of the sixteenth century, is mentioned by Abul Fazl as one of the chief Kutch forts. In 1816, it surrendered to a British detachment under Colonel

1. Details about the port are given in Chapter VII—Communications.
2. Sir, A. Burnes's MS., 1828: Burgess' *Arch. Sur. Rep.*, 1874-75, p. 215
3. Tod's *Western India*, p. 413
4. *Bom. Govt. Sel.* CLII. (*New Series*), p. 13. The traditional builders are Mod Samma and his son Sad. But their date was probably late in the thirteenth century. Burgess' *Arch. Rep.* 1874-75, p. 199.
5. Burgess (*Arch. Sur. Rep.*, 1874-75, p. 215) gives 982, but Tailap's success would seem to have occurred near the beginning of Mulraj's reign (942-997). *Ind. Ant.*, VI, p. 184.
6. *Ind. Ant.*, VI, p 185

East, when the fortifications were razed to the ground. In the west of the hill in a ravine are two large deep wells and one ruined step-well built of blocks of sandstone. On the hill are the remains of three temples; one dedicated to the ascetic Kanthadnath, the second an old Jain temple to Mahavir and the third, a temple to the Sun.

Kanthadnath's shrine on the west point of the hill was, about 1820, built by Deda Jadejas in the place of a much larger temple, probably the work of Mod Samma (1270), ruined by the 1819 earthquake. The present shrine, built on a high platform, has a fine domed porch supported on four pillars, and inside a white marble image of Kanthadnath sitting cross-legged. The much ruined temple of Mahavir had a double entrance hall, *mandap*. The writing on a pillar in the entrance hall dated 1283 (V. S. 1340) states that the builders were Atmadevnath's sons, Lakha and Sohi. On a pilaster in the screen on the outside, Atmadev's son Pasil is said to be the builder. The family who built the temple are believed to be relatives of Jagdusha of Bhadresar. Close to the ruins of the Jain temple is an old temple dedicated to the Sun. The temple still contains the image of the Sun God with folded hands. This is the only Sun temple in Kutch. Normally the idol of the Sun God is shown as having lotus in both the hands. But here the idol stands with hands folded.

Katariya—Bhachau Taluka (P. 1,711—M. 933 ; F. 778) ; V. P.

Katariya lies on the south-east coast of Vagad about 36 km. from Bhachau, the taluka headquarters. One Jain temple in ruins probably about 600 years old, stands in the centre of the village market place. The remains, now much hid by building foundations, seem to show that when in good condition the temple might have stood about sixty feet high and covered an area of about fifty feet. Above the ground are the remains of three domed porches, each with five well-carved pillars. Underground there is a chamber, which is reached by a stone ladder. Its roof is supported by five pillars and scallopped arches. On the side of the door way is a figure of the Ganpati. On the bank of a pool in the west of the village is a small plain sandstone temple. It is dedicated to Mahadev Bhadreshvar and has a roof rising in a pyramid of steps. According to the writing on the lintel of the entrance door, it was built in 1683 A. D. (V. S. 1739) in the time of Kunvar Shri Ravaji by a Bhatia named Vastupal. On the bank of the pond are two *sati* tombstones, one dated 1628 (V. S. 1684), and the other dated 1708 (V. S. 1764). The nearest railway station is Lakadia about 13 km. away.

Kera—Bhuj Taluka (P. 3,853—M. 1,769 ; F. 2,084) ; V. P.

Kera is about 19 km. south of Bhuj, on the Mundra Road and on the bank of the river Nagmati. Being the seat of Kapil Muni, it was known as Kapilgram.

Lakha Fulani had six brothers among whom he distributed the estates of Khinara and Angorgadh and he himself settled in Kapilgram. Here he built a fort which later on became famous as 'Kapilkot', 'Keraikot' or 'Kerakot'. In this fort, he renovated the Shivalaya of Lakheshvar. The old Shiv temple built perhaps at the end of the tenth century was, except the shrine, thrown down by the earthquake of 1819. The sculpture of the remains of the Shivalaya are attractive and beautiful. From its ruined condition, Kera recovered to some extent in the time of Gulamalisha a descendent of Pir Sadruddin who expounded that Ali, the son-in-law of Prophet Mohammad was the tenth incarnation of Vishnu as explained in his book entitled 'Dasavatar' or ten incarnations. There is a tomb of Gulamalisha in this village. The chief preceptor of this sect is called Aga Khan. After Independence, a branch of the Dena Bank has been established. The village has a high school, the water works and a veterinary dispensary.

It is populated mainly by the Kanbis and the Khojas who are progressive cultivators.

Kera has two Swaminarayan temples. There is a medium irrigation dam at Gajod at a distance of 6 km.

Khavda—Bhuj Taluka (P. 1,720—M. 901 ; F. 819) ; V. P.

Khavda is an important village in Pachham Beyt 70 km. from Bhuj with which it is connected by S. T. bus services on asphalted road. Formerly it was the headquarters of Khavda Mahal with 14 villages. It is now a part of Bhuj taluka and is placed under the jurisdiction of a senior Aval Karkun.

It came into the possession of the Raos of Kutch under rather curious circumstances. It is said that on the birth of prince Desal I (1718-1741) the Sammas of Pachham, anxious to show their loyalty, offered the Rao as much land as a cart coming from Bhuj could traverse in one day. The Sammas would seem to have miscalculated the distance, as the cart passed through Sadhara, Andhau, Khari, Godpar, Ludia and Khavda, and it was only by bribing the driver to stop that some part of their beyt (Pachham) was left in their possession. It has a Government dispensary, a guest-house, and a post and telegraph office. It is recently provided with telephone. *Ghee* of good quality is produced in Banni, as good grass is available. Sweet preparations of this place known as Mehsur and Son Halva prepared in *ghee* are famous.

A new road of 75 km. from Khavda to Hajipir is under construction. It will serve the dual purpose of arresting further march of the great Rann from the north and help desalination of the Banni area by accumulating monsoon water from the north flowing rivers.

Its population consists of Lohanas, Kolis, Harijans and Muslim Khatris, with a sprinkling of Samas and Sumeras.

Khedoi—Anjar Taluka (P. 3,747—M. 1,904 ; F. 1,843) ; V. P.

Khedoi is 16 km. from Anjar, the taluka headquarters and the nearest railway station. It is a bus-stop on the Anjar-Mundra Road. Well-known for cultivation of fruit crops, it has a Government Fruit Research Centre established in 1962. Grape cultivation was successfully introduced in this area as a result of the research carried out at this centre. A number of date plants of various kinds have been imported from Arabia and sown in this centre for the purpose of carrying out experiments for the date-palm cultivation in this district.

Khombhadi—Nakhatrana Taluka (P. 2,385—M. 1,072 ; F. 1,313) ; V. P.

It is a village where Dada Menkan, the famous saint of Kutch, was born in a Bhatti family.

Kora—Lakhpat Taluka (Uninhabited)

Kora situated about 16 km. south-east of Lakhpat on way to Mandvi in a hilly country containing large quantities of iron-ore, had in 1820 two or three smelting furnaces. The work of smelting, however, stopped long ago. On a raised platform there is a shrine of Pir Aliyaji, held in great respect by the people of Kora, who make vows to him and offer opium and sugarcandy. The story of Aliyaji, who was the grandson of Khengarji (1548-1585), is that, after his right to Bhuj was usurped by his uncle Bharmalji, he retired to Sabhraj where he built the Aliyasar lake. Later on settling at Kora, he led a roving life. One day he stole some buffaloes from a Sindhi ascetic named Buranasha, and refusing to give them back, was cursed by the saint and died.

Kotay—Bhuj Taluka (P. 439—M. 208 ; F. 231) ; G. P.

Kotay is about 19 km. north of Bhuj and connected with it by S. T. bus services. It has the remains of an old city and several ruined temples of perhaps the earlier part of the tenth century. The Shiv temple, known as Ra Lakha's temple and ascribed to Lakha Phulani exists in a dilapidated condition but its remains show the high order of architectural and sculptural beauty which decorated the once magnificent temple. The aisles are covered by groins like the aisles in some Chaitya caves ; and the central area is covered with massive slabs hollowed out in the centre. The door of the temple is neatly carved. Over the lintel, are the nine patrons of the planets, and the jambs are carefully sculptured. In the entrance hall, *mandap*, are four

pillars with a square block sculptured below the bracket, and six pilasters. The shrine door is elaborately carved with two rows of figures on the frieze, the Ganpati on the lintel and the jambs richly ornamented. The area behind the central jamb is roofed with large slabs, carved with sixteen figures linked in one another's arms in a circle, the legs crossed and turned towards the centre. Each holds a rod in either hand, the left hand being bent down and the right up, and so interlaced with the arms of the figures on either side. The roofs of the three aisles, at the side and in front of the central area, are very prettily carved with flowered ribs, and three horizontal bands inclusive of that from which they spring.

Koteshwar—Lakhpat Taluka (P. 27—M. 22 ; F. 5) ; G. P.

Koteshwar is a place of pilgrimage situated in the Kori creek of the Arabian Sea on the western end of Kutch, just opposite to Karachi. It is about 165 km. from Bhuj and about 2 km. from Narayan Sarovar. The State Transport bus services operate between Bhuj and Narayan Sarovar.

According to a legend, when Lord Shiv was pleased with the worship and penance of Ravan, he gave him a *ling* full of spiritual power. Lest Ravan should become immortal as a result of this boon, all the gods united together and conspired to obtain the *ling* from Ravan through deceit, and installed it as Kotilingeshwar. The village thereupon came to be known as Koteshwar. It is supposed to be Hieu-en-Tsiang's (640 A. D.) " Kie-tsi-fa-lo on the western frontier of the country close to the river Indus and to the great ocean ". According to Hieu-en-Tsiang, the Koteshwar port was five miles in circumference near the mouth of the Indus. There were 80 monasteries with about 5,000 monks in them. In the middle of the settlement were thirteen temples of which the Mahesh Mandir was full of good sculpture. Except some temples, Koteshwar shows few signs of its former greatness. It stands as sentinel on the seashore, rising boldly from the sea that washes its western part and the temples are enclosed by a fortified wall, the gate approached by three flights of steps. The writing on the left side of the gate shows that the present fort and temple were built in 1820 by Sheths Sundarji and Jetha Shivji, Brahmakshatri by caste. In the middle is a beautifully built stone temple of Mahadev called Koteshwar. Its porch has three domes. Under the central dome, there is a large and beautiful brass bull presented by Rao Desalji (1718-1741). In the right dome of the temple, there is a large stone image of the Hanuman ; in the left dome there is one of the Ganpati. Inside the porch is the hall, *mandap*, with a large central and two side domes. At the inner end of the hall and between it and the shrine are, on either side, figures of the Ganpati and the Hanuman. In the screen wall of the shrine are two inscriptions referring to the renovation of the temple in 1820. The frame of the door is of a carved stone. In the back wall is an image of Parvati, and in the west wall

are two images of Ganpati and Revati. In the centre of the sanctum sanctimonium *jaladhari*, is a *svayambhu* (self-born) *ling* of Shiv. The signs of cuts are visible on the *ling*.

On the site of this temple, there stood an older building, one of whose stones is said to have borne an inscription to the effect that it was built by the Kers of Gholay. At the time of rebuilding the temple in 1820, the foundation of the east wall was kept and it was enlarged on the west. The change so altered the position of the *ling* that it was no longer under the central lotus. This was said not to augur well for the ruler, and in 1863, Rao Pragmalji, when he visited the temple, ordered a silver canopy to be placed over the *ling*. After the Rao's death, the work was left unfinished. In ancient times, the temple priest was a devotee of the ear-slitting or Kanphata sect. The holy man used to live at Dhunay about 5 km. east of Koteshwar, then a flourishing town with a population of 6,000. He is said to have moved to the present spot in the fifteenth century, when the Brahmachari of Narayan Sarovar established his power.

Close to the chief Koteshwar shrine is a smaller temple built by the same men and about the same time in honour of Kalyaneshwar. Nearby is a square reservoir filled by every high tide, where Hindus bathe and perform the *shradha* ceremony. On the middle of the pier is a square platform, *Kotha*, on which is built the temple of Nilkanth, now known as Saraneshwar, facing the west with a porch. It is said to have been originally built in the thirteenth century by God Rani who had come to marry Ra Kanoj, but due to some differences, she went to Sindh and married Lakha Ghurara. It was rebuilt by Mahakunvar, wife of Desalji I (1718-1741), and repaired by Brahmakshatri Jetha and Sundarji Shivji. It was again, in 1857, repaired by Gosai Dolatgarji Revagar Kunvargar.

Across the Kori from Koteshwar, about 14 km. to the north-west, is the monument of Ra Kanoj built in 1773 A. D. Ra Kanoj is said to be the son of the daughter of Ra Bhalot, chief of Ujjain, who, about the end of the ninth century in a fight with a Musalman army, was killed at Sekot a small fort one kilometre north-east of Narayan Sarovar.

Kothara—Abdasa Taluka (P. 2,911—M. 1,355 ; F. 1,556) ; G. P.

Kothara about 8 km. south-east of Jakhau was once a prosperous town with handsome dwellings of Kutchi traders, who had made money in Bombay, Zanzibar and other trade centres, and brought it back to spend in their own land. In this village was finished in 1861 (V. S. 1917-1918) the richest of modern Jain temples in Kutch. Of the total cost of Rs. 8,40,000 of the building, one-half was given by Shah Velji Malu and the other half in equal shares by Shah Keshavji Nayak and Shivji Nensi, Osval Banias of Kothara settled in Bombay. This temple, dedicated to Shantinath, the

sixteenth of the Jain saints, was after the style of one in Ahmedabad, built by Kutch workmen under the superintendence of Salat Nathu of Sabhrai. Through a very rich two-storeyed entrance gate, an outer yard surrounded by buildings set apart for the use of priests opens into a walled quadrangle with a shrine in each wall. In the centre of the quadrangle, on a plinth six feet nine inches high reached by a flight of fifteen steps, is the temple, 78 feet long, 69 ft. wide and 73½ ft. high, supported on three sides by domed porches. The domed hall, *mandap*, rises in two storeys, and over the shrine is a spire with richly carved figures, niches, and mouldings. Inside the hall, *mandap*, surrounded by aisles or verandahs, with a richly designed pavement of different coloured marbles, has twenty-two pilasters, and sixteen pillars, and a dome supported on eight pillars with foiled arches and struts.

Inside the wall, chiefly formed of twenty pillars richly carved with flowers, leaves and creepers, is the shrine, where, supported on either side by seven small figures, is a large image of Shantinath crowned with a golden crown, and seated cross-legged on a richly carved marble throne. The upper storey of the hall, reached by stone steps from the south-west porches, has a corridor with rich shrines each containing a large marble sitting image. Below the hall there is an underground shrine, with about twenty-five large white marble figures with precious stones fixed into the eyes, chests and arms. Besides the underground shrine there is a secret cellar especially prepared for any emergency.

Nut-crackers, knives and locks of Kothara are well-known in Kutch. It has a power house and one agricultural research centre for carrying on various experiments for improvement in agriculture. It is connected by S. T. bus services with Bhuj, Mandvi and Nalia. Gokuldas Tejpal, the philanthropist, hailed from this place.

Kuran—Bhuj Taluka (P. 394—M. 210 ; F. 184) ; V. P.

The highest hill of Kutch, 1,525 feet high, viz., *Kalo Pahad* (black mount) is near Kuran. Kapuri, the heroine of the thrilling romantic love story of Karayal-Kapuri is said to have belonged to Kuran and after the death of her husband Karayal, she passed the rest of her life at the shrine of Lakhaguru Pachchamai on the *Kalo Pahad*.

Lakhaguru is believed to be God Dattatraya. Two annual fairs are held in the months of Bhadrapad and Maha.

Lakadia—Bhachau Taluka (P. 4,944—M. 2,376 ; F. 2,568) ; V. P.

Lakadia, situated at a distance of 27 km. from Bhachau, the taluka headquarters, on the State Highway is a railway station on the Ahmedabad-Palanpur-Bhuj section of the Western Railway. It is a walled town said

to have been established in 1578 by the Oswals from Kanthkot and Katariya. It has the shrine of a saint known as Lakadiya Pir with a tower forty-four feet high and thirty feet round, crowned with a domed canopy. The village has a high school, a public health centre and a cotton ginning press.

Lakhpat—Lakhpat Taluka (P. 539—M. 298 ; F. 241) ; G. P.

Lakhpat is about 141 km. from Bhuj with which it is connected by S. T. bus services. It is the starting point of coastal high-way. Now the headquarters of Lakhpat taluka, in old days it was a very prosperous port yielding an income of about one lakh *koris* whence probably the name Lakhpat is derived. Another story is that Lakhpat was so called, because it was founded by Rao Lakha. In a barren plain of bare lime-stone rock, the towers and walls of Lakhpat stand high and imposing. Within historical times Lakhpat has had only one very short period of prosperity. Fateh Muhammad, about the close of the eighteenth century enlarged and rebuilt its wall, and for some time, great portion of the trade of Sindh centred round this area. Though he thought it one of the main supports of his power, Lakhpat declared against Fateh Muhammad when he opposed the Rao in 1804. A few years later (1809), the commandant of the fort, Mohim Miyan, drove out the agents of Hansraj and governed the town independently. In 1818, Lakhpat had 15,000 population and yielded a yearly revenue of Rs. 60,000. In 1826, when visited by Dr. Burnes, there were not more than 6,000 inhabitants, consisting chiefly of mercantile speculators from other countries and families of Hindus driven from Sindh. In 1851, when the current of the Indus changed westward, Lakhpat ceased to be a trade centre, and it has since remained poverty-stricken and half deserted.

Lakhpat is surrounded by a fort, an irregular polygon, defended by round towers and built of hard stone. The walls are of considerable height but not thick. One of the important objects of interest at Lakhpat is the tomb of Gosh Muhammad, a Syed of Lakhpat, half Muslim half Hindu in his customs, who was believed to have supernatural powers. He died in 1855. His brother Bava Mia from contributions made by his followers began to build a tomb. This tomb, of black stone, is octagonal in shape, with four side doors arched and richly carved, and the walls decorated with patterns of flowers and leaves. Inside, the floor is paved with white and black marble and the walls decorated with passages from the *Kuran*. There is a Shikh Gurudwara. The Shikh Guru Nanak is believed to have visited this place.

There are three big tanks within the fort walls.

Round shaped fossils of the size of small coins popularly known as *Nandnu Nanu* (Nand's Currency) are found in abundance.

The construction of the coastal high-way linking Lakhpat with Umargaon in Bulsar district has started.

Madh or Mata-no-Madh—Lakhpat Taluka (P. 850—M. 438 ; F. 412) ; V. P.

Madh or Mata-no-Madh, a village about 88 km. north-west of Bhuj and 43 km. south-east of Lakhpat, lies surrounded by hills on both banks of a small stream. Interest attaches to Madh as the place where alum and Ashapuri incense are found. Gypsum, bauxite and lignite are also found here. It is the headquarters of the Kapdis, a sect of some local religious importance. In a dell near the village is a temple of Ashapura Mata, the family deity of the Raos of Kutch. The temple is said to have been built in the beginning of the 14th century by two Karad Vanias, Ajo and Anagor, ministers of the father of Lakha Fulani. Destroyed by the earthquake of 1819, it was rebuilt in 1823 A. D. by Brahmakshatri Sundarji Shivji and Vallabhji. The temple is 58 feet long, 32 feet broad and 52 feet high. The temple has a large-sized brass-bell weighing about 400 kg. said to have been installed by Mir Gulamsha Kalora of Sindh. A legend has it that when his army attacked this temple in 1762 his soldiers became blind by the curse of the goddess. Gulamsha took a vow that if their vision was restored, he would install a huge bell in the temple. The soldiers regained their vision and Gulamsha kept his word.

A 41-wick silver lamp with an elephant mount weighing about 2 kg. was presented to the temple goddess by Jamadar Fateh Muhammad in fulfilment of a vow taken by him. The lamp is still preserved in the temple. The image in the shrine is a red-painted rock, about six feet high and six feet broad at the base, narrowing to a point in a shape with some rough likeness to a human form. It is *svayambhu*, i. e., emerged from the earth. Connected with this temple are two classes of people known as Bhuvas and Kapdis who, though now very different, are said to have sprung from two brothers. The Kapdis are devotees who are enjoined to be celibate, wear no hair and eat only among themselves. According to their own account, they came from Gujarat about 1800 years ago, and of this they say, they had evidence till the battle of Jhara (1762), when leaving their villages, they lost their records. About 300 years ago, the succession to the headship of the monastery was disputed and on reference to the Rao, it was decided that one of the claimants should be head or Raja, and the other with the title Rorasi should be head elect. This custom was in vogue till 1943. The priest is called Rajabawa who is treated with much respect by the Kutch ruler and has the privilege of receiving him sitting. Even today, when the Maharao of Kutch visits Madh, he first pays his respects to the Raja, who remains seated upon his throne of state. When the time comes for the Raja to return the courtesy, his throne is carried with him : and seated on that throne he receives the Maharao in the Maharao's own house. Kapdis are a well-to-do community owning land in the villages of Madh, Natra, Murachban and Kotda.

Ashapura is not only the family deity of the rulers of Kutch but also the family deity of all the branches of Jadeja clan in Saurashtra. The temple is open to all irrespective of caste, creed or religion and provides free lodging and boarding to pilgrims.

On the top of Jagora, a hill about 3 km. to the north of Mata-no-Madh, in a small cave entered by a narrow opening, is a rough red coloured stone. This, the Jagora Ashapura, is revered by many. On a hill to the west is a second temple to Ashapura Khatla Bhavani built by a Kapdi in 1743 A. D. Near the village is another shrine, the temple of Chachara Mata. Nearby, there is a *kund* called Chachara and among the *shaktas* it is considered as holy as the Ganges. The children of the *shaktas* are brought here for tonsorial ceremony. The lower part of the building is hewn out of a sand-stone rock, and the roof is supported by rough carved pillars.

Majal or Manjal—Nakhatrana Taluka (P. 1,753—M. 849 ; F. 904) G. P.

Majal or Manjal about 27 km. from the nearest railway station Bhuj, has about 3 km. to the north-west, in a low country surrounded by hills the ruins of Punvara-no gadh, Padhargadh or Patan, still showing traces of having once been a large well-peopled city. In 1830, a great number of Indo-Sassanian coins were found buried here in a copper vessel. The walls around the village as well as the gateways are almost ruined though the masonry is still visible. Within the walls were found the ruins of two palaces, a mint and a temple of Mahadev, all of stone without any trace of wood. The story of Punvara-no gadh is that it was built nearly 1,100 years ago in 878 A. D. by Punvar, the son of Ghav, the chief of Kera in Kutch and brother of Lakha Fulani. Quarrelling with his family, Punvar, whose chief characteristic seemed to have been cruelty, resolved to found a city and call it after his own name. When the city was completed, both the hands of the architect were chopped off so that he might not do similar work for any one else. After the death of the architect, his wife became *sati* and cursed Punvaro saying :

> "Oh Punvara, your life will be ruined just like ours. You will kill many in battle but you will die childless ; one day your palaces and forts will be demolished and the people will curse you."

It is said that soon after the city of Punvara-no gadh was founded seven devotees renowned for their virtues and miracles came from Anatolia and Syria and settled on a nearby hill. "Hearing of their fame, Punvara's childless queen had an underground passage dug from the palace to the

devotees' hill. Helping them in the service of their god Yaksh or Jakh, she after six months prayed them to ask the god to give her a son. But, for her husband's sins, until a sacrifice was offerred in the palace, the prayer could not be granted. By the underground passage the holy men entered the palace and were performing their rites when Punvara, hearing there were strange men in the women's rooms, forced his way in, seized the devotees, and set them with bare feet to tread out corn in a threshing floor bristling with harrow-spikes. Pitying their sufferings, a friendly barber offered to take the place of one of them, while he went to call Yaksh to their aid. Yaksh, from western Asia, heard the prayer, and with an earthquake that shook the hills, appeared with seventy-one brothers and a sister, Sayari. Called on to give up the holy men, Punvar refused and by the help of the gods and a magic amulet suffered nothing from the arrows of Yaksh brothers. Then Sayari, taking the form of a mosquito, bit Punvar on the arm so that he drew off his amulet, and, in the siege, a stone falling from the roof broke his head. Yaksh cursed the town and it has since lain desolate ".1

Another story is that in the eighth century of the Christian era, king Punvar oppressing the Sanghars, they sought the aid of some foreigners from western Asia. Seventy-two horsemen came, and establishing themselves on a hill about 5 km. from Punvara-no gadh took the fort and killed the chief. The Sanghars named this hill Kakadgadh in honour of the strange leader Kakad, and out of respect for the saviours, called them Yakshas after the fair-skinned horse-riding demigods of that name.2 In their honour the Sanghars made images of the seventy-two horsemen set up on the hill known as Kakadbhit just 3 km. away from the Punvara-no gadh and instituted a fair on the second Monday of Bhadrapad (September-October).

1. CAMPBELL SIR J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, Bombay, 1880, p. 236

2. Referring to Yakshas, the former *Gazetteer* (p. 236) states as under :

"According to both Brahman and Buddhist writings the Yakshas are a class of superhuman beings, white, handsome, and mounted on horseback. Mentioned in the Veds, they are generally supposed to have been a Himalayan tribe with whom the Aryans had dealings, during, or soon after their entry into India. Who the Kutch Yakshas were is doubtful. Fair horsemen from the west, the fact that their traces remain only on the coast would seem to show that they came by sea. This excludes from the number of possible Yakshas, the Greeks (325 B. C.), the Yuetchi or Indo-Skythians (100 B. C.-100 A. D.), and the white Huns (500 A. D.). There remains the Romans of the first, the Persians of the first, the Persians of the sixth, and the Arabs of the eighth centuries. The Romans may be rejected. Their invasion is doubtful and they could hardly have brought horses. Arabs too seem unlikely. They would strike the Kutch people as ruddy not as white, and by their conquest of Sind and their attacks on western India. The Arabs were too well-known to become centres of legend. It therefore seems probable that these Yakshas were the Persians who, at that time the chief seafaring nation in the Indian seas, in the sixth century conquered the lower Indus, but did not settle withdrawing as soon as the local ruler agreed to pay tribute."

Mandvi—Mandvi Taluka (P. 26,609—M. 12,902 ; F. 13,707) ; Mu.

Mandvi, or the mart, also called Maska Mandvi from a village close by, and in old times known as Raipur or Riyan, lies on the right bank of the Rukmavati river about one kilometre from the sea, and 56 km. south-east of Bhuj. Along the coast the land is constantly changing, the wind raising the loose sands into shifting dunes, and the sea in one place cutting out the land in pools and lagoons, and in another throwing it back in sand-banks. Inland the country is low-lying and bare with waving sand-hills, and close to the town are large stretches of rich green fields well tilled and watered. Outside the town walls is situated the Salaya area stretching to the shore on the west of the Rukmavati. The town is surrounded by a well built wall now in a dilapidated condition, about twenty-six feet high and three to four feet broad. It is strengthened by twenty-five bastions, the largest of them at the south-west serving as a light-house. The walls suffered much from the 1819 earthquake. Outsides, on the north, runs the Rukmavati river and to the north-east and west, hedges and trees grow close to the wall. To the south-west and along the river bank, the ground is open. Inside the walls, the streets are narrow and zigzag. Mandvi is well supplied with water from wells, many of them inside the town, and from a large lake to the west. Its cool and even climate is a most healthy change from the dry inland heat.

Referring to its history, the old *Gazetteer* (1880) noted : " The present city dates from the close of the sixteenth century (1581, S. 1638). With the help of a Bhatia named Topan, it was established by Rao Khengarji, the founder of Bhuj and the first Jadeja ruler of the whole of Kutch. Though at times greatly harassed by pirates, Mandvi would seem to have soon become a place of considerable trade. Towards the close of the eighteenth century, Rao Godji (1760-1778), a great patron of traders and seamen, did much for the town, making a palace and a dockyard, and personally superintending the building of ships. One, built in the Mandvi yard and manned and commanded entirely by Kutchmen, sailed safely to England and back to the Malabar coast. At that time (1780), there is said to have been a fleet of not less than 400 vessels, chiefly the property of rich Mandvi merchants ".1

After the first unsuccessful attempt to seize Rao Rayadhan (1784), Mandvi, under Ramji Khavas, threw off its allegiance to the central authority. Two years later Ramji Khavas was, on paying tribute, allowed to keep the town. Again refusing to pay tribute, the town was, by the merchants, made over to Fateh Muhammad. Soon after it passed to his rival Hansraj, who, in 1809, entered into an agreement with the British providing, among other terms, that an English agent with a guard of forty

1. TOD's *Western India*, 452

men should be stationed at Mandvi. Immediately after, in 1809, Hansraj died, and the agreement remained on paper. He was succeeded by his brother Tokarsi, who successfully resisted an attack by Fateh Muhammad.

Mandvi which was also known as Madai had considerable trade with the British settlement of Bombay during the early part of the 19th century. In 1818, Captain MacMurdo described it as having 50,000 inhabitants and considerable inland trade with Marwar and Malva, but in 1823, Tod after visiting Mandvi described it as "sharing in the universal stagnation of commercial enterprise", and suffering from the stoppage of slave trade. In 1827, Sir A. Burnes found that there were about 10,000 houses and 30,000 people in Mandvi. Of the total inhabitants, two-thirds were Hindus. The Baniyas particularly were so powerful, that they prevented the Muslims from eating non-vegetarian diet. The town was very busy, and there were a number of new boats under construction. The streets were narrow and zigzag, but many of the houses were commodious. The people chiefly Baniyas, Brahmins and farmers seemed hard working, cheerful, busy, well-to-do and fairly dressed. The sea trade of Mandvi was important. Cotton cloth was the chief export, while the chief imports were dates, coffee, dried grapes, ivory, etc. In inland trade, Mandvi was very rich and had trade with Sindh, Jesalmer, Marwar and Gujarat. Average yearly revenue from its sea and land customs was about Rs. 2·50 lakhs in 1840.

In 1855, Mandvi was described as a large town with 8,000 to 9,000 houses. In 1861, its population was estimated at 40,000. The exports from the port during those days consisted of cotton, wood, alum, butter, garlic, and black cloth; the imports, worth about four times as much as the exports, were grain, groceries, cloth, pepper, ivory, iron and brass and copper wares. Besides the local coastal trade Mandvi had trade connections with Karachi, Bombay, the Malabar coast and Calcutta, and out of India with the Persian Gulf, Aden and Zanzibar.

After Independence, the port of Mandvi has been developed. About Rs. 37 lakhs were spent for the development of the port during the Third Plan. The total tonnage of cargo handled at the Mandvi port was 25,047 in 1964-65 and 28,917 in 1965-66.

Mandvi was also famous as an important centre of ship-building in the past. In 1780, a ship built at Mandvi had sailed up to England. The Vadhas of Mandvi are still clever in the art of ship-building. Mandvi is also well-known for its *bandhani* or tie-and-dye *sari* so very popular all over Gujarat.

Of objects of interest, there is in the town itself about 100 yards (91 metres) to the east of the light-house, a large flat roofed three storeyed mansion built by Rao Lakhpat (1741-1760) as a palace, and now, used as

girls' high school. In style, it is extremely plain. Built of white stone in European fashion, it is adorned with carving. On the south-west bastion of the fort is a light-house, visible in all weathers from a distance of about 16 km.

Of religious buildings, there is the Vaishnav temple of Sundarvar, built by Rao Khengarji, when he founded the town in 1574 (S. 1631). Facing the west, the temple, built of sandstone, thirty-five feet high and with two belts of carving round the wall, is entered by a domed hall, *sabhamandap*, with domed porches on three sides, and triangular projections on the square of the hall, on which is a dome sixteen feet in diameter, supported by eight pillars, partly octagonal and partly round.

In style like the temple of Sundarvar, but larger and more richly carved is Raneshwar's temple, a stone building, fifty-seven feet by forty-eight feet, restored to its present form after the 1819 earthquake by Sheth Sundarji Shivji. It would seem to have been built early in the seventeenth century (1627), according to the local story, by Kamabai, sister of Rao Bharmalji (1585-1631). A small image of Vagheshvari placed by that lady in the temple, shows signs of damage inflicted by Raydhan. The temple of Lakshminarayan, better than that of Sundarvar, was built by Sheth Topan, in about 1607 (S. 1664). The Haveli of Ranchhodji Maharaj, a Vaishnav temple of the Vallabhacharya sect, is a two-storeyed tiled house built round an open court. There is an old Swaminarayan temple which is renovated recently. Near this temple, on the sea-shore, there is a sweet-water well. It is said that when Lord Swaminarayan visited Mandvi in the beginning of the last century, the citizens of Mandvi prayed for sweet-water, as the water available in Mandvi was saltish. Lord Swaminarayan asked the persons present to dig up a well near the sea-shore at the place pointed out by him. To the surprise of all, sweet-water welled up. Till to-day, the water is sweet.

Among other places of worship, there are two plain mosques, the Kajivali Masjid built in 1608 (V. S. 1665) and the Jama Masjid built in 1603 (V. S. 1660). The domes of Jama Masjid were damaged by the earth-quake of 1819. In their place, a tiled roof has since been built. On the coast, west of Mandvi, each on the crest of a sand-hill about 100 feet high and useful as land-marks to seamen, are two buildings, Pir Tamasa, a Muslim tomb about 5 km. and Assar Mata, a Hindu temple, about 1½ km. from Mandvi.[1]

The town has an oil-mill, one spinning mill, two ginning and pressing factories, one tile factory, a confectionery factory and several small scale industries.

1. *Bombay Govt. Selections*, CLII (*New Series*), pp. 15-17, TAYLOR'S *Sailing Directory*, pp. 1 and 341

A voluntary organization called the *Saraswatam* was founded here at the initiative of Shri T. M. Sheth M. P., in 1968, with the object of promoting education from the primary to the University level. At present 20 high schools have been established in rural areas of Kutch particularly in the backward and border areas. From 1970, a College of Education has been started at Mundra under the inspiration of *Saraswatam*. This institution has got plans to establish pre-primary schools in every village and secondary schools within a radius of 8 km. The main purpose is to prevent school drop-outs and serve such schools as feeders to primary and secondary schools.

Mandvi has one Arts and Commerce College, an open air theatre known as Tagor Rang Bhavan, two public libraries, four public gardens, a school for the deaf and dumb, an eye hospital, a tank called Topansar, a jetty, light-house, fog station and a power house. The well-known Mandvi Taluka Tuberculosis Association conducts a T. B. Sanatorium at Maska about 3 km. from Mandvi. The clinic, which provides free treatment to the poor has 70 beds.

There is a shrine of Rawal Pir on the coast of the sea. The temple of Dhoramnath stands on a high and square pedestal at village Nani Rayan close by.

Rath Yatra festival takes place in Mandvi on Shravan Vad 8-10. Shitala Mata fair is also held on Chaitra Vad 13.

Maniarogadh—Lakhpat Taluka

At present in ruins, the Maniarogadh was a fort, 320 feet high built by Odha, the husband of Hothal Padmini. These ruins remind one of the most popular stories of the love and valour of Odha and Hothal Padmini. Odha and his men were returning from Sindh to Kutch with their camels. The Sindh monarch had taken away many camels of Ningamro Sangan, the father of Hothal Padmini. Hothal had promised her dying father that she would take revenge on the Sindh monarch. She was thereafter moving about disguised in man's garb. Odha and Hothal had met each other on their way to Sindh and while Odha and his men were carrying the camels, Hothal who was left behind encountered single-handed the men of the Sindh ruler who were pursuing Odha and defeated them all. From her charming voice, Odha had understood that Hothal was a woman and not a man but could not say anything to her on account of the tremendous effect her valour had on him. Later, he pursued the footsteps of Hothal and found her taking bath in the Chakasar tank. Thereafter they both went to the Hothalpar Hill, married and stayed there. When monsoon set-in Odha wanted to go to his native place, Gholay. Hothal had taken a vow not to live in any village till she performed the *shradha* ceremony of her deceased father. Odha, thereupon, promised Hothal to keep their abode in the Maniaro Hill, not very far from

the village Gholay. Odha built the Maniarogadh where Hothal gave birth to two sons, Jakhro and Jesang. Hothal had not yet performed the *shradha* ceremony. She began to feel that she would not be able to fulfil her vow till she stayed at Maniarogadh with her family. As a result, she one day abruptly left Maniarogadh, went to her father's village and performed the *shradha*. On being quitted by Hothal, Odha began to feel the pangs of separation from her. Later, when the two sons, Jakhro and Jesang, were about to be married, Hothal returned to the Maniarogadh and made Odha's life happy. The shrines of Odha, Hothal, Jakhro and Jesang still revive the memory of their romantic lives.

The nearest S. T. bus station is Vayor about 13 km. away.

Maska—Mandvi Taluka (P. 1,713—M. 778 ; F. 935) ; V. P.

Maska is situated 59 km. from Bhuj, the nearest railway station and 3 km. from Mandvi, the taluka headquarters. It has a T. B. sanatorium established by Mandvi T. B. Association which gives free treatment to the poor T. B. patients. A Jain Ashram situated in the village provides shelter and food to the poor and aged Jains.

Mothala—Abdasa Taluka (P. 2,491—M. 1,119 ; F. 1,372) ; G. P.

Mothala is a well-built village about 33 km. from Nalia and about 58 km. from Bhuj, the nearest railway station. The Kankavati irrigation project built during 1952-53 at an estimated cost of Rs. 17 lakhs is located near this village.

Mundra—Mundra Taluka (P. 8,817—M. 4,288 ; F. 4,529) ; V. P.

Mundra a port town, stands on the Gulf of Kutch on the confluence of the river Kevdi and Bhukhi about 46 km. south-east of Bhuj, half way between Mandvi on the west and Anjar on the east, surrounded by well watered gardens. It is a walled town, and a great part of its masonry is believed to have been brought from the ruins of Bhadresar, 30 km. to the north-east. Fortified in 1728 by Devkaran Sheth, Mundra was in 1755 held and defended by Yuvraj Godji when he left Bhuj in a huff and revolted against his father. In 1801, it was given by Fateh Muhammad to Dosal Ven, and in 1815, when held by Muhammad Sota, was unsuccessfully attacked by Rao Bharmalji. This was one of the well-known ports of Kutch, which is now on the decline. In 1880, as the former *Gazetteer* recorded, it had a considerable trade with Saurashtra, Cambay, Surat and Bombay, the chief exports being cotton, castor-seed, pulses, wool and dyed cloth ; and the chief imports metals, timber, grain, dates, grocery and piece-goods. The site of the old port was abandoned in the year 1954, when the new port was constructed about 10 km. from town and

3 km. inside the Navinal creek. The port has one covered godown and two transit sheds. Among objects of interest is a canopy, *chhatra*, raised over the footprints, *padukas* of a Jain priest, with a small spire over the marble slab on which the footprints are engraved. The inside of the dome is neatly carved with a row of standing musicians. The exterior of the dome is modern, but the screen wall, pillars and interior are all old in the thirteenth or fourteenth century style. As the inscription round the footprints is dated 1744, this structure is probably the hall, *mandap* of an old temple. The front of the spire, *shikhar*, over the marble slab bears the footprints of the Guru Hanssagar, the disciple of the Guru Jivaji, who died in V. S. 1797 (1740 A. D.). Near this *chhatra* some hero-stones showing sea-farers on ships are found. At Barai, about two km. from Mundra, enclosed in a small court is a temple of Nilkanth Mahadev, with an inscription dated 1667 (V. S. 1724) at the right side of the shrine door. The *ling* is over-shadowed by a large seven-headed brass snake. Mundra is the headquarters town of Mundra taluka. Besides the Mamlatdar's office, there is an office of Taluka Panchayat. It has a college of education, two high schools, a hospital, the shrine of Mohanraiji and the well-known *dargah* of Shah Murad Pir. The main industries are cotton-ginning established in 1893 A. D. and salt manufacture in 1948. There is a large salt work—Bharat Salt and Chemical Industries—exporting about 90,000 tonnes of salt every year.

The Agriculture Department has converted the seed farm into a date farm in 1969. There is also another farm called the Fruit Development Farm which was established in 1956. It serves as a nursery of fruit crop for supply of grafts and seedlings. An experiment for growing grapes (Anabe Shahi) is under way. The farm also supplies coconut seedlings.

Nalia—Abdasa Taluka (P. 6,001—M. 2,934 ; F. 3,067) ; G. P.

Nalia, the headquarters of Abdasa taluka about 6 km. from Tera, is one of the most thriving towns in west Kutch. Walled and well built, it has a class of prosperous traders, dealing in piece-goods, grain, *ghee*, etc. Others are retired merchants who have made fortunes in Bombay or Zanzibar. It has taluka offices, a Jain temple and a Government Chhatralaya for Harijans. A fair called Jangleshwar Mahadev fair is held on Shravan Vad 11. A sheep breeding centre is established in 5,000 acres. It is to be developed by breeding Russian and New Zealand species.

Narayan Sarovar—Lakhpat Taluka (P. 383—M. 220 ; F. 163) ; G. P.

Narayan Sarovar also known as Naransar is a place of pilgrimage about 2 km. from Koteshwar. It is situated on the coastal highway and is connected with Bhuj by S. T. bus services. The temples, the chief attraction of the place, are surrounded by an embankment. Narayan Sarovar is considered to be one of the five holy lakes in India mentioned in *Shrimad*

Bhagvat and famous since ancient times. This agreeing with the account of the lake found by Alexander, and perhaps lasting till the change of the course of the Indus (about 100 A. D.) was in part re-emerged by the earthquake of 1819. Nearby the lake, there was, from early times, a temple of Adinarayan in the village of Narayan Sarovar. For long under priests of the Kanphata sect, the temple was about 1550, wrested from them by a *sanyasi* or *atit* named Narangar from Junagadh. This Narangar made long and broad embankments about the pool, an oblong sheet of water, 1,056 feet by 990 ft. divided by perforated stone walls into a number of bathing places, and furnished on all sides except the east with flights of stone-steps, and surrounded by *dharmashalas*. In a paved courtyard approached from the lake by flights of stone-steps, and surrounded by a strong wall are seven stone temples. Vagheli Mahakunvar, the wife of Rao Desalji (1718-1741), displeased with the Dwarka priests, after taking counsel with her Brahmans, determined to raise Narayan Sarovar to be a place of rival sanctity. Accordingly, in 1734, she first built the temples of Lakshminarayan and Trikamray in the same style as the Dwarka temples, assigning them the revenues of certain villages and the proceeds of certain taxes, and then those of Adinarayan, Goverdhannath, Dwarkanath and Lakshmiji. The temple of Trikamray, in style and shape resembling that at Koteshwar, 72 ft. long, 68½ ft. broad and 61 ft. high, has three side porches with a large one in the centre, all capped with domes resting on twelve feet high pillars. The 1819 earthquake threw down the central dome, but it has since been rebuilt. The space between the central dome and the shrine is paved with white and black marble. In the east screen wall of the shrine is a marble plate with an inscription. The doors are plated with silver. In the shrine, on silver throne, stands a black marble image of Trikamray. Under the idol throne is a black marble figure of Vishnu's eagle (*garud*), with clasped hands kneeling on one leg. Over the image of Trikamray, are forty gold and silver parasols, the offerings of devotees.

The other five temples built by Vagheli Mahakunvar form, along with the more lately built temple of Kalyanray, a row of six domes supported by fourteen pillars and forty-eight pilasters, with carving on the bases, shafts, and capitals. The brackets are scrolled volutes and the side pillars of one dome serve to support the lintel of the next, and the corresponding pillars of the next act similarly for the third dome. The temples at the two ends have screen walls under their domes with doors, but the rest have a common verandah with entrances in the front, the space on the two sides of each entrance being closed with a screen of wooden lattice. Each of the temple has an inscription. Lakshmiji's temple is without any special feature. Dwarkanath's or Ranchhodji's temple has a small shrine opposite to it with a large image of Vishnu's Garudji, holding a weapon whose point impales a cobra. There is the third shrine of Goverdhannath. The fourth of Adinarayan has a black stone pavement in the gallery. Opposite to it is a small shrine of Gopalji.

(Bk) H-49—78 (Lino)

The last temple of Lakhshminarayan has silver-plated doors and an idol throne and canopy of silver. In line with these five temples is the temple of Kalyanray built in 1828 by Rao Desalji II. The stone and wood frames of the entrance are richly carved, and the doors are plated with silver in which flowers, fruits, leaves and creepers are carved with much skill. The canopy of the god stands on a pedestal, and is supported on four silver pillars with fine spiral flutes and richly carved friezes, bases, and shafts. The idol is of polished black marble. Besides these built temples, the soft sandstone near the fort has at various times been carved into shrines and caves. They are known as the Ram Gupha, Lakshaman Gupha and Shesh Gupha. A fair is held here on the 11th to the 15th of Kartik (November-December). The village has a post-office, a dispensary, a customs office, a police outpost and a primary school.

A survey for construction of a coastal broad gauge railway from Lakhpat to Gandhidham via Narayan Sarovar and Mandvi has been completed. A proposal is mooted to set up a holiday home like the one at Chorwad.

Rampar—Abdasa Taluka (P. 625—M. 303 ; F. 322) ; G. P.

Rampar is about 10 km. from Nalia, the taluka headquarters. There is a memorial of Abda Jam a king after whom Abdasa Taluka was named. The king had extended his protection to Sumari ladies, fugitives from Sindh.

Rampar Vekra—Mandvi Taluka (P. 2,288—M. 1,054 ; F. 1,234) ; G. P.

Rampar Vekra is a village mainly inhabited by agriculturists. It has the temple of Shri Swaminarayan whose *padukas* here make the village a well-known place of pilgrimage. There are two holy *kunds* called Gangaji and Jamnaji with a natural flow of water. A fair is held at Gangaji on the Rukmavati river side on Kartik Sud 15. The nearest railway station is Bhuj about 35 km. away. At a distance of about 9 km. from here is an ancient Shiv Temple known as Bileshwar Mahadev.

Ratadia—Mundra Taluka (P. 1,019—M. 445 ; F. 574) ; V. P.

Ratadia is about thirty-two km. from Anjar, the nearest railway station. The place is also known as Ratadia Ganeshwala, on account of an old temple of Ganeshji or Ganpati where a fair is held on Chaitra Sud 4. It is the active centre of the Red Cross Society. A Sarvajanik Hospital with modern equipments is run by a local voluntary association. A mobile medical van is maintained which serves about 14 surrounding villages. The hospital maintains a modern permanent health exhibition.

Rav—Rapar Taluka (P. 4,083—M. 2,074 ; F. 2,009) ; G. P.

Rav has, on the bank of a large beautiful pond, a temple of Ravechi Mata, a local Goddess, built in 1821 (V. S. 1878) at a cost of 24,000 *koris*. The old temple said to have been built by the Pandavas was destroyed by the troops of one of the Babi chiefs. In the present shrine, with five other images at her side, is a large *svayambhu* or self-born idol of Ravechi Mata and opposite to it Naklank or the horse incarnation standing on three legs on a pillar. On one side of the shrine is kept the *akhand jyoti dipika* or a lamp which is always burning. Besides the main temple is a shrine of Bhairav. The Goddess Ravechi is highly venerated by the people of Vagad. Out of the temple income, about 500 cows are maintained and travellers are fed daily with milk and bread. At the corner of the courtyard wall is a memorial stone with an inscription dated 1271 (V. S. 1328). There are three shrines of Hanumanji, Ganeshji and Shitala Mata, in the compound of the temple. A fair is held here in Bhadrapad.

Rayan -Mandvi Taluka (P. 1,860—M. 803 ; F. 1,057) ; V. P.

Rayan is about 11 km. from Mandvi. It has a very progressive village Panchayat which won a prize as the best village Panchayat in the district in the year 1962-63. A fair is held here on Phalgun Sud 5. Another fair is held on Shravan Vad 10, in memory of Dada Dhoramnath whose shrine is situated across the river.

The ruins found at this village indicate that it was the site of a flourishing town called Raipur which was destroyed by the curse of Dhoramnath. Finds of Indo-Parthian coins from here indicate that Raipur had extensive seaborne trade.

Reha—Bhuj Taluka (P. 1,142—M. 507 ; F. 635) ; G. P.

Reha is about 8 km. from Kukma, the nearest railway station. It is a centre for small scale industries manufacturing knives, nut-crackers, locks, etc. A fair is held at Reha on Chaitra Vad 3-4. Another fair is held on Ashadh Sud 3 in memory of Lakhiar Dada, a Jadeja known for his miraculous power, who lost his life while protecting cows.

Roha—Nakhatrana Taluka (P. 868—M. 422 ; F. 446) ; V. P.

It lies at a distance of about 48 km. from Bhuj with which it is connected by bus services. Roha was formerly the seat of the Roha Jagir. It is said that the Samari ladies who came to Kutch from Sindh sacrificed themselves here. Consequently the place is also known as Sumari Roha. It has a very old fort which is still in a fairly good condition.

Sandhan—Abdasa Taluka (P. 1,466—M. 679 ; F. 787) ; V. P.

Sandhan is situated on the river Kankavati about 38 km. from Nalia, the taluka headquarters. It seems to be Sindhan which about 820, a certain Fazl, son of Mahan, formerly a slave of the house of Samma, took and building a Jama mosque, had the prayers read in Khaliph Mamun's (813-833) name. Fazl was succeeded by his son Muhammad, whose place was treacherously usurped by his brother Mahan. To win the goodwill of the Khaliph Mutasim-bi-Ilah (838-841), Mahan sent the largest and longest teak tree that had ever been seen. But the people of Sandhan, preferring his brother, slew Mahan and crucified him and shortly after, declared themselves independent. In 912, Sandhan is mentioned as a place where the teak tree and canes grew. A few years later (943-968), it was said to be a strong and great city with a Jama mosque, where Muhammadan precepts were openly observed and where mangoes, coconuts, lemons and rice grew in great abundance. At the time of the battle of Jhara, when the army of Gulamshah of Sindh invaded Kutch, this village is said to have faced the invaders and repelled the attack. An old but strong fort with marks of cannon-fire on walls still surround the village. A fair is held in memory of Bhikhu Pir on Vaishakh Sud 7.

Shikarpur—Bhachau Taluka (P. 1,623—M. 817 ; F. 806) ; G. P.

Shikarpur is a large thriving village surrounded by a fort and has the tombs of three Muslim saints Patha, Gebansha Multani and Asaba. Patha, who is said to have come from Sindh earned his fame by changing salt-water into sweet-water ; Gebansha by going on fighting after his head was off ; and Asaba by curing the blind. The tombs are simple structures. The nearest railway station is Samkhiali about 20 km. away. It is on the Jhund-Kandla broad gauge railway.

Shivalkha—Bhachau Taluka (P. 1,063—M. 532 ; F. 531) ; V. P.

Shivalkha is a railway station about 30 km. from Bhachau. The village has a water works supplying water to five surrounding villages.

Sikra—Bhachau Taluka (P. 1,431—M. 714 ; F. 717) ; V. P.

Sikra, about 32 km. north-east of Bhuj and 12 km. from Bhachau is said to have once been a large and flourishing town. The chief remains are those of a temple of Mahadev Kageshvar, where, according to the story, Dharan Vaghelo, the great grandfather of Lakha Phulani, used to come everyday for worship. The ruins are overgrown with trees. A little to the south of the village, is a saint's shrine and two strong and well built Momna Kanbi tombs built in 1666 (V. S. 1723). Near the shrine is a

beautiful Jain temple of solid masonry built in 1716 (V. S. 1773) and dedicated to Vaspuj. The beautiful marble image of Vaspuj, when in 1785 (V. S. 1842) threatened by the Miyanas, was taken to Adhoi.[1] Near the temple are many memorial stones, one of them bearing as old a date as 1003 (V. S. 1060).

Sinay—Anjar Taluka (P. 1,265—M. 604 ; F. 661) ; V. P.

Sinay is about 5 km. from Adipur, the nearest railway station. This village has a tank which supplies drinking water to Gandhidham and Kandla.

Suthari—Abdasa Taluka (P. 2,100—M. 926 ; F. 1,174) ; G. P.

Suthari is 24 km. from Nalia, the taluka headquarters. The village is known for the Balwantsagar dam constructed in memory of the late Shri Balwantray Mehta, ex-Chief Minister of Gujarat, who died here on 19th September, 1965 at the time of Pakistani agression when the plane carrying him was shot down by the Pakistani air force. A memorial has been set up at the place where the plane crash-landed. It is one of the five holy places, *panchtirthi* of the Jains and has a good Jain temple.

Tera—Abdasa Taluka (P. 2,219—M. 1,020 ; F. 1,199) ; V. P.

Tera, about 48 km. south-east of Lakhpat, is a well-built village on the margin of a tank, and surrounded by a strong stone wall. The walls, thrown down by the 1819 earthquake, were repaired and the town with thirty-six dependent villages assigned to Hamirji, the brother of the late Rao Pragmalji. Tera is chiefly inhabited by the Jains. It is one of the five important religious places of the Jains along with Jakhau, Kothara, Suthari and Nalia known as *panchtirthi* (group of five pilgrim centres) in Kutch. The architecture of the temple is impressive. The place is approachable by S. T. buses from Bhuj, Mandvi and Lakhpat. Shitala Mata fair is held on Chaitra Vad 13. Bhid Bhanjan fair is held on Shravan Vad 30.

Tuna—Anjar Taluka (P. 1,588—M. 791 ; F. 797) ; G. P.

Tuna is the seaport of Anjar, about 74 km. east of Mandvi. It was developed as a port by Fateh Muhammad in the beginning of the 19th century, but is now an insignificant port useful only for country crafts.

Umarsar—Lakhpat Taluka (P. 39—M. 23 ; F. 16) ; G. P.

Umarsar 10 km. from Lakhpat has lignite deposit and is in the vicinity of the Lefri Hill.

1. The writing on the wall of the temple of Vaspuj at Sikra is ; "This is a Jain temple built in Samvat year 1773, Shaka 1638 (1716 A. D.), in the bright half of the month of Ashvin." *Bom. Govt. Sel.* CLII (*New Series*), p. 95.

Vagham Chavdagadh or Patgadh—Lakhpat Taluka

Vagham Chavdagadh or Patgadh about 13 km. south-east of Lakhpat, has the ruins of the old city of Vagham Chavda, who is said to have been killed during the thirteenth century by his nephews, Mod and Manai. Bhuj, the nearest railway station, is about 128 km. and Lakhpat, the bus station, about 13 km. away from this place. The town seems to have stretched over more than three km. chiefly along the banks of a stream. The lines of the town walls and the site of a dam, that must once have joined a large lake, may still be traced. Copper coins were sometimes found, but were so much rusted that when handled they pulverised. There is a sacrificial pond, *kund*, rebuilt in 1838 by one *atit* named Kashigar. It is considered holy and the people of the neighbouring villages go there to perform *shradha* ceremony. There are two temples one of Koteshwar and the other of Kalika Mata.

Nearby there is a cave known as Khapra-Kodia's Cave. Inside the cave are engravings showing various figures of human beings, animals and birds.

Varnu—Rapar Taluka (P. 215—M. 121 ; F. 94) ; V. P.

Varnu is about 16 km. from Adesar the nearest railway station. It is known for an old temple of Varnu said to have been built by king Mulraj of Anhilvada (942-997) and repaired in 1860. The place is named after a saint Varnu also known as Varnu Dada who is said to have died at this place in an encounter with robbers who had carried away cows. Inside a shrine dedicated to the saint, there are three red smeared stones representing Varnu and his brother and sister. The place is known for Captain Mac-Murdo's tomb situated near the village in a courtyard. It is said that while touring Kutch in the summer of 1820, Captain MacMurdo had camped near this place. Due to the oppressive heat, he is said to have died here in his cot in the courtyard of Varnu Dada. This has since strengthened the belief that no one can sleep on a cot at this place. On the tomb the following epitaph is inscribed :

" In Memoriam
Captain James Mac Murdo
First British Political Agent in Cutch
Died of Cholera at Warnu
on 28th April 1820 "

Vinjan—Abdasa Taluka (P. 1,463—M. 687 ; F. 776) ; V. P.

Vinjan is believed to be a place of considerable antiquity.[1] In the time of Gadhesing about 3 km. to the west of the present site, was the town of

1. The name Vinjan is said to come from the goddess Vindhyavasini, who was brought from the Vindhya range by Markand Rishi. Before this goddess the four *atits* coming from Girnar to free the people from the oppression of the Kanphatas, performed penance and received orders to take possession of Ajepal Koteshwar. *Bom. Govt., Sel.* CLII (*New Series*), p. 46.

Kanchiba Pattan. Its only traces are the ruins of a small shrine of Kalika Mata, a shallow pool and the remains of a fortress. About the time when Karai Samma came from Sindh, and built a palace in Poladiva 19 km. east of Kanchiba, Vinjan passed from Gadhesing into the hands of Kanak Dev Chavda. The Halas, who afterwards took and shifted it to its present site near the Vindhyavasini temple, held it till they were driven out by Jasaji, the nephew of Rao Khengarji. Another temple of Rakeshvar Mahadev, built according to an inscription in 1631, is of hard yellow stone on a pedestal 5½ feet high, 45 ft. long and 35 ft. wide. There are three domed porches with small pyramidal spires ornamented with lions. The shrine has a *ling* in the centre, and in niches in the opposite wall images of Ganpati and Parvati. The village is situated on the Nalia-Mandvi Road where S. T. buses ply regularly. Shitala Mata's fair is held on Chaitra Vad 13. Lakhaji who commanded the Kutch army in the famous war of Jhara (1761) hailed from Vinjan. A memorial is set up at this place.

Vira—Anjar Taluka (P. 665—M. 333 ; F. 332) ; V. P.

Vira, has a temple and reservoir of Jogni Devi, said to be about 500 years old (1478 A. D.), but rebuilt in 1853. It is a favourite place for performing *shradha* ceremonies. The nearest railway station is Anjar 19 km. away.

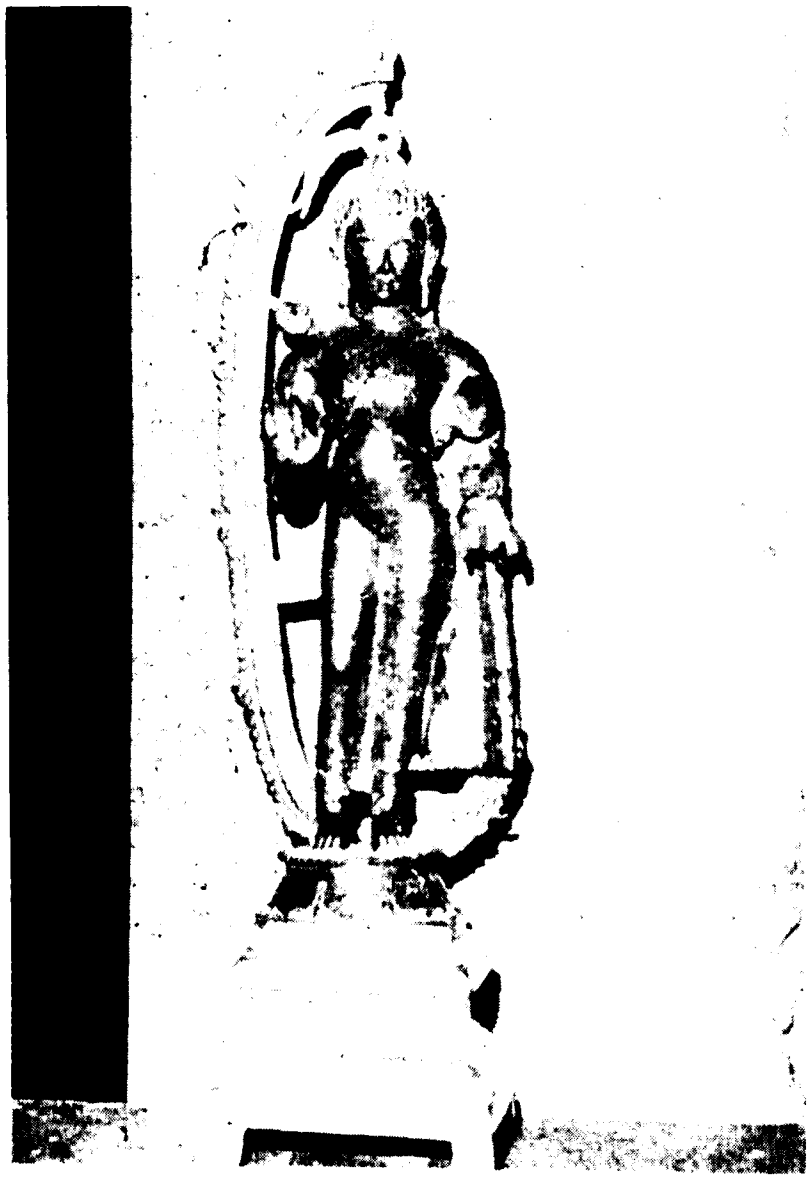
Vrajvani—Rapar Taluka (P. 358—M. 176 ; F. 182) ; V. P.

Vrajvani is 48 km. from Rapar, the taluka headquarters and 50 km. from Adesar, the nearest railway station. It is said that a *dholi* (drummer) of this place was so clever in his art of drumming that Ahir women, on hearing the charming beatings of the drum, used to leave aside their work and play round him to the rhythmic tunes of his drum. Once it so happened that while the drummer was playing on his drum with the 120 Ahir women dancing, a young Ahir out of jealousy attacked him on his head with an iron stripped staff, resulting in the death of the drummer. Grieved at his death, the Ahir women who were deeply engrossed in dancing with the drum beating, struck their ivory bangles against their foreheads and dropped dead on the spot. The *palias* (memorial stones) of these 120 Ahir women and the drummer are said to have been buried at this place. Pieces of sculptured stones are also found from this village. A fair is held at Avdi Mata shrine.

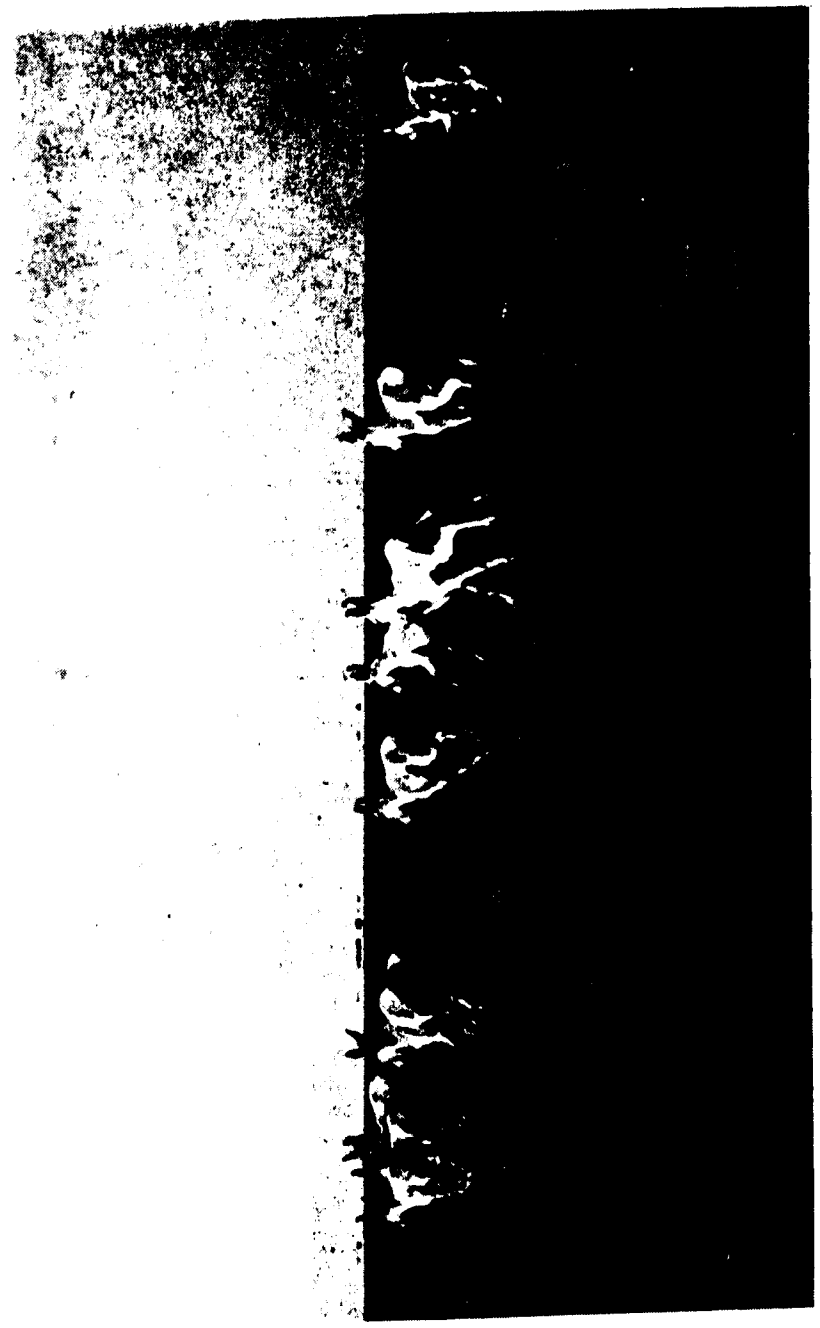
PLATES



The Sun Temple with its architectural beauty at Kotay built by Lakho Phulani



Standing Image of Bronze Buddha
Probably belonging to 7-8th Century A. D.



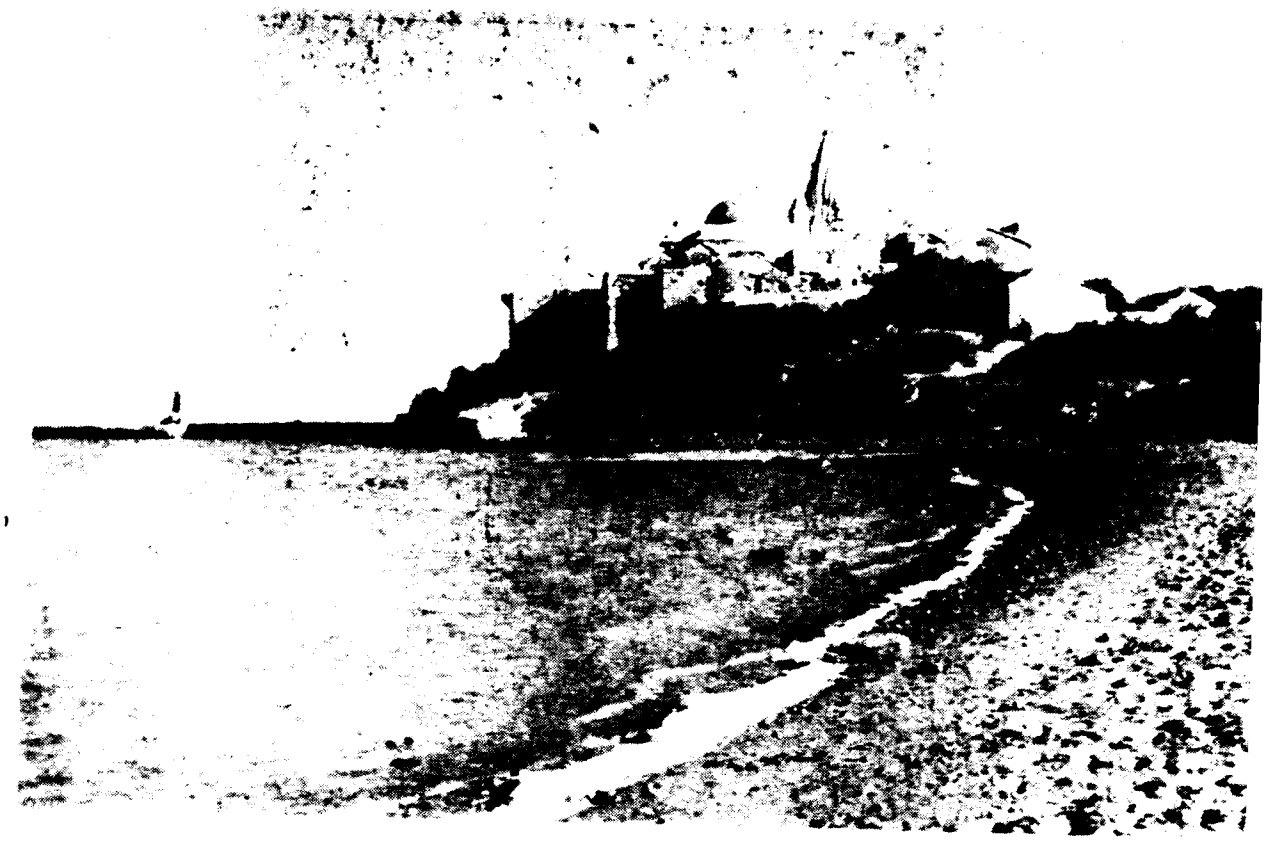
Wild Ass (Onager) in the Rann of Kutch, a rare species in the World



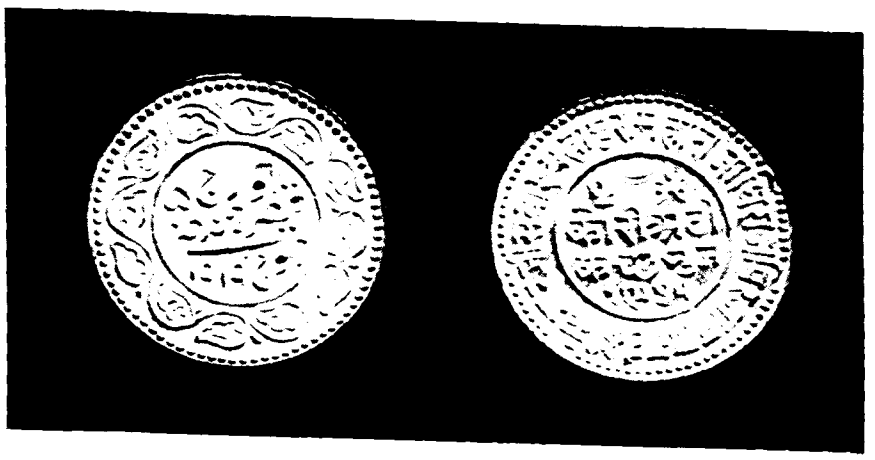
Flamingos in the Great Rann of Kutch



Silver *Arati* with 38 wicks in the temple of Ashapuri Mata given by Fateh Mohammed Jamadar



Koteshwar Temple, Kutch



Kori (*Adhi*) — Obverse and reverse



Kori (half) — Obverse and reverse

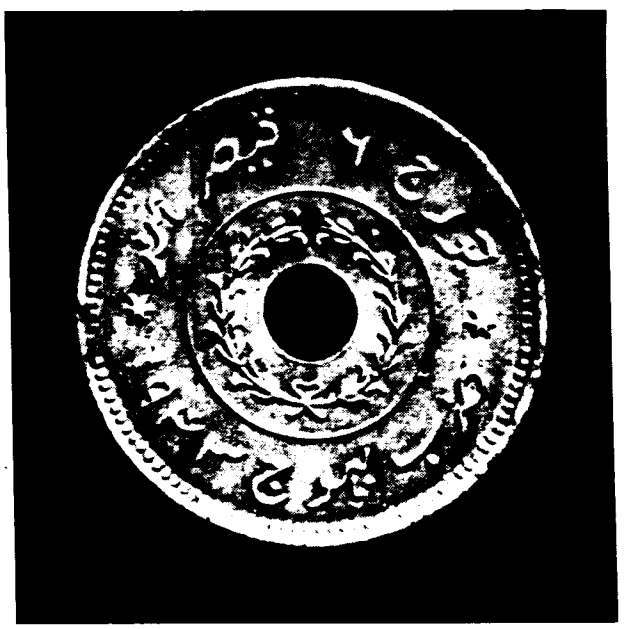


Dhinglo — Obverse and reverse



Kori Dhabu — Obverse and reverse





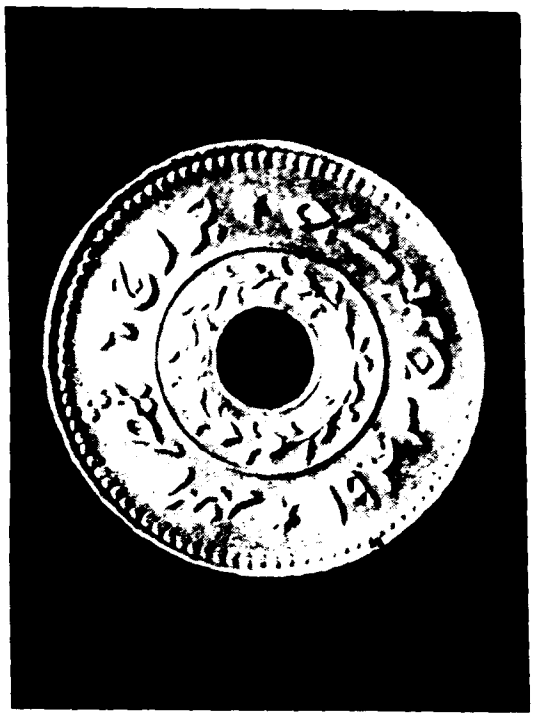
Adhio — Obverse and reverse



Dokadu Obverse and reverse

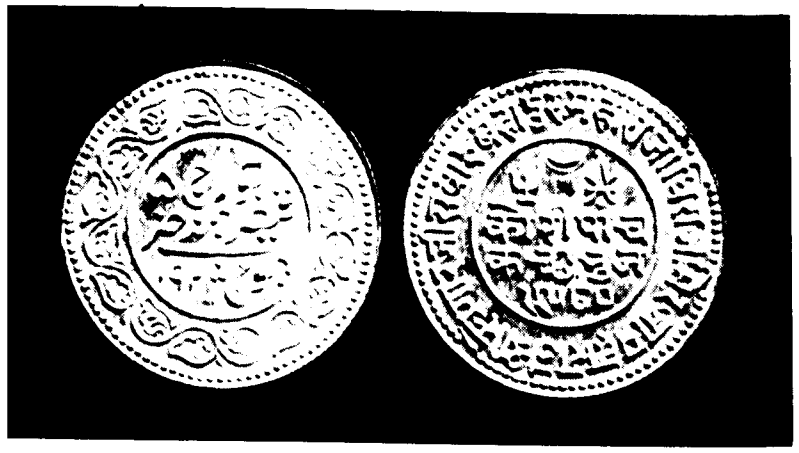


Trambiya Obverse and reverse

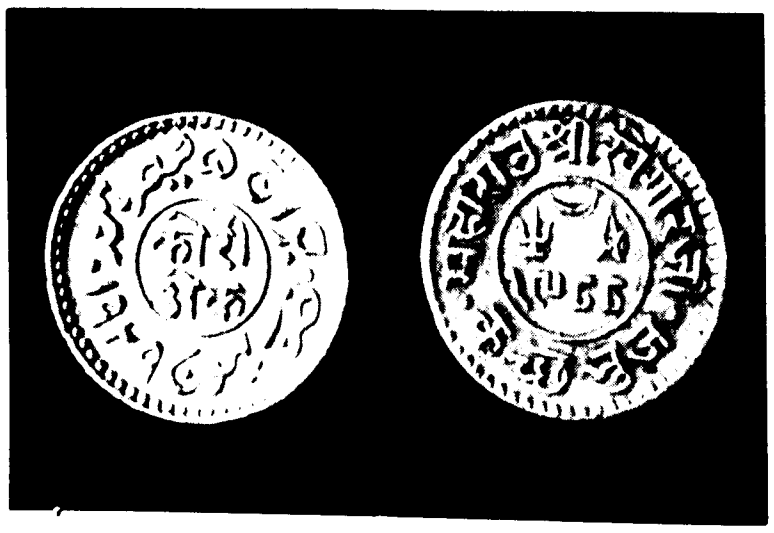




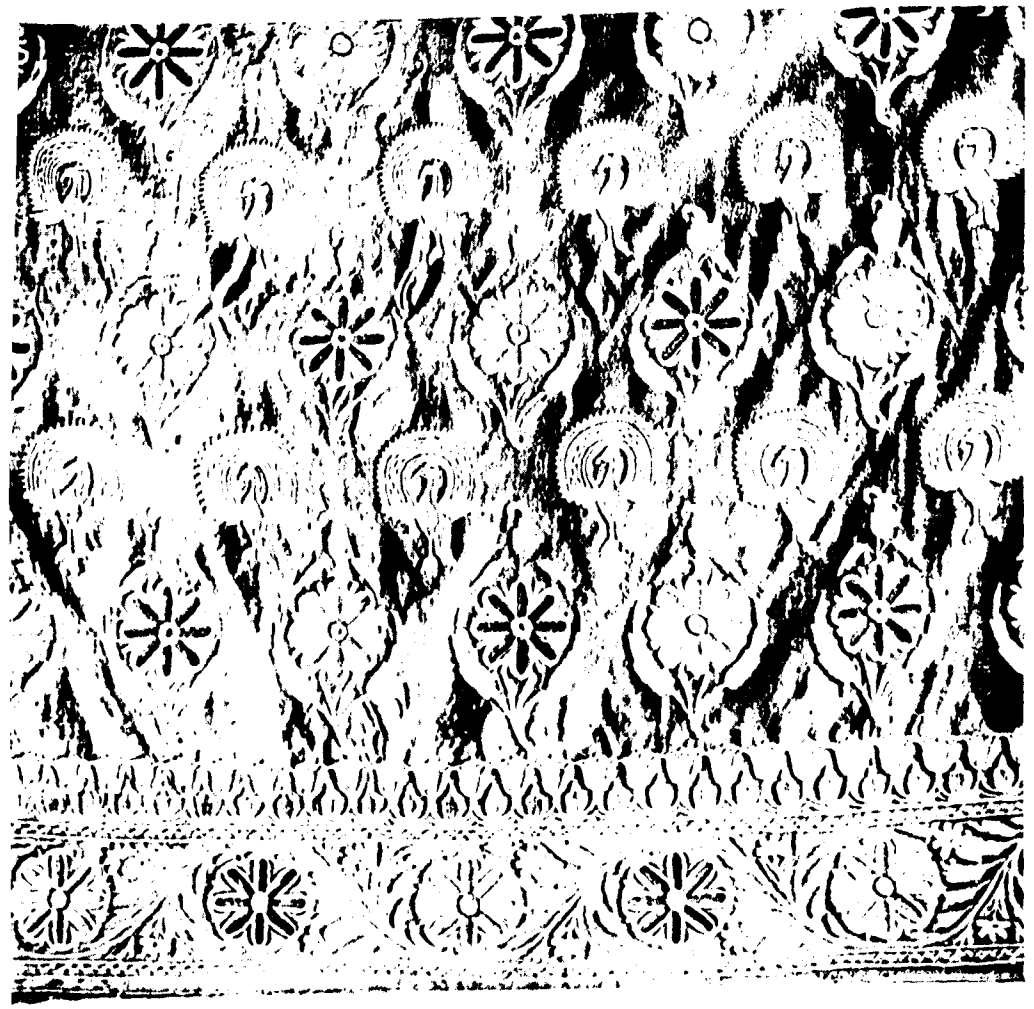
Paylo — Obverse and reverse



Kori (five) Obverse and reverse

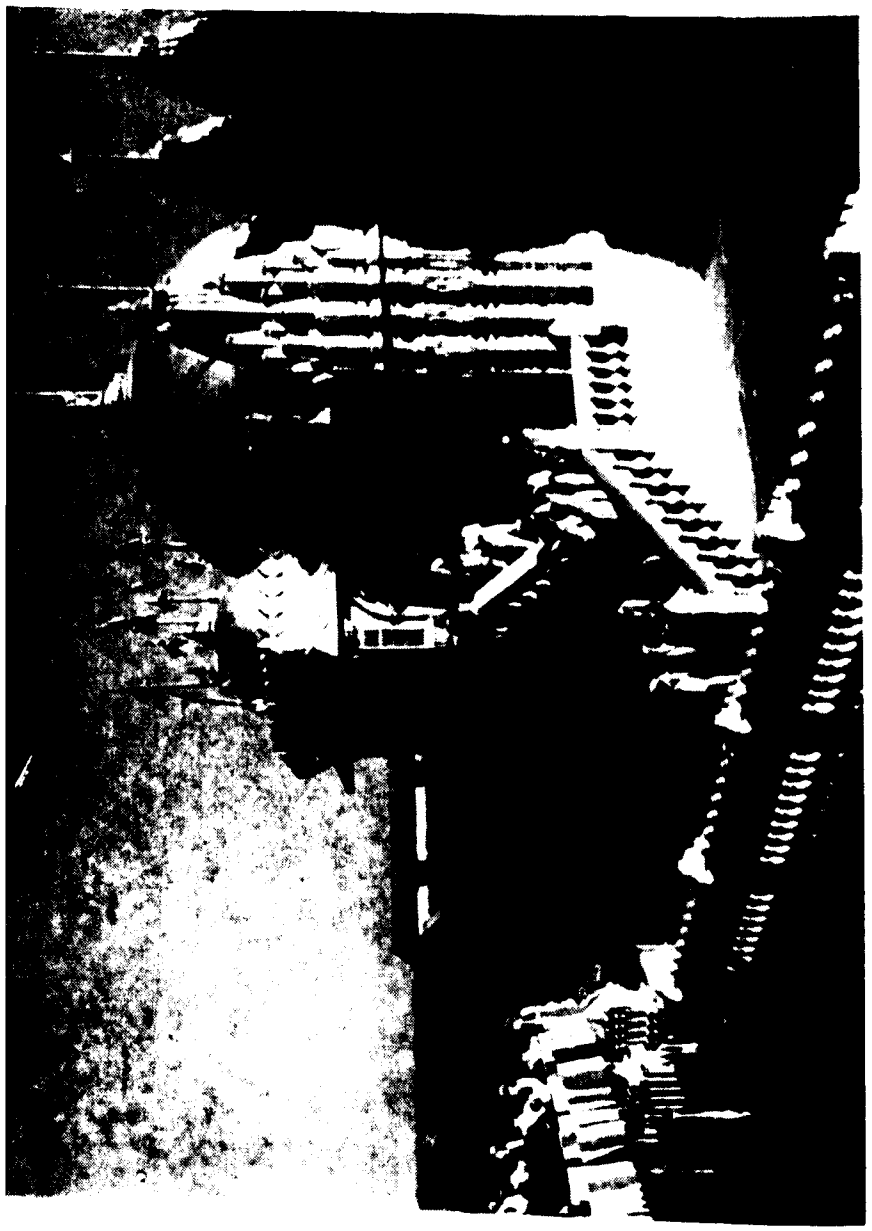


Kori (one) Obverse and reverse

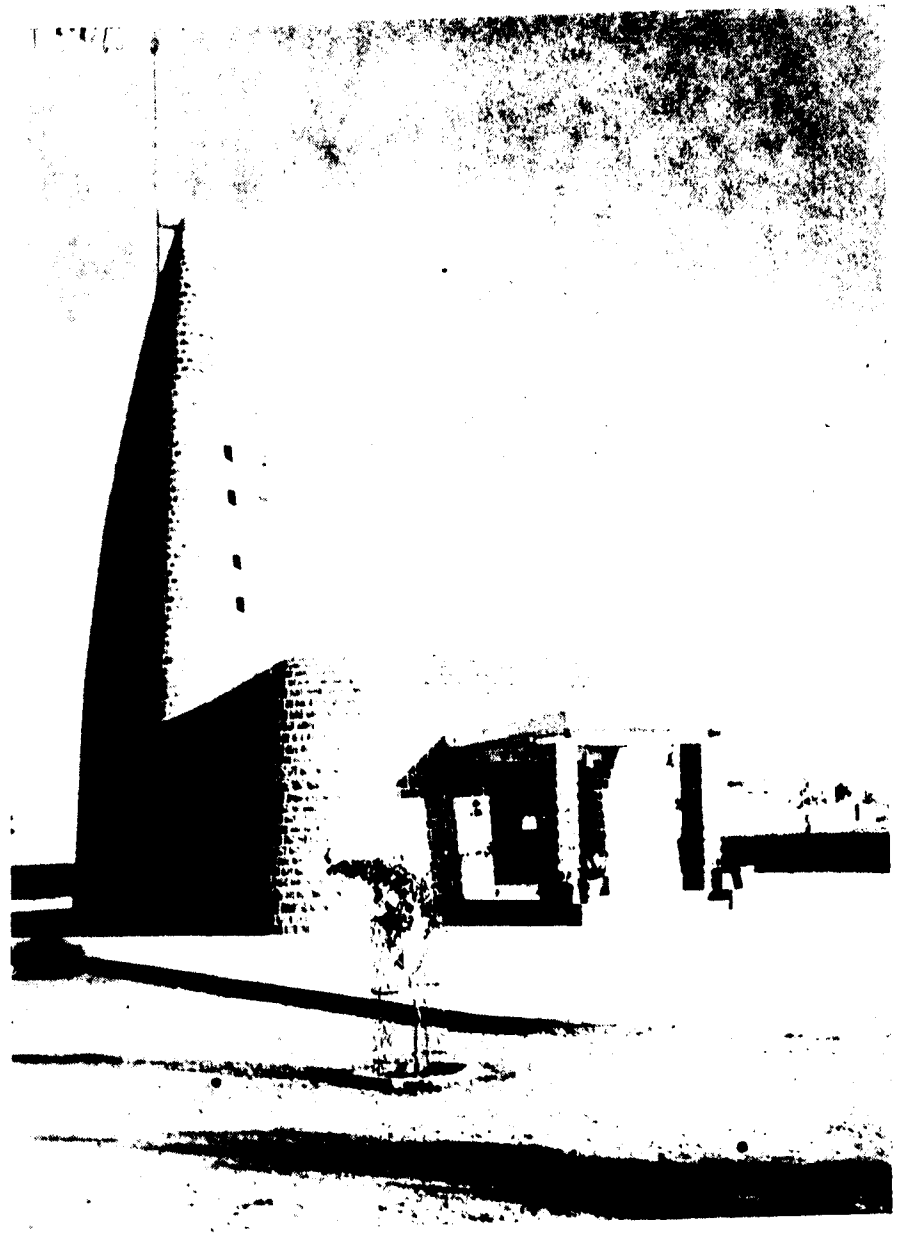


A part of a skrit, Mochi School, Kutch, ca. early 20th century.

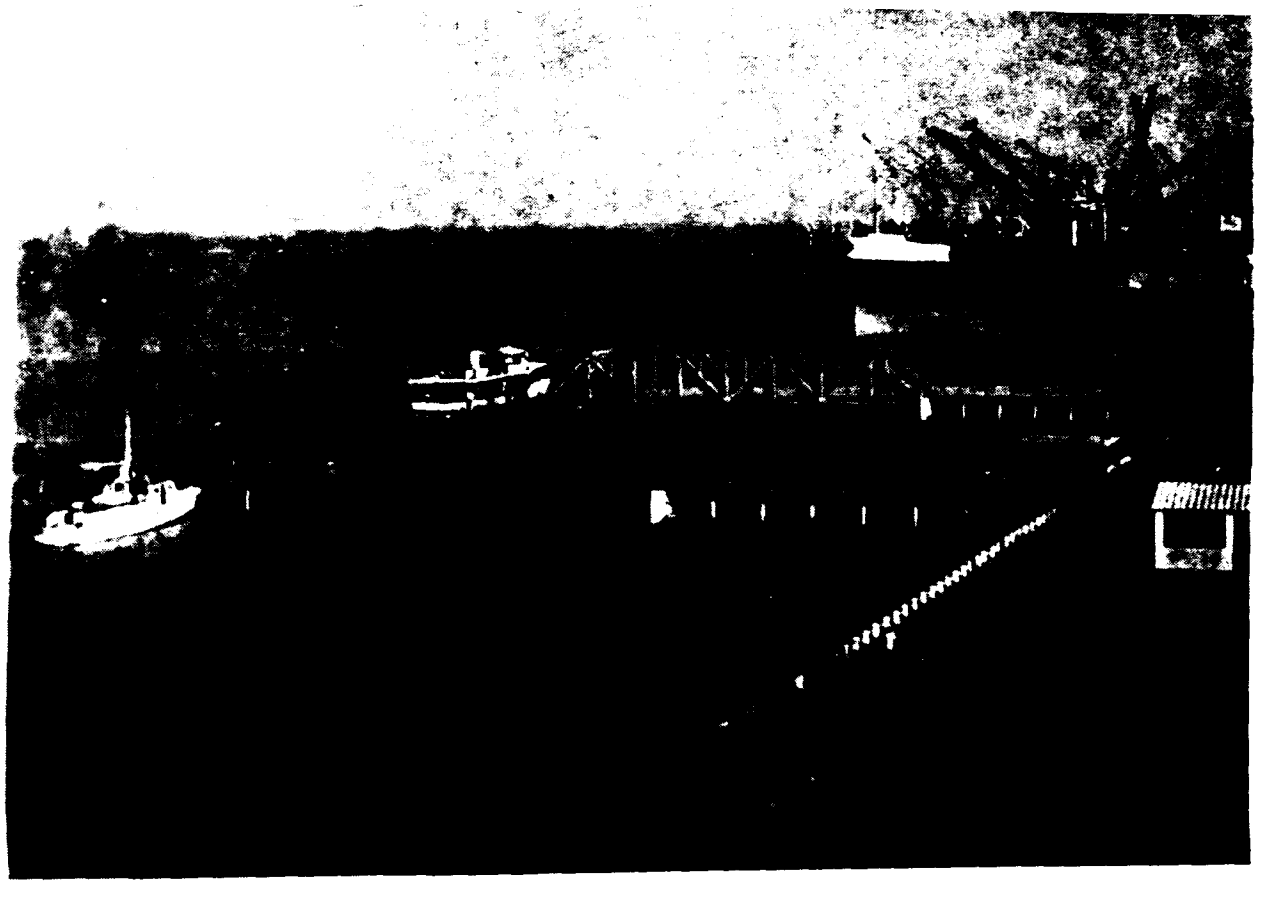
(By Courtesy, Director of Archaeology, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad).



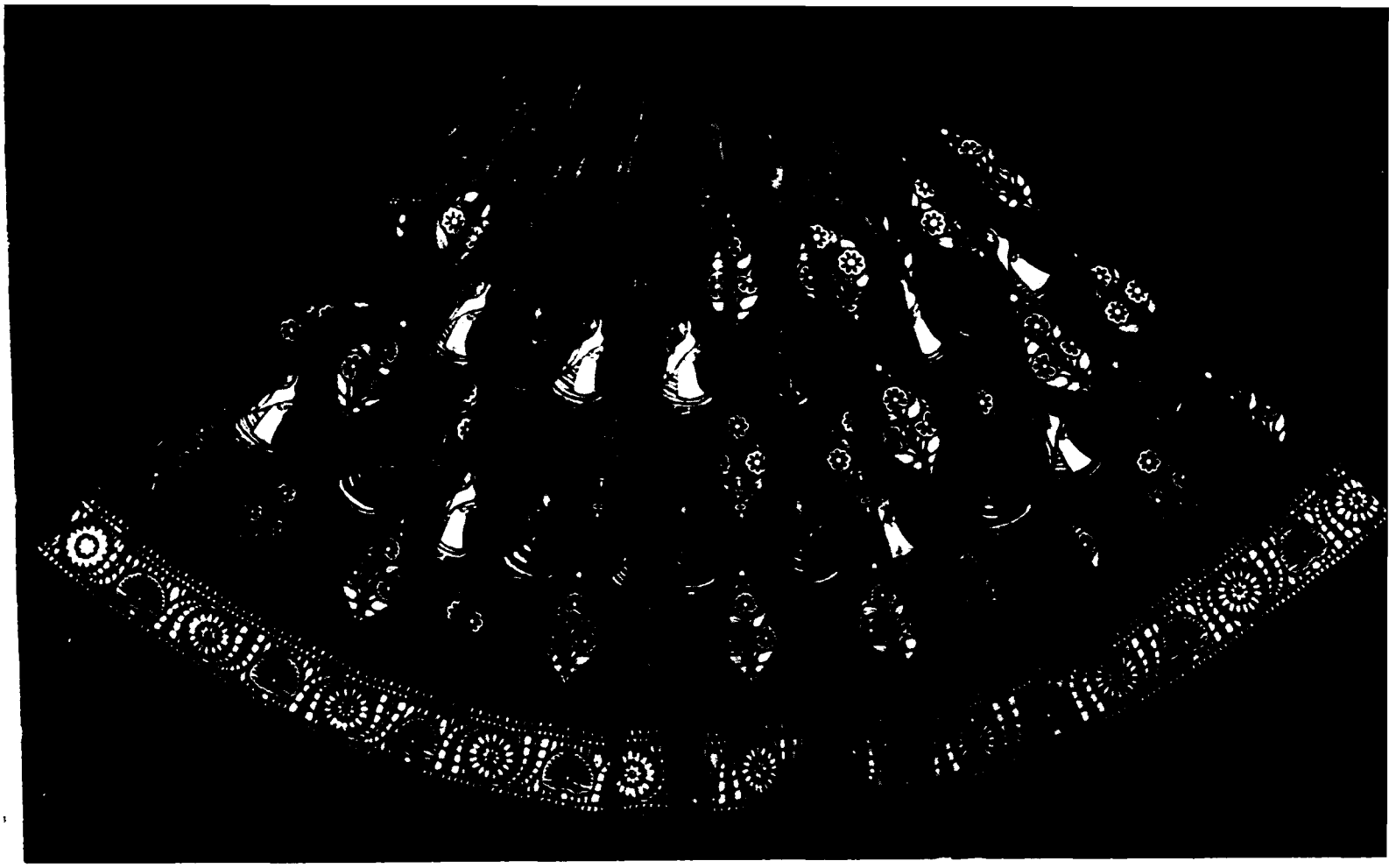
Jain Temple, Bh[illegible]e, Bhadresar



Nirvasiteshwar Mahadev Temple, Gandhidham



Kandla Port (New)



A skirt, Mochi School, Kutch, ca. early 20th century.

(By Courtesy, Director of Archaeology, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad).



Free Trade Zone, Kandla

GLOSSARY

A

Aaba	..	.. A sort of a woman's frock embroidered only on the front
Acharya	..	.. A religious head ; a preceptor
Ahimsa	..	.. Non-violence
Akika	..	.. A Muslim ceremony to be performed at certain intervals within a month after child birth
Ashram	..	.. Hermitage
Ashramshala		.. A residential school for the tribal children
Ayah	..	.. Midwife

B

Bahet	..	.. A type of poetic composition
Balmandir	..	.. A pre-primary school
Balvadi	..	.. A school for children
Bal-varg	..	.. Pre-primary class
Bandhani	..	.. Tie-and-dye sari
Bandhara	..	.. A check dam over a *nalla* or river
Bara Bhai	..	.. Twelve Brothers
Batik	..	.. Method of printing coloured designs on textiles by waxing parts not to be dyed
Bhagbatai	..	.. Crop-share system of land revenue
Bhajan	..	.. Devotional song
Bhajaniks	..	.. Persons who sing devotional songs
Bhakti	..	.. Devotion
Bhat	..	.. Cooked rice
Bhat	..	.. Bard
Bhavai	..	.. Folk-drama performed by itinerant groups
Bhayat	..	.. A cadet, a person belonging to the family of a ruler
Bhog	..	.. A right to collect land revenue
Bidi	..	.. An indigenous cigarette made from *tendu* leaves and tobacco
Bighoti	..	.. Land revenue payable in cash
Buta	..	.. Occupancy right
Butadar	..	.. A person who holds heritable and transferable rights in land on payment of land revenue or rent
Butakad	..	.. A tax payable by *butadars* in some villages in addition to *Bhog*

(Bk) H-49—79 (Lino)

C

Chakariyat ..	.. Lands assigned for remuneration of village or *darbar* service
Charan ..	.. Bard
Chhatralaya	.. Students' Hostel
Chhatthi pujan	.. A religious ceremony performed on the night of the sixth day after birth
Chithhi-khatu	.. Name of a Department in existence in Kutch State
Choru ..	.. Public meeting-place in a village or a house where a village accountant holds office
Chori ..	.. The square enclosure wherein the bride and the bridegroom take ceremonial rounds of the sacred fire during performance of the marriage ceremony
Chorso ..	.. Cotton blanket
Chunk ..	.. Nose-ring

D

Dafedar ..	.. A police officer of subordinate rank
Dargah ..	.. A tomb of a Muslim saint
Darshan ..	.. Glimpse of the deity in an attitude of reverence and prayer
Datan ..	.. A stick used as a tooth brush
Dharmada ..	.. Charity
Dharmashala	.. A public resting place in a village, a rest-house
Dhol ..	.. Drum
Dholak ..	.. Drum
Dhoti ..	.. A white garment worn round the waist by men
Dhru ..	.. A village accountant under the Kutch State
Dhrupad ..	.. A kind of musical composition of Indian music
Duha ..	.. A ballad

E

Ekadashi ..	.. Eleventh day of a fortnight observed as a fast by Hindus
Ektara ..	.. A musical instrument made of one string

F

Fakiri ..	.. A life of a mendicant
Farsan ..	.. Salted eatables usually made of gram flour and fried in oil
Faujdar ..	.. Police Officer

G

Gadi ..	.. A hereditary seat
Ganjo ..	.. Hemp flower, *Cannabis Indica*
Garba ..	.. A sportive dance of females in Gujarat
Gazal ..	.. A type of poetic composition
Ghaghra ..	.. Petti-coat
Ghaghri ..	.. Petti-coat worn by girls
Gharkhed ..	.. Land under personal cultivation
Ghodar ..	.. A stable for horses
Gilli-danda ..	.. A country game of trip-stick played by children
Giras ..	.. Lands given to cadets or junior members of a chieftain's family and their descendents for family maintenance
Girasdar ..	.. Land-holder with proprietary rights
Gnan Shala ..	.. Educational institution
Gotra ..	.. Lineage
Guru ..	.. Preceptor

H

Haks ..	.. Rights
Hansdi ..	.. A type of necklace made mostly of silver
Har ..	.. Chain put on as ornament round the neck mostly made of gold
Hawaldar ..	.. A village watchman
Hrid roga ..	.. Disease of the heart
Hundi ..	.. Bill of exchange drawn on a person or banker

I

Idgah ..	.. An open-air mosque built outside the town where prayers are offered on Id days
Inam ..	.. A kind of land tenure, gift

J

Jagir ..	.. Estate
Jagirdar ..	.. A land-holder, one who holds a *jagir*
Jalodara ..	.. Ascites ; the enlargement of abdomen
Jamadar ..	.. Police constable
Jambu ..	.. Rose-apple
Jari ..	.. Brocade
Jivai ..	.. Land given for maintenance in lieu of services rendered without the occupancy rights

K

Kada	..	Armlets
Kadla	..	Silver ornament worn on the anklets
Kalsi	..	A measure which is equal to 16 local maunds of 40 local seers
Kanthi	..	Neck-wear, which may be of sandal wood or gold or both
Kansar	..	A sweet preparation of wheat flour, *ghee* and sugar or *gur*
Kanyadan	..	Giving of daughter in marriage
Kavi Milan	..	Meeting of poets
Kazi	..	Judge (Muslim)
Kediyu	..	Jacket worn by men reaching down to the waist
Khala	..	Threshing floor
Khalsa	..	Agricultural land held directly from the State
Khamavavun	..	To ask for forgiveness
Khata	..	Departments
Khatu	..	An account
Khatavahi	..	Ledger
Kherati	..	Grant of land for religious purposes
Kho-Kho	..	A country game of getting up from sedentary posture and catching persons from other party
Kirtan	..	A devotional song in praise of God
Korad	..	A kind of inferior grain
Kori	..	A unit of currency used in Kutch before integration
Kos	..	Water-lift made of leather
Kothar	..	Store-room
Kotwali	..	Duty of a police magistrate
Kuldevi	..	A family Goddess
Kumkum	..	Red turmeric powder

L

Laga	..	Tax ; fees, cess
Lokshala	..	Educational institution
Lungi	..	Waist cloth

M

Mag	..	A kind of pulse, *Phaseolus mungo*
Mahila-mandal	..	A women's society carrying on welfare activities
Majmu	..	Co-shared or joint
Majdoor	..	Labourer

M—*contd.*

Maldhari	..	Herdsman or grazier
Mangal-sutra	..	A kind of ornament considered auspicious and worn by married women
Math	..	A place of learning, a monastery or a place of religious *gadi*
Mela bhag	..	A crude and harassing system of crop-sharing
Mojadi	..	A type of light shoe which combines artistry with utility
Mulki	..	Belonging to the Revenue Department
Murabba	..	Jam
Mushairas	..	Poets meet

N

Nath	..	A nose-ring
Naubat	..	Musical instrument
Nirvan	..	Liberation

P

Pada	..	A verse
Pan	..	Betel-leaf
Panigrahana	..	Acceptance of the hand of the bride by the bridegroom in the marriage ceremony
Panjarapole	..	An asylum for dried up decrepit and useless animals
Pardah	..	Veil
Parsal	..	The front portion inside a house used as a multipurpose room
Parva	..	A festival
Pasaita	..	A village servant who is assigned land as remuneration by the ruler
Pathshala	..	Oriental school
Pir	..	A Muslim or Hindu saint
Polka	..	Blouse
Prayak Prajiya	..	Service lands
Puja	..	Worship

R

Rannade	..	Name of a family deity
Rajbhag	..	Royal share from the village crops
Ras	..	A type of folk-dance; a sportive dance performed jointly by males and females
Ret butadar	..	A person who holds a grant of land in an *inam* village on payment of land revenue or rent or both retaining the reversionary right to the grantor

S

Sadhu	..	Mendicant ; an ascetic
Sahukar	..	Money-lender
Sallo	..	*Sari*
Samadhi	..	Self-immolation ; a memorial raised to honour a particular saint
Samvatsari	..	Death anniversary
Sankala	..	Foot-ornament made generally of silver
Sanyasi	..	Mendicant ; an ascetic
Sanyasta	..	Asceticism
Saptapadi	..	Seven steps taken together by a bride and bridegroom round sacrificial fire during the marriage ceremony which makes the marriage complete and irrevocable
Sathi	..	Permanently attached servant employed by agriculturists
Shastra	..	Scripture ; sacred book
Shedhavar	..	Alienation cess
Shehnai	..	A musical instrument made of pipes
Shir-sool	..	Headache
Shwasa roga	..	Asthma
Sufi	..	Name of a religious sect among the Muslims
Sukhadi	..	Cash assessment

T

Tabla	..	A kind of musical drum used as an accompaniment to other instruments
Tal	..	Rhythm
Taloq	..	Divorce by a Muslim
Talim Varg	..	Training class
Takat	..	A cess for weighing crop and octroi
Taziah or Tabut	..	The structure representing the *dargah* or tomb of Hussein at Karbala, made usually of bamboo, paper and tinsel, carried in procession during Moharrum for final immersion in water
Tholiya	..	Earrings
Toran	..	A festoon
Tulsi-kyaro	..	The place where the holy basil is planted

V

Vahivat	..	Administration or management
Vedhla	..	Earrings
Vighoti	..	Land revenue payable in cash

V—*contd.*

Vishistadvaita	..	Qualified non-duality ; a doctrine of Hindu philosophy propounded by Ramanuja called qualified monism, by which the individual soul and the insensate world are the attributes of the supreme soul and form His body
Vrata	..	A religious observance

Z

Zanzar	..	Jingling anklets

BIBLIOGRAPHY

English

BOOKS, REPORTS, JOURNALS, ETC.

BOOKS

BARFIWALA, C. D. .. *The Directory of Local Self-Government in Gujarat State*, (1963)

BEAL, S. .. .. *Buddhist Records of the Western World*, Vols. I and II, (1906)

BURGESS, JAMES .. .. *Report on the Antiquities of Kathiawar and Kutch*, Archaeological Survey of India, (1876)

CAMPBELL, J. M. .. *Gazetteer of the Bombay* Presidency, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*, (1880)

COMMISSIARIAT, M. S. .. *A History of Gujarat*, Vol. II, 1573-1578, (1957)

DATTA, AMLAN (Editor) .. *Paths to Economic Progress*, (1962)

DEORAS, P. J. .. .. *Snakes of India*, (1965)

DESAI, E. A. (DR.) .. *Epigraphia Indica*, (1965) (Article on Kufi Epitaphs from Bhadresar in Gujarat)

DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE, GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT *Statistics of Area production and yield per acres of principal crops in Gujarat*, 1949-50 to 1963-64

DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT, *Census of Fishing Crafts and Tackle of Gujarat*, (1964)

FRANKLIN EDGERTON (Editor) *Mahabharata*, The Sabha Parva, (1944)

GHARPUREY, K. G. .. *The Snakes of India and Pakistan*, (1954)

GHOSH, ALAK .. .. *Indian Economics*

GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT .. *The Embroidery and Bead Work of Kutch and Saurashtra*, (1964)

GOVERNMENT OF KUTCH, DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT *Kutch in 1957*

English—*contd.*

BOOKS, REPORTS, JOURNALS, ETC.

BOOKS—*contd.*

GRIERSON, G. A. (EDITOR) .. *Linguistic Survey of India*, Vol. IX, *Indo Aryan Family Central Group*, Part II, (1908)

JAIN, P. C. .. .. *Problems in Indian Economics*

KAPADIA, G. H. .. *Plant Life of Maha Gujarat*, (1950)

KATRE, S. M. .. .. *Paninian Dictionary*, (1968)

KHERA, S. S. .. .. *District Administration in India*, (1965)

KRISHNAN, M. S. .. *Geology of India and Burma*, (1956)

LOKNATHAN, P. S. .. *Techno-Economic Survey of Gujarat*, (1963)

MAJMUDAR, M. R. .. *Cultural History of Gujarat*, (1965)

MODY, G. J. AND OTHERS .. *Trade-Industry in Gujarat, Saurashtra and Kutch*, (1958)

PALIN, HUGH .. .. *The Birds of Cutch*, (1878)

PATEL, G. D. (DR.) .. *The Land Problem of reorganised Bombay State*, (1957)

SALIM, ALI .. *The Birds of Kutch*, (1954)

SANKALIA, H. D. .. *The Archaeology of Gujarat*, (1941)

SANKALIA, H. D., ANSARI, Z. D. AND MATE, M. S. *Excavations at Dwarka*, (1966)

SCHOFF, WILFRED H. .. *The Periplus of the Erythrean Sea*, (1912)

SHASTRI, S. M. .. .. *McCrindle's Ancient India as described by Ptolemy*, (1927)

SYED, NAWAB ALI AND CHARLES NORMAN SEDDON *Mirat-I-Ahmadi, Supplement*, (Translation) (1928)

THACKER, P. B. .. *Kutch and its Economy*, (1960)

WADIA, D. N. .. .. *Geology of India*

WATTER, THOMAS .. *On Yuan Chwang's Travels in India*, Vols. I and II, (1905)

WILLIAMS, L. F. RUSHBROOK *The Black Hills*, (1958)

WYNNE, A. B. .. .. *Geology of Kutch*

.. *The Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Vol. XI, (1908)

English—*contd.*

REPORTS, JOURNALS, ETC.

AD HOC COMMITTEE, CONFERENCE OF INDUSTRIALISTS AND ALLIED AGENCIES (UNDER THE AUSPICES OF GANDHIDHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND KUTCH VIKAS MANDAL) *A Report on the basic resources prospects and potentialities of Industrialisation of Kutch*, (1965)

BUREAU OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS, GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT *Location of Industries in Gujarat State* 1956-1960, (1963)

Socio Economic Review and District Statistical Abstract of Kutch, 1958-59

District Statistical Abstract, Kutch, 1960-61 and 1961-62

Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Vol. 2, No. 1, January-March, 1962

CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, GUJARAT STATE *Forests, Gujarat*, (1968)

CLUTTERBUCK, P. SIR .. *Report on the possibility of Development of the Forest Areas in Kutch*, (1933)

COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR, GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT *Labour Gazettees*

DESHPANDE, M. K. .. *Revenue Department Manual*, Vols. I and II, Government of Maharashtra, (1961)

DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT *Season and Crops Report*, 1960-1961

DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT *Souvenir*, Fisheries of Gujarat

DIRECTOR OF GEOLOGY AND MINING, GUJARAT STATE *Minerals in Gujarat*, (1968)

DIRECTORATE OF INDUSTRIES, GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT *Industrial Bulletin*, Vol. I, No. 2, (1962), Vol. V, No. 1, (1966)

Annual Administration Report, 1962-63

DIRECTORATE OF PORTS .. *Traffic Review*, 1961-62 to 1966-67

ELECTION COMMISSION, INDIA *Reports on the General Elections in India* Vol. II, (Statistical), 1951-52, 1957, 1962, 1967

English—*contd.*

REPORTS, JOURNALS, ETC.—*contd.*

GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY .. *Report of the Fact Finding Committee for Survey of Scarcity Areas in Bombay State*, (1960)

Master Plan for Industrialisation of Bombay State, (1960)

The Bombay Treasury Rules, 1960, Vols. I and II, (1960)

The Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, (1948)

The Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands (Vidarbha Region and Kutch Area) Act, (1958)

The Bombay Inams (Kutch area) *Abolition Act*, (1958)

The Bombay Village Panchayat Act, (1958)

GUJARAT ELECTRICITY BOARD, BARODA *Administration Report*, 1964-65

GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT .. *Kutch District Census Handbook*, 1961, (1964)

Housing Schemes in Gujarat

Master Plan for Industrialisation of Bombay State, (1960)

Third Five Year Plan, (1961)

Annual Administration Report of Motor Vehicles Department, 1966-67

The Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1963

The Gujarat Municipalities Act, 1963

The Bombay Town Planning (Gujarat Extention and Amendment) *Act*, 1967

Annual Administrative Report of Backward Class Welfare Department, 1965-66

GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT, CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT *Annual Administration Report*, 1963-64

English—*contd.*

REPORTS, JOURNALS, ETC.—*contd.*

GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT, DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT *Report of the Democratic Decentralisation Committee* (English Translation Part I and II), (1960)

GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT, FISHERIES DEPARTMENT *Annual Administration Report*

GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT, REVENUE DEPARTMENT *Land Revenue Annual Administration Report*, 1964-65

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA .. *Report on Housing and Establishment*, Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part IV-A, (1963)

General Report on the Census, Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part I-A, (1965)

.. *Fairs and Festivals*, Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part VII-B, (1965)

General Report on the Census Economic Trends and Projections, Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part I-A (iii), (1965)

General Economic Tables (Tables B-I to B-IV-C), Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part II-B (i), (1964)

General Economic Tables (Tables B-V to B-IX), Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part II-B (ii), (1964)

Household Economic Tables (Tables B-X to B-XVII), Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part III, (1964)

Report on 'Jagirdari' system in Kutch, (1949)

Tables on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part V-A (1964)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, ALL INDIA, HANDICRAFTS BOARD *Rapid Survey of Handicrafts in the District, Kutch*, (1961)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS *Report on the Middle Class Family Living Survey*, Vol. II, (1966)

English—concld.

REPORTS, JOURNALS, ETC.—*concld.*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS, WAKF SECTION. — *The Concept And Purpose of the Central Wakf Act*, 1965.

GOVERNMENT OF KUTCH .. — *Eight Years of Independence*, (1966)

GOVERNMENT OF KUTCH, STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT — *Statistical Atlas of Kutch*, (1954)

Statistical Handbook of Kutch, 1955-56

HENDERSON .. .. — *Revenue Department Manual*, Government of Gujarat

JOSHI, JAGATPATI .. — "*Explorations in Northern Kutch*" Journal of Oriental Institute, Vol. XVI, (1966)

KANDLA PORT TRUST .. — *Administration Reports*, 1965-66 and 1966-67

KUTCH STATE .. .. — *Annual Administration Reports*, Kutch State

Eight years of Independence, (1956)

MAJUMDAR, M. R. .. — "*A Newly Discovered Buddha Bronze from Bhuj (Kutch)*", Journal of Oriental Institute, Vol. VIII, (1959)

NANAVATI, J M. AND SHASTRI — *Journal of Oriental Institute of Baroda*, (1962)

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF APPLIED ECONOMIC RESEARCH, NEW DELHI — *Industrial Programmes For Fourth Plan*, Gujarat, (1966)

SORLEY, H. T. AND DRACUP, A. H. — *Census of India* 1931, Vol. X, The Western India States Agency, Part I and II, (1933)

WILLIAM, J. JENKING .. — *Report on the Improvement and Development of Cotton Cultivation in Cutch State*, (1938)

Gujarati

BOOKS, REPORTS JOURNALS ETC.

BOOKS

BHAVE, VINOBA .. .. — *Bhoodan Yagna*, (1958)

DWIVEDI, A. K. .. .. — *Kachchha-Desh-No Itihas*, (1876)

Gujarati—concld.

BOOKS, REPORTS, JOURNALS, ETC.—*concld.*

GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT .. — *Pragati ne Panthe, Kutch Jillo, Triju Sopan* (1962)

Audyogic Ayojan, Kutch Jillo

KARANI, DULERAY .. — *Kutchna Santo ane Kavio*, Part I and II, (V. S. 2020)

KARANI, VASANTRAI .. — *Kara Dunger Kachchhaja*, (1963)

KHAKHAR, D. P. .. — *Kutchni Laghu Bhugol Vidhya*, (1934)

NAYAGANDHI, J. J. .. — *Kachchha-No-Brihad Itihas*, (1927)

RATHOD, RAMSINHJI .. — *Kutchnu Sanskriti Darshan*, (1959)

SAMPAT, D. .. .. — *Kutch Tran Varsh*, (1951)
Kutch-nu-Vepartantra, (1934)

SANDESARA, B. J. .. — *Jain-agama-Sahityanma Gujarat*, (1952)

SHAH, NAVINCHANDRA AND PARIKH, DHIRU, (EDITORS) — *Apnu Kutch*, Kutch Congress Publication, (1962)

SHASTRI, H. G. .. .. — *Maitraka-Kalin Gujarat*, Part I and II, (1955)

THAKAR, J. I. .. .. — *Kutchsvasthanani Vanaspatio ane Teni Upyogita*, (1926)

REPORTS, JOURNALS, ETC.

CHAUHAN, P. M. .. — *Panchayat Dharo* (Gujarat Panchayat Adhiniyam) *1961*, (1963)

GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT .. — *Lokshahi Vikendrikaran Ane Gujarat Panchayat Dharo, 1961 Ni Ruprekha*, (1962)

KUTCH CONGRESS .. — *Apanu-Kutch, Vikas-na-Ter Varsha, 1961*

SHASTRI, H. G. .. .. — "*Kachchhana Abhilekho*" *Pathik*, (Gujarati Monthly Journal), July-August, 1967

INDEX

A

Acts

—Agriculturists Loans Act, 1884, 271, 275, 280, 292, 301, 304
—Birth, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act (VI of 1886), 436
—Bombay Agricultural Debtor's Relief Act, 1939, 269, 458
—Bombay Children Act, 1948, 454
—Bombay District Local Boards Act, 1923, 489
—Bombay District Municipalities Act, 1901, 458
—Bombay District Vaccination Act, 1892, 463
—Bombay Drugs (Control) Act, 1959, 439
—Bombay Fragmentation and Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1947, 425
—Bombay Inams (Kutch Area) Abolition Act, 1958, 418, 423
—Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879, 419
—Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946, 269, 470, 472
—Bombay Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, 458
—Bombay Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers) Act, 1958, 438, 439
—Bombay Municipal Borough Act, 1925, 458, 477, 478
—Bombay Opium Smoking Act, 1936, 436
—Bombay Police Act, 1951, 445
—Bombay Primary Education Act, 1947, 463
—Bombay Probation of Offenders Act, 1938, 454
—Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949, 439
—Bombay Provinces and Berar Sales Tax Act, 1947, 437
—Bombay Registration of Marriages Act, 1953, 436
—Bombay Rent Act, 1947, 458
—Bombay Sales tax Act, 1959, 438
—Bombay Stamp Act, 1958, 436
—Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948, 269, 419, 420, 422
—Bombay Town Planning Act, 1954, 486
—Bombay Town Planning (Gujarat Extension and Amendment) Act, 1967, 486
—Bombay Village Panchayati Act, 1958, 463

A—*contd.*

—Bombay Weights and Measures Act, 1932, 318
—Bombay Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1958, 473
—Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, 438
—Civil and Criminal Procedure Code, 445
—Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories, Act, 287
—Criminal Procedure Code, 445
—Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930, 439
—Defence of India Act, 1962, 453
—Employee's Provident Fund Act, 1952, 257
—Employment of Children Act, (XXXI of 1938), 257
—Food Adulteration Act, 1954, 548
—Gujarat Agricultural Lands Act, 1960, 425
—Gujarat Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1963, 470
—Gujarat Carriage of Goods Taxation Act, 1962, 438, 439
—Gujarat Co-operative Societies, Act, 1961, 472, 435
—Gujarat Education Cess Act, 1962, 431
—Gujarat Gram Panchayats (Gram Sabha Meetings and Functions) Rules, 1964, 491
—Gujarat Municipalities Act, 1963, 478
—Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961, 430, 462, 476, 490, 491
—Gujarat Surviving Alienations Abolition Act, 1963, 425
—Gujarat Wild Animals and Wild Birds Protection Act, 1963, 33
—Independence Act, 1947, 408
—Indian Electricity Act, 1910, 458
—Indian Factories Act, 1948, 257, 556
—Indian Penal Code, 1860, 445, 463
—Indian Railways Act, 1962, 458
—Indian Registration Act, (XVI of 1908), 435, 436
—Indian Telegraphs Act, 1885, 458
—Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, 556
—Industrial Undertakings (Collection of Statistics and Information) Rules, 1959, 473, 474
—Kutch Registration Act, 1883, 434
—Land Acquisition Act, 1894, 458
—Land Improvement Loans Act, 1883, 280
—Major Port Trusts Act, 1963, 469

A—*contd.*

—Mamlatdar's Courts Act, 1906, 419
—Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, 557
—Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955, 439
—Minimum Wages Act, 1948, 556
—Parsee Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936, 436
—Payment of Wages Act, 1929, 257
—Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1946, 463
—Prisons Act, 1894, 450
—Provident Fund Act, 1952, 557
—Public Trusts Act, 1950, 458
—Representation of People Act, 1951, 458
—Saurashtra Town Planning Act, 1955, 486
—Sea Customs Act, 1908, 469
—Shops and Establishments Act, 1948, 557
—Spiritious Preparations (Inter-State Trade and Commerce) Control Act, 1955, 439
—State Aid to Small Scale and Cottage Industries Rules, 1935, 473, 475
—Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, 257, 555
Abada, 79, 83
Abaji Bapa, 584
Abdasa, 3, 4, 13, 15, 25, 34, 35, 54, 55, 60, 79, 82, 83, 88, 93, 95, 107, 323, 341, 364, 380, 381, 421, 426, 427, 433
Abdul Nabi Khan, 91
Abhira, 66, 68, 69, 71, 75
Abul Fazal, 81
Acharya Kripalani, 487
Acharya Mangalasiva, 77
Acharya Sehirmati, 499
Acharya Vinoba Bhave, 431, 432
Adesar, 7, 21, 26, 27, 234, 251, 323, 329, 331, 581
Adhoi, 2, 54, 104, 581
Adipur, 229, 231, 239, 240, 243, 245, 259, 341, 343, 474, 487
Administrative History, 2
Administrative Subdivisions, 3
Adult literacy, 521
Afar haks, 425
Aghat taka, 410
Agricultural Labourers, 371
Agriculture, 177-216
—Implements, 195-197
—Carts, 197

A—*contd.*

—Electric pumps, 197
—*Ghanis*, 197
—Oil-engines, 197
—Persian wheels, 197
—Plough, 196
—Sugar-cane crushers, 197
—Tractors, 197
—Operations (Agricultural), 195-197
—Pests, etc., 199-200
—Population, 177
—Research centres, 200, 201
—State assistance, 201, 202
Agriculture Department, 465
Agriculturists, 368-369
Ahmedabad, 2, 66, 79, 80, 81, 84, 319, 322, 323, 324, 325, 327, 329, 333, 334, 336, 342, 437
Aima Bai, 92
Aina Mahal, 86, 157, 528
Air Port, 335
Air Transport, 339, 340
Ajani, 250
Ajo, 528
Akari Moti, 251
Akbar, 80
Alamgir II, 87
Al Biladuri, 74
Alves Bebler, 114
Alfred High School 513, 515
Ali Bandar, 89, 319
Allah Bandh, 7, 16, 28
Amara, 581
Amarkoab, 1
Amateur Dramatic Society, 527
Amba Mata, 80
Anahilapataka, 76
Anandashram, 105
Anarta, 68
Andhau, 70, 71, 581
Animal Husbandry, 202-204
—Diseases, 204
—Population 202, 203
—Poultry, 204
Anjar, 3, 4, 15, 16, 19, 20, 26, 34, 48, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 66, 77, 80, 83, 84, 90, 91, 92, 94, 97, 98, 99, 102, 108, 228, 229, 230, 231, 239, 243, 246, 250, 251, 258, 271, 275, 292, 301, 304, 319, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 329, 333, 334, 336, 342, 361, 380, 381, 384, 426, 427, 428, 433, 435, 440, 446, 447, 449, 451, 456, 457, 459, 463, 466, 467, 477, 581

A—*concld.*

Anjar Borough Municipality, 483
Annual Survey of Industries, 229, 239
Arabian Sea, 1, 9, 10, 11, 13, 43
Aradhana, 527
Arjunadeva, 75, 77
Artisans, 434
Arts, letters and science, 353, 354
Ashram Shala, 512
Askaran, 94, 97
Assistance for Industrial Development, 284-287
—Financial Assistance by Government, 285
—Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation, Ahmedabad, 285
—Gujarat Small Industries Corporation, Ahmedabad, 284
—Gujarat State Financial Corporation, Ahmedabad, 284
—Gujarat State Industrial Investment Corporation, Ahmedabad, 285
—Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India, Bombay, 286, 295
—Industrial Finance Corporation of India, New Delhi, 286
—National Industrial Development Corporation, New Delhi, 286
—Pilot Scheme, 287
—Saurashtra Small Industries Co-operative Bank, Rajkot, 287
Assistant Director of Information, 475
Assistant District Registrar, 470, 471, 472
Assistant Political Agent, 443
Astadhyayi, 68
Aupassatika Gotra, 71
Aurangzeb, 2, 35

B

Backward Classes, 561-565
—Advancement of Department, 561, 565,
—Economic uplift, 563
—Education and cultural uplift, 562
—Health, Housing, etc., 563
—Reservation of Seats for, 564
—Scheduled Castes, 564
—Scheduled Tribes, 564
Backward Class students educational facilities, 521-523
—Higher, 522
—Hostel, 522, 523
—Primary, 522
—Secondary, 522

B—*contd.*

Bada, 81
Baladiya, 584
Balambha, 82, 84, 90
Bal Gangadhar Tilak, 110
Baliar, 92
Baliari, 319
Balwantray Mehta Committee, 489
Balwantsagar, dam, 621
Bamanbore, 322
Bamu-chela, 67
Banas, 6
Banaskantha, 1, 323,
Bankadsar, 584
Bank of India, Bhuj, 271
Banni, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 28, 38, 62, 244, 245, 250, 254, 269, 319, 585
Bara Bhai, 92, 569
Baroda, 90, 108, 466, 467, 470
Basic Schools, 512
Basrah, 338
Beasts of Burden, 324
Bela, 5, 7, 8, 17, 319
Bhabhar, 323
Bhachau, 3, 4, 5, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 26, 27, 28, 44, 45, 46, 48, 50, 51, 52, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 66, 93, 94, 97, 107, 239, 271, 302, 304, 323, 324, 325, 326, 329, 330, 340, 341, 380, 381, 426, 427, 433, 435, 445, 447, 449, 451, 456, 457, 459, 463, 467, 468, 477, 585
Bhadresar, 77, 78, 79, 168, 287, 445, 585
Bhagbatai, 407, 408, 412, 413, 414, 420, 427
Bhaiji Bava, 92, 93, 94
Bhakar, 72
Bhan Saheb, 524
Bharmal, 80, 81, 96, 98, 99, 288
Bharvahi, 415
Bhattaraka Ajapala, 76
Bhavai, 163
Bhavanishanker Vyas, 526
Bhayati inams, 423
Bhiksu, 73
Bhim I, 75, 76, 77
Bhog, 410, 412
Bhogvahi, 414
Bhojraj, 81
Bhoodan Movement, 431,432
Bhuadeshwar, 75
Bhuj, 3, 4, 5, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 26, 27, 28, 44, 45, 46, 48, 50, 51, 52, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 63, 75, 80, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99,

B—*concld.*

106, 107, 108, 157, 227, 228, 230, 231, 239, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 250, 251, 254, 256, 258, 271, 280, 282, 291, 299, 304, 308, 317, 319, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 329, 330, 331, 339, 340, 341, 342, 344, 355, 361, 363, 379, 381, 426, 427, 428, 433, 435, 437, 438, 440, 446, 447, 449, 451, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 463, 466, 467, 468, 471, 474, 475, 476, 478, 486, 488, 495, 496, 588
Bhuj Borough Municipality, 478, 479
Bhujia Hill Fort, 590
Bhuj Nagarpalika Karmachari Mandal, 355
Bhungas, 157
Bhuvad, 75, 591
Bighoti, 419, 420
Bibaridasji, 525
Bimbisara, 71, 97
Birds, 38
Boundaries and Natural Divisions, 1
Buddhism, 70, 73
Bukhara, 81
Butadars, 410, 419
Butahaks, 410, 411
Butakad, 410, 411, 419

C

Calendar, 164
—Halari Samvat, 164
—Hindu, 164
—Jain, 164
—Muslim, 164
—Capt. Samuel Adam, 95
Castes, 131-141
Hindu, 131-135
—Ahir, 131, 133
—Bania, 131
—Bawa, 131
—Bhatiya, 131, 132
—Brahmin, 131
—Charan, 131,134
—Darji, 131, 133
—Kanbi, 131, 133
—Kharva, 131, 134
—Kumbhar, 131, 133
—Lohana, 131, 132
—Lohar, 131, 133
—Rajput, 131, 132, 133
—Sindhi Hindus, 131,135
—Suthar, 131, 133
—Vadha, 131, 135
Muslim, 131
—Bhadala, 131

C—*contd.*

—Jat, 131
—Ker, 131
—Khatri, 131
—Khoja, 131
—Kumbhar, 131
—Meman, 131
—Miyana, 131
—Moghul, 131
—Momna, 131
—Saiyad, 131
—Samma, 131
—Sanghar, 131
—Shaikh, 131
—Sumra, 131
Other Backward Classes, 141
—Bafan, 141
—Higora, 141
—Kakal, 141
—Me,141
—Meta, 141
—Miyana, 141
—Theba, 141
Scheduled Castes, 139
—Bhangi, 140
—Chamar, 140
—Garoda, 140
—Meghwal, 140
—Turi, 140
—Turi Barot, 140
Scheduled Tribes, 141
—Bhil, 141
—Dhodia, 141
—Koli, 141
—Paradhi, 141
—Vaghri, 141
Causeways, 320, 321, 323
Central Government Officers, 406
Chakriyat inams, 407, 416, 417, 423
Chaman, 526
Chandrashanker Buch, 526
Chanhudaro, 67
Chapotkatas, 76
Chas buta, 410, 411
Chaulukya, 73, 75, 76, 77, 78
Chav, 425
Chavda, 78
Chavada Hills, 106
Chhapana or Chhappanio famine, 213, 358
Chief Conservator of Forests, 466
Chirai, 591

C—*contd.*

Chitrod, 323, 329, 331, 592
Chobari, 91, 97, 234, 592
Chorad, 7, 8, 17
Chotila, 322
Civil Hospital, 533
Climate, 44
Coastal Area, 9
Coastal Security Scheme, 445
Coastal traffic, 337, 338
Cochin, 336, 337
Collector, 3, 401, 404, 492
Colleges 513-514
—Gandhidham Arts College, 514
—R. R. Lalan Arts and Science College, 514
—Sheth Soorji Vallabhdas Arts and Commerce College, 514
Col. Jacob, 104
Col. Walker, 95
Col. Webb, 111
Commercial Schools and Colleges, 515, 516
Commissioner of Industries, 472, 473
Communications, 319, 344
Community Development Programme, 379-382
Configuration, 4
Conflict Between India and Pakistan, 1965, 112
Conservator of Forests, 467
Contributory Scheme, 342
Co-operation in Wholesale and Retail Trade, 313
Co-operative Department, 469, 470
Co-operative Societies and Banks, 274-280
—Agricultural Credit Societies, 274
—Gandhidham Urban Co-operative Bank, 275
—Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank, 279
—Kutch District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., Bhuj, 277
—Non-Agricultural Credit Societies, 275
—Non-credit Societies, 275
Co-operative Training, 515
Course of trade, 290-291
Creeks, 9
Crops, 191, 194, 198
—Bajri, 191
—Castor, 193
—Condiments and spices, 194
—Cotton, 193

C—*concld.*

—Fruits and vegetables, 194
—Groundnut, 193
—Jowar 191
—Mag, 192
—Math, 192
—Rotation of, Crops, 198
—Sesamum, 193
—Sugar-cane, 194
—Wheat, 192
Currency and Coinage, 287-289
—Decimal Coinage, 288
—Dhabu, 288
—Dhingala, 288
—Dokada, 288
—Gadhaiya, 287
—Kori, 288
—Trambia, 288
Customs, 145-146
—Hindu, 145
—Muslim, 146
Customs controversy, 291-93
Cutch (*see* Kutch)

D

Dakhlavahi, 415
Damaji Gaekwad, 90
Damodarkund, 96
Dana Kala Vahi, 415
Danodi inams, 416, 417, 423
Dara, 81
Darbargadh, 157
Daulatpur, 71
Deccan trap, 19
Decoration, 162
Deesa, 229, 326, 327, 330, 331, 336
Dehra Dun, 467
Delhi, 80
Democratic Decentralisation, 489
Department of Industries, 472
Deputy Collector, 3
Deputy Commissioner of Industries, 47
Deputy Director of Agricultural Marketing and Rural Finance, 470
Deputy Director of Industries, 473
Deputy Inspector General of Police, 48
Desalji 83, 84, 85, 86, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 292, 338, 524
Deshalpar, 67, 322
Deva Saheb, 525
Devasthan, 412
Devchand, 90, 91
Dhanesvarasuri, 500

D—*contd.*

Dharamnath, 592
Dharmada inams, 407, 411, 416, 417, 423
Dharmada laga, 413
Dhinodhar, 5, 592
Dhola hills, 5, 6
Dhoraj, 96
Dhrang, 594
Dhrangadhra, 327, 328
Dhrud, 67
Dhudud river, 11
Director of Agriculture, 465
Director of Agricultural Marketing, 469, 470
Director of Animal Husbandry, 466
Director of Ayurved, 549
Director of Cottage Industries, 469
Director of Information, 475
Director of Ports, 469
Diseases, 534
—Cholera, 535
—Plague, 534
District Agricultural Officer, 465
District Animal Husbandry Officer, 466
District Co-operative Bank, 492
District Co-operative Union 492,
District Court, 458
District Development Officer, 404, 465, 466, 476, 493, 494
District Equalisation Fund, 494
District Gram Encouragement Fund, 494
District Information Officer, 475
District Local Board, 489
District Magistrate, 446, 460
District Panchayat, 321, 405, 468, 470, 471 492
District Registrars, 435, 469, 470, 471
District Statistical Officer, 476
District Superintendent of Police, 446
Divisional Deputy Registrars, 470
Divisional Forest Officer, 467
Divisional Soil Conservation Officer, 466
Doctors, 544
Dolatpur, 594
Domestic Animals, 34
Dosal Ven Jamadar, 93, 338
Drama, 527
Dress, 158-160
—Children, 159, 160
—Female, 159
—Male, 158, 159
Dulera Karani, 526

D—*concld.*

Dumra, 445
Dungarshi Dharamshi Sampat, 526
Dwarka, 68, 69
Dyuta Parva, 68

E

Earthquakes, 28
Economic Trends, 345, 383-384
Educational Societies, 516, 519
Educational Standards, 507
—Females, 507
—Males, 507
—Rural, 507
—Scheduled Caste, 509, 510
—Scheduled Tribe, 509, 510
—Urban, 507
Education among Backward classes, 509
Education Cess, 431
Education for physically Handicapped, 520
Eirinon, 69, 70
Electrical Engineer to the Government, 467
Elevations, 7
Employees' Organisations, 355
Employment Exchange, 376, 377
Employment in Trade and Commerce, 299
Employment, Level of, 373
Epidemics, 545
—Malaria, 545
—Small-Pox, 546
—Trachoma, 546
—Tuberculosis, 546
Executive Engineer, 467, 468

F

Fair, 169-174, 306-313
—Jakh, 169, 170, 307
—Trivikramraiji, 170, 171, 308
Fair Price shops, 306
Family Counselling Centres, 453
Family Planning Programme, 547
Famines, 211-216
—Chhapanio, 213
—Undariu, 212
Fatehgadh, 594
Fateh Muhammad, Jamadar, 6, 92, 93, 94 95, 96, 338
Fauna, 34
Ferguson Museum, 590
Fertilisers, 199

F—*concld.*

Festivals, 164-167
—Hindu, 165
—Jain, 166
—Muslim, 167
First World War, 358, 359, 363
Fish, 43
Fisheries, 205-208
—Back water, 206
Inland, 205
—Marine, 205
Fisheries Department, 208
Five Year Plans, 11, 12, 13, 15, 231, 377, 380, 465, 476, 489, 497
Flora, 29
Food, 157, 158
—Non-Vegetarian, 158
—Vegetarian, 157, 158
Forest Department, 466
Forests, 29, 206-211
Fruit trees, 33
Furniture, 161

G

Gadhada, 323, 595
Gadhaisa, 595
Gandhara, 68, 73
Gandhidham 229, 237, 239, 240, 243, 246, 253, 255, 257, 258, 266, 271, 275, 276, 292, 301, 304, 316, 322, 323, 325, 326, 328, 329, 330, 331, 334, 343, 348, 449, 459, 463, 595
Gandhidham Borough Municipality, 484, 485
Gandhidham Maitri Mandal, 516
Garba, 163
Gautam Sharma, 527
Gedi, 596
General Education, 510
General Elections, 570-572
Geneva, 114
Geological Formations, 16
Gholaya Darsagar, 75
Gidomal, 87, 89
Girasdari inam, 423
Girasia, 408, 409
Girinagra, 72
Godji I (Rao), 81, 82, 83, 86
Godji II (Rao), 87, 88, 89, 90
Gokharu buts, 416

G—*concld.*

Gopalaswami Ayyanger, 487
Gora, 8
Government school for the Blind, 520
Govinda III, 74
Graharipu, 75
Gram Panchayats, 491
Great Rann of Kutch, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 21, 27, 31, 33, 39, 42
Gujarat Education Society, 517
Gujarat Electricity Board, 468, 480
Gujarat Housing Board, 257
Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd., 236, 251
Gujarat Rajya Karmachari Mahamandal, 355
Gujarat State Financial Corporation, 475
Gujarat State Road Transport Corperation, 325
Gujarat State Warehousing Corporation, Ahmedabad, 287
Gulam Shah Kalhora, 87, 88, 89
Gulf of Kutch, 1, 6, 7, 9, 14, 15, 37, 40, 43, 69, 82, 240, 254, 336, 487
Gunamati, 499
Gundiali, 96, 597
Guptas, 71, 72

H

Haji Muhammad Alarkha Shivji Hasim, 526
Haji Pir, 234
Hakumati laga, 419
Halani Jadeja, 82
Halar, 84
Haloji, 82
Halsa Hills, 101
Halu Barot, 525
Halvad, 327
Hamirsar Lake, 2, 106
Hansraj, 94, 95
Harappan, 66, 67, 68
Hariloka, 71
Hari Saheb, 525
Hawaldari, 412, 413
Health Education, 548
Hema Chandra, 75
Higher Education, 513, 514
Hills, 5
Hinayana Sammatiya, 499
Hindu system of Education, 499
Hiuen Tsiang, 72, 73
Home Department, 451

H—*concld.*

Home Inspector, 446
Hon. Gunnar Lagergren, 114
Hospitals and Dispensaries, 536
—Bhachau Hospital, 543
—Civil Hospital, Mandvi, 540
—G. K. Eye Hospital, Mandvi, 540
—G. K. General Hospital, 538
—Government Ayurvedic Hospital, Bhuj, 549
—Government Hospital, Adipur, 542
—Government Hospital, Gandhidham, 542
—Jubilee Hospital, 538
—Mehta Raechand Motichand General Hospital, Mundra, 542
—Mental Hospital, Bhuj, 539
—Referral Hospital, Anjar, 541
—Sheth Liladhar Moorarjee Bhimani Home and Dispensary, Mandvi, 543
—S. K. B. K. Maternity Hospital, Mandvi, 540
—T. B. Clinic, Bhuj, 539
—T. B. Sanatorium, Bharapar, 543
Housing, 153, 154
Hunas, 72
Hundi, 268
Hussain Miyan, 95, 96
Hydrabad, 87, 88

I

Ibn-khurdadba, 74
Ibrahim Miyan, 96
Indian Air Lines Corporation, 339
Indian Road *Congress (Nagpur Session)* 1943, 320
Indian Union, 320, 325
Indo-Greek, 66, 68, 69
Indus, 66, 72
Industrial Arts, 243
—Bandhani, 243, 244
—Embroidery, 244
—Gilding, 247
—Gold and Silver, 246, 247
—Hand Printing of Textiles, 248
—Penknives, Nut crackers and Scissors, 249, 250
Industrial Development, 237
Industrial Establishment, 236
—Household Industries, 236
Industrial Estates, 242
Industrialisation, 228

I—*concld.*

Industrial Labour, 256, 257
Industrial Potential, 251
—Agrobased Industries, 237, 253
—Forest Based Industries, 254
—Industries Based on Livestock, 254
—Metal Based and Engineering Industries, 253
—Mineral Based Industries, 251
Industrial Housing, 257
Industries, Household and non-Household, 347, 348
Industries Officer, 474, 475
Infanticide, 149, 150
Inland Trade, 298, 299
Insurance, 282
—General Insurance Department, 282
—Life Insurance Corporation, 282
Inter-caste Relations, 142
Iranian, 66, 69
Irrigation, 468
Irrigation Canals, 180, 186, 184
Irrigation Cess, 431
Irrigation Projects, 181-183
—Gajansar, 183
—Gajod, 182
—Kaila, 182
—Kankavati, 182
—Nirona, 183
—Rudramata, 182
—Sanandro, 182
—Suvi, 183
—Tanks, 184
—Tube Wells, 183
—Wells, 184
Ishavarramji, 525

J

Jadeja, 79, 455
Jagadusha, 78, 290
Jagiri inams, 407, 423
Jagirs, 408, 409, 411, 416, 417
Jaikrishna Indraji Thakar, 527
Jail, 450
—Organisation, 450
—Panchayat system, 453
—Prison Discipline, 451
—Treatment of Prisoners, 453
—Welfare of Prisoners, 452
Jainism, 70, 71
Jain system of Education, 500

J—*contd.*

Jakh, 307
Jakhau, 9, 10, 13, 43, 229, 234, 241, 259, 297, 322, 323, 332, 344, 445, 469, 598
Jambumali, 75
Jam Dadarji, 79
James Fergusson, 108
Jam Ghaoji, 78
Jam Hamirji, 79
Jamnagar, 80, 96, 339, 340
Jam Otha, 78, 79
Jam Ravalji, 79, 80
Jam Ubra, 79
Jam Vahenji, 79
Janan, 599
Jangi, 9, 60, 599
Jara, 12, 80, 88, 89
Jatawada, 87
Jayasimha Siddharaja, 75, 77
Jehangir, 80, 81
Jesal-Toral, 583
Jhangar, 67
Jhangar Kotda, 66
Jhangi, 445
Jhara, 599
Jhund, 326, 327, 328, 329, 333, 336
Jivan Sheth, 87, 88
Jivram Ajramar Gor, 526
Jnan Shala , 511
Jodhpur, 91, 113
Joint Family, 151
Joint Stock Banks, 270, 274
—Advances, 273
—Banks and Social Control, 273
—Deposits, 272
—National Credit Council, 274
—Reserve Bank of India, 274
Judiciary, 455
—After Integration, 457
—Bar Association, 463
—Civil Cases, 460
—Criminal Cases, 462
—Criminal Courts, 460
—Jadeja Court, 457
—Linked Courts, 459
—Nyaya Panchayats, 462
—Pre-Independence period, 457
—Present set-up, 458
—Revenue and Expenditure, 462
—Sessions Court, 462
Julrai, 251
Junagadh, 68, 87, 96

J—*concld.*

Junaid, 73
Juvenile Guidance Centres, 453
Juveniles and Beggars, 453
—Kutch Mahila Kendra, Bhuj, 454
—School for the Blind, Bhuj, 454
—Vikas Gruh, 455

K

Kaiser-i-Hind, 104
Kala Dungar, 6, 8, 37
Kalam Mandal, 527
Kalyani, 76
Kalyanpur, 228
Kamangiri, 526
Kamipasa, 416, 418, 421, 423
Kandla, 9, 15, 24, 27, 43, 45, 109, 112, 228, 229, 230, 231, 234, 239, 240, 241, 243, 246, 252, 253, 254, 257, 259, 271, 291, 294, 299, 301, 316, 317, 322, 323, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 339, 340, 383, 384, 440, 468, 469, 487, 488, 498, 599
Kandla-Ahmedabad National Highway, 229, 243, 292
Kandla Free Trade Zone, 229, 230, 231, 253, 271, 294, 296, 326, 330, 497
Kandla Major Port, 327
Kandla Port Trust, 231, 322, 325, 340, 497, 498
Kandla Water Supply Scheme, 550
Kangri, 412, 413
Kanthi, 69, 83
Kanthkot, 76, 77, 81, 87, 89, 96, 98, 600
Kanyoji, 82, 83, 84
Kapilkot, 75
Karana, 77
Kardamakas, 70
Katariya, 601
Katchi Praja Mandal, 110
Kathiawar, 79, 90, 97 ,96, 338
Kathis, 77, 79
Kazi Shahbudin, 105
Kera, 325, 601
Kerakot, 72, 79
Kerasi, 66, 67
Keshav Raghav, 526
Khadir, 3, 5, 7, 8, 17, 48, 58, 59, 61, 234, 447, 456
Khakhar, 89
Khalabandh, 415
Khalif Hasham, 73
Khalsa, 407, 455, 456, 457

K—*concld.*

Kharika-Khavda, 66
Kharirohar, 9, 15
Khatavahi, 415, 420
Khavda, 3, 8, 48, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 70, 71, 244, 245, 322, 325, 340, 447, 451, 455, 456, 459, 602
Khedoi, 21, 34, 603
Khengarji (Rao), 79, 80
Khengarji I (Rao), 80, 290
Khengarji II (Rao), 81
Khengarji III (Rao), 107, 108, 110, 111, 502, 508, 514
Khimji Hirji Kayani, 569
Khim Saheb, 525
Khombhadi, 603
Kokan, 338
Kora, 603
Kori creek, 9, 11
Kotay, 77, 603
Koteshwar, 9, 10, 11, 43, 72, 445, 469, 604
Koteshwar Mahadev, 306
Kothara, 250, 605
Kotharvahi, 415
Kotwal, 443
Krishna, 71, 74
Krishnaji Tulkar, 105
Kshatriyas, 71
Kshtrapa, 72
Kuar Beyt, 234
Kumaragupta, 71
Kumarpal, 77
Kuran, 606
Kutch, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 339, 340, 341, 343
Kutch Central Financing Board, 277
Kutch Cottage Industries Board, 284
Kutch High Court, 458
Kutchi, 126
Kutch Jilla Pashupalan Madadnish Mandal, 355
Kutch Jilla Talati Mandal, 356
Kutch Kala, Kendra, 527
Kutch Lohana Kelvani Khatu, 516
Kutch Museum, 531
Kutch Prajakiya Parishad, 569
Kutch Praja Sangh, 569
Kutch State, 279
Kutch State Motor Service Board, Bhuj, 325
Kutch State Road Transport Corporation, Bhuj, 325

L

Labour and Employer's Organisation, 255, 256
Labour Unions, 342
Labour Welfare, 555-559
Lagas, 419
Lakadia, 229, 239, 606
Lakes, 15
Lakha, (Rao), 75, 78, 85, 86, 87, 525
Lakha Dhurara, 75
Lakha Jadeja, 78
Lakha Phulani, 75, 77, 78, 79
Lakhapur, 66, 67
Lakhiaravira, 78, 80
Lakhpat, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 20, 21, 23, 24, 27, 28, 34, 43, 44, 48, 54, 56, 57, 58, 60, 72, 86, 89, 92, 93, 94, 95, 99, 107, 251, 278, 290, 291, 298, 322, 323, 329, 330, 331, 332, 338, 339, 341, 381, 413, 421, 426, 427, 433, 435, 447, 456, 469, 607
Lakshmidas Vallabhdas, 101, 103
Lala Lajpat Rai, 110
Lal Bahadur Shastri, 229
Lalbhai Modh, 528
Lalji Kavi, 526
Lal Mohamad, 528
Land Reclamation, 179
Land Records Department, 428, 429
Land Revenue, 430
Land Revenue Administration, 427
Land system, 407
Land Utilisation, 178
Langha Community, 528
Langhnaj, 66
Language, 126, 127

—Bilingualism, 127

Large Scale Industries, 239
Law, Order and Justice, 443-462
Learned Professions, 352
Legal Occupations, 352
Libraries, 529-531

—Anjuman-Islam Free Library, 529
—District Library, 529
—Gujarati Seva Samaj Pustakalaya, 530
—Madansinhji Free Library, 529
—Maharao Shri Khengarji Library, Anjar, 530
—Maharao Shri Khengarji Library, Mundra, 530
—Maharao Shri Vijayrajji Sarvajanik Pustakalaya, 529
—Mandvi Nagarpalika Library, 530

L—*concld.*

—Patel Abhyudaya Sarvajanik Library, 530
Lieut. Burnes, 6
Literacy, 505-507
—by age-group, 506
—growth of, 506
Scheduled Caste, 509
Scheduled Tribe, 509
Literary Activities, 524-527
Literary Societies, 527
Little Rann, 6, 7, 10, 14, 21, 30, 37, 70
Livelihood, 345-347
Local Fund Cess, 430
Lokshalas, 512
Lothal, 68
Lower Income Group, 366
Luna, 234
Luni, 6

M

Mackay, 67
Mac Murdo, 96, 97, 98, 100, 528
Madana, 71
Madansinhji, 111, 112
Madh or Mata-no-Madh, 11, 12, 13, 25, 26, 27, 235, 251, 606
Madhapar, 243
Madhya Pradesh, 326, 327, 334
Magadha, 71
Mahabharata, 1, 68
Maharao Desalji, 525
Maharao Khengarji, 157, 228, 241
Maharao Khengarji III, 29, 38, 39
Maharao Lakhpatji, 228
Maharao Vijayrajji, 39
Maharashtra, 66, 70
Mahatma Gandhi, 11, 12, 13, 23, 25, 60, 240
Mahatma Garibdasji, 584
Maitraka, 72
Maitraka rulers, 500
Majal or Manjal, 609
Major District Roads, 320, 321, 323
Malaria Eradication Programme, 545
Malbar Coast, 331, 336
Maldhari, 269
Maliya, 80, 327, 332
Mallinath, 1
Malwa, 70, 72, 73
Mamlatdar, 3
Manai, 78
Mandvi, 3, 4, 9, 14, 21, 26, 34, 42, 44, 45, 46, 48, 51, 52, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 75, 85, 86, 90, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 98, 99, 100, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 239, 242, 243, 244, 245, 250, 251, 254, 256, 258, 271, 287, 290, 291, 292, 296, 319, 322, 323, 324, 325, 329, 332, 333, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 381, 426, 427, 433, 435, 440, 446, 447, 449, 451, 456, 457, 459, 463, 466, 467, 468, 469, 474, 611
Mandvi Borough Municipality, 480, 481
Manek Mirji, 80
Maniarogadh, 614
Manibhai Jasbhai, 107, 108
Manikbai, 77
Mansinghji, 96
Manures, 199
Maritime trade, 293-299

—Jakhau, 297
—Kandla, 294
—Mandvi, 296
—Mundra, 297
—Other Ports, 298

Maru, 68
Marwar, 73
Maska, 615
Maurya, 73
Mc Crindle, 69
Mecca, 81
Medical Department, 536
Medicine, 353, 361
Megasthenes, 69
Meghji Sheth, 92
Menander, 69
Menkan Dada, 84, 524, 525, 582
Meru Khavas, 95
Mesopotamia, 67
Mewar, 100
Mewasa, 71
Middle income group, 366, 367
Minerals, 22-27

—Barytes, 22
—Bauxite, 22
—Bentonite, 25
—Coal and Lignite, 23
—Glass sand, 26
—Gypsum, 23
—Iron-ore, 25
—Lime-stone, 24
—Ochres, 26
—Oil and Natural Gas, 27
—Saline Efforescene, 27

M—*concld.*

—Salts, 27
—White clay, 26
Mining, 234-251
Mirat-I-Ahmadi, 2
Mir Fateh Ali, 91
Mirza, 87
Miscellaneous Occupations, 351-352
Modern Education Society, 517
Mohen-Jo-daro, 67, 68
Money-lenders, 267, 270
—Licensed Money-lenders, 270
—Rate of Interest, 267, 268
—Sahukar, 267
Morar Saheb, 525
Morvi, 79, 82, 83, 95, 96, 97, 104, 322
Morvi State, 2
Mothala, 615
Muazzim Beg, 82, 83
Muhammad Hasan, 526
Muhammad Miyan, 94
Muhammad Muja, 94
Muhammad Syed, 92
Mulgiras inams, 423
Mulraja, 75, 76
Mundhan, 234
Mundra, 3, 4, 9, 14, 27, 34, 43, 48, 57, 58, 81, 82, 83, 84, 87, 90, 92, 93, 94, 97, 106, 107, 110, 229, 231, 234, 243, 258, 290, 297, 304, 323, 324, 325, 332, 338, 340, 341, 343, 381, 426, 427, 433, 435, 440, 447, 449, 451, 456, 457, 459, 463, 615
Municipalities, 477
Municipal Roads, 323
Munshi Biharilal Nathniram, 103
Murari Vyas, 526
Museums, 531
Music, 527
Music School, 519
Muzafar Shah, 79, 81

N

Nagar, 319
Nagarchi, 82
Nagar Sabhas, 477
Nagar Thatta, 291
Nagpur plan, 320
Nalero river, 13
Nakhatrana, 3, 4, 11, 13, 25, 26, 48, 65, 66, 80, 82, 251, 323, 325, 340, 341, 363, 364, 381, 426, 427, 433, 435, 447, 449, 451, 459, 463, 466, 467, 468

N—*concld.*

Nalia, 45, 48, 243, 325, 447, 449, 451, 459, 463, 466, 477, 616
Nanama hills, 6, 11, 13
Nanji Jivraj, 103
Nara, 88, 89, 319
Narayanji Visanji Thakar, 526
Narayansar or Narayan Sarovar, 5, 58, 60, 168, 324, 616
National Development Council, 490
National Highways, 320, 321, 322, 323, 334, 336
Navanagar, 80, 81, 88, 93, 96
Nawab Kesar Khan, 83
Newspapers, 573
Niranjan, 526
Noghanji, 82
Non-Agricultural Workers, 347, 346
Non-Workers, 345, 349
Nutan Kelavani Mandal, Madhapar, 518
Nyayachackra, 500

O

Occupational Distribution, 349, 350
Odambaris, 69
Okha, 339
Okhamandal, 85, 95, 96, 228
Old Time Industries, 227
Old Time Trade Routes, 319
Orbadari, 69
Oriental Schools, 519, 520
—Arabic, 520
—Other Institutions, 520
—Persian, 520
—Sanskrit, 519
—Sindhi, 520
—Urdu, 520
Origin, 1
Ornaments, 160, 161
—Females, 160
—Males, 161
Other District Level Officers, 404
Other District Roads, 320, 321, 323
Other Sources of Revenue, 437
—Central Excise, 440
—Income Tax, 440
—Sales Tax, 437
—State Excise, 439
—Taxes on Motor Vehicles, 438
Other vehicles, 324

P

Pabumath, 66
Pachham, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 21, 25, 37, 63, 71, 101, 234, 319
Padana, 234
Pagchalvahi, 415
Painting, 528
Palanpur, 319, 327, 330, 331, 336
Panandhro, 251
Panchari, 416, 417, 419
Panchasar, 74, 75, 76
Panchayat Elections, 573
Panchayati Raj, 401
Panchayats, 487
Pandurang Shivram, 105
Panini, 68
Parada, 68
Parkar, 87, 99, 101, 102, 319
Patala, 69
Patan, 75
Patgarh, 75
Pathaka, 76
Patri, 91
Pavagadh, 74
Periodicals, 529
Persian Gulf, 336, 338
Physical Education, 520
Physical Features, 4
Pilgrim Centres, 168, 169
Piprala, 323
Pirwada, 66
Place of Women in Society, 151-153
Police, 443-450
—Anti Corruption and Prohibition, 448
—Functions of, 443
—Gram Rakshak Dal, 449
—Home Guards, 449
—Incidence of Crime, 443
—Kotwal Scheme, 448
—Mahila Gram Rakshak Dal, 450
—Police Administration, 445
—Police Divisions, 446
—Railway Police, 448
—Village Police, 449
—Welfare of Police, 448
Police Range, Rajkot, 446
Political Parties and Organisations, 571, 572
—Hindu Maha Sabha, 571
—Indian National Congress, 571, 572
—Jansangh, 571
—Maha Gujarat Janta Parishad, 571, 572
—Swatantra, 571, 572

P—*concld.*

Population, 115-127
—Age Distribution, 123
—Density of, 117
—Displaced Persons, 120
—Marital Status, 124
—Migration, 118
—Religion, 127
—Rural-Urban, 120, 121
—Sex-ratio, 123
Porbandar, 322
Port Administration, 332
Ports, 469
Post-Integration period, 112
Posts and Telegraphs, 341
Power, 231-233
Pragmal I, (Rao), 81, 82
Pragmal II, (Rao), 105, 106, 107, 501, 520
Pragmalji's palace, 106
Pragsagar Lake, 106
Pratap Dialdas, 486
Prices, 356, 363
Primary Education, 511
Primary Health Centres, 547
Prithiraj, (Rao), 90, 92, 93
Private and public limited Companies, 282, 284
Privy Purse villages, 416, 418
Professional Education, 514
Prohibition, 559-561
—Benefits of, 560
—Department, 561
—Offences, 560
—Working of Laws, 560
Property and Inheritance, 150, 151
Ptolemy, 69
Public Administration, 354
Public Health Department, 544
Public Health Laboratory, 548
Public Life, 569
Public Works Department, 321, 467, 468, 469
Pulakeshi, 73
Puma Ra, 78
Pumragadh, 77
Punja, 87, 88, 89
Punjab, 69
Puranas, 1

Q

Queen Victoria, 108

R

Radhanpur, 74, 88, 95, 323, 330, 331
Rahim-ki-Bazar, 80, 319
Railways, 326-331
—Bhuj-Anjar-Gandhidham, 330
—Gandhidham-New Kandla, 330
—Jhund-Kandla Railway, 327, 330, 333
—Palanpur-Gandhidham, 330
Raipur, 336
Rajasthan, 1, 17, 326, 327, 334
Rajkot, 1, 322, 327, 340
Ramji Khavas, 92
Ram Krishna Mahashala Trust, 517
Rampar, 618
Rampar Vekra, 618
Ramsing Malam, 85, 86, 157, 228, 247
Ranchhodji Maharaj, 528
Range Forest Officers, 467
Rangpur, 67, 68
Rana of Halvad, 80
Rann of Kutch, 70, 445
Rao Bahadur Nandshanker Tuljashanker, 108
Rao Bharmalji, 288
Rao's Chhatri, 589
Rapar, 3, 4, 11, 12, 34, 48, 54–59, 66, 84, 90, 95, 107, 251, 323, 324, 325, 329, 330, 340, 341, 344, 363, 381, 420, 421, 426, 427, 433, 447, 456, 457, 463
Ras, 163
Rashtrakutas, 74
Ratadia, 618
Rata Raydhanji, 78
Rav, 77, 619
Ravaji, 82, 105
Ravechi Devi, 77
Ravi Bhan, 525
Ravi Saheb, 525
Ravisinha, 77
Raydhan I, (Rao), 81, 82, 83, 90, 91, 92
Raydhan II, (Rao), 94-96, 455
Rayan, 619
Rayapur, Mandvi, 75, 80
Record of Rights, 429
Registered Factories, 238
Registrar, General of Money-lenders, 469, 470
Registrar of Co-operatives Societies, 469, 470
Registration, 434
Regulated Markets, 299
Reha, 250, 619
Religion, 127-130
—Hinduism, 128

R—*contd.*

—Islam, 130
—Jainism, 130
—Shaivism, 129
—Swaminaryana Sect, 129-130
—Vaishnavism, 129
Reorientation in Education, 513
Rest-houses, 340
Retail Trade, 303, 304
Rishbhadeva, 71
Rivers, 10-15
—Bhukhi, 14-15
—Bhurud, 11
—Chang, 12
—Dhudud, 11
—Godhatad, 11
—Kalia, 12
—Kali, 11
—Kankawati, 13
—Kaswati (Kana), 13
—Khari, 12, 13
—Kharod, 13
—Lakadiawali, 14
—Malan, 12
—Mithi, 13
—Nagmati, 14
—Naiero, 13
—Nara, 12
—Rakhdi, 15
—Rav, 12
—Rukmavati, 14
—Sai, 15
—Sakra, 14
—Sang, 15
—Suvi, 11
Roads, 319-323
Roads and Buildings, 467
Roads in Modern Times, 320-323
—Major District, Other district and Village Roads, 323
—Ahmedabad-Kandla (N. H.), 322
—Bhuj-Anjar-Gandhidham (S. H.), 322
—Bhuj-Khavda (S. H.), 322
—Bhuj-Lakhpat (S. H.), 322
—Bhuj-Mandvi (S. H.), 322
—Chitrod-Gadhada (S. H.), 322
—Jakhau Port Road (S. H.), 322
—Road Development Plan (20 years), 320
—Road Transport, 324
—Samkhiyali-Piprala (S. H.), 322
Roha, 619

R—*concld.*

Rojmel Khatavahi, 415
Round Officer, 467
Rudradaman, 68, 70, 71
Rudramata, 89
Rudramata reservoir, 254
Rukko, 415
Ruparel, 75
Rural Broadcasting, 342
Rural Electrification, 233
Rural Wages, 433

S

Sahibji, 80
Sahitya Sansodhan Mandal, 527
Saints and Pirs, 142-144
—Dada Menkan, 143
—Guru Dharamnath, 143
—Haji Pir, 143, 144
—Jesal-Toral, 143, 144
—Pachhmai Pir, 143, 144
Saka, 66, 68, 70, 71, 72
Salaried People, 373
Sama Rajput, 2, 79
Samas, 78, 79
Samkhiyali, 322, 327, 330, 331
Sandhan, 620
Sanjivani, 1
Sansmriti, 527
Santalpur, 113
Sanva, 93
Sarangdeva, 75
Sarasvata mandala, 76
Saraswatam, 518
Saraswati Vidyalaya Trust, Madhapar, 517
Sarbulandkhan, 83
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, 110, 111
Sarfaraz, 89
Sathi, 434
Saurashtra, 1, 7, 39, 66, 68, 70, 71, 72, 73, 75, 76, 78, 79, 80, 85, 95, 96, 109
Saurashtra State Road Transport Corporation, Rajkot, 325
School Buildings, 512
School for the Blind, *etc.*, 520
School of Brij Bhasha, 520
Scindia Navigation Co. Ltd., 339
Secondary Education, 513
Second World War, 361
Seed Supply, 197, 198
Service inams, 407, 416, 417
Settlement, 425, 427, 428, 429

S—*contd.*

Settlement Pattern, 156, 157
Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai, 524
Shah Hussain, 80
Shah-Jo-Risalo, 524
Shah Murad, 81
Shastriya Sangit Vidyalaya, 519
Shatrunjaya Mahatmya, 500
Shedhavar, 413
Sheth Devkaran, 83, 84
Sheth Jiwandas, 229
Sheth Khimji Ramdas Kanya Vidyalaya Trust, 517
Sheth Sundarji Shivaji Sodagar, 96
Shikarpur, 9, 234, 620
Shiladitya, 72
Shivalakha, 620
Shivraj, 97
Shrenika Gotra, 71
Sidi, 89
Sidi Merich, 91
Sikra, 620
Simhamitra, 71
Sinay, 621
Sindh, 1, 2, 20, 39, 69, 72, 73, 78, 79, 80, 87, 88, 100, 101, 113, 319, 327, 337
Sindhu Resettlement Corporation, 229, 231, 239, 240, 283
Sindhu Sauvira, 68
Sindian, 88
Singhar, 77
Sinthus, 70, 73
Sir Geoffery Archer, 228, 241
Sir John Malcon, 102
Sisagad, 97
Skandagupta, 71
Small Savings, 280, 281
Small Scale and Cottage Industries, 242 255
Social Education, 521
Social Evils, 149
Social Service Circle Trust, 517
Soil, 187
Soil Erosion, 186, 187
Somnath, 68
Soni Udyogi Sahakari Mandli Ltd., 246
Stamps, 436, 437
Standard of living, 365, 373
Sub-divisional Forest Officer, 467
Sub-divisional Soil Conservation Officer, 466
Sufi Bhakarsha, 524
Sufiani Ratanbai, 524
Suigam, 113, 323

S—*concld.*

Sukhdi, 408
Sumar Junas, 250
Sumari, 79
Sumraji, 85
Sumrasar, 319
Sundarji Shivji Sodagar, 267
Superintending Agricultural Officer, 465
Superintending Engineer, 467, 468
Surajban, 322
Surat, 466
Surendranagar, 322, 327
Surkhi river, 65
Surkotda, 66, 67
Survey, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429
Suthari, 621
Svabhra, 68

T

Talot, 412, 413, 419
Taluka Panchayats, 490, 491, 492, 494, 495, 496
Tamachi, 81
Teachers, 352
Technical Education, 514, 515
—Alfred High School, 515
—Gandhidham Polytechnic, 515
—Industrial Training Institute, 515
Telephones, 341, 342
Tenancy Reforms, 422 to 425
Tera, 85, 621
Thar, 319
Tharad, 113
Topan Sheth, 291
Trade Associations, 314-317
—Bhuj Chamber of Commerce, Bhuj, 315
—Bhuj Cutlery and Stationery Merchant's Association, Bhuj, 317
—Gandhidham Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Gandhidham, 316
—Mundra Merchants Association, Mundra, 317
Trade and Commerce, 299-318
Trade Centres, 299-303
—Anjar, 301
—Bhachau, 302
—Bhuj, 299
—Gandhidham, 301
—Mandvi, 300
—Nakhatrana, 302
—Rapar, 302
Traders, 372

T—*concld.*

Training Facilities for Teachers, 511
Trusts, 565-568
Hindu Trusts, 565-567
—Jain Ashram Trust, Mandvi, 566
—Jhakhau Ratna Tunk Jain temple and Sadharan Fund Trust, 566
—Kutch Lohana Kelwani General Fund, Vanku, 567
—Mata-no-Madh Jagir, Mata-no-Madh, 567
Narayan sarovar Dharmada Jagir, Narayansar, 567
—Swaminarayan Mandir Trust, Bhuj, 566
—Vardhaman Kalyanji Trust, Bhadresar, 567
Muslim Trusts, 567, 568
—Anjuman-e-Islam, Mandvi, 567
—Memon Sheth Haji Abubkar Usman Musafirkhana, Bhuj, 567
—Muslim Education and Welfare Society, Bhuj, 567
—Pir Shri Gulamalishah Dharmada Trust, Kera, 568
Tuna, 9, 43, 108, 319, 326, 332, 621

U

Udala, 77
Udumbars, 69
Ujjain, 70, 72, 73
Umarkot, 319
Umarsar, 251, 621
UNICEF, 548
Unit Trust, 281, 282
Unnadji, 525
Upper Income Group, 367

V

Vagad, 4, 5, 6, 7, 74, 89, 93, 95, 98, 99, 100, 443
Vagha Parekh, 91
Vagham Chavdagadh, 622
Vaghela, 75, 78, 83
Vagher, 85
Valabhi, 72, 74
Vallabhacharya Maharajas, 314
Vangas, 66
Varar, 5, 12
Varduka inams, 416, 417, 421, 424
Varaha Medi, 326, 622
Vasubandhu, 499
Vasura, 71

V—*contd.*

Vayu Puran, 68
Vehicles and conveyances, 323, 324
Venasa, 97
Veterinary Hospital, 467
Veterinary Officer, 466
Vijayrajji, 110, 111
Virkam Chavda, 75
Vikram Saheb, 525
Village Artisans, 371, 372
Village Roads, 320, 321, 323
Vinayakrao Bhagwat, 105
Vinjan, 622
Vira, 623
Virawal, 87, 99
Vired, 417
Vishaya, 76
Vishnu, 72
Visoji, 525
Vital Statistics, 534
Voluntary Social Service Organisations, 573-579
—Anjar Mahila Mandal, Anjar, 577
—Bharatiya Seva Mandal, Bhuj, 574
—Bhuj Dharmarth Ayurvedic Sahaya Fund and Hiralal Lokhitarth Deshi Aushadhalaya, Bhuj, 574
—Gandhidham Maitri Mandal, Gandhidham, 574
—Gujarati Seva Samaj, Adipur, 578
—Harijan Sevak Sangh, Bhuj, 579
—Kundordi Gramya Seva Sangh, Kundordi, 575
—Kutch Andh Kalyan Samiti, Bhuj, 575
—Kutch Jilla Samaj Kalyan Mandal, Bhuj, 576
—Kutch Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Bhuj, 577
—Kutch Tuberculosis Association, Bhuj, 575
—Mahila Grih Udyog Sahakari Mandali, Bhuj, 576
—Mahila Mandal, Bhuj, 578
—Mandvi Bhagini Mandal, Mandvi, 577
—Mandvi Rifle Club, Mandvi, 578
—Mandvi Taluka Tuberculosis Association, Mandvi, 575

V—*concld.*

—Nana Bhadia Homeopathic Sahayak Dispensary, Nana Bhadia, 576
—Nav Yuvak Group, Gandhidham, 578
—Saraswati Shivan Grih, Bhuj, 578
—Sardar Chhatrayalaya, Vallabhpur, 577
—Sarvodaya, Ashram, Lilpar, 576
—Sarvodaya Mitra Mandal, Madhapar, 578
—School for Blind, Deaf, Dumb and crippled children, Mandvi, 576
—Vikas Grih, Bhuj, 578
Vrajvani, 623

W

Wages, 258, 363-365
Water Police, 445
Water Supply, 550
—Rural, 552
—Urban, 550
Water ways Ferries and Bridges, 331-339
—Bridges, 339
—Ferry service, 339
—Jakhau, 338
—Kandla, 339
—Koteshwar, 332
—Lakhpat, 339
—Mandvi, 338
—Mundra, 338
—Ports, 338
Wav, 113
Weights and Measures, 317, 318
—Gaj, 317
—Hisabi Gaj, 318
—Lakhasai Gaj, 317
—Metric system, 318
Western system of medicine, 533
Wholesale Trade, 299-303
Wild Life, 36
Women Education, 508
Workers, 345

Y

Yadavas, 68
Yajurvedi Brahmins, 76
Yasodatta, 71
Youth clubs, 453
Yusuf Maher Ali, 110

PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT PRESS, BARODA.

CORRIGENDA

Page	Para	Line	Incorrect	Correct
1	2	3	4	5
2	1	9	Gujarat.	Gujarat,
,,	1	12	eparate	separate
8	4	7	parellel	parallel
13	6	2	Vc dsar	Vadsar
,,	6	3	le h	length
16	2	4	Kalia	Kaila
35	4	3	Sindh	Sindhis
35	5	11	comparision	comparison
36	1	8	arwari	Marwari
,,	1	10	utchi	Kutchi
81	4	6	evenknow	even now
128	2	2	negighbouring	neighbouring
,,	4	9	a long	along
,,	6	9	Randal	Randel
131	3	15	sthankvasi	sthanakvasi
,,	,,	16	,,	,,
137	6	3	commhnity	community
167	3	6	enjoyed	enjoined
,,	3	12	are time	are a time
189	Statement IV·7	(Sl. No. 16)	fibers	fibres
191	3	2	heactares	hectares
192	6	4	nuder	under
198	1	3	thirtiees	thirties
201	3	6	agricuturists	agriculturists
203	2	2	389,772	389,272
223	1	4	electical	electrical
263	Statement V·4 28	(Sl. No. 19)	expect	except
285	4	9	944-345	944,345
351	3	2	2,323	2,313
,,	3	4	2,014	2,041
358	2	3	121 lbs.	120 lbs.
376	1	12	76.67	76·57
383	2	1	nin-agricultural	non-agricultural
401	1	2	a	an

Page	Para	Line	Incorrect	Correct
1	2	3	4	5
404	4	3	Implementing... village levels.	implementing various development schemes executed under each successive Five Year Plan the need for providing corresponding functionaries at taluka and village levels.
407	5	1	Inspecor	Inspector
437	4	3	judicial stamps	for judicial stamps
458	2	3	Cimmissioner	Commissioner
473	2	5	oganised	organised
482	3	3	twon	town
487	2	11	Howrd	Howard
,,	3	6	Horward	Howard
499	3	3	shatras	shastras
500	3	2	older	old
501	2	12	girls schools	girls' schools
506	1	9	respectivey	respectively
509	2	3	Darbar school	Darbar schools
516	3	6	Dhirabai	Dhirbai
524	2	4	where as	whereas
,,	,,	6	like	life
,,	4	1	excelleed	excelled
528	2	8	Ranochhodji	Ranchhodji
541	5	7	screeing	screening
542	4	2	show	shown
546	4	3	clinc	clinic
548	3	9	propoganda	propaganda
551	1	20	purificantion	purification
553	4	6	clas	class
563	3	[illegible]	practive	practice
564	3	[illegible]	small	shall
570	3	[illegible]	Nakhtrana	Nakhatrana

ONOV 1971

G V23623 N71

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES LIBRARY No. 26238 EGMORE, MADRAS