



My Memories

Deepak Ramchandani

Year 2021

Preamble:

This is not in any way effort to write Biography, but defiantly I am fond of reading and writing.

I took the opportunity to divert my mind in this Pandemic of Covid-19 and in free time I started writing my memories and also liked to share my some old post on social media.

My memories shared in this document does not contain anything related to my office position and my social memories.

This is broadly regarding the issues which any one may like to read.

Some details of my grandparents are given so that my children may read some times in future to know about their ancestors.

The contain in this document also contain some names , I think the reference given does not hurts their sentiments.



Deepak Ramchandani

About Amils:

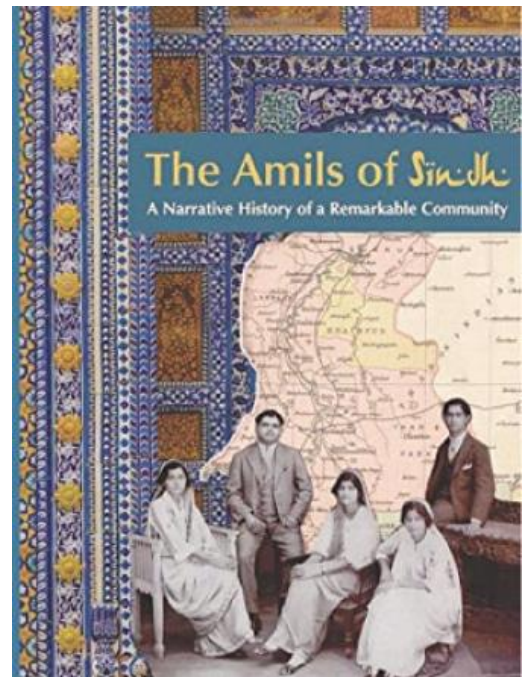
About our Ancestor " Amils:-

Since ancient times, Hindus in India have remained divided into castes like Khatri, Lohanas etc. Castes actually denote the original professions followed by the families in which people were born. Those who migrated to Sind from various corners also belonged to different castes some of them were followers of Sikhism. Thus many different faiths, castes and cultures gathered in Sind. That is why we Amils have no single caste and are casteless. Those migrants who acquired education and became scholars were called as "Alim" or "Vidyawan". Those that after getting education put the education into action (the word for action being "amal") were called "Amils" And those Hindus that entered the Government service were called "Amils" and "Diwans".

From written sources collected by an eminent author (Bherumal Meharchand) in 1919, from newspapers, historical publications, personal interviews, it was found that most of the Amils then residing in Sind had come from nearby Multan and Unch in Punjab. A few Amils were Khatri Lohana, which are warriors by caste who embraced Sikhism while in Punjab. They migrated to Sind after Hindus came under persecution and evil influence when Aurangzeb became emperor.

Such persecutions and evil influence usually forces victimized people to flee the place of their residence. Many consider this as one of the major reasons for migration from Punjab and other places to Sind which was ruled by Talpurs also

It may not be necessary that the ancestors of present day Amils migrated only because of Aurangzeb's persecution. This may have been the initial cause of migration to Sind that probably commenced from 1670. Thereafter some people went to Sind for the sake of service with Sind rulers or for business and settled down there. In the case of some it is certain that they went to Sind for the sake of service only.



Journey of My Grand Parents from Karachi to Adipur- Kachchh

My Grand Parents left Karachi-Pakistan in July-1948

There after settled in Baroda (Now Vadodhara) in Block No. 28, Warsha colony from July-48 to January-1950, There after settled in Camp—1 Ulhasnagar from January 1950

Ulhasnagar ,Originally, known as Kalyan Military transit camp (or Kalyan Camp), Ulhasnagar was set up especially to accommodate 6,000 soldiers and 30,000 others during World War II. There were 2,126 barracks and about 1,173 housed personals. The majority of barracks had large central halls with rooms attached to either end.

The camp had a deserted look at the end of the war and served as a ready and commercial ideal ground for Partition victims. Sindhis, in particular, began life anew in the new land.

After the partition of India, over 100,000 Sindhi-speaking refugees from the newly created West Pakistan were relocated to deserted military camps five

My Grand parents got themselves registered as refugee with Registration Officer, Baroda with registration certificate No.299 dated 15-7-1948.

My Grandfather was having agriculture land with Property Index Number was TP/9/31 for 173 acres 28 Ghutas of agriculture land in Deh Dhandi Taluka Samaro

They submitted the claim against evacuated property to the Settlement Officer ,

“ Here word Deh means habitation where group of people lives and Dhandi is the name of habitation”

The most interesting content is that the land was irrigated by Barrage Canal with Rice restrictions, that means except rice we can cultivate anything as rice need lot of water, this was the most interesting concept of water management,

Main crop in Samero taluka is Cotton, other crops like Sugra Cane ,chillies, wheat and other grains

There were three barrage canals, Thar, Khapro and Mithro.

Village Deh was near Mithdi hence may be irrigated through Mithro barrage canal.



Map shows that the village Deh was exactly to north my present Home town Adipur-Kachhh

In spite of proof of 173 acres, claim was only admissible for 111 acres and amount was only Rs 24000

My Grand Father:

My Grandfather Shri Kalachand was not living with my grand mother, but separately living in "35 wali" in one of the house of Motiram who was having agency of batteries, at that time we were living in CCX-31 (Nav wali), as I remember I was almost in lower Kg, or may not be going to school. My Grandfather use to come to our house one or two times in a month and often came with fruits and snacks. He incidentally expired at our house at CCX.

My Grand Mother

My Grandmother Devibhai Kalachand was living in SDB-90 in only one room, rest of the house was given on rent to Shri Prithviraj Sharma who was Sanskrit Professor at Tolani Arts College.

I remember that one day she was going to grocery shop in CCX area and some dogs barked at her and she fell and her bone of leg was broken, at that time sufficient orthopedic facilities were not available in the town, she was treated at Vadodara (Baroda) also my Father's two sisters use to live there, she was moved to Vadodara in train and lost her life in Vadodara and last rites were performed there only, financially my Father was not so sound to bear the expenses of bringing her body to Adipur. There was no means of communication and we came to know about our demise by Post Card from my father. It was about in year 1975, may be I was studying in 4th or 5th Standard.

Document of verification of property in Sindh:

After rehabilitation from Karachi Sindh Pakistan my Grand Parents first settled in Block No. 28, Warsha colony Baroda.

From the records it is presumed that the claim for compensation was submitted after they shifted in Kalyan Camp-I

The claim was submitted to the Settlement officer , the documents were verified by Government of India and found that the title of property is in the name of my Grand Mother, Devibai Kalachand Ramchandani.

Additional settlement commissioner Delhi, Mr. H.T.Sadarangani announced the judgment.

The judgment was given ex-party as it is presumed that the refugees were not in financially sound position and could not leave behind children in refugee camps to attend and follow up the compensation.

In spite of the proven document the land was assessed as 111 standard acres instead of the record of 173 acres 24 ghutas. It was also verified that the land is irrigated by Barrage canal with rice restrictions.

The application form is as per Administration of Evacuee Property Act, 1950

The status of property which could be claimed was as on date 1st March 1947.

The document being in Urdu could not be read, hence one old Maulvi of Anjar town who was having knowledge of reading and writing Urdu was approached to know the contents of the documents.

Content of the claim document:

- I. Devibai Kalachand age-50 self
- II. Kalachand-Ramchandani ,age-60 husband
- III. Gobind Ramchandani, age-10 son (My father)
- IV. Padma Ramchandani, age-16 daughter

Interim compensation orders:

The order of compensation was issued on date 1st May 1956 by Office of Regional

Settlement Commissioner Bombay, under Ministry of Rehabilitation , Government of India.

The order was of interim compensation and total amount of claim finalized was Rs 24178.

Barrack in Ulhasnagar was allotted since January-1951 as per the records and arrears up to 31-10-1953 of Rs 562 were deducted from the compensation.

House on rent: Barrack No.385 OT, Camp-1 Kalyan, which was in possession since January-1951 is being allotted on quasi permanent basis with effect from 1st November 1953.

Other outstanding dues of Rs 16845.12 were deducted which were for allotment of two houses SDB 89 & 90. The houses were allotted by Sindhu Resettlement Corporation and amount was adjusted under interim compensation. Net amount of interim compensation and rehabilitation grant due was Rs 6770.00

Allotment of another house TCX North-33

Adjustment of Amount Rs.5070 for TCX-North-33 , vide letter of SRC dated 3rd August 1956

Barrack No.385, OT Camp-1 Ulhasnagar

This is the place of Ulhasnagar -1 of Maharashtra in which my father at age of 7 to 10 lived with his mother, father and sister as refugee after Indo-Pak partition.

They lived from year 1950 to 31-10-1953 as refugees.

I incidentally visited Ulhasnagar to attend the prayer meet of death of my uncle Mr.Bhagwan Kriplani living in Ulhasnagar-3.

There I remembered that my father along with his parents lived in Ulhasnagar as refugees. I got the address from my wife Asha at Adipur to search the same from the book " Indus valley to my home" written by me during May-13.

I shared the idea of visiting this area with my brother-in-law Naresh Tewani and with my cousins.

On date 10th January we started searching for the area on two motor bikes, we started search from Ulhasnagar-2 , but could not find the required barrack. After asking from many people ultimately we could see the location.

All the old barracks are not renovated into row houses and could not be identified, but one rear wall of barrack No.385 still exists in the original condition which is captured in photograph as below.

Before coming to Ulhasnagar my father and grand father were in Baroda (Now Vadodhara) , now my next wish is to search for the location where they first landed in India as refugees and settled in Block No. 28,Warsha colony from July-48 to January-1950.



About my Grand Parents:

My Grandfather Shri Kalachand was a Chemist and started working in Medical Shop of one Mr.Lal Vaswani

My Maternal Grand Parents use to live in Hyderabad Sindh, my Nana's name was Kishinchand Bhavani and Nani's name was Rukmani. My Nana was having more than 25 building properties in Hyderabad and was running a Shop of General Store , he was having

their own Horse Cart, at that time few cars were , they were also in position to afford car but due to lack of drivers had not purchased. My Nana use to go to his shop on his own horse cart, shop was for killing the time but his main income was from the rents of his properties.

As narrated by my Nani when I was child, there house was opened for all the visitors and daily additional food was prepared for their near and dears visiting Hyderabad for any purpose.

Mother of my Nana was having a Sister with huge age difference, hence she was brought up by my Nana's mother as daughter. In real sense she was Masi of my Nana, but as was treated as Sister by my Nana. His son was Mohan Jigyasi who was living at Nadiad.

My Father:

During this period, while arranging documents, I got the SSC mark sheet of my Father, passed in October 1962

Just read the subjects which were offered in SSC other than common subjects

1. Banking and Accounts, 2. Short Hand,
3. Elements of Commerce, 4. Wood work techniques, 5. House Craft, 6. Dyeing Techniques, 7. Geometry and Machine Drawing,
8. Building and Construction, 9. Mechanical Engineering,
10. Radio Engineering, 11. Electrical Engineering, 12. Radio Service Work, 13. Workshop Technician Grade-I/II, 14. Elementary of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, 15. Surveying , 16. Tilling and Soil, 17. Weaving and power, 18. Crop and Animal Husbandary, 19. Typography, 20. Hand spinning and hand weaving, 21. Chemical Tech., 22. Tailor and cutting, 23. Handmade Paper Manufacturing , 24. Tailor and Embroidery

**GUJARAT SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION BOARD,
BARODA.**

This is to certify that the withinsigned RAMCHANDANI GOBIND SALACHAND
RAMCHANDANI GOBIND SALACHAND
passed the Secondary School Certificate Examination of October 1962 in the grade shown below & reached the standard (Pass, Credit or Distinction), as shown in the following subject:

Sl. No.	Lang. Upper Level	Lang. Lower Level	Social Studies	Gen. Science	E. Maths. Adv. Level	English (Eng)	Science	Comp. & Mech. Engg.	History	Comp.	Ind. Adm.	Arts, Music	Art	Typ. & Writng	Hand. & Embroid.	Other
1	P	P	P	P	P	/	P	/	/	P	/	/	/	/	/	/
2																
3																

SEAT No. GRADE TOTAL SUBJECTS SCHOOL No. COMBINATION CODES*

29321 THREE SEVEN 32 001 532001

Date of Birth THIRTY FIRST MARCH NINETEEN THIRTY NINE 31 03 1939

Signature of the Head of the School MAITRI MAHA VIDYALY
Principal
AHRPUR (Kutch)

Secretary.

The Secondary School Certificate is awarded to successful candidates in—
Grade I—to those who obtain at least 80 per cent of marks in the aggregate.
Grade II—to those who obtain at least 65 per cent of marks in the aggregate.
Grade III—to all other candidates.

* There are Six Combination Codes under which different Languages/Subjects are offered. A particular Language/Subject offered by the candidate under each Group is indicated by Numerical Codes as shown under "Combination Codes" Above. Each Numerical Code is explained opposite.

Not offered or Failed in the subject though offered

Not entered in the candidate's application for admission to the Examination.

(P. T. Q.)

Languages offered: Gujarati Marathi Hindi, Urdu Sindhi English, Punjabi Kannad Tamil
 Telegu Bengali Malyalam, Sanskrit Pali Ardhamagadi, Arabic Persian Avesta Pahalavi
 Latin Hebrew Greek, German Spanish Italian, Portuguese French

Position I	Position II	Position III	Position IV	Position V	Position VI
Lang. Higher Level	Lang. Lowest Level	Sciences	Classical Lang.	Optional Lang.	E. Maths / Alg. Geom.
Gujarati 1	Gujarati 1	Phy. Chem. 1	Sanskrit 1	Gujarati 1	Elem. Maths. 1
Marathi 2	Marathi 2	Phy. Hrg. 2	Pali 2	Marathi 2	Alg. Geom. 2
Hindi 3	Hindi 3	Sci. & Zoology 3	Ardhamagadi 3	Urdu 3	Not offered 0
Urdu 4	Urdu 4	Not offered 0	Arabic 4	Sindhi 4	
Sindhi 5	Sindhi 5		Persian 5	Punjabi 5	
English 6	English 6		Avesta Pahalavi 6	Kannada 6	
Punjabi	Punjabi		Latin 7	Tamil 7	
Kannada	Kannada		Hebrew 7	Telegu 7	
Tamil	Tamil		Greek 7	Bengali 7	
Telegu	Telegu		German 7	Malyalam 7	
Bengali	Bengali		Spanish 7	Not offered 0	
Malyalam	Malyalam		Italian 7		
			Portuguese 8		
			French 8		
			Not Offered 0		

My Father completed ITI in fitting , at that time ITI could be done after passing 9th Standard, and after completing ITI, my father was appointed as Instructor in Tolani Foundation Polytechnic Adipur. He was founder member of Tolani Foundation Polytechnic and I even learned fitting from him in year 1981 (First year Diploma Civil)

He retired from his services in 1997, I still remember that his colleagues brought him home from the Workshop of TFGP with garlands in his neck and all came walking, along him if I am not mistaken came Ranbeer Advani, Gagandas Kriplani, Khammabhai, Jhanakbhai and some other staff members of Workshop.

My father was hard working and he always liked to do part time job after the teaching hours, I remember he use to work as operator of Usha Talkies (Now Vinay cinema), Movies were free for us and I watched almost every movie with my father when I was child. He also started a shop on the Maitry road Adipur of bakery Items, when I was child , use to sit in the shop in the evening, then he sold the shop to one Kishin Tailor and still this shop exist and next generation of Shri Kishin Tailor are operating this shop.

He was very fond of feeding the birds, hundreds of parrots use to come to our house when my father use to give grains, but cats use to hunt them frequently as it was each catch due to large number of birds at one place, so my father discontinued. My son Yash was born and my father became busy in taking care and playing with him.

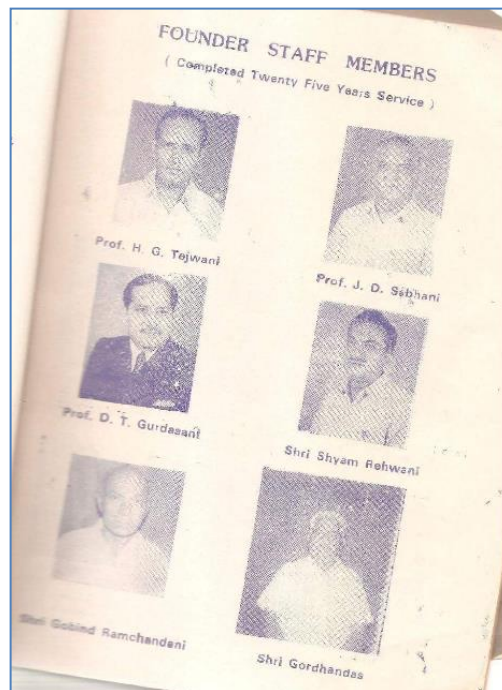
During the last few years before retirement , he started visiting the Radha Krishin temple of Divine Life Society every evening.

He was follower of Radha Swami and had become vegetarian , he used to mediate for number of hours and in year 2003, it was day of Shivratri , he was meditating and locked himself in the room and was not opening , when we forced him and came out of the room , but lost the mental balance for which his treatment was continued for some time. But he lived the normal life except on some occasions we have to make counseling.

On 3rd December 2008, I came to Gandhinagar for the Technical Scrutiny Committee, just after completing the meeting , I got a call from my uncle who gave me this sad news, and I immediately rushed to my home at Adipur.

Before I reach Adipur, all my friends reached my home and they were with my family members and made all arrangements for funeral. I am still thankful to my friends, I still remember that my father use to wake up in early morning and I moved for Gandhinagar on the 3rd December 2008, my father asked that why you are frequently going to long tours, he was no comfortable on that day.

Overall he was healthy, without any disease of Blood pressure or Diabetes During the entire life he was very Kind to the family and never gave any trouble to use.



My Birth Place: Adipur, A township with shortest addresses in country

If somebody ask my address and if I reply that my address is SDB-90, 370205 . The person who I reply worries that with such a small address how could a post reach you, but no post is missed even such small address is narrated. It is just like vehicle number in which State, District is indicated only by numbers.

ADIPUR-GANDHIDHAM: Remembering addresses is a piece of cake at the Sindhi resettlement township in Adipur. All it comprises is a few alphabets and numbers. No wonder residents claim to have the shortest addresses in the country.

Addresses like SDR69, SDX50, CBX56, TRS69, SBD4 are common here. And, people here look for each other's houses by these codes, which for an outsider will appear strange. But, the code is simple for residents as they denote the type of house, the locality and house

numbers.

And, in case you are thinking that such addresses were decided upon on someone's whims and fancies then you will be wrong. The master plan for twin towns of the Adipur-Gandhidham was prepared by an Italian architect Mario Baccheocci in 1949, but the unique addresses were suggested by a group of German engineers and planners, who lived in the township while building the Kandla port.

The township is built for rehabilitation of Hindu population from Pakistan, initially many people were living on rent and there was the arrangement of purchase of houses from claim settlement amount of evacuated property in Pakistan. The range of houses were such that all class of population could be accommodated from single room row house to luxurious bungalows on 800 square yards plots. Rents of the houses was ranging from one rupee to 35 rupees in Adipur township and the same was decided by the Sindhu Resettlement corporation. The houses were again renamed with the address such as Nav vali (for 9 Ruppes rent) for CCX houses, Pandrawali (for Rupees 15 rent) for SBX houses. Even today rickshaw drivers recognize with this type of names in the Adipur township.



NIRVASITESHWAR TEMPLE-ADIPUR -1970

Old memories: From childhood we use to visit the Nirvasiteshwar temple in every Shivratri, when studying in primary school I and my sister permanently tattooed “OM” on our right hand, it was tattooed by machine and it was painful process.

Shivratri is celebrated every year in a small town named Adipur under Gandhidham Municipality in Kachchh District of Gujarat-India.

After Indo-Pak Partition to settle the rehabilitated population from Pakistan this township was constructed. In the matter of the Master Plan for the town, the services of an Italian Town Planner of all-Europe repute, had been obtained in the beginning who gave many useful ideas. The plan thereafter was developed by an Indian Town Planner, employed by the Corporation. The basic principle of the plan is, that the town is divided into self-sufficient districts which are again sub-divided into neighborhood units. Each neighborhood unit, having a population of about 10,000 people, has its own schools, dispensaries, temples, etc. while each district consisting of about half a dozen neighborhood units, has a district center, consisting of markets, shopping squares, cinemas,

hospitals, etc. This principle has been greatly appreciated by all experts. This Master Plan, as desired by the Government, was also checked and approved by an American Town Planning Organization whose services had been obtained under "Truman Aid Scheme".

The planning also consists of construction of Temple complex in which Shiva temple, Hanuman temple & Maa Ambe temple were planned to be constructed. Besides this Guru Mandir, Lal Mandir, Laxmi-Narayan temple were also part of master plan prepared by Sindhu Resettlement Corporation.

Construction of the temple was completed in year 1951 and Pran Pratishtha of Shiva Idol was done, this Shiva Idol was originally in the house of Patel family of London. Mr Patel became friend of Bhai Pratap Dialdas who was founder of Adipur-Gandhidham township. Their friendship began while both were travelling in flight from Karachi to Bhuj

The management of Temple complex was handed over to Maitri Mandal which was headed by the famous poet and freedom fighter Padamshree Dada Hundraj Dukhayal. Maitri Mandla is responsible of management of school in the township and in past it also managed diploma engineering college which was latter taken over to Tolani Foundation owned by Prabhdas Tolani. In year 1978 Shiv Mandli was constituted and its first president was Shri H.H.Navani, and Shiv Mandli took over the responsibility of maintenance of Temple Complex. In year 1993 Shiv Mandli was registered and renamed as OM Shiv Mandli.

At present OM Shiv Mandli maintains all the activities of Temple complex and also carries other social activities, daily about more than 300 poor persons are fed in this temple complex.

Story about Shiva Idol of Nirvasiteshwar Temple of Adipur:

According to the Shiva Puran, Daksha-Prajapati sought worthy grooms for his many daughters, men of substance, gods who helped life on earth, like Indra, the rain-god or Agni, the fire-god.

He was quite horrified therefore when his youngest daughter, Sati, of her own free will, chose a hermit as a husband — a naked, ashsmearred ascetic called Shiva who had dogs and ghosts as his companions and who lived atop a snow-clad mountain. Upset that his daughter had married against his will, and that too to a person so unconventional, he broke all relations with her. When he decided to perform a grand yagna, he invited all his daughters and sons-in law to the ceremony, but not Shiva and Sati.

The story goes that when Daksha-Prajapati refused to invite Shiva to his yagna, Sati flew into such a rage that she burnt herself to death in protest and disrupted the entire ceremony. A great confrontation followed where Daksha-Prajapati and his guests saw the fury and power of Shiva. An uneasy peace was finally restored, with Daksha-Prajapati

begging for forgiveness and Shiva withdrawing into his cave. The story continues by the act of Vishnu in pacifying Shiva, who was in deep grief in seeing the half burned corpse of his beloved wife. Vishnu embraced Shiva to pacify him. Shiva unable to part with Sati took her corpse and wandered. The body parts of the corpse of Sati Devi fell in the places Shiva travelled. The places where the body parts Sati Devi's corpse fell came to be known as Shakti Peethas It is only in crisis that the value of a Shiva is realized



The “mudra” of the lord Shiv Idol of Nirvasiteshwar Temple of Adipur was of the wandering position of Shiva when the god left Himalayas. Similar was the position of rehabitee Sindhi-Hindu population and all the population were in wandering stage hence this Shiva Idol was best for Nirvasiteshwar temple of Adipur. Hence Bhai Pratap Dayaldas requested Mr.Patel to give him the Shiva Idol for Nirvasiteshwar Temple of Adipur.

Silent town lived on Sirens: Year 1970

This is the memory of a silent town Adipur located in Kachchh Gujarat, the town was established after Indo-Pak partition for rehabilitation of people migrated from Pakistan.

Till 1970 it was thinly populated and town was silent , at that time there were very few vehicles and mode of communication for public was city bus run by the Sindhu Resettlement Corporation and train running from , and only two industries were there. One was factory of Sindhu Resettlement corporation and one was Spinning Mill.

Majority of the people were working in Sindhu Resettlement Corporation, Spinning mill and Kandla Port Trust.

Day of the town starts with whistle of train at 6:45 for conveyance of workers and officials of Kandla Port Trust, it was for second shift 8:00 to 16:00 hours. There were total three shifts and whistle of three trains going to Kandla and three trains coming to Kandla was clearly heard in the entire town.

Spinning mill was running in three shifts and siren of three shifts, tea break, lunch break was clearly heard in the entire town.

First Siren of Sindhu Resettlement Corporation could be heard at 7:45 hours which was to move from the homes so as to reach the factory in 15 minutes. Second siren at 8:00 hours was for starting the shift.

Siren at 9:30 was for office staff of Sindhu Resettlement Corporation

Siren at 11:00 hours for tea break, at 13:00 hours for starting of lunch time, at 14:30 for end of lunch time and 17:30 for end of office time of SRC.

Last siren of SRC was heard at 21:00 hours for end of shift of factory.

I remember that even lunch timing of Tolani Polytechnic college matched with the schedule of SRC and on hearing siren of 13:00 hours I could assume that my father will reach home for lunch in 15 minutes. My father was working as instructor in Tolani Polytechnic.

Similarly each family relied on one or other siren or whistle of train.

Sirens were relied more than clocks at that time, also in many homes clocks were missing.

This continued till the town grew and noise pollution increased due to vehicles and many other reasons.



Memories of Indo- Pak war-1971

I was watching television on Saturday 23rd November , on Aaj Tak channel a documentary of Indo-Pak war of 1971 was shown which reminded me of my childhood memories.

During Indo-Pak war of 1971 I was just 7 years old studying in 1st standard at Adipur-Kachchh. At that time what is war and its consequence was not known but the first word of “ Blackout “ in relation to the war was heard during that period.

During that time we had no holidays in the school , but it was functioning normally and my parents even did not hesitate in sending me to school. Our school was in a residential area which was a walkable distance from my home and we used to go by foot as there was no

system of children going through auto-rickshaw. A old lady named Kankuben use to take 4-5 children from their home to the school and we use to return with her, she was also working as peon in the same school. Trenches were excavated in the premises of school and we were provided with cotton buds by the school. On indication of some threat by whistles of home guard and siren we were taken to the trenches and asked to sit inside the trench with cotton buds inserted into our ears. We use to sit in the trenches till further indication of safety appeared through home guard whistles and siren. It was fun for us and we didn't fear about anything.

During night time " Blackout" was enforced and any light penetrating from our windows of house was restricted. We used to cover the glasses of windows by thick cardboard and any opening was closed by paper seals. In the normal cases bulbs of 100 watts were used and at that time tube lights were rare in the middle class family, but during war time 40 watts bulbs were fixed in the houses so that there are no changes of light going out of our houses.

There were very few vehicles in the town and which if required were moving without lights in night time, some people even feared smoking beedis or cigarettes in the open, my father was working as instructor in polytechnic college and was having little shop in which few bakery items were sold, he use to close the shop before sunsets.

How to pass the time at night till we sleep was matter of question, during that time a new chambers were constructed outside the row houses which was almost accommodated with people of the area chatting and discussion about the war, we use to watch number of home guards moving in the town for whole night and warning with whistles during the time of threat.

In our area our radio could catch " Radio Pakistan" which was prohibited by law or otherwise which I don't remember. Even though we tried to listen about the war from the side of Pakistan and the news was much aggravated as per the actual loss incurred by them.

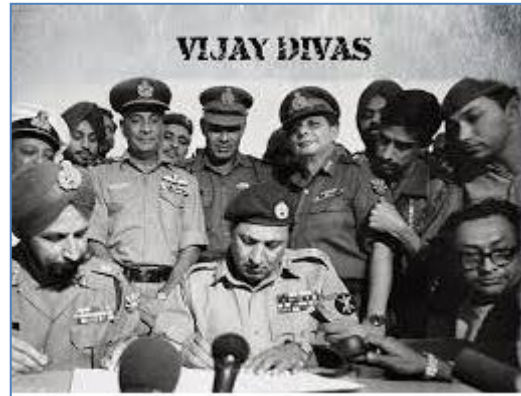
During war many Pakistani soldiers were arrested as Prisoner of War and on All India Radio they used to speak to their families narrating their name and saying " Khairat hai". We use to listen on the radio and there was time slot for the POW to address to their family members. At that time there use to be license for keeping radios and annual charges were paid in post office and a license book was stamped for the renewal for one year. Radios were also equipped with antenna which was installed outside the windows or on roof.

This childhood memory of war always remained in my mind and where I got opportunity is tried to know about the war.

In 1983 I passed Diploma Civil Engineer and worked as Work Assistant on daily rated basis in Kandla Port trust , I was assigned the job in dredger which was working round the clock,

the captain of the dredger was retired military man from Navi, during the night shift he use to narrate sometimes his experience of war.

In year 1984 I was appointed as civil engineer in water supply department , I was in charge of Banni area which is on Indo-Pak border. There was famous person Gulberg in Dhordo village and people use to call him Gulberg Dada, he also narrated the situation and some war stories and at that time there were no telephones and communication was made by chain of humans and transmitting message through voice to the far distance.



I pray god that nobody shall get the experience of war , but I had drafted the memories to be read by further generation.

Typhoid at 2nd Standard-1972

Typhoid at that time was called “ Mudde Ka Bukhar” even after treatment it take 40 days to cure. I was encountered with typhoid when I was in 2nd Standard and was treated by Dr. Manu who practicing at shop in Jhanda Chowk road. I missed my classes many days , hence my notes were not completed. Even though in normal times I was lazy in writing the notes, that’s why I never improved my hand writing.

I remember that my Father helped me in borrowing the note books from Mukesh Asnani through his father G. C Asnani as both were working in same college.

I spend my time at home copying the notes, in the same year I stood 2nd rank in the examination and that was the only year when I was ranked 2nd , otherwise in my career I was the average students.

My poor writing every time embraced that teachers, one day a lady class teacher (Name I am not remembering) showed the page of my note book to whole class room and told that even in the broad day light she could not read my writing and compared with a note book of another student saying that she could read this without the day light. Even this could not motivated to improve my hand writing , still I am surveying with this poor writing.

An old Sindhi: Selling his skill on streets instead of begging for money- Year 1973

I recollected the old memories of year about 1973 when our family used to live in a one room row houses called CCX area in Adipur. I was a child studying in about 3rd or 4th standard.

A old man use to cross our lane with a gunny bag having various kind of tools of carpentry, plumbing and other miscellaneous tools. Just like other cart vendors of vegetable etc, he used to move in whole area and asking in loud voice “ **Ko Kam Vatho**” i.e take some work from him.

At the tender age I was wondering what he is selling and what was in his bag, after some time when I noticed that some people are calling in his home and taking some skilled work of repairing from this old man and paying some charges to him.

The question is why this is being recalled after span of more than 40+ years, this is because that few months back when I was in Adipur Kachchh at my home town, our friends use to have gathering at tea stall and we use to discuss current issues. One day my friend Ishwar was talking to his friend on mobile that he had found one Sindhi begging for money at “Patariya Hanuman Mandir” at Atanjar Village and he was worried about this change in Hindu Sindhi community. **As it is common saying that you cannot find a Sindhi begger.**

This was the reason for my recollection of memories, that even after leaving all property in Sindh, **the old Sindhi preferred to sell his skill in the street instead of begging for money.**

This also remind me a video clipping of a Jain Sadhu speaking about Sindhis saying that they had **transformed from “ Sharnarathi “ to “ Pursharathi”**

Nav Nirman- Year 1974-75

Till 3rd Standard I studied in Modern School at Adipur, which was established in SDB Bungalows , it was walking distance from my house. At that time there was no facility of Rickshaw picking from home and school, but one school peon named Kankuben use to come to our house to pick up and we use to travel by foot with her from house of one student to other, overall I remember we were 5 to 6 students, this continued for the KG Standards and after first standard I use to go walking with the tin colorful bag painted in green.

During Nav Nirman I was studying in 4th Standard and languages such as Gujarati and Hindi started from 4th, till that we couldn't even write or read simple alphabets of Gujarati and Hindi.



Due to strikes out school was closed many days and there was student leader Named Tandon which was Mama of Sunil Gangwani, my class mate, he was even jailed at that time, I remember my class mate Narendra Khubchandani was picked up from the school as a protestor and along with him some senior students were also jailed. Some students ran out of fear from School to Gandhidham railway station.

We were mass promoted, hence my base of Gujarati and Hindi language never developed due to this.

SSC-1979-80

In 1979, I passed 9th standard and in the same year Gujarat was awarded 9 Million Acre Feet of water, due to which there was the news that huge demand of engineers shall be created for execution of this Mega project.

During the first day of 10th Standard we were asked to give the choice of Commerce or Science, but as one of my teacher probably Chelani miss narrated the huge demand of Engineers in coming year most of the students were encouraged to opt for Science, whereas in previous years maximum students opt for Commerce.

The school teacher took the test of Maths of 9th Standard and told that one who score good marks can opt for Science. I remember it was 25 marks test but I score only 9 marks, even though I was firm to opt for Science and I continued for that.

All science students except me joined tuition classes of Alwani Sir and few were at Rajwanshi Sir. Three months before exams I joined Rajwanshi Sir, who was living in THS on Maitri Road, he was very good teacher and I scored good marks in Maths and Science. He use to take our classes after 10 hours and after completion of classes he use to walk with us till Maitry School. It was wonderful experience with him as he use to take only 4 to 5 students in one batch.

I remember one funny event of SSC Exams, one Prakash Mudliyar my class mate and neighbor also opt for Science. During the examination he was alone and his parents were gone to Madras (Chennai). There were two papers Algebra and Geometry and there was gap between two papers. During the gap he came to his home and felt sleep, when he woke it was late, even though he locked the house, and went to Examination center running and reached there 10 minutes just before exam was to complete.

Typing Subject: This was the common subject which majority of the Students opt, as I remember it was optional against Sanskrit, my Sanskrit was not so good hence I opt for typing as per other students. There were two types of typing machines, Ramington and Godrej, we have to practice on both as in examination it was not certain on which machine we have to give examination. I joined Anuradha Typing Institute in 64 Bazar Adipur, I loved typing as I was having very poor handwriting and this gave me opportunity to improve my output even in my professional career. Even today I use all fingers while typing and work without looking at key board.

SSC Results-1980

Two of my class mates secured 99 marks in one subject, Mr. Dharamdas Ramnani who secured 99 marks in Mathematics (Higher maths stream) and Mr. Narendra Khubchandani in Arithmetic (Commerce stream). Mr. Dharamdas Ramnani was always topper in class , as per my knowledge he is at present working as Doctor in USA and Mr. Narendra Khubchandani who was running Printing Press at Jhanda Chowk Adipur, no living in Rajkot and both are not in my contact since many years.

Admission TFGP-1980

Results of SSC were out and I secured 64 percentage marks which were more than sufficient to secure admission in Diploma college.

There were three streams in Tolani Polytechnic College Civil, Mechanical and Electrical, we didn't have any knowledge which engineering is best, even my father were not knowing, but he was surely knowing that Shri S. D. Keswani – lecturer of the college could guide me properly. I went to his home and gave reference of my father, he guided me to fill the option of Civil Engineering, Second option Mechanical and third Electrical.



On the guidance of Shri S. D. Keswani , I got admission in Diploma in Civil Engineering.

Tolani college was having its own independent admission system and few seats were reserved for Kaka Tolani and many students from Mumbai (Bombay) , Delhi , Ajmer and other Sindhi dominated towns got admission under such reserved seats , rest seats were filled through merits. This was the last year of independent system of admission and from the next year the admission was filled by common merit system of whole Gujarat.

Pocket Money-1981

Rupees 20 per month was pocket money during my studies , prior to this year I never carried cash of even 25 or 50 paisa also, as I was having School Bus pass and use to carry lunch box for recess. This I use for cutting tea with friends for few times in a month. As I remember tea was 25 paisa and some time ate "Tikki Pakoda". Canteen was run by one Gurnomal Kriplani. My father's salary was about Rs 900/ month and comparison to this salary even Rs 20/ month was good for me.

First year of Diploma-1981:

There was huge strikes in opposition to reservation , in which many student union participated , college was closed for large number of days.

Paper was asked for whole course , but we got 200% option, hence even if we complete half course we can answer questions for 100% marks.

Overall in college I was above average in studies , I was happy as nobody asked for notes and reading from the books was always better option for me. Not writing the notes saved lot of time, but more than 80% of the students behaved like schools and were writing notes during the lectures this disturbed me hearing the lectures and I sat on last bench to concentrate on the lectures.

Worked as Mistry in Kandla Port Trust:

After completion of Diploma, I started working as Mistry in Kandla Port Trust even before results. Hari Gehani who was Executive Engineer at Kandla Port trust was known to my relative Soni Kriplani who was estate manager at Kandla Port Trust, on her insistence he appointed as Mistry on daily wages basis. Before results I was paid Rs 30/ day and after results it was increased to Rs 32/ day, overall I worked for about 6 months.

I used to travel through Train from Adipur to Kandla for which I had got travel pass from Railway, we had to reach site at 8 hours and timing of the train was about 6.30 in morning

and after descending from the train at Kandla I used to walk up to 6th berth which took almost 20-25 minutes. Again after duty was over at 16 hrs , again use to catch train from Kandla @ around 5 hours and reached at home at about 18 hours.

Initially I was posted at Container Freight Station on 6th Berth which was on pile foundation, the work was awarded to V.K.Patel & Co, one day owner Shri Lakhubhai was coming to the site by car and from the far sight he observed that the columns are out of plumb, this was the sharpness of such legendary contractor who are always thinking for quality of work, the column was tilted due to heavy rolling on earth filling up to plinth. He also suggested the corrected measure and constructed the artificial wall outside, filled with earth and rolled from outside. He identified the problem and gave the solution also.

The work was stuck for short time and I was placed at Dredger 1 (Dredger corporation of India) which was used for dredging of sixth berth of Kandla Port Trust, there was shifting duty and I use to do double duty i.e 16 hours from 16:00 hrs to 8:00 hrs next day, in dredger there was library , canteen and small sitting and sleeping place at the cabin of Captain who use to operate the dredger for digging out of mud. Mud was dredged and pumped through the pipeline installed on the floating platforms and was dumped at the shore for ground filling.

Quantity of dredging was worked out physically every month by measuring the depth at the fixed location, fixed location was identified by ranging the boat in alignment and measuring the distance from the berth. Time of the measurement was recorded in minutes and seconds and the level of the sea was measured at the floating jetty near North Gate, level of sea was measured every 5 minutes and clock of both the surveyor were matched before starting the measurement , ground level were established by deduction the depth from the sea level by interpolation of sea level at the time of measurement of depth.



Manual calculations were made which were very tedious and it took hours of hours to complete and check the quantities. I was the only person who could work out and check the quantities and whole department relied upon my work.

Employment exchange-1983

Employment Exchange was at Bhuj and weekly camp for registration was held on every Tuesday or Wednesday at Old court building Gandhidham and Old commerce college at Adipur.

After receiving provisional passing certificate , I gathered the required documents and waited for the next camp for registration as unemployed engineer.

On the day of camp it was heavy rain, even though I wrapped all the original document in the plastic and travelled through SRC city bus to Gandhidham for registration, I also asked few of my friends to come for registration , but due to rain only few candidates came for registration.

I got the opportunity from employment exchange for work charge Additional Assistant Engineer at Irrigation Division Bhuj at that time Shri K M N Rao was executive engineer, I remember I gave the interview along with my friend Mohan Anandani, but no body was appointed through this interview.



Second change I got as work charge Additional Assistant Engineer at P.H.Works Division Bhuj and at that time Shri Dudaiya Saheb was the Executive Engineer and Shri R. S. Kalyani was Deputy Engineer of Banni Sub Division, in absence of Shri Dudaiya Saheb, R. S. Kalyani took my interview , I was selected along with my friend Subhash Kalyani and two others.

Posting at Banni: 12th February 1984

Applied for GWSSB:

Many engineers of GWSSB were students of my Father as he was fitting instructor at Workshop of Tolani Polytechnic college.

One Kartar Poptani was Addition Assistant Engineer at GWSSB and my father directed me to meet him, Poptani was living in Double Storey houses opposite Divine Life Society hospital at Adipur. I went to his house for guidance , he wrote the address of GWSSB on his paper and asked to send the application. A hand written application with ordinary stamp was send to GWSSB- Gandhinagar.

In the mean time I joined GWSSB as work charge AAE , interview were called through employment exchange.

The old application helped me which I forgot, and as per my old application I was called for interview for regular AAE and I appeared for interview at office of SE Project, Patnagar Yogna Bhavan Gandhinagar and joined GWSSB at Banni Sub Division Bhuj, at that time post of AAE was not vacant hence my salary was drawn at Mandvi Sub Division.



Guardian-About Shrichand Talreja-1984

Blog posted on Date 17th February 2015

17th February 1984 is the date exactly 31 years before today on which I resumed my duties as Additional Assistant Engineer (Civil) in water supply department in Bhuj, District Kachchh.

Children needs guardian but in government service when anybody at the very young age joints does not get any guardian, but I was lucky to get the guardian in my first government posting. He was Mr. Shrichand Talreja a senior engineer of the same post of mine.

I resumed my duty and met Deputy Engineer Mr. R.S Kalyani , he was a senior person and use to speak very less, he just told to meet Mr Talreja and work with him and I just got my guardian in my job.

The very first question I asked Mr. Talreja that how after so many years you are still on the same post, he answered that in this organization this is the pace in which we get promotion, I was depressed a little and felt that I being junior most shall never get promotion.

Mr. Talreja use to teach me right from drafting letters, preparation of estimates, tenders, management of stores and lot of many things. I use to accompany him on the site of works frequently. Strong base was created due to his kind guidance which had helped a lot during my career.

After few months of training I was assigned independent work of laying about 8 km pipeline and construction of storage and large public stand post consisting of 160 taps

which was designed in “ Y” shape for Hajipir (Pilgrim place and village). This was a unique public stand post in the country. This site of work was 100 kilometers from my office place.

Motor cycles “ Bullet” were in the offices but I was not allotted , Mr. Talreja was having motor cycle bearing number “ 68” and I used to ask for same for going to site, he used to give me eagerly but was worried looking to long distance and young age. He used to ask about schedule of going and returning on site and deliberately asking to give him back whenever I return, he was worried man and wanted to assure my safe return from site. At that time mobiles phone were not there and there were no land line phones even at site of work.

Many times I returned late night and he didn't sleep till my arrival. He use to keep dinner for me in his home and first question on the arrival he use to asked that if I had taken dinner or not and say that my dinner is ready at his home. Even at late nights he use to drop me where I lived. This was true sign of guardian and he never treated me just like colleague but a care taker and “Guru”.

As I remember in year 1993 or 1994 he suffered from the paralytic attack and his left portion stopped working and was not cured. He resigned from his job and after few years he settled in Ahmadabad.

Years passed and I lost his contact but his son was my facebook friend.

Today on 17th February 2015 , I completed 31 years of my service and today is the occasion of Shivratri, being holiday I was in home and was to attend the marriage of son of Mr.Lalwani working in Anjar. Before departing for reception I read the invitation card for venue and found that the girl with which Mr. Lalwani's son married was daughter of Mr. Shrichand Taleraja , this was surprise for me and happy moment that I was going to meet him after long period.

Mr. Talreja's son was welcoming the guests and I asked him about his father, he told that he is resting in room of hotel and for few moments he will attend the reception.

He was brought on wheel chair at about 10:00 PM and I moved quickly to meet him.

After meeting me he smiled and then cried remembering the old days, he looked at my half white moustache and laughed very much. I took his blessing and at that time I was along with my wife Asha there. He was very happy to hear that I had got promotion of Superintendent Engineer and he told that in his life time he didn't get any promotion and felt very much sorry for his health and early retirement.

Mr Taleraja told that his daughter is married in my town Adipur and told to take care of her. Indirectly he asked to be her guardian.

This is the sheer coincident that my guardian asked to be guardian of her daughter exactly after 31 years when I first met him.

First election duty-1985

I joined GWSSB in year 1984 and in next year there was Vidhansabha Election, at that time qualifying age of voter was 21 years, I was younger than 21 years but was ordered to perform duty as Presiding Officer who is in-charge of booth.

I requested that when I am not eligible to vote then how am I eligible to perform duties of Presiding Officer, my argument was not considered valid and said that your basis if Rs 425 as Additional Assistant Engineer and this is sufficient for eligibility as Presiding Officer, my duty was at Elferd School Bhuj, number of forms to be filled were in Gujarati and I was not still convergent with that, my first polling officer was the experienced person who helped me lot in filling the forms. I still remember Smt. Kumudniben Pancholi was the candidate from that constituency and she visited my booth that's why I remembered.



Accident on motorcycles : 1985

I started learning two wheelers directly on Yezde motorcycle and Bullet, till 1990 I was now owning scooter or motorcycle, but due to nature of work in GWSSB I have to learn driving motorcycle, which I picked up very quickly.

My first accident was near Jhura and I was sitting on back seat of one contractor , it was about 8 hours at night we just moved from Jhura head works and after few kilometers was encountered by a cat crossing the road, we fell and my left ankle was injured but no damage to bones , I still have the mark of that, there was a RMP doctor in Jhura village , we went there and he tied a bandage whereas stitches were required, due to this dressing were continued for number of days.

Second time I along with my Mistry, Deepak Soni was travelling from Hajipar to Bhuj , till few kilometers I was driving and my Mistry told me that he is willing to drive, at that time it was dark night and he drove the motorcycle into the borrow pits near the road, at that time I was not injured , then I drove the motorcycle and at Nakhatrana we visited the local doctor Mr. Rathod (If I am not mistaking), he dressed his injuries and gave him a injection and again started travelling to Bhuj.

Third time I was travelling from Bhuj to Adipur and long with me was Mr. Prakash Khiyani, it was again night and I was driving from Bhuj to Anjar, at Anjar Mr. Khiyani told that he is hungry and wants to take some snacks near Anjar Bus stop, I was arguing that now house is not far away lets go to home and take Dinner at home, but on his instance we had snacks at Anjar Bus stop, there after he told that now he will drive, between Anjar and Adipur about near spinning mill, he drove the motorcycle into the side drain area of the road and this time also he was injured and as I remember bone of last figure of left hand was broken and thereafter we removed the motorcycle from the side drain and than I drove and got him admitted into Divine Life Society Hospitl at Adipur.



Remembering Hari Dilgeer – Principal TFGP- 1987

“Hari Dilgir” H. G. Daryani: Visited his house in year 1987

Born in Ladkana Sindh on 15-6-1916 was basically civil engineer, after coming under influence of Kavi Kishinchand ‘ Bewas’ he mastered in poetic technique. He was also author of more than 20 books and honored by many awards such as Sahitya Akademi award, Priyadarshini award, Gaurav Puruskar, Narayan Shyam award, IndusInd award and many more. He was president of Gandhidham Municipality & Rotary Club of Gandhidham , he was also Principal of Tolani Polytechnic and associated with Tolani College Board.

He was appointed as referee by Institute of Engineers India (Calcutta) , After passing Section-A exam of institute of Engineer , I was fortunate to meet him for submission of six months experience diary , that was year in year 1987. I visited his house about two to three times for my submission. He was very kind with me and shared many things with me.

He asked questions about my experience in Kandla Port Trust and GWSSB. I narrated my experience of supervision of dredging of 6th Birth of Kandla Port and work of laying pipelines of Banni Part-II regional water supply scheme.

During one visit a famous columnist of English News Paper Shri Nirmal Vasvani was present in his house, I was very delighted to hear the conversation with Hari Dilgir, he narrated one incident in which he wrote a letter to Chairman Kandla Port Trust that people of Gandhidham are immortals , Chairman called him and asked what is the meaning of writing such type of matter , he explained that in development plan of Gandhidham and

Adipur there is no place of crematorium or burial place, the developers planned for everything right from hospitals, cinema, schools, shops and everything but felt that people won't die hence didn't planned for crematorium or burial place. On hearing this Chairman KPT was surprised and asked his expectation, he requested that water supply pipeline is required for Shamshan for Gandhidham which falls under Kharirohar village. The Chairman agreed and a pipeline from Kandla Special Economic Zone junction was laid along the road site to Shamshan Gruh. Such was the level of people who were involved in print media.

Secondly he was discussion about the lack of parking place and maintenance of garden in the town, as garden are lungs of the town which are required to be protected.

I remembered the interview of Nirmal Vaswani which I read on website stating that land was allotted by Maharao of Kachchh for rehabilitation of Sindhis from Pakistan , but due to merger of Princely state Kachchh in India all the transfer of land by Princely state to the relatives or others became null and void in year 1950. Hence Maharao could not transfer the allotted land to Sindhu Resettlement Corporation where as development was in progress. So Bhai Pratap approached to Prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Minister of States Vallabbhai Patel and they both assured them for some solution. In year 1955 as a negotiation 2600 acres of land was given to Sindhu Resettlement Corporation and rest of land was given to Kandla Port Trust on lease and Kandla Port Trust could allot the land who wish to settle in Gandhidham.

As per my knowledge initially 4000 houses were being constructed by Sindhu Resettlement Corporation and the area was called as “ Char Hazaar”, there after the area was initially named as “ Sardarganj” . At present a dispensary run by government exists near “ Jhanda Chowk” Gandhidham named as Sardaganj Davakhanu.

In front of Gandhidham Railway station stands a statue of Sardar Patel due to same.

Name of Gandhidham was given as the town was established on 12th Day of Gandhi's death and ashes of Mahatma were flown in Kandla creek and Gandhi Samadhi was established at Adipur.

It was effort of Sardar Patel to merge all Princely states. It would be better that Kandla Port which is major international sea port of the country be named after Sardar Patel. Why such representation is not made by our leaders of Gujarat. Also name Kandla does not have any sentimental attachment for



Kachchh or Gujarat.

It shall be proud to live in a place which is named after Gandhi and nearby port which is suggested to be named after Sardar Patel.

By cycle on hire: 1990

There was time when in our small town Adipur in District Kachchh with the population of about 15000 was having 3-4 shops which use to give Bicycles on Hire, this was till year 1985-86 as I remember.

There were very limited scooters at that time and many people also did not own bicycles also. People use to hire bicycle which was on hourly basis and bicycle was given without any deposit as in the town everybody was known to each other, any unknown person was not given until he gave proper references. A register was kept in which name, time and bicycle number was entered.

Shop keepers use to keep tricycles also for small children and cycles were kept of smaller to the largest size for users of different height. Also some cycles suitable to ladies were also kept.

People use to insist their children to learn cycling on hired bicycle and thereafter the child could get new cycle. This was intentionally done so that child may not damage new cycle while learning cycling.

I remember till 1984 when I joined water supply department in Bhuj, there was a shop near bus stop and I saw many foreign visitors taking cycle for hire and wandering whole Bhuj area.

This was time when everybody was not having bicycle.

This Sunday on 15th December 2013, I was reading news paper and in a daily Gujarati news paper the article of bicycle was published in which the writer felt sorrow that there are 42.41 lakhs cycles in Gujarat which are more than motorized two wheelers which are 41.58 lakhs.

If we turn around history there is nothing to be sorrow as looking to population of Gujarat it could be estimated that every third house have motorized two wheelers and almost equal number of cycles.

Present roads are flooded with motorcycles and mopets, if it is imagined that all cycle owners are replaced with motorcycles owners the current infrastructure in towns may not be sufficient to cater the situation.



Governance shall increase the public transport so that minimum number of personal vehicles runs on the roads, this will save the fuel and ease the traffic condition. Writers of the mass publications must highlight such issues for public awareness.

I owned bicycle till year 1990.

6th November 1992:

I married to Asha Laxman Wadhvani on that day, she was from Ahmedabad and his father and mother originally belonged to Adipur.

In 1992 some departmental inquiries were under progress and my in laws were feared about my future and my brother in law Mukesh Wadhvani many times asked from the other sources about future of my carrier , but it was the trifle issue which was politically highlighted and also resolved.



I was on the Stage of Reception at Prabhu Darshan and one of my colleague came and told

that some supervisors are transferred out of Kachchh and now there is turn of Junior Engineers , as I was junior engineer and appreciated that transfer order could come any time. But luckily I was not transferred and continued working at the same place. It was the happy and fearful movement hearing such news on the Stage of reception of marriage.

Kandla cyclone -1998:

In 1998 there was heavy damage to Kandla Port and other infrastructure , also many lives were lost in coastal areas of Kachchh.

For water supply infrastructures were safe but electric poles and towers were collapsed and we arranged Diesel Generating Sets for tube wells and head work site.

Many D.G. Sets were sponsored free of cost but diesel cost to be borne by department.

I remember one oil container floated due to buoyancy and travelled up to Gandhidham Railway station.

One day I was in my office it was the restoration period of cyclone, I heard the news that there is gas leakage in IFFCO plant, I rushed to my house along with my colleague Shri C.C. Nankani on scooter , I saw the whole traffic was moving from Gandhidham/ Adipur to Bhuj and only one to two persons like moved in opposite direction , everyone was telling to move back as there was gas leakage, I had to drive on the road berm from



Anjar to Adipur, I dropped Shri Nankani in his parents home at Adipur and went to my home, everyone was packing and moving away from homes, within minutes almost whole town was vacant, I went to the police station to confirm, it was told that the gas leakage is stopped but still people were not believing , it was later confirmed by Late Bharat Kalyani who was brother of my colleague Shri Subhash Kalyani . Thereafter we all were relieved but it was very dangerous circumstance which will always remain in my memories.

Earthquake: 2001

This is the day on which earthquake happened in Gujarat and epicenter was in Kachchh. Thirteen years had passed since that day. I narrate here some memories of that day.

In morning strong vibration was felt in my house and I had witnessed the development of cracks in whole of my house, my father was out of town on that day, my son was 4 years and daughter was 2 years old and I with my children, wife and mother quickly moved out of the house. My house is east facing and on other side of the road was two multistory

building which block the sunrays till some hours in the morning. We saw the building collapsing all around and suddenly the sunrays emerged due to collapse of building which was the most dangerous scene I had witnessed in my life. My children had not taken breakfast and were hungry , I took my scooter and moved in the town to access the damages, I was penny less at that time, there was one shop opened near the Tolani Poytechnic College who was unaware about the amount of damages I purchased some biscuits and told that I will pay him next day, he didn't knew me but told to take away whatever I wanted.

My neighbor Mr Kanayalal Ahuja's porch was not damaged as it was newly constructed as framed structure. We all assembled the beds and started makeshift kitchen in the porch. My sister is living in Gandhidham and I tried to contact her and inquire about her family, but for some hours all the phone numbers were lost from my memory, after some time I tried to recollect and contacted my sister and other friends. Looking at my house I decided that I will dismantle as soon as possible and I shared to my friend Mohan Anandani who is also civil engineer and was my class mate he told me that you are deciding in hurry and you will certainly change your decision and think for retrofitting the house.

Luckily I had purchased one small row house from Sindhu Resettlement corporation and possession of which I received one month back the earthquake, I decided to shift my family in the row house and waited till my father came back from Mumbai.

On the very same day I visited all the water works under my jurisdiction under Gujarat water supply board and all fallen structures were inspected and assured that any employee of the department is under the debris or not. It was difficult to balance the job and family at this condition as restoration of water supply was also very important issue at that time.

Largest loss to the employee of water supply department was in Tappar village as each one had lost some one in the earthquake, it was very difficult to break the barrier of sorrow and ask them to work but as entire atmosphere was sympathy they started working readily.

One senior civil engineer from Electricity Department visited my house on the request of my brother in law Naresh Tewani and he boosted the courage that my house could be retrofitted to the safe condition. He gave the idea of stapling the cracks by 6 mm diameter reinforcement this



was something new and I started retrofitting within 7 days of the earthquake. Within one month after completion of retrofitting we started living in the same house but still I felt that this house is safe at present but not for next generation. As my children were very small I could not convey to them , but in the resent year I started conveying them that they shall keep the task of rebuilding the house in their life time.

I use to paste the paper with gum on the cracks to observe the future development of cracks for my satisfaction.

During that period many trainings were conducted for education of retrofitting , this gave me fairly good idea of structural safety of the houses. On requested of my friends and other known persons I started visiting one or two houses daily after I return from the job, this was the honorary service which I provided and in many house where the owners didn't dare to entered I entered at my own risk to boost their courage.

I also realized the courage of my wife Asha as she dared to enter into the house for shifting of stoves, gas cylinder, cooking material and other household needs.

I still wish to reconstruct my house in my lifetime.

Remembering Mohan Jigyasi (My Mama)-2008

“Sheesh Mahal Amar Dham”, it is the name of Gurudwara in Jawaharnagar -Nadiad Gujarat.

This Gurudwara is managed and developed by Jigyasi Pariwar of Nadiad, the Gurudwara was developed and expanded to the heights during the period of Mohan K Jigyasi and now it is managed by his son Amar Jigyasi.

Mohan Jigyasi left this world in year 2008. He was basically a teacher and a great social worker of Nadiad city. He was also a press reporter of Sindhi news paper ” Hindu”

Even as religious personality he didn't believe in blind faith. He married his son on the day which was not at all ” Shub” for the marriage , he delivered strong message to the masses.

He also challenged many palmists showing his hand to them and every body told that there is no sing of education in the marks of his hand where as he graduated Master Degrees.

He also took part in various drama and was having his own team and performed in various parts of India.

He took early retirement due to social activities.

At present where Jigyasi Pariwar lives in Jawarharnagar which is not locked since years and whole house is managed by the community of Jawarharnagar.

Accident-2013

Posted on **May 17, 2014**

On this date i.e 17th May one year back I encountered an accident in Ahmedabad , I was working in GWSSB Gandhinagar till about 8:30 at night for designing and estimation of important scheme B & D network and the preparation was on verge of completion and for estimation of pumping machinery I called Shri Rakesh Patel , General Manager Mechanical GWIL this was my last call before accident.

I went to Ahmadabad with Mr. Narsinghani's vehicle as on that date I was without my vehicle and my vehicle was parked in Pushkar Bunglows near Mr. Khatri's residence.

Mr. Narsinghani insisted me that he shall drop up to Pushkar Bunglows but is told that drop me on the Highway and little walk is good for me.

While crossing the road I am unable to remember some vehicle hit me badly and I was unconscious. Many people gathered around me and my mobile phone also fell but it was still in working condition, somebody from the public dialed Shri Rakesh Patel which was the last dialed number and informed him. Shri Patel was on the site and he informed other board staff. Also from my telephone people dialed on my home number to my wife Asha , she insisted the unknown people to do everything for my admission into any good hospital.

I became conscious in 108 Ambulance and asked that where they are taking me to, they were taking me to Civil Hospital Ahmadabad , my head was bleeding and my shirt was full of blood and my jaws were fractured at two places.

In the mean time my father-in law along with his neighbor Kishor chased 108 Ambulance to the Civil Hospital. My friends and colleagues Mr. Khatri, Mr Narsinghani along with his doctor son, Mr Dinesh Parmar, Mr Prakash Shah, Mr Bhavik Rathod and others rushed to the civil hospital.

Basic tests were done and all were happy that there is no internal damage in the brain , I was discharged at night on 2:00 hours

Mean while my Wife along with children Yash and Sonam came by road and after being normal I spoke to them that it is nothing to worry, they reached in the early morning on 18th May which is birthday of my brother-in-law Mukesh.

I proceeded on leave from for next one and half month till complete recovery.

During my recovery period my wife and children took good care of me.

I therefore thank some unknown persons , my friends, wife, children father-in law, mother-in law ,mother and for the same.

Admission of Yash in BDS: 2014

From my blog in that year: This year my Son Yash Ramchandani got admission in BDS college in Goenka Gandhinagar, thereafter changed to Nadiad and ultimately to Karnavati School of Dentistry from which he completed , BDS and is now perusing for admission in MDS.

Telephonic interview – N.B Thumber-2014

Shri N.B Thumber is the retired officer of GWSSB , he was Executive Engineer of P.H.Works Division Surat during 20/6/1967 to 23/5/1972

India got independence in on 15th August 1947 and first incumbency available is from 4th September 1947 and at that time Shri N.B.Kundalkar was the Executive Engineer.

British's first landed in Surat and hence it could be presumed that this division was in existence pre-independence, also the incumbency available is from 4th September 1947 i.e just 18 days after independence , it is predicted that the division was in existence prior to independence.

This motivated me to talk to Mr.N.B.Thumber and spoke him on telephone on date 13th May 2014. I had never face to face conversation with him previously even though he happily replied to my some question.

As per his narration based on his old memories , he stated that the Circle office was at Pune and Chief Engineer's office was in Bombay (now Mumbai).

The first jurisdiction of the Surat Division was from Thane (Maharashtra) to Kachchh (Gujarat)

There were sub divisions in the jurisdiction of Baroda Estate and one sub division was also in Dwarka and Navsari also.

The basic work under this Division was Individual water supply schemes and also support to local bodies for water supply scheme was provided.

Just after independence another Division in Rajkot was opened and there after Jamnagar was opened. Division in Junagadh was opened in year 1954 and thereafter Bhavnagar Division was opened.

On asking the name of Superintending Engineer , he could not recall his name but stated that after retirement he joined Indian Hume Pipe and was working in Porbandar where there was manufacturing unit.

Due to his old age he could not recall much but assured that I can call him any time to know more about the old memories.

I also knew few old things which I am sharing , there was no Division in Kachchh and Adipur sub Division during 1960s was working under Jamnagar Division.

In mid 1950s Kandla Port was in creation and township of Gandhidham was under construction at that time. First sources of the township and Kandla Port were created by port authorities in Viri and Nagalpur area in Anjar taluka. In Viri there were artesian tube wells in which water was coming out naturally and a gravity pipe line of RCC pipes was laid from Viri to HSR Adipur and upto Kandla Port by which without any pumping water use to reach to township and port.

Kandla Port project the coming water demand and reported to the surface ministry and a letter was wrote to the Chief Engineer Bombay for creation of new sources for future demand of Gandhidham and Kandla Port. Hence Adipur Sub Division came into existence and scheme based on tube wells in Dudhai was executed , also scheme of construction of Tappar Dam was started through Irrigation Division and work was executed by Sindhu Resettlement Corporation as the contractor.

There was a RCC pipe factory under Sindhu Resettlement Corporation and pipes of old Kandla Water Supply schemes were manufactured by SRC.

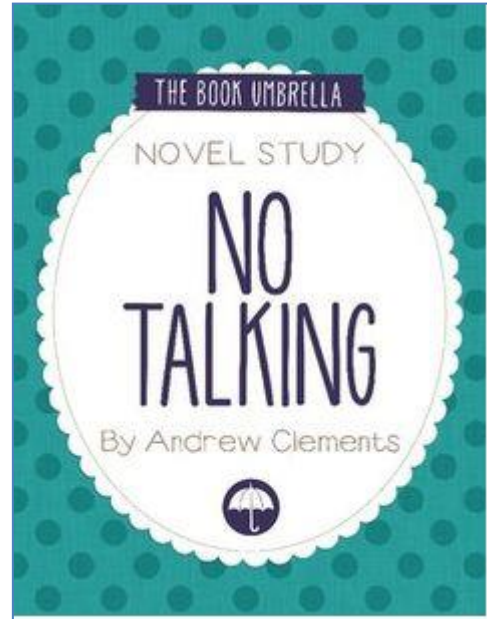
During that period Surajbari bridge was not there and there was long route to reach Jamnagar , also there was another sea route from Kandla to Navlakhi also to reach Jamnagar. Kandla Airport was existing at that time , flight between Kandla airport which is situated near Rambagh Head works Gandhidham to Jamnagar was daily service and cost of air ticket was cheaper than the long public transport ticket. Hence even peons use to travel by air for file submissions and carrying water samples for testing in Jamnagar laboratory.

P.H.S Sub Division was in Z-7 bungalow which was common wall to the house of Shri L.K.Advani, L.K.Advani's father Kishanchand was working in Sindhu Resettlement Corporation at that time.

Reading a book titled “No Talking” -2014:

This book is written by Andrew Clements. It is a fiction based on the 5th standard student in New Jersey. It is the story of a boy named Dave who incidentally read a book about Mahatma Gandhi to know about India. Teacher had given homework to the students to write something about India. Dave was amazed to learn from the book about Mahatma Gandhi that “ For many years, one day each week Gandhi did not speak at all. Gandhi believed this was a way to bring order to his mind”

Dave thought of experimenting the same and the story goes on. First he tried of himself and avoided talking in the class. Then he shared with the other class made and a competition was held between boys and girls not to talk for 48 hours. But the question was that students are compelled to reply to the teachers. Hence limit of 3 words were kept in a sentence and everybody shall reply in short, all the words after three words shall be termed as illegal for which it shall be counted. To avoid talking students had to smile more. Students focused all their energy on listening. The story tells about how they behaved in science class. In the music class in which they were to sing, which breaks the restriction of 3 words. The teacher understood their problem and said that clapping is not talking and humming is not talking . So the students instead of singing hummed and clapped in the class room. All the episode annoyed the school principal and she tried lot to make them behave normal. She shouted at Dave “ talk” but Date shouted back and said “ You have right to remain silent” and whole shouting back at principal he spoke 27 more words which was being counted by everyone. But at the end of the competition the girls didn’t count those words and the game was concluded in tie. The principal also felt sorry about that asked the students to continue and said “Silent starts... NOW”



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The story tells about of power of non violence just by “No talking”. This is just the fiction but in actual sense Mahatma Gandhi had not stopped working even after his death. He continues to work from his books. Reading Gandhi commands the mind of the reader and his message of Non violence is still spread.

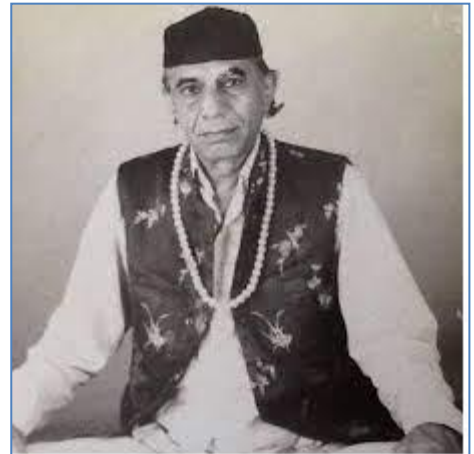
Songs of Master Chandur-2014

Many songs are composed by Master Chandur out of which one song is " Kabutar-Kabutar khabar khari ach akula ja akabar". This is the song in which message is send through pigeon to the bellowed. The main beauty of composition is that Master Chandur had used three poems by three poets are used in a single song. This is the rare thing that in a single song poems of three poets are used which is related to one theme. Old sindhi poets were broad minded this is the example of that. Now a days these type of things does not happens in any bollywood songs of any other songs of regional films.

In the song preamble of the theme is in form of poem of Shah Abdul Latif the all time great poet of Sindhi language. After first preamble part is completed the song starts with poem of Master Chandur in which pigeon is send for the message. Poem of return journey of pigeon with message is composed by Parsaram Zia who was closed friend of Master Chandur.

If you listen the song you can get the idea of three poets as Master Chandur narrates the names of poets in his song. This shows the greatness of Sindhi people in the field of music and poetry who are from the Indus civilization.

This song is heard by many people and after reading this if you hear the song again you will like it more than before.



Reading APJ Abdul Kalam- April 2015

This month April-2015 it happened to be holidays from 2nd to 5th which includes two public holiday, one restricted holiday and a Sunday. Normally during holidays is come from Gandhinagar to Kachchh which is my home town and often visit some site of work as it is assigned to me. But during few visits I felt that without administrative powers I am wasting the time of the field staff and I knew that progress of work needed some prompt administrative decisions at local level which I was not authorized to take. I am having unique way of working which nobody even intends to copy as it is painful to be like me in the government organization. In these holidays I didn't even thought to visit the site of works in Kachchh , but visited the Professor N.R.Malkani library hunting for some books which could sooth my mood. I got the book of APJ Abdul Kalam published in year 2012 " You are Unique"

Reading Kalam is always good , it is always written in very easy English and written as per the theme of the title.

Some touching things in this books I wish to share you.

Challenge of Jamshedji Nusserwanji Tata for developing steel industry in India. The British industrialists told Jamshedji that “ If you Indians can make steel we Britishers will eat it”

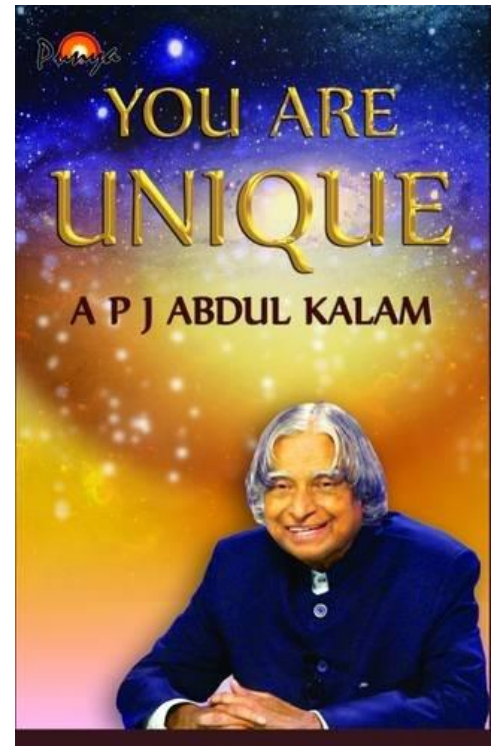
About Dr. Stephen Hawking of Cambridge University who even though suffering from a motor neuron disease is a notable scientist and a Bulgarian painter Zlatju Bojadjev who painted with right hand and after paralyzed he started painting with left hand which were equally good.

About Srinivas Ramanuj it is said that Prof. G.H.Hardy of Cambridge discovered Ramanuj but we Indians failed to discover him, still there are many genius which are not identified in our country. It was written by Kalam that “ It is destiny of our nation that an Indian brain requires an acknowledgement from a foreigner.”

Handling failures: Written about Prof. Dhavan who believed in “ Success is yours, Failure is mine”. Prof. Dhavan took responsibility of failure of first launch of satellite and after successful mission gave credit to Kalam and his team.

In proportion of Scientists and Engineer Index US ranked 4th and India 60th , being an engineer I am disappointed about this and also felt that now a day’s engineering is governed by non engineering heads and engineers don’t hesitate to work as per their wish. They think that they could only survive in that way. Engineering ethics has very little say today.

Change of employment pattern: In 1960, agriculture sector employment part was 74% and in 1992 it fell to 62% and it is expected to fall to 50%. Growth in industrial employment from 11% in 1960 to 25% in 1992. I witness the economic stability of Rajkot and Morbi due to development of small scale industry whereas in Kachchh there is growth of large scale industry and even though there is no economic stability. Still today for sustainable economic small scale industry is better than large industries. Kalam narrated the same in his chapter-21 “ Don’t be afraid to be small” **It is really touching when you read Kalam.**



Value of History:-2016

In December -2016, I visited Udaipur. I had visited Udaipur two times before also, but this visit was in the period of demonetization of Rs 1000 & Rs 500 notes.

The vision of looking to Udaipur was different this time. Rajasthan is the state where there are few rivers, larger portion is desert and this state does not have any coastal boundaries, so there are no sea ports also.

Earnings through tourism is the main source of income of the people of state. What is encased? People are encasing the valuable history, there are many foreigners coming to Udaipur and they are interestingly hearing the narrations given by their tour guide. I found that foreigners are taking great interest in history.

In their own country they may be having lakes larger than Udaipur and they may be even more beautiful than the lakes of Udaipur. But what attracts is the Palace besides lake, so the importance of lake is increased.

People were interested hear from the guide about elephant fight on the location where there is just a thick wall behind which elephant are kept. It seems interesting in hearing without the presence of elephant, even seeing live elephant may not be interesting. So anything connected with the history becomes interesting and attracts the tourist.



I came to conclusion that History is also the big resource, hence history shall be preserved and its value increases as the event and structure becomes old.

From my Post- International Meatless Day- 2014

25th November is International Meatless Day celebrated on the birthday of Sadhu T.L.Vaswani

During the day I want to share how my family turned vegetarian. Till about year 2002 we were non-vegetarian. In year 1992 I married Asha who is from Wadhvani family and my sister married Naresh from Tewani Family in year



1993. All three families Ramchandani, Wahdwani & Tewani were non-vegetarian. Tewani family are followers of Radha Soami and after taking "Naam" they turned vegetarian, thereafter my father also became follower of Radha Soami and became vegetarian. In the mean time my wife didn't like to take non-veg meals, one day after eating tandoori Chicken she dreamed a poor un-feather chicken trembling as if requesting not to kill him, she shared with us and gradually we all turned vegetarian.

Today without taking any vow or following any panth or taking "Naam" my family had turned vegetarian and now we are happy that we are vegetarian.

There are lot of things which tastes more better than non-veg also many veg-meals also have protein and other nutrition as good as non-veg.

Remembering Adipur Connection of Shri L.K.Advani on his Birthday-2014

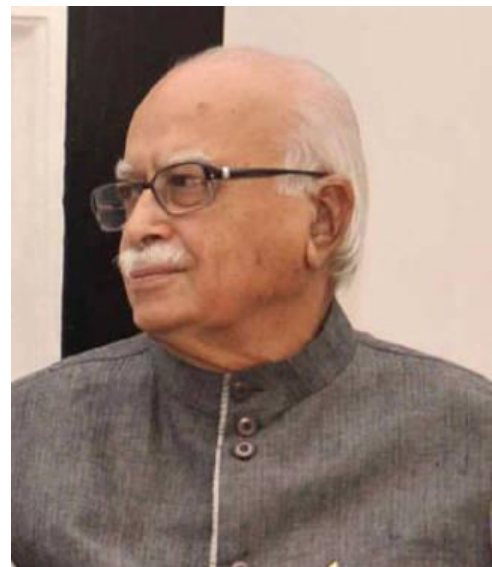
Working in GWSSB we had a Adipur Sub Division in Z-7 bungalow and common wall of the office was residence of Shri L.K.Advani where his father Kishinchand Advani and his cousin sister Radhi lived. Adipur Sub Division was the first sub Division of Kachchh having Division at Jamnagar at that time Bus fare of Jamnagar was more than Air Fare from Kandla air port to Jamnagar, even peons use to go by flight for submitting posts and many time carrying water samples for testing.

L.K.Advani's father worked in Sindhu Resettlement Corporation which was constituted for rehabilitation of Sindhis from Pakistan

L.K.Advani had visited Gandhi Samadhi of Adipur on 2nd October 1998 when he was Minister of Home.

He also visited and inaugurated "Sadh Belo" campus which includes Gandhi Samadhi, Pond, Bhai Pratap Samadhi and Nat Mandir (Temple complex) on 9th July 2003 along with his wife Kamla.

I also remember that he visited house of Moti Kriplani to console him after death of her sister Soni Kriplani, incidentally my mother was present during the occasion, but I was unfortunate for not being there at that time.



I also remember the communication of elder people that Shri L.K.Advani used to walk on the road along with his relative Late Advocate Malkani during the time near about emergency.

Admission of Sonam in MBBS:2016

This was the year in which there was last GUJCET for admission in MBBS, also NEET was introduced for admission. She got admission in LG Medical college Maninagar Ahmedabad, she has completed MBBS and now undergoing one year internship in same college.