

## PREFACE

Since its inception in 1960 Gujarat has initiated and sustained an aggressive strategy of industrialization. The state Government, irrespective of its political changes from time to time, has had a positive orientation towards industrialization and creation of an environment where enterprises could be seen viably. It also attracted entrepreneurs to Gujarat from all parts of the country and abroad. And its giant leap on the industrial front deserves special mention—from the eighth position to just second from neighbouring Maharashtra and near first in many terms important is industrial investment. The perfect blend of productivity, profitability and proximity is offered to corporate houses and they feel at home in Gujarat.

Gujarat Government in its efforts to keep balanced and strategy of all round development of state, have concentrated attention in establishing industries in the less developed areas like Kutch as a part of key sector planning. Kutch the traditional jewel of Gujarat in the north-western tip of India, renowned for its art and artefacts, for its colorful people and for the intrinsic handicrafts, had been making a steady progress and prosperity, in spite of a host of natural calamities.

Kutch which is known for salt industry in the past, now home to many industrial houses. This trend started with the way back in 1965, when country's first Free Trade Zone was set up 9.6 Km from Kandla and about 6 Km from Gandhidham on the Kandla-Ahmedabad National Highway. Most of the industrial development is around the coastal area. And big industrial houses like Adani's, Sanghi industry have established them. As industrialization is largely picking up, due to effort by state government and even after major quake that hit Kutch on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2000. Gujarat government giving large concessions in the form of Excise Exemption and Sales Tax Exemption / Deferment. And it is giving results as investment has crossed the mark of 3,000 crore mark. Big names in the corporate world are trying to acquire land to take advantage of the five-year holiday. The investment of Rs 2000 crore would be from known houses like Reliance, L.G and Excel, while the rest be on a small and medium scale. Other groups like Samsung, Bhilwara, Century, Anchor & Jindal are also planning to move in shortly.

Kutch has a relatively a good base of infrastructure. Among that large coastline is very important. The district harbors six important ports of the state, including the major port of

Kandla, the other being Mundra, Mandvi, Jakhau, Koteswar & Tuna. Mostly industrial activity is port based.

On the other hand, increasing habitat and ecosystem alterations by physical (e.g. landfills, sedimentation), chemical (e.g., pollution) or biological means (e.g., introduction of non-indigenous species) sources constitutes the most widespread, and frequently irreversible, human impact on the coastal zone.

Poorly planned coastal urban and industrial development, including indiscriminate exploitation of coastal resources (e.g., mangroves) and development of recreational harbour and aquaculture facilities, considerably changed the natural coastline and reduced the areas previously covered by wetlands, marshes and mangroves. The chemical compounds released into the marine environment may significantly affect individual members of ecosystems, thus destabilizing the integrity of natural ecosystems which in extreme cases, leads to the destruction of whole ecosystem. Other problems include the Eutrophication (input of nutrients into the sea from land-based activities (nitrogen and phosphorous in particular) is on increase and these nutrients are agricultural and industrial activities.

These are the problems which result due to land based sources active near the coastal areas and is one of the most serious problem affecting the quality and uses of marine and coastal environment caused directly or indirectly by land-based activities.

The intriguing changes brought about by initiation of development as well as its wider impact on human environment necessitated new vistas for research and investigation, and the present study is mainly oriented towards environmental changes due to development in and around coastal area, may be viewed as an endeavor in this direction.

In view of limited time and resources available more or less stress is on secondary data and as area is restricted that is why direct information collection was not permissible and work was suffered due to dependence on the available resources, still the results of imagery's have been given to get the clear picture. For general background of the area various government and semi-government publications were looked into:

### **Collection of Data**

Detailed statistical information used in this study has been collected more or less from secondary sources. The database consisted of published and unpublished reports, studies, charts and detailed investigation of several administrative bodies of Gujarat. In addition to that uncounted interviews with various experts, members of the administration, senior officers, consultants, scientists and entrepreneurs were carried out.

The visit have been made to Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology, District Industrial Centre, Industrial Extension Bureau, Abhiyan, Kandla Port Trust, Special Economic Zones, Mundra port site, Mandvi Port, Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation, Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority, Conservator of Forest in Bhuj and Gandhidham and Gujarat Ecology Commission, Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology in Baroda and Conservator of Forest, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Industries & Mines Department in Gandhinagar. The consultation work was conducted in Library of Centre of Planning and Technology, Ahmedabad.