

## ***CHAPTER -5***

# ***PHYSICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCE ASPECTS OF TOURISM IN GUJARAT***

## 5.1 INTRODUCTION

The geographical features lend itself ideal conditions for tourism analysis. There is hardly an aspect of tourism which does not have some geographical implications or barely any branch which does not have any contribution in making the study of the phenomenon of tourism possible. Within the spatial tradition, geographers has emphasised the tendency for destination to evolve and decline in relation to the market (*an economic approach*) and the resources of a region (*the physical approach*) (e.g. **Butler 1980; Pearce 1992**)<sup>1</sup>. Geographical peculiarities, economic richness & religious & social institutions have all combined to produce the diversity which strikes every visitor to Gujarat. The spatial traditions emphasises the production of tourism development plans that are based on the natural resources of a region and on the capacity of sites to withstand tourism infrastructure. In fact such plans provide valuable insights into potential natural resource capacities and travel patterns that occur within a region. Sometimes we often fail to give attention to the social and cultural attributes of a destination.

The Gujarat's spatial variations have great opportunities for tourism development. Its physical environment especially the elements of climate, terrain, landscape, vegetation and water (lakes, rivers, ocean etc.), hardly needs to be stressed and physical geography has much to contribute in this area of study of tourism and planning especially for the state like Gujarat. The needed features such as well developed transportation routes (road, railways and airways), location factors of tourism facilities such as hill and plateau resorts, multi-star hotels, world class restaurants and other aspects of spatial organization. Presence of mild climate, landscape, longest coastline with well demarcated sandy and muddy beaches, shallow water for water sports, natural harbours for ports, deciduous forests, hill stations and other physically induced sites make the state one of the strong reason for tourism activity. Culturally also the state is well endowed with historical monuments, world heritage sites, step wells, art antiquities, old cities (walled), old ancient settlements (Dholavira & Lothal) cultural folklore and festivals, musical, dancing (Garba), traffic centres and other cultural events and fairs. Hardly any nation in the world today can boast of a continuity of history, culture, religion and society spanning thousands of years as like Gujarat. Other than engaging in business activity, the Gujarati's has a

---

<sup>1</sup>C. Michael Hall, (2000), "Tourism Planning- Policies, Precesses& Relationships", pg-28.

strong potency of generosity for outsiders this bounds others with them socially and culturally. The village communities provides very hospitable conditions for tourists by their nature and way of welcoming, which has never be seen anywhere in India. The people of Saurashtra region are hardy and have long martial and maritime traditions. Hospitable with a keen and artistic bent of mind, this trait of the people has influenced the literature of this region. The people of north, east and south are almost wholly tribal and backward. These people are very simple, hard working, carefree and have a world of their own. Their social life, customs, traditions, way of living sharply differ from those living in other areas<sup>2</sup>. Despite of long coastline and abundant supply of fish, the strict Jainism in the past and orthodox Hinduism today have encouraged the widespread adoption of a vegetarian diet.

All over the year it appears neither extreme hot nor extreme cold climate that makes the region touristically more habitual. The intensity of climate has been reduced by presence of Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Cambay from the west, while the forest covered mountains on the eastern boundary. The best period to visit Gujarat is from October to mid-March, just after departure of south west monsoon climate. The rich flora and fauna is the natural wealth of the state. Apart from various fruits trees it is also a home of medicinal plants. The Gir forest is the only abode of the lion in Asia, other being Africa. The black bucks, antelopes and wild Asses are some major eye catching points of the state. Other than this the lush green The Dangs of south Gujarat is a home of most colourful and beautiful birds.

Thus Gujarat has a nearly well demarcated culture zones which are based on the contours of the land and geographical features which have played a vital role in moulding the behaviour of the people. The Gujarat state is bounded by the Rajputana desert and the Rann of Kutch in the north. In the east the mountain ranges separate it from Deccan and the plateau of Malwa. In the south the Deccan plateau abuts on the coast between Daman and Dahanu. In the west the State has the Arabian Sea.

Despite of above classified characteristics of the state including the longest coastline, it is seen that in most of advertisement, by Gujarat Government, published time to time, fashioned in mostly a long list of tourist places to visit. Migratory birds like Flamingos, prides of Gujarat, The Lions and wild Asses, Fair of Tarneter and Dangs Darbar, water parks and multiplexes, Lothal and Dholavira, Dandi and

---

<sup>2</sup>Vyas Ashok, *"Gujarat Tourism"*, Kantalaxmi Publications, Gandhinagar, pg- 16.

Sabarmati, Dwarka and Somnath, Udwada and Virpur etc. Like what is not here in Gujarat! But the inconveniency & inefficiency in infrastructure development, policy implementation and little maintenance which is not up to the required level, makes the tourism development at its infancy rate.

## **5.2 GEOGRAPHICAL COMPONENTS IN TOURISM WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO GUJARAT**

Tourism is a service industry, comprising a number of tangible and intangible components. The tangible elements include Hills, plains, plateaus, transport systems, accommodation, foods and beverages, tours, souvenirs; and related services such as banking, insurance and safety and security. The intangible elements include: relaxation culture, escape, adventure, new and different experiences. Tourism has enormous international economic and geopolitical importance. It constructs, rearranges, and inhabits geographic, social and cultural spaces globally<sup>3</sup>. Since my study concentrated on more of geographical study, I have taken the few of the geographical components which are having a greater impact on tourism development of the study area. Broadly these components can be divided into two categories. They are as follows:

- 1. Physical Components***
- 2. Cultural Components***

### **5.2.1 PHYSICAL COMPONENTS**

#### **5.2.1.1 Hills, Plains & Plateaus**

Unlike the Himalayas, mountains in Gujarat are not lofty. However, they have a rugged scenic beauty of their own and are inseparable part of the religious and historical currents of life in Gujarat<sup>4</sup>. The great poet Nhanalal said that one wing of Gujarat is blue and the other is green. On one side there is the blue coastline and on the other there is mountain greenery beginning from Abu-Aravalli in the north to Vindhya, Satpura and Sahyadri Hills in south. The northern and eastern borders of the state are dotted with mountains which are the offshoots of high ranges like Aravallis,

---

<sup>3</sup> Prof. Rana Pratap, Dr. Kamla Prasad, "Tourism Geography", edition: 2005.

<sup>4</sup> Vyas Ashok, (written and edited) "Gujarat Tourism", Kantaxmi Publications, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, pg-9.



the Vindhyans and Sahyadris which originally lies outside of the state. Most of the eastern rivers arise and being at their youth stage flow across these ranges and dissected and forms beautiful riverine features all along its course before falling into Arabian Sea. The Aravallis enters in Gujarat at Abu, zigzagging up to Pavagadh and merge into Vindhyan Range. South of Tapi lie the Sahyadri ranges, is the highest rainfall and dense vegetation area which make it a spectacular viewing sight for tourists. Among the prominent peak in the state are **the Girnar, the Shetrunjay, Wilson Hill, the Chotila, the Pavagadh and the Taranga.** (*Map-13*) Apart from these Girnar has got much importance from tourism point of view because of its flame like appearance and the biggest and natural habitat of Asiatic wild cats. It is also known as **Dattatreya peak** because of Lord Dattatreya temple. Every year nearly about 8 lakhs devotees take holy path 'Parikrama'. Next to Girnar is a Jamial Shah Pir peak, which is famous for a Muslim Holy place. Most of the peaks in Gujarat have a religious importance except **Saputara,** (*Map-12*) which is the only hill station in Gujarat. The other famous peaks named on deities like Gorakhnath, **Amba Mata, Kalika Mata, Gabbar Mata** etc, showing their religious importance. The Shetrunjay and Tarangda hills are famous for beautiful Jain temples and their architect work. Some of the hills in Junagadh also represent the **Buddhist caves in Talaja, Lor and Sana hills.**

Gujarat stands ahead of others when it comes to natural geographic beauty. Gujarat's famous Hill stations are popular as resorts among both Indian and foreign visitors, providing a relaxing and salubrious retreat from the congestion, heat and dust of the plains. The hills of Gujarat offer tourists a cool getaway during summers, the chance to enjoy Alpine sports in winter and the opportunity to enjoy trekking and mountaineering all year round. Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited (TCGL) offers the various tour packages for these fabulous Hill Stations of Gujarat. The detail physio-geographic zones are given in the table below:



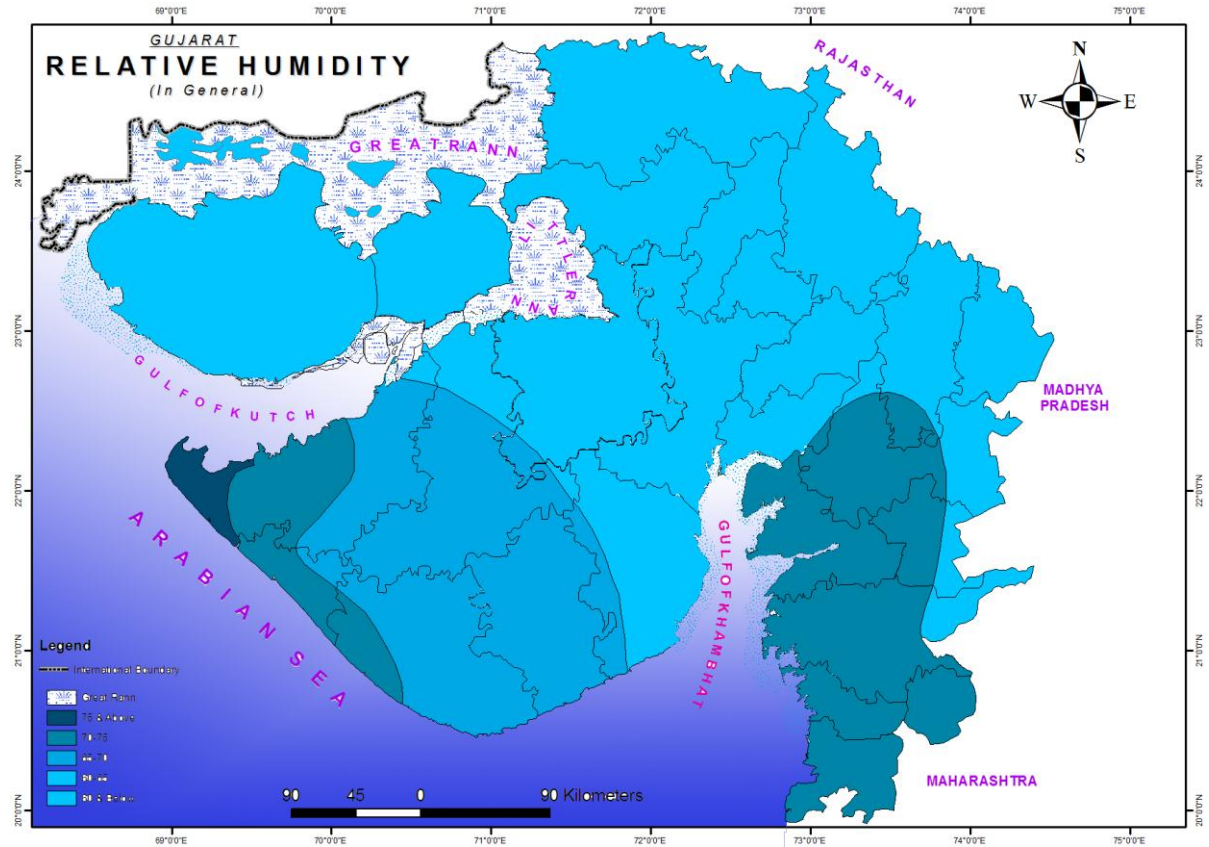
#### **5.2.1.2 Climate**

The Climatic condition of any tourist place plays an important role in driving tourist to the destination. Climate has a great influence on tourism services in country like India. The Climate of Gujarat experience almost all type of weather phenomena. As the Tropic of Cancer passes through, it has extreme drought to extreme humidity and extreme coolness to extreme hotness (Map-14). But the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Cambay in the west and the forest covered hills in the east soften the rigors of climatic extremes & render the climate more pleasant and salubrious, resulting in a great diversity in the climate of Gujarat. However, because Gujarat is marginal to the main rain-bearing winds the total amount of rainfall is highly variable, decreasing rapidly northwards. Even the Rann of Kutch which extremis their temperatures during day but provide pleasant warmth during nights, although a vast expanse of tidal mudflats flaked with saline efflorescence. Geo-morphological and climatic variation is very high on the Gujarat Coast. Rainfall varies from an average high of 2500 mm in the south to only 300 mm in Kutch. The winter season starts from November and continues till mid-March. After that the days starts warmer & the nights become pleasant. Further between mid-march to mid-June is summer season. The best period to touring Gujarat is from October to mid-March.

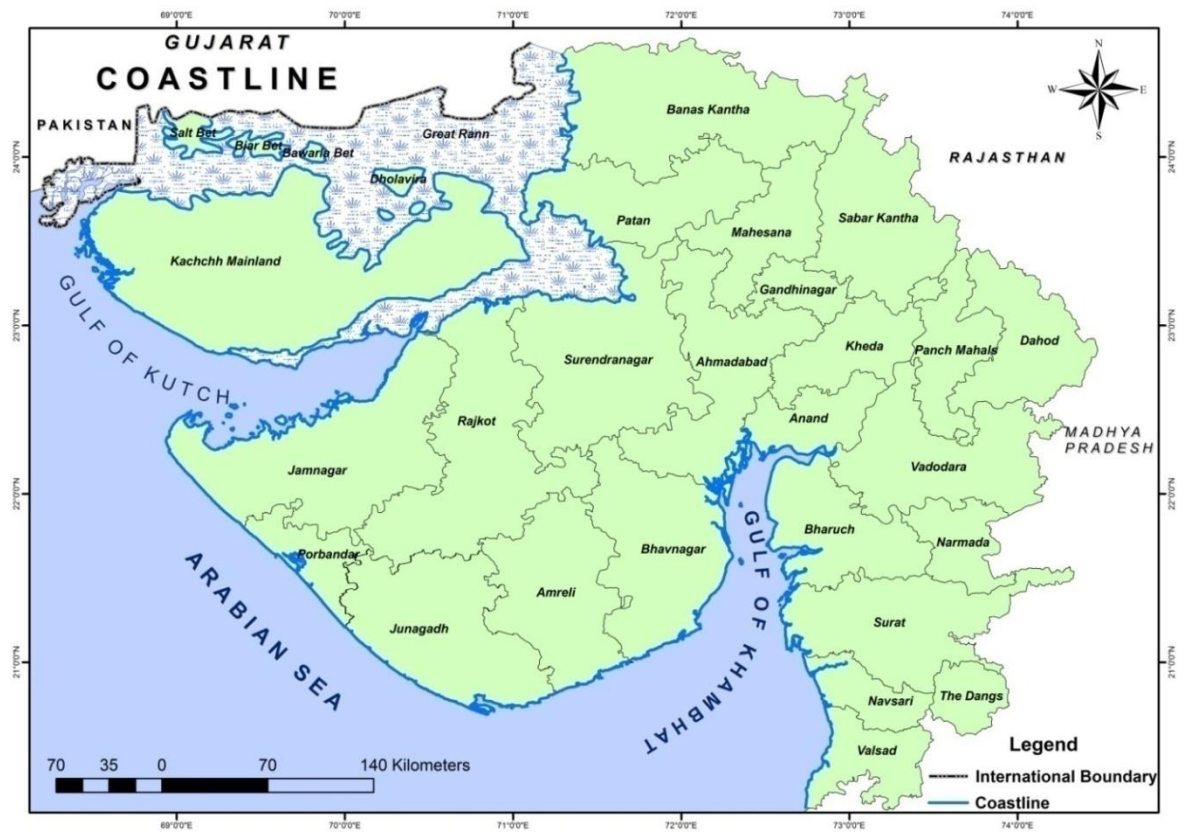
#### **5.2.1.3 Coastline**

The coastline of Gujarat, with its length of 1600 km is the longest among all the states in India (Map-15). It extends from head of Kori Creek in Kutch in the north to Umargaon in Valsad district. It is embellished by long and salt marshes, sand-beaches and gravel patches which mark the topographical bonanza for tourism development. The percentage share of each coastal district is given in the Table-6. The southern fringe of the Gulf of Kutch is characterised by innumerable coral reefs, tidal mudflats and coral islands. The two extensive Gulfs, Gulf of Khambhat and the Gulf of Kutch are the characteristics of Gujarat coastline. Although coastline of the Saurashtra peninsula appears in synoptic view, which is to be straight but it is highly irregular and indented. The north coast of Saurashtra is highly irregular with the development of a number of coral islands and extensive mud flats. The long coastline dotted with number of beautiful beaches. Despite of a good number of beaches (Map-16) it is not playing as an effective role in attracting tourists mostly foreign.





**MAP-14:** The Map Showing Relative Humidity in Gujarat



**MAP-15:** Longest Coastline of the State Gujarat

**Table- 6**  
**Share of length of coastline by their districts**

<b>District</b>	<b>Coastline(km)</b>	<b>Share(%)</b>
Kutch	406	25.4
Rajkot	26	01.6
Jamnagar	343	21.4
Junagadh(includingPorbandar)	260	16.3
Amreli	62	03.9
Bhavnagar	152	09.5
Anand(includingKheda)	51	03.2
Bharuch	127	07.9
Surat	83	05.2
Valsad(includingNavsari)	90	05.6

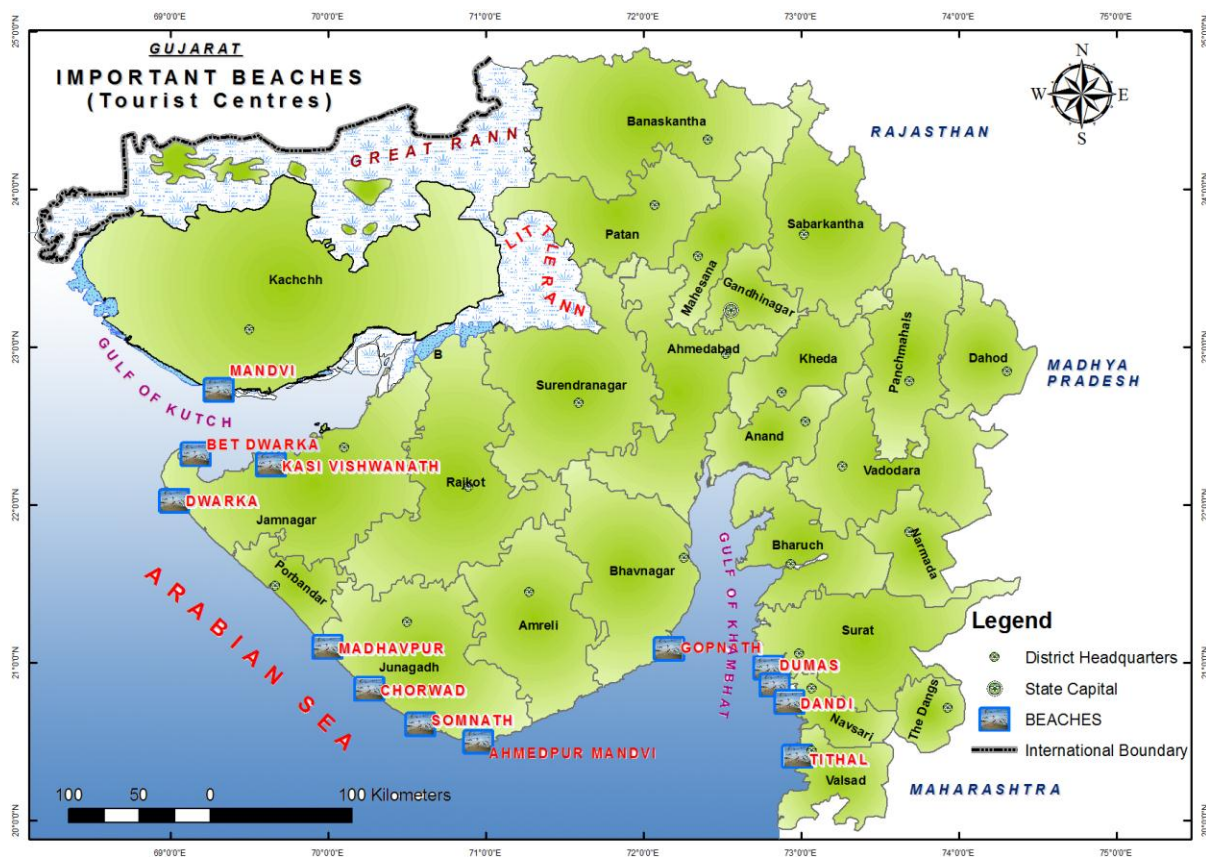
*Source: "State of Gujarat", A Report of the National Workshop on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, Chennai, 29-30 September 2000.*

Gujarat Coastal zone is having global as well as national importance due to its proximate location from Gulf countries. The longest coastline dotted with 41 ports (1 major, 11 intermediate & 29 minor) (**Map-17**) caters to demand & supply of cargo from the nearest maritime countries like Africa, Middle East & Europe. The coastal areas in Gujarat & the coastal waters are regulated by a major National legislation "***Environmental Protection Act 1986***". In addition to this, two major laws are also applicable namely The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991, Coastal Regulation Zone notification 2011. The coastal area, upto 20 km from the shoreline, is 30,022.25 sq. km. consisting of parts of 11 districts and 51 talukas with 59 towns and 2802 villages. Living resources are rich in fisheries on a wide continental shelf, coral reefs around 34 islands in the Gulf of Kutch and mangrove vegetation on swampy lands around the coast. Gujarat produces 71 percent of national production of common salt<sup>5</sup>.

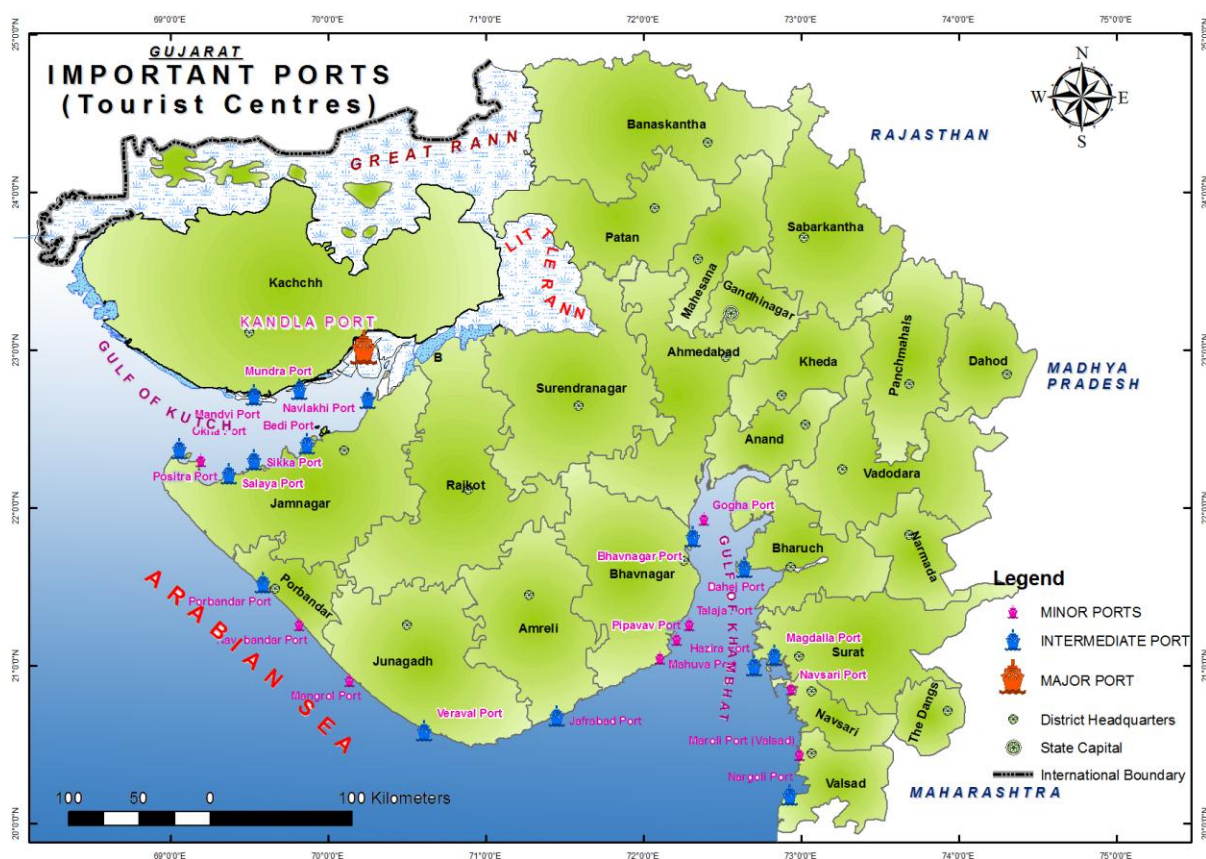
#### **5.2.1.4 Dams & Reservoirs**

Gujarat is fortunate with fine looking geographical features, by the nature. Gujarat is a home to many lakes and reservoirs that smarten the manifestation of the state. The lakes in Gujarat are not only adding splendor to Gujarat but are also making

<sup>5</sup>Implementation of Coastal Zone Management Polity in State of Gujarat. (2001)



**MAP-16:** Important Beaches of the State Gujarat



**MAP-17:** Important Sea Ports of the State Gujarat



it a abode to many creatures. There are total 15 known and famous lakes in Gujarat, they are listed below(**Map-18**):

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <i>Lakhota Palace and Ranmal Lake</i> | 9. <i>Sharmishtha Lake, Vadnagar,</i>       |
| 2. <i>Kankaria, Ahmedabad</i>            | <i>Mahesana</i>                             |
| 3. <i>Narayan Sarovar, Kutch</i>         | 10. <i>Sursagar Talav, Vadodara</i>         |
| 4. <i>Lakhota Talav, Surat</i>           | 11. <i>Ajwa Lake</i>                        |
| 5. <i>Saputara Lake, The Dangs</i>       | 12. <i>Vastrapur Lake, Ahmedabad</i>        |
| 6. <i>Thol Lake Bird Sanctuary,</i>      | 13. <i>Gomti Lake, Dakor, Kheda</i>         |
| <i>Ahmedabad</i>                         | 14. <i>Gangajalia Lake</i>                  |
| 7. <i>Hamirsar Lake, Bhuj, Kutch</i>     | 15. <i>Gopi Talav &amp; Nav Said Masjid</i> |
| 8. <i>Gaurishankar Lake, Bhavnagar</i>   |   |

Out of these famous lakes some of them are known for their significance role in tourist attractions. They are Lake Kankaria, Narayan Sarovar Lake, Nal Sarovar Lake, Saputara Lake, Thol Lake, Lalpari Lake, Gaurishankar Lake & Sharmishtha Lake. The only natural inland lake in Gujarat is **Nal Sarovar**. It is a large lake; southwest of Ahmedabad in Gujarat, covering an area of 125 sq. km. is a large water bird sanctuary. It is brackish shallow closed depressed basin linking the Gulf of Kutch of Khambhat with the Gulf of Kutch through the Little Rann of Kutch. **The Thol Lake** is a Bird Sanctuary, is an abode to various colourful migratory birds and rich in biodiversity. It is a paradise to the nature lovers. More than hundreds of species visit this place every year & makes the lake a colourful breeding ground for the natural visitors. **Lake Kankaria** is one the biggest lake, which has developed many attractions like zoo, Water rides & water parks, toy train and so on to attract tourists. The *KANKARIA CARNIVAL* is a weeklong festival being held in last week of December month every year. **Saputara Lake** is a famous intermountain lake with its scenic beauty draw large number of tourists every year. **Narayan Sarovar**, the one of the 5 Holy lakes of Hinduism, is another different kind of holy experience and westernmost part of State or country. Another point to visit is **Koteswar Temple** which is known for its pilgrimage tourism. **Sharmishtha Lake** is built during Solanki period, is a specimen of high quality engineering works for water feeding kund, channels to protect early settlements from flooding from Aravalli. **Gaurishankar Lake**, built in 1872, built as a reservoir. Today it is one of the most preferred tourist as well as picnic spot in the Bhavnagar city. **Hamirsar Lake** is an Oasis in the heart

of Bhuj town, built during reign of Rao Khengarji (founder of Jadeja dynasty) named after his father Rao Hamir. Here people go to swim, or sit under a tree and enjoy the water besides walking along the edge of the lake one can see Aina Mahal, Prag Mahal and Kutch Museum (Map-39). **Gomti Lake** is a fresh clean water lake carved by Bhimsen on a journey with Krishna. This lake is famous for pilgrimage tourism. People believe that Ranchhodji rested at this place on a journey from Dwarka offered with sugar by Gangabai. **Sursagar Lake** makes a great place for boating situated at the heart of the city, Vadodara.

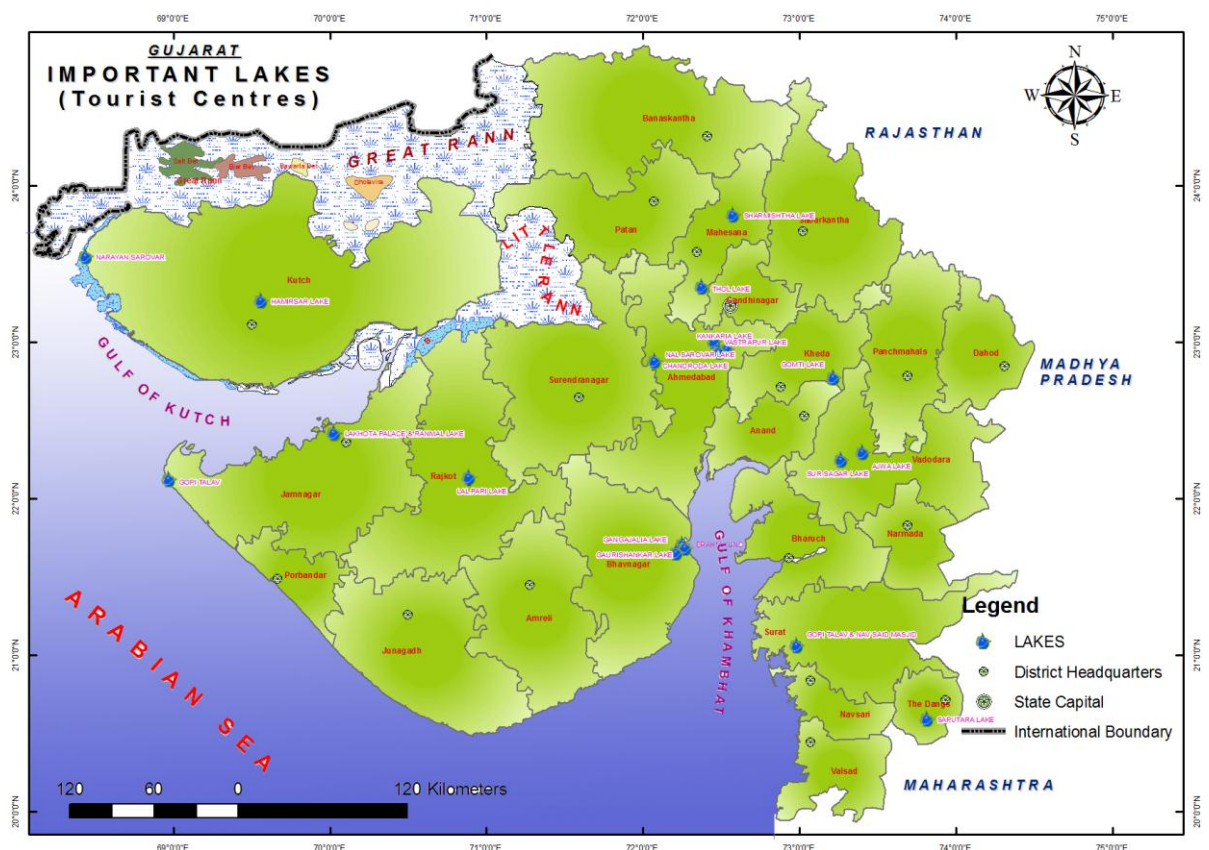
Dams are the lifeline of drought prone Gujarat, which aims to provide water to dry zone of different districts. Almost all major and medium Rivers are installed with at least one Dam to function as water suppliers and reservoirs. Gujarat has almost 21 Dams out of India's 541 Dams. The five of chief are Sardar Sarovar, Ukai, Dantiwada, Kadana, & Dharoi which are considered to be main source of water for drinking and irrigation and some of them also holds international significance. The state has mounted India's largest Dam i.e. Sardar Sarovar Multipurpose Dam (136.5 m & height to be increase in future) in Kevadia colony, Bharuch. Here are some names of famous Dams are given which are important also tourism point of view:

**Some Famous Dams (Map-19) in Gujarat:**

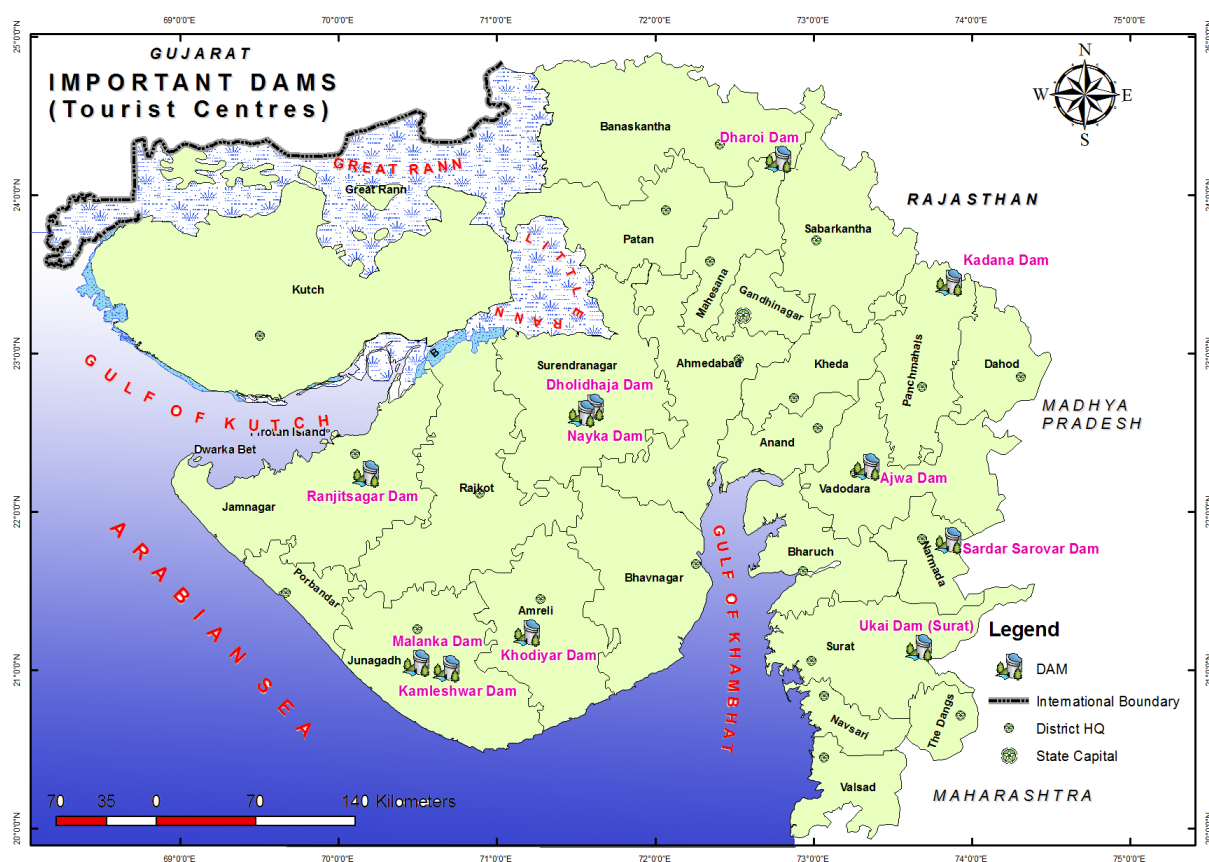
- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Sardar Sarovar Dam, Kevadia         | 9. Kadana Dam, Panchmahal       |
| 2. Ukai Dam, Surat                     | 10. Karjan Dam, Karjan          |
| 3. Aji Dam, Rajkot                     | 11. Kakrapar Dam, Surat         |
| 4. Shri Sayaji Sarovar, Ajwa, Vadodara | 12. Nyari Dam, Rajkot           |
| 5. Dantiwada Dam, Banaskantha          | 13. Kamnath Dam, Amreli         |
| 6. Dharoi Dam, Sabarkantha             | 14. Vadi Dam, Amreli            |
| 7. Wanakbori Dam, Balasinor, Kheda     | 15. Khodiyar Dam, Dhari, Amreli |
| 8. Suki Dam, Vadodara                  |                                 |

**Dantiwada Dam** is located on Banas River, built in the year 1965. This dam is 61 m high and 4832 m long and cover an area about 40 sq km. This Dam is considered to be main tourist attraction because of its scenic surrounding and natural beauty. It is situated near Balaram Ambaji Wild Life Sanctuary, which forms the division between Dharoi and Dantiwada Dam. **Dharoi Dam** (1973) is also one of the popular tourist spots of Gujarat installed on Sabarmati River in Sabarkantha district. **Sardar Sarovar Dam** is one the important Dams in Asia provide breathtaking views of the bountiful Narmada Dam. During rainy season lacs of tourists visit this place





**MAP-18:** Important Lakes of the State Gujarat



**MAP-19:** Important Dams of the State Gujarat

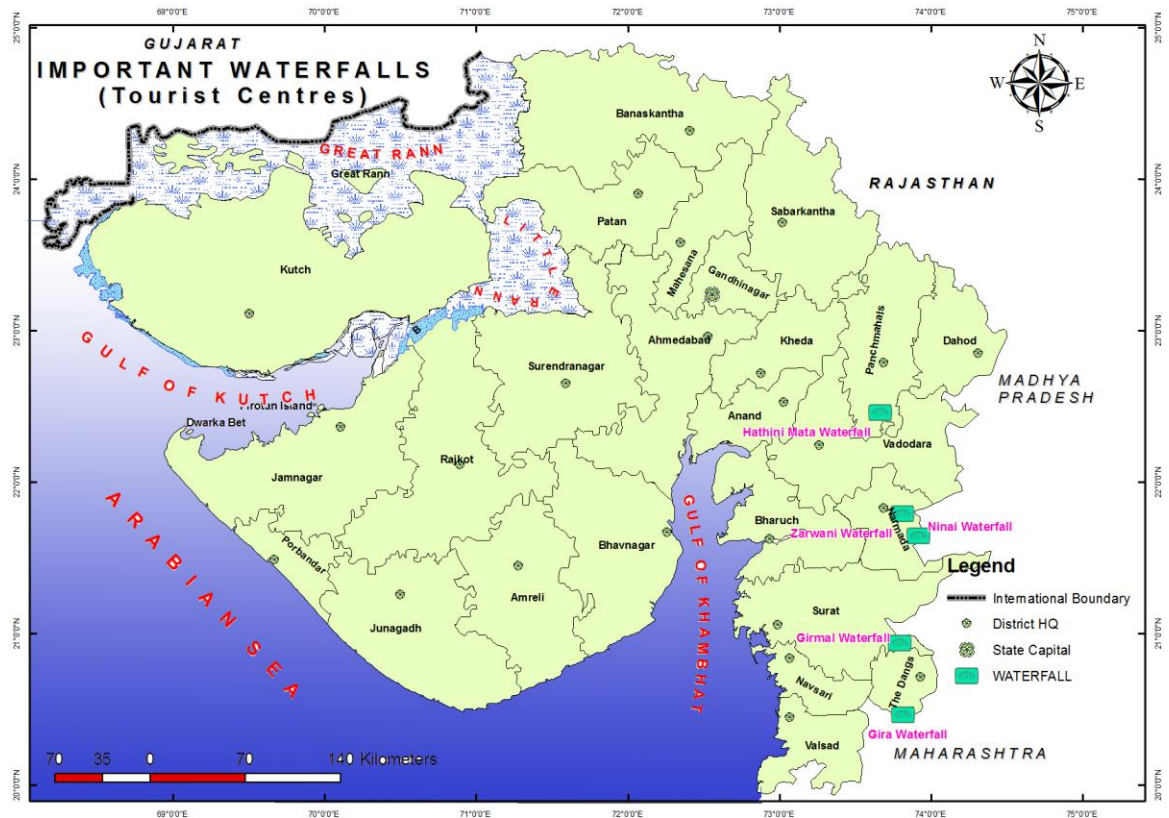
and enjoy the passion of Narmada River. The name 'Aji' literary means 'the mother' derived from Sanskrit word. The downstream area of the dam is maintained by RMC. A beautiful step garden, amusement park for children & zoo, bird aviary, Crocodile Park are where tourists can spend their leisure time.

#### **5.2.1.5 River Sites & Waterfalls**

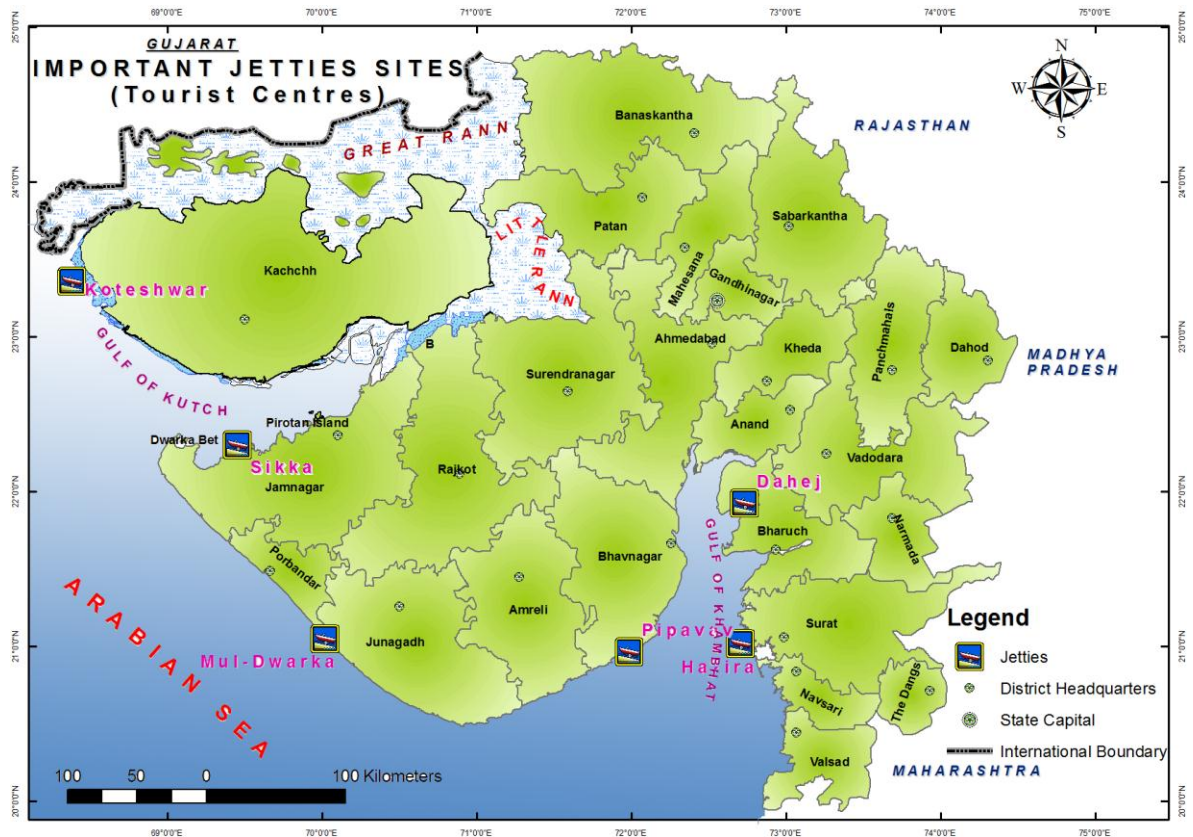
Gujarat region bears a very few number of rivers which are perennial and developed as a tourist centre alongside. The important ones are in south Gujarat. It doesn't mean that other river does not have potential for tourism but it would be more relevant to say during rainy season when the river is full of water. The river like Sabarmati has sandy banks along its lower course in Ahmedabad district. The man made embankments protects it from over-flooding and later the development of River Front Project along Sabarmati is an appreciable work done by GTCL to boost tourism industry.

Most of the rivers of South Gujarat such as Narmada, Tapi, Ambika, Oranga and Purna, where the passenger boats will soon ferry people and goods with the State government planning an ambitious inland water transport services project. Besides this, The Narmada is one the most holy river of Gujarat developed so many pilgrimage and other beautiful sights all along its bank in Gujarat, such as Malsar, Nareshwar, Garudeshwar, Shuklatirth, Hafeshwar, Chanodand the SardarSarovar itself are important one drawing domestic and national tourists. The plan worked out by the Gujarat Maritime board includes providing water transport on 50 km stretch on the Narmada, 25 km stretch on the Tapi, 30 km stretch on the Ambika, 10 km stretch on the Oranga and 14 km stretch on the Purna. Officials say there rivers have considerable depth to run such services. Beautiful waterfalls (Map-20) along the long course of rivers show splendid sceneries in South Gujarat. The most important known natural waterfalls are Ninai, Gira, Girimal, Hathini Mata and so many other minor falls which adds more attractions.

GMB, CEO, **Mr H. K. Dash** said *"the Gujarat government has decided to commission a pre-feasibility study to find out the areas where inland transportation would be commercially viable. We have written to the centres inland waterways authority of India with our detailed proposal. We hope to get some technical advice along with funds"*. To allow commercial and joint ventures to encourage investment



**MAP-20:** Important Waterfalls of the State Gujarat



**MAP-21:** Important sites of Jetties of the State Gujarat



in this sector with government equity exposure of the being limited to equity participation, providing Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model for private participation for building river terminals, mechanized cargo handling, ferry way development. A similar plan had been worked out in 1981. Small jetties (Map-21) were constructed at different place, including those at Chanod and Bhadbhut on the Narmada, Madvad on the Purna & Randher on the Tapi. The passenger boats were run by the State government, but the plan failed and had to be aborted. Currently, local passenger boats operate informally between some of their jetties, but officials say, there has greater potential, which is yet to be explored.

#### **5.2.1.6 Flora & Fauna (Bio-Tourism)**

Gujarat has 4 National Parks (Map-23) (479.67 sq km)<sup>6</sup>, 21 Sanctuaries (16602.612 sq km)<sup>7</sup> & 9 recognized Zoos with total area under protection is 17223.94 sq km<sup>8</sup>. These are **Surpaneshwar, Ratanmahal, Rampura, Purna, Paniya, Narayan Sarovar Lake, Khavda, Kutch desert, Jessore, Jambughoda, Barda, Balaram-Ambaji, Anjal and Nalsarovar**. The important Zoos which are having national significance are Sakkarbaug Zoological Garden, Kamla Nehru Zoo, Sundaryan Zoo, Pradyuman Zoological Park, Junagadh Zoo & Sayaji Zoo (Map-22). Out of total Geographical area of Gujarat i.e. 196024 sq km, the total forested area is 19393 sq km that is 9.89% to total area. The wildlife sanctuaries accounts for 8.54% area out of total area<sup>9</sup>. So we can say almost 90% of the forested area is protected as wildlife sanctuaries (Map-25). Also on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2008, about 12454 sq km area in Gujarat, declared as a biosphere reserve that includes parts of Kutch, Rajkot, Surendranagar and Patan. In Amreli i.e. Wildlife Interpretation Park project is declared of Rs. 474.25 lac, which is a good step towards maintaining wildlife in Gujarat. Likewise other districts too are receiving some money to run same type of projects. Actually these all investments are just to improve wildlife tourism status of the State. The Saputara is one the example for that the district collector Girish Shah said, “we plan to develop the Dang’s as a whole along with Saputara. We want to ensure a complete three day entertainment package for a tourist”. He added that, “we

---

<sup>6</sup> Source: Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 906, dated 10.12.2004.

<sup>7</sup> Source: Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 906, dated 10.12.2004.

<sup>8</sup> Source: Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1418, dated 3.8.2001.

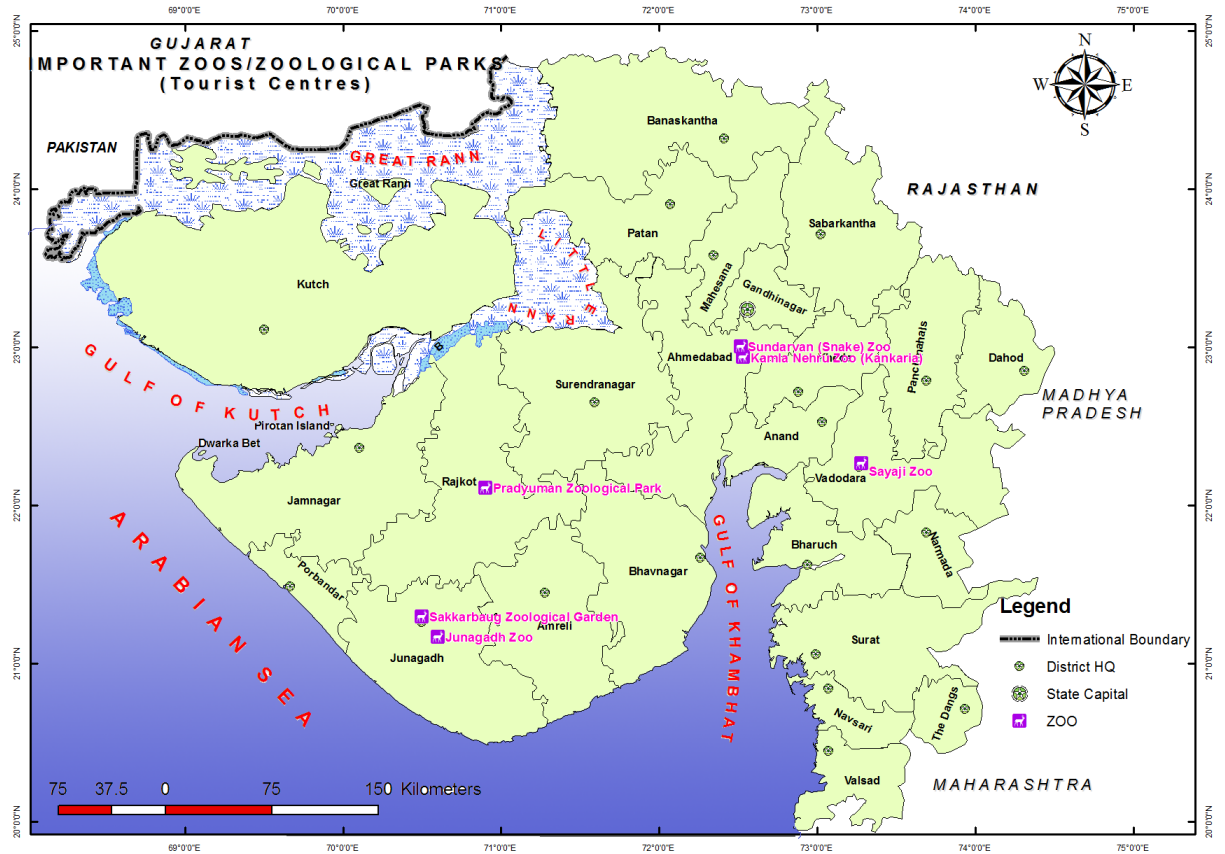
<sup>9</sup> Source: Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education, (1716) (Year between April 1990 to March 1991)

want the tourists to enjoy nature in its purest form we will ensure not a single plant is destroyed during the development”.

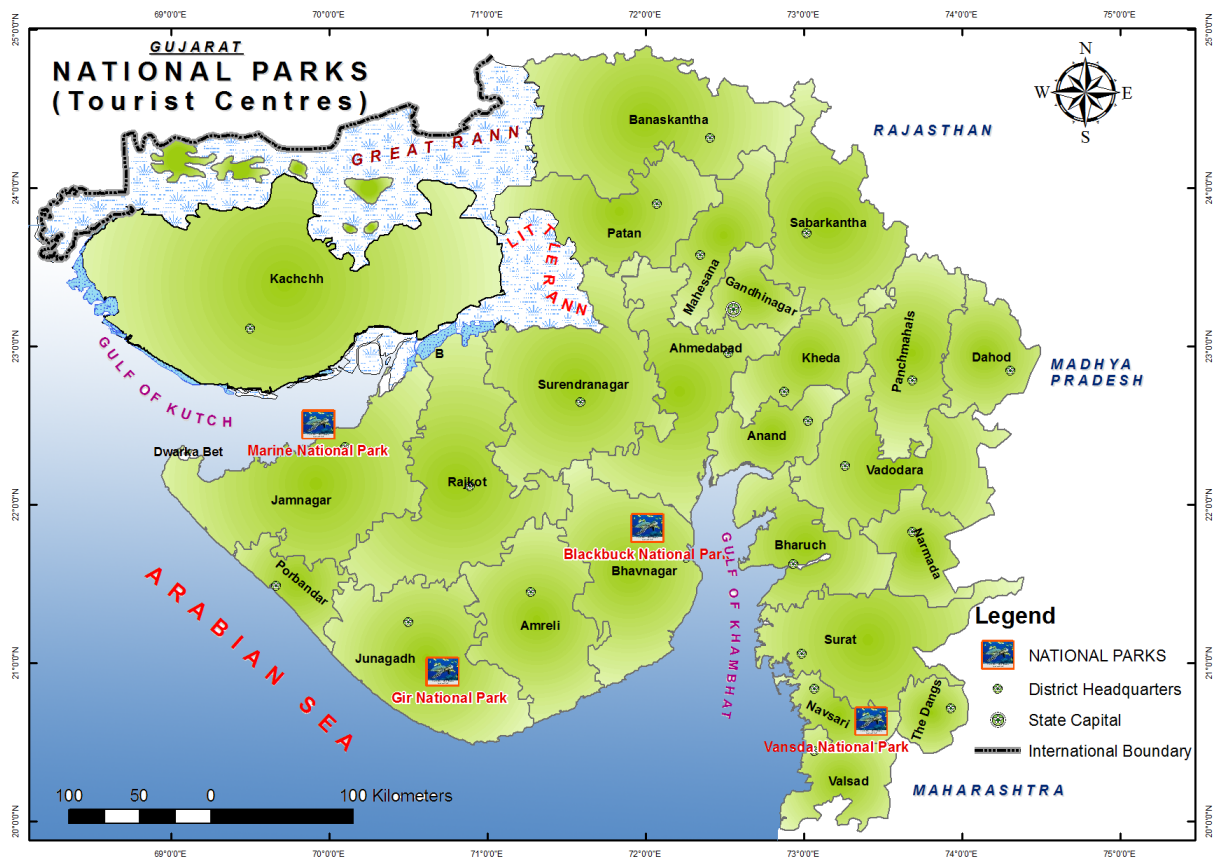
The Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary, Thol, NalSarovar, Wadhvana Bird sanctuaries are world known bird sanctuaries of Gujarat, which is also known for breeding destination for flocks of migratory birds from Arctic and Antarctic circles (Map-24). Kutch is also a home of some rarest species of birds in the world. For instance, the spotting of a **Dugong** species (only marine herbivorous mammals) off the kutch coast, it could just be the last of the species. A nation's wide study has been entrusted to the Gujarat Environment Engineering Research (GEER) Foundation to search for Dugong Habitat along the Nations coast. The spotting of three caracals- a rare nocturnal cat species (very shy creatures) near Narayan sarovar sanctuary has also excited conservationists and tourists. Another bird species, the great **Indian bustard**, is recently spotted in their grassland habitat in Naliya region of kutch. The hatching of three eggs of the endangered Bird was a delightful sight for forest officials. Overall we could deem that the state has large opportunity in the development of Bio-tourism, looking to its diversity in Plants and Animals.

#### **5.2.1.7 Accessibility**

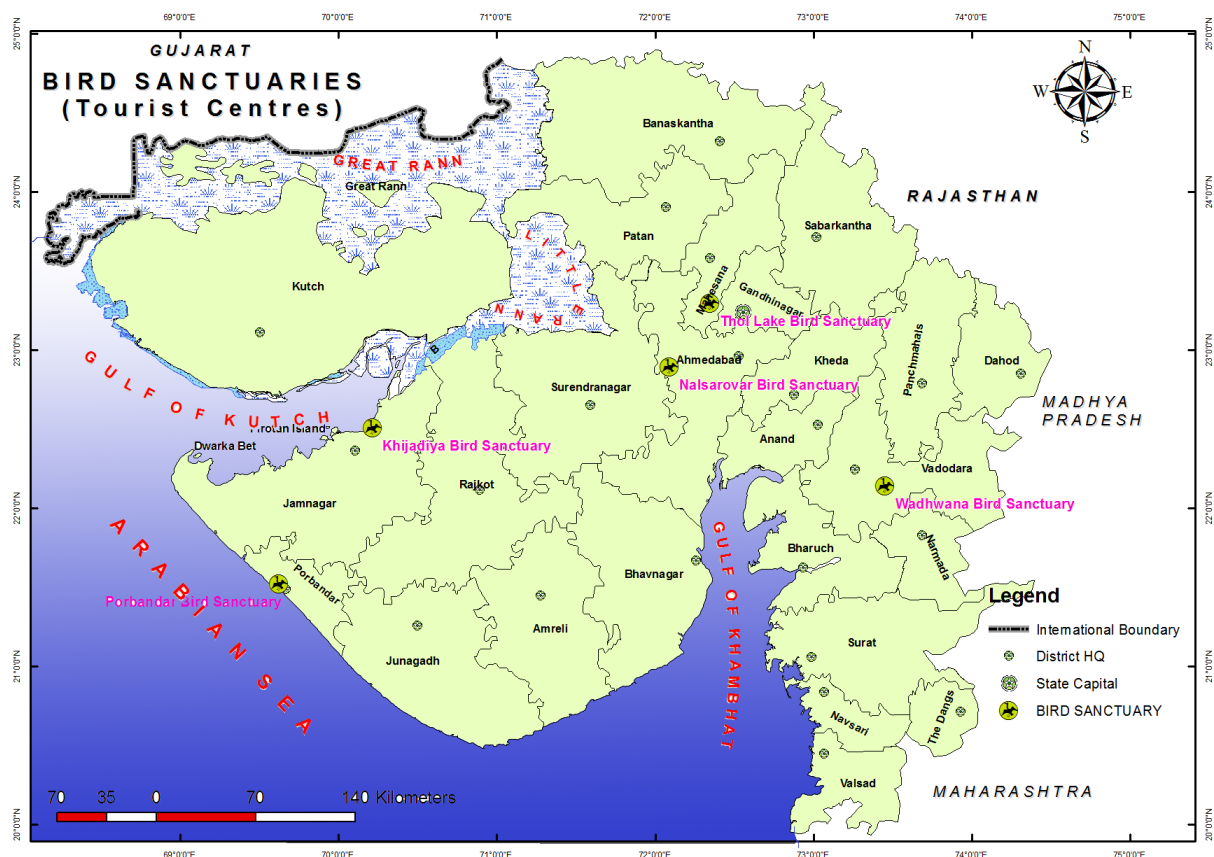
Being an industrially advanced State- recent surveys have indicated that Gujarat has done better than Maharashtra. It is very well connected with all parts of India. Indian Airlines flights link Ahmedabad daily with many cities of India. Several new private airlines link Ahmedabad with Mumbai and Delhi. Ahmedabad is also on the main rail network. The roads in Gujarat are in excellent conditions and travel by car can be fun. The cities are well satisfied with accommodation accessibility, which has been provided by the Gujarat State Tourism Development Corporation a very active organization.



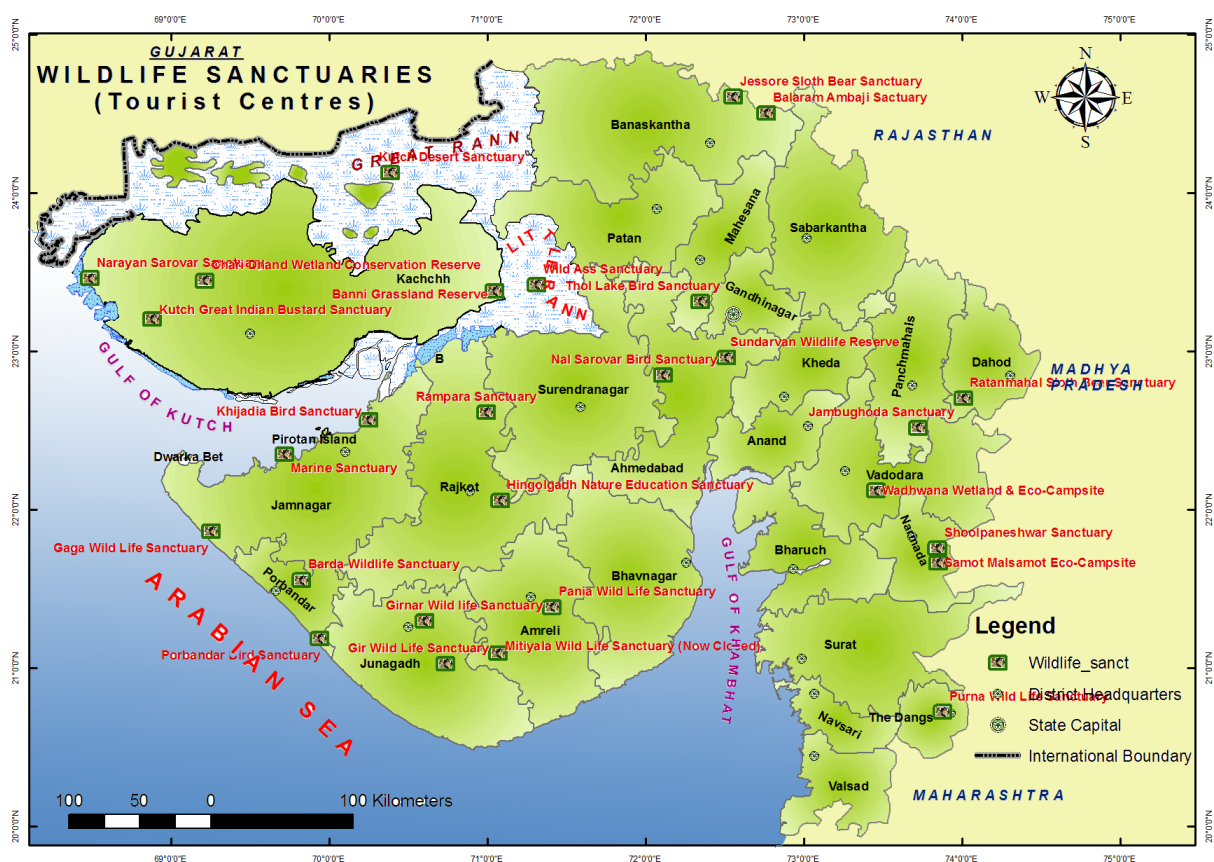
**MAP-22:** Important sites Zoos / Zoological Parks of the State Gujarat



**MAP-23:** National Parks of the State Gujarat



**MAP-24:** Important Bird Sanctuaries of the State Gujarat



**MAP-25:** Important Wildlife Sanctuaries of the State Gujarat

## **5.2.2 CULTURAL COMPONENTS**

### **5.2.2.1 Transportation, Communication & Other Infrastructure**

On the way of tourism development or tourist draw, the easy and efficient methods of transportation systems provide a major boost for tourism industry. Gujarat has a better road network than most of the other Indian states and they are in a fairly good condition<sup>10</sup>. *"If the tourist attractions are located at places where no means of transport can reach or where there are inadequate transport facilities, these become of little value. The tourist attractions which are located near to the tourist generating markets and are linked by a network of efficient roads and can be easily reached by air receive the maximum number of tourists."*<sup>11</sup> A tourist, in order to get his destination, has to travel and, therefore, some modes of transport are necessary for this. This mode of transport may be a motor car, a coach, rail, aeroplane, or ship which enables a traveller to reach his predetermined destination and the most important the internal & external road connectivity which ensures the greater mobility. The existing road network in the state of Gujarat is rated as one of the best in the country. There has been a tremendous increase in the share of road transportation (**Table-7, 8 & 9**). Most of the roads are surfaced roads and the growth in surfaced road length has been significant. Most of the roads are getting laned. The road policy includes imparting connectivity to all villages by all-weather roads thereby improving quality of life in rural areas. *"A recent survey has indicated that Gujarat has done better than Maharashtra- it is very well connected with all parts of India. Airlines flights link Ahmedabad daily with many cities of India. Several new private airlines link Ahmedabad with Bombay and Delhi"*.<sup>12</sup> The state has good connectivity options to most tourist spots. Most of the tourist spots are connected via State Highways & railways. The State accounts for 3<sup>rd</sup> largest network of road length in the country after Maharashtra and Karnataka<sup>13</sup>. The state offers great **road connectivity** even to the core areas and reliable power supply to its consumers (**Map-27& 29**). The state has a total road length of 73619 km and has India's first four lane

---

<sup>10</sup> Ministry of Tourism, Government of India (Final Report March 2008), Project: Evaluation of the Scheme of Financial Assistant to States for Development of Circuits / Destination.

<sup>11</sup> Sinha R.K., (1999), "Growth and Development of Modern Tourism", Dominant publishers & Distributers, pg-40.

<sup>12</sup> Seth P.N., (1998), India: A Traveller's Companion, A sterling Paper book, pg-344.

<sup>13</sup> Source: Transport Research Wing, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.



highway. There was an increase of 3245 km of NH in 2009-10<sup>14</sup>. A knowledge corridor and IT parks are expected to come along Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Bhavnagar, Surat and Vadodara. It has one of the highest per capita power consumption and competitive commercial real estate rates in comparison to other states in India. Similarly the state has a strong **railway network** that helps facilitate easy tourist movement within the state (*Map-28*). As of 2009, the state had a railway network of 5,309 km. It comprises 3,100 km of broad gauge, 1,422 km of metre gauge and 787 km of narrow gauge<sup>15</sup>. There are 21 major railway stations in Gujarat. Important ones are Ahmedabad, Anand, Bhavnagar, Bhuj, Godhra, Porbandar, Rajkot, Vadodara, Valsad & Surat which almost connects to all other states of India. A rail freight corridor is also underway in the western region, starting at JNPT (Mumbai) and ending in Delhi, passing through Valsad, Surat, Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Mahesana, Palanpur.

***Table- 7***

Share of Transport and Communication Infrastructures			
Sr. No.	Item	Unit	Value
1	Total Railway Length - March, 2002	Kms.	5310
2	Highways (except urban and project roads)		
	- March, 2002		
(a)	Total Length **	Kms.	74031
(b)	Of which Surfaced Roads	Kms.	70688
(c)	Of which National Highways	Kms.	2362
(d)	Of which State Highways	Kms.	19180
(e)	Road per '00 Sq.Km.	Kms.	37.77
3	No. of Motor Vehicles Registered - March, 2003	000	6508
4	Vehicle Density per Sq.Km. - March, 2003	Nos.	33
5	No. of Post Offices - March, 2003	Nos.	9070
6	No. of Telegraph Offices - March, 2003	Nos.	1775
7	Telephone per '00 population (As on March, 2003)	Nos.	5.89
8	No. of Cellular Connections (As on March, 2003)	Nos.	1045226
** Total length of Highways includes National highways, State highways, other PWD, Zilla Parishad, Village Panchayat and CD/ Panchayat Samities Roads			

<sup>14</sup> Source: Transport Research Wing, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways 2009-10.

<sup>15</sup> Interim Report – Gujarat, March – 2012, “Identification of Tourism Circuits across India”, submitted by IL&FS Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (IL&FS IDC), Gurgaon, Haryana, pg no. 15.

**Table- 8**

**Types and Distance of Road( on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010)**

Types of Road	Distance in (km)
National Highway <sup>16</sup>	3262
State Highway <sup>17</sup>	18421
Main Dist. Road	20503
Other Dist. Road	10227
Village Road	24852
Total	77265

**Source:** Roads & Buildings Department, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar (Basic Road Transport Statistics Gujarat 2009-10, pg 20).

**Table- 9**

**Tourism Sector Enablers: Robust Physical Infrastructure: (2008)**

Airports	Road & Rail	Urban Infrastructures	Others
-Highest number of domestic airports (12) -One International airport at Ahmedabad	-Over 74,000 km of total road networks -National highways- over 3245 <sup>18</sup> km. -State Highway- over 18087 <sup>19</sup> km -Over 5000 km of railway networks	-Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) in Ahmedabad -Neat and clean cities with all basic amenities available	-Ports 42 ports on a 1600 km long coastline- one third of India's waterfront -Power About 10,000 MW of electricity generation (major factor for hotel/resorts and other tourist facilities.

**Source:** Socio-Economic Review, Gujarat State 2008-09

It is also a state with highest number of domestic airport (**Map-26**) i.e. 13 domestic and 1 international airport at Ahmedabad<sup>20</sup> (**Table-10**). The hub and spoke policy has been adopted in the airways sector. The state plans to develop Ahmedabad

<sup>16</sup>Connecting state Capitals, major ports and rail junctions and link up with border roads and foreign highways.

<sup>17</sup>The arterial roads in a state for inter-district movements. Connecting state Capital, District headquarters and important towns and cities and link up with the National Highways and adjacent state Highways.

<sup>18</sup> Source: Transport Research Wing, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (Length of national and state highways- by width (as on 31<sup>st</sup> March)

<sup>19</sup> Source: Transport Research Wing, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (Length of national and state highways- by width (as on 31<sup>st</sup> March)

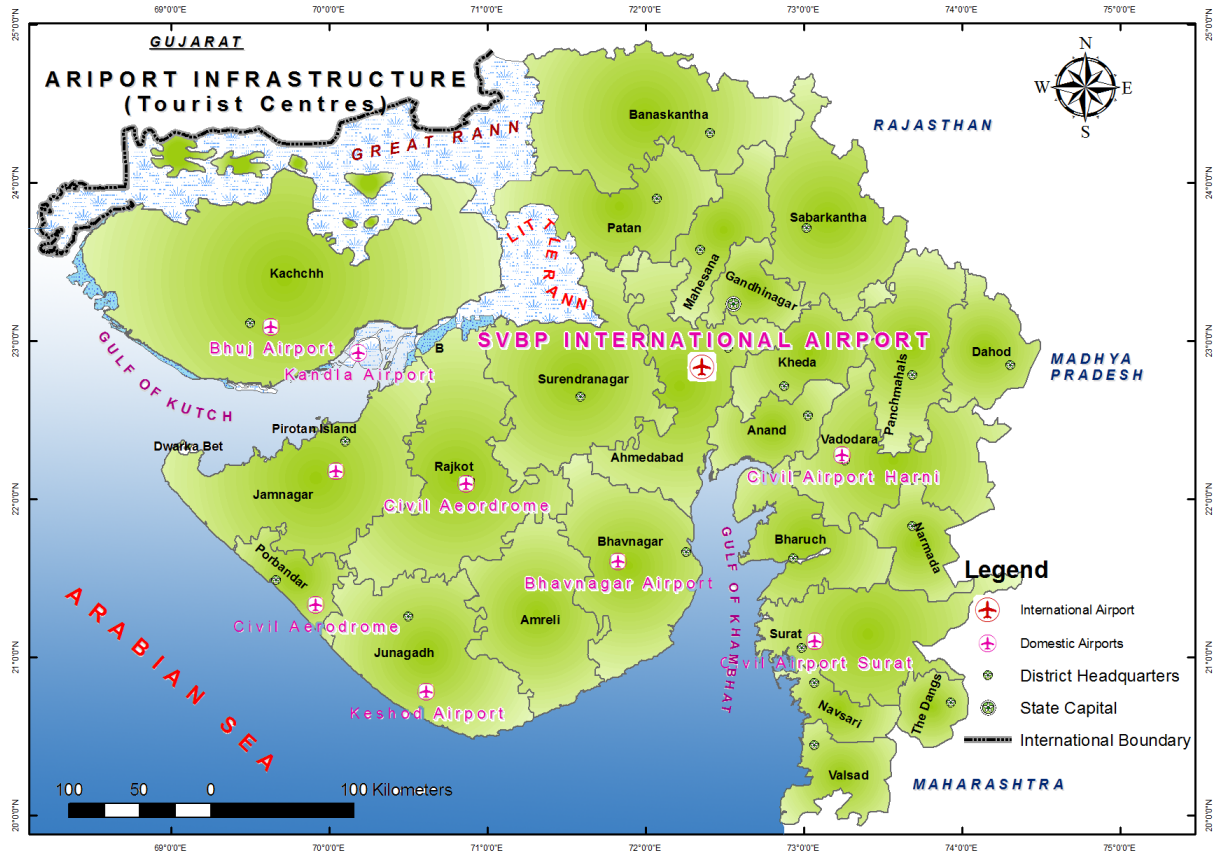
<sup>20</sup> Interim Report – Gujarat, March – 2012, “Identification of Tourism Circuits across India”, submitted by IL&FS Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (IL&FS IDC), Gurgaon, Haryana, pg no. 14

and Surat (investment 1200 crore) as international airports that would be hubs for transporting high volume cargo. The State Government is considering development of airports, air-strips and helicopters services at several locations, likely to be in PPP mode. Some of the locations being considered are as shown below:

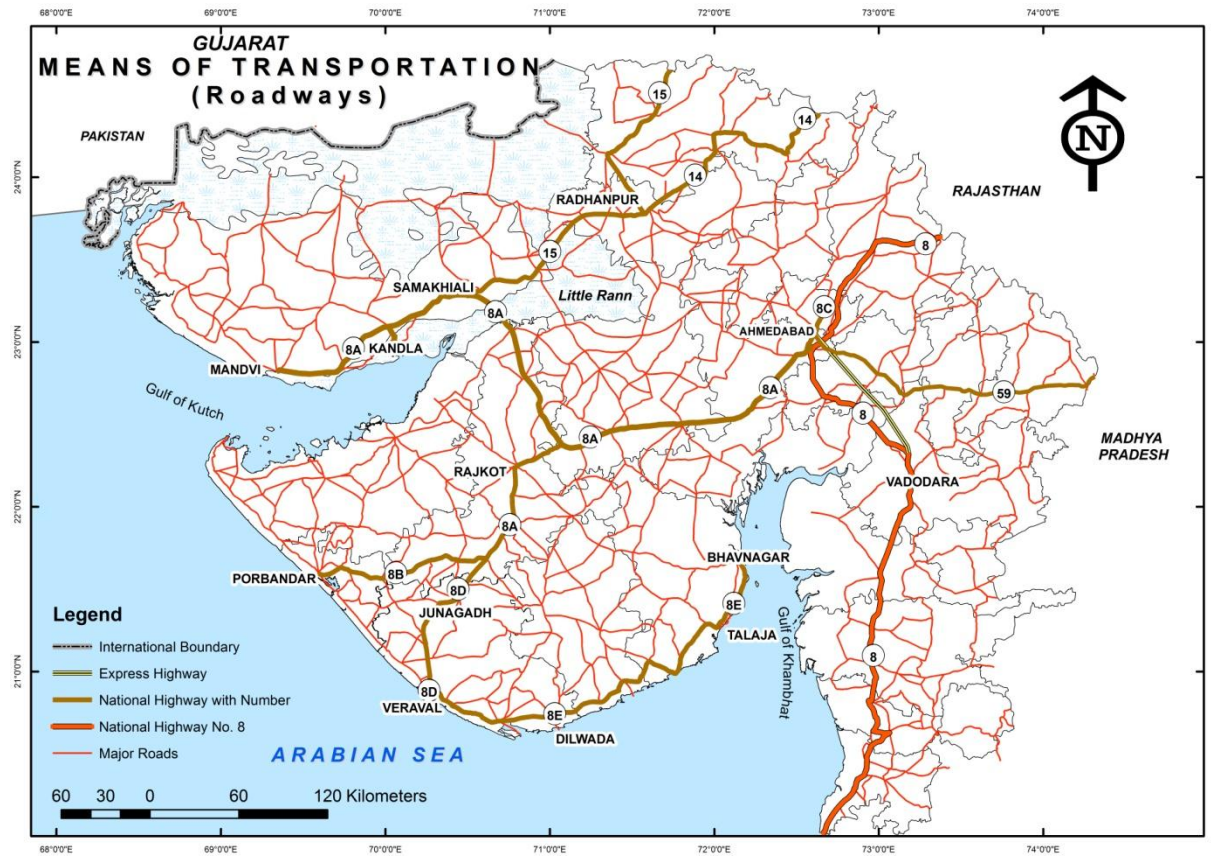
**Table- 10**  
**Air base services**

<b>AIRPORTS</b>	<b>AIRSTRIPS</b>	<b>HELICOPTER SERVICES</b>
Vadodara		
Surat		
Rajkot	Amreli	Girnar
Bhavnagar	Mandvi (Kutch)	Somnath
Bhuj	Ankleshwar	Dwarka
Gandhidham (Kandla)	Palitana	Bet Dwarka
Mundra	Ambaji	Ambaji
Porbandar	Dwarka	Palitana
Keshod		
Jamnagar		

Work on Rs 1,100 crore (Rs 1.1 billion) first phase of the metro rail project in Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar will start by 2011 and the line is expected to be operational within 2–3 years. The first phase of the metro rail project will cover a distance of 32.65 km in the north-south direction between Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad and 10.90 kilometre east-west corridor between Kalupur and Thaltej. Moreover, the state has easy accessibility to the western, middle-east and African markets. The state has 41 large and small ports, of which 11 are intermediate ports and 29 are minor ports, provides for the longest coastline in India. Kandla is a major port and there are two private ports at Pipavav and Mundra. These ports of Gujarat handle a lot of port traffic in the country and also millions of tonnes of cargo. Gujarat is the first state to privatize the port sector. In Addition to this Gujarat also has planned a Metro Rail project for INR 4,300 crore along with private sector participation on a build-operator-transfer (BOT) basis.

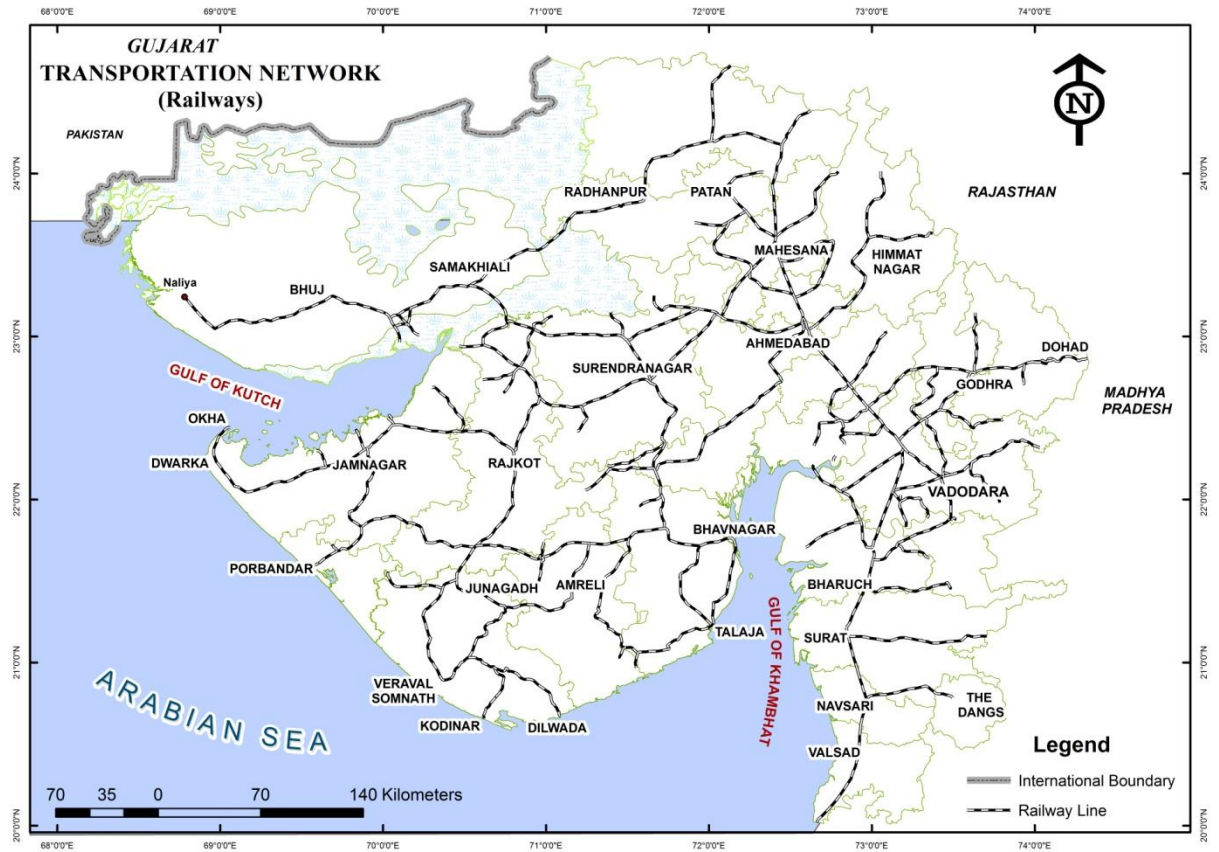


**MAP-26:** Location of Airport Infrastructure in the State of Gujarat

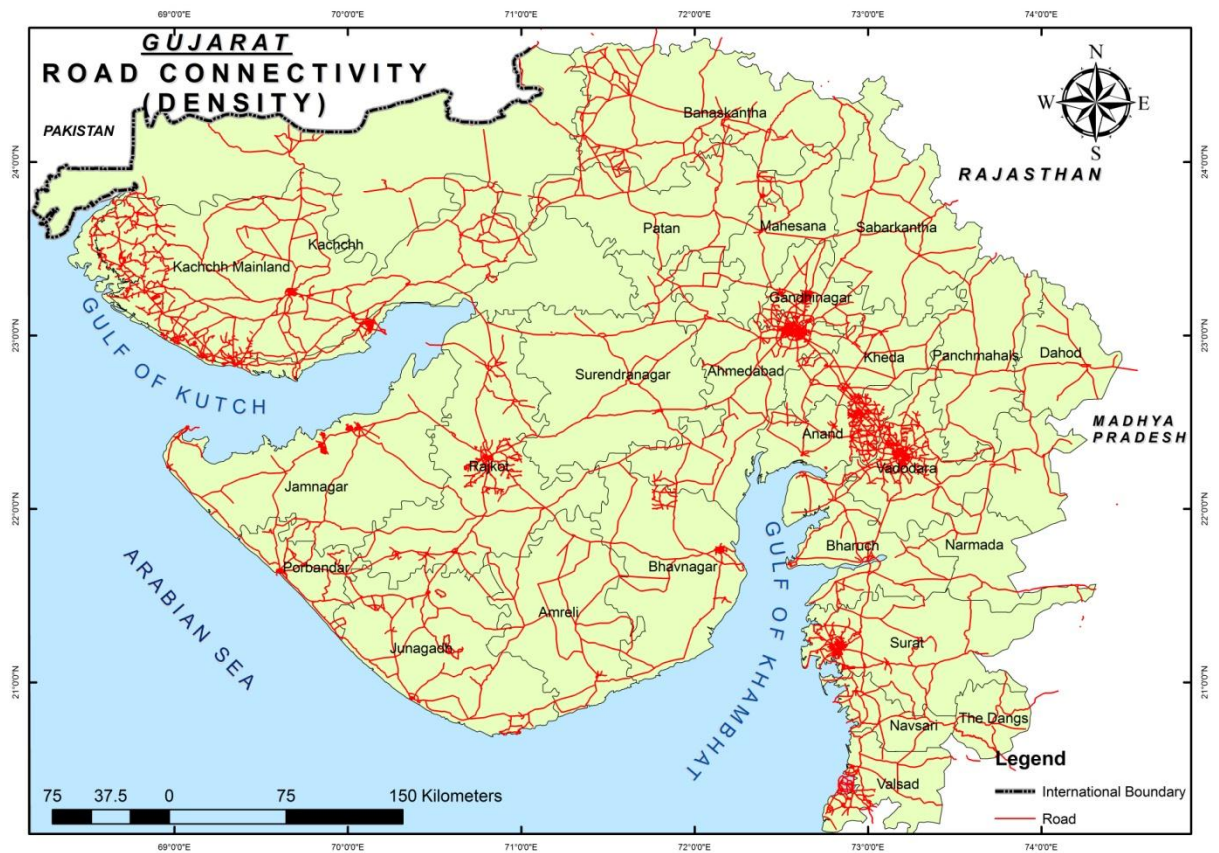


**MAP-27:** Distribution Means of Road Transportation Network in Gujarat





**MAP-28:** *Distribution of Means of Railways Network in Gujarat*



**MAP-29:** *Road density (connectivity) Network in Gujarat*

#### **5.2.2.2 Accommodation**

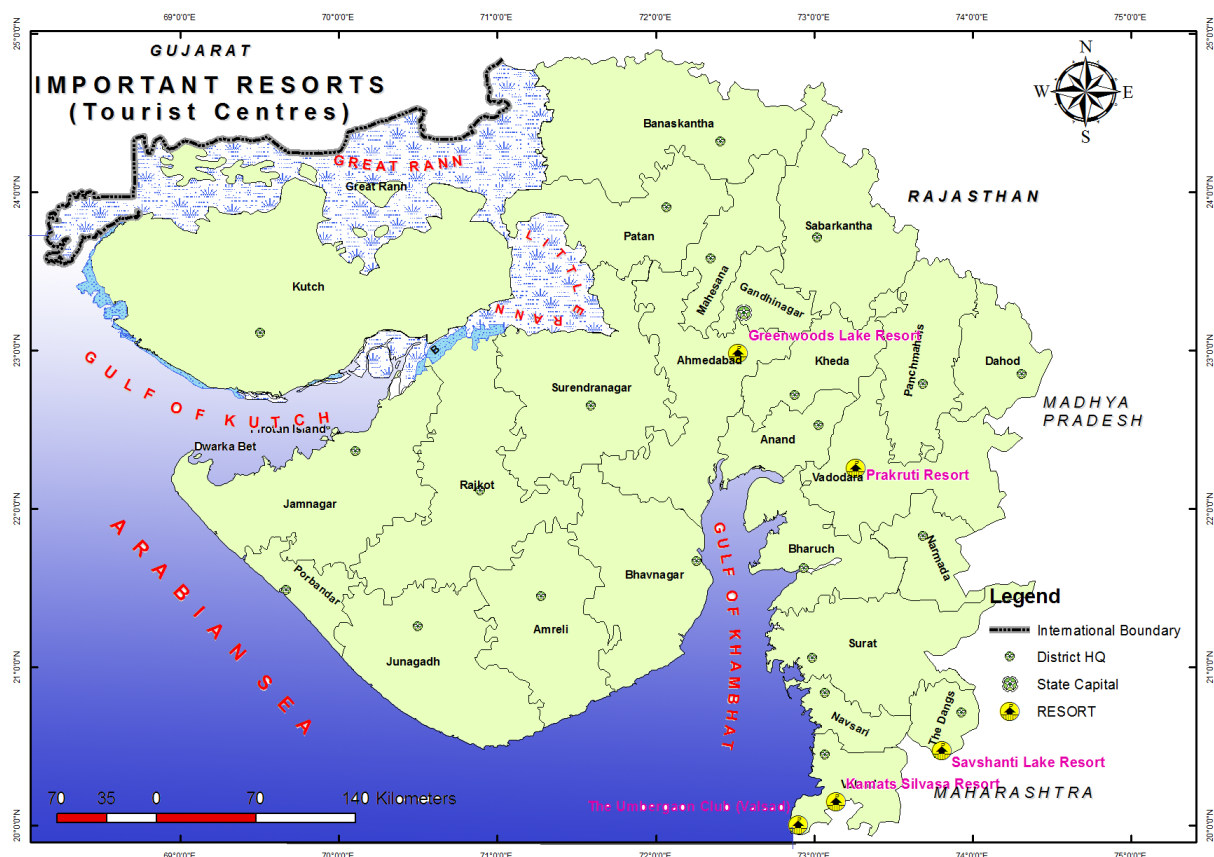
Accommodation is one of the most important and very basic requirements & the first demand made by any tourist in the area of destination. "*The demand for accommodation away from one's home is met by a variety of facilities*"<sup>21</sup>. It is the type and time of stay somewhere after travelling the whole day, just to relax & to make a new plan for the next day. Now days, the larger hotels are managing more or less to keep their share of holiday trade specially, in big metropolitan and popular tourist areas. Since type of accommodation is also determined by the Geographical conditions, it would be worth to make positive relationship between them.

In Geographical term the climate, weather and culture have major influence on tourism complexes and infrastructure. They largely determine the frequency of tourists. They also determine the ideal type of accommodation (for example, cool wet climates are not the most appropriate in which to camp; hotel accommodation is less sensitive to the meteorological conditions than other forms) and has an influence on the architecture of the tourism complex. The comfortable accommodation can be achieved by carefully considering the weather of a place when designing suitable systems of ventilation and humidification, heating and cooling, and air conditioning. Besides, the site, foundations and the shape, colour and orientation of the roofs and facades, must be rationally planned.

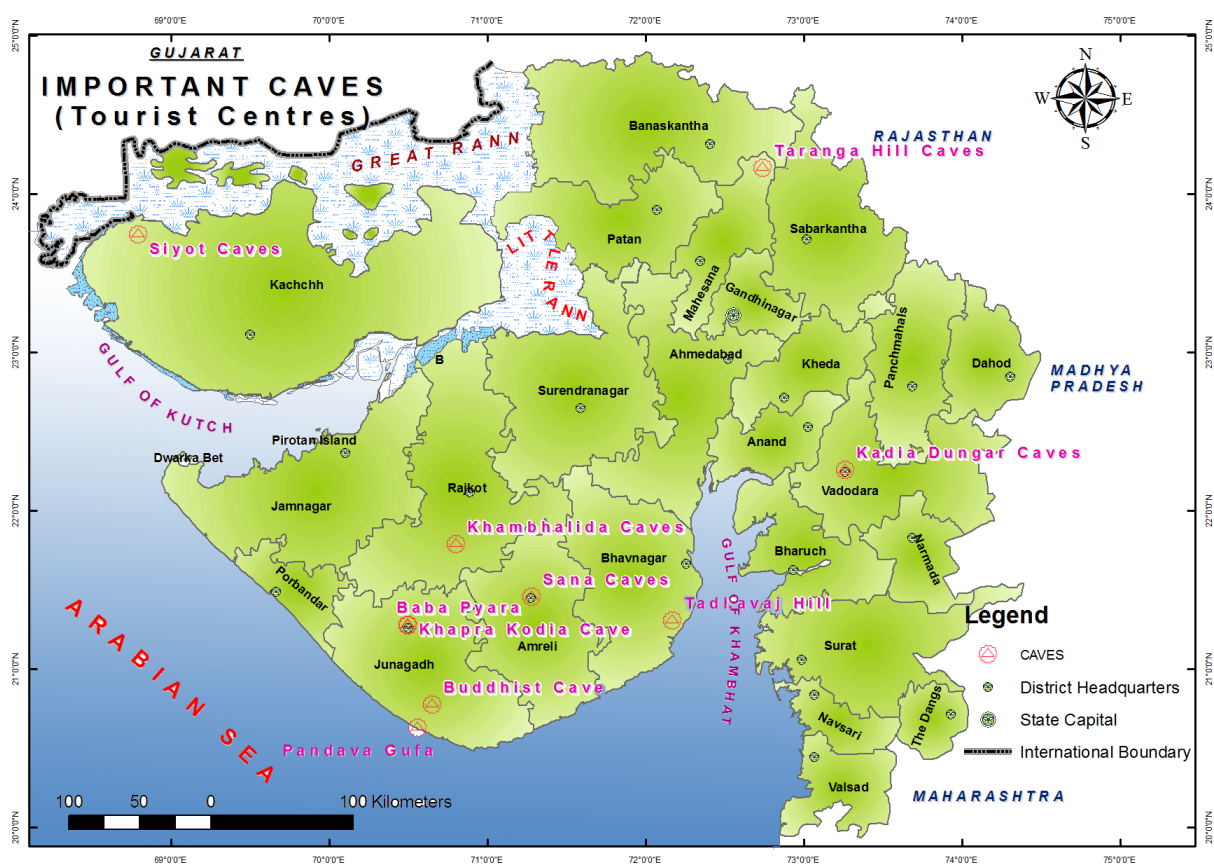
In Gujarat, the provision of accommodation facility is taken care of by large Hotel Industry, thriving very fast looking to the number of tourists arriving after the tourism year 2006. Since 2006, the number of tourists increases drastically and the increasing number of hotels could be one of the reasons. *According to an estimate, between 2004 and 2007, while total tourist arrivals grew at the rate of 34% from 6.6 million to 10 million, total number of hotel rooms (Table-14) grew only at rate of 24% from about 28,000 to 37,000- thus there clearly is a latent demand for more hotel rooms in the state (Vibrant Gujarat Tourism, 2011, Sector Profile-Investment opportunities in tourism, pg-30).* Over and all there are total 1094 hotels in Gujarat. The State Government is also preparing the accommodation models on the lines of Sabarmati between Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar and similarly it also been planned along the Narmada Canal at various places.

---

<sup>21</sup>Sinha R.K., (1999), "Growth & Development of Modern Tourism", Dominant Publishers & distributors, pg-41.



**MAP-30:** Important Resorts (Well known in World) in Gujarat



**MAP-31:** Important Caves in Gujarat



The State Government envisages the creation of at least 250 Wayside Amenities Centres (WAC) besides highways, waterways and major roads connecting important tourist destinations- many of them could be taken up on PPP. The existing Petrol pumps and restaurants can also participate, for that State Government is considering granting investment subsidy on construction costs for WACs. The accommodation type and suggested locations with total estimated cost is given below:

**Table – 11**  
**Accommodation types and distribution**

<b>Accommodation type</b>	<b>Suggested Locations</b>	<b>Total Estimated Project Cost (INR million)</b>
Apartment Hotels	Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Champaner (Pavagadh), Mandvi (Kutch), Pingleswar (Kutch) and Surat	600
Motel/Cottages	Coastal belt of Porbandar and Jamnagar district	60
Resorts	Dwarka, Sasan, Porbandar, Mandvi (Kutch), Tithal, Harshad Mata, Champaner (Pavagadh), Chorwad, Mahuva, Kuda and Katpar	550
Star Hotels	Valsad, Vapi, Rajkot, Saputara, Bhavnagar, Veraval/Somnath, Palitana, Kutch, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Champaner (Pavagadh), Surat, Jamnagar and Porbandar	4,200

**Source:** *A report on Vibrant Gujarat, 2011, Other Accommodation Projects.*

The Royal enclaves or palaces which used to be the residences or abode of the kings are which are now converted into luxurious hotels. Gujarat's princely heritage has resulted in the state having more than 20 heritage hotels including converted forts and palaces<sup>22</sup>. These hotels provide an opportunity to live in the rich and royal ambiance as well offer the traditions, history, architecture, culture and philosophy. One thing would be worth to discuss here is that these all enclaves and palaces were constructed accordingly to the climate (rainfall, temperature and wind direction) and other physical environmental conditions. TCGL also has given much importance to

<sup>22</sup> *Tourism sector profile of Gujarat: Sector strengths by TCGL, (source: Socio Economic Review 2007-08).*



some of heritage, resorts and star hotels, looking to the needs for foreign tourists. Some of them are followed<sup>23</sup>(**Table-11, 12 & 13**):

**Table- 12**

**Heritage resorts and Star Hotels in Gujarat**

<i>Name of the Hotel</i>	<i>Location</i>
<i>Orchard Palace / Riverside Palace</i>	<i>Gondal</i>
<i>Royal Oasis (Heritage Hotel)</i>	<i>Wankaner</i>
<i>Hotel Rann Riders, Dasada</i>	<i>Little Rann of Kutch</i>
<i>Lords Park Inn International</i>	<i>Surat</i>
<i>Taj Gateway</i>	<i>Surat</i>
<i>DarbargadhPoshina (Heritage Hotel)</i>	<i>Sabarkantha</i>
<i>Taj Residency</i>	<i>Ahmedabad</i>
<i>Inder Residency</i>	<i>Ahmedabad</i>
<i>The Pride Hotel</i>	<i>Ahmedabad</i>
<i>Le Meridian</i>	<i>Ahmedabad</i>
<i>Fortune Land Mark,</i>	<i>Ahmedabad</i>
<i>Cama Plaza</i>	<i>Ahmedabad</i>
<i>Cambay Resort</i>	<i>Ahmedabad</i>
<i>The House of MG (Metro Heritage Hotel)</i>	<i>Ahmedabad</i>
<i>Grand Bhagwati</i>	<i>Ahmedabad</i>
<i>Hotel Express</i>	<i>Vadodara</i>
<i>Hotel Welcome</i>	<i>Vadodara</i>

**Table- 13**

**Types of Hotels, Number of Rooms (India)**

<b>NO.</b>	<b>TYPE OF HOTEL</b>	<b>NO. OF HOTEL</b>	<b>NO. OF ROOM</b>
1	Five Deluxe	55	12948
2	Five Star	50	6654
3	Four Star	79	6131
4	Heritage	62	1916
5	Three Star	316	15590
6	Two Star	324	11391
7	One Star	146	5095
8	Other	197	8307
Total		1229	68032

**Source:** Dept of tourism Annual Report 2000.

<sup>23</sup>Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd, GoG.

**Table- 14**

**Distribution of Hotels and Number of rooms at various places in the State**

States/Place	5 Star Deluxe	5 Star	4 Star	3 Star	2 Star	1 Star	Apart-ment Hotel	Time Share Resort	Herit-age	Uncla-ssified	Total
Ahmedabad	-	5	2	10	1	-	-	-	1	3	22
	-	387	113	473	25	-	-	-	25	76	1099
Anand				1							1
				36							36
Bhavnagar	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	3
	-	-	-	36	-	-	-	-	28	30	104
Bhuj	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
	-	-	-	41	-	-	-	-	-	40	81
Chitrasani	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	-	22
Gandhidham	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
	-	-	71	102	-	-	-	-	-	-	173
Gandhi Nagar	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	5
	-	-	-	135	16	10	-	-	-	-	161
Jamnagar	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
	-	-	-	399	36	-	-	-	-	-	435
Junagadh	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	-	-	-	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	45
Kutch	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	-	-	-	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	68
Mehsana	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	-	-	-	92	-	-	-	-	-	-	92
Morbi										1	1
										50	50
Mundra				1							1
				32							32
Rajkot	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	6
	-	-	-	220	-	-	-	-	-	128	348
Porbunder										1	1
										20	20
Saputara	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-		2
	-	-	-	49	40	-	-	-	-		89
Surat	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
	-	132	-	165		-	-	-	-	-	297
Vadodara	-	-	1	7	2	-	-	-	-	1	11
	-	-	25	563	74	-	-	-	-	134	796
Valsad				1							1
				36							36
Total											
No. of Hotels	0	6	4	43	6	1	-	-	3	10	73
No. of Rooms	0	519	209	2502	191	10	-	-	75	478	3984

**Source:** Identification of Tourism Circuits, Interim Report-Gujarat by IL&FS IDC, march-2012

**Heritage Hotels in Gujarat**

There has been new development. There are some unusual hotels-palaces of the erstwhile princes or the feudal homes (Havelis) converted into deluxe hotels. It will be great experience to stay in one of them or some of them. A few such accommodations are listed below<sup>24</sup>.

<sup>24</sup> Seth PranNath, (1998), "India: A Traveller's Companion", A sterling paper back, pg-346

1. *The Palace Utelia, Lothal*
2. *Nilambagh Palace, Bhavnagar*
3. *Riverside Palace, Gondal*
4. *The Royal Oasis, Wankaner*
5. *Hingolghadh Castle*
6. *Darbargadh Poshina*
7. *Balaram Palace*
8. *Rajwant palace Resort- Rajpipla*
9. *Laxmi Vilas, MotiBagh Palace, Vadodara*
10. *Vijay Vilas Palace, Mandvi*

### **5.2.2.3 Historical Monuments**

The strong historical & tourism background of Gujarat also owes to the fact that it was invaded by a number of mighty kings. They contributed to the culture of the state significantly, by building a number of monuments and promoting other traditional practices. Champaner-Pavagadh archaeological park is one of them which had been declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2004 & listed as one among the hundred most endangered monuments in the World (Map-32 & 33). It is located at a distance of 50 km from Baroda and at the foothill of the Pavagadh hill ('fire-hill' in ancient inscriptions) (800m AMSL) in Gujarat. The hill has around 120 monuments which are protected by the Archeological Survey of India. The historical monuments at Champaner consist of a series of fortifications with beautiful balconies. Out of the massive ruins, five mosques (Map-41) are still in good condition among them the important one is the Jama Masjid, which is one of the finest **Mosques** to be found in Gujarat. The structure represents a wonderful blend of Hindu-Moslem architecture & was a model for later mosque architecture in India. The **Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park** with its ancient Hindu and Jain architecture, temples and special water retaining installations together with its religious, military and agricultural structures, dating back to the regional Capital City built by Mehmud Begda in the 16th century, represents cultures which have disappeared. For any of the tourist who arrived Gujarat, it is the most attractive monument among all other structures. The **Mahabatkhan's Maqbara** & Uperkot Fort are one of the oldest architectural monuments in Junagadh. The **Uperkot Fort** in Junagadh is believed to be constructed by Yadvas when they came to settle in Dwarka. The fort has many

interesting exhibits like the two guns placed on the western wall and believed to have been cast in Egypt. The bigger one is called the **Nilamtope** and the other one is known as **Kadanal**. Every day approximately thousands of local and foreign tourists visit this place because of its mightiness and deep wells. There are also Buddhist caves (Map-31) at **BavaPyara Math** found below the Southern walls of Uperkot arranged in three rows.

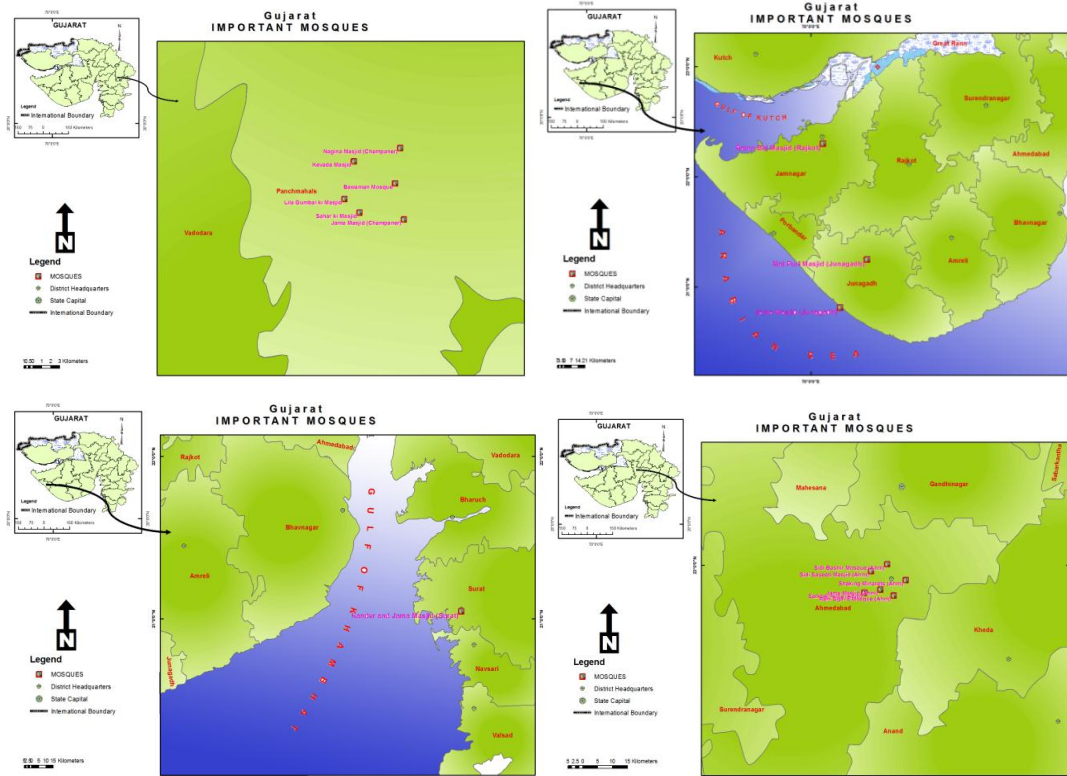
In Vadodara the **KirtiMandir** (the Hall of Fame), the **Dome of Arts Faculty, M.S. University of Baroda, ShriAurobindoNiwas, an International monument, Lahiripura gate & The tomb of Qutubuddin, Hajira, Vadodara, (Map-35)** are some of the monumental site of tourism importance. The ArtsFaculty Dome was built in 1880, which is 144 ft. High and is the **second largest masonry dome** in India. The Tomb & dome of Qutubuddin (the army general of the great king Akbar) has beautiful windows carved in stone. There is an old step well in the large grounds surrounding it. It is one of the oldest Mughal monuments of the city. It was built in safari Persian style. Here it is worth to mention the work of GTCL in the field of developing infrastructure in this area to promote tourism. In fact, the efforts in promoting infrastructure in keeping with the spirit of the state, its people and its natural environment and for that it has won such prestigious awards as The National Tourism Awards-2005-06 for Best Kept Tourism Monument-Champaner and Excellence in Publication (Collateral).

#### **5.2.2.4 Archaeological Sites & Palaces**

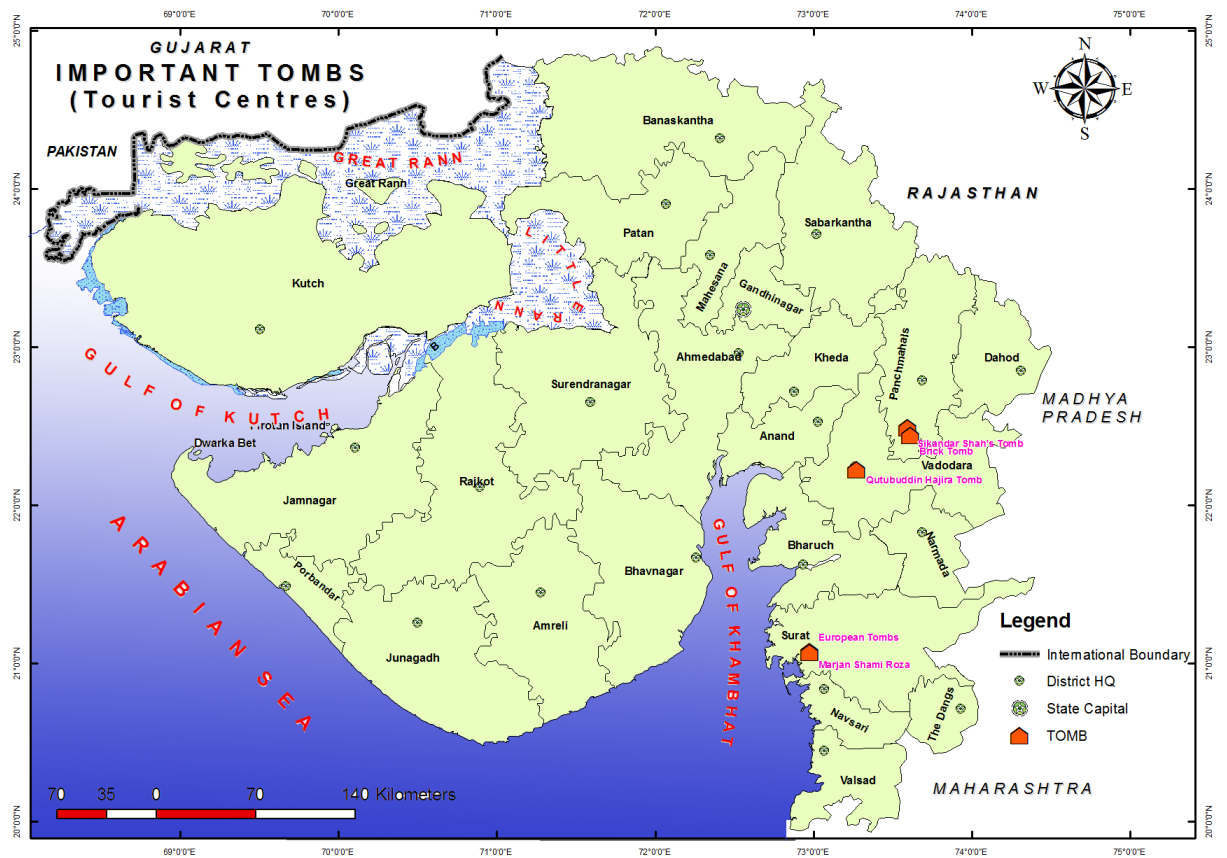
The archaeological sites are the 2<sup>nd</sup> most prominent sites for tourism attraction in Gujarat after religious sites. The state has numbers of excavation centres which are representing the oldest scripted cultures of Asia and also they are connecting the modern Gujarat to the past. The Department of Archaeology & History, M.S. University of Baroda found at **Devnimori in Sabarkantha**, a mound named Bhoja-Raja-no-tekaro. This is the place where ashes of Gautama Buddha found in a casket buried inside a '**stupa**'. The main reason of spread of Buddhism in Gujarat is the high donations by ancient merchants who coming from other Buddhist centres like Banaras, Vaishali etc. However, it really got a strong foothold during the time of Ashoka. The rock edict of Ashoka near Junagadh has 14 inscriptions describing Buddhist edifice on which his Empire was shaped. The archaeological findings at **Lothal** near Dhandhuka and **Razdi** in Saurashtra carry the history of Gujarat back to



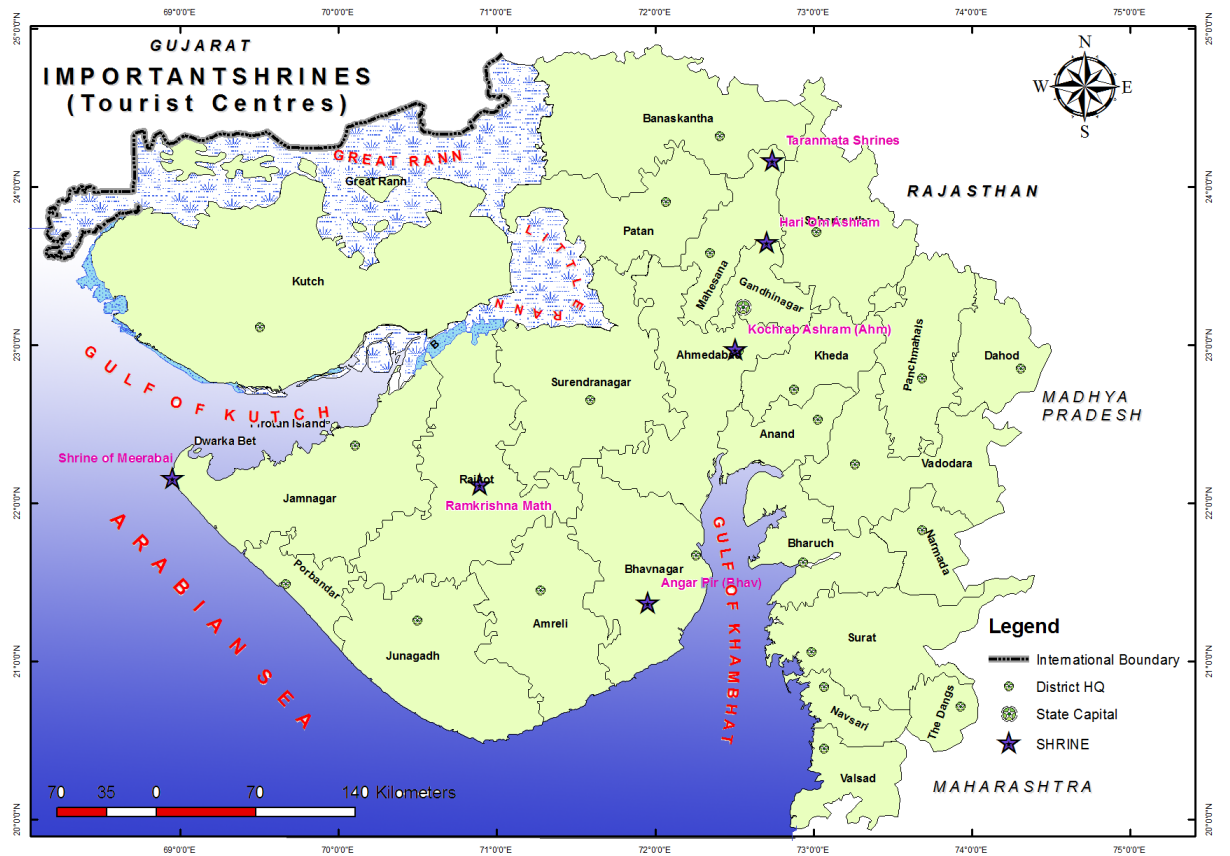




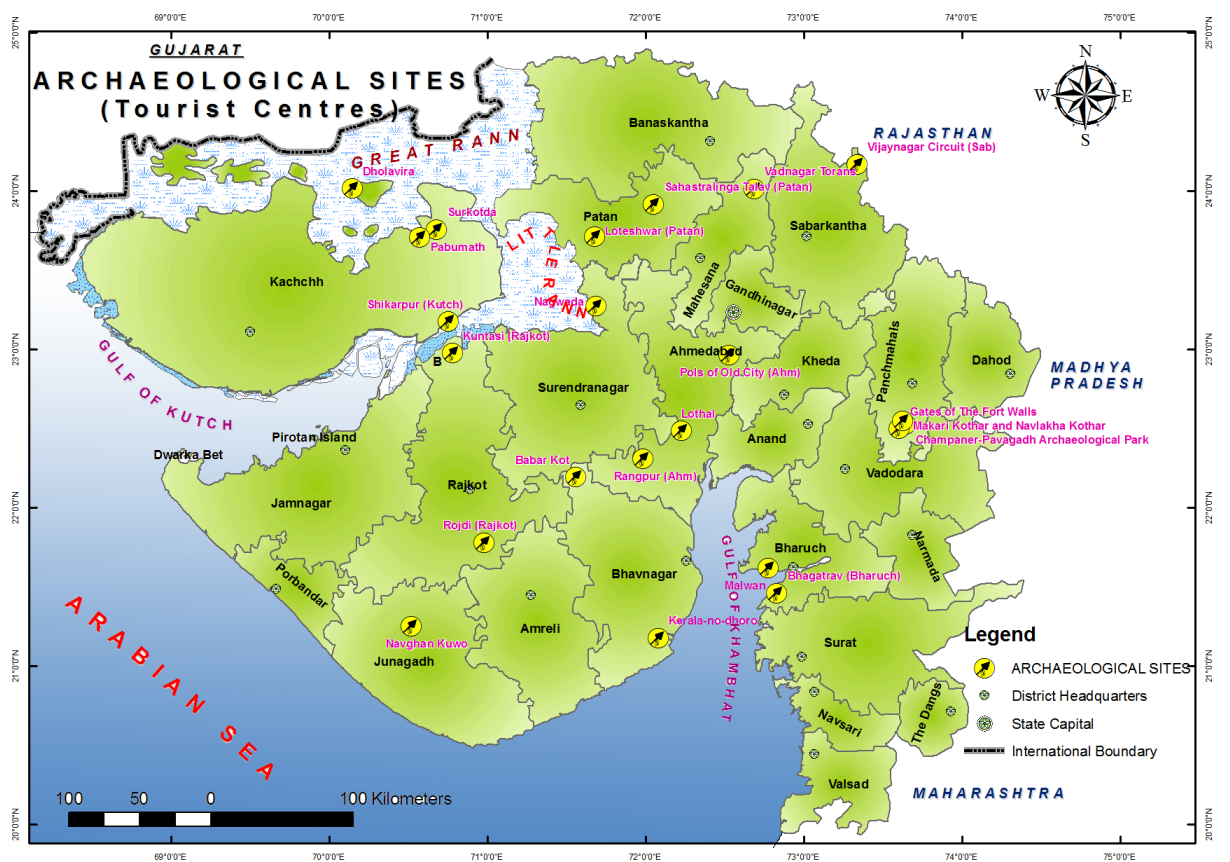
**MAP-33:** Important Heritage Sites / Monuments in Gujarat (region-wise)



**MAP-34:** Important Tombs in Gujarat



**MAP-35:** Important Shrines in Gujarat (region-wise)



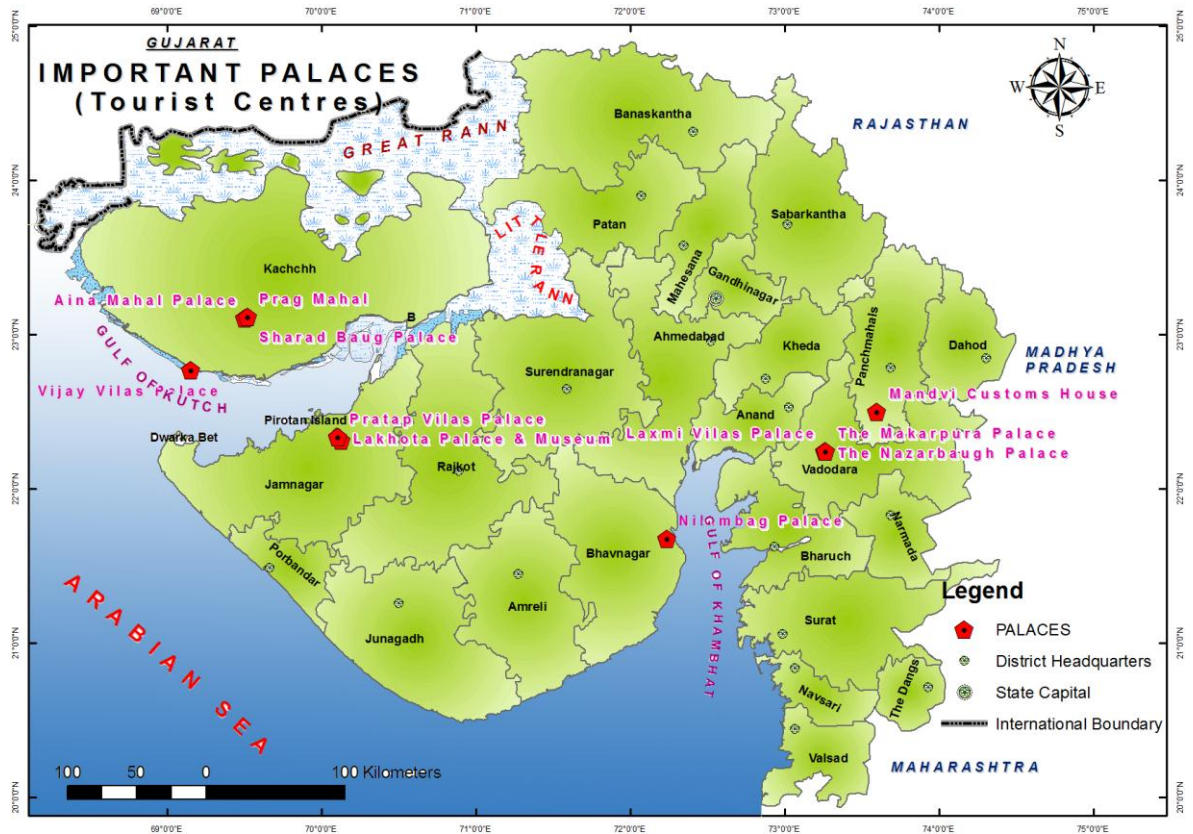
**MAP-36:** Important Archaeological sites in Gujarat

3500 years to the times of **Harappa** and **Mohenjodaro**. As a result of extensive excavations, Dholavira (home of massive belongings of Mohenjo-daro and Harappa) has emerged as a major **Harappan city** known for its exquisite town planning, monumental structures, and amazing water management and storage system. **Lothal**(*Map-36*)also has great archaeological importance, which is situated at Saragwala village in DholkaTaluka. It was an important **port town** of Harappans. They were attracted to Lothal not only by its sheltered harbour with a rich cotton and rice growing hinterland but also by its bread making industry.

In Gujarat the **Vav's**are also of great importance in terms of tourist attraction. They are unique and amazing wells hollow out under the great rulers of Gujarat. These step wells are carved out of sandstones and it is intricately depicting several stories in depth. The designs on its walls and pillars include leaves, flowers, birds, fish and other breathtaking ornamental designs. **The AdlajVav** is in Gandhinagar district, built in 1499 A.D., by Queen Rudabai is a fine example of magnificent architectural form. This is not only the example, there are many more existed in Gujarat. **Rani Ni Vav** (one of the **largest Step well**) in Patan was built by Rani Udaymati of the Solanki dynasty in memory of her husband Bhimdeva I. It has seven galleries, stepped corridors and some of the Mandaps are beautiful to behold. The galleries contain exquisite sculptures of gods and goddesses. Such wells are found throughout arid regions of Gujarat and Rajasthan. They provided cool retreats from the torrid heat of the region. Initially such wells were dug as simple structures. But as time passed, they were embellished with sculptures to provide attraction to the viewers. The water at the lowest level was no doubt used by weary travellers to quench their thirst. In a close proximity to the sun temple, located unadorned Step Well. The other important step wells are **DadaharirVav- Ahmedabad, Brahma Vav- Khedbrahma, Helical Vav- Pavagadh, NavlakhiVav- Vadodara, WankanerVav and Navghan&Adi-ChadiVav in Junagadh.**

The Vadodara itself is a city of gardens & palaces (*Map-37& 38*). **The Laxmi Vilas Palace**, designed in Indo-Sarcenic style of architecture, **Pratap Vilas Palace**, designed in Renaissance architecture (presently a railway staff college), **NazarBaug Palace**, build within walled city near the Mandvi clock. The two most important gardens **Sayaji Garden** and **LalBaug** are most beautiful gardens with wide variety of plants, paths, band stand and above all Baroda museum and picture gallery.(*Map-39*)Other Palaces, such as Nilam Bag Palace Hotel,Naulakha Palace,





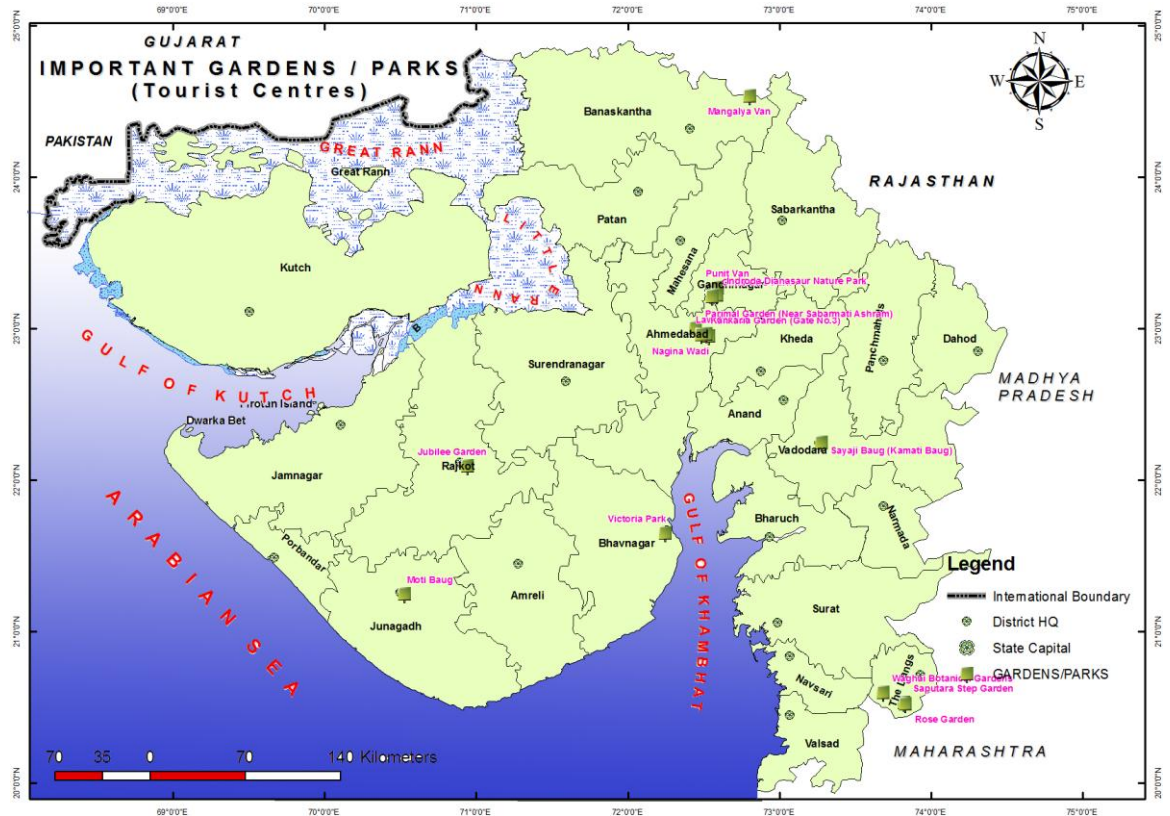
**MAP-37:** *Important Palaces of Touristic importance in Gujarat*

Gondal, Ranjit Vilas Palace, Wankaner, The Palaces of Kutch (AinaMahal&PragMahal) & Darbar Hall, Junagadh are also an important tourist places attracts tourism.

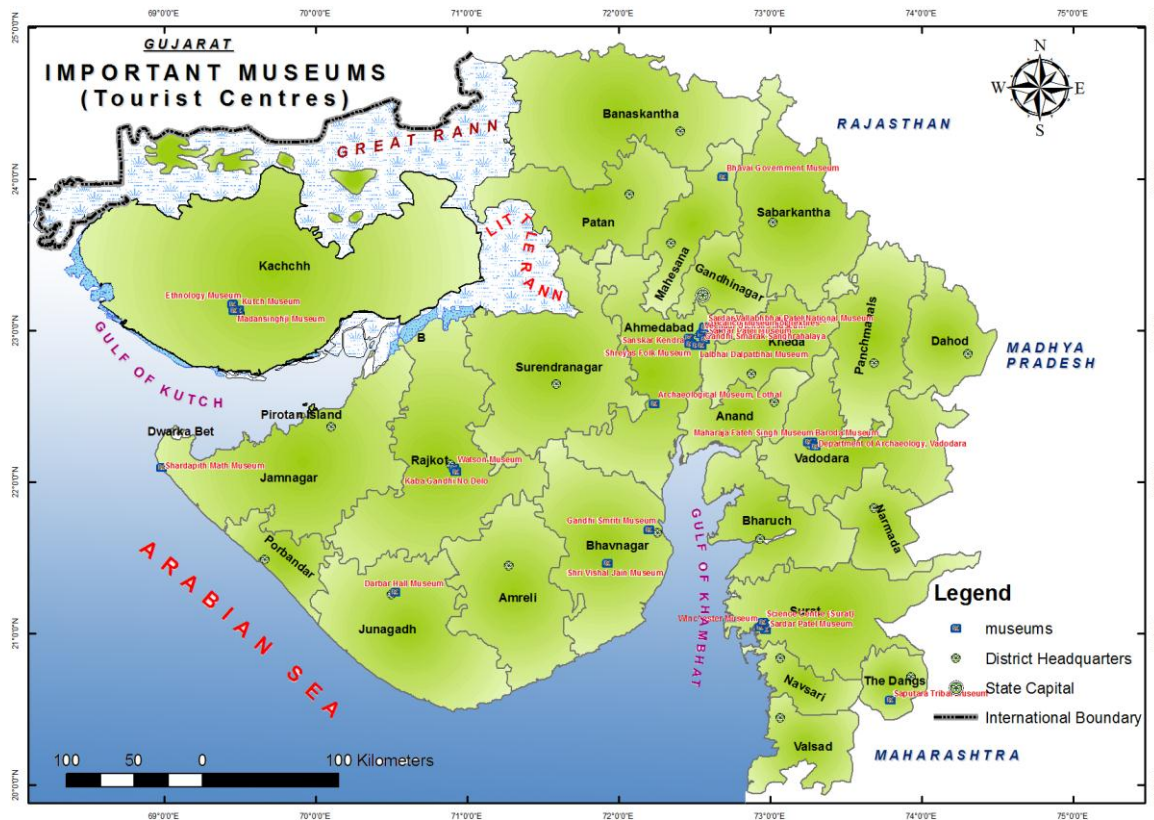
#### 5.2.2.5 **Religious Sites**

The religion based tourism activity is one of the best developed tourism phenomena in Gujarat. Larger sect of population follows particular religion by nature. The tow sects, **Vaishnav** and **Swaminarayan**, are more popular in Hinduism group. Vaishnivists worships Lord Krishna. The International movement by **ISKON** built Krishna's temples all around the world. In Gujarat the important ones are Dwarka, Dakor and Shamlaji, which are very famous. The other, **Swaminarayan** sect is originated by BhagwanSwaminarayan and is one of the major religions followed by Gujarati people. **Akshardham**, in Gandhinagar, is beautifully built in pink sandstones and most visited temple by tourists. It is built as per injunctions of *VastuShastra*. It was constructed by BAPS (BochasanwasiShriAksharPurushottamSwaminarayanSanstha), which is one of the

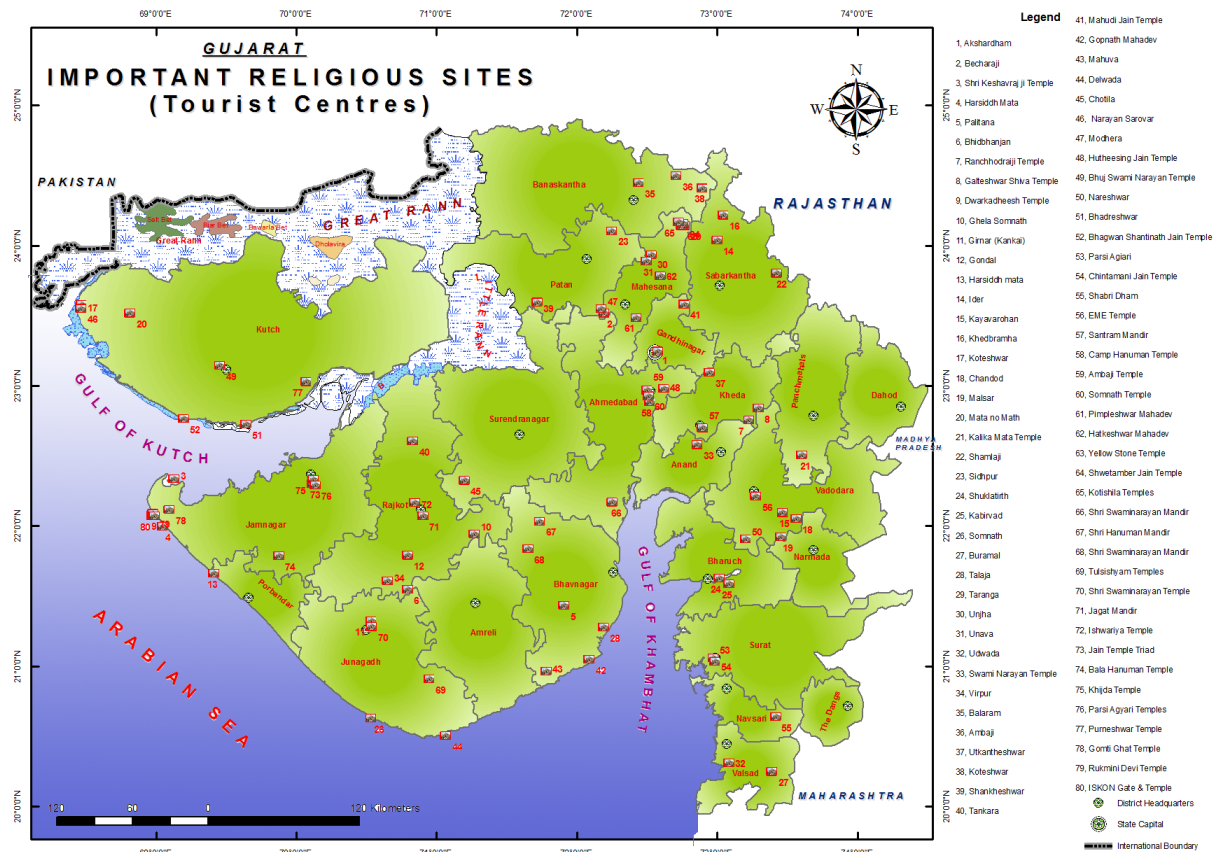
Swaminarayan sects. So far millions of people have visited the monument since its inception on November 2, 1992.



**MAP-38:** Important Gardens and Parks in Gujarat



**MAP-39:** Important Museums in Gujarat



**MAP-40:** Important Religious Sites in Gujarat

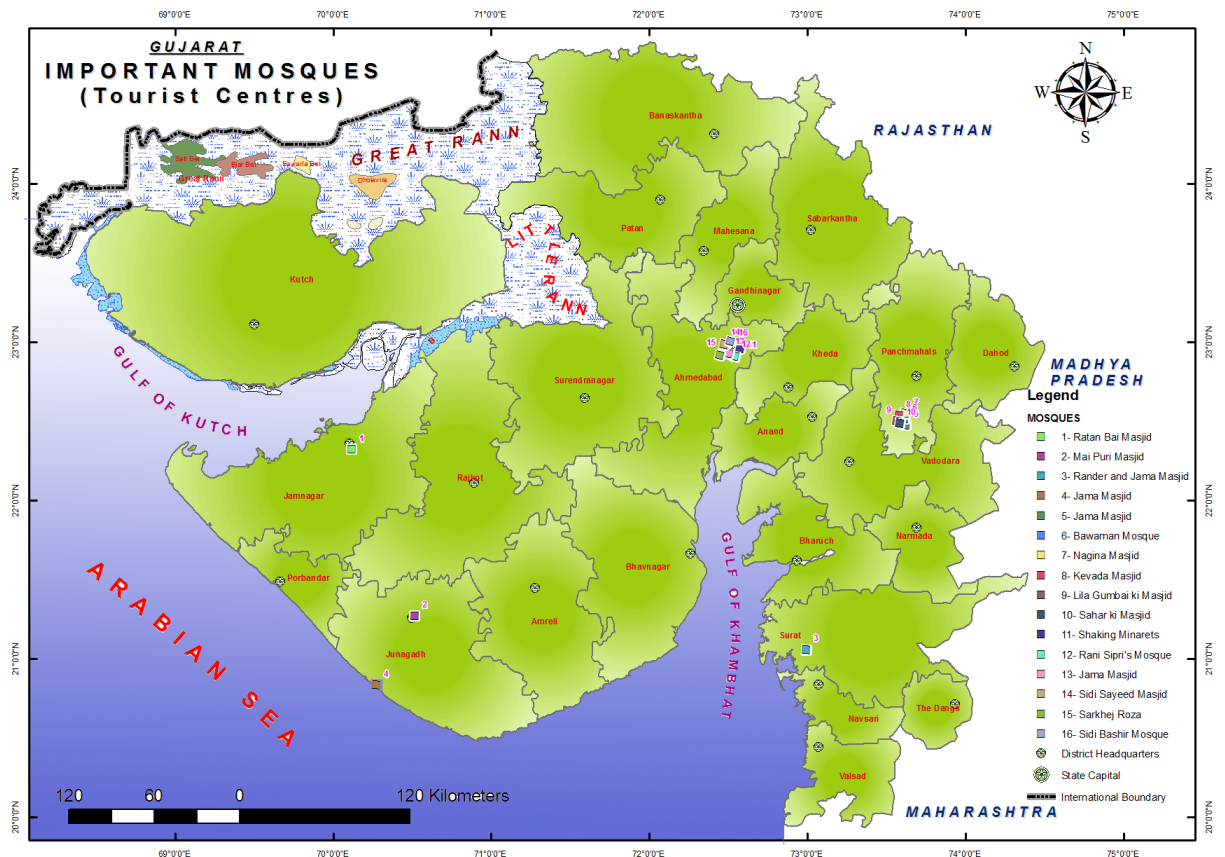
The Jainism is very well spread all over Gujarat since ancient times and it has very deep foundations in the state like neighbouring Rajasthan<sup>25</sup>. Jainism is considered to be the most powerful & esteemed religion in Gujarat. The Jains are the main trading communities in Gujarat and manages the Diamond trade all over the world. Gujarati script is said to be invented by one of the Jain monks, who has written Bharat BahubaliRas. Legendry Mahatma Gandhiji was also very much influenced by Jainism. The Jain temples are most visited by not only by the followers but also by other people from all over the India. The most famous is **Palitana**, (**Map-40**) a most sacred place in Jainism<sup>26</sup>. The outstanding carvings on the marbled walls make the tourist more astonished. There are total 900 temples located on the **Shetrunjaya hills**. The main temple at the top of the hill is dedicated to Lord Adinath. **Taranga hills** are situated to the west of Sabarmati in Mahesana district. It is situated at the hill top which is 365 m high. Its attraction lies in its carvings which are fabulously placed on the walls and ceilings. Due to its climate and panoramic views, it was among the

<sup>25</sup>PandyaKaushik, (2007), 'A Journey to the GLORIOUS GUJARAT', published by SonalAnadaAksharaPrakashan, Ahmedabad.

<sup>26</sup>PandyaKaushik, (2007), 'A Journey to the GLORIOUS GUJARAT', published by SonalAnadaAksharaPrakashan, Ahmedabad, pg-34.



chief five **Mahatirthas** of Jains. Taranga also qualifies as **hill station** because during summer season tourists come there and respite from scorching heat. **Yellow Stone Temple** is a four-storeyed temple made of yellow stone looks beautiful like a heavenly piece of architecture and is termed as '*residence of Gods*'. **Ajitrnath temple**, built of light sandstone, is situated at one of the most beautiful locations, the temples are 'must visit' on a Gujarat traveller's route. **Mt Girnar**, a '*pinnacle of faith*' is a sacred hill both to the Hindus and Jains. The Jains call it **Mt. Neminath**. It is 3660 ft high and Siddhas used it to undertake *tapasya* since ancient times. Off its seven peaks five are important, Amba Mata, Gorakhnath, Augadh, Guru Dattatreya and Kalika. Every year almost 7-10 lacs of performers do *parikrama* and climb 4000 steps to reach at the top. **Pavagadh** is a very important place in Panchmahal district famous for **pilgrimage**. Actually it is a volcanic dome. An added attraction to the pilgrims is the ropeway which goes over the gorgeous valley presenting a beautiful view. Locally Pavagadh is the most favoured pilgrimage place and every year crore of devotees arrive here to worship. During Navratri the people, mainly females do *Garba Dance* to attract Devi to come down at Champaner.



**MAP-41:** Important Mosques in Gujarat



The whole region of **Somnath** is a very beautiful place to visit and it is the site for one of the 12 Jyotirlingas situated across India. It is a place of pilgrimage during the lunar eclipse. Being on the seashore, beautifully crafted items made from sea shells and fancy jewellery & lamps and decorative items. It is believed that the coast of Somnath is as old as creation. For several centuries, foreign invaders tried to destroy the temple, but the faith of people prevailed and Somnath temple (SomeswarMahadev) was rebuilt each time. The original fragments of the temple can be seen in the *Patan Museum*. The present temple represents the Chalukya architecture. The height of the main peak of the temple is 155 feet & the **Kalash** which is kept at the top is weighs to be 10 tonnes. Attending the light and sound shows, to be organized by ITDC would be quite interesting. **MahaShivratri**, a grand festival is the best time to visit, which is to be held at Somnath every year. Close to the temple there are other places of touristic value such as, Ahilyabai temple, VallabhGhat, relics of Parvati Temple and the Museum. Between Somnath and Veraval there is Balramji's cave and LaxminarayanMandir are also very good to see.

**Dwarka** is said to be a capital of Lord Krishna's terrestrial kingdom. Earlier it was known as *SuvarnaDwarka*, had been very prosperous. It attracts thousands of pilgrims from different parts of the country. It is 170 ft high and flag of the temple is changed 3 times a day. Traditions believe that after submergence of main Dwarka Krishna's residence was at **Bet Dwarka**, a few km from the mainland Dwarka communicated by jetty (**Map-21**). It is one of the four **Moksha Dhams** of Hinduism, together with Badrinath in Uttaranchal (destroyed in June 2013 flood), Puri in Orissa and Rameshwaram in TN and also one of the seven holy Hindu cities. The sea coast location, make this region very attractive to stay and spend some time there. The temple of *Ranchhodrai* at **Dakor** is said to have become an alternative site of Krishna worship to Dwarka. The sacred tank and the temple are worth visiting. Dakor has now become a potential tourist place for domestic as well as international tourist.

**Ambaji** is one of the 51 Shaktipeeths of Hinduism<sup>27</sup>. It is situated in Aravalli range in North Gujarat is an important religious centre for devotees in the country. The main temple of Amba Mata and Gabbar Mata hill are the main attraction of tourists. Amba Mata temple is one of the famous tourist attractions among all other religious places. The whole temple's floor is laid down by Marbles and the roof of main temple

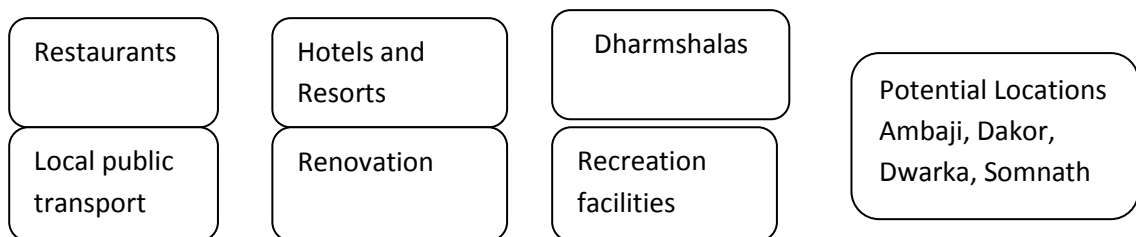
---

<sup>27</sup> Destination Gujarat: GTCL, pg-37

is of gold coated. Tourists feel very relax here by sitting down and spend some time by divine chanting on the cool marble stones.

**Narayan Sarovar**, a '**Hallowed Lake**', is also considered to be one of the five important Dhams, others being the Mansarovar, Pushkar, Pampa (south) & Bhubneshwar in Orissa. There is a beautiful dedicated to Shiva which has antique flavour about it. It is believe that after returning of Ravan to Lanka he had Shivalinga with him and to save a cow he put down the Linga and as one crore of Lingas appeared to confuse Ravan and the place is now famous as **Koteshwar**. Koteshwar was mentioned as one of the important pilgrim spots by the 7<sup>th</sup> century Chinese pilgrim Hieun Tsang. According to him the place was not only sacred for Hindus but also for Buddhists. The **Cori Creek** is situated nearby and also the lights of Karachi can be seen from there.

The other minor religious centres also of equally important pilgrimage destinations, such as Bahucharaji, Shamalaji, SudamalsPorbandar, Kabirvad, Shuklatirtha, Kayavarohan, Bhadrakali Temple and MaharshiDayanandSaraswati's birth place and so on. These all whether minor or major, is not only visited by domestic tourists, but also by NRI's and specially the travellers from eastern part of the world. 'For ensuring orderly and planned development of Pilgrimage centres, the Government has constituted "**PavitraDhaamVikas Board**" chaired by the Chief Minister. The Board will prepare and implement plans to provide necessary facilities to devotees and also ensure conservation of cultural atmosphere consistent with sentiments of visiting devotees'<sup>28</sup>.



**Figure- 4 Religious Tourism Projects by Government of Gujarat**

#### **5.2.2.6 Fairs And Festivals**

Gujarat is a land of colours. Its fine culture reflects the traditional values and lifestyle of Gujarati people. Gujarat is a land of high spirits, vibrant cultures and

<sup>28</sup>Thakar M. D., (July 2004), "Problems and Prospects of Tourism Industry in Gujarat", A thesis submitted to Saurashtra University, p-81.

joyful festivals. The state provides a cosmopolitan atmosphere for the tourists from neighboring states as well as international without any hassles because of their influential hospitality by nature. Various fairs and festivals are celebrated in every month in Gujarat. Some of the main festivals which are celebrated in Gujarat are the Kite Flying Festival on the day of MakarSankranti, Navaratri Festival, Sarkhej Fair and Tarnetar Fair. The Navratri festival is celebrated during September-October and the females enjoy the famous dance, *the Garba*. On this day, the people of every age fly kites of various shapes and sizes. Gujarat is mostly visited by people from the adjoining states, the southern states and West Bengal. The state is aggressively marketing all its festivals, including the Tarnetar festival, RannUstav, monsoon and Navratri festivals, etc, to attract tourists to the state.

Gujarat is also popular for the lifestyle and cuisines that go with the celebrations. Their traditional lifestyle remains unchanged but at the same time the modern cultures also influenced the growth to modernity. Unlike the world traditions, it speaks of **'Home is where the heart is'**. The religious practices and forms of artistic & dressing expressions have led way to more balanced lifestyles in Gujarat. The unique handicraft products of skilled craftsmanship are also popular all over the world. The Kutch embroidery and Patan no Patola are one the best known fine work by its people. Over and all the people are enterprising oriented, cooperative and supportive. Indigenously they possess warm and friendly nature with qualities of humanity. The people are found to be more generous and loyal to outsiders and phenomenon is mostly observed in the Villages.

### 5.3 GUJARAT TOURISM- CLASSIFICATION

*Table -15, A Systematic Classification of forms of tourism in Gujarat*

	TYPES OF TOURISM	SUB-TYPES OF TOURISM	PLACES
5.3.1	HILL TOURISM	Hill Stations	Saputara, Wilson Hill
		Religious sites	Ambaji, Girnar, Tarangda, Gabbar Hill, Palitana, Pavagadh, Chotila, Shamlaji, MakhaniDungar (PaviJetpur),
		Nature based tourism	Ahwa, Waghai Wildlife sanctuary, DevgadBariaRatanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary, Jambughoda, Hingolgadh Nature Education Sanctuary, Vansada National Park, Jasor Sanctuary, Gir National Park
5.3.2	COASTAL TOURISM	Coastal Beaches	Gopnath, Madhavpur, Chorwad, Tithal, Mandvi, Dumas, Ubharat Beaches
		Religious Sites	Bet Dwarka, Dwarkadhish Temple, Somnath, Koteswar, Narayan Sarovar Lake
		Nature based tourism	Kavi-Comboi, Marine National Park, AhmadpurMandvi, Aliabet, Vijay Vilas Palace
		Heritage sites	Mithapur, Dandi
5.3.3	PLAIN TOURISM	Wildlife Tourism	Wild Ass Sanctuary (Little Rann of Kutch), SasanGir, Velavadar sanctuary, Jessore Sloth Bear Sanctuary, Chinkara Wildlife, Vansda National Park, Gaga Wild Life Sanctuary, Rampara Wildlife Sanctuary
		Heritage Sites	Jama Masjid, Rani Roopmati Mosque, Champaner, DarbarGadh, Uppar Court, Wankaner, Sahastralinga, Rani niVav, Modhera Sun Temple, Vadnagar, Lothal, Adalaj Step-well, Laxmi Vilas Palace, Sabarmati Ashram, Ider, KirtiMandir, Nazarbagg Palace, Pratap Vilas Palace
		Religious Tourism	Garudeshwar, Talaja, Mahuva, Virpur, GhelaSomnath, Sarangpur, Siddhpur, Unjha, Becharaji Mata, Akshardham, Galteshwar, Dakor, Kabirwad, Nareshwar, Shuklatirtha, Malsar, Unai, Bhidbhanjan, Mata No Math, Vadtal
		Nature based tourism	Dholavira, Lakhpat, White Rann, TusliShyam, Kayavarohan, Chanod, ChhotaUdepur, Nimeta Garden, Ninai Waterfall (Rajpipla), Hathini Mata Waterfall, Hanfeshwar, NalSarovar, Khijadia Bird Sanctuary,



		<b>Village Tourism</b>	Patan, Kutch,
5.3.4	<b>MISCELLANEOUS TOURISM</b>	<b>Event Based Tourism</b>	Tarnetar Fair, Kandla Port, Kite Festival, Rannotsav, Kankaria Carnival, Dance Festival: Modhera, Navratri, Deepawali, Janmashtami Festival
		<b>Structure base Tourism</b>	SardarSarovar Dam, Sabarmati River Front, Ajwa Lake, Ukai Dam, Kankaria Lake, Kutch Museum, Watson Museum, Veechar Museum, Baroda Museum,

## **5.4 IMPORTANT GEOGRAPHICAL SITES**

### **HILL TOURISM:**

*Surat:* Saputara, Wilson Hill

*Junagadh:* Girnar

*Mahesana:* Tarangda

### **BEACH TOURISM:**

*Bhavnagar:* Gopnath

*Jamnagar:* Bet Dwarka, Dwarka Beach

*Junagadh:* AhmedpurMandvi, Chorwad

*Porbandar:* Madhavpur

*Kutch:* Mandvi, Vijay Vilas Palace

*Surat:* Tithal, Dandi, Ubharat

### **RELIGIOUS SITES:**

*Jamnagar:* Dwarka

*Porbandar:* Madhavpur Beach

*Kutch:* Koteswar, Narayan Sarovar Lake, Mata No Math, Swaminarayan Temple

*Junagadh:* Somnath

*Kheda:* Telnar, Dakor, Galteswar,

*Anand:* Vadtal

*Vadodara:* Kayavarohan, Chandod, Nareshwar,

*Bharuchn:* Kabirvad, SardarSarovar

*Bhavnagar:* GopnathMahadev, Palitana

*Rajkot:* Virpur, Bhidbhanjan, Tankara

*Ahmedabad:* Akshardham

*Patan:* Sankheshwar, Siddhpur

*Sabarkantha:* Shamlaji

*Gandhinagar:* Akshardham

*Panchmahal:* Pavagadh

*Banaskantha:* Ambaji, Jessore National Park

*Mahesana:* Modhera- Sun Temple, Unjha

**WILDLIFE TOURISM:**

<b><i>Junagadh:</i></b>	<i>Gir National Park,</i>
<b><i>Bhavnagar:</i></b>	<i>Black Buck National Park (Velavader)</i>
<b><i>Navsari:</i></b>	<i>Vansda National Park,</i>
<b><i>Jamnagar:</i></b>	<i>Marine National Park,</i>
<b><i>Ahmedabad:</i></b>	<i>NalSarovar Bird Sanctuary</i>
<b><i>Kutch:</i></b>	<i>Wild Ass Sanctuary, Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary, Kutch Desert Wild life Sanctuary,</i>
<b><i>Banaskantha:</i></b>	<i>Jessore Sloth Bear Sanctuary</i>
<b><i>Porbandar:</i></b>	<i>Barda Wild Life Sanctuary</i>
<b><i>Rajkot:</i></b>	<i>Hingolghadh Nature Education Sanctuary</i>
<b><i>Jamnagar:</i></b>	<i>Khijadia Bird Sanctuary</i>
<b><i>Narmada:</i></b>	<i>Ratanmahal Bear Sanctuary,</i>
<b><i>Jamnagar:</i></b>	<i>Gaga Wild Life Sanctuary</i>
<b><i>Rajkot:</i></b>	<i>Rampara Wild life</i>

**HERITAGE SITES:**

<b><i>Ahmedabad:</i></b>	<i>(AdalajVav, Jumma Masjid, Rani RoopmatiMosque, SiddiSaiyad Mosque, The Pols, SarkhejaRoza, Bhadra Fort, Teen Darwaja, ShalAlamRoja, Shahibag Palace, Sabarmati Ashram, Lothal)</i>
<b><i>Surat:</i></b>	<i>Dandii, Bardoli, Old Fort,</i>
<b><i>Patan:</i></b>	<i>Sun Temple, Rani kiVav, SahastralingaTalav.</i>
<b><i>Mahesana:</i></b>	<i>Rani UdaymatiVav, Langhanaj Locality.</i>
<b><i>Kutch:</i></b>	<i>AinaMahal, PragMahal, Surkotda</i>
<b><i>Jamnagar:</i></b>	<i>Cremation Park, DarbarGadh, Mandvi Tower</i>
<b><i>Rajkot:</i></b>	<i>Nehru Gate, Hanging Bridge, RashtriyaShala, Kaba Gandhi No Delo, M.K. Gandhi Vidyalaya, Gondal, Wankaner, Centres of Harappan Civilization</i>
<b><i>Vadodara:</i></b>	<i>KirtiMandir, Nazarbagh Palace, Hajira, Pratap Vilas Palace, Laxmi Vilas Palace, Makarpura Palace</i>
<b><i>Bharuch:</i></b>	<i>Roman Catholic Masjid, Nagina Masjid, Citadel of Mahmud, Beghada</i>