

Timeline

- July 1, 1964 - July 31, 1990: Prof. Dwijendra Tripathi worked on business history at IIMA
- 2004: Prof. Dwijendra Tripathi writes his classic work *The Oxford History of Indian Business*
- November 17, 2017: IIMA Archives Committee formed
- March 27, 2018: First interview of Prof. Dwijendra Tripathi recorded for the oral history project of IIMA Archives
- August 31, 2019: Launch of website and digital platform
- February, 2020: Launch of IIMA Archives Monthly Snippets
- November 10, 2021: Launch of permanent exhibition '*Brick by Brick: A Journey through IIMA Archives*', and physical premise at D-15
- March 1, 2022: Appointment of Professional Archivist
- April 12, 2022: Launch of '*A Note for the Future, from 2022*' campaign
- September 30, 2022: Launch of '*Brick by Brick*', a quarterly newsletter of the IIMA Archives
- November 10, 2022: Launch of '*Not Yet 25: IIMA through Pranlal Patel's lens, 1967-1985*' a pictorial exhibition at IIMA Archives
- January 20, 2023: Launch of IIMA Archives Monograph Series: '*Not Yet 25: IIMA in Louis Kahn's Designs and Pranlal Patel's Images*'
- April 1, 2023: Launch of '*An Institution in the Making: IIMA through the lens of Pranlal Patel*', an exhibition presented by IIMA Archives in collaboration with Arthshila Ahmedabad
- April 1, 2023: Announcement of '*A Note for the Future, from 2023*'
- May 29, 2023: Launch of a Digital Exhibition and Monograph (IIMA Archives Monograph Series 2) '*MARITIME TRADE OF GUJARAT'S PRINCELY STATES: NAWANAGAR AND PORBANDAR*' in collaboration with Gujarat State Archives (GSA)

From the obituary of Prof. Dwijendra Tripathi authored by Prof. Chinmay Tumble, published in the Business History Review of the Harvard Business School, Winter, 2018

“Prof. Dwijendra Tripathi applied for and received a Fulbright scholarship to pursue graduate work in history, beginning at the University of Wisconsin– Madison in 1960. He completed his dissertation on the economic links between the United States and India in the late nineteenth century, with Richard N. Current as his adviser. Tripathi returned briefly to Jabalpur; he then moved to Bombay in May 1964 as Research Officer in the Historical Research Department of the State Bank of India, one of the oldest banks in India, that was attempting to chronicle its history. The compulsions of wearing ties and suits quickly wore him down and he accepted a call for a job interview at IIMA. Dr. Kamla Chowdhry, faculty at IIMA, one of the first female management educators in the world and herself a Fulbright Scholar, had found Tripathi’s name in the Fulbright directory and invited him for an interview. The interview was successful, and Tripathi joined IIMA on July 1, 1964, the same day as the inauguration of the institute’s first class of Postgraduate Programme or PGP (MBA equivalent) students. In the first year, Tripathi rarely spoke as he was getting his bearings in the new world outside the traditional university system. Given a choice between Organizational Behavior and Economics as his institutional areas, he chose the latter mostly because he got along better with colleagues in that area. He went to Harvard Business School as part of the International Teachers Program in 1965, where he interacted with Ralph Hidy and the business history fraternity and gained more confidence about the discipline.

Between 1964 and 1990, Tripathi had an eventful career in teaching, research, and administrative responsibilities at the IIMA.

Teaching and administration, however, were distractions from his real love, research, which ultimately gave him academic satisfaction and personal fulfilment. He wrote biographies, not hagiographies, of industrialist Kasturbhai Lalbhai and the firms Larsen & Toubro and Bank of Baroda. His scholarship was rooted in entrepreneurial history, stressing multifactorial models for understanding the phenomenon, and enriched by an unparalleled access to Lalbhai, a leading industrialist of his time.

In the 1980s, he held four seminars on business history at IIMA leading to three important edited volumes that continue to be indispensable in the field. These seminars were inspired by what he had observed in international seminars in Japan, where he spent time as a visiting research fellow at the Institute of Developing Economies in Tokyo in 1985–1986.



Prof. Dwijendra Tripathi, Visiting Research Fellow: Japan Visit, 1985.

Source: Prof. Dwijendra Tripathi Special Collections, IIMA Archives

He established connections with historians in other fields as he regularly attended the International Economic History Congress and Indian History Congress. He was the General President of the latter body in 2002–2003. Tripathi’s major research contributions were in more than a dozen books and monographs. His contribution to the Business History Review was limited to a few book reviews and an Introduction to a special issue on India (Spring 2014). At the age of 74, he finally wrote his masterpiece, the Oxford History of Indian Business, a grand narrative on the evolution of Indian business over several centuries.”

"Course Outline: Reading seminar in International Managerial History, 1979"

TITLE : Reading Seminar in Indian Managerial History
AREA : Business Policy

OBJECTIVE:

The major thrust of the course would be to provide a conceptual understanding of the forces and influences which resulted in the growth of Indian business and business practices in modern India. It is hoped that the understanding developed through the course would enable the students to view the present state of Indian managerial activities and practices in a proper perspective and evolve meaningful theoretical basis for the analysis of managerial behaviour in the country.

MECHANICS AND PEDAGOGY:

The course would be given through the readings and discussions of available relevant materials along with occasional lectures by the instructor, wherever necessary. The reading materials would consist of two kinds of works - a) those dealing with economic and environmental changes in modern India, particularly after 1800, and b) empirical studies dealing with the growth of the individual organizations and firms. A tentative list of these works are given in Appendix I.

The readings listed under category(A) would be organized around certain specified topics as given in Appendix II, and all the students will be required to read them. The works listed under Category(B) would be read selectively in relation to a specific theme or topic which every student will be required to choose for intensive research and seminar report, depending on his interest and background. In other words, every student will not be required to read all the works mentioned in category(B); it is his theme which will guide the selection of his reading materials. The instructor will assist the students in selecting their themes as well as the reading materials. In addition, the student will be encouraged to read supportive literature and relevant journals in the field such as Indian Economic and Social History Review, Indian Historical Review and Journal of Indian History.

The class will meet once or twice a week and would have about 20 sessions of about 2 hours each. The first 4 or 5 sessions will be devoted to discussing the general requirements of the course and the readings in category(A) in the manner specified in Appendix II. The remaining sessions will be utilised to discuss selected empirical

(p.t.o)

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studies (from amongst those listed under category(B) of Appendix I) and for the presentation of the seminar reports. As mentioned above the readings in the second segment will be selected with reference to the themes or topics which the students will choose for intensive studies. As such the finalisation of these readings will have to wait till the instructor and the students offering the course have an opportunity for consultation.

EVALUATION:

The evaluation will reflect the instructor's total assessment of the student's ability and work and the quality of his output. It will be based on the student's performance in the class and the quality of his written seminar report. If necessary an examination may be given at the end of the course.

“Dwijendra Tripathi Godrej Archives Talk: Indian Business History: Fallacies of Interpretation, October 9, 2007”

The second lecture of the Godrej Archives series was delivered by retired IIMA professor Dwijendra Tripathi, the doyen of business history studies in India. His talk sought to dispel a few old myths: that Indian business was underdeveloped and there were no large-scale establishments here when the Europeans first came to the country; that Indian entrepreneurs were largely from business communities that India's cultural and religious heritage was not conducive to the development of business houses.



Dwijendra Tripathi at Indian Business History: Fallacies of Interpretation, 2007, note Godrej Archives & Tata Central Archives, in the banner.

Source: Prof. Dwijendra Tripathi Special Collections, IIMA Archives

“Guest Speech by Prof. Dwijendra Tripathi, Business Archives in India: Precept and Prospects Proceedings of the National Seminar, organised by School of Archival Studies, National Archives of India, Thursday, February 28, 2008”

(c) GUEST SPEECH :

PROF. DWIJENDRA TRIPATHI considered it as a great honour to be asked to speak on this occasion. His address follows:

“Many things have been said about Business Archives. One thing that occurs to me at this stage is that to think that business organizations should set up their own archives is a very pious hope. Let us, however, not forget that even in countries where business history has made much more strides than in this country, business organizations have not been very enthusiastic about setting up their archives or preserving their own records. I would only, at this stage, share a small incident that happened with one of the largest companies in the world – Standard Oil. When somebody wanted to write the history of Standard Oil, despite its claim to be much more open than it had been, the management of the Standard Oil did not participate, did not open the records to her. This particular lady was a journalist. As it happens, journalists have their own ways of collecting information, using the information that exists and also that does not exist. So, on the basis of some papers that she had and on the basis of her own imagination, she produced a book, highly damaging to the company and then in that case, Standard Oil was prevailed upon to ask some professional historians of the Harvard Business School to come and write their history. Three volumes were produced and then what happened? They destroyed their records saying that since our history has already been written, we do not need these records.

I am giving this example from the very country where business history had taken birth. In our country, despite all efforts that have been made in the last 40 years or so, business history still remains an infant. Where, in this country, wherefore, whether the business organizations would be able to or would be encouraged to set up their own archives, I still do not have much hope about it. Tata's is a very different example, simply because Tata's is a very different House. But, you ask the Ambanis to set up their records, ask the Birlas to set up their archives? Well, I think, you are going to strike against the wall. Therefore, something will have to be thought as to how the records, that are being destroyed wantonly, could be really preserved. That is the crucial matter which deserves attention.

Let me give an example about what can be done and in what direction it can be done? Probably, I think historians, archivists, friends of Business Archives will have to work with the business houses in order to win their confidence and then see probably that might work in that opposite direction. I will share one incident about this. The story is that a House based in Ahmedabad with which I have been very closely working, somehow or the other, began to feel that they could trust me, and in that case told me that they have a huge 84 bundles of records, asking me to what they should do with them. I told them – 'If you do not have anything to hide, give those records to the National Archives of India'. Through that effort, because of that kind of trust that had been established, I played the part of an intermediary and through that kind of mediation, the 84 bundles of records of the Lalbhai Family came to the Archives. I think something of that kind could be done in order to see that at least those records which are important not only for the history or business of the organization concerned but are also important for the history of the country as such, at least those records remain somewhere from where the historian can use, the society can benefit from and from where, I think, the profession can gain".

Prof. Dwijendra Tripathi Interview, March 27, 2018, IIMA Archives Oral History Project

"I had felt that because of the activities undertaken at the IIM, because of the support of the institution, I succeeded in creating an environment for business history in the country and the business history as a branch of historical learning had come to occupy a distinct place in the academia of the profession".

[Question: Was there any effort to start an archive at IIMA before?]

See I'm very happy that business history is attracting a degree of attention now. That was my dream once upon my time. During my time, I was THE business history at IIM. If somebody gave a favorable comment about business history, that was about Tripathi, if somebody condemned business history, that was about Tripathi. If somebody using his position as Director, would like to see that Business History be discontinued from the curriculum, that was for Tripathi. Business History was Tripathi. During my time, some Directors would be more positive...some would be less positive but with those Directors, Tripathi would not go there. If this Introduction is clear, the idea of setting up an archive, the kind of archive you are setting, that idea never came to me. But the idea of setting up a business history archives where records, papers, books, documents, that would be germane to business history studies, could be preserved, and properly shelved. That idea had come to me. Not only that. The idea came to me because of one reason. By some accident, I happened to possess – you know about the Lalbhai family comes from a very 400-year-old- the Mughal Emperors issued so many farmans to give them various privileges. By some accident, some of those farmans and some other papers came to my hand and I didn't know how...I thought that I should set up a archival museum. In fact, if you look at Business Communities of India, the copyright is Business Archives and Museum, excepting the organization structure that one wanted to have, the kind of support one wanted to have I could not create. The result was that I gave those papers to the Lalbhai family and the Lalbhai family gave those documents to their [] pedhi...the idea of setting up an archive, the kind you are doing, that did not come to me, but idea of setting up an archive center of documents, yes. I wanted to do that but could not do that.

Source: IIMA Archives

“He was father of business history, a new discipline, The Indian Express, Pg. 4, September 7, 2018”

‘He was father of business history, a new discipline’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 6

PROFESSOR DWIJENDRA Tripathi, considered as the doyen of Indian business history, passed away in Ahmedabad on Wednesday night. He was 88.

Born in Azamgarh on July 29, 1930, Tripathi had a close and long association with the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A) for almost three decades — from 1964 till 1990. A former faculty member at the prestigious business school, Tripathi was dean for four years and was on the Board

of Governors for three years, till 1990. He was also the General President of the Indian History Congress in 2002-03.

“He is the father of business history in India and gave birth to this discipline which is today adopted as a part of the curriculum at several business schools. Sadly, he left us on Teachers’ Day,” said 58-year-old Jyoti Jumani (58), Tripathi’s long time friend and co-author.

His biography of Kasturbhai Lalbhai (1981) and the Bank of Baroda (1985) and the seminal volumes of Oxford History of Indian Business (2004) and Concise Oxford History of Indian



DWIJENDRA
TRIPATHI
1930-2018

Business (2007) are considered to be landmark literary works in Indian business history.

A post-graduate in History and Economics from University of Allahabad, he went on to pursue his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin. Tripathi

was not only associated with academics but also in sectors like banking. He had briefly worked as the research officer at Historical Research Department of State Bank of India in Mumbai.

His latest research and literary work was Oxford History of Contemporary Indian Business in 2013. He had also launched a new programme Succession Planning for Entrepreneurial Continuity (SPEC) in 1993 at the EDI for training younger members of business families for entrepreneurial endeavours.

While he had taught subjects like Indian Economic and Business History, Indian

Entrepreneurship in Historical Perspective, International Business History even American history and Asian Studies, he had also taught in foreign institutes including University of Utah Salt Lake City as a visiting professor.

Even after retirement, he had an active working life as he held various positions as senior faculty member at Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDI) for six years. He also wrote several papers and monographs on Indian economy and business history.

“He was a great follower of gurukul mode of learning,” said Jumani.

Source: The Indian Express

“First Ever International Conference on Indian Business and Economic History Organised in Memory of Prof. Dwijendra Tripathi, The WIMWIAN, October 2019”

FIRST EVER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDIAN BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC HISTORY ORGANISED IN MEMOERY OF PROF DWIJENDRA TRIPATHI

The conference was organised in memory of Prof Dwijendra Tripathi, on Aug 30-31, 2019. It served as a forum to host research papers, provided a workshop for PhD students and sparked conversations on Business & Economic History. The event was supported by Bank of Baroda and the Kasturbhai Lalbhai Charitable Trust. The conference organizing committee comprised of Prof Chinmay Tumble (Asst. Professor, Economics Area, IIMA), Ms Gita Piramal (Oxford, UK), Mr Tirthankar Roy (London School of Economics, UK) and Mr Douglas Haynes (Dartmouth,

USA).

The keynote address at the event was undertaken by Prof Medha Kudaisya, National University of Singapore on “*The Chequered Career of Developmental Planning in Contemporary India, c. 1944 - 2014: A Historian’s View*” that looked at the evolution of planning from the first Bombay Plan of 1944 (one of the signatories to that being Mr Kasturbhai Lalbhai who also helped build IIMA) to 2014, when the Planning Commission was abolished.

Source: IIMA Archives

“Institute Launches IIMA Archives, The WIMWIAN, October 2019”

INSTITUTE LAUNCHES IIMA ARCHIVES

To highlight the profound history of the Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA), ***IIMA Archives*** was officially launched during the International Conference on Indian Business and Economic History in memory of Prof Dwijendra Tripathi, on Aug 29-31, 2019. The initiative aims to preserve the history of the institute that was founded in 1961 with a collection of digitized and physical documents. The IIMA

Archives features the ‘IIMA Oral History Project’ as a key initiative, aiming to capture the history from the formative years of the institute. It also displays the rich business, economic and management history of India.

The brilliantly curated information is open to the IIMA community and the general public. Detailed information of the IIMA Archives is available on the website at: archives.iima.ac.in

Source: IIMA Archives

Launch of permanent exhibition '*Brick by Brick: A Journey through IIMA Archives*' on November 10, 2021



*Inauguration of the exhibition '*Brick by Brick: A Journey through IIMA Archives*' by Prof. Errol D'Souza, Director IIMA and Prof. Prafull Anubhai (right).*

Source: IIMA Archives

Brick by Brick: A Journey through IIMA Archives, invites you to relive the fascinating journey of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) and experience the stories of its people and objects. The exhibition, designed by the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, is organized around 14 panels and an array of carefully selected items from the collections held by the IIMA Archives. Each panel focuses on one particular theme in IIMA's development. The objects on display include copies of documents and some original items. The displays are spread over two galleries (Galleries 1 and 2) on the ground floor of Dorm 15 in the Main Campus of IIMA.

Launch of 'A Note for the Future, from 2022' campaign on April 12, 2022






'A Note for the Future, from 2022' Campaign by IIMA Archives

Source: IIMA Archives

IIMA Archives launched 'A Note for the Future, from 2022', a campaign designed to connect the IIMA community with its future self. On the day of the 2022 convocation, graduating students, faculty, staff, and other stakeholders were asked to write out notes to themselves by hand and drop them off at the Archives. These notes will be released in 2047, to coincide with the silver jubilee of the graduating batches as well as the 100th anniversary of our independence.

Launch of 'Brick by Brick', a quarterly newsletter of the IIMA Archives on September 30, 2022


BRICK *by* BRICK
A Newsletter of the IIMA Archives
VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1 SEPTEMBER 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

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- The Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Museum, Ahmedabad
- News and Events

IIMA ARCHIVES
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WEBSITE: <https://archives.iima.ac.in/>

Source: IIMA Archives

IIMA Archives launched 'Brick by Brick', a quarterly newsletter of the IIMA Archives on September 30, 2022. The newsletter will be brought out at the end of every quarter. This first issue offered fascinating insights into the rich history of IIMA: Who were the key early institution builders? How did the campus become an iconic site? What sports activities did our students enjoy in the early days? Did the institute really begin in a rented house? Do our students care for our heritage? In addition, in line with our efforts to network with other heritage-related organizations, we featured the Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Museum, a landmark of Ahmedabad city.

Testimonies of some of our foreign Research Scholars at IIMA Archives

"My name is Douglas Haynes. I am the son of Warren Haynes, who was at IIM Ahmedabad in 1963-5 (he was a representative of the Harvard Business School). I later became a historian of India, and have written books on the history of Surat, on small-scale producers and on advertising in Western India before 1940. Some years ago, I became convinced that the impact of the IIMs was a terribly understudied subject in Indian history; so I decided to return to Ahmedabad and begin a project on the history of IIMA and the role of its early alums (pre-1980) in Indian business and society. I have already done lot of work in the Archives (recently doing research on the yearbooks) but I am now increasingly focusing on what alums did after leaving the institute. If you had an association with IIM before 1980 of any sort, I would love to hear from you at Douglas.E.Haynes@dartmouth.edu."

By Prof. Douglas E. Haynes, Professor of History, Dartmouth College, USA.

Source: Brick by Brick: A Newsletter of the IIMA Archives, Vol. 1, Issue 1, September, 2022

"I do research on how executive education as a new concept for developing top executives spread as an international phenomenon from the US after World War II. In India, this idea was expressed in the 3-tier programme (3-TP) soon after IIMA was established. This programme was unique compared to the executive programmes at Harvard Business School, which was strongly involved in establishing IIMA. The documents I studied at IIMA Archive gave me new insights into the role that Indian actors played in transforming the American concept of executive education to a unique and sustainable concept that matched the Indian context."

By Prof. Rolv Petter Amdam, Professor of Department of Strategy and Entrepreneurship, BI Norwegian Business School, Oslo, Norway.

Source: Brick by Brick: A Newsletter of the IIMA Archives, Vol. 1, Issue 2, December, 2022

Launch of 'Not Yet 25: IIMA through Pranlal Patel's lens, 1967-1985' a pictorial exhibition on November 10, 2022



Shri Anand Patel (Shri Pranlal Patel's son),
at 'Not Yet 25'



Shri Vivek Matthai (Prof. Ravi Matthai's son),
at 'Not Yet 25'



Prof. Dhiman Bhadra, at 'Not Yet 25'

Source: IIMA Archives

On November 10, 2021, IIMA Archives celebrated sixty years of IIMA with the permanent exhibition '*Brick by Brick*'. On November 10, 2022, to mark the first anniversary of '*Brick by Brick*', IIMA Archives held a temporary exhibition (November 10 to November 17, 2022), '*Not Yet 25: IIMA through Pranlal Patel's lens, 1967-1985*', of photos by Shri Pranlal Patel, a renowned photographer of Ahmedabad. The exhibition helped the IIMA community relive the fascinating journey of IIMA over the first 25 years of its history. Visitors experienced the stories of not just Louis Kahn's dormitories and classrooms, but also of Anant Raje's creations.

Launch of IIMA Archives Monograph Series, '*Not Yet 25: IIMA in Louis Kahn's Designs and Pranlal Patel's Images*', January 2023



'Not Yet 25: IIMA in Louis Kahn's Designs and Pranlal Patel's Images', by Prof. Vijaya Sherry Chand.

Source: IIMA Archives

On January 20, 2023, the IIMA Archives launched its Monograph series to highlight the lesser-known stories about the development of the institute. This series will be an invaluable resource for students, researchers and alumni who are interested in learning more about IIMA's history and its impact on the business world.

The first volume of the series '*Not Yet 25: IIMA in Louis Kahn's Designs and Pranlal Patel's Images*' by Prof. Vijaya Sherry Chand, the then Chairperson of IIMA Archives, provides an insightful look into the history, architecture and design of IIMA through the lens of renowned architect Louis Kahn's iconic designs and photographer Pranlal Patel's powerful images of the first 25 years of IIMA's life. Why is the courtyard (that has the LKP) open at one end? Why do we have the odd Type IIA as well as Type II houses? Why did the institute not want a lake around the outer row of dorms (1,2,3,6,9,12,15,18,17,16)? These and other questions are answered in the volume--you will also find a reference to a question that is usually not asked: Why did we get a reinforced exposed brick masonry design? The soft copy is available here

[Link: https://archives.iima.ac.in/public/monograph/pdf/1_Not_Yet_25.pdf]

Launch of 'An Institution in the Making: IIMA through the lens of Pranlal Patel', an exhibition presented by IIMA Archives in collaboration with Arthshila Ahmedabad on April 1, 2023



Prof. Amit Karna, Prof. Anchal Jain, and CCBP Students at Arthshila.

Source: IIMA Archives and Arthshila Ahmedabad

'An Institution in the Making: IIMA through the lens of Pranlal Patel,' a photography exhibition presented by the IIMA Archives in collaboration with Arthshila Ahmedabad. This exhibition provided a unique opportunity for viewers to witness an iconic project captured over a period of time by an iconic photographer.

Collaboration of IIMA Archives with Gujarat State Archives (GSA) on the topic of business & trade in Gujarat (India)



Ashwini Kumar, I.A.S
Principal Secretary



SYCAD/102023/324
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Date : 23/05/2023

Dear Vijaya Sherry Chand ji,

The Gujarat State Archives (GSA) is pleased to collaborate with the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad Archives on the exhibition titled 'Gujarat's Maritime Trade: Glimpses from Gujarat State Archives'. The exhibition presents selected archival records from the Jamnagar and Porbandar offices of GSA, and aims at providing some glimpses of the sea trade that the princely states of Nawanagar (Jamnagar) and Porbandar engaged in during the five decades preceding Indian independence.

Established in December 1971, the Gujarat Archives, Gandhinagar (known as the Gujarat State Archives since December 12, 2000) has taken administrative charge of the regional record offices at Rajkot, Vadodara, Junagadh, Porbandar, Jamnagar, and Bhavnagar. Our collection boasts an extensive array of rare books, pamphlets, diaries, private archives of eminent personalities, photographs, graphs, figures and diagrams, files, registers, maps, recorded cassettes, and microfilm rolls. With over 2.6 million archival records and more than 82,000 rare books in our archival library, we have amassed more than 145 million pages of archival records. These records include those of the Governor's office, Secretariat, administrative, revenue, trade, port, legal, finance, education, panchayat and housing, police, revenue tribunal, prohibition and excise, museum, statistics, various district records, palace records, princely states, gazette, and gazetteers. We are proud to announce that over 75 percent of our records have been digitized, and we plan to make them available in digital form soon. The first phase of this project, consisting of 50,000 files, will be made public through a pilot project.

We plan to extend our collaboration with IIMA Archives to other digital and physical exhibitions on the topic of business and trade in Gujarat. These are sure to pique the interest of historians, researchers, students, and the general public alike.

Yours Sincerely,

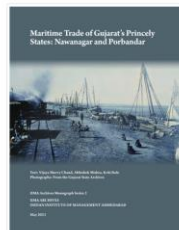

(Ashwini Kumar, IAS)
Principal Secretary,

To,
Prof. Vijaya Sherry Chand,
Chairperson, IIM Archives,
Indian Institute of Management,
Ahmedabad

Launch of a Digital Exhibition and Monograph 'MARITIME TRADE OF GUJARAT'S PRINCELY STATES: NAWANAGAR AND PORBANDAR' in collaboration with Gujarat State Archives on May 29, 2023





MARITIME TRADE OF GUJARAT'S PRINCELY STATES: NAWANAGAR AND PORBANDAR

The IIMA Archives and Gujarat State Archives (GSA) bring to you 'Maritime Trade of Gujarat's Princely States: Nawanagar and Porbandar', an exhibition of archival records from the Jamnagar and Porbandar offices of GSA that provide glimpses of the sea trade of the princely states of Nawanagar (Jamnagar) and Porbandar during the five decades preceding Indian independence.



[Click here to see the Monograph](#)

Exhibits

<p>Exhibit - 1 IIMA Archives & Gujarat State Archives</p> <p>The IIMA Archives and Gujarat State Archives (GSA) bring to you 'Maritime Trade of Gujarat's Princely States: Nawanagar and Porbandar', an exhibition of selected archival records from the Jamnagar and Porbandar offices of GSA that provide glimpses of the sea trade of the princely states of Nawanagar (Jamnagar) and Porbandar during the five decades preceding Indian independence.</p>  <p>Exhibit - 1 IIMA Archives & Gujarat State Archives</p>	<p>Exhibit - 2A Glimpses of Bedi and Porbandar Ports</p> <p>Here is a glimpse of Bedi Port in Nawanagar. The date of the photograph is not known, but the cargo gives us an indication. There are some trucks that are being unloaded—Ford trucks, and cars, were being imported by the late 1920s. More importantly, there is a case with 'William Wood' labelling—this was a car that was produced only between 1923 and 1925. The photo must probably date to that time and was included in the 1930 publication Jan the Great.</p>  <p>Exhibit - 2A Glimpses of Bedi and Porbandar Ports</p>	<p>Exhibit - 2B Glimpses of Bedi and Porbandar Ports</p> <p>An unidentified port in Porbandar (date unknown). Note the steam engine and goods carriage. A 'barrow' (smaller boat) of about 8 tons is in the landing area of the Porbandar port was built in 1906, two years after the railway entered Porbandar. The photo is probably of that extension line. Other features such as the design of the country vessels indicate a probable late 19th century or early 20th century date.</p>  <p>Exhibit - 2B Glimpses of Bedi and Porbandar Ports</p>	<p>Exhibit - 3 Ports of Nawanagar, 1930</p> <p>Here is a map showing some of Nawanagar State's 22 ports. These were of varying sizes and significance. The most prominent were Jamnagar, Surendra, and Bedi. Bedi, Nawa Bunder, Bedi, Laxha, Prudra, and Bishipada were minor ports. The Administration Report of 1912-13 has the first mention of Bedi in Jamnagar, which was to later become a crucial port.</p>  <p>Exhibit - 3 Ports of Nawanagar, 1930</p>
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Source: IIMA Archives

The IIMA Archives and Gujarat State Archives (GSA) presented 'Maritime Trade of Gujarat's Princely States: Nawanagar and Porbandar,' a digital exhibition of selected archival records from the Jamnagar and Porbandar offices of GSA, pertaining to the sea trade of these two states during the five decades preceding Indian independence. Gujarat has a rich history of maritime trade, which has played a significant role in shaping the state's culture. The exchange of goods, people, and ideas, as well as the trading networks that extended both westward and eastward, have all contributed to the Gujarat we know today. While the maritime trade of British India has attracted scholarly attention, that of the princely states remains understudied. This exhibition, and the accompanying monograph shed light on the seaborne trade of Nawanagar and Porbandar. Nawanagar covers the present-day Jamnagar district of Gujarat, and Porbandar which was adjacent to Nawanagar is today covered by Porbandar district. The physical version of the exhibition will be inaugurated later.

Please visit the digital exhibition [Link: https://archives.iima.ac.in/exhibitions/Maritime-Trade-Of-Gujarats-Princely_States.html]

The soft copy of the monograph is available here

[Link: https://archives.iima.ac.in/public/monograph/pdf/2_Maritime_Trade_of_Gujarats_Princely_States.pdf]

“When dhotis were exported as saris to defeat ban in Sudan, The Times of India, Pg. 2, May 31, 2023”

EXHIBITION AT IIMA OFFERS GLIMPSES INTO WORKINGS OF PORTS BEFORE INDEPENDENCE

When dhotis were exported as saris to defeat ban in Sudan

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Major P C Hailey, the political agent of the Western Kathiawar Agency in October 1945 wrote to the authorities in Porbandar about a man from Dhoraji, based in Sudan, who was trying to pass off dhotis as saris to circumvent the ban on dhotis from India in Sudan.

Information has been received to the effect that as there are restrictions on the sale of dhoties from India in the Sudan one Chotalal Sobhagchand, PO Box 61, Port Sudan, Africa, has devised a scheme to consign dhoties showing them as saris in invoices and to shop them from

Kathiawar Ports... who will probably attempt to effect shipments of dhoties from Kathiawar and Cutch Ports in this manner’ states Hailey’s letter, urging the Darbar of Porbandar to look into the matter.

This is one of the nuggets from history at the ‘Maritime Trade of Gujarat’s Princely States’ exhibition at IIM Ahmedabad (IIM-A), which has been organized in association with Gujarat State Archives (GSA). The exhibition has images and archival records from Jamnagar (then known as Nawanagar) and Porbandar from five decades preceding India’s independence. The exhibit panels are also available in digital format on the IIMA Archives website.

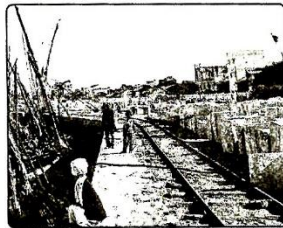


SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN SUGAR IMPORTS IN NAWANAGAR STATE: The period between 1906-07 and 1930-31 saw a major shift in import trends. Sugar accounted for 2,319 tonnes in 1906-07, but rose to 1.21 lakh tonnes in 1930-31. The increase was due to the advantages offered by Bedi Port, which drew sugar from Java (Indonesia). Import of foodgrains reduced from 12,839 tonnes to 10,701 tonnes in the same period.

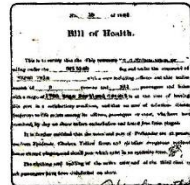


WHEN STONES FROM PORBANDAR TRAVELLED TO ‘MADRAS’ AND ‘RANGOON’:

The Imperial Gazetteer of 1881 mentioned the famous ‘Porbandar Stone’, limestone quarried from the region, especially Adityana. The stone was sent as far as Madras (Chennai) and Rangoon (Yangon, Myanmar) apart from Mumbai (Bombay). The first two decades of the 20th century saw a lot of Porbandar stone being exported.



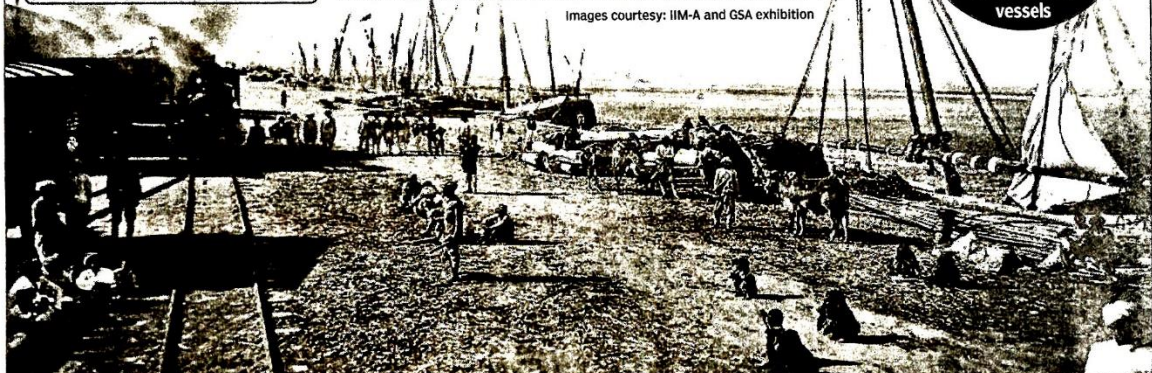
SHADOW OF THE PANDEMIC: A ‘Bill of Health’ in the exhibition shows the practices at ports in 1946. The document bears the ship’s name, nationality, captain’s name, passenger and cargo manifests along with details of health check-ups carried out to certify that crew and passengers were disinfected at the shores for all epidemic diseases except smallpox. It is important to note that India had seen outbreaks of plague and influenza in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



SS JAMNAGAR GAVE IMPETUS TO TRADE: Before the emergence of major ports in Kutch, Kutch was served by ports in the Nawanagar state, the old name for Jamnagar. The state operated SS Jamnagar, a steamship built in the UK, from 1924 to 1940, for both passengers and cargo. It operated between the Bedi and Salaya ports and had a passenger service between Rozi and Kandla. It was advertised as ‘the cheapest, fastest, and safest route across the Gulf of Cutch’ in advertisements.

Images courtesy: IIM-A and GSA exhibition

An unidentified port in Porbandar state in late 19th or early 20th century showing harbour extension railway line & row of vessels



Source: The Times of India