

THE ENVIRONMENT LAWS ARE NOT RESPECTED IN THE STATE AND GUJARAT GOVERNMENT IS ACTIVE IN THE “ENCOUNTER” OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.

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Government of Gujarat is suffering from investment phobia. The euphoria created by the investment flooding in to Gujarat and lakhs of new jobs likely to be created we would like to draw the attention that this is only one side of the story. Any civil society should have ‘land use’ policy because land can not be produced and you can not produce grains and vegetables without land.

The success story of the two digit growth has masked the several digit realities of loss of livelihood, land acquisition, displacement and permanent loss of natural resources, which are treated as free goods in this process. The investment figure without the displacement and depletion of natural resources figure and the employment figure without loss of livelihood does not make sense. No wise person would talk about the income without talking the cost of acquiring that income or wealth.

The following facts expose the fake claims about the so called development in Gujarat.

- On one hand, the quantity of groundwater in Gujarat has reached at critical stage and on the other hand, it is also being contaminated continuously. The groundwater of about 14 districts and about 74 talukas of Gujarat are critically affected by pollution. Even if we take the routine parameter like Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), Total Hardness (TS), Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), and some heavy metal like Cadmium, Copper, Lead, Mercury, Iron etc. the condition of the groundwater of Gujarat is very critical that requires immediate attention as the rural population is deprived of the very basic need of safe drinking water and clean water for their animals and crops.
- Ahmedabad, Daskroi, Mehmedavad, Vadodara, Ankleshwar, Bardoli, Choryasi, Kamrej, Mangrol, Olpad, Palsana, Valod, Vyara, Navsari, Sanand, Dhoraji, Jetpur, Okha Mandal etc talukas are critically polluted. Amreli, Jambusar, Junagad, Mandvi, Kalol, Morvi, Upleta, Mahuva, Chorila, Dhangadhar, Limdi, Bansda, Umbergaon etc talukas are found moderately polluted.¹ If we talk about Vatva to Vapi - Golden Corridor it is clear that 80% of the groundwater is contaminated and it has reached the irreversible level.

Critical pollutants in the Critically polluted talukas

Critically polluted talukas	Critical pollutants
Golden Corridor	
Ahmedabad	COD, Cd
Daskroi	COD, Hg
Mehmedavad	Colour, TDS, COD, Total coliforms, <i>E. coli</i> , Hg
Vadodara	Colour, Hardness, NO ₃ , Total coliforms, <i>E. coli</i> , Cr, Fe, Pb
Ankleshwar	Colour, TDS, Hardness, Cd, Cu, Pb, Mn, Hg, POP
Bardoli	TDS, Hardness, Total coliforms, <i>E. coli</i> , Cr
Choryasi	TDS, Hardness, Cl, Total coliforms, <i>E. coli</i> , Cr, Fe, Mn
Kamrej, Mangrol, Valod	TDS, Hardness, Total coliforms, <i>E. coli</i> , Cr
Olpad	TDS, Hardness, Cl, Total coliforms, <i>E. coli</i> , Cr, Mn

¹ State Environmental Action Programme - Industrial Pollution Phase III – Sectoral Report, Volume - I, Gujarat Ecology Commission, April 2002

Critical pollutants in the Critically polluted talukas

Critically polluted talukas	Critical pollutants
Palsana	TDS, Hardness, DO, Total coliforms, <i>E. coli</i> , Fe
Vyara	Total coliforms, <i>E. coli</i> , Cr
Navsari	COD, Total coliforms, <i>E. coli</i> , Cr
Pardi	Hardness, COD, Total coliforms, <i>E. coli</i> , Hg
Other areas	
Sanand	TDS, COD, Total coliforms, <i>E. coli</i>
Dhoraji	TDS, Hardness, Cl, COD
Jetpur	Colour, TDS, Hardness, COD, Cu, Pb
Okha mandal	COD, Salinity
Lakhpat	Salinity
Moderately polluted talukas	Critical pollutants
Amreli, Jambusar, Junagad, Kalol, Morvi, Upleta, Dhangadhar, Limdi, Bansda	COD
Mahuva	COD, Hardness
Chotila	NO ₃ , COD

- The problem of industrial pollution saw limelight first in the nineties, when the issue gained momentum among urban entities about a decade after the Bhopal disaster. Due to pressure from various communities and environmental organizations, courts began intervening in cases to ultimately build the waste “treatment facilities” that exist today. These actions, which were championed by the media, created an entire culture of complaisance that “something” had been done about the pollution. There was a collective urban sentiment that citizens were protected from industries because of the mitigation infrastructure. Despite the “Polluter Pays” principle, even in the nineties the then developing common effluent treatment plants (CETPs) were highly supported by public monies; 25% of the cost was state subsidy, 25% central subsidy, 30% loans from financial institute, and 20% directly paid by the industry. In essence half of the proposed solution to the pollution generated for private profit was funded by the general public. Moreover this happened concurrent to state withdrawal from its social responsibilities, such as education, health care and transportation. It seems paradoxical that the mounting laissez faire sentiment allowed the state to intervene on the behalf of industries – which come to exist by virtue of concentrated resources and power – but not for the welfare of the common masses.
- Adding insult to tax-payers' injury, this vast infrastructure is neither maintained nor used properly. Despite crores of rupees investment, the treatment plants and pipelines are so dilapidated that they are rendered dysfunctional. Pollution mitigation infrastructure is as neglected as the pollutants themselves, causing a mutually reinforcing stalemate in the problem of pollution control. Yet, instead of becoming stricter with environmental clearances given to new and expanding potentially polluting industries, the Center is taking steps to make the process more lenient so that India can march forward to “develop” without obstruction. Instead of focusing on the infrastructure that we do have and making it functional, the state seems obsessed with building new projects that tend to fail just like their predecessors.
- The FETP, Ankleshwar was built by the sweat of tax payers. Out of a total project cost of Rs 131.43 crores, the industries paid only Rs 21.75 crores (about 17%); the rest of the tab (Rs 109 crores) was picked up the Central Government, Gujarat Government, and Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) - all of which ultimately draw from public monies. It is a familiar story: the profits are distributed privately, but the institutional costs and

environmental burden are borne by another segment of the population.

- **FETP was inaugurated by Mr. Narendra Modi and on page 132-133 a photo of the “Common Effluent Treatment Plant” of Vapi, a facility which is not able to fulfill the environmental norms prescribed by Gujarat Pollution Control Board since many years has been published in the book of Mr. Narendra Modi ‘CONVENIENT ACTION – Gujarat’s Response To Challenges of Climate Change’.**
- **Book by Mr. Narendra Modi - ‘CONVENIENT ACTION – Gujarat’s Response To Challenges of Climate Change’ has conveniently ignored the level of irreversible environmental degradation in the State of Gujarat.**
- **Even after such huge investment by the state, many of the CETPs including Vapi, FETP - Ankleshwar, Panoli, Vatva, Odhav, Narol, etc. are not able to meet norms. And because of these ground realities MoEF ordered that no expansions and no new industries can legally be sited in the critically polluted areas.**
- **The information dated 27th July 2011 which we received from Central Pollution Control Board; Zonal office located at Vadodara under the RTI. The latest report of CPCB of June 2011 clearly indicates that Vapi, Ankleshwar, Panoli, Vatva’s CETPs and FETP, Ankleshwar of Gujarat are still not able to meet the GPCB norms. Even Effluent Channel Project Ltd. of Vadodara’s J – Point (Effluent Discharge Point at Mahi Estuary of Industries of Vadodara and Bharuch District) effluent is also not able to meet the GPCB norms since long.**
- **The effluent discharge at Tadgam Sarigam Pipeline, from Vapi CETP, from FETP, Ankleshwar, ECP, Vadodara, and CETPs of Ahmedabad be stopped as the effluent is not able to meet the norms prescribed by Gujarat Pollution Control Board.**
- The environment laws are not respected in the state and Gujarat Government is active in the “encounter” of the environmental laws.
- The Gulf of Khambhat has suffered severe degradation in a short span of 25-30 years resulting in rapid decline in mangrove cover. The 7.45% area of Gulf of Khambhat was salt affected in 1960 but rose to 54% in 1984, 57.6% in 1986 and 64% in 1993, now due to heavy industrial effluent discharge it about to reach 70%. Moreover, this will not just salt affected area but it will be salt + industrial pollutant affected area.
- Development-Induced Displacement in Gujarat² 1947-2004 report prepared by Dr. Lancy Lobo and Shashikant Kumar of Centre for Culture and Development clearly indicates that there are 4,00,000 households displaced and affected in Gujarat during 57 years of Independence, amounting to 5% of the total population of Gujarat from developmental projects such as water resource related, transport and communications, industries, mines, defence, sanctuaries, human resource related, government offices, tourism and so on. This report further indicates that a total of 33,00,000 hectares of land has been acquired during 1947-2004 as computed from 80,000 Gazette notifications of the government of Gujarat and from Land Acquisition Departments from 25 Collectorates through RTI Act. This figure does not include the land acquired and people affected by the most controversial project Sardar Sarovar Dam [Narmada]. This figure of displaced also does not include the people who were dependent on land for their livelihood but were not the owner of the land. Thus real figure of loss of livelihood may even cross the figure of 50,00,000.
- Vibrant Gujarat summits are talking about huge investment but are silent on the issue of land acquisition and loss of livelihood because of the land “acquisition”.

² Land Acquisition, Displacement and Resettlement in Gujarat: 1947-2004 by Dr. Lancy Lobo and Shashikant Kumar, SAGE Publications Pvt. Ltd.

- The water from Narmada was meant for the drought-affected areas of Kutch and Saurashtra but in practice number of Industries and cities were given and Government is planning to give water at the rate of Rs. 10/- per 1,000 liters. Among the five major industries that get water at throwaway prices are Apollo Tyres in Waghodia, Vadodara, General Motors in Halol, Panchmahals, power plant of Ahmedabad Electricity Company (AEC) and a GEB plant in Gandhinagar. The list is very long. Now Baroda dairy is selling the Narmada Water in bottle. Initially, around nine Million Acre Foot (MAF) water is allocated for drinking purpose, 7.94 MAF for irrigation and 0.20 for industrial use. The SSNNL has now increased the per cent of water to be supplied for industrial purpose to 1 MAF. The SSNNL project is primarily supposed to benefit districts like Saurashtra and Kutch; it is not for commodification.

Economic Growth versus Human Development and Social indicators

In spite of 'above average economic growth' in terms of State Domestic Product only 48 % of the Human Development goals are achieved. The expenditure for social sector by 18 large States of India, Gujarat stands 17th. (Monthly Bulletin of Reserve Bank of India, February 2007)

Between 1996 to 2006 Gujarat is lagged behind in Health and Education indicators from 6th rank to 8th and 10 ranks respectively. (www.indianexpress.com/.../modis-development-hype-hits-ngos-as-funds.../432592/)

Gujarat stands 14th in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) for 0-1 year and 13th for 0-5 years. 47% malnourishment among 0-5 years old children, 42% children reported low height than normal and 47.4% reported low weight due to malnourishment. (National Family Health Survey III 2007.)

About 67% women are anemic and of them 80.1% of girls aged between 6 to 35 months are anemic.

Global index on hunger reports India with 66th rank, Gujarat is ranking 69th, which is actually as low as Haiti in Africa (International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), 2008. see www.ifpri.org)

From the students of class 5 only 59.6% Students could read textbook of class 1, 40% could read the time in the clock and 61% could count money in rural Gujarat. This is lower than Orissa, Bihar and Rajasthan. (Annual Status of Education Report 2008 (ASER)).

Gujarat ranks the lowest on environment sustainability index, i.e. 27th; 14 out of 19 districts, 14 districts have reported serious pollution level in ground water. (Environment Sustainability Index for Indian States, 2007, Centre for Development Finance Institute for Financial Management & Research, Chennai)

Gujarat ranks 14th in gender equality and 11th on patriarchal attitudes and behaviour. (Hirway Indira and Darshini Mahadevia, 2004. Gujarat Human Development Report, Gandhi Labour Institute.)

Now we do not have declared emergency but undeclared permanent emergency.

The wider the process of economic globalisation, the narrower the circle of those who benefit from it. The free, global market has begun to appear less and less free. Both trade and investment seem to be governed by more and more complicated laws and procedures in favor of monstrously rich economic and financial corporations – the real beneficiaries of the free global market. With the passing of each day, these unaccountable corporations, with unlimited life, size and power, are taking ever-increasing control over economies – largely to the detriment of the individual consumer, worker, neighbor and citizen. One can find much evidence that corporate-led globalisation negatively affects the environment, financial stability, equity, security, food safety, health and cultural diversity of millions of people.