

# *Glimpses of VAPI*

*Through eyes of VPS*





Daman Ganga Weir



Ambamata Temple



GIDC Police Station



Vapi Town Police Station



Vapi Town Post Office



Vapi Nagar Palika



Vapi Railway Station



### **Brief Introduction /History:**

Vapi is a fast growing city and is one of the biggest industrial complexes in India. Vapi is a city and a municipality in Valsad district in the state of Gujarat. It is situated on the banks of Damanganga river in southern Gujarat. Vapi falls under the taluka administration of Pardi. It is the largest city in Valsad district. The industrial township of Vapi holds its place of importance as the largest industrial area in Asia in terms of small- scale industries, dominated by chemical industry plants, along with their unfortunate hazards. The town originally belonged to the community of Desai (Anavil Brahmins) and is now a very important industrial town. It has been ranked 4<sup>th</sup> among most polluted places in the world.

State	: Gujarat
District	: Valsad
Population	: 1,21,395 approx.
Languages	: Gujarati, Hindi
PIN	: 396 191/396 195
Telephone Code	: +91 260
Vehicle Registration	: GJ15
Website	: <a href="http://vapi.municipality.com">vapi.municipality.com</a>
Time Zone	: IST (UTC + 5:30)

### **Geographical Features of Vapi:**

Around 28 kms south of the district headquarters city of Valsad, it is surrounded by the Union Territories of Daman and Dadra Nagar Haveli to the east. Vapi is about 170 km north of Mumbai and 90 km south of Surat, both accessible via the modernised national highway. Economic and industrial growth in recent decades has blurred the physical boundaries, and the small stretch of roughly 21 km of Daman-Vapi-Silvassa has almost become a monolith.

National Highway 8 bisects the city, creating east and west parts of the town. The western part being the original location of the town and the eastern part consisting mainly of the industries and the newly constructed residential areas.

The Arabian Sea, at the delta of Daman Ganga, is about 7km to the west.

### **Climate:**

The city has tropical weather and enjoys three distinct seasons mild winter, moderate summer, and heavy monsoon with rainfall ranging from 100 inches to 120 inches per annum.

In addition to the old town, some of the other main residential areas and suburbs that make Vapi a town are Godal Nagar, Geeta Nagar, Gunjan, Chanod colony, Vapi town, Kachigam, Dungara, Haria Park, Chala and also upcoming Balitha and Salvav with many other small areas.

### **Rivers:**

North : Dhobikhadi, Bhilkhadi, Kolale

South : Damanganga

### **Important Landmarks:**

- Dabhel Check Post
- Low Price
- Reliance Fresh
- Hanuman Mandir Town
- Jain Derasar, Town
- ST Bus Depot
- Morarji Circle
- Raymond's Circle
- Gunjan Char Rasta
- GIDC Garden
- VIA Char Rasta
- Amba Mata Mandir
- Gold Coin Circle
- Mohid Tower
- Rathod Motors
- Sardar Chowk
- Rotary Circle
- Jalaram Mandir

### **Industrial Zone:**

Proximity to the larger cities of Mumbai, Surat, Vadodara and Ahmedabad coupled with liberal Government policy, has helped Vapi and surrounding areas attain their current level of industrial growth. The "Vapi Industrial Estate" was started by G.I.D.C. in 1967, and has spread to 11.4 km<sup>2</sup> and houses over 1400 industries, the majority of which are small-scale units (SSIs) ] Textile giants such as Alok Industries, Welspun Terry Towels, Century Textiles, GHCL and Raymonds Limited have strong presence in Vapi and its nearby areas. United phosphorus, Arti Chemicals, Themis Chemicals, Micro Inks Limited operate their manufacturing plants in Vapi. Today, about 70% of the total industries in the township are chemical plants, mainly for chemical distillation and the production of pesticides, dyes, dye intermediaries and paints.

Other major industries include paper, packaging, plastics, rubber, pharmaceuticals, textiles, wood, computer hardware and software, engineering workshops, glass, and food products. Another striking feature of Vapi is the Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP). This is the largest of its kind in Asia and one of India's biggest effluent treatment plants in terms of capacity, treating the pollutants from these industries before the effluent is released into the river. The CETP is run by Vapi Waste and Effluent Management Company, promoted by the Vapi Industries Association (also known as "paper hub")

### **Transportation :**

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Vapi has a good railway connectivity with the northern & southern states of India. Most of the trains passing on the western line halt at Vapi station. GSRTC provides a good Road Connectivity to the major cities of the neighboring states. Taxis & Auto-rickshaws are also easily available for internal transport.

#### ***Some of the important trains that pass through Vapi are :***

- 12953/54 August Kranti Rajdhani Express
- 19019/20 Dehradun Express
- 19023/24 Firozpur Janata Express
- 11095/96 Ahimsa Express
- 19143/44 Lok Shakti Express
- 19707/08 Aravali Express
- 14707/08 Ranakpur Express
- 12921/22 Flying Raneer
- 19131/32 Kutch Express
- 12009/10 Ahmedabad Shatabdi Express
- 19011/12 Gujarat Express
- 12935/36 Bandra Surat Intercity Express
- 12931/32 Ahmedabad Mumbai Central Double Decker Express
- 19023/24 Firozpur Janata Express
- 19115/16 Sayajinagari Express

## Medical Facilities :

- Haria Rotary Hospital (0260-2430206)
- Ashirwad Hospital (0260-2461550, 2463501)
- Shivam Hospital (0260-2438333)
- Shelby Hospital (0260-3095867)
- Janseva Hospital (0260- 2460081)
- Parvarish Children's Hospital (0260-2465799)
- Jeevandip Surgical Hospital (0260-2433053)
- Nadakarni's 21st Century Hospital (0260-2429351)
- Shivam Eye Care (0260-2373615)
- Shraddha Hospital (0260-2464864)
- Aadit Hospital (0260-2464747)
- Aayush hospital (0260-2426040)
- Surya hospital (0260-2423052)
- Nitya Hospital (0260- 2427733, 2996733)
- Bhavini Hospital (0260-2431002)
- Naik Dental Clinic (0260-2425651)
- Soham Dental Clinic (0260-2461512)
- Maa Maternity (0260-2420450)
- Harsha Diagnostics & Dentists (9909019324)
- Urmil Hospital (0260-2461369)



Haria Rotary Hospital



Janseva Hospital

### **Educational Facilities :**

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- Vapi Public School, International Campus, Vatar (CISCE)  
(The first ICSE and ISC School in Vapi)
- Vidyakunj Higher Secondary School
- Smt. Sandraben Shroff Gyandham High School
- Swaminarayan Gurukul Chala
- Upasana Lions English Medium School
- L. G. Haria Multipurpose High School
- R.G.A.S. High School
- Fellowship Mission School
- Kelkar Vaze Marathi Vidyalaya
- Modern English High School
- Saraswat International Academy
- Ashadham (Mother of hope) High School
- St. Mary's School
- St. Francis High School
- St. Xavier's High School
- Kumar Shala High School
- Boon Max High School

### **Colleges :**

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- GIDC ROFEL Business School
- ROFEL Arts and Commerce College
- GIDC Rajju Shroff Rofel Institute of Management Studies College
- ROFEL Shri G. M. Bilakhiya College of Applied Science
- ROFEL Shri G. M. Bilakhiya College of Pharmacy
- Smt. Sandra Shroff ROFEL College of Nursing
- R. K. Desai College of Arts and Science
- KBS College of Commerce and Medical Technology
- Purush Adhyapan PTC College
- Rtn. Chhotubhai Dahyabhai Patel Technical School

### **Library :**

- Vapi has a small municipal library in Vapi Town.
- Vapi Public Library run by Little Angels Education Trust, Muktanand Marg, Chala.

### **Food :**

Along with traditional Gujarati cuisine Restaurants also serve delicious Panjabi, South Indian, Rajasthani & Continental.

### ***Few of the prominent Lodging & Dining places:***

- Fortune Galaxy Hotel
- Dan Hotel
- Prime Hotel
- Bamboos Restaurant
- Amiras Restaurant
- Palm Regency
- Sarvoday Hotel
- Asopalov Hotel
- Navjivan
- Pizza Hut
- Baskin and Robins
- Sarvottam Hotel
- Hotel Green View
- Papillon Hotel
- Hotel Apple Inn
- Woodland Hotel
- Dominos Pizza Restaurant
- Food Inn Hotel
- Apex Inn Hotel
- Toral Restaurant
- La Carte
- Monica Ice cream Parlour
- Natural Ice Cream
- Giriraj Hotel

### **Entertainment - Theaters :**

- Cine Park Multiplex
- Shree and Jayshree Cinema
- Gunjan Big Cinema
- Vaishali Theater



Fortune Galaxy Hotel



Shree & Jayshree Multiplex

### **Banking Facility :**

- Punjab National Bank, Vapi
- HDFC Bank ,Chala Road
- Bank of Baroda
- State Bank Of Patiala
- Saraswat Bank
- Bank of Maharashtra
- Andra Bank
- Indian Bank
- Axis Bank
- Dena Bank
- Bank Of India
- Catholic Syrian Bank
- City Bank
- ICICI Bank Cross Road,
- Cosmos Bank
- State Bank Of India
- Kotak Mahindra Bank
- Sardar Bhiladwala Bank
- Punjab National Bank
- Federal Bank
- Yes Bank
- Canara Bank
- Oriental Bank Of Commerce

### **List of NGO's :**

- Anavil Seva Mandal, Vapi
- Anavil Yuvak Mandal, Vapi
- Bharat Swabhiman Samaj, Valsad
- Bihar Mitra Mandal Charitable Trust
- Ganeshwadi Mahila Mandal
- Gaud Brahman Samaj , Vapi(Daman, Silvasa)
- Giants Group Of Vapi
- Gopi Mandal, Vapi
- Hariyana Samaj, Vapi
- Inner wheel Club of Vapi
- International Society for Krishna Conscience (ISCON), Vapi
- Jain Samaj, Vapi
- Jain Society Group – B.S.F. , Vapi
- JCI, Vapi
- Laghu Udyog Bharati, Valsad Jilla
- Leuwa Patidar Mahila Mandal, Vapi
- Lions Club of Vapi
- Maa Foundation , Vapi
- Maa Meldi Ekta Dhaam, Vapi
- Maharashtra Mahila Mandal, Vapi
- Maharashtra Mitra Mandal, Vapi
- Mahesana Jilla Pragati Mandal Charitable Trust, Vapi
- Maheshwari Mahila Mandal, Valsad, Daman, Silvasa, Vapi
- Maheshwari Seva Samiti, Vapi
- Mithila Vikas Manch, Vapi
- Nair Service Society, Vapi
- Prajapita Brahmakumari Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Vapi
- Pushti Path Mandal, Vapi

## **List of NGO's :**

- Radhika Bhajan Mandal, Vapi
- Rajasthan Mahila Mandal, Vapi
- Rajasthan Mitra Mandal Charitable Trust(Vapi – Daman - Silvasa)
- Rajasthan Pragati Mandal Charitable Trust(Vapi- Dman -Silvasa)
- Rajput Samaj, Vapi
- Rotaract Club of KBS Collage
- Rotaract Club of Vapi
- Rotaract Club of Vapi West
- Rotary Club of Vapi
- Rotary Vapi Riverside
- Rotary Club of Vapi West
- Sahkar Mitra Mandal, Vapi
- Samasta Brahma Samaj, Pardi
- Samasta Gurjjar Samaj, Valsad Dist.
- Sangini Mahila Mandal, Vapi
- Saurashtra Leuva Patel Samaj, Vapi
- Saurashtra Luhar/ Suthar Gyati Mandal, Vapi
- Senior Citizen Counsel – Vapi
- Senior Friend Club, Vapi
- Shiv Shakti Mahila Mandal, Chanod Colony Vapi
- Shri Bapa Sitaram Sanatan Seva Trust, Salvav
- Shri Bhid Bhanjan Mahadev Mandir Trust, Valsad
- Shri Halari Visa Oshwal Samaj, Vapi
- Shri Katchi Bhanushali Mitra Mandal Trust, Vapi
- Shri Lohana Mahila Mandal, Vapi
- Shri Mangela Life Saver Trust , Pardi
- Shri Narayan Samiti, Vapi
- Shri Samasta Gijarati Brahma Samaj Mahila Mandal, Vapi
- Shri Samasta Gujarat Brahma Samaj, Valsad Dist. and Sangha Pradesh
- Shri Samasta Gujarati Brahma Samaj, Vapi
- Shri Sampaday Valsad Jilla Seva Samiti
- Shri Shri Sirbojanin Durga Pooja Committee , Vapi
- Shri Shwetambar Murti Poojak Jain Sangh, Vapi
- Shri Vaishnav Sampradaya, Vapi
- Sindhi Association , Vapi
- Suraksha Foundation, Vapi
- Terapant Jain Yuvak Mandal, Vapi
- Uttar Bharatiya Brahma Samaj, Vapi
- Uttar Bharatiya Pragati Mandal, Vapi
- Uttar Bharatiya Seva Trust, Vapi
- Uttar Bharatiya Shatriya Samaj, Vapi
- Vaishnav Samaj, Vapi
- Valsad Jilla Aahir Sarvajanik Vikas Mandal, Valsad

### **List of NGO's :**

- Vapi Industrial Association
- Vapi Kannad Sangh
- Vapi Malyali Welfare Association
- Vapi Punjabi Charitable Foundation
- Vapi Real State Developers Association
- Vapi Sthankawasi Jain Mandal, Vapi
- Vapi Transport Association
- Vibrant Grandparents Club (Vapi Public School)
- Vyakti Vikas Kendra (Art of living)
- Women's Club/Agarwal Mahila Mandal

### **Festivals in Vapi :**

Nearly all important festivals are celebrated with much pomp and show in Vapi. Festivals in Vapi provide yet another reason to celebrate "Life" to the natives. The people of different religion celebrate various festivals and stay in harmony.

**Navratri :** Navratri (Nine Nights), dedicated to the worship of Goddess Durga occurs every year and is celebrated with grandeur. During the nine days of the festival, during which nine different forms of the Goddess is worshiped, people participate in the local cultural dance called Garba/Dandiya that goes on till late in the evening. It is really a wonderful experience to be a part of these festivities in Vapi.

1) Kids Navratri Allaiya Ballaiya :

It is special garba organized by Vapi Public School only for kids below the age of fourteen years at Vatar Campus. Highlights- Kids Musical Band- convenient timing.

2) Thanghanat:

Youngsters of Vapi play garba and dandiya in colourful and traditional costumes with zest organized by Rotary Club of Vapi at ROFEL College, GIDC.

3) Rangtali at Green View Hotel: Organized by Hotel Green View

4) Ramzhat at VIA Ground : Organized by Rotary Club of Vapi West

**Ganesh Chaturthi :** This festival is held in the months of August-September and is one of the famous festivals in Vapi. It is celebrated with immense passion.

**Diwali :** One of the most important festivals of Hindus, Diwali, is also well known by the name of "Festival of Lights" or Deepawali.

**Shivratri :** People celebrate this Hindu festival with great devotion and faith. They fast and chant Shiv hymns and stotharas on this day and conduct prayer meetings throughout the day.

**Eid :** Bakri Eid and Ramzan Eid are celebrated by Muslim brotherens with great enthusiasm.

**Christmas :** On Christmas eve not only believers but Vapiates in general join the midnight mass to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

**Paryushan :** It is another important festival observed by Jains and in their procession most of the people participate.

**Holi and Dhuleti :** People of all the communities come together and celebrate this festival and spread harmony and peace.



### **Proximity to Daman makes Vapi a place of Tourist Attraction:**

**Jampore Beach :** Jampore beach of Daman leads on to Gujarat, and is a favourite hangout of the solitude-seekers. The beach with its low tides beckons everyone and is ideal for swimming, picnics as well as gallivanting on its wet sands. It's a clean beach in Moti Daman.

**Devka Beach :** This beach is located around 5 km away from the main taxi stand at Nani Daman. Devka is very popular among the tourists as it attracts tourists, especially on Nariyal Poornima, Folk Dance Festival and other important festivals. Devka Beach also has several seafood joints and beach resorts, with its sprawling amusement park and musical fountains that sprinkle water with a melodious rhythm.

**Fort of Nani Daman :** With an area of 12,250 sq m, this edifice is girdled by high stone walls on all its sides. With its three bastions and a large statue of St. Jerome on one of its gateways, the fort poses a majestic sight.

**Fort of Moti Daman (Lighthouse) :** Fort of Moti Daman dates back to 16<sup>th</sup> century and is a massive structure that girdles the whole settlement. With its ten bastions and two gateways, the fort is polygonal in plan and covers an area of 30,000 sq m.

**Our Lady of Rosary Church & The Lady of Remedious Church :** Our Lady of Rosary Church stands in the town of Moti Daman, with its immaculate blend of Gothic and Byzantium architecture majestically. The Lady of Remedious Church is located at Nani Daman.

## **The highlights of a Rendezvous with few of the prominent citizens of Vapi :**

As a part of the English project students of class X interviewed some prominent personalities of Vapi. They were Col. V. S. Bedekar, Mr. Mahendra Bhavsar, Mr. Subhash Panchal, Mr. Dilipbhai B. Shah, Mr. Mahendra Naik and Mrs. Damayanti Naik.



Here is the data collected from their nostalgic memories;

### **Past History:**

It is interesting to note from what Vapi derived its name. There were many step wells in Vapi long time ago. 'VAV' in Gujarati means well and hence "VAPI"

Vapi was a part of Dharampur kingdom. The last king was Sahadevji Gaikwad. Apart from local Gujarati's some Maratha families and two Kashmiri Brahmin families also lived in Vapi. Later it became a part of the Mumbai province. In 1960 Gujarat became a separate state and Vapi a part of it. Goa Gomantak Dal fought to liberate Dadra and Daman from Portuguese rule. Dadra was liberated in 1952 and Daman in 1962. At that time Vapi Railway Station was known as **DAMAN ROAD**.

- Udupi Restaurant was the first hotel in Vapi.
- Games such as Goti/ Gilli danda were popular with the children.
- Nag Panchami was considered to be an important festival at that time.

### **Education Scene:**

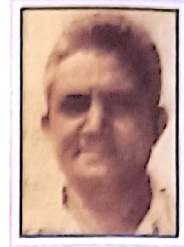
- RGAS High School was the only school in Vapi.
- There were no kindergarten Schools, the students at the age of six were admitted to first standard.
- There was only one teacher to teach all subjects up to fourth standard.
- English as a subject was introduced in standard eighth.
- Math was given great importance & tables of  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  Known as UTHA tables were taught on Saturdays.
- There were no notebooks to write only slates and chalk sticks were provided by the schools.
- Students were not promoted if they didn't pass.
- There was a big difference between male and female ratio in school.
- After the year 1950 separate schools for girls & boys were established.
- The first English medium school of Vapi was Gnyan Dham school and the first college was started by Rotary Trust in 1989.

### **Economic Scene :**

- Before the independence agriculture and cattle-rearing were the main occupation and rice was the main crop cultivated in Vapi.
- In Vapi two types of grasses were grown Mushi and Bardi. (Which was very famous and were sold to Saurashtra and milk and grass was sent to Aarey Colony, Bombay).

### **Infrastructure :**

- The name of Vapi Station was Daman Road earlier.
- The first sabhapati of Nagar Panchayat was Mr. Mancharam Morarji Panchal.
- G.I.D.C in Vapi was established in 1968.
- The first industry in Valsad District was Atul Ltd. in 1964.
- Umergaon, Gundlav and Vapi came together but Vapi grew faster.
- G.E.B was not there. The students used the lanterns and the private generators were the main source of power.
- Private buses used to run.
- The first hospital in Vapi was Mission Hospital.
- The first doctor of Vapi was Mr Kishore Panchal.
- The stepped wells were the only source of drinking water.
- C. P. Shah & Sons started the first Petrol Pump in Vapi.
- The first theatre was Jayhind which was near Mancharam building.
- Only three trains used to stop at Vapi Station, at 2:30 am, 10:00 am and 5:00 pm
- There were few temples like Namdha Mahadev, Lavachha Shiv Mandir, Kumdha and Kalgam's Hanuman Temple.



### **Entertainment :**

- Jaihind Talkies was the only source of entertainment.

### **Epilogue:**

The Concept of Brochure on Vapi as a Social Studies & English Project was of our advisor Col. V. S. Bedekar. Class IV & X students worked on it. Teachers guided the students & here is the finished product. There may be short comings & difference of opinion about the facts & layout of this venture. Some of you may find it's real worth. Both kudos & brickbats are welcome!

Our heartfelt thanks to Col. V. S. Bedekar Sir & the team of VPS Educators.

**: With Best Compliments :**

**Little Angels Education Trust**

Mrs Alpa Kotadia  
Mr Snehal Kotadia

Mr Nawal Bansal  
Mr Kavita Bansal

Mr Vipul Kakaria  
Mr Subhash Kotadia



VIA Auditorium



Vapi Zanda Chock



Vapi Public School (VPS)



GIDC Notified Garden



Gunjan Char Rasta by Night



A bird's eye view of Vapi Town

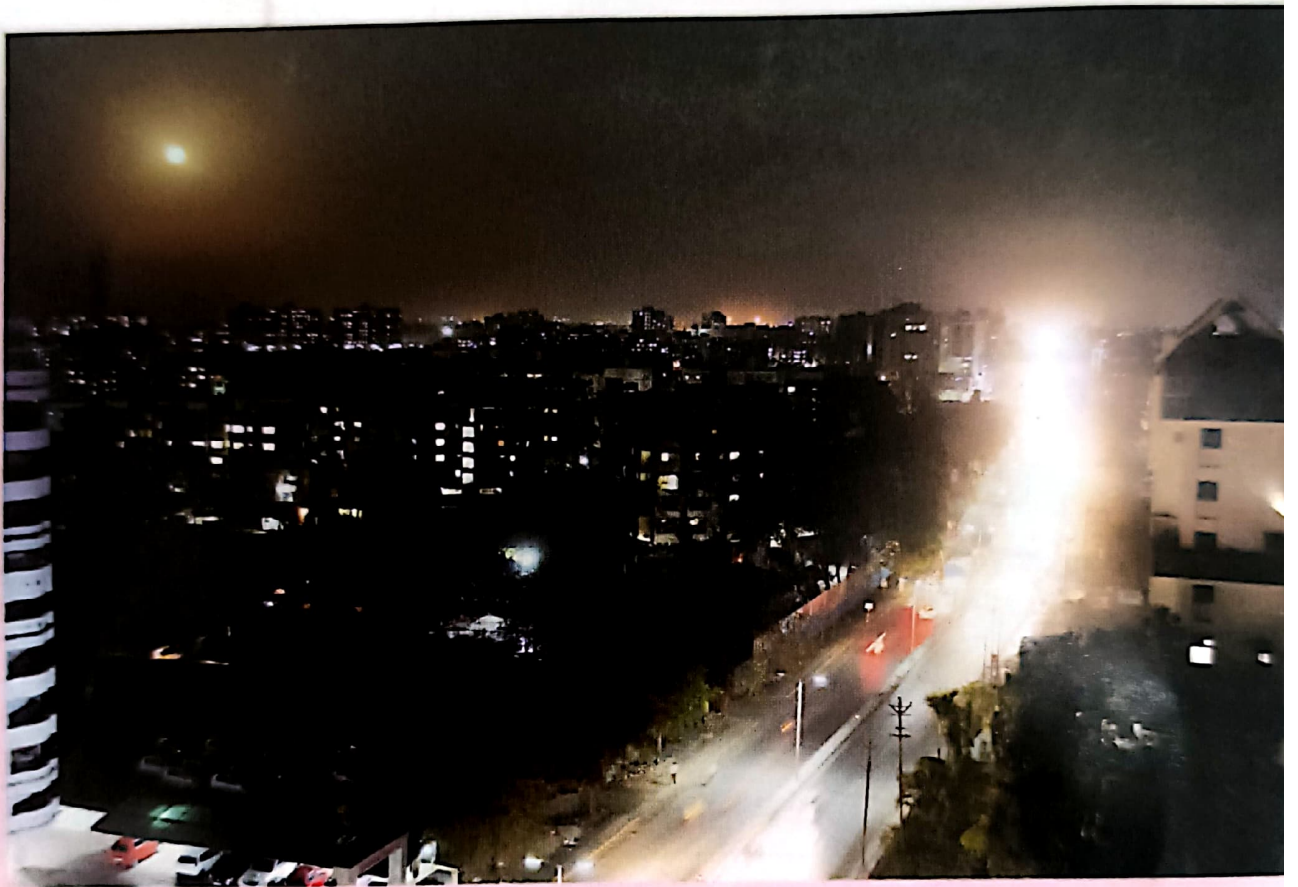


Vapi Daman Road



Vapi Town by Night

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