



CENTRE FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

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SEMINAR INVITATION

Dear Sir/Madam,


New Year Greetings from CSS, Surat.

The Government of India is currently celebrating *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*. As a part of this initiative, Centre for Social Studies, Surat is pleased to invite you to the second lecture in its ongoing seminar series, Mr. Nanubhai Vanani will talk on “**Contribution of Saurashtrian Migrants in the Growth of Diamond Industry of Surat**” on 25th November 2021 (Thursday) at 3.00 p.m.

The seminar will be held at the Seminar Hall, Centre for Social Studies, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University Campus, Surat.

You are cordially invited.

Yours sincerely,


Satyakam Joshi
Officiating Director,
Centre for Social Studies, Surat.



Abstract

Immediately after Independence, due to perennial droughts, members of the Patidar community from Saurashtra region of Gujarat began migrating to Surat in search of work and livelihood. Initially, they worked as diamond polishing worker but soon they moved upwards and became owner of diamond units. Their hard work, simplicity and accommodative disposition played a crucial role in this upward mobility. Today, as per one rough estimate 12 to 15 lakh members of this community stay in Surat. This is a unique social group belonging to one of the most influential caste of Gujarat i.e. Patidar. Their caste and kinship bonds constitute important social capital for their business. 92 percent of the global market of diamonds are cut and polished in the city. Today, the share of the diamond industry in the Surat economy is around 40 to 50 percent. Saurashtrian migrants are not only prosperous but they also do remarkable social services by way of creating various health, education and social service institutions in the city of Surat. This seminar will trace back the history of how and why Patidar of Saurashtra came to Surat, and how they have become an influential social group in the civic life of the city.

Brief Introduction of the Speaker

Mr. Nanubhai Vanani is a farmer and businessman. He was active in politics till 2017. He was a successful diamond businessman. He was an Education Minister of State and also Independent Charges for State Minister of Sports, Youth Cultural activities and Water Resources, Government of Gujarat during 2012 to 2016. Nanubhai is also an author. He has to his credit six books on the role of Saurashtrian migrants in Surat's growth, the secret of economic revolution of the Surat city, an autobiography, and also a biography of his village “Pati”. Besides writing, Nanubhai is also quite active in various social organisations of Surat city.

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