

From freedom fight, Bardoli moves on to future

The town that witnessed struggle against British now has fallen in love with their language so much that it can't do without it

Satish Jha, Bardoli

Time is a great healer and this small town in Surat best exemplifies that. Bardoli, around 30 km away from Surat city, has come a long way from the time when it had the bruising experience of fighting against the British Raj.

Almost eight decades ago, Bardoli had fought vigorously against the British Raj under the leadership of Iron Man of India Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Now, 61 years after India's independence, it seems that Bardoli has moved on.



something which cannot be overlooked now and undoubtedly it has become the most important language professionally. "Look at India's economy of recent times and the importance of English. The kind of opportunities English has provided is affecting lakhs, especially the young generation," he says.

Kadod High School's present principal VK Mahida Raj says surely time has changed a lot and "we are just trying to change with it. Since English has become a global language, we are learning it and teaching it to our students."

Hundreds of young men go to the US and European countries from this region every year. But the biggest problem they face is English language skills. "We started teaching English keeping this problem in mind and also for creating future manpower. After all, it's the demand of our time," Mahida said.

Mahida admits that the children from the area need to improve their speaking ability. "Our syllabus emphasises more on writing or grammar which is good but when it comes to speaking, they face lots of problems," Mahida said.

"Certainly, it is a change but I think it is the need of the hour. In the era of open world, English is a must and it has become necessary to speak it," said Vinod Patel, principal of Arts and Commerce College, Bardoli.

"In my opinion, what we need today is to stay connected with every developing trend in the world. Ours is a history which has embraced many foreign things, so there is nothing wrong if our children are doing the same."

Old-timers who either took part in the freedom struggle or saw the Sardar in action say Bardoli of today is a changed one. The town that fought to the hilt against the English (British) culture has now realised the growing importance of the language - English.

Says 84-year-old Nanubhai Nayak, Kadod High School's former principal: "I have seen Mahatma Gandhi and Vallabhbhai Patel in Bardoli during the freedom movement. Those days were pretty different from today. We had a common cause to fight jointly. Society also used to be quite open but see things now! We have many problems even today. Illiteracy and basic amenities are some of the areas where we need to fight once again but who cares?"

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■ The four teachers who have been assigned to teach Bardoli school kids —DNA.

'Indian kids are better behaved'

They find it easier to teach Indian children but have challenges at hand

DNA Correspondent, Bardoli

Thought teaching your kid was a difficult task? Think again. American teachers on an assignment to teach Indian school students in Kadod village of Bardoli taluka in Surat district believe teaching an Indian child is a lot easier than teaching an American kid.

"Indian children are better behaved than their counterparts in the US," says Catherine Viddle, one of the four teachers from the US.

When asked about the challenges one might face teaching Indian students, Catherine says, "It is the large number of students in a class which is a challenge. It becomes difficult to focus on each single student and un-

derstand what their difficulties are." For children at the school, the 'teaching change' brings a smile on their faces.

Viral Chaudhary of class 9 says, "Earlier, when we came to know that American teachers will teach us, we were worried as we feared that they would have problems in understanding our language and Indian accent. But it has been very exciting till now and we always look forward to their sessions."

Viral admits that he enjoys teaching sessions of Viddle more. "Miss Catherine makes us laugh and teaches differently. She teaches us in a very practical way and it helps us to understand things better," he adds. However, parents are still hesitant about the outcome. "I am not sure if our children understand what the teachers teach. Both teachers as well as students would be facing language as their biggest barrier," says Dharmesh Chaudhary, a parent.



Thrill, not money, drives these American teachers

A body, formed by ex-students of Kadod school, helps in the plan

Satish Jha, Bardoli

Tucked away 15 km from Bardoli, Kadod High School has of late earned a unique distinction. It has employed four American teachers to hone English language skills of students.

Nanubhai Nayak Education Foundation, which was formed in 2004 by Non-Resident Gujaratis (NRGs) and is active in the US, is the spirit behind the scheme.

Interestingly, the foundation is run by former students of Kadod High School. It is like paying back what they have received from their alma mater. "There are

hundreds of people living in New Jersey (US) who had done their schooling from Kadod," said Raj Shah, president of the foundation, who belongs to the next generation of US-born Indians. Shah visited Bardoli recently.

The foundation with the Princeton in Asia (popularly known as PIA) has brought the American teachers in Kadod for the first time this year.

"PIA is bridging gap between countries and cultures as the organisation sends aspirants to different places, having different cultures. And Nanubhai Nayak Foundation is also linked with the

PIA," said Melissa Ivins, one of the American teachers. "I had applied for the job in PIA and they selected me," she added.

"In fact, Indians are all over in New Jersey and I want to understand their culture so that later I am able to teach their kids in the US with confidence," said Ivins.

Another teacher Catherine Viddle said, "It's not the money which brought me to Kadod but the job profile, which is really exciting. We get a modest salary. Besides, all expenses are being looked after by the foundation, so we don't have any problem."

The two teachers who are ethnically American will teach in Kadod for a year. Viddle has got a Masters in Education (MEd) while Ivins has done a certificate course in teaching. The two other teachers Vanisha Gandhi and Priya Garg are US-born Indians. Gandhi has graduated from Stanford University while Garg is pursuing International Studies from Emory University.

Ivins and Viddle will be spending a year in Kadod School in 2008 while the two US-born Indian teachers will spend 10 weeks over the summer.

"With the support of the school, we provide the teachers a modest salary and accommodation. We also have strong network of educators in the US that provides help, training and curriculum development," said the foundation president.

Short stories

CM, Governor's Pateti greetings

Gandhinagar: Governor Nawal Kishore Sharma and chief minister Narendra Modi have wished people on the occasion of Parsi New Year, Pateti, on Tuesday. Both the leaders hoped that coming year would bring peace, prosperity and good health for the people.

Cong to celebrate Rajiv's birthday

Gandhinagar: State Congress would celebrate 64th birthday of late prime minister Rajiv Gandhi on August 20. The Congress party celebrates it as Anti-Terrorism Day and would hold a special programme to remember the leader at the GPCC office. GPCC president Sidhharth Patel, CLP leader Shaktisinh Gohil and other senior leaders and party functionaries would attend the function.

19 dams above danger mark

Gandhinagar: According to the state monsoon control room, 19 dams in the state are overflowing due to heavy rains last week and 32 have been put on high alert as they would be overflowing very soon. These 32 dams have been filled 10% more than their capacity, while other six dams have only 70-80%. However, more than 144 dams still have less than 70% water at present.

Chess tournament in city

Ahmedabad: Mind Games Association has organised XXII National Under -11 Boys & Girls Chess Championship 2008, under the aegis of Gujarat State Chess Association on behalf of All India Chess Federation. Nearly 250-300 players including top national ranking players will be participating in the tournament. Gujaratis like Sweety Patel, Bhargav Rawal and Jeet Jain will be main attraction during the tournament that kicks-off this Saturday.

Rs9.31 lakh theft in Junagadh

Rajkot: Mahesh Mehta owner of Maharani Jewellers at Jitendra Park, Zanzarda in Junagadh has filed a complaint on Monday of theft worth Rs9.31 lakh from his home. When Mehtas returned from Bhavnagar, where they had gone on Friday to celebrate Raksha-bandan, they found the grills and doors of the house broken and the amount kept in cupboard missing. According to sources, Junagadh police has started investigating the matter with the help of Forensic Scientific Laboratory (FSL) and dog squad.

Runaway brother-sister held

Rajkot: Jamnagar police nabbed brother-sister, who had eloped about ten months ago. Madhuben, their mother had lodged a complaint that Nitin Sadia, her son who was born from her first marriage, had eloped with Vandna Parmar, who was born after her second marriage. Following the complaint, the police had been chasing Nitin. When they learnt that Nitin was coming to Jamnagar, they kept a watch and nabbed the duo from ST bus station of Jamnagar.

'Govt has paid Rs3 cr more to transporter'

It converted designated stockyards into non-designated ones to benefit the contractor

DNA Correspondent, Gandhinagar

Leader of Opposition Shaktisinh Gohil on Monday alleged that the state government had shown bias towards a transport contractor of state civil supply corporation. Producing documents, he said a particular contractor had been paid Rs3 crore more by the state government for transportation of food grains to be distributed under PDS (Public Distribution System).

According to details, one JM Roadways, a transporter, was awarded a contract to transport food grains from the designated

stockyards in Bharuch, Valsad and Surat. The contract was awarded for a period from July 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008. As per the contract, if the grains were to be transported from non-designated stockyards, the rates were higher than the normal rates for transportation of grains from the designated yards.

However, to benefit the transporter, the state government, with retrospective effect, converted the designated stockyards at Surat, Bharuch and Valsad, into non-designated ones so that the contractor gets higher rates.

Gohil said the general manager of Food Corporation of India (FCI) had drawn the attention of the state civil supply board officials twice but they did nothing to stop

paying higher rates to the contractor. He added that from July 2007 to March 2008, the state had paid Rs3 crore more to the contractor from the public coffers.



Team to visit Pak for release of fishermen

PTI, Vadodara

A 13-member delegation from Gujarat will visit Pakistan next month to put pressure on the Pakistan government for release of 380 Indian fishermen languishing in the jails of that country.

Gujarat fisheries and agriculture minister Dilip Sanghani said, "The Centre had mooted a proposal some months back for release of Indian fishermen and their 369 boats in accordance to which the names have been forwarded." The Indian Fishermen Association and Fishermen Cooperative Societies Federation, Karachi, also made repeated representations to the Pak authorities for the release of fishermen arrested from fishing zone of Jakhau port.

Till 2003, the fishermen delegation from Gujarat used to visit Pakistan frequently for the release of seized Indian fishermen and boats.

Admission reshuffle to help 2,000 more students

ACPC to fill 1,655 seats which have fallen vacant

Paras K Jha, Ahmedabad

Nearly 2,000 more students will be getting admissions in the engineering and pharmacy courses in the state.

Admission Committee for Professional Courses (ACPC) has decided to carry out reshuffling from August 20 to fill about 1,655 seats on which students have cancelled their admissions and 355 seats that have been added as increase in intake and launch of new branches. However, a couple of colleges might face cut in admissions because of inadequate infrastructure and non-fulfillment of necessary legalities.

Sources in the ACPC said, "Nearly 10 engineering and pharmacy colleges have got approval of increase in intake

and some of the colleges have got a nod to start new branches. Therefore, nearly 450 seats will be increased, but ACPC will carry out admissions on 355 seats and the rest will be filled by respective colleges under management quota. Moreover, there are about 1,655 seats that have fallen vacant because of cancellation

new move

of admissions." Sources said Gitanjali Pharmacy College, located at Talod in Sabarkantha district, will have to face cut in intake as Hemchandrachary North Gujarat University had informed ACPC to reduce the college's intake because of inadequate infrastructure.

Sources said, "The varsity had got some complaints of poor infrastructure in the college and after inspection, it in-

formed us to reduce the seats by 50%. The ACPC has given admission on 45 seats and 15 seats were under college's management quota. So in the reshuffling process, the committee will transfer about 22 students from Talod college to another place."

Moreover, Shri Swaminarayan Sanskar Diploma Pharmacy College located at Zundal in Gandhinagar district will have to face zero admission situation following the non-compliance of standards.

Sources said, "The diploma college at Zundal doesn't have NA (Non Agricultural) Land certificate. So the committee informed about this to All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). The council has sent the approval to put the pharmacy college in the zero admission slot. ACPC might cancel all admissions given to the college following AICTE's approval."

Govt crackdown on child labour in Bt cotton farms

Network of 45 teams to keep a check on child labour practice in areas bordering Rajasthan



Anil Pathak, Gandhinagar

The state government will now monitor illegal practice of child labour in Bt cotton farms in Banaskantha, Sabarkantha and Mehsana through a network of 45 teams of the state labour department.

This arrangement has been made to prevent exploitation of children following a strong representation from Rajasthan government that the children from Dungarpur and Udaipur are hired by the contractors to work in the Bt cotton farms in North Gujarat region.

Sources in the labour department disclosed that over 1,000 children are dispatched to North Gujarat by the contractors to work in farms at lower rates and that too in a gross violation of labour laws. The state government has recently fixed Rs100 as daily wages of agricul-

We have assured that the children would not be allowed to work in farms and for that all necessary preventive measures have been taken by the state government.

—Officials

tural labourers as against rate of Rs80 earlier.

Teams from labour department last year raided several farms and stopped such illegal exploitation of children from Rajasthan. The officials had also taken legal action against farm owners indulging in such practices.

A senior official from the state labour department when contacted told DNA that this year so far nothing illegal has been detected but the teams have been deployed in the North Gujarat

districts to see that the children are not brought from Rajasthan to work in cotton farms. He asserted that this year no case has been registered for violation of child labour laws but as a precautionary measures the officials are keeping a close vigil on the border areas.

The official said that Gujarat government has also urged Rajasthan to set up more primary and second schools in the tribal areas bordering the state so that the children are brought to work in farms in Gujarat.

"We have assured that the children would not be allowed to work in farms" and for that all necessary preventive measures have been taken by the state government."

The special campaign of the state labour department is launched every year during Kharif season and it continues till November.

