

3.0

# CLIMATE, TOPOGRAPHY & THE RIVER

Siddhpur would have ceased to exist if river saraswati wasn't there







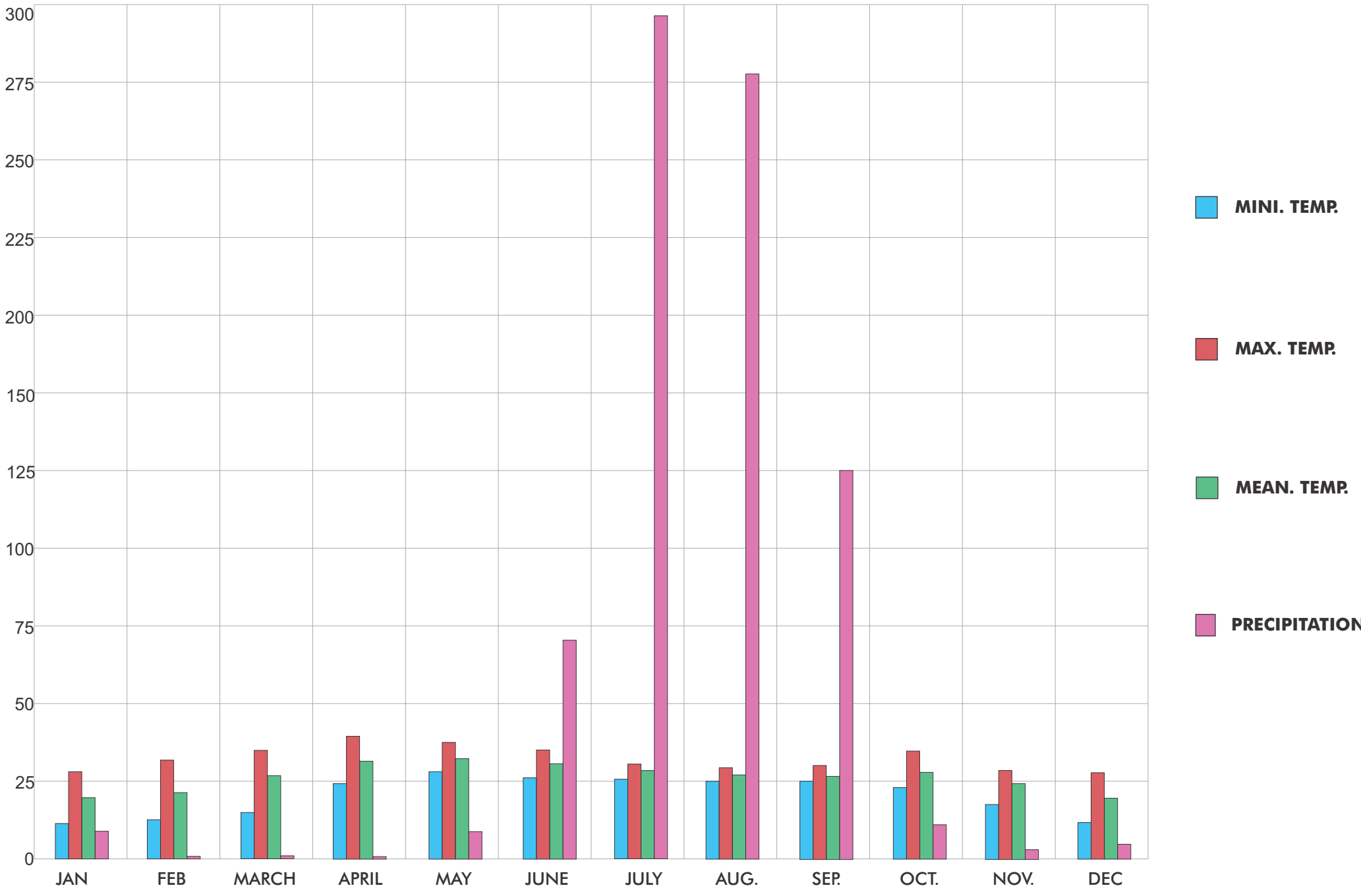
CLIMATE

The climate of Siddhpur is continental. The summer season is hot and dry, with temperature in the range of 40s. While in winter it is pleasant with temperatures around 20s. The average annual rainfall is 40-50 inches.

**SUMMERS** – during March to May, max temperature is 35 C and the min temperature is 20 C.

**WINTERS** – during December to February, max temperature of 30 C and a min of 15 C.

**MONSOONS** – June to September are highly humid with medium to heavy precipitation. Highest recorded temperature is 48 C and min is 6.5 C. During winters wind blows from the **north-east** at about **8 km/hr**.



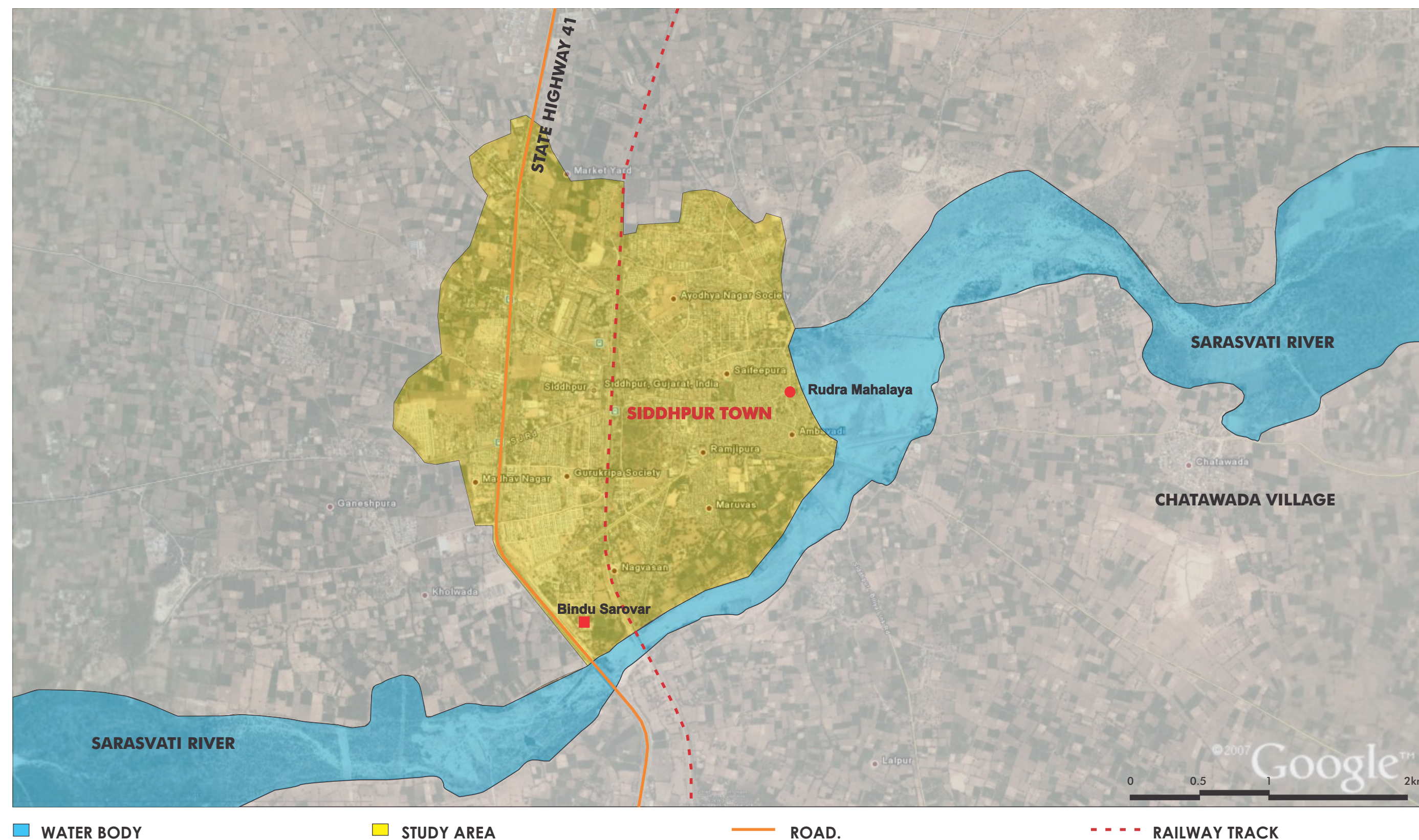
TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION

MONTHS	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
MINI. TEMP.	11	13	18	24	27	26	26	25	25	22	17	12
MAX. TEMP.	28	32	35	40	42	38	33	31	33	36	32	30
MEAN. TEMP.	19.5	22.5	26.5	32	34.5	32	29.5	28	29	29	24.5	21
PRECIPITATION	8	1	1	1	9	72	297	277	125	10	3	4



## TOPOGRAPHY

The town is situated generally on fairly even ground having maximum difference of 5 to 7 metres. The higher area is railway station & highway road area, whereas lower area is Saraswati river bank area. The ground is sloping towards South-West from North-East direction. The storm water finds its own way and joins river Saraswati, which passes by the side of the town. Geographically the area in and around Siddhpur is composed of recent alluvium, fine sands, clay kankar hard murrum and pebbles etc.





## CONTOUR MAP OF SIDDHPUR

Difference between contour lines is 10 feet.

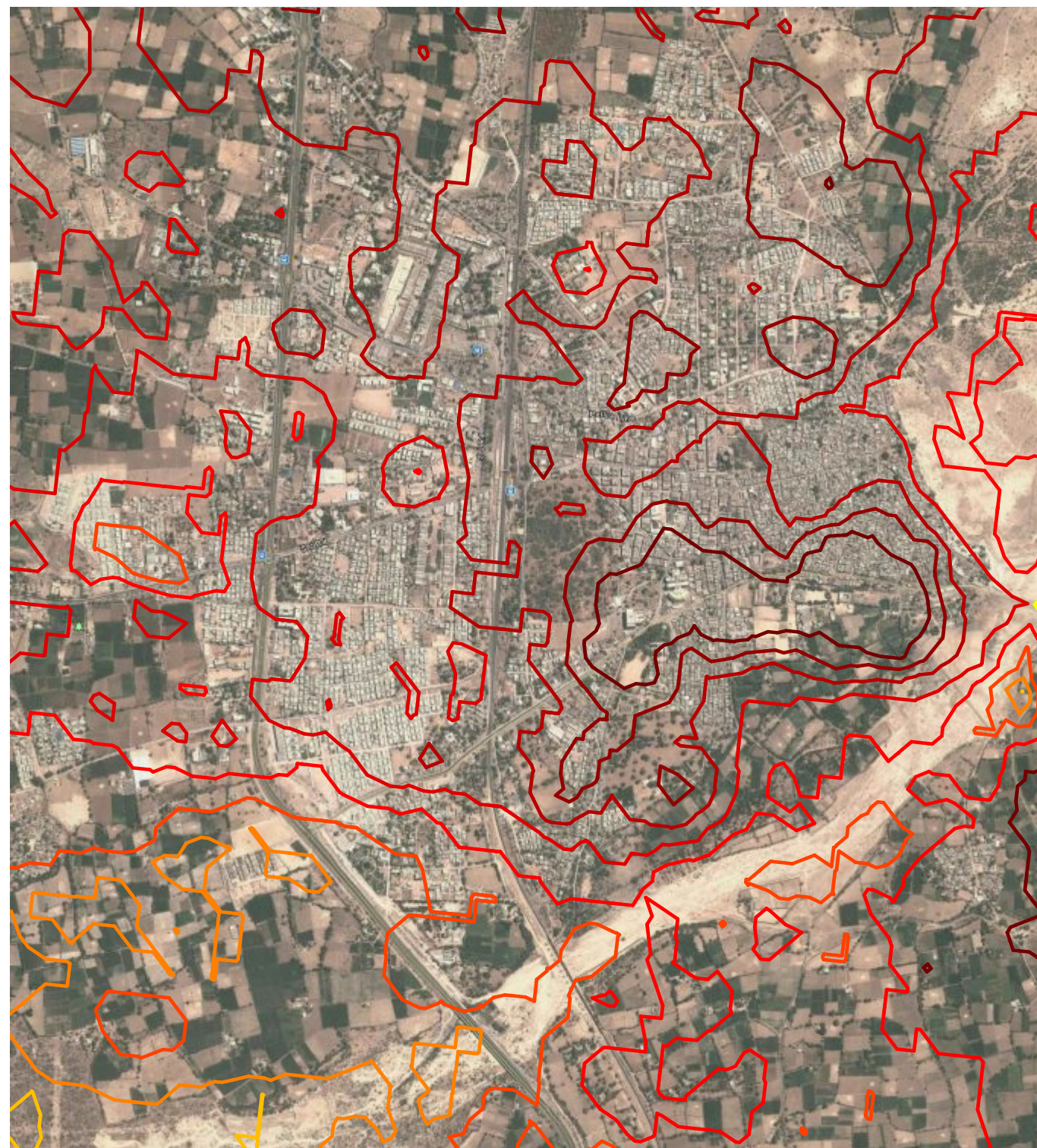


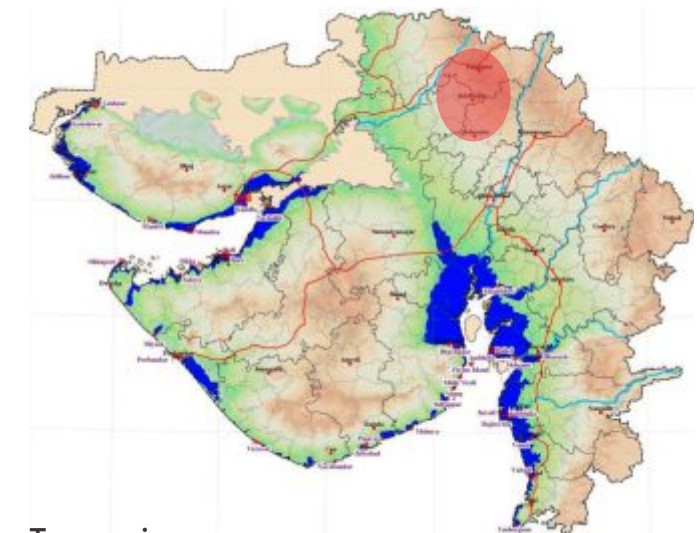
fig 3.2a contour map



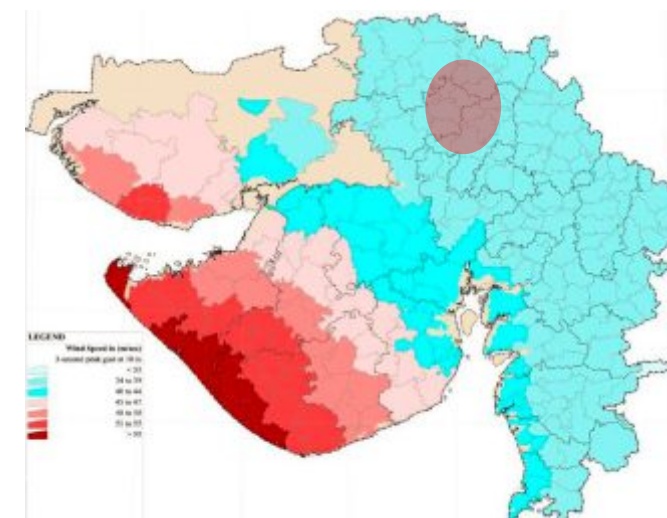
## SIDDHPUR AT DIFFERNT HAZARD RISK ZONES



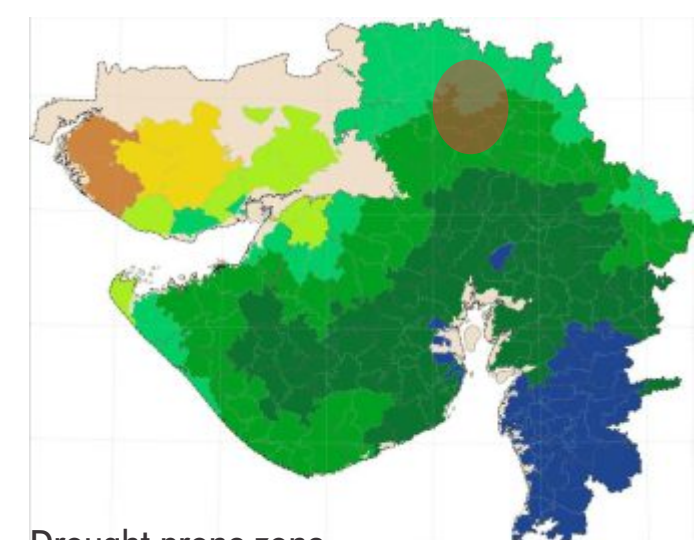
Chemical hazard risk zone



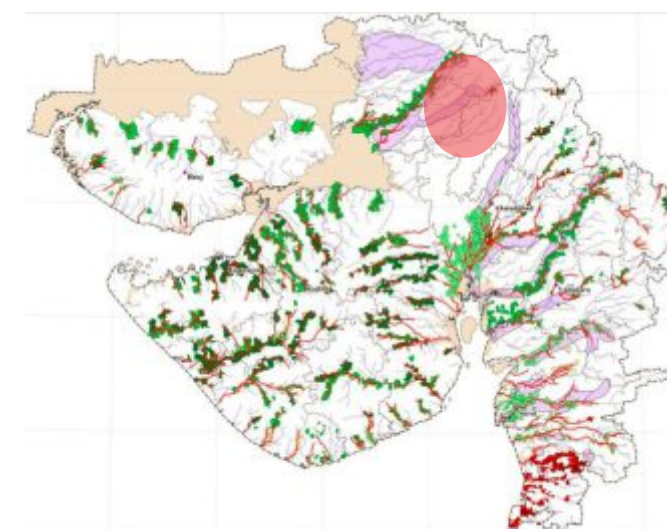
Tsunami prone zone



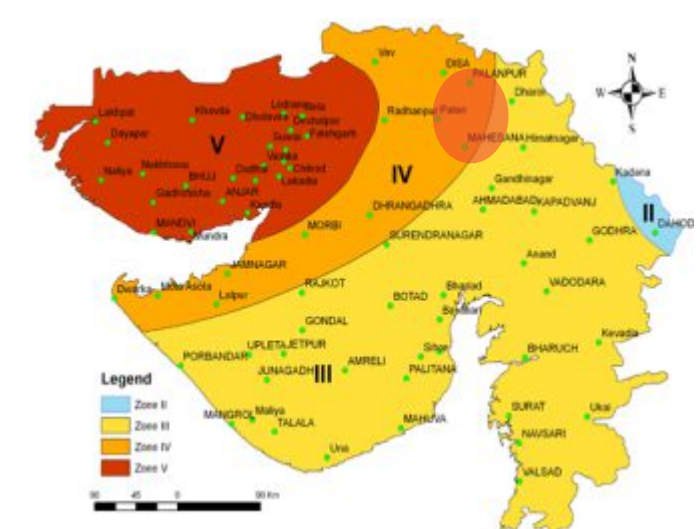
Wind and Cyclone prone zone - ZONE F



Drought prone zone



Flood hazard risk zone



Earthquake prone zone - ZONE 4



## HISTORY OF SARASWATI RIVER

from the Rig-Veda. It means one 'swaroop' of Saraswati is Rudravarta; the second is Kurukshetra, the third Pushkar, the fourth **Siddhakshetra (ShreeSthal, Sidhpur)** and the fifth Prabhas (Somnath)

Vedic River Saraswati traversing a distance of 1,600 kilometers from the Himalyas to Gujarat is an unparalleled discovery in the history of human civilization. the mighty river had drained most of North-west India

The river can also be seen in parts near the Lake Pushkar in Rajasthan, **Sidhpur** in Northern Gujarat and Somnath in Saurashtra, Gujarat.



fig 3.3a showing R. Saraswati 0 100 200 400km

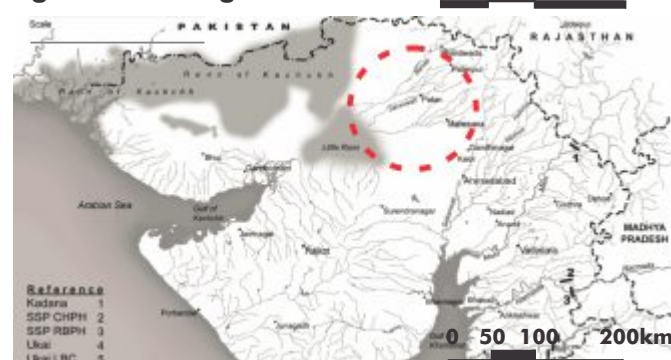


fig 3.3b R. Saraswati in Siddhpur



fig 3.3c map of siddhpur with the river bed

## SARASWATI AT SIDDHPUR

Saraswati takes its birth near at koteswar near ambaji, flows by siddhpur and patan and merges into the desert.

stretch of the Saraswati used to receive water till 1975, before the Mukteswar dam was built. It dried up due to lack of rainfall and water would seep underground, the groundwater level in the nearby areas has dropped 1,000 feet. Levels go down by 15 ft each year and tubewells fail frequently. due to the negligence there is accumulation of waste in certain areas of river bed.



fig 3.3d current situation of the river banks

## CONCERNS

During the monsoon season, water is sustained in the river bed for about two months in certain parts of the basin.



fig 3.3e along the ghats during monsoon



fig 3.3f catchment of water along the sides



fig 3.3g ghats

The place where yagnas are held during mela, ghats are developed but due to lack of water...it just functions as steps.



fig 3.3h river along the residences

In the immediate context of the river, residences are prone to flood due to lack of embankment on this side of the river.

## WATER SHORTAGE

Irrigation department had laid MS pipeline from NMC at Khorsam water is made available at Siddhpur at river Saraswati just upstream of check dam constructed for the purpose.

However, the pipeline has corroded over a period of time affecting the water supply. Government had also prepared water supply project based on Mukteswar dam.



fig 3.3i Mukteswar Dam



fig 3.3j map of Siddhpur and Mukteswar Dam



## MATRUSHRADH

Siddhpur has the importance of '**Martu Gaya**' or '**Matru Shraddh**', where people come annually to perform the rituals for their mothers who are in heavenly abode.

Siddhpur is the only place in India where matru-shradh is being carried out.

These ceremonies are presided over by the Brahmins, who are treated with high regard. They are performed at Kapilamuni Ashram, where 3 sacred water kunds: the Gyan Vapika, Alpa Sarovar and Bindu Sarovar are present.



fig 3.3k performing rituals



fig 3.3l performing rituals at Bindu Sarover

## MUKTIDHAM

This place is famous for holy funeral process of human body after died. about siddhpur taluka's 85 villages pepole come for funeral process after anybody died in his village. This is the "gandharv smashan". In india, other famous Gandharva Smashan are:

1. Ujjain
2. Kashi
3. Prayag
4. Siddhpur



fig 3.3m Muktidham near the river



fig 3.3n mandir around Muktidham

## KARTIK PURNIMA FAIR

Every year the Siddhpur Camel Festival which is a traditional fair is held here during the Kartik month (the first month of the Hindu calendar) from the 11th day to the 15th day which is known as Karthika Poornima (full moon) at the banks of the Sarawati River.

According to the organizers, it's the biggest camel fair in the state.

It is a livestock fair in which the locals and tribals from surrounding towns & villages participate.

The camels and horses are decorated brilliantly by their owners to display, buy or sell them during the fair. Over 1,000 camels participate in it from Barmer in Rajasthan, Suigam, Tharad and other places.

Siddhpur Municipality takes charge of the fair and arranges for makeshift toilets for the visitors.

The gamtal area is locked up for vehicles, you can only walk in.

The farmers bring in huge quantity of sugarcane which is also sold along with various other local handicrafts items.



fig 3.3o horses and camels at the fair



fig 3.3p River bed used as the fairground



fig 3.3q River bed used as the fairground

The Kartikeya Temple opens for a week during this fair.

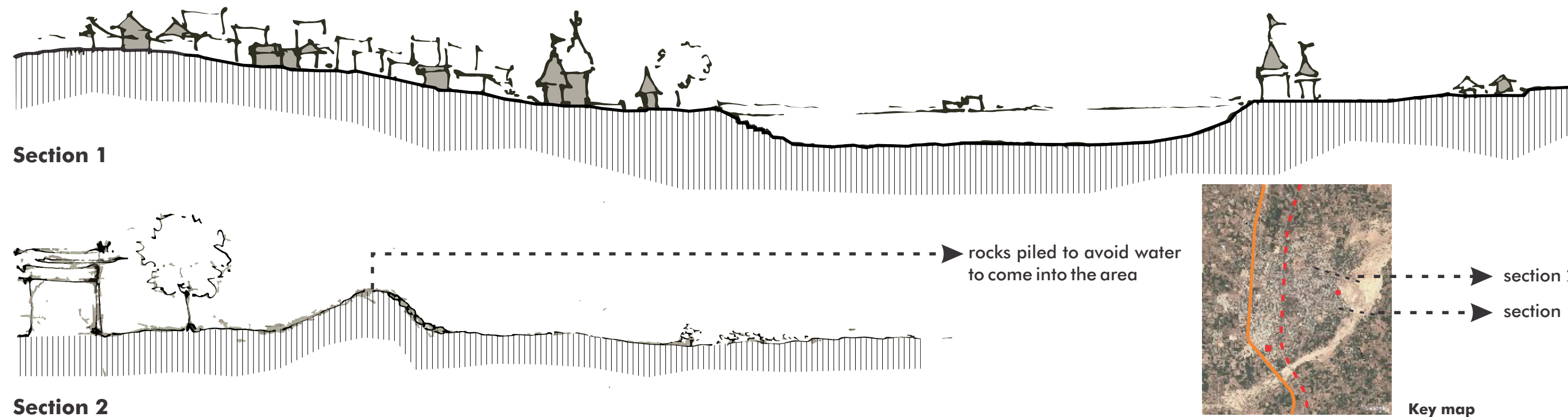
The stretch from Siddhpur railway station till the river is crowded with people. The bridge across the river also gets congested.



fig 3.3r Bridge crowded by people



## SECTIONS OF THE RIVER AT DIFFERENT AREA



## SWOT ANALYSIS

## STRENGTH

Religious believes and historical importance

Soil is sandy and fertile for crops like potatoes and climbers

## WEAKNESS

Dried up soil

Porous and sandy soil

Houses snakes and other poisonous animals

Dump yard

Useless land

No water all round the year except monsoon

Surrounded by strong context-Patan, Mehsana, Unjha

## OPPORTUNITIES

River front development

Creating more developing areas

Increase more land for agriculture

Religious spots

Land specially for mela and camel fair

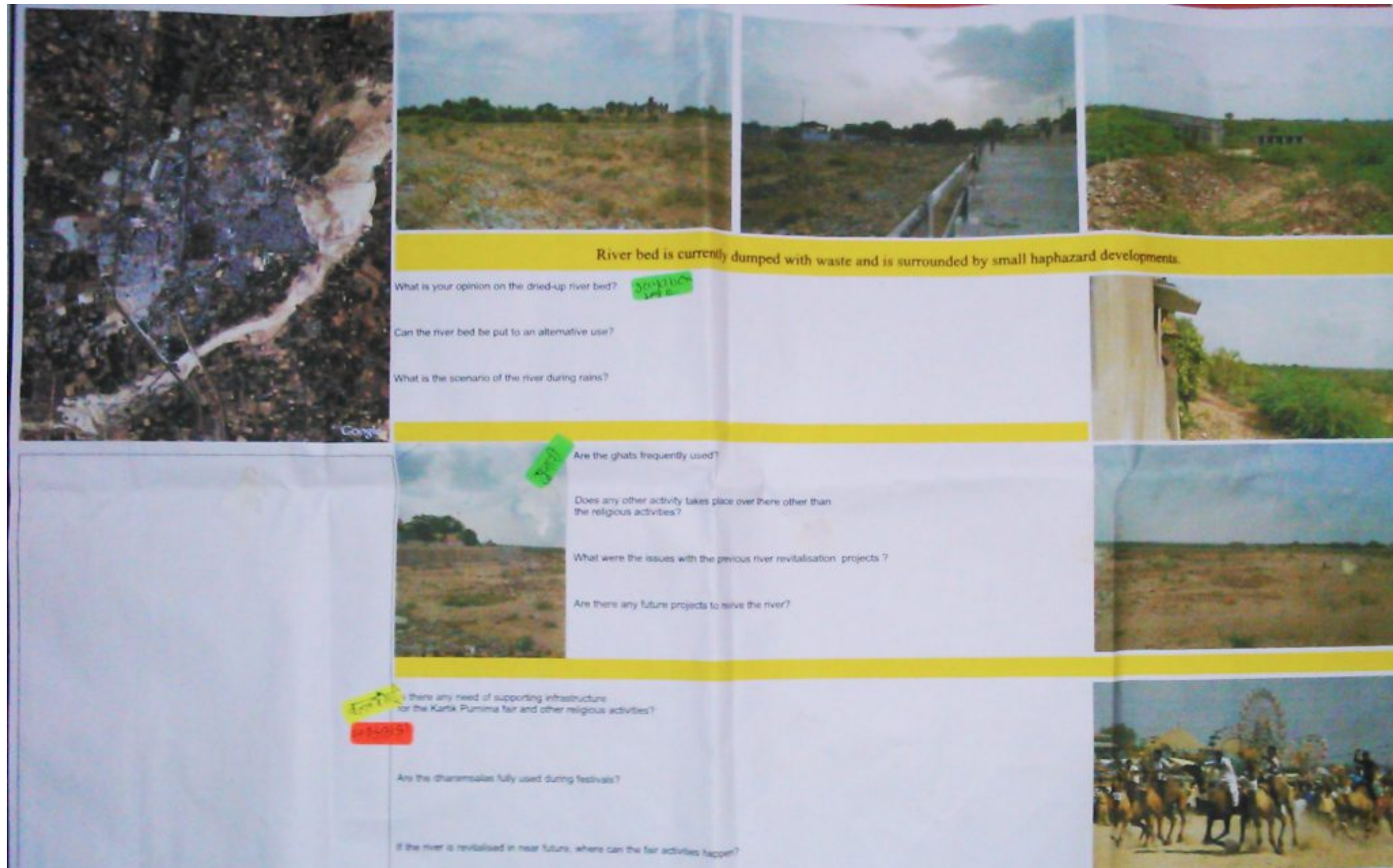
Agricultural hub

## THREAT

Water levels and the underground water table levels are too low



## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



- After discussing with people we felt that due to the overflowing of people during festivals, the streets are very crowded, infrastructure facilities should be developed.
- There is no provision of good hotels to promote the tourism of fairs/melas.
- Two - three small ghats are in ruins as the projects are incomplete.
- Municipality, shopkeepers, Participants, temple help in organisation of fair.
- No proper sanitation facilities for women.



वहलप्रा गाँव  
मेल का आयोजन पूर्ण होता है परन्तु  
स्त्रियों के स्थान और सौच की व्यवस्था  
नहीं होती है। सभी मेलों में जो  
छोट और छोटे हत्यादि का trade  
करते हैं काफी प्रपने हम्ब में ही  
रहते हैं। बाजार पालिका + मंदिर +  
दुकानदार + मेल वाले = व्यवस्था में  
शामिल

पुजारी  
कार्तिक पुर्णिमा के दिन भीड़ मंदिर  
से लेकर Railway Station तक रहती है।  
कामी लम्बी कतारें होती हैं दर्शन के लिए।  
सुबह से शाम तक काइलास रहता है।  
Bridge पूरा भीड़ से भर जाता है।  
सितंबर मंदिर में श्राद्ध क्रिये जाते हैं। पुल  
क दूसरी तरफ दूसरे मंज होते हैं।

ગાલુડાણા.  
અલે અહીંયા તણીમા પાળી  
તણી તો પલ લોડો અહીંયા  
લીડા કડવા અલે જ છે.  
કેમકે અહીંયાના દેલી-દેલવા  
ની મજા ભડ, માજાવા છે.  
કે અહીંયા જા. ભવિષ્યો  
મોડા મળી જ અલ છે.

કોઈકા દમન પાળી ગયા  
પણ પાળી વગર પણ કામ  
બેન કરીએ છીએ. જેમકે  
ભટ્ટાકા, કુશળ, ભક્ત, કુદર  
જેના નામ મોટા બેન  
કરીએ છીએ.

Jayaben