



Photo/Dinesh Parab

BRAVE NEW WORLD

Self-help is the guiding principle of the survivors in Bhuj and other regions of Gujarat. Administrative slackness and a communal colour to relief efforts in some places have not dampened the resolve of those looking to the future.



VILLAGERS AROUND BHUJ SLEPT IN THE OPEN EVEN AS TE

Birth of a don?

Guru Satam moves away from the shadow of Chhota Rajan by killing film producer and Dawood associate Hanif Kadawala

After a brief lull, gangland killings have once again started in Mumbai, this time with the gunning down of video cassette king and film producer Hanif Kadawala, 45, on February 7. An accused in the March 1993 serial bomb blasts, Kadawala was allegedly a close associate of underworld don Dawood Ibrahim and owned the prestigious Tava group of restaurants in Mumbai.

Around noon, a sharpshooter whom Kadawala ostensibly knew entered his Bandra office, whipped out a gun and fired five bullets into him. The killer then escaped in a waiting vehicle. Guru Satam, Dawood's rival Chhota Rajan's former henchman, has claimed credit for the killing and in the process announced his 'independent arrival' in the underworld.

Senior police officials said that Satam had been waiting to take control of Rajan's extortion businesses in Mumbai for some time. The Dawood gang's unsuccessful bid on Rajan's life in Bangkok in September last year had sent most of Rajan's men underground.

Dawood also received setbacks subsequently. The arrests of Bollywood producer Nazim Rizvi and diamond king and film financier Bharat Shah were a big blow to Dawood, who is hiding in Karachi. Satnam probably felt that it was the right time to strike and fill the vacuum left by the big players. But having earned two enemies—Dawood and Rajan—Satam has to tread carefully now.

Satam's target couldn't have been better. Apart from being close to Dawood and managing his finances in Mumbai, Kadawala owned Magnum Videos, which he started with partner Samir Hingora in the 1970s. During the video boom of the mid-1970s and the late 1980s they flooded the market with videos of new and old movies and made a killing.

As the cable industry bloomed in the mid-1980s, the duo changed tracks to launch Magnum Films Interna-

tional and produced movies like *Sahibaan* (Sanjay Dutt-Madhuri Dixit), *Baap Numbri*, *Beta Dus Numbri* (Kader Khan, Aditya Pancholi and Farah). *Dil Hi To Hai* (Jackie Shroff in a double role with Divya Bharati and Shilpa Shirodkar) and *Sanam* (Sanjay Dutt and Manisha Koirala). Two of his projects, *Street Singer* (Ajay Devgan and Shilpa Shirodkar) and *Jung* were abandoned when he was arrested in June 1993 for his involvement in the Mumbai serial blasts.

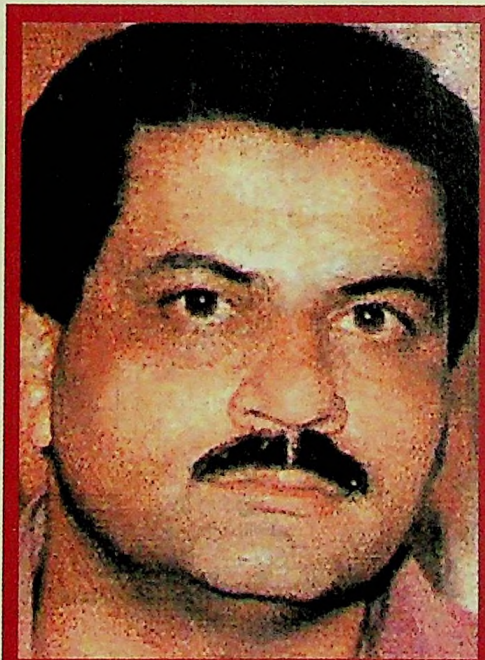
Kadawala and Hingora were charged, under TADA, with passing on an AK-56 assault rifle to actor Sanjay Dutt. Later, they melted down the rifle and destroyed the evidence. Dutt spent nearly two years behind bars before getting bail, and Kadawala was jailed for four years. He was on bail when he was killed.

It is said that Satam has been trying to set up an independent base in Mumbai along with local don Ravi Poojari and Bangalore don Muthappa Rai (who is believed to be in Switzerland). The police are investigating their possible involvement in the attack on Rajan, who is now believed to be in Vietnam.

The police had arrested 165 persons in connection with the serial bomb blasts, of whom 30 are still in custody. Seven, including Kadawala, have been gunned down. The others killed are: builder Wajidkhan Walikhan Mohammed Khan in March 1998; Bismillah Khan alias Salim Kurla in April 1998; Salim Qasim Rehmatullah alias Salim Passport in May 1998; Mohammed Mustafa Jindran

and Kiran Govardhan Pandey in June 1998; and Noor Khan in December 1999.

One lucky survivor was former collector of customs, Somnath Thapa, who escaped with bullet injuries and is awaiting trial. Some police officers are concerned that the killings could weaken the prosecution case.



GURU SATAM'S TARGET COULDN'T HAVE BEEN BETTER. APART FROM BEING CLOSE TO DAWOOD AND MANAGING HIS FINANCES IN MUMBAI, KADAWALA (ABOVE) OWNED MAGNUM VIDEOS, WHICH HE STARTED WITH PARTNER SAMIR HINGORA IN THE 1970s.

By B. Krishnakumar/Bhuj

As the Army and assorted agencies struggle to clear the debris of the earthquake that all but obliterated much of Kutch, Anil Mukhim is showing the way. The new collector of the district walks into his chamber in Uned Bhavan in Bhuj though its first floor has collapsed. He operates from there with a smile and an open-door policy. It is a confidence-building move and it shows. The rest of the staff has moved in, too. Till Mukhim took over, the district administration—numbed by the quake—was operating out of tents.

A stream of complainants, officers and staff make Mukhim's office a beehive. He is polite but firm, telling help-seekers where to go. "You want tents? Ok, go to your taluka office; these have been dispatched there," he tells one persistent complainant.

An engineer from CIDCO, Mumbai, complains that he has not been given a scale map of Bhachau, the ravaged township that the Maharashtra government is helping rebuild. When the collector says it may not be possible to trace the document, the engineer replies he has tracked down the map to a particular office in Bhuj. All he needs is an official to accompany him.

The collector asks an officer to make the necessary arrangements, only to be told that the office concerned is locked because the building is damaged. The CIDCO engineer volunteers to do the risky part, but is frustrated by a typical bureaucratic reply: "How can we enter the office without permission?" Mukhim

A window of opportunity

RELIEF MATERIAL HAS BEEN POURING IN BUT DISTRIBUTION IS HAPHAZARD. THE OUTBACKS WERE STILL TO GET TENTS AND BLANKETS EVEN ON FEB 6. (ERECTING A PREFAB HOUSE IN BHUJ; SALVAGING THE REMAINS IN MARDIA VILLAGE, TOP)

Photo/Sanjay Ahlawat

TEMPERATURES DIPPED TO -5° CELSIUS SOME NIGHTS.



Photo/Sanjay Ahlawat

A fluid situation but no dearth of hope

"NOW IT IS FIRE-FIGHTING WHICH WILL CONTINUE FOR AT LEAST 15 DAYS AND THEN WE WILL TAKE UP REHABILITATION," SAYS KUTCH COLLECTOR ANIL MUKHIM (BELOW). A SURVIVOR QUENCHES HER THIRST IN BHUJ (ABOVE).

tries to assuage the engineer, telling him that he would try to get the documents.

Mukhim's priorities are clear: "The first thing is to make the people believe that the system is functioning. Now it is fire-fighting which will continue for at least 15 days and then we will take up rehabilitation."

Mukhim is making a gallant attempt to kick-start the system. Power supply was restored three days after the quake, and water was being provided in Bhuj, Bhachau and Anjar, but that is a trickle considering the vastness of Kutch. Relief material has been pouring in but distribution continues to be haphazard. The outbacks were

still to get tents and blankets and normal water supply even on February 6—and to think that over 350 villages of the 1,000 in Kutch have been razed by the quake.

In Loriya village, whose 500 dwellings have been reduced to rubble, brothers Ranji and Kanji are sifting through the remains of their home-cum-flour mill. "Nobody has come to help us," says Kanji.

Their humble homes were a blessing: "We ran out the moment we heard the first rumble. So the casualties were low, only three people died here," says V.K. Jadeja, a lab assistant with the geology department. The villagers slept in the open even as temperatures dipped to 5°Celsius some nights.

In neighbouring Dhrang, where all the 200 houses have collapsed,



'WE WERE LIKE BROTHERS. NOW THEY ARE FIGHTING ON CA

farmer Laxman Mehra says the villagers have been living in the open for eight days and getting food and water occasionally from relief teams. In Lodai, supposedly the epicentre of the quake, hectic activity is on around the panchayat office. Tractor-loads of foodgrains, clothing and tents are being driven off to be distributed among various *bastis* (wards). A pan shop is open as in Bhuj and other affected areas, doing brisk sales of *gutka*, cigarettes and bidis.

Over 800 structures tumbled in this village of 5,000 people but the death toll fortunately is only 23. There is an occasional complaint about lack of power supply, water and even food, but by and large life seems to be springing back amid the rows of crumbled houses. Home fires are burning though on pavements and open spaces.

Self-help seems to be the guiding principle as people pick up the pieces of what were homes and move into tent-houses. A unit from the Army (6 Maratha) is at hand, putting up community tents and providing medical relief. They are trying to put behind the nightmare of January 26 when 20 of their folks were crushed to death.

In Sukhpar, 7 km from Bhuj, confusion reigns as a bundle of plastic tents is dumped on the roadside. It is February 6, eleven days after the quake and there is no administrative presence here. Adam, a farm labourer, and Sulaiman Rehman who works with the Gujarat Electricity Board as a lineman, are sullen. "Nothing has come from the government, people are fighting among themselves to grab whatever is dumped by various voluntary agencies," they say.

The friends blame the so-called aid committee members representing the Patels, Harijans, Muslims and Khalifas for cornering what they want first. "We were like brothers. Now they are fighting on caste and community basis for relief material," says Adam, tears streaming down his face.



Photos/B. Krishnakumar

Men with a mission: Col. Gurdip Singh and Maj. Y. S. Rao of the Sappers at work in the Jain Bhavan Complex in Bhuj

Battle concrete

Army plays a hero's role

On February 4, a team from the 12 Engineering Regiment was at work in Bhuj struggling to pull down a five-storey building that seemed to be leaning on thin air. Implosion was not feasible given its precarious tilt.

Engineer-in-chief Brig. Kiran Krishan and Col. Gurdip Singh were supervising the operation. The building withstood the pull of the massive military crane and the banging of the heavy earthmover from morn till sunset. It was finally felled the next day, bringing to an end just one of the many difficult jobs assigned to the unit. Another team from the unit is declogging the lanes in an old enclave of Bhuj. It is close to meeting up with a group from the 108 Engineering Regiment that had cut and bulldozed its way through the Soni (Gold) Market.

The 12 Engineering Regiment is also at work at Jain Bhavan, a residential complex in Bhuj, which collapsed. The first building in the complex housed the largest number of people and the army mounted its biggest operation there. It retrieved 70 bodies from the Bhavan. There were about 500 families in the complex and it was a challenging task to look for survivors. "At great risk to their lives, our men have gone in search of survivors wherever we found a cavity," says Col. Gurdip Singh, commandant of the unit better known as the Sappers.

The colonel, who has commanded a unit in Angola, says the devastation here is much more than what he has witnessed elsewhere. With Maj. Y.S. Rao, he moves from site to site and reports progress to Brig. Krishan. His regiment is also at work at the collapsed Syndicate Bank and civil hospital buildings, from where they retrieved 80 bodies.

There are more than 25,000 men and officers from the elite Army regiments—Sikh Light Infantry, the Sappers, 6 Marathas, 2 Marathas—backed by men from the BSF, CRPF, SSB (Special Services Bureau, which operates around the border), state police and the Home Guard at work in Kutch today. The army has the toughest assignments.

If Bhuj and other quake-hit areas are wobbling back to normalcy, the nation has to salute these gallant men.

B. Krishnakumar

STE AND COMMUNITY BASIS FOR RELIEF MATERIAL.!

Rebuilding minds

Latur youth strive to reopen schools

Why do you want to leave? It's better you die here in front of our eyes," said Limbaji Pratale's mother when he told her that he wanted to seek a new life in Pune, a few days after an earthquake had struck his native Talani village in Latur.

The standard six student was too scared to stay back and wanted to join his friends who were fleeing the village. "I simply cried until she relented." Seven years later, Limbaji, 19, did not wait for permission to leave for Gujarat.

"The quake on Republic Day brought back harrowing memories of the past. I could not sleep," he says. "The thought that somebody might be waiting for help under the debris, just as I had on the night of September 30, 1993, brought me here."

Like Limbaji, there are a hundred youth from Latur camping in Bhachau as part of a 500-strong Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana relief team from Pune.

For them, it is like revisiting a nightmare. Limbaji's eyes well up as he talks of his sister and brother-in-law who lost their lives and his father who was handicapped in the Latur quake.

But there is little time to waste. "The Kutch tragedy is ten times greater than ours, because rescuers arrived here very late," says Atmaram Javalge, 18, of the National Cadet Corps, who lost his mother in 1993. Bodies had started rotting in many villages by the time the Sanghatana arrived on January 28.

Since there was little that they could do in terms of rescue operations, the Sanghatana moved instantly to provide relief and restart schools in 40 villages in Bhachau.

Since many children had lost their lives during Republic Day ceremonies in schools across Kutch the Sanghatana volunteers very gently mentioned restarting schools to the elders. Contrary to their expectation, the reaction was almost always positive even in villages like Samikhiyali, which was completely flattened.

"Within a week of the tragedy, we had had two meetings with the village elders and teachers," said Shantilal Muttha, founder-president of the Sanghatana.

In 1993, Muttha brought children—orphans or those who had lost a one parent—from Latur to Pune within 20 days of the earthquake and set up a school. Today, the first batch of students from his school are in college—Limbaji plans to do BA Economics, and Tukaram Mhaske, 22, is a final-year graduation student.

Muttha also has 350 students from the malnutrition-hit Melghat area of Maharashtra and orphans from across the state.

"These students expressed an instant bonding with the children in Kutch when I mentioned this visit to them. In fact, we witnessed a virtual scramble to get names included on the volunteer list," said Muttha. "Many of my friends felt very disappointed on being left behind," says Tukaram.

Muttha, who worked for Latur's reconstruction, believes that putting education back on track is the greatest challenge in the aftermath of tragedies of such high magnitude, as it is given much less importance than medical aid, food or shelter.

Anosh Malekar/Bhachau



Murmurs of communal dissent are being heard in the hour of grief. Ratabhai Ahmedbhai Kevar who works for the Kevar Yuvak Mandal Relief Committee alleges that non-vegetarian relief supplies from Saudi Arabia are being seized and dumped by VHP and Bajrang Dal volunteers. Ikram Mirza of the Ideal Relief Wing of Jamat-e-Islami Hind backs him up: "We don't know where these things have gone."

Javed Dhupelwala, an independent corporator from Baroda, makes a more specific charge: "The RSS men stopped our vehicles near Madhopar

REHABILITATING THE VILLAGERS WOULD BE THE TOUGHEST

swing from -5°C in the night to 35°C in the day during winter and to almost 50°C in summer.

Fakir Mohammed and his family continue to live in their small and slightly damaged dwelling in the heart of Bhuj, and people are at work in his garage which is temporarily attached to it. The original work place, at the other side of the town, is a shambles but Fakirbhai is not unduly perturbed.

"Where will you have your lunch?" he asks as we make the rounds of the city's various 'operation theatres' where the army is at work. There are no eateries open on February 5 but for some *bhajiya* stalls. "You are coming home with me," he says with a finality. They treat guests as family: "Come right in, wash your hands," he says ushering me into the house. Meal is promptly served: tasty jowar rotis and vegetable curry.

The next day one bumps into Pir Asikali, in his late fifties, near what used to be his palatial mansion at Khoja Faliya. "It was spread over 10,000 sq. ft.," he says with a smile. He and his family were trapped in the debris of their bungalow till 11 a.m. of February 28 when men of the 6 Maratha Light Infantry rescued them. Asikali says his property was worth at least Rs 1.5 crore; all that remains is a heap of bricks and concrete. He is banking on a new luxury bus, now in Ahmedabad like the rest of his family, and a truck to keep them going.

As we drive back to town, Asikali waves us to a halt. "Where are you going to stay overnight?" he inquires. "At the Kutch Vikas Trust campus (a haven for the quake-hit and visitors)," I reply. "You will have to sleep in the open and it is very chilly these days, especially after the earthquake. Come to my sister's house at Jai Nagar. You can stay there tonight," he insists.

Jai Nagar, housing 70-odd families, is a picture of harmonious community life. "There is no caste or community divide here. We all live as an extended family," says Asikali.

The trauma of the living

"NOTHING HAS COME FROM THE GOVERNMENT, PEOPLE ARE FIGHTING AMONG THEMSELVES TO GRAB WHATEVER IS DUMPED BY VARIOUS VOLUNTARY AGENCIES," SAY RESIDENTS OF SUKHPAR, SEVEN KM FROM BHUJ.

and asked: 'What are you carrying in the vehicle? If there are bread and biscuits give it to us.' We showed them that we were carrying rice and water and then they said, 'Ok, go on'."

These are hopefully aberrations among what are essentially the most hospitable people who happen to live in the most inhospitable of terrain and climate. Huge stretches of the Kutch are marshy and temperatures

Illustration/Bhaskaran

OF THE MANY TASKS THE GOVT HAS AT HAND.



Photos/Jayant Pithadia



History now: Lakhpatji's chhatardi before and after January 26

Goodbye, from Ash and me

It had rebuffed a brute of a quake nearly two centuries ago. Survived the sizzling presence of Aishwarya Rai. Even the thuds of my excited heart-beats. Sadly, Lakhpatji's chhatardi could not survive Republic Day 2001.

"Yes, Lakhpatji's chhatardi has been destroyed and a portion of the Aina Mahal has collapsed. The whole of Bhuj is in ruins." My heart sank when Dilipsinghji, the descendant of the erstwhile ruler of Bhuj, told me the news with a grim finality in his voice. The chhatardi, known for its umbrella shaped roof, was an object of perpetual fascination for frequent visitors to Bhuj like me. Inside its engraved sandstone pillars and gleaming dome swirled stories of love and sacrifice.

The chhatardi was built in the late 18th century in memory of Bhuj's ruler Lakhpatji (1752-61) and his 16 queens and mistresses—all of whom jumped on his pyre—by his son Maharaoshi Godji. Aina Mahal, known for its mirrored room, was built by Lakhpatji at a cost of 8 million *koris*.

Lakhpatji was undoubtedly a connoisseur of the arts. And though foreign trade and industry received a boost during his rule, his obsession for the dancing queens of the day and other cultural activities wiped out his immense wealth.

Extravagant he may have been, but Lakhpatji did have fine taste. That is why on each visit to Bhuj it was a ritual for me to visit the Aina Mahal museum, where Kutch art and culture are on display, and the beautiful chhatardi. Till some years ago, this monument was neglected but after some scenes of the hit movie *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam* were shot here, it became a major tourist attraction.

On my previous visit to Bhuj in November, I captured its beauty on film, somewhat like Sanjay Leela Bhansali. Now I only have memories. And my heart still thumps when I think of Lakhpatji's chhatardi.

Jayant Pithadia/Bhuj

Dinner over, his brother-in-law F.S. Rayma, who is the registrar in the civil judge's court, tells me that Bhuj had celebrated its 456th birthday on December 1.

The conversation is snapped as my hosts rush for the door with Asikali pulling me along: the alert comes from a whoosh in the air as if a breeze was whistling its way through a long corridor.

Though the colony has been left unscathed by the January 26 quake, barring cracks in the buildings, residents sleep in tents. Asikali, though, feels more at home in the small one-room-kitchen dwelling of Navinchandra Lalji who runs the Deepak Nastagrah and Guest House in Bhuj town. "We are childhood friends," says Asikali.

The loud horn of a truck interrupts the discussion. Asikali's truck has arrived and it has a load for Ahmedabad. In a split-second, he decides to head for the city where his family is residing and the luxury bus is parked. He has to get back to business, too.

Like brothers Dilawar and Munnawar Damani who run Damani Sales, an outlet for kerosene, lubricants and diesel near Bhid Gate. Assisted by another teenager, they opened the shop on February 1. "Business is picking up. There is demand for kerosene and oil from the autorickshaw owners," says Munnawar.

The Damani family lives in a tent at Mehndi Colony; their row house collapsed but his parents and younger brother got out in time. Munnawar was at work when the quake hit and their small shop stands out in a locality that has all but been razed.

Down the road, the locality is enveloped in dust and stench. Policemen, guarding whatever is left in the debris, men of the Army, volunteer agencies all wear a nose-mask. There is a chorus of complaints from representatives of people in the Babansiphir, Vistrapura, Khatri chakla, Bhid Gate and Sajarnamatam, all minority-dominated enclaves. They say that relief and clean-up operations have not begun in their areas even 10 days after

PIR ASIKALI POINTS TO THE SPOT WHERE HIS PALATIAL M



Photo/Paras Shah

A hunger to get back to business

BROTHERS DILAWAR AND MUNNAWAR DAMANI (BELOW) STARTED AN OUTLET FOR OIL AND KEROSENE IN BHUJ ON FEBRUARY 1. "DEMAND FROM AUTORICKSHAW DRIVERS IS PICKING UP," THEY SAY. (AT A COMMUNITY KITCHEN, ABOVE)

the disaster.

Says Ali Mohammed Jat, a former member of the Bhuj Municipal Council: "There has been 100 per cent destruction and bodies are still lying under the debris. Nobody is providing us essentials, no water tankers come here, no medicines." Ismail Manjoti, who is a BJP councillor of Ward 11, is fretting that "till date we have not got tents and blankets. Nothing from foreign aid agencies has reached us." He and a bunch of complainants from various wards gather outside the collector's chamber and angrily demand a meeting with him.

Once they meet Mukhim, the team is appeased and gets back to their wards convinced that some order has been restored in the administration. "I have handed over part of the responsibilities to the municipal



Photo/B. Krishnakumar

council," Mukhim says even as two men hold up bottles of muddied water. He assures them that the tanker-owners involved will be dealt with.

The Herculean task before the district collector and his team is to

move the machinery and manpower to the affected areas. The problem is of access into the alleys that have disappeared under mounds of debris in inner Bhuj, all of Bhachau and Anjar. The removal of debris is a mammoth task, and then the big question: where to rehabilitate people, Mukhim says.

Thousands of people are camping on the large Jubilee and middle school grounds, the tent enclaves put up by the Army and Central and state police forces, and on the pavements outside damaged houses in the towns. And then there are the thousands in the villages all over Kutch. Reaching them and rehabilitating the villagers, who complain that they are last on the list of the

administration's priorities, would be the toughest of the many tasks Mukhim has at hand.

He has made a beginning, and the people are lending him a helping hand by trying to help themselves.

SION STOOD. "IT WAS SPREAD OVER 10,000 SQ. FT."

Brick by brick

Personnel deployed: In worst-hit Kutch, 28 senior IAS officers, 107 administrative officers, 2,104 technical staff, 197 police officers, 10 SRP companies; 22,500 armed forces, 3,000 para-military, 1,349 Home Guards and 690 police personnel; 13,355 manpower engaged through contractor.



A roof above: Shelter made by urban development ministry

Photo/Arvind Jain

Food and fuel supplied: 6471.3 tonnes food grain, 106.7 tonnes milk powder, 555.815 tonnes vegetables, 349 tonnes edible oil, 6,844 kilo litres diesel, 2,909 kilo litres petrol, 4,601 kilo litres kerosene and 82,700 kitchen kits distributed in Kutch, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Surendranagar districts.

Rural housing: Additional allocation of Rs 250 crore for earthquake-proof housing for below poverty

Corporate largesse

Reliance Industries Limited: Dhirubhai Ambani donated Rs 5 crore to the PM's Relief Fund. Additional Rs 15 crore for Anjar. A medical team rushed to affected areas. Company aircraft, helicopters, equipment and personnel used for relief work.

Larsen and Toubro: Rs 5 crore for construction activities. Studying quake-proof designs. To assist Maharashtra government in reconstructing Bhachau.

Public sector banks: Rs 25 crore to PM's Fund.

Indian Airlines: Rs 2 crore, including Rs 1 crore from employees.

Bombay Diamond Merchants' Association: To collect Rs 20 crore and send through Gem and Jewellery National Relief Foundation.

Dabhol Power Company: Sent a helicopter for relief operations, a dozen doctors and paramedics.

Hinduja Foundation: Rs 5 crore. Fifty-bed facilities for victims at the P.D. Hinduja National Hospital in Mumbai.

Videocon Group: To rebuild 250 houses in Bharuch and

line families in rural areas

- ◆ Rs 22,000 per dwelling unit for affected districts
- ◆ CAPART earmarks Rs 5 crore to meet short and long term relief and rehabilitation activities
- ◆ Rural Agro Research Development Society has sent 10,000 tarpaulin sheets, 20,000 *chatais* for setting up tents for 10,000 families

Utilities: Power restored in 9 towns and 785 villages

- ◆ Telecommunication links partially restored
- ◆ Water supply restored through pipes, tankers and other sources
- ◆ Road, rail and air traffic near normal

Health: 395 hospitals functioning; 34 in Kutch.

- ◆ 256 mobile teams to treat injury cases and ensure chlorination/disinfection.
- ◆ 2,371 medical officers, 615 specialists (298 from other states) and 5,536 para medics deployed in affected areas
- ◆ Mental health experts from NIMHANS and AIIMS
- ◆ 12 special teams of veterinary doctors

Relief operation

- ◆ 448 NGOs and 7,332 volunteers for relief work
- ◆ Rs 13.06 crore from NGOs and individual donors
- ◆ Rs 16.51 crore from other states
- ◆ Rs 88.14 ex-gratia to 1.15 lakh persons
- ◆ Rs 16.42 lakh to 1,909 families for household kits
- ◆ Rs 203.04 lakh death compensation for 283 people

collect 1,000 bottles of blood.

LIC Housing Finance Limited: Concessions in repayment of loans. Newschemes for repairs and reconstruction of houses



Healing touch: Nita Ambani consoling a child at Anjar



Warm relief: Dresses heaped on the road for quake victims in Bhuj

Photo/Sanjay Ahlawat

Helping hands

External assistance from 38 countries

World Bank	\$300 million
Asian Development Bank	\$350 million
Japan	\$ 3 million
European Union	Euro 38 million
CARE	\$3.5 million

World Food Programme has launched an emergency operation to feed more than 300,000 victims through a four-month, \$4-million operation. The agency has been delivering high-energy biscuits in Bhuj. Around 178,000 people, mostly pregnant women, nursing mothers and children will be given these biscuits for two months, after which they would be given a nutritious blend called Indiamix for another two months.

at concessional rates. Processing fees waived.
NASSCOM: Rs 5 crore from members. California-based experts to formulate methods for better preparedness.
Nortel Networks: To give \$100,000 towards relief operations.
J.B. Chemical and Pharmaceuticals Limited: To adopt Vavania village in Rajkot. Will construct 250 houses. Company promoters, the Modis, to donate Rs 1 crore. Medical aid worth Rs 15 lakh despatched to Bhuj, Morvi and Bharuch.
Zybus-Cadilla: Rs 1 crore worth medical aid distributed.
Power-gen India: Rs 1 crore to the PM's Fund. Sent a medical team to quake-hit areas.
Major PSUs: To adopt groups of villages for relief and reconstruction.
GII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM: To adopt large clusters of villages for relief and reconstruction.
FICCI-CARE: To provide temporary shelter, water/sanitation/electricity, quake-resistant housing, construction of permanent social infrastructure (schools, clinics, anganwadis, tube wells), help to small business establishments and craftsmen.

Contributors/B. Krishnakumar, Qaaleed Najmi, Palash Kumar

Situation report as on Feb. 7

Population affected	3.78 crore
Districts	21
Villages	8,792
Human deaths	16,480
Injured	1,44,927

District	Dead	Injured
Ahmedabad	750	4,037
Jamnagar	119	4,592
Kutch-Bhuj	14,927	1,15,940
Rajkot	410	10,568

Houses collapsed	2,28,906
Cattle deaths	18,352
Estimated loss of property	Rs 13,500 crore
Impact on trade & industry	Rs 2,000 crore

Operation Bhuj

Ariel Sharon's victory in the Israeli election has made its mark in Bhuj. The eighth baby born in the Israeli Defence Force's mobile hospital in the earthquake-ravaged town has been named Sharon. Like two other premature babies, Sharon is nurtured in an incubator.

By February 5, the 70-bed Israeli medical unit had treated 700 patients including a man who had a heart attack and a woman who had a stroke. The 80-member team is led by Dr Yehuda Baruch.



Life goes on: An Israeli doctor observing a newborn

Photo/Sanjay Ahlawat

It is all precision-driven: patients are segregated on arrival and moved to the OPD, operation theatres, ICUs and the paediatrics ward. While delivering one of the premature babies, the surgeons had a delicate task: operate the damaged skull of the baby even as the caesarian was on. "No one died here. We can treat 1,000 patients every day," says IDF spokesperson Idit Dudveoany. The unit comprises a rescue team, a lab, an X-ray tent, sleeping quarters and a logistics group.

Graphics/M.V. Jose

Pride of broken hearts

The Kutchis are ready to fight it out on their own

Sitting in a camp for earthquake victims Velabhai Mesanbhaib Harijan recalls his dreams. His children, Raniben, 20, and Nagjibhai, 15, were his passport to a better life. But Velabhai's dreams were crushed when both Raniben and Nagjibhai were found dead

under the debris of their house in Lunwa village in Bhachau.

"Now it is a question of our survival," says Velabhai's wife, Paruben. Velabhai is too weak to work in fields and their landlord Sanjibhai Lakman Patel's house was also reduced to rubble. With no

power to draw water into his fields, his castor crop is under serious threat.

Sanjibhai, however, has sufficient foodgrain under the rubble to feed the Harijan family and his own for about three months. They hope to be on the recovery path by then.

Chokdi: February 1, 2001

The village was reduced to rubble. Ganga Ben clings to her baby, the only one left to call her own.

*Illustrations/
Bhaskaran/Bhuj*



*bhaskaran
1-2-2001
chokdi*

They expect no relief from the government or voluntary agencies. "We were given blankets, foodgrain, tea, sugar and stoves. That is enough," says Velabhai. In fact, all that the 350 homeless families in this village ask for is tarpaulin sheets to erect tents; sleeping in the open in the chilly nights is near impossible. For now they manage with a bonfire, but it is no permanent solution.

Villagers like Velabhai across Kutch may be heartbroken but not disheartened. Says Valjibhai Patel of Vounth village: "*Bahut seva ho gaya*. (We have had enough of relief). How long can we survive on aid from outside? As time passes we will wipe our tears and rebuild our lives."

In fact, the grit of the Kutchis has forced government officials in Anjar to rethink the proposal

from NGOs and corporate houses to start community kitchens. "It would wreck the people's 'self-help' effort," says Sanjay Gupta, a senior IAS officer, who was dismayed by news reports about people looting relief material. "There has been not a single incident in Anjar. The Kutchis are a very proud people," he says. "They should not be maligned because of some stray incidents."

Septuagenarian Gangaben Patel of Vounth village would rather scrape through the rubble of her house than stand in a long queue for a sari. Well past 6 p.m. Gangaben locates the brand-new



Lodai: February 1, 2001

The epicentre of the killer quake. Claimed 170 lives in the village, and brought down all the houses. Maya Samad lost everything—her husband, children and grandchildren.

Jikdi: February 2, 2001

Eighteen villagers died. Rethi Bai lost all her four children. No relief has come by. Not even drinking water.



haskurans
2. 2. 2001 Jikdi



Modpur: February 1, 2001

The quake claimed 97 lives. But spared the baby in the crib. The orphan is being taken care of by the surviving women.

embroidered 'ghaghras' (long skirts) she had made for her two daughters.

The Kutchis prefer traditional clothes like 'choli-ghaghra' and 'wanjada-ganji'. There are very few takers for saris, shirts and trousers, and many relief teams abandoned their stocks on the roadsides, says Shantilata Muttha of the Pune-based Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana.

Amid death Gujarati hospitality was alive. Sister Suma from the Missionaries of Charity, Baroda, recalls her first moments in Vamka village: "A group of women were crying; they had lost children, wealth and property." Then the women amazed her by offering to cook a meal for her.

The missionaries have been

concentrating on medical aid. But marginal farmers like Valjibhai Sonabhai Ahir of Zhikdi village in Bhuj are more concerned about the future of their wheat, bajra and castor crops. With no power, the pump sets on borewells have stopped working. An impending drought staring in his face, Valjibhai sees hard times ahead.

Lunava: February 2, 2001

The entire village perished. Geeta Ben is in a daze. She lost her family of six.



Failure of crops would hit animals as well as humans. Father Joseph Kunnath, managing trustee of Kutch Vikas Trust, Raidhanpur, said most farmers depend on their crops to feed their cattle.

The Kutchis are used to coping with droughts; last year's drought was the 33rd since independence. But the hardships caused by the first major quake since independence is bound to rock their lives for a long time.

Anosh Malekar/
Kutch