

**GEOLOGICAL REPORT ON
PRELIMINARY EXPLORATION (G-3)
FOR LIMESTONE IN LODHVA BLOCK
(FIELD SEASON-2025-26)
TALUKA: SUTRAPADA
DISTRICT: GIR SOMNATH, GUJARAT**



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अध्याय 1

सारांश

गुजरात सरकार के उद्योग एवं खान विभाग के भूविज्ञान एवं खनन आयुक्त की अन्वेषण शाखा राज्य में खनिज संसाधनों की स्थापना के लिए कार्यरत है। इस शाखा ने अतीत में व्यापक अन्वेषण कार्य किए हैं और पूर्व-विस्तृत खनिज सर्वेक्षण, विस्तृत खनिज सर्वेक्षण और ड्रिलिंग के माध्यम से विभिन्न स्तरों पर संसाधनों की स्थापना की है। इन प्रयासों से बॉक्साइट, चूना पत्थर, लिग्नाइट, सिलिका रेत, बेंटोनाइट, चाक, ग्रेनाइट आदि जैसे कई औद्योगिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों की पहचान हुई है। अन्वेषण शाखा का मुख्य उद्देश्य गुजरात में खनिज संसाधन क्षमता की पहचान करना और नए एमएमडीआर संशोधन अधिनियम, 2015 और खनिज (खनिज सामग्री के साक्ष्य) नियम 2015 के लागू विधायी ढांचे के तहत संसाधनों की स्थापना करना है।

गुजरात खनिज अनुसंधान एवं विकास सोसाइटी (जीएमआरडीएस) भूविज्ञान एवं खनन आयुक्त के पर्यवेक्षण में खनिज उद्योगों को सहयोग देने और खनिज प्रशासन हेतु तकनीकी सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए समर्पित है। जीएमआरडीएस राज्य के भीतर खनिज वस्तुओं और संसाधनों की स्थापना और विकास पर कार्य करती है। अपने मूल मिशन के अतिरिक्त, जीएमआरडीएस राज्य की खनिज संपदा के लिए नए खनिज संसाधनों की खोज और संवर्धन में भी सक्रिय रूप से शामिल है।

फील्ड सीज़न 2024-25 में, गुजरात सरकार के भूविज्ञान एवं खनन आयुक्त (सीजीएम) की अन्वेषण शाखा ने राष्ट्रीय खनिज अन्वेषण ट्रस्ट (एनएमईटी), खान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार को 299.114 हेक्टेयर/2.991 वर्ग किलोमीटर क्षेत्र में चूना पत्थर के जी3-चरणीय अन्वेषण हेतु एक प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत किया, जिसमें गुजरात के गिर सोमनाथ जिले के सूत्रपाड़ा तालुका के लोढवा गाँव के कुछ हिस्से शामिल हैं। इस प्रस्ताव को एनएमईटी ने जुलाई 2024 में मंजूरी दे दी थी।

सौराष्ट्र का तटीय क्षेत्र अपने चूना पत्थर भंडारों के लिए प्रसिद्ध है। भूगर्भीय रूप से, डेक्कन ट्रैप बेसमेंट रॉक बनाता है, जो गज और द्वारका संरचनाओं जैसे तृतीयक संरचनाओं से ढका हुआ है, इसके बाद हाल के तलछट के साथ मिलिओलाइट और छाया संरचनाओं सहित क्वाटरनेरी जमा हैं। ये संरचनाएं तीन प्रमुख लिथोनाइट के रूप में होती हैं- गज, द्वारका और मिलिओलाइट- जो समुद्र तट के लगभग समानांतर रैखिक बेल्ट में व्यवस्थित हैं। कैल्साइट के रूप में कैल्शियम कार्बोनेट (CaCO_3) चूना पत्थर का प्रमुख खनिज घटक है। लोढवा ब्लॉक क्षेत्र में पाया जाने वाला चूना पत्थर प्लीस्टोसिन युग के मिलिओलाइट फॉर्मेशन से संबंधित है चूना पत्थर का रंग सफ़ेद से लेकर हल्के पीले से लेकर गुलाबी, सफ़ेद, हल्के पीले रंग का होता है। अधिकांश स्थानों पर, मिलिओलाइट चूना

पत्थर सफ़ेद से लेकर हल्के पीले रंग का, अपेक्षाकृत मुलायम, भुरभुरा, पतली परतों वाला और फोरामिनिफेरल टेस्ट और माइक्रोइट से भरपूर वैकल्पिक पट्टियों वाला होता है। मिलिओलाइट तटीय कटक के रूप में वर्तमान संस्तरित चूना पत्थर के रूप में पाया जाता है।

गुजरात खनिज अनुसंधान एवं विकास सोसाइटी (जीएमआरडीएस), गांधीनगर द्वारा लगभग 299.114 हेक्टेयर/2.991 वर्ग किमी के कुल ब्लॉक क्षेत्र का अन्वेषण किया गया। ब्लॉक के भीतर, 800 x 800 मीटर ग्रिड पर 07 बोरहोल ड्रिल किए गए, जिससे लोढवा ब्लॉक में कुल 103 मीटर की गहराई प्राप्त हुई। ड्रिल किए गए बोरहोल से प्राप्त कोर से कुल 91 प्राथमिक नमूने और 12 मिश्रित नमूने तैयार किए गए और विश्लेषण के लिए गांधीनगर स्थित पेट्रोग्राफी एवं खनिज रसायन प्रयोगशाला (पीएमसी लैब) भेजे गए। सभी कोर ड्रिलिंग नमूनों का प्रमुख और लघु ऑक्साइडों, जिनमें CaO , MgO , Al_2O_3 , SiO_2 , Fe_2O_3 , SO_3 , P_2O_5 , K_2O , Na_2O , MnO , TiO_2 और LOI शामिल हैं, के साथ-साथ विशिष्ट गुरुत्व के लिए विश्लेषण किया गया। विश्लेषणात्मक परिणामों के आधार पर, लिथोलॉजी को संशोधित किया गया और संसाधनों की गणना की गई। प्रत्येक बोरहोल के प्रभाव का आकलन करने के लिए थिएसेन पॉलीगॉन पद्धति का उपयोग करके संसाधनों की गणना की गई। इस परियोजना के परिणामस्वरूप, गुजरात की खनिज संपदा में निम्नलिखित खनिज संसाधन स्थापित हुए: लोढवा ब्लॉक क्षेत्र में सीमेंट ग्रेड चूना पत्थर का कुल 41.86 मिलियन टन इन-सीटू संसाधन और मार्ल का 20.20 मिलियन टन इन-सीटू संसाधन उपलब्ध है।

CHAPTER-1

Executive Summary

The Exploration branch of Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Industries and Mines Department, Government of Gujarat operates to establish mineral resources in the state. The branch has conducted extensive exploration in the past, and resources have been established at various levels through pre-detailed mineral surveys, detailed mineral surveys, and exploration through drilling. These efforts have identified several industrially important minerals such as Bauxite, Limestone, Lignite, Silica sand, Bentonite, Chalk, Granite, and others. The main objective of the Exploration branch is to identify mineral resource potential in the Gujarat and establish resources under the applicable legislative framework of the new MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 and Mineral (Evidence of Mineral Content) Rules 2015.

The Gujarat Mineral Research & Development Society (GMRDS) is dedicated to supporting the mineral industries and providing technical assistance for mineral administration under the supervision of the Commissioner of Geology & Mining. GMRDS works on the establishment and development of mineral commodities and resources within the state. In addition to its core mission, GMRDS is actively involved in conducting new mineral resource exploration and augmentation for state's mineral wealth.

In the Field Season 2024–25, the Exploration Branch of the Commissioner of Geology and Mining (CGM), Government of Gujarat, submitted a proposal to the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET), Ministry of Mines, Government of India, for G3-stage exploration of Limestone over a total area of 299.114 Hectares/2.991 sq. km, covering parts of Lodhva village in Sutrapada Taluka, Gir Somnath District, Gujarat. The proposal was approved by NMET in July 2024.

The coastal region of Saurashtra is well known for its limestone deposits. Geologically, the Deccan Trap forms the basement rock, overlain by Tertiary formations such as the Gaj and Dwarka Formations, followed by Quaternary deposits including the Miliolite and Chaya Formations along with Recent sediments. These formations occur as three major lithounits—Gaj, Dwarka, and Miliolite—arranged in linear belts roughly parallel to the coastline. Calcium carbonate (CaCO_3) in the form of calcite is the predominant mineral constituent of Limestone. The Limestone encountered in the Lodhva block area belongs to the Miliolite Formation of Pleistocene age. The consolidated Quaternary deposits are termed as Miliolite Formation because of preponderance of tests of foraminifer Miliolidae. This is the most widespread

lithounit in the coastal belt overlapping in all earlier lithounits. The colour of the limestone varies from white to pale yellow to pink, whitish, buff coloured. In majority of places, the miliolitic limestone varies from white to pale yellow, relatively soft, friable, thinly laminated with alternate bands rich in foraminiferal tests and micrite. The Miliolite occurs as current bedded limestone in the form of coastal ridge.

The total block area of approximately 299.114 Hectares/2.991 sq. km was explored by the Gujarat Mineral Research & Development Society (GMRDS), Gandhinagar. Within the block, 07 boreholes were drilled on an 800 x 800 meter grid, reaching a total depth of 103 meters in the Lodhva block. A total of 91 primary samples and 12 composite samples were prepared from the core recovered from the drilled boreholes and sent to the Petrography & Mineral Chemistry Laboratory (PMC Lab) Gandhinagar, for analysis. All core drilling samples were analysed for major and minor oxides, including, CaO, MgO, Al₂O₃, SiO₂, Fe₂O₃, SO₃, P₂O₅, K₂O, Na₂O, MnO, TiO₂, and LOI along with specific gravity. Based on the analytical results, the lithology was revised, and resources were calculated and resources were calculated using the Thiessen Polygon method to assess the influence of each borehole. As a result of this project, the following mineral resources were established in Gujarat's mineral wealth: A total of 41.86 million tonnes in-situ resource of cement grade Limestone and 20.20 million tonnes in-situ resource of Marl is available within Lodhva block area.

Brief Summary

Sr. No.	Parameter	Data				
01	Name of the Block	Lodhva block				
02	Location	Village: Lodhva Taluka: Sutrapada District: Gir Somnath				
03	Block Area	299.114 Hectares/2.991 sq. km				
04	Block Boundary Co-ordinates					
	Sr. No.	Boundary Pillar	DMS (WGS 84)		UTM (Universe Transverse Mercator)	
			Latitude	Longitude	Easting	Northing
	1	BP-1	20°51'13.080"N	70°35'6.650"E	664921.825	2306761.327
	2	BP-2	20°51'16.470"N	70°35'58.280"E	666413.183	2306880.341
	3	BP-3	20°50'33.010"N	70°36'40.890"E	667658.227	2305556.191
4	BP-4	20°50'29.120"N	70°35'1.700"E	664792.045	2305408.117	
05	Total Area Covered under Geological Exploration	299.114 Hectares/2.991 sq. km				
06	No. of Boreholes Drilled	07				
07	Total Meterage Drilled	103 mts				
08	Borehole Spacing	800 mts x 800 mts				
09	Depth of the Mineralized Zone	0.13 mts to 19.15 mts				
10	Economic Mineral Resource with Quality	Commodity		Average Thickness	Resource (In million tons)	Quality
		Cement Grade Limestone		5.24	41.86	CaO:42.82%, MgO:1.35%, SiO ₂ :15.54%,

					Fe ₂ O ₃ :2.21%
		Marl	3.48	20.20	CaO:27.10%, MgO:2.99%, SiO ₂ :34.29%, Fe ₂ O ₃ :3.18%
11	Average Overburden to Mineralized zone	0.29			
12	Toposheet No.	41L/9			
13	Topography	Undulating			
14	Average Rainfall	1340 mm (Source: Local Meteorological Department)			
15	Lowest Temperature	9° C (Source: IMD)			
16	Maximum Temperature	42° C (Source: IMD)			
17	Nearest Railway station	Gir Hadmatiya Railway station- 16.99 km			
18	Road	Accessible through NH-51 & SH-101			
19	Airport	Diu airport – 35.66 km			

CHAPTER-2

Introduction

2.1 Details of the Project:

A proposal for G3 stage Limestone exploration in Lodhva block, Sutrapada Taluka, Gir Somnath district, Gujarat was submitted to NMET by Commissioner of Geology and Mining, GOG- Gandhinagar on 31/07/2024.

The original proposal for the block was initially prepared at the G2 exploration stage with drilling on a 400 m × 400 m grid. However, during the 68th TCC meeting held on 28–30 August 2024, the proposal was reviewed, and it was recommended that the exploration be taken up at the G3 level with drilling on an 800 m × 800 m grid spacing. Subsequently, in the 37th EC meeting held on 23/09/2024, the matter was discussed, and the EC approved the project with an estimated cost of Rs. 46.63 Lakhs. The sanction order for the project was received on 22/10/2024. The initial timeline of the project was 21/06/2025. Subsequently, the project was approved of timeline extension until 31/12/2025 in the 43rd EC meeting held on 14/08/ 2025.

The exploration proposal for the Lodhva block is prepared with a total proposed area of 299.114 Hectares/2.991 sq. km. The Lodhva block falls in the toposheet no. 41L/9 in Lodhva village of Sutrapada Taluka, Gir Somnath district. The Preliminary Exploration (G3) for the mineral Limestone in Lodhva block was carried out on a grid of 800 x 800 meters, drilling a total of 07 boreholes comprising a total meterage of 103 meters within the block.

2.2 Investigation Agency:

Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar

2.3 Objective of the investigation:

1. To know the continuity of the mineral body both along the strike and dip.
2. To map the extent of the ore body.
3. To ascertain the grade of Limestone deposit.
4. Ore resource/reserve estimation in accordance with MEMC Rule-2015

2.4 Basis for taking up investigation:

The region was primarily investigated by the Commissioner of Geology and Mining (CGM) during 1965 and 1995–1997 through geological mapping using remote sensing techniques, surface exposure mapping and sample collection in the proposed area. The findings of these earlier investigations indicated that the coastal areas of the Saurashtra region host significant deposits of Milliolic Limestone, characterized by low overburden and occurring as low ridges and mounds, making them easily mineable.

As part of the recent geological traverse survey conducted by CGM/GMRDS Geologists, a total of 08 grab samples were collected from the block. The chemical analysis results revealed CaO content ranging from 47.87% to 53.43% indicating promising prospects for high-grade limestone.

The Lodhva block is also surrounded by existing working limestone leases like Ambuja Cement Ltd., Gujarat Sidhee Cement Ltd., Dhrangadra Chemical works Ltd. suggesting that this block can be studied as a potential extension of the already mineable deposits.

Considering the chemical analysis results, geological characteristics, and industrial demand, the block is recommended for G3-level exploration to assess its mineral potential in detail and facilitate future auction processes.

2.5 Details, nature and quantum of work proposed and achievement:

Table: 1 Details, nature and quantum of work proposed and achievement

Sr. No	Item of Work	Original Proposed	Achieved
1	Topographic Survey & Geological Mapping on 1:2000 scale (Ha)	299.114 Ha	299.114 Ha
2	Boundary and borehole demarcation with DGPS	Boundary: 4 BH: 7	Boundary: 4 BH: 7
3	Exploratory Drilling (One conditional BH to confirm the total thickness of limestone)	140 m 07 BHs	103 m 07 BHs
4	Laboratory Studies		
	i) Chemical Analysis; Primary samples for 12 radicals, CaO, MgO, Al ₂ O ₃ , SiO ₂ , Fe ₂ O ₃ , SO ₃ , P ₂ O ₅ , K ₂ O, Na ₂ O, MnO, TiO ₂ , and LOI by XRF	140 Core	91 Core
	ii) External Check (NABL) samples (10% of Primary samples) for analysis of for 12 radicals, CaO, MgO, Al ₂ O ₃ , SiO ₂ , Fe ₂ O ₃ , SO ₃ , P ₂ O ₅ , K ₂ O, Na ₂ O, MnO, TiO ₂ , and LOI by ICP-OES	14	11
5	Physical Studies		
	a) Petrological Studies	10	3
	b) Specific gravity Determinations	7	4
6	Report Preparation (5 Hard copies with one soft copy)	1	1
7	Preparation of Exploration Proposal (5 Hard copies with a soft copy)	1	1

2.6 Personal involved:

The entire work was carried out by Gujarat Mineral Research and Development Society (GMRDS), a technical arm of Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Gujarat. A team of senior technical officers from GMRDS along with Surveyors, Samplers, Geologists, GIS experts and Chemists are involved in this work.

Mode of operation of different work components and associated agency:

Table: 2 Mode of operation of different work components and associated agency

Sr. No.	Work Components	Involved agencies
01	Survey & Geological Mapping	Departmental by CGM & GMRDS
02	Laboratory Studies	Petrography and Mineral Chemistry Laboratory (PMC), CGM, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
	Samples for XRD	
	Petrographic study	
	Specific gravity	
03	Check samples from External NABL approved laboratory	M/S. Lucid Laboratory, Hyderabad (NABL approved laboratory)
04	Core Drilling	External Drilling agency- M/S. Vinayak Engimech Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad
04	Geological Report preparation	GMRDS, Gujarat
05	Preparation of Exploration proposal	CGM, Gujarat
06	Peer review of Exploration report	Exploration Branch - CGM, Gujarat

CHAPTER-3

Property description

3.1 Title of the Report

Geological Report on Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Limestone in Lodhva block, Taluka: Sutrapada, District: Gir Somnath, Gujarat.

3.2 Details of the area

The project area falls within parts of Lodhva village in Sutrapada Taluka, Gir Somnath District, Gujarat. The Lodhva block has an area of 299.114 Hectares/2.991 sq. km, bounded by Longitude 70°35'1.700"E to 70°36'40.890"E and Latitude 20°50'29.120"N to 20°51'16.470"N.

3.2.1 Survey of India Toposheet number

The block area falls under the Survey of India Toposheet No. 41L/9 of Sutrapada Taluka of Gir Somnath district, Gujarat. A map showing area on toposheet can be referred for the same (i.e. Plate-3).

3.2.2 Geo-coordinates of the Lodhva block boundary and drilled boreholes

The sheet of coordinates of Block boundary has given as separate annexure-6.

Table: 3 Coordinates of corner points of Lodhva block boundary

Sr. No.	Boundary Pillar	DMS (WGS 84)		UTM (Universe Transverse Mercator)	
		Latitude	Longitude	Easting	Northing
1	BP-1	20°51'13.080"N	70°35'6.650"E	664921.825	2306761.327
2	BP-2	20°51'16.470"N	70°35'58.280"E	666413.183	2306880.341
3	BP-3	20°50'33.010"N	70°36'40.890"E	667658.227	2305556.191
4	BP-4	20°50'29.120"N	70°35'1.700"E	664792.045	2305408.117

Table: 4 Coordinates of drilled boreholes of Lodhva block

Sr. No.	BH ID	R.L. (m)	DMS (WGS 84)		UTM (Universe Transverse Mercator)	
			Latitude	Longitude	Easting	Northing
1	LBH-1	23.00	20°50'59.70"N	70°35'12.10"E	665083.41	2306351.37
2	LBH-2	27.00	20°51'2.90"N	70°35'38.10"E	665834.00	2306457.20
3	LBH-3	32.00	20°51'1.50"N	70°36'5.50"E	666626.46	2306422.01
4	LBH-4	18.00	20°50'37.60"N	70°35'11.10"E	665061.20	2305671.49
5	LBH-5	19.50	20°50'37.80"N	70°35'39.30"E	665876.33	2305685.70
6	LBH-6	23.00	20°50'38.30"N	70°36'7.40"E	666688.48	2305709.14
7	LBH-7	28.00	20°50'37.10"N	70°36'32.30"E	667408.65	2305679.42

3.2.3 Location and Accessibility

The project area falls in parts of Lodhva village of Sutrapada Taluka, Gir Somnath District, Gujarat. District headquarter is situated at Veraval. The area is accessible through NH-51 & SH-101. A Key and Location plan can be referred for the same (i.e. Plate-1). The nearest airport from the study area is Diu airport which is around 35.66 Km away from the Lodhva block. Nearest Railway station is Gir Hadmatiya which is approx. 16.99 km away from the Lodhva block. An aerial view of study area map of Lodhva block has been also given (i.e. Plate-2).

3.2.3 Climate

The climate is typically semi-arid. Extreme temperatures, erratic rainfall and high evaporation are the characteristics feature of climate. The majority of this precipitation during the monsoon season is episodic and happens in short duration, owing to which large-scale erosion of unconsolidated sediments is triggered. The overall dryness throughout the year except monsoon season also has led to lack of vegetation in riverbanks. The temperature in Gir Somnath District ranges from 42° C higher in the summer and 9° C lowest in the winter. The average annual rainfall is below 1340 mm. (Source: Local Meteorological Department and IMD)

3.2.4 Flora and Fauna

Flora of an area depends on climatic conditions, topography, rainfall, soil type, land use and demography of an area. These factors highly affect the floral cover and quality of an area. The common flora of the area are species of *Azadirachta indica* (Neem), *Ficus religiosa* (Pipal), *Mangifera indica* (Aam), *Ischamum indicum* (Bordi), *Tamarindus indica* (Imli) and *Plumeria alba* (Champa). Among the faunas *Boselaphus tragocamelus* (Nilgai), *Canis aureus indicus* (Jackal), *Rattus rattus* (House Rat), *Serpentes* (Snake), *Pavo cristatus* (Peacock), *Scorpiones* (Scorpion) are common.

3.2.5 Drainage

Studying the drainage system is essential for gaining insights into geomorphology and structural fabrics of the area. The block area is characterized by gently undulating terrain with no perennial rivers flowing through the block boundary. However, small seasonal drainage channels are observed, primarily active during the monsoon, contributing to a sub-dendritic to sub-parallel drainage pattern in the surrounding areas. Overall, the drainage is controlled by local topography and lithology, with no significant waterlogging observed within the block area.

3.2.6 Infrastructure

The local infrastructure, such as bus stop, hotels/restaurants, primary health centers, school, and temples are present within the periphery of 6-10 km from Lodhva block. The Gir Somnath district covers an area of 3,775 km² and population of the district is 9,46,790 as per 2011 census. Kadsala, Solaj, Padruka are the nearby villages to Lodhva block. This Block is located around 22.00 Km towards south-east from district headquarters Veraval and around 333 Km from state capital Gandhinagar. Sutrapada is around 10.42 Km far from this block. Gujarat Heavy Chemicals Ltd soda ash plant is situated at around 12.32 km south-west from the block area and Ambuja Cements Limited (Adani Cement), Ambujanagar Plant is about 7.98 km east from the block area.

CHAPTER-4

Previous work

- During F.S. 1965–66 Shri U.D.G. Rao carried out investigations of limestone deposits in the eastern parts of Veraval and Kodinar in the Gir Somnath District, Gujarat State. During this field Season an area of about 200 sq.kms. between Kodinar and Veraval was examined, and all-important limestone outcrops were mapped and assessed and 228 chip sample had been collected systematically along and across the dip direction and sent for analysis. The reserves had been estimated to be about 30 million tonnes of limestone and 26 million tonnes of calcareous sand.
- During the Field Seasons of 1979–1981, Shri A.K. Trivedi carried out a geological investigation in the Morasa to Padruka village area, Veraval Taluka, Junagadh District, Gujarat. The study involved geological mapping at a scale of 1:2000 and contouring at 2-meter intervals over 4.8 square kilometers. A total of 36 boreholes were drilled, with depths ranging from 10.67 to 30.50 meters, at 400-meter intervals in a grid pattern. Most boreholes intersected Gaj clays, while the milliolite limestone strata ranged from 6 to 21 meters in thickness, averaging 15 meters. 654 samples were collected, and 86 chip samples were analyzed. The investigation identified an estimated reserve of 138.24 million tonnes of cement-grade limestone in the area.
- During F.S. 1995–96–97 Shri S.D. Kapse and Shri Y.C. Patel undertook geological mapping of Junagadh and Jamnagar districts on a 1:50,000 scale, covering about 2,580 sq. km using Remote Sensing Techniques. Geological maps were prepared using False Colour Composite (F.C.C.) data of LANDSAT and SPOT satellite in parts of toposheets 41 G/5, 41 G/10, 41 G/6, 41 K/4, 41G/15, 41 G/11, 41 L/5, 41 L/1, 41 L/9, 41 L/10.
- During F.S. 2019-21 Commissioner of Geology and Mining (CGM), Gujarat had carried out G2 level exploration of limestone in the Barvela-Singhsar Block, Junagadh District. The exploration was carried out by drilling 53 boreholes at nearly 200-meter grid spacing. A total of 51 boreholes tested positive for Limestone. All boreholes were drilled in 50mts depth and still mineralized zone is continuing in the depth.

- During recent CGM/GMRDS Surveys (F.S. 2024-25). A total of 08 grab samples were collected from the Lodhva block during geological traverses. Chemical analysis revealed CaO content ranging from 47.87% to 53.43%, confirming the presence of high-quality limestone. The chemical analysis are as follows:

Chemical Composition (%)														
Sr. No.	Sample ID	Latitude	Longitude	SiO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	Fe ₂ O ₃	TiO ₂	CaO	MgO	Na ₂ O	K ₂ O	P ₂ O ₅	SO ₃	LOI
1	LODHWA-01	20°50'51.32"N	70°35'11.54"E	7.67	4.21	3.28	0.45	47.87	0.85	0.00	0.29	0.10	0.05	34.88
2	LODHWA-02	20°50'56.231"	70°35'18.590"	4.50	2.34	2.38	0.25	51.04	0.50	0.10	0.21	0.05	0.00	38.46
3	LODHWA-03	20°50'50.69"	70°35'17.93"	3.59	1.79	2.69	0.26	53.11	0.67	0.14	0.18	0.13	0.00	37.24
4	LODHWA-04	20°50'59.409"	70°35'55.367"	4.58	1.97	2.54	0.31	51.80	0.58	0.13	0.21	0.06	0.00	37.67
5	LODHWA-05	20°51'02.364"	70°35'48.279"	3.50	1.55	2.45	0.22	52.83	0.51	0.14	0.15	0.50	0.00	38.00
6	LODHWA-06	20°51'07.213"	70°35'53.926"	4.96	1.89	2.57	0.36	53.43	0.64	0.08	0.25	0.09	0.04	35.52
7	LODHWA-07	20°50'46.18"	70°36'14.71"	3.85	1.60	2.15	0.20	53.19	0.52	0.16	0.24	0.02	0.00	37.90
8	LODHWA-08	20°50'40.13"	70°36'33.09"	5.62	1.53	2.25	0.28	52.16	0.35	0.08	0.08	0.14	0.03	37.29

In addition, Ambuja Cement mining lease is 800 meters in west direction away from proposed block. Gujarat Sidhee Cement mining lease is 1200 meters in east direction away from Lodhva block, validating the limestone prospectivity and continuity of the mineralized horizon.

Details of Aero-geophysical and Geophysical mapping

Systematic regional gravity and magnetic surveys were carried out in toposheet nos. 41L/9 in parts of Sutrapada Taluka, Gir Somnath district, Gujarat under National Geophysical Programme (NGPM) of GSI. The Bouguer gravity contour map shows values ranging from +10 mGal to -90 mGal with an overall variation of 100 mGal and the magnetic contour map shows values ranging from +547 nT to -308 nT with an overall variation of 855 nT.

CHAPTER-5

Geology of the area

The coastal Saurashtra is known for its limestone deposits. Stratigraphically the Deccan trap is the oldest lithounit in the area and forms the basement for the overlying sedimentary units. The Deccan Traps are overlain by rocks of Gaj Formation and Dwarka Formation of Tertiary period and Miliolite Formation and Chaya Formation of Quaternary period along with Recent and Sub-recent loose sediments. The three major lithounits, i.e. Gaj, Dwarka and Miliolite Formations occur broadly in three linear belts parallel to the coastline.

Gaj Formation

Gaj formation includes an intercalated sequence of marl/clay and limestone, dominated by the former. The marl/clay is light yellow to grey and it is difficult to distinguish between the two in transitional cases. Gaj limestone is light to deep yellow to brown, compact, and cryptocrystalline. At places, this limestone contains very little free silica or is almost devoid of it. The thickness of limestone band is highly variable and often a quite thick band pinches abruptly within short distance., In almost all places, where Gaj Formation is exposed a, thin crust (less than 2 m thick) of compact, dark coloured limestone, which is a secondary leaching product, is present followed downward by Gaj clay/marl. Gaj Formation is rich in marine mega- and micro- fossils. Mega fossils include pelecypods, gastropods, cephalopods, echinoids, alcyonaria, decapoda and bryozoa. Earlier workers have assigned an Upper Miocene age to Gaj Formation but Mathur et al (1980) advocated that the Gaj Formation is at least of Mid Miocene age, if not older, as it contains fossils of *Taberina malabarica* a Lower to Middle Miocene foraminifer.

Dwarka Formation

Dwarka Formation is equivalent to the Dwarka bed of Fedden (1884). It overlies the Gaj Formation. Although there are pebbly or conglomeratic bands at the contacts, in most places the relation is conformable. The Dwarka Formation, as exposed in this area, generally comprises grey and gritty to sandy limestone almost devoid of megafossils. Near Dwarka, the Dwarka formation was divided into Upper and Lower Dwarka Member by Jain and Agarwal (1989-90). The lower Member, which overlies Gaj Formation, is an intercalated sequence of clay and kankar, friable/compact sandstone, yellow and red marl beds and yellow ferruginous and grayish sandy limestone. The

Upper Dwarka is mainly bioclastic limestone, often cavernous and contains very little silica.

Miliolite Limestone

The consolidated Quaternary deposits are termed as Miliolite Formation because of preponderance of tests of foraminifer Miliolidae. This is the most widespread lithounit in the coastal belt overlapping in all earlier lithounits. The colour of the limestone varies from white to pale yellow to pink, whitish, buff coloured. In majority of places, the miliolitic limestone varies from white to pale yellow, relatively soft, friable, thinly laminated with alternate bands rich in foraminiferal tests and micrite. The Miliolite occurs as current bedded limestone in the form of coastal ridge. This Limestone primarily comprise of broken shells of foraminifer-milioline around which calcite grains have been formed.

Chaya Formation

This is a semi-consolidated highly porous limestone occurring near the present day coastline and rich in both mega and microfossils. The thickness shows wide variation decreasing away from the coast. It is generally a bit ferruginous particularly below the ground level.

Soil and Alluvium

Major portion of the area is covered with soil or alluvium. This can be divided as the type formed due to weathering of limestone and the type formed due to deposition of clays brought by rivers. The soil formed due to weathering of limestone is regur soil and that of river is sticky black clayey soil.

The general stratigraphic succession of the region is as follows:

Table: 5-Regional Geology of the Area by K. K. Verma et.al. (1972-73)

Age	Formation	Litho-units/Rock Type
Holocene	Recent beds	Beach sands, Coastal dunes, Rann clays & Fresh water Alluvium
Holocene to Late Pleistocene	Chaya Formation	White to reddish brown calcilutites, at places highly fossiliferous containing semi-fossilised remains of lamellibranchs, gastropods, corals etc. (including 'Dead coral reefs ', Oyster beds ' and 'Raised beaches' of Fedden)
Early Pleistocene	Miliolite Formation	Pelitic and Oolitic calc-arenites, micrites, calcareous Conglomerate.
		Buff & grayish white colored medium to coarse grained, coquinoïdal limestone
Pliocene to Lower Miocene	Dwarka Formation	Limestone having Balanus and molluscan fossils and their fragments, sub-rounded to rounded quartz grains (sand size). Dirty white to variegated clays, poorly fossiliferous
Lower Miocene	Gaj Formation	Deep ocherous marls and marly limestones with Foraminifers and marine invertebrates. Variegated, unfossiliferous clays.
Up. Cretaceous to Eocene	Deccan Trap Formation	Laterite/Bauxite/Lithomarge Basalt, trachytes, andesite and other trappean rocks.

Geology of the Lodhva block

With the help of core-drilling, sampling and data assessment of the Lodhva block local geological successions of the area are given as below:

Table: 6-Local Geology of the Study Area

Age	Formation	Litho-units/Rock Type
Holocene	Recent to Sub-Recent	Top black soil
Early Pleistocene	Miliolite Formation	Buff white to yellowish colored fine to medium grained Miliolite limestone

Soil: It is the youngest unit exposed in the Lodhva block, which is black in colour, with fine to medium grain size. It is composed of calcareous material and clayey in nature at places. Soil layer is having average thickness of 0.28 m.

Limestone:

The Miliolitic Limestone of Pleistocene age is encountered in the Lodhva block. It is typically buff white, pinkish white to yellowish in color. It is characterized by a fine to medium grain structure, composed predominantly of foraminiferal fossils embedded in a calcitic matrix. This limestone formation is primarily found in shallow marine deposits of Pleistocene age. It is dense, hard, porous and of economic significance due to its high calcium carbonate content and low impurities. The average thickness of limestone observed across the boreholes is 5.24 m.

Marl:

Marl associated with Limestone encountered in the present study area. It is a non-clastic sedimentary rock composed primarily of fine to medium-grained, whitish to yellowish-brown colored calcium carbonate mineral. The average thickness of marl observed across the boreholes is 3.48 m within the Lodhva block.

Clay:

The clay exhibits yellowish to brown colors. It is fine grained, soft, calcareous and fossiliferous in nature. It is found interbedded between the limestone and marl beds within the block.

CHAPTER-6

Activity during the period (Geoscience investigation)

6.1 Geological Mapping:

The DGPS survey in the Lodhva block involved the establishment of both horizontal and vertical controls, along with the placement of reference grids and benchmarks across the area. Grids measuring 50 meters by 50 meters, indicating latitude and longitude, were set up in the North-South and East-West directions. Additionally, level surveying was conducted at 3-meter intervals for contouring the area, all of which were carried out during the G3 level exploration in the study area using DGPS.

Boreholes were fixed on the ground at 800 x 800 m grid interval. The block boundary as provided by the CGM, was surveyed by DGPS and Total Station in WGS-84 Datum. In the DGPS Survey report, the details of location, identification and demarcation of area, methodology of Topographic Survey and methodology adopted for vectorized cadastral map have been provided.

To carry out this survey Dual Frequency Sokkia DGPS, Total station Leica TS 02 / 407 equipment's were used in various stage of Topographic survey. After topographic survey, draft drawing was generated at site and a complete topographical representation was drawn with the help of AutoCAD. List of boundary pillar points of the block boundary along with the co-ordinates are given in annexure-6.

The geological mapping of the Lodhva block was conducted with the objective of understanding the lithological setup, mineralization, and other structural features within the area. The mapping was carried out on a 1:2000 scale, focusing on the limestone deposits in the region, which are critical for industries such as cement and chemicals. The study involved systematic traverses across the block, along both east-west and north-south orientations, to document the variations in lithology and mineralization.

The mapping was carried out over a total area of 299.114 Hectares/2.991 sq. km, covering the entire Lodhva block. During the fieldwork, limestone outcrops were observed, and the thickness and nature of the formations were recorded. The block area was characterized by flat topography with a few isolated elevations, which allowed easy access for traversing.

Samples were collected systematically from areas showing good quality limestone exposures. These samples were analyzed to determine their suitability for industrial applications such as cement and chemical production. 08 samples were collected during the mapping and the analysis for those is as follows:

Table: 7 Field Grab sample analysis of Lodhva block

Chemical Composition (%)															
Sr. No.	Sample ID	Latitude	Longitude	SiO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	Fe ₂ O ₃	TiO ₂	CaO	MgO	Na ₂ O	K ₂ O	P ₂ O	MnO	SO ₃	LOI
1	LS-1	20°51'08.60"	70°35'54.50"	2.67	1.18	1.97	0.17	53.77	0.44	0.11	0.14	0.05	0.03	0.00	39.34
2	LS-2	20°51'07.30"	70°35'55.00"	4.47	1.64	3.25	0.24	52.08	0.65	0.00	0.33	0.22	0.18	0.03	36.76
3	LS-3	20°50'58.10"	70°35'55.00"	4.78	2.01	2.32	0.37	51.50	0.84	0.44	0.30	0.05	0.07	0.08	37.17
4	LS-4	20°50'42.00"	70°36'09.40"	2.65	1.43	2.31	0.20	52.51	0.67	0.16	0.18	0.04	0.14	0.12	39.21
5	LS-5	20°50'38.80"	70°36'17.80"	2.30	1.03	1.96	0.24	53.85	0.54	0.10	0.13	0.05	0.04	0.05	39.45
6	LS-6	20°50'40.30"	70°36'32.30"	2.38	1.01	1.90	0.24	54.23	0.56	0.08	0.12	0.06	0.03	0.07	39.11
7	LS-7	20°51'15.00"	70°35'37.10"	8.01	1.86	2.88	0.38	50.74	0.91	0.25	0.35	0.05	0.08	0.04	34.27
8	LS-8	20°51'11.60"	70°35'09.00"	2.37	1.18	1.86	0.18	53.54	0.44	0.07	0.15	0.05	0.03	0.05	39.87



Fig. 1 Unconsolidated Miliolitic Limestone
(20°50'58.73" N-70°35'55.36" E)



Fig. 2 Out crop exposure of Miliolite Limestone
(20°51'6.39"N -70°35'51.46"E)

Structure

General structure of the block is deciphered on the exploratory boreholes drilled. The sedimentary rocks of the area are horizontal to sub horizontal and are not affected by any major diastrophic movements within the block. Bedding can be easily identified as compositional and color differences in the Limestone and Clays. No major faults or joints are encountered in the study area.

Metamorphism

No metamorphism has taken place in the proposed block. The stratigraphy encountered in the block is of marine sedimentary origin.

6.2 Mineralogy of the ore zones:

A total of 03 samples have been subjected to megascopic and microscopic study. The results are as below:

1. Name of Rock: Limestone

Megascopic study

The sample is brownish in color. It comprises of medium grain size. There is presence of quartz grains at some places. The nature of the specimen is compact and hard. It gives profuse effervescence when treated with dilute HCL. On the basis of megascopic study the given sample is Limestone.

Microscopic Study

The thin section shows fine to medium grained texture. It is mainly composed of microcrystalline calcite. Calcite shows rhombohedral cleavage and lamellar twinning. Quartz and few fine-grained clay particles are also seen. Fossil shells are also found scattered in matrix.

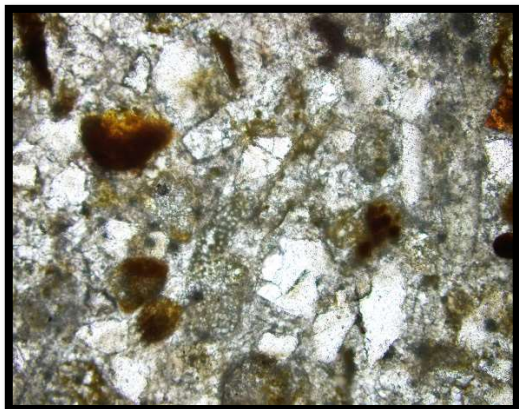


Figure 3 Photomicrograph of Limestone (ppl)

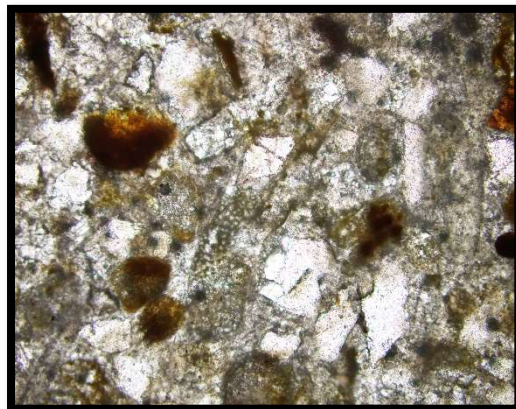


Figure 4 Photomicrograph of Limestone in (xpl)

2. Name of Rock: Limestone

Megascopic study

The sample is brown to yellowish in color. It comprises of medium to fine grain size. The nature of the specimen is compact and hard. It gives profuse effervescence when treated with dilute HCL. On the basis of megascopic study the given sample is Limestone.

Microscopic Study

The thin section shows fine to medium grained texture. It is mainly composed of microcrystalline calcite. Calcite shows rhombohedral cleavage and shows lamellar twinning. Quartz grains are also seen. Fossil shells are also found scattered in matrix.

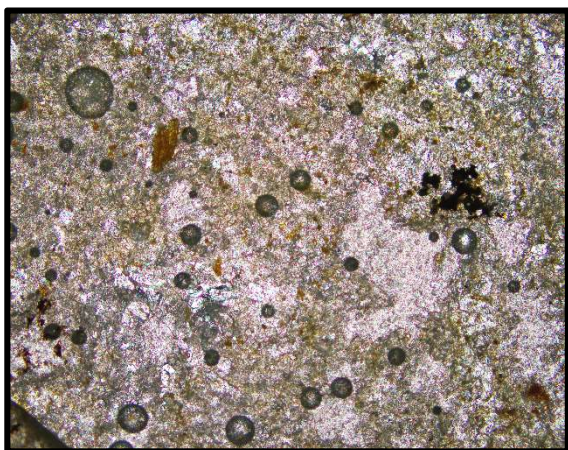


Figure 5 Photomicrograph of Limestone (ppl)

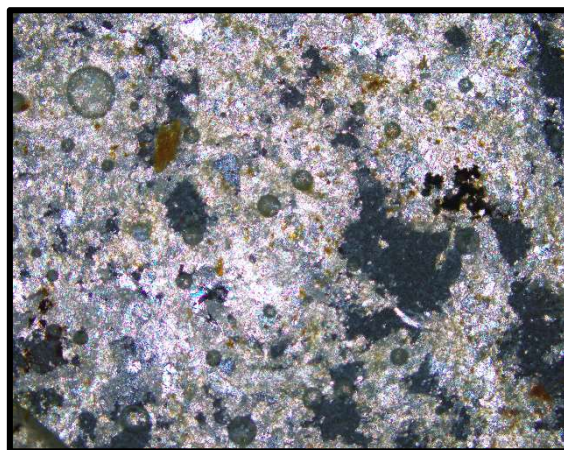


Figure 6 Photomicrograph of Limestone in (xpl)

3. Name of Rock: Clay

Megascopic study

The sample is gray in color. It is extremely fine grained which shows its argillaceous nature. No effervescences with dil. HCL. It can be scratched by penknife. It gives earthy smell with water.

Microscopic Study

The thin section shows extremely fine grained texture. It is mainly composed extremely fine grained of clay minerals. Poorly developed orientation of clay minerals are seen.

6.3 Sampling:

The selected recovered core was arranged properly in core boxes of 1 m long with 5 riffles covered with lid. Each run was marked properly by plastic tag and the core boxes were numbered properly.

Then core containing mineral was cut vertically from the centre with the help of core splitter dividing it into two equal halves. One half of core was kept aside for preservation purpose and other half was crushed upto desired mesh size of 200 mesh. Then coning and quartering was done for representative sample. Sampling was done to understand the quality of Limestone encountered in boreholes.

Samples were collected during this exploratory drilling programme and sent to Petrography and Mineral Chemistry Lab, Gandhinagar for chemical analyses.

Details of interpreted ore zones based on geological investigation

The delineation of Limestone-bearing zones within Lodhva block is based on the results of systematic core drilling and geological logging. A total of seven boreholes were drilled on an 800 × 800 meters grid, generating lithological logs and chemical analysis data, which were used to identify the depth, thickness, and grade variation of the Limestone. Based on these subsurface investigations, Limestone was encountered, varying in thickness, often intercalated with clay or marl layers. The interpretation of ore zones was guided by lithological continuity, core recovery, and CaO/MgO content, which together help assess the prospectivity and economic potential of the limestone within the block.

Geophysical exploration

The ground Geophysical exploration was not carried out during the G3 stage of exploration at Lodhva block.

Geochemical exploration

Geochemical exploration was not carried out during the G3 stage of exploration at Lodhva block.

CHAPTER-7

Integration of Geology, Geo physics and Geochemical exploration and interpretation

The investigation here was conducted at the G3 stage, and since it involves limestone- a bedded deposit, no geophysical components were planned. Since the area exhibits bedded deposits of regular habit type of deposit, such type of integration and interpretation work is not significant.

CHAPTER-8

Mineral Prospect

Gir Somnath is a mineral rich region with very large reserves of Limestone, Marl, Blacktrap and Ordinary Sand. Gir Somnath district is one of the preferred destinations for most of the mineral based industries and other minerals.

As per the regional geology of the area, coastal Saurashtra is known for its Limestone deposits. These calcium rich rocks were the manifestations of the higher sea levels during the Tertiary and Quaternary period due to geostatic sea level rise. Stratigraphically the Deccan trap is the oldest litho-unit in the area and forms the basement for the overlying sedimentary units. Rocks of Gaj Formation and Dwarka Formation of Tertiary period and Miliolite Formation and Chaya Formation of Quaternary period along with recent and sub-recent loose sediments overlie the Deccan Traps.

Limestone is a sedimentary rock composed primarily of calcium carbonate (CaCO_3) in the form of mineral calcite. It most commonly forms in clear, warm, shallow marine waters. It is usually an organic sedimentary rock that forms from the accumulation of shell, coral, algal, and fecal debris. The Limestone encountered in the block belongs to Miliolite Limestone of Pleistocene age. It consists of bioclastic carbonate deposits formed from shells, corals, and other marine life in warm, shallow, agitated tropical waters. This unique formation features coastal shell limestone, aeolianites (wind-blown deposits), and fluvial reworked sediments, often seen as low mounds and ridges along the coastline, providing evidence of past sea level stands

Along with Limestone, Marl is encountered at places. Marl is an impure low grade Limestone. It is defined as a lime-rich mud that contains variable amounts of clays and silt. The proportion of CaO is lower than that of Limestone.

Due to wide reserves of Limestone, major cement industries like Ambuja Cement, Siddhi Cement as well Soda-ash plant like Gujarat Heavy Chemicals Limited are situated in Gir Somanth district.

The exploration on G3 stage within the block has exhibited promising deposit of limestone mineral with high CaO values. This will further cater the need to fulfill the demand of Limestone in cement industries, which will generate more revenue for the State.

CHAPTER-9

Subsurface Exploration (Drilling)

9.1 Spacing of the Boreholes:

A G-3 stage exploration was carried out in this block and as per guideline of MEMC rule, 2015 and its amendments, the spacing between two boreholes in case of bedded stratiform and tabular deposits of regular habit is 800 mts x 800 mts. Accordingly M/s Vinayak Engimech Private Limited have planned and carried out drilling through 07 nos. of exploratory boreholes at a grid interval of 800 mts x 800 mts in this block with a cumulative meterage of 103.00 meters.

Table: 8 Coordinates of drilled boreholes of Lodhva block with RL

Sr. No.	BH ID	R.L. (m)	DMS (WGS 84)		UTM (Universe Transverse Mercator)	
			Latitude	Longitude	Easting	Northing
1	LBH-1	23.00	20°50'59.70"N	70°35'12.10"E	665083.41	2306351.37
2	LBH-2	27.00	20°51'2.90"N	70°35'38.10"E	665834.00	2306457.20
3	LBH-3	32.00	20°51'1.50"N	70°36'5.50"E	666626.46	2306422.01
4	LBH-4	18.00	20°50'37.60"N	70°35'11.10"E	665061.20	2305671.49
5	LBH-5	19.50	20°50'37.80"N	70°35'39.30"E	665876.33	2305685.70
6	LBH-6	23.00	20°50'38.30"N	70°36'7.40"E	666688.48	2305709.14
7	LBH-7	28.00	20°50'37.10"N	70°36'32.30"E	667408.65	2305679.42

9.2 Methodology of drilling with details of type of drilling:

Drilling technique and drill sampling employed:

i) Drill type (eg. core, reverse circulation, open-hole hammer, rotary air blast, auger, Bangka, sonic, etc.) and details (eg. core diameter, triple or standard tube)

Core drilling was carried out by GMRDS through M/s Vinayak Engimech Private Limited. Drilling in the Lodhva block was carried out during May-June, 2025 by deploying hydraulic core drill rigs using NQ diamond bits with core diameter of 47.6 mm. Double tube core barrels were used to obtain maximum core recovery.

ii) Whether core and chip sample recoveries have been properly recorded and results assessed

Core recovery of every run of drilling for all the drilled boreholes was recorded properly. The core recovery of the boreholes drilled for limestone in the area is 91.50% to 97.56%

and is considered to be well within acceptable limit for resource/reserve estimation purposes. There is minimal core loss due to washing of clay intercalations, loose and fractured formation etc.

iii) Measures taken to maximize sample recovery and ensure representative nature of samples.

In order to maximize the core recovery, the rate of penetration, bit pressure and speed of rotation was controlled while drilling and more significantly in the fractured/loose formation and at depth. Sufficient numbers of core barrels were maintained at site and were regularly checked for any undue bends.

iv) Whether a relationship exists between sample recovery and grade and whether sample bias may have occurred due to preferential loss/gain of fine/coarse material

The core recovery in Limestone is 91.50% to 97.56% hence grade analyzed for limestone is reliable.

v) Logging: Whether core and chip samples have been logged to a level of detail to support appropriate Mineral Resources estimation, mining studies and metallurgical studies

The entire core recovered by drilling was logged systematically in detail describing lithological units that can be observed by visual inspection. The details of lithology, grain size, colour, texture, structural features, presence of intercalations and cavities have been recorded. Wherever the recovery is less, extrapolations of drilled depth were done on proportionate basis considering the physical characteristics of individual units recovered. All the cores were kept and preserved properly in the PVC core boxes of specifications given by NMET following "Book Pattern". The core logging has well correlated with the chemical analysis of individual samples and will support the mineral resource estimation and mining studies.

vi) Discussion on the analysis results of handheld X-ray fluorescence (XRF), if used in the investigation

Handheld X-ray fluorescence (XRF) was not used by GMRDS for analysis during investigation.

9.3 Methodology of core zone sampling and sample preparation:

i) If core, whether cut or sawn and whether quarter, half or all core taken

The cores recovered from the boreholes after logging were split longitudinally into two halves by core splitter. One half of the split core was kept in the core box while the other half was subjected to sampling.

ii)

a) If non-core, whether riffled, tube sampled, rotary split etc. and whether sampled wet or dry

Only core samples were collected from the boreholes drilled in the area during exploration.

b) For all sample types, the nature, quality and appropriateness of the sample preparation technique

For sampling the ore zone, the drilled cores were logged, sample numbers were marked and then split longitudinally to equal halves. One half was kept for core repository. The other half of the split cores was crushed to 200-mesh size. The weight of the crushed core samples varied from 2 to 4 kg depending upon the sample length and recovery. After coning and quartering of the crushed 200-mesh size fraction, individual samples of about 500 gm samples each were sent to Petrography and Mineral Chemistry Laboratory, CGM, Gandhinagar for further processing and chemical analysis.

iii) Quality control procedures adopted for all sub-sampling stages to maximize representation of samples

Before and after preparation of each sample, the crusher, pulverizer, pestle & mortar, sieves and sample trays were properly cleaned to avoid intermixing of samples. The samples were packed properly to avoid entry of any foreign material as well as moisture. The samples were properly labeled for easy identification.

iv) Measures taken to ensure that the sampling is representative of the in-situ material collected

Prior to drilling, each borehole was given a unique label for easy identification. The core retrieved from the drill holes was stored in PVC core boxes. For easy identification and traceability, the core was preserved from the left to the right side of the box with increasing depth and the core was marked with an arrow giving down the hole direction. Separator plates were inserted at the end of each run. The length of the borehole at the end of each run was also marked on the inserted separator plates. Loose

soil /sludge collected in the course of drilling was packed in polythene, properly marked and kept at their respective depth. The core boxes were marked properly on the top, inner side of the lid and the front side giving details like, drill hole number, box number, indicating meterage i.e. From.....m tom. The core boxes were properly preserved and stored for protection from inclement weather and any other damage. The above procedures ensure the representation of the material collected at each place in the area in terms of its location, depth and litho-unit sample.

v) Whether sample sizes are appropriate to the grain size of the material being sampled

The individual core samples were formulated for a linear length of 0.30 to 1.88 m. Each sample was subjected to crushing, coning and quartering by applying the standard method of size and weight reduction. The crushed sample was finally pulverized to 200-mesh size to prepare sample pellets. The pellets were then used in XRF for chemical analysis.

Since entire mineralized area has been sampled and analyzed and in view of the homogenous quality of the limestone the sample size is appropriate to the grain size.

9.4 Chemical analysis and Laboratory procedure:

a) The nature, quality and appropriateness of the assaying and laboratory procedures used and whether the technique is considered partial or total

The cores recovered from the boreholes after logging were split longitudinally into two halves. One half of the split core was kept in the core box while the other half was subjected to sampling. Sampling intervals were marked after identifying the different litho-units in the process of core logging.

The individual core samples were formulated for a varied linear length of 0.30 to 1.88 m. The sample length varied depending upon the change in lithology or physical appearance.

A total of 91 nos. of primary core samples and 12 nos. of composite samples were analyzed for major and minor oxides i.e. LOI, SiO₂, Al₂O₃, Fe₂O₃, CaO, MgO, Na₂O, K₂O, TiO₂, P₂O₅, MnO and SO₃.

b) Nature of quality control procedures adopted (e.g. standard, blanks, duplicates, external laboratory checks) and whether acceptable level of accuracy (i.e. lack of bias) and precision has been established

The samples have been analyzed in the laboratory by wet chemical and instrumental method following standard procedures.

c) Check analysis of at least 10% of samples may be analyzed from third party National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited or Department of Science and Technology (DST) or Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) recognized laboratories or government laboratories for assessing the acceptable level of accuracy.

The external check analysis of 11 samples have been analyzed from NABL approved laboratory LUCID Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad. The analysis has been attached as Annexure-7. The details of analysis of comparative study of primary core samples and external check samples by XRF are given in Annexure-12.

Moisture

Whether the tonnages are estimated on a dry basis or with natural moisture and the method of determination of moisture content whether assumed or determined. If assumed, the basis for the assumptions. If determined, the method used, whether wet or dry, the frequency of measurements, the nature, size and representativeness of the samples

The laboratory tests are also carried out for specific gravity measurements on limited number of core samples on air dried basis. The specific gravity for Limestone varies from 2.69 to 2.71. The specific gravity of 2.70 are considered for estimation of resources of cement grade limestone. The specific gravity of 2.72 is considered for estimation of resources of Marl.

CHAPTER-10

Geotechnical studies on borehole core samples of mineralized zone, hanging wall and foot wall side

The Geological mapping and exploration result are indicating hard surficial Limestone deposit from depth of 0.13 to 9.82 meters across boreholes and as such the mining activity involved will be an open cast mining method and such type of studies are not required in this block.

CHAPTER-11

Resource Estimation

Based on exploration data, resource estimation was done for Limestone. Based on analysis results of CaO % and MgO %, Limestone is categorized as Cement Grade Limestone.

Grades and Resource have been assessed on the basis of end-use grade classification given by IBM's National Mineral Inventory (NMI) and Threshold value of minerals, Indian Mineral yearbook 2022, Volume – III Mineral Reviews – Limestone and Other Calcareous minerals, IBMS, Ministry of Mines, Govt. Of India, October 2024 in following categories:

Table: 9: Specifications of Limestone grades by IBM

Grade	CaO %	MgO % (Max)	Fe₂O₃ % (Max)
Chemical	> 52	–	≤ 0.25
Limestone [Cement Grade (blendable/beneficiable, portland)]	34-52	≤ 5.00	–
Marl	20-34	–	–

The following parameters and assumptions have been taken into consideration for resource estimation: -

1. In each borehole area of influence has been considered for resource calculation, as the mineral deposit is of regular habit.
2. Tonnage is estimated on dry basis, after removing moisture content.
3. Average cumulative thickness is taken for each borehole fall under different category regions, i.e., G3.
4. As per MEMC guidelines for the deposits of regular habit, the area covered by wide spaced boreholes with bore holes spacing is 800 m are marked for G3 category resource.
5. Specific Gravity has been estimated grade wise and average specific gravity for Limestone [Cement Grade (blendable/beneficiable, portland)] is 2.70 and for Marl it is 2.72 in Lodhva block.

6. Recovery loss has not been considered.
7. Total resources estimated here are insitu resources.
8. Clay part intersected in between the Limestone [Cement Grade (blendable/beneficiable, portland)] were not considered for resource estimation, for calculating average thickness and for estimating average grade of mineralized zone.
9. No cut off was fixed for thickness for delineation of mineralized zone Cement Grade Limestone.
10. To separate out different grades of Limestone and Marl, CaO % & MgO % values has been considered.

The method of chemical analysis of samples and elements to be analyzed were decided by the state government and analysis results were given by State government which is accepted for the estimation of average grade of Limestone.

Resource estimation has been done by using ArcGIS Software. Area of influence of each borehole is estimated by considering the multiplication of length and width of rectangle covered by the borehole of Limestone [Cement Grade (blendable/beneficiable, portland)] specific gravity etc. and the classification of the estimated resource was done as per MEMC guidelines. The length, width and thickness of Cement Grade Limestone and Marl is considered in meters. The total area covered under the Lodhva block is 299.114 Hectares/2.991 sq. km. The various terms expressed for computation of resource are mentioned in short term as below:

$$L \times W \text{ (or } A) \times Th \times Sp. Gr. = R$$

Where;

L = Length in m

Sp. Gr. = Specific Gravity

W = Width (in m)

R = Resources in Tonnes

A = Area in m²

Th = Thickness (in m)

Average grade of Limestone i.e. Cement Grade (blendable/beneficiable, portland) was calculated. In this method the average value of thickness of each grade, CaO% and MgO% values were taken borehole wise. Then average value of these previously taken values was calculated for average grade of cement grade Limestone and Marl.

11.1 Reporting of resources:

The resources have been categorized under Inferred Mineral Resource (333) category considering the drilling grid of boreholes drilled in the area.

The summary of total litho-unit zone wise in-situ resource across the Lodhva block as per Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules 2015 and its amendments is presented in Table 10:

Table: 10-In-situ resources of Lodhva block, Gir Somnath

Litho-Unit	In-situ Resources at G3 (million tonnes) -
Cement Grade Limestone	41.86
Marl	20.20

The resource estimation has been carried out for the entire Lodhva block. The block has been explored and resource estimation performed accordingly, using Thiessen polygon method. The average quality of individual litho-unit zone is given in Table 11:

Table: 11-Average quality of individual litho-unit zone

Litho-Unit	Chemical Composition (%)											
	SiO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	Fe ₂ O ₃	TiO ₂	CaO	MgO	Na ₂ O	K ₂ O	P ₂ O ₅	MnO	SO ₃	LOI
Cement Grade Limestone	15.54	3.94	2.21	0.25	42.82	1.35	0.21	0.14	0.13	0.00	0.03	32.92
Marl	34.29	8.53	3.18	0.44	27.10	2.99	0.35	0.74	0.08	0.02	0.02	21.76

The detail of litho-unit zone wise and level wise insitu resources is enclosed as Annexure-1. The resource discussed above, portrays an overall picture of the available resources within the block area and does not entail the mineability of the deposit. Following observations could be drawn from the In-situ resources discussed above.

A total of 41.86 million tonnes in-situ resource of cement grade Limestone and 20.20 million tonnes in-situ resource of Marl is available within Lodhva block area under 333 category of UNFC for G3 stage.

Interpretation of Isopach map: Limestone

The isopach map delineates the variation in limestone thickness within the Lodhva Block. The thickness of the limestone horizon varies between 3.74 m and 8.00 m across the boreholes. The maximum thickness (8.00 m) is recorded in borehole LBH-4, located towards the SW part of the block, whereas the minimum thickness (3.74 m) is noted in borehole LBH-6. The other boreholes shows variation in thickness from 4.20 to 6.05 m within the block with NE-SW to E-W trending deposition. Overall, the limestone shows a uniform distribution with gradual increase from east to west, suggesting consistent sedimentation within a shallow marine depositional environment.

Interpretation of Isopach map: Marl

The isopach map of marl shows that the marl horizon exhibits variable thickness ranging from 0.00 m to 4.41 m. The maximum thickness (4.41 m) is recorded in borehole LBH-2, located in the central-northern part of the block, while borehole LBH-1 and LBH-3 records no marl development. The isopach contours indicate patchy distribution, with marl occurring as intermittent layers associated with the limestone sequence. The boreholes LBH-4, 5, 6 and 7 shows thicknesss of from 3.00, 3.37, 3.00 and 3.60 m respectively suggesting moderately even deposition towards the southern margin of the block. The pattern suggests that marl deposition was controlled by minor fluctuations in energy conditions resulting in uneven sediment accumulation across the block.

CHAPTER-12

Core preservation

After completion of the drilling work, core boxes were carefully shifted to Lodhva camp where sampling was carried out. Half-splitted cores were taken for sampling purpose and remaining half cores were stored in core boxes. On completion of all the field investigation, the core boxes were handed over in safe custody of Senior Geologist, Rajkot.

CHAPTER-13

Conclusion and recommendation

The current exploration was undertaken to assess the potential of limestone resources in the Lodhva block, keeping in mind the regional industrial demand for cement-grade raw materials. The investigation has provided insight into the geological characteristics, quality, and mineral potential of the area.

Drilling was carried out on an 800 m × 800 m grid, and a total of seven boreholes were drilled with a cumulative meterage of 103.00 meters. A total of 91 primary core samples, 12 composite samples and 11 external check samples were analyzed chemically, and 3 petrographic samples were studied. The investigation revealed that Limestone is the dominant litho-unit encountered in all boreholes, with high CaO content and considerable thickness. Marl was intercepted, with limited thickness.

Chemical analysis of the Limestone indicates that the material meets cement-grade thresholds. Based on chemical analysis and current industrial requirements, the resources have been categorized into Limestone [Cement Grade (blendable/beneficial, portland)] and Marl. The block falls under the “bedded, stratiform, and tabular deposit of regular habit” category as per MEMC Rules, 2015 and its amendments.

A total of 41.86 million tonnes of cement grade Limestone (blendable/beneficial, portland) and 20.20 million tonnes of Marl have been estimated under the UNFC 333 (Inferred) category.

Considering the encouraging results, closer spaced drilling at 400 m × 400 m or 200 m × 200 m is recommended to further delineate resource continuity and upgrade resource confidence from the Inferred (333) to Indicated (332) and Measured (331) categories.

CHAPTER-14

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CHAPTER-15

Locality Index

Table: 12-Locality index

<u>Name of village</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
Lodhva	20°49'57.42"N	70°34'14.97"E
Solaj	20°51'24.68"N	70°37'36.26"E
Kadsala	20°52'1.07"N	70°36'42.63"E
Padruka	20°52'3.99"N	70°35'0.66"E
Prashnavda	20°50'15.07"N	70°33'23.63"E
Barevla	20°49'0.43"N	70°36'30.93"E
Singsar	20°48'32.32"N	70°36'50.29"E

ABBREVIATIONS USED

SL. No.	Abbreviation	Full form
1	CGM	Commissioner of Geology and Mining
2	GSI	Geological Survey of India
3	GMRDS	Gujarat Mineral Research & Development Society
4	F.S.	Field Season
5	NMET	National Mineral Exploration Trust
6	TCC	Technical cum Cost Committee
7	EC	Executive Committee
8	UNFC	United Nation Framework Classification
9	NMI	National Mineral Inventory
10	IBM	Indian Bureau of Mines
11	NABL	National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories
12	MEMC	Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents)
13	MMDR	Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation)
14	NH	National Highway
15	SH	State Highway
16	WGS-84	World Geodetic System-84
17	DGPS	Differential Global Positioning System
18	DMS	Degree Minute Second
19	XRF	X-ray Fluorescence
20	ML	Mining Lease
21	R.L.	Reduced Level