

“Angadias”

- Heart of the Diamond Industry

Presentation at the Special Forum at the KP Intercessional

Mumbai

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Historical Beginnings

- ▶ Historically, Kings, royalty and large “*sahukars*” (i.e. traders or financiers) needed to transport precious goods (Gold, Silver and important documents etc.) across regions and states for political, financing or trade purposes
- ▶ People were trained to carry such shipments, and used horses, carts, camels etc. for travelling and carrying their shipments
- ▶ The trade started to get organized during the British Raj, when cotton in large quantities started to be exported from Gujarat to mills in Manchester and later Mumbai, requiring payments to be made to farmers

“Angadia” is derived from the word “aangadi”, a kind of close fitting jacket worn under the outer clothes to hide the gold/silver or documents during travel

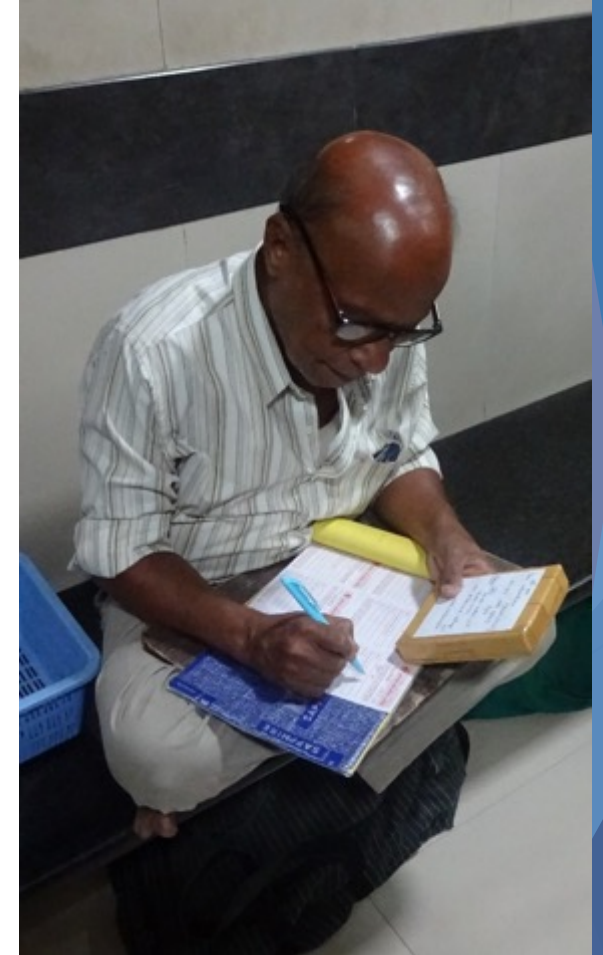
Historical Beginnings

- ▶ As the country industrialized after independence, traditional banking and postal services were inadequate to meet the needs of transport high value and precious goods and Angadias became the trusted couriers
- ▶ Angadias started using public transport, including trains and buses to transport their shipments
- ▶ The development of the polishing industry in Surat and Gujarat would not have been possible without the wide network of Angadias



The Modern Angadia

- ▶ Angadia firms operating - 30+ (many 3rd & 4th generation)
- ▶ Daily shipments handled - 10,000+
- ▶ Employment provided - 5,000+
- ▶ Next-day delivery for most shipments
- ▶ Latest software used for record management
- ▶ GPS systems installed with the package to track shipments in case of untoward incidents
- ▶ Of the 10,000+ diamond units in Surat, about 90% only use Angadias to transport goods as they are ;
 - ▶ More convenient and quicker
 - ▶ Trust based system with easy documentation
 - ▶ They are experienced and trained



The Modern Angadia

- ▶ Currently the business for Angadias consists of transporting mainly diamonds, Gold and Jewellery
- ▶ Angadias also offer risk coverage, for a nominal charge (though they are not traditional insurance companies)
- ▶ Support from police/law enforcement agencies in their respective areas
- ▶ All Government procedures, including GST challan & invoice requirement followed for all shipments



Maintaining the “Trust”

- ▶ Business of Angadias based on one word - “trust”
- ▶ All business processes ensure that this “trust” is justified
- ▶ Security is taken seriously
 - ▶ Offices are equipped with security, restricted entry, safe, etc.
 - ▶ Transport to the station in escorted vehicles with assigned staff to take deliveries
 - ▶ All inter-city travel in trains and buses is in groups; staff stays awake or takes turns to sleep, ensuring constant watch on the consignments
 - ▶ Shipments are handed over to the Angadia in sealed parcels, which is further sealed by the Angadia; seals are checked at all handover points
 - ▶ Security is maintained by ensuring that information is only available on a need to know basis when transporting shipments

Maintaining the “Trust”

- ▶ Staff hiring and onboarding
 - ▶ Recruits need to be
 - ▶ Family members or relatives
 - ▶ Referral of an old and trustworthy employee
 - ▶ Without criminal records
 - ▶ Preferably of the Gujarati/Marwadi community
- ▶ Training for recruits is typically on the job, by shadowing seniors, and after sufficient observation, responsibilities are gradually given to new recruits
- ▶ Employees enjoy many facilities from the Angadia firms including mandated retirement schemes, food, education, medical facilities & accident policy
- ▶ In case of a death due to any unfortunate incidents, the family is supported by the Angadia



The background features a complex geometric design with overlapping translucent shapes in various shades of blue, from light to dark. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a layered, abstract effect. The central area is white, providing a clean space for the text.

Thank You