

## Vaso Gam: A Living Legacy of Pride, Progress, and Patidar Unity

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### Location & Identity

Vaso, in Kheda District, Gujarat, is one of six prominent villages forming the respected Chha Gaam Leuva Patidar Samaj:

 Vaso, Nadiad, Karamsad, Sojitra, Dharmaj, and Bhadran.

Together, these Six Gaams have led the way in **social reform, religious tradition, and educational advancement** among the Leuva Patidar community for generations.

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### Ancient Origins – Founded in 1168

Vaso was established in the **Indian Calendar Year 1224 (1168 CE)** by **Vaccha Patel**, a visionary leader who named the village after a temple already present in the area. His descendants, **Aju and Lalji**, became powerful landowners. With their growing influence and the support of a private army, they asserted control over neighboring territories.

In recognition of their **bravery and leadership**, they were honored with the title “**Amin**”—a title that became a hallmark of Vaso's history and pride. Similar titles, such as “**Desai**”, were granted to other Patidar families in Nadiad who served under the **Gaekwad Kingdom** of Baroda.

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### Heritage Architecture – The Darbar Haveli

Vaso is home to a **historic Haveli** owned by the **Darbar family**, whose ancestors were gifted several villages by a ruler from **Saurashtra** in appreciation of their valiant service. While these gifted villages were far from Vaso, the Darbar family's base remained here, and their **Haveli** is now a **protected heritage building**, showcasing the aristocratic and cultural legacy of the village.

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### The Khadkis of Vaso – Lineages of Legacy

Vaso was traditionally divided into **Khadkis**—residential clusters representing major family lineages. These Khadkis were not only geographical divisions but also **pillars of community organization**, social responsibility, and cultural continuity.

They often had their own entrance, central space for communal gatherings, and strong inter-family bonds. Social decisions, festivals, and even dispute resolutions often began within the Khadki before reaching the wider village panch.

Here is an expanded list of Vaso's traditional Khadkis and what they represent:

- **Vallabhkhaini Khadki** – Named after Vallabhkhaini, a respected elder known for his spiritual insight and social leadership.
- **Gokalbhaini Khadki** – Associated with agricultural development; descendants contributed to land cultivation and irrigation.

- **Vrajbhukhabdasni Khadki** – Home to generations involved in religious and educational service.
- **Vanarasidasni Khadki** – Known for early involvement in trade and community finance.
- **Bhagwandas Pragdasni Khadki** – Produced scholars and spiritual leaders who shaped local bhajan mandals.
- **Laljibhaini Khadki** – Connected to Lalji, one of Vaso's most influential ancestors; known for community organization.
- **Kozaidasni Khadki** – A family line known for wisdom, often called to mediate village disputes.
- **Gangjibhai Savdasni Khadki** – Strong lineage of teachers and community reformers.
- **Haijpara ni Khadki** – Located near the outer limits of the village; known for strong agricultural roots.
- **Bhaishah Khodidasni Khadki** – The family here had many early migrants who settled abroad, especially in Africa and the UK.
- **Panchpatiya ni Khadki** – Believed to be made up of five primary family lines; known for their organized community efforts.
- **Jogidas ni Khadki** – Named after Jogidas, a respected elder who served on early village Panch committees.

These Khadkis remain **symbolic of unity and legacy**, and many Vasovasis today can still trace their ancestry back to a particular Khadki.

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### Leadership in Social Reform & Education

Among the **Six Gaams**, Vaso distinguished itself early on by its commitment to **education and progress**. It was one of the first villages in the region to form an **Education Society (Kelavni Mandal)**—laying the foundation for formal learning in Gujarati and English.

Vaso often led efforts in establishing **social codes, reform policies, and dispute resolution practices**, which were later adopted by neighboring villages. The **Patidar Panch** of Vaso was respected for its fairness and wisdom.

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### The Global Footprint of Vasovasis

Generations of Vasovasis have settled across the world, particularly in the **UK, USA, Canada, East Africa, and Australia**—yet remain closely connected to their roots.

**Notable figures include:**

- **Shri Pravinbhai Nandubhai Amin** – A beloved son of Vaso who passed away in 2024. His legacy of humility, service, and philanthropy continues to inspire.
- **Shri Babubhai Patel** – A guiding force in the UK Patidar Samaj, helping to establish temples, community centers, and spiritual programs for the diaspora.

Vasovasis abroad regularly contribute to **temple upkeep, school funding, scholarships, medical camps, and charitable work in Vaso**—keeping alive the spirit of **seva (service)**.

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### **Vaso Today – A Model Village**

Modern Vaso blends **tradition with transformation**. It is a model for what rural Gujarat can be when driven by unity, education, and global support. Key features include:

- **Paved roads, internet, clean drinking water, and electricity**
- Well-maintained **primary and secondary schools**
- A thriving **Amul dairy cooperative**
- **Women’s self-help groups** and growing small businesses
- Youth excelling in **medicine, engineering, business, IT**, and **returning to support village development**

Despite modernization, **faith and culture remain strong**. Temples continue to be centers of daily worship and community gatherings.

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### **Festivals & Faith**

Vaso celebrates its heritage with devotion and unity. Major festivals include:

- **Navratri**, celebrated with traditional Garba and temple lighting
- **Diwali**, where the entire village glows with diyas and rangoli
- **Janmashtami**, marked by bhajans and Krishna Jhankis
- **Sharad Purnima**, a celebration under the full moon with music and unity

These festivals bring together not just residents but Vasovasis from across the globe, creating a deep sense of belonging.