**The Gujarat Model**

Golden Gujarat – SWARNIM Gujharat

NEW MILLENNIUM – “THE MODI ERA”

Many have asked me what is Gujarat Model. Most think that it is ‘Industrialization’ - bringing investment.

But Gujarat model is a comprehensive approach – which covers all facets of public governance and Socio Economic Development – bringing investment by ‘Vibrant Gujarat’ is only one of it.

I was Agriculture Secretary – and we did Krishi Mahotsav. I received a call from Education Secretary – “you have to visit Dahod” for Pravesh Mahotsav – visit village schools along with other team members to ensure that all eligible child gets into school.

Similar was “Chintan Shibir” in which entire state administration – all district and state level officers meet and inter-action along with all Ministers and deliberates. I made presentation on ‘Krishi Mahotsav’ at Bharuch in 2005. We all along with the ministers travelled by a Bus from Gandhinagar and stayed in double occupancy in guest house. The CM himself used to conduct the session and stay in guest house along with entire cabinet.

Shri Narendra Modi became Chief Minister of Gujarat in September, 2001 to become Prime Minister of country in May, 2014. He had highest tenure as a Chief Minister of Gujarat.

The man with a remarkable vision-missionary, with zeal and plan and its meticulous implementation are dimension of his personality. When he arrived on the scene, Gujarat had reached its plateau on development – but he used that as a pad to launch Gujarat not only within country – but internationally he made it ‘Swarnim Gujarat’ – the ‘Golden Gujarat’. His successful initiative which ranged in all spectrum of public life and came to be known as ‘Gujarat Model’ across the world. I will narrate these – very briefly.

They cover all inclusive Socio-economic – environmental – cultural – historical development with a vision of big step forward as a front runner in development in the world.

* VANCHE GUJARAT: Vanche Gujarat Movement - initiated in October 2010 - aimed at inculcating in children and youth a habit of not just reading but value of reading.
* GARIB KALYAN MELA: This was introduced to distribute assistance to beneficiaries under various govt. schemes for below poverty line families by convergence - on one day - under one umbrella. Says Shri Narendra Modi. “Receiving yourselves from the Govt. is a right and not a favour”.
* SANSKRIT UTSAV: - Got celebrated every year. At Veraval - Somnath University was set up to revive education in Sanskrit and its usefulness in modern time to understand our ancient scripts - containing knowledge.
* VIBRANT GUJARAT SUMMITS: Vibrant Gujarat Summits are organized every alternate year. Its main objective is to attract investment flow compiled with global networking for knowledge and technology sharing, learn global best practices, involve and encourage people to think big and take up challenging projects. Says Shri Narendra Modi. “In the 21st century, Gujarat has become a meaningful global platform to consensus, harmony and co-operation to ensure inclusive growth.
* KARMA YOGI: He initiated ‘Karmayogi’ concept for all Public Servants. From Ministers to Sarpanches and members of Gram Panchayat, from Chief Secretary to village level workers and school teachers. The objective is to introduce spiritual back up to day-today work done by a Public Servant - and to remain committed to serve people for public good. This is an innovative movement and it had a regular built in training to each and every employee.
* COMMUNITY FESTIVALS: In order to promote Tourism and community participation in public festivals - Shri Modi initiated massive state participation in public-private mode and promoted ‘Garba Mahotsav’ Kite Festival - Rann Mahostav and attracted world tourists to visit Gujarat. But more significant is the access of poor families to participate in ‘garbas’ and ‘kite festivals’ with elite on the same ground – dance together or fly kites together.
* KRISHI MAHOTSAV: This was a new initiative to build farmers. A new Extension approach to take public leaders, the development administration, the agriculture scientists - the dealers to village prior to crop - seasons - in the month of May and inter-act with them and resolve their problems but more precisely it introduced scientific agriculture to meet challenges of climate change.
* VAN BANDHU YOJANA: Focus on socio-economic development of tribal families. This was introduced. This is a 10 points programme - include initiative like project sunshine, jeevika, skill development, direct cash transfer to tribal beneficiaries and like.
* MAHATMA MANDIR: State did not have proper Convention Hall. Mahatma Mandir was created to home 5000 people in one hall - along with smaller meeting rooms. This is a landmark - new architectural building in Gandhinagar.
* THE RIVER FRONT: This is upgrading River Front of Sabarmati and it linked Sabarmati river with Narmada Canal - to have water round the year. With multiple roads, parks and community centers, it is throbbing with Ahmedabadis throughout the day.
* STATUE OF UNITY: “Born in Gujarat, Sardar Patel is famous as India’s Iron-man and architect of modern India” said Shri Narendra Modi, while launching this on the bank of Sardar Sarovar Dam on 7th October, 2010, “this is a tribute - meant to be matching up to one of India’s greatest leaders”. This is the tallest statue in the world with a height of 182 meters. This is in reality also Economic Development Project.
* MISSION MANGLAM: This was launched to empower women by organizing them into self-help groups. Link them with banks, build capacities in them and lead them towards sustainable livelihood and seeking leadership opportunities.
* YOGA MOVEMENT: India’s art and science of Yoga was brought on forefront by massive awareness programme. Shri Modi himself is “Yoga Practitioner”. The public participative movement of yoga started from Gujarat is now celebrated all over the world.
* SHALA PRAVESH UTSAV: This is organized every year in the month of June. All officers from State Secretariat and Gandhinagar including Ministers visit schools in villages and motivate children to take entry in school in the month of June every year. This is a mass awareness programme for getting all eligible children to attend school. ‘Pravesh Mahotsav’ has a remarkable impact on an increase in school going children.
* NEW INSTITUTIONS: Number of new institutions were promoted - like Sports University, six Agricultural Universities, Forensic Science Universities, Deen Dayal Petroleum University Raksha Shakti University, Gift City. Children University and so on. Private educational institutions were encouraged to set up under PublicPvt. Relationship.
* CHINTAN SHIBIR: This is an original idea of Shri Narendra Modi. It is an annual retreat of Govt. of Gujarat of entire state leadership - starting from young Officers from districts, all secretaries of govt. all ministers - all heads of deptt. - led by C.M. himself. It provides formal forum for learning and knowledge sharing and creates opportunities for informal discussions and intermingling which cut across the barriers of government hierarchy.
* KHEL MAHAKUMBH: Gujarat has always been noted as a state left beind in sports. Shri Narendra Modi initiated ‘Khel Kumbh’ an annual event - as multi-dimensional - to inculcate spirit of sportsmanship and leadership in youth - to revive the Sports-Culture and also revitalize traditional sports. This is organized from village to district level to state level.
* CLIMATE CHANGE: Convenient Action is Response to challenges of climate change. Says Shri Narendra Modi “We can have conference after conferences - but I think one simple action is better than million good intention”. State launched a major Wind and Solar Power Programme from roof-top, to agricultural use - for pumping well-water to mega solar parks.
* Soil Health Card for every farmer - which advised to select crop based health of land and - what his land is capable growing and what nutrition it needs in arena of climate change.
* JYOTI-GRAM: All village residential areas are given 24 hour three phase electricity at par, with their urban counterparts. For farming separate rural feeders are created. This made it possible for children to study in the evening and night. It also made possible local-village level-agro processing. This was one of the most significant achievements.
* MODERN MANAGEMENT: Exposure of government to modern Management Institutions and Technologies. He promoted visit to Indian Institute Management, Nirma Institute and even experts from Columbia University - USA were invited for inter-action.

In short, the era of Shri Narendra Modi changed Gujarat Public Governance System. Both elected and non-elected leaders were made accountable for their work and to public. It made them to have direct exposures to grass-root - the villages’ level situation and meet people at their door-step.

It enhanced the image of Gujarat globally. Gujarat developed rapidly with accelerated growth rate. The farmers doubled their income.

I had pleasure and honour to work as Agriculture Secretary when ‘Krishi Mahotsav’ initiative was launched. He is always - to the point, non-interfering but supportive. He daily kept one hour to review this month-long programme - during which he also directly inter-acted with villages through video conference. He used to take notice of short-fall and achievement. He likes to go to the depth of problems or even of individual proposals. But he is very human always and knows his officials very well.

I do remember - when I had gone with my sons Chi. Vrajesh and Mitul for New Year day greeting in Circuit House annexe - he asked my sons which of you are following your grand-father’s profession? (My father was a Judge). This reflects how well he knows his team.

Says Shri H.R.Patankar – former Chief Secretary - *“Not only Shri Narendra Modi had the longest tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat but he also gave assured tenure to Civil Servants so that they remained accountable to the people and were able to deliver the goods. Thus stability was the cornerstone of his policy which was instrumental for fast growth.*

As a Prime Minister – Shri Modi expanded Gujarat model concept to all India level and internationally.

India has become a well known country with massive economic, social and environmental development – as biggest democracy in the world.

I do remember, in the eighties when I went to U.K. for a training program and visited Europe – we were asked many questions by visa / immigration officers before allowing entry. Now when we enter they (immigration) visa officers smile – welcome – many even say ‘Namaste’ - Indians are now welcomed and treated respectfully. This is the contribution of Shri Narendra Modi.