

SPEECH OF  
SMT ANANDIBEN PATEL  
CHIEF MINISTER OF  
GUJARAT  
IN WASTECH  
INTERNATIONALSEMINAR  
AT MAHATMA MANDIR  
ON 21ST NOV. 2014

Ladies and gentlemen,

We have assembled in this iconic building named after Mahatma Gandhi. I feel, his views on environment, expressed years ago, are a guiding light for us, even today.

Gandhiji would use only minimum required water for taking bath even on the banks of flowing river.

What could be a better example of your first 'R' of sustainability ?

In fact, the concept of four R's, is deeply ingrained in Indian culture since centuries.

And I personally feel that the root of these four R's comes from a fifth R.

And that fifth 'R' is 'Respect'

Once we respect mother nature, our approach towards handling resources changes automatically.

I am happy that, you are going to deliberate, on issues of waste management and sustainability for 2 days here. I am sure, the deliberations would be very fruitful.

I am also delighted that a wide array of different facets of waste management would be covered during this seminar.

This is a very important seminar for Gujarat. Gujarat is ahead both in industrial development and urbanisation. It is also emerging as a medical tourism hub and an important destination for ITES. This would, in turn, bring the baggage of bio-medical and e-wastes. Gujarat is thus, one of the most vulnerable regions, so far as sustainability is concerned.

But Gujarat is fully aware of this.

We are taking comprehensive steps to address this in the right way.

While we are leading in industrialisation, we also have the highest effluent treatment capacity in the nation

We are also number one in TSDF (Treatment, Storage & Disposal Facilities)

At the same time, we are empowering our urban local bodies for waste management. We are strengthening them financially . We are also doing capacity building of human resource.

In our 159 municipalities, we are creating a network of underground drainage systems at a cost of Rs.40,000 million.

We are encouraging vermi compost units and land fill sites in a big way.

In our future smart cities like Dholera, we have ensured holistic waste recycling and reuse planning for organic and inorganic wastes

One of the study reports of Planning Commission highlighted 13 successful models of Implementation of Environment Policies & Programs. Gujarat topped the list with 5 models.

The best way to handle waste is to prevent its creation. With this philosophy, we have set up Gujarat Cleaner Production Centre with technical support of UNIDO.

Our Pollution Control Board has gone beyond its conventional role of a **regulator. It plays a role of a facilitator.** Industries of Gujarat can complete pollution control formalities

with a click of the mouse. I am happy that, today we have also launched a mobile app, to further ease this. Gujarat thus becomes the first state to deploy m-governance in the field known for its red-tape.

However, let me share with you, we are fully aware, that we still have a long way to go.

We have to do a lot to give a clean environment to our present and future generations.

We have to work hard to enhance the quality of life of our people.

We have to give clean air to breathe and clean water to drink to our guests coming from different parts of the world.

The most important driver to this is technology.

Only technology can give us a breakthrough.

We need low-cost technology

We need technology that suits local conditions and needs.

I request this forum to deliberate on this in detail.

I would also like to share here that we have introduced a programme to give financial support to our Ph.D students who undertake research to address pollution control and waste management issues faced by the industries of Gujarat. The Government is thus acting as a link between the industry and researchers.

Under the leadership of our visionary Prime Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi, an ambitious Swachh Bharat Mission has been launched.

Zero Waste policy formulated by Gujarat Government with a specific focus on “Clean Gujarat” before the year 2019. We are also targeting at “Zero Waste Cities” in the State by the year 2025.

We are aiming at open defecation free India and a litter free India

I appeal to all of you here to join for a cause. It is a huge task. But it is do-able. If we work **together**. Each one of us can contribute in various ways. It could be in form of awareness creation, it could be in form of bringing best practices from the world over, it could be harnessing the latest low cost technologies for waste disposal or it could be in form of financial contribution for building toilets. The list can go on and on.

Friends, Gujarat's industrial growth is going to get a new meaning and scale



once Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor is in place. The 'Make in India' campaign launched by Modiji will also propel the growth further. We are targeting at **zero effect production**. The rate of urbanisation in Gujarat is going to continue at a higher pace. All this, in totality, offer vast opportunities for investments in waste management projects. We have also worked out PPP projects in this sector. I invite you to Vibrant Gujarat Summit to be held in January 2015, at this venue itself, and explore win-win tie-ups. It will also provide you a platform to network with delegates from various parts of the world.

With this I conclude my address. I appeal to all of you present here to take benefit of an excellent exhibition being held here for three days. Many national and international companies are displaying their products and

technologies. Do grab this opportunity to know the latest in this field.

I wish all the best for the success of this event.

Thank you