

Infrastructure TODAY

India's Premier Magazine for Nation Builders

ગુજરાત RISING

The State is firing on all cylinders and transforming its infrastructure landscape





Gujarat has one of the best infrastructure facilities available for industries. It has a fine blend of a number of ports, road network, rail connectivity and airports. With the longest coastline in the country measuring 1,600 km connected with 42 major and minor ports, the transportation of goods is easier. Comprehensively, if we look at the development in Gujarat, certainly it ranks among the foremost States in India. Continuously, the State focused on creating strong network of different aspects of infrastructure and it has become a fertile ground for the development of industries. The State has done pioneering work in engaging the private sector in building its infrastructure and many greenfield projects. Development-friendly policies and responsive administration remain the hallmark of the State. Gujarat has also been among the first few States to recognise the importance of soft infrastructure. The State has taken up private sector participation and institutes such as ITIs, promoting skills development, or encouraging attracting school enrolments. In comparison with the growth of IT hub States, the development of soft infrastructure needs further improvements.

In the Gujarat model of development, especially initiation of unique development undertaken by the State, the Special Investment Region (SIR) model marks a new era of planned development. It is an inclusive model with emphasis on rural development alongside industrial growth. It is pro-growth, business-friendly and aims at balancing regional development. The SIRs with their unique value-proposition will help to bring in large global organisations into India, providing these global companies an alternative production location and a platform to produce and supply for the world market. However, several policy measures are necessary to moderate and accelerate growth in the SIR model by way of mixture of encouraging EPC companies and PPP investors for forward growth.

Gujarat State has already illustrated the vision and policy document 2022, in which very essential and focused inclusive growth objectives are identified, such as 24x7 electricity for all, a pollution-free State through creation of green infrastructure, public transportation which is efficient and reliable, rural infrastructure, affordable housing facilities, road connectivity and adequate sources of potable water.

Rishabh Sethi, Executive Director, SPML Infra Ltd



Gujarat certainly ranks amongst the foremost States in India. The State has always focused on creating a strong network of different components of infrastructure. The State has done pioneering work in engaging the private sector in building its infrastructure. Take Pipavav, for instance; which has the distinction of being the first greenfield port in India to be developed successfully via the PPP route. Home to some of the finest institutions in the country, Gujarat has also been among the first few states to recognize the importance of soft infrastructure. Be it through revamping the ITIs with private sector participation, promoting skills development, or encouraging school enrolments. Development-friendly policies and responsive administration remain the hallmark of the state.

The Special Investment Region (SIR) model marks a new era of planned development. It is an inclusive model with emphasis on rural development alongside industrial growth. It is pro-growth, business-friendly and aims at balancing regional development. The SIRs with their unique value-proposition will help to bring in large global organisations into India. Providing these global companies an alternative production location and a platform to produce and supply for the world market.

Prakash Tulsiani, Managing Director – Gujarat Pipavav Port Ltd, APM Terminals, Pipavav