summary report

the future of power

Ahmedabad • February 2011

A series of exclusive conversations exploring the forthcoming 'shifts in power' and their impact on leadership in the 21st Century

An initiative of the





View of Somnath temple in Gujarat

Gujarat took its name from the Gujjars who ruled during the 700's and 800's. Stone Age settlements around Sabarmati and Mahi rivers indicate timings of the Indus Valley Civilization with Harappan centres also found at Lothal, Rampur, Amri and other places. Rock Inscriptions in the Girnar Hills show that the Maurya Emperor, Ashoka, extended his domain into Gujarat in about 250 BC. With its fall, the control of the region came under the Sakas or Scythians. During the 900's the Solanki Dynasty came to power and Gujarat reached its zenith. Then followed a long period of Muslim rule when Ahmed I, founded Ahmedabad in 1411. The Mughal Emperor Akbar conquered Gujarat around 1570 and ruled until the British East India Company set its first footsteps in Surat in 1818.

After the Indian Independence in 1947, Gujarat became part of Bombay State. On May 1, 1960 the Government split Bombay state into the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat. Ahmedabad became the chief city of the new State and housed the State Government Offices. They remained there until they were transferred to Gandhinagar in 1970.

The Indian Independence movement developed strong roots in the city when Mahatma Gandhi, originally from Porband, Gujerat, established two ashrams from where much of the Quit India movement was organised. At that time Ahmedabad was known as the 'Manchester of India' but more recently it is renowned for its commerce, communication and construction industries serving as an important junction in trade and traffic between north and south India.

Ahmedabad FOP participants and feedback

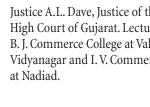


Dadi Janki, Administrative Head of the Brahma Kumaris, Mount Abu. Based in London from 1974 until 2007, her vision and drive saw the organisation's teachings carried into more than 130 countries.



Shri Narendra Modi, Chief Minister for Gujarat State inaugurated the "future of power" project for Gujarat.

Justice A.L. Dave, Justice of the High Court of Gujarat. Lecturer in B. J. Commerce College at Vallabh Vidyanagar and I. V. Commerce College at Nadiad.





Shri Amitabh Shah, Executive President of Times Foundation, Chairman of Guiarat Chamber of Commerce and Industries Youth Wing, Founder of Yuva Unstoppable, bringing social change amongst with 10,000 youth.

Shri Ashok Garud, Division Railway

Manager, Western Railway, Ahmedabad.

Trained in Spain, Italy and Germany, he

has received the Meritorious Record of

Service as Senior Divisional Engineer

in Nagpur and Bhusawal divisions of



Achal Bakeri, Chairman, Symphony Ltd. MBA in Architecture, University of Southern California. Former President of the Ahmedabad Management Association. Chevening Gurukul Scholar in 'Leadership and Excellence' at the London School of Economics.

Today we explored many issues we face, through reflection & introspection. Dadi Janki offered us simple truths, simple core beliefs which could lead to a happier life."



Through this dialogue I will definitely be able to think in a better manner in order to be able to use power for

Central Railway.

move, never dormant... hence keep moving."



Dr. Babubhai Patel, President, Indian Medical Association, Unja.



Dr C. L. Patel, Director, Centre for Studies and Research on Life and Works of Sardar Patel, Vallabh Vidyanagar.

need to balance soft and tough power."

 ⚠ Any person who has to utilize power should understand that wherever they work, they should work as a trustee for the benefit of humanity."



Shri Chandu K. Patel, President, Sabrkantha Health & Research Foundation. President, National Federation of Indian-American Associations, USA with 2.5m. members. Founder, Southern California Hotel-Motel Association.



Ghanshyambhai Hiralal Amin, President, National Cooperative Union of India; Independent Director of Oil India Limited; Advocate, Gujarat High Court; Director, National Federation of State Co-operative Limited and National Film and Fine Arts Co-operative Limited.

The real meaning of power is to share. Today was a very good experiment."



Dr Anil Jain, Consultant Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeon, SAL Hospital, Rajasthan Hospital, Krishna Heart Institute and the Apollo Hospital. President, Jain Doctors Federation, Principal Investigator for international and national clinical trials.

66 Power basically comes from goodness - good living, good thinking, doing good and spreading goodness."



Prof. J N Goswami, Director, Physical Research Laboratory; Chairman, Science Advisory Board. Honorary Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award and NASA Group Achievement Award.



Dr. Chandrakant Mehta, Executive Director of Jansahayak Trust and Hiramani Educational Trust. Former Vice-Chancellor of Gujarat University. Eminent writer, poet. A well known educationist, a social thinker and social activist.

66 It was a very lively program on empowerment. Power should be controlled by sacrifice, discrimination and a feeling of detachment towards worldly happiness."



Mr Gregory Murray Pickworth, Social design Architect, Australia. Described as holding 'the seed of design magic and a sense of adhesion that allows others to get on board.'

66 Power is to be true to the self so that we are authentic and transparent to model that to others."



Shri Hiten Vasant, Group Team Leader, Vasant Group of Companies; Proprietor Yash Enterprise; Director Vinammra Communication Pvt. Ltd.; Director Siddhi Vinayak Buildcon Pvt. Ltd. and Vice President, All India Motor Transport Congress.

66 It was a great experience to be here. We live amongst these attitudes about power and yet we never put any thought into it."



Smt Kaajal Vaidya Oza, Gujarati Writer, Author, Poet and Playwright.

66 It is my mission to humanize rules."



Kumarpal Desai, author, Director, Gujarat University's School of Languages and Dean of Faculty of Arts; Ratna Trustee and Co-ordinator, Institute of Jainology. Awards include Padma Shri; Gujarat Ten Outstanding Personality of India Award.

Whether power be political, financial or any other, there is a dire need to think over this matter. This program is very timely. We need to 'think globally and act locally."



Dr. Mrunalini Devi Puar, Chancellor, MS University, Baroda; Senior Research Fellow of the Indian Council of Research. Member, International Union for Conservation of Nature & Natural Resources, Switzerland; Recipient of International Peace Scholarship, Iowa, USA.

Power is within everyone, a part of our life. Because of its spirituality and philosophy, India can sustain soft power."



BK Nirwair, Secretary-General, Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya; Managing Trustee, Global Hospital & Research Centre, Mt. Abu; Vice President, Janki Foundation for Global Health-Care, London; Chief Editor of 'World Renewal' magazine.

India is not lacking in power of any kind. The whole world looks to India for spirituality, what is lacking is our own sincerity to practice."



Shri Pankaj Thakor, Chartered Accountant. Ex-President Lions Club Ahmedabad.



Dr Manjula Subramaniam, Vigilance Commissioner. Has served as Chief Secretary, Gujarat State and Joint Secretary for the Prime Minister's Office, Delhi, serving under four prime ministers from 1993-1998.

Each one of us has to start changing from now and from within. Corruption comes when we can no longer think logically."



Mr Neville Hodgkinson, Author and Journalist. Formerly Medical Journalist, Sunday Times, London. Chairman, Janki Foundation for Global Health Care.

The experience of being with great minds and wonderful people sharing their experience and feelings about how they use power was enlightening."



Mr Nizar Juma, initiator and host, Future of Power project. Charirman of over 50 companies, primarily in Africa and Canada. Chairman, Boards of The Aga Khan Development Network. Awarded the Silver Star by the President of Kenya.

Use everything in a worthwhile way. Focus on your purpose for life. Be passionate about that and focus on that"



Piruz Khambatta, Chairman, Rasna International Ltd. Founder of Areez Khambatta Benevolent Trust. Awards DDB Needham Pinnacle Award, New York; Marketing Man of the Year Award, AMA; Asia Pacific Entrepreneurship Award, Enterprise Asia.

Power is for the prosperity of the commonest, poorest man."



Sri Praduman Vyas, Director, National Institute of Design listed by The Business Week, USA as one of the top 25 European & Asian programmes in the world.



Dr Ravish Chandra Maheshwari, Vice Chancellor, Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University specializing in renewable energy and environmental engineering.

One has to be passionate, sincere, optimistic and have good integrity. If we have empathy towards people certainly the future is bright."



Ms Ruzan Khambatta, Founder Director, Wizz O Tech and N Wave Tech. Outstanding Woman Professional Award, Women Entrepreneur of the Year, Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Through this dialogue, I could experience, define and realize how I can use power for the benefit of society, as well as personal and professional growth."



Sri Shabbir S Khandwawala, Retired Chief of Police for Gujarat. Awarded Police Medal and President's Medal. An accomplished writer,

When power is used in a proper manner it becomes divine power, if misused it becomes devil power. Rather than becoming 'I' specialists, let us become 'We' specialists."



Shri Shaktisinh Gohil, Leader of Opposition, Gujarat Legislative Assembly. Youngest Minister in Gujarat cabinet during the Congress Govt and Youngest Chief Member of the royal family of the Limda State, Saurashtra.



Justice Suresh M Soni, Former Judge, High Court of Gujarat. Founder & Chairman, Justice on Trial; National Vice President, Rule of Law Society. Former Judge of High court of Gujarat and Ombudsman, State of Gujarat.

Rather than suppressing others, we should use power positively to reach our goals."



BK Sarla Didi, Zonal-Director of Brahma Kumaris, Gujarat State; Governing Board Member of Brahma Kumaris Educational-Society. Managing Trustee of Shri Shiv Adhyatmic Foundation Trust.

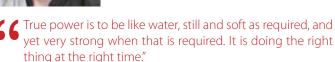
You need power only when you want to do something harmful; otherwise, love, compromise, compassion and gentle persuasion are enough to get everything done."



Ms Silvana Dimech-Conti, management consultant for blue chip Australian and international companies in the areas of strategy, finance and risk management. She is also an award-winning university lecturer in organizational behaviour and theory.



Dr Tamasin Ramsay, Anthropologist specializing in Spiritual Response to Disaster Management. Representative of the Brahma Kumaris at the United Nations, New York.





Shri Ummed Singh Champawat, Chairman, Royal Manor Hotels. A Noble of the Jodhpur Royal Family. Founder Trustee, Roop Educational Charitable Trust.

We must not move forward by corrupting powerful people. Power must be used to help needy people."



Sri V. H. Shah, Former Secretary, State Election Commission.



Dr. Tejas Patel, Director and Chief Interventional Cardiologist, Department of Cardiovascular Sciences at TCVS, SAL Hospital and Krishna Heart Institute; Head of Cardiology at Sheth V. S. General Hospital. Listed in the 18th edition Who's Who in the World.

Power is not power if it is not used."



Dr Urmilaben Patel, Special Invitee, All India Congress Working Committee. Former Chief Secretary and Union Minister. Managing Director of Sardar Vallabhai Patel Educational Trust. Awarded Shresthata Award.



BK Anthony Strano, Writer; National Co-ordinator, Brahma Kumaris Greece and Hungary. Science and Spirituality Conference organiser.



Thousands and millions know you. When you become the embodiment of transformation then you will spread that light to others. We have to be truthful, polite and humble then only can we bring the Mahatma Gandhi's vision. This will remove the pain and sorrow of others."

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"These types of dialogues really change the concept of the word 'power'. Selfish people have corrupted power, unselfish people can purify it' Shaktisinh Gohil, Leader of the Opposition, who participated in the dialogue.

A total of 36 eminent leaders from Gujarat, and from foreign lands as far away as Greece, United States, United Kingdom, Africa and Australia, came together at The Gateway Ummed Hotel in Ahmedabad, for a one day 'conversation'. This elite group of thinkers, opinion makers and leaders from various fields, including business, education, health, the arts, science, and social welfare, met in the spirit of inquiry into the 'Future of Power' dialogue on Sunday 13th February, 2011. Hosted by Dadi Janki, the 95 year old Chief of the Brahma Kumaris and Nizar Juma, a Nairobi-based industrialist, the dialogue successfully provided a neutral platform to take time out and reflect on the deeper meaning of power in their lives.

Erik Larson, an American working at the United Nations in New York, guided participants in a light hearted way, to explore their personal understanding of power and through a process of appreciative inquiry enabled a discovery of how to use power positively, despite increasing challenges and pressures, in an ever changing and deteriorating world environment.

In his opening remarks, Nizar Juma said that India's legendary intellectual, economic and spiritual resources flowed outward across the globe for more than 2,000 years, supporting and sustaining a succession of foreign civilization and cultures which has included China, Egypt, Greece, Rome and northern Europe, and now the United States. However, Western economies are now in trauma, heavily laden with debt. This indicates a turning point in which a historic reversal is under way and power is flowing back to the east, and India in particular. India has to awaken her spiritual heritage if she is to avoid the fate of the Western rule and show the world a better way forward. The key is for professionals to demonstrate ethically responsible leadership in their respective fields.

Dadi Janki met with the group inspiring and motivating them to a higher level of spiritual expression. "Just do it ...do not ask how. With truth and faith God will guide you to do what is right. Inculcate the power of truth and remove any falsehood. Become real gold, full of all virtues and powers. Whatever others need I should be able to give them power and values. We especially need three powers - tolerance, patience, and love."

This very successful dialogue was followed by an evening event at Sardar Patel Memorial Hall graced by Chief Guest, Sri Narendra Modi, Chief Minister of Gujerat. More than 900 leading figures from the community along with members of Gujarat's press and media attended. The evening was graciously opened with a song by Deepa Maya. Neville Hodgkinson, an author and journalist, interviewed some of the dialogue participants, drawing out key insights from the day's discussions. Anthony Strano from Greece shared his journey, "I was looking for a deeper meaning for the word ahimsa, but more importantly for a community who were truly living by this principle"." Nirwairbhai, General Secretary of the Brahma Kumaris, reminded us that "India was the land of deities and that is time to return to those values."



Shri Narendra Modi, Chief Minister for Gujarat Speaking at Evening FOP programme at Sadar Patel Memorial Auditorium in Ahmedabad