



From Crisis to Opportunity

A single principle in every crisis — not merely to cope, but to build something lasting. From the Bhuj earthquake to the semiconductor crisis, eleven examples.

7 October 2001 → 7 October 2026 · 25 Years, Zero Break · 25YearsofSeva.com/en · Version 86 · 7 October 2026
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“We have to turn crisis into opportunity.”

12 May 2020 — address to the nation, in which the call for Atmanirbhar Bharat was made

2001

Bhuj Earthquake — Rebuilding Kutch

CRISIS	On 26 January 2001, about 20,000 people lost their lives (official count 13,805); Kutch was devastated. At the time of the oath, this was the first challenge.
ACTION	Earthquake-resistant standards made mandatory; new town planning for Bhuj; special tax incentives for Kutch; State Disaster Management Authority strengthened.
OUTCOME	Kutch became a centre of the cement, textile, salt and port industries — a model of post-disaster rehabilitation worth studying.

2001–10

Drought and Falling Groundwater — Water Revolution

CRISIS	Recurring droughts in Saurashtra and North Gujarat; wells drying up, groundwater falling every year; farmers forced to migrate.
ACTION	More than one lakh check dams and boribandhs through a people’s campaign; Sujalam Sufalam in 2003; expansion of the Narmada canal network; announcement of SAUNI in 2012.
OUTCOME	Agricultural growth of about 9.6% a year (2000-01 to 2007-08, IFPRI study) — against about 3% for all India; improvement in groundwater between 2000–2010 recorded in international studies.

2003

Power Crisis — Jyotigram

CRISIS	A few hours of irregular power in villages; an Electricity Board drowning in losses; pump sets burning out.
ACTION	Agricultural and domestic feeders separated; rewiring worth ₹1,250 crore; the Board restructured into GUVNL and six companies.
OUTCOME	By 2006, 24-hour electricity in 18,000+ villages; Gujarat a power-surplus state; in 2015, the same model became the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana.

2008–09

Global Recession — Opportunity for Investment

CRISIS	Collapse of Lehman Brothers in September 2008; investment stalled across the world; in India too, the exit of the Tata Nano from Singur.
ACTION	7 October 2008 — decision within days, the Nano came to Sanand; January 2009 — Vibrant Gujarat held at the peak of the recession.
OUTCOME	8,662 agreements, proposals worth about 243 billion dollars; Tata and Ford at Sanand, Suzuki at Hansalpur and Honda at Vithalapur — Gujarat, the country’s auto hub.



2015

Yemen and Nepal — Operation Raahat, Operation Maitri

CRISIS	April 2015 — civil war in Yemen, thousands of Indians stranded; 25 April — devastating earthquake in Nepal.
ACTION	4,640 Indians and 960 nationals of 41 countries evacuated from Yemen by the Navy and Air Force; in Nepal, the NDRF and Air Force within hours — the first international responder.
OUTCOME	Recognition as the “First Responder” — which became the foundation for the later Ganga, Kaveri and Ajay operations.

2016 · 2019

Uri and Pulwama — A New Line of Response

CRISIS	18 September 2016, Uri — 19 soldiers made the supreme sacrifice; 14 February 2019, Pulwama — 40 jawans made the supreme sacrifice.
ACTION	29 September 2016 — surgical strike across the Line of Control; 26 February 2019 — air strike on Balakot.
OUTCOME	The doctrine of making cross-border terror pay its price across the border — which culminated in Operation Sindoor in 2025.

2019 → 2023

Lessons from Chandrayaan-2 — Chandrayaan-3

CRISIS	7 September 2019 — contact with the Vikram lander was lost in the final phase; the soft landing could not be completed that day.
ACTION	The same morning, the Prime Minister was with the scientists at ISRO; he lifted their morale; the next mission was approved immediately.
OUTCOME	23 August 2023 — the first country to land near the Moon’s south pole; Shiv Shakti Point; National Space Day.

2020

COVID-19 — Atmanirbhar Bharat

CRISIS	Nationwide lockdown from 24 March 2020; the biggest health challenge of independent India.
ACTION	A package of ₹20 lakh crore; free foodgrains for 80 crore people; 20 June — Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan worth ₹50,000 crore in 116 districts; One Nation One Ration Card; PPE production from zero to lakhs a day.
OUTCOME	Indigenous vaccines and CoWIN; the world’s largest vaccination drive; Vaccine Maitri reaching more than 100 countries; PSA oxygen plants in every district through PM CARES — lasting capacity.

2021 · 2023

Chip Crisis — Semiconductor Mission

CRISIS	The global chip crisis of 2021 — vehicle production lines halted; India entirely dependent on imports.
ACTION	December 2021 — India Semiconductor Mission worth ₹76,000 crore; units at Sanand (Micron) in 2023 and Dholera (Tata) in 2024 approved.
OUTCOME	Gujarat at the centre of the country’s semiconductor map; Mission 2.0 and rare earth corridors in Budget 2026-27.

2021–23

Afghanistan, Ukraine, Sudan, Israel — Evacuation Operations

CRISIS	August 2021, the fall of Kabul; February 2022, the Ukraine war; April 2023, civil war in Sudan; October 2023, the attack on Israel.
ACTION	Operation Devi Shakti — 669; Operation Ganga — more than 22,000, four ministers at the border; Operation Kaveri — 3,862; Operation Ajay — more than 1,300.
OUTCOME	In every crisis, the return of Indian citizens is the State’s first duty — this assurance is now institutional.



2025

Pahalgam — Operation Sindoor

CRISIS	On 22 April 2025, a terror attack took place in Pahalgam — 26 innocent civilians lost their lives.
ACTION	7 May — precision strikes on nine terrorist sites in Pakistan and PoK; ceasefire on 10 May after DGMO-level talks.
OUTCOME	A new line of response to terror; a test of indigenous defence systems; a central motif of the Independence Day 2025 celebrations.