

From Crisis to Opportunity

11 examples — from crisis to solution



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Gujarat · Chief Minister

India · Prime Minister



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Bhuj Earthquake — Rebuilding Kutch

2001



- **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.

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Drought and Falling Groundwater — Water Revolution

2001–10



- **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.

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Power Crisis — Jyotigram

2003



- **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.

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Global Recession — Opportunity for Investment

2008–09



- **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.

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Yemen and Nepal — Operation Raahat, Operation Maitri

2015



- **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.

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Uri and Pulwama — A New Line of Response

2016 · 2019



● **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.

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Lessons from Chandrayaan-2 — Chandrayaan-3

2019 → 2023



● 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.

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COVID-19 — Atmanirbhar Bharat

2020



● **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.

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Chip Crisis — Semiconductor Mission

2021 · 2023



- **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.

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Afghanistan, Ukraine, Sudan, Israel — Evacuation Operations

2021–23



● **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.

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Pahalgam — Operation Sindoor

2025



● **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.