

## **Technology Plays Vital Role in Good Governance: Modi**

Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi today said technology can play a vital role in ensuring minimum usage of government machinery for maximum governance.

"I am experiencing in government that technology can play a very big role in governance," Modi said addressing a gathering of pan-Gujarat IIT alumni here.

Driving home the point, he said, "the revenue from Bhilad check post in Gujarat is higher by Rs four crore as compared to the mop up in Maharashtra, although equal number of vehicles pass from both of them."

"This has been made possible only due to effective implementation of technology," he said adding, "we can monitor the check post sitting in Gandhinagar."

Bhilad check post in Gujarat borders with Maharashtra, and vehicles passing through it have to pay toll tax.

In his inaugural remarks at the IIT-conclave held here as a prelude to Vibrant Gujarat Summit beginning tomorrow, Modi termed the ex-IITians as a big 'national assets'.

"God has gifted you with brains, you have passed out from an institution like IIT so in a way you are a big national asset," Modi said.

The Gujarat government today partnered with IIT alumni to pursue the state's development agenda in certain identified sectors including nano technology, solar energy, petroleum and gas, and Agriculture Business Centre, by way of signing MoUs.

Principal secretary (Industries), Maheshwar Sahu, on behalf of the Gujarat Government signed MoU's for setting up Centres of Excellence on infrastructure, green chemistry, ceramics, environment, and chemicals, with the heads of several premier institutions including Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology University, ATIRA, and IIT-Gandhinagar here.

Lauding the role of ex-IITians, Modi said assets created through them could be of long term benefit to the country.

"If projects are executed under your (IIT alumni) guidance, they could be of long term benefit to the nation," Modi said.

He also laid thrust on revival of the Bank of Wisdom concept, pioneered by him for partnering with academia, with a view for knowledge sharing on development agenda of the state.

There are close to 500 IIT alumni working in Gujarat, who are working in various spheres.

Source: Outlook India, 11 January 2010