

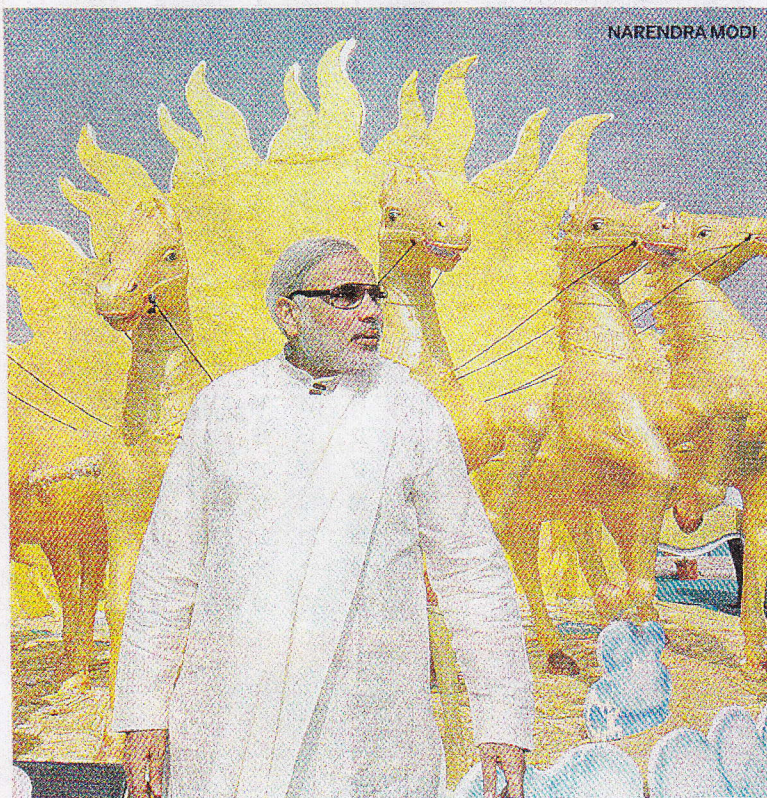
and growing. An international airport is coming up in Mohali. For the first time, a few knowledge institutes of excellence like IIT-Ropar have arrived in the state. Punjab may be a pauper but Punjabis keep getting richer and love to spend. A combination of strong political will and sharp economic skill can put the state back on track.

by Arvind Chhabra

## GUJARAT

# MODI'S GREEN EVOLUTION

» Best in Rural Roads and Fastest Mover in Agriculture



NARENDRA MODI

SHILESH RAVAL/WWW.MITRABDYNAGAR.COM

“This model for agricultural growth is unique in the history of independent India.”

It would be no overstatement to call Gujarat's agricultural growth of recent years a miracle. Its average agricultural growth rate of 9.6 per cent for the last six years is almost three times the national average; production has grown fourfold in the past decade. The monsoons may have favoured the bold in Gujarat, but what really lies underneath this success story is the integrated,

populism-free, innovative and futuristic agro growth model evolved in the past decade.

The falling water table was addressed with a general ban on electricity connections in the agro sector and sensitising farmers to the move by sharing with them the vision of a water-and crop-abundant Gujarat. Next, a drive for conserving water through check-dams, micro-dams as well as coastal dams on small rivers has created nearly half a million water reservoirs across the state. Gujarat now leads in drip and sprinkler irrigation which has played a key role in its horticulture revolution. These efforts have been strengthened by the practice of giving new power connections only to farmers using micro irrigation techniques.

A new model delivering scientific knowledge to farmers went a long way in improving soil quality, changing crop patterns, even venturing into new areas like horticulture in the once-water scarce, almost semi-arid state. The government then adopted agro-climate zoning, simultaneously developing an agro food-processing model that even took care of things like road connectivity. India's fruit exports were a few hundred containers but Gujarat alone exported 1,500 containers of bananas last year. The new agricultural vision in Gujarat has deep focus. After cotton production went up, there was a problem of waste in the form of empty cotton pods. But the Government was quick to make natural manure out of them. In regions like Saurashtra and Kutch, the Government's policies have produced near unbelievable results. Kutch leads in the adoption of both micro-irrigation and horticulture. Says Jayanti Thakkar, Kutch's leading horticulturist: "If there is one state that has learnt an agro lesson from Israel, it is Gujarat. And the credit for it goes to both Narendra Modi for his great vision and the enterprising farmers of the state who took up the challenge."

by Uday Mahurkar

## KERALA

# HAIL TO THE CHIEF

» Best in Governance

If Kerala is winning the best big state award in governance, much of it is because of an energetic 88-year-old chief minister who works over 12 hours a day. Through a series of measures that have built on early investments in education and health, he has been able to keep the crime rate low. From the Munnar Special Tribunal Act of 2010 that put to an end to the widespread encroachment and indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources to the Lottery