



## SURAT A VIBRANT DISTRICT OF GUJARAT

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Surat is the land of opportunity because it offers anyone with a dream or a chance for a better life. It is a land of promises, a hub to the textile and diamond industry. It is a district of migrants from various parts of Gujarat and other states of India who contribute to its fast growth. Gujarat model of development is known through its migrants who arrived in the city with nothing in hand, but prospered to reach the great height. It was also a city before Bombay, New Delhi, Madras, Calcutta and Bangalore existed. The city of Surat has a glorious history that dates back 300 BC. The origin of the city can be traced to the old Hindu town of Suryapur during 1500-1520 A.D, which was later colonised by the Brigus or the king from Sauvira on the banks of River Tapi.

Surat is the second largest city of Gujarat and eighth largest city of India in terms of population. Surat district consists of 9 talukas out of which 5 are tribal talukas, 1 is on-resident Indian taluka and other 3 are semi-urban talukas. A vast area of Surat is under tribal population. Surat is better in terms many socio- economic indicators in comparison to tribes in other areas of Gujarat and India. 79.6 percent of peoples live in urban region of the districts. Total area of Surat is 326,525Sq.km and present population is more than 55lac and administrate Zone -7. It has been one of the India's best places with a vibrant economy with mobility, water supply net work, cleanliness, public amenities, pollution control, greenery, safety and easy processes of getting work done at administrative level. So, it is also named as the economic capital of Gujarat.

Surat is a district comprises of features like agriculture, industry and services and the only glittering success is not that of industries in Surat, agriculture has experienced a

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satisfactory and significant growth. It comes under an excessive zone of rain and suitable agricultural climate. It is blessed piece of land in this term and owes an agro- climate feature that is completely different from Kutch and Saurashtra in Gujarat.

The annual income and also purchasing power of person dwelling in Surat is much greater to those compared with other cities of the country. Because of this the revised financial policies has been introduced by Government, housing finance will now be easily available. It Results lots of boom in real estate segment of Surat. Surat city is one of the most important cities on the industrial map of the country with many large industries developed over here. The economic basis of Surat consists of textile manufacturing, trade, diamond cutting and polishing industries, intricate zari works, chemical industries and the petrochemical and natural gas based industries at Hazira established by leading industry houses such as ONGC, Reliance, ESSAR and Shell.

The diamond and textile industries have taken the city to new heights. In the last few decades Surat has witnessed a boost in economic development as India's major diamond and textile hub with the richest municipal co operation. Industrialist remarked that Surat is a platform of opportunities for all classes of people and at the same time a safe city to live.

The diamond business in the international market has touched a magic figure of a million dollars and is still growing 90 out of 100 diamonds are produced in Surat. The construction work of Surat Diamond bourse in an area of 36 acres with 65,00,000 square feet built- up area will get ready shortly. It will be the most glorified place for the most precious gem on the earth & first its kind in India. Diamond merchants will now be able to directly deal with international diamond merchants without having to travel abroad for their requirements of raw diamonds. Surat diamond bourse will become the hub of polished diamonds for the international diamond merchants.

Surat city accounts for 40% of the world's total rough diamond cutting and polishing, 70% of the nation's total rough diamond cutting and polishing, 40% of nation's total diamond exports, 40% of the Nation's total manmade fabric production, 28% of the Nation's total

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manmade fibre production, 18% of the nation's total manmade fibre exports and 12% of the nation's total fabric production. It is one of the leading cities of the country that has attracted massive investments of which substantial proportion is under implementation.

Surat Municipal Corporation perceives its role as the principal facilitator and provider of services like portable water supply, underground sewage system, all weather roads, efficient and sustainable solid waste management, health coverage to all, primary education to all, up-gradation of the amenities in the existing slums and alternatives in the existing slums and alternative accommodation, efficient urban planning and development, etc. As a facilitator it provides facilities for industrial growth, trade and commerce, health services, higher education and research, cultural activities, sports and games, recreation and entertainments.

The urbanisation in Surat is more inclusive because smart utilisation of resources to enhance quality of life of its citizens by providing equal access to best quality physical infrastructure, social infrastructure, an ability through leveraging the state of art technology and making it both growth oriented and ecologically sustainable as well as preserving the identity and culture of the city. Surat delivers modern, accountable transparent and progressive governance keeping the sustainable development goals in mind.

Surat is planning to declare itself as an open defecation free district by constructing as many required toilets and needed in different schemes and awakening peoples regarding the sanitation and other health issues. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is trying to achieve its target through construction of pucca houses on a priority basis for which they have 25sqm land. In terms of digital awareness, Surat is far ahead compared to the other districts of India. it has recently conducted a DIGI Dhan Mela where people from all walks of life have been included and given demonstrations regarding the use of digital infrastructure for smooth day-to-day transactions with the help of many stakeholders including the southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, bankers and other companies.

The district administration is also emphasised on the unemployed youth to be skilful and employed through its Mega Job Fair held recently in February 2017. Surat has been the biggest destination for job creation and the expectation on it is also very high. The intensity

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of education is spreading at a brisk pace in Surat and South Gujarat. More than 400 colleges and 4 universities are active in this region. Surat has always been among the top position across India in course of Chartered Account. Many students from here migrate to USA, Canada, Australia, U.K., Russia, etc for further studies. It shows Surat is going to become an education hub in future.

Surat also a Hazria (one of the important area of Surat including ONGC, NTPC, GAIL, Reliance, Adani and Essar), Magdalla and Bhagwa as intermediate ports handling foreign traffic and domestic airport also adorn the district. And it is fact that Surat exports a large amount of germs to the global market from India. Surat is one of the major hubs of the diamond cutting and polishing industry where 90 percent of the rough diamonds mined across the world are sent to Surat and it enjoys a complete monopoly on the smaller and cheaper diamond.

Town as well as most of the villages in central and western parts of Surat District are connected by National and state highways including NH-8 other roads and railways connecting different industrial hubs of the state and the country.33 villages in Surat district have railway facilities and almost all talukas of these districts are well connected through all rail network. All inhabited villages of Surat are electrified under jyotigram project. Surat has well developed network of substations and power stations in the districts to cater to the need of electricity in for industrial and residential use.

Surat also provides a better excursion facilities with tasty cuisines and various places of historical and natural attractions. There are many historical gems at Surat like Surat castle, cemeteries, Mugal sarai, Parsi temple, Chintamani Temple, Jami Masjid, Dumas beach, Nature park etc.

Surat Municipal Co operation is the only co operation in India who has established 29.9MW capacity of Wind power Plants for the operation of water supply system. This helps making water supply self sustainable. Solar Power Plant projects with total capacity of 1.2 MW have been installed across the city and 3.6 MW capacities are in under installation presently. Sewage gas based bio-gas power plants with total installed capacity

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of 5.3 MW are being utilised for captive purpose. More than 90000 light fittings are being replaced with LED lighting and for the same; MoU with Energy Efficiency services Ltd.

## **Awards and recognition received by Surat in recent past**

- Business world Smart cities Awards 2016 for SAFAL
- Business world Smart cities Awards 2016 for SMC mobile APP
- Digital India Awards 2016 (platinum Icon) – Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India
- IT innovation and Excellence 2016 Award- Computer Society in India.
- HUDCO Awards 2016 for overall development of city
- Express IT Awards 2015 Bronze
- Earth care Awards 2015 for promoting Climate change Migration and Adaptation Measured- JSW foundation.
- SKOCH Order of Merit
- SKOCH Awards 2015 for water supply, energy sector
- Elets Smart city Award 2015

## **Conclusion**

Surat is one of the fastest growing metropolises in India. It is a full potential yet to be realised. The city has excellent infrastructure in terms of roads, port, and easy availability of electricity, water and piped cooking gas. It has also best civic amenities. It has ensured complete public peace and law and order. Surat is the Cusp of social and economic

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transformation that will be more dynamic than its performance so far. It will be one of the most liveable cities of the world. The city of Surat is one of the cleanest places with high business ethics, people here love to contribute and take initiative towards social services and causes. The cosmopolitan culture of Surat is one of the contributions of international interactions. Surat well on course of becoming Smart-City, it is clean city, safe city and smart city of Gujarat.

Surat is hub for numerous sectors of economy, most of notably the diamond, textile and silk industries. For this reason, Surat is also known as the diamond city, textile city and silk city of India. It is safe and peaceful place to live. Strong business orientation of the city makes banking activities vibrant and challenging. The presence of a strong industrial sector in Surat invites an influx of migrants from across the country. It is a land of entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurs here have indomitable spirit for succeeding in business & they have great resilience to rebound back if they come across with any difficult situation. One can easily say Surat is a vibrant city of Gujarat as per its dynamic characteristics.

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