



TULSI TANTI:

He is the chairman and managing director of Pune-based Suzlon Energy, the world's largest supplier of wind turbines, a company he built from scratch.



MUKESH AMBANI:

India's richest man, business tycoon Mukesh Ambani is the chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), a Fortune 500 company. Elder son of the legendary entrepreneur Dhirubhai Ambani, he is known for his leadership qualities and for putting Gujarat on the global map by setting up the largest refinery in the world at Jamnagar in the state.

UDAY KOTAK:

He is the vice chairman and managing director of Kotak Mahindra Bank in which he owns 50% stake. In a recent interview, he stressed that solutions to India's problems are not in running after US dollars but fixing the manufacturing sector in the country.



"Gujaratis are fun-loving"

NITIN SHAH, Chairman and Managing Director of Allied Digital shares his journey and his love for Gujarat in conversation with **Rashmi Sanzgiri**



Q: HOW HAS YOUR JOURNEY BEEN, FROM EMPLOYEE TO EMPLOYER?

A: After passing BE (Electronics) from VJTI in 1977, I got a job in CMC where I worked for six years. While I was there, I got a chance to work on mainframe systems. Several mainframe companies took over IBM business then and it was shut down due to political reasons. I sensed a vacuum in the IT industry as there was no other IT service provider.

opportunities. I have my business across the state and provide IT-service to bluechip companies like MicroInfra, Torrent, Reliance and many other companies here.

Gujarat is very close to my heart. My roots are in Gujarat and I am thankful to the state. My native place is Jamnagar but I love Ahmedabad city. It is beautiful and well-developed. If I ever get the opportunity, I would like to settle there. I'm also a big fan of *shrikhand-puri* and *undiyu*.

Q: WHAT DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE ROLE OF GUJARATIS LIVING IN OTHER STATES?

A: People from the Gujarati community are fun-loving and are very humble. Wherever they live, they adjust to the surroundings, work

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solved the problem in two days. It is because of my work that the company offered to do business with me.

hard and achieve success. They are also business-minded people. They have the ability to sustain their business even through all the difficulties. I have observed that the education level in the Gujarati community is also improving and many of them are well-qualified and are venturing into professional business.

Q: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR CONNECTION WITH GUJARAT?

A: First, I would like to thank Narendra Modi. He has completely changed the image of Gujarat. He has helped welcome huge investments for various projects. Also, they are running ahead in government sector and have an e-governance system.

Q: YOU ARE INVOLVED IN SOCIAL WORK AS WELL. PLEASE ELABORATE

A: We have a family trust on my wife and mother's name 'Padma-Pragya' trust. Through this, we try to help the needy people and educate

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underprivileged children. We have built a Jain temple in Shahapur, near Mumbai and have a dharamshala for people to stay. We also run Khakhra centre where women who are not well-qualified and financially poor, earn by making Khakhras.

ILLUSTRIOUS PERSONALITIES

India is home to some of the finest and most successful Gujarati businessmen in the world. Aruna Raghuram reports

PIRUZ KHAMBATTA:

He leads India's largest and most popular soft drink concentrate brand Rasna, which with its appealing campaign won many a child's heart in the eighties. The brand has been repositioned with health as a focal point though it still retains its value for money advantage. Khambatta has localised the flavour names and used innovative strategies to penetrate deep into the market.



ANIL AMBANI:

The younger son of Dhirubhai, he is the chairman of the Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group. A highly disciplined person, he is known for telling aspiring entrepreneurs, "Work till your last breath. Work is worship." He sees his business as "spanning the entire landscape of emerging human aspirations."



Gujarat has emerged as the power hotspot of the country. This state, which is a house to many bigwigs, has created a global presence. **Swati Soni** reports

GUJARAT'S VERY OWN TORCHBEARERS

The inherent spirit of adventure and entrepreneurship in Gujaratis has led to their phenomenal success as a community in whatever business they do, be it in their own land or adopted lands. This community either leaves foot prints behind for the world to follow or set a stupendous benchmark for others to surmount. It is a no hidden fact that Gujarat and Gujarati communities continue to be at the fore of India's economic development. While the global economy may be feeling the jitters, the Gujarati businessmen have been able to maintain consistent growth rate in the companies they are leading or creating.

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business world is a glaring example of the fact that the vision to build a successful enterprise does not require an MBA from a blue-chip B-School.

Another name that took the drug industry in different league altogether is Ahmedabad-based Sudhir Mehta, the chairman of Torrent Group, of which Torrent Pharmaceuticals Limited is the flagship company. He has been instrumental in steering the growth of Torrent Pharmaceuticals through strategic alliances with international

giants from UK, Germany, France and USA.

Pharmaceutical industry is incomplete without this icon's name, meet Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel, the chairman and managing director of Cadila Healthcare. With over 30 years of experience in the pharma industry, he is one of the most successful pharma entrepreneurs in the country. Zydus Cadilla is a well-known brand now and enjoys good reputation in the pharma industry.

Gujarat is the state where textile industry has seen many seasons and who would know that better than Sanjay Lalbhai, who has played a pivotal role in making Arvind Limited (formerly The Arvind Mills Ltd.) a force to reckon with in the textiles sector. Now the chairman and managing director of one of the largest manufacturers of denim in the world, Lalbhai has been instrumental in placing Ahmedabad — the Manchester of the East — on the global map.

The *shak-rotli* eating folk have stirred various nations and companies through their strategic alliances and path-breaking business and trading skills. These hotshots are now known as 'Global Gujaratis', for they made their presence felt in numerous lands across oceans and time zones.



● Sanjay Lalbhai Arvind



● Karsan Patel



● Pankaj Patel



● Sudhir Mehta



● Gautam Adani