

**Narendra Modi**  
Chief Minister, Gujarat State



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Gujarat is fast emerging as an eco-tourism destination; boasting of a wide range of pristine and even hitherto unexplored destinations for avid nature lovers. It is known as a land of warmth and hospitality. It is so pleasing that even the angels of nature - birds - feel this spirit and flock down from distant lands. We host over 350 species of birds today, and have been attracting these wonderful creatures for decades.

The Global Bird Watcher's Conference being held in November this year, is an endeavour to not only showcase this strength of Gujarat; but importantly to also deliberate on how to preserve this wonderful gift of nature from the many threats posed by the modern world.

I see environmental preservation and the maintenance of ecological balance, as non-negotiable elements of a sustainable growth agenda. Ensuring the sustenance of appropriate eco-systems for these lovely feathered friends of ours from around the world forms an important component of our overall strategy. I therefore look forward to this Global Conference for throwing up new paradigms of approach in this direction.

Let us jointly enjoy the delicate symphony of the chirping of these beautiful creatures, and simultaneously get together to keep this deep music alive for the generations to come.

Welcome to the Global Bird Watcher's Conference!  
Welcome to the land of Gujarat!

  
( Narendra Modi )