



**Center for Global & Strategic Studies
Islamabad**

Sheikh Zayed: Truly A visionary Leader

Published on 23rd February, 2019



Leadership can be explained as the inner power and insight. “A man who built a nation and managed to take UAE as one of the most significant economic hub in the world, is well depicted as the personality of Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the first President of United Arab Emirates, recognized as a visionary leader, consensus builder, source of inspiration and a wise man of the Arabs.

The UAE manifested the year 2018, “the year of Sheikh Zayed” as to celebrate his 100th birth anniversary. A man of dedication His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who was born in 1918 and took charge as the ruler of Abu Dhabi in 1966 and progressively completed his journey towards the President of United Arab Emirates in 1971 after the consensus development over the unification of the seven tracial emirates, which is considered to be his great achievement. He remained the President of his country till his last birth and died in year 2004.

The respect and reputation that His Highness earned is the result of his visionary power and anticipation that UAE has emerged from the sands of the desert into a golden land of opportunities. Sheikh Zayed is known as the world’ s most visionary and reputed member of Muslim Ummah. He provided various opportunities to people and transformed the United Arab Emirate into a modernized infrastructure.

Sheikh Zayed emphasized that knowledge is the weapon to guarantee a prosperous future, while investing in youth and urged them towards the attainment of modern education His Highness Sheikh Zayed considered them a significant asset. It was his visualization that the United Arab Emirates is now ranked as one of the best tourist and investment friendly countries.

As a visionary leader, he catalyzed a vigorous pursuit that resulted in the highest guarantee of his achievements. He had the ability to transform his visualization into



reality. Being a charismatic personality and the capability of building consensus, he encouraged the seven trucional states to be unified for the creation of a democratic entity.

Sheikh Zayed introduced a system based on the social, political and economic principles. The utilization of natural oil resources wisely, while focusing on the development of infrastructure of the state, made UAE a dream destination for the whole world. The transformation of UAE from federation into the modern nation state, proved a tool for the attainment of the better living standard.

The strategic leadership of Sheikh Zayed, indorsed equestrian, camel racing and hunting as the national heritage and made it a brand and a symbol of Emirati culture. For the sustainable development of UAE, Sheikh Zayed urged that ignoring the representation of women would be considered as the wastage of the valuable asset. That' s why he ensured the safety and dignity of women in every workplace.

Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan took several steps for the conservation of the



natural environment and established institutions such as Federal Environment Agency, Abu Dhabi Environmental Research and Wildlife Development Agency, while stressing upon the Government's responsibility regarding the preservation of wildlife and environmental protection. He reintroduced the

traditional techniques of desert agriculture to ensure the UAE remains green and fertile.

He stressed upon the worth of cooperation and unity of the Arab states to solve the regional issues. While supporting the Palestinian's cause, once he stated that "Arab oil can never be dearer than Arab blood" .

Health, social sector and standard of education was improvised during his tenure. Subsequently, UAE ranked among the most economically developed state of the Gulf region and second highest economy after Saudi Arabia.

During the leadership of Sheikh Zayed UAE got recognized as the vanguard provider of foreign aid and assistance to the states facing crises situation. His traits like truthfulness, honesty, devotion and dedication marked him as a remarkable leader.

It is the result of the efforts of the great leader that UAE has emerged as the most prosperous state among the Arab region and ranked among the top 40 progressive states in the world according to its economic advancement, business environment and social reforms and health related initiatives.

The success of a true leader is a success of the whole nation. Having a vision and then ability to convert it into reality is not an easy task but a trait of a successful leader. We should gain experience from the past and should take advantage of the previous learning and experiences of the great leaders like Sheikh Zayed and should take forward their legacy to guarantee a sustainable future.

