



GREETINGS

I convey my warm greetings and best wishes to the Government and people of Qatar on the significant occasion of Qatar's National Environment Day on 26 February, 2015. In the framework of Qatar National Vision 2030, with Environment as one of its four pillars, Qatar has been celebrating the National Environment Day on 26 February every year since 1997. In the run up to this day, Ministry of Environment of Qatar organizes a series of awareness events to highlight the importance of environment protection.

I am delighted that the Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), apex organization of associations of the Indian community in Qatar, functioning under the aegis of Embassy of India, Doha, is working in close cooperation with the Ministry of Environment of the State of Qatar and organizing a series of activities and events to strongly support Qatar's Environment Awareness Campaign and Environment Day celebrations.

This year's celebrations are being organized under the theme "Our Environment, Our Responsibility". It is very heartening that the Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) has undertaken a six week long public awareness campaign, as also a competition among its affiliated organizations on the theme: 'Global Environmental Challenges'. During these celebrations, ICC is actively reaching out to the large, diverse, accomplished and highly regarded Indian community in Qatar, and motivating them to participate in various programmes. The events organized by ICC include an awareness campaign and competition, alongwith a drive to clean Wakrah Beach. The grand finale of ICC's activities will be held on 26 February, 2015, at which Ambassador's Rolling Trophy will be awarded.

India, a country of over 1.2 billion people and the world's third largest economy on purchasing power parity terms, accords utmost priority to cleanliness and hygiene, environmental protection and sustainable development. New initiatives taken by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and his Government such as 'Swachh Bharat' (Clean India) and 'Mission Clean Ganga' are heightening awareness of these important issues and motivating the masses to be pro-actively involved.

We, at Embassy of India, Doha fully support the important goals and objectives of Qatar's National Environment Day celebrations, deeply appreciate the activities being undertaken, and convey our best wishes to all the organizers and participants.

(Sanjiv Arora)