



Smt. Droupadi Murmu
President



Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Ambassador's Message

On the glorious occasion of 74th Republic Day of India, I extend warm greetings to all my fellow Indians in Qatar. It was on this historic day in 1950 that the Constitution of India came into effect, establishing India as a democratic Republic. Today, we reaffirm our love for our nation, respect for our national flag and faith in our Constitution.

I take this opportunity to thank His Highness the Amir of the State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, members of the Royal family, the Government and the friendly people of the State of Qatar for their support for stronger relations with India and their continued patronage of the vibrant Indian community in Qatar.

On 26 November 1949, we the people of India adopted, enacted and gave to ourselves our Constitution. The Constitution, whose core values – Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity are sacred to us and continue to be our guiding principles, came into effect on 26 January 1950, which is celebrated as Republic Day. Our Constitution enshrines the values and ideals of our freedom movement and the spirit of our unity. On this auspicious occasion, we remember with utmost respect the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and other great men and women who inspired our freedom struggle.

While we celebrate glorious achievements during 75 years of our Independence, we have not lost sight of our future. Prime Minister of India H.E. Narendra Modi has set targets for the Amrit Kaal – Roadmap to the next 25 years as we approach the centenary. India has made great strides – in economy, business reforms, infrastructure, technology, StartUps, Innovation, sustainability & inclusivity, to name a few. With nearly 1.4 billion people, India is the world's largest democracy. Last year, India became the world's fifth largest economy and on target to become the \$5 trillion economy by 2025-26. India is already among the fastest-growing major economy. Today, India ranks first in terms of smartphone data consumption. India ranks first in Global FinTech as well as IT-BPM outsourcing distribution. India is the world's third largest aviation market and third largest auto market. With ever growing digital infrastructure, financial inclusion is one of the highest priorities for the government. Today, around 80% have bank accounts, 80% use digital payments, and 99% have unique IDs. India has transformed itself into an incubator and emerged the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world with over 88,000 startups, 107 unicorns with a combined valuation of \$341 billion. With an average age of 28, India's entrepreneurs rank among the youngest in the world.

India has taken a lead in green energy transition. Presently, India ranks 4th in the world in terms of installed renewable energy capacity. 42% of India's power requirements are met from non-fossil fuel source, and 40% of this is from renewable energy sources. India has been ranked amongst the top 5 countries in the world, and the best among the G20 countries, as per the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI 2023). In 2022, Prime Minister H.E. Narendra Modi announced the National Hydrogen Mission with an aim of making India a hub for the production and export of green hydrogen. The mission plans to achieve green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT per annum and reduction of nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions.

As the 'Pharmacy of the world', India meets 60% of the world's vaccine and 70% of WHO's vaccine demand. The world's first SARS-CoV-2 vaccine that can be delivered through nasal route is being launched today on 26 January. India's space odyssey continues and first privately developed rocket Vikram-S, developed by Skyroot Aerospace, was launched last year. It was fitted with a rocket engine that was 3D printed!

Last year, India achieved a momentous feat by commissioning its first indigenous Aircraft Carrier – INS Vikrant, which was built in the Cochin Shipyard, marking India's entry into the coveted club of countries to build indigenous aircraft carriers. The year 2022, also marked the induction of the indigenously produced, multi-role, Light Combat Helicopter Prachand that can operate higher than any other attack helicopter in the world. Indian defence are expected to cross Rs 19,000 crore by 2023.

In the global sports arena, in 2022, India was the host for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup. Presently, India is once again hosting the 2023 Men's FIH Hockey World Cup. Men's Cricket World Cup will be held in India later in 2023.

In December 2022, India assumed the Presidency of G-20. The theme – "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – One Earth, One Family, One Future" – reflects the motto rooted from our core values and culture since times immemorial. The priorities of India's G-20 Presidency include: Green Development, Climate Finance & LiFE (Life Style for Environment); Accelerated, Inclusive & Resilient Growth; Accelerating progress on Sustainable Development Goals; Technological Transformation & Digital Public Infrastructure; Multilateral Institutions for the 21st century; and, Women-led development. As our theme signifies, India is all set to welcome the member countries of G-20 to its family, and work alongside them to build a much better and safer world.

Last year, we also successfully completed our tenure in the United Nations Security Council during which we spoke out in support of peace, security & prosperity and were the Voice of the Global South. Just a few days ago, we hosted the Voice of the Global South Summit, to focus international attention on priorities, perspectives and concerns of the developing world. The Summit saw participation of Leaders and Ministers from 125 countries.

At India's proposal, the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets. Today, when the world is facing the detrimental effects

of climate change and acute water shortage, millets are proving to be a silver lining as they require minimal growth inputs and are resistant against cold weather conditions, drought, salinity, and can also be cultivated on dry and arid lands, thereby contributing to global food security. This initiative is an attempt by India to enhance global food security and promote a healthy lifestyle for a wholesome future generation.

On the bilateral front, centuries old bonds of friendship between India and Qatar continue to grow strength to strength. The year 2023 is very special. We celebrate the 50th anniversary of establishment of full diplomatic relations.

The bilateral relationship continues to be nurtured closely by the leadership and supported ably by the deep-rooted people to people contacts. In 2022, we had the honour to organize two visits of the Hon'ble Vice President of India in Qatar within a span of six months. The first ever visit at the Vice-Presidential level from India was held in June 2022. Later, at the invitation of H.H. the Amir, the Hon'ble Vice President of India represented India at the inaugural ceremony of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

Close to 800,000 Indians call Qatar their second home. Through their skill, commitment, dedication and sincerity, they continue to make immense contribution to socio-economic development of the country. Indians supported the successful hosting of a memorable and unique FIFA World Cup 2022 Qatar in every possible way. The Indian fans were among the largest ticket holders. Nearly 16% of the visitors to Qatar during FIFA were Indian fans. Thousands of Indian workers helped in the construction of stadiums and other infrastructure. Indian professionals – Engineers, Medical professionals, Chartered Accountants, Consultants in various fields contributed to the design & development. Indian businesses worked to maintain supply chains thereby ensuring food security even when millions of fans visited Qatar for the FIFA World Cup. More than 5000 volunteers from the Indian community worked with organisers to ensure a seamless & pleasant experience for fans. The Indian community also organized many cultural events to support Qatar Museums' efforts to entertain fans. The Indian community will continue to support Qatar authorities as it prepares itself to host the World Judo Championship 2023, AFC Asian Cup 2023, ITTF World Table Tennis Championships 2025, Asian games 2030 and many more world stage sporting in the future.

Qatar is India's biggest LNG supplier, and India has always been its reliable partner. The bilateral trade and economic relationship between India and Qatar has always been strong and robust. The trade between both countries reached \$17.5bn during January - November 2022, which is an almost 33% increase compared to 2021. In 2022, Qatar accounted for 45% of India's total LNG imports. India has set an ambitious target to raise the share of natural gas in its energy mix from 6.3% to 15% by 2030, and Qatar's role as India's partner in energy security will be instrumental in achieving this target.

The year 2022 was a delightful year for the Indian community as we officially entered the Guinness Book of World Records by setting the record for the most nationalities participating in a yoga lesson. This world record attempt wouldn't have been a success without the kind cooperation and generosity of the expatriates from the 114 countries who took part in the event. This historic event stands as a testament to "Our Strength is in our Unity", and has set an example that "Cooperation is always more powerful than Competition". I would also like to congratulate Indian long distance runner Ms. Sufiya Sufi on emerging victorious and achieving the Guinness World Record for "fastest run across Qatar" in 30 hours and 31 minutes. No words are enough to laud her determination and hard work in achieving this incredible feat.

While the Indian community has made a mark for themselves for their peaceful and hardworking nature and continue to spread their branches, they remain true to their roots. A 280-member strong contingent from Qatar participated in the recently held 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas in Indore. Various community organizations work hard to keep our culture and traditions alive and also support the host Government & Embassy's efforts to reach out to those in need – especially by conducting Blood donation camps, health camps etc.

The welfare and the well-being of the Indian community in Qatar is the top priority of the Embassy of India, and we had been relentless in our efforts to ensure and facilitate the needs and requirements of the Indian diaspora. In order to facilitate a seamless consular service, the Embassy of India has recently re-introduced the walk-in system, so that the public can seek our service at their convenience. During the Hon'ble Vice President's visit to Qatar on two separate occasions in June and November last year, the Embassy of India had hosted separate interaction session for the migrant workers. The Embassy also regularly hosts consular camps in distant locations of Qatar, to offer consular services for the Indian community residing outside Doha.

As we celebrate our 74th Republic Day, I once again extend my warm greetings to my fellow Indians in Qatar and congratulate and thank the Indian community for their continued contribution and cooperation in strengthening the India – Qatar relationship.



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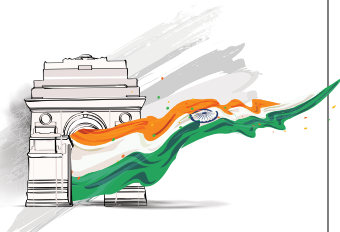
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