



Droupadi Murmu
President of India



Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India

AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE

I extend warm wishes and greetings to all Indians and friends of India in Qatar on the glorious occasion of India's 75th Republic Day, the day when the Constitution of India came into force in 1950. Each year, on this day, we, the people of Bharat reaffirm our love and respect for the principles and values enshrined in our Constitution and renew our commitment to imbibe them in our thoughts and actions.

Over the past more than seven decades, the values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity enshrined in our Constitution have guided and inspired us to follow the vision of the leaders of our freedom struggle. This is an occasion to pay homage to them as well as to our leaders who have transformed India and the armed forces who have ensured our security and well-being. It is also an occasion for Indians around the world, including in Qatar, to rejoice in India's successes.

Today, India is globally recognized as the world's largest democracy, fifth-largest world economy, fast-emerging innovation capital of the world, and an indispensable partner in addressing global issues. India is seen as a role model for countries across the world in taking along its diverse, multilingual, multi-religious, and multicultural people towards a path of development and progress.

In 2023, India's G-20 Presidency held under the motto of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - One Earth, One Family, One Future' enabled India to shape the global discourse. As PM Modi said India offered the world an alternative from a "GDP-centric to human-centric progress". India led the effort for greater exclusivity in G-20 and ensured the inclusion of the African Union as a permanent member in the forum. India revitalized multilateralism, amplified the voice of the Global South, championed development, and fought for the empowerment of women. During India's Presidency, the G-20 adopted an Action Plan on SDGs, established a Digital Public Infrastructure Repository, and introduced ambitious aims for building a cleaner, greener planet.

India has continued to be the fastest-growing major economy with its GDP estimated to grow well above 7% in 2023-24. In the next few years, India is set to become a US\$ 5 trillion economy. There has been an unprecedented pace of infrastructure development in the country whether it be in the fields of highways, airports, ports, power, or renewable energy. India remains a top destination for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and aims to attract US\$ 100 billion annually in FDI in

coming years. The booming digital payments crossing 11 billion monthly transactions, the quick 5G rollout, and the launch of the world's largest office space at Surat Diamond Bourse are some of the major milestones achieved in recent months.

India's march towards becoming an "innovation hub" continues forward with our Global Innovation Index ranking improving to 40 in 2023 from 81 in 2015. The space sector especially showed the strength of India in the field of science and technology. In August 2023 the landing of India's Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft on the Moon's South Pole drew global attention as India became the fourth country to do so while being the first to land on the South Pole.

As we celebrate the milestones and the journey so far, we also remain conscious of the task ahead. PM Modi has set a vision of 'Viksit Bharat - Developed India' by the year 2047. The vision is to transform India into a developed country encompassing all facets of development such as economic prosperity, social advancement, environmental sustainability, and effective governance. Realizing this vision demands an unwavering commitment, a firm belief in India's destiny, and a profound recognition of our vast potential, talent, and capabilities.

On this day, it is also befitting to recall India's friendly and multifaceted relationship with Qatar which has grown from strength to strength over the past years. The year 2023 marked 50 years of establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations between India and Qatar. Our relationship is not just a modern phenomenon but has strong historical links dating back centuries. In recent years, the relationship has continued to grow in diverse sectors through regular and substantive engagement. PM Modi and His Highness the Amir met in Dubai on the sidelines of COP-28 held in December in the UAE and exchanged views on issues of mutual interest.

The economic relations between India and Qatar have continued to grow in depth and momentum. The bilateral trade reached an impressive US \$18.77 billion in FY 2022-23. Qatar remains an important source of



H E Vipul
Ambassador of India to Qatar

LNG and LPG for India and both sides are discussing steps for further extension of this important aspect of the bilateral relationship. Indian exports to Qatar and Qatar's investment in India have also shown upward growth. Recent months have been particularly significant on investments from Qatar to India, with reports of large investments by QIA Indian companies, Reliance Retail and Adani Green Energy.

The depth of the India-Qatar relationship is reflected in our strong people-to-people ties. Today, Qatar is a second home to over 835,000 Indian nationals. The large and diverse Indian community in Qatar has played an important role in Qatar's development as well as in nurturing the bilateral relationship between the two countries. The Indian diaspora shares Qatar's pride in emerging as a hub of culture and sports in the region. Our community was at the forefront of celebrating Qatar's success in hosting FIFA 2022. Over the past few months, Indian teams have visited Qatar to participate in the Asian Football Championship as well as tournaments in chess, shooting, and snooker. We also welcomed Qatar's football team in India where both countries played a FIFA qualifier match. I am happy that movies from Bollywood and other languages of India are regularly screened in Qatar. Indian filmmakers are also looking at Qatar for shooting their films.

I would like to convey my appreciation to the various Indian community organizations in Qatar for their work. We remain committed to promoting and supporting the welfare and well-being of the Indian community in Qatar. We seek to provide best services to our community and assist any Indian in distress. Our Embassy has also been holding Open House sessions to address consular issues.

I take this opportunity to convey our felicitations and gratitude to His Highness the Amir of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, His Highness Father Amir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the members of the Royal Family, the Government and the friendly people of this wonderful country for their continued patronage and support to the Indian community in Qatar.

I once again extend my warm greetings to fellow Indians in Qatar on this 75th Republic Day and thank them for their continuing invaluable contribution to the growth and development of India and Qatar. Jai Hind!