



Droupadi Murmu
President of India



Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India



H E Vipul
Ambassador of India to Qatar

On the auspicious occasion of the 78th Independence Day of India, I extend heartfelt greetings to all Indians and friends of India in Qatar. I also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to H H the Amir of the State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, H H the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, all Members of the Royal Family, and the Government of the State of Qatar for their continued patronage and support to the Indian community in Qatar.

Like every year Independence Day is a time to pay homage to the leaders of our freedom struggle who made countless sacrifices for India's freedom and also to commemorate the remarkable journey of our country since 15 August 1947. We honour the legacy of our founding fathers who envisioned an India where all citizens live with dignity, equality and justice. Let us also celebrate our impressive achievements in fields such as development, economy, education, health, IT and S&T and commit ourselves to keep contributing to making India stronger and more prosperous.

One of India's most important successes over the eight decades of independence

AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE

has been its emergence on the global stage as a vibrant democracy. This year was especially important in this context as the world witnessed the largest democratic elections in India held in a free, fair, transparent and peaceful environment with an electorate of more than 960 million. Following the results, the new Council of Ministers led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi took oath on 9 June 2024 and the National Democratic Alliance began its 3rd term in the government. Prime Minister has set the goal of a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047 and assured that the government will work with speed and continuity in governance over its new term.

India's GDP growth rate has remained robust and we continue to be among the world's fastest growing major economies. We should be pleased that amidst global uncertainties, the Indian economy remains a shining star with strong economic fundamentals and is projected to once again achieve above 7% growth in FY 2024-25. India's inflation is low and stable. The government is giving special attention to nine sectors viz agriculture, employment and skilling, human resource, manufacturing and services, urban development, energy, infrastructure, innovation and next-generation reforms to impart more momentum to the country's development. In the recent budget, the government has taken further steps to boost investments by cutting corporate tax on foreign companies and angel tax on start-ups.

In conjunction with robust economic growth, the government is also committed to inclusive development of people, particularly, farmers, youth, women and poor. Several schemes have been functioning successfully and are being strengthened such as Ayushman Bharat (healthcare for all), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (affordable housing for all), Jandhan (banking for all) and Mudra loans. To benefit the farmers, the government has approved

Minimum Support Price for all major crops, delivering on the promise of at least a 50% margin over costs. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (food for the poor) has also been extended for five years, benefiting more than 800 million people.

India continues to advance in new technologies. Apart from sectors like space and defence manufacturing, one of the most significant successes of India has been in the area of digital public infrastructure and services, enhancing digital payment systems like UPI, and improving internet connectivity across the country. Progress in renewable energy projects, particularly in solar and wind energy has also highlighted India's commitment and contributions to global efforts towards combating climate change. As a voice of Global South, we continue to work to ensure that the international community does not deviate from the targets we set together for achieving Sustainable Development Goals. India has also continued to stress the value of dialogue and diplomacy for resolving differences to build a peaceful world.

I am happy that India-Qatar relations have further intensified this year. We had the landmark visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Qatar in February 2024 during which he met H H the Amir, H H the Father Amir and H E the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and reviewed all aspects of our partnership. Prime Minister Modi thanked the Qatari leadership for taking excellent care of the Indian community. He also invited H H the Amir to visit India. We hope that a visit will take place soon. We also look forward to scaling up cooperation in key sectors relating to trade, investment, energy, technology and culture. Prime Minister Modi's visit was followed by a visit of Minister of Railways, Electronics and IT Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw to Qatar in February 2024.

India and Qatar renewed their contacts in the third term of Prime Minister Modi

with a visit of External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar to Qatar on June 30, 2024. The two sides have also had frequent interactions at official levels including for meetings of Joint Task Force on Investment and Joint Working Group on Trade and Commerce in recent months. We also had the opportunity to host Qatar's Minister of State for Energy Affairs H E Eng. Saad Sherida Al Kaabi in India in February this year when we renewed the 7.5 MTPA LNG supply and purchase agreement for another 20 years. Another agreement for long term supply of Naphtha from Qatar to India was signed in June 2024. Bilateral trade and investment figures between our two countries remain impressive. I am confident that the bilateral relationship will continue to strengthen in the coming months and pave the way for deeper engagements among the people, businesses and investors of the two countries.

I also take this opportunity to convey my thanks to the large Indian community in Qatar for playing a pivotal role in strengthening the bonds of friendship between India and Qatar. The dedication, conduct, skills and respect of cultural values shown by the community have contributed to enhanced mutual understanding between our two countries. I have had the pleasure of regular interaction with the members of community at various events and programmes as well as at the Embassy for addressing consular matters. I feel immensely proud of our community that is widely appreciated for its exemplary socio-cultural capital in the country. I am confident that the members of Indian community in Qatar will continue to represent the rich cultural heritage of India in all its diverse colours and contribute in the development of both India and Qatar.

In conclusion, I join all Indians in celebrating our Independence Day. Let us on this occasion also renew our commitment to upholding the values enshrined in our Constitution to build a developed and prosperous India as well as to make India-Qatar relations even stronger.

Jai Hind! Jai Qatar!