As India celebrates its 75th Independence Day this year, it is an occasion for all Indians to pay their respects and honour to the freedom fighters who contributed to the struggle for India’s independence. Today, India takes pride in being the world’s largest democracy and a rising economic power as a result of the strong foundation laid by its leaders who framed the country’s constitution and built strong democratic and financial institutions.
In profound memories of late,

Mohd. Sabih Bukhari
Co-Founder

Saima Bukhari
Managing Director

HP Industries
Street No. 1, New Industrial Area,
Doha - Qatar

XPS THERMAL INSULATION  WATERPROOFING & DAMPPROOF COATINGS  PROTECTIVE COATINGS  SURFACE TREATMENTS & RELEASING AGENTS

BITUMINOUS COATINGS & PRIMERS  CONSTRUCTION GROUTS & ANCHORS  TILE GLUES, BLOCK FIXING AGENTS  CONCRETE REPAIR

FLOORINGS, TOPPINGS & COATINGS  JOINT SEALANTS & MOULDING COMPOUNDS  ADHESIVES & BONDING AGENTS  CONCRETE ADMIXTURES
O n the occasion of the 75th Independence Day of India, I congratulate and extend my warm greetings to all my fellow Indians living in Qatar.

I take this opportunity to also express our gratitude to 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 and the Government of the State of Qatar for their continued patronage and support to the Indian community in Qatar.

Today, India has entered 75th year of its independence marking a new milestone in our history. India launched Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (India@75) celebrations on March 12, 2021, exactly 75 weeks prior to August 15, 2022 which marks completion of 75 years of our independence. Similar celebrations were inaugurated by the Indian community in Qatar on March 26, 2021. Since then a series of events including yoga, blood donation camps, tree plantation, sports, interactive sessions etc have been organised. The aim is to recall and cherish the values inculcated by India’s freedom struggle and its leaders through various activities so that they reach the younger generations and prepare them to take the baton.

We are glad that the people and the government of Qatar are sharing the joy of Indian community in Qatar and being part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

As envisioned by India’s forefathers, the country has made giant strides in various sectors – agriculture, information technology, education, space, pharmaceuticals, electronics, engineering, clean energy, cutting edge technologies like robotics, artificial intelligence, nanotechnology and many more. It is a matter of great pride that Qatar has been a valuable and reliable partner in India’s developmental journey including energy security by being the largest LNG supplier to India. With new India gearing up for more forward leaps, India-Qatar relations are going to go only from strength to strength.

India and Qatar have always shared warm, cordial and friendly relations that date back to centuries. High-level exchanges have been maintained amidst the unprecedented pandemic situation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and His Highness the Amir have been in regular touch. External Affairs Minister of India HE Dr S Jaishankar visited Doha twice this year and held consultations with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence HE Dr Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah and National Security Advisor HE Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Mnaid. Qatar’s leadership have supported growth in relationship actively too. HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani participated in Raasina Dialogue on April 13, 2021. Minister of Transport and Communications of Qatar HE Jassim Saif Ahmed Al Sulaiti participated in the 2nd edition of Maritime India Summit on March 2, 2021. India and Qatar held 4th Round of Foreign Office Consultations on February 1, 2021.

These high level exchanges over the past months have deepened the multifaceted bilateral ties in energy, trade, investment, defence, education, culture, health, technology, culture etc and opened new windows of opportunities for a mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation. Bilateral trade and investment partnership between India and Qatar continue on a positive trajectory.

India is the third largest export destination for Qatar and is also among the top three sources of Qatar’s imports. Total bilateral trade reached $ 9.21 billion during 2020-21. Both sides are keen to take the traditional energy ties to a comprehensive energy partnership including – clean energy, investments, infrastructure, transport etc. Joint Energy Task Force has been meeting regularly. Efforts are being made to diversify bilateral trade for which webinars and buyers-seller meets have been organised in the areas of agriculture, pharmaceuticals, gems and jewellery bringing together the stakeholders from both the sides. Indian companies in Qatar are also pursuing collaborations in infrastructure, information and communication technology, energy and making positive contribution to Qatar’s preparedness for hosting the FIFA World Cup in 2022. The first ever ‘Qatar Economic Forum’ in July witnessed strong Indian participation, including that of EAM Dr S Jaishankar and CEOs of Tata, Reliance, Bharati Airtel, Birla and others. Ministries level engagements such as between India’s Commerce and Industry Minister HE Piyush Goyal and Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of Finance HE Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari; and the then Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas of India HE Dharmendra Pradhan and Minister of State for Energy Affairs HE Saad Sherida Al Kabi have given boost to bilateral trade and energy partnership.

Bilateral defence and security cooperation between India and Qatar continue on a positive trajectory. Last week, second edition of bilateral Naval Exercises Za’ir Al Bab were held off the coast of Qatar. Earlier, INS Tarsakh paid a port call at Hamad Port in April 2021. INS Kolkata, INS Tarkash, INS Trikand and INS Shardul visited Hamad Port, Doha in the months of May and June 2021 to undertake shipping of medical supplies for Covid relief from Qatar as part of “Op Samudra Setu- II”. Earlier, the Chief of the Qatar Amiri Air Force participated in the Aero India Show in February 2021. People-to-people contact has always been a bedrock of India-Qatar bilateral ties. In the beginning, natural winds have ensured dhows from Qatar reached coastal India and vice versa. After decades of deep connect, cultural winds now are ensuring that these age old ties solidify. The diverse, vibrant, multi-ethnic and multi-lingual Indian community in Qatar is a reflection of India’s diversity in a microcosm. The embassy actively engages with several organisations like Katara, Qatar National Tourism Council and Qatar Museums to promote cultural ties. With the return of Asian Games to Qatar and FIFA fast approaching, the sporting spirit is in the air of Doha. It is in fact a great pleasure watching Indian and Qatari football teams at play showcasing their best sportsmanship when Qatar’s Al Rayyan was in India for AFC Champions League in April and Indian Football Team was in Doha for FIFA qualifiers in May this year. India-Qatar collaboration in education is already well known with 18 Indian schools running in Qatar. With the first Indian university – Savitriabh University – to soon start its off-campus in Qatar, more such opportunities to engage at a people-to-people level will come up.

The pandemic has brought to forefront the close brotherly relations between India and Qatar. We are grateful to His Highness The Amir and the Government of the State of Qatar for solidarity and tremendous timely support extended to the people of India to successfully overcoming the immense challenge posed by the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Qatar sent three oxygen-generating plants and other medical assistance to India. Qatar Airways provided the much needed logistic and transport support in ferrying medical supplies from across the globe to India. Qatar Petroleum (QP) filled Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) in cryogenic tankers that were shipped through various Indian Navy Ships to India. At the same time, the welfare and well being of the Indian community in Qatar was ensured.

The past year has been one of the toughest in modern human history. It has also brought out the best and demonstrated our resilience and ability to adapt, create and march ahead by converting challenges into opportunities. We see the same in India where we are witnessing recovery in economic growth and markets remain buoyant. A growth of 9.5 percent is expected in the current fiscal year ending March 31, 2022. India’s foreign direct investment sector recorded inflow of $81.72 billion. This was facilitated through a series of policy steps taken to improve ease of doing business and to attract investments into domestic manufacturing capacity and an ambitious infrastructure project pipeline. Foreign exchange reserves in India reached an all-time high of $610 billion.

— Continued on page 12

Qatar Tribune thanks the Embassy of India, Doha, for the support extended in bringing out this supplement.
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Dr Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah met with India’s Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar. They discussed bilateral partnership and committed to strengthening the bilateral partnership. They also exchanged views on global and regional developments.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani met with India’s Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar on June 15. During the meeting, Jaishankar appreciated Qatar’s solidarity with India during the second wave of COVID-19. They discussed bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional issues.

Indian Ambassador to Qatar HE Deepak Mittal met with India’s Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar. He appreciated his insights on developments in the region and beyond and thanked him for the support and solidarity in India’s fight against COVID-19.

Indian Ambassador to Qatar HE Deepak Mittal met with Indian Ambassador to Qatar HE Deepak Mittal. They held positive discussion on issues of interest to Indian nationals living in Qatar including new travel guidelines and measures to facilitate mobility between the two countries.

Indian Ambassador to Qatar HE Deepak Mittal met with Assistant Director General of Passports Brigadier Nasir Jaber Ali Al Attiyah. They held positive discussion on issues of interest to Indian nationals living in Qatar including new travel guidelines and measures to facilitate mobility between the two countries.

Indian Ambassador to Qatar HE Deepak Mittal met with Hassad Food CEO Mohamed Badr Al Sada. They exchanged views on various areas of bilateral cooperation including food security.

Indian Ambassador to Qatar HE Deepak Mittal met with Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar Secretary General HE Ahmed bin Hassan Al Hammadi and thanked him for Qatar’s expression of solidarity and support in India’s fight against COVID-19. They positively assessed the developments in bilateral relations.

Indian Ambassador to Qatar HE Deepak Mittal had an exchange of views with Qatar Chamber Second Vice-Chairman Rashid bin Hamad Al Atiba on promoting trade and economic cooperation between India and Qatar.

Indian Ambassador to Qatar HE Deepak Mittal met with speaker of the Shura Council. They reviewed cooperation in parliamentary affairs, bilateral relations and cultural ties between India and Qatar.

Indian Ambassador to Qatar HE Deepak Mittal met with QBA Chairman and Al Faisal Holdings Chairman Sheikh Faisal bin Qasim Al Thani. They exchanged views on enhancing investment ties including partnership between investment promotion agencies on both sides and roadshows in India and Qatar.
India, Qatar hold 4th foreign office consultations

India and Qatar virtually held the fourth session of foreign office consultations. Ministry of Foreign Affairs Secretary-General HE Ahmed bin Hassan Al Hammadi headed the Qatari side, while Ministry of External Affairs for Consular Affairs, Passports, Visas and Expatriate Affairs Secretary Sanjay Bhattacharyya chaired the Indian side.

During the political consultations round, they reviewed the bilateral cooperation in areas like political, energy, science and technology, health security, food and defence. They also agreed to conduct the first joint commission meeting between foreign ministries of both nations.

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Qatar stands with India in its fights against COVID-19

On May 13, Qatar Fund For Development (QFFD) sent 4,300 vials of Remdesivir, 200 oxygen concentrators and 40 ventilators by Amiri Air force plane. The shipment reached New Delhi airport. Delhi customs facilitated expeditious clearance of the said consignment.

Aid sent via Qatar reaches India

As part of the ongoing COVID-19 relief operation Samudra Setu II, INS Trikand arrived Mumbai on May 23 with COV-ID-19 relief material from #Qatar. INS Trikand brought two Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) containers of 20 MT each and 100 oxygen cylinders.

Qatar Airways transports medical supplies to India free of charge in May-June 2021

On April 29, Qatar Airways offered to support international efforts to tackle the second wave of COVID-19 in India by shipping medical aid and equipment to India free of charge from global suppliers. It transported 300 tonnes of aid from across the globe by three cargo flights to Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru on May 3.

Qatar’s FM participates in Raisina Dialogue 2021

Addressing the Raisina Dialogue on April 13, hosted virtually by the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi and Observer Research Foundation, Qatar’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani touched upon the importance of liquefied natural gas to Qatar’s economy, climate change and vaccination for all attendees of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

On India-Qatar relations, Qatar’s FM mentioned that in addition to areas of energy and investments, both sides should endeavour to explore more untapped areas like education and bilateral engagement in common areas of interest. He also underscored the importance of continuation of cooperation and political consultations between the two countries. He added that India-Qatar cooperation is extremely important to maintain peace and security in the region.

Kuwari holds virtual meet with India’s commerce minister

Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of Finance HE Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari held a virtual meeting with India’s Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Consumer Affairs Piyush Goyal. They discussed bilateral trade, commerce, investments and efforts to combat COVID-19. Kuwari expressed Qatar’s support in India’s fight against a severe second wave of COVID-19.

Qatar participates in Maritime India Summit 2021

Qatar’s Minister of Transport and Communication HE Jassim Saif Ahmed Al Sulaiti headed Qatar delegation to Maritime India Summit 2021 that was inaugurated by India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 2.

The two day summit was organised by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) in association with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) as the industrial partner and Ernst & Young Company as the knowledge partner. Milaha President and CEO Abdulrahman Essa Al Mannai participated in the CEOs Forum presided over by MOS Mansukh Mandviya during the summit. He focused on four specific areas like shipping, climate change concerns, technological changes and disruptive events. Mwani Qatar Executive VP Operations Capt Abdulaziz Alyafei also participated in the forum.
Indian Embassy along with Indian Business and Professionals Council (IBPC) is participated in the 8th edition of AgriteQ exhibition held from March 23 to March 27 this year. Minster of Municipality and Environment, Minister of Transport & Communication, Minister of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs visited the Indian pavilion. The ministers appreciated India’s participation in the exhibition.

Indian Cultural Center (ICC), in collaboration with the Public Parks Department at the Ministry of Municipality and Environment (MME), organised a tree-planting ceremony at Al Mamoura Park under the ‘Plant Million Tree’ initiative. Indian Ambassador to Qatar HE Dr Deepak Mittal participated in the tree-planting ceremony. He appreciated the efforts of the Public Parks Department in promoting the planting of trees across the country with a target of one million saplings. The ambassador reiterated the commitment of the Indian community towards achieving the objectives of this year’s theme ‘Ecosystem Restoration’ campaign.

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The embassy of India in Doha, in coordination with the Indian Sports Centre (ISC), celebrated the 7th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2021. Yoga sessions led by expert yoga practitioners were held at six locations across Qatar, including the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) park, in front of Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, on the sand dunes of Mesaieed, Asian Town, Al Wakrah, and on Dukhan Beach. The geographical diversity of Qatar, ranging from beaches of Dukhan to the sand dunes of Mesaieed, made the event picturesque. The event was held in a hybrid format, limiting the number of attendees in each location in line with the prevailing COVID-19 guidelines. Many more participated in the celebrations virtually.
The Indian embassy in Qatar acknowledged the hard work and efforts put by its women employees and expressed its pride in them on the occasion of International Women’s Day. The women diplomats at the embassy greeted prominent Qatari women in the Indian way (Namaste) via twitter. They saluted Qatar Foundation For Education, Science And Community Development Chairperson Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser, Qatar Foundation CEO Sheikha Hind Bint Hamad Al Thani, Qatar Museums Chairperson Sheikha Maryam Bint Hamad Al Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations Sheikha Alya Ahmed Safi Al Thani, Minister Of Public Health HE Dr Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari, Assistant Foreign Minister & Mofa Spokesperson HE Lolwah RM Al Khater. The embassy also acknowledged some of the women professionals from Indian Community in Qatar who are striving hard to leave their own mark in their respective fields. It also expressed its pride that Indian women power is seen in all walks of life in Qatar. They include frontline workers, health care professionals, educators, entrepreneurs, artists, professionals, researchers and many more.

Indian Embassy hosts ‘Azadi Ka #amritmahotsav’ to commemorate 75 years of India’s independence

Indian jewellery brands hog limelight at Al Darwish Jewellery showroom in Doha

Indian embassy celebrates International Women’s Day

Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) of India, Indian Embassy in Qatar and Indian Business and Professionals Council (IBPC) held a webinar in which Ambassador Dr Deepak Mittal was the keynote speaker. Srikar Reddy of Department of Commerce Government of India, IBPC Qatar President Azim Abbas and EEPC Chairman Mahesh Desai were among the renowned speakers. The session concentrated on existing and future opportunities for trade and investment in the engineering sector between India and Qatar. Issues related to duties, taxes and regulations, scope for joint ventures, collaborations, partnerships and knowledge sharing between India and Qatar, success stories of Indian engineering companies in Qatar were also discussed during the meeting.

The Indian Embassy in Qatar acknowledged the hard work and efforts put by its women employees and expressed its pride in them on the occasion of International Women’s Day. The women diplomats at the embassy greeted prominent Qatari women in the Indian way (Namaste) via twitter. They saluted Qatar Foundation For Education, Science And Community Development Chairperson Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser, Qatar Foundation CEO Sheikha Hind Bint Hamad Al Thani, Qatar Museums Chairperson Sheikha Maryam Bint Hamad Al Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations Sheikha Alya Ahmed Safi Al Thani, Minister Of Public Health HE Dr Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari, Assistant Foreign Minister & Mofa Spokesperson HE Lolwah RM Al Khater. The embassy also acknowledged some of the women professionals from Indian Community in Qatar who are striving hard to leave their own mark in their respective fields. It also expressed its pride that Indian women power is seen in all walks of life in Qatar. They include frontline workers, health care professionals, educators, entrepreneurs, artists, professionals, researchers and many more.

Indian embassy in association with Indian Cultural Centre held the inaugural event of the ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ virtually to commemorate the 75 years of India’s Independence on March 26, 2021. Ambassador Khalid bin Ibrahim Al Hamar, director of Asian Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, graced the occasion as the chief guest. In his address, Ambassador Khalid highlighted the deep-rooted relations between India and Qatar and wished that relations should go from strength to strength. Indian Ambassador to Qatar HE Deepak Mittal congratulated the community members and hoped that the two-year long celebrations that will continue till August 2023 will give India and Qatar varied opportunities to collaborate and further enhance the relations. The event was attended by members of Indian community organisations in Qatar and many viewers joined us live on Embassy’s Facebook Page and Youtube Channel. A cultural performance showcasing the diversity and culture of various parts of India was presented by artists and enthusiasts from Indian Community in Qatar. Earlier the same day, a tree-plantation drive was initiated on the Indian Cultural Centre premises. About 75 saplings were planted in and around Doha to mark the occasion. The ambassador handed over a check sponsored by the community covering life insurance for 75 economically distressed Indians.

Indian Ambassador to Qatar HE Deepak Mittal visited Al Darwish Jewellery Showroom that houses Indian and Qatari brands among others. The ambassador appreciated the showroom owner’s genuine attempt to give a modern face to traditional relation between the two countries. He highlighted the potential to increase the exports of Indian gems and jewellery to Qatar. Indian jewellery brands Nafees, Ysabella, Raaya, Bishan & Araya represent India at the showroom.
Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched second phase of the nationwide Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) or Ujjwala 2.0. During the event, Modi also said the government has fixed a target of providing piped gas to 21 lakh homes in 50 districts.

PM virtually handed out free LPG connections to some beneficiaries in Mahoba in Uttar Pradesh, where assembly elections are scheduled early next year.

He said, “As we celebrate the 75th year of Independence this year and look at the progress in the past seven-and-a-half decades, we feel that some situations and conditions should have changed decades ago.”

“For many fundamental needs such as roads, power, hospitals, cooking gas, schools, water and homes, the people of the country had to wait for decades. This is unfortunate and women suffered the most due to this,” the prime minister said.

“When a family or a society struggles for the basic facilities, how can it fulfill its big dreams?” he said.

Modi said when his government took charge in 2014, it became clear that a solution to such issues had to be found within a stipulated time. Only then could women leave their homes and the kitchens to contribute to nation-building.

“So in the last six years, we worked on mission mode for solutions to all such problems,” the PM said in his televised address.

In the first phase of the PMUY, eight crore poor families were given free cooking gas connections. Talking about it, the PM said, “We saw how much this helped during the COVID-19 pandemic. When there was no movement and businesses were closed, crores of poor families were given free gas cylinders for many months.”

LPG infrastructure has expanded manifold in the country due to the Ujjwala scheme, the prime minister said, adding, “In the last six years, more than 11,000 new LPG distribution centres have opened across the country. Uttar Pradesh alone had less than 2,000 distribution centres in 2014. In UP now, there are 4,000 such centres giving employment to thousands of youths.”

The LPG gas coverage in India is now “very close” to becoming 100 percent, he said, claiming that more connections have been given in the last seven years than the total up to 2014.

Meanwhile, addressing a gathering at the launch of the Ujjwala 2.0 (PMUY, 2021) scheme at Mahoba district, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said 1.5 crore families in the state benefited from first phase of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

“Six years ago, the prime minister launched the first phase of Ujjwala Yojana from Ballia district in eastern UP. In the first phase of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), 1.5 crore families in Uttar Pradesh availed the benefit of the scheme,” he said.

“During the COVID-19 pandemic, free cylinders were made available for six months. This gas connection has ushered in a change in the lives of the women, and their health has improved,” he added.
India is emerging from the debilitating effects of a brutal second wave of COVID-19 infections on its people and the economy and is poised to see strong economic recovery, India’s Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar has said.

The confident message was delivered at the first Indo-Pacific Business Summit organised by the Indian foreign ministry and the Confederation of Indian Industry lobby group. In his speech the minister said that Asia’s third largest economy “will contribute to being an engine of growth for the global economy” brushing aside doubts about India’s economic recovery.

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“And we will be very much a part of more reliable and resilient supply chains that the post-covid world requires,” the minister said as part of a strong message to the business community in the Indo-Pacific region that stretches from the eastern shores of Africa to the west coast of the US.

The business meet aims to forge stronger economic bonds among countries in the region in the face of an aggressively rising China.

“The Indo-Pacific – a region in which we are so deeply invested historically – will be an arena of particular activity and energy,” he added at the event that saw ministerial participation from the US, Australia, France, Vietnam, Mauritius and the Maldives and who all identified India as a key country and economy in the Indo-Pacific region.

Across 13 key sectors, performance-linked initiatives promise to upscale manufacturing in India.

Highlighting some of the steps taken by the Indian government to speed up the post pandemic recovery, Jaishankar said the rebuilding process included major economic reforms as well.

“On health, our programme of wider health coverage has been accelerated by the rapid expansion last year of the health infrastructure. Currently, mass vaccination and addressing the ongoing wave are the focus. But the goal is to transform the sector entirely by augmenting human resources, equipment and capacities,” the minister said. The reference was possibly to an announcement by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman last week in which she announced a fresh allocation of Rs23,220 crore. This was apart from the announcement that the government would be spending Rs64,180 crore over the next six years to improve healthcare services available across primary to tertiary care facilities made by the finance minister in the annual budget in February.

“On the digital side, the expansion of connectivity, a skills initiative and a start-up culture are helping to change the game,” Jaishankar said. “On infrastructure, a range of initiatives and reforms that are unfolding even as we speak will surely spur greater investment,” he said.

In agriculture, the government had initiated steps to empower farmers and enable freer trade besides aiming to put in place post-harvest infrastructure.

Across 13 key sectors, performance-linked initiatives promise to upscale manufacturing in India.

Indian Railways to become world’s largest green network with zero emission

Indian Railways is now moving towards ‘net-zero carbon emission’ before the year 2030. The national transporter, in a statement on World Environment Day 2021, had stated that the railways is moving towards a complete green restart.

At a time when the world is reeling from the global problem of environmental degradation and climate change, it is pertinent now, more than ever to aggressively work towards Sustainable Development.

Building on this crucial idea of ‘Going Green’, the Indian Railways is looking at helping the environment with steps ranging from massive electrification, water & paper conservation, to saving animals from being injured on Railway tracks, and most importantly – the ambitious goal of achieving ‘net-zero carbon emission’ by 2030.

From DFCs to Bio-Toilets, the Indian Railways undertook some major steps to move towards sustainable development.

The Railways has adopted modern measures such as Head-On-Generation systems, Bio-Toilets and LED lights, automatic coach washing plants, and water conservation.

Currently, the Railways is developing Dedicated Freight Corridors (Eastern DFC and Western DFC) in the form of a low carbon green transportation network with a longterm low carbon roadmap. These environment corridors will allow railways to adopt more energy-efficient as well as carbon-friendly processes, practices and technologies.

Indian Railways has also incorporated Climate Change features in its risk assessments and disaster management protocols.
Eminent ENT surgeon, educationist, philanthropist and long-time Indian community leader in Doha Dr Mohan Thomas has received the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA), the highest honour conferred on overseas Indians by the Government of India.

Indian Ambassador to Qatar HE Dr Deepak Mittal along with Qatar’s former prime minister and interior minister HE Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani presented the award to Dr Thomas at a glittering function held recently. Thomas was nominated for the award for his outstanding contributions in the field of medical science.

Speaking on the occasion, Indian ambassador Mittal expressed his happiness to present the award to Dr Thomas on behalf of the president of India. He praised Dr Thomas’ efforts in strengthening the bonds of friendship between India and Qatar.

He said Dr Thomas is the sixth such recipient from Qatar which testifies to the patronage received by the Indian community from the Amir His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Father Amir HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani and the government of Qatar. Accepting the award, Dr Thomas said, “I dedicate this award to the Indian community in Qatar as well as to my Qatari friends who were instrumental in helping me carry out several activities here and back in India. While this award recognises my activities, it would not have been possible without the great support I received from the Indian community, Indian embassy as well as the Qatari leadership. I am immensely indebted to all of them.”

Dr Thomas also thanked the Indian community and friends of India in Qatar for their support. He pledged to continue working towards strengthening the ties between India and Qatar through his work.

The event was attended by HE Mohammad bin Abdulla bin Rumeihi, former Minister of Municipality; HE Sheikh Abdulla bin Ali Al Thani, advisor at Emiri Diwan; HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al Thani, director of Public Health at the Ministry of Public Health; HE Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser Al Thani, former deputy director of Traffic; HE Sheikh Nasser bin Abdulla Al Thani, former ambassador to South Africa. Prominent personalities who felicitated the recipient in video messages included former Deputy PM HE Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah; Qatar Airways CEO Akbar Al Baker and Chief Marketing Officer at Aspire Zone Mohammed Mubarak Al Kuwari.

Previous PBS awardees Dr Seetharaman, CEO Doha Bank; Hassan Chougley, embassy officials; apex body presidents PN Baburajan and Ziad Usman and community members were among those who attended the event. Dr Thomas had won the best outgoing student award for MS Programme at AIIMS from the Prime Minister of India.

He was selected in 1983 as a Commissioned Officer and ENT Specialist in the medical division of Qatar’s Ministry of Interior. He was part of the Indian business delegation of HH Amir during his historic state visit to India and has also accompanied the former deputy prime minister and minister of energy and industry of Qatar during his visit to Kochi, Kerala.

Dr Thomas has raised Indian community support for major sports and cultural events in the country. He is the founder of several charitable and business organisations in Qatar and India. He is actively involved in the Indian Community Benevolent Forum (ICBF), Indian Medical Association (IMA) Qatar Chapter, Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) and other community organisations in Qatar in various leadership roles.

Qatar-based surgeon receives India’s highest overseas award
Aiming at taking India’s domestic manufacturing to new heights, the government of India has launched six technology innovation platforms for the development of technologies for globally competitive manufacturing.

These platforms have been designed and developed by IIT-Madras, HMT in association with IISc, Bangalore, Central Manufacturing Technology Institute (CMTI), International Centre for Automotive Technology (iCAT), and Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), BHEL.

These platforms will work towards facilitating Indian industry (including original equipment manufacturers, Tier-1 Tier-2 and Tier-3 companies and raw material manufacturers), start-ups, domain experts/ professionals, R&D institutions, and academia (colleges & universities), by providing them technology solutions, suggestions, and expert opinions, on issues involving manufacturing technologies, the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises mentioned in a statement.

“These platforms are a gift to the nation, which will help bring all India’s technical resources and the concerned industry on a single platform to kick start and facilitate identification of technology problems faced by domestic Industry and crowdsource solutions for the same,” Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Prakash Javadekar said.

With more than 39,000 already registered on these platforms, the exchange of knowledge will be provided to students, experts, institutes and industries.
COVID-19 vaccine: India sustains improved vaccination rates

Some of India’s most populous states saw their vaccination numbers rise in July. UP saw the biggest uptick with its daily average vaccination numbers at over 5.3 lakh.

India stepped up vaccinations against COVID-19 further in July, marking the best month for its inoculation programme so far. Yet, monumental efforts are still required with about half of the adult population yet to receive even a single dose. The country administered 12.9 crore doses in July, compared with 11.27 crore in June, according to data from the government’s CoWin dashboard.

The daily average vaccinations in July rose to 41.5 lakh from 37.56 lakh in the month before. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s administration has not set an explicit timeline to fully vaccinate everyone over 18 years of age, it has said that enough doses will be made available by December 2021 to cover all adult population.

“The projected population of 18+ year persons in the country is 94 crore,” said Minister of State of Health and Family Welfare Bharati Pravin Pawar in a written Parliament reply. “It’s expected that eligible beneficiaries aged 18 years and above will be vaccinated by December 2021.”

Still, to actually administer that many doses before the end of the year, the current vaccination pace will have to be more than doubled. India’s improved vaccination numbers have come after the federal government reversed its earlier policy that had asked states to independently buy vaccine doses for the 18-44 age group.

The new policy that came into effect on June 21 triggered a surged in daily rate to a record 90 lakh doses. However, as some media reports pointed out, that increase may have been due to an orchestrated effort by some BJP-governed states. That record pace, expectedly, couldn’t be maintained. But the vaccination rates remain significantly higher than the dismal numbers seen in May.

Some of India’s most populous states saw their vaccination numbers rise in July. Uttar Pradesh saw the biggest uptick with its daily average vaccination numbers at over 5.3 lakh. Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu also saw slight improvement. On the other hand, Gujarat and Rajasthan saw marginal decline.

India’s vaccination drive still has a lot of catching up to do. It continues to lag other major economies for per capita vaccine rates and fully vaccinated population.

In absolute numbers, India has administered the second-highest number of doses in the world behind China. But that’s just part of the story. It has fully vaccinated just over 7.2 percent of its population with two doses.

Research has shown that two doses of the vaccine greatly reduce the chances of severe disease, hospitalisation, and deaths due to COVID-19. Recent evidence from the U.K. has only validated that. And information about whether vaccines offer enough protection against newer coronavirus variants like Delta Plus and Lambda is fairly limited right now.

In a densely populated country like India that becomes particularly relevant. Even now, the country is reporting around 40,000 new cases a day. The government is bracing for an inevitable third wave of the pandemic, having told states to stay vigilant.

That said, the supply of vaccines is likely to improve in August. It means there could be potential to ramp up vaccination rates. The government expects 135 crore doses to become available between August and December 2021—more than double of what it was able to procure from January to July. If that supply materialises, it will be up to states to hasten administration.

Indian community plays an important role in Qatar’s development: Envoy

A series of measures have been adopted in India to also double the income of farmers and widen their financial security net; expand agriculture production and promote agri-exports; strengthen health infrastructure and delivery systems; boost manufacturing capacities as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat for which production Linked Incentive Schemes have been launched in 13 priority sectors; ensure social justice and empower the women and girl child; promote holistic education through New Education Policy, among others.

In keeping with our ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbkum i.e. World is One Family, India has been sharing its developmental fruits with its neighbours and the rest of the world. These include the much-needed medical, pharmaceuticals and vaccines to deal with the COVID-19 challenge. India has been championing the cause of the developing, the under-developed countries and small island States at international fora. India joined the UN Security Council as a non –permanent member for 2021-2022 and is currently holding the rotatory presidency for the month of August. Prime Minister Modi chaired open debate on Maritime Security that resulted in adoption of a comprehensive framework for global maritime cooperation for the first time.

India continues to work closely with partner countries, including Qatar for delivering on the global issues of counter-terrorism, peace and security and development partnership. India is presently Chair of BRICS and getting ready to host the G-20 summit in 2022.

The Indian diaspora has always been part of India’s development story. It is a matter of great pride that Indian community in Qatar plays an important role in Qatar’s development too. Indians living here made Qatar their second home and through their good work, sincerity, expertise, skills and law-abiding nature have earned respect of everyone in Qatar.

As the Ambassador of India to Qatar, I feel proud when I hear from various Qatari dignitaries about the valuable contributions made by the Indian community towards the growth and development of Qatar over the years. The efforts the community has put, in taking care of their fellow citizens back home during second wave, under ‘heal India’ initiative is highly commendable. In this context, I should thank His Highness the Amir and the government of Qatar for taking good care of Indian community in Qatar during the pandemic. I also thank the authorities on behalf of the Indian community for easing of travel restrictions slightly and opening of family visas.

The Indian Embassy remains committed to promoting the interests of the Indian community in Qatar. It shall continue its efforts to expand its outreach to various sections of the Indian community and remain in close contact with the authorities concerned in Qatar, to ensure the welfare and well-being of Indian nationals. Our interface with the community and our outreach to the blue collar workers in particular, is being continuously expanded both directly and through the medium of Indian community organisations.

The embassy has since made all efforts to remain digitally connected with the Indian community. A Beta version of the mobile app catering to passport, consular and labour matters has just been launched by the embassy. Indian expatriates can additionally get connected with the embassy through the newly launched Pravasi Rishta Portal [https://pravasisrisht.gov.in/home]. An option to get registered online with the embassy is in place on embassy website.

As history is in the making both for India and Qatar individually and together, Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav is a rare moment of huge significance that gives an opportunity to recall, review, introspect our actions and plan ahead for the future. Prime Minister Modi aptly reiterated the five pillars of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav - Freedom Struggle, Ideas at 75, Achievements at 75, Actions at 75 and Resolves at 75 as guiding force for moving forward keeping dreams and duties as inspiration. Let us all take a leaf or two of our freedom movement and rejoice, relive and rebuild on.

On this 75th Independence Day, I once again extend my warm greetings to my fellow Indians in Qatar and thank them for their valuable contribution to the growth and development of Qatar and India, and for further helping consolidate bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.
India’s exports rise to record high

Merchandise exports from India hit a record high of $35.2 billion in July 2021 — the highest-ever monthly figure ever in the country’s history. It is an increase of 47.91 percent over the $23.78 billion in July 2020 and an increase of over 34 percent over the $26.23 billion in 2019.

India’s merchandise exports rose to a record high of $35.2 billion in July 2021. The export boost has led to a sharper economic rebound after the second COVID-19 wave.

India’s economy has been recovering steadily after the deadly second wave of COVID-19 dented the GDP growth outlook. One of the factors that played a key role in the recovery is the improvement in merchandise exports.

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The data released by the Ministry of Commerce indicates that Indian exports have gradually grown after the first wave of the COVID-19 disrupted world trade. In 2021, Indian exports seem to be rising faster than ever.

The amount of merchandise a country exports plays a crucial role in revenue generation and economic growth. Several economists have highlighted that higher exports help nations to grow rapidly in terms of GDP and domestic output.

In simple terms, exports are goods (services in some cases) produced in one country and sold to buyers in another country. The buyer could either be a private player or the government of a country.

Higher exports help companies and businesses located in one country to maximise sales and profits besides presenting an opportunity to capture a good chunk of global market share in a particular segment.

It is worth mentioning that exports not only help governments generate additional revenues but also help exporters — small businesses and major companies — expand operations due to higher profits.

Experts claim that exports significantly help a country’s export cycle can significantly boost a country’s economic growth if imports do not exceed the outflow of goods.

A country’s export and import activity have a major influence on GDP exchange rate, level of inflation and interest rates. If a country imports more than it exports, the flow of funds is often higher, but it also depends on the goods.

India’s exports have been rising gradually for the past few months, signalling a sharp rise in demand for goods and services as global markets rebound. The country’s exports are likely to rise further as global trade activity gains momentum. Exports could rise further if the sector gets some incentives from the government.

The country’s exports crossed $35 billion in July and $34 billion in March 2021 for the first time on the back of global recovery after the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted world trade. It may be noted that exports have remained above $30 billion for the fifth consecutive month in July.

In the first quarter of FY22, exports posted record shipments of $95 billion. The export growth was a direct result of higher demand for some goods. This is likely to help India’s economy rebound at a faster pace.

The top five commodities that Indian exported most during July 2021 were petroleum products (215 per cent), gems and jewellery (130 per cent), other cereals (70.25 per cent), man-made yarn and fabrics (58 per cent) and cotton yarn and fabrics (48.02 per cent).

The maximum increases in exports by value were to the United States ($6.7 billion), the United Arab Emirates ($2.4 billion) and Belgium ($826 million). However, exports to Malaysia, Iran and Tanzania declined substantially.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayyar said non-oil exports were robust in July but remained below the March level.

“A spike in oil exports boosted the overall merchandise exports to a record high level in July. Sustenance of oil exports at this level would significantly boost the expansion in merchandise exports in FY22,” Nayyar said.

Rising exports are a good sign for India as countries recover from the Covid-induced economic shock. In fact, the government has planned several measures to transform India into an export-led economy and become an exporter and manufacturing hub for the world — a position that China enjoys at the moment.

However, the government needs to take several more steps to boost the country’s export sector. Some measures it can take include tax-sops on specific exports, interest subvention schemes and signing free trade deals.

India’s economic activity shows record expansion

India’s economic activity showed record expansion in the week ending August 8, according to the widely watched Nomura India Business Resumption Index (NIBRI), which soared to stand at 99.4, up from 94.0 last week, mainly because of Covid-19 cases remaining under control and higher mobility of people, according to data released on Monday.

“This index is near the pre-pandemic level of 100, and surpassing the pre-second-wave peak (of 99.3 in mid-February),” said research analyst Sonal Varma in a note.

The Nomura India Business Resumption Index is compiled with data from various trackers, such as Google, Apple driving index, and electricity demand. These are known as high-frequency data because they change frequently.

After briefly plateauing, mobility picked up sharply, with Google workplace, retail and recreation, and Apple driving index rising by 7.4 percentage points, 5.3 percentage points, and 6.7 percentage points, respectively, the latest data showed. A percentage point is equal to a 100 basis points, while a basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage point.

Electricity consumption is a key indicator of the pace of economic activity. According to the Nomura index, power demand rose 5.3% week on week after shrinking for three consecutive weeks.

The labour participation rate rose to 41.5% from 39.8% previously. This means more people are looking for jobs, which has pushed up the unemployment rate to 8.1%.

The business resumption index soared in part because coronavirus disease cases “remain flat at 40,000 per day”, Nomura, a securities firm, said.

With nearly 5 million doses of vaccination a day, the “vaccination pace is higher than the daily rate of 3.9 million in June” it said.

These data, however, vary widely throughout states, and states such as Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have increased restrictions, while Maharashtra has announced further relaxations.

“Overall, the latest rise in the NIBRI corrects its plateauing since mid-July, and suggests the swifter-than-expected recovery from the second wave slump has continued in early August. Whether the surge in mobility, in turn, triggers a third wave is a key risk that we continue to monitor,” Varma said.
In a country like India where most of the women aren’t encouraged to think big (especially in the rural parts of the nation), there are some who have soared higher than one would expect in a constrictive setup. These wonder women are inspiring other ladies to venture on the path of entrepreneurship through their success stories comprising personal struggles and challenges. As a result, India is steadily rising up the ranks when it comes to a favourable startup environment coupled with some solid backing from the Indian government.

**List of Successful Women Entrepreneurs in India in 2020-21**

**VidyaVenkatraman: Founder & CEO of Meraki & Co**

Woman-owned agencies with a fierce passion for helping others build and grow the business that excites them. A startup firm delivering big results inceptioned on May 3, 2020, in between the world pandemic of COVID-19 to provide creatively driven and digitally focused marketing solutions to businesses.

In assistance with social media marketing, graphic designing, franchise consultancy, PR, content writing, photo shoots and video shoots, influencer marketing, packaging, website development and other branding exercises, her team has helped 50+ businesses boost their online discernibility.

**Rania Lampou: Global Educator, STEM Instructor Greek Astronomy and Space Company**

Rania Lampou is a STEM instructor at the Greek Astronomy and Space Company (Annex 2019) which helps her to rejuvenate a sense of curiosity in students. She is a passionate researcher on Neuro education.

**Zorain Khaleeli: Founder of Zorains Studio and Academy**

Empowering the domain of hair makeup industry, Zorain has become the founder of India’s first fully digitally equipped training academy. Passionate from the age of 15, she has been part of India fashion weeks, couture weeks, having worked with top models and designers including Rocky S and Falguni Shane Peacock. She has also been serving the Bollywood and Kannada film industry, catering to Zeenat Aman, Shraddha Kapoor, Shruthi Harisharan and many more.

**Sasrita Singh: Managing Trustee Priyadarshani Group of Schools**

Sasrita Singh is an entrepreneur and educationist and has discharged the role of creator and curator in publishing, entertainment and investment sectors.

She has been featured in Forbes and has been positioned in India’s A-listers and was recently awarded as “The Woman Icon of The Year” and has been honoured with the Nation Award for Woman Leadership. She has also been featured as one of the 100 inspirational leaders of India. Student is at the centre of her vision for education. She wants to help every learner to evolve as a complete person, fulfill his or her potential and help shape a shared future built on the well-being of individuals, communities, and the planet.

**Sheela M Bajaj: Founder of Sheela M Bajaj**

Sheela M Bajaj is a serial entrepreneur. Her latest start-up being the largest divine guidance platform in the world, aims to empower, guide and transform people who are at the rock bottom in their lives.

Sheelaa M Bajaj, is an Author, Radio and TV host, Life coach, Motivational speaker, Tarot , Feng Shui Grand Master and priestess of ‘The Temple of Mirakki’ – India’s first Yoruba Community temple. A name to reckon with numerology, tarot, spiritual healing for over two decades, the team has 17 practitioners globally, mentored by Sheelaa who providing guidance and healing through Tarot, Akashic records, and many advanced modalities, all with an intention to serve and support the society.

**Paridhi Goel: Co-Founder of Love Earth Skincare**

A young entrepreneur, Paridhi Goel is the co-founder of Love Earth Skincare. She started the brand at the age of 21 in 2016 and within a short span of 4 years, the brand has become one among the top selling skincare brands across India.

She is a believer of consistency and feels that the key to every successful business is regularity and not losing hope in what one believes in. Being a successful women entrepreneur herself, Paridhi feels that all women should be empowered and she promotes it by employing enthusiastic and hardworking women in her team. She also believes in giving back to the society which has helped her brand become a success, and thus, a part of the profit made by Love Earth goes to an orphanage in Ghaziabad.

**Yukti Nagpal: Director of Guishan**

Empowering the idea of wellness-luxury-living-responsibly, Yukti Nagpal, Director of Guishan, announces the arrival of a new creed of real estate stalwarts. An MS in Marketing from San Francisco (US), she not only graduated on the Dean’s list but also did her alma mater proud by bagging the prestigious MARCOM Gold Award.

Yukti is a strong-willed dynamic leader, taking care of everything from sales, human resource acquisition, construction, to the best CRM strategies with indomitable flair. She has pioneered the idea of initiatives like ‘Home Konnect’ that enables residents to embrace and exercise a positive approach towards imprinting eco-friendly footsteps as a collective community.

**Gauthami Balraj: Co-Founder of Mirakki**

Gauthami is a people’s person, an enterprising entrepreneur; a social media enthusiast and above all a humanist who closely works for various social causes, especially welfare of street dogs. Also, a nature lover with an attachment for traditions and culture.

Gauthami believes in staying calm through all situations and building a good rapport with her team to give their best and more for the growth of the brand. Her zeal and hard work brought the Mirakki brand ‘Times Business Award’ for serving the best herbal hair care products to their valued customers. She is eagerly strategising to continue her work and path of success for Mirakki.
With its rich cultural heritage, myriad attractions, and picturesque landscapes, India is emerging as the most preferred destination for tourists from across the world. Expected to contribute a staggering $512 bn to India’s GDP by 2029, the travel and tourism industry is an integral pillar of the Make in India program and is emerging as one of the key drivers of growth among the services sectors.

Interestingly, India is visited not only for its tradition, enthralling beauty, and delightful diversity but also for its high-end healthcare ecosystem and world-class medical treatment. Over the years, India has become a premier and attractive destination for travelers from across the globe to attain best-in-class clinical treatment, recharge, and rejuvenate.

Medical Tourism (also known as Medical Value Travel, Health Tourism, or Wellness Tourism) is defined as the accelerating practice of travelling across international locales and territories to seek healthcare services. Health-care services and offerings in India are primarily classified into three broad categories:

1. **Medical Treatment:** Treatment for curative purposes that include cardiac care, organ transplantation, orthopedics, neurosciences, oncology, and bariatrics.
2. **Wellness and Rejuvenation:** Offerings focused on rejuvenation or for aesthetic reasons such as cosmetic surgery, stress relief, spa treatments, etc.
3. **Alternative Medicine:** Treatment to seek AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy) services. Across these categories, India is largely visited by medical visitors from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Oman, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nigeria, Kenya and Iraq. Key medical tourism destinations within India include hospitals and diagnostic centres in Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities such as Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Chandigarh, Jaipur, etc.

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- **Medical Treatment:** India is a plethora of services ranging from the problems of the eye, heart, and kidney to organ transplantation, orthopedics, and cancer, the Indian healthcare ecosystem is delivering world-class care and treatment at lower costs (almost 20% less for major surgical treatments as compared to those of developed equipped with internationally recognized facilities). Currently, India has around 37 Joint Commission International (JCI) accredited hospitals and 513 National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) accredited hospitals that provide care at par or above global quality standards and benchmarks. India is also home to some of the most renowned super-speciality hospitals and services that provide patients with the latest and most advanced treatment options using the latest technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Virtual Reality (VR), and Robotics for greater accuracy and holistic well-being.

- **Trained Manpower:** India is not only the center of world-class amenities but is also home to some of the most renowned and revered doctors in the world that are pioneers in their respective areas of specialization and clinical expertise. With over 1.2 million allopathic doctors, 0.17 million dental surgeons, 2 million nurses, and 0.8 million formally trained Ayurvedic doctors, the country has the largest pool of doctors and paramedical staff in South Asia. Most of the doctors in the nation have trained and worked at some of the most prestigious medical institutions in the US, UK, and other developed nations, thus making them highly competent and capable in providing care to patients coming from the far corners of the globe.

- **Alternative Medicine and Therapeutic Treatments:** India has positioned itself as the focal point of AYUSH, naturopathy, Vedanta, and meditation techniques, curated and restored from the most ancient of sciences and arts. From yoga asanas to spas and wellness centers offering holistic therapies, India offers a multitude of sites and locations to retreat, recharge, and rejuvenate. The strong branding of AYUSH by the Government is drawing patients from India and across the world.

- **Quality of Care:** Besides being the most affordable and accessible destination to seek clinical care and wellness treatment, India has emerged as the forerunner in providing care, which is inclusive, personal, and compassionate, truly living by “Aathihii Devo Bhava” (Guest is akin to God). Medical personnel in India strive to maintain the highest standards by putting the patients’ needs and interests ahead of everything and by listening to them empathetically and compassionately.

To poise and establish India as the hub of medical tourism, the Government of India has been taking crucial steps and interventions to reduce the time of waiting and to ensure hassle-free travel, stay, and treatment for the medical patient and attendant. Some of the key initiatives include:

- **e-Medical and Medical Attendant Visa:** The e-tourist visa launched in 2014 has expanded to include medical visits and medical attendant visas to streamline, ease, and expedite the travel procedures and protocols for allowing multiple entries and long-term stay of Medical Tourists. Additionally, separate immigration counters and facilitation desks have also been set up at major Indian airports to provide end-to-end support and facilitation. Owing to these facilities and logistical support systems, the number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India on the medical visa have grown to an astounding 697,000 in 2019 from 495,056 in 2017.

- **The National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board:** The National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Tourism to provide a dedicated and comprehensive institutional framework to promote and enhance Medical Tourism including the Indian system of medicine covered by AYUSH. The Board acts as the umbrella organization that governs and promotes Medical Tourism, with representations from the Ministry of AYUSH, Quality Council of India (QCI), and the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH).

- **Digital Enablement:** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) have developed a healthcare portal for seekers and potential medical tourists from across the globe which functions as a comprehensive, one-point information site that covers hospital-related and travel-related information on India. The digital portal covers 124 accredited medical facilities across 93 medical centers, 30 Ayurveda and wellness centers, and 1 special category center.

- **Fiscal Support and Non-Fiscal Initiatives:** To encourage Medical Tourism in the country, the Ministry of Tourism aims to provide financial support to approved Wellness Tourism Service Providers (WSTPs) and Medical Tourism Service Providers (MTSPs) under the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme (MDA). The Government has also been taking dedicated initiatives to promote indigenous medicine and related therapeutic procedures. The Ministry of AYUSH has recently been allocated INR 2,970 Crore in the Union Budget for FY 2022-23, as compared to INR 2,122 Crore in the Union Budget for FY 2020-21, tapping centuries of wisdom of spiritual philosophy that is unique and unparalleled to the nation.
Vinay Nayudu

The 23-year-old Chopra has turned into a sport superstar and deservedly so after he threw the javelin to a distance of 87.58m to steal the thunder ahead of Czech Republic duo of Jakub Vadlejch and Vitezslav Vesely at the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo.

India’s gold medallist Neeraj Chopra along with his parents in New Delhi recently.

Indian Olympic contingent returned home. Chopra took to javelin throw or you may say the sport picked him for he took a liking while looking at others from a gymnasium window near home. Overweight as a child, Chopra was sent to check body weight instead he landed on a playing field and on being asked to make a throw, he vowed a local coach. Since then, Chopra hasn’t looked back. And the rest as they is history! But it has taken him more than a decade to reach where he has with unflinched devotion and dedication.

“You are a superstar and more famous than film stars. You are the most eligible bachelor. Do you have a girlfriend?”, a television anchor asked Chopra to which he replied: “I don’t know and even if it is so that can wait. I have the Commonwealth Games, the Asian Games that can wait. I have the Common-wealth Games, the Asian Games that can wait. I have the Commonwealth Games, the Asian Games that can wait. I have the Commonwealth Games, the Asian Games that can wait.”

May Neeraj Chopra provide India with many more great golden moments.

(Inputs: Olympics.com)
India had sent a 26-member squad in athletics to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, comprising of 17 men and nine women athletes. With seven medals – one gold, two silver, four bronze – Tokyo 2020 has been the most decorated Olympic Games in India’s history. Here’s more about the seven stars who scripted the success.

The Road To Success

- Neeraj Chopra didn’t compete on the international stage for 17 months, between January 2020 and June 2021.
- Saikom Mirabai Chanu went without competition from December 2019 to April 2021.
- PV Sindhu featured in five tournaments from March 2020 till the start of the Olympic Games.
- During the same period, Lovlina Borgohain used the money she received as part of her Arjuna Award – the second-highest state honour for Indian sportspersons – for the treatment of her mother’s kidney ailment.
- While Ravi Kumar Dahiya grappled on the mats in Tokyo, the local administration in his village in Haryana had to make special arrangements to ensure his parents could tune into the action without any electricity cuts.
- Bajrang Punia had to forfeit a match a month ago after injuring his right knee, which would remain strapped through most of his contests in Tokyo.
- The Indian men’s hockey team had spent most of the last one and a half years locked down at a national training facility in Bengaluru.

Medal #1: Mirabai Chanu
Silver, women’s 49 kg weightlifting
For the first time ever, India won a medal on day one of an Olympic Games. It came from Saikom Mirabai Chanu. Five years ago, on her Olympic debut, Mirabai stepped up for her last attempt (a 106 kg clean and jerk lift) with a bronze medal in sight – but couldn’t complete what was a regulation lift for her. The journey towards mending a broken dream – and heart – began right away. Before the end of 2017, she was a world champion; one year later, she was a Commonwealth Games gold medallist. Having established herself as one of the world’s top-five weightlifters in her 49 kg category, Mirabai entered Tokyo 2020 ranked third in the world, and as a genuine medal contender. She didn’t disappoint. With an 87 kg lift in the snatch, and a 115 kg lift in the clean and jerk, she made the silver medal hers.

Medal #2: PV Sindhu
Bronze, women’s singles badminton
PV Sindhu’s bid to better, or match, her Rio 2016 silver was halted by eventual silver medalist Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei in the semifinals. But that did not stop India’s serial medallist from adding a historic second Olympic medal to her burgeoning trophy cabinet. Shunning the disappointment of the defeat from 24 hours earlier, Sindhu secured the bronze medal with a 21-13, 21-15 win against HE Bing Jiao of the People’s Republic of China. It gave her the distinction of becoming the only Indian female athlete to win multiple Olympic medals, and only the second Indian – female or male – to win medal twice in individual events at the Olympic Games.

Medal #3: Lovlina Borgohain
Bronze, women’s welterweight boxing
Lovlina Borgohain wasn’t the most spoken about name in the nine-member Indian boxing contingent that made the trip to Tokyo. Given the presence of the legendary MC Mary Kom, that wasn’t a huge surprise. But the 23-year-old welterweight boxer wasn’t short on credentials: she had medalled at the last two world championships, as well as at two Asian championships, including the most recent edition earlier this year. At Tokyo 2020, she would emulate her and her country’s icon – joining Mary Kom as India’s second female boxer to win an Olympic medal. Borgohain earned her medal by defeating 2018 world champion Chen Nien-Chin in the quarterfinals, prevailing and book himself a spot in the final. The final, against two-time world champion Zavur Uguev (ROC) proved a bridge too far. But on his Olympic debut, Dahiya had become only the second Indian wrestler to win an Olympic silver medal.

Medal #4: Ravi Kumar Dahiya
Silver, men’s 57 kg wrestling
Speaking of dramatic turnarounds in medal-clinching contests… With 90 seconds left to play in his semifinal clash with Nurislam Sanayev, Ravi Kumar Dahiya trailed 2-9. The Kazakh grappler, a medallist at the last two world championships, had the Indian right where we wanted him, on the mat. Or so he thought. Dahiya – a bronze medalist himself at the 2019 world championships, in addition to holding the two latest Asian championship crowns – closed the gap to 5-9, and then turned things around – literally – to pin Sanayev

Medal #5: Men’s Hockey
Bronze, men’s 65 kg wrestling
It didn’t stop at one for the wrestling contingent, as Bajrang Punia got himself a piece of the prize from the mat. As the only Indian wrestler with three world championship medals to his name, Bajrang was a prime contender in Tokyo. After scraping through his first two contests, Bajrang was halted in his tracks by Azerbaijan’s Haji Aliyev in the semis. Aliyev overpowered the Indian second seed 12-5. That set Bajrang up for a bronze medal match against Kazakhstan’s Daulet Niyazbekov. Far from showing any of the lingering signs of worry from the first day of competition, the 27-year-old was at his dominant best in an 8-0 victory that delivered India its sixth wrestling medal at the Olympics since 2008. (Olympics.com)
Care n Cure emerges as a leading conglomerate in Qatar

“I wish all my fellow Indians living in the state of Qatar ‘Happy 75th INDEPENDENCE DAY’”

AbduRahiman EP,
Chairman - Care n Cure Group

Care n Cure, which launched its journey in Qatar with the opening of Corniche Pharmacy in 2000, has emerged as one of the leading private conglomerates in the country.

Over the past two decades, the company has diversified into several other lucrative segments in and around Qatar.

After firmly establishing itself in the country’s health-care sector, Care n Cure has continued its impressive rise by expanding into technical, engineering and telecom services as well.

With Qatar’s well-known brands like Care n Cure Pharmacy, Care n Cure Pharma, Care n Cure Trading, Carecom Elv Systems Integrators, Hydro Care, Gulf Technology, SME Speed Middle East, Al Zulal Trading, AlGhaliya Computers Systems, Filters International, Al Qimma Security Systems and others operating under its umbrella, Care n Cure today is proud to be the go-to name for an ever-growing list of loyal clients and partners in all the diverse segments that it operates in.

A prominent business enterprise in Qatar, Care n Cure delivers quality products and services across a range of sectors. Over the period, the company has scaled numerous heights and earned a reputation for a dynamic and customer-centric approach.

The company, which is the prime distributor of famous Indian brands like Rasna, Amul and Jovees Herbal, has gained a lot of popularity among the members of the large Indian community living in Qatar.

“Customer loyalty and satisfaction remain our topmost priority, wherever we go. As a result, Care n Cure has always maintained an uncompromising commitment towards building lasting relationships with our customers. Our highly competent and professional workforce ensures this by following best practices and innovative techniques in tandem,” the company says in a statement.

“We strive to fulfil and exceed the needs and desires of our customers through our everyday health and care products. We are a dynamic, growing organisation with a diverse group of motivated employees, all working together in an environment that fosters creativity. You won’t see our values written on the walls of our offices; however, when you walk in the door, you will feel them in the environment and in our people,” the company says.
Happy 75th Independence Day India!

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