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India celebrates its 71st Republic Day today. It was on this historic day, 70 years ago, that the Constitution of India came into force. This Constitution enshrines the ideals and aspirations that guided India’s peaceful freedom movement. India, today a country of over 1.3 billion people, the world’s largest democracy and the third largest economy in purchasing-power-parity terms, continues to march ahead resolutely.

My wife and I, along with our colleagues in the Embassy and their families, convey our warm greetings and best wishes to all fellow Indians in the State of Qatar on India’s 71st Republic Day. I also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Amir of Qatar HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani, the Father Amir HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani, the other members of the Royal Family and the Government of the State of Qatar for their continued patronage and support for the Indian community in Qatar.

The overseas Indian community is an integral part of India’s development journey. This is equally true in the case of Qatar, where the large and diverse Indian community has earned a well-deserved reputation for its competent, hard work and law-abiding nature. While this is a time for us to celebrate India’s successes, it is also an occasion for us to re-dedicate ourselves to the task of contributing to India’s ability to scale greater heights.

On this auspicious day, we also recognize and celebrate our deep-rooted, historical and multi-faceted ties with Qatar, and take this opportunity to thank the people of Qatar for their warmth and hospitality.

Our historical links serve as a solid foundation to our growing contemporary relationship. The multi-faceted bilateral relationship between India and Qatar continues to strengthen further in various areas of our engagement, including political, energy, trade & investment, security and defence and cultural spheres. Official bilateral interactions continue at a regular pace to boost mutually beneficial co-operation between the two countries. We have had three highly successful visits at the highest levels of the two governments over the last four years, which have set the framework for enhanced cooperation across various areas. The Amir of Qatar again met the Prime Minister of India on the sidelines of the UNGA session in New York in September 2019. Over the past year, we have had visits to Qatar by HE Mr Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; HE Gen (Dr) V K Singh, then MoS for External Affairs; HE Mr Harjinder Singh Nayar Singh, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha; HE Mr Rajinder Khanna, Deputy National Security Adviser and a delegation from the Ministry of AYUSH. On the other hand, there were visits to India by HE Jassim Saif Ahmed al Sulaiti, Minister of Transport and Communications; HE Abdullah bin Nasser Turki al Subaie, Chairman of the Qatar Civil Aviation Authority; HE Rajendra Maj Gen (Navy) Abdulah Hassan M Al Sulaiti, Commander of the Qatar Amiri Naval Forces and a delegation from the Qatar Ministry of Education.

India attaches great importance to its relations with the State of Qatar. India is the 3rd largest export destination for Qatar. Total bilateral trade reached $12.3 billion during 2018-19. Qatar is the largest supplier of LNG to India, accounting for 55 percent of India’s global LNG imports and 15 percent of Qatar’s total export of LNG. We look forward to further enhancing our cooperation in the energy sector, as India seeks to increase the share of natural gas in its energy mix in the next decade. Though largely dominated by hydrocarbons, there are plenty of opportunities to diversify our trade basket. Indian companies operating in Qatar are pursuing mutually-beneficial collaborations in infrastructure, information and communication technology, energy and other areas in Qatar, contributing to Qatar’s preparedness for hosting the FIFA World Cup in 2022.

Twenty-four fully-owned Indian companies and an estimated 6,000 Qatar-India joint ventures operate in various sectors of the Qatari economy, underlining the depth of our economic links. A number of Indian trade delegations have visited Qatar in recent months, to participate in trade exhibitions and explore business opportunities. Similarly, we welcome Qatari companies to visit trade events in India to identify the best possible partners for collaboration.

We consider people-to-people ties as a bedrock of great significance in further deepening the bilateral ties between our two nations. India is a popular tourist and wellness destination amongst Qatari nationals, given the cultural compatibility and historical contacts between the two countries. Qatar is also emerging as a popular destination for Indian weddings and for filming of television serials and movies. We look forward to enhanced contacts and connectivity between our peoples in the coming years.

Defence and security cooperation is an important pillar of our bilateral agenda. The last 12 months witnessed a number of bilateral activities, including the first ever bilateral naval exercise ‘Zaar Al Bahr’, the 5th meeting of the Joint Defence Cooperation Committee, the maiden visit of the Commander of the Qatar Amiri Naval Forces to India, the visit of a senior Qatari delegation to the National Defence College and other key defence-related think tanks in India and ship visits by INS Mysore, INS Trikand and INS Samudra Pahredar. We look forward to enhancing our bilateral engagement in maritime and naval cooperation, training, joint production and other areas.

Cooperation in cultural and youth affairs is another important dimension of our bilateral relationship. 2019 was celebrated as the ‘India-Qatar Year of Culture’ and also marked the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. These celebrations offered us a unique opportunity of renewing and revitalizing our special bonds of cultural heritage. The year-long celebrations included art exhibitions, folk and classical dance, musical performances and concerts by Indian artists, film festivals, painting and photography exhibitions, calligraphy exhibitions, textile exhibitions and yoga. I am happy that 2019 proved to be a memorable year with cultural events on both sides that were able to do justice to the deep historical ties between our two countries. We are grateful to Qatar Museums, Ministry of Culture and Sports, Qatar National Tourism Council, Katara Cultural Village, Qatar Foundation, Qatar National Library, Doha Film Institute and a number of other relevant agencies in Qatar, for their assistance and cooperation during the course of the year.

The welfare and well-being of the Indian community in Qatar is a matter of priority for the Embassy of India. 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 organizations. We remain in close contact with the authorities concerned in Qatar, to ensure the welfare and well-being of the Indian nationals. We deeply appreciate their cooperation and support in this regard. We welcome the recent policy reforms announced by the Government of Qatar to protect the rights of expatriate workers. These initiatives indicate Qatar’s willingness to address labour issues in a constructive manner. We look forward to the full implementation of these reforms, so that our blue-collar workers can benefit from them.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Indian community in Qatar for their continued good work, which has earned for them a well-deserved reputation in Qatar for their sincerity, hard work, technical expertise and law-abiding nature. As the Ambassador of India to Qatar, I am filled with pride 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. Today, India’s fast-paced growth, technological achievements, business-friendly environment, skilled workforce and a vast consumer market, offer Qatar a unique opportunity to be a partner in India’s growth and development story.

As we celebrate our 71st Republic Day, I again warmly congratulate the Indian community in Qatar for their contribution towards the development, progress and prosperity of our host country, and for further strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation between India and Qatar.
India's Unified Payment Interface, launched in 2016, has seen great success domestically. Transactions have surged, a number of payment service providers have built their platforms atop UPI and customers have quickly adapted to it.

At last count, in November, 1.2 billion transactions took place via UPI adding up to nearly Rs 1.9 lakh crore, according to data from the National Payments Corporation of India.

Now UPI, which was built by the NPCI and operates on an open-payments framework, is getting global attention. Google LLC has recommended that the US Federal Reserve implement a real-time payments platform, on the lines of India’s UPI.

In August this year, the board of governors of the Federal Reserve published a paper where it proposed to develop a new inter-bank 24x7 real-time gross settlement service, which would support faster payments in the US.

The central bank invited suggestions from relevant stakeholders on what the design and features of the ‘FedNow’ Service could look like. The service may be rolled out by 2023 or 2024, the paper says.

Google has recommended that the Fed pursue a similar model of open-payments, which is what UPI is based on, so that the private entities are given flexibility to collaborate to find unique solutions, which can best serve the end-users. Additionally, Google has asked that technology companies in the U.S. should be permitted to access the end-users’ bank account information at the request of the customer.

It also says that the FedNow Service should enable “push” or “pull” transactions with the bank executing transactions at the back-end, similar to UPI’s design. UPI’s system allows banks, e-wallets and payment service providers to connect to the platform and build services on a mobile application. It also functions as a payments gateway for websites.

At the base of the system is UPI, on top of which customers can either use the NPCI’s BHIM app, their banking applications or any of the numerous payments apps that have emerged in the last few years like Paytm, PhonePe or Google Pay.

Nearly 90 percent of transactions on UPI are person-to-person transactions, where neither the bank nor the payments application earns a fee. Therefore, these players aim to build their revenues by cross-selling other services, particularly through merchant partnerships.
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India, Asia’s second biggest energy consumer since 2008, had in 2015 overtaken Japan as the world’s third largest oil consuming country.

India, Asia’s second biggest energy consumer since 2008, had in 2015 overtaken Japan as the world’s third largest oil consuming country, behind the US and China. India will overtake China as the largest growth market for energy in volume terms by 2030, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said. “We are third largest energy consumer now but by 2030 we will be No.1 energy consumer,” he said at a FICCI meeting. While energy consumption will grow by 4.5 per cent per annum — faster than all major economies in the world — India’s consumption growth of fossil fuels would be the largest in the world. The country is 83 percent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs and sources half of its natural gas from overseas.

Pradhan said while the global average growth was 1.4 percent, India was seeing a growth rate of 4.5 percent. “We will use a combination of conventional fuel and other more sustainable options to create a balanced energy mix. We will also explore other new and sustainable sources of energy like hydrogen. Technology, innovation will play an important role in this,” he said.

He also said that India is moving towards a gas-based economy and investments of about $100 billion are underway in India’s energy infrastructure, including renewables.

Speaking about bio energy, he said, “India has 600 million tonnes of bio mass. On one hand we are ensuring the highest standards of sustainability through BS-VI, on the other hand, we have made a roadmap to convert this bio mass to energy. 5,000 plants are going to be set up for this. Oil and gas PSUs are giving uptake guarantee and price stability. This will also be an answer to the problem of environment pollution.”

India to be largest energy growth market by 2030
QATARGAS DELIVERS 2,000TH LNG CARGO TO INDIA

Qatargas Operating Company Limited (Qatargas) announced a historic milestone as it successfully delivered the 2,000th liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargo to India. The cargo, transported on-board ‘Aseem,’ a conventional LNG vessel with a capacity of 155,000 cubic metres, was loaded at the Ras Laffan Port on 17th November and delivered to India’s Dahej LNG Terminal, owned and operated by Petronet LNG Limited. Qatargas had signed a 25-year Long term Free On Board (FOB) Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA) with Petronet. It loads around 116 cargoes per a year to India under this SPA in addition to supplying significant volumes in the short term and spot markets.

IEI - CENTENARY INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING CONGRESS

The Qatar University College of Engineering (QU-CENG) and the Institution of Engineers, India (IEI)—Qatar Chapter launched the Centenary International Engineering Congress (CIEC) on September 26 and 27 at Qatar University. The theme of the Congress is ‘Smart Engineering — State of the Art Technologies in Oil & Gas and Infrastructure Development’. This annual engineering seminar, organised prior to Engineer’s Day celebrations, was well-attended by over 100 member engineers across various disciplines. The opening session will feature speeches from QU President Dr Hassan al Derham, Ambassador of India to Qatar HE P Kumaran, IEI President Dr Er TM Gunaraja and Qatar Foundation Research, Development and Innovation Chief Advisor Dr Nabeel al Salem.

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND SPORTS RECEIVES AMBASSADOR OF INDIA

Minister of Culture and Sports HE Salah bin Ghanem Al Ali met Ambassador of India to Qatar HE P Kumaran. They discussed aspects of cooperation between the two countries in the cultural and sports fields and the ways to develop them.

INDIAN UNIVERSITY OPENS FIRST EVER CHAPTER IN QATAR FOR DIASPORA

Maharashtra’s Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) and Qatar’s Milestone International Education signed an MoU enabling the University to set up its campus in Doha with an aim to provide opportunities in higher education to nearly eight million Indian diaspora based in Qatar. The campus will be fully functional from next semester onwards. Ambassador of Qatar to India HE Muhammad Khater Al Khater, Dr Ibrahim Saleh Al Nuaimi, Secretary Ministry of Higher Education in the State of Qatar, Ali bin Abdul Latif Alnuamah Member, Qatar Chamber, Professor Nitin R Karmalkar, Vice Chancellor, Savitribai Phule Pune University along with registrar of the University, Astraf Akhlaque, Advisor of the Ambassador of Qatar, senior officials of Qatar’s Ministry of Higher Education were present when the MoU was signed on Nov 26.

BILATERAL TALKS ON AIR TRANSPORT

Civil aviation authorities of Qatar and India held bilateral talks in New Delhi (November 18). The talks dealt with the operation of airlines, the volume of trade and the relations between the civil aviation authorities of the two countries. The Qatari delegation was headed by Abdullah bin Nasser Turki al Subaey, President of the CAA and the Indian delegation by Pradeep Singh Kharola, the Secretary Ministry of Civil Aviation Government of India. Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker was also present.
MEETING WITH DR DC KATOCH, ADVISER, MINISTRY OF AYUSH

Dr DC Katoch, Adviser, Ministry of AYUSH, Govt of India, met with HE Mohammed Hamad J al Thani, Director, Public Health, and senior officials in the Ministry of Public Health.

KAABI MEETS INDIA’S MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND STEEL

Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, Govt of India, met with HE Saad Sherida al Kaabi, the Minister of State for Energy Affairs of Qatar, to discuss bilateral cooperation in the fields of energy and natural gas. The minister interacted with CEOs and senior executives of oil and gas industries in Qatar, September 11, 2019.

TRANSPORT MINISTER MEETS WITH INDIAN CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

Minister of Transport and Communications HE Jassim Saif Ahmed al Sulaiti met with the Indian Minister of Civil Aviation HE Hardeep Singh Puri, in Montreal, Canada (September 25). The two officials discussed aspects of cooperation in the fields of air transport, civil aviation and airports and means of further enhancing them. They also discussed potential investment opportunities available in those fields, in addition to a number of matters of common interest between the two friendly countries.

MEETINGS WITH THE INDIAN MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT REGULATION

Benoy K Behl met with an Indian delegation from the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Development Regulation to discuss cooperation in the fields of mines and minerals.

AN EXHIBITION: ISLAMIC MONUMENTS OF INDIA

Ambassador of India, P Kumaran, inaugurated the “ISLAMIC MONUMENTS OF INDIA” – an photography exhibition, at Katara Cultural Village held as part of India–Qatar 2019 Year Of Culture. The exhibition ran from September 17 – 28, 2019. The exhibition featured pictures by Indian photographer Mr Benoy K Behl on the Islamic architecture and Islamic monuments in India. Behl is reportedly the most widely travelled Indian photographer, with over 53,000 photographs to his credit.

QATAR, INDIA & THE GULF: HISTORY, CULTURE & SOCIETY

An Exhibition titled ‘Qatar, India and the Gulf: History, Culture and Society’ was opened on October 31, 2019. It was organised by Qatar National Library (QNL) under the umbrella of the India-Qatar Year of Culture 2019. The event explored the longstanding historical connections between India and Qatar in particular and the Gulf region in general.

BHARAT VASTRAM

The Qatar Foundation, in partnership with the Embassy of India and VCU Arts Qatar, hosted a ladies-only cultural and fashion show titled ‘Bharat Vastram’ on 20 Sep 2019, at the auditorium of VCU Arts Qatar. This event explored the distinct forms and colours of dresses from each of the 29 states of India, and the diverse traditions and rich heritage they represent. The event, followed by a reception, was well-attended by Qataris and other expatriate communities in Qatar.

MUGHAL-E-AZAM: THE PLAY

The grandeur of Mughal Emperor Akbar’s palace was brought to the audience in Qatar by a galaxy of talented stage artists in the form of a theatre performance “Mughal-E-Azam”. The engaging story and the technical sophistication, coupled with catchy and crisp dialogues and live songs maintaining the sumptuousness and majesty of the original 1960 film, kept the audience spellbound.

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COMMUNITY WELFARE

GANDHI JAYANTI CELEBRATIONS

Indian Embassy together with VCUarts Qatar held a Fashion-cum-Exhibition Show “CELEBRATING KHADI: The Fabric of Freedom and sustainability” to mark 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Renowned Bengaluru based fashion designer Prasad Bidapa presented the show. During the course of the event, Indian Embassy and Qatar Post jointly released a commemorative postage stamp to mark 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Indian Sports Center held a cycle rally to mark Gandhi’s 150th birth anniversary.

Qatar National Library and Qatar Foundation Community Development jointly organised a lecture, ‘Gandhi after 150 years’, recently to mark the anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi 150 years ago as part of the library’s celebration of the Qatar-India 2019 year of culture.

Indian Sports Center held a cycle rally to mark Gandhi’s 150th birth anniversary.

Indian Sports Center held a cycle rally to mark Gandhi’s 150th birth anniversary.

PASSAGE TO INDIA

Embassy of India Doha observed the 70th Constitution Day on November 26, 2019. On this occasion, Ambassador P Kumaran read the Preamble to the Constitution of India. A short video was played and pictorial representation of events related to the Making of the Constitution of India was displayed. Shantiniketan hosted Quiz Competition 2019 on Mahatma Gandhi, Dr BR Ambedkar and Constitution of India. It was organised by the Embassy of India. Fifteen Indian schools participated in the Inter-School Quiz to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the 70th year of the Indian Constitution and the Ambedkar Jayanti. On these occasions, resource materials were furnished by the Embassy. Students took the National pledge.

Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) in association with the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) and the Indian Embassy organised ‘Passage To India’, a community festival at MIA Park on January 16 and 17, 2020. The grand culmination showcasing India’s cultural diversity and grandeur was inaugurated by Ambassador P Kumaran on January 16. The event featured replica of monument Red Fort. Stalls/outlets showcased various customs/features/materials from different states in India as well as food outlets, by licensed Indian vendors, providing various delicacies from different parts of India to visitors. Over 10,000 visitors attended the event each day. Around 650 people performed in the event.

45 INDIAN COMPANIES PARTICIPATED IN ‘HOSPITALITY QATAR 2019’ EXPO

Around 45 prominent Indian companies engaged in the food and hospitality sectors participated in the 4th edition of ‘Hospitality Qatar 2019’ exhibition organised by IFP Qatar from November 12 to 14 at Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC). The Indian pavilion was coordinated by the Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) in partnership with the Embassy of India, Doha. The Indian pavilion was inaugurated by Ambassador of India, P Kumaran. The TPCI delegation exhibited their Food & Beverage (F&B) products during the Exhibition in the following categories – rice, pulses, confectionery, grocery, dehydrated vegetables, Indian ethnic products, packaging machines & materials and linen for the hospitality Industry.
**AllIB announces $210 mn loan for irrigation & solar energy projects**

The total commitments to the country stand at $3 billion, which is about a third of total of $10 billion. The project in West Bengal is co-financed by the World Bank and is expected to strengthen the management of the Damodar Valley Command Area irrigation scheme, the statement said.

The Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AllIB) announced a total loan of $210 million for irrigation and solar energy projects in India. The multilateral institution will lend $145 million to improve irrigation services and strengthen flood risk management in West Bengal, while $65 million has been earmarked for a 250-megawatt (MW) solar project in Rajasthan promoted by Hero Future Energies, an official statement said.

India is the second-largest shareholder of the bank and the largest recipient of its loan and equity commitments as part of a plan to co-finance by the World Bank and is expected to strengthen the management of the Damodar Valley Command Area irrigation scheme, the statement said. The funds will also be used to modernise irrigation infrastructure at main, branch, distributary and minor canal levels and invest in structural measures to reduce flooding in the project area, it said. The bank statement said West Bengal has 37,660 square kilometres prone to floods out of its total area of 88,752 square kilometres and regularly faces floods, and climate change may only aggravate the problems.

“This investment will help thousands of farmers get adequate water through scientific water conservation and distribution methods,” its Vice-President and Chief Investment Officer D J Pandian was quoted as saying.

The body has also approved a $65-million 250-megawatt solar power project in Jodhpur promoted by M S Bukhari, Managing Director HP Industries WLL, Doha, Qatar

**HPI begins operations to deliver quality products**

**HPI Industries WLL (HPI)** has commenced its operations as part of a plan to deliver quality products with green credentials. Recently, HPI Industries (HPI) Qatar has become a signatory of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), the world’s “largest and most widely embraced corporate sustainability initiative”. With this, HPI joins few first organisations and probably first manufacturing firm in Qatar to bag the prestigious entry.

The Qatar-based company operates under POLYRRON & GReen Foam brand. It produces thermal insulation board and complete range of construction chemicals ranging from grouts, coatings, sealants and specialty products. Contrary to the generally available XPS insulation boards, HPI under GReen Foam brand has developed an eco-friendly, non-flammable insulation board which not only conserves energy but also keeps you safe through out. The construction chemical division under POLYRRON brand envisages high quality specialty products with superior performance and cater to the needs of ever growing demands of construction industry.

HPI has a fully functional designated research and development laboratory that spreads over 1,000 sqm. It contribute to the realisation of a sustainable society by developing technologies from three perspectives to reduce environmental impact at every stage of product life cycles, energy conservation and global warming mitigation. The in-house R&D team has developed some breath-taking advancement in the fields of coatings, sealants and insulation. The HPI manufacturing facilities are certified with ISO 9001:2015, 14001:2015 and ISO 45001:2018 integrated management systems.

With the new operations in Qatar, HPI aims to bridge the gaps facing the construction sector.

**Big push for electric mobility: 5,645 electric buses in 65 cities**

I n a move which is going to further the cause of reduction of pollution generated from public transport, the inter-ministerial committee for Electric Vehicles has sanctioned 5,645 electric buses for intra-city operations in 65 cities and inter-city operations to 8 state transport undertakings according to Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said the same in a recent tweet. These buses, which are going to be manufactured in India, will be given to select cities and state transport departments at a subsidised rate and are also going to promote ‘Make in India’. This move to introduce electric buses in the arena of public transport is part of the Central Government’s massive push for EV in India.

“The inter-ministerial committee for EVs has sanctioned 5,645 electric buses for intra-city operations in 65 cities and for inter-city operations to 8 state transport undertakings. The government, as part of its Rs 10,000 crore FAME II scheme currently provides incentives for electric vehicles for commercial purposes along with providing support for charging infrastructure. These incentives, extend to private two-wheelers as well. In the recent budget announcement, the Finance Ministry announced concessions in the loan taken for the purchase of electric vehicles. Also recently, the GST council, accepting the Finance Ministry’s proposal, has reduced taxes on electric vehicles from 12 percent to 5 percent. In addition to this, certain parts of electric vehicles have also been exempted from customs duty. Niti Aayog had earlier proposed all two-wheelers, under 150cc capacity should be converted to all-electric models by March.
FASHION and lifestyle influencer M Gazal Shaikh is someone who we call global minded. Gazal, who hails from India with a degree in fashion designing, is a name to reckon with in Qatar. The beginning of Gazal's blog page #IAMGAZAL, that today boasts of more than 180,000 followers was started with a firm determination to inspire others by sharing her thoughts and views about fashion and life in Qatar.

The blog has touched countless Indian and Arab hearts in Qatar, because of its creative writing, excellent reviews and beautiful photography.

Her blog is becoming popular in Qatar and abroad through the platform of her Instagram account IAMGAZAL. Gazal has been working since 2014 as a blogger in Doha. And due to its quality content and amazing reviews, she has been able to collaborate with brands like Rolls Royce, Massimo Dutti, Victoria Secrets, Master Card, Hyundai, Malabar Gold and Diamonds and many more.

Gazal has a very simple and elegant blog. If you are somebody who likes effortless style and simple living then IAMGAZAL is the perfect blog to get your hands and eyes on.

"Frequently, I post about Indian fashion and places which reflect my love towards my culture," she said.

The initial posts that would attract you to Gazal’s Instagram page are the
clean and clutter free pictures, the care with which the entire wall of her Instagram is organised.

Gazal used to post her travel and style photos on her Instagram account and gradually started being noticed by people from Qatar who liked her styling and the way she captured her photos, which resulted in 182,000 followers on her account.

When Gazal started blogging in Qatar there were not many Indian fashion bloggers. So whenever Indians based in GCC or Qatar would come across her blog they would follow her and always write a note to her, mentioning that they feel proud of her. “Some of them leave a thank you note to me after reading my blog, especially where I share my thoughts and views which has boosted their confidence and cleared many of their doubts which they generally see after moving to an Arab country,” she said.

On her achievements, Gazal said, “IAMGAZAL, my blog has given me the platform where I can flaunt what I liked the most. It has given me the power of speaking my mind and sharing my thoughts with thousands of people. Through this blog I got to know so many people who are at the other side of the mobile and have amazing and inspiring stories to share with me.”

“I started loving what I was doing and the kind of response I was getting. That is when I thought of taking it to a professional level and invested my time to find out the ways where my work can look more professional and appealing to the audience, this is how my blogging began,” said Gazal.

Having a fashion background and being updated about styling even before she started her fashion designing, she has a good sense of colour combination which helps her to get noticed by renowned brands. Being in the field of social media for over five years and having a large follower base, Gazal gives us a few tips on how to market an Instagram page.

“Before you begin to market, you need to be sure that you have enough content to market yourself,” she says.

“Content is foremost, and only if you are sure that you will keep the commitment of bringing the best, then you should go all out to achieve your dream,” Gazal says that the credit for her success in the blogging sphere goes to her followers who are like family to her.

“My followers believed in me from the beginning when my family and friends thought of starting my own business would be a better choice. But my heart said otherwise. I believed in myself and started working on my blog. With time, her family and friends started appreciating her work while her Instagram family grew.

“I began focusing on improving the quality of my work. I needed to ensure my work to be inspiring and moreover I wanted my followers to be proud of my journey,” she shares.
Women in tech workforce rises from 21% to 30% in 5 years

Women now constitute 30% of the workforce, up from about 21% five years ago, according to a study by Intel and consulting firm Zinnov.

“All the effort that companies in the technology and related industries in India are putting into hiring women is bearing fruit. Women now constitute 30 percent of the workforce, up from about 21 percent five years ago, according to a study by Intel and consulting firm Zinnov. At the junior level, the figure is as high as 38 percent. But that drops to 20 percent at the midlevel, and to 11 percent at the senior level. Considering women are over 48 percent of the total population, there’s still a lot of ground for them to cover.”

Pari Natarajan, CEO of Zinnov, said concerted efforts over the years have moved the needle from 21 percent to 30 percent. “However, the commitment to change needs to move beyond an organisational setting and include an ecosystem-wide lens. Enabling science, technology, engineering and mathematics career options for young women, supporting women-led startups, and encouraging other women entrepreneurs are some of the more impactful initiatives that organisations need to actively look at,” he said. For every two girls, there are five boys enrolling for professional courses, according to the All India Council for Technical Education. This definitely impacts the number of women transitioning from campus to corporate, Zinnov said. Women’s role as the primary caregiver at home and patriarchal attitudes are other reasons for the lower representation. The report identifies a number of company best practices that are helping to encourage women to stay on at the workplace, or to return to it if they leave.

PayPal’s six-week recharge programme is focused on empowering women technologists who have taken a break from work for one to five years. Microsoft’s Springboard programme helps returning women with flexible work options, technical upskilling sessions, and assigns them a project guide to support them on projects.

Flipkart has 24 weeks of maternity leave, an additional four months of flexi-working hours with full pay, and a year’s unpaid leave of absence to new mothers. Intel India head Nivruti Rai said a key initiative the company has taken up is Women Innovators, Social Leaders and Entrepreneurs, a charter to accelerate the participation of women in all aspects of the workforce. The study evaluated 60 companies, big and small. It found that large companies have the highest women representation at 33 percent, while medium-sized ones have 27 percent and small companies only 21 percent.

Qatar Automobiles Company launches special offer on Mitsubishi Pajero 2020

Qatar Automobiles Company, the authorized distributor of Mitsubishi Motors Corporation in Qatar, has launched its special offer on Mitsubishi Pajero model 2020. The offer includes several benefits including 1-year free comprehensive insurance and 1-year free registration, 3 years warranty, free service for one year or up to 20,000 km, in addition to an Ibex coupon worth QR5,000. Customers can also benefit from internal finance by NBK Financial Services (Terms and Conditions apply), with 20 percent advance payment and monthly installments over 48 months.

HE Sheikh Faleh bin Nawaf al Thani, Operations Director — Auto at Nasser Bin Khaled Group, said: “Qatar Automobiles Company is launching this new offer with the beginning of the new year on Pajero 2020 that has always been one of the best in its category. The new offer gives the customers flexible options to own their favorite new car. They can now pay monthly installments and enjoy wide range of benefits. We are confident that such offers help Qatari residents to drive a reliable new car that meet their needs and demands.”

Hesham Alsahn, General Manager of Qatar Automobiles Company, said: “Mitsubishi Pajero has a long heritage and high quality that meet the demands and needs of customers. The 2020 model is available now for our customers in Qatar to enjoy driving a new vehicle with modern features.”

The Pajero is a true off-roader, and a legend in its own right. Powertrain options were either a 3.5-litre V6 mated to a 5-speed automatic, or a 3.8-litre V6 engine mated to a 5-speed auto. The standard package includes Active Trac four-wheel-drive with rear-wheel, full-time all-wheel and 4WD high and low range with locked center differential.

The long-wheelbase model holds seven passengers, with a third-row seat that can be folded into a well in the cargo area floor or removed entirely. The vehicle also embraces some of the best safety features including 6 airbags, active traction control, active stability control, among others.

All the cars are available now in Mitsubishi Motors Showroom on Salwa Road. Customers can visit the showroom at Salwa Road from Saturday to Thursday from 8 am to 9 pm and on Friday from 5 pm to 9 pm, and Al Khor Showroom from Saturday to Wednesday from 8 am to 8 pm, and on Thursday from 8 am to 3 pm.
ECONOMIC relations between India and Qatar have grown from strength to strength over the years as both the countries are working very closely to further expand and deepen the level of cooperation in several areas.

Strengthening trade ties between the two countries is evident from the sharp growth in bilateral trade between the two countries in the last couple of years. Trade volume between the two countries increased substantially to $7.7 billion in the first nine months of 2019, according to the latest data released by Qatar Chamber.

While Qatari exports to India amounted to $6.52 billion, Qatar’s imports from India amounted to $1.2 billion during this period.

The bilateral trade between India and Qatar further accelerated after the unjust blockade in June 2017.

Soon after the blockade, Qatar’s Ministry of Transport and Communications launched a new direct maritime route between Qatar and India for the transport of goods.

This new route links Qatar’s Hamad Port with Mundra and Nhava Sheva ports in India.

The Qatar Chamber data showed that the trade exchanges between Qatar and India jumped to $12.12 billion in 2018 from $8.53 billion in 2016, registering an increase of over 42 percent in just two years. When compared on a yearly basis, the bilateral trade volume increased by nearly 24 percent in 2018 against $9.28 billion in 2017.

Qatar’s trade surplus with India reached $5.315 billion in the first nine months of 2019. The trade surplus against India was $8.12 billion in 2018, registering a significant growth of nearly 21 percent against $6.63 billion in 2017.

Qatar’s trade surplus with India is due to the fact the energy-hungry India is one of the major importers of Qatar’s LNG. It also imports mineral fuels, mineral oils, chemicals, petroleum gases, fertilizers among others.

While the trade balance has been in favour of Qatar for the last several years, India’s exports to Qatar especially after the blockade have registered a phenomenal growth.

India’s exports to Qatar jumped more than 100 percent to reach almost $1.6 billion in the financial year 2018-2019 from $800 million in 2016-2017, according to the Indian embassy in Qatar.

“The volume of trade between India and Qatar reached above $12.5 billion in 2018-2019, out of which close to $31 billion were India’s imports mainly of LNG and other petrochemical products from Qatar. Our exports to Qatar reached almost $1.6 billion, a huge increase compared to previous years,” Indian Ambassador to Qatar HE P Kumaran told Qatar Tribune.

In the financial year 2017-2018 alone, he said, India’s exports to Qatar grew 87 percent.

Major Qatari imports from India include food, rice, iron, and steel, refrigerators, furniture, footwear, freezers, types of machinery, garments, appliances and a wide range of food products and medicine and medical instruments.

The trade volume between the two countries is expected to grow at the same pace as Qatar holds a lot of significance in securing India’s growing need for LNG. Despite the entry of several new players like the US and Australia in the current gas market, India will continue to grow its engagement with Qatar, a well-established energy power in the Gulf.

Following its exit from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in 2019, Qatar announced its intention to concentrate exclusively on the development of natural gas. Qatar is planning to increase its LNG production capacity by more than 60 percent from 77 million tonnes a year to 126 million tonnes by 2027. From the perspective of reliability, Qatar is eager to prove itself as a credible market player in the LNG business. For instance, despite facing a blockade, Qatar has continued to supply natural gas to different markets.

From the perspective of energy security, this behaviour by Qatar increases confidence amongst consumer countries like India. It would do well for India to increase the volumes of its LNG imports from Qatar at a later date.

Qatar supplies 8.5 million tonnes a year of liquefied natural gas to India. Qatar is India’s single largest source of imported gas.

India’s Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan also expressed India’s desire to partner with Qatar on energy projects in other countries.

The two countries also witnessed positive developments in the area of investment in 2019. Qatar’s sovereign wealth announced to invest about $430 million in a power distribution company controlled by Indian billionaire Gautam Adani, the latest in a series of foreign investments in India’s energy sector.

Byju’s, an Indian learning app, also announced in 2019 that it has received an investment of $150 million led by Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), the sovereign wealth fund of Qatar.

As far as overall investments are concerned, Qatari investors have pumped in more than $2 billion into the Indian economy till date. On the other hand, Indian companies have also invested nearly $2 billion in Qatar. Both sides have been taking active steps to further expand the economic and commercial partnership.

In a meeting held recently in New Delhi, Qatar Free Zones Authority Director Wilson Chan said it is possible to shift an entire factory from Delhi and relocate to Qatar’s free zones.

“There are no restrictions even on the movement of labour. You can import all the labour from any country or can even hire locally from available poor of human resources,” said Chang. According to reliable sources, about 100 billion from India have signed deals to set up their units in Qatar’s free zones.

The extensive infrastructure development in Qatar as it prepares to host the FIFA World Cup in 2022 and potential for increasing Qatar’s investment in India present a win-win scenario for both the countries.
ROOTS Qatar WLL is one of the leading contracting companies in Qatar that provides top quality interior and exterior paintings, epoxy coatings, all kinds of waterproofing solutions, performance flooring, tank lining and crack injection works, structural strengthening & concrete repair and protection, sports flooring, terrazzo flooring, vinyl flooring for various mega projects. We had also successfully completed the Gold Line, Green Line and Red Line Metro Project. Also we are doing major stadium projects for 2022 FIFA World Cup including Khalifa Stadium, Al Bayt Stadium and Al Thumama Stadium, QPD, Umm Al Haul-IWPP. Roots Qatar carries a vast experience and is approved from Ashghal, Kahramaa, Qatar Petroleum (QP), Qatar Rail, Qatar Armed Forces, Supreme Council and many major clients. We offer quality services at competitive prices and provide highest degree of attention to our clients.

Roots Qatar launched its contracting division in 2002 with a vision of establishing and achieving higher goals in the vibrant and ever growing construction industry in Qatar.

The company has professionals of vast experience in various engineering fields in the Middle East. Roots Qatar has its operations in following fields.

- Our experience will ensure every step of the process is completed using the most time-efficient and cost-effective means. We employ a team of experienced and qualified machinery, painters, water proofing technicians, fire proofing technicians, masons and dedicated labourers. Our painting division is focusing on all types of decorative painting and protective coating works, floor coating, water proofing and fire proofing works with a team of highly-skilled painters, technicians under the supervision of experienced supervisors and technical staff.

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OUR FIELD OF EXPERTISE:
- Water Proofing Solution
- Crack Injection / Grouting
- Epoxy Floor Coating
- Polyurea Coating
- Concrete repair and protection
- Structural strengthening
- Joint Sealant
- Protective Coating / Painting
- Decorative Coating /Painting
- 3D Epoxy Flooring
- Sports Flooring
- Terrazzo Flooring
- Vinyl Flooring
- Fire Proofing
Roots Qatar W.L.L. (Coating & Water Proofing)

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About Roots Qatar

Roots Qatar W.L.L. is one of the leading Contracting Companies in Qatar that provides top quality interior and exterior paintings, Epoxy coatings, all kinds of waterproofing solutions, performance flooring, Tank lining, Crack Injection Works, Structural strengthening & Concrete repair and Protection, Sports Flooring, Terrazzo Flooring, Vinyl Flooring for various mega Projects. We had also successfully completed the Goldline, Green Line and Red Line Metro Project. Also we are doing major stadium projects for FIFA World cup 2022 including Khalifa Stadium, Al Bayt stadium and Thumama stadium, QPD, Umm Al Haul IWPP. Roots Qatar carries a vast experience and is approved from Ashghal, Kahrama, Qatar Petroleum (QP), Qatar Rail, Qatar armed forces, Supreme council and many major clients. We offer quality services at competitive prices and provides highest degree of attention to our Clients.

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Women lead the way in sports

Such has been their achievements that for the first time the sports nominations for the national Padma awards comprised an all-women list.

OP sportswomen of India emerged with flying colours to mark a remarkable year winning big accolades. Such has been their achievements that for the first time the sports nominations for the national Padma awards consisted of an all-women list.

The list included boxer Mary Kom, badminton player PV Sindhu, wrestler Vinesh Phogat, cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur, table tennis player Manika Batra, women’s hockey team captain Rani Rampal, shooter Suma Shirur, and mountaineers and twin sisters Tashi and Nungshi Malik.

Here’s a look at these stars’ super achievements.

Mary Kom: The six-time World champion boxer clinched the world title in 48-kg category at home for a record sixth time. She is now looking forward to qualify for her second Olympics – the 2020 Tokyo Games.

PV Sindhu: The badminton player became the first Indian in 2019 to win a BWF World Championships title. She defeated her bitter rival Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in a lopsided final in Basel, Switzerland, 21-7, 21-7 in the summit clash.

Vinesh Phogat: Became India’s first wrestler to win an Olympic quota at the World Championships in Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan. After losing her round of 16 in the 53kg, the 25-year-old girl defeated Sarrah Hilderbrandt of the United States, Yuliya Khaliavtseh of Ukraine and Maria Prevolaraki of Greece to win the bronze medal.

She is also the first Indian woman wrestler to win gold in both the Commonwealth and Asian Games, and the first Indian athlete to get nominated for Laureus World Sports Awards.

Manika Batra: The table tennis player led the Indian women’s team to a historic gold medal win at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia. India beat four-time gold medalists and defending champions Singapore in the final.

Harmanpreet Kaur: India’s T20l skipper Harmanpreet Kaur became the first Indian woman to score a century in a Women’s Twenty20 International (WT20I) match in November 2018. Kaur, who had also excelled at women’s ODI World Cup, was awarded the prestigious Arjuna Award in the year 2017.

Rani Rampal: Indian women’s hockey team captain led the team to a silver medal at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia. Earlier in 2010, she was the youngest player in the national team at the age of 15 and participated in the 2010 World Cup.

Suma Shirur: The Indian shooter had won gold at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in the 10m air rifle event.

Tashi and Nungshi Malik: Tashi and Nungshi Malik have been the first twin sisters to climb Mount Everest, Seven Summits and Three Poles Challenge. While these women have kept the Indian tricolour flying high, there were other glittering achievements too starting with the Indian men’s cricket team’s maiden series triumph in Australia, which many considered to be their greatest in recent times. Then, the Virat Kohli-led outfit white-washed Bangladesh 2-0 to register their 12th consecutive series win at home for a world record.

Jasprit Bumrah became the third Indian to take a hat-trick in Test cricket. His exploits came against the West Indies at Kingston.

Elsewhere, Indian shooters dominated the World Cups and the Season Finals winning 21 gold, six silver and three bronze medals. In the process, India earned a record 15 Tokyo 2020 Olympic quotas.


A big high point for India in football came when the national team held Asian champions Qatar to a goalless draw in a 2022 World Cup qualifying match in Doha.

In athletics, India’s Avinash Sable excelled in the steeplechase at the 2019 IAAF World Championships in Doha securing a ticket to 2020 Tokyo Olympics. India’s mixed 4x400m relay team also secured a quota place for Tokyo.

The Indian shooting contingent which secured a record 15 Olympic quota places for Tokyo Olympics, won a whopping five golds, 10 silver and 11 bronze medals at the Asian Shooting Championship held Lusail in Qatar in November.

This included ace women shooters Manu Bhaker, Anjum Moudgil, Kajal Saini, Tejaswini Sawant, Apurvi Chandela, Yashaswini Deswal and Annu Raj Singh among others.
The recently launched first-ever seven-seat SUV by MG Motor is effortlessly elegant and I was gutted to hand back the keys after a day-long test drive on and off Qatari roads.

The all new MG RX8 SUV is one of the nicest cars I have driven all through my over 12 years of stay in Qatar as it is one of those cars that makes driving very pleasurable and effortless.

The car’s good look, comfort level, and refined luxury make it one of the best bargains given its price range that starts from below QR90,000 in Qatar.

The car comes with some surprising features for its price point. It is a very good looking car with elegant lines and well-suited sporty features. When you sit in the cabin you’ll appreciate that the car carries the MG legacy as the interior is swanky. Everything is a soft touch and the cabin feels very modern with its state-of-the-art air vents and 10-inch touch screen. Unlike other cars or even the more expensive ones they don’t feature such a massive screen. Not only is the screen very responsive but the colours are viv-id and bright ensuring good daytime visibility.

This car features eight air vents in total, keeping not only the passen-gers nice and cool in the hot summer months but also the whole cabin. The AC is divided into two zones — front and rear — and can be controlled individually for the passengers’ comfort. Usually, a return trip across the country in a day wouldn’t be something I’d look forward to but the MG RX8 SUV is a dream to drive over long distances. The wonderfully comfort-able seats as well as a very comfortable driving position made the drive simply pleasurable.

The comfort was aided by the excellent onboard tech making my trip al-most effortless. The cruise control with variable speed limiter did most of the work and touch screen controls made things safe and stress-free.

There is plenty of grip too, body lean is well controlled and the steering feels nice and direct.

The cabin is very well insulated from wind, road and engine noise which all adds to the relaxing feel of the car.

The car features a striking design with a lot of ground clearance to tackle any off-road tasks. It also features seven seats which are a first for the MG. The third-row seat gives you the capacity to seat two more passen-gers, and can also be folded to give you more space for cargo.

The car features a premium interior using mostly leather and this gives it a very high-end feel. The dashboard and seats mainly use leather with premium stitching. They’ve used faux wood instead of plastic to give a more premium look, it actually looks pretty good.

If there’s one thing the MG RX8 does better than other cars in its seg-ment, it’s the features and this car has loads of them.

An array of premium materials including wood grain and soft-touch trim gives the RX8 a high-class feel. And, modern features such as in-car enter-tainment system, ven-tilated seats and wireless mobile device charging capabilities make the RX8 the perfect partner for an active family.

The car features six speakers around the cabin with a very punchy bass and sound.

A robust and spacious SUV – with the largest wheelbase in its segment – the new seven-seater introduces MG Motor to a segment it has previously never been present in. The MG RX8 is a fully equipped 4x4 with six different driving modes. Its strong truck chassis frame is capable of handling the toughest off-road terrains and is powered by an efficient 220HP 2.0-litre turbo en-gine.

The car features a wall socket of up to 150 watts output meaning you can charge your laptop. This car also features an air purifier that keeps the air inside the cabin dust free.

The car features six driving modes like Auto, Offroad, Snow, Sport, 4L, and 2H. In auto mode, the car automatically detects the terrain and adjusts the car behaviour accordingly. It is recom-mended that one should keep the car in auto mode and let it do its thing as this mode will take care of most things.

A car can never feel luxurious if the suspension of the car is stiff and mushy. The car felt smooth and luxuri-ous even over potholes and bumps as I encountered some of them while pass-ing through roads undergoing repair works.

The car has a high seating posi-tion ensuring clear visibility around you. Pair that with a balanced steering wheel featuring quite tight turning cir-cles and you have an SUV that you can drive easily.

The car starts at QR87,000 for the base model and comes with six years of warranty and one free service.

Overall, the MG RX8 SUV takes class honours for me. I really enjoyed how it drove and handled and the inter-ior is just marvellous and trumps that of its rivals.
Now, avail high-speed internet at 5,500 railway stations for free

DEBJIT SINHA

GOOD news for Indian Railways passengers, now avail free WiFi at 5,500 stations across India! Mahua Milan Railway station, that comes under East Central Railway zone, has become the 5,500th station on the vast Indian Railways network to have free high-speed public WiFi facility.

RailTel has successfully completed the work of installing WiFi at this railway station in Jharkhand under its venture of transforming the railway stations across the country into hubs of digital inclusion. The target of installing free high-speed WiFi facility at 5,500 railway stations, has been achieved in 46 months.

The project started from Mumbai Central station in January 2016. RailTel, a Miniratna PSU under Ministry of Railways, has tied up with firms such as PCCIL, Google and Tata Trust for some parts of the project.

RailTel has also received funding from Department of Telecom USOF for 200 stations. RailTel has been providing free high-speed WiFi under the brand name of RailWire. Indian Railways passengers and people at the stations who want to use free high-speed WiFi should have smartphones. They need to switch on the WiFi mode and opt for the RailWire WiFi network. The RailWire homepage will appear on the smartphone screen. The passenger needs to enter his or her mobile number on the homepage.

A one-time password (OTP) will be sent to that number in the form of SMS. Subsequently, the OTP needs to be submitted and high-speed internet can be accessed for free.

According to RailTel Chairman & Managing Director Puneet Chawla the station WiFi facility has become popular amongst people. The data consumption and the number of users are growing every day, he has said. In October this year, the total number of user logins for the RailWire WiFi stood at 1.5 crore with a data consumption of 1024TB.

Free high-speed WiFi facility at Indian Railways stations is one of the largest public WiFi networks of the world. Indian Railways has said that free WiFi services will help bridge the digital gap between urban and rural India. Free high-speed WiFi facility at Indian Railways stations has ensured that students can utilize their waiting time to download study materials, vendors can do digital payment transactions, daily passengers can learn a new skill by surfing the internet. The free WiFi has been a boon to these people who otherwise suffer from poor connectivity issues, Indian Railways stated.

AMU Alumni Association Qatar fosters spirit of brotherhood

AMU Alumni Association Qatar is working to meet the welfare, educational, social, literary, and cultural needs of the community. It is right-ly said that no graduate of any university loves his or her Alma mater as strongly as the graduates of Aligarh Muslim University. Anywhere in the world if there are few old students they form an alumni forum for socializing and doing something for the university’s progress in particular and community in general.

“AMUAAQ is recognized and affiliated with Indian Community Benevolent Fund, Embassy of India and recognised by AMU Aligarh as an international alumni association. We follow the guidelines of affiliated body and undertake not to engage in any activities that will undermine the interest of ICBF-Indian Embassy and recognised by AMU Aligarh as an international alumni association. We follow the guidelines of affiliated body and undertake not to engage in any activities that will undermine the interest of ICBF-Indian Embassy and recognise any of the rules and regulations of Qatar and India. The members of association share common vision, mission, belief, values traditions. The AMU Association is a non-profit and socio cultural organisation. It is a non-political organisation based on secular and pluralistic character. It is profoundly committed to promote sense of brother hood and foster spirit of community wellness,” said AMUAAQ President Jawed Ahmad.

He said a number of activities are ongoing while the completed activities include Alumni get together (3 times), multi-specialised medical camp, Zaiqa E Aligarh, Community Iftar, Sir Syed Day-2019, support to Bihar Flood relief fund, monetary support to needy people for medical treatment, supported merit cum means students for various organisations, awarded for best parenting towards education, financial support to Formula Racing Car of Alma mater. Ahmad noted that majority of AMU Alumni and well-wishers demand for one unified AMU alumni association in Qatar.
It has many new technologies such as a highly agile or flexible camera; high-speed data transmission, advanced computer system, etc.

**Launch Vehicle:** Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C47 has launched Cartosat-3 into Sun Synchronous orbit from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDDC) SHAR, Sriharikota. PSLV-C47 is the 21st flight of PSLV in XL configuration. PSLV-C47 will also carry 13 commercial nano-satellites from United States of America as part of commercial arrangement with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), Department of Space.

**Cartosat Series and Remote Sensing Programme**

- The Cartosat series is a part of the Indian Remote Sensing Programme.
- Till date, eight Cartosats have been launched.
- They were specifically launched for Earth’s resource management and monitoring.
- Cartosat-1 was launched by PSLV-C6, on May 5th 2005 from Sriharikota.
- Cartosat-3 was originally planned to be launched on board PSLV during 2014. However, ISRO appears to be planning additional satellites in the Cartosat-2 series through 2017, and ISRO’s 2017 plans involve launching Cartosat 2D/2E in 2017. Cartosat-3 will then be launched on 27 November 2019.
- Cartosat-3 is an advanced version with better spatial and spectral characteristics as compared to the Cartosat-2 series satellites.
- The Earth-observation satellites also include the Resourcesat and RISAT series, the Oceansat
- The Resourcesat and RISAT series of satellites, for example, provide images and data that are needed for land and water resources applications.
- The Oceansat series and the SARAL satellite, meanwhile, produce data on the oceans.
- The satellites like INSAT 3D, INSAT-VR or Megha Tropiques study the atmosphere.

**Applications**

- Data from most of the Cartosat satellites are exclusively used by the armed forces.
- However, an existing policy allows only government and government authorised agencies to access ISRO’s high-resolution imagery below a resolution of 1 metre.
- Cartosat-3’s optical imaging will also help to detect precise cartographic or mapping activities.
- The imagery is also used for urban and rural infrastructure planning, coastal land use and regulation, utility management such as monitoring road networks, water grid and distribution, creation of land use maps, disaster management, etc.

**Resolution:** It has the ‘sharpest eye’ of civil remote sensing satellites in the world.

- One of Cartosat-3's cameras offers a ground resolution of 25 cm - it can pick up an object of a minimum of 25 cm size from a height of around 500 km.
- Currently, a satellite owned by US private company WorldView-3 has the best ground resolution of 31 cm.
- Weight: At 1,625 kg, Cartosat-3 is unusually heavy and more than double the mass of the previous eight in its class.
- Inclination: It has been placed at 97.5 degrees to the equator of the earth.

**About Cartosat-3**

Cartosat-3 is the third generation Earth observation satellite built by ISRO. It is one of the most advanced imaging satellites built by the organization so far. It has the capability to produce high resolution aerial images in the world.

**The features of the satellite include:**

- **Panchromatic** - captures all visible colours of light
- **Hyper-spectral** - captures light from electromagnetic spectrum
- **Multi-spectral** - captures light within specific ranges of the electromagnetic spectrum.

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- Weight: At 1,625 kg, Cartosat-3 is unusually heavy and more than double the mass of the previous eight in its class.
- Inclination: It has been placed at 97.5 degrees to the equator of the earth.
A path-breaking cancer-treating device, developed in India, by an Indian scientist at the Bengaluru-based R&D facility of an American company, has just received approval from the US Food and Drugs Administration’s (FDA) Center for Devices and Radiological Health, under the Breakthrough Device Program. The machine provides non-invasive tissue engineering that can help treat solid tumours of the breast, liver and pancreas, and is also useful in pain relief and palliative care.

Research by Dr Rajah Vijay Kumar, at the Bengaluru-based Scalene Center for Advanced Research and Development, led to the invention of the Cytotron, a device that is based on quantum magnetic resonance therapy (QMRT). The body’s tumour suppression mechanism is reactivated non-invasively by QMRT by targeting calibrated doses of radio- or sub-radio frequency, non-ionising, non-thermal electromagnetic waves at the tumour site. This triggers the production of new tumour suppressing nucleoproteins that lead to apoptosis (programmed cell death).

Cytotron is likely to be of immense benefit in other solid tumours such as adult and pediatric brain tumours, lung cancer and many other life-limiting diseases—the fact that it is lined up for application for Breakthrough Device designation for these cancer types suggests this. The US FDA’s Breakthrough Device Program was intended to expedite access to new, life-saving medical devices for patients with life-threatening diseases. Under the programme, the US FDA guides the development of a product to the extent that it eases pre-market approval while meeting all the norms, and the product is accorded priority in the approval process. Cytotron has been demonstrated to be a unique, non-invasive cancer-treatment device that can target both primary and metastatic cancers simultaneously—thereby meeting a key criterion for being designated as a “Breakthrough Device”. Indeed, Cytotron got the CE mark (the certification required for marketing of such products in the European Economic Area) in 2012 for the whole-body nine axes system that is used in tissue regeneration in osteoarthritis and other musculoskeletal disorders. Apart from this, Cytotron’s technology is also indicated for regrowing cartilage, and treatment of spinal dysplasia and sports injuries.

The invention could mean a new lease of life or vastly improved quality of living at the end-stage for millions of cancer patients around the world.
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