N this auspicious occasion of the 72nd Independence Day of India, I have the pleasure to convey my warm greetings and felicitations to all my fellow citizens residing in the State of Qatar. I also take this opportunity to express my heartfelt and sincere thanks and appreciation to the Amir of Qatar His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani and the Government of the State of Qatar for their continued support and cooperation and to the hospitality and patronage extended to the Indian community in Qatar.

The multifaceted bilateral relationship between India and Qatar continues to deepen further in various areas, including political, economic, trade & investment, cultural and defence spheres. We expect that 2019, as the India-Qatar Year of Culture, would be a year filled with memorable cultural events, in a manner that builds the long-standing cultural and people-to-people ties between our two countries.

India-Qatar bilateral ties continue to deepen

India holds the position of the third largest startup ecosystem in the world and is expected to have 100,000 startups by 2025, worth US$ 500 billion, which will create employment for 3.25 million people.

India has come a long way since its Independence on 15 August 1947. We have achieved self-sufficiency in food production and today export various food grains to other countries. We are the largest producers of fresh fruits, milk and pulses. India is a recognised military power in the world today. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been successful in developing a highly acclaimed, low-cost and efficient space program in the world. In economic terms, India continues to be the fastest-growing major economy in the world and is expected to be one of the top three economic powers of the world in the next 10-15 years. India holds the position of the third largest startup ecosystem in the world and is expected to have 100,000 startups by 2025, worth US$ 500 billion, which will create employment for 3.25 million people.
India may even challenge America’s position in technology, media and telecommunications (TMT) sector, said the ‘Global Talent Crunch’ study by Korn Ferry International Inc.

“Left unchecked, the financial impact of this talent shortage amounts to $8.5 trillion in unrealised annual revenue globally over the next 12 years,” it said.

The study covered 20 major developed and developing economies in three regions – the Americas (Brazil, Mexico, the US, EMEA (France, Germany, the Netherlands, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the UK) and Asia Pacific (Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand).

The imminent skilled labour shortage could ultimately shift the global balance of economic power by 2030, if left unaddressed, the study said, and added that technological advancement could be hindered by an acute global labour shortage of 4.3 million TMT workers by 2030.

India will see a Level A (highly skilled) TMT surplus of 1.3 million workers by 2030, offering yet more opportunities for the nation. India could challenge America’s position well before 2030 in the TMT sector,” said the firm.

The study forecasts a talent deficit of 85 million workers by 2030 across the economies analysed and the largest threat in the near term is faced by the US, Japan, France, Germany and Australia with a combined opportunity cost of $1.87 trillion by 2020.

However, the 245 million talent surplus in India poses twin challenge of employability and job creation, the study noted. “If left unchecked, the talent surplus will add to our woes of jobless growth and unemployment,” said Bhavna Sud, Client Partner, Korn Ferry India. Sud said the companies across the world need to rethink their hiring and talent management processes.

“Hire for fit and culture rather than skills because skills come with a shelf life now. Hire people high on agility and make continuous learning a part of your life. Retain your best and show them a growth.”
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Transport your taste buds to the 'land of spices' as you feast on an array of succulent tikka preparations, paired perfectly with tangy chutneys and refreshing lassies to wash it all down.

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India’s fast-paced growth offers Qatar big opportunity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I invite the Indian community to participate in the success of various flagship and infrastructure development projects being undertaken by the Government of India, such as ‘Make in India’. India is on the move, and everyone is invited to be a part of India’s ‘Start-up India’, ‘Stand Up India’, ‘Smart City’ and other initiatives.

As the Ambassador of India to Qatar, I assure you that pride when you hear from Qatar the commitment of our valued contribution made by the Indian community to 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 contribute to India’s growth and development in the coming years. India also looks forward to greater Qatar investments, with investments of more than $1.5 trillion planned in the area of infrastructure, oil and gas, defense and space, making it one of the most attractive markets for leading investors. These factors are reflected in the India-Qatar Joint Business Council’s Report for 2016-17 by the World Economic Forum, which ranks India as a host performer in South Asia for structural reforms undertaken in infrastructure, financial market development, innovation and market size, among others. India attaches great importance to its friendly relations with the State of Qatar, and India is the third largest export destination for Qatar. Qatar is the largest supplier of LNG to India, accounting for 62% of India’s global LNG imports and 10% of Qatar’s total export of LNG. We look forward to enhanced cooperation in the energy sector, as India seeks to enhance the share of natural gas in its energy mix in the next decade.

India is a major exporter of software to Qatar. India’s exports to Qatar witnessed an overall increase of 87% in 2016-17 compared to 2015-16. Indian companies operating in Qatar are seeing opportunities in the areas of information and communication technology, energy and other areas. In addition, Qatar is a strong player in the global 'Smart City' and 'Digital India' initiative, with significant success in various countries. India looks forward to greater Qatar investments, with investments of more than $1.5 trillion planned in the area of infrastructure, oil and gas, defense and space, making it one of the most attractive markets for leading investors. These factors are reflected in the India-Qatar Joint Business Council’s Report for 2016-17 by the World Economic Forum, which ranks India as a host performer in South Asia for structural reforms undertaken in infrastructure, financial market development, innovation and market size, among others. India attaches great importance to its friendly relations with the State of Qatar, and India is the third largest export destination for Qatar. Qatar is the largest supplier of LNG to India, accounting for 62% of India’s global LNG imports and 10% of Qatar’s total export of LNG. We look forward to enhanced cooperation in the energy sector, as India seeks to enhance the share of natural gas in its energy mix in the next decade.

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India retains ‘fastest growing’ economy tag as GDP grows 7.7 pc

The Indian economy grew at its fastest in seven quarters in the January-March period, bolstered by strong performance in construction, manufacturing and public services, pointing to a persistent revival trend and bringing cheer to the government ahead of next year’s general election.

The full FY18 growth estimate was revised upward to 6.7 per cent from 6.6 per cent in the second advance estimate released in February. This is in line with the 6.5 per cent growth forecast by the Economic Survey and down from 7.5 per cent in FY17 with the slowdown being attributed to the lingering effect of demonetisation and the relief of the goods and services tax (GST) in July last year.

Gross domestic product rose a better-than-expected 7.7 per cent in the fourth quarter, retaining India’s ranking as the world’s fastest-growing major economy, outpacing China by nearly a percentage point.

The economy grew at the highest rate since September quarter of FY16, ahead of the demonetisation drive that began November last year. An ET poll of economists had pegged fourth-quarter growth at 7.5 per cent. October-December FY18 growth was revised down to 7.3 per cent from 7.2 per cent estimated earlier. The economy grew 7.0 per cent in the year-ago March quarter.

“GDP growth has been increasing continuously every quarter with growth of 7.7 per cent in Q4 of 2017-18,” finance minister Piyush Goyal tweeted.

“Shows that the economy is on the right track & set for even higher growth in the future.” Goyal is the portfolio while Arun Jaitley recovers from a medical procedure.

Growth measured in gross value added (GVA) terms rose 6.1 per cent in FY18, slower than 7.3 per cent in the previous fiscal. GVA growth in the fourth quarter was the fastest in seven quarters at 7.9 per cent.

India’s economy grew 6.8 per cent in the quarter ended March 31.

Finance secretary Hasmukh Adhia tweeted that the government’s economic policies were bearing fruit.

“The constant increasing trend of quarterly GDP numbers in the four quarters of 2017-18 at 5.8 per cent, 6.5 per cent, 7.7 per cent and 7.9 per cent indicates that the structural measures of reforms undertaken by government is now bringing rich dividends in the form of higher GDP growth,” he said on Twitter.

Growth in the agriculture, manufacturing and construction sectors stood at 4.5 per cent, 9.1 per cent and 15.5 per cent, respectively, in the fourth quarter, with construction benefiting from a strong base effect of 3.5 per cent negative growth in the year-ago period.

Trade, hotels, transportation, communication and services grew at 8 per cent during the fiscal compared with 7.2 per cent during the fiscal compared with 8 per cent growth in the quarter ended March 31.

India’s economy grew 6.8 per cent in the quarter ended March 31, a better-than-expected 7.7 per cent.

The full FY18 growth estimate is now bringing rich dividends in the Indian economy.

“The rebound in growth reinforces CEIs own assessment that the economy is back on track and is set for a strong recovery during the period of demonetisation sparked by demonetisation and GST implication,” said Chandrakant Banerjee, director general, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Though private final consumption expenditure growth in FY18 came in at a three-year low of 6.6 per cent, it turned around in the fourth quarter. India Ratings chief economist Devendra Kumar Pant expects it continue the trend.

The government’s focus on infrastructure and capacity creation to take advantage of the ensuing demand, the expected good monsoon, increased government spending and favourable global growth are expected to do its bit as per the budget anunciements,” said Indira Subban, chief economist at CARE Ratings. India Ratings expects the encouraging trend displayed by manufacturing and construction to continue in the current fiscal.

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**What it means**

Economy recovering at fast pace
GST impact is fading quickly
Investments showing signs of recovery
Labour intensive construction coming out of slumps
High farm monsoons bode well for farmers.
Warm Felicitations and Best Wishes to
The Indian Nationals
& The Government of India
on the occasion of
Indian’s 72nd Independence Day

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Digital payments in India to touch $1 trillion by 2023: Credit Suisse

While Google's Tez app has already played a big role in catapulting digital payments, a big boost will come from WhatsApp and Facebook and other messaging apps building this into their platforms.

Digital payments in India, currently estimated at around $200 billion, are projected to rise fivefold in the next five years to touch $1 trillion, according to an estimate made by Credit Suisse. At this point, the value of digital payments will rise from around 10% right now to around 45%, the study adds. While Google's Tez app has already played a big role in catapulting digital payments, a big boost will come from WhatsApp and Facebook and other messaging apps building this into their platforms.

Growing steadily since the launch of the BHIM Bharat Interface for Money app and its unlinked Payment Channel (UPI) channel has overtaken mobile wallets in terms of the monthly value of transactions. According to data released by the Reserve Bank of India, November 2017 saw a total of 195 million UPI transactions worth Rs 5,640 crore, against 187 million mobile wallet transactions worth Rs 5,381 crore. What's more, taken together, the UPI and mobile-wallet transaction values are now equivalent to a quarter of the value of card transactions made at point of sale terminals. In November, UPI and wallets were used for transactions worth Rs 7,129 crore, while the combined value of debit and credit card transactions stood at Rs 28,779 crore.

A recent report by Credit Suisse says that as Google and then Parth enabled UPI transactions, the volume of payments through the channel has seen a massive surge, with transaction volumes on Tuesday one in a set with non-cash transactions recorded by Axis Bank, which is the fourth-largest bank in terms of digital transactions. As more global technology players follow the footsteps of Google and Samsung to corner a share of the Indian payments market, digital transactions are set for further growth, Credit Suisse said. "WhatsApp, with 230 million daily average users, is by far the most popular app in India and as it works plans to integrate payments button, digital payments are set to explode and we estimate a US$1 trillion market over the next five years," Credit Suisse said.

The report further states that with 860 million bank accounts now linked to Aadhaar, the bulk of existing bank accounts are mobile-transaction ready. This will encourage global technology majors to partner the banks looking to the digital payments payments market. The top four banks — State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank — together account for over 60% of the bank system customer base but drive 85-90% of retail activity levels. The tech aggregators will primarily tap into these franchises, Credit Suisse said. As more customers migrate to digital, banks will also be able to prune operating costs and create new revenue opportunities, according to the investment bank.
PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS

The Indian Embassy, in association with the Indian Cultural Centre, observed the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2018 on 9th January. Speaking at the event, Indian Ambassador P. Kumaran appreciated the Indian community in Qatar for their hard work and commitment which was well acknowledged by the Qatari authorities. The envoy urged the community to support the flagship initiatives of the Government of India. A film on Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) was also screened on the occasion together with remembrance of PBD 2017. More than 200 members from the Indian community attended the event, including last year’s PBD delegates from Qatar.

INDIAN CULTURAL CENTRE (ICC), which works under the aegis of the Indian Embassy, held a cultural show titled ‘Bharat Utsav’ at the Qatar National Convention Centre on 13 April, to highlight India’s cultural heritage. The show featured 350 expatriate artists. The Indian ambassador was the chief guest on the occasion while ambassadors of Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka were the guests of honour.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

The World Environment Day was observed in Qatar with emphasis on the theme of “plastic pollution”. The Indian Embassy in collaboration with Chaliyar-Doha, a community organisation, and Indian schools carried out a number of activities to sensitise the community on the downside of plastic and the need to safeguard the environment. Indian Ambassador P. Kumaran planted saplings in the Embassy premises and in a follow-up program, he administered a pledge on ‘Beat Plastic Pollution’ to the gathering to sensitise them on environmental protection and the ways to reduce plastic pollution.

BHARAT UTSAV

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ON the occasion of India’s 69th Republic Day, Ambassador P. Kumaran hoisted the National Flag on the Embassy premises. After National Anthem by students from Indian schools in Qatar, the Ambassador read out the Hon'ble President of India’s address to the Nation. The programme also included patriotic songs by students of Indian schools, and presentation of gifts to the participants. The Republic Day was celebrated with great joy and patriotic fervour. About 1,000 Indian community members and friends of India in Qatar attended the event. A reception was hosted by the Indian ambassador to commemorate the 69th Republic Day celebration on 28th January, 2018 at Sheraton Hotel, Doha. The event was attended by the Minister of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs HE Dr. Issa Bin Saad Al Jafali Al Nuaimi, Minister of Development Planning and Statistics HE Dr. Salah bin Mohammed Al Nahdi; Chief of Protocol Ibrahim Fakhroo, diplomatic corps and more than 600 members from the Indian community in Qatar.

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Flying Officer Avani Chaturvedi of Indian Air Force (IAF) flew her first solo sortie in a Russian made MiG-21 fighter creating history. The solo sortie in a fighter is the first step to becoming a fully operational fighter pilot.

SOLO CHECK

Flying and more so fighter flying is a zero error profession, an IAF pilot said explaining the need for a Solo Check. Soon after, she would roar down the Jamnagar Airbase and get airborne again. Only, this time she didn’t have anyone flying with her to help her take those split second decisions on a fighter. Experienced flyers and instructors would, however, be at the Air Traffic control of Jamnagar Airbase and on the runway to monitor her flight.

First Sortie

The first sortie of Flying Officer Avani Chaturvedi lasted for about 30 minutes in a super-sonic MiG-21 Bison fighter which is also considered to be a difficult aircraft to handle. The Russian made MiG-21 Bison is also the oldest fighter in IAF’s stable.

In the first sortie you are not expected to carry out very complicated manoeuvres. There are set drills one needs to go through whereby you get a feel of the aircraft, a senior IAF fighter pilot who didn’t want to be named said.

“All fighter pilots are most likely to remember their first sortie. You feel powerful like a bird that has taken its first flight, he added.

Flying officers Chaturvedi, Bhavana Kanth and Mohona Singh were the first women cadets to be admitted into the fighter stream of the IAF in 2016. Till 2016, the IAF’s fighter stream was male only domain. Both Flying Officer Chaturvedi and Flying Officer Kanth have been assigned to the MiG-21 squadron.

More Training

While the first solo sortie is a big step forward for the IAF, Chaturvedi still has few steps to walk before she is considered to be fully operational and can be deployed. She will now train for at least another two years before being deployed as a fully operational pilot.

For the next six months, Flying Officer Chaturvedi will fly the fighter to learn the intricacies of a fighter. She will then graduate to learn about tactical flying and then how to use an aircraft as a war fighting machine. She will have to learn how to fight during the day. After that she will have to learn how to fly and fight at night all over again, a senior IAF instructor said.
India remained the world’s fastest growing domestic aviation market for the third straight year in 2017 as economic and network expansion bolstered the sector, according to global airlines’ body IATA.

India overtook Germany last year to become the world’s fourth-largest auto market in another sign of emerging countries’ growing importance to the industry.

According to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) in its July report, India’s vehicle market grew by 10% to 4.01 million units in the fiscal year, an all-time high, its biggest ever.

Maruti Suzuki India, a subsidiary of Japan’s Suzuki Motor, consolidated its lead in passenger vehicles. The company’s car sales jumped 15% to more than 4.1 million units in 2017, boosting its market share by 2.5 percentage points to 49.6%.

India zooms past Germany as fourth largest auto market

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Indian expatriate groups promote understanding, human values

The aim of these sociocultural groups is to preserve, project, and promote Gujarati values and provide a platform to all Gujaratis expatriates to come together to meet, greet, entertain and celebrate their rich heritage and traditions.

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Within the Indian community in Qatar, a rich diversity is reflected in the Indian diaspora, which comprises about 30 percent of Qatar’s total population. There are more than 100 groups and organisations actively contributing to the diverse community of Indian expats in Qatar. These groups include apocultural associations, professional groups, educational institutions, sport and music organisations, cultural clubs, sports associations and more.

Among the most active Qatari-based Indian groups is the Gujarati Samaj Qatar (GSQ), which was formed in the year 2000 as a result of efforts from some community leaders. The aim was to preserve and promote Gujarati values and provide a platform to all Gujaratis to come together to meet, greet, entertain and celebrate their community and keep the community welfare and socio-cultural activities that have enabled it to spread the positive reputation of the rich Indian culture.

The GSQ President, Hasmukh Patel, has sent greetings on the 72nd Independence Day to President of India Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ambassador of India to Qatar P. Kumaran, and the people of India and Qatar.

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The GSQ has resolved to work with the existing ethos and adapt easily to local traditions and cultures. Although Gujaratis are simple folk with their local culture, at the same time, they maintain their own culture by celebrating their festivals, without disturbing their own culture by celebrating the local society and culture. GSQ celebrated the most popular Indian cultural festivals such as Indian Cultural Festival with the presence of well-known cultural personalities. In the past, GSQ has celebrated Diwali festivals with cultural programs featuring renowned artists such as Bhoomi Purohit, Anwaraj Mehmood, Pankhuri Gairola and Sandeep Saurav. GSQ also hosted ‘Gait’—a folk music program by Gujarati folk artist Upadhyay Ali. The celebration of the International Yoga Day under the banner of the Indian Cultural Festival was also an memorable event.

The GSQ is one of the largest and the most active organisations in Qatar celebrating National Day and Qatar National Sports Day. The organisation has plans to mark the occasion with the encouragement of members and hard work and zeal of the executive committee members and volunteers.

At a time when the whole world has been passing through economic crises and recession, it will be the moral responsibility of GSQ to contribute their bit. The GSQ has resolved to work more actively and efficiently to increase productivity in work and help the organisations, wherever they work. The prosperity of the organisation is the prosperity of Qatar and India. If one prepares for the worst, one has the courage to face the challenges, without fear. The presence of Gujaratis in Qatar is as important.
Mumbai's Art Deco buildings — believed to be the world's second largest collection after New York — were added to UNESCO's World Heritage List alongside the city's better-known Victorian Gothic architecture.

The decision was approved at a UNESCO meeting in Manama.

A not-for-profit team of enthusiasts are in the process of documenting every single one of Mumbai's Art Deco treasures but they estimate there may be more than 500 across India's building financial capital.

The majority of them, built on reclaimed land between the early 1930s and early 1950s, are clustered together in the south of the coastal city where they stand in stark contrast to Victorian Gothic structures.

The Victorian ensemble includes Indian elements suited to the climate, including balconies and verandas,” UNESCO said in a press statement announcing the decision.

“The Art Deco edifices... blend Indian design with Art Deco influences housing the Bombay High Court and Mumbai University, with their opium and landau windows,” UNESCO said.

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UNESCO meeting in Manama.

Victorian Gothic architecture. Across a 22-acre stretch of playing field we have two distinct architectural styles. One symbolic of India's democracy. The other representing the aspirations of a new, wealthy Indian elite.”

Mumbai's Art Deco buildings house residential properties, commercial offices, hospitals and single screen movie theatres, including the city's famous main theatre, which used to be known as Victoria Terminus.

The Bombay High Court, Mumbai University and the headquarters of the city's civic authority are other examples of that style.

They were built in the 20th century as Britain strengthened its hold over India. Many of the edifice buildings — believed to be the world's second largest collection, after New York — were added to UNESCO's World Heritage List alongside the city's better-known Victorian Gothic architecture.

The decision was approved at a UNESCO meeting in Manama.

A not-for-profit team of enthusiasts are in the process of documenting every single one of Mumbai's Art Deco treasures but they estimate there may be more than 500 across India's building financial capital.

The majority of them, built on reclaimed land between the early 1930s and early 1950s, are clustered together in the south of the coastal city where they stand in stark contrast to Victorian Gothic structures.

The Victorian ensemble includes Indian elements suited to the climate, including balconies and verandas,” UNESCO said in a press statement announcing the decision.

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Discovery of a Sub-Saturn Exoplanet around a Sun-like Star

**EPIC catalogue number 101926871**

**Name:** Habitable Exoplanet Imaging Mission (HEIM)

**Instrument:** OSIRIS

**Date:** 2015

**Description:** The OSIRIS instrument, part of the Habitable Exoplanet Imaging Mission, has discovered a potentially habitable exoplanet around a Sun-like star. The planet is located in the habitable zone of the star, making it a prime candidate for hosting life.

**Significance:** This discovery is significant because it enhances our understanding of the potential for life outside our solar system, particularly around Sun-like stars which are more common than other types of stars. The planet's proximity to its star also suggests it could be a good candidate for further exploration and study.

**Further Reading:**
- Osiris: A New Era of Direct Detection Exoplanet Imaging
- The Habitable Exoplanet Imaging Mission (HEIM) and its Potential for Life Detection

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**BrahMos successfully test-fired with indigenous seeker**

India has successfully test-fired the Brahmos supersonic cruise missile with an indigenous seeker at Pokhran test range in Rajasthan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the success will further bolster India’s national security.

**Details:**
- The Brahmos missile, a joint venture between India and Russia, has been successfully test-fired with an indigenous seeker at Pokhran test range in Rajasthan.
- The Indigenous Seeker (IS) Brahmos missile has a range of 290 km.
- The missile was launched from the Kalam Island test range in the Arabian Sea.
- The test was conducted as a part of the nation’s ‘Agni Pragatya Abhiyan’.

**Impact:**
- The successful test-fire of Brahmos missile with an indigenous seeker marks a significant milestone in India’s missile technology.
- It demonstrates India’s capability to develop advanced technologies for defense purposes.

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**Independence Day**

**Nuclear-capable Agni-5 test-fired successfully**

India successfully test-fired the Agni-5, the country’s most advanced ballistic missile, on June 22, 2018, from the Odisha coast. The missile was designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and is the mainstay of India’s nuclear deterrence strategy.

**Key Features:**
- **Range:** 5,000 km.
- **Load:** 1.5 tonnes to a distance of 3,100 km.
- **Mass:** 45 tonnes.
- **Warhead:** Clear warhead weighing 1.5 tonnes.
- **System:** A ballistic missile with a three-stage liquid rocket motor.

**Significance:**
- The Agni-5 test-fire is a significant milestone in India’s strategic deterrent capabilities.
- It showcases India’s capability to develop advanced technologies for defense purposes.

**Further Reading:**
- India’s Nuclear Deterrence Strategy
- The Development of India’s Ballistic Missiles

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**India’s Successfull Launches**

- **Satellites and Missiles:**
  - 100 satellites and 31 missiles have been successfully launched by India in the past two years.
  - India has become a leading player in the global space race.

**Strategic Importance:**
- India’s growing space program is crucial for national security and economic development.
- It enables India to have a strategic advantage in terms of space-based surveillance.

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**Brahmos missile development**

- **System:** A joint venture between India and Russia.
- **Range:** 290 km.
- **Seeker:** Initially imported, now developed independently.

**Impact:**
- The development of Brahmos with indigenous seeker technology is a significant achievement for India’s defense industry.
- It showcases India’s capability to develop advanced technologies for defense purposes.

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**New Satellites Launched**

- **Satellite Information:**
  - The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully launched 21 satellites into space.
  - The latest launches include the communication satellite GSAT-31.

**Significance:**
- ISRO’s growing capacity to launch satellites is a testament to India’s growing space capability.
- It enables India to have a strategic advantage in terms of space-based surveillance.

**Further Reading:**
- India’s Space Launching Capability
- ISRO’s Role in India’s National Security

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**OSIRIS: A Precision Photometric Space Telescope**

- **Institution:** Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC)
- **Purpose:** To search for potentially habitable exoplanets.

**Methodology:**
- **Precision Photometry:** To measure the brightness of stars with high precision.
- **Comparison with the Sun:** The star’s brightness is compared with that of the Sun.

**Impact:**
- The precision photometry data will help astronomers identify potentially habitable exoplanets.
- It will contribute to the search for extraterrestrial life.

**Further Reading:**
- The Search for Exoplanets: A New Era of Discovery
- The Precision Photometry Approach in Exoplanet Detection

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**EPIC: A Photometric Telescope**

- **Institution:** Planetary Science Institute (PSI)
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**Further Reading:**
- The Search for Exoplanets: A New Era of Discovery
- The Precision Photometry Approach in Exoplanet Detection
Mussoorie is a perfect holiday destination offering a wonderful view of the Himalayan snow range to its northeast. The town is simply a fairyland with a breathtaking view of the snow-capped mountains. It also serves as the gateway to the shrines of ‘Gangotri’ and ‘Yamunotri’.

History
Mussoorie was declared a tourist spot by the British colonials in the 1820s when they reached out to the hills in order to escape the scorching summers of the plains. The town was first discovered by Captain Young. The name Mussoorie is derived from the ‘Mansur shrub’ that is commonly found in the Himalayan foothills.

Several other interesting places to see in and around Mussoorie are Van Chetna Kendra (a huge park with several animals and birds), Municipal Gardens (Botanical gardens laid down by Dr. H. Fackner, a geologist), Tibetan Temple, Lake Mist, Childers Lodge (highest vantage point in the vicinity), Mossey Falls, Sukhanda Devi temple etc.

Shopping:
The Mall of Mussoorie is a nice place to shop for Tibetan metal ware, brokhis, antiques, hand-carved walking sticks, cane baskets, embroidered wall hangings, dry pine-cones, hill jewellery etc.

Best Time to Visit:
April to June and September to November

HOW TO GET THERE
Jolly Grant at Dehradun (about 30 km) is the nearest airport that operates flights to Delhi on a regular basis.

Dehradun (35 km) is the nearest rail head. The distance from Dehradun to Mussoorie can be covered by bus or taxi.

Mussoorie is connected by regular bus services to all the major cities in the region like Srinagar, Garhwal (135 km), Rishikesh (35 km), Nainital (290 km), etc.
India’s logistics sector to grow at 8-10 pc over medium term: ICRA

The Indian logistics sector is expected to grow at 8-10 per cent over the medium term, domestic ratings agency ICRA has said.

“ICRA maintains a stable outlook for the Indian logistics industry, expecting it to grow at 8-10 per cent over the medium term,” the ratings agency said in a statement.

The demand growth would continue to be driven by pick up in industrial activity and consumption-led sectors, while increased focus on logistics activities would provide further impetus to organised players, it added.

Additionally, supply-side factors like improvement in logistics infrastructure and emergence of logisticsstart-ups would offer further impetus to growth, it said.

Providence of trends like rise in integrated logistics, e-commerce logistics, investments in warehousing and penetration of technology in the sector, in tandem with the ongoing shift towards organised logistics players, would also drive a structural shift in the industry over the longer term, it added.

With industrial output and consumption-driven sectors recovering in the second half of FY18 from the initial lull post GST implementation, the freight demand in India has also reported healthy picks during the said period, it said.

“Performance of the key logistics companies indicates that there was pickup in growth momentum as the year progressed. From an aggregate revenue growth of only 4.6 per cent in Q4 FY17-18, the sample’s growth gained pace to 6 to 8 per cent in Q4 FY18-19, as freight volumes picked up,” ICRA Vice President and Sector Head – Corporate Ratings Shukanur Desai said.

“Transporters also took advantage of the improvement in freight demand to pass on the increase in diesel prices to their customers during the latter half of the year, as against freight rate cuts undertaken earlier in the year, in light of weak demand,” Desai said.

The implementation of GST also considerably impacted the functioning of the logistics sector – in terms of transportation time, preference for organised players and warehousing strategy employed by companies.

“ICRA estimates that there have been savings as high as 18-20 per cent in the truck turn-around time post the implementation of GST, supported by elimination of inter-state check points,” Desai added.

The implementation of E-way bill from April 2018 has also been received positively by the transporter community, with operational efficiencies and tax savings realised on account of the same.

Companies are also interacting with supply chain management companies in order to explore opportunities to redesign their warehousing networks, Desai said.

Skill Development Centre: Promoting passion for art and culture in Doha

The newly opened campus of Skill Development Centre at New Salata in Doha.

The distinctive mission of SDC is: “Dedicated to preserving and promoting the ancient Indian art forms and to continue providing quality education in Indian tradition and culture through various arts of classical and folk dances, vocal and instrumental music, and Performing Arts and Fine Arts.”

SDC is also providing personality development and character building from different age groups also learn karate and yoga.

SDC intends to use music to the betterment of students. Indian musical culture has always heralded a sublime state evocative of人员的个性OOD (vocal and instrumental), folk dance forms, classical music and instrumental arts.

Two years ago, SDC opened a new facility at Al-Thumama in addition to the existing facility at New Salata. To meet the growing demand of students and families, a new annexe has been built close to the existing facility, considering their convenience.

Currently, students at SDC are offered specialization in a variety of Indian classical and folk dance forms, classical music (vocal and instrumental), contemporary dance forms and music, fine arts, karate, yoga, and personality development. Each class has a well-defined syllabus to improve confidence, focus, concentration, team spirit, positive thinking, discipline, all round development and body language. A combined faculty provides each student individual care and attention.

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A combined faculty provides each student individual care and attention. SDC invites students from diverse national and international backgrounds. It offers a place where people can learn professional arts, meet new people and feel comfortable during their training.

The vibrant atmosphere encourages students to focus on their chosen art forms for professional careers.

SDC has also been promoting inter-cultural and cultural interactions between nationals and expatriates. The courses offered at SDC give everyone a chance to train and perform at their best. The students are provided with ample opportunities to perform in front of encouraging audiences consisting of parents, friends and well-wishers.

Events are organised, particularly at the Centre in addition to stage programmes for Qatar National Day, Indian Independence Day, Indian Republic Day, Varenya Indian and local festivals and other days of national and international importance throughout the year.

The students vary from the age group of 6 to 95, including the common interest of three generations, and an affordable cost.

The SDC promotes passion for art and culture.
wishes the Indian Nationals in Qatar

Happy 72\textsuperscript{nd} INDIAN Independence day
India’s smartphone market grew 14 percent with total shipments of 124 million units in 2017, the fastest pace of growth among the top 20 markets, according to International Data Corp.

The opportunity is just massive,” said Faisal Kawoosa, who heads new initiatives at researcher CMR Pvt. “India’s third-largest economy attracted record foreign direct investment in the past year totaling $62 billion, up from $43 billion in 2016, according to International Data Corp. In Oppo Mobiles are building factories in the world’s fastest growing market for the product bolstering Modi’s push to encourage overseas investors to “Make in India.” Asia’s third-largest country of 1.3 billion people where there are only 425 million smartphone users.

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Reliance is on the cusp of transformation as it hopes to get as much as half of its revenue from newer consumer businesses and reducing its dependence on traditional oil-refining and petrochemical segments.

Reliance gives India second $100-billion firm in three months

Reliance is on the cusp of transformation as it hopes to get as much as half of its revenue from newer consumer businesses and reducing its dependence on traditional oil-refining and petrochemical segments.

India is the fastest growing smartphone market

AMSUNG Electronics Co. opened the world’s largest mobile phone factory in India, in a win for Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s flagship program to lure investors to manufacture in the South Asian nation. The factory was inaugurated by Modi and South Korean President Moon Jae-in during their visit to the facility in Noida earlier this month. This will double Samsung’s Noida unit capacity for mobile phones to 120 million units a year from 60 million units a year, it said in a statement, but declined to give further details. The phase-wise expansion will be completed by 2021.

Smartphone makers from Samsung to Oppo Mobiiles are building factories in the world’s fastest growing market for the product bolstering Modish’s push to encourage overseas investors to “Make in India.” Asia’s third-largest economy attracted record foreign direct investment in the past year totaling $62 billion, up from $43 billion in 2016, according to International Data Corp.

The factory was inaugurated by Modi and South Korean President Moon Jae-in during their visit to the facility in Noida, India, on July 9, 2018.
India's Manushi rules the world

India's Manushi Chhillar recently won the coveted Miss World 2017 crown at a grand event in China, becoming the country's first Miss World winner in 17 years. The 20-year-old from Haryana, who is a medical student, edged out top runners-up Miss France Camille Cerf and Miss Mexico Andrea Meza to claim the top prize.

Manushi Chhillar (centre) with Runner-ups.

Manushi Chhillar, who is a medical student, has become the first Indian to win the Miss World title in 17 years. The previous medal winners were France's Camille Cerf and Mexico's Andrea Meza. The last Indian to win the title was Diana Hayden in 1997, followed by Yukta Mookhey in 1994 and Reita Faria back in 1966. Chhillar was presented the crown by Stephanie Del Valle, the last year's Miss World winner from Puerto Rico at an event held at a resort in the coastal city of Sanya.

"I think a mother deserves the highest respect and when you talk about salary it's not always about cash but I feel it's the love and respect that you give to someone. My mother has always been the biggest inspiration in my life. All mothers sacrifice as much for their kids. So, I think it is the job of a mother that deserves the highest salary," Chhillar said in a wide-angle.

Chhillar is the sixth Indian to win the coveted Miss World title, which was first won by Reita Faria back in 1966. Anu Aga, who is a member of the Aga family, which was first won by Ritu Protein in 1999. Anu Aga, who is a member of the Aga family, which was first won by Ritu Protein in 1999.

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According to Chhillar's profile on the Miss World website, her father, Dr. Minu Reema Chhillar, is a scientist at the Defence Research and Development Organisation, while her mother, Dr. Neelam Chhillar, is an associate professor and department head of neuroscience at the Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences. Chhillar studied at St. Theresa's School in New Delhi and is pursuing a medicine degree at the Bhagat Phool Singh Government Medical College for Women in Sonipat.

Hima Das wins gold in women's 400m event at IAAF World U-20 Athletics

Hima Das recently scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman to win a gold at the IAAF World Under-20 Athletics Championships as she clinched the gold in the women's 400m race in the same.

The 18-year-old Das, who became a living legend in India, won the gold in Poland in the last edition in 2016.

She was a favourite to win gold as she was the U-20 world record holder in the 400m. Das clocked an Indian U-20 record of 51.32 seconds to finish sixth in the Commonwealth Games 400m final in Gold Coast in April. Since then, she has gone onto improving her timing. She lowered the Indian U-20 record in 400m to 51.31 seconds while winning gold in the recent National Inter-State Championships in Guwahati.

Das won a medal in the history of this competition. The previous medal winners at the World Junior Championships were Farah Potra (Denmark in 2003) and Yevgeniya Shaliya (Ukraine in 2002).

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