



## Independence Day of India

# A Celebration of Freedom and Unity

### THE TIMES KUWAIT REPORT

Every year on August 15, India celebrates its Independence Day, marking the end of British colonial rule in 1947. This day is not just a public holiday but a significant event that commemorates the sacrifices and struggles of countless freedom fighters who fought for the nation's sovereignty.



The roots of India's struggle for independence can be traced back to the late 19th century when the Indian National Congress (INC) was formed in 1885. The INC became the principal leader of the Indian independence movement, advocating for self-rule and civil rights. The movement gained momentum under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, who championed non-violent resistance and civil disobedience against British rule.

The pivotal moment came during World War II when the British government, weakened by the war, promised to grant India independence. However, the process was fraught with challenges, including the partition of India and Pakistan, which led to widespread violence and displacement. Despite these hardships, India emerged as a free nation on 15 August, 1947.



Independence Day is celebrated with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor across India. The day begins with the Prime Minister hoisting the national flag at the Red Fort in Delhi, followed by a speech addressing the nation. This tradition was started by India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, who delivered his famous 'Tryst with Destiny' speech on the eve of independence.

The flag-hoisting ceremony is accompanied by a grand parade showcasing India's cultural diversity and military prowess. Various states also organize their own celebrations, including flag-hoisting ceremonies, parades, and cultural programs. Schools and colleges participate actively, with students performing patriotic songs, dances, and skits.

Independence Day is not only a time for celebrations, it is also an opportunity for all of us to reflect on the values of freedom, democracy, and unity. It serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by freedom fighters and the importance of preserving the hard-earned independence. The day also highlights India's progress and achievements in various fields, from science and technology to arts and culture.

In recent years, the celebrations have also included initiatives to promote social causes such as cleanliness drives, tree planting, and awareness campaigns on various issues. These activities aim to instill a sense of responsibility and community service among citizens.

Indian communities around the world also celebrate Independence Day with equal enthusiasm. Indian embassies and consulates organize flag-hoisting ceremonies, cultural programs, and community gatherings. These events serve as a platform for Indians abroad to connect with their roots and celebrate their heritage.

Independence Day is more than just a holiday; it is a day of pride, unity, and reflection for every Indian. It is a celebration of the nation's journey from colonial rule to becoming a sovereign republic. As India continues to progress and evolve, Independence Day remains a testament to the enduring spirit of freedom and the collective aspirations of its people.

### Ambassador's Message on 78th Independence day of India

On the special occasion of India's 78th Independence Day, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all Indian nationals and persons of Indian origin residing in Kuwait. I would also like to convey my profound gratitude to the leadership, government and people of Kuwait for their steadfast support for strong and friendly ties between our two countries. India remains committed to



H.E. Adarsh Swaika

further strengthening and expanding this long-standing partnership.

As we celebrate 78 years of independence, it is a significant milestone in our pursuit of a resurgent and self-reliant India, the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi outlined Amrit Kaal: Vision 2047: a 25-year roadmap for India's development, aiming for India

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Celebrating the glorious nation and its inspiring journey through historic achievements

Happy 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day

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# HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY - 2024



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Happy Independence Day  
to all proud Indians!







# HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY INDIA



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# Kuwaiti ambassador in India lauds bilateral relations

*Ambassador Mishaal Al-Shamal stated that there are currently 26 schools in Kuwait that follow the curriculum of the Central Council for Secondary Education (CBSE) for India, where more than 60,000 students of different nationalities study, most of them Indians. Some Kuwaiti students also go to India to study postgraduate programs in the finest Indian universities.*

Kuwait's ambassador to India, Mishaal Al-Shamal, confirmed that Kuwaiti-Indian relations are well-established and deep-rooted in the depths of history, and date back to the earliest times when Arabs knew the sea-routes for trade with the Indian subcontinent. Alluding to the excellent people to people relations between Kuwait and India, the ambassador noted that today there were nearly one million Indians in Kuwait, and that thousands of Kuwaitis make regular trips to India each year.

Ambassador Al-Shamali also disclosed that the two countries are keen to boost their bilateral relations to the level of strategic partnership and intensify cooperation in various fields. He revealed that the seventh round of political consultations will be held next year in New Delhi.

He stated that political cooperation is a fundamental pillar of bilateral relations between Kuwait and India, and that both countries believe in peace and stability in the region. This is particularly poignant in that India is now moving to strengthen its relations with the GCC countries with whom India is deeply linked.

He pointed out that the health sector is one of the most important aspects of cooperation between Kuwait and India, which has achieved

tangible achievements over the past few years. He noted that Indian doctors provide excellent health care in Kuwait hospitals, especially during the outbreak of the pandemic.

He added that competent authorities in both countries are making sincere efforts to enhance cooperation in the field of public health and are keen to exchange views. The two sides also hold meetings to discuss topics in the field of healthcare, discuss procedures for implementing health cooperation agreements and protocols, exchange experiences, and recruit doctors, technicians and nursing staff from India to Kuwait.

He stated that there are about 1000 doctors, 500 dentists and about 24,000 nurses from India currently working in Kuwait, and that their services were highly appreciated, and their contribution to the development of the state's health system widely acknowledged. Kuwait is also working to strengthen the medical partnership with India, to benefit from Indian medical institutions by exchanging ideas and bringing medical and health staff to the country, said the ambassador.

He also pointed out that educational cooperation plays a vital role in consolidating bilateral relations between Kuwait and India. These educational ties are stronger after both



countries signed a number of agreements on cooperation in the fields of culture, education and education, including a MOU on cooperation in the field of education and higher education.

These agreements contribute to facilitating procedures for cooperation in the fields of student and faculty exchange, joint research and development projects, curriculum design, participation in cultural and educational events and the exchange of best practices and experiences, as well as the development of programs related to student needs in both countries.

He stated that there are currently 26 schools in Kuwait that follow the curriculum of the Central Council for Secondary Education (CBSE)

for India, where more than 60,000 students of different nationalities study, most of them Indians. Some Kuwaiti students also go to India to study postgraduate programs in the finest Indian universities.

Al-Shamali added that India is one of the most important trading partners of Kuwait, and the level of trade and investment relations between the two countries increased significantly during the past years. He pointed out that the completion of free trade negotiations between the GCC countries and the Republic of India will inevitably lead to more mutual economic and trade growth of Kuwait and the countries of the region.

He pointed out that Kuwait has significant investments in Indian territory covering several areas, the most important of which is petrochemicals, where the total foreign direct investment from Kuwait to India until March 2023 amounted to over USD10 billion due to the attractiveness of the Indian economy and the amount of foreign investments in India over the past few years.

He pointed out that in return, Kuwait is keen to attract more Indian investments and talents, by adopting a new strategy to encourage Indian investment in a variety of promising sectors, including infrastructure, manufacturing, tourism, health and renewable energy.

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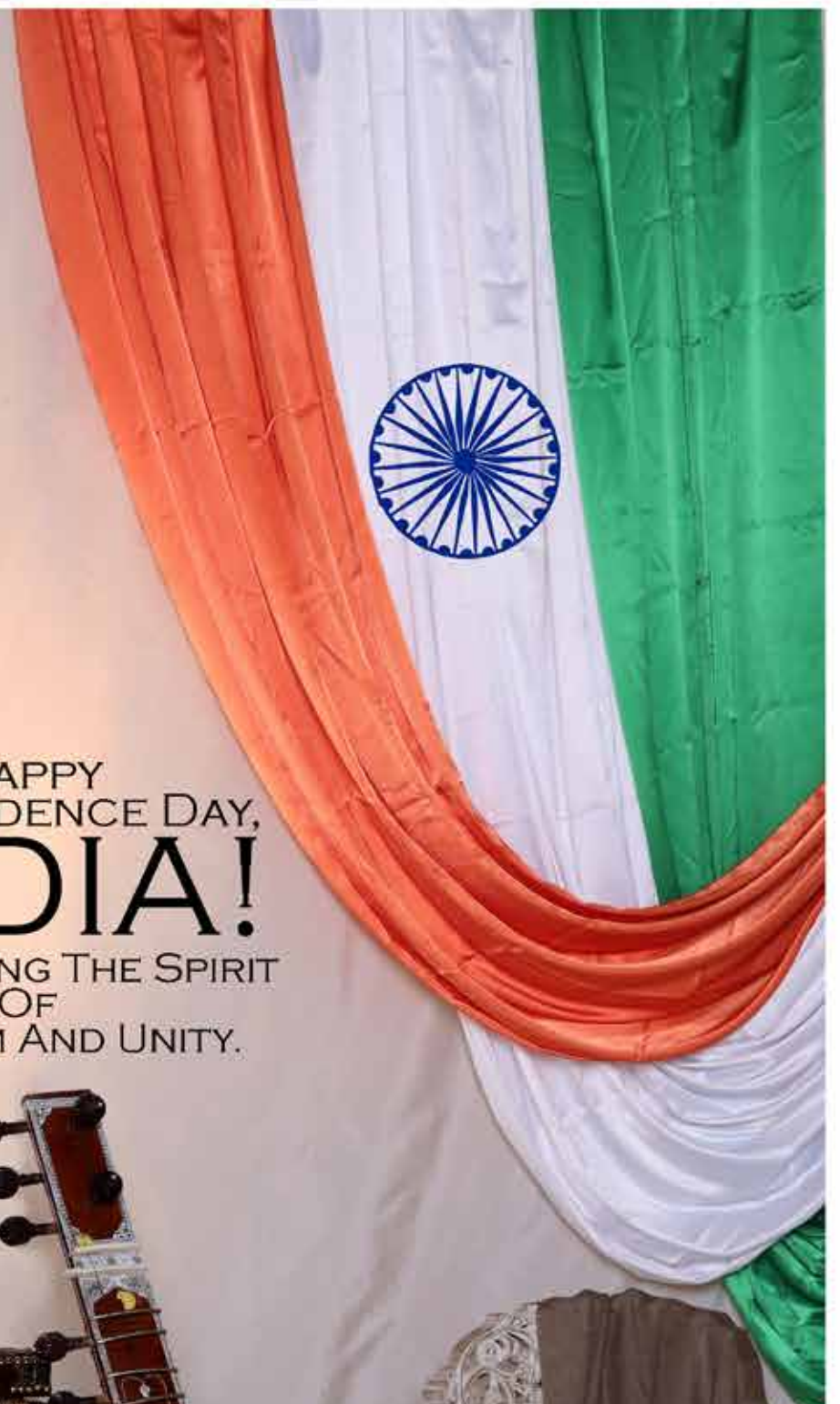
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Indian food has a long and rich history that dates back to at least 5,000 years ago. Indian cuisine has been influenced by many different cultures and religions throughout its history, resulting in a complex and varied cuisine.

From the spice-filled dishes of the Mughal era to the traditional vegetarian fare of the South, Indian food has something for everyone. Thanks to its incredible variety of flavors, colors, and textures, it has become a beloved part of the world's food culture.

Indian food is now enjoyed worldwide, and its popularity is only growing. If you are wondering why Indian food is so popular worldwide, here are four reasons that make Indian food a global favorite.

**Taste of Indian Food:** Indian food is renowned for its unique and unforgettable taste. The secret to the fantastic taste of Indian food lies in the abundant spices and herbs used in cooking.



The flavors in Indian food typically include a combination of sweet, sour, spicy, and savory. The sweetness comes from using sugar, honey, and jaggery, while ingredients like tamarind, lemon juice, and vinegar provide sour flavors.

Meanwhile, the spicy flavors come from various spices such as coriander, cumin, and chili powder, and savory flavors are provided using ingredients like ginger, garlic, and onion. Combined, these flavors create complex and delicious dishes you will not get anywhere else.

**Nutritional Value of Indian Food:** Indian food is renowned for its nutritional value, with traditional recipes passed down through generations. Many Indian dishes are full of health benefits, thanks to their use of spices, herbs and vegetables. Spices such as turmeric, cardamom, cumin and coriander contain potent antioxidants that can help reduce inflammation and protect against various health conditions.



Indian cuisine also incorporates a wide range of vegetables packed full of vitamins and minerals essential for our health and well-being. This combination of health-boosting spices and nutritious vegetables makes Indian food one of the world's most nutritious and enjoyable cuisines, explaining why it has become a global favorite.



**Versatility of Indian Food:** Indian food is renowned for its versatility and diversity. With a wide variety of spices, herbs, and ingredients, the possibilities are truly endless. Each region has unique flavor combinations, from the spicy curries of the north to the coconut-flavored fish dishes of the South.

Indian food is also quite flexible, as it can be adapted to suit any dietary restrictions and preferences, such as vegetarianism, veganism, and gluten-free diets. And since Indian food is so widely enjoyed, it can be easily found in restaurants worldwide, making it a global favorite.

**Health Benefits of Indian Food:** Indian food is renowned for its health benefits due to its use of natural ingredients like herbs, spices and vegetables. The spices used in Indian cooking have antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and antimicrobial properties, which help boost immunity and prevent chronic diseases.

Much of Indian food also has low-calorie content, making it an ideal food for people looking to lose weight. Additionally, many Indian dishes are cooked in healthy oils, such as mustard oil, which is known to reduce cholesterol levels.



**Finally,** Indian food is also rich in proteins and essential vitamins, making it a great source of nutrition. When consumed in moderation, Indian food is a veritable source of vitamins and minerals necessary for maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Indian food is truly unique and has a flavor and texture that is highly sought after by people around the world. With its delicious spices and herbs, and the wide variety of dishes available, Indian food has something to offer everyone.

Its rich and diverse history has resulted in a truly unique cuisine, and its vibrant and colorful presentation makes it a feast for the eyes and the taste buds. Whether you prefer the spicy curries of the North or the seafood of the South, Indian food will satisfy your appetite and tantalize your taste buds.







# Geopolitics of The Indo-Pacific



**By Dr Mohan Kumar**  
Former Indian Ambassador to France and presently  
Dean/Professor at O.P. Jindal Global University.

Way back in 1890, Captain Alfred Thayer Mahan, a lecturer in naval history and the president of the United States Naval War College, published *The Influence of Sea Power upon History, 1660–1783*, a revolutionary analysis of the importance of naval power as a factor in the rise of the British Empire. Mahan argued that British control of the seas, combined with a corresponding decline in the naval strength of its major European rivals, paved the way for Great Britain's emergence as the world's dominant military, political, and economic power. Mahan and some leading American politicians believed that these lessons could be applied to U.S. foreign policy, particularly in the quest to expand U.S. markets overseas.

The United States of America considers itself a maritime power and more recently, as an Indo-Pacific nation. The concept of Indo-Pacific was first enunciated by the late Japanese leader Shinzo Abe in August 2007. In a speech to the Indian Parliament, he said presciently: "We are now at a point at which the Confluence of the Two Seas is coming into being. The Pacific and the Indian Oceans are now bringing about a dynamic coupling as seas of freedom and of prosperity." Building on the informal cooperation between US, Japan, India and Australia during the Tsunami that hit Asia in 2004, a quadrilateral security dialogue (hereinafter referred to as Quad) was suggested by the late Japanese leader Shinzo Abe in 2007. But by 2008, the initial enthusiasm wore off with both Australia and India at various times expressing reluctance. It took until March 2018 for the Quad to really be institutionalised. Geopolitics was evident when in one of the first reactions to this renewed initiative, the Chinese Foreign Minister then (and now) Wang Yi said it was a "headline grabbing" idea which will "dissipate like sea foam". Well, the Quad is here to stay and far from dissipating like sea foam has gone from strength to strength, much to the angst of China. More on this later.

It is easy to understand why the Indo-Pacific is important for democratic countries which believe in keeping sealines of communication open and advocate a rules-based maritime order. The region is home to more than half the world's population, and it accounts for 60 percent of global GDP as well as two-thirds of global economic growth.

Japanese leader Abe's genius lay in enunciating an integral view of both the Indian and Pacific Oceans by arguing that maritime security is indivisible and inalienable. Of course, for the United States of America, Australia and Japan the Pacific Ocean is the world's largest and deepest ocean covering more than 30 per cent of the Earth's surface. The sheer economic importance of this in the form of minerals, oil & gas, fishing grounds etc cannot be overstated. It also matters because of climate and food security. Equally, from a geopolitical perspective, China wants the United States of America out of the Pacific so it can call the shots there. China views the US as an extraneous power which has no business being in the Pacific, which it considers as its own backyard. The US, on the other hand, considers itself as an Indo-Pacific power and recognises the region as vital to its security and prosperity. The United States has expressed determination to strengthen its long-term position in and commitment to the Indo-Pacific. With this in mind, the United States of America intends to focus on every corner of the region, from Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia to South Asia and Oceania, including the Pacific Islands. In a quickly changing strategic landscape, the United States of America believes its interests can only be advanced if it firmly anchors itself in the Indo-Pacific and strengthen the region alongside its closest allies and partners.

India deciding to join and work with Quad countries is a strategic move of great import. It can even be described as the most important geopolitical strategy of India's since the end of cold war. The reason for this important move must first and foremost be traced to China's aggressive designs in the region. China believes it is entitled to a permanent maritime presence in the Indian Ocean. This is of recent vintage dating back to 2008. China believes while it is called "Indian Ocean" it is certainly not India's Ocean! However, it does not admit of the same logic when it comes to South China or East China Sea; it can be argued equally that this is not China's Sea after all! For India, there is a twin challenge posed by China: one which is maritime and the other which is continental. India cannot allow either the Indian Ocean or the Himalayas to be dominated by China. India knows that in the Himalayas, it must bear the cross all by itself. In the Indian ocean however, India is enlisting




help from its partners and friends and has decided on a series of plurilateral or mini-lateral groupings to counter China. This is based on the sober assessment of a significant power differential between China and India.

India is aware that the US and its Western allies are more focused on the Pacific theatre. This has led India to undertake several initiatives of its own in the Indian Ocean. Some of these are: Indian Ocean Naval Symposium which seeks to enhance maritime cooperation among the littoral states of the Indian Ocean region; SAGAR or security and growth for all in region; Colombo Security Conclave involving India, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Mauritius; and the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region which enhances efforts to combat maritime security threats. Finally, India is a part of the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA), a Quadrilateral Security Dialogue initiative that aims to offer an integrated and cost-effective awareness to its members so they can fully monitor the waters on their shores.

All this is to say that, geopolitics will continue to drive strategy of different countries in the all-important Indo-Pacific region.

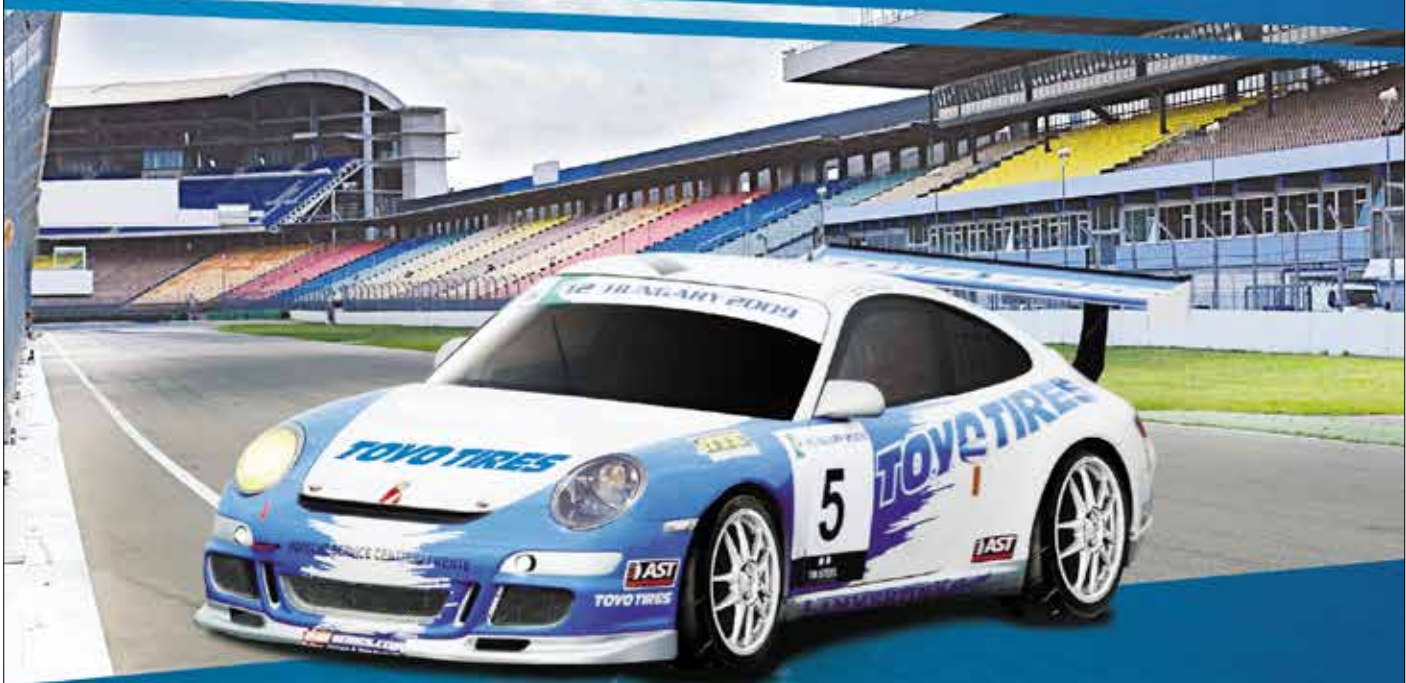
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# Nalanda: The Earliest Known University

*The Government of India is making a notable effort to revive the real legacy of Nalanda, so that people can see the value of this tradition and how it enriches the tapestry of global knowledge. What is more, the comparative study of the Nalanda tradition, and modern science can definitely uplift our civilisation. This ancient tradition is a science of life which can help us so much.*

**By Prof. Benoy K Behl**  
Art Historian, Filmmaker and Photographer

At the ancient university of Nalanda, there was a spirit of vibrant intellectual thought, a climate of discussion and debate. The many 'acharyas', or learned professors, at Nalanda authored hundreds of works on philosophy, metaphysics, psychology, logic, medicine, astrology, arts, literature and other subjects.

The study at Nalanda was of life itself and what is reality. It was based not upon faith but on unshakable logic and pursuit of the truth. The study was of our minds, our perceptions and what is knowledge itself. The intellectuals here analysed the qualities which led to enlightenment through knowledge and sought to create a logical path which could lead us to true and lasting awareness. A path which would work for all.

Nalanda was the first known, great university of the world. It was also at the apex of a consortium of universities which developed in ancient and early medieval times in South and South-East Asia. It was from these ancient universities that concepts of rigorous and logical study finally spread to other parts of the world, leading to the founding of universities in Europe. The consortium of universities with Nalanda at its apex, included: Vikramshila, Odantapuri, Somapura Mahavihara or Paharpur Buddhist Vihara in Bangladesh, Takshashila (Pakistan), and Balkh (Afghanistan). Nalanda was the earliest-known University in the world and this was the first consortium. It is quite amazing to see that such study and sharing of universal knowledge took place in the First Millennium.



Seal found at the Nalanda University. This was a vast educational institution with thousands of scholars and teachers. It must have required a complex and effective administrative system. (Collection: ASI Museum, Nalanda) Photograph by Benoy K Behl

The Government of India is making a notable effort to revive the real legacy of Nalanda, so that people can see the value of this tradition and how it enriches the tapestry of global knowledge. What is more, the comparative study of the Nalanda tradition, and modern science can definitely uplift our civilisation. This ancient tradition is a science of life which can help us so much.

The honourable Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi inaugurated the new campus of Nalanda University, an international university, close to the site of the ancient ruins of Nalanda, in Bihar, on the 19 June, 2024.

The modern Nalanda University was established as an 'international institution for pursuit of intellectual, philosophical, historical



Nalanda University, Bihar. The university of Nalanda was one of the greatest centres of learning that the world has seen from the 4th to the 12th centuries. Photograph by Benoy K Behl

and spiritual studies'. The impetus to set up this institution came under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister, when a major push was given from 2014 onwards, to establish the University as an international center of learning and scholarship, reminding the world of the 21st century of the eminence of ancient Nalanda.

This international university, apart from India, has participation from 17 other nations: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Portugal, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The University has 137 scholarships for international students. It offers Post Graduate and Doctoral research courses and short-term certificate courses. It has six schools, the School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy & Comparative Religions; the School of Historical Studies; the School of Ecology and Environmental Studies; the School of Sustainable Development and Management; the School of Languages and Literature; and the School of International Relations and Peace Studies which is yet to commence. A Library with a capacity to hold 3,00,000 Books and serving up to 3,000 users is scheduled to be completed by September 2024. This would be in keeping with the glorious tradition of the original Nalanda University.

The best-known Buddhist universities, Nalanda, Vikramasila and Odantapuri, were in Eastern India, in the region of present-day Bihar. The greatest of these centres of study was at Nalanda. It was a hub of learning where pilgrims and scholars came from all corners of Asia.

Nalanda was visited by the Buddha himself. In the third-century BCE, Emperor Ashoka is believed to have made offerings to the chaitya of Sariputra and erected a temple here. However, the origins of the university itself are obscured in the mists of time. The medieval Tibetan historian Taranatha mentions that the great Buddhist philosopher Nagarjuna who was born in the middle of the second-century CE taught here.

Excavations at the Nalanda site have revealed numerous stupas, monasteries, hostels, staircases, meditation halls and other structures. These speak of the splendour of the university which was also famed for its three magnificent libraries.

The Chinese pilgrim Xuanzang of the seventh-century wrote that, of the myriad Buddhist establishments of India, Nalanda "is the most remarkable for its grandeur". The priests and other residents "always reach to the number of ten thousand". Another Chinese traveller I-Tsing travelled in India at the end of the seventh-century. He reported that in these monasteries Buddhist sutras were taught as well as Sanskrit grammar, Indian Logic and Metaphysics, fine arts and medicine. There was a rigorous oral entry

examination and only the best students were given admission. It was a residential university where the staff and students had free boarding and lodging. No tuition fees were charged. Xuanzang records that there were students here from Tibet, China, Korea, Japan, Sumatra, Java and Sri Lanka. It was truly an international university.

The highest intellectual atmosphere of debate and scholarship was maintained at the Nalanda university. This was the thriving intellectual environment of Nalanda which produced the most notable Buddhist thinkers who brought about significant developments in Buddhism.

The most revered name in Mahayana Buddhist philosophy is that of Nagarjuna who was born in the middle of the second-century CE, in South India. He was a luminary of the Nalanda University and he formalised the concept of Sunyata or 'Emptiness'. The Madhyamika School of Buddhism, or 'The Middle Path', was created on the teachings of Nagarjuna.

Dinnaga of Nalanda University was born at Kanchipuram in South India. He lived in the fifth-century and is known as the founder of the system of Buddhist Logic. He authored over a hundred

the Odantapuri Mahavihara in Eastern India. At his suggestion, the Tibetan king also invited Guru Padmasambhava, who was then teaching in the region of Kashmir at that time. Padmasambhava, who was also of the Nalanda University, went on to become the most revered person in the entire Himalayan and trans-Himalayan region, where he is known as the 'The Second Buddha'. The Guru swept across the mountains, establishing Buddhism in Ladakh, Lahaul-Spiti, Kinnaur, Tibet, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh.

Atisa or Dipankara Srijnana (980-1054) was born in East Bengal, studied at Nalanda University and then became one of the leading teachers at the University of Vikramshila, also in Bihar. He was invited to Tibet by King Yeshe 'Od and he accepted his invitation at the age of 60, in CE 1040. He left Vikramshila and stayed in Tibet until his death. He consolidated the true knowledge of Buddhism in that land.

Nalanda marks the beginning of the Pan-Indian medieval idiom in art. The perfected human form was created in Indian art by the fifth-century CE, to help in meditation and to awaken the grace within us. At Nalanda, in the post-Gupta period,



treatises on the subject, most of which are still preserved in Chinese and Tibetan translations.

When Xuanzang visited Nalanda, he studied under the famed guru Dharmapala. The teacher was also known for having spread the knowledge of Buddhism in Indonesia. One of the noted students of Dharmapala was the brilliant logician Dharmakirti. He lived in the seventh-century and was born at Tirumala in South India. Dharmakirti's writings mark one of the highest points reached in speculative philosophy.

The learned Santaraksita of Nalanda University founded the first monastic order in Tibet. He also modelled Samye, the first monastery of Tibet, on

the focus came on the dynamism of the intellect, which analyses in acute detail the qualities which lead to nirvana. This is reflected in the vitality and sharp features of the stucco sculptures found at Nalanda. The figures have a greater stylization than in earlier Indian art.

Angular and dynamic relief made in the plinth of stupas was a common feature during the Pala period. This is found beginning at Nalanda and spreading across Eastern India and Bangladesh, going up to Tripura, where it is seen in the remains of the Pilak stupa in Udayagiri District. The educational and cultural legacy of Nalanda University is indeed remarkable.





# India and Africa

## Relations in the Past and Present



By Ambassador A.R. Ghanshyam

Relations between India and Africa go back to ancient times of the Indus Valley civilization (3300 to 1300 BC), when Egyptians (3150 BCE to 30 BCE) and the kingdom of Aksum (100 CE to 940 CE) had trade relations with ancient India.

In recent times, India was one of the earliest colonies to be freed from the British Empire. After independence, Indian leaders spearheaded the long struggle for decolonisation of Africa at the United Nations, which many elder Africans recollect with nostalgia. British authorities took many skilled Indians to their African colonies because of the advantage of language as well as skills. In several English speaking African countries, the contribution of Indian doctors and teachers is widely recognised.

After presenting my credentials on 5 March, 2014 as Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria, I sat down for an informal chat with then President of Nigeria Goodluck Ebele Jonathan. I distinctly recall his words, "You know Ambassador, an entire generation of Nigerians were taught by Indian teachers, treated by Indian doctors and grew up wearing Indian apparel and watching Indian movies. Wherever you go in my country you will find that your country has enormous goodwill."

That sentiment was very much evident when I travelled across the country during my tenure as High Commissioner. At that time Nigeria accounted for a quarter of the GDP of Africa and close to a fifth of the continent's population. Then as well as now, Nigeria is the largest trading partner of India in Africa with bilateral trade close to USD20 billion till the Ukraine war. However, thanks to concessional oil supplies from Russia, African suppliers may have lost out in the short run. There would be many African countries with whom we would have similar close relations.

A very sought-after Indian initiative in Africa is the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Program which began in September 1964. Mid-career training is provided to civil servants, new entrepreneurs and experts through short term courses that range from a few weeks to several months. The Ministry of External Affairs states on its website, www.itecgoi.in that more than 225,000 participants from 160 countries have been trained under this program since its inception, a significant number from Africa. ITEC is very popular in Africa because the training imparted has been found extremely useful and is greatly appreciated by one and all in Africa.

The head of an Angolan Banking Training Institute came to my office in Luanda, in the summer of 2008 when I was Ambassador to Angola. He mentioned that the Indian ITEC course on Environmental Auditing is essential for Angola and he barely gets one or two seats a year for his officers which is grossly insufficient. He enquired if he could send about 50 officers to India to attend this course. He had many who spoke good Portuguese but limited English and that was a constraint.

I thought for a while and suggested that if the Government of Angola can provide an appropriate classroom, local accommodation

and transport for our Professors and also local interpreters for English to Portuguese translation, I would discuss the proposal with authorities in India to bring the faculty from India to Angola for the month-long course. He was pleased no end and immediately agreed. It was not difficult to persuade the Government of India (GoI) on the proposal thanks to the huge savings it generated and the tremendous goodwill it earned for us.

About 50 people, many of whom had limited knowledge of English, were thus trained by Indian professors for five weeks. Such innovations can be undertaken by our envoys in other countries too, which would save us huge costs, train a much larger number of trainees and trainers and also earn enormous goodwill.

In his inaugural address dated 14 June, 2023 to the 18th CII-EXIM BANK Africa Conclave in New Delhi, External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar informed the audience that:

(i) India has extended concessional loans of over \$12.37 billion under which 197 projects had been completed (now 206 projects in 43 countries), 65 were under execution and 81 at the pre-execution stage. Among the projects are drinking water schemes,

Information Technology Centres, Science and Technology Parks and Entrepreneur Development Centres, and others

(v) Our development partnership focuses strongly on Digital, on Green, on Health, on Food and on Water.

(vi) On the trade and economic front, India's bilateral trade with Africa reached \$98 billion in 2022-2023.

(vii) For many years now, 33 of the 54 African countries termed 'Least Developed Countries' by the United Nations have been accorded duty free export to India of their exports to India covering over 98 percent of the tariff lines of India.

In his address on the occasion of Africa Day on 25 June, 2024 EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar noted that besides training military officers from several countries in our military training institutions, India has also contributed to the setting up of Defence Academies and Colleges in Nigeria, Ethiopia and Tanzania. Training teams in several African countries like Botswana, Namibia, Uganda, Lesotho, Zambia, Mauritius, Seychelles and Tanzania among others have been working. India is the third largest contributor to the UN Peace-Keeping



irrigation, rural solar electrification, power plants and transmission lines to cement, sugar and textile factories, technology parks and railway infrastructure.

(ii) During COVID-19, India provided medical support to 32 African countries and 'Made in India' COVID vaccines to 42 African countries. We now encourage Indian Pharma manufacturers and vaccine producers to explore joint manufacturing facilities in African countries.

(iii) India provided 42,000 scholarships since the India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) -III in 2015 in New Delhi. It is a matter of pride for India that several high ranking leaders, ministers and officials from Africa have studied in Indian universities. Apart from these, a large number of students and officials from Africa have also trained under the ITEC program.

(iv) Under the second phases of e-VidyaBharti and e-ArogyaBharti networks launched in 2019 for tele-education and tele-medicine, over 14,000 youth from 22 African countries have enrolled for various degrees and diploma courses. India has partnered with African countries in promoting digital transformation through the setting-up of

Operations with nearly 5,000 Indian personnel currently serving in five Peacekeeping Missions in Africa.

A sunrise sector for India-Africa cooperation is the domain of military supplies keeping in view rising security challenges in the continent. India has supported by providing reliable and affordable military hardware. The top three African countries to import Made-in-India arms between 2017 and 2022 were Seychelles, Mauritius, and Mozambique. More are joining the list now. India has exported indigenous self-defence equipment such as armoured vehicles and interceptor boats to Mozambique, which has helped boost its defence preparedness and military capabilities. Besides conventional arms, India has also supplied patrol craft and light helicopters to several African countries. Although India's current arms supply to Africa accounts for about 15 percent of its total defence exports, there is potential for further growth.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address to the Ugandan Parliament on 25 July, 2018 outlined ten guiding principles deepening India's engagement with Africa:

(i) Africa will be at the top of India's priorities.

(ii) India's development partnership will be guided by Africa's priorities to build local capacity of indigenous talent and skill.

(iii) India will keep its markets open and make it easier and more attractive for Africa to trade with India. India will support the Indian industry in investing in Africa.

(iv) India will harness her experience of digital revolution to support Africa's development; improve delivery of public services; extend education and health; spread digital literacy; expand financial inclusion; and mainstream the marginalized and equip the youth of Africa for their place in the digital age.

(v) Africa has 60 percent of the world's arable land, but produces just 10 percent of the global output. India will work with Africa to improve Africa's agriculture. (vi) India and Africa will work as partners to address the challenges of climate change to ensure a just international climate order; to preserve our biodiversity; and adopt clean and efficient energy sources.

(vii) India will strengthen cooperation with Africa in combating terrorism and extremism; keeping our cyberspace safe and secure; and supporting the UN in advancing and keeping peace.

(viii) India will work with African nations to keep the oceans open and free for the benefit of all nations.

(ix) As global engagement in Africa increases, India and Africa must work together to ensure that Africa does not once again turn into a theatre of rival ambitions, but becomes a nursery for the aspirations of Africa's youth.

(x) Just as India and Africa fought colonial rule together, we will work together for a just, representative and democratic global order that has a voice and a role for one-third of humanity that lives in Africa and India. India's own quest for reforms in the global institutions is incomplete without an equal place for Africa. That will be a key purpose of our foreign policy.

There are four core areas in which India has comparative advantages over its rivals in Africa viz., Health, Education, Agriculture and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Many leaders of the continent are highly keen that India hand-holds the continent in these areas. In the health sector Africa carries 20 percent of the disease burden of the world with only 5.5 percent of the global medical workforce (3.6 million health workers of the world's 65.1 million).

In Education, a recent report prepared by UNICEF for African Union notes that although enrolment of children in schools has stunningly improved in the last couple of decades, in 2019, 17 percent of children who should have been in primary schools were not in school. The percentage for Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary schools is 33 percent and 53 percent respectively. This is an important area in which Africa and India can work together.

With 23 percent of the world's agricultural land and 60 percent of the world's uncultivated arable land, Africa can be the bread basket of the world. India is sought after by Africa in this domain. More than half the 1.5 billion population of Africa is less than 19 years of age. While modern technology and large scale manufacturing can create employment, it is the MSME sector which holds the real strength for creating employment for the billion-strong workforce which is emerging in Africa in the coming years. India has the experience and knowledge in this domain which will be extremely useful to Africa.

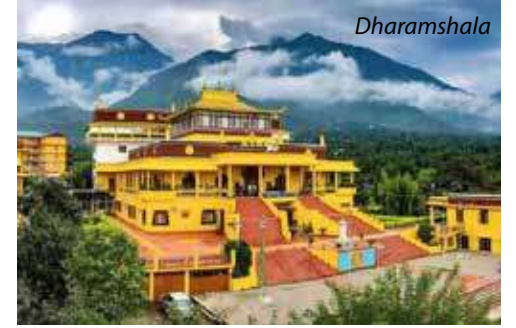




**Pack your bags and head for**

**India in 2024**

*From celebrating grand festivals to hiking the world's highest peaks, from journeys that bring excitement at every bend in the path to enjoying culinary delights and traditional dance, you will find no shortage of excuses to visit India, the incredible destination.*



Dharamshala

**Land of peace and spirituality:** Thanks to the growing trends in spiritual travel and tourist attractions in India, peace and spirituality are no longer necessarily tied to religion. For years, the question of why people travel to India for peace and spiritual strength has raised many eyebrows. Rising above this, India has transformed spiritual travel and offers numerous retreats that enable travelers to embark on a journey of inner peace.

**Places to visit:** Dharamshala and Manali in Himachal Pradesh, Pushkar in Rajasthan, Mysore in Karnataka, Varkala in Kerala, Golden Temple in Amritsar, Auroville in Pondicherry, and more.

**Things to do:** Yoga, nature walks, meditation, and traditional practices that help refresh your senses.

India, which draws millions of travelers year-round, offers mountains, beaches, wildlife, adventure, and culinary delights for everyone. The country has transformed spiritual travel, and offers numerous retreats that enable travelers to embark on a journey of inner peace.

No trip is complete without interacting with the locals. Indians are renowned for their warm hospitality and friendly nature, making travelers feel welcome and at home.

One of the best reasons to visit India is its natural beauty. From the Andamans to Kerala to Pondicherry, India is blessed with stunning landscapes. Explore and experience nature at its finest.

India, naturally blessed with diverse attractions, draws millions of travelers year-round. With its mountains and plains, beaches and backwaters, wildlife tours and adventure activities, secluded islands and vibrant metropolises, as well as its culinary delights and local beverages, India offers something for everyone. First-time visitors will find that India's tourist destinations provide ample reasons to extend their stay and fully experience the country's rich offerings.

There are plenty of reasons to visit India. From celebrating grand festivals to hiking the world's highest peaks, from nostalgic train journeys to enjoying traditional dance, you will find no shortage of excuses to visit India. Here are a few:



Dal Lake in Jammu and Kashmir

**Natural paradise:** One of the best reasons to visit India is its natural beauty. From the Andamans to Kerala to Pondicherry, India is blessed with stunning landscapes. Explore and experience nature at its finest.

**Places to visit:** Dal Lake in Jammu and Kashmir, Majuli in Assam, Kaas Plateau in Maharashtra, Nubra Valley in Ladakh, Chandertal Lake in Himachal, Agatti Island in Lakshadweep, Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, and more.

**Things to do:** Take a boat ride, go snorkeling, scuba dive, try parasailing, enjoy bird watching, and more.



Taj Mahal

**A historical gem:** History buffs will fall in love with this historical gem and will have no doubt as to why they should visit India. Whether it is rock sculptures, archaeological sites, or monolithic statues, every great monument in India carries significant historical importance. And of course, there is the Taj Mahal.

**Places to visit:** Taj Mahal in Agra, Qutub Minar in Delhi, Gateway of India in Mumbai, Charminar in Hyderabad, monuments in Hampi and Mahabaleshwar, Ajanta and Ellora Caves, and much more.


**Things to do:** Go on the Golden Triangle tour and admire the intricate carvings while exploring India's cultural heritage.





Karma Haveli Jaipur Rajasthan

**The best in hospitality:** India is renowned for its warm hospitality and personalized service, a trait cherished by travelers worldwide. Experience the best-in-class hospitality that keeps visitors coming back.

**Places to visit:** Kovalam in Kerala, Jaipur in Rajasthan, Agra in Uttar Pradesh, Hyderabad in Telangana, and more.



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**Things to do:** Rejuvenate with Ayurvedic massages in Kerala, enjoy luxury in Jaipur's palaces, and more.



Vada Pav

**Gastronomical heaven:** India's diverse and delectable food is a major draw. From fine dining to street food, the country's culinary scene is not to be missed.

**Places to visit:** Chandni Chowk in New Delhi, Rajasthan, Kolkata, Bangalore, Mumbai, and beyond.

**Things to do:** Try Chaat Papri in New Delhi, Vada Pav in Mumbai, Dal Bati & Churma in Rajasthan, Puchka in Kolkata, Dal Obbattu in Bangalore, and Hyderabad Biryani.



Paragliding in Himachal's Bir Billing

**Adventurer's resort:** India is a paradise for adventure seekers. Whether it is paragliding or bungee jumping, find thrilling experiences across the country.

**Places to visit:** Bir Billing, McLeod Ganj, Andaman Islands, Sikkim, Rajasthan, and more.

**Things to do:** Paragliding, trekking, scuba diving, snorkeling, bungee jumping, dune bashing, and more.



Durga Puja in Kolkata

**Fairyland of festivals:** India's diverse festivals bring color and joy throughout the year, making it a prime destination for festival enthusiasts.

**Places to visit:** Jaipur, Vrindavan, Goa, Mumbai, Amritsar, and New Delhi.

**Things to do:** Witness Jaipur's illuminated cityscape, attend Durga Puja in Kolkata, celebrate Holi in Mathura and Vrindavan, Christmas in Goa, Ganesh Chaturthi in Mumbai, Gurupurab in Amritsar, and Eid at Jama Masjid in Hyderabad.



Udaipur

**Kingdom of luxury:** India's royal heritage is reflected in its palaces and forts, offering a taste of luxury from the time of the Mughals and Nawabs.

**Places to visit:** Udaipur, Bikaner, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Mysore, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, and more.

**Things to do:** Enjoy sunset views from Palace Udaivilas in Udaipur, relax in Jaipur's City Palace, dine at Taj Falaknuma Palace in Hyderabad, and more.



Kutch in Gujarat,

**Heart of performing arts:** India's rich tradition in performing arts, from Bharatnatyam to Kathakali, defines its cultural identity and draws international recognition.

**Places to visit:** Kutch in Gujarat, Karnataka, Kottumkazhy in Kerala, Chennai, Leh, and more.

**Things to do:** Attend Rann Utsav, Perumthitta Tharavad, Chennai Music Festival, and Galdan Namchot Festival.

**Hub of nightlife:** Indian cities, especially the metropolises, come alive at night with vibrant nightlife, including top nightclubs and party spots.



Nightclubs in Goa

**Places to visit:** Nightclubs in Goa, Mumbai, nightlife in Delhi, cafes in Bangalore, Kolkata, and more.

**Things to do:** Dance the night away, chill with friends, jam with locals, enjoy lavish dining on a night out, and more.



Dilli Haat in New Delhi

**Shopaholic's paradise:** India is a haven for shoppers, with everything from grand malls to bustling bazaars offering a wide range of items.

**Places to visit:** Flea Market Arpora in Goa, Dilli Haat in New Delhi, Jew Town in Cochin, Johari Bazaar in Jaipur, Colaba Causeway in Mumbai, and more.

**Things to do:** Shop at flea markets, buy studded bangles, hunt for antiques, purchase endless jewelry, and shop till you drop.

**Budget-friendly trip:** Travel is often associated with high costs, but India offers an exception. Ranked 10th for 'price competitiveness', India allows for an affordable adventure that is more budget-friendly than you might imagine. With reasonably priced luxury accommodations, efficient public transportation, and low-cost dining, traveling in India is quite economical. So, when planning your next world trip, consider making India a top priority.

**Places to visit:** Kodaikanal, Goa, Alleppey, Darjeeling, Hampi



Darjeeling

**Things to do:** Tour key Indian monuments like Agra Fort, relax on the beaches, and visit temples.



Ranthambore National Park

**Tour the incredible wildlife:** India's vast landscapes are home to exotic flora and fauna. From protected forests to wildlife sanctuaries and national parks, India offers a rich variety of wildlife experiences. Each state has expansive forested areas where you can spot rhinos, tigers, ostriches, and more.

**Places to visit:** Ranthambore National Park, Pench National Park, Sariska Tiger Reserve, Jim Corbett National Park, Nagarhole National Park, Keoladeo National Park, Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary

**Things to do:** Go on a jeep safari in national parks, enjoy bird-watching, spot animals, hike, and trek through nature.

**Exciting rail journeys:** No trip to India is



complete without experiencing its iconic rail journeys. Indian trains offer a vibrant travel experience, passing through beautiful landscapes, historic sites, and diverse regions. With over 125,000 km of rail tracks, the journey is as fascinating as the destinations.

**Places to visit:** Western Ghats, the northeastern part of India, Jammu and Kashmir

**Things to do:** Ride from Jammu to Kanyakumari, take the Vivek Express (15906) from Dibrugarh to Kanyakumari, explore the scenic Sahyadri mountains on the Western Railway, and traverse major Indian cities on the central route.

**Continued On Next Page...**

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## Pack your bags and head for India in 2024



**Backwaters of Kerala:** Experience leisurely boat rides through Kerala's winding lakes, canals, and rivers. The backwaters are a must-see, offering a unique glimpse into this picturesque region. Kerala, known as 'God's Own Country', is perfect for a relaxing visit.

**Places to visit:** Alleppey, Kavvayi Backwaters, Kumarakom, Ashtamudi Lake, Alunkadavu

**Things to do:** Enjoy a canal cruise, embark on a romantic boat adventure, swim in pristine waters, and stay at a backwater resort.

**Hike the Himalayas:** Explore North India's breathtaking Himalayan region with its extensive trekking and camping opportunities. Hiking the Himalayas offers stunning views and thrilling adventures, especially in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Leh.



**Places to visit:** Hampta Pass, Bhrigu Lake Trek, Chandratal, Kedarkantha Trek, Roopkund Pass, and more



Nilgiri Plantations in Tamil Nadu

**Things to do:** Camp at snow-clad peaks, capture breathtaking photos, and create unforgettable adventure memories.

**Tea-tasting at source:** Tea is a major export for India, and enjoying a cup in one of its scenic tea gardens is a quintessential experience. With sprawling estates and picturesque plantations, a tour of India's tea gardens offers a tranquil and delightful experience.

**Places to visit:** Darjeeling in West Bengal, Munnar in Kerala, Sonapur in Assam, Nilgiri Plantations in Tamil Nadu, Kelagur in Karnataka

**Things to do:** Take stunning photographs, listen to the birds, and enjoy boat rides in some tea gardens, and enjoy tea-tasting ceremonies at tea plantations.



**Tour de France in Pondicherry:** While Pondicherry is not associated with the famous Tour de France bicycle race, it exudes a distinct French charm. The town is rich in French heritage, a legacy from the colonial era that ended in 1954. Experience the French influence through the seaside Rue de la Marine promenade, tree-lined streets, French Quarters, mustard-colored colonial villas, and chic boutiques.

**Places to visit:** Promenade Beach, Puducherry Museum, French War Memorial, Aayi Mandapam, Goubert Market, Osudu Lake

**Things to do:** Go beach hopping, taste the local seafood, dine at excellent restaurants, and take a boat ride through the mangrove forest.



**Ever-smiling faces:** No trip is complete without interacting with the locals. Indians are renowned for their warm hospitality and friendly nature, making travelers feel welcome and at home every step of the way on your journey to India.

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# HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

स्वतंत्रता दिवस

की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

## Ambassador's Message on 78th Independence day of India

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to become a developed nation by 2047. It is the responsibility of all Indian nationals to work diligently towards this goal.

Today, as we celebrate our Independence Day, we take pride in India's many achievements. Our commitment to equitable development has been the cornerstone of various socio-economic policies. The principles of democracy, pluralism, and unity in diversity are deeply embedded in Indian society, guided by the ancient philosophies of 'Sarva Dharma Sambhava' (equality of all religions) and 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family), which also shape our foreign policy.

India today is a land of a billion opportunities, with a robust economy that has made significant strides despite global challenges. Our IT sector delivers digital solutions worldwide, and our startup ecosystem is thriving with innovation and technological advancements. India is among the top five global economies, a leader in science and technology, a hub of innovation and IT, known as the 'Pharmacy of the World,' and possesses world-class production and manufacturing capabilities. We are also a key global partner in addressing challenges such as climate change and ensuring food and health security through resilient supply chains.

There has never been a better time to invest in India, with unprecedented momentum in modernizing our physical and digital infrastructure. The 'Make in India, Make for the World' initiative is driving our economy forward, supported by business-friendly reforms that unlock the country's true potential. India has

made significant improvements in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business rankings, the Global Innovation Index, and is recognized as a key driver of the global economy.

On the international stage, India continues to play a vital role in promoting global peace, stability, and prosperity. Our leadership in global bodies has been significant, particularly during the past year's successful hosting of the G20 and SCO Summits. India believes in resolving disputes through dialogue and diplomacy, upholding multilateralism, and taking leadership on global issues of relevance and concern such as cross-border terrorism, climate change, energy and food security etc, and reforming multilateral institutions like the UN Security Council.

Bilateral relations with Kuwait continue to progress, with increased engagement at various levels and growing trade and investments. Our cultural connections resonate well with our Kuwaiti friends, and people-to-people contacts form the foundation of our bilateral relations.

The Indian Embassy prioritizes the welfare and well-being of the large Indian community in Kuwait, serving as a 'Home Away from Home.' I extend my appreciation to Indian community associations, professional bodies, cultural groups, and media representatives for their efforts in supporting the community and strengthening India-Kuwait relations.

On this proud and joyous occasion of India's 78th Independence Day, I wish every Indian in Kuwait and all friends of India in Kuwait, success, good health and happiness.



# Bio-economy to boost India's growth story

**B**io-economy, which involves the use of biotechnology and biomass in economic activities for the production of goods, services, or energy, is a novel and innovative model for industry and the economy. In recent years, the bio-economy has become a key focus of political and technological interest both in India and internationally.

Recently, at the launch of 'Impact Report 2024' on National Biopharma Mission (NBM), India's Minister of State for Science & Technology Jitendra Singh said that bio-economy is going to spearhead India's future growth story. He recalled the journey of National Biopharma Mission (NBM) since its inception along with Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

The NBM's 'Innovate in India' (I3) is an industry-academia collaborative mission for accelerating discovery and research for development of bio-pharmaceuticals, while BIRAC has the mandate to enable and nurture an ecosystem for preparing India's technological and product development capabilities in bio pharmaceuticals, vaccines, biosimilars, medical devices and diagnostics.

The project was sanctioned with a total cost of \$250 million, which is 50 percent co-funded by the World Bank. Today, nearly 150 organizations and 300 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are benefitting from the program.

Underscoring the impact of biotechnology, Mr. Singh highlighted that India's bio-economy has grown 13 fold in the last 10 years from USD10 billion in 2014 to over \$130 billion in 2024. Noting that the bio-economy is projected to reach \$300 billion by 2030, he added that India, which ranked 81 in 2015, has risen to the 40th spot out of 132 economies in the Global Innovation Index.

He also highlighted some of the contributions of NBM such as India's first MRI scanner, first DNA vaccine for Covid ZyCoV-D, and the country's first Injectable Non-Insulin Antihyperglycemic Biosimilar, liraglutide, for type 2 diabetes. The Union Minister added that NBM has established 21 shared infrastructure facilities for research services and biomanufacturing, and these facilities were also leveraged for the Covid vaccine trials during the pandemic and are an important step towards India @2047, saving both cost and time.

He added that the National Biopharma Mission has supported more than 200 grantees in three main domains: Vaccines, Biotherapeutics and Medical Devices and Diagnostics while also strengthening the ecosystem. The Mission has also introduced over 18 successful products to the market, including vaccines, biotherapeutics, medical devices, and diagnostic kits.

The minister said seven technology transfer offices have been established across the nation to support intellectual property management frameworks, training programs and skill development. In addition, more than 450 Intellectual Property rights awareness



campaigns were organized and over 25 technologies worth tens of millions of rupees have been licensed to industry.

Referring to the mission as a game changer, Mr. Singh said that NBM has made the India Biopharma sector globally competitive and addressed unmet medical needs in India. "Even the World Bank has recognized NBM as a hidden jewel in its portfolio," he said.

According to the Union Minister, two things are vital for any Startup to take off: first is early industry linkage and the other is not limiting it to government resources. He also highlighted the Genome India Flagship Program of 10,000 Genome Sequencing, which could support future healthcare strategies across the world — both therapeutically and prophylactically.

According to industry sources, India is among the top 12 destinations for biotechnology worldwide and third largest destination for biotechnology in Asia Pacific. India's bio-economy has surpassed an estimated \$130 billion in 2024 and has recorded a many fold increase in valuation in the past 11 years, with efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic giving the industry a much-needed push.

Today, India is poised as one of the leading destinations for bioinnovation and biomanufacturing, and is identified as a sunrise sector and a key part of India's vision of reaching a \$5 trillion economy by 2024. He noted that there were several successful initiatives that have contributed significantly to India's bio-economy, including Mission COVID Suraksha, Indian Biological Data Centre, which is the first repository of life sciences data established in the Regional Centre for Biotechnology in Faridabad, and Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortium (INSACOG).

"India has made rapid strides in the last eight to nine years. From just 55 (Biotech) startups in 2014, now we have more than 6,000 startups. This puts an end to the thinking that Startup means IT," he said.

The minister pointed out that India has a huge wealth of bioresources and

an advantage in biotechnology. The vast bioresources, especially the vast biodiversity and the unique bioresources in the Himalayas, remain an unsaturated resource waiting to be harnessed. Then there is the 7,500 kms long coastline and under the deep-sea mission, we are going to dig the biodiversity beneath the seas, said Mr. Singh. Biotechnology has also emerged as a trending career option among the youths.

"In a recent survey of Class 12 students in Delhi, it was found that biotechnology was ranked as the preferred stream whereas earlier it didn't figure anywhere as a career option," the minister said, adding that biotechnology will be the key to driving the 'Amrit Kaal' (The Era of Elixir) economy, and also in making India

a frontline nation in the world.

"Blessed with ample sun, land and agriculture, India has emerged as a powerhouse of bioenergy to facilitate energy transition, and, with the recent launch of Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) during India's G-20 presidency, the country has a unique opportunity to become a global leader in bio-economy," said Jim Lane, the founder of the US-based Biofuel Digest.

According to Mr. Singh, the Honorable Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision empowered the Department of Biotechnology and BIRAC to strengthen the Healthcare Ecosystem. He added, "India is recognized as a frontline nation in preventive healthcare and the bio-pharma sector has a pivotal role in it."

## India shares its birthday with ...

	<b>Bahrain</b> It declared Independence from the British on <b>August 15, 1971</b>
	<b>South Korea &amp; North Korea</b> US & Soviet forces ended Japanese occupation of the Korean Peninsula on <b>Aug 15, 1945</b> . It's now celebrated as ' <b>National Liberation Day</b> '
	<b>Republic of Congo</b> The African nation got full freedom from France on <b>August 15, 1960</b>
	<b>Liechtenstein</b> The tiny European nation declared freedom from German rule on <b>August 15, 1866</b>





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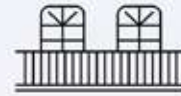
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